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DSR Christmas party one of best yet

"Boy howdy!" as a good friend of mine is prone to say when wishing to describe something out of the ordinary. What a humdinger of a Christmas party DSR members enjoyed on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2001. We laughed, we ate, we joked, we ate some more, we laughed some more, we made Santa Claus the "dirtiest old man around" by taking gifts from each other and then believe it or not, some folks still had room for more food. Actually, that last part is not totally correct; those who were cleaning the kitchen kept having just one more spoonful of this or that because they hadn't sampled it to start with. And besides, in most cases, it was not enough for the person who brought it to take home but yet again just a little too much to throw out. You know what I mean.

The evening began with coffee and fellowship prior to our President making a number of award presentations. Leah presented Certificates of Appreciation to a number of members, small token gifts to others who have been especially helpful to her during this past year and to the other officers serving with her during her tenure. **The most significant award presentation was lifetime DSR membership to Ernie and Eugenia Youens.** This was not in any way what could be construed as a solemn occasion; this was where a good bit of the laughter I mentioned earlier came in. By the time this part of the program was concluded, the

meal was piping hot and set out in buffet style. The hit of the evening was Geneva Cammon's outstanding gumbo. There was roasted pork loin for the non-sea-food eaters in the group along with plenty of side dishes to accompany both entrees. Desserts took up one whole six foot table so figure that one out for yourselves. After everyone was so stuffed they could hardly waddle back to the kitchen to dispose of their plates, etc., the 2002 officers were installed and "Dirty Santa" made his appearance.

Now I must say that normally our members, for the most part, lean toward the quiet, conservative types. But not when it comes to this. I saw grown men almost shed tears when they lost a gift and women (you notice I did not say *ladies*) who took great joy in marching right up to another and smile while they took away that special vase or pillow the other person had gotten. But, as the old saying goes, all's well that ends well and everyone left the best of friends.

Those enjoying food, fellowship and the exchanging of gifts were 2 Andersons, C. Bailey, 2 Cammons, L. Crowdus, P. Dagenais, 2 Dillehays, 2 Ebls, G. Edwards, 2 Francises and their twin granddaughters, 2 Fullers, 2 Lyles, 2 McFerrins, 2 Mims with their two granddaughters, 2 Musgroves, 2 Paquets, C. Pugh and daughter Nancy, 2 Rowells, 2 Vaughans, 2 Whighams, A. White, and 2 Youens. It was truly a family evening enjoyed by the "DSR family".

It was unfortunate that so many others had to miss the fun. Several members have illness in their family or their own sickness. We paused to remember those who were not with us and offered a prayer for their quick recovery.



Keeping the pedal to the metal...

The Steering Column

By Leah Musgrove



It is the holiday season once again and I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas! We have tackled so much this year it is hard to believe we did it all. We hosted the AACA Southeastern Divisional Tour for 2001, held two car shows, re-modeled the clubhouse, added a nice entryway to the driveway and spruced up the grounds. These were all time consuming undertakings but our members came through with flying colors. Every-one worked so well to make each project come together beautifully. We can all be proud to be DSR members.

I am turning the gavel over to Lambert due to the demands of our business but I intend to continue to be very active in whatever the club participates in. If you all support the incoming officers as well as you have supported me and my board, I am sure we will have a productive and fun year in 2002.

It is important to an organization like DSR to have a lot of input from various sources to keep things fresh and interesting. Please keep bringing your ideas for club activities to the attention of those in charge. Thanks to all of you who have made DSR such a great club to belong to and thanks to all who have volunteered their time to serve as officers for the next year.

Have a safe holiday and remember the reason for the season.

Under Restoration

Melvin Neese had surgery Dec. 4 and is recuperating quite well. Buddy Paquet had a heart cath with the insertion of a stent on Dec. 12 and again on Dec. 16. There's just nothing like an encore, is there? Are there others that we are not aware of? Best wishes to all for better days ahead!

