

2007 Dates to Remember

June 28 MONTHLY MEETING IN THE CLUBHOUSE AT 7:00 pm

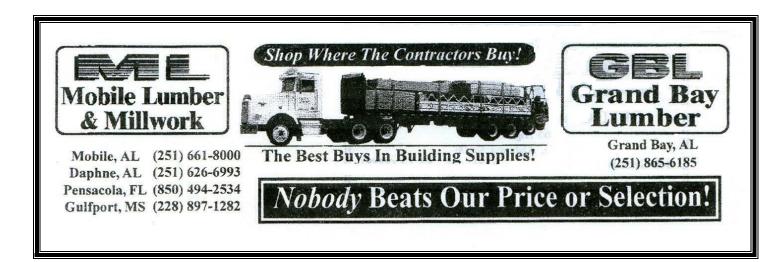
June 28-30 AACA Eastern Spring Meet ~ Binghamton, NY

July 4 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA! Remember to fly the flag

July 7 Interested in displaying our cars 9a-4p in Municipal Park for Gucci?

Read more inside

July 26 Monthly meeting at the clubhouse









Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Newsletter Vol. 41 No. 6 June 2007

Summer vacations...how did they start?

By Buddy Paquet

Have you ever found yourself lying in a hammock swinging gently, or on the grass watching the clouds change shape, or maybe just sitting in the quiet dark with an occasional firefly drifting by, wondering just how summer vacations came into being? Or why the American school year begins in September and ends in June?

Some historians say that farm children went to school from December to March and from mid-May to August. They were needed to help with the spring planting and fall harvesting. City schools of the 1800s lacked the long summer vacation modern Americans take for granted. Same as working families today, the new immigrant families need a safe and affordable place for children while parents worked. Therefore, children of parents who worked in factories, mills or shops learned English and other subjects during an 11-month school year.

Some of the wealthy elite had the luxury of having summer homes on the sea coast, in the mountains, or occasionally on huge northern lakes. Starting in the early 1900s, the mother and children of prosperous families were sent off, together with the servants, to summer homes for months at a time. They were free to take lengthy vacations without worrying about after school programs or days off from work. In the days before television, computers and multiple other electronic games, children did not complain of being bored; they could swim, fish, explore woods and play a multitude of childhood games. Children were brought the children to enjoy a healthier, outdoor way of life away from the dangers, dirt and diseases, such as smallpox and polio that could flourish in the city's summer heat.

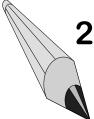
Those of more moderate incomes sometimes had small cabins on nearby lakes or relatives who lived in rural areas where the entire family could visit during the summer months. With the automobile becoming more affordable, some would load everyone in the car and take off for a few days or even just a weekend, at primitive camp sites to cook

on a kerosene stove, which were in business for just this purpose.

It was around this time that "mineral waters" came into fashion starting a mass exodus for those parts of the U.S. where this" miracle cure" was to be found, i.e. Georgia (Warm Springs) or Arkansas (Eureka Springs) or maybe Michigan (Eastman Springs) and on and on. People came for their health to soak in the mineral baths to rid themselves of rheumatism, nervous disorders and poor circulation. Could this be what is today's health spas?

Trains transported many travelers between cities and more urban or rural destinations. Many early historical photos show wives and children waiting at the station for husbands/fathers to join them on weekends. Beginning in the 1920s and 1930s, with improved roads, cars became a preferred method of transporation and by the 1950s, motels were being built to accommodate highway drivers as well as their families.

As time went on, and the automobile became more common place, especially in the post-war years, the spread of the "car culture" of the 1940 and 1960s were teenagers on the road and family vacations with the overlapping dependence of roadside facilities use by both groups. In addition to the car parked in the driveway, vacation trips became a status symbol of post-war society. Remember the saying, "These were the best of times, these were the worst of times"? Consider traveling in non-air-conditioned vehicles for untold miles, usually with the father driving, the mother map-reading and however many children scattered throughout the vehicle, however small or large for several days in succession. Most would stay at "Mom & Pop" motels, with few amenities, and generally charged extra for children, which could not have been a restive stop for anyone. But with the tax code of 1954 that allowed rapid depreciiation of construction costs (Cont'd on Page 3)



2 the point

Not much to discuss this month...the summer doldrums for car events has arrived and many of us are either traveling or simply trying to stay cool and keep our grass alive.

