



The Antique Expression

Gulf Coast Region, Houston, Texas

Meet Matejka!



I own 34 motorized vehicles, eight of which are vintage Chevrolets. Therefore, I must admit to having a special interest in Chevy cars and trucks. But, I like anything that will give me the pleasure of going somewhere, be that by motor power, wind power, pedaling or rowing.

Since my teens, I've always had something old and in need of work. My dad always said that I'd buy anything that cost \$300 or less, whether or not it ran. (History bears him out on that.) Nonetheless, everything I ever bought was licensed and running when I got around to selling it. (As things stand presently, 18 of my 34 are not even nearly ready for sale.)

I don't rent out my cars. They end up in weddings, when friends of mine are faced with the costs of marrying off children. You got to say "yes", then.

A couple of the pictures are of me with a car. Neither of them are good pictures of the car. And, as the cars are arguably what this club is about, I provided pictures that only feature cars. Plus, there are some of my cars being used in weddings. They are nicer pictures, as they feature prettier (younger) people.

Finally, I promised Evelyn I would use a later issue of the AE to focus in on a favorite car. Until then..... John

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Antique Automobile Auctions

I attended my first old car auction here in Houston around 1970. I have been closely following auctions since then and I have attended many in Houston, but the best were in Auburn, Indiana, during the Labor Day weekend. Having owned a 1937 Cord at the time, I went every year during the 1980s through the 1990s. It became an obsession to follow the results throughout the world and collect the auction catalogs. I could see trends developing as prices rose and fell. In addition, I would follow sales advertisements in magazines and talk with dealers. I found myself buying and selling antiques and early sports cars throughout the world. To my amazement, I was making a nice profit and suddenly, I was receiving my wife's encouragement. Rationalizing ownership of collector cars now made sense.

Today, with the internet, trends are easy to follow and there are many people making price predictions regarding collector cars, memorabilia and literature. I cannot see into the future, but I can relate what I see in trends. If you are interested in making a purchase, you can use this information to determine whether you will make or lose money in the long term..

Who is selling and why? Elderly collectors know that their children and grandchildren will have little or no interest in their old collectables whether cars, memorabilia or literature. Plus, the collectors are often in need of cash for their retirement. So off to the auctions these items go. This is happening in England and Europe as well as here .And if the collector dies, the relatives are stuck with selling off the collectables, usually with little knowledge of their value. Another reason to sell off antique cars is the drivability of old cars is becoming more difficult with freeways and crowded roads. Then there is the concern of the death of internal combustion engines and gasoline with the future

replacement by self-driving electric vehicle. That is not going to happen any time soon, but the fear is there.

Who is buying and why are they buying? Wealthy collectors who are selling stocks and land in anticipation of a recession and see collector cars as a better investment. Chinese, Indians and middle easterners that are making money in America and England and who do not want to take cash back to their countries often buy commodities that they can keep here or ship back home. Although, I know nothing about how this works, there appear to be private car collections popping up all over the world.

What is happening in the restoration business? For several years, Americans and foreigners have been buying up cars from auctions, dealers, and individuals and taking them overseas to countries where restoration work is done more cheaply. There are restoration shops throughout Asia - the Philippines, China, Vietnam, India, etc.

What will happen when there is a major recession? As in the past recessions, the top tier of cars will go up in value or will hold steady. Mid tier cars will go down in price or hold steady Prewar through the 1950s will fall faster than they are doing now and the mundane cars in the lower tier, particularly the very old ones with unfamiliar names will drop the most. Now there are exceptions to every rule and I may be wrong in some of my observations. For additional information, follow Hemmings Motor News, Hagerty Insurance and other auto publications.

Rob McLellan

Here is how John Matejka (pronounced ma-teek-ah) likes to be seen: enjoying his "ride." We hope to hear about another of his more than 30 cars in the near future.



Don't forget to come to Tracy Gee on August 12th for our next meeting.

★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY!

AUGUST

Pam Ahlers 8/2
 Ellen Howard 8/3*
 Mike Stargel 8/3
 Thomas Kidd 8/9
 Julie Collins 8/24
 Norma Moore 8/26
 Linda Tucker 8/28*
 Mike Peterson 8/31

SEPTEMBER

Ron Stein 9/3
 Ann Bartlett 9/4
 Bill Seward 9/6
 Mary Ann Derby 9/9
 Joy Wheelless 9/10
 Jim Johnston 9/11
 Diana Forbes 9/30

Happy Anniversary!

