

JAN 1998



The Sparkplug



Newsletter of the Deep South Region A. A. C. A. Vol. 31 No. 1 January 1998

1998...A time to look for the next generation

Everyone is talking about the next the twenty-first century, being almost upon us. It seems we will have a lot to look forward to when it arrives. I think we can have some good times while we are getting there. DSR has been around for over 30 years which shows we are survivors. There have been a lot of members come and go during those years. However, the club itself is strong and viable due to the dedication of members like you. I hope you will continue to support the hobby we all love as we move ahead this year.

The first thing you will notice at the Jan. 22nd meeting is that the tables have been left set up in the clubhouse. Several members have asked if it could be done. They find it more physically comfortable as well as more convenient to have a place to write, to put their coats, purses, drinks, etc.

Leah Musgrove is working hard to plan outings and activities for the club to participate in. The key word is *participate*. She welcomes your suggestions, your help and your *participation*. There is nothing more disheartening than planning something that was approved or suggested only to have no *participation*. **Hershel and Frances Whigham** are leading the Mar. 21st weekend tour to Mississippi and Louisiana. If you are planning to go, you need to contact them (626-4255) right away.

Linda Nelson is chairing the Calling Committee this year. With the exception of those members on Linda's list, you will be contacted by the same caller. Linda's group will now be hearing from Wilma Jones.

Eddie Anderson will be the 1998 Car Show Chairman. He has already done a lot of work on it with some new ideas that seem really good. It will be May 9th. He will be setting up the various committees in the near future so please offer to assist when the time comes.

A tentative date of Mar. 14th has been set for a Judging Seminar at the clubhouse. Information will be sent to other clubs as well as individuals who have expressed an interest in attending. It will be based on the

100 point system and for the most part be a "hands on" type seminar. Anyone who shows a car can benefit from what will be covered, not just those people who judge on a regular basis.

While on the subject of car shows, don't forget that there will be an AACA National meet held in April in Montgomery, Alabama. The next issue of your *Antique Automobile* will have a form on the back of the mailer to get a meet request card. Even if you don't enter a vehicle, take advantage going to a national meet just to see what it's all about and to attend the judging school, which is free.

Now, to the headline above. You are perhaps wondering why "the next generation"? Without being nosy and asking the age of each member and putting together a lot of statistics, I would guess the average age of a DSR member is about 50. With this in mind, can there be any doubt we need to find younger members to carry on what we are doing? A way to do this is through something AACA began with the Junior Membership Program. You already know from reading your *AA* magazine this is for young people ages eight through 15; that dues are only \$10 per year; that parents do not have to be AACA members and that the junior member gets his/her very own newsletter that is edited especially for this age group. We can reach youngsters through working with the schools and having special events just for them a few times during the coming year. It is likely that all of us have either a child, grandchild, niece or nephew we have taken for a ride in the "old car". If we get them interested, you can bet we will get some parents interested also. It may be a long shot, but how will we know if we don't try? This will be up for discussion at the January meeting and your thoughts on the subject will be appreciated.

Buddy

Minutes

Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Meeting Dec. 12, 1997

December's meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Christmas party. Sixty members and four guests were present. President John Reid welcomed everyone and invited them to enjoy themselves for the evening. At approximately 7:15 PM, Hershel Whigham, Chaplain, offered the invocation and the merriment began!

Soon after the feast was consumed, John asked Ann Rowell for an Angel Tree report. She stated that DSR had purchased gifts for two children; a two year old girl and a three year old boy. The club had allotted \$200 for this project of which 76 cents remained. The hat was passed to replenish the treasury; details of the exact amount collected will be shown on the January Treasurer's report. John reviewed the accomplishments of the DSR for 1997. He then presented plaques to the outgoing officers as well as certificates of appreciation to the committee chairpersons recognizing all of their efforts.

Introduction of the 1998 Officers/Executive Board was made by the President. Incoming President, Buddy Paquet, on behalf of the entire membership, presented John with a plaque of appreciation for his leadership and dedication over the past two years.

