



Ohio BMW Chronological History 1908-2010



Celebrating the Franklin automobile, the first motor vehicle 'registered' in Ohio.



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H.H. Franklin History

The H. H. Franklin Manufacturing Company built the most successful American direct air-cooled cars from 1902 to 1934. The company was run, during its first thirty-two years, by Herbert H. Franklin, backer of the first die casting business, (for which he coined the term "die cast") and John Wilkinson, the engineer who built the first Franklin Car. Franklin's design principles combining high quality with light weight gave Franklins their distinct reputation for dependability and long life. Their legacy has been one of successful innovation and, of course, the unusual vehicles that survive.

A few historic milestones for the Franklin:

1905

The world's first 6-cylinder automobile was introduced by Franklin. The car had an air-cooled motor and valve-in-head cylinders. Air-cooling eliminated the need for 177 complicated water cooling parts. This, coincidentally, was also the same year for the first officially recorded flight by Orville Wright at Dayton, Ohio, 11.12 miles in 18 minutes, 9 seconds.

1906

A new trans-continental record, San Francisco to New York, was set by a 10 horse power Franklin with a time of 12 days, 2 hours, 12 minutes. 'Drive through the springs' was introduced by Franklin as an important element in flexible construction. Strains of starting and stopping were cushioned by applying the driving force through the rear springs.

1908

Ohio's first vehicle registration was issued to Thomas B. Paxton Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio for an H.H. Franklin gasoline engine automobile.

1915

Entirely in LOW gear, a Franklin car ran from Walla Walla, Washington, to San Francisco, California, 860 miles in 83 hours, 40 minutes, without once stopping the engine.

1917

Cowles Tolman, of New Haven, Connecticut, made the record of 82.8 miles on a single gallon of gasoline in a 6-cylinder engine Franklin. Today, this is still the world's record mileage, not only of 6-cylinder cars, but of all stock types of gasoline propelled vehicles.

1920

A Franklin stock Imperial touring car made a 500-mile run in LOW gear in Imperial, California, without stopping the engine. Air temperature varied from 72 degrees in the morning to 125 degrees at noon. The car maintained a speed of 11 mph. Intermediate and high gears were removed from the transmission before the start.

1928

On June 16th, 'Cannon Ball' Baker, driving a Franklin sedan, completed a record run from Los Angeles to New York to Los Angeles, 6,692.8 miles, in 157 hours and 23 minutes. This astounding performance beat the former record by more than 10 1/2 hours! The car was a stock 4 door sedan from a dealer's inventory. On the trip east he averaged 45.2 miles per hour. He wrote after returning to LA, "The air-cooled motor now rules the land as well as the air." Further proving the efficiency of air-cooling, Cannon Ball Baker also drove an Airman Limited for 14.2 miles up the famous Lookout Mountain road in Tennessee and returned in the amazing record time of 20 minutes, 52 seconds. This was a new uphill record and a new downhill record. By averaging 40.8 mph on this long grade, which is 46% steeper than the Pike's Peak grade, the Franklin smashed the previous record by averaging 4.6 mph faster.

There are 3,291 total existing Franklins in the world. This is only 2.17% of the total original factory production from 1902-1934.

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, From The Beginning.....

1906:

- The first legislation pertaining to state registration of motor vehicles was passed by the legislature in 1906. The original law contained no provisions for the annual renewal of registration. This defect was remedied for the following year. Prior to the time the state assumed the duties of registering motor vehicles, local municipalities had that authority and many of them, particularly the larger ones, did impose a local license registration.

1907:

- The "Automobile Division" of the Secretary of State's Office was established and administered by a "Registrar."

1908:



1908 Franklin
First vehicle 'registered' in Ohio

- 1908 was the first full year of state motor vehicle registration and collection of fees.
- There were 10,649 vehicles of all types registered generating a total of \$50,745.
- This year may be considered as being the first full registration year. The law was known as the "Automobile Law." A flat rate of \$3.00 for electrics and \$5.00 for

1908 Continued:

registration of all other types of vehicles was charged under this law. This fee was subject to a 50% reduction after September 1st of each year. The state department handling these registrations was called the "Automobile Division" of the office of the Secretary of State and administered by a "Registrar" appointed by the Secretary of State.



- License plates can be identified by the oval or round shaped "O" with the "H" in the center. The original contract for plates was entered into with the Hiss stamp works to provide 25,000 metal tags at a cost of \$3,600.00 with a design that would feature a big round letter 'O' with an 'H' inside. The first plates were rejected and the contract made with the next lowest bidder. It is thought that the original contract was rejected because the first plates were made with an oval 'O' instead of a round 'O'. The only oval 'O' plates seen have all been carrying numbers under 100.

- The license plates were made of porcelain and steel. The background of the plates was blue and the numerals were white.

- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Fred H. Caley

1909:



- License plates can be identified by the round "O" with the "H" in the center.

- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Fred H. Caley

1910:



• These license plates were the first to carry the year and state along with the identification number.

• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Fred H. Caley

1911:



• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - J.A. Shearer

1912:



• License plates were made of steel and the lettering on the plates was flat.

• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - J.A. Shearer

1913:



• The flat fee of \$5.00 was replaced by a series of 6 fee classifications based on horsepower. The

1913 continued:

fees were graduated from \$5.00 imposed upon all motor vehicles of 20 HP or less to an \$18.00 fee imposed upon all motor vehicles of more than 60 HP.

• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - J.A. Shearer

1914:



• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - J.A. Shearer

1915:



• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - William H. Walker

1916:



• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - William H. Walker

1917:



• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - W.A. McCurdy

1918:



- The first year letters were stamped or embossed on the license plates.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - W.A. McCurdy

1919:



- The "Automobile Law" was amended. For the first time there was a separation of passenger car fees and commercial car fees. Passenger car fees were based on actual horsepower (HP) and the change in the law provided for 3 fee classifications ranging in cost from \$8.00 for a car of 25 HP or less to \$20.00 for a car of more than 35 HP. Commercial car license fees were based on horsepower (HP), the same as passenger cars, plus an additional tax ranging from \$0.20 to \$0.80 for each hundred pounds of gross weight of vehicle and load.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - A.G. Snow

1920:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - A.G. Snow

1921:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - A.G. Snow

1922:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - A.G. Snow

1923:



- The Secretary of State was responsible to designate one or more persons in each county to serve as deputy registrars in the county seat, cities or villages, as the Secretary of State saw fit.
- The Chauffeur Department of the Automobile Division was established. The duties of that department were the examination and licensing of all operators of motor vehicles who functioned as employees for hire, and the filing of such applications and the licenses and collection of all fees and taxes pertaining thereto. The fee for the examination of applicants and the issuance of chauffeur licenses was \$3.00 per year per application. A chauffeur's license fee was only \$.75 if one does not have to take the examination.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Chalmers R. Wilson

1924:



- A Star was placed on the license plate around 1924 to represent the number 10 when registrations exceeded 999,999, rather than adding a seventh digit to the plate. A letter was subsequently used as a prefix in place of a digit, and the Star was dropped from the license plate after 1928.

• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Chalmers R. Wilson

1925:



- The "Automobile Division" name was changed to the "Bureau of Motor Vehicles."

• The department head title is changed from Registrar to Commissioner.

• The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall designate County Auditors and one or more persons in each county to serve as deputy commissioners.

• The gasoline tax law was enacted. Due to the imposition of the gasoline tax the passenger car fees were reduced 50%, but the basis of computation remained the same. The basis of determination of commercial car fees was changed and provided for the licensing upon an actual weight basis on a graduated scale range from \$0.70 per hundred for the first 2,500 pounds to \$1.15 per hundred for a vehicle weighing more than 9,000 pounds.

• Motor Vehicle Department Commissioner - Chalmers R. Wilson

1926:



• Motor Vehicle Department Commissioner - Chalmers R. Wilson

1927:



• Motor Vehicle Department Commissioner - Chalmers R. Wilson

1928:



• Motor Vehicle Department Commissioner - Chalmers R. Wilson

1929:



• Motor Vehicle Department Commissioner - Chalmers R. Wilson

1930:



• Motor Vehicle Department
Commissioner - Chalmers R. Wilson

1931:



• The legislature amended the motor vehicle laws, removing automobiles from the personal property tax. To replace the tax loss the registration fees were correspondingly increased, ranging from \$7.00 for passenger cars having no more than 25 HP to \$25.00 for those having more than 36 HP. Commercial car license plate fees were likewise increased, ranging from \$0.70 per hundred pounds for a vehicle weighing 2,000 pounds or less, ending with a rate of \$2.25 per hundred pounds for a vehicle weighing in excess of 10,000 pounds.

• Motor Vehicle Department
Commissioner - Chalmers R. Wilson

1932:



• Motor Vehicle Department
Commissioner - Chalmers R. Wilson

1933:



• The Department of Highways was created and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles was transferred to this department.

• The hospital claims law was enacted. This law provides for the payment of hospital bills incurred by indigent patients as a result of motor vehicle accidents.

• Motor Vehicle Department
Commissioner - J.P. Brennan, later replaced by Glen M. Daily.

1934:



• Motor Vehicle Department
Commissioner - Glen M. Daily.

1935:



- The legislature enacted a “Driver’s License Law” providing for the issuance of operator and chauffeur licenses on an annual basis. This law makes it mandatory that every operator of a motor vehicle first obtain a driver’s license prior to having the legal right to drive on public highways.

STATE OF OHIO - BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES

LICENSE NUMBER → **A 230164**

Name **Ida Black,**
Street or R. R. **R. 12, Dayton, Ohio**
P. O. _____ Ohio

Age	Sex	Weight	Color Hair	Color Eyes	Height	Race
19	F	120	Bro	Blue	5'3"	

Date Issued **May 17, 1937** Fee **25 cents**

Signature of Licensee *Ida Black*
Issued by **Lois Purdom Xenia,**
Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles at _____ Ohio

OPERATOR'S LICENSE
EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 30, 1937

THIS LICENSE MUST BE CARRIED WHILE DRIVING *Frank West* Registrar

As evidenced by the above 1937 license, the driver license fee was twenty-five cents.

- The legislature changed the horsepower classifications from 5 to 3 on the passenger license plate registration schedule, the new fees being \$7.00 for a passenger vehicle of 25 horsepower(HP) or less; \$10.00 for a passenger car with HP ranging from 25 to 31; and \$16.00 for one having more than 31 HP. No change was made in the commercial car fees.
- The license plate registration year was changed from the calendar year and the 1935 plates were good for a 15 month period, or until April 1st.