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

Ted & Evelyn Hiesser	8/6 (64!!!!)
Charles & Patricia Logan	8/8 (59!!!!)
Robert & Elaine Bullard & Victoria Seward	8/10 (46!!!)Bill 8/19 (52!!!!)
Michael & Caroline Calistrat	8/26(62!!!!)
Patrick & Lydia Fant	8/26 (19!)
Herb & Barbara A. Wahlberg	9/8 (45!!)
Ollin & Nell Willis	9/12 (61!!!!)
Michael & Bonnie Peterson	9/30 (65!!!!)

Average = 52.5 years of wedded bliss

Can you guess who these members are?
 They are having an anniversary in August!



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

General Meeting 10 June, 2019

President **Robert Bullard** was out of town, so Past President **Jim Johnston** ran the meeting. We started at 7:36.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Diana Forbes offered a prayer of healing for our members who are in need. **Dean Forbes** then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

Michael Curry, a former GCR member in the 1990s, was our guest to-night. Mindful of our nation's recent observation of the 75th anniversary of D-Day, Michael asked for a moment of silence for those who fought at Normandy. Thank you for that, Michael. Michael has been fighting his own battles recently. In January, he got a new kidney and states that he is doing really well. Michael's classic ride is an '83 Toyota Celica.

Treasury Report

Treasurer **Ev Timmins** said the Club's finances are fat and fit. We've not yet gotten our Pate participation check, but we did make \$400 from selling some of the original automotive literature that **Robert McLellan** donated to the GCR. While helping to sort this literature in **Ev Timmins'** barn (I nearly dropped the "n" on that last word), last winter, **Dean Forbes** lost a fancy pinkie ring. We hope he finds it. Is there a Club member who can lend Dean a metal detector so he can quickly scan the boxes?

Sunshine Report

Diana Forbes recited a litany of ills that have befallen members. One example is **Paula Holzband**, who is

recovering from shoulder surgery, and we hope she is doing well. We also had an in-person update from **Joe Vogt** about his cancer journey. Joe's personal health message to us was that the best way he has found to maintain his health is to stay away from doctors and to eat healthy foods. To keep active, Joe is driving his Corvaire when he can. He even drove the Pierce Arrow about 6 weeks ago.

Bill Cockrell was also at the meeting.

After recent back surgery, he was walking well with the help of a sturdy walker-chair. Bill says it looks like our prayers for his recovery are working.

And speaking of prayers, **Ted and Evelyn Hiesser** would appreciate yours.

Finally, **Stan Ericksen** is still hobbling about, but he does it as adroitly and cheerfully as any nonagenarian could be expected to do. Stan and I had lunch together not long before the June meeting. The food was excellent, but the noise from the crowded barbecue joint made it tough for us to hear each other. The lesson learned from this is that when you are lunching with someone who is 90 years old or more, go to a quiet restaurant.

Diana also noted several June and July birthdays. Those with birthdays who were at the meeting included **Bea McLellan, Sandra Johnson, Rob't Wheelless**, and **Bill Palmer**. I *almost* had a birthday celebration when **Stan Ericksen** mistakenly sent me a birthday card that was intended for his son-in-law whose first name is similar to mine.

Refreshments

Tonight we gnashed the nosh courtesy

of **Javis Boudreaux**. *Chef Javis* served up a hearty repast of trays laden with rich meats and cheeses that could be consumed naked (the food, that it - not those eating it) or dressed up with a snappy selection of dips, crackers, and flat breads. Trays of mixed fruits lulled us into a false sense of health, so we felt no shame as we consumed a selection of delectable cakes and cookies. **Ron Stein** brought drinks.

Where We've Been

Pate Swap Meet - Jim Johnston read President **Robert Bullard's** statement thanking all those who helped the GCR at Pate.

