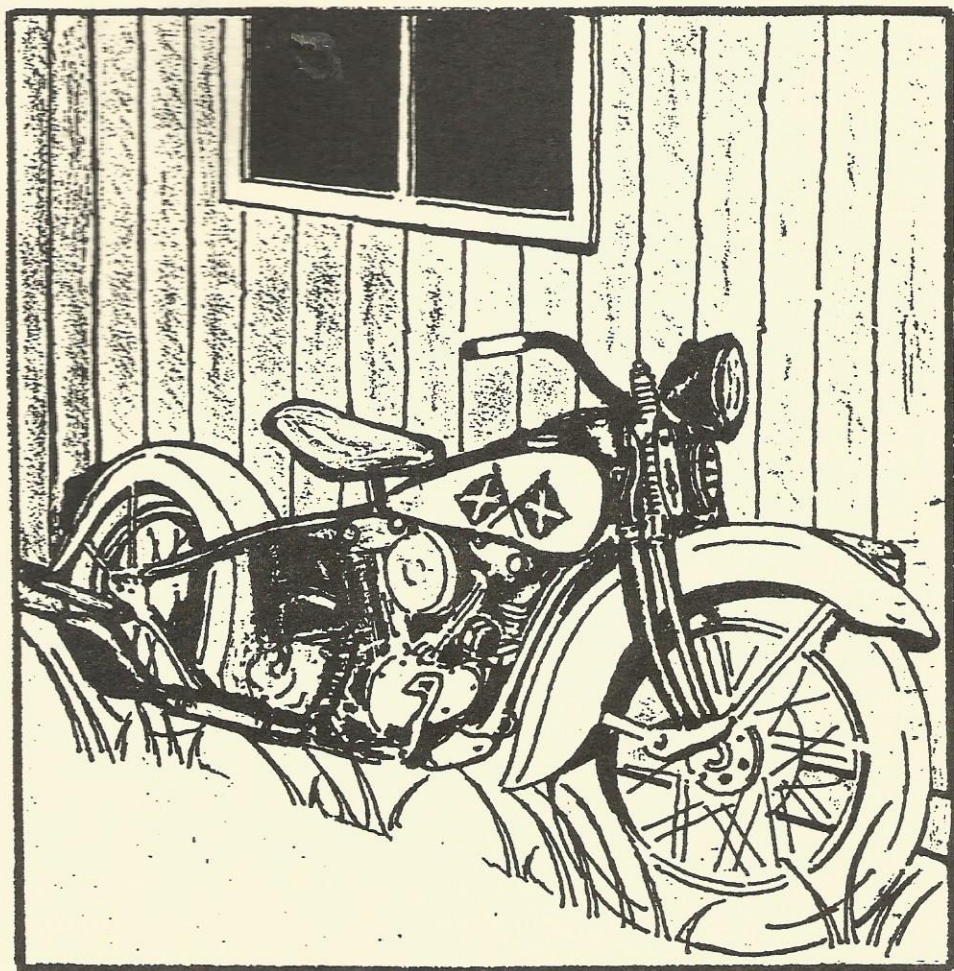


*Winter '94*

# THE RUSTY REBEL



A PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATE CHAPTER OF  
THE ANTIQUE MOTORCYCLE CLUB OF AMERICA

# Rusty Rebel

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Rusty Rebel Newsletter

WINTER 1994

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The Rusty Rebel is published quarterly, and is distributed to chapter members and selected others.

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Confederate Chapter AMCA  
P. O. Box 41844  
Memphis, Tn 38104

## THE COLONEL SPEAKS

The Confederate Chapter had a prosperous 1994. We continued to grow our most valuable asset ... Members. With the new members come new ideas and enthusiasm. Let us all continue to develop this asset.

A special thanks goes out to a couple of our newest members. Ron and Lew Elliot hosted a fantastic Christmas party. It's hard to imagine that we could have ever outdone the Vinton Ave. Ballroom but the Elliot's party room was the perfect party facility. Tina and Mary did a super job of handling the party logistics and food. Thanks again to everyone who pitched in to make this our biggest and best Christmas party ever.

I hope 1995 will be as good to us as 1994 has been. The year always gets off to a good start at the Florida meet in March. If you have not had a chance to make this meet you need to try and work it into your schedule. While they have had some difficulty settling on a site, they always have a bumper crop of vendors. You'll also see a lot of parts that never show up at the northern meets.

Without a doubt one of 1995 highlights will be the Blue Ridge Chapter's National Road Run. If you have not been able to make any of the other National Road Runs, this should definitely be on your list of things to do this year. The Blue Ridge Chapter is a great group of folks in addition to having some of the best scenery anywhere in the country. But you better make up your mind quickly. I've got a feeling this one will sell out quickly.

Looking forward to a great '95!

Best Regards,

Calvin Burnett

**THE EDITOR'S GRAPEVINE --**

The Confederate Chapter said good-bye to 1994 with hopes that 1995 will be as eventful and enjoyable as the past year.

Everyone had a good time our Christmas Party. With the temperature somewhere in the thirties, we still had several members (Bobby Scott, John Demge, Lee Rudd, and Grady Mitchell) who opted to ride their bikes. BRRRR.....

Our Memphis weather has been fluctuating greatly during the last several weeks. Two weeks ago the temperature was near 70 degrees for a couple of days and riders came out of the woodwork. Then, last weekend, we had snow. Guess this just means that bike enthusiasts need to keep their batteries charged and their mounts ready to go on sunny days. We all know that there's lots of cold weather ahead before spring shows her flowery head but these little reprieves from cold weather sure are nice.

I understand that Lee Rudd had his new Indian out for several rides lately. I'm referring to the bike that he purchased at the Davenport meet in September. It's really a beauty.

