

# The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 46 No. 3, March, 2013

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## An Interview with the Grimes

Ed (Edward Junior) and his son Eddie (Edward the Third) Grimes live in a very nice home in Chickasaw. You really can't miss their home as it is the only one that has two El Caminos in the front driveway. Ed said that he built the house in 1965 with a lot of help from his father Ed



(Edward Senior). (I had to get all the Ed's straightened out as the name at the front of the house is Edward Grimes Junior) Ed was born in Valdosta Georgia. The family moved from Georgia to Melrose Florida when Ed was a child. They lived there for 8 years before moving to Mobile where Ed entered Vigor High School as a Freshman. He was part of the first graduating class at Vigor. After a short-lived job at Delchamps, he got a job in the labs at International Paper (IP). He worked at IP for about a year before entering the service for a two-year stint. Subsequently he returned to IP where he worked at various jobs until he retired in 2000. While at IP he worked in their labs for the first 25 years then in their wood scaling operations for 10 – 12 years before returning to the labs. He was responsible for maintaining the quality control equipment. Ed said that one reason he retired when he did (as if

you need a reason after 47 years) was that he didn't want to deal with the Y2K hysteria (everyone remember that?)

Last May, Ed became the first person in Mobile to experience minimally invasive heart surgery. This was robot assisted surgery that fixed a leaking valve near his heart. Without the need to break open his ribcage, Ed was up and around quickly after his surgery. Better yet, he says he feels very good now and is not taking any medications for his heart. As a result of his surgery, he now walks a lot, especially around the mall because of the constant temperature. Other than that, he said he works around the house doing things like cutting grass. And, of course, he's always fooling with his cars.



Between Ed and Eddie, they have a LOT of cars. Ed took me down to look at his beautiful white 1957 T-Bird that's in the house garage beside the beige El Camino (the black El Camino is outside in the driveway). I believe he said he got the 57 T-Bird around 2000. Heading around to the backyard, he opened his main garage to show me his black and

**Continued on Page 3.**

## Message from the DSR President

GREETINGS & SALUTATIONS to all. I hope all is well with you as we are in the thick of Car Shows & Cruise-In's along our stretch of the Gulf Coast. We were able to attend the Hog Wild Car Show at the Fair grounds as well as the Azealea Festival in Semmes, Alabama. Both had a good turnout for their respected venues.

I do want to say on behalf of our Car Show committee we have secured a major sponsor for our Mother's Day Car Show. We will have some information at our Thursday night meeting in detail about our upcoming show.

On a lighter note I have commented several times about people you meet through our Car hobby. Well this is one of the many times I have encountered a person with a love of Vintage vehicles. I was going to pick lunch up the other day when I received a call from a person addressing himself as Father Cecil Spotswood. Right away I thought Bobby P. had set me up for one of his many little prank calls. Father Spotswood said he was interested in possibly investing in some kind of Classic Muscle Car for himself. As I listened with great anticipation, trying to figure out who actually was on the other end of this conversation I asked him "so you are a Priest uh?" He indicated again yes. My question to him was: "What would a Priest want with a Muscle Car?" His answer was "my mother asked me the same question." Bottom line: he's a Car guy.

We set up a time to meet so he could look at the 69 Camaro I have and after a cruise he was pretty set that he was going to get something in the near future. I talked about our car club with him and he is just about next door neighbors with us since he is at St Ignatius Church on Springhill Avenue. I say whether you're a doctor, construction worker, machinist or even a priest, we still have something in common when it comes to the Vehicles of old. I will see you at our next meeting, Zeno

## DSR Officers for 2013

President: Zeno Chaudron .....251-423-0946  
Vice President: Foy Bobo .....215-661-6133  
Secretary: Tracy Metclaf .....251-689-2926  
Treasurer: Bobby Peterson.....251-342-8960  
Editor: Paul Dagenais .....251-610-4533  
Activities: Tim and Stacy Lawrence.....  
.....251-401-3019  
Member-at-Large: Charlie Lyles .....  
.....251-973-2078

## Appointees and/or Volunteers

Chaplain: Kevin Crowell..... 251-802-4640  
Historian: Paul Dagenais.....251-610-4533  
Program Chairman: Ernie Rogers .....  
.....251-604-5368  
Refreshments: Pat Paquet .....  
..... 251-661-4009  
Webmaster: Herb Thoms .....251-654-2933

The Sparkplug is published by the Deep South Region (DSR) chapter of the Antique Automobiles of America organization. The Sparkplug is non-profit and published for the information of club members and friends. DSR meetings are held every fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse located at 951 Forest Hill Drive in Mobile, Alabama. Membership in the Antique Automobile Club of America is required to be a member of this Region. Annual local dues are \$15.00; AACA national dues are \$35.00. Ownership of an antique vehicle is not a requirement for membership.