Texas Tour - The 66th annual Texas Tour, hosted by the Central Texas Region AACA, was held in Kerrville in May 2019. By all accounts, it was a great tour. **Julie Wagner-Palmer** gave us a recap of the event. While the entire tour was fun and fraught with interest, Julie recounted that the most personally amusing episode in it happened before she arrived. Julie had stopped at a gas station to fill up **Rock**, her '56 Hudson, when a young man approached her and stated that he recently bought a rare '57 Hudson. Of course, Julie immediately induced *shock and awe* in the youngster when she correctly identified his car as the one formerly in **Dick Burdick's** museum. Julie said the oldest car on the Tour was a brass-era 1913 Ford Model T. She awarded the **Breck Wagner Memorial Orphan Car Award** trophy to a guy from El Paso who brought his 1949 DeSoto Woody Wagon. The award is given annually by Julie as a memorial to her father, **Breck**.

(Continued on pg. 5)

Minutes

Continued from page 4)

Jim Johnston said the funniest thing about the tour was that the Vulture Vehicle Team didn't have enough gas to help all who ran empty. He also reported that the auction did well and was held to benefit **Fisher House**, a facility that provides rent free, home-like accommodations for military families who cannot afford the cost of food and housing while they stay in close proximity to their wounded warriors receiving hospital care.

Wayne Bartlett's favorite part of the Texas Tour was the Thursday afternoon visit to a junk yard. Why is that not a surprise?

Where We're Going

July 4th - We've actually already celebrated this on Sunday, July 7 at the Del Webb Sweetgrass Amenity Center. We had great barbecue and a potluck meal with many excellent offerings.

November 9 - The Board voted to approve a Club Veteran's Day event at Bear Creek Park.

2020 - **Wayne Bartlett** updated us on hotel accommodations for the 67th Annual Texas Tour our GCR is hosting in 2020. He has secured contracts for a Motel 6 at \$90/night and a Holiday Inn for \$130/night, each before local and state governments take a share (taxes). **Jim Johnston** says one Texas AACA club dropped out of the Texas Tour rotation, but we added one from Harlingen. So



REFRESHMENTS

MAY

Jo D'Ambrosio
Bea McLellan

now we have 6 clubs in the host lineup.

Car News

Ron Stein bought **Sal Gottlieb's** '56 Continental coupe.

Rob't Wheelless's buddy in Rockport, **David Pilgrim**, is still building vehicles to run on the Bonneville Salt Flats. In addition to having vastly modified and raced his dad's old work truck (a '54 Chevy 3100 with more than 1,000 horsepower), David is racing a '37 Harley and a '99 Corvette, both modified.

Julie Wagner-Palmer recently sold her '41 Hudson. **June Bug**, Julie's beautiful burgundy '49 Plymouth convertible, is also for sale.

Luck of the Draw

Our first drawing is the \$10 "being there" prize. If a member shows up, gets a ticket, and stays until the drawing is held, the member's ticket number might be drawn as the winner. If you don't believe me, just ask **Dixie Thomas**. She was the winner of tonight's \$10 prize. Congratulations, Dixie!

Our second drawing is for a cumulative monetary prize and is a bit more involved. A name is drawn from the entire list of Club members. If you are present and your name is drawn, you win the prize. If the member whose name is drawn is not present, the prize is unclaimed and grows by \$10 at the next regular meeting. Tonight's prize was \$110, but **David Kaiser** was not here to claim his bounty. So the August prize will be **\$120**.

The End

The meeting ended at 8:30 with a rush of activity as we re-stacked the chairs. That was all the fun we could handle for one evening.

As it was – Albert L. Ramos

A "Technical Article": Restoring Rubber or Composition Steering Wheels

Clean out and enlarge the cracks with a hand grinder and burr or electric drill with a small reamer. Take a piece of screen wire or sandpaper and go over the entire wheel, smoothing it out and catch the dust in a paper.

Mix epoxy cement and add enough dust to color the cement, work this into cracks and pat in a little more dust at the surface and wipe off excess. Let it set over night. Sand down smooth. Then polish with a wet rag wheel and fine pumice. Finish polishing with a buffing wheel and polishing compound or jewelers rouge. Then wax.

Editor's Note: Some years ago we had a technical article in every issue of the AE, written by one of our inhouse technicians. Certainly we have club members who do their own work sometimes. Would you be willing to contribute to this column? Let me know.

I had kept a file of potential topics and articles. This was one found by Stan Ericksen, who in 2011 did not remember where he got it, so it will be "anonymous."