This is a good opportunity for us to do some of the inside work at the clubhouse. I'd like to discuss this further at our June 28th meeting.

Three potential events have emerged: (1) Leah Musgrove's suggestion for a garage visit tour – much like the old "progressive dinner" where we would go from one member's garage, viewing cars and other car stuff/memorabilia and enjoying a snack of some variety, then moving on to the next garage on the tour and doing it all over again. (2) Herb Thoms has been working with the Baybears for a "collector car" night at the Hank. Participating members would also be eligible for a discount ticket to the game. (3) Bob Gechijian has volunteered to host a "car workshop" event at his shop, Gulf Coast Corvettes, where he would demonstrate some maintenance and restoration procedures of interest to participants. Perhaps we could follow this with a hamburger/hot dog/watermelon cookout. Let's talk about all of these on the 28th.

Please also remember – fun events require volunteer coordinators. We all have to share the load or the club will die.

Dick Cashdollar, President



You only need two tools in life – WD40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should use WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use duct tape.

From The Flat Tire News, newsletter of the Central Alabama Region AACA, edited by John & Faye Gieske

How 2 reach us...



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The *Sparkplug* is non-profit and published for the information of our members and friends. DEEP SOUTH REGION meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in the clubhouse located at 951 Forest Hill Drive. 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 \$30.00. *Ownership of Antique a vehicle is not a requirement for membership*.

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Summer vacations

motels, some which were flimsy and others that offered pleasant, secure "home on the road" atmosphere, were available. Here, families could re-energize and move on, enjoying their summer vacation.

I, personally, do not remember ever having had a summer vacation other than being out of school and playing with my cousins and friends. When I asked Patt, her memories were limited to having spent a week with an aunt and uncle, (probably to give her Mom & Dad a much needed break) and the remainder of the summer either as a very young child entertaining herself or in later years working on the family farm.

So, I posed the question to some DSR members what they remember about summer vacations. Read on and see if you fit into any of the scenarios. First, from **Jerry Finley**:

My first paid vacation was July, 1967 when I was 40 I worked keeping up the three yachts belonging to the three Darrin Bros. who owned Rebel Oil Co. My wife, Maggie, our 15-year-old son and 10-yearold daughter and myself had the opportunity to visit my sister and family in California. Her husband had been transferred after Brookely Field closed. At the time I owned a 1959 Dodge Dart I knew would never make the trip. I contacted an acquaintance at Grady Buick, telling him I need a car and for what. Only a day or two later, he pulled up in my driveway in the most beautiful 1965 white over red Pontiac Catalina I had ever seen! I knew I had to have that piece of automotive machinery. The only problem was the previous owner was a cigar smoker and it took some doing to get that odor out of the vehicle. It had PS, PB, automatic transmission, but most of all, it had AIR CONDITIONING! The car got excellent gas mileage considering its size and the AC but remember, gas was only about 33 cents a gallon then.

It took us a little over two days going out which was really pretty good considering we stopped at the Grand Canyon and the Petrified Forest before we arrived in Sacramento. About 200 miles from destination, the AC quit. Upon arriving at the relative's home, I breathed a huge sigh of relief when it turned out to be nothing more than blown fuse. You can imagine what it would have been like driving from California to Mobile in the middle of July with no air conditioning with one teenager and one adolescent.

We took some day trips, one being to where the TV series Bonanza was filmed. We took a ferry to Alcatraz to see gangster Al Capone's cell. I remember it was very windy that day and I looked up at a seagull that was flying, just flapping it's wings going absolutely nowhere. I wondered why it didn't just go where the wind took it.

We spent a long day in San Francisco, crossed the Golden Gate Bridge and went north to see the giant Sequoias. One had been cut down and it was so big, it was being used as a dance floor. San Francisco would not have been complete without a visit to Chinatown and Fisherman's Wharf.

