Volume 57, Issue 3

March 2015



An AACA Award Winning
Newsletter

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Two and 1/2 Weeks in Sports Car Heaven!

Door County, Wisconsin, is sports car heaven! Door County is located on a narrow peninsula which juts up into Lake Michigan. Years ago, the French named it "Death's Door" because of all the shipwrecks in the sometimes treacherous surrounding waters. Green Bay, (the bay, not the city), is on the western shore and Lake Michigan is to the north and to the east. There are several beautiful villages along the lakeshore and, inland, the peninsula is made up of lovely rolling countryside. Fabulous bluffs rise up off the lake and the views are spectacular. Outdoor activities abound, including sailing, motor boating, golf, swimming, hiking, biking, tennis, horseback riding and more. Evening activities are limited to enjoying good restaurants or sitting around a fire pit gazing at the stars. The weather is cool and

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beautiful in the summer. There are no chain restaurants, no chain businesses and no stoplights! It is a wonderful place for relaxing and driving sports and antique cars.

My wife, Carrie, and I annually visit Carrie's twin sister and our brother-inlaw, who own a house on about 10 inland acres. Their property reminds me of Tuscany. For at least ten years, I have been complaining to anyone who will listen about my not having a sports car to enjoy in Door County. That we only spend about 2 ½ weeks per year up there is beside the point. Friends have suggested that I ship my TR6 up there and send it back at the end of our vacations. There are too many potential problems with that idea and it would become rather costly. Carrie finally put her foot down and said, "Just buy something up there!" She thought it would be worth the expense just so I would stop whining about it. In that I have always loved just slightly better than" beaterquality" cars which are cheap and run great, I started my search.

Continued on page 2

Sports Car Heaven

(continued from page 1)

Shipping a car up from south Florida would add too much to the total price to make it practical. I was convinced that, even from Miami, I could find a good sports car in Wisconsin for less than \$4,000. At the time, I did not consider the fact that salting the roads up there turns most cars into rust buckets. I initially thought about a Miata but could not find one which met all my criteria: stick shift, mechanically sound, presentable in appearance inside and out, and pleasing to a sports car enthusiast, either in styling or historical significance. I had high hopes.

I have always been a British sports car snob. My TR 6 has great big wheels and tires, a big six cylinder engine, twin carburetors, a stiff clutch and hard steering – your typical macho roadster. I knew that buying a \$4,000 British sports car would be very risky. I happened to come across a 1969 Road and Track magazine with a comparison test of an MGB, a Porsche 914, a TR6 and a Fiat 124 Spider. To my shock and amazement, THEY LIKED THE FIAT BEST! The Fiat's engine was designed by a Ferrari engineer, the five speed gearbox was smooth, the ride was comfortable, the handling was great, the top could be raised and lowered in a flash, the Pinin Farina styling was lovely and it even had power brakes! I knew that those cars, produced from 1966 through 1983, were currently in plentiful supply and, therefore, low in price. Could my macho selfimage accept the fact that the Fiats had small 13 inch wheels, rode comfortably, were easy to drive, and some of them even came with AUTOMATICS? I had a lot of thinking to do.

As great good luck would have it, Craigslist had a '77 Fiat 124 Spider for sale only ten minutes from my inlaws' house. The owner was a retired mechanical engineer who was formerly an extremely successful SCCA Fiat racer. He never raced the car he had for sale but he mechanically renewed it for cruising around Door County. My interest was piqued and I made arrangements to see it upon my arrival in Wisconsin.

The owner was a charming and lovely guy, selling the car for health reasons. The paint and upholstery were presentable and the car had nice alloy wheels. The dual overhead cam engine with its progressive linkage

two barrel Weber carburetor and low restriction air cleaner sounded great and had a throaty exhaust note. The Fiat racer/mechanical engineer owner must have tweaked that engine because it sure felt faster than I thought it would. When that Weber carb opened up, it sounded like a baby Ferrari! The gearbox and clutch were smooth and felt just right. The right rear brake got hot and smelly on the test drive but it was too late. I was already in love. The deal was struck: \$3,200, including a factory shop manual and car cover. I was on cloud 9. I finally had my used but not abused sports car in Door County, sports car heaven.