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## **An Interview with the Grimes (continued from Page 1)**

white 1956 T-Bird. It was buried behind “stuff”. At this point, it became obvious that the Grimes are true packrats (more to come). The 56 T-Bird is not being used currently because it has a bad transmission leak. To pull the transmission, you have to take the entire motor out because the chassis has a support “X” under the transmission. Thus, the 56 is going to sit for a while. Continuing around behind the main garage are two smaller garages. The first has Ed’s Lincoln while the last has Eddie’s beautiful 1967 white with black vinyl roof Mustang.

Ed told me that he has a 1964½ Mustang in storage that he’s had for at least 20 years. He said he’s been meaning to restore it for touring but hasn’t gotten around to it yet. Eddie mentioned that they had two more 1967 Mustang convertibles at their other property off of Celeste Road. It was midafternoon and, as I had nothing to do, I said let’s go see them. So off the three of us went. After about a 14 mile ride, we turned off Celeste Road and went down a cul-de-sac. Ed pointed at the end of the black top and said “that’s where we’re going”. I looked and thought he meant we should pull up to the edge. But, no, he meant for me to drive over the black top and into what looked to me like the hinterlands. You have to understand that I have a new Cadillac ATS with about a 1000 miles on it. It’s a low car and here we were going trailblazing. I was somewhat concerned, but neither of the Ed’s seemed concerned as we drove between the trees, over a short bridge and pulled up to a small storage building which to me looked seriously in the middle of nowhere. After checking out some damage due to the carpenter bees, they opened the doors. On the left was a large red tractor. On the right were various items like a riding lawnmower, generator, etc. They pointed past all of this stuff and said “there’s the black Mustang convertible”. All I could see was some chrome or stainless which turned out to be the front edge of the hood. One fender was missing, but I’ll take their word for it that it was there. We then walked around back to find the second Mustang, this one red, under a tarp. It looked like it needed some serious work and the Ed’s went back and forth about what it would take to make it road-worthy.



At this point, we started to get spattered by raindrops. My concern for the ATS returned as I thought about its ability to get up hills covered with wet oak leaves. However, I heard my father’s voice in my head when he was teaching us to drive in snow “don’t spin the tires!” I didn’t, we got out and back to Chickasaw in one piece. I dropped the Ed’s off and got caught in a major downpour on my way home. I have to thank them for the adventure, I really enjoyed it.

Somewhere in here is a 67 Mustang convertible

**Paul Dagenais, Editor**

## February 2013 Chili Dinner

The DSR Chili dinner was a success. As is the usual situation, it consisted of three major components:



Stage I: The Anticipation



Stage II: The Load-Up



The Chow-Down

## Club Meetings Refreshments

March refreshments are being provided by the Bobos and the Fullers. Next month we will have an Italian covered dish supper beginning at 6 pm. If you did not contribute to the Soup and Chili Supper, please sign the April sign up sheet at the March meeting.  
Thanks

**Patt Paquet**  
**2013 Refreshments Chair**

## Sweet Rides and Sweet Adelines



The Semmes Azalea Festival on Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> gave some members of DSR another chance to show their rides and participate in the Azalea Festival Car, Truck, and Bike Show. Members present were Zeno and Trey Chadron (with many other family members) Bobby Peterson, and Nancy and Herb Thoms. The Festival also included entertainment, a beauty pageant, a 5K run, and many vendors with all sorts of wares. It was unique for Nancy in that as a member of Azalea City chorus of Sweet Adelines she was part of the entertainment as well as entering her “B” in the “Other”

category of the car show. The “B” is a class B motor home created from a Dodge 3500 van. It is a 2001 model and was made in Canada. After show prepping the “B” she was able to change into her outfit for the performance in the comfort of the “B”.

Nancy has been a member of a Sweet Adeline chorus for more than 25 years and has performed with them in many places including Germany. She enjoys showing off her talents and her “B” as she calls it!

**Herb Thoms**

Check out the Deep South Region Website at:

<http://local.aaca.org/deepsouth>



## Both Old Queens Live On

There are times when people meet one another something clicks. It might be nothing more than a couple of words that stick with you, or the other person, but perhaps it is finding out you all like the same things. This happened to Buddy and me back in the late 1980s when we met a unique woman who in only a short period of time became a very good friend. She and her husband had been members of DSR in the early years but she was no longer a DSR member and was no longer a married person. But she was, and as far as I know, still is a member of AACA.