Better this late than never, right, Stan? Evelyn



President's Letter - Through the Front Windshield



Travis Knight ▶ A Tahoe and Northern Nevada History
19 hrs · 🌐
Donner Summit, Winter 1911

Elaine recently sent me a neat photo of a car headed downhill at Donner Pass in 1911. I don't know why she had this photo or even why she sent it to me but it got me to thinking. With all the wonderful attributes of new cars like: fuel injection, variable speed wipers, ten speed automatic transmissions, heaters to keep you warm, air conditioning to keep you cool, electric cars, hybrid cars, autonomous driving cars and the longevity, dependability and maintenance reliability of modern cars; it remains that automobiles grew out of the simple need to get from point A to point B quicker and easier than on foot or a bicycle, horse, buggy, wagon, stage-coach or train. And when you look at a photo like this one, you realize that in the beginning, automobiles must have seemed like an unbelievable godsend. In my opinion, nothing transcended and liberated mankind like the automobile.

I love to romanticize history. I read pretty extensively and about 60% of what I read is historical in nature. I guess it's the Walter Mitty in me, but I can very easily place myself in the context of most stories and imagine I'm in the story. They say a picture is worth a thousand words and to me this photo speaks volumes. To me, here is a hardy individual out in his auto headed down the side of a mountain. Is he headed home, to town to buy supplies or maybe to the saloon in town to have a drink with the boys? He's axle deep in snow, the top's down, the passenger side door is open, it appears he's headed down at a pretty steep angle, but he looks like it's all routine. With his pipe at a jaunty angle, he looks like this is just another routine trip.

So what's my ultimate takeaway from this photo? Get in my old car and go somewhere. Get out in the darn thing, fire it up and head off somewhere. It doesn't matter the circumstances or conditions, anytime we're out in our old cars, time stands still and even reverses. We're taken back to that golden time in our lives and if we let it, our internal Walter Mitty takes over and we're transported to any time and place. And, it's always a happy time and place.

So, even though it's hot, humid, and bright enough to blind you if you're not careful, get the "old girl" out and go somewhere. Even if it's just to the nearest Sonic or Dairy Queen to get an ice cream. Relive another time and place in your life and have fun. Because in the end we'll not likely get any financial reward from owning this old car. It all comes down to how they make us feel.

Hope to see everyone at the August and September meetings!

Robert Bullard

Get Excited About Brenham!!

Brenham is a city in east-central Texas in Washington County, United States, with a population of 15,716 according to the 2010 U.S. census. It is the county seat of Washington County. Brenham is south of College Station, and about halfway between Houston and Austin approximately 70 miles northwest of Houston, and about 90 miles east of Austin. Brenham is renowned as the heart of the bluebonnet region in Central Texas. The local chamber of commerce promotes the Bluebonnet Trails and offers free maps to guide visitors along the most scenic wildflower routes, which also pass historic sites and attractions. Washington County is known as the "Birthplace of Texas," as it contains the site of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836 in the town of Washington-on-the-Brazos. This is now a state historic site. Brenham is also known for its annual German heritage festival that takes place each May called Maifest, similar to Volksfest. Numerous German immigrants settled here in the mid-nineteenth century, following the Revolutions in German states in 1848. Brenham is also the Home of "The World's Largest BBQ Pit" on 290



**From our
Club Historian
Joe Vogt**

From the August, 2009
Antique Expression

The cover car for the August, 2009 edition of The Antique Expression was Steve Wanderman's 1951 Packard Patrician named Bess after Bess Truman. She was just one year shy of having power steering and brakes, so one could get quite a workout driving this 4115 pound, 18 foot long car.

The car was essentially all original with a repaint job in the original dark green. An all wool interior with coil innerspring seat cushions gave a hint of how luxurious this car is. Steve's information is that it came from the chauffeur of the original owner in Long Island, New York and then to Steve's friend, Gene Brewer of Longview.

The engine is a 9 main bearing flathead straight 8 which is coupled with the standard Ultramatic auto tranny which is very smooth; but still, with an overdrive lockup clutch and the long stroke, high torque engine, the car could accelerate and pass very quickly in the 30 – 80 mph range. Top speed when the car was new was 104 mph. If the 6 volt battery is maintained on a trickle charge, the gear reduction starter does not fail to crank and start the monster engine, but a recently installed booster fuel pump not only reduces cranking time but also reduces the chances for vapor lock with today's high volatility, unleaded gasolines.