My "new", very inexpensive Pinin Farina-styled roadster lived up to my fondest expectations. It looked great from 20 feet away and had the feel and sound of a traditional sports roadster. I loved driving the smooth and comfortable twin cam, five speed Spider in that gorgeous part of the country. I did have an issue with the occasionally sticky right rear caliper. When I let it cool down, it released and worked well so I plan to change the rear brake hoses this summer, on the advice of a national Fiat vendor. The caliper had been changed in recent times. The temperature gauge sometimes read hot but that was due to the car's having two sending units, one of which was defective. I just disconnected the second one, on the advice of the same Fiat vendor. It did the trick because the first sending unit tells the true temperature. It is counterintuitive, but it works. Some complain about the position of the steering wheels in those cars, but I liked it. The weather last summer was too cold for swimming, so I spent a great deal of time with the top down touring the area. Carrie thought the car was very comfortable and she enjoyed our long rides over canopied roads and along the lakeshore.

The story is not over. I left the car in storage in Door County, to the tune of about \$25 per month. If it starts readily next year, my eccentric car-buying choice will be vindicated. If not, I'll be a laughing stock! In either case, one might say that I'm very easy to please when it comes to old cars. That is true. Unlike most of my car buddies, I don't care too much about paint and upholstery. I just want to hear that engine, work that clutch, shift those gears and cruise. I will update this story next summer!

The 1914 Family Dodge by Ferrell Moore

These days most automotive advertising on TV ranges from bad to awful. A notable exception is the series of commercials in which the "Dodge Brothers" observe their 100-year history by competitively driving their cars -- from their first one to the latest version of the Charger.

That first one in the commercial, a 1914 touring car, caught my eye immediately because I knew my grandfather owned one. A search through the family photo album turned up this picture. Behind the wheel is my grandfather, James D. Moore. Sitting in the back seat is my grandmother, Elizabeth (Lizzie). My father, Lewis E. Moore is riding shotgun while my mother, Faye Shockley poses on the running board. The picture was made in early 1918, shortly before my parents married and borrowed the car for their honeymoon.



Ferrell's parents

My grandfather was a farmer, cotton gin owner, singer and politician who served two terms in the Arkansas Legislature in the 1920s. He was one of those men who always wanted to be among the first to own the latest product of science and industry such as the automobile, the telephone, the radio.

After researching several sources, I have come to the conclusion that his 1914 Dodge was among the first of the first. My reasoning? Fewer than 400 Dodge Brothers cars were manufactured in 1914, while production soared to 45,000 the following year. Close examination of the family picture reveals a typical, oval-shaped rear window. Every

photo of the "first"
Dodge I have ever
seen shows the rear
window to be made
up of four to six
ornate, elongated
hexagon shapes. I
suspect this design



change indicates they are 1915 models.

No matter when our 1914 touring car rolled out of the factory, we know from the photo that it soldiered through many miles of hard driving on dusty country roads. The all-steel body, the three-speed transmission and 35 hp engine (nearly twice the hp of the Model T) served its hard-charging driver well.

There isn't room here to tell the fascinating story of John and Horace Dodge -- how they broke away from Ford to build their own cars and how they died tragically a few years later. Among many excellent references on this subject is the November 2014 collector's edition of *Classic Car* magazine, devoted to the 100th anniversary of Dodge. You may borrow my copy, with suitable collateral.

Update Your Directory!

Lenny & Paula Holzband have moved!

New location:

914 Cleistes Ln. Richmond, TX 77469

Cell and email remain the same: 713-823-9369

lenny.adventures@gmail.com

Refreshments for March

José Gonzalez–Jauregui Tahl Rozycki





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For the first time since 1910, the AAA Revival Glidden Tour will visit Oklahoma City. This is the oldest and most prestigious auto tour in the country and if you own a stock pre-1943 vehicle, you owe it to yourself to join fellow car nuts on this week long tour. The Glidden is hosted by AAA and AACA this year. Even numbered years are hosted by AAA and VMCCA. If you missed the 2012 tour in Brenham, Tx you missed a wonderful tour of 200 cars-don't miss this one!

