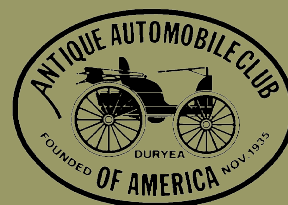


RESTORER REPORTER



March, 2009

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2009
6:30 P.M.
Sherrod Avenue Church of Christ
Florence, AL

2009 Officers

President:
Bill Davis
767-2825
wldavis3@comcast.net

Secretary/Editor:
James McCollum
314-5769
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Treasurer:
Charlie Cooper
charlescooper@bellsouth.net

2009 Calendar of Events

Southeastern Spring
Meet & Autofair
April 2-5
Charlotte, North Carolina

AACA Southeastern
Division Tour
April 15-19
Birmingham, Alabama

Cars on the Square
Courthouse Square
April 25
Athens, Alabama

A FEW RANDOM THOUGHTS FROM YOUR SECRETARY-TREASURER

March 10, 2009



By Earl D Beauchamp. Jr.

It's been awhile since I've placed an article in the Rummage Box. Honestly, I've had a little difficulty coming up with items of interest to Region and Chapter members from my 2008 base as Secretary-Treasurer. So, I thought about other things I could write about, and I've come up with a few random thoughts as I'm finishing up my 14th year of service on your Board of Directors...

How many of you know when the Club began accepting vehicles 25 years old and older? Ah, I have a little history lesson for you. In 1960 the Club began accepting vehicles up to 1935. Oh, so that's when they started accepting vehicles 25 years old, right? Well, no, that's not the correct answer. From 1960 until 1968 it was the year 1935 that was the dead cut-off, except for the Lincoln Continental which was accepted up to 1948. Until 1966 only certain Cadillac's were accepted in Class 19 as Classic cars, but all LaSalle's were. Hmm, strange you say? Well, a certain young man stood up at the very first Region President's invitational dinner in Philadelphia in 1965 and asked why that was. The next year all Cadillac's through 1942 became accepted in Class 19. At the National Board meeting held in Philadelphia in February, 1968, the Board decided to accept one additional year, every other year. Hence, the 1936 vehicles were accepted beginning in 1968, the 1937 vehicles in 1970 and the 1938 vehicles in 1972. Then, in 1974 the dam burst under heavy pressure and the Club went to a repeating 25 years of age rule. That year the 1939 through 1950 vehicles were accepted, and it has been a new year of acceptance in each succeeding year since, until now, beginning in 2009, the 1984 vehicles will join us at our Meets. Our Tours, of course, are set to cover select periods and bring select types of similar vehicles together. However, the Founders Tour and most Divisional Tours will advance to 1984 in 2009. The rules allow the years covered by Divisional Tours to be set by the hosting Region, but in recent years, most have gone to 25 years of age...

February Meeting Held at Hunt's Auto Restoration

February 25, 2009

The February meeting of the Muscle Shoals Region, AACA was held at Hunt's Auto Restoration on February 24, 2009.

Present were Mike Blackburn, Jim Canerday, Leo Cobb, Charlie Cooper, Bill Davis, Orvis Engelstad, Charlie Grimmitt, Bryant Hester, Richard Hunnicutt, James McCollum, Richard Sheridan and B. J. Thornton.

Members were able look over many of Tommy's cars - mostly Chevys of the 1955-57 models in various stages of restoration.

Alice Ramsey:

First Woman to Drive Across America

March 10, 2009

This June marks the 100th anniversary of the first transcontinental trip made by a woman. Alice Ramsey was approached by the sales manager of the Maxwell-Briscoe Co. with a proposal to be the first woman to drive across America. Intrigued and with the support of her husband, she agreed.

On June 9, 1909, Ramsey, 22 years of age, and three other women left New York and headed to San Francisco in a 1909 Maxwell. It took them 14 days to reach Chicago. From there the adventure really began. Summer rains created muddy roads. It took 13 days to cross Iowa. An axle broke in Grand Island, Nebraska. A replacement broke on the Utah/Nevada border. In Ft. Steele, Wyoming, Ramsey had to convince the Union Pacific Railroad officials to allow them to use the Platte River railroad bridge, as the road bridge was washed out. Near Eureka, Nevada, they were startled by a dozen Indians on horseback who were hunting rabbits with bow and arrows.

On August 7 after 60 days, the women arrived in San Francisco by ferry from Oakland.

In October, 1960, Ramsey was declared to the "First Lady of Automobile Travel" at the 43 annual National Automobile Show in Detroit.

During World War I, she organized the Red Cross Motor Corps for Camp Merritt in DuMont, New Jersey.

After moving to Covina, California in 1948, she drove her children and grandchildren on visits to the national parks, making at least 30 more trips across the country. Alice's husband John, a congressman, never drove.

In 1960, she received the titles of "Woman Motorist of the Century" from the American Automobile Association and "First Lady of Automobile Travel" from the Automobile Manufacturers Association.

Her last challenge was driving the six passes through the Swiss

Alps. She completed five of them before a snowstorm closed down the road. Her doctor forbade her from trying again because of her pacemaker.

When Alice died in 1983 at age 96, she had driven for over 80 years and received only one traffic ticket-- for making an illegal U-turn. In 2000, she became the first woman to be inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.

Tupelo Automobile Museum Allows Horse In The House- Again



Mustangs, that is! Tupelo Automobile Museum's showroom will be filled with antique and classic coupes, convertibles and fastbacks in addition to its collection of over 100 classic and antique automobiles from the 1800s to the present. The exhibit begins Saturday, March 7 and continues until Saturday, March 28.

The Tupelo Automobile Museum featured "Horses in the House" in 2008, and due to its extreme popularity the museum is bringing it back. This year's exhibit is extended an extra week from last year's exhibit to allow more time for visitors to see the cars.

"One of the most popular cars ever produced was the Ford Mustang," said museum Curator Allen McDaniel. "Its appeal crossed all barriers of age, gender and national origin."

When the '64 1/2 Mustang was unveiled, lines formed everywhere in front of local Ford dealerships for people to see and have the opportunity to purchase the rare vehicle.

"After 45 years, these early Mustangs are still highly desirable and admired by many," McDaniel said.

Special admission rates of \$7.50 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12 will be offered during this exhibit. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon until 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.tupeloauto.com or call 662-842-4242.

Muscle Shoals Region

The Muscle Shoals Region, AACA meets each month at 6:30 PM at Sherrod Avenue Church of Christ, 1207 Sherrod Avenue, Florence, Alabama. Correspondence should be mailed to Muscle Shoals Region, AACA c/o James McCollum, 104 Lindsey Court, Tusculumbia, Alabama, 35674.

Membership Dues

Membership dues are \$10 payable at the beginning of each year.

National AACA

The Muscle Shoals Region, AACA is sanctioned by the national Antique Automobile Club of America. AACA membership is required of all its regions / chapters members.