



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

By Audi & Pete Reinthaler



I am fortunate in that my wife, Audi, enjoys my old cars, and drives nearly all of them on her own. Frankly I despise driving parades, but Audi enjoys them, so we have a good division of labour there. My one exception to the rule was an annual parade organized within Houston's M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, where the hospital has an excellent art program for the children's wards (yes, children suffer from the ravages of cancer, too) and the kids design their own cards, which are sold to support the program. This started back in the 1970s, and to herald the start of their Christmas season, which begins in October, they had a parade around the hospital grounds featuring the kids themselves and a number of antique cars that they solicited throughout the city. If I recall correctly, the first of the cars were primarily from the Ford Thunderbird Club, and one of their members invited me, knowing my connection with children's hospitals. I had a son who spent the bulk of his short life in children's hospitals, and I still feel a strong obligation to them which far overrides my distaste for parades in general. I did appear for their first parade with my 1919 Model T Touring car, which was the most plebian of the lot

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(Cover story, continued from page 1)

of old cars that showed up, and apparently I was the least worried of what an ill child might do to my car. Kids were being loaded into the cars, and I spotted one boy maybe 10 or 11 years old, pushing around an IV stand with a container of medication in it to which he was attached. My old car was open and high and we could handle the IV stand in the back, and put the kid in front with me, which they happily did. He could show off and wave and not disturb the medication, and hoot the electric horn and have a fine time, and we drove the parade together which was, at the time, perhaps two or three blocks in length.

In the ensuing years, the parade got much larger and longer, and the type of cars varied. and I took sundry other children. I don't think I ever saw the original child again, but he may have been disconnected from the IV stand, which would have made him more desirable to the drivers of the fancier cars. In later years, I taught the kids that were riding with me how to drive a Model T in low gear, and they drove and I rode with them, which caused problems with the police tending the parade, because these kids obviously were too young to have driver's licenses. I had ultimate control of the car anyway, so we were not endangering the other parade participants or spectators, but the police

made such an issue of it that I reluctantly abandoned the idea of the kids actually driving the car.

In its final years, the hospital added a Santa Claus and a Mrs. Claus to the Parade, and they were appointed to ride in our bright red and brass Model T Touring car, which Audi drove at the head of the parade. At length, the Christmas Card Project became a separate organization from the hospital itself, and they were required to provide their own insurance which was very expensive if they included the parade so the organization was forced to cancel the parade. Audi and I were invited back to drive the last kids Christmas Card Parade, and as usual, Audi led forth with a bright red and brass Model T with Santa and Mrs. Claus aboard, I had brought our Baby Duesenberg which is a convertible with limited passenger space, and held back until most of the passengers were assigned to transportation. So it was that while Audi led the parade, mine was the last car. The organization asked me if I would mind taking one of their young doctors along with his girl friend, and so we set off. The doctor was telling his girl friend that when he was much younger he had been a patient in the hospital, and rode in the first parade in an old, black Model T. "I remember that, too," I said, "I was the one that drove you."

Pete Reinthaler

The 2015 Central Fall Meet in Bayou Country

The Central Division Fall Meet, 2015 was recently held in Houma, hosted by the Louisiana Region, Lagniappe Chapter.

But let's start with a little bit of a "Southern Louisiana/Southeast Texas/Louisiana French/Cajun" English lesson. You might wonder how to pronounce "Lagniappe" and what it means. Well, let me explain. Not that I am a true authority on the above listed cultures, but my grandmother was 100% Cajun, and ironically born and raised to age 10 or 11 in Houma, Louisiana. So, what does the word lagniappe mean and how is it pronounced.

As far as I know "Lagniappe" is a Louisiana French word phonetically pronounced "Lanyep". Depending on the area of Louisiana one may be from, the dialect from region to region may vary, sometimes a lot. It's kinda like the differences in the language spoken in different parts of Mexico, but not as bad. So unlike in Mexico, the Louisiana/Southeast Texas people can always communicate with each other.

So let's get back to 'Lagniappe". The word has a variety of meanings from region to region but means "something a little extra", a bonus or gratuity given as a gift from a customer, much like what we call a tip to a waitress or waiter. I would hear my grandmother, "Mama Joe", usually using the word when I used to "learn" while watching her cook. If adding an ingredient to her dish while cooking, she may have said "lagniappe more pepper to datt", which translated to "add some more pepper you dummy!" **(Continued on page 10)**

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Tommy & Carol Baccaro	12/19 (45!!)
Sam & Donna Romeo	12/24 (34!)
Paul & Barbara Byrd	12/28 (57!!!)
Rollin & Joyce Hargrove	12/28 (50!!!)
David & Brenda Kaiser	12/30 (12)
Jack & Cheryl Malpass	12/30 (43!!)

Average: 40 years

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jim McGee	12/1
John D. Alkire	12/4
Tahl Rozycki	12/6
Gene Wall	12/6
Tom D'Ambrosio	12/13
Jose Gonzalez-Jauregui	12/15
Julie Wagner	12/17
Javis Boudreaux	12/24
Brenda Kaiser	12/29
Larry Huber	12/29
Eileen Bartlett	12/30
Billy Ray Duncan	12/31

See you at the December 13th lunch!

