



# The Sparkplug



Newsletter of the Deep South Region A. A. C. A. Vol. 31 No. 5 May 1998

## DSR Car Show scores big with "Antiquers"

When competitors began to arrive Saturday morning, May 9, 1998, they were met by the aroma of freshly brewed coffee and sausages cooking to be put into hot biscuits. That's the way to start a car show!

Signs, directing entrants and spectators to the clubhouse, were in place from I-65 out Springhill Avenue Extension and Moffat Road as well by 7:00 AM. The food wagon was set up and operating, the PA system was working, the flags flying and the workers were ready. All that was needed was participants. What had begun as a slightly overcast day was turning out to be perfect car show weather. By late morning the sun would burn off the haze and a slight breeze make being outdoors the place to be.

Last year DSR went back to a limited, or closed, show allowing only vehicles 25 years old or more to be entered. The numbers were down in 1997 which was expected. It was hoped there would be more vehicles this year. There were more this year and some very fine ones at that. Covering the grounds were over 100 cars including a few in a car corral. There were ten new Prestige Awards presented this year which means those ten vehicles scored 95 points or more of a possible 100. Nine of the 13 vehicles eligible for Recertification of Prestige were entered in the show and did, indeed, recertify by obtaining 90 of the 100 points.

The Editor spent 90 percent of the day inside at the Registration table or working on the score book so I didn't get to see the cars except when they drove by coming in or as they were leaving the field. Neither did I get to see all of the members who were there so this will be one time when "DSR members were ...." won't be included here. I will mention it was good to see our member from Louisiana, Charlie Froehlich, attending and to see Gavin Edwards there. Laura Faust sailed through the club-

house and I saw Bob Hedberg directing traffic. These are some folks we don't get to see often enough.

It appeared the Shriners' Chef Unit did a booming business. One of the fellows said they stopped selling hamburgers when the 160 buns were gone! I heard one woman say that the first one she had was *so good* she just had to have another. I am sure all the other food sold just as well.

Following the awards presentation, members and competitors alike helped to clean up so that most of the group was on the way home by 4:00 PM. It had been a long, hard day for some, a day of elation for trophy winners and generally speaking a good day for all. Those attending had the opportunity to visit with friends and fellow hobbyists as well as spend the day doing what they love, admiring vintage vehicles and sharing their knowledge. What more could one ask for?

### From the Car Show Chairman

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who worked on the car show. It could not have been done without you. Committee Chairpersons and members put forth a big effort to make the show a success and I sincerely appreciate all that you did.

A very special thanks to those members who, even though they knew they would not be at the show due to other plans, registered their vehicles anyway just to show their support of the club. Also a special thanks to my wife, Susie, who did so much to help me out and make sure everything went the way it should.

*Eddie Anderson*

## Minutes

### Deep South Region A. A. C. A. Meeting April 23, 1998

The meeting was called to order by President Buddy Paquet at 7:30 PM. The invocation was given by Chaplain Don Dillehay. The meeting was attended by 42 members.

**Old Business:** President Buddy Paquet announced that he and Patt would be coordinating the May 30th County/City Day display. Seven to ten cars are needed. In the absence of Vice President Jim Whelton, Patt reminded everyone of Clean Up Day Saturday May 2nd at 9:00 for the Clubhouse. Ann Rowell reminded the members to bring their door prizes for the May Show. Motion to approve the March minutes was made by Joyce Francis and a second by George Demetropulos. Motion carried. Activity Coordinator Leah Musgrove reported on the successful outing to Dauphin Island. With four stops for food 33 members and 9 guests attended. Leah also reported on a wedding that her son, Chris, did for her. Buddy read a Thank You note from the Bride. May Car Show Chairman Eddie Anderson reported that everything was coming together. He still has a few jobs available.

