



The Antique Expression



Gulf Coast Region, Houston, Texas

What nerd wants to take his mom's car on a date? If the car is a new 1969 Dodge Charger, most people would jump at the opportunity! On my first "bucket list" trip in early 1969 I visited Mr. Norm's Grand Spaulding Dodge dealership in Chicago, a veritable candy store of Mopar performance cars. I was hooked on Chargers, mostly the hemi's and 440 six-pack versions. The idea behind my trip before enlisting in the Army was to see an Indy 500 and a few other special things of interest, because at the time, you didn't know when or if you would ever be coming back.

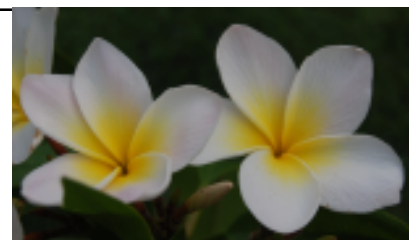
I guess that my "Dodge fever" was infectious, as I got a letter from my mother in late July informing me that she had just bought a new Charger, and loved it! No, it wasn't a fire-breathing street racer, just a 318 with all power and A/C, what the Dodge dealers called a "White Hat Special". Mid-year sales were lagging, so the management at Chrysler introduced a package which included a vinyl top, body accent moldings, white sidewall tires with full hubcaps, a light group, outside mirror, and bumper guards. The ads at the time featured an alluring "Dodge Girl" (Joan Parker) in a white mini-dress and white go-go boots, topped off with a white cowboy hat. Who could resist?

My Charger has a white vinyl top, bronze paint, and a buckskin interior. The car has been restored to original specifications, save a few modifications for safety and reliability (disc brakes, improved suspension, ignition and cooling systems). This car was built to drive, though it also looks good upon close inspection. The car also required completely new outside body panels, as it was left outdoors for many years, and Chrysler products do not hold up well in Houston

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(Cover car- Continued from pg. 1)



weather. I probably should have just found a donor body and put the vin and trim tags on it. That would have been much simpler and more economical; however, there is just something magic about having a 50 year old car which contains the memories and DNA from the same family since it left the showroom. Those who have been fortunate enough to restore such a vehicle know what I mean; the rest of you can only wonder about their car's past lives.

(Here is the white hat girl.)

This restoration should be complete for the Texas Tour, as I still need to install the interior and do a shakedown run. These old cars provide us with a link and sometimes even a portal to the past, and in my case, I only wish that I could still ask, "Mom, could I borrow the car?"

Pulling Out All the Stops

This originated from back when organists would literally pull the stops from every pipe on an organ in order to play at maximum volume.

(This one is for Bill Thomas!)

Just in case you were wondering about the Stimulus Package.....

It is a slow day in the small Saskatchewan town of Pumphandle, and streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody is living on credit. A tourist visiting the area drives through town, stops at the motel, and lays a \$100 bill on the desk saying he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs to pick one for the night. As soon as he walks upstairs, the motel owner grabs the bill and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher. The butcher takes the \$100 and runs down the street to retire his debt to the pig farmer. The pig farmer takes the \$100 and heads off to pay his bill to his supplier, the Co-op. The guy at the Co-op takes the \$100 and runs to pay his debt to the local prostitute, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer her "services" on credit. The hooker rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill with the hotel owner
The hotel proprietor then places the

Next column →

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Robert Wheelless 281-380-4969

Club Historian

Joe Vogt....281-496-7138

Sunshine Representative

Diana Forbes 713-385-6947

Club Hostess/Alt. Sec.

Sandra Johnston 713-340-0709

\$100 back on the counter so the traveler will not suspect anything. At that moment the traveler comes down the stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, picks up the \$100 bill and leaves. No one produced anything. No one earned anything... However, the whole town is now out of debt and now looks to the future with a lot more optimism.

