



# The Sparkplug



Newsletter of the Deep South Region A. A. C. A. Vol. 31 No. 7 July 1998

## Members, guests enjoy DSR's Open House

The purpose of holding an Open House was two-fold. First, to acquaint the Mobile public with who and what DSR and AACA are. The second objective was to bring together the various car clubs in Mobile and the surrounding area. The latter was to learn what other clubs are planning for Y2K which could eliminate conflicting show dates; determine which clubs would be interested in trading newsletters and generally provide an exchange of information.

The invitation to DSR members was in the June *Sparkplug* and fliers were sent to a variety of clubs in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Special invitations were sent to hobbyists known not belong to any club, past DSR members and local city/county/state officials as well as AACA officers and directors.

A nice reply was received from AACA President, Janet Ricketts stating her regret at not being able to attend due to her work schedule and travel time. We were pleased to have the National Executive Vice President, John Myer, and his lovely wife, Nancy, attend on Saturday. They were vacationing in northwest Florida earlier in the week and came by on their way home which is near Birmingham.

Ross Sloan, Chairman, did an outstanding job of getting the information out to the clubs and invitees. DSR First Lady, Susie Anderson, pulled out all the stops when it came to contacting members and getting the refreshments taken care of. Volunteers spiffed up the clubhouse, both inside and out. While the "womenfolk" were on the inside doing a bit of spit and polish, the fellows were busy pressure-washing the building. The grounds looked unusually nice with the recent rains to wash the dust off the trees and shrubs. The new sign really stood out.

Saturday morning dawned with cloudy skies which eventually sprung some leaks but as the day progressed, the weather improved and by early afternoon it was sunny and warm. This worked out nicely for the 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. time frame. Sunday was more of the same weather-wise but by the 2:00 p.m. starting time, all was well in that department.

Our Prez, Eddie Anderson, said attendance from outside the club was not what he had hoped for but when it came to member's support, it couldn't have been better. He also stated that anything you do the first time is a learning experience and he has learned a great deal from this undertaking.

The refreshments were a delight to the eye and the palate. When it comes to cooks, DSR has got *the best*. There was anything from squash and zucchini chips, sandwiches and homemade chocolate layer cake right to pastel mints, nuts and a little bit of everything else in between on both days.

The leftover sandwiches were donated to the Salvation Army where they were gratefully accepted. The sweet treats that could be frozen will be back again for the July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. If for some reason you were not able to be on hand during the weekend, you can still get a taste of what it was like. (No pun intended!) Seen during the weekend were **2 Andersons, D. Breland, J. Bruton, 2 Cammons, D. Couling, L. Crowdus, D. Dillehay, M. Ebl, 2 Fewes, 2 Francis, 2 Froehlich, E. Grimes, 2 Jarvis, 2 Lowes, 2 Lunsfords, H. McCrory, J. McFerrin, 2 Martins, L. Mims, 2 Neeses, L. Nelson, 2 Nettles, 2 Paquets, C. Pugh, 2 Ratkeys, 2 Rowells, R. Sloan, T. Vaughan, and 2 Youens.** Missed were Al & Anna White due to Al's continuing illness.

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## Minutes

### Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Meeting June 24, 1999

The meeting was called to order by E. Anderson, President, at 7:30 PM. There were 33 members present. Eddie announced that there will be a legislative update at next month's meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS: Vice President's Report:** P. Francis reported that ants had been sprayed. **Secretary's Report:** The minutes were approved as presented in the newsletter on a motion from J. Lunsford and second from L. Mims.

**Treasurer's Report:** No old business. **Editor's report:** P. Paquet read a letter from Charlie Froehlich, chair for 2001 AAC'A South East Division tour. We need to decide on a theme for the tour. **Activities Chair Report:** A motion was made by E. Lunsford and second from J. Francis that the club participate in the Lucedale Trade Days on 7/17. The Crowne Health exhibit will not be done this month. **Member At Large:** No Report. **Open House Report:** Ross Sloan reported the open house (July 10 and 11) is on track.

**NEW BUSINESS: President's Report:** E. Anderson reported on the Alabama Vehicle Council and legislation that is being proposed to remove abandoned or unattended vehicles is in the works. **Vice President's Report:** P. Francis reported that the shrubbery in front of the club sign will be trimmed. **Secretary's Report:** J Bruton reported that the certificate of liability insurance has been requested and will be forwarded to the city of Mobile as required.