1935 continued:

- Special reserved license plates became available (ex. ABC 1).
- The Financial Responsibility Law of Ohio became effective on August 20. The intent of this law was to prohibit individuals, known by record to have committed certain offenses, from operating a motor vehicle; and to protect the public from such individuals by requiring them to obtain a bond in the amount of \$11,000 in order to retain driving privileges.
- Safety glass law was enacted. This legislation made it unlawful to operate any motor vehicle on any public highway or street unless it was equipped with safety glass wherever glass was used.
- The department head title is changed from Commissioner back to Registrar.
- Operator and chauffeur licenses were issued by the Registrar through some 750 deputy registrars appointed for that purpose.
- Dealer and Salesperson Licensing Law enacted. This law provided for the licensing of motor vehicle dealers and salespersons and the regulation of the selling of motor vehicles to prohibit fraudulent and unfair practices in the business of selling motor vehicles and installment contracts arising out of such sales. It regulated the issuance of license plates to motor vehicle dealers and certain other persons, along with the use of such license plates.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Glen M. Daily partial year, Frank West remainder of year.

1936:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Frank West.

1937:



- The legislature enacted a “farm truck license plate law,” which provided a substantial reduction in license plate fees in the commercial car category of approximately 40%.
- The legislature enhanced the “Dealers’ and Salesmen’s Licensing Law,” which provides for the qualifying and regulation of dealers and salesmen engaged in the business of selling motor vehicles at retail and prevents fraudulent and unfair practices in their operations.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Frank West.

1938:



- The 1938 Ohio plate was part of a national celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Northwest Territories.



1938 continued:

Pioneers landed on April 07, 1788, and founded the first organized government west of the original 13 colonies. The highlight of the celebration was a reenactment of the wagon caravan that left Ipswich (now Hamilton), Massachusetts and traveled overland to Simrill’s Ferry (now Newton), Pennsylvania and then journeyed by boats to Marietta, Ohio. Thirty-eight men made this four month trip that has been labeled “The Trek”. These 1938 modern pioneers actually landed within 4 minutes of the landing time of the original settlers in 1788. President Roosevelt, Ohio Governor Martin Davey, and several other noteworthy politicians were on hand with a crowd of 100,000 to welcome these travelers to Marietta. According to a report of the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission, the two million 1938 Ohio plates created interest and caused comment all over the nation.

- Certificate of Title law enacted on January 1. This legislation was to prevent the importation of stolen motor vehicles, and thefts and fraud in the transfer of title to motor vehicles. This law replaced the bill of sale law which had been in effect since 1921.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Frank West.

1939:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Cylon W. Wallace.

1940:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Cylon W. Wallace.

1941:



1940s style Chauffeur Badges

- The legislature enacted a “Uniform Traffic Act” based upon a standard uniform traffic code.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Cylon W. Wallace.

1943:

- To conserve resources for the allied war effort, 1943 registrations consisted of the 1942 plates plus a red window sticker.



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Cylon W. Wallace.

1944-1946

- Only 1 plate was issued in 1944, 1945, and 1946 to conserve steel for the military war effort.

1944-46 continued:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Frank M. Quinn.

1947:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Edward T. Fogo.

1948:



- Beginning April 1, the registration fee for all passenger cars was set at \$10.00.
- Ohio began to issue some 6 character plates.
- Ohio experimented with different materials for license plates in 1948, 1949, and 1950. In 1948, aluminum license plates were issued along with the traditional steel plates. A few plates issued at the end of the year were waffled aluminum.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Frank M. Quinn.

1949:



- In 1949, three types of plates were issued. Aluminum, aluminum waffle pattern, and in rare instances, steel. The 'waffle' pattern was a plate made from aluminum, with an embossed "waffle" like finish. These were experimented with by many states, including Ohio, in the late 1940's and early 1950's, in an effort to add strength, without adding weight.



1949 continued:



- The first Ohio special plate issued to the public was authorized by statute. This first special plate was the church bus license plate.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Frank M. Quinn.

1950:

- Beginning October 1, all driver licenses were issued to expire three years from issuance date.



- In 1950, only steel and waffle pattern aluminum plates were issued. Aluminum plates were discontinued after 1950 as they were far more expensive, compared to their steel counterparts. Also, the thin aluminum plates were prone to bend in high winds.

- A \$1.00 fee for reserved plates became effective during the 1950 registration year.

- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Robert E. Foley.

1951:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Robert E. Foley.

1952:



- 1952 registrations consisted of the 1951 plates plus a blue windshield sticker.
- The highway use tax law was enacted.
- The legislature provided for the issuance of amateur radio call letter plates.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Robert E. Foley.

1953:

- The Safety Responsibility Law was enacted on March 1. This new law repealed the old Financial Responsibility Law. The purpose of this law was to eliminate the reckless and irresponsible driver from the highways and to provide for the giving of security and proof of financial responsibility by persons driving or owning motor vehicles.



- Only one plate was used in 1953, and displayed the years 1803-1953 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Ohio's statehood.

1953 continued:



- Front plates for 1953 observed the 150th anniversary of the admission of Ohio to the Union in 1803. The word sesquicentennial was spelled with a 'dash' in error on the plates.



- A law was passed in the 1952 registration year, to provide special license plates for display on an individual's motor vehicle. These special plates were issued to holders of amateur radio station licenses, and to physicians. Plates began being issued in 1953.

- The general assembly enacted a highway use tax law. All commercial cars and all commercial tractors and those in combination or in tandem with other commercial vehicles, having three axles or more, were required to pay a highway use tax that ranged from one-half cent per mile for three axle commercial cars to two and one-half cent per mile for commercial cars in tandem. The BMV issued the actual tax permits, at a cost of \$2.00 per permit.

- The legislature created the Department of Highway Safety, comprised of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Highway Patrol, and the Administration Division, effective October 2, under the jurisdiction of the Director of Highway Safety.



1953 continued:

• Effective October 2, a law was enacted providing for "License Tax for Historical Motor Vehicles." This was the first year historical plates were available. By the end of the registration year 274 historical plates were issued.

• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Robert E. Foley.

1954:



• Motor vehicles manufactured after January 1, 1954, must be equipped with turn signals in working order, visible from both front and rear. Turn signal lights must be visible at a distance of not less than 300 feet in normal sunlight.



1954 'Physician' special license plate

• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Robert E. Foley.

1955:



• The General Assembly amended the highway use tax law, and the program was transferred to the Department of Taxation.

1955 continued:

• The requirement that all applications for license plates and driver licenses had to be notarized was eliminated as of September 30. This meant if an applicant was making a false statement on the application they were no longer liable for perjury, but only a misdemeanor. This conviction was easier to obtain than perjury.

• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - C. Ervin Nofer.

1956:



• The size of all license plates in the United States has been standardized at 6" x 12". Ohio began using the standard (6" x 12") size license plates effective with the 1956 plates.

• The BMV attempted to notify holders of driver licenses 30 days prior to their expiration date. Due to expense and complaints, the program was discontinued on January 1, 1958.

• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - C. Ervin Nofer.

1957:



• Effective March 29, the legislature enacted a section providing a flat license fee of \$10.00 for each transit bus. A 'transit bus' was defined to be a motor vehicle having a seating capacity of more than 7 passengers, operated and used by any person in the rendition of a public mass transportation service primarily in a

1957 continued:

municipality or municipalities. At least 75% of the annual mileage of such service and use shall be within such municipality or municipalities.

- Effective June 17, "farm truck" was redefined to include a truck or a bus used for necessary transportation of agricultural employees. A \$10.00 fee was set for 90 day licenses for such buses, and the number of 90 day licenses was limited to two in any fiscal license year.

- The Point system law was enacted, effective on June 22. This law required the Registrar to request the common pleas court for suspension of a driver license when 12 or more points are accumulated within two years. This new law established the following point system for traffic violations:

- Manslaughter- 6 points
- OMVI- 6 points
- Drag Racing- 6 points
- Failing to stop and disclose identity at the scene of an accident- 6 points
- Driving while under suspension or revocation of driver's license- 6 points
- Reckless Operation- 3 points
- Speeding- 2 points
- All other moving violations- 2 points

- Began issuing 10-day temporary tags effective September 4. The fee for these tags was \$1.00, plus a fee to the Registrar.

- Effective August 27, a person 14 years of age or over could obtain a driver license to operate a motorcycle or motor scooter with a motor that produces no more than 5 brake horsepower, or a bicycle with motor attached, provided he passed the driver examination and a parent or guardian signed for him.

- Effective September 7, certificates of title could be issued for motor vehicles valued at less than \$60.00 to custodians of places of storage, if the vehicle remained unclaimed 60 days after ordered into storage by law enforcement officials.

1957 continued:

- Effective September 16, a law was enacted authorizing the Registrar to issue a "junior probationary license" to operators of motor vehicles and motor-driven cycles between 16 and 18 years of age; and "restricted licenses" to such persons between 14 and 16. Such licenses could be revoked by the Registrar when such minor had been convicted of three moving violations and was effective until the holder's 18th birthday, and one year had elapsed since revocation.

- Effective September 17, the Registrar was permitted to issue "Restricted" operator licenses to persons with physical impairment. The restricted license, good for 6 months, could be issued to an individual who is or has been subject to episodic impairment of consciousness or loss of muscular control who, in the opinion of the Registrar, was capable of exercising reasonable and ordinary control of a motor vehicle. These licenses are issued if the person presented a statement from a licensed physician that such condition was under effective medical control.

- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - George C. Braden.

1958:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - George C. Braden.

1959:



1959 continued:

- As a result of requests from law enforcement officials and various safety organizations the law stating persons 14 and over can operate a motor scooter or motorcycle is repealed effective November 2.
- Effective November 2, a law was enacted stating a red flashing light was required on the rear of slow moving vehicles which normally travel at a speed less than 20 mph. The red flashing light was also applied to disabled vehicles.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Clifford W. Ayers.

1960:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Clifford W. Ayers.

1961:



- The Registrar is required to assign one or more deputy registrars to any driver license exam station (operated under the supervision of the Ohio Highway Patrol) that has given 20,000 or more driver license exams the preceding year, and can assign one or more deputy registrars to any other driver exam stations to issue operator licenses, temporary permits, and chauffeur licenses.

1961 continued:



- Effective October 2, the definition of "Historical Motor Vehicle" was changed to mean any motor vehicle which was built on or prior to December 31, 1926. The other requirements for licensing historical vehicles remained the same.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Clifford W. Ayers.

1962:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Clifford W. Ayers.

1963:



- Effective July 26, the age requirement in the definition of "Historical Motor Vehicle" was changed from a vehicle built on or prior to December 31, 1926, to a vehicle over 35 years old.

1963 continued:

STATE OF OHIO - DEPT. OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
OPERATOR'S LICENSE NO. M691330
 SHOULD BE CARRIED WHILE DRIVING
 EXPIRES ON LICENSEE'S BIRTHDAY IN 196 **6** ←
 PREVIOUS LIC. NO. C 200891
 NAME **VIRGINIA LEA SOMERS**
 ADDRESS **11059 Fenbrett Terrace**
Cleveland, Ohio 44130
 P.O. **OHIO**
 DATE OF BIRTH **2 22 19 F** SEX **F** HEIGHT **5-6** WEIGHT **100** HAIR **Bn** EYES **Bn**
 DEP. REG. **Frank Ede** REGISTERAR **W. Ayers**
 AT **Lynchurst**
Virginia Lea Somers SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE
 BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Clifford W. Ayers. Later replaced by Wayne Ward, and finally Dave Mainwaring.

