



The Antique Expression

Gulf Coast Region, Houston, Texas

REDEMPTION!



Pam's first exposure to the 66 GTO occurred during High School driver training when the local Pontiac dealer provided the school with a GTO coupe. She took her driver's license exam in that car, and it made a lasting impression. Over the years, she kept admiring GTOs at the many car shows we attended. Pam purchased her Yellow 66 GTO convertible in the late 1980s at the Fall Kruse Labor Day Auction. Fast forward to 1995. My collection was expanding. I had one full-time and one part-time employee working on my various projects, and I was short of storage space. In a moment of poor judgment, I sold three cars, including the GTO. As you can imagine, I was reminded of that decision whenever Pam saw a 66 GTO.

About two years ago, I started to casually follow GTO sales on several sites, including Bring a Trailer (BOT). I had two requirements. It had to be a convertible, and it had to be "TOUR READY," as I have

more car projects than I will ever finish.

In early February, I received a BOT alert that a 66 GTO convertible clone was listed. Not exactly what I was looking for, but the photos looked OK, so I started following it. The history was interesting. The owner was a hair salon owner in San Diego. Her father, who lived in Wyoming had allegedly restored the car in 1990-91 and passed away shortly thereafter. The car sat in storage until her mother passed away in 2017 at which time she inherited it. She had it refreshed locally and shipped to San Diego where she drove it sparingly. In early 2019 she decided to sell it to finance remodeling her salon and engaged a dealer friend to facilitate the sale. The first thing they did was order Pontiac Historical Service documents. Unfortunately, they discovered that it was a Tempest LeMans convertible with a 326 cubic inch motor, and two-barrel carburetor.

One of the big advantages of BOT is that anyone can comment positively or negatively on a listing or ask questions of the seller or a previous posting. This car had about 85 posts, and almost all were positive, other than regretting that it was a clone with the small 326 motor and two-barrel rather than the GTO 389.

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(Cover car- Continued from pg. 1)

To Pontiac lovers, that is like the difference between sitting in First Class versus Economy. The listing included about 60 excellent photos. After studying the photos, I felt that something was inconsistent. Why would someone go to the expense of custom headers and a 2.5-inch exhaust system with an H-pipe on a 326 motor with a two-barrel carburetor? One of the photos revealed that the heads were stamped "093". In 1966 the "093" heads were only used on GTO 389 and 421HO motors. Passenger cars and non-HO 421's used the "092" head.

Ricks Rod Shop in Casper, Wyoming refurbished the car. Rick was kind enough to talk to me on the phone for about an hour and mailed me copies of the refurbishment invoices, which included \$7800.00 in labor(100 hours) and \$2800.00 in parts. Every mechanical part of this car was new, including the water pump, radiator, timing chain, clutch, wheel bearings, brake shoes, hubs, every belt, hose, gasket, and a complete wiring loom. Even the windshield washer hoses were new. The parts invoice was five pages long. After extensive research I was ready to buy.

On BOT there is no sniping at the last minute. The auction does not close until two minutes after the last bid allowing each bidder a chance to raise the bid. In my opinion BOT offers many advantages over a traditional auction or eBay.

Since getting the car home, I discovered it also has a 4.10 posi-traction rear end and a four-barrel carburetor. I have also confirmed it has a correct 66 GTO block, which started life with the three two-barrel carburetor set up. The tires which show no wear have a 1991 DOT build code suggesting that the long-term storage story is probably true. Anticipated future modifications include Vintage Air and a five-speed overdrive transmission. The nice thing about a clone is there is no penalty for modifications. Hopefully, you will see it on the next Texas Tour.

By Bob and Pam Smits

2020 Officers

President—

Vice-President... Ron Stein

2480 Times Blvd., #203A
Houston, TX 77005
713-521-3450
ronstein56@aol.com

Secretary ...

