

From 1941 to 1950, Mack Truck produced and “F” series truck. If not the last, it is one of the last chain-drive trucks produced in the United States. The model “Ti” was the lightest in the “r” series, with a total production of 241 units.

As I understand it from Snowy Doe, co-curator, of the Mack Museum. He was working as a mechanic at the Worcester, MA Mack Branch in 1948. RBBB was playing in the New England States and had an engine go out in one of its AC’s. They also had another one with a bad transmission. Mack made one good running truck of the two AC’s. The leftover truck was traded in on the FT Mack. This could be their reason RBBB bought a brand new chain drive when the CJ’s and the new LJ’s were shaft drive.

On July 1, 1948, Snowy delivered the FTIC Serial Number 1370 to RBBB for a cost of about \$7,500. The new FT was powered by an EN510A Mack six-cylinder gas engine producing 158 horsepower this was coupled to a five speed forward and reverse transmission. Unlike the AC’s the transmission and jackshaft were not bolted together. A drive shaft connected the transmission to rear jackshaft. The truck had a standard wheelbase of 155" and rolled on 1200x24" by 14-ply tires front and rear, with a stripped chassis weight of 13,675 lbs.

RBBB numbered the FT Number 237. They mounted a high rounded corner steel tank, may be from the AC Mack traded in, with a storage/crum box between the cab and tank. Like the AC water trucks the FT had a water pump mounted on the left side under the cab on the running board. The pump was PTO driven from the transmission.

The FT was used on the rail show until the end of the 1956 season. The truck was not converted to a tractor for the 1957 truck show. Unlike the LJ’s the top speed of the FT was about 20-25 miles per hour. Chain drive would not stand-up to over the road trucking.



Photo #1- Left side of #237. Note water pump mounted under driver’s side of cab on running board. Short high water tank with storage box in between cab and tank. Spare tire mounted on top. [Photo from M. Dreiling Collection]

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| RBBB | | | |
| Truck No. 237 (Mack FT) | | | |
| DATE: 1948-56 | SCALE: 3/8" = 1' | SCANNED & REVISED: 08/19/03 | Pg 1 of 3 |
| Circus Model Builders | | | |
| Drawn By Unknown | | | DRAWING NUMBER #0400 |

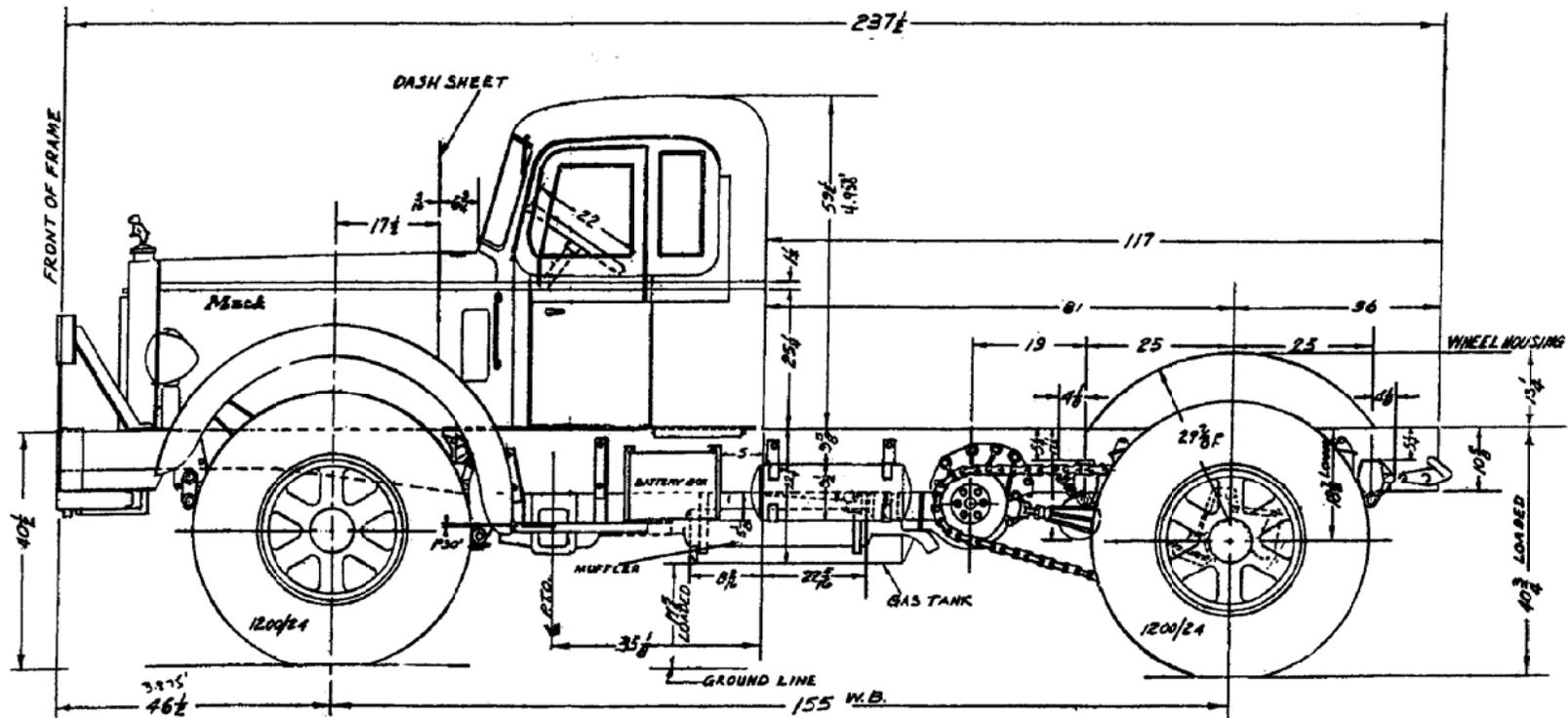


Photo #2- Unloading the cookhouse out on the 1954 Ringling show. Water wagon No. 237 pulls cookhouse range wagon No. 3 off the flat. - DeWitt Collection.



Photo #3 - Mack No. 237 pulling four menagerie wagons onto the lot, Newark, NJ. June 10, 1956. - Chuck Shaffer Photo.

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