



The Antique Expression

Gulf Coast Region, Houston, Texas



By Terry Williams

In honor of the Chinese New Year, the Year of the Tiger, I share with you my newest Austin. I acquired this from the estate of Mr. Harry F. Horney of Essex, Maryland, on a lead from ABS member Richard Goldman. Mr. Horney ran a family-owned heating oil supply and repair business. He was collector of model trains of all sizes. He also had antique vehicles, one of which being a train locomotive built on a 1969 Ford ¾ ton chassis



Continued on p. 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	Page
A Circus Story	1
President's Column	4
PATE Pitch	6
Trek to a Castle	7
Events Calendar	8

**Do not forget to
come to our
meeting at Tracy
Gee on Mar. 14,
2022**



The Circus Truck, Continued from p. 1

which he bought from a McDonald's franchisee back in the day when one could do that. He also collected anything and everything. He was also an amateur clown and a member of the Quality Clown Club of Baltimore. Being able to acquire this circus truck obviously was a big thrill for him. He used it in parades and as a back drop for gigs with the clown club. Over the years, he brought a lot of joy to the hearts of many children (and adults) in the Baltimore area. It was a pleasure dealing with Mr. Horney's three sons who handled the sale.

The truck is a 1934 Austin pick up, apparently bought new by Mr. John B. Hundley, Jr., of Louisville, Kentucky(1909-1970) since a historic picture of him with the truck was dated circa 1935. Mr. Hundley was a recluse who was raised and lived with his mother until she moved into an old folk's home. His mother's family started multiple businesses in 19th century Louisville and her inheritance was substantial. John became enamored by trains and the circus while growing up. The 1920's were the start of the "circus train" era. His home was near the railroad tracks and Louisville was a regular stop for circuses of the time. The Cole Brothers Circus had its winter home in Louisville from 1940 to 1950. During his lifetime, he amassed a collection of anything he could get his hands on related to the circus. He fantasized that one day he would have his own circus. Thus, the name on the side of his truck ***The John B. Hundley Circus – Largest Miniature Circus On Earth.***

The truck itself is a standard 1934 Austin pick up with a custom-built body. The body is basically a wooden box 37" X 48" X 32" housing a large storage area inside, entered through a hinged top door. A bin on each side is accessed via a pop-up lockable door. On top are two metal tanks labeled coal oil and gasoline. This lettering does not appear on the original Hundley photo. Did Mr. Horney add these words later on to pay homage to his business? The family doesn't know.

Maybe Mr. Hundley wanted them for carrying water for the circus animals? Inside the cab the rear window is still there partially obstructed by the body. Above the window is a metal storage box measuring 8 X 4 X 4 inches. Extra metal frame rails supporting the storage box were fitted over the regular frame with its 8-leaf quarter elliptical springs standard for commercial Austin vehicles.

(Continued on p.)

2022 Club Officers

President— Leon Ahlers

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Mini-tour Chairman

TBD

Sunshine Representative

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Club Hostess

Sandra Johnston 713-340-0709

Club Historian

TBD

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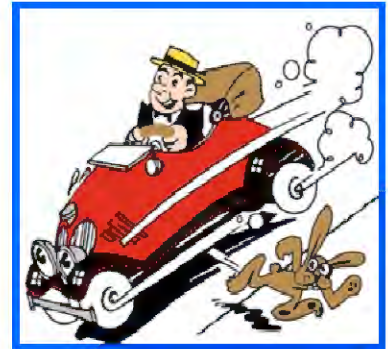
PATE Officer

Robert Wheelless 281-380-4969



★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

Let's Hit the Road!!



Don't forget our next trip—

We will decide at the meeting where we want to go next. Be there!

April

Carol Baccaro	4/1
Evelyn Timmins	4/1
Federico Pohls	4/2
Robert Pledger	4/3
Paula Holzband	4/7
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
Timothy Eyssen	5/30
Tanna Watson	5/31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Still Wanted!

A club historian: person willing to look into the rearview mirror.

APRIL

Gordon & Patsy Bennett	4/8 (21 years!!)
Leon & Pam Ahlers	4/20 (48 years!!!!)

MAY

John & Dena Doerfler	5/1 (46 years!!!!)
Jim & Sandra Johnston	5/24 (35 years!!!!)
Dean & Diana Forbes	5/31 (47 years!!!!)

If I do not have your celebration date, or have it incorrectly given, or you want to add one, please let me know.



