

# The First Chelmrolet Rolls Off the Assembly Line!

by Philip *Fishl* Kutner

There was the first CCC (Chelm Car Celebration). It was a rejoicing that Chelm had not seen since the rabbi's first son was born. Balloons filled the sky and Champagne literally flowed in the streets. We are getting ahead of ourselves.

How did this come to be? How did Chelm get to build its own automobile plant? Let's hear the story as it was first reported by the *Alte Press*, the AP newswire service.

\*\*\*\*\*

The development all started late one night as the CCC (Chelm City Council) was winding up its business. It was reported that someone said that it would be an opportunity to do something about Chelm's high unemployment rate—approaching 50%. In Chelm all the women worked, but the men had only temporary jobs. It seems that the men could only get part-time work in helping their wives produce babies.

The article further states that the incentive was the recent entering of Poland into the EU, the European Union. This would open up Chelm to tourism and great prosperity, but how would tourists get around if there were no modern cars and the muddy streets filled with ruts would not be conducive to automobile travel.

Further reading of the report explains that the CCC would approach the IMF the International Monetary Fund to borrow money from the International Bank to build a modern automobile manufacturing plant in Chelm.

- It would employ only men—thus solving Chelm's unemployment problem.
- They would build a special vehicle, a luxury SUV, with off-road capability to maneuver Chelm's rutted roads until there would be so much money that a regular paved road could be built.
- It would be called the Chelmrolet, the General Motorn SUV luxury model.

Lest you think that the CCC was not thorough into looking at the matter of choosing a parent company, let me assure you that such was not the case.

The astute reasoning went like this. First, the people most likely to come as tourists to Chelm would be Jews, and the USA has the most Jews. Second, since USA has the most cars, a USA manufacturer should

be chosen. Third, since Chrysler is the smallest of the big three, and since Hershl Ferd was not good to the Jews, and since General Motorn was the largest, the decision was made to go with GM.

When Ditroyt heard about it, there was a flurry of action. GM stocks doubled overnight, and money flowed in to build an ultra-modern assembly plant. However, soon a series of problems arose. It dealt with the unskilled laborers available among the Chelm Labor force. Since the women had done all the work, the men had no work ethics or skills.

Ditroyt was in a quandary and the GM stocks fell to half its original value. A bright idea occurred to the GM CEO, call in Fishl as a consultant/arbitrator. After all, he had experience in such matters. Besides Fishl's Feeble Fee was only a GM contribution to *Der Bay* and the monthly copies to be on file at the GM, Ditroyt, Library Headquarters.

## Fishl's Final Formula

1. GM auto designers would make drawings for an ultra-modern, new type luxury SUV taxi that would be able to smoothly maneuver the Chelm city ruts.
2. The taxis should be equipped with a state-of-the-art GPS (Global Positioning system). There was always the possibility that the Chelm taxi drivers might venture out of the city limits.
3. The factory should be built with outside laborers so that time could be used to get the men of Chelm to learn about the WWW (wonderful world of work).
4. A kosher cafeteria should be built in the plant so that the employees would have a kosher hot meal during the long, cold, snowy winter days.
5. Instead of coffee breaks the time would be spent in davening.
6. Finally, the highest rewards to the recipients for attendance and good workmanship would be their selection of aliyes at the High Holiday Services.

On your next trip to Europe visit the modern shtetl of Chelm. It now has a single lane paved road down the main street and all around the shtetl. Taxis always pass by going around and around in wide loops and down the main thoroughfare.