



The Sparkplug



Newsletter of the Deep South Region A. A. C. A. Vol. 33 No. 12 December 2000

Deep South Region Thanksgiving Dinner, Y2K

By Ernie Youens

You don't have to be from Texas to know what the words "gully washer" mean. I am sure that almost everyone has at one time or another heard that term used to describe heavy rain. When Eugenia and I headed for the annual DSR Thanksgiving event on Saturday, November 18, we wondered if there would be much of a turnout during such a downpour. To our surprise, 33 brave members and guests attended. Excepting the all-day rain, it turned out to be absolutely grand.

At twelve o'clock noon we gathered in the older area of the clubhouse. Our Chaplain, Lambert Mims, asked all of us if we had anything we'd like to mention being thankful for. Several people announced being grateful for health, friends and even the much-needed rain. He then offered a beautiful prayer for the bountiful food before us and for those who were not able to be there.

We lined up for the buffet style super feast. The table nearest the kitchenette was filled with the meat entrees including fried and baked turkey, fried chicken and ham with all the condiments. A table on the west wall was overflowing with every kind of vegetable you can imagine. Another table against the south wall was spread side-to-side and end-to-end with desserts galore! Finally, for your choice of coffee, tea or a soft drink all you had to do was go to a table on the east wall.

In the newer section of the clubhouse, tables had been set up and were all beautifully dressed in the traditional Thanksgiving motif. Even the windows were decked out in holiday décor. We all enjoyed the meal with many of us going back for unneeded but heavily desired seconds and thirds!

DSR has to have the world's best cooks and organizers. Our sincere thanks to **Susie Anderson**,

Joyce Francis, Leah Musgrove, Ann Rowell and Theresa Vaughan plus all the others who help to decorate, cook and serve as well as clean up afterwards. Some members that normally attend were out of town on this pre-Thanksgiving weekend. Anyone who didn't make it missed one of the best and most congenial get-togethers ever. We're already looking forward to next year!

Welcome to new DSR members

The past few months have seen an increase in our membership. There are five new families to be added to our 2001 Roster. In alpha order they are **Billy and Marie Blair** with sons **Daniel and Ross**; **Jerry and Patty Hutcherson** whose children are **Ava, Erin and Jamie**; **Joe and Lara Beth McFalls** with son **Lucas** and daughter **Kaycee**; **Howard and Margaret Stewart** with **David, Jr.**, and **Jennifer** and last but not least **Richard and Sylvia White**.

Due to each family having multiple seasonal obligations, they've not been able to join in the DSR functions. Hopefully, after the holidays are over, the Editor can talk with them and bring you a short profile of each family in the January newsletter. We look forward to meeting them in person at the January 25th meeting.

Billy and Jerry were at the Hooters car show and Jerry furnished one of his cars for the Grand Bay Country Christmas Display. Joe McFalls was in the Toys for Tots Ride. You can tell that these are the sort of enthusiastic people we need to give us old "members of some longevity" a shot in the arm.



Officers

- President: Buddy Paquet 661-4009
- Vice President: Pat Francis 342-3398
- Secretary: Reecie Mims 479-2523
- Treasurer: Wilma Jones 645-1499
- Activities: Susie Anderson 649-3231
- Joyce Francis 342-3398
- Editor: Patt Paquet 661-4009
- Proofreader: Tracy Henderson 661-8315
- Member at Large: Cecil Pugh 342-3404
- SE Divisional Tour (Nov. 1-3, 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. Permission to copy material is hereby granted provided source is disclosed and credit given to author. Some material maybe copyrighted and permission to use granted to this publication only. 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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Out of the President's tool box

By Buddy Paquet



I surely am sorry that Patt and I had to miss the club's annual Thanksgiving dinner. It is one of the few events where we can visit and not feel we are letting something else go lacking.

As I write (read that as 'dictate') my last column, I want to say how much I appreciate each and every member that DSR has. I realize that circumstances prevent a number of you from attending the meetings. That does not diminish your importance to the club or the hobby. I cannot think of another group of people I would rather be associated with than the members of our club.