On the way home we stopped in Las Vegas and took a side trip to Hoover Dam. We were gone for almost two full weeks and I can't remember any trip I've ever enjoyed quite as much as that one.

Next, Ed and Barbara McCusker:

We agree that we've never had a bad vacation in our lifetime. As far the best one, well, that's a hard one to pin down. We been from camping to staying in hotels with two to four star ratings. I think the trick to having a nice vacation, or for that matter a bad one is to prepare for the worst and anything above that has to be great. To have a good time, you have to want to go. From there, you can deal with nearly anything.

From Billy and Rozanne Murner:

I, Billy, am a native of Talladega, Alabama have been a motor sports fan for a long, long time. The only problem was that I was 23 or 24 years old before I finally got to attend my first race there. After that, nothing could keep me away. Rozanne went with me to a race before we married and, fortunately, she, too, fell in love with racing. Shortly after we married, we bought our first motor home, which we started taking to the racetrack. We soon found out it's the only way to do it. We've been going every year for the past 10-12 years and have just recently purchased a new (to us) motor home. I guess you could say we take two short vacations each year; one in April and one in October when the cars are running at Talladega.

We would never thought! by the Paquets

When we married June 30, 1969 we never dreamed we would take a trip to Holland and Norway. And we had never heard the term "exchange student". Happily, we experienced both. We spent three weeks in July 1988 with the families of the exchange students we host the two previous years.

We lived in their homes (13 days in Holland and 12 days in Norway) just as if we were natives of the countries. In Holland, we did the touristy things but also were able to immerse ourselves in their daily culture. Patt managed to break a foot trying to ride a Dutch bicycle, which was of great hilarity to the locals. In Norway, we spent only a few days in the city of Stavanger then it was off to the mountains via ferry and driving. This was so new to us, the cabin being approximately 5,000 feet elevation where there was still some snow. Watching the mountain goats navigate almost straight-up cliffs was thrilling. We didn't try that. Soon we were on the move again, stopping a family reunion before Lillesand, a small village on the southeast tip of Norway on the North Sea. (Cont'd on Pg 5)

Memories By Buddy & Anne Givens

The most memorable vacation ever for us took place in August, 1958, and we were not traveling together. At the time, SPC. 5 Alfred Wesley Givens was serving Uncle Sam in the south of France as a Materials Disposal Specialist. Anne was enjoying her college graduation gift from her parents – a three and one-half month tour of England, Scandinavia and Europe with Paris, France being the last stop.

While growing up, Buddy and Anne were very active in their church and their families were close. Buddy's sister was Anne's very best friend and Buddy was also a close friend but the two had never dated. After high school they kept in touch and when Buddy was sent to France they continued to correspond. Buddy's pals, learning that tour was planned, became pen-pals with some of the girls scheduled for the tour. A big get-together was planned for the GIs to meet the girls when they arrived in Paris.

But NO! It just so happened that there was much unrest in Europe at that time; riots, demonstrations against the U.S. and then the Algerian uprising. Alas, all military leaves were canceled just a few days before the girls were to arrive. Regardless of the circumstances, homesick Buddy would not be outdone. He went to see his superior officer, told him his mother, whom he had not seen in two years, was to be in Paris the next week, and ...before he could finish, the officer said he knew how Buddy felt...he hadn't seen his mother in a long time, so "go to Paris, and give your Mom a hug for me". Buddy called Anne *Mom* all week long!!!

The fellows had planned to travel to Paris in Buddy's car. But NO! The car decided not to be a part of this deceitful plot and refused to run that week! So, Buddy came to Paris on the train.

Since GI Buddy was not well funded and Anne was *almost broke* at the end of her journey, the two *walked* all over Paris; Anne in spike heels on cobblestone streets...but Paris they saw the Champs Elysees, the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the East Bank, the famous Flea Market, the Cathedral of Notre Dame, on and on and a special little bench on the banks of the Seine with a full moon overhead.