1964-1966:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Lou Wilsch.

1967:



- Effective December 9, social security numbers are required to be displayed on driver licenses.
- Effective December 13, color photographs are required to be displayed on driver licenses. Although the law became effective December 13, 1967, the provisions of the act are effective January 1, 1969.
- Effective December 12, 1967, a bill was passed permitting the county motor vehicle license tax or municipal motor vehicle license tax of \$5.00 to be levied on motor vehicles.
- As Ohio was preparing to change over to new dies, disaster struck. On November 29, 1966, fire swept through the brand new license plate plant at the Lebanon Correctional Institution. Over 1.4 million plates were lost. The state was hurriedly forced to go outside the state to complete production of 1967 plates. About 25% of the plates were made by the prison systems in New York, Arkansas, and Nebraska, and distributed in 23 counties in the eastern half of the state.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Fred Rice.

1968:



1968 continued:

- Effective June 10, duplicate driver license requirements were enacted.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Fred Rice.

1969:



- Requirements for motorcycle operator licenses became effective on January 1, 1969.



- Effective July 1, 1969, driver education is required for individuals under 18 years of age (minors).
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Fred Rice.

1970:



- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Fred Rice.

1971:



- A new appropriations bill was passed and approved and the BMV conducted a study of the relative merits of "central issuance" and "field issuance" systems for producing and distributing photo licenses.

Under a "central issuance" system, deputy registrars across the state would complete application forms, collect fees and take each applicant's picture; then forward the application and photo negative to Bureau headquarters in Columbus, where a finished license would be produced and mailed to the applicant. Under a "field issuance" system, deputy registrars would be equipped to produce finished photo licenses in their own offices, and issue licenses immediately over the counter. The field issuance system was implemented for the cost effectiveness and to provide an improved level of customer convenience.

- Effective December 17, any disabled Veteran who, because of service-connected disability, has been or is awarded funds for the purchase of a motor vehicle under the "Veterans' Benefit Act of 1957", 38 U.S.C.A. 1901-72 Stat. 1215 and amendments thereto is eligible for free passenger license plates exempt from the payment of motor vehicle license tax, county or municipal tax levied under Chapter 4504 and deputy registrar service fee.

- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - C. Donald Curry.

1972:



- Effective January 1, 1972, approximately one-half of Ohio's drivers were issued a 3-year license and the other half received 4-year licenses.

1972 continued:

The 3-year license was issued to drivers whose surnames began with "A" through "K" and 4-year licenses were issued to drivers whose surnames began with "L" through "Z." Additionally, the Bureau advertised for bids on a camera system to be installed at deputy registrar agencies across the state which would enable deputies to produce and issue finished photo licenses on the spot in a matter of minutes.

• The Habitual Traffic Offender Law became effective September 22, with the following penalties:

- 6 points accumulated- driver receives warning letter.
- 8 points accumulated- (within 2 year period) driver required to undergo a new driver exam.

• 12 points accumulated- (within 2 year period) driver license subject to suspension for 6 months and in addition pass driver license exam and file proof of financial responsibility for 3 years.

• 24 points accumulated- (within 10 year period) driver license subject to suspension for 5 years. The driver was required to pass a new driver license exam and file proof of financial responsibility.

• The Registrar could renew the driver license of a person in active military or naval service of the United States without the requirement of a driver license exam. This law became effective October 16.

• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - C. Donald Curry.

1973:



The 1973 and 1974 plates were one of Ohio's most unique, with the message "SEAT BELTS FASTENED?"

• House Bill 234 effective September 24, permits drivers arrested on lesser traffic charges to post their driver license as bond.

1973 continued:

The posting of the license as bond must be acceptable to the local court having jurisdiction in the area and to the arresting officer. The License-for-bond law applies in speeding cases and other charges, but not for charges such as DWI(now called OVI), vehicular homicide, etc.

• Effective November 21, the age requirement in the definition of "Historical Motor Vehicle" was changed from a vehicle over 35 years old, to a vehicle over 25 years old.

• Effective December 17, Senate Bill 325 allowed anyone with more than 5, but no more than 11 points charged against their driving record to secure a credit of two points on their record by enrolling in a remedial driving instruction course approved by the Director of Highway Safety. A driver could enroll in such course only once to credit points.

• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - C. Donald Curry.

1974:



• In 1974, for the first time, reflectorized sheeting was utilized on Ohio license plates. 1974 also was the last year an embossed or stamped year is included in the plate design.

• A total statewide changeover from paper to color photo driver licenses and reorganization of the deputy registrar network to provide optimum photo license service within limited budgetary parameters took place in 1974. Remote computer terminals were installed at most photo licensing agencies as a preliminary step toward "online" branch issuance of all Ohio driver licenses.

• Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - C. Donald Curry. Later replaced by James A. Garry.

1975:



- In 1975, 1974 plates were used in conjunction with a 1975 validation sticker.
- By December 1975, all functioning driver license agencies in the state were operating in an “online” configuration through a statewide network of remote computer terminals.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - James A. Garry. Later replaced by Curtis Andrews.

1976:



- Collector's vehicle plates were first issued in 1976. Issued to any motor vehicle having a special interest, and a fair market value greater than \$100, and used as a collectors item and not for general transportation.

1976 continued:

- Effective January 5, anatomical donations statement to be displayed on driver licenses.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Dean L. Dollison.

1977:

- In 1977, 1976 plates were used in conjunction with a 1977 validation sticker.
- Effective January 1, the Ohio color photo identification card program was enacted to provide identification to individuals who were not licensed as operators of motor vehicles in Ohio or another jurisdiction.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Dean L. Dollison.

1978-1979



- In 1978-1979, 1976 plates were used in conjunction with a current year validation sticker.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Dean L. Dollison.

1980:

- A staggered monthly renewal registration of passenger and other non-commercial vehicles was implemented. Prior to this, vehicle registrations were renewed within the three month period of March through May and required the implementation of approximately 350 temporary deputy registrars to supplement the nearly 400 year-round agencies in operation at that time.

- A new numbering system was implemented for plates to be issued in 1980 and in subsequent years. The first plates were aluminum, with Ohio embossed. The series started at CAA-010 and issued up from that number. Non Commercial plates for 1979 were red on white and used a ABC-123 format. Motor Homes were BAA-123. Thus passenger plates

1980 continued:

in 1980 started with CAA so there would be no overlapping/duplicating numbers. After 12/31/80, the AAA thru BZZ series were released and used up. Somewhere in the M series (between MAA and MZZ) a switch was made to the screened Ohio. This was apparently a time/money saver as there was only one stamping of the numbers. Somewhere in the N series (between NAA and NZZ), the metal switched to steel because of a law passed requiring Ohio steel to be used. That's why plates are steel to this day.



- 1980 license plates came in different versions. One had a stamped, raised 'OHIO', and one had a flat, screened on 'OHIO'.
- State of Ohio symbol will be placed on passenger plates only and omitted from all personalized plates.
- The state symbol will be placed so that it separates alpha and numeric characters, and the alpha and numeric characters are centered on the plates with the first and last characters equal distance from each end of the plate for a balanced plate appearance.
- The general rule regarding the state symbol on reserve plates is that the symbol shall appear on all reserve plates containing both alpha and numeric characters, providing that these alpha and numeric characters are grouped (not intermixed).
- The letters "O" and "I" are used only when they are middle letters of a three alpha series. The exception to this is Consular (career) plates.

1980 continued:

- The numbering system for commercial trucks and trailers will remain unchanged, i.e. first digit(s) on truck plate designates weight series and is always less than last digit(s) on the truck plate. On trailer plates, the last digit(s) designates weight series and is always less than the first digit(s) on the plate.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Dean L. Dollison.

1981-1984:

- In 1981-1984, 1980 plates were used in conjunction with a current year validation sticker.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Michael J. McCullion.

1985:



- 1985 license plates came in different versions. One had a stamped, raised 'OHIO', and one had a flat, screened on 'OHIO'. When production started in 1984 for the green plates issued during 1985, on occasion, more blue plates were needed to be produced. Thus, the old "Ohio" dies were dusted off and used with plain reflective sheeting and embossed steel plates were issued starting in the TAA series and continued production through about UHF or so. Then, a switch was made to the newer dies and the screened Ohio reflective sheeting began being used.
- Vision screening required for driver's license issuance.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Michael J. McCullion.

1986:

- In 1986, 1985 plates were used in conjunction with a current year validation sticker.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Michael J. McCullion.

1987:

- In 1987, 1985 plates were used in conjunction with a current year validation sticker.
- BMV began capturing anatomical donation information on computerized driving records.
- The Ohio Motorcyclist Enrichment Program (OMEPE) was established.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Michael J. McCullion.

1988:

- In 1988, 1985 plates were used in conjunction with a current year validation sticker.
- Effective 11/28/88 the selection of deputy registrars was changed from a political patronage process to a competitive privatized request for proposal process. The choice of deputy registrars was no longer to be based on political influence. Prior to the implementation of this law, there were 268 deputy registrars. Because of the change to date of birth registration and the onset of mail registration, it was determined that only 202 deputy registrars were needed. Senate Bill 1 authorizes the Registrar to appoint private individuals, nonprofit corporations, and county auditors to run deputy registrar license agencies.
- The National Driver Registry was implemented. Ohio joined four other states in a pilot project with the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Michael J. McCullion.

1989:

- In 1989, 1985 plates were used in conjunction with a current year validation sticker.
- First year for date-of-birth vehicle registration and the mail-in registration renewal option.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Michael J. McCullion.

1990:

- In 1990, 1985 plates were used in conjunction with a current year validation sticker.
- The Chauffeur's License category was changed to Commercial Driver's License (CDL). In addition, federal law requires all large truck and bus drivers to pass knowledge and road skill tests to obtain a CDL.
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Michael J. McCullion.

1991:



- In 1984, the Ohio Division of Travel and Tourism created the slogan, "Ohio, The Heart of It All" to promote tourism. The office adopted this slogan for many reasons. One reason why was because the state of Ohio roughly resembles a heart in shape. This slogan appeared on all official publications of the Ohio Division of Travel and Tourism. The state also placed it on highway signs welcoming people to Ohio. In 1991 it began to appear on Ohio's license plates.
- International Registration Plan (IRP) began. The IRP was an agreement among 44 other states and the Canadian Province of Alberta whereby a motor carrier can register fleets of motor vehicles for travel in all IRP member jurisdictions by filing the vehicle registration paperwork through the home, or base, IRP jurisdiction.

