



Henry Ford with his quadricycle, the first car he built.

Henry completed his first car, a **quadricycle**, in 1896. Early on June 4, he prepared to take a test drive, but the door of the brick shed where the quadricycle had been built was too narrow. The quadricycle would not fit through the door. Henry grabbed an ax and knocked down part of one wall to make enough space. Returning home from the successful drive, he ate breakfast and left for work.

Did You Know...

Seven weeks after their son's birth, something happened that Henry found almost as exciting. He placed an experimental engine in the kitchen sink and had Clara pour gasoline into a tube that fed the engine. The sink started shaking and the room filled with exhaust. His engine worked!

In 1899, Henry quit his job at Edison to join some men in forming the Detroit Automobile Company. The other men provided the money, and Henry produced the ideas. A year later, the company closed, but Henry kept building cars.



Original Ford Motor Company building

A group of investors who saw Henry race in 1901 decided to fund his work developing cars. That relationship ended, but in 1903, Henry and another man formed the Ford Motor Company. Their business would change history.



Henry Ford (third from left) stands with Ford Motor Company stockholders.