Some on the tour, especially two worldly ones from New York City, had made great fun of Anne, who, in their eyes, was too straight-laced and naïve (dumb, as they put it) to have a good time. She did not go out hoping to be picked up by some handsome foreigner, and being a teetotaler, she found no joy in the nightlife. When the group decided to take in the Folies Bergere, she chose not to go but her roommate, Cousin Patsy, went. Upon their return to the hotel, the girls burst through the door with Patsy, planning to describe what Anne had missed at the Folies. Just imagine their shock to find a very handsome GI with the old fogy. They were looking at each other's snapshots and reading tear-jerking letters from Anne's mom. To complete the picture, Anne was displaying, of all things, a wedding veil!

Patsy knew that Buddy had arrived in Paris and was coming over from his hotel to see Anne, but the girls had no clue. Anne and Patsy had some good laughs, remembering the expressions on the girls' faces when they "popped in" and found Buddy in the room.

Now, concerning the wedding veil. Before leaving Vinegar Bend, Alabama Anne had a discussion with her father. Anne wanted enough money to purchase a handmade lace bridal veil in Brussels. Her father questioned her at length about WHY she wanted one. She did not know but in doing her homework for the trip she had found most interesting information about the veils. They were supposed to be exquisite, and extremely expensive in the U.S., but very reasonable in Belgium – and one could watch the ladies making them. This was much more interesting to Anne than an original designer gown from Paris, which was what Cousin Patsy wanted. Anne assured Dad that she still planned to be an "old maid" foreign missionary. So what did she want with a veil? Use it for a tablecloth! Dad finally agreed and gave her the money, though he thought she could surely buy a nice, but much cheaper, tablecloth!

This "first date" caused Anne to have very different feelings toward this childhood friend. When she returned to Vinegar Bend and shared her feelings, Mom had an explanation. (Cont'd on Pg 5)

Memories

"Anne, you were so homesick you would have fallen in love with anything in britches that spoke English!" But NO! Evidently Buddy felt as did Anne because when he returned from France the next year, that tablecloth began to look more and more like a wedding veil. About six months later, Buddy talked with Anne's dad, and one year after that, the veil traveled right down the aisle of the Citronelle Methodist Church and right into the arms of that ex-GI.

Funny how we forget so many things, while other events that we do remember seem to have happened only yesterday. But NO! It seems impossible, but this, our most memorable vacation, took place forty-six years ago this past April. Precious are the memories.

Suttle mother-daughter trip By Stella Suttle

Collin Anne and Stella Suttle, along with Ethel Mae Mizell, attended the 116th Annual Convention of the General Federation of Women's Club's in Philadelphia, PA June 7-11. All three are members of the GFWC-P.I.N.E.S. Club, a community volunteer organization based in Washington County. GFWC is one of the world's largest and oldest volunteer organizations for women. It was an exciting trip, especially for Collin Anne, who experienced her first airplane flight – which she enjoyed greatly- except for the 2 ½ hour delay in Philadelphia and Atlanta!

We enjoyed touring the city's landmarks such as the Liberty Bell, Constitution Hall, Elfreth's Alley, Christ Church, Benjamin Franklin's home, museum and Post Office and much, much more.

The architecture in the city is just so interesting and beautiful that only a simple stroll down the busy city streets can be a wonderful escapade. You should see the murals painted on the sides of buildings all around town; they are amazing works of art. We also had to try the famous Philly Cheese Steak sandwiches at Rick's in Reading Station, along with the best peanut butter swirl ice cream you've ever tasted plus a humongous assortment of homemade chocolates ranging from chocolate covered pretzels to cute little chocolate RATS and NOSES – YUM! The convention was informative and we all enjoyed our little vacation, agreeing a lot more time would be needed to see all this historic city has to offer.

Summer vacation

Motor vehicles were able to go only so far and were then parked and locked while the owners/passengers all made like pack animals to get supplies into the seaside residence. The house was on a cliff that afforded a stunning view of the sea. The house was built in a rather rambling fashion down and around the cliff with the bathroom being the farthest down and reached by a somewhat rocky path. Not a good idea in the middle of the night except it didn't get fully dark until around 11 PM and daylight came back somewhere around 4 AM.

We went into the village nearly every day using two small motorboats (there 8 of us) seeing the sights and meeting friends of the family.