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

April

Carol Baccaro 4/1
 Evelyn Timmins 4/1
 Robert Pledger 4/3
 Paula Holzband 4/7
 Charles Logan 4/14
 Michael Calistrat 4/20
 Betty Gorrell 4/27

May

Barbara A. Wahlberg 5/4
 Chris Baccaro 5/7
 Jenny Medley 5/7
 J.T. Gorrell 5/8
 TJ Wheeler 5/11
 Esther Duncan 5/15
 Marcia Swift 5/15
 Don Bohne 5/19
 Lydia Fant 5/20
 Craig Adams 5/21
 Jamie Baccaro 5/22
 Susan Smith 5/24
 Karen Staley 5/28
 Timothy Eyssen 5/30

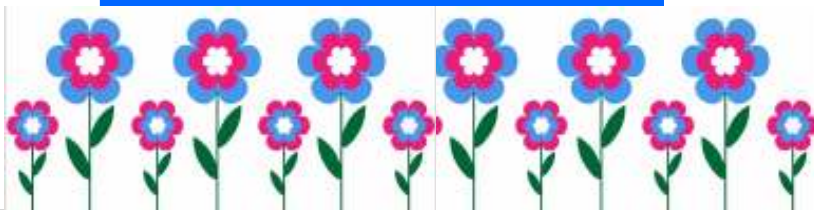
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April

Gordon & Patsy Bennett 4/8/00
 Leon & Pam 4/20/74

May

John & Dena Doerfler 5/1/76
 Jim & Sandra Johnston 5/24/8
 Dean & Diana Forbes 5/31/75



NEW MEMBERS

Well, how about some good news!
 GCR AACA has 7 new members; check them out.

The Husfelds, Dennis and JoAnn, neighbors of Bill Thomas, are bringing in the family:

Britney Husfeld
 8837 FM 3090
 Anderson, TX 77830
car1@2ebx.com

Malinda Juel
 7802 Valley View Ln.
 Houston, TX 77074
Malinda2@aol.com

When she wants an antique, she borrows her brother-in-law's.

Amberly & Clay Kolby
 16892 FM 3090
 Anderson, TX 77830
amberlykolby@yahoo.com;
 1962 Ford Unibody Pick-up.

From Roger Tetrault- VP AACA Tarheel Region
 Paul Jaime Tetrault
 202 E. 24th St.
 Houston, TX 77008
 504-931-1103
tetrapj@hotmail.com;
 1963 Ford Galaxie 500 XL Convertible and
 1976 Mercedes 450 SL

From Phyllis Davis
 Brian T. Stephens & TJ Wheeler
 8612 LaFonte St.
 Houston, TX 77024
bstephens5@gmail.com;
 1968 FIDO Ford Truck

Mike Curry renewed his membership
 3909 Polk St.
 Houston, TX 77023
fostersautomotiveservice@gmail.com
 713-228-2385

Where did this come from?

In the Nick of Time.....

Through the 18th century, businessmen often kept track of debts owed (and interest that built on loans) by carving nicks on a "tally stick." When someone arrived to pay off their debt before the next nick was carved, they'd save that day's worth of interest - hence, 'nick of time.'

Ford Is Trying to Track Down This Mysterious Mid-Engine Mustang Prototype's Story

