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Buick Picks Its 'Best of Decades' For Anniversary

Despite 110 years not being as "cool" as 100 years, said Buick's Nick Richards, remaining in business for 11 decades requires constant innovation, and that deserves at least a little celebration.

That's the reason for this year's marking of the brand's 110th anniversary, said Richards, Buick's C communications manager.

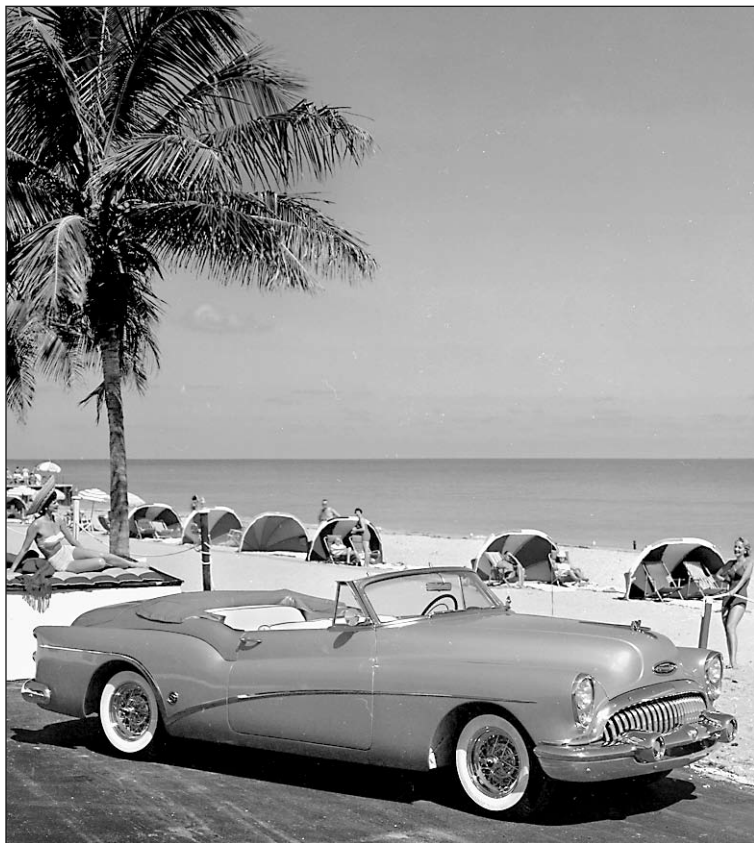
He noted that Buick celebrated its history of making WWII military vehicles around the anniversary of V-E Day.

Richards said that while 110 years in business doesn't have the major milestone cache of, say, 100 years or 125 years, the brand will be doing some things to celebrate 110 years in business.

Right now, the brand is celebrating the various Buick models that have made their mark during different 10-year periods of the car's shared automotive history, he said, adding that the trick is choosing one model to represent a decade of significance.

Among the hundreds of models designed and engineered for Buick, the 11 listed, Richards said, stand out as the most significant for their respective decades since May 17, 1903.

- 1903-1912: The first Buick



1953 Buick Skylark

ever is quite significant, so Buick's first decade honor goes to the 1904 Model B. The first one of the line was sold to Dr. Herbert H. Hills of Flint, decades before the brand developed its reputation as a "doctor's car."

- 1913-1922: The 1916 D-45 Touring was the top-selling mod-

el in 1916, a year when Buick switched its lineup from four- to six-cylinder engines. Sales tripled that year and reached six digits for the first time. Buick became the top-selling brand in the industry a few years later, with

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Chrysler Volunteers Help Build 400 Bikes for Kids

There are happy smiles on a lot of children's faces thanks to the generous hearts of nearly 100 Chrysler volunteers.

This was the third year Chrysler volunteers have partnered with Orchards Children's Services in the agency's Annual Bicycle Build at the organization's facility in Southfield.

About 45 Chrysler volunteers turned up at the agency site June 8 to assemble bikes, and another 50 or so participated in a June 15 build date. The two groups put together 400 bikes, said Chrysler Manager of Civic & Community Relations Daphne Harris.

"We partnered (the bikes) up with helmets and locks for the 400 clients who will receive them," said Harris.

The children received the bikes June 28 at the annual summer festival the agency puts on for its clients, she added.