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Yes, we have no January anniversaries!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sophie	Adcock	1/3
Sam	Romeo	1/5
Nancy	Smith	1/12
Bill	Cockrell	1/16
Randy	Borcherding	1/16
Floy Deane	Haddox	1/16
Patricia	Logan	1/16
Ted	Hiesser	1/17
Jo Katherine	D'Ambrosio	1/20
LaNelle	Wagner	1/21
Duane	Medley	1/23
Dean	Forbes	1/23
Lynnette	Boudreaux	1/26
Peter	Reinthalder	1/26
Paul	Byrd	1/28
Micky	Bohne	1/29

From The President

Leon Ahlers

The people have spoken! A new administration has been elected and the winds of change will soon be blowing in a new and positive direction. I'll leave it up to the next president to lay out the new strategy, but I think it has merit. The last two years have been very rewarding. We hosted possibly the best Texas Tour in recent history, we are planning our National meet for 2016, and we now have a club historian and a central archive.

I want to thank everyone who had anything to do with the planning and execution of any and all club events. Once the event is over, we go on to the next event and recognition is often forgotten. If not the preeminent automobile club in the state, we have one of the best, and this would not be possible without the work of our officers, board of directors, newsletter editor, sunshine lady, Pate coordinators, hostess and refreshment coordinator, and all others who contribute each month. One of the things that we have tried to do is recruit additional members, and we have welcomed several families recently. Sadly, we have also said farewell to some of our older members. I have enjoyed my term at the helm and look forward to the new crew which takes over in January. I hope to see everyone at the Christmas party.

Christmas Information

Our Christmas Lunch will be on Sunday, Dec. 13 at Brady's Landing. We will begin at 12:30. You are reminded to bring a Toy for Tots if you care to share the spirit. You must have reservations.



Don't forget!

The Antique Expression Publication Changes

After this December-January issue, we will have an AE for February-March. We will be sending a reminder of upcoming club meetings and events in the interim months.

Get your news in early, especially dated information.

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

General Meeting
12 October, 2015

Tonight's meeting began at 7:30 PM. President **Leon Ahlers** was back in the saddle now that his shoulder is better. I hope it's in good enough shape so he can reach into his wallet to pay the medical bill.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Bill Wahlberg was not at tonight's meeting, so **John Doerfler** gave thanks on behalf of our Club. John kindly remembered all of our members who are ill, but he also remembered those who have not been to a meeting recently (such as YOU, **John Alkire, Gordon & Patsy Bennett, Lynne Boudreaux, Stan & Ellen Ericksen, Diana Forbes, Keith Gallagher, José Gonzalea-Jauregui, Johnny & Junko Keifer, Mike & Bonnie Peterson, Donna Romeo, Victoria Seward, Nancy Smith, Mike Stargel, John Sweney, and Bill & Barbara Wahlberg**). We all appreciated it. After this, Leon led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GCR Reports

Treasury Report: **Jim Johnston** gathered information from **Tom and Ev Timmins** and reported that there have been no material changes to our bank balances.

Meeting Minutes: President **Leon Ahlers** asked for a motion to approve the August and September meeting minutes that were published in the October newsletter. Some kind soul made the motion, and the general membership agreed. Once the tumultuous applause and shouts of acclaim subsided, Leon said the two magic words, "So moved."

Sunshine Report: **Barbara**

Wahlberg was absent tonight (we presume she and **Bill** were out on a date), so Leon mentioned that several members and their families need our thoughts and prayers. In particular, please be aware of the needs associated with **Don Boggus, John Manning, and Tom Timmins**.

Refreshments: Tonight we thanked **Pam Ahlers** for being kind enough to bring the refreshments. Pam - ever mindful that some of us are watching our figures - brought fruit, veggies, chips, dip, and cookies. It was as sensible as a CPA. Leon said that Pam wanted to give us caloric space for the chocolate that some of us are likely to consume at the end of the month when we go Trick-or-Treating. I just presumed that there was no chocolate because none of our Club members went to Hershey this year. Regardless of that, we thank you, Pam!

On a related note, **Sandra Johnston** passed around a form for volunteers to provide refreshments for 2016. If you haven't already signed up, please be sure to call Sandra and ask to be put on the list. It's fun to do this because our members appreciate your kind and thoughtful efforts - I know I do!

Pate: Our Pate Representative, **Sam Romeo**, spoke briefly about the Pate Swap Meet, which is our fair Club's chief fund-raising activity. Despite higher than expected expenses, we made more per capita than in the past. Sam, along with our Pate Alternate **Robert Wheelless**, do a great job of representing our Club for Pate. Be sure to thank them the next time you see the whites of their eyes.

Where We've Been

Several members took old cars or

simply visited the *Third Annual Car Show of the Brotherhood of Temple Emanu El*. **Lenny Holzband** headed up the effort, and he did a great job! Lenny reported that 47 cars from 1912 to 2015 entered the show, and more than 600 people attended. In addition, there were 6 food trucks at the event to keep the participants well-fed.

Bill Seward reported that he went to a little show in early October at a church in Katy. There were about 70 or 80 cars in attendance, and Bill says he'd like to see our Club attend this event next year.

