

The Waxhaw Gazette

Serving the people of Waxhaw, North Carolina

Eightieth Edition

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State College
74°F

Weather Forecast

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John Tiley, Editor & Publisher

What is it that could bring down what was the absolute elite juggernaut of American Corporations? Well, Greed of course is the main ingredient. On the part of just about everyone involved, but far more importantly is that what was done in the name of greed is what killed the golden goose, truly toppling GM in the process.

In the Beginning;

GM was the Premier Conglomerate Corporation of the entire world! What that really meant... it was the sum of a number of very different companies, all of which happened to be in the automotive industry. They were treated as separate companies and allowed to "make it or break it" based on their own merits with little interference from "headquarters". Even as recently as the early sixties, those individual companies, right from the ground up, maintained their own unique identities! Engineering of the suspensions, power plants, even the interior design and construction of their seats and level of opulence was done within the walls of that individual division. And they all did their own work! Pontiac for instance was the "Wide Track" Performance oriented element of the group. With a huge V8 generating more horsepower than anybody else was offering and its exceptionally wide wheel base, as big as it was it drove and handled more like a sports car.

All of these companies had their own identity and price points which translated into their own share of the marketplace. And for decades it held true; Cadillac was for the rich, the companies' owner, showing just who the boss was. In a more conservative area such as the Midwest, a Buick might have been considered the de-facto Cadillac... just a bit less ostentatious. A Pontiac might belong to an adventurous soul, perhaps a

The Foundation Cracks.

In 1964 Ford Motor Company introduced the iconic Mustang. What a car! In Fords tradition of making a car anybody could afford they produced a really great sports car, the "Original Pony Car"! Young Susie could afford to have one to go off to collage in and a young couple could easily afford one to get around town in, even do a little Road Rally on the weekends in. Of course there was the version with a powerful V8 that lives on forever with the image of Steve McQueen tearing up the streets of San Francisco in the movie classic "Bullet".

GM had to answer this challenge, and soon. They were loosing customers hand over fist to Ford and the closest they could come was the Corvette which was entirely the wrong car.

Chevy met the challenge and came up with the Camero. And the Camero has served Chevy, and GM, well all those many years it was in production. Truly a worthy adversary for the Mustang! But here is where GM first went astray. When GM decided that Pontiac, the undisputed Muscle Car of the day, should have their own Pony Car, they should have let the designers and engineers at Pontiac built it from the ground up, like every GM car before it including the Camero had been.

But they saw instead the cost savings of simply putting the "Firebird" brand on top of a loosely reconfigured Camero that they made their first real mistake. No matter how wildly successful the Firebird and Trans Am became, everybody knew that it was always really just a Camero under its fancy skirts.

Continued on page two>

Save the Date! Waxhaw July 4th, 2009 Festivities

10 am:
Old Fashion
hometown Parade
beginning at 10 a.m.
on downtown
Main St.
(entries accepted
until June 19)
Get your
neighborhood, friends
or business
to enter at
www.waxhaw.com

2pm:
Corn hole Tournament
sponsored by the
Waxhaw Business
Association-Waxhaw
Info Center
2 person teams \$40.00
(including t-shirt)
Space is limited
Call Brett at:
704-488-6582
or Tim at:
704-962-7639

*Proceeds to benefit
the Autism Society of
North Carolina*

5:30 pm:
Waxhaw Beach Party
& Fireworks (9:30
p.m.)
Featuring the beach
music of Mark Roberts
& the Breeze
Shag instruction, Kids
entertainment (face
painter, bouncy,
crafts) BBQ, hot dogs,
ice cream, Italian ice,
funnel cakes and
more.

The excitement will
conclude with
fireworks at 9:30 p.m.
across from Jackson
Station
and CVS in Waxhaw

Bring your chair and
enjoy a great day and
night in Waxhaw

Contact Cathy Murphy
at

Airline Pilot, or a want-to-be adventurer at the very least.

Chevy, always the flagship for GM, was the mainstay family car of America. And this car was fir for every family.... Sporting a small V8 that could get you anywhere with more than enough power to feel “enabled” and available in just about any configuration that a family could need. Sedans for going to work and church in and station wagons for those with greater needs and even offered sporty convertibles for those younger at heart. All at a price anybody in America could afford to “See The USA in a Chevrolet” with.

And That Was What Made GM the great corporate conglomerate that it once was!

"In the end, all business operations can be reduced to three words: people, product, and profits."

Lee Iacocca

From the Charlotte Observer Thurs, Jun. 04, 2009

Mecklenburg foreclosures rise in May

Double digit increases in Mecklenburg, Union. Coast and mountains also hard hit.

By Stella M. Hopkins

Union County, one of the nation's growth hot spots, has the immediate Charlotte area's only other double-digit gain for the year, at 14 percent.