The Glidden has its roots in the early days of the automobile in the United States. Roads were awful, there were no maps, little gasoline and support, laws unfavorable to drivers, mud, more mud etc. But the car was here to stay! A number of local car clubs met together in Chicago in 1902, recognizing the need for national action to support the automobile and good roads. AAA was formed as part of that effort. A grand tour was

planned for 1904 to go to the St. Louis World's Fair. Some 72 autos entered and 66 made it through 1850 miles averaging 50 miles per day. But it was fun and for 1905 it was structured as a reliability run with strict rules and a number of awards were planned. The top trophy and \$2000 was awarded to the winner through a donation from Bell Telephone director Charles Glidden, hence the name Glidden Tour. This has no connection to the Glidden Paint and Varnish Company. The original Glidden Tours were 1800-3000 miles long and were held 1905-1913 with great success. But they did their job and ended with the 1913 tour.

After WWII, a group of car guys (VMCCA) decided to re-enact the Glidden Tours and the first Revival Tour was held in 1946 to recognize 50 years of the automobile. In the early years only brass era vehicles were allowed to be consistent with the original Gliddens. Gradually, the permissible years expanded to the

current 1943 limit. AAA returned to sponsorship in 2001 and provides some awards and most importantly, the trouble trucks. So stay tuned for Oklahoma City in late August. We have a great tour planned with visits to private car collections, art, cowboy, Indian museums, a jaunt down Rt 66, a visit to the territorial capital at Guthrie, and much, much, more. Registration opens May 1st. Further details are available at www.gliddentour.org. I am very involved as Tour and Events Chairman and will be happy to answer your questions. See you down the road.

1909 Glidden



TEXAS TOUR Registration Underway

The long-anticipated final weeks to the 2015 Texas Tour are ticking down, with registrations coming in, room reservations being made and final plans taking shape. Invitations went out to antique car enthusiasts statewide beginning in late January.

"We've sent about 300 postcards and 500 email messages, updated the www.texastour.org website and posted a notice on the AACA Discussion Forum," said co-chair James Bartlett. "We're still sending out notices as we get additional contact information."

"About 80 motel rooms had been reserved and 40 registrations received by the third week of February, which seems about normal considering the tour was two months away at that point. We always wish that people would register early, but there's inevitably a rush at the end," Bartlett added. "By the way, I've not yet sent in my own registration." Not all members will be staying in Tomball; some live near enough to drive home in the evenings.

This year's tour offers visits to fabulous country homes, antique car collections, restoration facilities and Tomball-area attractions.

GCR members are being asked to help with a variety of tasks (See separate article.). "Working with fellow club members is fun. It's a great way to get to know each other, and we quickly develop a bond and a shared sense of purpose."

"We recognize too that today's busy work and personal schedules demand flexibility in regard to hobby activities like the tour," said Bartlett. "If you can only come for part of the tour, we'll work with you on registration. And even if you are not attending the tour, if you can spare a few hours to help, we'll accommodate you. You'll enjoy the opportunity to interact with those on the tour, and we'll sincerely appreciate your help."

James Bartlett

From the President

Leon Ahlers

Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines. No, it's not the Indy 500 yet; however, now is the time that old car activities in our area begin to emerge from the three-month hiatus which usually happens between Thanksgiving and the Houston Rodeo. By the way, if your car is in that parade, make sure that you are IN FRONT OF the horses. Clean-up afterward can be a long and messy exercise. Just about the same time the azaleas bloom, so do the swap meets. Spring Conroe just happened, Decatur was this weekend, Humble is upcoming as well as Chickasha, OK. This year, our "Really big shew" as Ed Sullivan would have phrased it, is, of course, the Texas Tour in Tomball, 16-19 April. Things have come together nicely, thanks to the Bartletts and their crew. This

should be a fun and entertaining outing, so please try to make it as the location is virtually in our back yard. After the tour, you have about a week to get ready for the Pate Swap Meet, in late April. If you haven't already done so, please sign up to work if you are able, because we need all hands on deck to handle our share of the load. Also coming is Keels and Wheels. Although we do not participate in this as a club, it is most worthy of our support. Are you tired yet, have you spent this year's budget and exhausted your vacation days? Well, friends and neighbors, we've just gotten started and have six months to go. Our brethren in the northern states are still digging out their transportation vehicles, much less their antiques, so they have some catching up to do. God Bless Texas!

Happy Birthday To YOU!