Treasurer ... Evelyn Timmins

2120 Lundy Lane
Friendswood, TX 77546
281-388-1967
evtimmins@aol.com

Directors

1 year

Dean Forbes 713-465-3603
Robert McLellan 713-772-3285

2-year

Ashley Griffin 979-525-3459
Julie Wagner Palmer 713-826-8711

Pate Swap Meet Representatives

Wayne Bartlett - 281-351-2167
Robert Wheelless 281-380-4969

Club Historian

Joe Vogt...281-496-7138

Sunshine Representative

Diana Forbes 713-385-6947

Club Hostess

Sandra Johnston 713-340-0709

Newsletter Editor

Evelyn Timmins 281-797-6788



★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

December

Jim McGee	12/1
John Alkire	12/4
Tahl Rozycki	12/6
Gene Wall	12/6
Pat Fant	12/10
Tom D'Ambrosio	12/13
Jose Gonzalez-Jauregui	12/15
Julie Wagner	12/17
Michael Cawley	12/22
Javis Boudreaux	12/24
Brenda Kaiser	12/29
Larry Huber	12/29
Billy Ray Duncan	12/31

January

John Matejka	1/7
Roy Boyd	1/9
Tina Fernandez	1/10
Nancy Smith	1/12
Bill Cockrell	1/16
Patricia Logan	1/16
Ted Hiesser	1/17
Jo Kat D'Ambrosio	1/20
LaNelle Wagner	1/21
Jack Kethley	1/22
Duane Medley	1/23
Dean Forbes	1/23
Lynn Cawley	1/23
Paul Byrd	1/28



NEW MEMBERS

Couldn't wait to let you know, and you might even see them at the Christmas lunch on the 15th. Our AutoRama folks brought us the following new GCR members:

Roy & Mary Boyd

39 Lassman
Goliad, TX 77963
361-550-1713
64 Fairlane/64Falcon

Tom Pruett

P.O. Box 293
Lake Jackson, TX 77566
979-236-4329
1931 Hupmobile Coupe

Leslie Broyles

3314 Greenwood Glen Dr.
Kingwood, TX 77345
281-433-4615
1931 Model A
1963 Lincoln Town Car
1965 Ford LTD

Happy Anniversary!

December

Christopher & Karen Sokol	12/27
Paul & Barbara Byrd	12/28 (62!!!!)
Rollin & Joyce Hargrove	12/28 (54!!!!)
David & Brenda Kaiser	12/30/03 (16!)

That's all, folks!! None in January!



May you have
the happiest of
holidays



There is no substitute
for touring!

Another view of the "Redeemer!"



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

General Meeting 14 Oct., 2019

Our highly capable and itinerant President **Robert Bullard** was away on a 3-week driving tour with his Model A, so our equally talented Vice President **Bill Cockrell** took charge and opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Diana Forbes offered a prayer of thanks and praise. She seems to have particularly appreciated the nice weather! Being mindful of all our members who are ill, we were reminded to keep **Bill Cockrell** in our prayers for his surgery the day after this meeting. **Dean Forbes** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests

Tonight we welcomed **Mary Lou Boggus's** daughter, **Randa Nelson**. Randa hails from the plain old town of Plano.

Sunshine Report

Diana Forbes recited a list of members with October birthdays which included these members who attended the meeting: **Wayne Bartlett**, **Barbara Byrd**, and **Lisa Griffin**. **Wayne** and **Theresa Bartlett** will celebrate 49 years of wedded bliss this month. **The Griffins (Ashley and Lisa)** also had an October wedding anniversary. Ashley can't remember how many years it's been, but only because he said *it still seems like it was only yesterday*.

Treasury Report

Ev Timmins said our coffers are full. We're also getting \$40 a month in interest.

Refreshments

People were impressed with the moveable feast of healthy fare that **Tahl Rozycki** and **Owlbert** brought. Not just one - but **two** (count 'em!) types of delicious and fragrant grapes, a lovely medley of multicolored tomatoes, veggie-spiced thingies that healthily improve on Cheetos, delicately sweet palmiers, and veggie and cheese trays kept the members coming back for more and more. Rounding out the fare and our stomachs were two types of tasty crackers, nut mixes, fancy waters, cokes (both with and without octane), and ginger ale for old-fashioned goodness.

Where We've Been

We're getting ready, but we've not been there yet!