**New Business:** Buddy introduced our newest members, John C & Charlesine McFerrin. Charlesine was attending their grandson's ballgame. Motion to approve the April Financial Report was made by Lucille Nettles and a second by Hershel Whigham. Motion carried. Leah announced that DSR had been invited to participate in Dauphin Island Spring Festival Parade May 2nd. Motion to approve was made by Charlie Lyles and a second by John McFerrin. Motion carried. A sign up sheet was provided. A June outing is being planned to Mobile Aerospace Engineering. Ed McCusker is working with Leah on a date to be announced later. The 50-50 Pot was won by Lucille Nettles. Motion to adjourn was made at 8:00PM by Hershel Whigham and a second by Pat Francis. Motion carried. The members retreated to the kitchen for refreshments.

Submitted by,

*Ann Rowell*

### Things you might want to know



#### On the happy side...

**Congratulations to Bill Musgrove** on winning an AACA Senior Award with his '57 Retractable at the show in Montgomery.

How many of you heard DSR's very own **Jerry McCutchen** on WNTM's "Ask the Expert" radio show, Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>?

**Kudos to Eddie Anderson**, chairman of DSR's '98 car show on a job well done. Course we all know it is the woman behind the man, so the same to **Susie**.



#### On the sad side...

**George Demetropulos** had more heart surgery the first week of May. **Gladys Edwards** was in the hospital again recently.

**Cecil & Lucille Nettles'** daughter, Jean, is out of the hospital and home. **The Youens'** son, John, is recuperating nicely following surgery.

Sincere sympathy to **Russell Coker** on the sudden death of his brother-in-law who was well known world-wide in the Hobi Cat sailing community.

## Clubhouse and grounds get spiffed up for car show

There may be some things that are beyond control when you put on a car show, but not having the place where it will be held look nice is not one of them, at least for the Deep South Region.



Thanks to the eleven members who spent the morning of Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the clubhouse, it and entire area looked beautiful. However, there was a moment of apprehension when we all pulled in. On either side of the driveway were huge piles of limbs that had been trimmed

from trees. Where did it all come from? Who had done this? How are we ever going to get rid of the debris? Not to worry. It wasn't long until the company that does the tree-trimming for Alabama Power came with their trailer and giant "claw" to remove it (along with what the members had added to it by doing some trimming of their own on our trees). Whew! What a relief to see it all being loaded up and taken away.

One of the very old tree stumps on the west side of the clubhouse was dug up and the hole filled, a smaller sinkhole in front was discovered and repaired by the fellows while the women cleaned windows, floors and anything else that needed it. Everything was as much in readiness as it could be a week ahead of the show.

The work was done by 11:00 AM and members on their way. DSR Chairman of Building and Grounds, **Jim Whelton**, wishes to express his appreciation to **Pat Francis, Ed Grimes, Junie Jarvis, Richard Jones, Ed McCusker, Betty Neese, Lucille Nettles, Buddy & Patt Paquet** and **Cecil Pugh** for helping him make sure all was done prior to the big day.

## MOPARS at the Battleship

Special Report by Larry Jordan

The Southern Mopar Association held their third annual "Mopars at the Battleship" car show on Saturday, April 25, 1998. This year they had the weather on their side; it was a beautiful day! After the previous two years being confronted with wind and rain on the day of the show, they were elated.

The morning began with 53 car pre-registered and by 11:30 AM, registrations were at 83. This represented five states, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. They knew if the "Weather God" cooperated, the vehicles would be there.

The oldest car was a 1925 Dodge Brothers Business Coupe and the newest was a 1998 Dodge Neon R/T. Seventy awards were presented ranging from "Top 25" to "Peoples Choice". They are considering a "Top 40" for next year.

The club would like to offer special thanks to DSR members **Eddie Anderson, Jerry Finely, Buddy Paquet** and **Mike Williamson** for helping as judges and workers.



## Citronelle Stages Car Show

The middle of downtown served as the location for a car show put on in Citronelle, AL on Saturday, May 2, 1998. According to some of those participating, there were approximately 40 cars, this number being somewhat less than last year. Only a few people were aware of the show due to the lack of publicity or informational fliers. Representing DSR were **E. Anderson, J. Finley** and **J. Reid**, all of whom I understand brought home a trophy.

