1997 OFFICERS Sparkplug PRESIDENT: John Reid 666-3761 VICE PRESIDENT: Mike Williamson 473-3442 **NEWSLETTER OF THE** SECRETARY: Greg McDonnell 476-7178 **DEEP SOUTH REGION** TREASURER: Carl Bailey 947-5262 A.A.C.A. **ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR:** MEMBER AT LARGE: Jim Martin 661-6133 Vol. 30 EDITOR: Patt Paquet 661-4009 May 1997

Give Them What They Are Looking For and They Will Come. by Ernie Youens

A change of DSR show policy and the weather caused some of us concern but both turned the 14th annual show into an outstanding success!

Saturday, May 10, began with a light sprinkle and unseasonably cool temperatures, but by mid-morning it was clear. However, many members wore light jackets most of the day.

This year the membership made the decision to discontinue classes for street rods or modified cars except for display only with no trophy awarded. This is actually a return to the original DSR show policy of "antiques only". After all, we are an antique car club. This, plus threatening weather, may have contributed to fewer cars. There were 83 cars registered plus several very nice antiques that came in too late to register and be judged. I personally overheard three people say they were pleased with the change and they plan to bring their antiques next year. This is precisely what we are aiming for -- more high quality antique cars. We certainly seem to be on the right road to success.

A trio of the high point cars we had at the show for the first time were a 1957 Ford Retractable hardtop belonging to Bill & Leah Musgrove; the flawless 1956 Jaguar XK-140 which Ed & Joan Lunsford were showing for the very first time and a beautifully restored 1936 Ford pickup which John & Marilyn Webster of Pensacola own. These, and several others, vouched for the high quality of the cars. In fact, there were 12 cars receiving the coveted Prestige Award this year.

As news gets out about the type of show and class of antiques we are getting, you can bet there will be an improvement in quantity and quality. There will be more and more of the older cars coming to our shows in the future. Now is the time for all of us to begin thinking about Mother's Day weekend in 1998. It has all the makings of a real hum-dinger!



We would like to take this opportunity and space to thank all of the people who worked on the show with us. We could not have done it without you. The work began late last year and as time went by, it became more involved.

It doesn't matter if you worked only on the day of the show, we still appreciate all you did. It made the show what it was, an unqualified success.

There are so many who put in time, money from their own pocket for small expenses, lots of "leg work and elbow grease" as well entering a car that we hesitate to mention names for fear of leaving someone out, but all of you are first-place winners in our opinions.

Eddle Anderson & Jerry Finley

Minutes

Deep South Region A.A.C.A. April 26, 1997 Meeting

April's meeting was called to order at 4:20 PM by Vice President Mike Williamson. Forty seven members and six guests plus Ron and Sally Barnett were present and accounted for. Don Dillehay offered the invocation.

Old Business:

Mike asked Al White for a report on the status of bids for covering the floor in the new addition. There were, at this time, three bids ranging from \$1530 to \$2000 for commercial tile installation. Al stated these bids are very labor heavy due to the floor having to be sanded and filled. On a motion from Ed Lunsford with a second from Al White, a decision was tabled until the next meeting.

The minutes from the March 27 meeting were approved on a motion by Anna White with a second from

Eddie Anderson.

Mike asked Eddie Anderson, in the absence of Jerry Finley, for an update on the DSR Car Show. He

responded with a detailed report.

Don Dillehay thanked those participating in the Campus Crusade for Christ display. There were approximately 120 people who enjoyed their time at our clubhouse viewing the seven cars there.

New Business:

The Treasurer's report, dated April 15, was presented for review. There being no questions, it was approved on a motion by Ernie Youens with a second from Al White.

Several display requests were brought to member's attention. First on the list was the McDonald's display May 2 and 3. Southtrust Bank in Daphne had requested three cars on May 8. On May 17 Bill Stebes

Chevrolet in Daphne had also requested vehicles.

Mike Williamson, at this time, turned the program over to our invited speaker and his wife, Ron and Sally Barnett. Mr. Barnett offered facts and figures relative to AACA. The organization is now just under 60,000 members with 406 regions and chapters. Following Mrs. Barnett's outline of her involvement in AACA, we adjourned for dinner. The motion to adjourn was made by Ross Sloan at 5:40 PM with a second by Don Dillehay.

