



## Hearts & Flowers, The Bonneville Saga

Ah, February...time to think about hearts and flowers and love affairs. This one (love affair) began 39 years ago in Lubbock, Texas.

My mom and dad (Charlie and Ava Lichey) had been involved in an automobile accident in Lubbock that totaled their car and put my mom in the hospital. Living in Corpus Christi at the time, I boarded a plane and rushed to be with my parents during this stressful time.

After making sure that my mother was going to be fine (broken ribs and numerous lacerations and bruises), the next question became how my dad was going to get around since they only had one car and it was now sitting in a wrecking yard. My parents lived 30 miles from Lubbock in a small country town (Tahoka) and just getting back and forth to the hospital to visit my mother became a major problem...so, it was off to the car dealerships in Lubbock and Tahoka to find out what they had to offer.

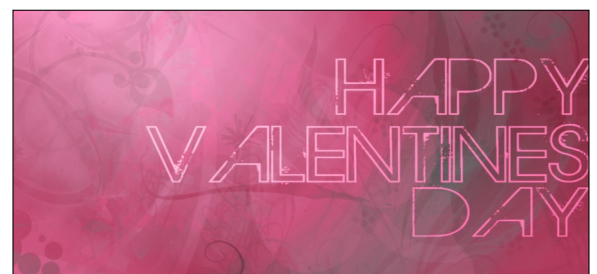
Now, my dad was always a 'Pontiac man' even though he had had a few casual relationships with Fords and Mercurys. Heck! He even owned one of the first Edsels to make its debut in that part of the world.

I fondly recall being home from college one weekend shortly after he acquired that car and being taken on a little ride in the new vehicle when he asked me if I would like to see 100 miles per hour between where we were and the next telephone pole. Naturally I said "yes" and I've never had my ears pinned back so fast! Say what you will about the Edsel, but one thing is for sure...that baby could move!

The wrecked car was a Mercury and I could tell he had 'Pontiac' on his mind as we began to make our rounds. The first few dealerships we visited didn't seem to have any-

*(Continued on page 2)*

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <b>Inside this issue:</b> |          |
| <b>From the President</b> | <b>3</b> |
| <b>Secretary's Column</b> | <b>4</b> |
| <b>AACA Membership</b>    | <b>9</b> |



*(Continued from page 1)*

thing that tickled his fancy and then it happened. As we walked onto the showroom floor of McCord Motor Company in Tahoka, there 'she' sat, in all her regal glory, singing her siren song to my dad – and he was definitely listening.

She had just arrived from Kansas City, a 1976 Bonneville Brougham 4-door hardtop, long and sleek, firethorn red with a white cordova top, white body-side moldings, 6-way seat adjuster, power-lock doors and windows, remote control deck lid release, custom air-conditioning, cruise control, tilt steering wheel, custom finned wheel covers, white-walled steel belted radial tires, AM/FM stereo radio, front bumper guards, deeply cushioned red velour seats with unheard-of cigarette lighters on the sides of the two front seats (back-facing) for the convenience of the back-seat occupants, a 400 cubic inch 4BBL V8 engine and 4,800 pounds of pure love!

Fancy dalliances usually demand more of one's wallet but my dad was happy to shell out the full \$7,915.85 for this one – and he didn't even need to kick the tires!

It was love at first sight! And that Kansas City beauty, who got to Texas as soon as she could, would just float down the road as if her tires never touched the pavement. It was absolutely a match made in Heaven and my dad never

looked back. In fact, he kept that car longer than most and she never let him down. Whether cruising effortlessly down the asphalt or making her way over bumpy, dusty, country roads, she always performed like the class act she is – with a smooth rise and fall – never bumpy or spine-jarring.

Even though her miles-per-gallon ratio may not meet what today's standard strives for, at 59 cents per gallon back then, my dad was happy to pay it. Just to put things in perspective however, the high for the DOW was \$1,004 in 1976 and just today it was \$17,800 or so. Where is that dollar I invested back then?