Because they were so rugged, these engines were widely used for street racing, but for this purpose, single or double 4-bbl carbs replaced the original one barrel.

The '67 Checker of Taxi Tales told us that turn signals were devised as early as 1907, but the first modern version was patented in 1925. But it was 1939 before they were offered by the major auto makers. If you used a hand signal today, probably 90% of the motorists would wonder what the driver was doing with the arm out the window. Interestingly, a Connecticut insurance company found that most drivers in one East Coast city don't use their signals. In fact 18 to 21 year old drivers failed to use them 71% of the time. Reasons given: 42% said that they do not have the time, 23% admitted that they were just lazy, 11% didn't think that it was really necessary, and 8% just followed the crowd. "No one else does, so

why should I?"

The Checker Wisdom was: A diplomat is a man who can convince his wife she looks vulgar in diamonds and fat in a mink coat.

President John Alkire noted that the club was doing a heck of a job planning for the 2010 Texas Tour and that Ron Stein was meeting with John O'Quinn to set up an opportunity to see John's cars in September or October. It was reported that Gordon Bennett was in the final stages of distributing GCR AACA name badges.

2020 TEXAS TOUR INFORMATION

Don't forget. Our club will be hosting the 2020 Texas Tour next year. We know you will contribute towards making it successful, but we also want you to attend.

If you have not gotten information about the host hotel and reservations, here it is.

HOST HOTEL: Holiday Inn Express

2685 Schulte Blvd.

Brenham, TX 77833

979-830-5331

Ask for Block name 67th Texas Tour (Block Code MCS)

Rate is \$130.99 per night plus applicable taxes/fees.

Overflow and pet friendly Hotel: Motel 6

Brenham (formerly Holiday Inn & Suites)

555 Hwy 290m West

Brenham, TX 77833

979-836-4590

Ask for 67th Texas Tour Car Show

Rate is \$90 per night plus applicable taxes/fees

Tour packets for registration will be mailed shortly after the first of the year.

If you have any questions, contact Sandra Johnston at 2020texastour@att.net.

On the Road Again*

Model A Parts In A Pinch

I've been traveling in Washington state this month and was in an antique store when I heard a man ask the proprietress if she had any Model A parts. She directed him to something in the front of the store. The customer immediately said in a voice that conveyed not a little acerbity, "This is for a Model T!" Despite this bad beginning, he happily found an odd-looking tire tool with "Ford" engraved on it and quickly made the purchase.

As he was walking out the door, I buttonholed the fellow customer and told him that the President of our local Houston area AACA chapter was not only a big-wig with the Model A Club, but he drives his Model A cars throughout the USA. We introduced ourselves (his name was Mike), talked for several minutes. Then I gave him **Robert Bullard's** contact information together with my own.

Before we parted ways, Mike said he had a story for me about "parts flexibility" of the Model A. Mike was getting ready to participate in a holiday parade in his town when he noticed a stream of water spouting from the top of his Model A's radiator cap. He pulled over to assess the matter. Once he got the cap off, Mike held it up to the light and noticed a pinhole in the top.

Not wanting to give up his place in the parade, Mike wondered how he could quickly repair the cap. Suddenly it occurred to him that maybe the gas cap was the same size with the same threading as the radiator cap.

Thankfully, it was. Mike switched the two caps and was able to take his place in the parade. That was quick thinking on Mike's part.

**On The Road Again* is a series that welcomes stories from Gulf Coast Region AACA chapter members about how a shared interest in cars and helping others can pave the way to friendship and adventure.

FROM the July Lunch.....



Mango Salad Julie Wagner Palmer

2 tsp canola oil
1 clove garlic, minced
1 ½ C corn kernels, (from 3 ears)
1 large ripe mango (about 1 pound) peeled and diced
1 15 oz. or 19 oz. can of black beans, rinsed
½ C chopped red onion
½ C diced red bell pepper
3 tblsp lime juice
1 small can of chipotle pepper in adobo sauce, drained and chopped (see Note below.)
1 ½ tblsp chopped fresh cilantro
¼ tsp ground cumin
¼ tsp salt

Heat oil in a skillet over medium high heat and then add garlic and stir until fragrant. Add fresh corn kernels and cook until browned. Stir kernels while cooking. (You can use either a non-stick skillet, but I prefer my cast iron skillet.)

