

# AACA...How and Where Did it all Begin?

This is the second in a series of articles on the AACA. In the last issue we discovered how it all began. Now we can find out how it grew during the early years.

As in all organizations, the routine business had to be taken care of. The officers elected at the first meeting in 1935 served until 1938. In the fall of that year, new officers were elected to serve 3-year terms. George M. Hughes was elected president; Hyde W. Ballard, vice-president; Thomas McKean, Jr., secretary; and Theodore B. Brooks, treasurer. The treasurer's report in 1939 looked like this:

Balance on hand, January 1, 1939:	\$ 22.76
Receipts:	
Dues collected	82.52
Contributions received	8.50
Sale of Autocar pictures	2.00
Sale of Club emblems	22.30
Interest on savings account	.17
Subtotal	138.25
Expenses	
Casting of Club emblems	10.00
Engraving	1.50
Polishing of club emblems	10,00
Club elections	36.20
Postage	9.73
Club outings	17.10
Miscellaneous	7.62
Total Expenses	\$ 92.15
Balance on hand, December 31, 1939:	\$ 46,10

During 1939 it had become apparent to the club officers that AACA should have a club emblem. The emblem was designed by Mr. Herbert Van

Haagen of Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. To quote from AACA's "The Bulletin" for July 1939, "By using a three foot drawing of an emblem, designed by himself, together with a special setup of apparatus for reducing to correct size, Mr. Van Haagen used a power engraver attachment to gouge out an original master pattern. The process was slow and tedious and consumed many hours of patient work." He was made a honorary member.

#### The 1940s & 1950s

In 1940 the club's annual dues was increased to \$3.00 for a voting membership and a non-voting membership was established at an annual dues of \$1.00. In addition, the term of office for club officers was change from 3 years to 2 years.

On Nov. 17, 1940 the AACA celebrated its fifth birthday by sponsoring "The Brooks-Cadwell Tour". It was to cover 50 miles returning to the starting point. Eight club members participated with their cars. A dinner was held afterward which was attended by 43 members, a number of whom came in modern cars.

Membership now totaled 144 and on March 1, 1941, the club's first annual banquet was held in Philadelphia. Seventy-eight members attended this gala affair, now affectionately known as "The Annual Meeting", which continues to the present day. New officers were elected in the fall of that year but things were to soon change for the Club and the hobby. Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and America went to war. So did automobile production. Please see BEGIN on Page 3

# Minutes Deep South Region A.A.C.A. July 25, 1996 Meeting

John Reid, DSR President, called the July 25, 1996 meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Thirty one members and four guests were present. Don Dillehay gave the invocation.

### **Old Business**

The application received from Steven Dossett had been approved by the

Executive Board and he was welcomed as a new member.

Larry Nelson has acquired for DSR a glass display case which can be utilized for memorabilia as well as a bookcase. He will coordinate the pickup and installation of same for the clubhouse.

The minutes from the June 27, 1996 meeting were approved as printed in the

newsletter on a motion from Anna White with a second from Frank DeCrease.

John Reid presented certificates of appreciation to those who participated in the Greer's Tiger Mart display.

The date of the DSR Christmas party has been changed to December 7, 1996.

### **New Business**

John requested and updated the Hooters Car Show volunteer list. He also suggested that DSR have an ice cream social. Anna White, refreshment chairman, stated this could be done at the August meeting and she would handle it.

The Treasurer's report was approved on a motion from Melvin Neese with a

second from Shelby Bruton.

Buddy Paquet, Activities Chairman, discussed upcoming events.

Copies of the new Vintage License Tag law were available for those interested.

## **Announcements**

Steven Dossett won the 50-50 Pot.

A motion to adjourn came at 8:15 PM from Raymond Cochran with a second from Melvin Neese.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg M'Donnell

### **Begin**

(Continued from Page 1)

Automobile manufacturing plants were soon turned into war production facilities. Car manufacturing literally stopped in the U.S. Good tires could no longer be obtained; gasoline was rationed along with many other things and many old vehicles were gobbled up for the scrap campaign. There was an appeal to eliminate antique motor vehicles from this campaign and the War Production Board's Conservation Division following issued the statement: "An old vehicle, other than a carefully preserved antique, may be consider junk, if it is incapable of giving useful transportation service and cannot be put in running order in sixty days."