My dad and his fancy car were happy and completely satisfied with each other for four years, until his death in 1980. Ironically, he had another newer model on order but the dealership had not yet received it when he died and, since my mother did not drive, she elected not to take delivery. Thus ended the love affair – or so one would think – but that is not necessarily so.

Great loves never die!

My mom lived 16 years in Tahoka after that and the Bonneville spent most of that time in the garage, getting out on occasion when Mother insisted that the friend or neighbor who was taking her somewhere drive the Bonneville. Of course, each time we visited, the Bonneville always got a work-out.

Finally we were able to persuade Mother that she should sell out and come live with us, just about the time of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1996.

By then we had moved from Corpus Christi to Houston, finally settling in Missouri City. Mother wanted to sell the Bonneville for \$500 but Don Bogus, intervened. So what else could she do when her favorite son-in-law (her **only** one) made such a good case for keeping the car in the family, but hand over the keys?

Mother's trip to Houston was relatively easy – she just boarded a Southwest Airlines flight – but the Bonneville was a challenge for the entire 464 miles. Not knowing if she was road-worthy enough to make such a long trip on her own, my brother and I opted to bring her on a trailer behind a loaded Penske rental truck which he was driving.

Since the terrain from the High Plains of Texas to the Gulf Coast and Houston is mostly down hill, I don't believe that there were too many times when we were actually 'pulling' that trailer, but rather were being 'pushed' by the Bonneville. One such memorable moment was on the outskirts of Austin coming down a rather steep hill

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

with a busy intersection situated conveniently at the bottom.

Being a cautious man, my brother began preparing for the obvious by slowing down as we began our descent even though the traffic light was green for us. He applied the brakes as the light changed to amber, and so did I even though there was no brake pedal on the passenger side of the truck, but the Bonneville kept coming and we finally slid to a stop in the middle of the intersection.

Fortunately, "Somebody Up There" was looking out for us and the other drivers at that Austin intersection that day and no metal was crunched. We got a few annoyed looks but other than that, "all's well that ends well!"

The 'old girl' made the trip in fine shape (the Bonneville, my mother and me - take your pick!).

For the next four years everywhere my mother wanted to go, we took her in the Bonneville and it gave her a feeling of my dad, comfort and 'home.' Then finally in 2000 the final transaction took place and the Bonneville officially became mine. By that time, Mother had moved into an assisted living facility and did not get out much anymore, but her last auto-

*(Continued on page 7)*

## From The President

**Leon Ahlers**

The other night, I was scanning through the T.V. channels to see if there was anything worth watching which I hadn't seen yet, when I stumbled upon a program called "Genealogy Roadshow." The premise of the show is a blend of "Antiques Roadshow" and "Mystery Detectives," in that it travels to different cities and does genealogies on three people/families.

Wouldn't it be interesting if we could do this with our cars. Some of the more modern antiques, one-owners, and cars with original paperwork are virtual no-brainers, as most of their history is documented. Some cars, one-off, low production, or expensive classics (purchased new by Marmaduke P. Sternwoolw III, then acquired from his estate by a noted collector, blah blah and so on) are much easier to trace the lineage on, but how about farmer Fudd's Ford? Many of these "lesser marques" have changed hands more than the husbands and wives in Holly-

wood, memories have faded, and many states, including our own, have destroyed ownership records so the local DMV is no longer a viable resource. More difficult yet are the cars which have been pieced together from wrecks, or worse yet, were stolen and re-titled. If I found one of those in my collection, I would stop digging and speak no more of the incident, sort of like an illegitimate member of the family. If you are curious about your vehicle's background, unless your car is newly restored, start digging. Get under the carpet, into the seats, even between the windshield and dashboard, there could be a clue. Also check the glass and bumpers for decals and stickers. Next, ask around, someone knows something about your car, so the sooner you get the word out, the better. ..An old car is just that...an old car. Just like an old person, though, it is a lot more interesting and endearing if it has a rich history. Now, if only our cars could talk!