Harris said that Orchard Children's Services is a foster care and adoption agency, "So a lot of these kids are in trauma, because they've been removed from their family . . . the bikes will hopefully restore a sense of normalcy back into the children's lives as they begin to negotiate the foster care system."

She noted this is the third year

Chrysler employees have partnered with the agency on the Bicycle Build.

"From year one, it's been something our employees really enjoy doing. It's bringing a smile to children's faces, and they're happy to do it for them," Harris said.

Participation has grown exponentially. In the first year of employee involvement in the bike build, about 10 Chrysler employees showed up. By the second year, 50 volunteers took part, "and now it's close to 100," she said.

It's part of Chrysler's mission to encourage all employees to get out into their communities and give service, said Harris. In June 2012, the automaker issued a new policy granting salaried employees 18 hours annually of compensated time during the normal work hours to participate in events or projects that are of service to their communities.

"The unique feature of our program is it's not limited to company-sponsored community projects," said Harris, adding that employees can partner up in small groups or even as individuals to lend their time to a charitable

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Cars.com Says Ford F-150 Regains Title as Vehicle 'Most Made in U.S.A.'

by Jim Stickford

Cars.com's list of the "most American" automobiles include a couple made very locally.

The Ford F-150, manufactured in Dearborn, topped Cars.com's list. The Dodge Avenger, made in Sterling Heights, was number three on the list.

Cars.com stated that this is the first time in four years that a domestic automaker is once again the "Most American." Prior to the F-150's top spot, the Toyota Camry topped the list from 2009-2012.

The list is determined by analyzing three data points - domestic-parts content (percentage of vehicle's parts produced in the U.S.), final vehicle assembly point and vehicle sales.

"Strong sales and 75 percent domestic-parts content propelled Ford's popular F-150 to the top of the index for 2013, a rank it held from 2006 to 2008," said Patrick Olsen, Cars.com's editor-in-chief.

"Ford's top ranking this year is a good indicator of how pickup trucks are dominating auto sales so far in 2013, and how the domestic automakers are bouncing back. While the assembly point and domestic parts content of the F-150 didn't change from 2012-2013, vehicle sales are responsible for bumping the F-150 to the top spot."

Ford F-150 Marketing Manager Eric Peterson said that the folks at Ford were pleased to make the top of the list.

"When we heard about this, we were excited," Peterson said. "It's great to learn that we're number one on this list." He said the news is especially exciting because the F-150, made in Dearborn and Kansas City, is such "a workhorse around America."

He added that not only is it made in Dearborn, it's also designed there and many of the more than 250 supplier partners who supply the parts for the vehicle are in Michigan.

"I can't say how many of the parts in the F-150 come from America, but given the sheer number of parts that go into a vehicle, I would have to say that number is in the thousands," Peterson said.

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The Ford F-150 was declared by Cars.com to be the "most American" vehicle made today, with 75 percent domestic-parts content and strong sales. The truck is manufactured in Dearborn and Kansas City, Kan.



This 1938 Packard took first in its class for owner Bill Golling on judging day. Photo by Vahan Nazarian

Oakland County Plays Host To Packards at National Meet

by Irena Granaas

1901 Packard showcased under its own chandelier.

It was like a step back in time to a more graceful era at the Marriott Centerpoint in Pontiac recently as the parking lot filled with up to 99 classic Packards during the Packard Club's 48th National Meet, held June 22-28.

Non-Packard owning hotel guests could be forgiven for thinking they were in a time warp during the seven days the Marriott served as host location for the meet, seeing the elegant cars ranging from the early 1900s to the mid-1950s parked in the lot and at the front doors and pulling in and out of the hotel parking lot.

The front lobby even hosted a gleaming, beautifully maintained

"The car is completely driveable," said Bruce Blevins, member of the Motor City Packards of Detroit, a Grand Blanc resident.

Event Chairman Roger Luksik said in addition to the nearly 100 cars, more than 540 Packard Club members, family and friends attended the event, which Luksik said is the largest gathering of Packards since the club's 2006 meet, which was also held at the Marriott Centerpoint.

"It was an excellent event," he said. "We had great weather. The rain held off for our gathering (Thursday, June 27) in downtown Rochester, so no one got

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