Jerry McCurry spoke about the *Guitars & Cars* fundraiser that was held on October 10 at the Sam Houston Race Park. Jerry took his '57 **Meteor Retractable Hardtop** out there to join about 135 other cars and **5 Houston Texans cheerleaders**. All Jerry remembers is that the 5 Texans cheerleaders sat on the back of his car. *He'll never wash that part of the car again!*

James Bartlett also talked about the *Guitars & Cars* event. He said that the event is hosted by construction industry people who raise money for homeless veterans in Houston. They raise about \$100K. James also related something to us that involved a random decision he made the night before the event to watch a favorite **Gregory Peck** movie, **Big Country**. After watching the movie, James researched Gregory Peck and learned that he had a son named **Steve Peck** who was a marine in Vietnam. James also served the USA during Vietnam - he was a Navy SeaBee ("*We Build * We fight*"). The next day at the Guitars & Cars event, James' neighbor introduced him to a man named Steve Peck at the show. It was THE Steve Peck, Gregory's

(Continued from page 4)

son. James said Steve was a really nice man. They spoke for about 30 minutes about their mutual experiences in Vietnam. Then James told Steve that he had been reading about him just 24 hours earlier because of his research on Gregory Peck. James asked Steve all sorts of questions about growing up as the son of a famous movie star. Steve said it was an interesting life and told James that as children, he and his brother were in the movie James had watched the night before. Their big scene was to chase after a stage-coach. James really enjoyed his brush with the famous!

There was also a "high-end" silent auction at the Guitars & Cars event. James bought a painting of a Texas flag at the auction. He also bought a cookbook for **Eileen** that **Steve Peck's wife** wrote. Last year at the same event, James bought a wheelbarrow filled with 23 wine bottles!

Where We're Going

October 24 - Nifty 50ees: **Robert Wheeless** says that this is the annual Nifty 50ees Halloween event, and it's fueled as much by candy as by gasoline. It starts about 6:00 PM, and participants are encouraged to bring candy for the kids, many of whom come dressed in costumes.

October 17 - Riviera Owners Association Meet: **James Bartlett** reported that the Houston area ROA will host "Rivieras on the Ranch" in Montgomery.

October 17 - Tiny Boxwoods: **Ron Stein** stated that this monthly show of local cars is held from about 9:00AM to noon at Tiny Boxwoods, a restaurant in West University.

October 18 - Lickskillet: **Leon Ahlers** strongly recommends the chicken and says that the annual Lickskillet parade and celebration is lots of fun. "Drive a car in the parade and bring

candy to throw to the children watching," said Leon. He also said that GCR members typically gather at **Chuck and June Crane's** restored antique gas station after the parade for dessert and visiting.

Oct 26 - Otto's Barbecue: **Ron Stein** also told us that there will be a British Car Show near Otto's Barbecue & Hamburgers restaurant in Stafford.

November 5 to 7 - AACA Fall Central Meet: **Jim Johnston** encouraged us to shine our old cars and take them to Houma, Louisiana for this nearby and much anticipated AACA national event. The registration deadline was extended to October 17.

December 13 - GCR Christmas Luncheon: **Leon Ahlers** says that **Ev Timmins** has arranged for the 2015 GCR Christmas Luncheon to be held at **Brady's Landing**. We enjoy this venue and are looking forward to it. The cost for members will be \$15; guests will be charged \$20.

February 2016 - GCR Valentines Luncheon: **Sandra Johnston** reminded us that we have to decide on a place for our next Valentines Luncheon. **Robert Wheeless** recommended the **Cadillac Bar** at on Shepherd. They have a private dining room, and we've not been there before Sandra liked this idea and will find out about availability.

October 20 to 23, 2016 - National Tour: **Robert Wheeless** spoke about the 2016 National Tour the GCR is hosting. The event will be based at Moody Gardens in Galveston. Robert has lots of good information and needs more help getting things done. He is identifying all sorts of events for participants including a ferry ride and a ghost tour. Galveston has one of the best ghost tours in the USA. In addition, participants can visit the Lone Star Flight Museum. **Mike Calistrat** is interested in the 1894 Opera House, and others expressed an interest in an old house tour.

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REFRESHMENTS

JANUARY 11

Caroline Calistrat
Barbara Byrd

MARCH 14

Theresa Bartlett
Eileen Bartlett

(Oct. Minutes- Continued from pg. 5)

Cars & Related News

Ron Stein will be on the radio program "In Wheel Time" on Sportsradio 1560 on your AM dial! Unfortunately, I didn't find out the date of his appearance, but I do know that it will be from 9:00 AM to noon.

Other News to Amuse

Our GCR officer and board election is coming up. In the November general meeting, we'll consider the following officer positions: **Javis Boudreaux** for President, **Lee Brown** for Vice-President, **Ev Timmins** for Treasurer, and Albert for Secretary. As for the board directors, **James Bartlett** is taking a break from participation; however, **Wayne Bartlett**, **José Gonzalez-Jauregui**, **Ron Stein**, and **Tonya Ornduff** will continue their directorships. We'd also like to have fresh brains in the group. So how about it, **Dean Forbes**, **Lenny Holzbond**, and **Joe Vogt**. All they have to do is agree! **Sandra Johnston** said that if someone else will take charge of the "refreshment box" (tablecloths, napkins, plastic-ware), she'd be happy to join the board as a director. Thanks, Sandra!

Luck of the Draw

Once again we closed the meeting with the groups perennial favorite: The Drawing. Actually, there are two drawings. The first is a \$10 cash prize for a member who attends the meeting, gets a red ticket, and is still at the meeting when the drawing is made if and when his or her number is called. **Sandra Johnston** selected a ticket from the magic bag, and the winner was... **Barbara Byrd!** Way to go, Barbara!

The second drawing, which is designed to encourage participation, is a cumulative prize that grows by \$10 every month until someone wins it. This month's prize had grown to \$90, and next month it will be \$100 because **Nancy Brown** was not here to claim her prize! That's too bad, Nancy; but we hope to see you at future meetings.