With all business concluded, we got down to what the evening was all about - having fun! Santa arrived, although "somewhat dirty", after a long and arduous journey. Members were afforded the opportunity to draw an unknown number designating their turn to select a gift from the huge pile Santa brought with him. After numerous presents had been unwrapped, some chose to "confiscate" their fellow members' treasures. To some this practice brought smiles while to others nothing but frowns. In the end, everyone seemed happy with their bounty.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg McDonnell

P.S. This is my last time to record the club's minutes in my two year tenure as Secretary. I would like to take this time and space to let everyone know how much I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve what I consider a fine organization. Having accepted the challenge to attend each meeting and record business as it occurred, I became more aware of what our club is all about. It was a very worthwhile experience for me and one that I know Ann Rowell, the 1998 Secretary, will find just as rewarding.

Greg

It's the (new) law !

The new year brings some important changes in Alabama law for license plates and vehicle registration. Effective January 1, 1998, license plates will follow the vehicle owner (**except plates issued for vintage vehicles**). When you trade or sell your vehicle, keep your tag.

To show proof of ownership, you will now need to keep a valid Alabama Motor Vehicle Registration Receipt (tag receipt) or a legible copy at the original size in your vehicle at all times. **This is not your car title**. Your title should be kept in a secure location with other important papers. Failure to have proof of ownership in your vehicle, if requested by law enforcement, could result in a \$50 minimum fine. In addition to the fine for failure to prove ownership, there are some new penalties in connection with the new law.

- \$10 for failure to renew the vehicle registration in your designated renewal month
- \$10 for failure to register a vehicle within 10 days of purchase
- \$10 for failure to transfer a license plate to a newly acquired vehicle within 10 days of purchase
- \$10 for failure to register a vehicle with a valid out-of-state license plate which has been in Alabama more than 30 days

For more information on these changes, call the Mobile County License commissioners office at 690-8551.

Get copies made of all your tag receipts for the vintage vehicles and the modern iron made soon and put them in a safe place in the car. Don't spend money unnecessarily.

The Three C's

What does "three C's" mean? With DSR it means the infamous chili contest is coming! For the past three years club cooks have vied for taking the first, second or third place trophy for their special recipe of chili.



Again, this year, the judging will be of a very highly technical nature and the trophies will be unique creations. John Reid will coordinate this annual event. If you need more specific information call him at 666-3761.



Those desiring to enter should bring their gourmet delight, preferably in a crockpot or similar container, in a sufficient amount for those at the February 26th meeting to have an ample taste for testing purposes. Judges are responsible for providing their after-tasting medication.

This & That

The Editor wishes to apologize to **Hershel & Frances Whigham** for having left their names off those attending the Christmas party. There really is no excuse in that I sat right next to them!!!

Mickey Cox is slowly recuperating from an illness which began around Thanksgiving. She seems to be improving nicely now. **Gladys Edwards** was in George County Hospital from Dec. 20th until Jan. 2nd with multiple problems. Bummer of a Christmas holiday for her and Gavin. DSR wishes to extend to **Linda Nelson** our sincere sympathy on the recent death of her father. The **Rowell's** daughter was involved in an auto accident in Orlando Jan. 8th. They have had her in Mobile with them and will take her back home this weekend so won't be with us at the Catfish Run.

So You Think The Weather Is Too Bad To Drive?

By Dan Binger -- Cheyenne, Wyoming

The weather outside is frightful, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow. The words to a popular winter song just about says it all. This kind of weather will keep most people from even thinking about driving an antique auto on such a day, but not me.

I have driven my 1914 Buick Touring, 1923 Ford Depot Hack, 1928 Ford Roadster and even my 1950 Chevrolet convertible on days like that, and had a great time in doing so. I have been called crazy, stupid, nuts and a half dozen other colorful adjectives, but I still enjoyed it.

The secret to getting an antique car started when it is about zero is, you have to trick the car into thinking it is a lot warmer than it is. There are several ways to do this.

You start by putting a light weight oil in the crankcase (you do this in the fall before the weather gets cold). If you have ever tried to crank an old car when it is cold, you know why. When you put water in the radiator, use warm water so the engine will warm up faster. Don't forget to drain it as soon as you get home or you will have a broken radiator or even worse, a cracked block. If you have anti-freeze in your radiator, don't worry about the water part. You could put a droplight on the floor under the engine or under the hood for a few hours to help heat things up (Don't laugh, this will help). When you go out to start the engine, wear a short sleeve shirt and shorts, just to make the car think it is warmer than it really is.