Put roasted corn in large bowl and add the mango, black beans, onions, bell pepper, lime juice, chipotle peppers, cumin, cilantro and salt. Mix it all up and then cover and let it refrigerate overnight before serving.

Ingredients are estimates: I try to make everything (mango, corn, and black beans) at about a 1:1:1 ratio, so you may need more or less mangos or corn.

Rinse the chipotle peppers slightly, decrease the amount of the peppers to decrease the "fire."

(Originally served in July, 2010)

Down the Road

Underlined items are club (GCR AACA) sponsored activities.

- Aug. 12 **GCR AACA** meeting. 7:30 in the Tracy Gee Center.
- Aug. 26 Deadline for contributions for any Sept. mini news
- Sept. 9 **GCR AACA** meeting. 7:30 in the Tracy Gee Center.
- Sept. 28 Deadline for contributions for October issue of AE.
- Oct. 23-26 **2019 Southeastern Fall National**; Hosted by Deep South Region. Mobile, AL Check aaca.org tour info.
- Nov. 9 GCR AACA Veteran's Day Picnic at Bear Creek Park. More info later.

Public Car Outings.....

Friday Lunch - Car (& food) enthusiasts gather for lunch on Fridays at various restaurants. Contact Bill Cockrell 281-293-0842 for information.

Friday evenings Pearland Antique & Classic Auto Show Cruise Night at Pearland ISD Admin. Building parking lot, on HWY 35 (Telephone Rd.), across the street from Walmart. 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.

Last Sat. morning of the month: Coffee and pastries at Gateway Classic Cars, 71 Esplanade Blvd., Houston, 77060

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.

Gulf Coast Regional Meetings at Tracy Gee Center 3599 West Center Dr., Houston, TX 77042

Meetings begin 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 bi-monthly Publication of **Gulf Coast Region, A.A.C.A., Inc.**, Houston Area, Texas, And is distributed to all members in good standing.

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Square Car Tour

By Bob Parrish, Vice President - National Awards

Have you ever participated in a square car tour? You may have and not known about it. Every spring our local Region organizes a tour that travels through the back roads in the country. A square car is defined by the general shape of cars of the 1920s – 1930s. The tour organizer usually leads because they have selected the routes, and detailed route instructions are passed out in case the tour becomes interrupted. The other participants are arranged by the oldest first and sometimes this is a Model T Ford.

Other members with newer cars also come, but are placed in order by the car's age. The tour duration is about 50 or 60 miles, the pace is slower, but the waves from people along the way are gratifying. The tour always ends at a pre-arranged restaurant for lunch. A good time of fellowship is had by all. We always invite the local Model A Club to join us and guess what, the Region and AACA usually pick up some new members. Call the tour what you like, but "Square Car" seems appropriate to us..

Planting the Seeds of Appreciation of Old Cars in Our Younger Generation

By Raymond McFarland, Salem, NJ, sjraca@gmail.com

Sitting in my chair on February 20 looking at the snow coming down, reading *Hemming's Classic Cars*, the article said that "we're in the hobby because we love old cars."

I have enjoyed old cars since I was 11 years old and was working on cars for friends from then on.

I bought my first car, which was my first mode of transportation, when I was 16 years old. It was 34 years old when I bought it. I fixed it up and made sure that it was roadworthy and would pass Pennsylvania state inspection.

After 56 years of ownership, I find my biggest joy now is sharing my love of old cars with my grandchildren. Just last week, my youngest grandson Jackson (now 11 years old) said, "Pop Pop, let's get the Model A out and go for a ride."