Where We're Going

Oct. 26: Thank **Robert McLellan** for organizing a driving tour to eat great seafood at Dido's Restaurant in Brazoria. A two-hour paddle boat ride will be available.

Nov. 9: Don't miss our picnic at Bear Creek Park to celebrate Veterans Day. **Mary Lou Boggus's** son Larry will give a law enforcement drone demonstration. Someone suggested that to make it convincing, they need a "perp". **Tahl Rozycki** volunteered. Maybe he thought that last word ended with the letter "v".

Nov. 28 - Dec. 1: The 60th Annual O'Reilly Auto Parts AutoRama will be lots of fun and a great opportunity to recruit new members to the GCR. **Ashley & Lisa Griffin** have arranged for our Club to exhibit at the event. Ashley would like 5 or 6 of our members' cars in the display. Currently he has 3 or 4.

Dec. 15: Our annual Christmas Lunch

will be at the Monument Inn. Drive or drag an old car to the luncheon and have a chance to win \$100!

May 14-17, 2020 Texas Tour: It's going to be a great Tour. We are still working out a few details (**Ev Timmins** is clarifying the banquet facilities contract language) Now is the best time to book your hotel room at the Holiday Inn host hotel. Call the front desk directly at (979) 830-5331 and give them the Block Code "MCS" to get the Tour rates. Be sure to thank **Wayne Bartlett** for all his hard work on this event.

Club Business

We approved the prior minutes. Then **Bill Cockrell** brought up the upcoming GCR election for 2020-2021 Directors and Officers. The election is scheduled during the November 11 meeting, but we lack candidates for two positions, President and Secretary. This is so scary, my hair brush bristled.

Other News To Amuse

Tahl Rozycki told a story about something that happened while he was in line at the grocery store. It seems he witnessed a cross-dresser wanting to know where to find the meat department. It wasn't related to antique cars, so I quit listening after that. You'll have to apply to Tahl for the rest of the story.

Diana Forbes bought a 2013 Lincoln MKZ. Even bigger news is that she and **Dean Forbes** put a contract on a new house. Congratulations!

Then **Ferrell and Norma Moore** confided in us that every night they are reading together one

(Continued on pg. 5)

Minutes—October *Continued from page 4)*

letter from a stock of over 200 they wrote each other while Ferrell was in the Army. To add to the “Aww... how sweet!” factor, they are reading the letters on the anniversary of the day they were postmarked.

Luck of the Draw

Ashley Griffin is \$10 richer for having won the “being there” door prize. And what about the cumulative prize that was finally won last month after 13 months? It started over with an initial worth of \$10, and **Bill Seward** won it! Great job, Bill. Next month, the cumulative prize will again be worth \$20.

Adjournment - The October meeting ended at 8:30 pm.

As it was – Albert L. Ramos

General Meeting Minutes 11 Nov., 2019

We welcomed back GCR President **Rob't Bullard** from a 23-day road trip with the Model A. He opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Diana Forbes led us in giving thanks for the lovely weather and expressed particular gratitude for those who attended the meeting. She also conveyed a special blessing on our members who were not in attendance. Finally, anticipating Veterans Day, Diana asked us to pray for all veterans and for those in active military service to our country. **Robert Wheelless** capably led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasury Report

Ev Timmins put in her two cents about our Club's finances. It seems we've more than kept the wolf from the door. Now that we've brought home the bacon with a big Pate check, we can put our money

where our mouth is and act like our Club was born with a silver spoon in its mouth. Don't forget to pay *your* dues.

Sunshine Report

Diana Forbes reminded us that **Victoria Seward** had a November birthday. And even though we didn't mention by name any members who are ill, if you know of any, drop 'em a line or a note.

Refreshments

What clever cooks and caterers we are, especially for such a group of serious old car collectors. **Bill Cockrell, Carol Coghill, and Bill & Victoria Seward** brought the most delicious sandwiches, fruits, veggies, crackers, cheese, and other treats to satisfy our appetites. Two items topped my “favorites” list: (1) delectable breakfast sausage thingies topped with a wonderful, mustard-rich deviled-eggs mix and (2) the most absolutely divine homemade chocolate chip cookies. Leftover Halloween candy rounded out the menu.