Circus pick up (continued from p. 2)

To help support the extra weight of the body, the coach builder added a steel cross member with an 8-leaf transverse elliptical spring over the rear axle. This would greatly improve side-to-side sway especially when hauling a baby elephant or maybe three 9-foot tall clowns! There is a Knox cap on the radiator. The Knox Automobile



Company built cars from 1900 to 1914. They also built trucks and farm tractors. Their trucks were heavy duty haulers and even fire trucks and of course could be used by circuses. Mr. Hundley obviously knew of the brand and maybe wanted to honor it with a radiator logo. Who knows what the connection was.

The paint job with its portraits of tigers and the ornate graphics is what makes this truck so special.



Have you noticed a sustaining theme of the owners of this truck? It is their love of trains, the circus and clowns. Does the new owner qualify if he still has his old Lionel train set somewhere in the attic and his wife claims he is always clowning around (working on old cars) rather than getting his work (honey-do's) done?

The historic facts in this article are credited to Mr. Matt Holdzkom who has written the definitive history of Mr. Hundley and gladly shared it with me.



Written by our club member Terry Williams, and reprinted from "Rooster Tails" with permission from the Austin Bantam Society.



Moving on Down the Road..... with Pres. Leon Ahlers

Greetings from your "phantom" president. As I have explained to several people, we usually take one nice vacation per year (think two weeks), but our 2020 and 2021 trips were cancelled due to the worldwide epidemic; therefore, if we don't travel this year, we lose our deposits. Not going to happen if we can help it, so away we go.

We were in Norway for two weeks in February, and in Costa Rica for a week in January, but we are back for the next two months, then off on another adventure. Thank goodness for Ron Stein, our vice president, and the rest of the board, which really keeps this organization on track.

I know that we have several important upcoming events, Pate being the next one up. As usual, there are issues, but the same basic gripes have been going on since I was a director back in the late 70's. With our Pate team of Wayne Bartlett, Michael Cawley and Robert Wheeless, we should be in good order. In an earlier conversation with Sam, he indicated that we would be in charge of the gates this year. Not a particularly difficult job, but we just need enough people to staff the positions. Be sure to let Wayne know as soon as you can.

Now that mask madness is on the way out, our chances for additional activities are increasing. We welcome any suggestions for tours, destination meetings (car collections, etc.) or just anything of interest, especially if it is on roads less traveled. I also plan to reach out to some of the other antique car clubs, much as Ashley did with some of the restomod and hotrod organizations. Some of these folks have connections which may dovetail with our interests. We also have a number of dual-members in other clubs, so again, ideas welcome. My point is, that during these trying times, we need something to put a smile on our clock, so turn off the TV, put down the newspaper and take the old car (and the wife) out for a drive. Even a few laps around the neighborhood is good for a positive attitude adjustment, but if the weather cooperates and you have the time, stay out there. You have to take care of your mind; it's the only one you've got.

Respectfully, Leon Ahlers

Note: Leon has been too busy tripping out, but next time he will have a cute line and/or picture here.

ONE MORE GENTLE REMINDER

Your 2022 dues are really past due. By now your electricity would have been cut off.

Show me 'da money!
Evelyn Timmins
2120 Lundy Ln.
Friendswood, TX 77546



**REFRESHMENTS
March**

**Lisa and Ashley Griffin
THANK YOU!**



The Pate 51st Swap Meet will be held on April 28,29,30, at the Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth, of course, Texas.

Everything is bigger in TEXAS. So far 8,500 spaces are sold and paid for. Our club is 7% owner of this swap meet and therefore receives some income for our club's operating expenses. Some years it was zero. I remember one year we got \$12,000.00 (1970's), thanks to the labor load the Gulf Coast carried. Not only does Houston receive money; 13 other clubs in Texas are also in the "pool." My estimated guess is that +\$250,000.00 over that 50 year span, along with what the other clubs received is what should be considered a sizable amount. It has been a good deal for us.

Now the nuts and bolts: our assignment for 2022 is for traffic control at Gates 2, 6, and 0. (Don't ask how 0 comes after 6; depends on what you are smoking.) We verify the colored tag goes in the correct gate. Our shifts are 7am till 10am and 4pm till 7pm Thurs, Fri, and Sat. We need 2 people at each gate, but would prefer 3 at gates 2 and 6 Thursday morning only with the third giving help to lost people.

Believe me, the gate duty is not that bad as other clubs must go in and lay out the swap meet before the start, and go back after and bend over and pick up and inventory and store the individual space tags for the next year's use. Anybody ready to do 10,000 knee bends in one day?

