Moisten Here Moisten Here Moisten Here

Form Approved: O.M.B. No. 2127-0008

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Auto Safety Hotline

Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire

NATIONWIDE 1-800-424-9393
DC METRO AREA (202) 366-0123
INTERNET: http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Use a No. 2 pencil or a blue or black ink pen only.
CORRECT MARK: ●

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY
Date Received: 09-27-02
Reference No. [redacted]
Od-or ___ ___
rt-dr ___ ___
od-rt ___ ___
up-hr ___ ___

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER

[redacted]

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? ● Yes ○ No

In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name and address to the vehicle manufacturer.

X [redacted] 9/9/02
SIGNATURE OF OWNER DATE

VEHICLE INFORMATION

VEHICLE IDENT. NO. (VIN)	VEHICLE MAKE	VEHICLE MODEL	MANUFACTURE DATE	MODEL YEAR
[redacted]	Buick	Century	AUG 94	1995

VEHICLE MANUFACTURER: ○ BMW ○ Daimler/Chrysler ○ Ford ● General Motors ○ Honda ○ Hyundai ○ Nissan ○ Saab ○ Subaru ○ Toyota ○ Volvo ○ VW ○ Other ______

PURCHASE DATE		DEALER'S NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
1/2/97	○ New ● Used	Sid Porter's	Augusta	ME	04332-

ENGINE SIZE (CID/CC/L): 3100
NO. CYLINDERS: 6

FUEL SYSTEM: ○ Turbo ● Fuel Injection
FUEL TYPE: ○ Diesel ● Gas
TRANSMISSION TYPE: ○ Manual ● Automatic
ANTILOCK BRAKES: ● Yes ○ No
RESTRAINT SYSTEM: ● Driverside Airbag ○ Passengerside Airbag ● 3-Point Belt ○ 2-Point Belt ○ Motorbelt
CRUISE CONTROL: ● Yes ○ No

DRIVETRAIN: ● Front ○ Rear ○ 4-Wheel
VEHICLE TYPE: ● Car ○ Van ○ Minivan ○ Sport Utility ○ Truck ○ Motorcycle ○ Other ______
DOORS: ○ 2-Door ● 4-Door
BODY STYLE: ○ Hatchback ○ Pick Up Truck ○ Sedan ● Stationwagon

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

COMPONENT: ○ Child Seat ○ Electrical Lights & Alarms ○ Engine & Cooling System ○ Equipment ○ Fuel System, Exhaust ○ Heater, Defrost, Ventilation ○ Interior ○ Parking Brake ○ Power Train ○ Service Brakes ○ Steering ○ Structure ○ Suspension ○ Visual Systems ● Other Throttle position sensor

NO. OF FAILURES: 1

To report defective or failed tires provide the following: Tire Brand, Tire Name, Tire Size (include all number and letters).

INCIDENT DATE: 08/09/2002
TIRE NAME: N/A
COMPLETE TIRE SIZE: N/A
MILEAGE AT INCIDENT: Approx. 114,000
VEHICLE SPEED AT INCIDENT: 50 and increasing

TIRE BRAND: ○ BF Goodrich ○ Cooper ○ Firestone ○ Goodyear ○ Kelly Springfield ○ Michelin ○ Yokohama ○ Other ______ (crossed out)

FAILED PART(S): ● Original ○ Replacement

HANDICAPPED ADAPTIVE: ○ Yes ● No
FAILED PART(S) AVAILABLE?: ● Yes ○ No
NHTSA PREVIOUSLY CONTACTED?: ○ Yes ○ No

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

Please describe in detail the incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies) on the back of

CRASH: ○ Yes ● No
FIRE: ○ Yes

NUMBER OF PERSONS INJURED: 0
NUMBER OF FATALITIES: 0

CAUSE OF INCIDENT: ○ Wear/Corroded/Rust ○ Weak/Poor Fit/Loose ○ Cut/Torn ● Disconnect/Fall Off ○ Erratic/Poor Performance ○ Excessive Effort ○ Noisy ○ Leaks ○ Short ○ Locks/Sticks/Grabs ○ Stability/Vibration ○ Broken

RESULT OF INCIDENT: ○ Explosion/Fire ○ Loss of Control ○ Poor Visibility ○ Inadvertent Start ○ Rollover ○ Stalls

Narrative description o- ...nt(s), failure(s), crash(es), location(s), a... ...ury(ies). Include additional accidents if applicable.

