

The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 47, No. 3, March, 2014

Enjoying a Monologue by Jim Henderson

On Sunday afternoon, Tracy Metclaf and I met up with Jim Henderson at his car museum. Over the course of the next few hours we were treated to Mr. H's stories and observations. As most of you know, Jim has been a DSR member since the 1980's. He had bought his first 1951 Ford, a dark blue two door "hopped" up model and had driven it to an attorney's office to attend to some business. There was a medical office in the same building. One of the people who worked in the medical office was Patt Paquet. She spotted the Ford and came out to talk to Jim about it. One thing led to another and he's been a member of our club ever since.



Jim was born in Hephzibah, Georgia, which is just outside of Augusta. When you listen to him speak, the soft, southern accent is still apparent (well at least to me). He said he comes from a long line of lawyers, teachers and preachers but somehow he ended up being a peddler. Jim lived on the family farm until he was 11 when his father died. He attended Richmond Academy in Augusta and the University of Georgia. He said that while he attended school he also worked two jobs (and has apparently never stopped). He says he even was a flag boy at the Augusta National.



Jim married Nancy in 1953. He essentially stole her away from his best (formerly best?) friend. He started working for US Plywood Corporation in 1955. He says he started as a machine operator and when he was finished with his jobs, he would help others out so he could learn about their jobs. He worked for US Plywood first in South Carolina then in New Orleans. When he was in New Orleans he started his cabinet making company and

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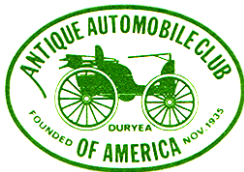
Message from the DSR President

With Spring time in the air it's truly refreshing from the Winter we experienced in the sunny south this year. I'm a very cheerful giver & I vote to keep all the ice & snow in its rightful place, way up North.

Our February meeting was very enjoyable all on count of it being our annual "Soup & Chili Supper". What a selection of soups & chili's we had. Thank you! to all who participated with their special & secret recipes. We also had a new wrinkle with the Hungry Howie pizza's which were sponsored by our own Ross Sloan.

We have been working toward our 31st Annual Mother's Day Car Show & we do at this time have our major sponsors lined up for the show. Let's hope the weather will be smiling on us this year. We will have a sign up sheet at the monthly meeting for the show. I look forward to seeing you Thursday at the club house at 7:00 pm.

Zeno



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

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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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Jim Henderson's Monologue Continued

eventually through several job shifts ended up moving to Mobile where he started what is now Mobile Lumber in 1974. The large reddish commercial building on Hwy 90 was his first building. Along the way, he and Nancy had four children, nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Most of the family live in Mobile.

I asked Jim about his pink 1960 Thunderbird convertible. He said he bought and restored the current car as he had bought one, slightly used, for Nancy as a surprise birthday present in the later parts of 1960. The original convertible came with an interesting past which you can ask Jim about. The current convertible is a senior AACA winner and, according to Jim, you can count the distance it has been drive in feet. It is beautiful. Jim pointed out a blue 1962 Thunderbird that he says is similar to a black one he bought when he sold the convertible. He was on a business trip to New York City where he says some fast talking (Yankee) salesman got the best of him and he ended up driving it back to South Carolina.



Jim has one of every 1951 Ford model except for a Ute. The Ute was an early version of the Ranchero and was only sold in Australia. He does have a fake if you want to look at it. Other cars of interest are the Rolls Royce that was owned by Liberace. The car has a brocade interior (some people have very odd tastes) and came with white mirrored piano. Another car of interest is the 1940 Packard Limousine first owned the director of the movie Casablanca. Of interest to me was the 1956 Chrysler station wagon. Jim corrected me that it is not a Chrysler but an Imperial. What is unique about this car is that Chrysler did not make an Imperial station wagon, so it was build using either a Chrysler New Yorker or a DeSoto (thus my interest). Anyway I am certain that most of the cars in the museum have a story. I did ask if they were every driven. Jim said yes, they get moved around on a regular basis such that all of them do run.

Jim drove us out to visit “the farm” and see the status of his “new” house. Jim and Nancy are “downsizing” from their seven bedroom home in town (that he built about 40 years ago) to the new five bedroom house. Many club members may remember the house in its earlier stages when club members helped out with picnic events to honor the local police and firemen. Jim says that the house, which he started in 2002, is nearing its final stages. He noted that they’ve delayed the house at so many stages that Nancy has had to change her selection of various wallpapers more than once because they’ve sequentially gone out of production. The house is wonderful and I did exclaim repeatedly that I wanted to get into his marvelous kitchen and cook something. Perhaps when it’s finished we’ll all get an invitation to come and gawk (don’t be surprised if they ask you to remove your shoes!).

Submitted by Paul Dagenais

DSR's Annual Soup and Chili Event



We do know how to eat.

Monogramming: Lou Lartigue tracked down where to get monogramming of club shirts: Joyce Young, owner of Azalea Monograms & Designs, has moved to 4082 Leroy Stevens Rd, Mobile, AL, 36619. Her number is 661-9361.

... And a snow update:



From my sister, Suzie, our northern correspondent. She sent this photo of her yard on Saturday afternoon. As she said "Second day of Spring, a snow storm and -8 Celcius (about 20 Fahrenheit). I sent her back a picture of our wonderfully balmy day. I haven't heard back and suspect she currently hates me.

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

Owner saw to it his 1951 Ford sedan got a meticulous restoration
By Vern Parker (Reprinted from Motor Maters - Release date April 18, 2009) via AACA

Chris Wolff had not been out of high school in Eureka, S. D. very long when he received the “Greetings” notification from his local draft board. In 1952 the U.S. Army sent him to Fort Jackson, S. C., for training. Afterward, he was assigned to Ft. Hood in West Texas.

