



## History Since 1961 with 1<sup>st</sup> Car Show in 1977



Through records kept by Andy and Nellie Anderson and their memories of the early years we will share the history of the Auto Restores Club.

**The first meeting was held on July 9, 1961. The original intent of the first meeting was to share knowledge, experiences, and enjoyment of old cars.** As only owners and admirers of antique and classic autos could appreciate them. This eventually led to swapping and selling of cars, parts and etc. to each other.

The first meeting was held at C.O. (Andy Anderson's. Seven cars owned by Dave Hoversten, John Peterson, CO Anderson, Howard Gilbert, Art Poll, Bernie Sjostrom and Tony Weber were shown. The Club met more times at Andy Anderson's gaining participants each time.

**On Feb 22, 1964** the group met at the Viking Motel and officially named the club the "**Auto Restorers**". Two of the original planning committee members C.O. (Andy) Anderson and Roger Zimmerman continue as lifetime members today. Art Poll was named chairman and Andy Anderson the treasurer. The dues were set at \$1, changed to \$3 in **1972** then \$5 in **1977** and finally in **1987** they were raised to \$10. The committee set up monthly meetings, which included dinners, picnics, tours, parades and a Christmas party in November.

The March meeting in **1966** included a dinner at the Cat'N Fiddle Supper Club with slides shown by Andy Anderson and a movie by Art Poll. Newsletters were written by Andy Anderson after each meeting and became monthly in **1979** with new editors; Becky and Duane Adams.

Members have driven their cars in various parades throughout the years. On Memorial Day **1966** seven members drove their cars in the Cleveland American Legion parade giving rides to the war Veterans and Gold Star Mothers to the cemetery. There were 5 Fords and 2 Chevrolets.

The Club has developed some fun contests at some of the meetings. In June of **1966** they met at the parish grounds at Lake Washington, 75 were present with 17 antique cars shown. Many "For

*Sale*" and "Wanted" Signs were seen and several deals made. The ladies displayed their tater spearing talents by spearing taters out of tires as they rode by in the antique cars.

Another favorite contest is blind fold driving. The driver is blindfolded and a partner (usually the wife) gives directions around an obstacle course including backing between poles. Another game has a partner throwing belts over cones as the driver is timed. These and other fun games are still enjoyed at the Steak Fry's.

The first of all Foliage Run on Oct. 15, **1966** was postponed due to a heavy snowstorm and later held on Oct. 22. There were 9 antique cars in attendance, 6 Fords, 1 Hudson, 1 Buick and 1 GMC. They went 75 miles on that cruise. Two mishaps occurred: one car broke a fan belt and one had a short behind the dash and the wires burned. Giving each car a sniff test after someone smelled something burning discovered it. Fall Foliage has continued as a favorite club event.

At the Christmas party that year a shadow show was presented by three members, including Andy Anderson; wonder what kind of shadows? Members received a cup with the antique car painted on the side.

The membership in **1966** had 27 families. Today the membership has 91 families. Through the years the meetings have followed many of the same formats as started by the original members.

In **1967** members participated in the Mankato State College Centennial and received a special recognition from the College President Nicherson.

As with any organization, members come stay awhile and move on for a long or short time. In **1969** Dan Davis, a Ford collector left to serve into Armed Forces. He safely returned and was president in 1974. The By-Laws was first written in 1968 and has been occasionally up dated by the membership.

In **1973** the club had club jackets designed. Carl Anderson submitted the winning entry for the club

patch. Through the years the club has had blue and yellow T-shirts and jackets for the car shows. Currently has a selection of jackets, t-shirts, caps and polo shirts to order with the club insignia on them. For the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Car Show a Special T-shirt was designed featuring three of Andy & Nellie Anderson's cars as Founders of the club.

Club members would display their cars at special events. The first public display was at Goldfines, which now is the Hobby Lobby Store on May 5, 1973 KEYC-TV promoted the event. Though the year's displays have been made at Malls, Historical Societies and many many parades.

**1976** the club and members were banded together by a common concern. The *Region 9 Development Commission put together a proposal to clean up abandoned and unused vehicles*. Club members made a list of cars valued as antiques that should be salvaged from the crusher. Many in the club worked very hard that year attending meetings, writing letters and providing input to those in charge of the abandoned auto program. Our club actively worked with the Region 9 commission to assure that our hobby and the resources to maintain it were salvaged.



**1977** our First Car Show and Swap Meet took place on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Buttons were made for the show and there were 97 old cars, 1,000 people and 100 vendors in attendance. *What a success!!!*

**1981** the Ruttles 50's Grill opened which Ray Worden, President of the Club offered to provide cars for the opening. From this start Ruttles began the weekly summer Roll-ins. The club sponsored several of the nights through the years with door prizes and activities. KEYC-TV came out to the show to film some for the news.

**1987** our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show and Swap Meet became the Largest in Southern Minnesota. Light blue T-shirts were made for the members to wear so people knew was working the show, along with key chains. Our prizes club photo album was lost, so Andy has started a new one that members keep adding photos to. **"We Like Old Stuff!"**

**1990** Buttons were made for our Garage Tour. **1991** Buttons were made for our Antique Run, "**WE LIKE OLD STUFF**". **1992** KEYC-TV did another film featuring Andy Anderson and Steve Morgan. In **1993** it rained on our day, but 222 cars still came to this great event! Buttons were made for the show, "**ALWAYS THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY in SEPTEMBER**".

**1996** Our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Show the workers wore bright yellow T-shirts with 392 old cars in attendance. **1997** Andy / Nellie Anderson and Roger / Pat Zimmerman were presented with a *Life Time Membership Award*.

In recent years the club has made significant charitable donations to organizations such as: Alzheimer's Association, Boy Scouts, Camp Courage, Habitat For Humanity, Hospice, Make A Wish, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Shriner's Hospital and many many more. The gifts are financial with proceeds from the Annual Car Show.

**2000** 489 cars attended our show and hoping to reach over 500 for our Big Anniversary Show in 2001. We got our very own web site: <http://clubs.hemmings.com/autorestorers>

Please visit us there soon!



**2001** we have worked very hard to make this 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Car Show the biggest and best ever for you! We have honored our Club Founder with three of his cars on the T-shirt that we are selling. In your Goodie Bags you will find a nice Clip Board and Business Card Holder with our club logo on it to remember this fine day! Also, a t-shirt from [www.edmunds.com](http://www.edmunds.com) do find time to check out their web site... Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> Gary A. & Stan Voelkel were interviewed by KEYC-TV.

Through the years the club has remained a family organization with monthly events to which all members are welcome. Many people through the years have worked to maintain the interest and integrity of the club. At present we have 93 family members. **2022** [www.autorestorerscarclub.com](http://www.autorestorerscarclub.com)

*New members are always welcome!*

**Remember to come every year!**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of September!**