During the war years, 1941 - 1945, the Club continued the best way it could. When new officers were elected in 1943, Thomas McKean, Jr. Became the club's first life member. He was an early collector of literature and automobiliana and had accumulated a large amount of automotive reference material. He donated his vast collection to the Free Library of Philadelphia in 1948 where it remains.

Boasting a membership of 400 in 1944 the Board of Directors voted to adopt an official club membership certificate and a club seal. adopted were the club colors, Packard blue and The by-laws were amended to include a brass. provision for regional chapters for which four requests wer pending. This amendment paved the way for the development of Regions and Chapters of The Rockford, Illinois Region (now the AACA. Illinois Region was accepted in April 1946, thereby becoming the first regional group to operate under the jurisdiction of AACA. This was followed very quickly by the Cleveland, Ohio Region (now the Ohio Region) in June 1946. For the first time since 1940, there was a dues increase make the regular \$3.00 for associate \$5.00 and membership As membership increased so did membership. expenses and increases were necessary to meet the rising costs. In 1947, when membership reached 800, dues were again increased to \$6.00 for active membership, \$3.50 for associate and \$1.00 for a new membership category, a wife membership.

'With the Club holding annual spring and fall outings each year and with membership growing, it soon became apparent that new sites should be selected for the outings. The private residences could no longer handle the large turnouts of cars. The annual Spring Meet moved to several different locations through the years. The annual fall outing in 1946 was held at the Devon Horse Show grounds which was a fine facility. It continued to be held there through 1953 when that meet drew 200 cars filling the grounds to capacity. When S. Howard Brown was elected president in 1953, he contacted his good friend, Mr. John Sollengerger, then president of the Hershey Estates. Knowing of the facilities there, he had in mind bringing the AACA Fall Meet to Hershey., Mr. Sollenberger was very receptive to the idea. The Board approved the move and the first National Fall Meet of AACA was held in Hershey, Pennsylvania in 1954. The flea market began with that meet and boasted 7 vendors! The club membership had swelled to 4500 by 1954 and after its humble beginning that year, the Hershey Fall Meet began to flourish. Car participating increased each year, and in 1960, AACA's Silver Anniversary year, a record was set with 891 cars. There was no doubt, the Hershey Fall meet was the largest event of its kind held anywhere in the world! Hosted by the Hershey Region AACA, the Fall Meet became known all over the world. Many hobbyists come from many different countries to see the Meet and shop in the large flea market.

In 1959 all of the administrative functions of the Club were handled by individual volunteers: the membership department was in Cleveland, Ohio, the financial records were handled by the Provident Tradesmen's Bank in Philadelphia, the secretary was located in Bethesda, Maryland, etc. William Pollock, who was national president, saw the need for a central office operation. Mr. James Ladd, a national director, persuaded Mr. John Sollenberger of the Hershey Estates to rent office space in the Hershey Museum building to AACA. Bomgarder was hired as business manager for a 7,000 member organization with its very own Please see BEGIN on Page 5 headquarters!

# DSR Displays Cars for Tiger Mart Grand Opening

Everyone knew the temperature would be hot. Everyone thought we would have the cars set up in the parking lot. We had been told a 10 x 10 tent would be erected to shelter us from the sun. Still, members turned out to provide the vehicles which would get a donation for the club.

BUT...the cars were parked on a grassy area adjacent to the parking lot with several big trees that provided plenty of shade for members and their cars. Some may call it work but it was four hours of the members visiting with each other and the opportunity to do something other than compete in a car show. Our DSR banner was prominently displayed and we had five inquires for applications.

There are two stories about the trip from the Battleship to the display site. One is that we took the scenic route, that is around south Baldwin county. The other is that the leader was lost a good part of the way. You choose the one you want to believe. You all know that the older model cars have small gas tanks. Some members who had to fill up before returning to Mobile thought he should at least pay for the gas to get home! His suggestion was that he be fired and they wouldn't have to worry about it happening again in the future.