We have 3 people and 2 half people on tap as of today(the half people really know how to hop, but they also can bop). We need your help. You don't have to stay for the whole time; just pick your slot and come help out.

If interested in supporting your club, call 281-447- 1476. Or, at the meeting Monday night, sign up with Wayne.

Tahl brought his sweetie to the Valentine Day lunch at Brookwood. Check out this 1980 Caprice Classic Station Wagon.



Newman's Castle - Bellville, TX
March 5 GCRAACA Jaunt



On March 5th, about 26 members made the trek to Bellville to visit this castle: Dean and Diana Forbes, Ron Stein and Kat Blakeslee, Ashley and Lisa Griffin, Robert Wheelless, Wayne Bartlett, Robert Smits, Tanna Watson, and Jim Johnston were among the attendees. After a breakfast bite in Bellville, they went on to the castle itself. As we entered, we crossed a fully functional drawbridge, and the Crew demonstrated how it worked by getting inside the wheel (Squirrel Cage) and walking; the draw bridge slowly started to raise up, which blocked entry over the moat into the Castle. After viewing an introductory show, Robert Wheelless was lucky enough to pull the rope that launched the Catapult. Other typical castle accoutrements there were a Chapel, a functioning 62ft tall bell tower with a 1200lbs bell which people rang over and over. There was even a torture chamber with numerous items in it, including a bed of nails!

Mike Newman is the creative force behind both the castle and the bakery bearing his name. Since exploring Europe in his early 20's, he had the dream to build his own castle, and has made that a reality in the Bellville countryside. Exhibiting the same hard work and determination that built his successful bakery of nearly three decades, Mike broke ground on his mighty fortress in 1998. "In the beginning...people thought I was crazy," Mike revealed in an interview with Texas Live Magazine. Ten years later, and Mike could truly say that he is king of his own castle. "It makes people happy. They leave with restored faith that they can do anything."

When he has a chance to take a break from the castle and bakery, Mike is an avid sailor and will go as far as the high seas take him. He has sailed across the Atlantic, starting in France. (From website)

Mr. Newman was there, and in answer to the most common question "Do you really live here?", he answered, "yes, I live like a King"....

Inside the living area of the Castle there were three floors with bedrooms. The main living area had a TV room, kitchen, dining area and master bedroom.

(More pictures on pages 9 & 10.)

Down the Road

Underlined items are club (GCR AACA) sponsored activities.

Mar. 14 Meeting will be at Tracy Gee Center beginning at 7:30 with board meeting at 6 PM.

Mar. 28 Deadline for contributions to the mini issue for April.

Mar. 18-19 Chickasha Pre-War Swap Meet, Chickasha, OK

Mar. 31-Apr 3 68th Annual Texas Tour, Harlingen. Our first in the valley. Host hotel is Hilton Garden Inn (956-428-1400).

April 11 Meeting will be at Tracy Gee Center beginning at 7:30 with board meeting at 6 PM.

April 28-30 **PATE** Swap Meet (see article this edition)

April 30-May 1 **KEELS & WHEELS**-Lakewood Yacht Club, Seabrook.

.. **Public Car Outings.....**

The items below have not been checked as to their current availability. You might call in advance to confirm or check Showplace Classics. If you know of any changes, please advise.

Sunday, 8-12 Prince's Hamburgers, near Sharpstown Golf. Kicking tires with friends.

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

Third Sat. of the month: Tailpipes and Tacos, 8-11 AM. Lupe Tortillas, 703 Parkway, Katy.

Send me any recurring events you wish to advertise here.

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, or when special activities are scheduled.

The Antique Expression

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Eat a little something

Putz around the "house" a bit



Visit with friends



By all means, wash up!



Thanks to all who participated
and those who were kind enough
to take pictures for us all to
enjoy. The Editor

The Antique Expression
Louis Broudeaux, our future former President, tried to call the meeting to order at 7:33 pm, but he needed a drink before he could spit it out. I think his mouth was still dry from the Halloween candy he consumed two weeks earlier.

More Newman Castle Views

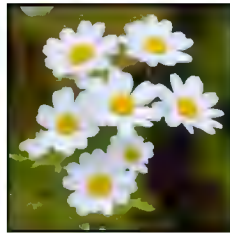
Come on in



Brookwood Lunch Drawing Winner
1949 **Cadillac** Club Coupe



John Sweney will get good use out of the \$100 if only for gas money!



Friends enjoying friends



It's off to bed you go!



COME
BACK
SOON!