Where We've Been

The driving tour **Robert McLellan** organized to Dido's restaurant in Brazoria was a big hit. It was so fun that everyone said they'd like to do it annually. Members brought five old cars to the driving event.

The Club held a **Veterans' Day picnic** at Bear Creek Park on Saturday, November 9. The Club's talented **Pit Master, Jim Johnston**, got an early start and barbecued brisket, ribs, chicken, and sausage for us. Jim said before he pitted the meat, he made a 6:30 a.m. run for a half-dozen freshly glazed, warm donuts to keep him company. He ate only 2 donuts before someone who came to our event space by error while he was barbecuing ate the rest of them!

Attending the event were 11 old cars and 40 old people.

Mary Lou Boggus's son, Officer Larry Boggus, gave a demonstration on law enforcement drones. It was fun and interesting, and Larry did a great job. Let's ask Larry if we can put his presentation on our calendar for next year.

Robt. Wheelless said he heard **Robert Bullard** ask **Officer Boggus** about the consequences of shooting down a drone over one's house, but he didn't hear the answer. The long and short of it was, per R. Bullard, that it would be considered criminal mischief.

Since Veterans' Day falls on a Wednesday next year, **Sandra Johnston** made a motion to hold next year's and all our future Veterans' Day picnics on the Sat. before the holiday. **Norma Moore** seconded the motion. All voted unanimously to accept Sandra's thoughtful motion.

Of special note, we were reminded that those who took an old car to Bear Creek for the Club's Veterans' Day picnic will get a ticket for a chance to win the \$100 dollar old car prize at the Christmas lunch.

Where We're Going

Nov. 28 - Dec. 01: We're going to AutoRama! **Ashley Griffin** spoke about this annual Houston hot rod & custom car show and our Club participation in it. It could be a big opportunity to recruit new members to the GCR!

Dec. 15: It's time for the annual **GCR Christmas Party** held once again at the popular Monument Inn at 1:00 pm.

(Cont. on p.7)

Several years ago I used to take our late-model car for repairs at a dealership "just south of Dallas" (also known as The Woodlands). It was a long slog from home, but I went there because it gave me a good excuse to incorporate something truly enjoyable and uplifting in the day: a visit with **Stan and Ellen Ericksen**. During one of those repair journeys, Stan and Ellen and I ate lunch at their favorite Mexican restaurant. Over chips and salsa, Stan told me how he became a professional salesman in the mid-1960s.

Stan had been managing a hardware store in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and the store owner also owned a marina where Stan would sometimes work as well. The marina work was fun because Stan got to meet lots of interesting "boat" people, including the general manager for Mercruiser and his two daughters who raced motorboats.

One day the hardware store burnt down and the owner decided not to rebuild it. Stan was about to start looking for a new job; but before he did this, he called the Mercruiser GM to tell him of an available motor he thought might be good for the man's daughters' racing boat. Before Stan could tell him about it, the man asked Stan if he wanted to work for him in sales!

Stan was surprised by the job offer and told the GM that he didn't know what to say. The wise man told Stan to go home and ask Ellen. Ellen took the practical approach. She learned about the pay structure and liked it: Not only could Stan easily earn more money, he would get a company car every two years and an expense account to take clients to lunch or dinner. That meant Ellen had one less plate to contend with during the five-children dinner rush hour!

Ellen asked him, "Do you think you can do the job?"

"Damn right!" Stan replied. And this is how he got in the inboard/outboard motor business with Mercruiser.

Stan was so proud of getting his first company car, a brand new '65 Chevy. Unfortunately, Mercruiser had a corporate policy to **not** pay for air-conditioning in the salesman's cars. If a salesman wanted a/c, he had to pay for it himself. Stan decided to go without air-conditioning because he'd be getting another new car in two short years and would lose his "cold-hard cash" investment.

It wasn't long before Stan took a client to lunch. They got in Stan's new Chevy and Stan rolled down his window. "What? No air-conditioning?" asked the surprised customer. At least they were still in Wisconsin and it was only early summer!

(Continued on pg. 10.)

