



A True Race & Ford Truck Fan

BY MARY ELLEN MARCY, CALIFORNIA

This truck was just a small part in the long automotive hobby enjoyed by my mother, Ina Mae Overman. This particular truck was the first of many pickups owned by her and the rest of the family.

In 1953, it was quite unusual for a woman to own and drive a pickup in the city. This was the first



year for an automatic transmission in the F-series trucks making it easy to handle in city traffic. Remember, there were few free-ways in the Los Angeles area at

this time. She chose this truck as her daily driver while her 1952 Lincoln Capri was at the Valley Custom Shop having major modifications. This was the beginning of a long love of pickups.

A few years earlier (1950) the Mexican section of the Panamerican Highway was completed. The Mexican government, as a promotional stunt, staged a nine-stage, five-day race across the country. La Carrera Panamericana (Mexican Road Race) was entered by teams from all over the world, representing virtually every motor sport. And because it ended at Juarez near the border with El Paso, Texas, it was especially attractive to American race drivers and their fans.

In November of 1954 the fifth La Carrera Panamericana rolled

around. Ina Mae and her brother Stanley Miller decided they wanted to attend. Stanley built a camper shell out of wood and Ina Mae decorated it by hand-painting the NHRA logo on it, along with flags and lettering on the hood. It was enough to fool the Mexican security who thought they were part of the sanctioning body and often allowed them access to the restricted areas; the best area for taking photographs.

After returning from Mexico, Ina Mae sold the truck to her brother who kept it for many years. Soon after, she realized she couldn't get along without a truck and purchased a used 1954 F-100 (also red).

From that time forward, it was rare for her not to have a pickup in her possession. 🚚