If you have side curtains, now is the time to put them on. I never remember how they go on. But with a lot of trial and error, and some strategically placed four-letter words, I get them on. Most of the time I just say the hell with the side curtains. You are now ready to venture out in the cold with your antique automobile.

There are a couple of things that need to be mentioned here. The first one is, you need to have an ice scraper with you. There are no defrosters in the antiques and your warm breath will cause frost to form on the inside of the windshield. You will have to scrape the inside of the windshield as you drive. The other is that these antiques will creak and groan a lot when it is real cold. This is normal. Just a little protest from your car

about the cold. The heaters in these cars is that blanket you have hung on the robe rail, but never used until now.

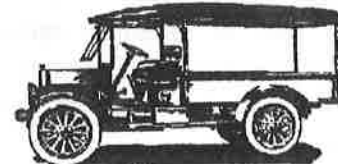
Driving on ice and in snow is something you need to take seriously. (That is another story.) The main thing to worry about is the other people out there. I will not drive my antiques on slushy roads or when the street department has put a lot of salt on the roads. I spent a lot of time getting rid of the rust when I restored the car in the first place.

When you get finished with your winter wonderland excursion and your car is back in the garage, you can sit by the fireplace with a hot chocolate or better yet, a hot toddy, and marvel at the fact that you actually drove your antique in weather like that. You will have bragging rights over the rest of your club members for a long time.

I have driven my '14 Buick with no side curtains and all decorated with lights and garland in Christmas parades when the temperature has been fourteen below zero. I was colder than a well digger's belt buckle, but it was a lot of fun.

There is a club I belong to in Colorado that has a New Year's Eve event. We meet at 11:00 P.M. on the 31st of December and drive all over town and end up at someone's house at about 1:00 A.M. on the 1st of January for chili. Driving the antiques, of course.

Now you could wimp out and drive a modern antique from the 50s, 60s or 70s with a defroster, heater and all the comforts of home. It just isn't the same, though. Try it sometime, just to say that you have done it.



Editor's Note: Dan Binger is President of the Buzzard's Breath Touring Region a non-geographic region of AACA and Editor of their newsletter *Buzzard Droppings*. The above is an original article written especially for the *Sparkplug*.

Just for the ladies...

Several of the women in the club have asked if the *Sparkplug* could have something for them; articles for or from a female point of view, recipes, helpful household hints, etc. I am more than happy to give it a try but I will certainly need some help from all of you. Contributions of all those items mentioned above will be welcome. That's the only way it can succeed. To start the year off, I will share with you some information from the *Columbia Cook Book* that I inherited from my mother who received it May 19, 1918. It was authored by Adelaide Hollingsworth and published in 1895.

Among the things listed as being necessary for all kitchens of that time were a wooden butter ladle, a pair of scales, a coffee mill three iron kettles, one candlestick, a coal bucket with shovel, a teakettle, two brooms, an ash bucket, one tin and one wooden pail, a spice box with spices and an apple cover. And I get upset if the microwave goes kaput!

There are hints on how to keep a lamp wick from smoking, how to keep the lamp chimney from cracking, how to preserve shoe soles, how to freshen straw hats, and how to bathe a new baby. Ah well, so much for the good old days.

On a more modern note, did you know you can make your own breadcrumbs, and a tastier version at that, than what you buy? Just find a convenient airtight container and start putting all the remains of chips and snack crackers, non-sweet cereal, etc. Crush each addition well before putting in container. This is economical, tasty and needs no refrigeration.

Want something different in the way of bread for dinner? Defrost one small box of chopped broccoli in microwave, drain very well, add to a box of Jiffy Corn Meal Mix and bake as directed. Very good.

Got one of those non-stick skillet stuck down in the bottom of the cabinet because it's no longer non-stick? Remove the handle then use as a baking pan for the oven. It's a great size for small amounts. Coat with cooking spray when using.