**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.

The First GCR AACA Texas Gulf Coast Tour

by Robert McLellan

The Texas Gulf Coast Tour on October 26, 2019 was a success and opens the door to making it an annual event. Jim's idea of leaving from two locations certainly added to the number of participants attending, considering the original tour began at a more remote location. Plus, not everyone was up for a two hour drive, although those who were willing, were rewarded with a scenic view of shaded roads in sparsely populated areas with little traffic. Good weather was combined with pleasant temperatures in the 50's and 60's. Remarkably, both groups arrived at the restaurant about the same time. For lunch, we gathered at Dido's Restaurant in Brazoria, Texas on the San Barnard River. It is in an out of the way location but is well prepared to accommodate large groups and caters to car clubs. For future reference, note that it can hold banquets, wedding receptions and even has hotel accommodations. Located on the river, they provide a paddle boat with 90 minute tours on the San Barnard River with meals on board if requested. Although, we passed on that adventure, it is something to consider in the future. I heard many compliments on the food and the dining experience.

Our tour attracted 19 participants and 4 antique cars. Seward brought their 1941 Buick, Baccaro their 1955 Packard, Kidd their 1974 Dodge Challenger and we took our 1960 Thunderbird. Spread the word so next year we can double the number of members attending and triple the number of cars.



**From our
Club Historian
Joe Vogt**

From the
December, 2009
Antique Expression

The cover car for the December, 2009 edition of The Antique Expression was a 1921 Stutz Bulldog 4 passenger phaeton owned by Sid Seawright, a Gulf Coast Region founding member. This car was driven on the first Texas Tour in the '50s when owned by Karl Binner.

The Bulldog was a "man's car" - big, with a 130 inch wheelbase, 72 spoke Buffalo wire wheels, and a drive train identical to that of the famed Stutz Bearcat. The 360 cubic inch T-head four-cylinder engine featured four valves and two spark plugs per cylinder as well as twin distributors, all hallmarks of its racing heritage. The engine's 80 horsepower and ample low speed torque (it has a 6 inch piston stroke) will drive the Bulldog from 3 to 75 miles per hour in high gear. And with the exhaust unmuffled, you can hear each individual cylinder fire said Sid Seawright. It's like really loud music.

Adding to the mechanical interest is the fact that the engine crankshaft was not counterweighted from the factory, so there is a healthy vibration at speed.

Ferrell Moore wrote about the 50th anniversary celebration of the Gulf Coast Region. Nearly 130 members and guests honored founders Don Adcock, Barney Calvert, Charlie Worthen, and Bill Wahlberg and were given 50 year lapel pins, plaques, and accolades. Bobby Newby, who had passed away just months before the event, was recognized posthumously and his 50 year pin was accepted by his wife Dorothy. Charter members of the Ladies Auxiliary, which existed before ladies were accepted as full-fledged members, were also honored. They were Sophie Adcock, Louise Calvert, and Barbara Whalberg. The late Wanda Worthen was also cited as a charter member and its first president. Ferrell Moore also presented a slide show titled 50 Golden Years.

Lee Brown wrote about his experiences and impressions from a two-day 130 mile Horseless Carriage Tour in which he drove a 1913 Buick. Lee said that the Tour was an enlightening experience, even though it did not totally simulate the rough conditions back in those days because the roads were paved and one traveled in caravan style with a vulture wagon in the rear.

Lee also commented on how daunting it was to both climb and descend from the hills around Palestine and that both would have been much easier had the original builders used the more powerful engines that were available at that time. But that would have made it more difficult to start the mostly hand cranked engines of that era. Also, the mostly open cars, sometimes with an optional windshield and canvas top, were really not better for weather protection than their ancestor, the horse and carriage.

(Continued on top of next column)

Stan Ericksen's Taxi Tales gave a history of the Checker Motors Corporation and lamented its demise, but still had some wisdom to pass on to us. Ever wonder why the husband gets excited when his wife comes home with a new leather coat? Because she smells like a new truck.

