

End of an Era?

On October 22, 1954 Ford rolled out the very first Thunderbird ever; their version of an American sports car. Over the next forty years the thunderbird would evolve from a sports car to a family car and then to a big luxury car and back again selling over five million thunderbirds to date. The very last thunderbird ever built was recently produced on July 1, 2005. It was originally built for Josephine Ford the granddaughter of Henry Ford who unfortunately passed away this past June. As a result, the car was delivered to Josephine Ford's daughter in Seal harbor Maine.



The Thunderbird has surpassed eleven different generations and forty-three different models. I am fortunate enough to own one them myself. The 1964 Thunderbird with its cockpit, swing away steering wheel, and its personal luxury car trend first caught my attention about five years ago while surfing the internet one night. To make a long story short, I bought the car out of Okalahoma. The car was later named "Annie." (*Thanks for the name Dennis*) Annie was transported from Okalahoma to New Hampshire on a flatbed. The car needed more work than you could ever imagine! It barely ran, had a faulty brake booster and a messed up steering gear box among many other things.



As you can imagine, driving this car was like watching your life flash before your very own eyes, if you don't believe me, just ask Dennis! None of that mattered to me though as I was the proud owner of an elegant automotive icon.

Fate would lead me to Vieira Motors (a story for another day) where the unpleasant history of Annie was revealed. Over four years after the date of purchase Annie is now officially on the road with a complete stellar mechanical restoration showing everyone out there what it is like to Thunderbird!

The Thunderbird is a celebrated name plate for the Ford Motor Company and has become a big part of the American culture. Its' stop in production does signify the end of an era, but for me, it's just the beginning! I hope to see you all out on the roads!

Dave Bemis