Nothing's worse than getting the interior of your car damp from a wet umbrella, right? Those plastic sleeves that your newspaper comes in works great to solve this problem. Keep one in your purse or one in the car to slip the wet umbrella in next time.

A request has been submitted for a Pepper Jelly recipe. It is made using finely chopped bell pepper, some hot pepper and what else? Anyone have this recipe????

The guys have been bringing their car publications to the clubhouse frequently to exchange. Why don't we do the same thing? Some magazines such as *Good Housekeeping*, *Southern Living*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Readers Digest*, etc., are timeless. Also there are a number of us who are avid readers of paperbacks. Why not exchange those also? I'll bring mine to the January meeting.

Spicy Potato Soup

1 pound ground beef	4 cups potatoes peeled & cubed
1 small onion chopped	3 cans (8 oz) tomato sauce
4 cups water	2 tsp salt
1 1/2 tsp pepper	1/2 to 1 tsp hot pepper sauce

In Dutch oven or large kettle, brown ground beef, drain. Add potatoes, onion and tomato sauce. Stir in water and seasonings. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for one hour or until potatoes are tender and soup has thickened. Yield: 6-8 servings.

DSR to be included in AACA History

Ernie Youens' work on the history of our club, which is now available in the form of a book, will have portions of it included in the National AACA's history book being prepared by Bob Lichty. John Myer, National Director, had talked with Ernie about DSR's history book when Mr. Myer was here for the clubhouse dedication last September. He requested that Ernie send him a copy when he completed work on DSR's book.



John Myer loaned his copy to Bob Lichty for use in his research. A copy of the letter sent with the book was sent to Ernie as well. Mr. Myer commended Ernie for all the work he had done on it.

There will be two copies of the black and white version and 2 in color at the Jan. 22nd meeting. The black/white sells for \$5 and the color is \$30. If you would like to have one, please bring your check to the meeting and place your order with Carl. If you can't make the meeting, then send him your check immediately. Don't make the mistake of not getting one now then regret it when it is too late.

It happened on January 5th

- Jan. 5, 1914 - Ford Motor Company proudly announced there would be a new daily minimum wage - \$5 - and a shortened work day - 8 hours.
- Jan. 5, 1930 - The first diesel engine automobile was completed. It ran 792 miles - Indianapolis, Indiana to New York City - cost of fuel and oil was \$1.38
- Jan. 5, 1987 - The Ford Thunderbird was again presented the Motor Trend Car of the Year Award. It was the first repeat winner of the award.

1997 Glidden Tour

Special Report by Marien Brent

It's been said that the Glidden Tour is going from food to food on back roads. We proved this the week beginning Oct. 26th when some 350 cars, 1935 or older, toured out of Thomasville, GA. The Pecan Region took us to wonderful old houses over paved back roads; to the high-tech National High Magnetic Field Laboratory; a cotton gin that Mr. Whitney wouldn't recognize and antique shops. We were serenaded by the Marine Corps Band; we went for a boat ride on the Wakulla River; treated to hearing the Southeastern Region Country Music Group and to a demonstration by local clogging dancers.

The cars ranged from Model T's to a Duesenburg; from a 1909 Cadillac to a 1935 DeSoto; 40 different marques from 33 states. Most drove through the week but a few did have some troubles. Fortunately, most could be repaired on site. The fairgrounds served as the touring point. It was convenient to hotels and campgrounds. It had a room large enough to serve everyone at the dinners. The weather wasn't the best but we bundled up like true Gliddenites who are known to be drought-breakers.

We were divided into three groups and each morning there was a *Glidden Gazette* in your mail tube giving pertinent data for your tour of the day. The tour committee could not have gotten any sleep with putting out the daily paper and manning the hospitality room day and night.

Oh, yes, the food! Would you believe 3600 cookies, 2400 doughnuts, 17 cakes, 3,000 pecan twirls, 750 sweet rolls, 200 pounds of pecans, 50 pounds of peanuts, 60 pounds of salted peanuts, 84 bags of potato chips, 100 pounds of apples, 1,000 mints, 3,000 ice cream bars, 10 pounds of chocolate covered pecans, 150 pounds of Combos, 24 boxes of crackers, 20 pounds of cheese, 30 pounds of vegetables, 6400 cups of coffee, 288 tea bags, 96 packets of cocoa mix, 747 glasses of juice. All that plus lunches and dinners. And I may have forgotten something.