This crusty old broad could hold her own with anyone who wished to discuss antique cars. You must know that to her the words “*antique cars*” meant mostly pre-1940. Her true love was cars of the brass era and those years immediately following. Maybe this was because her home has always been filled with absolute true antique furnishings, including a hand-cranked Victrola plus a 78 and 33.3<sup>rd</sup> record player with records and albums featuring the big bands of the 1920-30-40s. Even when she moved out of her home to a retirement community, a few things went with her,

one being a 1970 Chevy Malibu Convertible. This unfortunately has deteriorated considerably but is still salvageable. Some of you know I am referring to Marien Brent.

Marien was going strong until Hurricane Jorges came to visit. Long story short, she was preparing to be away from her home for a period of time and had an accident which caused her to lose one of her legs from below the knee. Not one to be outdone, she persevered and made about an 80% recovery. She continued to ride her bike, which resulted in numerous falls, around the neighborhood. She had her Volkswagen ragtop converted to hand shift and drove it frequently. She disposed of several vehicles, including an early 1900s Electric Car. Left were an early T-model along with a 1929 Model A 4-door Phaeton and the two later model drivers.

She enjoyed driving the “A” to the grocery store and the bank, the latter of which she would take employees for a ride around the shopping center pad. During the years following Jorges and prior to Katrina, we would take her with us to AACA meets where she was in her element. Although she no longer judged, she had great times visiting with old friends she had made during previous meets and especially tours. Every time someone would ask about her cars, she would name off the remaining ones as if they were her children. When asked about selling one or another, the answer was always “No” and added that the Phaeton was left to us in her will. We took this with a grain of salt thinking it was



her way of getting out of a negotiation she wasn't interested in. We have recently found we were totally wrong.

When Marien moved to Westminster Retirement Community a few years ago, we kept in touch. This move was the brainchild of her niece who, along with us, saw her memory going rather quickly. The proverbial straw was when she came to Mobile and couldn't find her house and ended up somewhere up in Prichard. She has ranted and raved but we all consider that Marien just being Marien. Remember I said she was a crusty old broad. Ask anyone who has been a member when she and her husband, Ed Rothenberg were active. Actually, Ed was the editor of the *Sparkplug* when Hurricane Fredrick hit Mobile. It was time for an issue to go out but there was no power at their house. Guess who did have electricity? This was when Ernie Youens took over as the club's newsletter editor for many, many years.



A couple of weeks ago, Marien's niece called. We have always known she is the Executrix of Marien's estate and my first thought was that ; the worst had happened. However, that was not the case. She had talked with "the powers that be" and was being allowed to go ahead and dispose of any items in the estate that would become useless if left without care. One of those would be the Model A Phaeton. On Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, we met Mimi (the niece) at Marien's place to pick it up. This was a bittersweet move for all of us. It had been sitting for the past few years in the storage unit that Ed had built. When the buildings were built, Ed rigged up a one-of-a-kind method of keeping covers over their cars. It was a pulley system where the fabric covers were raised and lowered to the point that one could spread them out over the vehicles. Most of their vehicles had been rather tall. The A had not been under a cover so lots of cleaning will be taking place not only on the outside but inside as well.



Buddy is presently working on getting the engine running again and will be checking out the brakes; in other words making the car mechanically safe. Although there were four of us on site, it was quite an adventure getting it up on a trailer, even with a wench. All four tires were nearly flat and the driver's side rear wheel was locked up but broke loose going up the ramp. When we got it home, there were three of us to get it off the trailer and into the garage, but happily, there were no mishaps. Airing up the tires helped considerably. It will take the rest of his month and probably all of April, but hopefully "the Queen" will be ready to drive (or at worst – trailer) for our DSR car show. We will enter it in honor of the other "Old Queen" and former owner, Ms. Marien Brent. Then we will let it go to a new home where it can be a "New Queen".

**Patt Paquet**

**Deep South Region  
AACA  
Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2013**

Prior to beginning the Meeting, President Chaudron introduced Eric Cash and Marty Wheeler from United Cerebral Palsy who discussed the BBQ Championship and Hog Wild Festival to be held March 8 and March 9 at the Greater Gulf State Fairgrounds, and invited members to attend and to participate in a car show to be held during the event.