**Treasurer's Report:** The June financial report was approved as written by a motion from H. Whigham and second from R. Sloan. A motion was made to transfer funds from the car show account into the general fund by B. Paquet with second by S. Anderson. The motion passed. **Editor's Report:** No report. **Activities Chair Report:** E. Lunsford made a motion with second by L. Musgrove that the club participate in a wedding on July 31. The motion carried. B. Paquet and R. Sloan made a motion that the group participate in the Citronelle 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. The motion passed. **Member at Large Report:** Cecil Pugh asked for three volunteers to help review the by laws.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** A round of applause was given to Patt Paquet for the Award for Excellence that the Sparkplug received. B.J. Cammon won the 50/50 pot. A motion to adjourn came from R Sloan with second from B. Musgrove. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jane Bruton*

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### Member to under go restoration

There can't be anyone in our club that doesn't know Albert White. And anyone who knows Al, likes and respects him. He and Anna have been active members for a number of years. Al hasn't been feeling well for several months and has recently gotten his problem diagnosed but not with the most favorable outlook. He is in Mobile Infirmary and scheduled for extensive major surgery on Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. His recuperation will be long, and most likely, difficult. Please remember both AL and Anna in your prayers and lets give them a card shower. The address is Al White, % Mobile Infirmary, P.O. Box 2144, Mobile, AL 36652. All of us are aware how much a card can brighten the day when you are not well.

## DSR member provides bikes to book readers at Mertz school

When school started last fall, DSR provided supplies to Mertz Elementary School where our very own Judy Martin is Librarian. Later in the year, our very own Richard Jones built five podiums for the teachers there since they do not have desks. Judy had a program set up so that the child who read the most books during the year would receive a bicycle at the end of school. You know that our club has a

lot of great folks in it and our very own Bob Gechijian is one of them. He very graciously provided not just the one bike but two. This allowed



Judy to modify her program to it being the boy and the girl who read the most books. And Bob did it as a DSR member rather than having his business, Port City Corvettes, get the glory. Give this guy a great big round of applause!

## Vehicles needed for display

Ed Lunsford, Head Honcho of Activities, is looking for a few good men. Or women. The monthly display for Crowne Health is scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 2 o'clock. It consists of driving your vehicle, the earlier the model the better, over to the nursing home, munching on a cookie and sipping a cold glass of lemonade while sitting in the shade, maybe chatting with a resident or two about the not-so-good-old-days then taking yourself home. How much easier can it get? The June display was cancelled so the gentlemen and ladies will be looking forward to this month.

Three to four cars are needed and if you can and will help out, called Ed at 661-8636 to let him know. As always, he will appreciate your help and so will the folks at the nursing home.

## What's *your* auto knowledge? Some AACA Judging School questions

1. Dealer sold accessories are considered after market except: (a) Never - they are the same as factory accessories (b) When they are the proper era for the vehicle (c) When their sale is authorized by the factory in its literature (d) When they were on the car when Uncle Wally got it from the museum.
2. With regard to paint and body work, all is true *except*: (a) A vehicle may be painted any authentic color available for the model year of that vehicle (b) Lacquer may be used in place of enamel and enamel may be used in place of lacquer if final finish appears as it did originally (c) Metallic paint may be used as early as 1915 (d) Repairs which incorporate the use of lead, plastic, or other substances for surface repairs will be judged on workmanship only.
3. Nylon carpet is an acceptable replacement for wool if its pile is the same style and color as the original (cut pile). True or False?
4. The first use of sealed beam headlamps was in (a) 1927 (b) 1933 (c) 1940 (d) 1946
5. The first use of power steering came in (a) 1937 (b) 1942 (c) 1949 (d) 1951
6. Hydraulic power brakes were first used in (a) 1925 (b) 1937 (c) 1945 (d) 1953
7. The first use of strength marks (stress marks) on bolt heads was in 1946. Earlier years had letter or number markings on the heads. True or false?
8. Chrome plating first appeared on what make of automobile and in what year?
9. The first use of Phillips head screws was (a) 1965 (b) 1950 (c) 1943 (d) 1935

Answers can be found on Page 7

## What is the AACA Library & Research Center and what can it do for you?

With the invention of Charles and Frank Duryea's 1893 motor vehicle with a gasoline engine, transportation in America changed forever. The Duryeas' machine was followed with the first Ford in 1896, the Stanley brothers' steam car in 1897 and a host of others.