The Christmas party was most enjoyable even though the number of folks attending was less than usual. The holiday season is busy and no one can be everywhere they would like to be no matter how much they wish to. If you missed the one this year, perhaps you can join in next year.

Congratulations to the 2001 Officers and Board. They are more than capable of handling their duties but you, as a member, can make their jobs a lot easier by participating in as many as possible of the activities that will be scheduled during the coming year. DSR voted to host the AACA Southeastern Divisional Tour. It is on the calendar for Oct. 31-Nov. 3, 2001 and although that sounds like it is a long way off, time has a way of getting past before we realize it. In the near future, you will be asked to assist with various tasks. Please accept when you are contacted. Let's make sure our guests take home some wonderful memories of DSR and have a good time.

A famous comedienne once said to always "leave 'em laughing". As nearly all of you know, I am retired from law enforcement. I thought you might enjoy some humorous quotes I have heard from fellow officers over the years. Some are original, others are second-hand but still just as funny.

"No sir, we don't have quotas anymore. We used to have quotas, but now we're allowed to write as many tickets as we want."

"Yeah, we have a quota. Two more tickets and my wife gets a toaster."

"The handcuffs are tight because they are new. They'll stretch out after you wear them awhile."

"Yes sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don't think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I am the shift supervisor?"

"The answer to this last question will determine whether you are drunk or not. Was Mickey Mouse a cat or dog?"

"Just how big were those two beers?"

"If you run, you'll only go to jail tired."

"In God we trust, all others are suspects."

Minutes

Deep South Region, A.A.C.A. Meeting, (3rd Thursday), November 16, 2000

The meeting was called to order by Buddy Paquet, Pres., at 7:30 PM, with 26 members present.

Chaplain Lambert Mims gave the invocation.

OLD BUSINESS:

President: None. **Vice President:** None. **Secretary:** The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed. **Treasurer:** None. **Editor:** None. **Activities Directors:** Susie Anderson and Joyce Francis. Joyce reminded us of the Grand Bay Christmas display and the need for 15 cars on 12/2/00 from 10AM 'til 4PM. Lunch will be served. The club will receive \$150.00. She reminded us to bring a toy for the Dec. 3rd Toys for Tots ride. Joyce announced that the Crown Health Care Display resumed on 11/2/00. She thanked those participating this month and asked for volunteers for Dec. 7th. She also thanked those participating in the Springdale parade on 11/11/00. It seems everyone had a good time. We were reminded of the covered dish Thanksgiving dinner on Saturday, Nov. 18th.

Hooters Car Show (October 28, 2000) was a tremendous success, thanks to Eddie Anderson and his assistants. Eddie publicly expressed appreciation to all who helped him. Buddy asked the members to give Eddie a round of applause expressing appreciation for an excellent job.

Nominating Committee: Leah Musgrove, Chairperson, thanked all members of the committee and presented a slate of officers for the coming year. A motion to elect this slate of officers by acclamation was made by Hershel Whigham and seconded by Bob Vaughan. Motion carried. New officers are as follows: Leah Musgrove, President; Eddie Anderson, Vice-President; Reecie Mims, Secretary; Carl Bailey, Treasurer; Editor, Patt Paquet; Activities Coordinators, Joyce Francis & Theresa Vaughan; Member at Large, Cecil Pugh

Member at Large Cecil Pugh thanked members of the By-Laws committee for work done; and presented a motion to amend the By-Laws, seconded by Ernie Youens, to clarify a membership as husband and wife (member and spouse) or an individual. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Buddy opened a discussion regarding a change to the wording on the AACA ballot from "vote for 7 candidates, no more, no less," to "vote for up to 7 candidates." A petition was passed and many of the members present signed it to request this change.

Treasurer: Wilma Jones asked for and received approval on the November Financial Report.

The \$12 winner of the 50/50 pot was Paul Dagenais.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Reecie Mims

Christmas Parades Start Earlier Every Year

Unless my memory chip has fallen out of its thingamajig, this is the first year I recall the first Christmas parade beginning with Veterans Day, give or take a few days. Seems to me they usually began closer to Thanksgiving.