Announcements: Clean-up Day for the car show was scheduled for may 3 at 9:00 AM at the clubhouse.

Treg MiDornell

Respectfully submitted,

Bow Tie Owners Show Off



If there is anything worse than owners of old cars getting together, it's a bunch of those

who have vintage Chevys. Just kidding! On April 18 DSR, in conjunction with Oldies 106.5 radio station, participated in "Classic Car Friday" at Bay Chevrolet.

At first, the salesmen were stumbling over each other looking at the cars. Then, over the music from the speakers, you started to notice the screech of brakes. People began stopping when they saw all the cars parked in front of the dealership. The owner, John Mose, was spotted several times during in the afternoon walking around the cars.

Exhibiting their vehicles were 2 Annises in their '55 Police Car, 2 Cordells with the '46 pickup, Jim Henderson in the '57 convertible, Scott Henderson with the '49 Bookmobile, 2 Musgroves in their '57 4-door, 2 Nettles driving their '36 4-door sedan and Ross Sloan sporting his '62 Vette. Our invited guests for the event were David and Margaret Hickson in their bright red '55 2-door HT, Fred Rettig in his neat '51 pickup, Mike Patterson driving his '69 Camaro along with Ralph Pipkin and Wayne Ryals, members of the local Corvette club in their gorgeous Vettes.



LaVerne Hopkins Continues Battle With Cancer

It was noted at the April meeting that this very special lady has had a recurrence of melanoma. She will complete radiation therapy for pain May 21. The counselors from Mercy Medical have made their initial assessment so that when their services are needed, all is ready. Her daughter, Judy, will be in Mobile until May 23. Both Judy and her brother Jim were able to be with LaVerne for Mother's Day this year. Please remember her with prayers and cards.

"Citronelle Showdown" Car Show by Larry Jordan

A Centennial celebration in Citronelle, Alabama on May 3 started off with the downtown merchants putting on their first annual car show on main street. There were live bands, arts and crafts, kids games and civil war re-enactments during the judging of the cars. Civil war soldiers marched entertaining the crowd with different maneuvers of their muskets. This first show had awards for the "Top 25, Best Paint, Best Interior, Best Truck, Peoples Choice and Best of Show. There were 42 vehicles judged with DSR being represented by L. Anderson winning a "Top 25" and 2 (L) Jordans who received two "Top 25" with their '67 Coronets.



Hunting Season Over, Porch Repaired

It's been a standing joke among the members that as soon as hunting season was past the front porch would be refinished. Well, hunting season was over by April 19 and the work well completed on that same date.

Having been bribed by a fortifying breakfast at Leo's, Jim Martin led the eight guys, namely Anderson, P. Francis, R. Jones, E. Lunsford, Nelson, B. Paquet, C. Pugh and A. White acrown to begin work. The front of the clubhouse have



washed the before. The porch was

scraped, sanded and had new paint applied and a new hand rail was installed. Even the mailbox post got a new coat of paint after the rest of the building was pressure-washed. The doors between the old and new sections inside the clubhouse were removed and stored while several of the fellows trimmed shrubbery and cleared downed tree limbs. In early May Gregg McDonnell and his landscaping crew cleaned the flowerbed and put in all new plants.

MOPARS at the Battleship by Lorry Jordon

The Southern MOPAR Association held their second annual "MOPARS at the Battleship" car show on Saturday, April 26. The day started off as usual - cold, rainy and windy. Again this year, the club was denied the potential of having more than 100 cars at this closed (Chrysler-powered) event.

Club member's spirits were down but not out; they knew if they could get a break in the weather, the cars would start arriving. By 10:00 AM there were approximately 25 cars. The workers got busy setting up the registration area, PA system,



door prizes and so forth. When judging began at 1:00 PM there were 55 cars out of the 74 registered ready. We all know that a car show would not

happen without the participants. These people subjected their restored automobiles to the elements to make the show a success and to meet other folks who enjoy the old car hobby.

