

## *Cleburn Tour and Annual Meeting, November 2009*

If you attended this tour and meeting you know what a good time we all had. If you couldn't attend, you missed a good one.

We all convened at the newly renovated Liberty Hotel in downtown Cleburn where we all oohed and aahed while taking in the wonderful and tastefully presented décor. After downloading in our respective rooms the board of directors had a half-meeting while others sat or stood and chatted in the comfortable lobby area.

About 6:30 we trooped across the way and ate at a charming hamburger "joint" where they dispensed food in a large way. What portions they were, and good too. The old-timey took us right back to the days of jitterbugging and Frank Sinatra. Nice..

Back at the hotel the board reconvened and finished up their business while those of us on the outside continued our chats and finally we all showed our longevity and retired for the evening to our wonderful rooms. This hotel cannot have enough written about it. First class all the way. The rooms were well appointed complete with lovely terry bath robes for those so inclined.

The following morning we departed on our tour to the nether regions of North Texas. The route that was so carefully selected by Haden Vandiver and Mark Chambers was a wonder. Who would have thought that such lovely roads were so close to the metroplex?

We drove past great ranches sporting magnificent homes on hilltops overlooking their pastures with horses slowly nibbling their way across the grass; small homes with cows grazing in the back and front yards; gently undulating hills that presented a new surprise at each rise in the road. It was a sunny day with few white clouds in the skies overhead and it was perfect.

We stopped for lunch at the Kozy Kup Kafe and on departure we all went separate ways to arrive back at the hotel in time to relax, kick tires, talk, and prepare for dinner. On our way back Haden had us stop in Hico at an old home that was turned into a unique antique establishment. The way the owners had the shop laid out was charming and while chatting with them discovered they lived over the shop thus allowing them to enjoy the atmosphere.

Dinner was quite good and enjoyed by all and afterward Haden introduced our guest speaker who gave a talk on the "good-old-days" in the Cleburn area and environs. His talk was quite interesting and enjoyed by one and all considering all the questions we asked afterwards.

Then Jeff Podmers took the podium and conducted the annual meeting, filling in for our Director. Hilda Chapman spoke about the 2010 activities; Mark Chambers, our Treasurer, gave his report (we're very solvent); Jack Price gave a pitch to get the dues in; Al Kroemer gave us a run-down on the National and told us he was going to be the National President for 2010 to which we all gave a hearty cheer; and Bev Podmers spoke about what was happening on the 2012 National Meeting that our club is hosting. Bev asked for four volunteers to be her Steering Committee and found all of them without too much arm-twisting. Cullen Connery, Judy Culbertson, and Robin and Frank Guy will do this daunting task and thank you one and all. Jeff then introduced 2010 officers of the club (see Officers page).

Also introduced were our newly elected members of the board: Robin Guy, Chuck Conrad, and Herb Losey. Herb is taking on Al Kroemer's position as Al resigned from the board because of his overwhelming responsibilities as National Director.