

The Sparkplug



Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter, Vol. 47, No. 10, October, 2014

The following article was published in the November 2009 issue of the Sparkplug. At the September meeting of the DSR, a motion was passed that the club travel to Vinegar Springs as a club activity. The following describes Old Town.

Welcome to Old Town at Buddy's Corner By Ed McCusker and Don Dillehay with Ruth Gunter

Ed: It is now 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17th and we have just returned from our second visit to a church today. Our first was to a very nice church way up in the country in the south part of Washington County to a place called Old Town. Our DSR members, Buddy and Anne Givens, accomplished what they have been trying to do for several years; have the DSR family to their "neck of the woods".

Don: This was a joint outing of DSR and the Gulf Coast Model A Club totaling 35 folks. Everyone met at the DSR clubhouse to form a caravan for the trip. It took approximately one hour and traveling the back roads made for a very nice drive.



Ed: The entrance to the Givens' property was well marked; there was a Model A sitting next to the mailbox. Driving up the driveway, it is obvious a lot of thought and work has gone into Old Town, especially when you see a railroad box car sitting on rails in the middle of a large expanse of newly mown grass. We were greeted warmly and told we would discover some of what life was like in this part of Alabama 60 - 100 years ago.

Don: The first building we visited was the Givens' Church which is what you would expect to have been in all those years ago. After Anne welcomed us and told about Buddy's long-time dream of having a place where older folks could come to reminisce and younger ones could come to learn. She suggested that as we exited the building, we stop to see the collection of Bibles in the foyer of the building, some dating back to the early 1800s.

Former President Reagan & Anne Givens
(More about picture later in story)

ED: The original train depot for the town of Vinegar Bend was moved the three +/- miles to house the collection and display of early turpentine industry. A scale model of a turpentine distillery built by Buddy's father after he had a stroke some years ago has a place of honor atop
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Message from the DSR President

The changing season is in the air. The Fall Car Shows are getting cranked up along with all the Fall Festivals.

During the 2014 Cruising the Coast week you could see just about any ride along the Gulf Coast on our highways. This includes most of the local restaurants. I took in some of CTC on that Thursday, Oct 9th which was the first day for the vendors in Biloxi, MS. I don't know how many vehicles had signed up for the event but they said it continues to get larger each year.

Want to remind you about our Thursday meeting, October 23rd at 7:00 pm

See you there.
Zeno



DSR Officers for 2013

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Treasurer: Bobby Peterson251-342-8960
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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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Welcome to Old Town (Continued)

one of the display cases. Buddy explained how the pine trees were tapped and demonstrated the use of the tools used. He said this was the hardest job he ever had in his life and I can agree it certainly could have been.

Don: Having heard the history of the Stallworth (Anne's family) estate and the Givens family's 360 acres contributed to the making of turpentine, we left the depot and took the boardwalk to the print shop where several lin-o-type machines and numerous printing presses are kept. There were newspapers starting with the 1800s up to the present. Next came the sewing room where both Anne and their daughter, Stella's wedding gowns are on display along with patterns and materials beginning back in the 1930s. Then it was on the W.J.'s Game Room, complete with pool table and a large collection of model airplanes hanging from the ceiling.

Next was "Emmie's General Store. It contains a large number of items that would have been needed during this time period. Most important was the Post Office and the switchboard room for "Ma Bell". Next door we found Cassie's Corner Drug Store. There was a working soda fountain circa 1940s that was used for a lot of "photo ops". We moved down the boardwalk, a number of the ladies stopped to check out the "Necessary Room". Barbara tells me it was an old time outhouse that is now an "inhouse" and somewhat modernized.

Ed: We continued on to find ourselves walking under the overhang of Jake's Place, an old service station with several gas pumps, oil and tire racks and the usual array of original Gulf, Conoco and Phillips 66 signs. This brought us to the door of what is referred to as "Stella's Room" or what the family refers to as "The Cottage" which serves as a home for Stella's Creative Memories Scrapbooking. Most of you probably don't know but Stella and her family lived in Auburn for a period of time. This was when the scrapbooking hobby was just beginning. It was something she enjoyed and seemed to have a natural talent for that turned into a business. It was a quandary for her when she had to choose staying in Auburn with her successful shop or moving back home. We are all glad she chose the latter.

The next stop was the Toy Shop. The building was originally a beauty shop in Deer Park but now serves to display more model trains, cars and related items than I could begin to count. By now it was time for lunch in the De Van Motor Co. building a/k/a the "Car Barn." Again, we had a good history lesson, especially for anyone who thought De Van car dealership started in Mobile. It actually began in Citronelle and later another outlet was opened in Mobile.