Brian Silvestro

Road & Track April 7, 2020

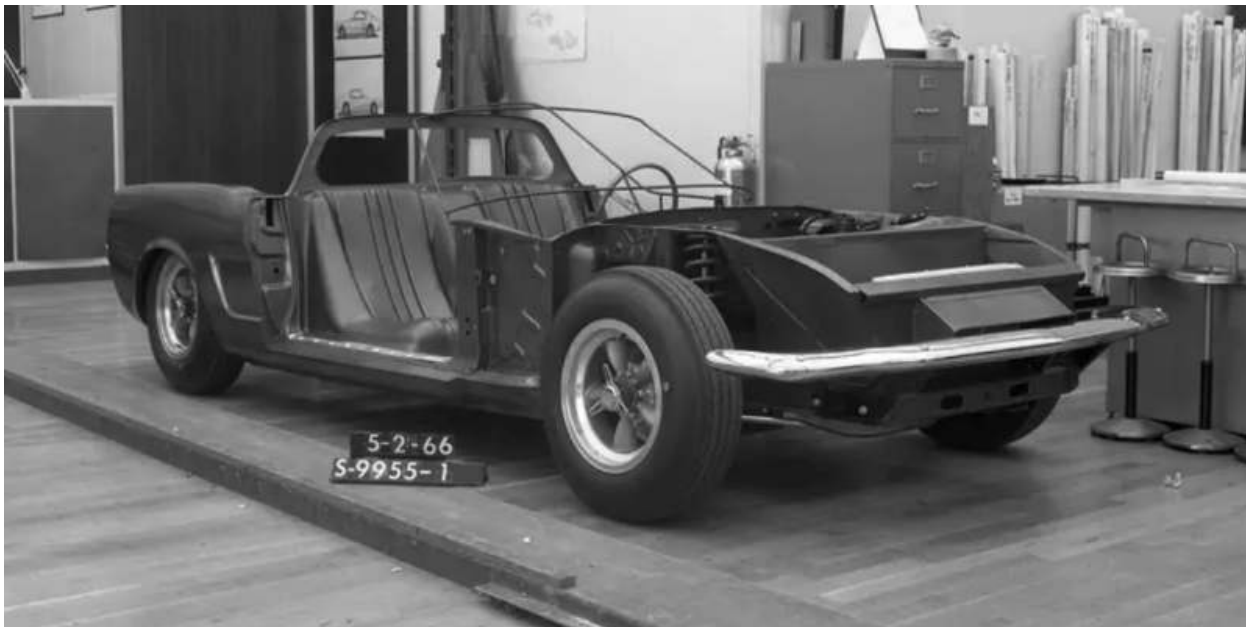


Photo credit: Ford Performance

More [From Road & Track](#)

Ford has a mystery on its hands.

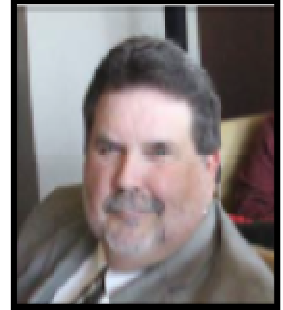
The company shared a handful of images of what it says are a mid-engine Mustang prototype from 1966, shot in-period inside one of its design studios. The car is based on a 1966 Mustang body, with a two-seat layout and a V-8 mounted behind the cabin. It's basically a rolling shell, with no front fenders, bumpers, glass, or interior. The mystery? Ford says it doesn't know anything about the car.

In a press release accompanying the images, Ford says it's spent the last five years asking current and former employees that might've had a hand in the car's creation where this thing came from, why it was built, and where it is now. Aside from the pictures, company doesn't have any record of the car's existence, and even the Mustang experts it talked to say they don't have a clue what it is.

John Clor at Ford Performance initially suggested the car could've been the basis for the company's 1967 Mach 2 prototype (See p.10), a mid-engine, two-seat sports car with similar design cues. That was ruled out, however, when Clor discovered the Mach 2 was based on a Mustang from 1967, not 1966.

Out of options, Ford is turning to its fans in hopes someone will know something about this mystery mid-engine Mustang. It's asking anyone with info to reach out to ClubHub@Ford.com. So if you know anything, let Ford know .

Moving on Down the Road..... with Pres. Jim Johnston



I hope all are doing well with what we are all living through and have been able to breath clean air, will continue to do so and stay safe. We all are living through a time that we will all have "way back then" stories we can tell. So I thought I would look for something that I could use to divert everyone's attention from our current situation, something that would give a good analogy of the old car hobby.

Why does a person buy an old car---own an old car---restore an old car? The answers to these questions might vary a bit, but the underlying reason, I believe, is nostalgia. Buying an antique automobile is usually a considerable expense. Restoring it may take years of work, months of research, and the outlay of more cash than anticipated, but the complaints of the owner will be few. Why is this so?

If the owner of an antique car buys a new "Buick SUV" and pays the same amount he had invested in his restored "pride and joy", he expects it to run perfectly, economically, and trouble free. If the new car guzzles too much gas or needs frequent trips to the repair shop, he will tell anyone who will listen that he bought a 'real lemon.' Does he spend hours paging through a CLINTON'S REPAIR MANUAL and more hours tinkering with the engine? Absolutely not! That would be a lot of work and no fun at all. In his opinion, the dealer should make the repairs, or the manufacturer should honor the warranty.

If we would go back in time about thirty, forty, or even fifty years, we might find that the original owner of our antique felt "exactly the same way". He had troubles with his new automobile and he expected the dealer or manufacturer to make good on their slogan such as "the car without a worry", "built to last a lifetime", or "When better cars are built- ----we'll build them." If we went back in time another decade or two, we would probably find that the owners of these "Brass era" cars had frequent mechanical problems with their primitive vehicles. In many cases replacement parts were not available because the manufacturer of their vehicle had gone out of business. In those, many car owners gave up and pushed the *&^%\$#@ contraption into an empty horse stall and left it there to rust, to gather dust, and be almost forgotten. And that---my fellow antique car collectors, is the reason it was there waiting for US!