DSR was represented by 1 Coale, 2 (L) Jordans, 1 Paquet and 1 Williamson. The Jordans received plaques for "Top 25" and "Best Interior" with their '67 Dodge Coronets. DSR also sponsored a trophy for this event and was given the opportunity to pick the car of their choice. Ron Barnett, past AACA President, and his wife, Sally, were asked to make the selection. It went to a beautiful red 1968 Plymouth Roadrunner (beepbeep) that came from Madison, MS.

The club is already making plans for next year and would like to invite all MOPAR owners to join us. We will have a place for you and your car!



A note from all MOPAR Club members: We would like to offer a big thank-you to Buddy Paquet for the use of his enclosed trailer for registration. It was a life saver. Also to Woody Coale for his work in acquiring a sponsor and to Mike Williamson and Buddy for helping judge. The DSR family is great and Mary Jo and I are proud to be members of such a family oriented club.



AACA/DSR Mystery Member

This member wears so many different hats, it is sometimes hard to recognize the person. Sometimes it is a fishing hat, sometimes it is a "old car" hat and sometimes it is a farmer's hat. Our mystery member has also worn a military hat.

Joining DSR in May 1994 he has been an active member participating in numberous events, shows and functions. He has three antique vehicles of various makes and drives them often.

He has been active in the DAV for 32 years serving as Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Judge Advocate and currently holds the position of Junior Vice Commander of the 4th District of the Department of Alabama. He was seeking re-election of this position during the District Meeting May 3. He will learn the results of voting in June and hopefully will be installed when the convention is held in Sheffield, Alabama June 6-8. As Junior Vice Commander, his duties include promoting the local chapters, keeping members enthused and working to help meet the needs of veterans as well as the widows and orphans of veterans. (Our mystery member's name can be found elsewhere in this issue.)

If you mistakenly picked up a large Oneida serving spoon after the April 26 dinner, please bring it to the next meeting. It belongs to Joyce Francis and is part of a new set she recently purchased.

Near-Record Member Turnout for AACA Past Prez Barnett by Charlie Froehlich

The old saying "You can talk about the weather but you can't change it." held true. With the late afternoon flight bringing Ron Barnett, 1991 AACA President, and his wife, Sally came the bad weather that plagued the entire weekend statewide.

This did not prevent the 51 members and 8 guests from participating in the April outing. Ron spoke to the group about the many facets of our hobby and of the benefits of AACA membership. We all see the magazine and know about National meets, but we may forget about other less visible benefits. One of the biggest for us is the liability insurance coverage that our club enjoys. That is especially valuable since we have the clubhouse. Another available benefit is that we often fail to use is the AACA Library and Research Center. For a nominal charge the Library can research questions you may have about your vehicle, it's restoration and other matters. Ron gave several examples of comprehensive information provided to owners of very limited production vehicles.

Sally told members of her interests in the hobby. Like many folks, she started attending car shows and sat around with little to do. Realizing there must be more to this non-lucrative occupation than what she had seen so far, she became involved in National Judging. "Involved" to the point that she is a Senior master Judge who has served as the Chief Judge in both National and Grand National Meets.

Both Ron and Sally also discussed National and Regional AACA Tours. There is a place in touring for vehicles of all AACA recognized classes, from the

late 1800s to the 1970s. Try it, you may just find you will like it.



Ron

After the formal presentation by our guests, the fielded questions from the group. We then adjourned to the delicious covered dish dinner and much socializing. The Barnetts visited with small groups and continued to respond to inquires and comments well into the evening. It was a delightful afternoon and

evening well spent with friends. In spite of adverse weather conditions, we had a good turnout with 2 Andersons, 2 Annises, Jewel Bell, 2 Cammons, R. Coker, L. Collins, 2 Coxes, Lycyle Crowdus, 2 Dillehays, Laura Faust, T. Faust, 2 Fews, 2 Francises, 2 Froehlichs, E. Grimes with son Eddie, B. Hedberg, 2 Jarvises, 2 Jones, 2 Kemps, 2 Lowes, 2 Lunsfords, 2 MCrorys, G. McDonnell, 2 Nettles, 2 Paquets, C. Pugh, 2 Rhineharts, R. Sloan, Charlotte Vinson, 2 Whites, M. Williamson and 2 Youens. Guests were Jim & Carol Crocker, David and Margaret Hixon and Lonnie and Frances Singleton along with the Barnetts.

