



KENWORTH

The Gerlinger Motor Car Company unveiled its first truck in 1915, the truck was called the Gersix, a six-cylinder vehicle which was framed in structural steel, making it ideal for the rugged Northwest. It took nearly a year to complete with just two mechanics using it as fill-in work between servicing jobs. The Gersix became a popular fixture in the Northwest. However, the company, which had offices in Seattle and Portland, was struggling and in 1917, was offered for sale. Edgar Worthington together with his partner Captain Frederick Kent acquired the company and renamed it the Gersix Motor Company. In 1922 they decided to reincorporate following a new injection of capital. The company became Ken-Worth, named after the two principal stockholders Harry Kent and Edgar Worthington.

In 1933 Kenworth became the first American truck manufacturer to install diesel engines as standard equipment. In 1941 Kenworth joined the war effort and began production of 430, four-ton, heavy-duty M-1 "Wreckers". In 1943 the company began producing components for the Boeing B-17 "Flying Fortress" bomber and the B-29 "Super Fortress". After the death of the company president Phil Johnson in 1944, Kenworth became a wholly owned subsidiary of Pacific Car and Foundry. Kenworth continue to provide great trucks.

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