



Tire Tracks

Editorial: Car-Lovers Ride On Breaking Waves of Political Turmoil

In last month's issue of Tire Tracks your editor presented a perspective on Chrysler's bailout and recovery, offered by a Chrysler public relations writer. This month's selection offers a condensed form of an editorial perspective with more candor and balance.

Charles Lane, a writer for the Washington Post, February 21, 2012, casts the automaker bailout as a political issue about which neither side can come out as a clear victor. "we'll be hearing more of this in the general election ... Amid the gusts of rhetoric, keep these realities in mind."

- "The US economy was falling off a cliff in ... 2008. No one knew how bad it could get. But it was clear that, if the car companies went bankrupt they would need government financing to restructure and avoid liquidation. And no US President would have stood by and allowed them to liquidate. Proof: George W. Bush extended emergency loans to General Motors and Chrysler ..."
- "So its ... unrealistic and disingenuous ... to say now that "the government should not be involved in bailouts, period", or that GM and Chrysler would have been "alive and equally as well, or better off than they are now" minus federal intervention."
- "No one can quantify the true costs and benefits of the bailout yet. They may never be knowable."
- "Yes, Chrysler and GM are profitable today. And yes, they have paid back most of the \$89 billion the federal government committed to them up front. But it's a near-certainty that [we] will lose some money on the deal."
- "If GM and Chrysler had gone under, Ford and the US plants of foreign automakers would have suffered, too. Auto-dependent states ... from Michigan to Mississippi might have faced higher welfare costs and tax base implosion."
- Other uses of the money might have had greater long-term social benefits. Without competition from GM and Chrysler, surviving automakers might have flourished as never before, once they recovered."
- Though some bailout was politically inevitable, it does not automatically follow that the one we got was economically optimal."

"UAW workers accepted layoffs and lower wages for future hires – but no current wage reduction, like those ... in other distressed industries." ... "The bailout left union pension benefits basically untouched, despite pleas for relief from GM management. Unfunded pension liabilities weigh on the value of GM's stock – a quarter of which is still owned by the US Treasury."

"Romney says now that the federal government never should have taken stock in GM, but that choice might have been more cost-effective than piling more debt on the company, and it was at least consistent with Romney's own call [November, 2008, New York Times] for government backed financing."

"So Romney is claiming credit for thinking up the approach Obama took, and condemning the precise way in which he executed it. In each case, he has a point but he's stretching it. ... And so we have a contest among Obama's boasts, Santorum's denials, and Romney's quibbles."

Your editor offers this parting comment: **Let The Games Begin!** Synopsis by RLB

President's Letter

In our February meeting we learned a lot more about the “cold war” with Russia—like how much fun it was for the navy’s jet pilots. Our speaker, Zack Richardson, was one of these. He told about take-off and landings on an aircraft carrier, and how they visually communicated with the Russian pilots. They were actually close enough to show Playboy centerfolds. Once they flew by the Russians wearing monkey masks. Thank you Zack and thank you Martin for a fun program.

Since it was Valentine’s Day, the club celebrated with roses for the women, chocolates and champagne for everyone. Amy Duncan brought candy and Ed Pittman made the coffee. Thanks to all. We had a larger than usual turnout.

Also, in February several members brought out their classics for a tour and lunch at the Grasshopper Grill in Cornville. It was a nice drive and a good “get-to-gather”. Thanks Al.

It was a “wee bit” early for St. Patrick’s Day, but twelve cars did the annual Sedona parade anyway. It was a short distance, slow moving, funky affair, as usual, but lots of fun. We draped our beautiful cars in Arizona State flags in honor of the 100th anniversary of statehood.

A brunch followed at the Coffee Pot Restaurant.

And that was our February and beginning of March for the SCC.

Larry



CLUB NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday To:

Ellie Haga, 3/10
Norm Uhler, 3/31
Dan Otts, 3/23
Bill Fobair, 3/19

Happy Anniversary To:

Larry & Vickie Currie, 3/29
John & Gail Heyer, 3/22

NEW MEMBERS

Robert & Jane Tuso,
Skantel@msn.com, 1951 MGTD.