Deep South Region Officers 2001



President.....	Leah Musgrove	633-9305
Vice President....	Eddie Anderson	649-3231
Secretary.....	Reecie Mims	479-2523
Treasurer.....	Carl Bailey	947-5262
Activities.....	Joyce Francis	342-3398
	Theresa Vaughan	639-0803
Editor.....	Patt Paquet	661-4009
Mem. at Large.....	Cecil Pugh	342-3404

Appointees, Volunteers & Support Personnel

Chaplain	Lambert Mims	479-2523
SE Divisional Tour	Oct. 31- Nov. 3, 2001	
Chairman	Charlie Froehlich	(601) 749-9935
Proofreader.....	Tracy Henderson	661-2818
Layout	Buddy Paquet	

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 PM in the clubhouse located at 951 Forest Hill Dr. Membership in the Antique Automobile Club of America is required to be a member of this region. Annual local dues are \$15; AACA National dues are \$26. Views expressed in the Sparkplug are not necessarily those of the Region officers or AACA. Permission to copy 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 but the Editor reserves the right to edit material that may not be suitable for publication

When you finish reading this newsletter, please share it with a friend who might enjoy knowing more about our hobby.

A matter of record

Minutes

Deep South Region A.A.C.A. Meeting, Nov. 15, 2001

The meeting was called to order by Leah Musgrove, President, with 32 members present. Lambert Mims, chaplain, gave the invocation.

OLD BUSINESS: President: Leah commended the group for the hospitality shown to the S. E. Tour participants. She told of several letters of thanks received from out-of-towners. Charlie Froehlich read a letter from John Meyer, Liaison Director, saying what a "delightful and fun time" they had and what good food we provided. Patt Paquet suggested that a donation of \$100.00 be made to the Tillman's Corner Volunteer Fire Department for their assistance during the tour. On a motion by Hershel Whigham and a second by Ross Sloan the club voted to do that. Leah announced the Veteran's Home Christmas Display on Dec. 15th; 9:00 AM - 12 Noon. Leah suggested that the club give the 105 men and 3 women residents of the home a packet consisting of 1) an American flag, 2) picture of antique cars, 3) individual packets of junk food, and 4) homemade goodies and that the Club provide the funds. On a motion by Patt Paquet and a second by Lambert Mims the Club approved. Patt volunteered, with Buddy's help, to put the packets together. **ACTIVITIES:** Theresa Vaughan asked for members planning to attend the Christmas party to sign on the attendance sheet and also the food sheet. She reminded us that this a Dirty Santa party - \$10.00 limit on the cost of the gift. **MEMBER AT LARGE,** Cecil Pugh reported that there had been no suggestions for revisions to the by-laws; consequently, the by-laws will remain the same.

NEW BUSINESS: Lambert Mims, Chairman of Nominating Committee, asked if anyone aspired to become the President of the Club. Quiet prevailed! He then presented the slate of officers for 2002 as follows: President: Lambert C. Mims; Vice President: Ross Sloan; Secretary: Reecie P. Mims; Treasurer: Carl Bailey; Member at Large: Don Dillehay; Editor: Joyce Francis; Activities Directors: Frances Whigham and Lycyle Crowdus. The Club accepted the nominations on a motion by Buddy Paquet and a second by Bill Musgrove. **TREASURER:** The financial report was approved on a motion by Charlie Froehlich and a second by Ross Sloan. Joyce Francis announced that the Hooters shirts are being offered for sale in a yard sale for \$5.25.

Buddy Paquet announced that the Dec. 1st. Tillman's Corner Parade would line up at Griggs School at 10 AM. After the parade Buddy and Patt are hosting a luncheon.

Lycyle Crowdus won the 50/50 pot. (\$15.00)

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Reecie Mims

Why do I belong to a car club?

by Charlie Maher, Horseless Carriage Club of New Orleans

Individuals from all walks of life with many and varied interests join car clubs. But why do they really join a car club?

