

1991 Club Officers

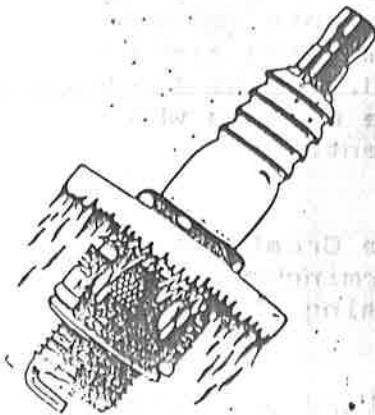
President: Tom Drom 866-7091
 Vice Pres: Bud Mosely 342-1566
 Secretary: Don Dillehay 479-7050
 Treasurer: Bob Hedberg 344-0423
 Activity: Ray & Katherine Harper 661-5017
 Member At Large: Dale McLaney 479-0823
 Editor: Jeannie Kepler 649-9295

TENTH EDITION:
 OCTOBER, 1991



Sparkplug

NEWSLETTER OF THE
 DEEP SOUTH REGION



The SPARKPLUG is non-profit and published for the information of our members and friends. Deep South Region meetings are held once each month on the fourth Thursday at 7:30 P.M. at the A.A.C.A. club-house at 951 Forest Hill Drive at Zeigler Blvd. The SPARKPLUG will be mailed the weekend before each meeting. Annual dues are \$15.00. This includes wife membership if she is a National A.A.C.A. (or joint) member. National dues are \$18.00 single and \$22.00 joint (husband & wife). Membership is required in the National A.A.C.A. if you are a regional member.

AACA Membership Renewal

In next week or so you should receive your September-October issue of the Antique Automobile. Your 1992 AACA membership renewal notice will be on the back of the mailing label. Remember to put this aside and make a note to renew your membership. You will note on your membership card that your 1991 membership expires December 31. AACA begins issuing renewals about the first of November.

GOD IS LIKE

- God is like Coke-He's the real thing.
- God is like Pan Am-He makes the going great.
- God is like General Electric-He lights your path.
- God is like Bayer Aspirin-He works wonders.
- God is like Hallmark Cards-He cares enough to send the very best.
- God is like Tide-He gets the stains out that others leave behind.
- God is like VO Hair Spray-He holds through all kinds of weather.
- God is like Dial Soap-Aren't you glad you know Him? Don't you wish everyone did?
- God is like Sears-He has everything.
- God is like Alka-Seltzer-Try Him, you'll like him.
- God is like Scotch tape-You can't see Him but you know He's there.

Copied by,
 Old Hop



GUY HUNT
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALABAMA HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

NINTH DIVISION
OFFICE OF DIVISION ENGINEER
1701 BELTLINE HIGHWAY, NORTH
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36618-9986
Telephone: 470-8200
Fax: 473-3624

PERRY A. HAND
HIGHWAY DIRECTOR

September 3, 1991

Mr. Geary W. Polk
Antique Automobile Club of America
Deep South Region
625 Highland Wood Drive, East
Mobile, Alabama 36608

Dear Mr. Polk:

COCHRANE/AFRICA TOWN-U.S.A. BRIDGE OPENING CEREMONY

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to you and your club for participating in the opening ceremonies for the Cochrane/Africa Town-U.S.A. Bridge.

Your cars added a touch of class to the event, and we have had many favorable comments and expressions of appreciation.

I enjoyed working with you and look forward to other opportunities when we can work together again.

Yours very truly,

M. L. Risher
Division Engineer

RMD/rnp

cc: File (2)

FOR SALE;
1969 Chevy Convertible. V-8 350 good. Olive Green, Black
Top, and good tires. Contact, Mavis Fleming-473-8066.

FOR SALE:
1953 Buick Special. 4 dr sedan. Partly stripped, make offer.
Contact, Don Vanatta-343-6003.

The nominating committee for 1992 are: Tom Brown, Bill Whiting, Bob Hedberg, Pierre Fontana, and Lloyd Crowds. The chairman of the nominating committee will announce the candidates for next year at the meeting Thursday night October, 24. BE THERE ! ! ! ! !