Please introduce yourselves and
make them welcome!

LITTER LIFTERS

Luke Lukich has agreed to assume
this role in 2012. This is your call to
volunteer. Dates will be announced.

CLUB MEETINGS

The General Meetings of the Sedona
Car Club are held at 7 PM on the second
Tuesday of each month at the Sedona
Library, except in June when our meeting
is the Annual Picnic, and in December
when it is the Annual Christmas Party.
We do not meet in JULY. Be sure to
attend. Bring a car-loving friend!

BOARD MEETING

The Board meets on the first Tuesday
of each month, at 8:30 AM, at the
Cousins' clubroom. All members are
invited to attend.

MARCH MEETING: PROGRAM

Tuesdays program(March 13, at 7 PM)
will feature Charley
Schudson...former attorney, Judge in
Milwaukee, Thespian and electoral
historian. He will present some
interesting comparisons between the
upcoming election and one that
occurred 100 years ago. The topic is
most timely.

Be sure to attend , and bring a friend.



OFFICERS AND BOARD

PRESIDENT
LARRIE CURRIE
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
MARTIN GLINSKY
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT/
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
RALPH BLANKENSHIP
TREASURER / MEMBERSHIP
SAM PIETROFITTA
SECRETARY
GREG ZUCCO
HISTORIAN
STEVE BLANK
TOURS & EVENTS
AL MOSS
HIGHWAY CLEANUP PROGRAM
LUKE LUKICH
MEMBER AT LARGE
ED PITTMAN

The rhythms of life on the prairie.

1. Living in Iowa, mid-twentieth century, you are never far removed from the soil. The rhythms of the land are mirrored in the lives of those whose ways and very persistence depend upon it. At first the observer is impressed by the gentleness of the landscape, rolling hills outlined by deep green belts of trees along the little creeks and rivers that appear at every turn, the deep blueness overhead offering a perfect foil for the muscular bulk of the cloudbanks that reach upward with dead fingers of ice to touch the very edge of space. The small farms where families lived for generations linked by a crazy-web of roads clearly marking the exact boundaries of each family's place, turning sharply whenever straight lines would intrude on their sacred space. These are not people to be taken lightly ... because their bold display of gravity rests on the softest base of uncertainty and loss, and they are survivors.

Summer nights, long hot and wet, are the big reward for out-lasting the dark days of winter followed by the endless exhausting days of plowing, planting and cultivating until, at last "the corn is knee-high by the fourth of July", and a farmer can breathe, a little. The old farmers said that on such summer nights, when the chores are all done and the kids and the stock are put up for the night, a man can sit with his wife on his own porch under a full moon and listen to the corn grow! Pop! Pop! Pop! Like some kind of corn-country castanets, the corn dances its own fandango; each frenetic release of pent-up energy promises more. One inch in a single night! Six feet or more in only six weeks, before the first cool nights of autumn return, and the corn stalks don their golden-russet jackets, their work being done.

Now it is time to start checking the cobs, looking at kernel size, making rough guesses of how many bushels an acre and what the price might be at the elevator. Should he sell, or store for a better price? He dreams, but he always knows that a hundred things could still happen to wipe him out and at least half of these things have no earthly reason for happening or for not happening. What might be left after the bank is paid off? Will it ever get paid off? Does it really matter?

Good times on the farm are nothing but prelude to loss. Life feels only scorn for the dreams of humans and their comic strivings for success. Life allows the innocent to dream only to intensify the pains of betrayal when their hopes are finally dashed against the rocks of loss. Beware of your good times, for they will demand their due. This cycle is eternal. Farmers are not glum pessimists, they are recovering optimists!

2. If I were a reflective person, and I am, I might see the parallel between tilling the soil and raising a family. If I were also a teacher, counselor and cop, which I am also, I might see this perspective played out across the years for many hundreds of families. Perhaps the most critical difference leading either to a happy life or an unhappy one, is not how good our good times are, but how we treat them. Do we prepare for life's next turn. At least we should try, shouldn't we?