Adjourn - This meeting ended around 8:45 PM, and many of us continued visiting in the parking lot.

As it was – Albert L. Ramos



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Surviving the Holidays

By Stacy Zimmerman, *Speedster* editor

Surviving the Holidays

We here at AACA Headquarters hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving this past week and were able to spend some quality time with family and friends. As we dive head-first into the rest of the holiday season, it's very easy to get stressed out. There never seems to be enough time to get everything done, and then the next thing you know, it's January and the holidays have passed you by in one big blur.

Here's my little survival tip for not just getting through the holidays, but enjoying them, too! I call it the "4 B Rules" and here they are.

- 1. **BE Present:** Meaning be in the moment. Where ever you are, whatever you are doing, make that your priority. Don't let your mind be clouded with thoughts of things to do, places to go, people to see - just enjoy what you are doing at that moment.
- 2. **BE Thoughtful:** Meaning be thoughtful of others, but especially of yourself. Being thoughtful of others is the easy part of this one; it's being thoughtful of yourself that usually gets pushed by the wayside. Make sure you are considering your own wants and needs during the holiday season.
- 3. **BE Kind:** Meaning be kind to EVERYONE - even the person who cut you off in traffic. Plus, good karma is always the best kind!
- 4. **BE Happy:** Meaning continue to do the things that make you happy. Just because it's the holidays, don't stop doing the things you love - and that includes tinkering with and driving your favorite antique car!

These may seem like simple rules, but that's the beauty of them - they are simple, easy to follow and EVERYONE can do them. They won't cost you a dime, but will bring you unimaginable "wealth" during the holidays!

(Continued from page 11)

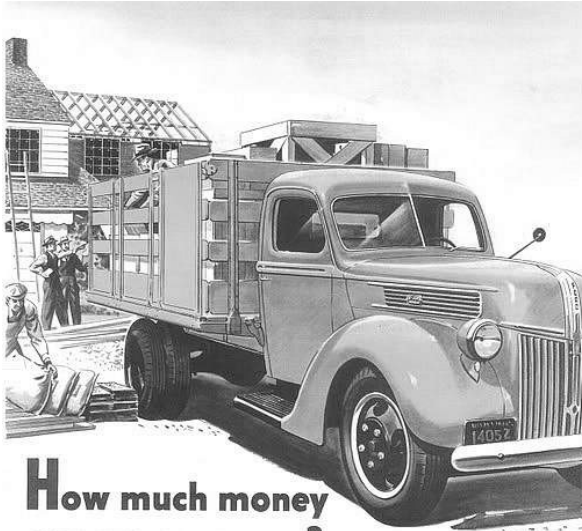
Tom and Ev were regulars at the Alkire house for dinner as Nancy and I were at theirs. Always full of life, energy, and laughter. How many times have we heard the "Rose's soap" joke? Or about the trip through Dairy Queen ordering the "Brizzards". Always a smile.

I will miss that smile. I will miss the friendship. I will miss you, my friend.

John Alkire

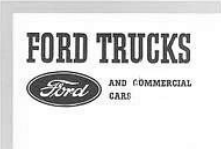
The Way We Were: Riding a Rural Roller Coaster

By Ferrell Moore



How much money can we save you?

From the way you choose a Ford truck, of any size or type, it will start to save money for you. To begin with, your money buys a lot of extra-quality truck features in a Ford that are exclusive at so low a price. You save both time and money on Ford's rugged construction of axle, frame, clutch, brakes, engine . . . Ford trucks' established records for staying on the job and out of the repair shop are numerous and famous. And so are Ford records for low gas and oil costs on all kinds of jobs. When repairs are needed, your Ford dealer's service facilities save valuable time. And Ford low parts and service prices, including the parts and engine exchange plans, cut your bills. Ford trucks save money still another way in this farming world. For their greater power-to-weight ratio and easy handling combine to save you time per trip, and time is money on the job. That economy is one big reason why most Ford trucks have been bought and more are sold today than any other make. For Ford economy is proved—over many years, by many owners, on many jobs.



TEXAS TRANSPORTATION CODE Sec. 545.414. RIDING IN OPEN BEDS; OFFENSE.

A person commits an offense if the person operates an open-bed pickup truck or an open flatbed truck or draws an open flatbed trailer when a child younger than 18 years of age is occupying the bed of the truck or trailer.

Not in the cab. In the bed.

Because few of us 16- and 17-year-olds had our own cars, this is the way we traveled to out-of-town high school football games.

A local businessman was kind enough to drive us there in his stake body. During fall football season, some games were 35 to 45 miles away in rival towns, so not only did we have to brave the cold getting there; it was even colder on the way back at night.

Here's the fun part. A dozen or more boys and girls would don our heavy coats and toboggans and sit on hay bales or stand facing the cold breeze. Because our trips were always over twisting, two-lane highways through the Arkansas mountains, we enjoyed our own rural roller coaster rides.

A bonus: Having an excuse to snuggle for warmth with the girl friend.

The text box reflects the current position of safety experts as it pertains to the well-being of young and foolish teenagers. There are exceptions, such as riding in parades or hayrides, or on the beach.

We didn't have such rules in the late 1940s, of course. Check out the 1½-ton Ford stake body (or stake bed) truck in the advertisement. It's like one in which schoolmates and I rode many miles.