At any rate, DSR did itself proud by furnishing eight antique cars for the VIPs to ride in. These eight vehicles transported everyone from the Mayor down to and including the University of South Alabama cheerleaders.

Checking in at the appointed time, we had over an hour to either congregate outside the cars and talk, stay in the cars out of the unseasonably cold weather or wander among the other parade participants. Yours truly chose the latter and one of the most unique things I ran across was someone dressed up in a black and white cow costume carrying a sign that read 'Eat more chicken'. (Maybe cows aren't supposed to know how to spell.) It turned out to be a mascot of sorts for a well known fast-food chain unit.

Members and their cars were **2 Andersons** in their Mustang convertible, **L. Crowdus** in her Mustang convertible, **2 Francis**es in their T-bird convertible, **J. Henderson** in his Chevy convertible, **2 Musgroves** with Bill's T-bird convertible and Leah in her Chevy hardtop, **2 Paquets** in their Comet rag-top and **2 Youens** in their Metropolitan convertible.

Another day in life of parade goers

Why sit home in the comfort of your easy chair, maybe still in robe and slippers sipping that last cup of coffee, when you could be standing around in the cold shivering all the way down to your toes?

Why, indeed? Maybe you were a polar bear in your other life. Another possible answer is that you just don't have anything else better to do. Lastly, perhaps you said "Yes" when asked to participate in the Tillman's Corner Christmas Parade on Dec. 2nd.

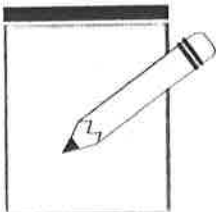
Whatever the reason, five DSR members stood around while organizers frantically rounded up the dignitaries scheduled to ride in the antique cars. This parade is rumored to be the second largest Christmas parade in the state of Alabama, outranked only by one in Birmingham.

Providing cars and/or driving were **J. Finley, C. Griffin** with daughters, **J. Henderson, J. McFerrin** and **2 Paquets**. Was it cold? Yep! Was the crowd noisy and anxious? Yep! Will you do it again next year? Of course! See you then, folks!

Grand Bay Country Christmas display

At 9 A.M. on Saturday, Dec. 2nd, five hardy couples met at Hardee's for breakfast prior to being directed to the location where they would spend most of the day. And if you think it was cold at the aforementioned parade, that was nothing compared to sitting in lawn chairs backed up to a building that was blocking whatever warmth the sun would give. To make matters worse, the wind whistled along between the cars and the building at a velocity that could only be compared to that of a speeding bullet. Some members bringing cars had other obligations, thus leaving their vehicles to be picked up later. At least two of us were late but still in time for lunch which was provided by the parade sponsors. Parking their cars were **2 Andersons, 2 Francis**es, **J. Hutcherson, 2 Musgroves, 2 Paquets, 2 Rowells** and **2 Whighams**. Thanks to our DSR coordinators, Susie and Joyce, who arranged for the club collect some nice \$\$\$.

First item to go on 2001 car calendar



Remember what a grand time the all-club picnic was last year? Make a note on your calendar right now for **April 21**. We will be back in the same park but most likely at a larger pavilion.

This year the South Alabama Region AACA is hosting it. They plan to invite even more clubs than we did in 1999. Watch for this to turn into an annual event that will continue to grow.

“Connecting Our Past With The Future”

The AACA Southeastern Division National Fall Meet, hosted by the Cape Canaveral Region, offered not only the opportunity to show a car but so much more. If you planned in advance and arrived in time, you could visit Ron Jon's, the world's largest surf shop. Then again, maybe you would have enjoyed a tour of the Kennedy Space Center. From all reports, the latter was the main attraction for many.

The Raddison Resort at the Port was the headquarters hotel. It is one of the most beautiful in the area, complete with tropical surroundings. Your Editor must say that check-in and checkout at this particular unit was THE easiest ever encountered. Some type of construction work that was going on in the vicinity had caused a water line break. This had put the entire area on what the hotel staff termed a “Water Ban”. This meant you should not consume the tap water in any fashion, not even for the purpose of brushing teeth. You were given two bottles of water at check-in and could get more if you needed it. Both ice and water were being trucked in on a regular basis.