A big "thank you" to Ron and Sally for attending this function, to Ross Sloan who flew to Huntsville to pick them up and bring them to Mobile and especially to all of those who provided the dinner.



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DSR Hits Home Run With BayBears Display

"It's one, two, three strikes and you're out at the old ball game" goes

the song. But we didn't strike out! The cars were in place before spectators for the April 20 Sunday afternoon game arrived. It was a beautiful sight with the seven vehicles spanning the 1947-1957 time frame. Helping organizer Scott Henderson in the 1949 Bookmobile were Carol & Jay Annis in their '55 Chevy police car, Jim Henderson in his '57 Chevy convertible, Bill & June Kemp in a '57 aqua Chevy, Bill & Leah Musgrove in her '57 Chevy, Melvin & Betty Neese in the '47 Chrysler and Buddy & Patt Paquet driving their '55 red and Participants were treated to white Ford. complimentary game tickets and took turns watching the cars and watching the game. It was a fun afternoon for all.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

A big round of applause for Bill Cox organizing the dinner for the April outing....for Pat & Joyce Francis opening the clubhouse early and having coffee ready...for all the members who brought the outstanding food and supplied drinks...for Bill Kemp getting the glass shelves installed in the display case...for Richard Jones refinishing the antique lawn chair we have on display...for Billy Reeves cutting all the wooden back plates for the car show trophiesfor Greg McDonnell staining them and applying the face plates.

The Sparkplug is non-profit and is published for the infor-mation 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. Guests are welcome to attend. Annual local dues are \$15 and AACA national dues are \$26 joint/\$24 single. Views expressed in the Sparkplug are not necessarily those of the Region officers or AACA.

The Five W's (Or Who, What, When, Where & Why)

Carl & Janice Bailey caught the fishing fever and had to go to Lake Panasoffkee, FL April 19-26 to get rid of it. Joyce Francis pulled a ligament in her right knee May 8 and it will be in a cast for at least two weeks. Linda Gechijian was involved in an accident in her jeep on April 25 and sustained injuries. Joan Lunsford will be wearing the cast on her right arm until at least May 23. She broke in in two places on April 26. Congratulations to Bill & Leah Musgrove on acquiring a 1957 Ford Retractable to replace the one that was wrecked. They drove to New Jersey the last weekend of April to pick it up. It is an AACA Senior winner that received its first Preservation Award in Hershey this past October. Ann Rowell spent the week of April 20-26 in Los Angles with her two brothers and sister. This was the first time they had all been together in six years.

Quiz Time

Match the answers below with the following:

	Chevrolet		Corvair
-	Chrysler		BelAir
	Ford Compact		Fairlane
	Model T		Buick
	Steam Car		Steam Car
	Mark II		Studebaker
	Road Side Signs	2	GMC's

- (A) Ford's 1955 line (B) Rear engine Chevrolet (C) Falcon
- (D) Chevrolet (E) Burma Shave (F) Ford (G)1955 BelAir
- (H) "When better automobiles are built.....will build them
- (I)"Town & Country" Woodie (J) Stanley (K) Avanti
- (L) Lincoln (M) Trucks

Elvis is Alive and Well in Mobile

It really was "back to the Fifties" when DSR provided vehicles for the Grand Opening of the new McDonalds restaurant on May 2-3. The proof of which was Elvis there singing all his hits beginning at 6:00 PM both evenings. The impersonator was very good and when his breaks came, he was out enjoying our cars.



The new location is in with an Amoco service station located on I-10 at Theodore-Dawes Road in the southern part of the county. Residents there are happy to have a fast-food outlet

in their area. Also there was a gas "war" going on with the Pilot service station across the street and fuel was selling for \$.99 on Friday and down to \$.98 all day Saturday. Most all the members took advantage of this and topped off their tanks both days.

Members who helped with the display on one or both days were 2 Annis, D. Breland, 2 Cammons, R. Coker, L. Crowdus, D. Dillehay, J. Finley, E. Grimes with son, Eddie, R. Jones, 2 (L) Jordans, 2 Lunsfords, J. Kaeser, G. McDonnell, J. Martin, 2 Musgroves, 2 Paquets, B. Reeves, 2 Reids, 2 Rowells, 2 Wheltons and 2 Youens. Our invited guests who brought their cars were Woodie Dunnigan, David & Margaret Hickson, "Jo-Jo" Johnson and Gene Miller with his son, Mark.