Wolff soon decided he needed personal transport-ation. He rode a bus about 175 miles to Dallas on a Sunday morning for the express purpose of buying a car. On that Sunday morning in October 1954, he stopped by the John M. Clark dealership where he purchased a slightly used 1951 Ford two-door sedan. The three-year-old car had been driven only 11,000 miles

Beneath the hood of the Ford was a trusty 230.4 cid flathead V-8 engine rated at 100 HP. Wolff fired up the V-8 and in those no-speed-limit days drove his 1951 Ford back to Ft. Hood with the engine not even breathing hard thanks to the over-drive unit. The 100-mph speedometer had a unique needle with a ring at the end that encircles, rather than points to, the indicated speed.

Wolff received his discharge papers at the end of 1954 and drove his Ford back to SD. After study at the National School of Business in Rapid City, in 1956 he packed his belongings in the Ford and drove to Denver, CO. He stayed there for 34 years until he retired in 1990.

All this time, at every location, Wolff always kept his Ford, not only garaged – but also under a protective car cover. Additionally, whenever the weather was threatening, the car remained in its cocoon.

In retirement, Wolff returned to Eureka driving his trusty Ford. After four years there, he determined that despite almost a half-century of care, the Ford was in need of a general renovation. From his days in Denver, he remembered the Applewood Body Shop and arranged to have the restoration work done there.

“It’s about a 12-hour drive to Denver,” Wolff said. In November 2000, he set off at 1:00 a.m. to Denver so his arrival time would be during the shop’s business hours. Thanks to five decades of meticulous care, no rust was uncovered when the worn paint was stripped from the body. Both bumpers were sent off to be replanted with chrome while the stainless trim was removed and burnished to a like-new sheen.

Records indicate that Wolff’s 3,043-pound Ford was one of 317,869 such models manufactured during the 1951 model year. Each one of those Fords had a base price of \$1,505. The original 6.70 X 15-inch spare tire still sits in the well on the right side of the trunk where it was placed at the factor in 1951.

Some minor fixes were required, such as replacing one of the parking light lenses and one of the taillights, The interior was reupholstered with the exception of the original headliner. Even the carpet was replaced. “The windup clock and the AM radio both work good”, Wolff said. They are both nestled in the asymmetrical dashboard. A fresh coat of the original color pain was applied and under the engine hood the oil bath air cleaner and the oil filter also received a new coat of paint. The restoration was complete by 2001



**AACA Deep South Region
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2014**

The February 27, 2014 meeting was preceded by a superior chili/soup supper that was enjoyed by all 30 people attending the meeting. The invocation was given preceding the meal.

President Chaudron called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members and guest. Bob White introduced his guest, Donna Williams.

Zeno passed a sign-up list for those who volunteered to serve refreshments for the remainder of the year.

There was some discussion about the possibility of a sponsorship for the 2014 DSR Car Show to be held on May 10, 2014. A sponsor should be available and named by the March meeting. A car show committee was appointed:

Lou Lartigue
Kevin Crowell
Zeno Chaudron
Bobby Peterson
Walt Fuller
John Pendergrass
Ross Sloan
Jim Henderson, Grounds

The major sponsorship is \$1500. Best of Category trophies are \$60.00. A number of sponsorship opportunities are available. Zeno will send a list of available sponsorships via email.

A cruise-in on first Mondays at the Lighthouse Restaurant was discussed.

Congratulations were offered to Robbie and Charlie Lyles on their 51st wedding anniversary.

The date of the minutes as published in the Sparkplug was corrected by motion by Buddy Paquet and seconded by Walt Fuller. John Pendergrass, Activities Chairman, presented various opportunities for club participation including Father's Day at an assisted living facility on Three Notch Road. More information will be provided later. An activity in Grand Bay on May 8 was considered to be too close to the 2014 Car Show. There was yet another discussion concerning providing cars for weddings. The club has already ruled that the club cannot provide cars due to insurance and other legal concerns. People inquiring about availability of cars should be told the club does not provide cars.

Lou Lartigue was the lucky winner of the 50/50 pot, and following that, the meeting was adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted
Tracy Metclaf**


The next club meeting will be March 27th at 7:00.

Check out the Deep South Region Website at:

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



Cruise-Ins

Time	Location	Address	For More Info Contact
1 st Thursday	What-A-Burger	Airport & Snow Road	Bubba Blanton 251-610-4032
1 st Saturday	Edgewater Mall	Hwy 90, Biloxi MS	Jimbo 228-596-0664
1 st Saturday	Kenducky Fried Chicken	Tillman's Square, Hwy 90	Jo Jo Johnson 251-367-6643
1 st Saturday	5 Guys	Airport At University	Brenda Drinkard 675-9226
2 nd Thursday	5 Guys	University at Airport	Port City Corvette, Mobile Bay Mustang Club
2 nd Saturday	Sam's Super Burger	Grand Bay	Southern Bay Cruisers 251-442-6877
2 nd Saturday	Dillard's	Eastern Shore Mall	Eastern Shore Cruisers
3 rd Saturday	Steak 'n Shake	Schillinger Road	Donnie Tanner 649-5397
4 th Saturday	Mings Café	Highway 43 in Saraland	North Side Cruisers
4 th Saturday	Northrop Complex	Pascagoula, MS	Magnolia Classic Cruisers
5 th Saturday	American Legion Post 1992 3824 Old Spanish Trail	Gautier, MS	Sons of the American Legion
Last Saturday	Sonic - Hwy 59 South	Robertsdale, AL	251-747-2022



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