After backing it out and turning it around in the driveway, I got out of the car and proceeded to have him slide into the driver seat and explained all about the break, clutch and gear shift. I proceeded to have him put it in first gear and ease the clutch out, which he did. He then drove down the driveway and stopped to get ready to make a right turn onto our road. I had him check his mirrors and also check for any other cars coming down the road. *(Just to ease your mind, we live in a very rural farming area with very few cars driving down our rural road.)*



Jack proceeded down the road shifting from 1st to 2nd to 3rd. I told him to get ready to stop down the road at a mailbox. This was repeated for 2 ½ miles down our road, turning around at the end of the road. Then we proceeded again stopping again at every other mailbox. Stopping and shifting and getting more coordinated. I explained to him not to look at his hands or his feet or the gear shift lever, but to keep his eyes on the road. He was all smiles.

I had him stop and turn into our driveway, where his dad proceeded to take his picture. Jack turned off the ignition, set the hand break, stepped out of the car and said (while grinning like a mule eating briars), "I'm only 11 years old and I was driving dad!"

As I sit here thinking back, I basically did the same thing with my 3 sons who all drove the same car at around the same age. But none showed the same proficiency as Jack. He really had the knack down quickly. I also have had my granddaughter Emily at 12 years old (now 20), driving the same car.



Sitting here reflecting back to our latest acquisition, a 1939 Buick convertible, our two oldest granddaughters, Emily & Abby, came back after a ride in that convertible saying, "Pop Pop, we love this car and want you to will this car to us."

What better way to instill the love of old cars in the younger generation.

Old cars with no specific need for a radio or any other modern amenities to distract you - just the sound of the car and the wind. And enjoying something that is still special as they get older.

From the *AACA Speedster*, May, 2019

Passing this on.....

Join us for the Fall

CARS

Coffee & Conversation

Saturday, Sept. 14 from 10 am to 12 noon

Car detailing demo at 11 am

HCRJ Parking Lot

801 Bering, Houston, TX

FREE and open to the entire community! RSVP to Justin@hcrj.org
to reserve a spot to show your special car

Cars, Coffee & Conversation is sponsored by:



JOIN OUR FRIENDS IN MOBILE

for the

2019 Southeastern Fall National

Oct. 23 - 26

BORN TO CELEBRATE!

Mobile has a certain magic that keeps you on your toes. Where a melting pot of people, flavors, cultures and traditions become one voice to lead life's celebrations. Join the jubilee and welcome every day with an enduring passion and a little soulful hospitality, because life is the ultimate gift. This is the spirit of living. This is what we're born to do. Funky, feisty, festive. Or historic, hip and happening. Colorful, cool and cultured. You can call this coastal town a lot of things when you have a vibrant 300 year history with lots of stories to tell and long-standing traditions celebrated on a regular basis. Home to America's original Mardi Gras that rolls through the streets of our historic downtown; dozens of festivals, art shows, or culinary cook-offs nearly every weekend, Mobile takes having fun pretty seriously. For a bit more leisurely experience, nearby historic neighborhoods are lined with giant live oaks trees or paddle in one of the most significant river delta systems in the country just minutes from downtown. The twelfth busiest port in the country, Mobile is the social, economic and creative hub of the entire Gulf Coast - our sidewalks and colorful downtown have drawn people for centuries. Many large businesses are headquartered in downtown Mobile right next to quaint, locally-owned art galleries, shops, restaurants and bars. On any given week day, you'll encounter business people, artists, construction workers, shop owners, students, families and tourists making their way along our flower-lined streets.

Go to aaca.org to request the registration for this event.

It Was A Good Lunch!

So everyone said. After the lunch at our 7th of July event, a number of people asked about a couple of the recipes/authors of certain dishes.

You can see **Julie's Mango Salad** on page 8 and here is the other asked for recipe: Lenny's Corn Casserole, you know the extra helping you got and called dessert!

Corn Casserole Lenny Holzband

3 15 ¼ oz cans of corn
2 15 ¼ oz cans of creamed corn
16 oz. sour cream
2 sticks of salted butter
1 ¾ boxes of Jiffy Cornbread Mix

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Mix all ingredients (except butter) in a bowl.

Put 2 sticks of butter in 9 X 13 glass casserole in the oven just until melted.

Let it coat the bottom of the dish and pour the rest in the bowl with the other ingredients.

Pour it into the casserole.
Bake for 1 hour until top is slightly



Around Town (or out of town) with the GCR

4th of July on the 7th!



John Matejka's Weddings



Question for the next meeting: Who really "kicked tires" and can give us the names of the cars and the owners?

Pictures by John Matejka & John Sweny