

FORT SMITH
ANTIQUÉ AUTOMOBILE CLUB

May 2017

WHAT'S NEXT?? COOKIE NIGHT!!!

Comin' right up! Thursday May 18 - 7:00

Now's your chance to indulge your cookie fantasy. Imagine....that sweet *crunch* as you bite into a crispy edge, only to discover a soft, hidden *chocolate chip* right in the center!! Oh - by the way, we will also have a business meeting.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO SHERRI CHAMBERS
SHE JUST RECEIVED HER B.S., ACCOUNTING FROM UAFS!!!
Living proof that hard work and perseverance does pay off**

EUREKA SPRINGS REPORT - From June Boyd

Our original plans to visit Dogwood Canyon were cancelled because the Canyon was flooded by recent heavy rain. Therefore, we decided to keep our reservations at the Quality Inn and enjoy Eureka Springs. What a delightful time we had together, with perfectly sunny weather!

The Albertsons, Jones's, DeArmonds, Hallsteds, Boyds, Sherri Chambers and her guest, Carol Henson, took in everything that time would allow, which included a photo shoot of antique cars at Crescent Hotel, garage sales, antique browsing, an Artrageous Parade, playing cards, singing, and lots of good food.

We celebrated Carl and Valorie's 40th wedding anniversary and Sherri's college graduation on Saturday evening at Gaskins Cabin Steakhouse! Lots of wonderful memories of our weekend will be cherished by all!

On the average, a city dog lives longer than a country dog - 11 to 8. Kinda puzzling, considering all the cars. An outdated statistic, so I asked Siri. One of her most profound comments was "City dogs will live longer if they're trained not to chase cars."

PIE NON-AUCTION A SUCCESS

Some of you missed a really good culinary event - you shoulda been there. Although we didn't have an overflow turnout, there were lots of fantastic pies. This time rather than auction them off, pies were sold by the slice at \$2. Everyone was fine with this, and at the end not a slice was left standing - we used take-out boxes and hauled off the leftovers still at \$2 per. Great plan and a good fund-raiser for the club.

NOTICE: We have received word of the passing of long-time Member, Lois Low of Tahlequah. She and her husband, Gene, were active members for many years, and went to the extra effort of driving to most meetings and events despite the long distance. They are missed.

The Legend of the Toad By Valorie Albertson (Continued.....)

Whatever happened to old Toad? Is he still rusting behind the Albertson barn or did he ever find his rightful place among Carl and Valorie's fleet of oldie goodies?

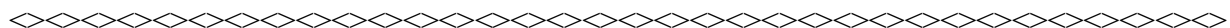
October 1996 - We decided it was time to start the project, and for \$250 bought a wrecked 1975 Plymouth Valiant with a newly rebuilt motor (same specs as the original engine! Sold the salvage for \$75). Next I started sanding, sanding, sanding, and then I learned I should have been wearing a mask working with 30-year-old paint!

November 1996 - We were ready to paint, at least as ready as we could be. Still had some dents and scrapes but didn't have a lot of money to spend so decided to "pickle it" and used equipment paint since it was cheaper. This was Carl's first attempt at painting a vehicle by himself. The only part with the original color (sort of) was the inside of the glove compartment door. We did our best at matching it, and after awhile everything in the shop had a blue-green tint (we still find signs of overspray).

We worked into 1997, covering the seat somewhat, and checking salvage yards for replacement parts. We replaced the rusted-out bed rails with those from a 1977 "Little Red Truck" (the exact size we needed for the short bed. Then came all new tires and a new muffler system. In 2001 we had the transmission rebuilt, and this year I finally got a better seat cover and new head liner.

There will always be something to upgrade as we go along (like another speedometer). Carl considers this my truck and lets me keep up the maintenance, at least the easy items. I do have to call on him for help with the more complicated projects. We mainly use Toad now for hauling and junking around. One of these days maybe we'll take him out of the pickling stage and do a more complete restoration. But for now, we just drive him and enjoy the many memories, while making new ones. I just wish we still had that original engine.

Where did I get the name "Toad"? I always thought it looked like a big green toad frog from the front.



(I think this second half of the Toad story may have gone out with last month's addition. If so, then 'scuze me! I may have fallen asleep at the wheel. C. J.)