



It's a 61!!

The Antique Expression

Gulf Coast Region AACA, Houston, Texas



It's always fun to go to collector car auctions, even if you don't plan to buy. There are always interesting things to see, whether it's a car you've never seen in person but heard about, or just want to people watch. There are a ton of things to learn about cars by meeting someone while you're both standing drop jawed in front of the same wish list car. It's funny that 45 minutes can go by faster than you can say "Packard 740 Roadster". Some people I've even kept in contact with or will see them at the same auction each year. It's definitely the place to network. You never know when you might strike up a conversation with somebody who knows all about a car you're thinking about buying. This is how friendships are made. We have a great hobby.

Auctions are great car shows too. Everything is so shiny and bright, looking their best. The information card attached to the front windshield is full of pertinent details about each car. "I didn't know Chevy made 409's in '64". "That can't be a factory color". "A Convertible? On that car?". "How 'bout that for a hood ornament? Is that Eagle head really Lalique crystal?". *Continued on p. 2*

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**HAPPY
4th of
JULY!**

It's a '61!!, Continued from p. 1

How the auction company works their magic to sell a car for the most money for the consignor is a subtle but fascinating dynamic to the selling of old cars like at Bonhams Auctions. Sometimes it's not even subtle. It can be nose-to-nose, in your face. Ever been to Russo and Steel? Then you know. Each auction house has their own style. Looking for a Custom or Restomod? Barrett/Jackson has hundreds, one right after the other to choose from. Pre-War? Bonhams. Gooding and Company and RM/Sothebys are great places for exotics and rare, high end specialty beauties as well as some Packards. Of course, high paced Mecum Auctions. They have something for everyone, affordables as well as, "Somebody paid what?"

Some are televised. I always like to see how they video the craziness because I grew up around TV stations in the infancy of television when we only had 3 black and white channels to choose from. You know you know what I'm talking about.

In May of 2013 I went up to Lake Conroe where Worldwide Auctions was having a Saturday auction and a Sunday Concours. They typically have smaller auctions with around 100 cars and a bit of a slower pace. Lots of interesting things to see during the Friday preview. There wasn't anything I couldn't live without but just wanted to enjoy the experience. At that time I hadn't found Packards yet so I was open to just about any marque. But, there was one that did catch my attention. Corvettes had always been a bucket list car. I was just starting to get into collecting again and the only thing in the garage at the time was a 6,000 mile Purple '99 Prowler.

Super fun to look at, but had no power and drove like a dump truck. Go figure. I didn't keep it long. There was a beautiful Corvette amongst all the other great cars – a Red convertible with white, side accents. I asked the guy standing next to me if he knew what year it was. "It's a '61." How can you tell?" I asked. Bill said, "Well, in the white cove (see, learned something already) there are three chrome accent spears, the back end of the car had a more pronounced, sharp shape than the rounded off '60's, and the quad headlights with chrome bezels, not body color painted ones." Next thing you know, an hour had gone by and we were still talking. "Are you going to bid on it?" I asked. "I'm thinking about it, but I already have 2 others."

All the way home that Friday night I kept thinking about that Red '61 Convertible Vette with the white coves. That night I read through the auction catalogue details and googled everything imaginable for more info on that car including and especially what its typical value should be. My wife, Mary tells me to always be prepared and always be ready when you go to an auction. You never know what might happen.

(Continued on p. 4)

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★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

Let's Hit the Road!!



Don't forget our next trip—

Come to our next meeting to help decide where we want to go next. Be there!

June

John Dalton	6/8
John Sweney	6/13
Abby Hernandez	6/17
Bea McLellan	6/17
Carrie Huber	6/18
Sandra Johnston	6/21
Barbara J.Wahlberg	6/21
Robert Wheelless	6/26
James Blaszczak	6/29

July

Elaine Bullard	7/7
Illona Blaszczak	7/15
Ferrell Moore	7/18
Ray Amos	7/20
Bill Palmer	7/25
Anthony Hernandez	7/27
Nell Willis	7/27
Doss Conrad	7/28
Bonnie Peterson	7/30

HAPPY

ANNIVERSARY



Still Wanted!

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

June

Ferrell & Norma Moore	6/18 (67 years!!!!)
Stephen & Lynn Morris	6/19 (40 years!!!)
Robert & Bea McLellan	6/27 (8 years!)

July

Steve & Dee Wanderman	(47!!! years)
J.T. & Betty Gorrell	7/11 (35!!! years)
Larry & Carrie Huber	7/12

If you think your birthday or anniversary is missing,
it might be that you have not paid your dues.
If that is true, this could be your last issue of AE.