1991 continued:

- In 1991, the BMV began to computerize Ohio's auto titles. The new system eased the collection of sales tax on vehicles and helped to deter odometer fraud and vehicle theft through enhanced security features and tracking capabilities.
- An Administrative Tracking System (ATS) was implemented to monitor the status of suspended drivers. The ATS permits driving records to be updated every 24 hours compared to the previous 72 or more hours.
- There are 57 one-stop shop locations statewide:
 - 4 locations offer deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
 - 18 locations offer deputy registrar and driver exam services
 - 35 locations offer deputy registrar and title services
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Mitchell J. Brown.

1992:

- In 1992, 1991 plates were used in conjunction with a current year validation sticker.
 - On September 24, the Ohio Department of Highway Safety was renamed the Ohio Department of Public Safety.
- 
- The BMV began issuing Collegiate License Plates in September.
 - New enhanced security Certificate of Titles are issued beginning April 22. The first new title was issued for a 1913 Ford in Vinton County.
 - On November 22, an Automated Call Distribution (ACD) system was installed in Columbus to manage incoming telephone calls more efficiently. The ACD system utilizes computer based technology to manage telephone inquiries.

1992 continued:

- There are 62 one-stop shop locations statewide:
 - 9 locations offer deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
 - 18 locations offer deputy registrar and driver exam services
 - 35 locations offer deputy registrar and title services
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Mitchell J. Brown.

1993:

- In 1993, 1991 plates were used in conjunction with a current year validation sticker.
- In February a pilot project driver license reinstatement center was opened in Lucas County, Toledo.
- Effective September 1, the Administrative Driver License Suspension (ALS) laws provided for the immediate, on the spot, suspension of a driver license by a police officer when a driver is stopped for drunk driving if the test results exceed the legal limit of .10% blood alcohol concentration (BAC) or if the sobriety test is refused.
- There are 71 one-stop shop locations statewide:
 - 12 locations offer deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
 - 24 locations offer deputy registrar and driver exam services
 - 35 locations offer deputy registrar and title services
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Mitchell J. Brown.



These plates, referred to as 'family plates', are required to be displayed on vehicles in certain circumstances where the driver is under an 'Operating a Vehicle while Intoxicated' (OVI) suspension.

1994:

- In 1994, 1991 plates were used in conjunction with a current year validation sticker.
- Effective February 14, implementation begins for a digitized driver license issuance system. The new driver licenses and identification cards will contain digital photographs, bar code, and an encoded magnetic stripe.
- Effective June 28, the BMV is required to provide an opportunity for driver license, commercial driver license, identification card, or motorcycle license applicants to register to vote or to update voter registration information.
- There are 83 one-stop shop locations statewide:
 - 17 locations offer deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
 - 30 locations offer deputy registrar and driver exam services
 - 36 locations offer deputy registrar and title services
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Mitchell J. Brown.

1995:

- In 1995, 1991 plates were used in conjunction with a current year validation sticker.
- February 14 began the issuance of digitized driver license and identification cards.
- A new financial responsibility law requiring insurance identification cards to be issued to all those insured becomes effective on April 20. However, enforcement was delayed until October 20.
- On June 1 an additional regional driver license reinstatement office was opened in Cuyahoga County, Parma Heights.
- Ohio's gold format license plates became available for the first time on July 1, for Hall of Fame, Lake Erie, Scenic River, and personalized reserved license plates.

1995 continued:

- There are 92 one-stop shop locations statewide:
 - 22 locations offer deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
 - 34 locations offer deputy registrar and driver exam services
 - 36 locations offer deputy registrar and title services
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Mitchell J. Brown.

1996:



- In 1996, Ohio introduced a new 'Gold' license plate for general issuance.
- Ohio's enhanced automobile emissions testing (E Check) program became effective January 2. A tailpipe test measures vehicle emissions during various driving cycles. The 1990 federal "Clean Air Act" amendments specified enhanced testing for ozone and carbon monoxide non-attainment areas ranked serious and above. Ohio's non-attainment areas are ranked moderate, which is one step below serious. Affected counties include: Butler, Clark, Clermont, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Greene, Hamilton, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Montgomery, Portage, Summit, and Warren.
- On June 2, a driver license reinstatement office opened in Hamilton County. The office was located in Cincinnati.
- On June 3, a driver license reinstatement office opened in Mahoning County. The office was located in Youngstown.
- As of June 17, "Get Personal" computers were installed into deputy registrar license agencies. With these computers, customers are able to check the availability of special license plates at the branch agencies.

1996 continued:

- Legislation passed in July requiring “Birthplace of Aviation” to replace the “Heart of it All” slogan displayed on motor vehicle license plates.
- Effective July, BMV information became accessible on the Internet.
- BMV began issuing seven character license plates formatted in 3 letters and 4 numbers.
- There are 95 one-stop shop locations statewide:
 - 26 locations offer deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
 - 36 locations offer deputy registrar and driver exam services
 - 33 locations offer deputy registrar and title services
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Mitchell J. Brown.

1997:

- In 1997, 1996 plates were used in conjunction with a current year validation sticker.
- On March 14 a driver license reinstatement office opened in Stark County. The office was located in Canton.
- In July the Second Chance Trust Fund was introduced for the promotion of organ, tissue, and eye donations. Deputy registrars are required to ask individuals applying for driver licenses or identification cards if they wish to contribute \$1.00 to this fund.
- The Driver’s Privacy Protection Act (DPPA), effective September 13, permits an individual to “opt out” at the time of application for a driver license, identification card, or vehicle registration. Opting out is the process by which an individual may protect personal information from disclosure to individuals or bulk mail distributors.

1997 continued:

- Effective December, driver license and identification card numbers are permanently assigned to individuals.
- There are 98 one-stop shop locations statewide:
 - 27 locations offer deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
 - 38 locations offer deputy registrar and driver exam services
 - 33 locations offer deputy registrar and title services
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Franklin R. Caltrider.

1998:



- In 1998, Ohio introduced a new ‘Birthplace Of Aviation’ slogan to the ‘Gold’ license plate. ‘The Heart of It All’ slogan was discontinued. The new slogan celebrates Ohio as the birthplace of Orville and Wilbur Wright, inventors of the first airplane.



4300 Kimberly Parkway

- On February 14th the BMV initiated its move from 4300 Kimberly Parkway, Columbus, Ohio, to the newly constructed Ohio Department of Public Safety building located at 1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio.

1998 continued:



1970 West Broad Street

The new Ohio Dept. of Public Safety building replaced the historic Columbus Asylum as part of the 'Hilltop' area landscape.



- Effective July 29, the social security number may be removed from driver license (except CDL driver) or identification card.
- Effective December, random verification of insurance began. Approximately 5,000 valid vehicle registrations per week are selected. Requests are sent to the vehicle owner asking them to show proof of insurance for a previous date.
- There are 100 one-stop shop locations statewide:
 - 30 locations offer deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
 - 38 locations offer deputy registrar and driver exam services
 - 32 locations offer deputy registrar and title services
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Franklin R. Caltrider.

1999:

- Effective January 1, phase 2 of the Graduated Driver License (GDL) law went into effect for driver license issuance prior to the age of 18. An individual must document 50 hours of actual driving experience (with at least 10 hours of night driving) certified by a parent, hold a temporary permit packet for at least 6 months, and complete 24 hours of classroom instruction and 8 hours driving instruction.
- Motor vehicle lessees have the option to renew leased vehicles by mail beginning August 1.
- An upgrade was made to the Automated Title Processing System (ATPS) on October 15.
- There are 102 one-stop shop locations statewide:
 - 30 locations offer deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
 - 39 locations offer deputy registrar and driver exam services
 - 33 locations offer deputy registrar and title services
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Franklin R. Caltrider.

2000:

- Effective in 2000, initial and personalized special plate options were made available to holders of historical vehicle license plates.
- Effective June 1, the BMV no longer releases personal information from an individual's driving record to bulk mail distributors for surveys, marketing or solicitations in accord with the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act (DPPA). Driving record information is only released if an individual completes and submits an "opt-in" form to the BMV.



2000 continued:

- Two state operated Customer Service Center (CSC) offices opened in Columbus on July 1. These one-stop shop facilities offer deputy registrar, title, driver exam (written and driving), and other services to the public. The CSC offices incorporate computer based customer traffic management systems and automated driver license kiosk testing.



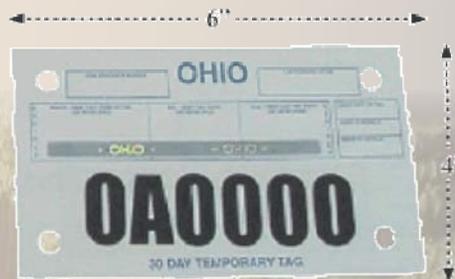
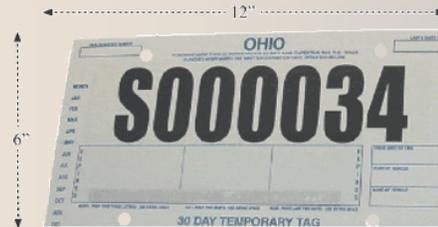
- On December 12, at OPLATES.com, online Internet and telephone vehicle registration began.
- The BMV obtains a new Internet Uniform Resource Locator (URL): www.ohiobmv.com.
- There are 8,706,216 Ohio licensed drivers and ID card holders in the state of Ohio.
- In 2000, more than 1.4 million Ohioans registered to become organ donors through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).
- There are 107 one-stop shop locations statewide:
 - 34 locations offer deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services (*includes two state operated offices in Columbus that opened 7/1/00)
 - 43 locations offer deputy registrar and driver exam services
 - 30 locations offer deputy registrar and title services
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Franklin R. Caltrider.

2001:

- Effective January 1, 2001, all disability parking placards that expired on Jan, 1, and thereafter, were subject to a new procedure for recertification. HB 148 required a signed statement (prescription) from the applicant's physician, and a completed disability application.

2001 continued:

- The BMV announced a new online service, www.OhioAutoDealers.com, designed to inform the public about the outcome of new car, used car, and salvage Dealer Board rulings.
- Effective February 12, 2001, The BMV began waiving the \$10 additional fee for all military special plates.



- In March, the BMV began to issue new 30 day temporary tags. These tags incorporated several new security features to deter fraud.
- Effective July 1, 2001, the deputy registrar fee increased from \$2.25 to \$2.75 under HB 94.



- Effective September 10, 2001, in an effort to further protect Ohio citizens against identity theft, the Ohio BMV began enlisting the help of the Social Security Administration (SSA) to verify social security numbers, dates of birth, and/or names of approximately 9 million driver license and identification card records. The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) provided the link between the BMV and SSA for the verification process. Approximately 3.9% of the BMV's 9 million driver records did not match the

2001 continued:

records on file with the SSA. In most instances discrepancies were simply a result of name changes, name spelling, and/or dates of birth.