## “The cars run on gas but the members run on T, T and E”

The above is a direct quote from Sis Howard, wife of AACA President Tom Howard.

The Editor and spouse got hooked on touring a few years ago when we and the Lunsfords went with the Central Louisiana Chapter on a weekend tour. There just had not been another close enough and one that our car was eligible for. Last year we joined the Buzzard's Breath Touring Region. It is a non-geographical AACA Region which hosted the 1998 Southeastern Divisional Tour April 20-22 in Arab, Alabama. It was open to any pre-1973 vehicle. The Divisional Tours, or “mini-tours” are of shorter duration and less expensive. They were started to encourage members with families and those who are not yet retired to participate.

We left Mobile early Sunday morning and just a few blocks from the host hotel of the Spring Meet we got on US 321. Following our instructions we negotiated the secondary roads to Talladega, Alabama where we toured the Talladega International Motorsports Hall of Fame and got a look at the NASCAR Speedway. After that we continued following our route to our lunch stop where we ran into other “tourists”.

Back on US 231, we made our way through backwoods, small towns and villages to arrive in Arab, AL late in the afternoon. Headquarters was the Jameson Inn which has only 20 rooms, all of which were taken up by our group. Others were staying in their motorhomes set up in a portion of the parking lot of City Park. We took the truck and trailer there to unload the car and fuel. The fuel was for ourselves. The Customs & Classic Car Club of Arab threw a barbecue for the 100+ of us on the tour. This figure represents 19 states and 56 cars. Back at the motel, we picked up our copy of the *Roadkill Register* which was the daily digest for the tour. You got a new issue each day and was important that you pick it up and read it for any changes in that day's tour activities.

It would be impossible due to space limitations to describe each day in detail but I just have tell a few highlights. Monday morning started off with breakfast with the mayor (who had his tie lopped off for transgressing the cardinal rule of being casual). This was

followed by a visit to the Union Grove, AL home, which is called Lone Oak Farm, of Ron and Sally Barnett. We visited “Ron's Barn” which looks like a museum but is actually a working shop. The building itself was in its first life a horse barn so you can imagine the size and how well it converted into a garage. It was the first coffee/cookie stop. Then it was back on the road to Cullman, AL where we visited the Cullman County Museum followed by lunch. After this it was off to the Ava Maria Grotto where you could stay as long as you cared to. Upon return to the hotel, we had logged about 85 miles. That evening the Custom & Classics Car club staged their monthly cruise-in just for us at the McDonalds directly behind the hotel. From the second floor balcony, you could see it all.

Tuesday dawned cooler than anticipated and the weather a bit damp but not the enthusiasm. It was to be the longest day of the tour, approximately 165 miles. We had the pleasure of riding Marien Brent and her dog, Boblin, due to the mileage. We toured around Lake Guntersville with a coffee stop put on by the ladies of the Oak Grove Volunteer Fire Department. Up and down the hills, around the curves and there we were at Gorham's Bluff. You could see all the way to forever; it is truly one of the outstanding scenic views in the South. Lunch was a scrumptious meal at Gorham's Bluff Bed & Breakfast. Then

we were on our way to Boaz, AL for a shopping expedition if one felt so inclined. We were also treated to viewing a muscle car collection owned by a local automobile dealer. Back in Arab that evening, the Downtown Merchants Assoc. kept stores and shops open past the normal closing time for our convenience. Dinner was on your own when ever you wanted.