A good example of this type of happening would be the story of a 1906 Wayne. It's not known how the little runabout got to Staunton from Detroit, but there is a letter from the man who first owned it to the second owner telling him how much he should get from the person who will eventually purchase it as the third time in 1912. However The Wayne Automobile Company went out of business in 1909, making the model H an orphan car. And we all thought the "orphan car" moniker was first used in the fifties for Packard's when they ceased production.

As the story goes and after driving the Wayne over the rough, muddy roads between Sherando and Stuarts Rd's for about six months, the primitive crank shaft broke and the owner took the engine and the transmission apart to see what the trouble was. There was also a letter from the company that was handling replacement parts for broken down Wayne vehicles. The price for a new crankshaft was twenty-five dollars and connecting rods were ten dollars apiece. Apparently, this price was too steep for the unhappy owner who dumped the broken parts into boxes, pushed the little car into an empty cow stall and ignored it for the next thirty-eight years.

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**A.A.C.A. Gulf Coast Region
Secretary's Minutes**

MARCH 9, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Jim Johnston, at the Tracy Gee Center. The prayer was offered by Diana Forbes; the pledge was led by Bill Palmer.

Thanks to Theresa Bartlett and Lisa Griffin for providing refreshments for this meeting.

A Budget Committee has been formed consisting of Robert Bullard, Evelyn Timmins, Bea McLellan, and Jim Johnston. They will set up a meeting to establish the 2020 budget for the club.

Wayne Bartlett offered the Pate Report. Our club, once again, will man the gates for the weekend of April 30, May 1 and May 2. We need many volunteers in order to fill all the necessary gate positions for the three days. Last year our club earned \$8000 for our participation in Pate, and it is expected to be larger this year. If anyone is interested in renting a condo at the track for the weekend, here is the contact information. www.airBNB, GO TO Texas Motor Speedway Condo Rentals @ Speedway.

Our club roster was certified with eighty-seven (87) members and will be sent to Pate. This number establishes our percent of proceeds from Pate.

Financial Report – Evelyn reported we are in a good financial condition, with funds coming to our bank

Sunshine Report – Diana reported that Joe Vogt expressed thanks for all the cards and notes he has received. Jim and Sandra visited Joy Wheelless in Willowbrook Methodist Hospital. She was in good spirits. Diana reported on all the birthdays and anniversaries for February and March. BTW, we almost missed the upcoming anniversary for Bill and Julie Palmer, on March 24, 2020. Add them to your calendar.

Wayne reported on the literature sales. We have been advertising the collection donated to us by Rob and Bea McLellan, and now have a buyer. He sent a \$1000 deposit and will be here to pick it up after the Texas Tour. Thanks Rob, Bea and Wayne!

Our 4th of July will be at Sweetwater Country Club on Sunday, July 5th. More details coming next month. Thanks to Lenny Holzband for again securing this beautiful facility for our “picnic” in air conditioning!

The Veterans Day picnic will be held on Saturday, November 7th at Pavilion 6, Bear Creek Park. This Veterans Day will be the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II. More details to follow.

Pate Workers Needed! The Pate Swap Meet will be in Fort Worth, the weekend of April 30– May 2 at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth Texas.

**You still have time to come to
Keels & Wheels
on Oct. 17-18, 2020**

REFRESHMENTS

**MAY ???
Tahl Rozycki
Albert Ramos**



Meeting Minutes (Continued from pg. 6)

To date we have six volunteers to fill a total of twelve slots, each of the three dates. Two volunteers at each of three gates, twice a day. Please contact Wayne or Jim if you can volunteer. This is our club's greatest fundraising activity. The volunteers are Wayne Bartlett, Jim Johnston, Ron Stein, Paul and Barbara Byrd, Lonnie Dresser.

A club audit is required every two years. An audit was completed last year, so none required in 2020.

The Mecum Auction will be held at NRG Center in Houston on April 2-3-4th. Our club may participate by manning a table with handouts about our club. We will need to man the table throughout the event by handing our membership registration forms and discussing our club events. We will need club volunteers to meet this demand. Jim Johnston is following up with the Mecum folks to determine our participation.

New Cars: Mike Curry announced his good news.....he

has a New Kidney! And a new 1941 Buick Super with original interior. He also is selling a 1983 Toyota Celica. If interested contact Mike. (713-228-2385) He is the second owner of this car.