The Christmas party will be held at the clubhouse on Saturday, Dec. 14. The club will furnish the turkey and dressing. Each member is to bring a covered dish. The time of the party will be announced later. The calling committee will be calling with further details.

Auto club meetings

The following is a list of area auto clubs and their meeting times:

- ◆ The Deep South Region Antique Automobile Club of America meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at their clubhouse at Forest Hill Drive and Zeigler Boulevard.
- ◆ The Old South Antique Auto Club meets on the second Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at their clubhouse in the Festival Centre.
- ◆ The South Alabama British Car Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Call Sue Mason at 928-5336 for information about the meeting place.
- ◆ The Azalea City Classics club meets on the second Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at the What-A-Burger on U.S. Highway 90.
- ◆ The Mustang Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the What-A-Burger on U.S. Highway 90.
- ◆ The Mo-Par Club meets on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the What-A-Burger on U.S. Highway 90.
- ◆ The Corvette Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in suite 199 of the Festival Centre.
- ◆ The Lower Alabama Street Rod Association Inc. meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at Classic and Performance Cars on the Gulf Shores Parkway.

Supreme Among Small Cars



Model B
1918 Ford

Doesn't the fact that just prior to the sale of Cadillac of the income power type increased the demand for all our other models of cars makes early a great thing something of importance?

The reason is a result of the more cylinder engines a lot of mechanism is put in an engine that it has more power. We added the best of two years of experience in thousands of cars. That's why, when you're experimenting and changing, we show no commercial price; plus we have very good, well-informed men in advertising to question as to the propriety of the

Single-Cylinder

CADILLAC

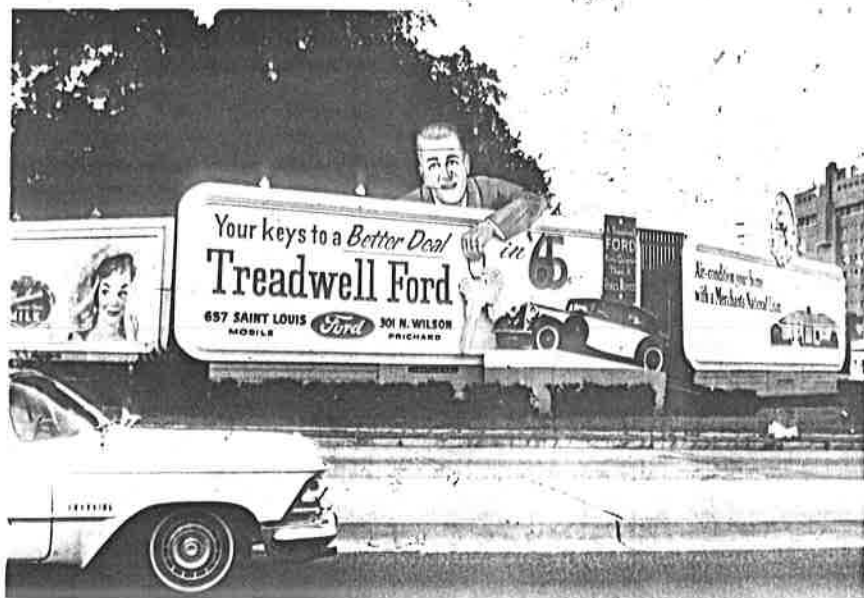


Model B
1918 Ford

It is the favorite among owners of large touring cars who want a thoroughly dependable car for general utility purposes. It is the choice of those who like some quality. Every day adds to the prestige and every day some further proof that the Single-Cylinder Cadillac is THE IDEAL. CADILLAC has those who desire a motor vehicle which will afford the maximum of pleasure and service with the minimum of expense, the car which affords all these in its handling—except the trouble.

Your dealer will give you a demonstration that will reveal some interesting facts.