Karen Sokol	3/6
Ashley Griffin	3/9
Jennifer Borcherding	3/12
Jerria Worthen	3/13
Herb Wahlberg	3/15
Terry Williams	3/17
Robert Bullard	3/20
Ollin Willis	3/21
Catherine Bartlett	3/23
Ben Beerbower	3/23
Leon Ahlers	3/27
Jack Malpass	3/28
Verniece Brady	3/30
Tom Timmins	3/31



Gulf Coast Region

HAPPY MARCH ANNIVERSARY to

Pete & Audi Reinthaler 3/4 (#31)
Wallace & Socorro Wade 3/8
Duane & Jenny Medley 3/10
Frank & Bertha Guseman 3/19 (#66)

Jim & Irene Kizer would have celebrated theirs on Mar. 18. Keep Irene in your thoughts.

SPECIAL NOTE;

My co-editor, **Julia Sharon**, suffered a stroke the day before our Valentine's Lunch. She is doing better and is undergoing rehabilitation. You might want to cheer her up with a card. We anticipate she will be there about 3 weeks.

Katy Rehabilitation

Rm. 211 21720 Kingsland Blvd. Katy, TX 77450

_______ That might explain any errors I made in doing this AE.

Need More Info?

<u>Concours d'Elegance of Texas</u> Weekend (including The Worldwide Auction) will be held on April 24-26th at the La Torretta Resort and Spa, on Lake Conroe, Texas . All information regarding the 50-mile Driving Tour, Special Tour events, Auction Preview party, Auction information and Concours information plus hotel, cottages, restaurants, spa and water park all on site... please go to <u>Concoursoftexas.org</u>.

20th Annual Keels & Wheels Concours d'Elegance will take place on the usual first weekend in May, 2 & 3, at Lakewood Yacht Club in Seabrook, TX, celebrating the **Best of Show** winners from the last 20 years. Proceeds benefit Boys and Girls Harbor.

Featured marques are Packard and Mustang (cars) and Garwood and Hacker (boats). Grand Marshal, Dennis Gage; Master of Ceremonies, Keith Martin, Chief Boat Judge, Terry Fiest. See the websit for details including purchasing advance tickets.

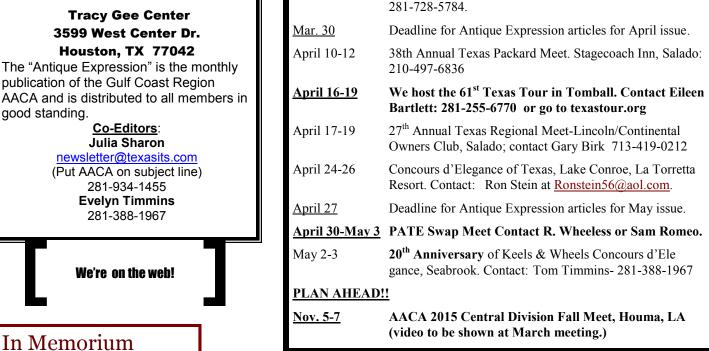
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The Antique Automobile Club of America

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 7:30 P.M. 2nd Monday monthly, except Feb., July and Dec.

publication of the Gulf Coast Region AACA and is distributed to all members in good standing.



Mar. 7

Mar. 9

Mar. 21

Mar. 21

Jim V. Kizer Jr., a member of our club, has passed away. He and Irene had recently moved to Cold Spring. The service was held at Brookside Funeral Home at 11 AM on Tuesday, Feb. 10. Interment followed in Brookshire Memorial Park.

Jim was very proud of the accomplishments of his business of over 50 years: A1 Glass & Mirrors. In addition to being a member of the Gulf Coast AACA, he served as President of the Pate Swap Meet and of the Houston Drag Boat Ass'n. His wife of 60 years, Irene Kizer, is left to cherish precious memories along with sons: Terry and wife Cindy, Keith and wife Debbie, Charles, and 5 grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Kendall H. Kizer Special Needs Trust, P.O. Box 663, Huntsville, AL 35804

On another sad note, our secretary, Albert Ramos, lost his mother, Elba Zaida Sanchez **Ramos** on January 30th. Visitation was on Friday, Feb. 6 at Ramsey Funeral Home in Georgetown. TX. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday at Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic Church in Andice, TX. She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband, Van, and 5 children and 11 grandchildren. Donations in her honor may be sent to The Arthritis Foundation, The Institute of Hispanic Culture (3315 Sul Ross, Houston, TX 77098) or Santa Rosa de Lima Catholic Church (6571 FM 970, Andice, TX 76527).