- Effective September 19, 2001, SB 31 prohibited the display of social security numbers on motor vehicle certificates of registration.



- October 1, 2001, the BMV launched the sale of Ohio's red, white and blue bicentennial plates, which were designed to replace the blue and white plate. Sales of the blue and white plate were discontinued as of September 29, 2001. By December 5, 2001, one-million bicentennial plates had been sold.

- Effective October 31, 2001, SB 59 allowed the Registrar to appoint Clerks of Courts as full authority deputy registrars in counties with populations of under 40,000 and allowed the appointment of Clerks of Courts as limited authority deputy registrars in other counties.

- In 2001, more than 1.5 million Ohioans registered to become organ donors through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).

- There were 7,892,886 licensed drivers and ID card holders in the state of Ohio.

- There were 106 one-stop shop locations statewide:

- 37 locations offered deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
- 26 locations offered deputy registrar and driver exam services
- 43 locations offered deputy registrar and title services

- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Franklin R. Caltrider.

2002:

- Online title inquiry was made available on the BMV website.

- One year interim contracts were offered to all deputy registrar contracts up for renewal. The Registrar elected to delay the Request for Proposal process for 2003 until a future date while the effects of SB 59 on existing deputy registrar transactions were analyzed.

- Parents can now lose their driving privileges if they do not keep up with their child support payments. In a program coordinated by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), licenses of parents who are not current or have not kept up with child support orders will be subject to the suspension of their driving privileges.



- On March 1, 2002, the BMV began issuing vertical driver licenses and state ID cards to Ohioans under 21 years old.

- Cross county titling was implemented statewide on March 4, 2002, which allowed Ohioans to purchase a title in any of Ohio's 88 counties. Prior to this, citizens had to go to the county of residence of the vehicle or boat buyer to obtain a title.

- Effective May 15, 2002, the BMV began to issue non-renewable/non-transferable licenses and identification cards to non-U.S. citizens who could prove legal presence in the United States. SB 184 states that individuals must prove they are U.S. citizens before the BMV will issue a license or ID card. Non-U.S. citizens, who are here legally, now receive a non-renewable/non-transferable license or ID card for the amount of time INS documents allow them to be in the United States, but not more than four years.

2002 continued:

- On July 2, 2002 the BMV launched the new Ohio Donor Registry as a result of SB 188. This registry is a way to give legal consent for an anatomical gift upon an individual's death.

- Effective August 1, 2002, HB 46 provided that any person under 26 years of age who is required to register with the Selective Service System, upon submission of an application for issuance or renewal of a driver's license, is deemed to have given consent for the BMV to forward any necessary information for registration to the Selective Service System.

- Effective August 2, 2002, approximately sixty (60) leasing companies and branches have given the BMV electronic power of attorney. This allows customers to renew their vehicles through the internet, telephone, mail, or at their local deputy registrar and they will no longer need to show a hard copy power of attorney.

- Effective August 15, 2002, a committee was established that is assigned exclusively to assess operations of the Ohio BMV. The BMV Citizens Advisory Committee, a direct result of House Bill 182, has been established to examine the practices of the BMV. The nine-member committee will make recommendations directly to members of the Legislature. A toll-free telephone number and an e-mail address have been implemented for Ohioans to address any comments, suggestions, or recommendations in reference to BMV operations.

- There were 8,335,065 licensed drivers and ID card holders in the state of Ohio.

- There were 114 one-stop shop locations statewide:

- 42 locations offered deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
- 25 locations offered deputy registrar and driver exam services
- 47 locations offered deputy registrar and title services

- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Franklin R. Caltrider.

2003:



2003 marked Ohio's bicentennial (1803-2003). To celebrate the bicentennial, one barn in each of Ohio's 88 counties was hand painted with the Ohio bicentennial logo. This same logo appears on all standard Ohio bicentennial license plates.



- The deputy registrar fee increased from \$2.75 to \$3.25 as a result of HB 94, passed in 2001, which allowed the increase if deputy registrars achieve a 90% statewide satisfaction rating in 2002. The deputies achieved a 93% satisfaction rating statewide.

- Governor Taft appointed Kenneth Morckel, former Superintendent of the Ohio Highway Patrol, as Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, effective January 13, 2003.

- In January, the Ohio BMV began using a new program that assists in the distribution of money to taxing districts throughout Ohio. The BMV began using a geographic reference system to verify addresses and assign taxing districts. The correct taxing district is important for collecting and distributing license and permissive tax fees.

2003 continued:

- Effective May 22, 2003, several state run BMV offices began offering fingerprinting services to customers. The state's seven (7) reinstatement offices, as well as the Customer Service Centers in Columbus, now offer fingerprinting services to customers on a walk-in basis during business hours. Background checks can be completed by the state Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification (BCII) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Transactions take an average of five (5) minutes.
- Under HB 87, vehicle registrations increased by \$11 for all whose registrations expired on or after October 1, 2003. Fees for driver licenses also rose \$12 and temporary tag fees rose \$5 beginning October 1, 2003.
- Effective November 1, 2003, CDL test receipts became available at all deputy registrar agencies.
- A pilot program was initiated, required under SB 59, which offered limited vehicle registration functions at eight of Ohio's 88 county clerks of courts title offices. The eight clerks selected to participate are referred to as Limited Authority Deputy Registrars (LADRs).
- Beginning August 08, the BMV started manufacturing made-to-order license plates on the new digital license plate system for logo, personalized, and initial reserve plates. The plates are produced by utilizing a new digital technology, which allows the capability to print the alpha/numeric combination and a logo directly on the sheeting. The digital plates are flat, not embossed. Standard license plates will continue to be embossed. The only previous time Ohio issued 'flat' plates was 1908-1917.
- There were 8,728,546 licensed drivers and ID card holders in the state of Ohio.
- There were 117 one-stop shop locations statewide:
 - 44 locations offered deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
 - 24 locations offered deputy registrar and driver exam services
 - 49 locations offered deputy registrar and title services
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Franklin R. Caltrider.

2004:

- Beginning January 1, 2004, Ohioans who owned a motor vehicle could register their vehicles for the next two succeeding registration years. HB 87 allowed for biennial registration.
- As of January 1, deputy registrar fees increased from \$3.25 to \$3.50 as a result of HB 94, passed in 2001, which allowed the increase if deputy registrars achieved a 90% statewide satisfaction rating in 2003. According to a survey conducted by the Ohio State University Center for Survey Research, the deputies received customer service ratings over 90% in all categories.



- On February 20, 2004, the BMV unveiled the new sunburst license plates. On 02/23/04 the BMV began issuing all special plates with the sunburst design. On 03/01/04 BMV began using the sunburst design for general issuance plates also. These plates did not replace current license plates. In 2004, Ohio used three types of valid license plates (gold, bicentennial, and the new sunburst design).
- On February 29, 2004, the BMV stopped distributing bicentennial plates to deputy registrars for issuance. Deputy registrars continued to issue the bicentennial plates until their stock ran out, then only issued the new sunburst design plates.
- On March 1, 2004, motorcycle plates became 1/2" shorter in height to a size of 4" x 7".
- On March 3, 2004, two new programs were implemented affecting owners of commercial vehicles as they prepare to renew their registration. The first program, Staggered Registration, began and ran through the March 2004 - May 2004 registration period. This system was designed to alleviate the congestion when commercial vehicle registration comes up for renewal. It allows commercial vehicle owners to opt for changing their registration expiration date. The second program, Performance and Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM), began

2004 continued:

with the May 2004 renewal season. PRISM is a cooperative federal and state program, which links motor carrier safety and vehicle registrations.

- Beginning March 9, a driver can be suspended for not paying to fill up his/her gas tank. House Bill 179 allows Ohio's courts to tell the Ohio BMV to suspend an individual's driving privileges for gas theft. If the driver left the premises of an establishment selling gasoline for retail sale, and the individual did not pay in full for the gasoline, a court may suspend the person's driving privileges for not more than 6 months. The law is in effect for a driver who dispenses fuel into a vehicle, or into another container, and would be applied to anyone who possesses a driver license, probationary driver license, commercial driver license, temporary permit, or non-resident operating privileges.

- Beginning April 7, as a result of House Bill 54, the Ohio BMV began issuing 'student driver' stickers with all temporary instruction permits. The sticker may be displayed on a side window or rear window to inform other motor vehicle operators that the vehicle is being operated by a holder of a temporary permit. Display is recommended, but not required.

- Beginning in June, The Ohio BMV began issuing new, smaller 30-day temporary tags for motorcycles. Up until this time, the same temporary tags were issued for passenger vehicles and motorcycles. The new temporary tags are 4" high and 7" wide, matching the smaller standard motorcycle license plates, which were made smaller on March 1, 2004.

- Beginning August 27, the Ohio BMV began using the National Motor Vehicle Titling Information System, a disclosure and information database that links states together to prevent the titling of stolen motor vehicles and discloses any brands associated with a particular motor vehicle, e.g., salvage titles).



- Family plates will now be known as "restricted plates". These plates are issued to

2004 continued:

residents that are repeat 'Operating a Vehicle while Intoxicated' (OVI) offenders who request driving privileges through the court that convicted them of the OVI.

- There were 8,793,983 licensed drivers and ID card holders in the state of Ohio.

- There were 116 one-stop shop locations statewide:

- 44 locations offered deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services

- 23 locations offered deputy registrar and driver exam services

- 49 locations offered deputy registrar and title services

- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Franklin R. Caltrider.

2005

- Beginning in 2005, customers of the Ohio BMV were able to purchase a copy of their driving abstract (three-year driving record) at any Ohio deputy registrar agency. The cost is \$5.50 (\$2 plus the \$3.50 deputy fee). Previously, an abstract was only available at the Ohio BMV reinstatement Centers, the Ohio BMV Customer Service Centers, or by mail.



- Beginning January 31, 2005, persons making a new application for a Hazardous Material endorsement to their CDL license are required to undergo a 'Security Threat Assessment', which includes a background check.

- In April, 2005, a new Business Application Services System (BASS) was implemented by the BMV to improve deputy registrar operations. This new system brings better transaction efficiency and customer service, as well as a more efficient inventory control method to the issuance of Ohio driver licenses and vehicle registrations.

2005 continued:

- Beginning May 31, 2005, all Hazmat endorsements are required to undergo the Security Threat Assessment. This includes new CDL, renewal CDL, and out-of-state CDL conversions where a Hazardous Material endorsement is involved.



- On July 8, 2005, The Ohio BMV launched an online organ donor registry, allowing Ohioans to clearly state their commitments to donate life by organ and tissue donation.

- Near the end of October, in an effort to provide assistance to residents of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi impacted by the devastation resulting from Hurricane Katrina, the Ohio BMV began issuing non-renewable and non-transferable Ohio driver licenses and identification cards to eligible individuals. Displaced residents of these states were asked to provide specific identifying information, along with a phone number where they could be reached. The Ohio BMV then contacted the resident's home state, verified the information given, then assisted the individual with their license or identification card issuance.