### February Anniversaries

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Bill & Barbara J. Wahlberg | 2/10 64!!!!!!!) |
| Jim & Cheryl McGee         | 2/14 (27!)      |
| Ron & Donna Sanford        | 2/16 (53!!!!)   |



## Secretary's Column A.A.C.A. Gulf Coast Region

Secretary's Report  
AACAA Gulf Coast Region  
General Meeting  
12 January 2015

Here is what your secretary recalls from our first meeting of the new year

### Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

- One of the nice things about our meetings is that we open them with an invocation. Bill Wahlberg, who is one of the three founding members of our fair Club who is still with us, led tonight's prayer.

I often offer about specifics of Bill's blessing, but I honestly don't recall anything more than generalities tonight. Looking back over it, I'm convinced that my memory failure is due to the refreshments. I remember thinking at the time that Bill should have been "saying grace" for the bounty of refreshments that were on the side table. Following the invocation, we recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### GCR Reports

**Treasury Report:** Treasurer Tom Timmins reported that our Club remains in great financial shape. I suspect it's because our Club likes to make Mr. Lincoln scream before we let him out of our collective pocket. For those who are scratching their heads and wondering about the identity of this mysterious member, Mr. Lincoln, I simply mean that we pinch our pennies.

**Meeting Minutes:** Barbara Wahlberg made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes, and the membership agreed with her.

**Sunshine Report:** There were no special notices made tonight, but I'm sure there's always someone in the Club who needs your good wishes. Don't be shy about calling your friends who can't attend the

meetings or whom you've not seen in a while.

### Announcements

**New Member:** Dean Forbes introduced his friend Ricardo Rudolf to the general membership. Some of us had already met Ricardo in December when he was Dean and Diana's guest at the Christmas Luncheon. Now we are happy to welcome Ricardo as a new member! By the way, Ricardo enjoys driving his 1980 Cadillac, which will be an excellent touring car for our events.

**Refreshments:** "He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." That's a proverb that applies to Ev Timmins and Lenny Holzband, who joined culinary forces to bring tonight's generous and delicious refreshments. If you're at all like me and believe that all the major food groups are represented by ginger snaps with pumpkin-ginger cream, pecan bars, raspberry bars, peppermint candies, and chocolate chip treats, then this was your meeting! I felt like a kid in a candy store! Thank you, Ev and Lenny. Well done! The next time there's so many home-made treats, I'll use Wayne Bartlett's trick and line my pockets with plastic bags. Believe me, the browsing and sluicing was so good I had to get up four or five times just to be sure I extracted all the flavor that I thought I tasted on my prior trip to the food table. Other than that, I was glued to my seat assiduously taking notes about the meeting.

### Where We've Been

We've not been on any tours recently. The only event we've had since the last meeting was the Christmas luncheon at Monument Inn, which was a big success thanks to the efforts of Sandra

Johnston, Jim Johnston (sound system), Bonnie Peterson (for making over 100 favors!), Norma Moore, Eileen Bartlett and Evelyn Timmins.

### Where We're Going

February 2015: Ev Timmins called our attention to the January newsletter, which has a one page reminder/flier about the Valentine's Day Luncheon. If you're reading this and saying to yourself, "I'd better send in the money for that toothsome luncheon," you're probably too late. Meanwhile, those who've not forgotten to reserve their seat at the table (I don't necessarily include myself in this category as I've already forgotten nine times to send a check) will be dining at The Café at Brookwood. Creole Stuffed Chicken, Grilled Fish & Crab Supreme, and Grilled Steak Tino are all on the menu. Ev did fine work arranging for us to eat at the Brookwood community.

April 30 - May 3, 2015: Robert Wheeless reminded us to sign up for fun and volunteering at the 2015 Pate Swap Meet. This will be the 43rd annual Pate event, and it is the largest swap meet in the Midwest.

May 2015: James Bartlett addressed the assembled about the 2015 Texas Tour, which will be held in the thriving metropolis of Tomball, Texas.

