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#08009

release

02/2018

limited edition 333 Stk.



Workhorse penned by a Star Designer

To mark itself off from its competitors the Willys Motor Company planned to launch a new delivery truck with a complete new and striking design for the market of commercial vehicles back then.

The management looked for fresh impetuses through an external expert and employed the well-known US-designer Brooks Stevens. Stevens' concept was guided by the design of heavy-duty trucks. The engine was positioned right underneath the driver's cab. Due to its cab over engine design the delivery truck got the designation "Jeep-Forward-Control", or "FC" for short. The development of the small van to the stage of production should not have occupied much time, as parts like the chassis and the engine were already existent. The chassis came from the in-house 1954 SUV "CJ-5" and the engine from the type "Hurricane". On November 29, 1956, the first produced delivery vehicles were presented at a special event only accessible for dealers. Striking was the short wheelbase

of the small delivery truck of just two meters, which promised a very good steerability through a small turning circle. Nevertheless the slim width of only 1.20 meters affected the drivability negatively, wherefore only two years later, from 1958, the width was broadened by 20 centimeters to 1.40 meters. The size of the load bed with its length of almost two meters remained the same.

The production period of the small delivery truck lasted from 1957 through to the year 1963 and together with its "big brother", the FC-170, the production figure counted 30,000 manufactured vehicles.

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