

# THE *Retresher* 2022

Volume 54, Issue 1

mid-americaatcccc.com

Jan/Feb Issue

## Joanie's Gibberish

Can you believe how fast this year came and went? Even though it started slow as we all stayed at home Craig and I found how important a daily schedule was for coping with the pandemic, hospital, and finally, the ability to get out and join friends and family. We all made it through the tough times and now as we welcome in 2022, there will more challenges, miracles, and daily schedules. We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and now, bring on Spring!

We had a great time at our Christmas Lunch on December 4. It was great to see Kathy and Roy Hutchinson. We hadn't seen them in a very long time. Martin Wells brought a wonderful collection of openers that he has acquired. We are grateful for his passion for collecting and sharing that passion with our members. Martin's knowledge is remarkable. THANK YOU. As in the past, we collected underwear and money

for Hope House. Craig and I took \$200 and a sack of underwear to the Hope House location in Independence. Again, THANK YOU for making a difference.

We also heard from our members as they updated us on their battles with health issues. Susan Farley had surgery for cancer and is doing well. She will hear after Christmas if she needs radiation or chemo. Roger Herron reported that Ernie has moved to assisted living. His house sold and he can drive around Frontenac, but long trips will probably not happen. As soon as I receive Ernie's new address, I will get it to everyone. Karen Grindel revealed what had happened to Gary that caused him to be hospitalized and moved to rehab. Gary is doing well, gaining strength and hopes to be home before Christmas. Please keep the folks in your prayers and keep the cards going out them.

**Plans have changed for the February 5 meeting. As a board, we decided that Roxanne's Café is too far to go. It is an hour or more depending on where you live. We are going to have the February meeting at the Shovers' home. It is a Sweetheart meeting for Valentine's Day and there will be chili, soup, cheese plates and all the makings for a winter day. We will eat at 1:00 and have a great time.**

We are also working on Spring Fling. We have planned so many different activities and I think it will be one of the best ones we have had. Keep April 22 and 23 on your calendar.

Respectfully,  
Joanie



## Birthdays

### JANUARY

|                          |    |                   |    |
|--------------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Nick Rogers.....         | 1  | Ann Bedessem..... | 23 |
| Kevin Ferguson.....      | 3  | Bruce Carter..... | 24 |
| Rose Mary Hartshorn..... | 16 |                   |    |

### FEBRUARY

|                         |   |                       |    |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|----|
| Bryant Bassman.....     | 1 | Jennifer Schmidt..... | 5  |
| Gloria Knipp.....       | 1 | Ernest Herron.....    | 16 |
| Gil Sigg.....           | 4 | Janice Robinson.....  | 29 |
| Stephanie Goldberg..... | 5 |                       |    |

## Anniversaries

### JANUARY

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Mark & Traci Menke.....      | 2  |
| Sam & Vicki Hitchcock.....   | 13 |
| Roger & Janice Robinson..... | 22 |
| Kevin & Jody Ferguson.....   | 28 |



## In This Issue

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Joanie's Gibberish.....            | 1 |
| Compassion, Character & Charm..... | 2 |
| Photo Gallery.....                 | 3 |
| Upcoming Events.....               | 4 |

## Compassion, Character, and Charm

*Most of you know David Hill. He is a member of this club, a dedicated collector of many things including Coca-Cola and a very good friend. We text a lot of pictures of our most recent buy and we definitely enjoy the hunt! This story was sent to me before Christmas and brought tears to my eyes. It is about the love of a father and son and touched my heart. I know it will touch yours. Love is truly the glue that holds us all together. Enjoy. Joanie*

When I was a kid around 10 years old. My mother came home from work one day with a box full of hot rod / muscle car magazines from the late 70's early 80's that a coworker gave her for me. I remember sitting for hours after school reading these magazines; was mesmerized by the candy-colored paint jobs and beautiful chrome engines sticking out of the hoods. I dreamed of owning one of these mechanical beasts someday. Fortunately for me my dad had an affinity for muscle cars long before I came into this world. I used to sit and listen to his stories of cruising and drag racing his 57' Chevy in wonder and amazement.