He has prepared a preliminary budget, proposed a schedule of events, and has even drafted an invitational document. James is an engaging and entertaining speaker who knows how to time and turn a phrase for maximum effect; but just as he was making one exciting point about parking our cars, Tom Timmins's phone began playing Rossini's *William Tell Overture*, which many of us recall as the theme music from *The*

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

*Lone Ranger* (1933 to 1954 on the radio; 1949 to 1957 on television). Happily, this interlude seems to have answered the age-old question, "Who was that masked man?" The next question is, "Does he wear the mask at home?" Only Tom and Ev know.

After that exciting episode, Lenny Holzband, whose profession is advertising specialties, promotional items, and awards, announced he would donate 100 printed bags to distribute to Texas Tour guests during the registration process. Thank you for your generosity, Lenny.

2016: Robert Wheelless spoke about the logo choices for the 2016 National Meet our Club is hosting. He also noted that one of his strong choices for the Meet location is the Northwest Conference Center. Related to that, James Bartlett asked how we're going to get participants to bring cars to Houston for the event. Member Chuck Crane, who is also the AACA VP of Regions, Southeast Division, answered that question by speaking of the need to advertise locally.

**Other News To Amuse**

Sean Ornduff announced that he will host a 3-day metal-shaping workshop at his restoration shop in Tomball. Sean's mentor, Fay Butler, who is world-renowned for his metal shaping skill and art, will be present. The seminar is in February.

Eileen Bartlett congratulated Ev Timmins on the fantastic work she and Julia Sharon do on our newsletter, *The Antique Expression*. James also reminded us that we need more car stories to keep our newsletter interesting. So if any of you have any more **Taxi Tales** to write...

President Leon Ahlers mentioned that the Club needs climate-controlled storage for its archives.

This was met with climate-controlled silence.

**Cars & Car Stories**

Tom Timmins reported that Paul Andrews in Dallas is selling 75 cars of 95+ points each at auction.

Chuck Crane recently bought an "all original" 1932 Ford V-8 Cabriolet. He is looking forward to competing for an AACA Senior Award in May at Auburn.

Sean Ornduff has purchased a 1911 Hudson Touring car. "It runs and drives, but needs restoration," Sean reported.

Tom Timmins commented that he knows this particular Hudson, but he's never bought it! If the Hudson needs restoration, Sean, you should consult with Ashley Griffin. I'll bet that between the two of you, you'll find someone to do the work. Or you could ask James Bartlett. James has engaged Ornduff Craftsmanship work on a 1919 Locomobile, a 1932 Duesenberg, and a 1936 Cord Phaeton - and he's very happy with their work.

Tom Timmins reported that he has purchased a 1917 Dort. That stable of orphan cars might be getting crowded, Tom; but I'm sure the Dort couldn't have asked for a better home.

**Luck of the Draw**

The January meeting was drawn to a close with our usual two drawings for a cash prize. Every member who attends the meeting is eligible for the first drawing, which is for ten of the best that Uncle Sam has to offer (\$10). Tonight's glad winner was **Theresa Bartlett!** Congratulations, Theresa. Our second drawing was for the cumulative cash prize that grows by \$10 every month until someone wins it. The trick to this prize is that any member's name can be chosen, but the member has to attend the meeting to claim the prize. The prize had grown to \$20, and the next time we have a drawing it will be for \$30 - all because **Julie Dehne** was NOT here to capitalize on her luck!

(Continued on page 6)

**Officers**

**President—Leon Ahlers**

144 Deer Lake Rd.

Huffman, TX 77336

281-324-9393

[lahlers@redstonegroup.com](mailto:lahlers@redstonegroup.com)

**Vice-President...Javis Boudreaux**

11015 Overbrook Ln.

Houston, TX 77042

713-953-1620

[javis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:javis@sbcglobal.net)

**Secretary ... Albert Ramos**

2330 Robinhood

Houston, TX 77005

713-248-7687

[albert.redbrick@gmail.com](mailto:albert.redbrick@gmail.com)

**Treasurer ... Tom Timmins**

2120 Lundy Lane

Friendswood, TX 77546

281-388-1967

[ttimmins@aol.com](mailto:ttimmins@aol.com)