Tom Timmins reminded everyone that starting September 1, 2009, Texas law requires all occupants of a vehicle to be secured by a seat belt. After considerable effort, he did find out that if your car was not initially equipped with seat belts, you did not have to comply with the new law.

Nov. Meeting minutes, (continued from pg. 5)

Bring an unwrapped toy to support the Marines Toys For Tots program.

Club Business

Tonight we voted for Officers and Directors. There were no candidates for President or Secretary, but we did have candidates for the following positions:

Vice President: **Ron Stein**; Treasurer: **Ev Timmins**; 2-year Directors: **Ashley Griffin** and **Julie Wagner-Palmer**; 1-year Directors: **Dean Forbes** and **Robert McLellan**; Pate Coordinator: **Wayne Bartlett**; Pate Alternate: **Rob't Wheelless**. **Robert Bullard** will be the Past President. **Javis Boudreaux** made a motion to accept the nominees, and **Bill Cockrell** seconded it. Then **Jim Johnston** made a motion to vote by acclamation since there were no contested positions. **José Gonzalez-Juaregui** seconded the motion and they both carried.

Robert Bullard said we've modified the Club logo for our upcoming 60th anniversary. The changes make it easier to print and embroider.

Other News to Amuse

Tahl Rozycki thanked all the veterans in our Club and shared a story about his grandfather, a WWII Polish veteran. His grandfather was a Prisoner of War at a camp in France. Tahl said the Polish soldiers wore perforated dog tags in case the soldier died. Half the dog tag would then be sent to the family, and half would remain with the body. Tahl is grateful he has his grandfather's intact tag. On the car front, Tahl told us a vet-tech in his clinic belongs to a Jeep group that would like to do something with the GCR.

Robert Bullard asked a few trivia questions from our prior *Antique Expression*. Someone knew that Hertz had 999 Shelby Mustangs in its rental fleet. (*Cont. on p. 8*)



President's Letter - Through the Front Windshield

As I write this it is finally sinking in that 2019 is basically over. We've just gotten through Thanksgiving (with a few extra pounds) and we're headed "lickety split" into the Christmas Holidays and the excitement and stress they bring. Good thing we usually gain a few pounds at Thanksgiving; we need them for stamina necessary to get through December.

The Club has been involved with two great events recently. The Veterans Day Cookout was a great outing celebrated with excellent weather. Jim did a great job cooking the BBQ, numerous ladies helped with all the side dishes and desserts, we enjoyed a nice little car show, and a very informative "drones in police work" presentation. There is no question that drone usage by law enforcement will only continue to grow and they will make a real contribution to officer safety. It was great to see a young man (they are all starting to look young to me) use a joy stick for something other than a video game. A special thanks to Mary Lou Bogus for arranging to have her son give this excellent presentation.

Our second event was participation in the 60th Houston AutoRama over Thanksgiving weekend. A separate article will discuss the great time, and success enjoyed by those attending. A special thanks to Ashley Griffin for making it happen. Maybe, just maybe we will get a few new members from the many browsers there.

It's been a great year for me personally. I've enjoyed my time as President and getting to know everyone a little better. I'd like to welcome the new Officers and Board members and wish them the best for 2020. If you haven't noticed, we still need a President and Secretary for 2020. It's never too late to get involved and volunteer to fill either position.

Our final outing of the year is the annual Christmas party. It is being held at the Monument Inn on Sunday, December 15. I wouldn't miss it for the world and I hope you wouldn't either.

See ya' there.

Robert Bullard

Nov. Minutes, (continued from pg. 7)

They had a bit of a problem renting the 4-speed cars because even in the 1960's, not everyone knew how to operate a manual transmission.

Robert also elicited the answer "Motoguzzi" in response to his question about the preferred motorcycle of the Libyan constabulary when **Robert McLellan** worked there in 1969.

R. Bullard's \$5 trivia question was about the nickname for the 1963 Mercury Monterey, a reconstituted Packard Predictor. It was the "Breezeway" because the back window rolled down into the trunk.

Luck of the Draw

Julie Wagner-Palmer had a Hemi of a number and won the \$10 "being there" prize. If **Paul Byrd** had attended the meeting, he would have won the big prize, currently worth only \$10 tonight, but it will be \$20 at the Jan. 2020 meeting.

