

## Celebrating 100 Years of RVing



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A century ago the popularization of the automobile, improving roads, and America's passion for exploration gave rise to mass-produced, manufactured recreation vehicles, and the RV industry was born. In 1910, there were few gas stations, few paved roads and no highway system, but there were RVs. 1910 marks the appearance of the first American mass-produced motorized campers and camping trailers.

Through war and peace, booms and busts, fuel lines, fads and the cyber revolution, the RV lifestyle has endured and is still going strong even in today's challenging economic times. One in 12 American households now own a recreation vehicle, and over 30 million RV enthusiasts take part in this affordable and environmentally-friendly form of vacationing each year.

The PA RV & Camping Show is celebrating the RV Centennial with a vintage RV and campsite display by the RV History Program at the RV/MH Hall of Fame and Museum. The exhibit will be on display at the PA RV & Camping Show held September 15 – 19<sup>th</sup> at the GIANT CenterSM in Hershey, PA.

The display will consist of a 1915 Ford Model T runabout with a 1916 Telescoping Apartment built by Gustav Bretteville in San Francisco. It was advertised in *Field and Stream* and other outdoor magazines of the day as a camping accessory for early autos. The camper, which telescopes out the back of its travel box, includes 2 rudimentary slide outs one of which holds the kitchen and the other a bureau for clothing and supplies. The camper accessory sold new for \$100 in 1916.

Al Hesselbart, the museum's curator, will be on hand to talk with attendees about the history of RVing as well as host a seminar about 100 Years of RVing.

Step back in time at the PA RV & Camping Show, America's Largest RV Show, September 15 – 19<sup>th</sup> at the GIANT CenterSM in Hershey, PA and discover why RVing has remained a favorite American pastime for 100 years. For more information, visit [www.largestRVshow.com](http://www.largestRVshow.com).