Thanks to C. Bailey, 2 Brutons, R. Coker, 2 Cordells, 2 Decreases, G Demetropulos celebrating his 71st birthday and providing the sweep vehicle in case of car troubles, J. Finley, 2 Lunsfords, H. McCrory, G. McDonnell, J. Martin, 2 Neeses, 2 Nelsons, 2 Paquets, B. Reeves, 2 Reids, 2 Rowells, 2 Whighams, 2 Whites, Mike Williamson with son, Steven, and 2 Youens along with former member Lawrence Moseley and his newest acquisition, a 1958 Chevy pickup for making sure we had the required number of cars for the maximum donation.

After a lot of talk, cold drinks and ribbing our leader about taking the long way to get there, we all left for Mobile via different routes and ready to get into some air conditioning. (Especially those of us whose cars don't have it.)



# Summertime and the Livin' is Easy (with ice-cold watermelon, that is)

Sunday afternoon, July 28, 27 members and their guests, as well as members of the Mobile Bay Mustang Club, the Old South Antique Auto Club and the Southern Mopar Club gathered at the clubhouse to enjoy watermelons and fellowship. The melons, furnished by Advance Auto Parts, were delivered that morning by our special guests, Bill & Patti Villar. She is an employee at their store in Saraland. Although there was no seed spitting contest, there were J. Bell, 2 Brelands and daughter Nancy, 2 Cammons, 1 Coale with Anita and her two daughters, R. Coker, 1 Crowdus, 2 DeCreases, L. Hopkins, 2 Lunsfords, G. McDonnell, L. Nelson, P. Paquet, 2 Reids, R. Sloan, 2 Whites with daughter Joanna, Williamsons and son Steven, and 2 Youens. Everyone seem to delight in relaxing and visiting.

Some members came in their vintage cars while others drove modern vehicles. Greg McDonnell drove his newest acquisition, a '65 Chrsyler Imperial convertible. It will need some restoration work but he is not in any hurry to do it; he just wanted to get it while the price was right.



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 7:30 PM in the clubhouse 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 and AACA national dues are \$24 single/\$26 joint. Views expressed in the Sparkplug are not necessarily those of the Region officers or AACA.

**Begin** 

(Continued from Page 3)

#### The Sensational Sixties

Two things occurred in 1960 to make it an exciting year. First, after the election of George R. Norton, Jr. as the new president, the Board of Directors agreed to set up a divisional plan. It was Mr. Norton's feeling that the Club had grown to such a size it could not properly service all of its members throughout the country by having only one National Spring Meet and one National Fall Meet. In accordance with the divisional plan, the country was broken down into three main divisions: eastern, central and western. Sometime later the southeastern division was added. This plan was extremely successful and continues today. Four National Spring Meets are held each year in addition to four National Fall Meets. Not only did the plan increase the number of meets and consequently the number of members participating, but also opened the door to increased membership. With individual membership growth, AACA began to approve regions and chapters throughout the country. The club had previously chartered more than 80 regions and chapters in the U.S. and Canada, but the divisional plan stimulated interest among local clubs and the region and chapter affiliations increased.

Secondly, up to 1960, AACA had never participated in any international activities. Under the direction of President Norton, AACA embarked on a series of European tours to visit various automobile clubs and museums in various countries., The first tour was in 1960 and four additional European tours were held from 1960 to 1972. The tours had a great influence on AAA's relationship with many of the foreign automobile clubs and the friendships developed still carry on today.

### Searching for a New Home in the 1970s

Membership in AACA stood at 23,000 in 1970 and the office staff had grown to five full-time and two part-time people. It was evident that the office in the Museum was no longer adequate to handle the needs of the administration of the (Continued in next column)

National Headquarters. With the options of (1) buying a piece of ground, (2) renting and existing building, or (3) buying an existing building, the search for a permanent site began. Ultimately, a building was purchased and in January of 1971 the move to permanent facilities was made. Through a gift from the Hershey Region, the reception area was furnished and handsome display cases to show off national trophies were installed. The building was dedicated that year and named "Duryea Hall".