The unquenchable interest in the development of the automobile industry continues. The AACA was founded in 1935 and in 1941 a small library was started to assist members with their restoration projects. There was substantial growth over the years and on Oct. 1, 1981, the AACA Library & Research Center was formed at a special meeting of members at Hershey, Pennsylvania. Officers were elected at the first board meeting in Philadelphia on Feb. 6, 1982.

Many fund-raising ideas were initiated and promoted to build an addition to the National Headquarters building to house the library. On May 11, 1986 an Open House was held at the newly completed, debt-free building which marked the official opening of the Center.

The facility provides secure storage space for the literature collection and is designed to enhance both the efficiency and pleasure of library users. There is a foyer and a lower-level area for display of automobilia and donated collections.

Today the Center is one of the most active repositories of automotive historical documentation in the nation. The extensive collection of early automotive books, periodicals, catalogs and other materials is easily accessible and a full-time librarian and staff assistant are available to help you. There are over 3,000 books, 7,000 legal sized document cases filled with sales literature (approximately 25,000 pieces), advertisements, photos, and owners manuals (approximately 3,500), plus shop and parts

manuals. The L & RC houses the largest collection of Marmon material in the country.

If you're in the area and wish to visit the Center, the hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday. All Library users are required to leave a driver's license, credit card or similar secure identification with the Librarian while using library materials until all such materials are returned to the desk.

You can still use the library even though you live in Mobile, Alabama or Juneau, Alaska or even Honolulu, Hawaii. Forward a completed Research Request form, always available from your Editor, along with a \$1.00 research fee. (This is a bargain!) Fees are minimal; \$1.00 for the first hour and \$2.50 for each additional hour up to and including 10 hours. Additional hours are charged at a slightly higher rate. Make your request as specific as possible, not

something like "What body styles did Franklin make during their time in business?" but generally something like what body styles were made during a defined year can be answered. After your request has been checked, you will receive the form that outlines the material available, costs and authorization for the Librarian to proceed with copies, etc. Charges for copies (\$.30 per page) should be returned with the form and in about 10 days to two weeks, you will have your information back.

A portion of each member's dues is allocated to the L & RC for salaries, utilities, insurance, supplies, etc. The balance of funding required is obtained from donations. The Center is non-profit and accepts donations of any type. Donations of reference matters, books periodicals, auto catalogs and related documents are encouraged. Periodically, duplicate items are auctioned to raise money.



## Just for the ladies....why is it unlucky to spill salt?

Before you get the answer to the question, how about a short history lesson? Salt was given to Roman soldiers as part of their pay. "Salt" and "salary" come from the same root word. Why? Because there are many uses for salt that have nothing to do with eating.

As a preservative, and abrasive cleaner and a deodorizer, salt has been in use for thousand of years, along with baking soda, vinegar and lemon juice. Before refrigeration, salt was the only thing that could preserve food. It was thus a valuable substance, even before there were French fries. In fact, if you were good at something or were a Roman soldier, you were "worth your salt".

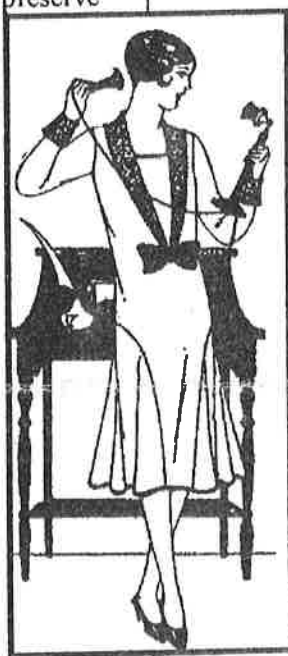
Oh, why is it unlucky to spill salt? Our ancestors believed spoiled food was the devil's work and so to spill salt was to tempt fate, literally to invite the devil to be a spoiler. Tradition had it that Lucifer was never too far from a person's left side. So if you spilled salt, you could prevent bad luck -- and spoil the devil's fun -- by tossing the salt over your left shoulder...right into the devil's face!

