Ford Turns 100 in Tucson

There have been big doin’s nationwide this year, in honor of Ford’s 100th birthday. Tucson resident Joss Sanderson organized a tour of almost 50 original Model T Fords, which drove from Los Angeles to Dearborn, Michigan, across desert and high mountain passes, arriving in time for five days of celebrations at Ford World Headquarters. But closest to the hearts and minds of Arizonans was the centennial celebration at Jim Click Ford in Tucson, on Saturday, June 7.

A stunning collection representing a hundreds years’ worth of Fords was present. Vehicles were displayed by the Retractable Convertible Club of Tucson, the Old Pueblo Mustang Club, the Tucson Thunderbird Club, the Tucson Model T Club and the Tucson Model A Club, as well as by several individual collectors. Represented were the Model T, Model A, Mustangs of every vintage, ’60s convertibles and ’50s hardtop convertibles, Edsel, and much more.

Jim Click Jr. is widely recognized and highly regarded as a businessman, community leader, athlete and devoted family man, in Tucson, throughout Arizona and nationwide. Born in Paul’s Valley, Oklahoma, Jim is a third-generation car dealer. His granddad, Bert Click, was a pioneering Chrysler-Plymouth dealer in Shawnee OK, and Jim Click Sr. was a Chevrolet dealer in Altus OK.

Jim Click Jr. graduated from Oklahoma State University, where he was captain of the OSU Cowboys football team and on the Dean’s Honor Roll every semester. He has been honored as one of OSU’s most outstanding graduates and is in the OSU Hall of Fame. After graduation, Jim went to work in the family business, selling cars for his great uncle, Holmes Tuttle, at his Ford dealership in Los Angeles. Within two years, Jim was top salesperson and then became Sales Manager at their Beverly Hills Mercury dealership. Very quickly, he moved up again, to become General Manager of the Lincoln-Mercury store.

In 1971, Jim moved to Tucson and purchased Pueblo Ford, the first dealership of his own. Renamed Jim Click Ford, and bolstered by a massive advertising campaign and lots of personal elbow grease, Jim built the dealership into one of Arizona’s largest and most respected. Over the years, Jim Click Ford has been recognized with countless awards for marketing and sales.

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Jim Click Jr., Ford’s Andy Acho, and Sam Khayat, General Manager of Jim Click Ford  • Chuck Scharf’s customized ‘55 Ford Galaxie 500 convertible-stakes up the Arizona sun.

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Jim, Andy and Andy, with Julia MacDougall and Julian’s dad John Aube, showing off Julian’s ’57, ’58 and ’59 Ford retractable convertibles (and his Edsel, not shown). John is the repeat president of the Retractable Convertible Club of Arizona, which is sponsored by Jim Click Ford.

• Members of southern Arizona Ford clubs enjoy tent time  • "DU John" Strebbeck, Carol Frosco and Ford’s Andy Acho  • Strebbeck is owner of this ’54 Ford Skyliner, one of 13,000 originally built, finished in House of Color’s Pagan Gold, with a mildly modified ’70 Ford 302. John is current president of the ’54 Ford Club of America.