

## *the* **FWD** *battleship*

Dubbed the "Battleship" because of its amazing traction and ability "to go where no car could go," this 1909 Badger-FWD is generally regarded as the first four-wheel-drive motor car in America. It is the first of 10 such cars and chassis built during the years 1909-1910-1911 by The Four Wheel Drive Auto Company, now FWD Corporation, of Clintonville, Wisconsin.

This original car, forerunner of the modern FWD truck, still exists, preserved in the FWD Museum and Historical building in which it was built.

Despite its ancient vintage, this venerable vehicle features many advanced innovations, years ahead of the automotive industry. For example: the first silent-chain cushioned, double-reduction four-wheel-drive; the first free-working center differential to compensate for the unequal travel of the car's four driving wheels; the first center differential lock for eliminating wheel-spin in negotiating the primitive roads of its time; the first four wheel brakes: dual braking systems acting on all four wheels through the car's driveline; and full-floating axles.

The car is powered by a Continental, 4-cycle, 4-cylinder, 45-horse-power gasoline engine and a 3-speed transmission provides a top road speed of 55 MPH. Its weight, including the hand-crafted, 7-passenger touring car body, is 3,800 lbs. Its selling price, FOB Clintonville, \$4,500.

