

THE CARS THAT HENRY FORD BUILT



A Commemorative Tribute To America's Most Remembered Automobiles
by BEVERLY RAE KIMES



AN AUTOMOBILE QUARTERLY MAGNIFICENT MARQUE HISTORY

The amount of literature about the man who put America on wheels is staggering. There have been more books about Henry Ford than any other fellow who ever had the notion to build a car. This book takes its place among them and offers a fresh approach to the subject, both in its study of the man and his cars, and in the pictorial presentation, for the first time in full color, of every model he produced from the Quadricycle he put together as a young man in 1896 to the famous V8 Ford on the production lines four and a half decades later during his failing years.

How like him they were. Ford cars were Henry. Probably no other single individual in automobile history more accurately mirrored in his cars his view of himself and of America as he saw it. It is fascinating in this book, through a lively historical text and over 100 full-color photographs, to watch Henry grow and age as his cars grew and aged, to see his cars change or not change, as he changed or didn't change—each lock-stepped together through history.

Divided into five sections, the book refreshingly captures Henry in direct relation to each of his cars: the divers racing and experimental machines; those early alphabetical Fords (the A, AC, C, B, F, K, N, R and S); the revolutionary Model T, of course; the compromise of a Model A; the Model B, a car practically forgotten today and frequently then by Henry himself; and Henry's last triumph, the Ford V8. Written originally as a series of individual Ford model histories for *Automobile Quarterly* magazine by Beverly Rae Kimes, the material has been edited and revised into this book to commemorate the history of the company that Henry Ford founded.

Ubiquitous has become almost a cliché in describing Henry's cars since the Model T era. A cliché but an appropriate one. Is there anyone among us—who grew up before the Second World War, or after for that matter—who has not had a Ford experience, a memory quick to recall with a joke, a story or a favorite model Ford? One would think not. In an introduction to this book, *Automobile Quarterly's*

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