

**President's Message:**

If you haven't paid your NAR and AACA dues for 2021, now is the time to do it. The \$45 AACA dues can be renewed online. **NAR dues are \$20 per year per family and a check made out to NAR can be mailed to our treasurer, Carla Holder, 131 Gilley Dr., Harvest, AL 35749.** Those we have received thus far are: Beam, P. Bentley, Fain, Ford, Grund, Haldeman, Haney, Hoha, Kleyer, Lowrey, O'Halloran, Owen, Paxton, M. Smith, Stegmier, True, and Weidman. If you aren't on this list maybe Carla has received it and I haven't gotten word or maybe you still need to pay. Chuck Nickey is preparing a list of members to send to AACA so please get those dues in soon.

Jim True has updated a .pdf file of our member online directory. If you have not added a photo to your page you can add it or send to Jim or me and we will add it for you or if you have sold or bought a vehicle and need it to be added or deleted, send a pic and let us know.

Jim also gets new members for us and participates in displays, tours, etc. ...wonder why no one turned his name in for the Berry award in 2020. Well, you'll get your chance to nominate him in 2021! If you've started or continued a project, let us know so we can put it on the list for a possible Totcky award.

Hope everyone is feeling fine in 2021. Stay safe. --Nell

Jan 26 - Lisa Vaughan

**Milestones:**

Jan 27 - Peggy Richard

Jan 31 – Natalie Hoha

**Birthdays**

Jan 4 - Russell King

Jan 6 - Keith Haney

Jan 16 – David Hoha

Jan 23 - Peter Catanese

Jan 25 – John Adams

**Anniversaries:**

Jan 9 – Jerry and Annette Carignan (50 in 2021)

Jan 9 - Marcia Snellen/Danny Barger

Jan 23 - Jeff and Drea Slagle

## Spoke Folks

Newsletter of the North Alabama

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**Santa our wish is that COVID be gone!**

By Nell Owen

There was no May picnic, no car show, no Christmas dinner

For NAR, this year of 2020 was certainly NOT a winner.

There were surgeries and illnesses but most of the fuss

Was that 2020 will be known for the COVID virus.

Several of our rank got COVID, then got better and we're glad

But for Annette, Frank and Lori, Jeff and Drea and Chuck Knapp it was bad.

The year is ending (YEA!) and seeing it go won't make us sad.

So as 2021 awaits us, here's hoping it won't be nearly as bad.

NAR also came to know 2020 as the year of the Truck.

With hard work none of the members' projects got stuck. Tom Beam drove his 1955 GMC to Brookdale and Thrive.

But that wasn't the only place we saw him drive.

With a mask on his face, Jim Paxton took his 1979 Ford

to the F-100 Convention where it won an award.



Terry Johnson completed his Chevy; he was glad it was done.

But it will all be worth it; with the awards it has won.

Thanks to all who were entered for TOTCKY; all the trucks were so grand

It was a hard decision made by Officers and Board as to where the award would land.

But land it did for Terry Johnson and his Chevy truck...

We'll present the trophy someday, if we have any luck.

Another trophy that we must award, too

Is the award remembering Carl Berry as each year we do.

In recognition of service and for promoting NAR

Our members will always go near and far.

This year saw two nominees listed for the Berry.

And I'm quite sure the winners will be very merry.

Chuck Nickey started 2020 when the Officers and Board he did host.

He was one of the members who gave his most.

A new member he brought us. He stepped up to the call

Then his heel surgery sidelined him from touring this Fall.

In February Peter and Claire always go to the national meeting.

They continue to earn judging credits; their dedication is not fleeting.

This year they drove to Brookdale and Thrive, Sharon Johnston and Falls Mill

Seeing their cars always gives everyone a thrill

So to Peter and Claire the Berry will go

Maybe we can get it to them in the new year (at least by our car show)

We had to streamline our events but so many folks helped out

Our members supported NAR and of that we have no doubt.

We'd like to thank those who were entered for the Totcky Award and the Berry Award, too.

And as we look to next year - maybe it will be you.