**Directors**

James Bartlett - 281-255-6770

Wayne Bartlett - 281-351-2167

José Gonzalez-Jauregui - 281-556-0042

Ron Stein - 713-521-3450

Evelyn Timmins - 281-388-1967

Tonya Ornduff— 832-492-5553

**Pate Swap Meet Representatives**

Sam Romeo 713-862-4026

Robert Wheelless 281-380-4969

**Sunshine Representative**

Barbara Wahlberg 713-465-3539

**Refreshments**

Sandra Johnston 713-340-0709

**Newsletter Co-Editors**

Julia Sharon 281-934-1455

Evelyn Timmins 281-388-1967

[newsletter@texasits.com](mailto:newsletter@texasits.com)



# February New Members

*From Dean Forbes we have*

**Ricardo & Angela Rudolph**

4903 Windcross Ct.

Katy, TX 77449

313-498-3614

[Ricardorudolph@yahoo.com](mailto:Ricardorudolph@yahoo.com)

1980 Cadillac

*Members Returning*

**Danny & Sherri Kurtz**

4400 Steffani Ln.

Houston, TX 77041

832-467-9200

[dkurtz@restorationtechniques.com](mailto:dkurtz@restorationtechniques.com)

1938 Plymouth

1965 Corvette

You can still order the AACA Calendar for only \$12 postpaid! This 13-month calendar runs from January 2015 to January 2016 and highlights National Meets and Tours in addition to moon phases, all Federal Holidays and many other observances. The best part of the annual calendar is getting to see the fabulous member cars showcased each time you flip the month.

To order, just use the form that was included with your last issue of *Antique Automobile* magazine or call AACA Headquarters at 717-534-1910.

## February Birthdays

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Keith Gallagher    | 2/3  |
| Christopher Sokol  | 2/3  |
| Robert Smits       | 2/6  |
| Barney Calvert     | 2/8  |
| Bertha Guseman     | 2/8  |
| Theresa Bartlett   | 2/10 |
| Mary Lou Boggus    | 2/16 |
| Caroline Calistrat | 2/16 |
| Albert Ramos       | 2/16 |
| Cheryl McGee       | 2/17 |
| Irene Kizer        | 2/22 |
| Dena Doerfler      | 2/23 |
| Rollin Hargrove    | 2/26 |
| Stan Ericksen      | 2/27 |



## February Refreshments

José Gonzalez

Tahl Rozycki

*Secretary's Minutes (Continued from page 5)*  
That's OK. We hope to see Julie and Troy - and *all y'all* - at the Valentine's Day Luncheon.

Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM and continued "after hours" with many of us telling lies in the parking lot.

As it was – Albert L. Ramos



**Enjoy those refreshments at meetings?**

**Would like to see them continue??**

**Have you ever been the host or hostess?**

This is your opportunity. We don't need our club to always have the same people doing everything.

Right now we are short of volunteers for refreshments. Out of our 200 bodies, we only need 2 a month, 18 to volunteer a year (3 months we have restaurant lunches).

We need 1 person for April.

2 are needed for June.

1 needed for October.

We know you can do it!

Contact Sandra Johnston at 713-340-0709 if you can take one of these spots.

*Thanks*



(Continued from page 3)

mobile trip was taken in the beloved Bonneville. Mother left us in 2002 but every time I climb into that comfy front passenger seat I think of her and how she used to say "What a fine car!"

But one of the more special things about this Grand Lady of vintage automobiles, at least to me, is the fact that for many years every time I opened the trunk I could smell dirt. Yes, DIRT! The dirt of home – farm dirt – that had filtered into every nook and cranny as the Bonneville had traversed those country roads with my dad at the wheel. I tell you, it always took me right back there in a very pleasant instant. That fragrance is gone now, as time takes its toll on all us 'Grand Ladies' – some things we can do something about and some we can't!

The Bonneville presses on, engine still purring, horsepower ready to spring into action at a tap of the accelerator, eager for the next adventure. Maybe some of you witnessed her prowess at the Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth not long ago when she showed off a bit by being naughty and passing the car in front of her (I don't think she was supposed to do that) and going where no car was supposed to go, half-way up the steeply banked curve at 80 miles per hour. Ah yes, that felt good and so did

her current driver (Don Bog-gus)!

