

Show Puts Ford Truck History on Display

The evolution of Ford's truck offerings was represented by nearly 100 trucks parked on the lawn of Ford's Building #3 in Dearborn, Michigan, recently.

The annual PDC Employee Truck and Car Show was relocated and limited to trucks this year to celebrate the 100th consecutive model year of truck production by the automaker.

Ford produced trucks prior to the [introduction of the Model TT in 1917](#), but it has made trucks in each model year since.

The event is intended to educate Product Development employees about Ford's corporate heritage and inspire ideas for future products.

Event organizer and Product Design Engineer Dave Glickman said the show's planning is a year-round effort.

"My favorite aspect are the stories," he said. "The stories behind the development of a certain model or the ownership of a particular car. There's always some kind of fascinating story."

The marquee vehicle at the July 15 event was a 1922 Lincoln Model L limousine, which had been converted to an ice truck and kitchenette to accommodate Henry Ford and friends Harvey Firestone, John Burroughs and Thomas Edison – [collectively known as The Vagabonds](#) – on their 1920s summer camping excursions.

The show also featured other Fords of the past, including the Ranchero and Bronco.

Dan Hyde, who works in vehicle personalization at the Diagnostic Service Center, said he has a soft spot for vintage Broncos and F-100s.

"(The event) makes me proud to be part of the company to see them embrace the hobbyist side of it," he said.

A 1972 F-100 reminded Dennis Pillon of his early years on his family's farm. He now fixes trucks for the Auto Restoration Academy at [Ford's Piquette Plant in Detroit](#).

"I learned how to drive and I've been restoring trucks ever since," he said.

Dennis Corn oversaw four vehicles on display from the Roush Museum in Livonia, including a 1950 F-1 and a convertible 1929 Model A roadster pickup.

"Every year, we're able to bring a little flavor here," he said. "I get blown away by some of the things here. Usually, these cars don't see the light of day."

John Campean, who works in IT Data Center Facilities Operations, brought his 2003 Ford Ranger, Friday.

Still his everyday vehicle, Campean's Ranger has eclipsed the 250,000-mile mark.

"I regret not getting another Ranger in 2011," before it was discontinued, he said.

The show's history spans at least three decades. It has existed in its current form for approximately the past 10 years, Glickman said. Until this year, the show had always been held at the Product Development Center.

"I know it's a big morale booster," he said, adding employees from other states trek to the show. "People look forward to it all year."

In past years, the event's theme has ranged from every year of Lincoln and Mercury vehicles to the Mustang, in celebration of the car's 50th anniversary.

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