“It's unbelievable,” said Isabelle Gillespie, director of the Monroe-Union County Community Development Corp. “We have seen a significant increase.”

The group, which provides foreclosure counseling, worked with 54 families facing foreclosure in the 12 months ended

September. In just five months this year,

Gillespie said they have worked with 61 homeowners, including 36 just in April and May. Typical problems include high levels of credit card debt, high-rate or otherwise unaffordable mortgages and no savings.

Increasingly, they also are seeing people struggling because of job loss, which leaves few options. “When the lender is ... looking at your ability to repay the loan, that ability is hampered by the fact that you're unemployed,” Gillespie said. “It's hard to get workouts for those.”

[Read the entire Observer article here>](#)

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And the Foundation Crumbles

It is the late 1970's and OPEC has just shut off the spigot and the price and availability of gas has gone crazy. GM had been riding high on the horsepower craze for many a year now and nothing in their line was available to run on just a sip or two of gas. Things have to change so new cars that mimicked the Japanese's "tin cans" start rolling out of Detroit. More and more they all use the same frame, motor, suspension etcetera. Like the Firebird, the only thing different between the brands was the "skirts" they wore. Top this off with outsourcing of parts to places like Mexico, China and Eastern Europe. And what quality that was left in GMs product line, that hadn't been already plundered, goes even further down the tubes.

What is left of a foundation has now eroded beyond repair.

Fast forward twenty odd years and GM has blurred the lines between their products even further. They have had some success but a total lack of foresight and creativity has left them bankrupt not only financially but product wise as well. Cadillac is still gold plated but otherwise is the same car as every other one in the line. The Corvette is the only on-of-a-kind in the entire line up and their fleet of sedans is just about totally devoid of personality. All using the same power plants, interiors and suspensions, even the SUVs are in the same predicament.

Even if the economy wasn't in such distress, GM doesn't offer much of a product any more. It certainly doesn't conjure up driving down a country road with the wind in your hair, they are prohibitively expensive to buy even with all of the discounts etc., and they really don't offer any solution to the predicament we are in with fuel being as expensive as it has become. And most of all, none except perhaps the Corvette, show any sign of desirability. They all look like pregnant roller skates with the personality of a refrigerator! Who wants to drive something like that?

It took over twenty years to effectively strip this once great company down. Little by little the demand for financial performance by a company that effectively was not capable of performing to those demands stripped the life out of it.

The stockholder's and the unions didn't care that they were killing their golden goose, just that they were getting their imagined profits. And that money that wasn't profits at all but the very meat off the bones that made GM the truly successful conglomerate it once was. The question is that is GM too tarnished to be revived, can it be brought back and most importantly the question I have is... should it be brought back? It will never again be but a shadow of what it once was, what will it become?

Mr. President, I respectfully submit...

You have taken it upon yourself to have the Government underwrite the hopeful resurrection of GM. A lot is being risked and there is a lot at stake. Creativity is what it is going to take to bring GM back. Its very identity had to be revived and allowed to flourish with the birth of new vehicles and solutions to the troubles that have been inherent in the auto industry. Whoever is ultimately at the helm and responsible for reviving that "soul" needs to be someone who can dream and knows how to make that dream come true. To my experience that is not somebody from MIT or Harvard. What is needed is a Henry Ford, Eddie Rickenbacker, even a Lee Iacocca. Somebody who knows that success and profits go hand in had but that unfettered greed only servers to decimate the product. That sense of imagery, personality and pride that in the end result is paramount to GM having a chance at coming back.

Mr. Obama, in this venture you have the opportunity to show that corporate shenanigans will not be tolerated and that with pride and a sense of ownership Americans do still have what it takes to build a top notch corporation, serving the people and employees while making a respectable profit building a product anybody would be proud to own.

From:



This story will just break your heart.



Just 107 McLaren F1 supercars were built, and today the world is one short, as SCMer Irv Kessler's 1995 F1 burned to the ground on a street in Santa Rosa, California, yesterday.

Read all about it here and here, and then see the Profile of a 1997 F1 here



July 4th festivities

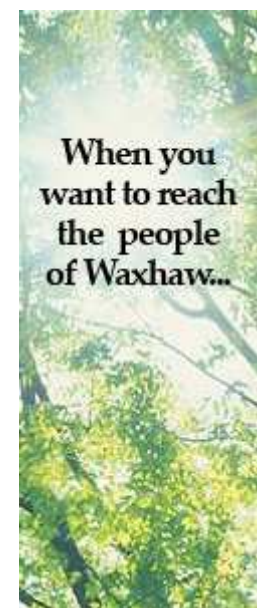
Applications for parade entries are now available. Please [click here](#) to download an application.