Model B - 1918, a genuine Car (Model B) in 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 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3571, 3572, 3573, 3574, 3575, 3576, 3577, 3578, 3579, 3580, 3581, 3582, 3583, 3584, 3585, 3586, 3587, 3588, 3589, 3590, 3591, 3592, 3593, 3594, 3595, 3596, 3597, 3598, 3599, 3600, 3601, 3602, 3603, 3604, 3605, 3606, 3607, 3608, 3609, 3610, 3611, 3612, 3613, 3614, 3615, 3616, 3617, 3618, 3619, 3620, 3621, 3622, 3623, 3624, 3625, 3626, 3627, 3628, 3629, 3630, 3631, 3632, 3633, 3634, 3635, 3636, 3637, 3638, 3639, 3640, 3641, 3642, 3643, 3644, 3645, 3646, 3647, 3648, 3649, 3650, 3651, 3652, 3653, 3654, 3655, 3656, 3657, 3658, 3659, 3660, 3661, 3662, 3663, 3664, 3665, 3666, 3667, 3668, 3669, 3670, 3671, 3672, 3673, 3674, 3675, 3676, 3677, 3678, 3679, 3680, 3681, 3682, 3683, 3684, 3685, 3686, 3687, 3688, 3689, 3690, 3691, 3692, 3693, 3694, 3695, 3696, 3697, 3698, 3699, 3700, 3701, 3702, 3703, 3704, 3705, 3706, 3707, 3708, 3709, 3710, 3711, 3712, 3713, 3714, 3715, 3716, 3717, 3718, 3719, 3720, 3721, 3722, 3723, 3724, 3725, 3726, 3727, 3728, 3729, 3730, 3731, 3732, 3733, 3734, 3735, 3736, 3737, 3738, 3739, 3740, 3741, 3742, 3743, 3744, 3745, 3746, 3747, 3748, 3749, 3750, 3751, 3752, 3753, 3754, 3755, 3756, 3757, 3758, 3759, 3760, 3761, 3762, 3763, 3764, 3765, 3766, 3767



Do you remember when?
August, 1965.

Outings:

Oct. 25-26-Meridian Mississippi Show.

Nov. 8-9-Swap Meet-Car Corral & Antique Vehicle Shows. Jackson, Mississippi.

Nov. 9-Pecan Festival, Theodore, Alabama.

Nov. 9- Dinner with our friends from Montgomery Alabama, and Panama City, Florida.

Nov. 11-Veterans Day Parade.

Nov. 16-Goodrum Outing.

Nov. -23-30. Louisiana Region AACA Fall Tour to North Alabama and other places, Ronnie Galliano. 504-279-6107.

Deep South Region AACA Club will meet the visiting clubs from out of state at the Holiday Inn at 6:30 Saturday November, 9 for the tour dinner at 7:p.m. We have made reservations for 25-30 members from our club.

Oct. 26, is the deadline for the banquet at the Holiday Inn. It must be confirmed by this date. Ray, will be calling Bob Porter back and giving him the number attending. The cost of the banquet will be \$12.15 a person whether you show or not. See Jeannie Hepler. She will be accepting the money at the meeting.

BEING RESTORED;

Laverne Hopkins, Peggy Moseley, Eugenia Youens, Frances Dillehay, Tom Brow., Nell Few fell and broke a small bone in her shoulder while she and Elvin were in Hershey. Get well soon you'all we miss you.

THE UNITED STATES

ALABAMA—1903 or later

On October 9, 1909, the Alabama State Legislature approved an act requiring automobile owners to register with the probate judge of their county. But few — if any — of these counties required any sort of numerical display on motor vehicles. By 1910 the cities of Birmingham, Mobile and presumably others were providing number plates to automobile owners. These annually-issued plates were porcelain-enamelled iron and dated.

The first state-issued license plates in Alabama appeared in 1912 and were attached to the nearly 5000 motor vehicles in the state. The only difference between these annually-issued plates and earlier local plates was that these state plates carried no date. In 1916 these enameled iron plates were replaced by an embossed metal type, and in 1917 the first dated markers appeared.

From that day to this, Alabama plates have been issued annually, with the exception of 1943 when, due to the metal shortage caused by World War II, 1942 plates were reused with the addition of windshield stickers in a variety of color combinations.

From 1922 to 1927 license plates on privately-owned vehicles carried the word "PRIVATE," and since 1955 the plates have carried a heart-shaped design bearing the motto "HEART OF DIXIE."

FLORIDA—1905

The history of motor vehicle registration in Florida is somewhat confused since registration started under state aegis, passed for several years to city and county control and finally reverted again to the state.

