

AUTOMOBILE HISTORY

Where did the name "Pick UP Truck" come from? You must read 'til the end to find out...



Q: What was the first official White House car?

A: A 1909 White Steamer, ordered by President Taft.



Q: Who opened the first drive-in gas station?

A: Gulf. They opened up the first station in Pittsburgh in 1913.



Q: What city was the first to use parking meters?

A: Oklahoma City, on July 16, 1935.



Q: Where was the first drive-in restaurant?

A: Royce Hailey's Pig Stand opened in Dallas in 1921.



Q: True or False? The 1953 Corvette came in white, red, and black.

A: False. The 1953 'Vettes were available in one color, Polo White. They had only two options, a heater and an AM radio.



Q: What was the first car fitted with an alternator, rather than a direct current dynamo (or generator)?

A: The 1960 Plymouth Valiant

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Q: What was the first car to be offered with a "perpetual guarantee"?

A: The 1904 Acme, from Reading, PA. Perpetuity was disturbing in this case, as Acme closed down in 1911.



Q: What car was the first to have its radio antenna embedded in the windshield?

A: The 1969 Pontiac Grand Prix.



Q: Where were the World's first three-color traffic lights installed?

A: Detroit, Michigan in 1919. Two years later they experimented with synchronized lights.



Q: What type of car had the distinction of being America's 100 millionth car built in the U.S.?

A: March 16, 1966 saw an Olds Tornado roll out of Lansing, Michigan with that honor.



Q: Where was the first drive-in movie theater opened, and when?

A: Camden, NJ in 1933.



Q: What autos were the first to use a standardized production key-start system?

A: The 1949 Chryslers.



Q: What car was the first to place the horn button in the center of the steering wheel?

A: The 1915 Scripps-Booth Model C. The car also was the first with electric door latches.



Q: What's the only car to appear simultaneously on the covers of Time and Newsweek?

A: The Ford Mustang.



Q: What was the lowest priced mass-produced American car?

A: The 1925 Ford Model T Runabout. Cost \$260, \$5 less than 1924.



Q: What is the fastest internal-combustion American production car?

A: The 1998 Dodge Viper GETS-R, tested by Motor Trend magazine at 192.6 mph.



Q: Who wrote to Henry Ford, "I have drove fords exclusively when I could get away with one. It has got every other car skinned, and even if my business hasn't been strictly legal, it don't hurt anything to tell you what a fine car you got in the V-8"?

A: Clyde Barrow (of Bonnie and Clyde) in 1934.



Q: What car was the first production V12, as well as the first production car with aluminum pistons?

A: The 1915 Packard Twin-Six. Used during WWI in Italy, these motors inspired Enzi Ferrari to adopt the V12 himself in 1948.



Q: What was the first car to use power operated seats?

A: They were first used on the 1947 Packard line.



Q: Which of the Chrysler "letter cars" sold the fewest amount?

A: Only 400 of the 1963 300J's were sold (Chrysler skipped "I" because it looked like a number 1)



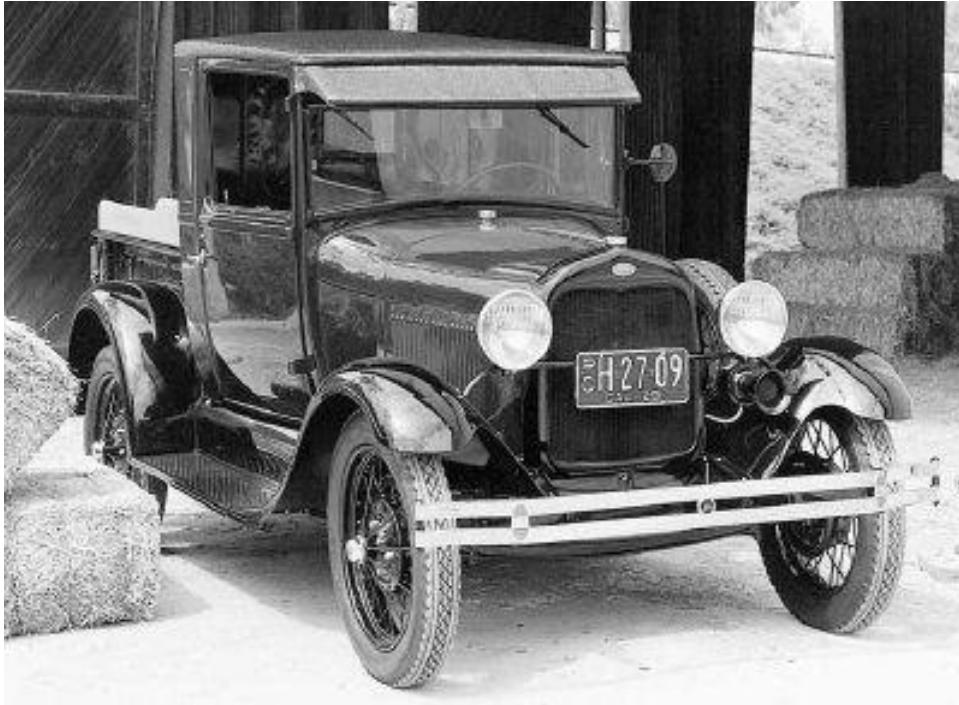
Q: In January 1930, Cadillac debuted its V16 in a car named for a theatrical version of a 1920's film seen by Harley Earl while designing the body. What is that name?

A: The "Madam X", a custom coach designed by Earl and built by Fleetwood. The sedan featured a retractable landau top above the rear seat.



Q: What is the Spirit of Ecstasy?

A: The official name of the mascot of Rolls Royce, she is the lady on top of their radiators. Also known as "Nellie in her nighty".



Q: Where did the name " Pick Up Truck" come from?

A: Trivia ... Ford, who made the first pick-up trucks, shipped to their dealers in crates that the new owners had to assemble, using the crates, as the beds of the trucks. The new owners had to go to the dealers to get them, thus, they had to 'pick-up' the trucks.

And now you know the "rest of the story."