The last day of the tour, Wednesday, was one we had all looked forward to. Not because it was the last day, but because it was to be when we got to drive through the covered bridges. Our coffee stop for the morning was at the Snead, AL VFW where they had doughnuts, cookies, cakes and sausage biscuits along with coffee, tea and soft drinks. (See Tour on Page 6)



## Just for the ladies....

A member has offered a few household hints to be shared. If you have one, send it to the Editor or give me a call. She says that most of us will be donning new white sneakers for summer and if they are spritzed well with spray starch before wearing, they will stay clean longer and be easier to clean when the time comes. It's the time of year when those pesky little black ants try to come indoors. If you are plagued with them, scrub the cupboards then put a few whole cloves or bay leaves in the corners. This treatment should last about a year. After thoroughly cleaning garbage cans, let dry then scatter a handful of powdered laundry detergent in them to repel flies and insects. To keep your closets smelling great, don't buy those expensive packaged sachets. Take a coffee can, punch a few holes in the top and fill with cotton balls scented with your favorite aroma. If your ferns are looking a little sick, plants a soggy tea bag in the soil. Don't know what it does or why, but the plant will recover and thrive. Did you know that freezing brown sugar as well as powdered sugar will prevent lumps?



### Sugar-Free Chocolate Cream Pie

3 pkgs. Swiss Miss sugar-free chocolate drink mix  
 4 tbsp corn starch      2 pkts. sugar substitute  
 2 1/2 cups milk      Graham or baked pie shell  
 1/2 cup margarine      Whipped topping/meringue

Combine corn starch and drink mix in saucepan, add milk gradually. Add margarine and cook until mixture is thickened. Remove from heat, add sweetener, pour into pie shell. Cover with topping or the meringue. If using meringue, brown in hot oven.

### Things to Ponder

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.

If you're living on the edge, make sure you're wearing your seatbelt.

It's not the pace of live that concerns me; it's the sudden stop at the end.

### Not Another Bite Dessert

19 3/4 oz. packaged Fudge Brownie Mix  
 3 pkgs. Instant Chocolate Mousse (Each pkg. makes 4 - 1/2 cup servings)  
 8 Skor or Heath candy bars (1.4 oz. size)  
 12 ozs. frozen whipped topping, thawed.

Pre-heat oven according to brownie package directions. Bake brownies and let cool. Meanwhile, prepare chocolate mousse by directions. Break the candy bars into small pieces in food processor or by gently tapping the wrapped bars with a hammer or a meat mallet.

Break up half of the brownies into small pieces and place in bottom of large glass bowl. Cover with half the mousse, then half the candy and last with half of the whipped topping. Repeat layers with remaining ingredients.

**This make a large dessert and one that requires only small servings. Be sure to have plenty of ice water or coffee to accompany it.**

(Tour continued from Page 4)

The first of the covered bridges, Horton Mill Covered Bridge, is the highest covered bridge above water in Alabama. Leaving it, we drove to Palisades Park for lunch. The view from the top of the mountain was spectacular although we did have to squint through some fog at times to see it. By this time we were approximately half-way through the day and it was time to eat again. We picked up our lunch pails, and I mean "pails" in the truest sense of the word, found a spot in the Lodge and did some "T & E".

Leaving the park, we were looking forward to the second covered bridge, Easley. It was a short bridge and there were no plans to stop. Not too far away was the last bridge of the day, Swann Covered Bridge. It is 324 feet and is the longest covered bridge in the state. It spans the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River where our group had to stop for pictures. There are several theories as to why there were covered bridges, most of which were built between 1830 and 1930. One theory is that it was to protect the bridge in foul weather; another is that it was to make the horses feel safe crossing the bridge or even to give travelers a place to get out of the rain. There are those who hold with idea they were to provide a courting place, hence the term "kissing bridge". Most likely, it was to strengthen the structure by making the four sides support each other as a unit.

We finished the day's drive of about 83 miles in early afternoon and were back in time to rest or get vehicles loaded up while we waited for the closing banquet. Ah... maybe that sounds a little to formal. Actually, what we had was a "Pizza Party in the Parking Lot".

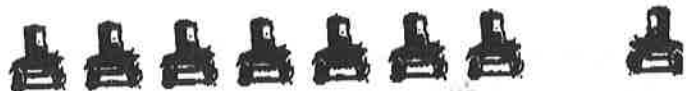
The manager of the Jameson Inn had spent the day riding with Marien in her '23 Model T and couldn't quit talking about how much fun she had. We were all concerned about one of the tourists, Marjorie Mills, from Florida who had slipped on loose gravel, fell and broke her hip while we were stopped for lunch. We heard she had been transported to Birmingham for surgery. A little

more pizza, a little more talk and then it was time to say good-night and good-bye to everyone.