Don: Lunch was outstanding; roast beef, sweet potatoes, turnip greens, corn, salad and a huge array of too-good-to-pass-up desserts. Not to mention some excellent tea and coffee. BUT the HIT of the cool day was a huge pot of Anne's specialty, VEGETABLE SOUP!! I think everyone really pigged out on that; I know I sure did! This building was home to a large number of vehicles of all types. Some original, some restored and some in the middle. There were license plates from every state and some from other countries. Interestingly, there was a license plate collection from every Region of Australia.

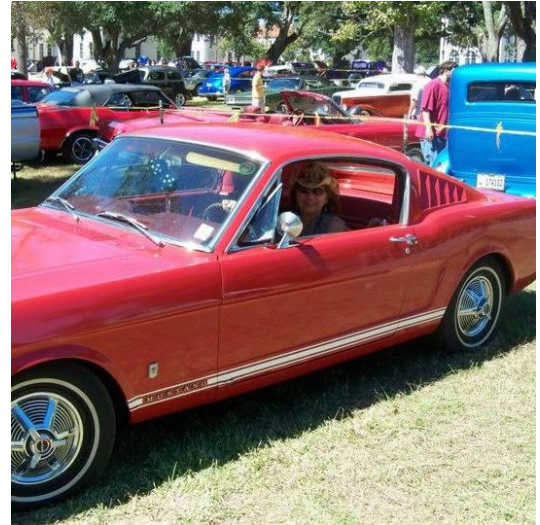
Note: The picture of former President Reagan and Anne was taken at the White House when she was presented the Eagle Pin as a thank-you for her work on the President's "Peace through Strength" Program. She served on the Federated Women's Club Board of International Affairs from 1984-1988 contributing much to the effort

Both: It was a great day enjoying seeing things that make up our past, being out in the fresh air and sunshine for the most part and especially sharing it with good friends. Our most sincere thanks to the Givens family for hosting our October outing. DSR members attending were our

hosts 2 Givens and S. Suttle L. Crowdus, 2 Crowells, D. Dillehay and fiancée R. Gunter, 2 Fullers, S. Goren, Ed & Eddie Grimes, J. Henderson and grandson T. Galloway 2 McCuskers, 2 Pendergrass, 2 Paquets, B. Sells, R. Sloan, and 2 Smiths with Pete and Maryetta, his brother and sister-in-law.

Cruising the Coast with the Thoms

Herb Thoms sent along these pictures from Cruising the Coast. They were taken by his son Steve. Pictured are Nancy and their Daughter-in Law, Clarise. The red Mustang is Steve's.



The next club meeting will be October 23th at 7:00.

Check out the Deep South Region Website at:

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

**AACA Deep South Region
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2014**

The September meeting of the Deep South Region was called to order by President Zeno Chaudron. The meeting was preceded by a lasagna dinner prepared by several club members.

Member Charlie Lyles announced that there would be a fundraiser to benefit a young man who has cerebral palsy and is wheelchair bound. The purpose of the fundraiser was to raise funds to purchase a new seat for his new wheel chair. The cost of chair is \$8000.00. The fundraiser was to take place on October 4th at the Baumhauer Baptist Church in Theodore. Charlie promised a lot of good food and emphasized the hush puppies as being especially tasty.

Member Walt Fuller made a plea, especially for older members, that they watch out for accumulations of boxes in their homes that they could trip over. Walt also announced that club member Don Dillehay was in Providence Hospital but was hoping to return home soon. Club member Jim Henderson stated that he had spent time with Don and hoped others would also. A get-well card is to be sent to him from the club.

Walt also announced that Trinity Episcopal Church was having its official re-opening on September 29th. The church had been severely damaged by the Christmas day tornado in 2012.

Member Buddy Givens suggested that the club organize a trip to Vinegar Bend. Members had visited Vinegar Bend several years ago. Jim Henderson may a motion for the trip to be an official club activity. Member Bobby Peterson seconded the motion with a subsequent unanimous vote. The date of the trip is to be announced.

The financial statement was presented by Bobby Peterson and accepted by general consensus.

President Chaudron announced that if anyone was interested, Stockton Sawmill Days was to be held November 1st from 9:00 to 4:00.








The 50–50 draw was won by club member Nancy Thoms. A motion for adjournment was made by club member Herb Thoms and seconded by Paul Dagenais.

**Respectfully submitted by
Paul Dagenais**



Cruise-Ins

Time	Location	Address	For More Info Contact
1 st Saturday	Edgewater Mall	Hwy 90, Biloxi MS	Jimbo 228-596-0664
1 st Saturday	Kentucky 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 Saturday	What-A-Burger	Airport & Snow Road	Bubba Blanton 251-610-4032
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
3 rd Thursday	RPG Paint	I-65 Service Rd & Moffat Rd	Mobile Bay Mustang Club
4 th Saturday	Burger King	Highway 43 in Saraland	North Side Cruisers
4 th Saturday	Northrop Complex	Pascagoula, MS	Magnolia Classic Cruisers
4 th Saturday	Hooter's Restaurant	Airport Blvd.	Don Benson 251-680-9533
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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