If you wish to share a message, please go to www.RamseyFuneral.com.

Underlined items are club (GCR AACA) sponsored activities.

League City.

Clear Springs HS 3rd Annual Car Show, 501 Palomino Ln,

GCR AACA meeting in the Tracy Gee Center. 7:30 P.M.

6th Annual Towne Lake Car Show, contact Joe Ingonito

Saturday at the Strand Open Car Show, Galveston.



Our Friends in the Louisiana Region Invite You

Fall 2015 - Save the Date!

LOUISIANA REGION

AACA 2015 Central Fall Meet

November 5,6,7, 2015

Houma, Louisiana

Meet Site:

Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center

Host Hotel: Courtyard Marriot Houma

Come "Pass a good time" with the Louisiana Region as we host you in Cajun Style

> Meet Chairman Fred Duplechin

Chief Judge Hulon McCraw

Registration Chairman
Dave Dupre

LOUISIANA REGION LAGNIAPPE CHAPTER



For more information, visit our website at www.aaca-centralfallmeet15.org or write us at

centralfall2015@gmail.com fallcentmt2015@att.net







Lagniappe ("lahn yop") is a Cajun Term for "a little something extra." It serves our traditional value that, in business and friendship, we go out of our way to make people feel comfortable and satisfied that they've been well cared for—that's exactly what you can expect attending this meet. In addition to great cars, you'll enjoy mild fall weather (our driest and most comfortable months), world renowned Cajun Cuisine and Music, Historic Plantation Homes, unique culture and shopping. Acadiana is right next door and New Orleans offers its own style of entertainment, history, cooking schools, the French Quarter, Aquarium and the WWII Museum.

Watch your Antique Automobile magazine for the opening of registration (about May).

www.aaca-centralfallmeet15.org

- Welcoming Night
- Cajun Food and Fun Night
- Excursions and local events
- All AACA judged classes
- HPOF
- Driver Participation Class
- Second Generation Vehicles
- Judging School
- Flea Market
- Car Corral
- Awards Banquet



The City of Brotherly Love

They call it Philadelphia, I call it cold-at least temperature wise. February brought the 79th Annual Meeting of AACA this year. For those who have never attended, it is many things. The main event is the celebration of awards for the best of the best in our hobby -both vehicles and the people who own them and also those who make our club go. I am privileged to be on the national awards team-our group of 25 very experienced judges look at about 4000 vehicles at the National Tours and Meets each year to identify some 300 vehicles to be nominated for the 59 awards in various categories both at Junior and Senior levels. Just to be nominated is a great honor attesting to the superb quality of your restoration work. As most of you know, our James Bartlett won the Duesenberg award last year. The team meets at Hershey in early December and votes on each nominee, looking at the vehicle photo and receiving comments from the team members who made the nomination.

Beyond the awards are numerous seminars, judging schools, and meetings of the various committees which make the club go. Since we are a social club, we meet with old and new friends throughout the weekend and of course, we eat and eat! There is also a serious side as well with the formal business meeting, since we are an IRS 501 (c)(3) corporation. The outgoing and incoming Board of Directors (21) are introduced to the members and comments/reports are given by the club officers.

AACA now has over 1000 active judges and more are always welcome-it's a club within a club and well worth your time. If you're interested in judging, I'd be glad to talk to you. In 2014, 3521 vehicles were registered with 2922 winning some level of award. We have two judges who received their 325th national judging credit during the year! Your museum hosted over 65,000 visitors in 2014 and opened the fabulous Tucker collection in October. The library continued its stellar performance and now has all three of its staff having master's degrees in Library Science. Remember, each member is entitled to 90 free minutes of research time each year-put these guys to work on your next restoration! With over 1 million pieces in the collection, digitization is well underway. We had a small increase in membership last year so we're holding our own while many clubs are shrinking-please do your part and get a member in 2015. AACA again had a good year financially with a net income of \$118,138. With costs ever increasing, it is an annual challenge to keep the dues at \$35/year. Finally, we have some great meets and tours this year within reasonable driving distance-the Auburn Meet in May, Independence, Mo in early June, the Glidden Tour in Oklahoma City in September, Hershey (aka Mecca) in October, and Houma, LA in November.