Is it the fellowship of associating with other individuals who have the same hobby and love of automobiles? Is it for the social interaction and outings that result when you join a car club? Is it the access to the technical knowledge from the fellow club members who have traveled the restoration or repair road that you are about to travel? Is it the family thing (husband and wife) of belonging, socializing and making new friendships and acquaintances? Or maybe they joined only because it was a requirement for their antique automobile insurance or antique license plate, and there was no intention of participation, just pay dues?

Each of us obviously has our own reasons for joining an automobile club. But are you being fair to the club's membership to simply join a club, then not attempt to participate in its activities or contribute in any way to the club – such as serving on a committee or as an officer?

The Horseless Carriage Club of New Orleans has listed in its roster over 167 active and associate members. Non-members spouses first names are also listed. Additionally, the roster lists approximately 350 antique automobiles, most of them in a solid #2 or 3 condition. In other words, cars that can be driven and enjoyed. Using the logs from the monthly meetings and activities, there is a group of approximately 30 members that are truly "active members". The rest of the individuals on the roster, after being sponsored and joining the club, are rarely if ever seen or heard from again, other than the paying of their dues.

Who is to carry the blame for the high level of membership inactivity in the Horseless Carriage Club of New Orleans? Many fingers could be pointed in numerous directions, and a good collection of reasons given. My daddy often said, "Be careful when you point because

three of your fingers are pointing back at you." There appears to be two main culprits:

The first one is the member who sponsors a new member into the club, and does nothing to guarantee that the new member attends meetings or outings once they are accepted.

The second one consists of the rest of the general membership, who are active, but not pro-active in welcoming new members into the club through personal introductions, and just making the new member feel at home with the club.

No, it is not the responsibility of our new members to seek you out and introduce themselves to you. It is our responsibility to introduce ourselves to them. Can you recognize at least 20 members and their cars?

No, none of us are perfect, and because we are human we do have our flaws. All that is being asked of you is that if you truly want to be considered as an "Active Member of the Horseless Carriage Club of New Orleans", then truly become active. As stated earlier, it is not morally fair for you to rely on just a handful of the club's members to always be the officers, or for them to always be the ones responsible for coming up with various ways of providing entertainment for you, your spouse and your car.

You asked to join the club, you were accepted into active membership, and now you are openly invited, and challenged, to become an "Active Member of the Horseless Carriage Club of New Orleans."

Ed. Note: The preceding article appeared in the February 2001 issue of *Kar Kapers*, the aforementioned club's newsletter edited by Mr. Maher.

Tillmans Corner Christmas Parade

It felt only slightly like Christmas weather on Saturday, Dec. 1st when the cars lined up to participate in this annual event. This year, the vehicles were all at the front of the parade which was much more conducive to old cars than maneuvering through horse hockey pucks. A State trooper car led the way with lights and siren going full blast followed by the honor guard and then the DSR cars carrying all the dignitaries and VIPs. There was plenty of time for visiting and tire kicking before the festivities got rolling. Although everyone didn't make both the parade and the lunch at the Paquets afterward, those at one or the other or both were **E. Andersen, 2 Bogles, D. Breland, L. Crowds, J. Finley, 2 Francis, 2 Jim Hendersons, 2 Mims, 2 Paquets, C. Pugh & daughter Nancy, 2 Rowells, 2 Smiths with 2 grands, C. Townsend, and Ernie Youens.**

DSR member TCCC Citizen of the Year

Congratulations to our own **Jim Henderson** whose very first "official" appearance was in the above mentioned parade. He was elected Tillmans Corner Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year at the Chamber's November meeting. Jim has been actively involved in the community for a number of years. Many times he helps to get things done from behind the scenes and the general public, which in many cases is the biggest beneficiary, is unaware of what he has done. He and the Midtown Optimist Club co-sponsor the annual November Police Day Picnic at Henderson Farm. Each Mardi Gras you will find him helping out in the Optimist Food Trailer on parade nights and last but not least, he takes his position as father and grandfather very seriously. He and Nancy have 4 children and several grandchildren. He enjoys the antique cars and tries to participate in our events whenever possible.