Many of you have probably been adding a pinch of salt to eggs to keep the shells from cracking when boiling them. Did you know that you can save a dish that you oversalted if it is still cooking by adding a raw potato? The potato absorbs the excess salt and can be thrown away. Try some of these other helpful hints for using salt.

- To remove odors from a wooden cutting board, pour a generous amount of salt directly on the board and rub lightly with a damp cloth. Wash in warm sudsy water.
- Make your silk flowers think Spring. Place the flowers into a large bag and pour in a cup of salt. Shake vigorously then remove the clean flowers.
- To patch small nail holes and fine cracks in wall-board or plaster, mix 2 tablespoons salt, 2 tablespoons cornstarch and 4-5 teaspoons water to make a thick pliable paste. Fill holes, let dry. Sand if necessary, then paint.
- Pantyhose will be more run-resistant if you wash them first, allow to drip dry. Mix two cups of salt

with a gallon of water and immerse pantyhose. Soak for three hours, rinse in cool water and dry.

- Wine stains can be removed from cotton fabric by immediately pouring enough salt directly on the stain to soak up the liquid. Immerse the fabric for 1/2 hour in cold water then launder as usual.
- Household tools that have rusted can be restored by making a paste of salt and lemon juice applied to the rusted area with a dry cloth and rubbing.
- A pinch of salt added to the basket of your coffeemaker will improve the coffee's flavor by removing some of the acid taste.
- Cut an orange in half, remove the pulp and fill the peel with salt for a pleasant, aromatic air freshener.



### Watch your speed!

Sitting on the side of the road waiting for speeding drivers the State Police Officer clocks a car puttering along at 22 mph. He thinks to himself that this driver is just as dangerous as a speeder. He pulls the car over, and as he approaches, he notices that other than the driver, there is one older woman in the front seat and three in back, wide-eyed and white as ghosts. The driver, obviously confused, said to him, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit". "Ma'am, you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can be dangerous to other drivers", the fellow replied. "Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was going exactly twenty-two miles per hour!" the old woman stated proudly. The officer, trying to contain a chuckle, explained that "22" was the route number, not the speed limit. Slightly embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error. "But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask. Is everyone in the car OK? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time." the police officer said. "Oh, they'll be all right in a minute, officer. You see, we just got off Route 119."

## Virginia is for lovers.....car lovers, that is!

I bet a lot of folks thought maybe they had died and gone to old car heaven. Maybe they felt like the proverbial kid in the candy store. It can give you chills up and down your spine when you stand on a knoll and look out over a shopping center parking lot at nearly six hundred antique vehicles of every make, color and description. The registration topped out at 587 with only a few no-shows.

Hosted by the Roanoke Valley Region AACA, the National Eastern Spring Meet was held June 19 in Roanoke, Virginia. The city is called the Star of the Blue Ridge Mountains and does, in fact, have a huge star located on Mill Mountain. It can be seen not only during the day is especially pretty at night. The Roanoke Valley Region was chartered in 1955 and four of the original members have maintained continuous membership for the past 44 years. Quite an accomplishment for the members and the Region!

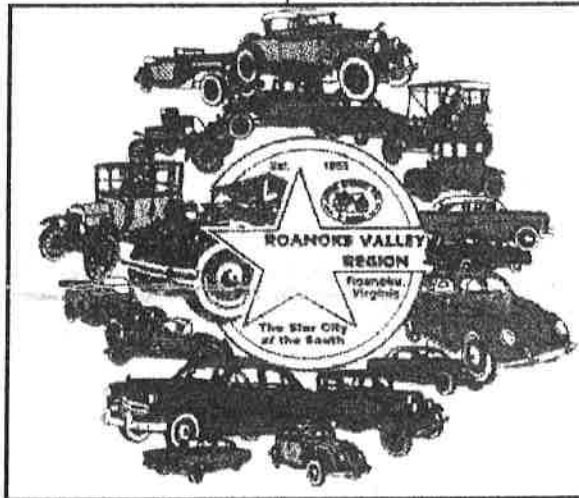
This Region, like others throughout the country, have hosted National Meets in the past. Their first was in 1966 followed by 1974, 1982 and this year, 1999. They have always been Spring meets and have always been in June.