- In November, the Ohio BMV began including 3rd party advertising with mail-in registration renewal notices. A Ford Motor Co. insert was the first to be sent out. This flyer offered a \$50 'Ford Bonus Card' Visa debit card to anyone who would test-drive a new Ford Division vehicle. In exchange for allowing the advertising to be included with the renewal information, a contracted company mailed the registration renewals, at no cost to the Ohio BMV, saving the citizens of Ohio over \$850,000 a year in mailing costs. The pilot project was terminated shortly thereafter.

TEST-DRIVE A FORD.
GET A \$50 FORD VISA® BONUS CARD.



2005 continued:

- There were 8,802,906 licensed drivers and ID card holders in the state of Ohio.
- There were 117 one-stop shop locations statewide:
 - 44 locations offered deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
 - 24 locations offered deputy registrar and driver exam services
 - 49 locations offered deputy registrar and title services
- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Franklin R. Caltrider.

2006



- On May 18, 2006, the BMV began live testing of a new Print On Demand (POD) Vehicle Registration Sticker System in its two Customer Service Centers. The POD Registration Sticker project supports BMV's objective to continue to enhance quality customer service and security, using quality technology with increased security features. Agency 2503 on East Main Street, Columbus, was the first Deputy Registrar to utilize the new POD hardware and software. The agency went live on June 09, 2006.
- On June 1, 2006, the BMV began allowing motor vehicle dealers that sell 30-day temporary tags to order and pay for those tags on-line using an electronic check. The goal of this program is to not only save dealerships time and money, but also to facilitate better service for the BMV-related portion of auto sales. The new on-line check order system enables dealerships to place orders instantly. In most cases orders are shipped the next business day.
- On July 11, 2006, the Ohio BMV announced the creation of a new website aimed at helping Ohioans determine if someone has used their personal information to obtain a fraudulent driver license. The website allows Ohioans to enter selected information from their driver license into a secure website. The customer is instructed to match the date of issue on the license in their possession with the most recent date of issue on file with the

2006 continued:

BMV, and shown on the website. If the customer determines a license has been issued more recently than the one they have in hand, there is a strong possibility that their personal information has been appropriated. If this is the case, the customer is advised to contact the BMV to immediately begin an investigation into the issuances.

- Beginning July 14, 2006, the Ohio BMV began to require Ohioans to provide the color of their vehicle as part of the registration process. Customers are asked during the registration process to select the primary color of their vehicle from a chart of standardized colors. If applicable, they would also be able to provide a secondary color. The information is stored electronically along with the vehicle owner's information, vehicle make, model, year, and vehicle identification number (VIN).

Once the vehicle color has been provided, it will not be required on renewals. However, if the vehicle is sold, the new owner will have to verify the color at first registration.

This new feature is in support of the Amber Alert System, and will allow vehicle color to be verified and added to the description of a vehicle when an Amber Alert is issued for a missing child.

- Beginning August 18, 2006, the BMV added the ability to access Ohio driving records to its new online services. Customers first enter their Ohio driver license number and other selected identifiers into a secure website. Once the information is entered and verified, the website returns the customer's 3-year driver history.

- Beginning September 14, 2006, the BMV added the ability to allow drivers with suspended licenses to view specific information to allow them to reinstate their driving privileges to its new online services. Customers first enter their Ohio driver license number and other selected identifiers into a secure website. Once the information is entered and verified, customers click on the "View your reinstatement requirements if your driving privileges are suspended" link to view the letter that has been previously mailed to them which outlines the specific steps they need to take to reinstate their driving privileges.

2006 continued:

- Beginning October 2, 2006, the BMV again expanded its online customer services to include a feature that allows businesses to download forms off the internet necessary to establish prepaid accounts. There are four BMV prepaid accounts: the Ohio Driver License Abstract account, which allows businesses that regularly check individual driving records; the Driver License Search account, which allows businesses to find a driver license based on information provided to the BMV; the Vehicle Registration account, which includes the registrant's name, address, vehicle description, registration issue and expiration dates, and current status of the registration; and the Vehicle Title Record Search account, which includes the owner's name, address, vehicle description, title issue and expiration dates, current status of title, previous owner, and lien information.

- There were 112 one-stop shop locations statewide:
 - 43 locations offered deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
 - 21 locations offered deputy registrar and driver exam services
 - 48 locations offered deputy registrar and title services

- Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Franklin R. Caltrider.

2007

- Effective April 3, a new specialty license plate recognizing the Ohio Donor Registry became available. A portion of the 'Donate Life' plate fees, \$5, will benefit the Ohio Department of Health's Second Chance Trust Fund (SCTF). The SCTF educates Ohioans about the difference one individual can make by signing up as an organ and tissue donor in the Ohio Donor Registry.

- Beginning April 6, new Ohio teen driving restrictions take effect. Probationary driver license holders under the age of 17 will not be permitted to operate a motor vehicle with more than 1 person who is not a family member in the vehicle, unless accompanied by the license holder's parent, guardian, or legal custodian. Probationary license holders 17 years of age will be restricted from driving between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. unless the holder is accompanied by a parent or guardian, with the following exceptions: an emergency situation, driving to or from a school activity, or driving to and from work. Probationary license holders under the age of 17 are prohibited from driving between midnight and 6 a.m. unless

2007 continued:

accompanied by a parent or guardian with the same exceptions as previously listed. Temporary permit holders under the age of 18 will be prohibited from driving between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m., unless accompanied by a parent, guardian or legal custodian who holds a valid license. If a probationary driver license holder under the age of 17 is convicted of having committed 1 moving violation during the first 6 months of having a driver license, the person must be accompanied by a parent or guardian whenever operating a motor vehicle during the 6 month period commencing on the date on which the person is convicted of or pleads guilty to the moving violation, or until the person attains the age of 17.

Beginning November 20, individuals who are renewing a current Ohio driver license, Ohio commercial driver license (CDL) or state identification card will no longer be required to present a Social Security card at an Ohio BMV license agency for verification at the time of renewal. An Ohio driver license, Ohio CDL or Ohio ID card which is current or has expired for less than 6 months is acceptable without further proof of the applicant's Social Security number if it has been previously verified in the BMV's records.

There were 113 one-stop shop locations statewide:

- 46 locations offered deputy registrar, title, and driver exam services
- 21 locations offered deputy registrar and driver exam services
- 46 locations offered deputy registrar and title services

Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Mike Rankin.

2008

January 11, states receive final federal rules to secure driver licenses nationwide through the REAL ID initiative. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced today final rules establishing minimum security standards for state-issued driver licenses and identification cards. Ohio Department of Public Safety and Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles officials received the 284-page final rule document and participated in a national conference call where DHS officials discussed today's announcement.

2008 continued:

April 25 Gold Star specialty plate becomes available and honors all those who died in a combat zone while serving any branch of the U.S. armed forces. Immediate family members of a person who died in a combat zone may order a set of Gold Star plates.



Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Mike Rankin.

2009

May 11 Full implementation of Ohio's new driver license began after a successful pilot project the previous month. The new format features changes in color and design, additional changes to assist law enforcement, as well as additional security features.



July 1 Due to the passage of House Bill 2, driver license fees are raised. First driver license issuance for individuals over 21 is raised to \$23, while driver license renewals are raised to \$25.75. Temporary Permit packets now cost \$22.

August 10 Ohio BMV implements a new online service allowing Ohioans to pay suspension reinstatement fees online. This service was previously only available by mail or in person at a BMV reinstatement center.

October 1 The remainder of House Bill 2 fee increases go into effect. Included are an increase in Temporary Tag fees to \$18.50, as well as a \$15 increase in both initial and personalized license plate fees to \$25 and \$50 respectively. Additionally, a \$20 fee is added for all late license and vehicle registration renewals.

2009 continued:

- **October 8** Those Ohio residents applying for a new or first time driver license or state identification card, replacing a lost license or ID card, or making an address change on a license or ID card will need to provide documents that establish the applicant's current Ohio residential street address.

- **Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Mike Rankin.**

2010

- **March 31** The 'Beautiful Ohio' license plate design becomes available and will eventually be Ohio's new standard issue license plate design, replacing the 'sunburst' red, white and blue design that has been available since March 2004.

- **June 7** All purpose vehicles (APVs) are now required to have a license plate and registration sticker. A \$34.75 registration fee will be collected for the issuance of a 3 year registration. All registrations are for 3 years and expire on December 31, in the third year after the date of issuance. An Ohio Certificate of Title must be presented to register an off-highway motorcycle or APV.

- **June 25** The Automobile License Plate Collectors Association (ALPCA), the largest and most respected club for license plate collectors nationwide, awarded the Ohio BMV the second place award for the best new license plate.

- **December 1** The 'Beautiful Ohio' design becomes Ohio's new standard issue license plate design, replacing the 'sunburst' red, white and blue design that has been available since March 2004. The 'Sunburst' license plate is no longer available as an option for license plates.



- **Motor Vehicle Department Registrar - Carolyn Williams.**

REGISTRARS OF MOTOR VEHICLES

DATE	NAME	TITLE
1907-1911	Fred H. Caley	Registrar
1911-1915	J.A. Shearer	Registrar
1915-1917	William H. Walker	Registrar
1917-1919	W.A. McCurdy	Registrar
1919-1923	A.G. Snow	Registrar
1923-1924	Chalmers R. Wilson	Registrar
1925-1933	Chalmers R. Wilson	Commissioner
1933-1933	J.P.Brennan	Commissioner
1933-1935	Glen M. Daily	Registrar
1935-1939	Frank West	Registrar
1939-1944	Cylon W. Wallace	Registrar
1944-1946	Frank M. Quinn	Acting Registrar
1947-1948	Edward T. Fogo	Registrar
1948-1950	Frank M. Quinn	Registrar
1950-1954	Robert E. Foley	Registrar
1954-1957	C. Ervin Nofer	Acting Registrar
1957-1959	George C. Braden	Registrar
1959-1963	Clifford W. Ayers	Registrar
1963-1963	Wayne Ward	Registrar
1963-1964	Dave Mainwaring	Registrar
1964-1966	Lou Wilsch	Registrar
1966-1971	Fred Rice	Registrar
1971-11/74	C. Donald Curry	Registrar
11/74-01/75	James A. Garry	Registrar
1975-1976	Curtis Andrews	Registrar
1976-1983	Dean L. Dollison	Registrar
1983-1991	Michael J. McCullion	Registrar
1991-1996	Mitchell J. Brown	Registrar
12/96-01/97	Franklin R. Caltrider	Acting Registrar

