



# Pontiac

PONTIAC was a native American Chief of the Ottawa tribe from 1720-1769 who believed that native Americans should not trade with white men. He was responsible for uniting most of the tribes around the Great Lakes area but was killed by a brave from a Peoria tribe who stabbed him. In 1893 Edward M. Murphy established the Pontiac Buggy Company in Pontiac, Michigan. The company produced horse-drawn carriages. As it became clear that motor car sales were going to eclipse carriages, Murphy wisely started the Oakland Motor Car Company, an offshoot of the buggy company, in 1907. Two years later it was bought out by General Motors. In 1925 Ben H Anibal, who had been chief engineer for Cadillac, was engaged to design a completely new six-cylinder car. So in January 1926 at the New York Auto Show the “Chief of the Sixes”, Pontiac, was born.

Pontiac debuted Star Chief, a new line in 1955. A Star Chief convertible was driven cross-country to California in a series of episodes on T.V’s “I Love Lucy.”

The big news in 1964 was the introduction of the LeMans GTO, the GTO offered Pontiac a way to preserve it’s racing heritage without actually participating. The GTO is credited with creating the “muscle car” era in Detroit. The Firebird Trans Am, which was intended to be the highest performance pony car of its time, debuted in spring 1969, but that’s another story...



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