FLASH from Robert Wheelless

In September Niftee fifty's is having a car show at the Hockley Community Center: [28515 Old Washington Road, Hockley, Texas 77447](http://www.hockleytx.com)



It's a '61 (continued from p. 2)

If you want it, you should get it she says. Ain't she great? God, I love her.

The next day at the auction I was as ready as I could be. Nerves were high, as the amount I might spend was pretty mind numbing for me at the time. The big "But" of the day was that if Bill was bidding on it, I wouldn't bid.

As "My" Vette was about to cross the block, there was Bill sitting in the crowd. I was standing at the back, behind him. Here we go. The bidding starts and Bill isn't bidding. Holy cow! You better jump in Boy, I told myself. Several others were bidding including a gal standing right in front of me. Eventually it was just her and I. She was right in my line of sight to the podium. It was hard to tell if the auctioneer was taking my bid or hers. I was at my financial limit. "Last Call!" CRACK!! The Hammer fell..... SOLD!!!.Did I get it? Couldn't tell..... Well, Did I? The audience started cheering, applauding and looking at me! I GOT IT!!

Yes!, Yes!, **Yes!**

Adrenaline city for sure. Spiked heart rate included. You couldn't sand blast that smile off my face. No way. Bill congratulated me later and we had a talk.

What a fantastic experience. Unreal. I drove that beautiful new car to the Heights all the way from Lake Conroe and made it! Tons of thumbs up and waves along the way. Smile was still there. Yes, Yes, Yes!
What a great day! One of the best ever. It definitely deserves Vanity plates, don't ya think?.

"It's A 61"

How appropriate. This isn't a Packard heavy story, but because of this experience and others like it, I was able to buy my '29 626 Packard.

Thanks to new member, **Ed Fleming**, for this story a lot of us can relate to..

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

I let this one get away. I answered an ad in Hemmings, 1975. 1924 Packard gangster car, needs a lot of work, New York City, \$4,500 cash. call ---- That ad ran for 4 months and finally I bit. Called and it was a parking garage, but the garage owner was not there. The girl yes, they had 2 Packards and they had been there for about 15 years with no parking fees paid. Talked to the garageman the next day. The 1924 was a 136 wheelbase sport touring driven into the garage by a trust fund baby, and his sister drove in a 1934 Packard V 12 Victoria, both stolen from their grandmother's estate in New England. They stole those while the cousins were going through the homes. Garage legally seized the cars but would only give a bill of sale, title would be your problem, and he would only take cash. Oh by the way, both cars had been bought new by grandpa and both had less than 40K miles. He also suggested cars should be picked up after 11pm and before 5 am as the police were slow to respond during those hours and to take the shortest route to a state line. Sounded like my kind of deal but Theresa shot it down, guess she did not like the color.

Google, type in 1924 Packard Sport Touring; it's the tan, brown, and orange one. This is a true story and right now there is a duplicate Packard just relocated to Houston with even a wilder past.

This BLAST is from Wayne Bartlett.

SIGN in a Shakey 's Pizza Parlor
in Seattle, mid 50's

**WE GIVE IMMEDIATE SERVICE
NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES!**

Smile from Stan Ericksen!

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

How many of you have recently attended a National AACA Meet? We are going to hold one in several years, and though National Headquarters will help with the logistics, it might behoove you to attend a national meet: it is also a fun way to spend a few days looking at other people's cars and making new acquaintances. I realize that with our "new economy" it may prove more expensive than in years past, but we still need to support the host clubs.

We attended the Eastern Spring National meet in Auburn, Indiana (via Detroit), last July as a shakedown run for our newly restored 1969 Charger. I figured that if we couldn't shake something loose in 3200 miles, the car would probably hang together for a few more short trips.

The meet was held at the Kruse Exhibition Park, which has recently been sold, and was an excellent venue for showing and judging the vehicles. The national Buick club also held their meet in conjunction with ours, so there were quite a few cars on the field. We had good weather, several driving tours, and of course, judging. I saw some familiar faces from National, including our own Chuck Crane.

One damp morning as I was wiping down the car, a young fellow approached me and offered that his first car was a Charger, and would I mind if he sat behind the wheel for some memory time. West Petersen, our national magazine editor was my guest, and I told him that if he would take a swing down south, rather than staying in the northeast, he would a lot of outstanding cars to photograph and do stories on. Don't know if that will happen, but he has been advised.

Judgment day came, the areas were well marked, and there were plenty of parking attendants; all we had to do was park, open the hood and trunk, and head for the show field. All of the trailer queens had emerged from their respective cocoons to claim another trophy, then scuttle back into their cozy aluminum caverns until the next beauty contest.