The Membership Roundtable on Friday afternoon was well attended and disseminated some good information. Several items approved at the AACA Board Meeting held during the Eastern Fall Meet at Hershey were announced. One is that the HPOF (Historic Preservation of Original Features) Class which is a non-competitive class will change from the previously required 45 years old to 35 years and older beginning in January 2001.

Another item that was approved is a Student Membership. This will be for those who are age 16 through 25 and a full time student in an accredited educational institution. Annual dues will be \$12.00.

The one thing that received the most applause was the announcement of an additional class for national meets beginning with the March 2001 Winter Meet. It is a Drivers Class open to non-modified vehicles 25 years and older that have not received a First Junior Award. It will be a non-competitive, non-judged class. Watch for more detailed information on this class in the January *Sparkplug*.

The Friday night social was a time for seeing old friends and making new ones. We enjoyed a delightful

buffet meal with a couple from Arkansas whom we met some years back. We had the pleasure of having a couple from Smiths, AL join us at the table. As the evening progressed, we all discovered just how much we have in common. Now we have two more “old car friends” to look forward to seeing again.

The show field was on the grounds of the hotel and it just doesn't get any easier than that. Walk out of your room, drive your car on the field; what more could you ask for? There were 320 cars registered, some of which were “Blue Cards” or what we refer to on a local level as “Do Not Judge”. As with any meet, there were a few no-shows but this didn't take a thing away from event. The oldest car registered was a 1901 Duryea Phaeton followed by a 1909 Sears Buggy. Not to leave out the other end of the spectrum, the newest vehicle on the roster was a 1970 Mustang Mach I. There you are,

something for everyone to see and enjoy.

When judging and administrative duties had been completed, we started our trip home. Stopping to top off the gas tank and get a cup of coffee to take along, we found that gas wasn't a problem but there was no coffee to be had. Remember the water problem? And only canned cold drinks were sold. It was an easy drive up to Jacksonville where we changed directions and headed west. There had been lots of yarns about the recent Presidential election and all of the news media that had invaded Florida. We had heard that motel rooms in the Tallahassee region were hard to come by but we also knew there was a football game there that night so we didn't even consider stopping. Fifty or so miles west of there we ran into rain and decided we would stop at the next likely looking exit. What a joke that turned out to be. I asked the person at the desk of the last motel we tried how all the football fans had gotten rooms with the media occupying most them. The answer...the motels had literally kicked out the news crews and sent them packing into Georgia overnight. Football means a lot more in Florida than news crews do. By this time we decided Mobile wasn't that far so it was stay on the road. We pulled into carport safe and sound about 10 P.M. with another good memory.



DSR Helps USMC's Toys for Tots Operation

It was an awesome sight from the rear of the pack. Seeing something like 300 motorcycles of every make, model and color in two single files of a traffic lane can run chills up and down your spine.

The cyclists have been involved with this Christmas toy drive for several years but this was the first time DSR had been invited to participate. This member is glad that we chose to accept and go along for the ride. Sunday, December 2nd, felt like the coldest morning of the year as we met in the parking lot of the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center. Although nearly every cycle rider was dressed out fully in "leathers" they were shivering just like those of us driving antique cars whose heaters don't always work. Each driver/passenger was required to complete a release form, assisted by Hooters girls who were decked out in orange wind suits on this day, then you were given a doughnut and coffee.

Gunny Sergeant Kelly spoke briefly then turned the mike over to a Mobile police officer who instructed the group on how to stay together. Sometimes that was easier said than done but there were no real problems or splintering off. It was quite a ride/drive from the departure site to Battleship Park. Careening down University Boulevard to Airport, on to Hillcrest to Cottage Hill to Pleasant Valley to Highway 90 and down Government to go through the old tunnel (guess what all of those motorcycle drivers did when they got in the tunnel???) and the Causeway to the ultimate destination. What a trip!!