What's in a name?

Isn't it interesting how some products become so common that their name becomes a description of a type of product? We all know about Kleenex™ tissues and Linoleum™ flooring, but how about those "Tinnerman" (speed) nuts used to attach body moldings to the sides of antique cars? Did you ever stop to think where the name came from?

Tinnerman was - and is - the name of one of the more popular companies that manufactures such fasteners. Besides being used for attaching body trim and upholstery, they are also used on fenders, grilles and headlamps. Tinnerman products can still be found on today's cars.

The company was originally located in Cleveland, Ohio. It has been a major supplier to both new-car makers and the auto aftermarket.

Here's another one...do you remember Star body solder? It was once advertised as the most popular brand of lead auto-body solder. It was known for its trademark shape.

The Star brand of body solder came molded in the shape of a star. This feature, as explained in advertising, helped expose the solder to the thin points of the welding torch, so that a body craftsman could obtain quicker and more even melting, with less drip and run off. In addition, Star solder promised "smooth, porosity-free, mirror-like surfaces."

The advertised price of Star body solder was around 50-cents a stick. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to buy it for even *twice* that amount today?

Ed. Note: The feature above is by Randy Rundle and appeared in the Dec. 18, 1997 issue of *Old Cars Weekly*. Subscription information can be obtained from their offices as 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54945 or calling 1-800-258-0929

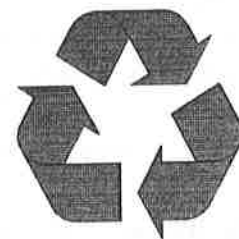


Officers

President: Buddy Paquet	661-4009
Vice President: Jim Whelton	661-5756
Secretary: Ann Rowell	661-2700
Treasurer: Carl Bailey	(334) 947-5262
Activities: Leah Musgrove	633-9305
Editor: Patt Paquet	661-4009
Member at Large: Cecil Pugh	342-3404

The Sparkplug is non-profit and published monthly 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 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 and AACA National dues are \$24 individual and \$26 joint. Views expressed in the Sparkplug are not necessarily those of the Region officers or AACA. Permission to copy material is hereby granted provided source is disclosed and credit given to author.

Contributions to the *Sparkplug* are welcome and encouraged. The editor reserves the right to edit material that may not be suitable for publication.



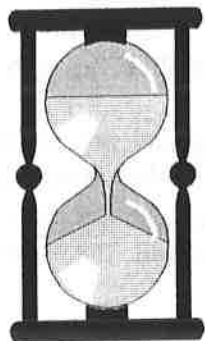
Recycle this newsletter to a friend.

IS YOUR NAME HERE???

Although you may have paid your National dues, if your name appears below, your local dues had not been received by the Treasurer as of January 15, 1998: **Bowdens, Carvers, Coale, Crowdus, Demetropulos, Gechijian, Harper, Howell, Hunt, (F.) Jordans, Kaesers, Mathis, Moores, Nettles, Polk, Reids, Ratkeys, Vines, Whitworth, Williamson**

and Youens.

Time gets away from everyone so please either bring your check to the January meeting or if you will not be there, mail it to Carl Bailey.



Cell Phones...They Can Be a "Live or Die" Situation

Contributed by Larry Nelson

First we Fed-Exed everything, then we faxed everything. Now we call everyone at any time about every little thing. But the medium is not the message.

Interstate 93 and Massachusetts Route 128 intersects in, what is a potential death trap for those whose driving skills are inferior to Richard Petty's. And "Johnny Doe" is no Richard Petty. I was riding with Johnny, a B.F. Goodrich Elastomers and Latex Division chemical sales engineer (an oxymoron if there ever was one). I was experiencing my first full sales day in a cell-phone-equipped company car.