We showed the Charger in Driver Participation class and the evaluator (they apparently don't judge drivers) told me off the record, that if we didn't have the aluminum radiator and disc brakes, that the car would be a First Junior. I thanked him and explained that without the modifications, we probably would not have driven the car up there from Houston. I loved the look of surprise on his face as I pointed out the bugs in the radiator! There were a number of other drivers, mainly from Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, but Texans were under-represented. This tour was fun for many reasons; we saw different parts of the country which was essential after lockdown, met a number of nice folks,

Pate Happenings

Ownership clubs(13) have held 2 zoom meetings since May 1, and voted 9 to 3 to oust the computer software guy and either go back to a manual system or build a new software set up.(1 would not vote). Using the current system, there are presently 5000 spaces sold and paid for the 2023 meet, what we call renewals.

The problem with the current software is we are being held hostage by the pc man; he claims it is his and he wants a lot of money to keep it working (35 % of the gross), no business can successfully operate with that kind of cost for basically a product inventory system .

It took 1 year and \$160,000.+ before enough clubs finally pulled the plug on this fiasco, hopefully they will not get taken in by a snake oil salesman again. Moving forward, the plan is to halt sales for 30 days to allow Pate personnel to process more renewals with club personnel to cover all old customers first, then release the unsold spaces to the public for purchase. It should work out, as long as the volunteers don't quit. There is a Model A member working up a new program now, looks promising.

(Continued on pg. 9)

Our Mini Tour to Wolfpack Country

If you've lived in the Houston area for more than a few years, you know that car touring in the middle of August is quite unpleasant. Knowing that the uncomfortable heat and humidity of Houston was quickly approaching, an idea was concocted and a plan set into motion to initiate one of our newest club members, Aunt Lisa, by planning a mini tour.

Doing a tour in mid-May would give us a good chance of clear weather that wasn't too hot, giving club members an opportunity to get out before hiding in conditioned air. As she is completely new to antique cars, and the by-product, tours, members Lisa and Ashley Griffin tasked themselves to assist "Aunt" Lisa with a tour that would take us on a 50-mile jaunt of northwest Harris and southwest Montgomery counties.

The biggest hurdle we face, as antique car owners living in the Houston metro area, is that there is no easy way to move around town without being on a congested, high-speed road. While many of the post war cars in our club are capable of moderate speeds, it's best to find less traveled, secondary roads to escape from the world as it rushes by. Tomball and Magnolia are no different than any other area around Houston, multiple construction projects and more people on the roads than just a few years ago. With that knowledge, a plan was made, and we were to keep to secondary roads and use high speed roads only if multiple lanes of traffic were available. We would meet in Tomball, head north to Montgomery and swing back through Magnolia on the way back.

A total of 20 members and guests met at the local donut shop for sweets and coffee. A total of 7 vintage and special interest cars, 3 modern vehicles and 1 motorcycle awaited driving directions for our adventure. Prior to leaving the parking lot, numbers were drawn and given to those with an antique or special interest vehicle for a goodie bag drawing, to be held during the tour. The caravan pulled out of the parking lot at 9:30am, heading north for our first stop, The Texas Wolfdog Project (TWP).

While at TWP, we divided into three groups, and with our own TWP volunteers (Steve, Darrin and Carly), headed to different parts of the property to have an opportunity to learn about the wolfdog breed as well as actual interaction with the animals inside their enclosures. Most of the pups on-site are available for adoption through a rigorous approval process and it appeared that some of our club members were trying to figure out how to get one home with them.

The TWP volunteers were extremely knowledgeable and were able to answer almost all questions presented to them. Unfortunately, our visit ran a little long and most weren't able to look through the small gift shop before we had to head out for our lunch date down the road.



Loading back into the cars and heading towards Magnolia, our lunch destination was The Meating Place (clever play on words there), just north of town. A corner of the restaurant was reserved for our group, with food coming out of the kitchen almost as quickly as club members could find their seat. Good food was consumed, and good conversations could be heard all around.

As lunch was coming to an end, the goodie bag number was drawn and awarded to member Julie Palmer, who was being chauffeured in her Hudson (NOT a 57 Chevy!).

(continued on pg. 7)

Dogpack Mini tour, continued from pg. 6)

Still running a little behind schedule, we kicked up some dust in the parking lot getting back to our rides and were quickly ready for the next leg of our tour, heading south to return to Tomball to visit the Historical Museum.

Once we arrived at the Museum, we were greeted by 6 docents, one for almost each building on-site. We again split into 3 groups and went separate ways. We were told stories of the Pillot/Griffin house that was built in the 19th century, cared for and loved by early homeowners, eventually downgraded to a lowly hay barn before being moved to the Museum grounds in 1969 and restored. Of particular interest in this home was a vintage accordion that was spotted by one of our club members. With each subsequent group to tour, the docent mentioned the attention given to the instrument. Included in this home was all the furnishings one would expect of the era plus a toy collection of one of the previous owner's daughters.