Every single motorcycle had brought at least one toy and most of them had two. The antique cars had done the same. No doubt about it, this was an extremely successful campaign. Hopefully, we will get invited again next year (We were all on our very best behavior, hoping to make a good impression.) and have more DSR folks involved. This year there were **2 Andersons, 2 Francises, J. McFall** and his son, **2 Musgroves and 2 Paquets**. There were three other vehicles joining in; a '77 Rolls Royce, a '56 Morris Minor driven by Don Pritchett and a neat '56 Plymouth Savoy steered by Brent Hutfless. We hope to see them again soon.

Some editorial exhaust

The following is taken from *The Duster*, the Louisiana Region's newsletter:

I am pleased to be serving as the Tour Chairman for the 2001 AACA Southeastern Divisional Tour. At this time, the sponsoring club, the Deep South Region, would like to invite all members of the Louisiana Region to put the dates of Oct. 31-Nov. 3 on their calendar. We would greatly appreciate your attendance at this tour. Especially, I would like to request all Chapters to make it a point not to schedule activities on those dates. We would like to avoid potential conflicts for Louisiana Region members who may wish to join the tour.

Sincerely,

Charlie Froehlich

By the same token as above, DSR should be cognizant of the fact the Louisiana Region is hosting the AACA Central Division Tour June 14-16, 2000 and plan our activities accordingly. We should support their efforts the same as we hope they will do for us. The brief outline that follows gives an idea of what you can look forward to.

Optional afternoon June 13th Louisiana Mud Painting Tour and demonstration plus Denham Springs antique shops.


Day 1: A day tour to St. Francisville that includes Port Hudson Battlefield Trails & Museum and a visit to a historic plantation home and garden.

Day 2: A day tour through the northern "Florida" parishes with a stop at the Global Wildlife Refuge followed by a visit to Fancy Faces where the famous ceramic hand painted Mardi Gras masks are made then on to Ponchatoula, the "Antique Capital of the World".

Day 3: Visit the 450 acres Burden Research Plantation which provides insight into largely forgotten lifestyles and cultures of Pre-industrial Louisiana, a tour of the old State Capital Museum and the Old Governor's Mansion.

This will be a relatively inexpensive tour but you must request information through AACA. The activities request form is on the back of the *Antique Automobile* mailer and should be with the first issue that should arrive in late January. Watch for it!

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A great holiday recipe

With the holiday season approaching, this will ease your tensions and provide something for those cold evenings.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 cup water | 1 cup sugar |
| 4 large eggs | 2 cups dried fruit |
| 1 tsp. baking soda | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1 cup brown sugar | lemon juice |
| Whiskey to soak cake when baked | |

Sample the whiskey for quality
Turn on Christmas tree lights
Take a large bowl.

Check the whiskey again to be sure it is quality.

Sample the whiskey to check for consistency.
Next, sift 2 cups of salt. Or something. Who cares?
Check the whiskey.
Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts.
Add one dable. Spoon. Of sugar or something.
Whatever you can find.
Grease the oven.
Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees.
Don't forget to beat off the turner.
Throw the bowl out of the window.
Check the whiskey again.
Go to bed.
Who the heck likes fruitcake anyway.

Jim & Nancy Henderson
268 Suffolk Rd.
Mobile, AL 36608



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

Important Dates 2000

Dec. 25 Christmas Day
Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

2001

Jan. 13-14 2nd Annual Gulf Coast Race & Performance Expo ~ Mobile Convention Ctr
Jan. 20 Inauguration Day
Jan. 25 DSR Meeting in clubhouse 7:30 P.M.

Feb. 14 Valentine's
Feb. 22 DSR M
Feb. 27 M



Turn on electric mixer; beat 1 cup butter in a large, fluffy
bowl.
Add 1 teaspoon sugar and beat again.
Make sure the whisk is still OK.
Cry another tsp. Turn off mixer.
Break 2 legs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of
dried fruit.
Mix on the turner.
If the fried fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it loose
with a drowscriver.