See enclosed copy of letter and pictures.

Summary:

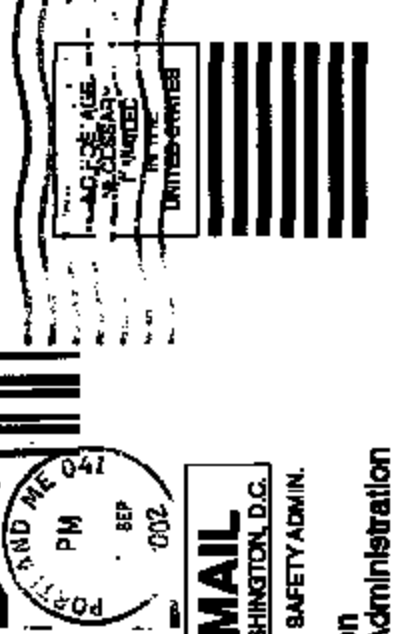
A screw worked loose and fell into the throttle position sensor linkage, blocking the linkage open in the full throttle position. The car was accelerating uncontrollably. Only a miracle prevented a horrible accident. The screw remained stuck in the linkage until manually removed.

Defective engineering design

Continue on additional page if necessary.

Describe any additional incidents. (Include date and mileage)

HS Form 350 (Rev. 8/99)



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Complete and return or place in your car manual for future use

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DOT AUTO SAFETY HOT

TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFEC
COMPLETE THIS FORM
OR

DASH 2 DOT

and dial toll free at

1-888-DASH-2-D

1-888-327-4236

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
(DASH) 2 DOT

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hot

[redacted]

Engineering and Design Department
Buick Motor Company
P.O. Box 436008
Pontiac, MI 48343

Re:Defect (Life-endangering)

Dear Sir,

Driving my 1995 Buick Century station wagon, VIN #1G4AG85M6S6402949, on Friday, August 9. 2002, the acceleration jammed at 60 mph! I am fortunate to be alive.

A screw had vibrated loose under the hood and fallen into the throttle position sensor linkage, blocking it in the open (60mph plus) position. I enclose pictures to help you identify the parts because my words may not be the correct technical terms.

The car was gaining in speed, even though my foot was off the gas and on the brake, and I was going up a steep hill. Having traffic all around me, I had only seconds to decide what to do. I reared back and put all my bodily power into braking so I could turn at the first corner and get out of heavy traffic. Alas..the corner did not lead down a quiet country road (as I had hoped) but directly into another intersection with two houses in front of me. I had to do something fast, so I shifted quickly into PARK and, with the engine screaming, it DID come to a stop!

The tow truck driver thought the cruise control had stuck, but after disengaging the cruise and restarting the engine, it started at <u>full</u> throttle. He looked further and said,"There's a loose screw lodged here." (at the throttle position sensor linkage.) He removed it with pliers and all was back to normal (except my heart.) He observed an empty screw hole, still shiny, from where the screw had vibrated loose. (See attached photo.) He said that because I had shifted so fast from a high rate of rpm's, the transmission had skipped over all the gears (or something like that)and had not damaged the transmission .

From a design point of view, this place where the screw lodged should be surrounded by a screen, or something, to make sure that this can NEVER happen. I could have killed many people, being totally incapable of controlling the speed of the car. You must consider that if this happened once, it could happen again, with horrible consequences.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS DOCUMENT HAVE BEEN REMOVED TO PROTECT UNWARRANTED INVASION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY PURSUANT TO EXEMPTION 6 OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).