Car owners provided their own plates between 1905 and 1911. Most of these were metal numbers attached to the conventional leather pads and included the abbreviation of the state.

In 1912 counties and cities became responsible for registrations, and between that year and 1917 hundreds of varieties of plates were issued. Some cities bowed to county authority in registrations, but in other instances where city plates were issued, those motorists were exempt from county registration.

In the six years of local registrations nearly every imaginable material and color scheme was noted on Florida plates as well as a great diversity in size, some being no larger than motorcycle tags. Oddly enough, nearly all of them carried the designation "AUTO," the "FLA" abbreviation as well as their local designation and, in a few cases, the county seal.

A flat metal plate appeared in 1918 after the state again became the enforcing and issuing agency, and from 1919 to the present all plates have been made of embossed metal.

For a few years in the Twenties the plates were embellished with an outline of the state's shape, and in 1934 and 1935 the design in-

corporated a separate plate in reversed colors on which the date and vehicle classification was noted.

A particular oddity was the 1935 series on which Florida attempted to get in a plug for its grapefruit and accordingly added two small symbols intended to convey the shape of the fruit. If the plates had been yellow on black instead of black on yellow, this might have been beneficial, but as it was the insignias resembled small bombs as they appeared to caricaturists in their cartoons of anarchists.

Florida plates have included the legend "SUNSHINE STATE" on them for many years, and in 1965 they noted the "400TH ANNIVERSARY" of discovery.

For the last thirty years Florida plates have carried prefix numbers designating the county of registration with some also carrying a small letter denoting weight classification.

A unique series of Florida passenger car plates are those issued to members of the Seminole Indian tribe. These plates bear the designation "SEMINOLE INDIAN."

MISSISSIPPI—1912

Mississippi is unique among all the states in that its first officially-issued number plates turned out to be illegal!

Effective June 1, 1912 the first Mississippi plates appeared as dated, black on white embossed markers of soft metal. A new series, also black on white but undated was scheduled to be issued April 30, 1914. Until then, it was reasoned, the original issue would have to serve for 1913 as well as 1912.

But controversy brewed over the legality of the first, 1912-13 plates, and under an act of the Mississippi State Legislature of February 19, 1914, some \$28,040 was ordered refunded to automobile owners for registration fees paid in 1912 and 1913. The law which had required said registrants to pay had been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court!

The new, undated 1914 plates were used through 1918. During the following year annual plates began to be issued, a practice which con-

tinues to today.

Since 1941, the county of issuance has appeared on Mississippi passenger car plates.

LOUISIANA—circa 1906

Although the date when numbers were first used in Louisiana registrations is unknown, numbers were carried on motorcars in Shreveport as early as 1906; several cities and a few parishes required registrations annually after that time including Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

Between 1915, when the first dated and embossed metal state-issued plates appeared, and 1942, plates were issued annually. The 1942 series was continued through 1943 with revalidation by windshield sticker. A compressed-paper marker was used in 1944 and the embossed metal type reappeared in 1945 destined to last till the present time. Since 1964, plates have been issued every other year with a windshield sticker used for revalidation purposes.

Two differently colored plates were issued in Louisiana between 1922 and 1929; one went to owners of cars developing less than 23 hp and the other plate was issued to owners of cars developing more than 23 hp.

The first pelican insigne was used on Louisiana plates in 1932, replacing the conventional hyphen between numbers. It was omitted from the design of 1940 and 1941 plates which featured instead a small map of the state, but the pelican reappeared in 1942, continuing until 1964 when passenger-car registrations exceeded a million. Then a code letter was substituted for the insigne. An interesting feature of the pelican device itself is the bird's open bill on plates used between 1942 and 1958. On all other plates carrying the pelican insigne, the bird's bill is closed.

Louisiana plates advertised one of the state's primary crops in 1954 with the motto "LOUISIANA YAMS." In 1960 tabs paid respect to one of the state's leading educational institutions by including the legend "LSU CENTENNIAL" in its plate design. Louisiana has used its number plates to advertise "SPORTSMEN'S PARADISE" in 1958-59 and from 1961 to date.



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