In 1971, the AACA membership totaled 25,000 and was increasing annually at a very steady rate. The divisional plan that had begun in 1960 was really paying off. Interest in antique automobiles, the hobby and especially the Antique Automobile Club of America was propelling the membership to numbers that were never expected in the early years.

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Editors Note: This is the second in a series of articles on the AACA. The next issue will focus on the Antique Automobile magazine which you receive bi-monthly.

### **Advance Auto Parts Car Show**

How many of you have gone to a car show that charged no entry fee, presented trophies and gave away great door prizes? You know there is a catch to this, right? If you bought a hot dog, chips and Pepsi for a buck, that was your entry fee. Of if you bought a paper sneaker and had your name put on it to be displayed in the store window, that was your entry fee. All of the money went to the Juvenile Diabetes Association so your conscious was your guide. DSR members participating were B. Cammon, J. Finley, E. Grimes, B. & P. Paquet, A. White, M. Williamson and E. Youens. The trophies, which are really unique, went to the top 10 cars. Door prizes, courtesy of the store, were heavy duty work lights, 90-piece tool sets and floor jacks. These had to be some of the best door prizes ever given at a car show.

### Remember When?

#### **Ernie Youens**

en years ago, August 1986, the recipe of the month was omitted due to the weight of the newsletter. It would have taken an extra stamp. Ironically, it was on July 26 at 2:30 PM when 23 members and two guests met a the clubhouse for homemade ice cream and viewing videos of past DSR events and tours.

A three day tour Aug. 8-9-10, 1986 from Catahoula, MS to Vicksburg, Natchez and other points of interest was enjoyed by several members. At the same time, DSR furnished nine antique cars at the Cottage Hill Baptist Church for their "Old Fashion Days. With the deaths of relatives of three DSR members, we also attended funerals that weekend.

Cecil & Lucille Nettles were organizing an outing to Monroeville and Lloyd & Lycyle Crowdus were planning the annual week-long tour which would be to Helen, Georgia.

The August 1986 issue of the Rummage Box, AACA's newsletter, featured a reprint of a cartoon by Guy Short which had been in the Sparkplug. It portrayed "Ole Hop" and Bill Dobbs.

DSR member, Dr. William T. Wright, had received the Physicians Recognition Award from the Alabama State Medical Association....I had begun a newsletter exchange with the Evergreen Region AACA in Washington state...everyone was looking forward to autumn and cooler weather.

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### **Summer Showdown 3 Car Show**

#### John Reid

August 3 was the 4th Annual Bay Minette Jaycees Car Show which benefits the Bay Minette Police Department's "School Resource Program". The second and third years were both troubled with weather problems. This year the air felt damp from time to time but the rain held off. At the end of the day there were 62 vehicles present with a large contingency of mini trucks.

Judging took place at approximately 12:30 PM with Mobile judges leading the procession. They were Marvin Sullivan, Charles Campbell and myself

This show had 36 classes with first, second and third places in each along with special awards for Best of Show, Best Paint, Best Interior and Best Engine. DSR members present were 1 Bailey, 1 Martin and 2 Reids. All went home with trophies.

## Thank You!

LaVerne Hopkins and Joan Lunsford have contributed silverware and serving untensils to the clubhouse kitchen. If anyone else should run across more, we have plenty of room and can use it.

# The Trunk and the Mechanic's Helper

Jane Bruton

It started as a casual conversation between my husband and I about our first DSR road trip. What to take, how much room will be needed to pack, will it all fit in the trunk? The trunk leaks, you say? Do you know what the problem is? You have a plan to find the leak and you need me to be the "mechanic's helper"? "Well...OK", I say.

The PLAN is discussed two days ahead of time. The big day dawns, I prepare breakfast and we talk over The Plan. After breakfast, he goes outside saying "I'll let you know when I'm ready". As I clean the kitchen, I wonder...Should I wear shorts and flop-flops or long pants and boots...will I use a spray or will a steady stream be better...how dark will it be and what if he becomes claustrophobic?? Will I be expected to take his place??

Oh, yes, and what will the neighbors think if they witness the execution of The Plan? It's 10 AM Saturday morning and people are beginning to stir...and what about the new neighbors we've never met, will they consider this some kind of weird ritual or perhaps a punishment of some sort?