So, if you've never taken in any national event, pick one and go-you'll be glad you did!

Chuck Crane

Pitch in for PATE

Last year over 8150 spaces were sold at Pate Swap Meet. Sam Romeo reports that there are 900 more swap meet spaces sold than were sold at this time last year. What does that spell? More work for the clubs involved, but ultimately more funds to distribute to them also.

What else is new? Well, this year, Ford Racing Parts Division is sending an 18-wheeler to display their performance cars and parts. There is also talk about hosting a custom car show during Pate sometime in the future. Some car clubs in the Dallas area will be bringing some antique cars for display purposes.

As you can see, there is a lot going on. You can be part of it. April 30-May 3 are the dates. Sign up for one or more shifts to help out our club.

Contact our Pate coordinator, Robert Wheeless, via email (rwheeless@hotmail.com) or by phone (281-463-0013).

Volunteer Workers Sought for Texas Tour

We need volunteers to assist with the Texas Tour on April 16-19 in Tomball, including those who will attend the tour, as well as those who aren't but can spare a few hours. We'll discuss this at the March 9 monthly meeting. Also, there will be a Texas Tour meeting at the Tracy Gee Community Center at 11 a.m. on Weds., March 11 to discuss and sign up for teams to help. Eileen will bring lunch. If you plan to attend, contact Eileen Bartlett (281-255-6770) or jamesandeileen@comcast.net.

"The success of a tour depends largely on the support and friendliness of the host club, and your help is greatly needed to accomplish this," said Eileen. "Remember that we go on Texas Tours four straight years that someone else puts together on our behalf," added James Bartlett. "This year it's our turn to do the same for our antique car friends. Please help."

If you can help, contact James or Eileen Bartlett, or sign up at the March meeting or the luncheon. Some tasks for which we seeking assistance include

- Sell raffle tickets throughout the tour for an electric scooter, donated courtesy of Mike and Bonnie Peterson.
- Assist with the hospitality room on Thursday, Friday and Saturday during the mornings, afternoons and evenings. You can socialize with the crowd and help by keeping the serving bowls full. You won't work the entire time; we'll split this up.
- Bring home-baked hospitality room "goodies." Easy pastry recipes can be provided if needed, and none contain more than four ingredients. We'll buy traditional snacks, drinks and paper products in bulk.
- Loan us your large ice chests for water and drinks. We need at least a dozen. Just mark your ice chest with your name.
- Assist in setting up the Community Center before the Ladies Event on Friday morning, then set up for lunch (one or two seatings) and help put away the table and chairs afterward.
- Serve refreshments on Friday afternoon at the Ferndale Historical Park in Montgomery. We need 2 sets of volunteers to accommodate two separate groups.
- Help decorate the tables before the Friday and Saturday evening dinners, and pick up after dinner.
- Take coolers with drinks on the Friday and Saturday tours, and make them available to participants at stops. You may need to restock with ice.
- Help direct parking at all of the venues on the tour.
- Drive the trouble truck and trailer on Friday and/or Saturday.
- Serve as a host Thursday afternoon assisting at the optional events touring the B-17, the Ornduff shop, and the home tours.
- Contribute donated or purchased items for the tour bags. Contact Jim Johnson.
- Assist with car judging setup. Contact Chuck Crane.

Everyone wants to be able to enjoy the tour, and the more volunteers we get, the less time each person has to work. Thanks to you the tour will be a success. – James & Eileen Bartlett, 281-255 -6770 or email jamesandeileen@comcast.net.

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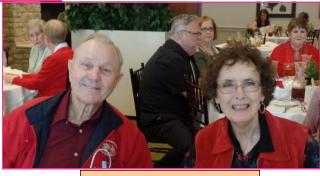
The Antique Expression

Lovely people having a lovely time at our Valentine Lunch.

Ann S Eady Award Winning Editors



Ted and Evelyn Hiesser



Louise & Barney Calvert







Larry's car topless with a beautiful background



Even the inside is Valentine Red!

Pictures from Ferrell Moore and Larry Huber (right).



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