Thursday morning found us on the way home by 6:00 AM. When we reached I-65 South and were homeward bound, we realized it was the first time we had even seen an interstate highway since Sunday and had driven a little over 330 miles!

There were a lot of people who put in a lot of work making the tour a success. Helping the BBTR were the North Alabama, the Northeast Alabama and the Dixie Regions. When we all went to bed at night after a fun day, someone had to go home and put together the next day's issue of the *Roadkill Register* and run the copies to have back at the hotel by early the next morning. Someone had to make sure all the coffee stops and meals for the next day were going to be on schedule. There was a tremendous amount of organizing still being done by the members when the day was over. Also, I can't say enough about the friendly folks in Arab, AL. We were made to feel welcome from the moment we arrived.

Oh, before I forget, "T, T & E" means "touring, talking and eating". If you never do anything else with your "old car", take a least one tour. You will have an opportunity this next year when the Southeastern Divisional Tour will be hosted by the Miracle Strip Region in Panama City, FL. The fliers with the basic information are already out. It is scheduled for Oct. 21-23, 1999 and billed as the "Last AACA Tour of the Century". The first day will be about 150 miles and the second will be about 118. It is planned for 60 cars, 25 years old or older. Remember though, registration is available only through AACA! Watch your AA magazine mailer to request a form.



Remember when gas stations had attendants who washed the windshield, checked the oil, water and tires plus gave you a free roadmap while filling the tank with 18 cents per gallon gas?



The May car show brought some folks out who have cars and parts which they want to get rid of. Maybe you can find just what you are looking for below.

**For Sale: 1956 Dodge Pickup** with flat 6 engine, standard shift, good interior, two-tone blue, runs. Contact Greg Vrachalus (334) 479-2818

**For Sale: 1962 Dodge Dart 4-dr.**, runs, but needs battery plus **1967 Olds Cutlass**. Contact Maucle Lange (334) 679-7383

**For Sale: 1974 Plymouth Fury III 4 dr.**, 360 cid, vinyl top. Contact Bill Moser (334) 649-9391

**For Sale: 1967 Mercury Cougar** (Was in car corral at May show) Contact Joseph J. Howell (334) 478-1681

**For Sale: 1950 Mercury 2-dr. sedan**, rough but restorable, complete motor and transmission; **1960 Olds**, no motor; **1953 Pontiac Catalina 4-dr.**, rough; **1953 Ford Victoria 2-dr HT**, no motor or transmission; **1953 Ford Fairlane 4-dr.**, 260 cid, runs and drives; two **1951 Ford parts cars**, one 2-dr., one 4-dr.; two **1937 Chevy 2-dr. sedans**. Contact Jim Revette (334) 456-9300.

**For Sale: Ford Wheel Covers** - set of 4 - mint condition, believed to have been used on some '50s and some 60s trucks. (Pictures available at the May meeting.) Contact Jackie James (334) 342-3081

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## BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL CARAVAN

How many would care to have breakfast on Saturday morning, June 20<sup>th</sup>, then drive to Brewton for the South Alabama Region AACA car show? It can be arranged and the Editor will do it if you let me know you want to be included.

## June outing will be a plane one

OK, before you say "Ah ha! She forgot to use the grammar and spellcheck on the computer.", read a little more. If you join the members on this month's outing, you will see what I mean. We will be treated to a tour at Mobile Aerospace Engineering (MAE) courtesy of their employee, and our DSR member, Ed McCusker.

No doubt many of you have been aboard a 747 or 727 or many other planes. But how many of you have walked around one and kicked the tires? How many of you have stood underneath a wing? Ever been in a cockpit?

