

# FIFTY YEARS OF FORETRAVEL



**The Grand Villa Unihome** (above), with a Foretravel monocoque chassis, debuted in 1987. The 1967 “Speedy Marie” (right), the very first Foretravel motorhome, was built for the Fores’ camping trips. Below, family members pose with another early Foretravel: from left, son-in-law Don, daughter Linda, son Roy, C.M. Fore, and son Ray.



**C** M. Fore and his bride, Marie, traveled on numerous family vacations, but as their family grew, the need for a more suitable vehicle became apparent. Thus building a motorhome became a high school distributive education project for the Fores’ son, Ray.

The first motorhome they produced, a 21-foot Type A, was built from lightweight aluminum, weighed less than 4,000 pounds, and incorporated a Dodge chassis. Upon completion, the family drove their new creation to Washington state to visit the Fores’ eldest son, Roy, who was stationed there in the military. The coach generated so much interest along the way that in 1967 the Fores decided to go into the business of

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF FORETRAVEL MOTORCOACH

building Foretravel motorhomes.

Those first commercial motorhomes were produced in a small building in the family's backyard in Nacogdoches, Texas. In 1972 a new production facility was built. In 1973 the first major design change resulted in the Super Luxura, which boasted a fiberglass front cap, rear cap, and side panels.

1974 saw the introduction of the industry's first diesel-powered motorhome. Foretravel was the first to use fiberglass, real hardwood, and air-ride suspension.

In 1977 Foretravel celebrated 10 years in business and introduced the FTX (Foretravel Ten), which offered features not common in the RV industry at that time, such as TVs,



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In this 1970s photo, C.M. Fore relaxes in a Foretravel coach.

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VCRs, dual roof air conditioners, central vacuums, and more. By October 1978, the FTX became the first conventional motorhome to be powered by a rear diesel engine.

1987 marked the introduction of the aerodynamic-styled Grand Villa Unihome, the first motorhome to use a monocoque chassis design, an eight-bag outboard suspension system, and an air-leveling system.

In 1992 the 102-inch wide-body Unihome debuted. Foretravel's 25th year in business was celebrated with the silver anniversary edition Unihome U300.

The Unicoach was launched in 1995, featuring a bus-style front end and greater interior space.

In 2005 a new ownership team began to add more new designs and standards to the Foretravel legacy. This continuing dedication to excellence resulted in the introduction of the Iron Horse (ih) series upscale coach in 2012. This represented a complete redesign of the Foretravel coach, which retained the company's focus on fit and finish, ride and handling, and customer service.

Today as Foretravel unveils the ih-45 50th Anniversary Model, it's plain to see that the tradition lives on. **FMC**