Looking back. There are a few kids, and their families, that stand out in my memory as possible cases of good or poor life management. Good things happen to all, but they don't always make a life better. Bad things too, happen to all, But they also may not matter in the end.

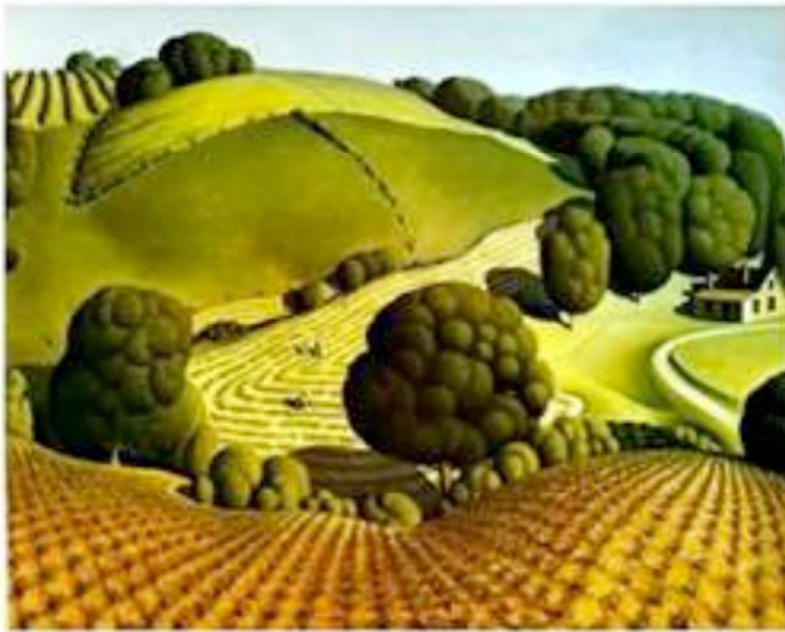
Chance is always a player, in our lives.

(continued on p. 5)

We like to proclaim that our good fortune is due to our special efforts, and our special qualities. But we never know what will happen next, how our lives will turn out. Our successful friends and neighbors may not be so unique. They often looked very unpromising, even hopeless, at some point. But they just turned out better.

Bud's life was like that, for some of us who knew him. Especially for me. Who am I? Just a truant officer in a small city in Iowa. My job was to work in the gap between families, schools and the courts, and I first met Bud under distinctly unfavorable conditions. And I made a call that by all rights was wrong. As the song says, "Does it really matter?"

(To be continued in April)



Landscapes by Iowa regionalist painter, Grant Wood.



Upcoming Events, Tours and Meetings

Plan to attend the general meeting at the Sedona Library, Tuesday, March 13th, at 7 PM. The special guest speaker and timely topic is not to be missed!

Sunday, March 11th, watch for the Wheels of Britain.

Saturday, March 24th. The 6th Not Very Annual Garage Sale Event. If you have not participated in this fun event in the past, here is your opportunity to experience something new in the way of a fun car event. The event begins at 10 AM and will end by noon at a restaurant for lunch and what is always a rather hilarious awards ceremony. Don't miss this! Meet in the parking lot in back of Angel's Mexican Restaurant. 2245 Hwy 89a at Shelby Road. by 9:45am.

Thursday, April 5th. Another trek to quaint Jerome for a scrumptious dinner at The Asylum and a trip home under a full moon. Meet on Navoti Drive, in back of the Medical Center, to depart at 5pm. Either sign up at the March meeting, or notify Al Moss (RacerMoss@esedona.net) by April 1st.

Saturday, April 14th, come to the Annual Southwest Unique Little Car Meet; A fun event in Phoenix!

Saturday, April 28th. The Second Annual car display at Basha's parking lot. Please sign up at the April meeting.

Al Moss

TIRE TRACKS

Sedona Car Club

P.O Box 748

Sedona, AZ 86339

APPLY LABEL HERE