DSR honors local veterans

DSR members met at the USS Alabama Battleship Park at 8 o'clock on Saturday, Dec. 15th and formed a 11 car caravan to the William F. Green Veterans Home in Bay Minette. There were ten antiques and one modern "country Cadillac" as we traveled the secondary roads of Baldwin county. The destination was reached right on time and all of the cars pulled up into the drive-through of the home so the residents would have an easy time get-ting out to see the cars. We were joined by another couple, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Russell, who are Model A club members but also own a beautiful 1937 Buick

Shortly after our arrival, boxes of Christmas bags with candy, cookies, snack crackers, chips, juice and other items were unloaded from the Rowell's pickup for distribution to all of the residents. Each of the men and women were presented with a gift bag, there were some car show T-shirts that were handed out. In addition the previously mentioned, each resident received a small American flag, courtesy of Jim Henderson.

Those participating were **2 Andersons, C. Bailey, 2 Fullers, J. Henderson with grandson Travis, 2 Mims, 2 Musgroves, 2 Paquets, 2 Rowells, 2 Whighams and 2 Youens.**

The cars were on display from 9:00 AM un-til 12 Noon. Then it was time to depart for David's Catfish Cabin for lunch. This was made especially nice due thanks to one of the Veteran's home's relatives. She was aware the club had been there and when she stopped for lunch she made it a point to come over the our group and personally thank us for taking our time and cars to brighten up the day of another person.

This is what being a member of an "old car" club is all about; doing something you enjoy with others who like the same things. This was part a very good day since we were able to bring some pleasure to others who served to make sure we can do the things we want to do. Give yourselves a pat on the back.

A Cajun horoscope: What's y'all's sign?

Editor's note: It has become pretty obvious to us Southerners that our present astrological signs have served their purpose. It's now time to get rid of them. When I'm out driving, I will occasionally see a bull and once in a blue moon I might see a ram. Down the street from me are some twins but I don't see them much. You only see crabs at the beach or fish market. There are no lions or scorpions, not many archers and not one damn water bearer. Virgins? The neighborhoods aren't exactly crawling with them either. SO, what we need are some things we can recognize up there in the night sky.

Dec. 22 – Jan. 20: OKRA – Although you appear crude, you are actually very slick on the inside. An older Okra can look back over life and see seeds of influence on others.

Jan. 21 – Feb. 19: CHITTLIN – Chittlins often come from humble backgrounds. Many times they are uncomfortable talking about just where they did come from. However, a Chittlin can make something of himself if he has plenty of seasoning. Your best bet for a mate is with an Okra or perhaps a Catfish.

Feb. 20 – Mar 20: BOLL WEEVIL – You have an overwhelming curiosity, you're unsatisfied with the surface of things and feel the need to bore deep into everything.

Mar. 21 – Apr. 20: MOON PIE – You're the type that spends a lot of time on the front porch. It's a cinch to recognize your physical appearance; the key words are "round" and "big". You should marry anyone you can get remotely interested in the idea. This might be the year to think about aerobics, maybe not.

Apr. 21 – May 21: POSSUM – When confronted with life's difficulties, Possums have a marked tendency to withdraw to the point that people think they are dead and develop a "don't bother me about it" attitude. One day, however, it may not work and you may find your problems running over you.

May 22 – June 21: CRAWFISH – Crawfish is a water sign. If you work in an office you're always hanging around the cooler. You prefer

the beach or a pool to the mountains or a golf course and have very good heads.

June 22 – July 23: COLLARDS – Collards have a genius for communication. They love to get in the "melting pot" of life and share their essence with those around them. As far as personal life goes, stay away from Moon Pies.