My black 55' Chevy that I still own to this day for over 28 years now, was found by my dad. I still remember the phone call that evening. My father worked nights for most of his career driving semis over the road for NAPA. Back then there was no internet, just the KC star newspaper classifieds. My dad would search those classic car columns feverishly and religiously looking for just that right car for me. The night he called is still imprinted heavily in my brain. When I answered the house phone hanging on the wall, his voice said, "grab a pen and write this number down". He said " I think I have found you a car".

Boy did he ever! It was a rust free 55' Chevy car. It was listed as an unfinished project by the owner. I remember hanging the phone up with my dad and quickly calling the owner to inquire about it. The owner explained that he had recently got

laid off from his job as a mechanic at a corvette restoration shop. He had a wife and two small children. It was close to Christmas, and he was reluctantly having to let his beloved 55' Chevy go. He was about halfway into the project.

A deal was struck after a visual inspection, and the rest as they say is "history"

Somewhere stashed away is that original KC star newspaper ad that my dad clipped out. I'll locate it someday. I remember putting it up for safekeeping. My dad and I had a lot of fun with that 55' and his. Competing in car shows, going to cruise nights, and cruising around town in these dinosaurs created some of the best memories of my life. He has been gone for over 5 years now.

Life hasn't been and will never be the same, but time stops for no one. Life goes

on. I didn't drive his car for the first couple of years after he passed away. It just didn't feel the same. It sat in the garage motionless just like his car show trophies in the trophy case next to it.

Then one day I decided that he would want me to drive it. He wouldn't want it to just set there not creating more happy memories.

I drive both cars on nice days as often as I can now. Sometimes I slide one of his 1950's CD's into his stereo and it feels like he's sitting right there beside me.

As crazy as it might sound, these cars were like time machines for him. I can remember on numerous occasions sitting in the passenger seat of his red 55' and looking over at him while he was shifting gears. A big smile would cross his face as he coolly sat back in the seat. He was 18 again. Every single time...



**PRESIDENTS**  
*who enjoyed*  
**Coca-Cola**



# Photo Gallery

## MARTIN'S COLLECTION OF OPENERS





**Mid-America Chapter of the  
Coca-Cola Collectors Club**

January/February NEWSLETTER

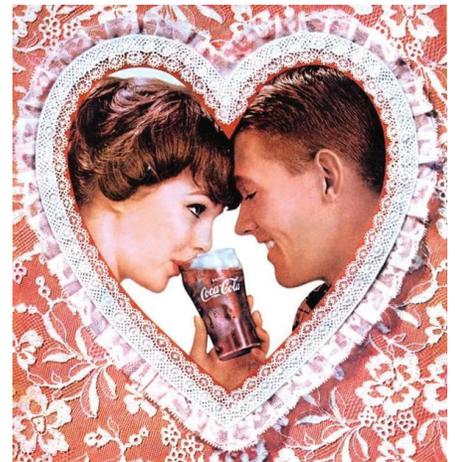
Joanie Shover

813 NW 12th Street

Blue Springs, MO 64015

***upcoming***  
**EVENTS**

- Mid-America Meeting .....*Shovers' Home*..... February 5
- TexFest .....*Dallas, TX*..... March 17-19
- Springtime in Atlanta ..... *Atlanta, GA* .....April 13-16
- Spring Fling 2022 ..... (*Hilton Garden Inn*) *Indep., MO* .....April 22-23
- Great Get Together .....*Las Vegas, NV* ..... May 3-6
- Mid-Amrica Meeting .....*TBA*..... June 4
- National Convention .....*Green Bay, WI* .....July 5-9



*Happy Valentines Day*

**Mid-America Board**

**PRESIDENT**

Joanie Shover  
816-229-8920  
jshover50@aol.com

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Bruce Carter  
816-695-8835  
brdietcoke@embarqmail.com

**TREASURER**

Melody Frese  
913-620-4679  
coke\_candy@yahoo.com

**SECRETARY**

Karen Grindel  
913-232-7371  
kgrindel@yahoo.com

**HISTORIAN**

Stephanie Goldberg  
913-636-4066  
molloff@yahoo.com

**EDITOR**

Traci Menke  
816-229-9943  
mtcollectible@sbcglobal.net

Questions call Joanie Shover at 816-229-8920 or email jshover50@aol.com