Tribute: Tom Timmins

Our Club lost a great friend and family member recently, Tom Timmins. As Club Treasurer, Tom secured our funds and made sure they were there when and where we needed them and that they were applied appropriately. I like to think that Tom's role as Club Treasurer was fitting because in living a good life, Tom was a real treasure himself. He gathered up the good, safeguarded it, and then used it wisely and generously.

Tom's friendliness, helpfulness, and generosity are gifts that we can all carry with us and share freely as we continue to enjoy our antique car hobby.

Thank you, Tom, not only for being our Treasurer, but for being a Treasure to others and for reminding us to be the same.

Requiescat in Pace, Albert Ramos



10 Years Ago.....

Recommended by
Joe Vogt
With John Alkire

In my opinion, a very important Safety Column by John Alkire appeared in "The Antique Expression" in Sept., 2005, shortly after a tragic accident in Michigan. I regard this column as basically an advertisement for seat belts in our antique cars. Rather than paraphrase, here is John's whole column.

Editor's NOTE: When I told John about renewed interest in some of the columns he wrote in the past, he updated this column. So the one below is updated from 2005. You will see some in the future as we decided to republish some of these safety columns. Some of the new folks in the club might find them useful.

Bradley Patton had worked for three years with his father to restore a 1929 J-model Duesenberg Dual Cowl Phaeton. The 35 year-old Ypsilanti Michigan volunteer firefighter had just finished the car in his father's restoration shop and the owner was going to take it to Pebble Beach in a few days. Saturday night, Bradley loaded up his wife Kristen and their three kids for one last ride in this fantastic automobile.

About 10 minutes from home, a 2001 Volvo ran a stop sign and broadsided the Duesenberg. It rolled several times, ejecting the occupants. Tragically, Bradley, Kristen, and their 8 year old son Nathan were killed at the site. Two daughters, aged 10 and 7 were injured, but survived. There were no seat belts in the Duesenberg.

I sent the news notice about this accident to a few club members and there ensued a discussion about whether seat belts would have helped. One of the police reports stated that they probably would have been injured, but not fatally had they had seat belts. The car looked to be pretty much intact structurally after the crash, so I tend to believe that. I was shocked when Don Sommer chairman for the annual Meadow Brook concours (and famous for expensive shiny Pilot Ray repo lights, among other things) was quoted as saying "adding seat belts would have destroyed the value" of the car. Maybe that is true in the upper crust Concours crowd, but I think it is rubbish. I've judged at ACD national meets and we NEVER deduct for safety improvements or additions.

Statistically, accident rates of antique cars are orders of magnitude below those of daily drivers. McKeel Haggerty (of the Insurance Co) stated that he could not remember a fatal accident in an antique and he has been in the business over 20 years. He stated that antique vehicle accident rates were 0.2% of his customer's claims in any given year. Daily driver accident rates are 3-4% per year.

So while we may be statistically safer, our antiques do not have the safety improvements of modern cars. You can certainly add seatbelts if you like. I think this is a good idea, especially in open cars. If you get tossed out,

***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
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

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you don't stand much of a chance.

The other thing is to constantly be alert. These cars often do not cruise at highway speeds, therefore you can be a bit of a hazard on high speed highways. Try going down I-45 in a tiny Nash Metropolitan ragtop at 55 MPH sometime. Couple that with the fact that our cars usually draw some attention and you have a potentially dangerous situation.

Food for thought: Stay safe.

Down the Road

FROM THE RUMMAGE BOX

Underlined items are club (GCR AACA) sponsored activities.

Dec. 13 12:30-Christmas lunch at Brady's Landing. RSVP required.

2016

Jan. 11 GCR AACA meeting in the Tracy Gee Center. 7:30 P.M. unless otherwise notified.

Jan. 25 Deadline for Antique Expression articles for Feb-Mar issue.

Feb. 14 Annual Valentine's Day Lunch at the Café at Brookwood. Details coming in January.

Mar. 14 GCR AACA meeting in the Tracy Gee Center. 7:30 P.M. unless otherwise notified.

Mar. 17-18 Chickasha Pre-War Swap Meet, Chickasha, OK

May 19-21 63rd Texas Tour, Abilene, TX Hosted by Golden Crescent Region AACA.

Public Car Outings.....

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

Third Sat. of the month, Houston Ride 'N Shine sponsors free car meet from 8-10 AM. at La Centerra Mall in Katy. Facebook.com/houstonridenshine

Last Sat. morning of the month: Coffee, Cars, and Books from 8 - 10 AM in Barnes & Noble parking lot on Bay Area Blvd.

By Bob Parrish
AACA Executive VP

Did anyone ever think that their first car would become a collectible or better yet, a classic, probably not. I bought my first car in the summer of 1957 from a man that worked for the Virginian Railroad coal piers in Norfolk, VA. The \$700.00 I paid for this car had been saved from my paper route earnings and various grass cutting jobs. The car was a sporty 1951 Ford Victoria, which was Ford's first year for a 2-door hardtop. It was painted a yucky two-tone green with a flathead V8 engine and 3 speed transmission and plenty of coal dust.

The cost of the car was not the only expense; my dad would not let me purchase a car until I could pay for the liability insurance attached to his policy. Can anyone relate to this?

This car was my first attempt at car restoration. My dad had a beautiful 1953 Olds 98 Holiday Coupe painted dark blue roof and light blue bottom. I liked it so much that I painted the Ford the exact same colors. I also added the usual custom items of the day, fender skirts, spinner hub caps, the all essential dual exhaust with glass pack mufflers, new seat covers and something special. A new 1954 Pontiac grill bar would fit perfectly in the Ford grill area, so I had to have one on this now modified car. Who said modified cars were a new trend? The car to have when I was in high school was a 1949 -1951 Ford or Mercury and now I was in the groove in my senior year at Maury High School.