This is something you can bring the children and grandchildren to. Bring a friend as a guest. At this time, tentative plans are to meet around 10:00 AM in the parking lot of the old K-Mart store which is now Saad's Medical located at 2550 Government Blvd. That's across the street from the Greyhound Bus Station. We will go Government to Michigan Avenue to Brookley Field where we will be met by the McCusker Chevy and taken to a parking area. The tour will be a leisurely one and afterward we will exit through the back gate.

Following the tour, we will be lunching at Gone Fishin' which is on Dauphin Island Parkway just before the entrance to I-10. Many of you know the owners, Dave and Jeanne Hepler, former DSR members. A sign-up sheet will be at the May meeting and a reminder will be in the June newsletter. Leah will need to know approximately how many will be eating so she can give the restaurant some advance notice.

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## EXIT LAUGHING

The biggest stride in traffic safety is being made by the pedestrian with the longest legs!

Why did the porcupine cross the road? Because it was stuck to the chicken!



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.

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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.



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## AACA Southeastern Division National Spring Meet

Hosted by the Central Alabama Region in Montgomery, AL April 17-18, 1998, this second meet of the year was fun from the "git-go" with approximately 230 vehicles registered. (There were 174 awards presented at the banquet on Saturday night. Ask Bill Musgrove to tell you about that.) Most of the cars were to be parked under the cover of a train shed built in 1897. It was first used to provide protection from the elements as passengers embarked or disembarked from trains during the heyday of steam travel. Those that were not underneath the shed would be in an adjacent parking lot.

Buddy and I arrived in the early afternoon on Thursday, dropped the trailer in which the Falcon was nesting for the last time and walked around the trailer/motorhome area where we found Marien Brent and Art Griffin, former DSR members.

We wandered over to the host hotel to see who else might have gotten in and ran into DSR members **Mel & Joan Guenther**. The afternoon was spent renewing friendships before ten of us got together to go to dinner.

Registration packets were available starting at noon on Friday. The CAR was short on help at the time so we pitched in to work the registration table which gave us one more opportunity to see old friends. The next DSR member to appear was **Bill Musgrove** who made it just in time for the Judging School. Following the Roundtable discussion everyone was ready to relax and about 20 members found a spot in the hotel atrium to do just that. After the hospitality party that evening, we transferred the Falcon to the new owner's trailer and called it a day.

Saturday morning began with the Judges Breakfast. The long-awaited Judges shirts were on sale immediately following. It was then time to head for the show field. I was manning the Registration area which is the perfect place to see all the cars. What an impressive sight it is to watch as the cars, both electric and gas dating as far back as 1905, enter the show field. The ground rule is vehicles *must be driven* onto the field and no later than 11:00 AM. It was just about that time when I looked up to see two more DSR members, **Russell Coker** and **Greg McDonnell**, come walking in! Also visiting were Jerry and Barbara Pulliam from the Old South Antique Auto Club. As soon as Buddy's judging duties had been completed, we were on our way home to put the Comet in the trailer and re-pack to leave the next morning for the Divisional Tour in north Alabama.

The Central Alabama Region members put on a most enjoyable meet. They can all be proud of their accomplishment.



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Antique Automobile Club of America  
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## Calendar

- May 28** DSR Meeting at the Clubhouse 7:30 PM  
**May 30** Mobile County/City Day 12 Noon till 4:00 ~ Car needed ~ Buddy ~ 661-4009  
**June 6** St Bernard 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Antique and Classic Car Show  
For Info Clary Higginbotham (504) 279-4536  
**June 6-7** 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Mustang, Shelby & Ford Products Show Mike Ebl (228) 875 - 6221  
**June 11-13** AACA Central Division National spring Meet Topeka, Kansas  
**June 19-21** Petit Jean Mountain Car Show - Petit Jean, AR  
**June 20** 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Blueberry Festival Antique and Classic Car Show  
For Info Wayne Thompson (334) 867-3372 Entries must be 25 years old or older  
**June 25** DSR Meeting at the Clubhouse 7:30 PM  
**June 27** Outing to MAE with lunch following at Gone Fishin'  
Have