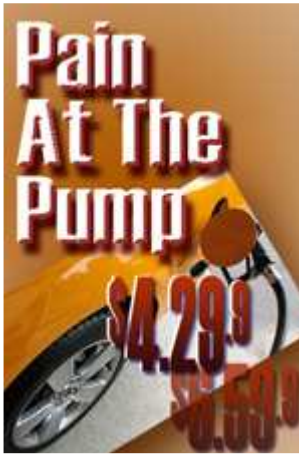
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SLOW DOWN

The Waxhaw Police Department would like you to know that the speed limit from Bojangles on Highway 16 / Broome Street to Couick's Marine has been lowered from 45mph to 35mph.

~ ~ ~ ~





Prices for gas...

Watch yourself, they have been changing like the wind lately, so it will serve you well to keep your eyes open for the best deal when you can find it. I would expect the prices will continue to rise in the near future, so sooner bought perhaps the cheaper?

	Start Tracking 3/20/08	One Year Ago 5/23/08	Current 6/05/09
Texaco:	\$3.19.9	\$3.81.9	\$ 2.54.9
Pure:	\$3.24.9	\$	\$
Little General:	\$3.24.9	\$3.74.9	\$ 2.54.9
Shell:	\$3.24.9	\$3.72.9	\$ 2.54.9
Wax. In n Out:	\$3.26.9	\$3.74.9	\$ 2.54.9
Mineral Springs:			
M. S. Grocery	\$3.20.9	\$3.81.9	\$ 2.54.9
Texaco:	\$3.21.9	\$3.81.9	\$ 2.54.9
BP <i>on New Town</i>	\$3.21.9	\$3.89.9	\$ 2.49.9

Editors Note: Usually I personally check the prices posted for the above companies. However, occasionally when time is short I call the stations on the phone to check for current prices. If no pricing is offered the above reflects the last visually confirmed pricing.

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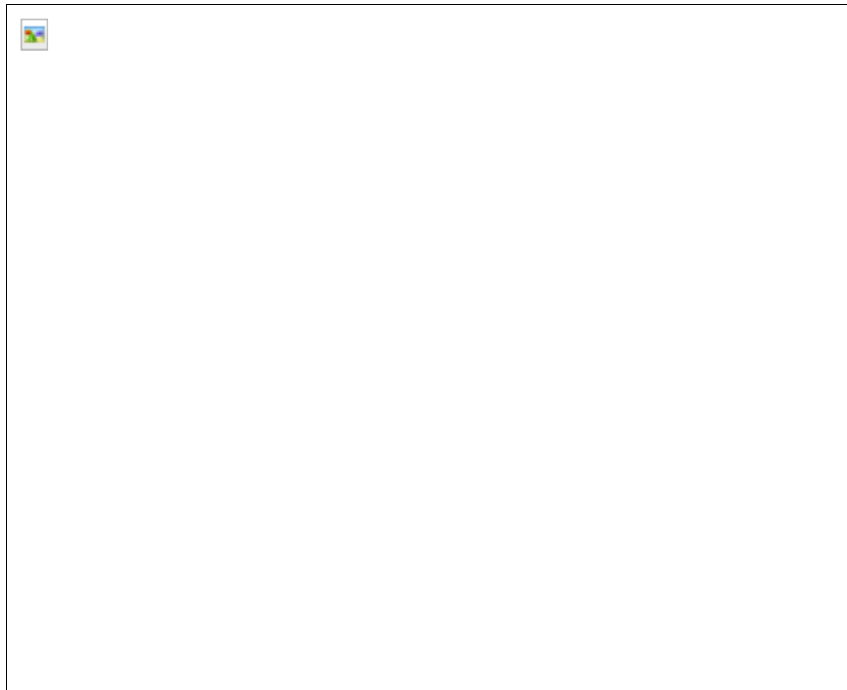
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And now, Our Weekly Dose of Humor directly from the Internet.....

bits and pieces that your Editor will not testify to for correctness, accuracy nor even believability but they are certainly humorous? So Enjoy!

Sony played this intro video at their executive conference this year.



Fantastic video on the progression of information technology, researched by Karl Fisch, Scott McLeod, and Jeff Brenman, remixed. Enjoy!

The REDNECK FIRE ALARM Available at most local grocery stores and Wal-Mart.



Now that's funny...
 I don't care who you are.....



An old Italian lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard.

His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

"Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty sad, because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over.. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days.

Love, Papa*

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

"Dear Pop,

Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried.

Love,
 Vinnie*

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left.

That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

*"Always do right -
 This will gratify
 some people and
 astonish the rest." --
 Mark Twain*



**THIS IS INDIA.
 IT IS WHERE
 YOU CALL
 WHEN YOU
 HAVE A
 TECHNICAL
 PROBLEM WITH**

**YOUR
COMPUTER.**



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 e-mail: gary.l.cooper.icg9@statefarm.com

Auto	Life	Home
		

**Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.®**



"Dear Pop,
Go ahead and plant
the tomatoes now.
That's the best I
could do under the
circumstances.*

"Love you,*
Vinnie



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