How about telling your own story to your Region? Your Editor will love you for it and maybe help with your next restoration



The 2015 Central Fall Meet in Bayou Country (Continued from page 2)

So now let's apply the word "Lagniappe", to the 2015 Central Fall Meet in Houma, Louisiana November 5th -7th. To be blunt about it, the Louisiana AACA Region - Lagniappe Chapter definitely did add a little extra to the AACA National Meet. So did the Gulf Coast Region AACA, as our Club was well represented at the Houma National Meet. The GCR AACA members attending the meet were: Eileen and James Bartlett (1932 Duesenberg Dual Cowl Phaeton, Preservation Award), Micky and Don Bohne (1987 Buick, HPOF), Barbara and Paul Byrd (1904 Oldsmobile, 1st Junior), Carole Coghill and Bill Cockrell (no Car), June and Chuck Crane (1932 Ford Cabriolet), Diana and Dean Forbes (1956 Continental Mark II, 1st Junior), Sandra and Jim Johnston (1956 Thunderbird, Original HPOF), Lynda and Gene Wall (1967 Pontiac GTO, 3rd Junior), and Robert Wheelless (1929 Cadillac Rumble Seat Roadster, HPOF), with his mom Joy and member friend Kay Fournier. All in all, the Gulf Coast Region had 19 people in attendance at the Houma National Meet. And, as you can see with the seven awards by the GCR AACA, our members also took home their share of awards.

So what all did we do while attending the Houma National Meet? The Houma Louisiana Region - Lagniappe Chapter AACA, did as their name implies, have a little extra for us to do while attending the National Meet. On tap was a Tour of Plantations, Oak Alley, Southdown, Ardoyne, some Cajun food, the Greenwood Gator Farm, the Regional Military Museum where we enjoyed a tour and catered ice cream social, some more Cajun Food, many trips to the hospitality room, an AACA judging school, the Members Roundtable with the National AACA Board, plenty of opportunity to visit the many restaurants for some of the local Southern Louisiana Cuisine (more Cajun Food), a Flea Market, as well as the show field and a Bonus (Lagniappe) Area car coral. AND A Saturday RAIN that good ole Mother Nature provided, free of charge, after which we all attended the Awards Banquet and a Lagniappe Cajun style meal.

So to wrap thing up, when it was all said and done, I think all of the GCR AACA members attending the 2015 Central Fall Meet in Houma, Louisiana, had a great time.

And what was the GCR AACA "Lagniappe" we all took away from the 2015 Central Fall Meet?

While having a good time, we all came away from the 2015 National Meet with some new friends and a National Meet learning experience to take home and get back to working on our October 19th - 22nd, 2016 National Fall Meet in Galveston, TX!

So come on GCR AACA, let's all say.....

**LET'S GET READY TO GO
TO GALVESTON**

**FOR OUR 2016 CENTRAL
FALL MEET!!!!!!!!!!**

Jim Johnston

October Minutes

(Continued from page 13)

Luck of the Draw

All eyes were on **Don Boggus** as he was asked to draw the ticket for the first of our two popular monthly prizes, the \$10 "red ticket".

The luck of the Cajuns reigned supreme, and Don drew **Javis Boudreaux's** number. 'Atta boy, Jarvis!

Mary Lou Boggus got to draw the winner for our second drawing, which is a participation prize that grows by \$10 every month until someone wins it. The only way to win is to have your name selected AND be at the meeting. For November, the prize had grown to \$100; and the winner would have been **Raelynn Andrew**, if she had driven in from Humble. Unfortunately for us, she didn't. Come to think of it, if Raelynn *had* driven in from Humble, she would have needed the \$100 to put gas in her car for the long trip! Next month, the value of the cumulative drawing rises to \$110. Be there and win!

Adjourn - At 8:25, the meeting ended. Some of us continued telling lies in the parking lot.

As it was - Albert L. Ramos

My Best Friend, Tom

By John Alkire

Everybody in the GCR AACA knows Tom Timmins and how he worked tirelessly for the club for nearly 20 years as president, board member, treasurer, tour planner, and a “whatever else needed doing” guy. I thought I would share some things you may not know.

First, I want to thank the Auburn Automobile Company for arranging our meeting. No matter that it has been out of business for over 75 years, Auburn was responsible for Tom and my meeting each other. See, I was transferred to Houston in late 1996. Barely had a spare nickel after the divorce. Well, my alimony was paid off in late 1997. Woo-Hoo - Extra money! I had been involved with the ACD (Auburn Cord Duesenberg) club for years, so I bought a light blue 1931 Auburn 8-98 sedan – a good driver quality car.

One day in early 1998 I was driving the Auburn down a street in Friendswood when I look up and see another 1931 Auburn - a dark blue sedan - coming the other way. “This can’t be,” I’m thinking. There are two 1931 Auburns in this berg of 25,000?! I wave at him and he waves back, we do a little car pirouette and stop in a gas station parking lot. We introduced ourselves and I found out he lived in Friendswood too, about 4 miles from my house. Yes, there were two 1931 Auburns in Friendswood. That began a 17 year long and memorable friendship. We worked on a lot of our cars together – I remember one of the first things we worked on was his brakes. He asked me if I knew how to adjust the 31 Auburn’s mechanical brakes. “Sure”, I said. “No problem – it’s easy”. I never did tell him it was a real pain in the butt, took hours, and that I had only learned how to do it the weekend before on mine!