Ron Stein announced he is working with Conroe ISD about an event on May 9th. They will be presenting a VOTECH show where students will be displaying their projects. They would like our members to bring their antique cars and participate in the event. He will provide final information at the April meeting.

The attendance drawing was won by Julie Palmer, and the Membership drawing would have gone to Carrie Huber if present. Next month the drawing will be \$40.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm
Respectively submitted by Sandra Johnston

Note: These minutes were from our March meeting, pre-COVID-19 so please don't hold us to the listed dates for events.

DATE HAS CHANGED TO OCT. 1-3



****Free Admission****
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For More Info
Call Don Moore
713-649-0922

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www.pateswapmeet.com

(Continued from p. 5)

It was at this point some lucky guy arrived on the scene and decided that he just had to have that rusting, moldering piece of ancient machinery.

All that remained to be done was the writing of a check stating it was for a "junk car", sawing off the back of the small barn, and loading it onto an old stake bed truck with the help of several friends. I might mention that the truck broke down en route to the new owner's home and had to be towed the rest of the way behind a Jeep that should have been used in the first place.

The scene that followed, I am sure, is familiar to most of you who have purchased rusty, four-wheeled treasures. The dear wife remarked that she hoped he didn't pay much for that pile of rust and that it probably can never be made to run. The man's kids even had doubts about their dad's sanity. The neighbors didn't even know about the car because he was now a bit ashamed to tell them. At that time, his oldest son was 10 and the rest followed two-year age differences down to a daughter, but not quite on the scene. Because of this, he received most of his inspiration and help from two friends who displayed their mechanical genius and were mainly responsible for bringing the Wayne back to life.

The fact that this little car has been running rather well since 1951, is a tribute to their interest, help, and know-how.

Well, back to my beginning statement. The thing that makes a restoration worthwhile is nostalgia. Those of us who were born many years after the early days of motoring, can experience for ourselves the sounds, the smells, and the problems of those early pioneer drivers without the dust, mud, and tire trouble that plagued them all. I rather like the smell of boiling radiators, burning brake linings, and hot oil. So for that reason, when people come up to me and ask, "Do you want

to sell it?' or "You sure are lucky to find a car in such good shape," I just smile and say that the car isn't for sale—it is just my hobby. I'll bet most of you say the same thing.

Brings me back to the time I came home from work with a borrowed trailer, and then telling Sandra that I was going to buy an old car from Oklahoma. I explained that it is a 1927 Reo Flying Cloud. She wasn't impressed, gave me all the "what-for" on what a dumb idea I had come up with. Of course, one of her points was where did I think I was going to keep it? Then she again started telling me what she thought about the fact that I had never told her anything about what I had decided to do. Then she started calling everyone in the family, telling them all about my stupid plan. And they all listened, until she called her dad! He thought it was a wonderful idea!!

So, Sandra ended up going with me to Alva, Oklahoma that Saturday to pick the car up, arriving at about 9:00 that night. She periodically would again and again, remind me just how far out in left field this idea was. So, I called the owner to tell him we had arrived at the motel. We set a meeting time the next day, and then he told me if we wanted to go look at the car, he had parked it outside behind his main building.

So course off we went to look at the car. So as we rounded the left turn, as the headlights hit the 27 Reo, the metamorphosis of Sandra suddenly occurred. The first thing she said was, we're going to keep this in the garage, and that's not all, back at the motel she called her sister to tell her all about OUR car. So, that pretty much sums up the lesson I learned. Sometimes it's better to "ask for forgiveness instead of permission!" You might ask, do I do that? NOPE!!!! Just please don't ask what happened to the "Reo," because that's a should've asked first story.

See all y'all later, "**Moving on Down the Road**" and keep breathing good clean air!!

Jim

Down the Road

Underlined items are club (GCR AACA) sponsored activities.

2020

April 3-5 Cancelled

April 13 Didn't happen.
club meeting before the Texas Tour! 7:30 in the Tracy Gee Center, unless otherwise noted.

Oct. 1-3 Rescheduled PATE SWAP MEET: Sign up to work with Wayne Bartlett.

Oct. 17-18 Rescheduled Keels & Wheels Concours d'Elegance, Seabrook.

As we schedule meetings, you will receive an email.

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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Another view of the cover car by Leon Ahlers



Remember Veteran's Picnic at Bear Creek ?



How about the Christmas Lunch? John took nice photos, but when we eat there is usually not a lot of other action.



Ford Mystery Car??



Photo credit: Ford Performance