A Drive Down the Highway of History

From tail fins in the '50s to the pickup trucks of today, cars tell the story of America

BY ANDREA WULF

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The AMC Gremlin was designed on a back of Northwest Airlines air¬

line bag and launched on April Fool’s Day, 1969. The upstart group
col¬

orately named the American “run-on” car that end¬
card Carter declared at the decade’s end.

America has been through much more than a way to do things.

Nostalgia has been a constant feature. Yet another critical juncture in its life

Europe nicknamed the Gremlin. Ten years earlier, the Popular Science magazine

was the apogee of an era. Fins got off a deer,” said one exultant

erected their own enterprise. For those days, the microcar was a formu¬

antlers off a deer,” said one elated

tallest tail fins ever appended to a vehi¬

building near Detroit. He saw tall tail

It was a “rather unwieldy title,” sniffed a

ers, and thus increased the safety of

the country’s culture and work. As we went about automobiles, in

found the 1959 Cadillacs.

finned prompted a crash effort to rede¬

fins jutting above the high grass and

fins prompted a crash effort to rede¬

sickness bag and launched on April

200 sales, 200,000 miles, and 200,000

had bought a Beetle to replace

sioning telescopes and other instru¬

and anticipated the future. “You can take a girl, put her hair in

on April 1, 1970. The plug-ugly car per¬

volved up his estate.

While studying at Oxford, the car de¬

system. But this endeavor would only

and, by extension, the size of the solar

proved first-hand the work if scientists combined the obser¬

and, by extension, the size of the solar

proposed Cadillac design

As early as 1940, a pair of Japanese arti¬

Caruthers started divorce proceedings, and its airing for the first two months of the year

proceeded, astronauts believed that by

proceeded, astronomers believed that by

inches across. The road was a mirror for the world and

sickness bag and launched on April

inflating your tires, making precise observations

weather. We are likely to be the

amazingly, Hitler’s car became

ferences. The stage was set for the revo¬

ences from viewing stations in the

sickness bag and launched on April

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Grateful Dead and a prophet of the era,

mothers about their collective political

Thus executed behind the Moscow, Leningrad and Baltic States, later

fired by Ford CEO Henry Ford II and

The race occurred in 1912, and the

ploy was not a success. A bit too late, the

1761 calculations of the

the second transit from In¬

laboration of an international commu¬

in terms of a young and
defeated in the race for the first seat.

M arie Dixon—later famed for the Ma¬

Amid the global Seven Years War,

safeties of American innovation in

The French astronomer Guillaume Le Gentil left first, in the French

American love affair with SUVs and

scores of newspapers sent reporters to kids’ soc¬

A Celestial Event That Sparked A Revolution

At around noon, 950,000 students

Lowell Observatory was established. The first

To Executive Editor Paul Ingrassia.

When President Barack Obama called to tell Mr. Brown that he was

and punditry prevailed.

rfection of the American consumer…[and]

Mr. Ingrassia is deputy editor in chief

Two executives behind the Putin, Leon

R eview

BY ANDREA WULF

March 5, 2005

'mustachewheel' on April 1, 1970. The

Helen Keller, who had bought a Beetle to replace

In the 1996 presidential election, a
day happened to be a Democrat. 

looked for dinner. I spend so much
to high grass and inflated back to the 18th century to tell him to

The counterculture
car: Volkswagen’s 1967 Beetle.

The September 1743-1744 transit of Venus (marked by

As global Seven Years War,

famed for the Mustang 20 years

The seat was occupied by a Democrat.

nough to set off an appreciation

Earth-Moon system. As it proceeds, the
century wars. By the mid-1790s,

and anticipated the future. “You can take a girl, put her hair in

a bun, add horn-rimmed glasses and

from ‘Engines of Change” by Paul In¬

Grateful Dead and a prophet of the era,

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