REGISTRARS OF MOTOR VEHICLES

DATE	NAME	TITLE
01/97-02/07	Franklin R. Caltrider	Registrar
02/07-04/07	Carolyn Y. Williams	Acting Registrar
04/07-08/09	Mike Rankin	Registrar
08/09-03/10	Carolyn Y. Williams	Acting Registrar
03/10-01/11	Carolyn Y. Williams	Registrar
01/11-PRESENT	Mike Rankin	Registrar

VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATE COLORS

YEAR	STANDARD LICENSE PLATE COLOR
1908	White lettering/Dk Blue
1909	White lettering/Dk Blue
1910	White lettering/Red
1911	Black lettering/White
1912	Green lettering/Ivory
1913	Maroon lettering/Ivory
1914	Red lettering/White
1915	Black lettering/Ivory Yellow
1916	White lettering/Black
1917	Black lettering/Yellow Orange
1918	White lettering/Dk Green
1919	White lettering/Maroon
1920	White lettering/Dk Blue
1921	White lettering/Green
1922	Blue lettering/Lt Grey
1923	Red lettering/Grey
1924	White Lettering/Blue
1925	Black lettering/Ivory
1926	White lettering/Brown
1927	Black lettering/Grey
1928	White lettering/Dk Blue
1929	Black lettering/Green
1930	White lettering/Maroon
1931	Black lettering/Grey
1932	White lettering/Blue
1933	Black lettering/Orange
1934	White lettering/Maroon
1935	Yellow lettering/Dk Blue
1936	Blue lettering/White
1937	Maroon lettering/White
1938	Black lettering/White
1939	Blue lettering/White
1940	White lettering/Dk Blue
1941	White lettering/Maroon
1942	Dk Green lettering/White
1943	1942 plates & Red Windshield Sticker
1944	White lettering/Dk Blue
1945	Dk Blue lettering/White
1946	Red lettering/White
1947	White lettering/Dk Green
1948	Black lettering/Lemon Yellow
1949	Lemon Yellow lettering/Black
1950	Black lettering/Yellow
1951	White lettering/Dk Blue
1952	1951 plates & Blue Windshield Sticker
1953	Lmn Yellow lettering/Dk Green
1954	White lettering/Maroon
1955	White lettering/Dk Blue
1956	White lettering/Dk Green
1957	White lettering/Maroon
1958	White lettering/Blue
1959	Red lettering/White
1960	Blue lettering/Gold
1961	White lettering/Dk Green
1962	White lettering/Maroon
1963	White lettering/Dk Blue
1964	White lettering/Dk Green
1965	Red lettering/White
1966	White lettering/Red
1967	White lettering/Medium Blue

VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATE COLORS

YEAR	STANDARD LICENSE PLATE COLOR
1968	Red lettering/White
1969	Blue lettering/White
1970	Scarlet lettering/Grey
1971	Black lettering/Yellow
1972	Gold lettering/Blue
1973	White lettering/Green
1974	Green lettering/White
1975	1974 plates & validation sticker
1976	Red lettering/White
1977	1976 plates & validation sticker
1978	1976 plates & validation sticker
1979	1976 plates & validation sticker
1980	Blue lettering/White
1981	1980 plates & validation sticker
1982	1980 plates & validation sticker
1983	1980 plates & validation sticker
1984	1980 plates & validation sticker
1985	Green lettering/White
1986	1985 plates & validation sticker
1987	1985 plates & validation sticker
1988	1985 plates & validation sticker
1989	1985 plates & validation sticker
1990	1985 plates & validation sticker
1991	White lettering/Blue
1992	1991 plate & validation sticker
1993	1991 plate & validation sticker
1994	1991 plate & validation sticker
1995	1991 plate & validation sticker
1996	Dk Blue lettering/White & Gold
1997	1996 plate & validation sticker
1998	1996 plate & validation sticker
1999	1996 plate & validation sticker
2000	1996 plate & validation sticker
2001	(Jan-Oct)1996 plate & validation sticker
2001	(Oct-Dec)Dk Blue lettering/Red, White, & Blue with Bicentennial logo
2002	2001 plate & validation sticker
2003	2001 plate & validation sticker
2004	(Jan-Feb)2001 plate & validation sticker
2004	(Feb-Dec)Dk Blue lettering/Red, White, & Blue with Sunburst Image
2005	2004 plate & validation sticker
2006	2004 plate & validation sticker
2007	2004 plate & validation sticker
2008	2004 plate & validation sticker
2009	2004 plate & validation sticker
2010	(Jan-Dec) 2004 plate & validation sticker
2010	(Mar-Dec) 'Beautiful Ohio'-White and Blue with Green Grass, Yellow Sun, Images and Dark Blue Lettering
2011	2010 'Beautiful Ohio' & validation sticker

OHIO'S AUTOMOTIVE ROOTS



- In 1898, Frank Seiberling established the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio. The company was named for Charles Goodyear, the man who developed vulcanized rubber. Seiberling borrowed 3,500 dollars from a brother-in-law to purchase the company's first factory. Goodyear originally employed thirteen workers, but the firm quickly emerged as a leader in the production of rubber items, including bicycle tires, pneumatic carriage and automobile tires, horseshoes, and hoses. By 1926, Goodyear was the largest rubber company in the world.

David Hill, who purchased nearly one-third of the 100,000 dollars worth of stock that the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company issued in 1898, became the company's first president. The company went through two additional presidents before Seiberling became chief executive in 1906. The founder of the company remained as the firm's president until 1921, when an economic recession prompted him to resign. Seiberling personally developed the company's logo—a winged foot—the same logo that the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company utilizes in the twenty-first century.

Goodyear led the industry in the development of new products. In 1903, the company developed the first tubeless automobile tire. In 1909, the firm branched out into the aviation industry, producing the first airplane tires. Before this point, pilots primarily used bicycle tires on their planes. Three years later, Goodyear produced its first blimp. In 1919, the firm also developed the first bullet-proof gas tank for planes. The company continued to lead the industry in creating new products throughout the twentieth century.

In 2003, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company sold more than thirteen billion dollars worth of products. The firm employed more than ninety-two thousand workers. It had plants around the world and remained the largest tire manufacturer in operation.



- The Packard family was involved in a number of business enterprises in the community of Warren, Ohio, in the second half of the nineteenth century. Those business interests were diverse, including lumber mills, hardware stores, hotels, and an iron rolling mill. In 1890, William Doud Packard and his brother James Ward Packard established the Packard Electric Company, which produced incandescent bulbs. One of the Packard Electric Company's subsidiaries was the New York and Ohio Company, which produced the first Packard Motor Car in 1899. The new manufacturing interest was first known as the Ohio Automobile Company, but the family renamed it the Packard Motor Car Company in 1902. Packard moved its automobile operation to Detroit soon after.



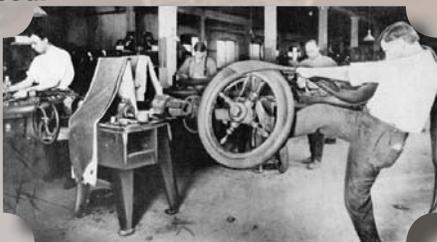
In 1932, Packard became part of the General Motors Corporation. It eventually became known as Delphi Packard Electric Systems.



- The Baker Motor Vehicle Company began producing electric-powered automobiles in Cleveland in 1899. Its founders were Walter C. Baker and Fred R. White, of the White Sewing Machine Company family. Baker became the automobile manufacturer's president and White was vice president and general manager. Baker had begun experimenting with automobile design in the early 1890s. He built the Electrobat Automobile, which at the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 became the first automobile to be demonstrated in a public setting.

One of Baker Motor Vehicle Company's earliest automobiles was a racer that could reach speeds of more than seventy-five miles per hour, an amazing speed for this time period. This model was also the first automobile in history to have passenger seat belts. In the early twentieth century, the company also began to manufacture electric-powered trucks for commercial purposes. These trucks were used across the United States and exported to countries around the world. One of Baker Motor Vehicle Company's most famous customers was Thomas A. Edison.

- Automobiles dramatically changed life in the United States with their invention in the late nineteenth century. One of the negatives of automobiles, however, was a persistent and loud knocking sound in automobile engines. In 1916, Charles F. Kettering, founder of Delco, hired Thomas Midgley, Jr., to eliminate the persistent knocking sound. Midgley quickly discovered that the knocking sound resulted from the gasoline currently being produced in the United States. Several more years of research led Midgley to discover that placing tetraethyl lead additives in the gasoline would eliminate the knocking sound. Midgley patented this new version of gasoline, ethyl gasoline, on December 9, 1921. Unfortunately, the lead caused deposits to form on engine valves, causing engines to cease operating. Midgley then added ethylene dibromide to ethyl gasoline, which prevented the lead deposits. This new version of ethyl gasoline was sold for the first time on February 2, 1923, in Dayton, Ohio. Unfortunately, leaded gasoline proved harmful for the environment, and today, leaded fuel is no longer used.



- In 1900, Harvey S. Firestone established the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio. Firestone relied on other companies to manufacture the rubber. His firm simply fastened the rubber to steel carriage wheels. In its first year of operation, the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company grossed more than \$100,000 in profit. In 1903, the company began to manufacture rubber, and in 1904, the firm proceeded to develop pneumatic tires for automobiles. In 1905, Henry Ford placed his first order for tires from Firestone. Firestone immediately hired additional workers, raising the number of employees from one dozen to 130. The following year, the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company produced more than twenty-eight thousand tires and sold more than one million dollars worth of tires. By 1910, the company manufactured more than one million tires. Firestone's innovations in tire design allowed automobiles to travel faster and more safely.

Firestone became involved in producing tires for automobile racing early on. The first race car to win the Indianapolis 500 in 1911 used Firestone tires. Between 1920 and 1966, every car that won the race used Firestone tires as well. The company also began to open automotive service stations, where customers could purchase tires and other items for their cars. From 1928 to 1964, Firestone also sponsored a weekly radio program titled the "Voice of Firestone." All of these activities helped to make Firestone a household name by the mid-twentieth century.

In 1988, the Bridgestone Corporation, a Japanese Company, purchased Firestone. Bridgestone is involved in tire manufacturing on an international scale, making the corporation one of the largest of its kind in the world.



- On July 23, 1908, Fred J. Fisher, Charles T. Fisher, and Albert Fisher formed the Fisher Body Company. In the early years of the company, the Fisher Brothers had to develop new body designs because the "horseless carriage" bodies did not have the strength to withstand the vibrations of the new motorcars. The company intended to

manufacture the bodies of automobiles for Ford Motor Company, Buick, and Cadillac, as well as several other companies. All three men were natives of Norwalk, Ohio, and can trace their beginnings to a horse-drawn carriage shop in Norwalk, in the late 1800's. The shop was owned and operated by Alfred J. Fisher's grandfather and it was where A.J.'s father and uncles learned their trade. Although natives of Norwalk, Ohio, they established their new company in Detroit, Michigan, the center of automobile manufacturing in the United States during this period.