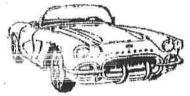
The display was well received by spectators and McDonalds officials were very pleased. We have received a tidy donation for the effort.

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AACA Southeastern Division Spring Meet

Greenville Technical College was the setting for the show on Saturday hosted by the South Carolina Region. There were 405 outstanding cars registered for the May 10 meet that was held under sunny skies with pleasantly cool temperatures.

A tour of the BMW plant in Greenville was available for those who wish to go on Friday morning. There is an excellent BMW Museum with a number of their antiques on display to go through before going on to the assembly plant.

The Judging School which was held on Friday was very well attended. Carl Boyd is the new Chairman of Class Judging. He and his new committee presented a very good program. That evening found most of us enjoying the social aspect of the meet catching up with old friends and making new ones.

After the show itself was over the Banquet and Awards Presentation began at 7:00 PM. This one went quickly with both President Sam High and Executive Vice President Tom Howard handing out trophies to the winners. A nice touch, indeed.

This was the time to say good-by until the next meet. We were fortunate to see folks we had not seen since the Kingsport, TN meet back in 1995.

It was unfortunate that we had to miss our own DSR show which we have not done in 10 years. At least next year we won't have that problem since the Spring meet will be in April and will be right here in Alabama in Montgomery!



Historical Highlights

1909 Stearns

Body Style: Toy-tonneau

Cylinders: 4 Drive Chain Horsepower: 70 Model 30-60

Maker: F. B. Stearns Co.

Cleveland, Ohio

It is difficult today to conceive of the kind of quality, materials and superb craftsmanship that Frank B. Steams built into his cars. his career spanned the years from 1899-1919 at which time he sold the company at considerable profit and retired.

Two principal models were built, the monstrous sixcylinder Model 40/90 and the somewhat smaller fourcylinder Model 30/60. Both were built to race and to smash records--both did because they were fast, rugged, well engineered - the 45/90 being the speediest car of its time.

They were expensive, both as touring and limousine models--\$6,500 for the toy-tonneau and \$7,500 for the closed model, f.o.b. Cleveland...a not inconsiderable sum for those days. It is simply not possible that a machine of this excellence could survive too long. Frank Stearns gave out no stock and he owned every single nut and bolt in his factory. He also insisted that each chassis be tested prior to delivery, each one being driven over 150 miles of rough road loaded with a half ton of sand. When the car was bodied, seventeen coats of paint were applied as the final operation.

In all, only superlatives fit the Steams--steering was close to effortless, brakes were excellent...even the finely finished engine was a sight to behold--all topped off with a four-speed precision transmission.

In 1911 Stearns turned to the Knight sleeve-valve engine and changed its name to Stearns-Knight. Although it was quiet and smooth-running, this motor tended to slow acceleration and smoky exhausting. Stearns-Knight used this machine until its demise in 1929. But the truly great creations of Frank Stearns were long gone, having been succeeded by mere shadows of his years of guidance and control. He lived long enough and was far enough removed from the scene to more than appreciate the shoddy mass-product makes that came in the wake of his own beautiful machines. (Copied from unknown source, author also unknown)

Sincere Sympathy

DSR members extend their condolences to the DeCrease family. Frank's mother, Mrs. Violet DeCrease, died in St. Clair, Michigan on Thursday, April 24, 1997. She had moved to Mobile in 1991 with Frank and Marge when he accepted the job of Police Administrator for the City of Mobile Police Department. Mrs. DeCrease's health had not been good while in Mobile and her condition had worsened over the past few months. She was very happy to return to Michigan in 1996 when Frank retired. The family requested that memorials be made to the AACA Endowment Fund. A check will be sent by the Deep South Region.