Adjournment - The Nov. meeting ended at 8:30 pm so the good people could go to sleep early. I've heard good people sleep much better at night than bad people, but bad people have much more fun during the waking hours.

As it was- Albert L. Ramos

Down the Road

Underlined items are club (GCR AACA) sponsored activities.

Dec. 15 Christmas Lunch at Monument Inn, 1 PM. RSVP needed

2020

Jan. 13 **GCR AACA** meeting. 7:30 in the Tracy Gee Center.

Jan. 27 Deadline for contributions for any Feb. mini news.

Feb. 15 Valentine Lunch at Brookwood Café. More info later.

Feb 24 Deadline for contributions for Mar-April AE.

Mar. 9 **GCR AACA** meeting. 7:30 in the Tracy Gee Center.

April 13 Final club meeting before the Texas Tour! 7:30 in the Tracy Gee Center, unless otherwise noted.

May 2-3 Keels & Wheels Concours d'Elegance, Seabrook.

May 7-9 Chickasha Annual Swapmeet, Chickasha, OK.

May 14-17 67th Texas Tour, Brenham. Our club is host.

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 (PACA) Cruise Night at parking lot behind Freddy's Hamburgers, FM 518 & Pearland Parkway. 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

1st Sat. of the month: Coffee and Cars. Free car meet from 8-10 AM at Memorial City Mall, south side parking lot.

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

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Editor: Evelyn Timmins
281-797-6788
evtimmins@aol.com
2120 Lundy Ln.
Friendswood, TX 77546



(Continued from pg. 6, Stan's Road Trip)

Stan's next company car was a lovely green '67 Pontiac with a dressy black vinyl interior. Even better, it came with air-conditioning! Stan's routine was to hit the road all week accumulating sales, road dust, and travel-trash (but *mostly* sales). To maintain that "new car look", Stan's eldest daughter was given the task of washing the Pontiac and cleaning it out every weekend. After her first experience cleaning a hot, black vinyl interior, she made her father promise to never again get another car with black interior!

Stan was so good at his Mercruiser sales job that the company soon offered him the entire southeastern United States sales region. He accepted, and he and Ellen packed up the five kids and moved to Houston.

One of Stan's first assignments put him on the road to Amarillo. It was a long drive, but he eventually made it. The weather was nice and warm, and Stan was comfortable in his short sleeved shirt. I imagine he looked a bit like an engineer - maybe he even wore a pocket-protector. Later that day, however, a dust storm blew in. The dirt he got in his mouth gave Stan his first real "taste" of Texas.

The next day a boat builder client took Stan to see Lake Meredith. It was a lovely day, bright sky and sun. But before they returned that evening, it started to snow. Stan froze, and that was his introduction to the variability of Texas weather!

Back in Houston, Stan occasionally stopped by Gibbs Boats, a boat dealership that stood on the the corner of Montrose and West Gray from 1958 until it closed in 2014. Mr. Gibbs preferred Johnson Marine motors for his boats instead of Mercruiser, but he was a nice guy and Stan enjoyed visiting with him. Even though Mr. Gibbs was not going to switch to Mercruiser, Stan enjoyed gently reminding him of the superiority of the Mercruiser motor.

One time Mr. Gibbs told him he had heard that Mercury outboards were having some kind of problem. Stan replied that there might have been a *slight* problem at one time, but it had been "quickly corrected at the factory - *unlike the ongoing carburetor problem of the Johnson engines!*" Mr. Gibbs never had anything negative to say about Mercury outboards after that.

Within a year or so of getting his second air-conditioned Pontiac company car, Stan received a job offer from another company that really wanted him. It would be a good move financially for Stan the Family Man, but it did throw a wrench or two in the works. First, Stan would have to train his replacement before he left Mercruiser. Second, Stan would have to give up the Pontiac and return it to

headquarters in Wisconsin. And third, he'd have to buy his own car!