He comes to the kitchen door...he is ready for me now. I go to the driveway and receive his final instructions. He takes the key out of his pocket, unlocks and opens THE TRUNK. With flashlight in hand, he climbs gingerly in and as I prepare to close the lid I say, "How do I open THE TRUNK when you're ready to get out???" He gives me a sheepish and grateful look and takes the keys from his pocket to hand them to me. "Thanks", I say. I make a mental note, for future reference, to always get the trunk key from him when he works on the car. That was too close! As he disappears into the darkness, I step back and begin to run water over the trunk. Yes...we decided the stream of water would be best.

It is difficult to look serious as I imagine the possibilities...for the first time in 29 years, my husband is in my absolute control. I contemplate those possibilities. The promises I might extract...the leverage I now have. He is at my mercy! Then...another "first"...I hear knocking from inside the trunk. "I found it! You can let me out now!!!" Hmmmmm, oh well, OK, I do have the (Continued in next column)

key. As he emerges from The Trunk, there is a look of triumph, and I believe, relief on his face.

A leak is indeed found to be on the right side. After The Trunk is dried out, we decide to check the left side. He walks to the back of the car and hands me the flashlight..." Excuse me!!???" I say. "Do you think that I am going to get in that trunk?" "Oh, sorry", he says. Yeah, right! I am reminded that the most important thing about being the "mechanic's helper" is that I may not get the glory for the work, but I don't have to climb into The Trunk either!!



## "Lloyd Crowdus Best of Show Award"

When the 5th Annual Grand Jubilee Charity Auto Show, sponsored by the Daphne-Spanish Fort Lions Club, takes place on September 14, 1996, it will initiate an award honoring a deceased DSR member.

Jody Davis, the driving force of this show said, "We are extremely grateful for all the help Lloyd gave us when we were getting started. He "coached" us all the way with information, encouragement and helped to get the first show off the ground. He gave us directions and contacts."

Their first attempt at this type fund-raiser took place in 1992 and has steadily grown over the years. All of the money goes toward eye care for children in need. Last year they changed the date from October to September coincide with the Daphne Jubilee Arts and Craft Festival.

The award memorializes a man who loved antique cars, the hobby and the people he encountered as he drove his red '65 Mustang convertible around the area. It will be given to the vehicle scoring the most points through judging and the trophy will be presented by Lycyle Crowdus to the winner.

# License Commissioner to Speak at August Meeting

Carol Norris, License Commissioner of Mobile County, will be a guest speaker for the Aug. 22 DSR meeting. Ms. Norris will address the issue of the new "vintage" tags which will replace what we now know as "antique" automobile license plates.

All of us will have questions for her. Please put those questions in writing and bring them with you to the meeting. This is not to avoid answering any of them but to allow as many as possible to be answered in the allotted time. (This request was not made by Ms. Norris, rather by the Activities Coordinator.) It is understandable that during Ms. Norris's talk, questions will come up which can be asked at that time.



Call a friend, perhaps one who is not a member, and invite them to come with you to the Aug. 22 meeting. This will be the ideal opportunity to let them discover what we are all about.

# **Members Under Restoration**

Henry McCrory had knee surgery on both knees Aug. 7 at Providence Hospital. When discharged from the hospital he will be in rehab in Daphne for approximately three weeks before going home.

Lucille Nettles is slowly recuperating from bronchitis which started around July 19. She is only pumping along on six cylinders instead of her usual eight at this time.

Frances Dillehay has been plagued by multiple health problems for most of the year.

Leon and Aileen Hunt have both had "chassis" trouble with back and knees.

# Here It Is !! The New "Vintage" Auto Tag

There has been much discussion among antique auto owners regarding the change in the law relative to license plates for those vehicles. Below is the design for the new one. The background is white, the antique auto behind the letters and numerals (which, unfortunately, does not show clearly in the picture) is a tannish color; the scrollwork and the words "Vintage Vehicle" are crimson and everything else is black.



It was inevitable that the law would be changed at some point. Now that it has and a new license plate designed, it seems that we have one that is at least as attractive as the original ones were.