Your Editor and spouse left Tuesday prior to the Meet hoping to meander through the Carolinas and some of Virginia before picking up our registration on Thursday. We cleared Atlanta a little before rush hour and that's when we got into trouble. A windshield-messer-upper mist turned into a light rain that stayed with us all through our wandering around and right on into Roanoke late Wednesday. The next morning was no different but we decided to see some of the area anyway. A trip to the Natural Bridge was great fun even if it was wet. A tour of a factory where wax figures are made and distributed proved to be very interesting. Watery sunshine appeared around noon but it was welcome, no matter how minimal. The afternoon found us in the city's largest antique mall with over 100 dealers.

We checked in to our hotel then went to pick up our packet plus visit with friends, some of whom we hadn't seen all year and others we had been with only two weeks before. The pool-side social that evening took place as planned with the rain out of the picture. Friday morning

we hopped on the bus for a tour of the Sink Chevrolet Collection. This private collection of various years and models of Chevrolets plus a large accumulation of Chevrolet memorabilia is outstanding. They also had a nice assortment of John Deere items except tractors. All of this is housed in a huge building which is climate-controlled and nearly dust-proof. It took three years to design and construct the storage facility to accomplish this feat. That afternoon a group of us toured the revitalized downtown area that is somewhat like Jackson Square in New Orleans.

The Friday night social was a great treat. As is the norm, the food was light snacks but plentiful. The table decorations were unusual; they were small cardboard replicas of various cars, one at each place, filled with candy and nuts. A really nice souvenir to take home. The entertainment was provided by a good country-western band but this was only the beginning. A group of cloggers, ranging in age from about five to teens, were the big hit of the evening. They really put on a show and received a standing ovation for their efforts. This didn't hurt the feelings of their parents who were



in the back of the room.

Saturday, show day, began with the Judges' Breakfast for the 300-plus members who would put in a hard day's work before it was over. Judging began at the customary time of 11:00 a.m. and was finished just before 3:00 p.m. To keep car owners busy during the day, Advance Auto Parts had one of their semis there with the trailer filled with all sorts of tools. You could purchase as many as you wanted at \$1 each with the money going to Roanoke's charity organizations. When your car had been judged, you could take your windshield card to the trailer and receive a bucket filled with a sponge, a 1/4" socket set, a bottle of RainX, Westley's tire cleaner and a AAP cap.

Administration finished the last of the judge sheets just at three o'clock. Your Editor and her "technical support staffer" were back on the road to Mobile. It was another great National Meet with more good memories and more new friends to see at the next one.



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## The ruled 3 x 5 note card a useful measurement tool

The common 3 x 5 note card is a reasonably accurate measuring device. Carry one in your pocket. Here's what it can do for you.

- **Ruler:** The width is 3" and the length is 5" to within 1% accuracy. To get 6" just add two widths. To get 8" add a width and length. To get 10", add two lengths. To get 2", just fold the width against the length. Multiples of the lengths are simple enough. What about 1" and 4" you ask? The ruled lines are accurately printed 1/4" apart. Four lines makes 1". Just add four lines the 3" width to get 4". You can easily read 1/8" and even 1/16" by visually dividing the space between two lines. Want to know how many threads/inch on a machine screw? Press the threads into the ruled card, leaving a permanent mark for each thread (greasy threads help!). Count the number of marks over an inch (or double the marks over 1/2").
- **Thickness Gauge:** 3 x 5 cards are nearly 8 thousands of an inch thick -- easy to remember since  $3 + 5 = 8$ . Want multiples of 0.008"? Just fold the card over itself. This might work in a pinch to gap sparkplugs or distributor points or mechanical tappets.
- **Angles:** 90° angles are easy, as are 45° (and 22.5°). To make a 30-60-90° triangle, use the 5" length as the hypotenuse (the longest side) and half the length (2-1/2") as the shortest side opposite the 30° angle.
- **Weight:** A dry card weighs a little under 1/16 ounce -- easy to remember because there are 16 ounces I a pound and 16 is twice 8.
- **Funnels:** Roll up a card for a tiny funnel for adding water to batteries.
- **Pallets:** A card makes a good disposable pallet for mixing small packets of two-part epoxies.
- **Gaskets:** Temporary gaskets can be cut for thermostats, water pumps, fuel pumps, etc.