But Stan is a thinking man, and he choreographed the logistics like it was a dance performance at the Ballet. First, he contacted "Rich Aunt Mary" (so-named because she had a brick house in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin) and arranged to buy her old '62 Chevy. Next he spoke with his boss in Wisconsin and suggested that he show the new guy the Southeast territory for a couple of weeks. Then he suggested that the new guy save the company money by driving to Texas from Wisconsin ... in the car Stan had purchased from Rich Aunt Mary! And when the training was over, the new guy could drive the company's Pontiac back to Wisconsin! It was a win for everyone - Stan got his car delivered for free; Mercruiser got its car back; and the new guy got to train with **the best in the business**.

This story came about because I had to take our diesel-powered car for repairs; so what was wrong with it? Well, do you remember **Marvin Zindler**, the sensationalist newspaper man in the '50s and '60s who became a toupee-wearing television newsman and consumer advocate in 1972 until his death in 2006? If you remember Marvin, you probably recall his weekly reporting on restaurants that had Health Department violations. A frequent problem Marvin both bemoaned and rejoiced over was "**SLIME in the ice machine!**". In the car's case, it was algae in the fuel tank.

Texas Gulf Coast Tour, continued from page 6

The tour went well although the 60 miles of driving to the restaurant seemed a bit much for some and most of them took short cuts going back home after the lunch.

What do you think? A shorter tour route next time? A different restaurant? Overall, it was a success, but I can come up with significant changes for next year's Fall tour in hopes of increasing attendance? Comments please. For those who attended, was the 60 mile tour too long? For those who did not attend, was the tour of interest or the location too far away to attend? What is important, the tour, the location or the place where we dine?

If we had it my way, we would have a long country drive to the beach and have a picnic, but what do you want? Should next year's tour be a duplicate of this year plus maybe the paddle boat ride, or do we want to change the starting locations, tour route and restaurant? Our objective is to gain participation in next year's event. Let me know your thoughts.

Robert



AUTORAMA RECAP

By Ashley Griffin



This Thanksgiving weekend (November 28 - December 1, 2019), the Gulf Coast Region AACA took part in the Houston Autorama at the George R Brown Convention Center, with 5 club vehicles on display at the annual indoor car show, plus a few others with their other clubs..

Showing in the club display where Dean and Diana Forbes' exquisite 1956 Continental, Bill and Julie Palmer's rare 1956 Hudson, Wayne and Theresa Bartlett's hand-painted 1940 LaSalle, Gene and Linda Wall's sharp 1966 GT 350H rent a racer, and Robert Wheelless' Survivor 1929 Cadillac Coupe.

Along with our club display, more than 450 other cars, trucks and motorcycles were on display including cars from local chapters of the AMC, Buick, Pontiac, Oldsmobile, Corvair, Mopar, lowrider and hot rod clubs and many, many individual entries.

As an added bonus, a small car corral and swap meet were part of the show as were appearances by national TV celebrities Aaron Kaufman, Mike Finnegan, Marvel's Black Panther, and wrestler Samoa Joe, with an honorable mention going to the Texas bikini team along with Burt Reynolds and Jackie Gleason portraying their Smokey and the Bandit characters.

Ashley & Lisa Griffin and Jim & Sandra Johnston came to the show to help spread the word to the public about our club. We saw club members Albert Ramos, John Sweney and Hazel Hernandez make special appearances as well.

Over the weekend our attending club members explained and shared the unique features of our cars to hundreds of spectators, and handed out almost as many fliers explaining Club memberships and the upcoming 2020 Texas Tour. We may have even had enough free time to sign up a new member or two. **(See page 3!)**

Saturday evening was the awards ceremony on the third floor of the convention center. Once all of the judges' score sheets were tallied, we saw all five of our Club entries walk (drive??) away with trophies.

This was a great event that introduced many people to our club and let them see some cars that they had no idea existed. Rumor has it that plans are already underway for the 2020 Auto Rama.

One last thing.... When you see Julie or Lisa, ask them how a redneck GPS tracker works.



The Forbes car was a hit too!



Julie spiffing up "Rock"



\$475 quilt at AutoRama



We were here!!



How did Santa get here wonder the Forbes and Walls.



It was relaxing, not boring!



Theresa & Wayne going nowhere fast.