My dad would have been proud! My mother would have been aghast!

Since becoming members of the GCRAACA the Bonneville has had several moments of recognition and glory, for which she is very appreciative.

As with most lovely, classy ladies, upkeep can get to be an issue and quite pricey as the clock keeps ticking – right guys? Don't answer that!

Even though the Bonneville is still relatively 'young' as classic automobiles go, and usually doesn't garner the attention that the older, really cool looking models

do, she can still make heads turn and has even elicited a few "How much will you take for that car right now?" questions. She has had her moments, a ding or a bump, engine or brake problems, rust or paint – but through it all – as long as she lives up to my stringent and very limited demands (**refrigerated air flowing through the air-conditioning vents on warm summer days and nights**), we are good to go! She is a trooper! I am a tough task-master.

So the 'love affair' continues and who knows where it's bound!

Lovingly,

Mary Lou Boggus



# Down the Road

Underlined items are club (AACA) sponsored activities.

- Feb. 14-15 Corvette/Chevy Expo at NRG Park (Reliant)
- Feb. 15 Annual GCR AACA Valentine's Day lunch at the Brookwood Community Café in Brookshire.
- Feb. 23 Deadline for Antique Expression articles for March issue.
- Mar. 7 Clear Springs HS 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Car Show, 501 Palomino Ln, League City.
- Mar. 9 GCR AACA meeting in the Tracy Gee Center. 7:30 P.M.
- Mar. 21 Saturday at the Strand Open Car Show, Galveston.
- Mar. 30 Deadline for Antique Expression articles for April, 2015 issue.
- April 10-12 38th Annual Texas Packard Meet. Stagecoach Inn, Salado: 210-497-6836
- April 16-19** We host the 61<sup>st</sup> Texas Tour in Tomball. See reminder in this issue. Contact Eileen Bartlett: 281-255-6770 or go to [texasitour.org](http://texasitour.org)
- April 30-May 3 PATE Swap Meet
- May 2-3 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Keels & Wheels Concours d'Elegance, Seabrook. Contact: Tom Timmins- 281-388-1967
- Friday evenings** Pearland Antique & Classic Auto Show Cruise Night at Lowe's parking lot at FM 518 & Pearland Parkway, beginning at 6 PM
- Saturday evenings** cruise in at Chick-Fil-A in Home Depot's parking lot, 5 PM, Hwy 146 and FM 2094 in Kemah
- Last Sat. morning of the month:** Coffee, Cars, and Books from 8 - 10 AM in Barnes & Noble parking lot on Bay Area Blvd.

*The Antique Automobile Club of America*  
 Is a non-profit Organization dedicated to the preservation, restoration and maintenance of automobiles and automotive history.  
 It is the country's oldest and largest automotive historical society.  
**Meetings at Tracy Gee Center**  
 Located at 3599 West Center Dr., Houston, TX 77042  
 Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. 2nd Monday of each month, Except for February, July and December, when special activities are scheduled.

**The Antique Expression**  
 Is the official monthly Publication of Gulf Coast Region, A.A.C.A., Inc., Houston Area, Texas, And is distributed to all members in good standing.

**Co Editor:**  
**Julia Sharon**  
 PO Box 280  
 Brookshire, Texas  
 77423-0280  
 Phone: 281-934-1455  
 E-mail:  
[newsletter@texasits.com](mailto:newsletter@texasits.com)  
 (put AACA on subject lines for email)

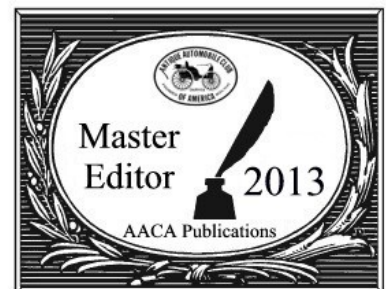
**Co Editor:**  
**Evelyn Timmins**



**WE DO IT FASTER, BETTER & EASIER FOR YOU!**

High Speed Copies • Color Copies • 24-Hour Full Color Business Cards  
 Flyers • Brochures • Postcards • Full Color Printing • Thermography  
 Letterheads • Envelopes • Invitations • GBC & Coil Binding  
 Laminating & Mounting • Scoring & Perforation • Posters • Banners