The fact that I am alive today is due to a highly skilled guardian angel. Johnny had just recently learned to sell, but it seems he had never successfully learned to

drive. As we came out of the "X" interchange at the top of the ramp it was all over. Except Johnny never noticed. He was dialing information or something. God, through his traffic control agent on duty that afternoon, spared us. And left me with these brief rules for using cellular phones:

- **Rule One:** Don't kill yourself or others. You can use a cell phone legally while driving in some states, but statistics tell us that if you do, you are entering a twilight zone akin to driving under the influence.
- **Rule Two:** Don't talk to customers on a cell phone. If you must call a customer, stop and go to a pay phone. Phone booths worked for Superman, they can work for you.
- **Rule Three:** Let a person page you when you have a message, don't check in all day long. This will be more cost-effective.

- **Rule Four:** Think of your cell phone as a two-way radio. Call for directions, call to let the other person know you are running late, call for help if necessary. Ninety percent of information is acquired visually. Why operate blind? Communicate, yes; disable yourself, no.
- **Rule Five:** Screen incoming calls. You decide if you should talk in your car. Don't sneak up on anyone else and don't let anyone sneak up on you.
- **Rule Six:** Think before you act. Is this call necessary? Would you be better off concentrating on the business at hand?



I once worked with a sales rep in New York City who went from account to account by subway. Each time we came to the surface, he contacted his office with instructions regarding his previous sales call. He would walk into traffic on Lexington Avenue with the same abandon as Johnny Doe driving on to Interstate 93. One company manager I know has recommended that cell phones in the hands of some people should be kept in locked wooden boxes with glass tops. Only in an emergency should the glass be broken to gain access.

When it was all over, Johnny had put in an incredible sales day. I volunteered to dial numbers for him, and we made it back through the interstate interchange that afternoon and cheated the grim reaper one more time.

Copied from the *Millbrook Merchandiser* who had reprinted it from the October issue of *Selling*. Article written by Jack Falvey.



*Specializing In
Outstanding Service
Doors, Windows,
Mouldings and
Building Products*

SWITCHBOARD 334/661-8000
CONTRACTOR SALES 334/660-0400
FAX 334/660-0433

P.O. Box 190610 • 5229 Highway 90 West • Mobile, AL 36619

MOBILE FESTIVAL CENTRE
3725 Airport Blvd. Suite 184
Mobile, AL 36608

Phone: (334) 460-2766
Fax: (334) 460-2528

OfficeMax®.....
FurnitureMax™

Savings Is The Bottom Line!

Gulf Coast Corvettes, Inc.
Repair & Service Work
2565 Highway 90 Mobile, AL 36606
(334) 476-VETT (8388)
Mon - Fri 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM Closed Saturday



Bob Gechjian

**GBL
Grand Bay
Lumber**

*One Piece or a Truckload!
Always:
Professional Service
Quality Products
Prompt Delivery*

SALES (334) 865-6185 FAX (334) 865-6186

• 12250 Highway 90 West • Grand Bay, AL 36541

Landscapes should be more than beautiful...

*We create gardens
to live in...*

**GARDEN
RENAISSANCE**

Greg McDonnell • Russell Coker

Post Office Box 6614 • Mobile, Alabama 36660 • (334) 476-7178



1964 Plymouth® Cuda all original. 273 cid V8 interior & exterior red info: Bill Gardner. 334-478 9263 days


Watch for displays of antique and classic autos coming to this location soon

Coupon good for 10% off guest check
(excluding alcoholic beverages)
Coupon valid

Deep South Region
Antique Automobile Club of America
4963 Freeway Lane
Mobile, AL 36619-1716

Calendar

- Jan. 17 DSR Outing to David's Catfish House - Meet at Battleship at 11:00 AM
- Jan. 22 DSR Meeting in Clubhouse at 7:30 PM
- Jan. 30 Moultrie, GA Swap Meet - Jerry Kelly ((912)686-2102 after 6 PM
- Feb. 6-7 AACA Annual Meeting-Wyndham-Franklin Plaza-Philadelphia, PA
- Feb. 14 DSR Valentine's Buffet Breakfast at Shriner's Abba Temple
- Feb. 24 Mardi Gras Day



GRILL

David Novak, General Manager
6150-A Airport Blvd. Mobile, AL
Sun-Thur 11AM - 10 PM Fri-Sat 11AM-11PM

Name

Present coupon when ordering.
Sign below to be eligible for future
drawing for dinner for two.