The Fishers intended to build an entirely enclosed auto body that would protect drivers and passengers from the elements. They believed that such a car would be much more marketable to women and families.

The Fisher Body Company immediately prospered. Part of the reason for their success was the development of interchangeable wooden body parts that did not have to be hand-fitted, as was the case in the construction of carriages. By 1913, the firm was producing nearly 100,000 auto bodies per year. Five years later, the company was producing three times that number of bodies and earning more than one million dollars in profits. Its first large customer was Cadillac, although Ford, Studebaker, and several other companies also utilized Fisher bodies. By 1913, the company included ten plants scattered across Michigan and Canada. In 1916 the Company became the Fisher Body Corporation. Its capacity was now 370,000 bodies per year and its customers included Abbot, Buick, Cadillac, Chalmers, Chandler, Chevrolet, Churchfield, Elmore, EMF, Ford, Herreshoff, Hudson, Krit, Oldsmobile, Packard, Regal, and Studebaker. By 1918, the firm sold auto bodies to most major automobile manufacturers. The company continued to excel during the 1910s. From its beginning in the "horseless carriage shop" in Norwalk, Ohio, to its sale in 1919 and 1926 to General Motors, the Fisher Body Company was built by the Fisher brothers into one of the World's largest manufacturing companies.

With United States involvement in World War I, the Fisher Body Company began to produce airplanes for the American war effort. By the end of the conflict, the company had provided the United States military with 2,005 planes. Due to the Fisher Company's success, in 1919 General Motors purchased a three-fifths interest in the company, uniting the two firms together. In 1926, General Motors acquired the remaining two-fifths of the Fisher Company, making GM the sole owner of the firm. The 1920s and 1930s also witnessed the Fisher Company expanding its plants into Ohio and several other states.

As it did during World War I, with the outbreak of World War II, the Fisher Company immediately began to produce munitions for the American war effort. During the course of the war, the company manufactured 11,358 Sherman Tanks, 5,368 M-10 Tank Destroyers, and 1,200 General Pershing Tanks. The firm also produced B-29 Superfortress airplanes at a new facility in Cleveland, Ohio.

Following World War II, the Fisher Company continued to profit. It also was responsible for developing numerous items for the auto industry, including manufacturing the first airbag at plants in Detroit and Euclid, Ohio. The firm also developed sunroofs and t-tops for GM automobiles, as well as automatic seatbelts.

By the early 1980s, the Fisher Company had opened plants in Ireland, Spain, and Mexico. The firm had seven plants operating in Ohio by this point in time as well.

- The Peerless Motor Vehicle Company was located in Cleveland, Ohio. The Peerless Company originally built clothes wringers and bicycles, and in 1900 began producing its first automobiles. In its early years, Peerless was known for its innovation in automobile design. It was the first American automobile manufacturer to mount the engine in the front, using it to power the rear wheels through a solid drive shaft. This design dominated the American automobile industry throughout most of the twentieth century.



To promote the company and its products, the company hired a famous race car driver, Barry Oldfield, to drive one of its cars. The car soon earned the nickname the "Green Dragon." Oldfield set a number of speed records in the Green Dragon, making Peerless a respected name in automobile manufacturing. Over time, a number of "Green Dragons" were built to advertise the company.

Soon, Peerless began to promote its automobiles as luxury cars. The company's slogan became "All that the name implies." Advertising for the car described "an interior resembling a cozy and luxuriously furnished drawing room." The focus on luxury meant

that only wealthy Americans could afford to own a Peerless. Unfortunately, although Peerless had been known for its technical innovations in automotive design in the early years, it began to stagnate by the 1910s and 1920s. Eventually, Peerless no longer focused on the luxury market and began to manufacture automobiles for mainstream markets. The company changed its slogan to “Now There’s a Peerless for Everyone.”

Like many American automobile manufacturers, the Great Depression proved to be too much of a challenge to the Peerless Motor Vehicle Company. The company built its last cars in June 1931, although some of these cars were sold as new models in 1932.



- Thomas H. White established the White Sewing Machine Company in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1876. The company was very successful in the late nineteenth century, ultimately becoming one of the most prosperous and well-known sewing machine manufacturers in the United States. White’s sons joined his business, and in 1901, the family decided to start building automobiles as well. In addition, the company produced a number of other products, such as bicycles, roller skates, and phonographs.

Unlike most early automobiles, which were powered by electricity or gasoline, the White automobile was steam-powered. In 1906, the family established the White Motor Company as a separate business from their other manufacturing interests.

The company continued to manufacture automobiles until 1918. In all, approximately ten thousand White steam cars were built between 1901 and 1918. Of that number, only about 150 still exist today.

- In 1908, John North Willys purchased a portion of the Standard Wheel Company in Toledo, Ohio. In 1912, Willys renamed the company Willys-Overland Motor Company. In 1936, the company, now known as Willys-Overland Motors, Inc., emerged from bankruptcy on a sound financial footing.



During World War II, Willys-Overland Motors, Inc. became famous for its jeeps. Originally designated a ‘General Purpose’ or GP vehicle, the ‘GP’ began being pronounced JEEP, and the name stuck. In 1940, the United States Army asked more than 130 automobile companies to submit designs for a light-weight vehicle that was capable of traversing most types of terrain. The companies only had forty-nine days to provide the government with a working prototype.

Only two companies, Willys-Overland Motors, Inc. and the Bantam Car Company submitted designs. Bantam Car Company submitted its design first, and the U.S. Army chose this design. Fortunately for Willys-Overland, the Bantam Car Company faced difficult financial times, and its production facilities were too small to meet the Army’s demand. The federal government supplied both Willys-Overland Motors Inc. and the Ford Motor Company with blueprints of Bantams design. Both Ford and Willys-Overland modified the design. Willys-Overland provided the jeep with a larger engine. As a result of Willys-Overland’s design change, the U.S. Army awarded the government contract to the company. Willys-Overland also provided the Ford Motor Company with its specifications, so that the two firms could supply the U.S. Army with ample jeeps. Willys-Overland manufactured roughly 330,000 of the 700,000 jeeps used by the U.S. military between 1941 and 1945.

Willys-Overland remained in operation following World War II. The company produced a jeep, similar to the one used by the armed forces during World War II, for the civilian population. The firm also manufactured other vehicles—the Willys Jeep Wagon in 1946, the Willys Jeep Truck in 1947, and the Willys Jeepster in 1948—all of which were based on the company’s original jeep. Due to Willys-Overland Motors, Inc.’s large number of sales, Kaiser purchased the company in 1953, renaming the firm Willys Motor Company. The company eventually had production facilities in Brazil, Japan, India, Argentina, and Israel. In 1963, Willys Motor Company became known as Kaiser-Jeep Corporation. In 1965, this new firm ceased production of the various Willys vehicles.

- Scottish immigrant Alexander Winton was a bicycle manufacturer in Cleveland, Ohio, in the late nineteenth century. By the mid-1890s, Winton became interested in designing an automobile. He built his first motorized vehicle in 1896. It looked rather strange by modern-day standards, as Winton used bicycle tires in his first design. His machine weighed in at over 1000 pounds, which slowed its performance. A second Winton was introduced in February of 1897, and the Winton Motor Carriage Company was incorporated in March. He organized the Winton Motor Carriage Company on March 15, 1897, and on March 24, 1898, became known for the first commercial sale of an automobile in the United States. By 1899, more than 100 Winton's had been delivered, making Winton's the largest manufacturer of gasoline powered autos in the United States. With the Winton starting to show a fair amount of success, the first auto dealership in the United States was opened in Reading, Pennsylvania by H.W. Koler.

Like many automobile manufacturers, Winton used races and cross-country tours to promote his product and test innovations in designs. The first cross-country automobile trip was completed in a Winton in 1903. In its first year of production, Winton's company built and sold twenty-two of his automobiles, and the following year the number climbed to more than one hundred.

Winton became known for his innovations in automotive design, ultimately registering more than one hundred patents. He is credited with giving Henry Ford access to his own steering design before a race in 1901, which contributed to Ford becoming a major name in automobile design and manufacturing.

Winton was the first to use a steering wheel instead of a tiller. He also put the engine in front of the driver instead of under the car, and he developed the first practical storage battery. Although Winton was known as an innovator, as the automobile industry became more competitive in the 1920s, his business was unable to compete. Every Winton automobile was custom made. Assembly lines made other companies' vehicles less expensive to build. In 1924, Winton stopped producing automobiles entirely.

- The Bender Body Company of Elyria, Ohio built bodies for some of the more advanced cars of the early twenties. At the 1921 Body Builders' Show, held in conjunction with the New York Auto Show, they exhibited a Franklin Coupe and a Kurtz Automatic Sedan (the 1921-23 Kurtz was an assembled car built in nearby Cleveland). Long before the Depression commenced, Bender turned to making buses, travel trailers and professional cars under the Bender-Bilt brand name.

Beginning at the start of the 1938 model year Bender entered into a reciprocal arrangement where Studebaker supplied chassis to Bender and Bender supplied bodies to Studebaker. Bender bodies looked very similar to the ones introduced by Superior in 1938, but used a slightly narrower side door.

Streamlined roof-mounted emergency light-pods with backlit name-plates were starting to be popular. Bender showed a number of ambulances equipped with these lights in their 1939 catalog. They also continued to offer their Studebaker-based models through 1941 but also produced coaches on other chassis. One Gothic-style arched-panel coach appeared in 1939 with extra-large art-deco coach lamps mounted on a Cadillac chassis.

Other Ohio Automotive Firsts

- Because of Ohio's important role in the early automobile industry, the state was the site of numerous firsts in automobile history. Among these firsts was the first automobile accident. In 1891, James William Lambert was involved in the first automobile accident in world history. The accident occurred in Ohio City. Lambert's vehicle, the first single-cylinder gasoline automobile, which was carrying Lambert and James Swoveland, hit a tree root, causing the car to careen out of control and smash into a hitching post. Injuries from this accident were minor. Lambert proceeded to patent over six hundred inventions, mostly related to the automobile industry.

Another first, was the first automobile insurance policy. In 1897, Dayton resident Gilbert J. Loomis purchased a liability insurance policy from the Travelers Insurance Company for one thousand dollars. This policy protected Loomis if his car killed or injured someone or damaged their property.

Ohio was also the site of the first speeding ticket for an automobile driver. In 1904, Dayton police ticketed Harry Myers for going twelve miles per hour on West Third Street.

Cleveland boasts America's first traffic light. It began operation on Aug. 5, 1914.

The first full time automobile service station was opened in 1899 in Ohio.

* *Ohio historical automotive facts courtesy of www.ohiohistorycentral.org*



Franklin images courtesy of www.franklincar.org

Special Thanks to the ALPCA and its members
for some of the plate images and license plate information
contained in this publication

Ohio Dept. of Public Safety
Thomas P. Charles, Director

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Mike Rankin, Registrar

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