Things Worth Remembering

There is no scheduled outing for June due to the many car shows going on. July is always ice-cold watermelon at the clubhosue. Floyd & Betty

Jordan accepted responsibility for planning the August outing. (Carl Baily is the AACA/DSR Mystery Member.) In September we will be doing whatever Ray & Katherine Harper arrange. Next will be the Cammons' famous October gumbo lunch as well at the 4th Annual Hooters Car Show. By now we are into November with the meeting coming a week early and having a DSR Thanksgiving dinner at the clubhouse coordinated by Al & Anna White. Here we are at the end of the year and the DSR Christmas party and installation of officers scheduled for December 12!

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

For Sale: 1966 Ramber S/W - Billy Reeves (334) 675-2694

Wanted: Oval glass dome light cover plus ring for 1931 Model A - Cecil Pugh (334) 342-3404

You're All Invited to Attend
Antique Automobile Club of America
6th Annual National Meet
Hobby Related Seminars & Club Administration Seminars
scheduled at the
1997 Southeastern Fall Meet Host Hotel: Executive Inn, Louisville, KY
Friday, July 18, 1997
8:00 AM until 5:00 PM

Seminars Planned

Restoration Seminars, National Judging School, Government Legislation Seminar,

Membership Roundtable, Regions & Chapter Activities, Region & Chapter Newsletters

and a Special Ladies Program

This event is open to all AACA Members --- No registration or reservation required

Editor's Note

If the above doesn't light your fire, I can't imagine what would. As stated, no registration/reservation is required for attending the seminars. Buy why

not enter your car? The fee is only \$15, it can be a great learning experience. I understand that this will be an indoor show so don't worry about the heat! Louisville is only about 600 miles from Mobile. You can still get a meet request card by calling AACA (717)534-1910. They will send you one. Just be sure you have your AACA number handy; you will be asked for it.

The seminars listed above are the ones that were offered at the annual meeting last February in Philadelphia. The members who conduct them go "on the road" to selected meets during the year. This will be the only opportunity you will have to attend any of them this close to Mobile. Buddy & I will be leaving on July 17 to drive to Louisville. We would be delighted to have any of you join us for a mini-vacation and vast learning experience. I had

the opportunity to work in Judges Administration in Greenville May 10. This was my first time and, boy, did I learn a lot! Why not see what else is out there? Your May-June Antique Automobile should arrive soon after you get this newsletter. Keep the white "mailer" that is enclosed for future meets. Below are some dates and locations to plan for. The seminars won't be offered but the Judging School is held on Friday at every meet and you can do your Apprentice Judging on Saturday during the show.

Aug. 7-9 Central Division Fall Meet Cedar Falls, IO
(Appx. 1150 miles from Mobile)
Oct. 8-11 Eastern Division Fall Meet
1998
Feb. 26-28 Southeastern Winter Meet St. Pete,
FL
(Appx. 500 miles from Mobile)
Apr. 17-18 Southeastern Spring Meet Montgomery AL

June 11-13 Central Division Spring Meet (Appx. 920 miles from Mobile)

(Appx. 970 miles from Mobile)

Sept. 10-12 Southeastern Fall Meet (Appx. 518 miles from Mobile)

IMPORTANT DATES

1997

May 22 May 23-24	DSR Meeting at 7:30 PM in clubhouse Point Cadet Antique Auto Show-Larry Burdeshaw (601) 392-4374
June 20-22	Mississippi Coast Mustang Club's 18th Annual Mustang, Shelby & Ford Products Show, Gulf Coast Coliseum - Biloxi, MS - Darlene Ebl (601)875-6221
June 21	Blueberry Festival Car Show-James Ward (334) 867-2767 **Revised Date**
July 4 July 17-19 July 18-20 June 26 July 26-27	Sonic Cruise-In at Azalea Rd. & Hiway 90-Mobile **Note Date Change** AACA SE Division Fall Meet-Louisville, KY 10th Annual Autorama in the Coast Coliseum-Kim (601)865-0910 DSR Meeting at 7:30 PM in clubhouse Noccalula Falls Car Show-Gadsden, AL - Joan Clements (205) 547-7143
Aug. 17-23	AAECM's 28th Annual Edgewater Mall Antique Show open to vehicles 20 years or older. Space is limited, register early. (601)392-4374
Aug. 23	West Florida Region AACA's Annual Seville Square Show - Todd Chappell (904)436-7610

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

Thanks South Alabama Business Machine by Page 41