The next building in line is an old Lutheran church, moved from the Cypress area that is still used for occasional church services as well as weddings. The focal point of this building is the alter and pulpit – built as a single unit, making this a very large piece. There was a “hiding spot” rumored to have been built into the unit. Within a few minutes, members Dean and Dianne Forbes were able to locate the hiding spot and verified there was no wine left behind that needed to be confiscated.

Moving onto the next building was the Doctor's office. A meager building, it was made up of two rooms. The front room was the waiting/exam/surgery room with a table for dominoes on the days that not much was going on. The rear room held the medical library as well as the compounding pharmacy.

Butch Theiss greeted us on the porch of the next home. Described as a dog-run home that was originally located west of Tomball, he told the story of how his family came to the area, built and enjoyed the home and eventually raised the funds to have the house moved to the Museum grounds and restored. Butch isn't a spring chicken any longer, but he lights up when talking about his family's contributions to the community.

Another home on the grounds is an old Humble Oil camp house. Designed as an early modular home, the houses were designed to be delivered on four tractor trailers and built on-site. These homes were lived in by employees of the Humble Oil Co. from the '30s to the '50s, when the company decided they would no longer house employees. The docent for this home was presumed to be in his 70s and lived at the campsite as a child in a similar home, while his father worked the local wells.

As if the previous buildings weren't enough, across the parking lot is a primitive schoolhouse with a strict docent/teacher ready to teach you the three 'R's. Reading, Riting and Rithmatic.

Along with that, there's a machinery stable that houses a 1908 road plow, a sawmill that was used locally that is powered by a 1932 Ford flathead, a cotton gin, a corn cribber, and an early log home. All of these are shared and discussed by Kyle, a docent whose family has lived in Tomball for generations.

Thanks to all who participated in the adventure; sharing cars and stories is what our hobby is about. We've taught Aunt Lisa that “You come for the cars but stay for the people.”



By Ashley Griffin and Lisa Weatherwax

Down the Road

Underlined items are club (GCR AACA) sponsored activities.

- June 13 Meeting will be at Tracy Gee Center beginning at 7:30 with board meeting at 6 PM.
- June 22 Deadline for contributions to the mini issue for July.
- July 10 Our annual celebration of the 4th of July! (See next page for details.)
- Aug. 8 Meeting will be at Tracy Gee Center beginning at 7:30 with board meeting at 6 PM.
- Nov. Veterans' Day Event. TBD
- Dec. 10 Christmas Lunch. More info to follow.,

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.

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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**REFRESHMENTS
JUNE
Diana & Dean Forbes
Robert Wheelless
THANK YOU!**



Pate (continued from pg. 5)

Going to next year, unless we can come up with some workers to rep for the Gulf Coast Region, we will probably have to drop out, since we can't carry our share of the work load. Yes, it is out of town and costs you money to go, but just remember where the club operating money comes from, it certainly is not dues. Another zoom meeting coming up Thursday, so we shall see "What's Happening".

Wayne Bartlett

HAPPY 4th of JULY

Hey Fellow Patriots!

It's that time of year again to celebrate our nation's independence, drive our old cars and eat some BBQ.

When? July 10 2022

Where? Northampton Community Center

6102 Root Road

Spring Tx 77389

Time? 1130-2:30?



REGISTER ASAP

Bring the antique car! \$100 drawing

Member cost is \$5; children under 12 free.



Barbecue and all the fixings will be provided as well as iced tea and lemonade. If you prefer soft drinks, please bring them. There will even be dessert!!

Wear your name badge.

Questions? Contact Sandra Johnston at 713-542-9481 or Evelyn Timmins at 281-797-6788.

Names: _____

Phone: _____

Put in the number of attendees _____ @ \$5 each \$ _____

Enclosed is a check payable to GCR, AACA for \$ _____

Mail this part with check payable to GCR AACA by July 5th .to:
Evelyn Timmins, Treasurer, 2120 Lundy Ln., Friendswood, TX 77546



Javis Boudreaux, 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.

The Wolfpack Mini Tour



We brought our very own "wild ones!"



Group therapy seems safer with wolves.



In 2011 John Sweney stood next to this half-buried '49 Cadillac Club Coupe at the Cadillac Ranch. Now he owns one!



I want to be alone!

For Sale:
I received word that Lenny Holzband has found it necessary to sell his beautiful Packard. It is a 1941 Packard 120 Touring Sedan.
See the beauty of it in the pictures below. He and Paula enjoyed many tours in it. For more information, please call him at 713-823-9369.