The time to return to the States was sad but necessary. Our flight from Stavanger to Amsterdam was delayed in landing due to weather and making the connecting flight with a broken foot didn't help any either. However, we did make it but with only moments to spare. Although we've been many, many places since then, nothing will ever equal that trip for us.

Recollections from Ross Sloan:

Want a great vacation? Just head to South America and Rio de Janeiro. It is a huge, beautiful place with so much to see. The primary beach is Ipanema (You probably recall the song 'The girl from Ipanema, tall and tan..?) and very close to the Copa Cabana which should ring a lot of bells with this readership. Corcovado, a 65 feet tall statue of Jesus, can be seen from most anywhere in the city. I enjoyed seeing this very much. At the base of Corcovado were dozens of monkeys, which tourists like to feed. With no cars nearby, the animals were quite safe. There is a famous Grand Prix racetrack that you can view in its entirety from neighboring mountains. The bay on the north side of the city has two forts guarding the entrance exactly like Ft. Morgan and Ft. Gaines. Anyone who appreciate the Latin culture would love Rio.

And from **Sydney Whiting**:

In preparation for a 21-hour car trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico, I recorded children's music from records (remember those?) to tapes to entertain the children, who were ages two and four years. The trip was great; the fall scenery – yellow aspens, snowcapped mountains, colorful canyons – was gorgeous.

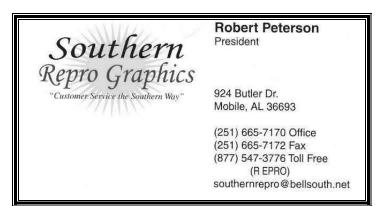
Upon our return home, when we played the videos from the vacation, we had to laugh. Our videos had background music – "The Wheels on the Bus"..."The Farmer in the Dell" to name only a few!

Editor's Note: Margaret Whiting, Bill and Sidney's daughter, is very much into horseback riding. She is competing regularly in equine events, some local, some regional and the weekend this issue is coming out will be in Hattisburg, MS to compete nationally.

Member News By Ima Nosey

By the time you read this, summer will be officially here. That means lots of things to do and places to go. Haven't been able to get in touch with some of you but let me bring you up to speed on what I do know. First of all, I hope you saw the great picture of the Sound of the Bay Chorus of the Sweet Adelines at our May 19th car show in the June 17th Neighbors section of the Mobile Press Register. As of the 15th, news is good on the Lycyle Crowdus front. Her appetite is ever so slowly returning. She is hoping she is almost finished with the chemo. Mike Ebl is back on the frequent flier circuit representing Northrop-Grumann in meetings with the U.S. Navy. However, he's leaving June 26th to visit relatives in St. Louis for a real vacation. Hopefully those of you who remember former members Pierre & Sharon Fontana saw the picture of their granddaughter, Katherine, in the Neighbors section of the local newspaper the first part of the The Froehlichs and the Musgroves participated in the AACA Founders Tour June 2-7 in western Vermont. How much better can it get? The Fullers were on the Dallas, TX Model A Tour June 14-17 then spent several more days in the area with friends. Trevor Goren was Nashville, TN earlier this month for hockey team tryouts. He not only made the team but just might be the Captain this next year. The **Jim Hendersons** took the three grandsons on vacation with them to Europe for two weeks. These are all teenagers so it wasn't like they Called the Floyd Jordan were babysitting. residence recently and daughter, Debbie, answered the phone. That was a nice surprise to learn she is recuperating well from her stroke. Ran into Charlie & Robbie Lyles on a recent Saturday morning along with Charlie's brother, Carl, visiting from Bay Minette. They were trying to find breakfast but seems the Paquets had gotten the last seats at a local Waffle House (inconsiderate people!). The Musgroves have added a 1962 Ford Galaxy XL500, a 1970 Dodge Charger 440 RT and a 1957 Chevy Nomad as replacement vehicles for their collection. John & Dolly Pendergrass have gotten through part of their "downsizing", at least to the point of being in their new home. Their new address is 6809