**www.reprintinc.com • 713-522-9299 • Fax: 713-524-6525**  
 2035 SW Freeway @ Shepherd • Houston, TX 77098





## News from AACA Headquarters

### Membership

By Bob Parrish  
VP Membership

The AACA membership base remains steady at approximately 60,000 members and in 2013, we experienced a moderate 1% growth. Considering normal attrition, and a decline in membership for many organizations, automotive or otherwise, we feel fortunate holding our own.

There are many ways to attract new members, but demonstrating how much fun we have, with our classic vehicles, surely is near the top. We should be ever ready to spread the word about the benefits of AACA membership and have a member application ready to hand out. Have you ever left your Antique Automobile magazine at the barber shop, or dentist office? It has worked for me.

There is another way to increase membership that has been underused. AACA has had a complimentary membership program that has been around since 2008.

Headquarters in Hershey

sends each Region and Chapter President four complimentary applications in September to be distributed to prospective members for use in the upcoming year. Many Regions and Chapters also issue a free membership to these fellow enthusiasts to introduce them to their respective local club.

Since the inception of this program we have seen the number of complimentary membership applicants renew their memberships and become very active members in National Touring and showing vehicles at National Meets.

Local Region and Chapters have also prospered by getting new productive members to hold office and participate in local activities.

There are nearly 1500 complimentary memberships made available each year, and I am sorry to tell you that to date only about 58% of the Regions and Chapters have used these applications. Giving the history of this 6 year program, we have seen the membership retention rate for these members increase to approximately 67% in 2013.

This really is a win

A win for AACA and its Region/Chapter network and introduces fellow hobby enthusiasts to the best collector

vehicle organization in the land. It allows them to enjoy the benefits of AACA that we sometime take for granted.

Let's look at the facts, if Regions/Chapters had taken full advantage of this program we could stay ahead of normal membership attrition. This would have produced approximately 1500 new members in 2013 alone, and with a 67% retention rate it could have created over 1000 new members and I would bet that the retention experience on the local level would be similar.

The 2014 complementary membership applications expire on September 30. The 2015 applications will be mailed around September 1, 2014. If the four applications issued to your Region/Chapter have been misplaced, they can be replaced by contacting Lynn Gawel at Headquarters

717-534-1910 or  
lgawel@aaca.org

There are collector car hobbyists waiting to be asked to join the finest organization of its kind in the world. Let's get the word out.

With your help we can continue to make this program a success.

### Trivia Question?

Which US auto company almost became a part of the GM empire but never did?

(answer on page 12)

From the AACA Rummage Box Fall 2014  
This article was reprinted, with permission.

## My Friend is Letting Go.....

of his 1947 Lincoln, that is.

Mike Calistrat, member since 1988, bought it in pitiful condition.

He restored the car himself over a period of four years, helped by having a PhD in Mechanical Engineering.

This was a TOTAL restoration; the engine and drive train were COMPLETELY disassembled, and the engine block was dipped in a caustic solution for cleaning.

New rings and seals were installed.

The body was completely stripped of everything removable, including the doors, trunk lid, hood, etc. It was cleaned and primed.

New upholstery was made, new tires installed.

Once the restoration was finished Mike drove the car to a Meet in Petit Jean, Arkansas, 400 miles each way. The car got "best of show" award. The organizer of the meet commented: "Mike's car looked like Marilyn Monroe dressed in a red dress, singing: Diamonds are a girl's best friend."

**Lincoln incorporated many "modern" features** in this model.

fender skirts and back-up lights

car hood is opened from the dash

the steering wheel is locked when the keys are removed

the oil dip stick is replaced by a float on the oil

the glove box has a light

Mike's car has the original push-button door openers.

the transmission has overdrive and free-wheeling.