Tom was always there no matter the scope or size – or how crazy – the project. We bought a 1924 American LaFrance fire truck one time and were going to turn it into a speedster like we had seen somewhere – Chickasha maybe. We got it running and cut the body off, but that was about as far as we got. I would call him and ask if I could borrow his trailer to pick up something somewhere and he would always say “No – when do you want **US** to go get it”. We drove all the way to Tulsa and back with Lee Brown to pick up my



1935 Auburn. How many people would do that for you? I remember his first “really old car” restoration . It was a green 1913 Hupmobile. Tom’s restoration skills weren’t the best in those early days – even he said that. He never had the patience for body work so it didn’t have many straight panels, but he did make it look a lot better than when he bought it. We could even start it without pulling it..... sometimes.

We would travel to Auburn, Indiana, for the annual Labor Day ACD club meet. I think the last time was in 2001 when he took “Ruby,” the 1929 Auburn Cabriolet he restored. Beautiful car. He got really good at restoration work and there is a wall full of trophies to prove it. He could tell you details and history about every car he owned. We did a lot together like the HCCA, Texas ACD , the Texas Tour, Hershey, Chickasha, Keels & Wheels. Lots of club events.

I could tell you tons more stories. Like how he bought this huge gooseneck trailer so he could haul two cars to tours, just in case one broke down (which was not an unknown occurrence!!). Or like the time he wanted to change the 31 Auburn springs. The car suddenly dropped when he unbolted the rear axle U-bolts from the springs - **with the jack stands under the axle instead of the frame!!** Luckily Ev was in the garage when it happened and she learned how to use a scissors jack on the spot and dragged him out. I wrote a safety column for the club newsletter for a few years and after spending the weekend in my shop or Tom’s shop – I usually had material for months.

(Continued on page 6)

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

General Meeting 9 November 2015

The November meeting of the AACA Gulf Coast Region (GCR) began at 7:35PM with barely a whisper, but only because the microphone on our little public address system wasn't working. Thanks to the timely intervention of **Jim Johnston**, however, the dulcet tones of President **Leon Ahlers** once again rang loud, true, and clear.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance - - Leon started by saying that we had "much to accomplish tonight", and I think he was doubtful of our ability to do it all. Perhaps this is why he asked **Bill Wahlberg** to lead us in a moment of prayer. Bill's words were important as he recognized our need to acknowledge the love and support we offer those members who are ill or who have now passed. Bill also remembered the families of those who are suffering and reminded us to reach out to them.

GCR Reports

Treasury Report: : **Ev Timmins** reported that our Club has "more than plenty" of funds. It seems we've gone from Rags to Riches compared to the Club's early days. "I know I'd go from rags to riches, If you would only say you care, And though my gas tank may be empty, I'd be a millionaire."

Meeting Minutes: **President Leon Ahlers** asked for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Although I wrote the minutes, I'd be surprised if anyone other than Antique Expression Co-Publisher **Ev Timmins** and I had read them since they are just now being published in our December newsletter along with these November minutes. Nevertheless, some kind soul made the motion to approve the October minutes sight-unseen. I was very moved. So was Leon. He pounded his mahogany Presidential gavel on the solid oak table and declared, "So moved!"

Sunshine Report: Our Club family has had a lot of trying news lately and has suffered some very dear losses. **Barbara Wahlberg** asked us to be especially mindful of **Don and Mary Lou Boggus** and **Tom and Ev Timmins** as they deal with severe medical problems. Tom has since passed, and many members attended the funeral. In addition, we learned that **Bill and Victoria Seward** are also dealing with a major medical matter. On a positive note, Don and Mary Lou did attend tonight's meeting and received lots of love and affection.

Refreshments

The **Bartlett ladies (Eileen and Theresa)** satisfied our taste buds by the refreshments at tonight's meeting. On the homemade front were meatballs and cucumber sandwiches. They also brought a fruit salad with kiwi, a vegetable plate with ranch dressing, chips, angel food cake, German chocolate cake, and cookies. Moving from taste to tasteful, Eileen decorated the refreshment table with a seasonal bouquet of flowers. The food was delicious, the flowers were lovely, and we enjoyed it all. Thank you.

As an aside, I devoted my culinary intake efforts primarily to the homemade food; but I saw **James Bartlett** plowing a healthy row down the carrots and celery. I've always been amazed at the Herculean strength James must have to be able to ignore home cooking and to dive into vegetables that may have just been uprooted from the earth! How can anyone resist good, home-cooked food, especially food that Theresa has made?

Here's something that's not generally known, so close your eyes as you read this. I don't want you to see it and repeat it: I grew up occasionally eating lunch at Theresa's or her mother, Aggie's, kitchen table. There's no tastier meal in the USA than one prepared by Theresa or Aggie. You may be thinking, "Boy! He sure had it good!" Yes, the food was singularly toothsome; but it wasn't all roast beef and gravy for me. The price of admission to these kitchens was that I had to listen to **Wayne Bartlett** telling me what I was doing wrong with my life and giving me "advice." Theresa would occasionally interject, "Oh, don't listen to Bartlett!," meaning "Wayne," at which point Wayne would double down on his "observations" about me. After more than 40 years, you'd think Wayne would have run out of observations, but he just keeps 'em coming.