July 24 – Aug. 23: CATFISH – Although catfish are traditionalists in matters of the heart, there is one exception. Whiskers may cause problems for loved ones. You are never easy people to understand in that you prefer muddy bottoms to the clear surface of life.

Aug. 24 – Sept. 23: GRITS – Your highest aim is to be with others like yourself. You like to huddle together with a big crowd of other Grits. When you travel, make sure you go someplace where they have cheese, butter or eggs. These things will serve you well.

Sept. 24 – Oct. 23: BOILED PEANUTS – You have a passionate desire to help your fellow man. Unfortunately, those who know you best—your family and friends—may find your personality a little too salty for their taste. This may hurt somewhat because you are really much softer than what you appear.

Oct. 24 – Nov. 22: BUTTER BEAN – You always get invited to nearly everything since you get along with everybody so well. You've grown on the vine of life and feel at home no matter where. However, you, too, shouldn't have anything to do with Moon Pies.

Nov. 23 – Dec. 21: ARMADILLO – You have a tendency to develop a tough exterior, but you are actually quite gentle. You are a throwback and not concerned with today's fashions. To be blunt, you are almost prehistoric in your interests and behavior. You probably want to marry another Armadillo, but Possum is another possibility.

Thanks to Vickie Fannaly, editor of the *Classic Connection*, newsletter of the Florida Parishes Vintage Car Club for the preceding. I hope all of you enjoyed it as much as I did.

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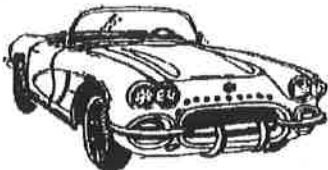
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Some editorial exhaust by Patt Paquet

This is number 96 and the last issue of the *Sparkplug* that I will be putting together for you. It has, 99% of the time, been great fun and something that I looked forward to each month. It was a challenge to come up with things that I thought you would enjoy reading about. A few that come to mind are "AACA - Where it all began"; "A Travel Log" - the diary of three young women who took several months to travel the northeastern part of our country in 1929 and finally the "History of Alabama License Plates" which was the one I had the most pleasure putting together.

The decision was not one that I consciously made; it was more or less made for

I would like to tell all of the members who have helped me during the past eight years. Granted, there have been times when I had to do a little "arm-twisting" to get you to come across, but ultimately you did and that was the point. I thank you for your help in what ever fashion it was. It was sincerely appreciated.

Now for the really BIG NEWS! We have an Editor and there will be a newsletter. I won't tell you who it is but I will say that doing a newsletter is something the person has done before. The only other clue is that this person has not done it for DSR.

Remember, the newsletter does not have to be a one-person task. Any member can write

Important
Info on
Other Side!



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

Important Dates 2002

- Jan. 1 New Year's Day
- ~~Jan. 12-13 Mobile's 3rd Annual World of Show & Go - Convention Ctr. CANCELLED~~
- Jan. 19 Display vehicles at Michelle's Restaurant (2961 DIP - Old Quincy's bldg.)
11AM-2PM - Lunch (on your own) in reserved room. Event is co-sponsored
by the Southern MOPAR Club and the Dauphin Island Parkway Merchants
Assoc. Arrive 10:30-10:45 AM.

staple them together, any member can fold, seal, apply address labels and stamps. It could be a monthly get-together for several people that would fun as well as productive. Think about helping out this next year.
Notice to other clubs: The January 2002 issue will be mailed about Jan. 18 or 19. Until you receive that issue, please continue to use my address for the exchange.

major medical problems for Denny and I. For the past ten years, difficult one for me. For the past ten years, eight of which I have been your Editor, we have more or less ate, slept and breathed DSR/AACA. 2001 taught both of us that we must have at least some life outside the car clubs. However, it won't be too far outside of it because it was our friends in DSR and AACA that got us through the rough times. Friends can be as supportive, if not more so, than family.