**During restoration, Mike added features**, such as power brakes and third tail light. The engine now has Crankcase Ventilation, and a large vacuum tank; an electric fuel pump was added,

The car was always garaged, and is driven occasionally with less than 5,000 miles since total restoration.

**Why is Mike selling the car?** Next April he will turn 88 and he seldom attends car shows.

What is the price? The car was professionally appraised, at \$19,000. The certificate is available. If interested, come to see it and drive it. You can feel the comfort. Perfect for tours and meets. See picture on the last page.

Mike Calistrat

3202 La Quinta Drive

Missouri City, TX 77459

281-437-0437

mikeandcaroline@comcast.net

***Well everyone it's that time of the year again, yep, it's Pate Time!!***

If you are new to the club, you may wonder, "and what is that?"

42 years ago members of 17 car clubs formed an organization for their annual swap meet and named it Pate after Dr. "Aggie" Pate, founder of the Pate Museum of Transportation. Every year the 17 clubs, representing 2,100 member families meet, enjoying old car camaraderie, eating, swapping car parts and even selling cars!

Each club has an assigned "job" to make the meet run successfully and to claim their portion of the proceeds, our club's source of funds. Our job is to direct people to their designated swap meet spaces and pass out the swap meet program.

The shifts for work are from 2-3 hours. Some people come for 1 shift; others come and devote 2 days with a few shifts. All help is welcome.

Our coordinator is Robert Wheelless. He has the schedule and you will sign up with him between now and April 24 so he can plan for the opening on April 30.

Where is it?

**April 30- May 3 2015**

**Thursday - Sunday**

**Gates Open at 7 am**

Texas Motor Speedway Fort Worth Texas USA

Texas Motor Speedway is 20 miles north of downtown Fort Worth at the corner of Interstate 35 West and State Highway 114

If you plan on coming to work and want to work 2 days or just stay over to shop, here is a short list of accommodations in the Pate surrounding area:

*Residence Inn-Marriott*

*Hilton Garden Inn*

*Super 8*

*Hampton Inn*

*Hampton Inn & Suites*

Please check your schedule and see what days work for you. We need you!

Contact Robert Wheelless at [rwheelless@hotmail.com](mailto:rwheelless@hotmail.com) or 281-463-0013.

**62<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL TEXAS TOUR**  
**"The Tradition Continues"**

***Join us on the 2015 Texas Tour, hosted by our own Gulf Coast Region AACA April 16-19***

The Tradition Continues with the Annual Texas Tour in picturesque Tomball in the towering forests 35 miles north of Houston. Join us in the cool springtime as we travel winding roads through gentle hills and visit country plantations, car collections and numerous other attractions.

By now you should have received a postcard, a registration package or website with the tour address to download the registration form.

If not, please go to [www.texastour.org](http://www.texastour.org) and click on "registration" on the top banner. Or contact Eileen Bartlett at 281-255-6770, or via email at [jamesandeileen@comcast.net](mailto:jamesandeileen@comcast.net).



We Have A Website  
WWW.GCRAACA.ORG

# Reminder

**GCR AACA Valentine's Day Celebration**  
**Sunday, February 15, 2015**  
**12:30 "Car Show" Up**  
**12:45 Lunch**  
**1752 FM 1489**  
**Brookshire, TX 77423**  
**281-375-2158**  
**The Café at Brookwood**



Our Own Valentine, Mary Lou,  
owner of the classy Bonneville.

Don't forget to come out and join Mary Lou, her sweetie and all the rest of us for lunch on February 15th.

More Memories from Christmas



Nell and Louise

National Pres. Micky Bohne's spouse, Don with our long distance member, Charles Logan from New Mexico and Dean Forbes.



The Wahlbergs and the Petersons getting ready to enjoy the lunch.



### Trivia Answer

**Ford Motor Company**  
Henry Ford was in initial agreement with Will Durant to merge with the help of money titan J.P. Morgan. Plans fell through in early 1908 when first Ford, then Ransom Olds (by this time at Reo, not Olds) decided to accept only cash payment for their companies rather than stock buy-outs.



Mike Calistrat and his 1947 Lincoln

Taken from the AACA Speedster Publication, Dec 2014