So as this year finally comes to an end,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our NAR friends.



gg132814082 www.gograph.com

## The 2020 Thomas Totcky Award Winner

By Terry Johnson

The 1957 Chevrolet 3100 truck has been in my family long before I was born in 1968. It was an everyday driver for my father whether it was to work or driving thru the pastures to tend his cattle. The 3 on the tree column shift was a must to learn before any of the children could get their license. This truck has hauled everything from cattle, a Shetland pony, hay bales, corn stalks and dried cow manure to put on the garden. My dad's favorite trick was when I would be driving and would stop on a hill, at a red light, he would reach over and turn the truck off. I would then have to shift the truck into neutral, step on the brake, crank the truck, shift into low gear and drive off before rolling backwards into the vehicle behind us. That truck has survived cow bites, horse kicks and one small wreck which only dented a fender but destroyed a Honda car.

After my father passed, my mother wanted me to take the truck and place it in my garage to keep it from rusting and falling apart. This began my restoration plan. I began to slowly take it apart. I had the bench seat reupholstered by Mr Russell in Athens. The body and paint work was done by Pro-Align in Athens. The motor was rebuilt by the only mechanic to every touch it at 67 auto salvage. And the radio was repaired by a good friend, Gerald Moore. And most important was my wonderful wife, Shannon, who put up with me putting so much time and money into it.

The truck was a icon in the town of Priceville where I grew up. My dad was best known for holding up traffic by driving slow and smoking his pipe. The mayor of Priceville was a very dear friend of my dad and awaits its return to the town in the local car show and possibly as the grand Marshal in the town's parade.



## **The 2020 Carl Berry Award**

by Nell Owen

Peter and Claire Catanese

Peter and Claire attended the AACA National meeting and have for a number of years. They drove their Mercury in the drive-by parade at Brookdale and Thrive Assisted Living Centers. They also participated in the September picnic/meeting at Sharon Johnston Park driving their Model A. Peter and Claire drove their Chrysler convertible on the Falls Mill tour. Peter often provides inputs to questions from members on various mechanical issues or vendor info when needed.

They have always been active members of NAR and have consistently participated in car club activities of all kinds. Their presence is welcoming and cheerful no matter what the occasion may be.

We thank them for their contributions and congratulate them on receiving the Carl Berry Award for outstanding service to the North Alabama Region of AACA.

## **It's Not the Cars, It's the Memories**

By Fred Trusty Vice President - Membership



At age 14, I got a copy of the Kentucky Drivers Manual. I read it front to back several times and memorized all the stopping distances and other important facts. If only I had that much enthusiasm for my school work. On Sunday mornings I would get up and be ready for church long before it was time to

leave. My mother would let me back her 1967 Oldsmobile Delmont 88 out of the garage about 10 – 15 minutes before it was time to leave. I would drive it the 200 feet or so down the driveway but I wasn't allowed to go into the street (or at least I didn't get caught) so I would go in reverse all the way back to the garage. Everyone told me that parallel parking was the hardest part of the driving test so I put chalk markings on the asphalt in front of the garage to simulate parking spaces so I could practice parallel parking. A couple of days after my 16th birthday I took the written test and easily passed. Then a couple of months later I took the driving test and after 2 years of parallel parking practice, I could parallel park that Olds blindfolded. I now had a license to drive but no money for insurance, and gas. Having a car meant no more walking to and from school uphill both ways in the snow, or at least that's what my kids say about me. I could be one of the cool kids at school. I could be somebody. Oh, and let's not forget the biggest motivating factor; girls. But getting a part time job after school meant quitting football. Hmm? I started work at the Beechmont Key Market making \$1.60/hour. With some money I had saved from cutting grass and a loan from my father, I paid \$500 for a 1965 Ford Custom. The Custom was basically a Galaxy without all the options and trim but for some reason this one was equipped with factory air, automatic, power steering, power brakes, 352 CI engine, and a 4-barrel carburetor. Cars invoke memories of our younger days. Have you ever noticed that when some people talk about their cars they have a gleam in their eyes? "I had one just like this in high school" or "The first date with my wife was in a car like this?" What are your memories? I might not have a '65 Ford Custom anymore but I still have the memories. Now think of young people today. 20 years from now when they see a car on the show field, are they going to say, "Wow, my first car was a '95 Toyota Corolla. I drove it in high school during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic." If you see a 90's car on the show field, don't think of it as just a used car. To someone younger, someday it might bring back fond memories.

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