# Buying??? Selling??? Searching???

For Sale: 1976 Chevrolet Impala with less than 28,000 miles, gray with red vinyl top. Asking \$1800 Contact Guy Adams (334) 626-9342.

For Sale: 1973 Midas Mini (Dodge 360) motor home. All the following is new: tires (7), brakes, battery, alternator, front & roof air, refrigerator, faucets, flooring, carpet, upholstery, mattresses and curtains. \$5500.00 firm. Contact Larry Burdeshaw (601) 392-4374.

### Editor's Note...

The AACA Museum needs our help. September 1, 1996 will bring us one step closer to achieving the goal of acquiring the 20+ acres of land in Hershey for the AACA Museum. DSR has been working to build a complete set of Alabama license plates to contribute to the planned facility. Perhaps we have gotten ahead of ourselves in that it is not yet a "done deal", so to speak.

You have read in your AA magazine how it is slowly becoming a realization. In order to accomplish something of this magnitude, it takes big \$\$\$. Thus far, 53 individuals, 17 Regions, along with honorary and memorial donations, have contributed amounts from \$10 to \$1,000.

It goes without saying that DSR is not flush with funds and we still have some work left to complete our addition. You might say "I'll never see it so why should we donate money?" The answer to that question is that we are all interested in the same thing; the preservation of automobile history. The museum will be both an educational facility and a repository for individual collections. And who knows? You just might see it someday.

Let's give some serious consideration at our August 22 meeting for DSR to become a part of it. Our contribution might not be a big one, but as the saying goes, anything and everything will help. One car club which is not even affiliated with AACA has made a contribution. As a Region, can we do anything less than to do the same?





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### This & That

Wasn't it fun, after viewing the film from White Post Restorations at the July meeting, reading in the AA magazine about the tour made by some other clubs?

Congratulations to Mrs. Jessie Newsome, mother of Ann Jarvis, on her 100th birthday. Just think, she was born the same year as the Duryea! She resides at Little Sisters and DSR has sent a plant to her.

Jim & Nancy Henderson left Aug. 13 for a two week trip to Greece and Turkey. (This was one time he didn't invite Buddy & Jerry to come along.)

Please take time to read the "Important Dates" on the back of the newsletter. We have lots of activities coming up in the near future and your help and participation is needed.

If you are wondering why you haven't received the **free sample** from Coker Tire, it's because I haven't sent in the questionnaires yet. If you failed to fill one out at the July meeting after the film, I will have some at the August 22 meeting. That is your last chance.

Bob Gechijian has agreed to open his shop on Saturday, Sept. 21 or Sept. 28 for a "tech session". Members can use the racks, power tools, etc. DSR will supply coffee & donuts. More info at meeting.

## IMPORTANT DATES

August:

Aug. 22 DSR meeting in clubhouse at 7:30 PM - Guest Speaker Mobile County License

**Commissioner Carol Norris** 

Aug. 24: DSR Outing to Biloxi meeting with Horseless Carriage Club of New Orleans

Aug. 24: West Florida Region AACA's 29th annual show in Seville Square-Pensacola, FL

Aug. 30-31: 5th Annual Hadji Shrine Temple Magic Carpet Car Show - Pensacola, FL

September:

Sept. 2: 51st Annual Labor Day Celebration at the Great Gulf State Fairgrounds in Mobile, AL

Sept. 14: 5th Annual Daphne-Spanish Fort Lions Club Grand Jubilee Charity Auto Show

Eastern Shore Cinema parking lot on Highway 98 in Daphne

Sept. 14: Wedding Transport from Grelot Road church to Adams Mark Hotel downtown.

Need 12 cars

Sept. 19: 50th Anniversary celebration of Jordan Pile Driving - need 4 early model (20's-30's)

pickups or similar vehicles (no modifieds, please) Donation to club will be made.

October:

Oct. 5 8th Annual Mobile Bay Mustang Club Show - Sam's Club, Mobile, AL

Oct. 5 Chickasaw Chamber of Commerce's 50th Anniversary - As many cars as we can provide

Oct. 12: Gumbo at B. L. & Geneva's Cammon's home in Saraland

Oct. 26: 3rd Annual Hooters Open Car Show - Workers still needed for various tasks

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