The February 28, 2013 DSR Meeting was called to order by President Zeno Chaudron followed by the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Charlie and Robbie Lyles were recognized and congratulated by the club members as they celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Secretary Tracy Metclaf moved that the January 24, 2013 minutes be approved as written. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ernie Rogers and approved by vote.

President Chaudron announced the signing of CarQuest as the Show Sponsor for the 2013 Mother's Day Car Show. The sponsorship includes a \$1500 fee to be paid by CarQuest to DSR. CarQuest will determine a local charity to share in the proceeds from the show.

Bobby Peterson presented the February Financial Report. Herb Thomas moved that the report be accepted. Walt Fuller seconded the motion. The motion was approved by vote.

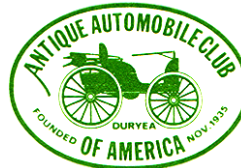
Purchase of the banner to be hung in the AACA Museum in Hershey, PA and forwarded to the club at the end of the year was reported by President Chaudron. He stated that the club voted to underwrite a \$250 purchase and individual members had contributed another \$250 to allow purchase of a larger banner.

Webmaster Herb Thoms reported changes and upgrades to the webpage. Pictures of cars and activities are needed to be posted to the webpage.

Charlie Lyles, Member-at-Large, conducted the drawing of the 50/50 pot, and of course, champion winner, Robbie Lyles, posted yet another victory.

Buddy Paquet moved that the meeting be adjourned. Kevin Crowell seconded the motion and it was approved..

**Tracy Metclaf, Secretary**





**Bellingrath Gardens, AL**  
 April 6, 2013

20th Annual Camellia Classic 2013 presented by the Mobile Bay Mustang Club. Rain or shine, April 6. Gates open 7:30 am; registration from 9 am to 11 am, judging 11 am to 1 pm; awards at 2:30. Pre-registration is \$25; Day of show \$30, and includes garden admission for two. Information: Cale @ 251-222-4567 or Jim @ 251-661-5756 or [www.mobilebaymustangclub.org](http://www.mobilebaymustangclub.org)



**South Alabama Veterans Council**  
 an organization for all people, serving all Veterans  
 A coalition of Veterans, Friends and Organizations  
 working to benefit and further the Cause of Veterans



**ARMED FORCES DAY 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
 BLUE STAR SALUTE  
 CRUZE - IN**



**Motorcycle Clubs**  
 PG Riders  
 AL Riders  
 Rolling Thunder  
 Semper FI Riders  
  
 And more

**WHERE:** USS ALABAMA BATTLESHIP PARK  
**WHEN:** SATURDAY, 18 MAY 2013, 9:00-1:00 PM  
*(Try to have cars in place by 8:30 am)*  
**WHAT:** ALL ANTIQUE & CLASSIC CARS, STREET RODS,  
 MOTOR CYCLES, AND MILITARY VEHICLES  
**WHO:** CLUBS AND INDIVIDUAL CARS WELCOME  
*Free & Open to the Public, \$2 parking, food vendors on site*

**Car Clubs**  
 Deep South Region AACA  
 Gear Jammers  
 Mobile Mustang  
 Port City Corvette  
  
 And more

- Program Honoring those who served, have served & those who have fallen in Military Service.
- Opening Ceremony/Welcome at 9:00 am
- Music by 151<sup>st</sup> Alabama National Guard Band
- Iwo Jima Flag Raising Reenactment
- Gold Star Memorial Service
- Static Displays



**NEXT DSR MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY MARCH 28, 2013 AT 7:00 PM**

### Cruise-Ins

Time	Location	Address	For More Info Contact
1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday	What-A-Burger	Airport & Snow Road	Bubba Blanton 251-610-4032
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Edgewater Mall	Hwy 90, Biloxi MS	Jimbo 228-596-0664
2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday	Down Town Cruise	Ocean Springs, MS	N/A
Every Saturday	Burger King	Pensacola Nine Mile Rd at Chemstrand	N/A
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	5 Guys	University at Airport	<a href="mailto:info@mobilebaymustangclub.org">info@mobilebaymustangclub.org</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	Kenducky Fried Chicken	Tillman's Square, Hwy 90	Jo Jo Johnson 251-367-6643
1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday	5 Guys	Airport At University	Brenda Drinkard 675-9226
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Mings Café	Highway 43 in Saraland	North Side Cruisers
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	Sam's Super Burger	Grand Bay	Southern Bay Cruisers 251-442-6877
4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	Northrop Complex	Pascagoula, MS	Magnolia Classic Cruisers
Last Saturday	Sonic - Hwy 59 South	Robertsdale, AL	251-747-2022




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