Somerby Lane, Mobile AL 36695. Please change your Roster. Same telephone number. Peterson is now involved in a new business, Southern Repro Graphics that does various types of copying, including small and large documents (blueprint size), equipment and supplies sales, etc. See more details below. The Richard Whites joined with the local Corvette Club for a June 14-17th tour to Bowling Green, KY to go through the Corvette plant and Museum. They reported is was a learning experience as well as four fun-filled days. More grist out of the rumor mill says that the Whitings, or at least some of them, have been spending time at the beach this month. Believe it or not, they still have the Model A they started out with in the club all those years ago



Bobby's company specializes in large document copying (blueprint size), CAD plotting, document binding and finishing, document conversion, CD services as well as all types of office supplies, color and B & W signage and US domestic and inter-national shipping. You can have digital downloads done then utilize their digital storage. They handle Xerox equipment sales, service and supplies and can pick up or deliver. Congratulations, Bobby!

The minutes from the May meeting will be in the July newsletter. Our secretary has been attempting to find some kind of organization in their new home. They still have both houses and are not completely settled in the new one. John will be unable to attend our June meeting.



Volunteers with The Friends of the Mobile Animal Shelter partnered with the Deep South Region of the AACA for the first time, and according to Donna Turner, Board President, it was determined to be a good venture for supporting their mission of finding good homes for the shelter pets. In fact, members of the car club adopted three of the dogs.

Friends volunteers and car club members collected/donated almost 100 items for the silent auction. Participants were very active in bidding for items ranging from motor oil, jewelry, gift certificates up to and including a two-day getaway at a beautiful condo in Gulf Shores. The vendors representing several retail groups in the area enjoyed the exposure and were able have a nice sales day.

The Friends were successful in securing donors for the awards presented in the various car show classes that were presented to owners of unique cars and trucks. The weather was perfect and seems everyone enjoyed seeing the handsome vehicles and many remembering them from when they were growing up.

Friends wishes to thank the Deep South Region for their generous support of our cause and also the shelter employees who spent the day helping us.

Another "Thank-You"

I would like to invite all the Deep South Region members to come by the Animal Shelter and see what the proceeds from the car show will be used for.

You may call me (208-2829) for an individual tour or I would be happy to have the entire group come together. I will introduce you to Pebbles and Bam-Bam, two of our permanent residents.

The money will make a big difference in how we are able to care for our charges who are waiting for new owners/family. Seeing one of the animals get a good home really makes our day.

Ellen Lursen

City of Mobile Animal Shelter Assistant Director

From the Editor...

I want to sincerely thank those members who contributed their stories to this month's feature article "Summer Vacations". I do



enjoy reading what others have to say. As editor, I see my responsibility to be putting together at least one article of interest each month and getting the newsletter to the members.

It keeps the newsletter fresh and appealing when members supply articles/stories. Everyone has a story is uniquely theirs and only their way of telling it is what makes this *your* newsletter, not mine.

"Gucci"

Surely most of us remember Gucci, the dog that was so terribly abused by being doused with gasoline and set on fire a few years back. Recently he became ill, was taken to Auburn and has been found to be in need of surgery. Very expensive surgery. There will be a fundraising effort on July 7 9AM – 4 PM around the Performing Arts Pavilion in Municipal Park. There will be live music all day, a pet adoption, a rabies clinic, food vendors and much more.

The club has been asked for cars to be displayed during the day. This can serve two purposes; one is to attract attention to the event and second, it is a good opportunity for DSR to gain some new members.

It is not necessary that everyone bringing a car stay the entire day. Bring your car at 9 o'clock and come back at 3 o'clock to pick it up. We can work out among those supplying cars a schedule of 2 hours shifts so no one is obligated to be out in the heat all 6 hours.

Let's talk about this at the June 28th meeting!!!!!!!!!

One more "Thank-You"

Richard and Sylvia White, who call themselves the "Trophy Committee" and Buddy and Patt Paquet who call themselves the "Better Late Than Nevers" wish to offer their sincere appreciation to each and every DSR member who helped make our jobs a little easier with regard to the May car show. As always, the DSR family came through, Editor's Note: Time and space did not allow for this to be in the May issue. Your indulgence is appreciated.