Where We've Been

Chuck Crane told us about the October 18 Licksillet parade in Fayetteville. It sounded like a nice gathering with good food and people enjoying themselves around old cars.

Chuck discussed the National meet that the Lagniappe chapter of the Louisiana Region sponsored the first weekend in November. It took place in Houma, LA., and about 150 cars participated. Several GCR members brought great cars. **Paul Byrd** took his 1904 Curved Dash Olds (I'm betting he trailered it); **James Bartlett** took his 1932 Duesenberg Dual-Cowl Phaeton (I'm certain he trailered it); **Dean Forbes** took the 1956 Continental Mark II, which he did not trailer. Incidentally, Dean made it back

to Houston with brake lamps courtesy of a 1956 Thunderbird brake switch he borrowed from **Jim Johnston**. Fortunately for Dean, **Jim and Sandra** drove their 1956 Thunderbird together with a spare part or two! **Robert Wheelless** brought his 1929 Cadillac; **Chuck and June Crane** took their 1932 Ford V8 Cabriolet; and new members **Gene and Lynda Wall** brought their 1967 Pontiac GTO. **Bill Cockrell and Carole Coghill** also attended the meet. They simply took themselves without an old car, and we're glad they went! It sounded like everyone had a great time.

Chuck noted that this was the first National meet in Louisiana since 1977, and they ran it with only 6 people. We also learned that it rained and rained throughout the meet; and then on show day, it drained.

Where We're Going

November 26 to 29 - Auto-Rama: **Sean Ornduff** told us about Auto-Rama, which opens in the afternoon on Thanksgiving Day. In recent years, the focus has been mostly on custom cars and hot-rods.

December 13 - GCR Christmas Luncheon: **Ev Timmins** has arranged for the 2015 GCR Christmas Luncheon to be held at Brady's Landing.

February 14, 2016 - Valentine's Luncheon: **Leon Ahlers** wants someone to head up a committee for this event.

February 2016 - AACA National Meet: **Chuck Crane** spoke about the national meet that will be held in Philadelphia in 2016. If you go, take a warm jacket.

October 20 to 23, 2016 - National Tour: Since **Robert Wheelless** is out of town, Leon asked **Jim Johnston** to talk about 2016 National Tour in Galveston our Club is hosting. Jim said Robert is doing an excellent job leading the effort to plan and organize the tour. Jim gave us lots of information about the venue, possible visits to NASA and private antique car collections, and entertainment possibilities.

Cars & Related News

John Doerfler recently bought a 1925 Dodge Touring car on eBay. He's really happy with it because Dodge had a 12-Volt electrical system in that year, and the headlights are "amazing". Congratulations, JD.

José Gonzalez-Jauregui is still restoring his 1959 Mercedes Benz 220S. The 220S has twin carburetors and will be a great touring car. Good work, José.

At the Houma meet, **Robert Wheelless** decided to have a locksmith open the splash apron compartment of his 1929 Cadillac. Inside, he found the original owner's

manual and tools. That's really wonderful, Robert!

Other News - Elections!

Like Thanksgiving and Christmas, our election for Club officers and directors happens only once a year. Tonight we elected the following officers for 2016: **Javis Boudreaux** (President), **Lee Brown** (Vice President), **Ev Timmins** (Treasurer), and **Owlbert Ramos** (Secretary). Our 2016 Club directors will be **Leon Ahlers** (Immediate Past President), with returning members **Wayne Bartlett, José Gonzalez-Jauregui, Tonya Ornduff, and Ron Stein**. New board members will be **Dean Forbes** and **Lenny Holzband**.

Sam Romeo will continue as our Pate Director, and **Robert Wheelless** will be the Pate Vice Director. Who knew that vice at Pate needed a director?

Once the votes were offered, **Barbara Wahlberg** made a motion to authorize them, and **Norma Moore** seconded it. Then the vote was acclaimed by all present, and the newly-elected officers and directors became newly-elated!

Javis Boudreaux's first presidential speech was to float an idea about holding some of our general meetings on weekends during daylight hours instead of during the week at night. The purpose is to encourage members to drive their antique cars to the meetings. Since the Tracy Gee center has no Saturday availability until August, Javis suggested that we might have meetings at someone's home or shop, like the home of **Lee Brown** or the shop of **John Doerfler**. **Tahl Rozycki** recommended that we experiment with a different meeting day and time and that we assess participation.

Ferrell Moore said we need a good way to inform people about the meeting location. **Lee Brown** suggested that since we don't have a particularly large membership and since most of our members use email, we could send an email blast for notifications. Someone would telephone those few who don't use email.

More News - Romance

Since I sit at the front of the meeting and face all the members, I've got a pretty good view of what goes on in the front row that those of you in the back can't see. Throughout the November meeting, I noted that **Bill Wahlberg** frequently had his arm around **Barbara**. At first I wasn't sure if Bill was simply keeping Barbara from leaving, but then I noticed the contented smile on both their faces. No wonder they've been married for 62 years! That Bill is one lucky man!

(Continued on page 10)

Our Valentine Lunch will be held on Feb. 14th-- what a nice coincidence--at the Café at Brookwood. A flyer will be sent in January for you to sign up.



HOUMA REVISITED



Enjoying good food and conversation!



Sandra and Jim having a great time!



The Forbes and their Continental Mark II.



New member Walls' 1967 GTO



The gang's all here, except for June and Chuck Crane.



Checking out the Cranes' 1932 Ford



"K" and Robert at Oak Alley



Lots of folks looking at James' Duesy!

Photos by Jim Johnston