Furthermore, you can even write on the dang things! Sorry, batteries and pencils not included.)

The above was written by Gary R. Halford and appeared in the *Generator & Distributor*, a publication of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America. It was copied by *Northern Lights*, newsletter of the Minnesota AACA Region in their March-April 1997 issue from which this Editor purloined it.

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### Accident claims life of auto buff

Billy Barnes, whose only hobby was restoring antique cars, was killed Saturday, June 26, 1999. He was owner of Barnes Enterprises, his Monroeville, Alabama trucking firm. Mr. Barnes and his cars were known to most hobbyists in this area.

He was returning home from a Model A outing at the home of James and Betty Ward near Brewton, Alabama. He was on Highway 41 in his 1931 Ford Deluxe Coupe when his car was struck head on by another vehicle which hydroplaned and crossed the center line according to an Alabama State Trooper.

Weather was definitely a factor in the accident; it had been raining for several days. Another Model A was closed behind the Barnes vehicle and witnessed the accident it was reported.

His wife, Fay, had gone to a bridal shower for a relative in Mississippi; otherwise she would have been in the car with Billy. DSR members extend our sincere sympathies to the Barnes families.

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#### Answers to Auto Quiz on Page 3:

- (1) c (2) c (3) True (4) c (5) d (6) d  
(7) True (8) 1925/Oldsmobile (9) d



**Officers**

- President: Eddie Anderson 649-3231
- Vice President: Pat Francis 342-3398
- Secretary: Jane Bruton 602-8073
- Treasurer: Wilma Jones 645-1499
- Activities: Ed Lunsford 661-8636
- Editor: Patt Paquet 661-4009
- Member at Large: Cecil Pugh 342-3404
- SE Divisional Tour (4/09 - 4/11/2001)
- Chman: Charlie Froehlich (601)749-9935

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 P.M. 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 and AACA national dues are \$26.00. Views expressed in the Sparkplug are not necessarily those of the Region officers or AACA.

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



Please recycle this newsletter to a friend

## DSR Hobby Day scheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup>

You asked for it and it's on the calendar. The members who took part last year in showing off their skills or their collections had such a good time, they asked to do it again. Those who were unable to attend heard about all the fun and want to get in on it this year.

Now's the time to start dusting off all those paper weights or teapots or whatever else you collect. If you are a crafter, it's time to get the projects you've built and are the most proud of down off the shelf. Tables will be set up so that everyone can display their other "toys".

The day's fun will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 29, 1999. August is always a hot and muggy month here on the Gulf Coast; not always conducive to driving the older cars very far without a/c. But you are encouraged to drive them to the clubhouse if possible. This is a way to have a nice outing that will not only exercise the vehicles but let us learn a little more about what other interests members have. Please invite a relative or friend to come with you. Maybe we can turn this into an ice cream social as well. Wouldn't some homemade ice cream right from the freezer taste good?



## MPD party at Henderson farm on for October 16

You just thought you had a free Saturday this month. There is so much going in October, Jim Henderson had to nail down the date in order to get on the DSR calendar. Mark it on **your** calendar **now** so you won't miss out on the fun. It's an opportunity to drive your antique or classic (or modern if absolutely necessary), enjoy lots of good food and generally have a relaxing day. You don't have to set up, cook or clean up. What more can you want?

**For Sale: 1963 1/2 Falcon Sprint convertible V-8, 260 cid engine.** It has automatic transmission, power steering and air conditioning. The color is deep Heritage Burgundy with a white top and black interior. If interested contact Hershel Whigham (334) 626-4255 in Spanish Fort, AL.



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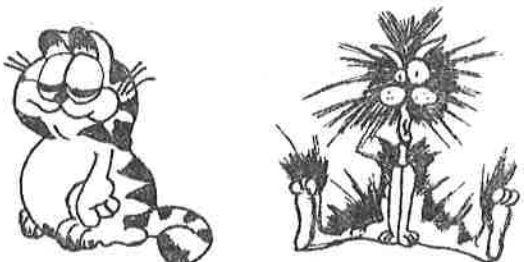


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July 1998

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