Calvin joined Kaye and John Ragan and Billy and I for breakfast at The Country Store in Collierville last Sunday. Several of us usually meet there on Sunday mornings for breakfast. Come join us...

John Ragan is busy bringing his 1959 Harley to spec. I thought it was beautiful the way it was but he is in the process of getting a new paint job - he must be getting it ready for the roadrun in NC.

Don't forget that our membership fees are now due and should be mailed to Lee.

*Jeanie Tidwell*

## **IT'S JUST A LITTLE OLE 1956 HARLEY - OR IS IT?**

by Jeanie Tidwell

One sunny day in April, 1958 at an ESSO service station at the corner of Macon and Waring in Memphis, Tennessee, a young biker on a red and white 1956 KH Harley-Davidson pulled up to the gas pumps. Now mind you, this was long before the self service days, so the owner of the service station came out to help gas the Harley. He knew the young biker who often stopped by, so of course, they struck up their usual conversation. During the conversation, the young man mentioned that he was on his way to trade in the bike (which was the first bike he had ever owned) for a new Harley. So, being a motorcycle enthusiast himself, the station owner asked him what he would take for the bike. The young biker said to the station owner that he could have the motorcycle if he would just pay off the note which amounted to \$903.18. A deal was made and the bike changed hands. The proud new owner already owned other motorcycles so he didn't ride the 1956 very much. Matter of fact, he didn't bother to register it, he left the paperwork in the previous owner's name.

This is the story about how our AMCA Confederate Chapter member and prior service station owner, whom we all know as Fleming Horne, came to purchase a 1956 KH Harley-Davidson from a young and upcoming singer by the name of Elvis Presley. Fleming, or was it his wife Mary, just had that feeling that this young singer would someday go places. A picture of Elvis on the bike was taken by Ted Bruehl of Memphis, and appeared on the cover of The Enthusiast Magazine issued in May 1956.

Since 1958, Elvis's Harley has been carefully stored and preserved by Fleming. Occasionally, he would take it out for short rides and to a few local bike shows.

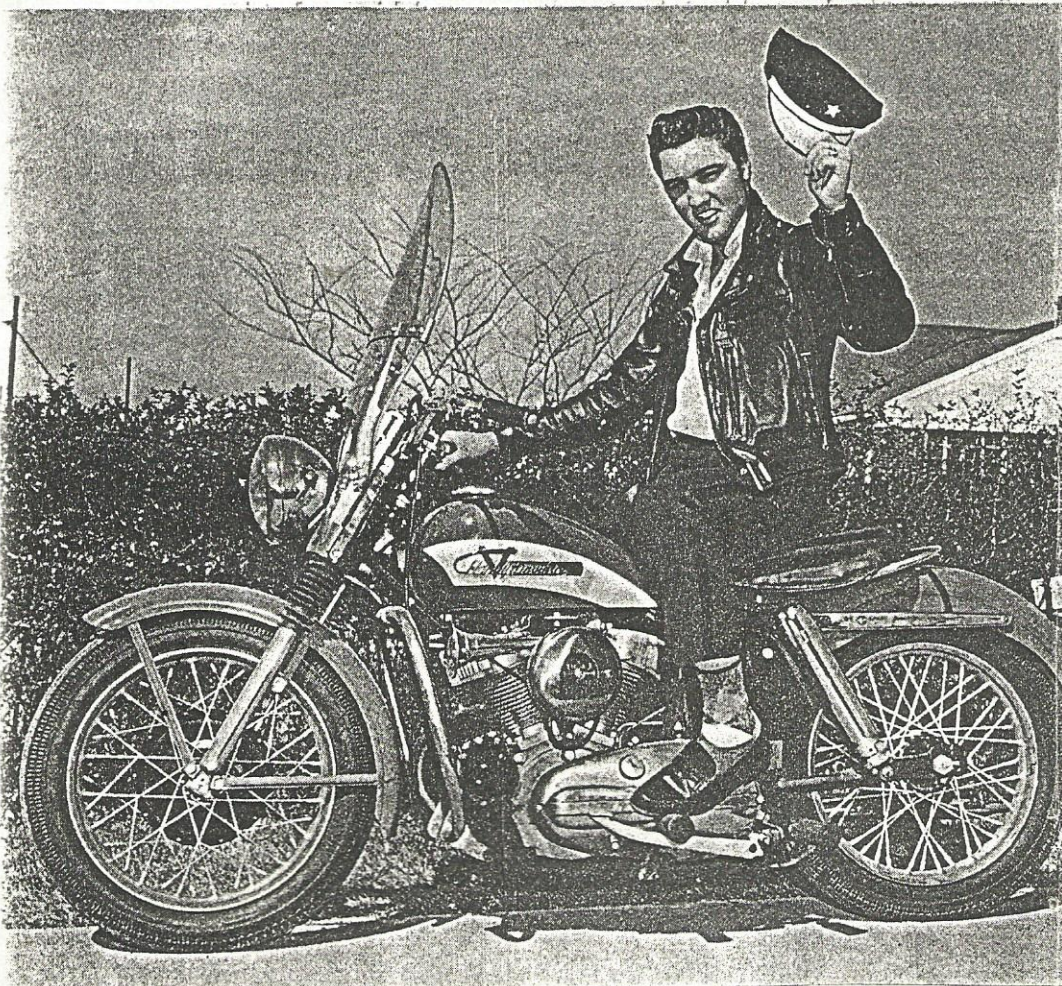
Then in March, 1994, Lew and Ron Elliott of Supercycle brought John Gaedke, a public relations person for Harley-Davidson, over to the Hornes to have a look at the red and white Harley. To make a long story short, things started to happen and finally, on Thursday, January 12, 1995, a deal was struck and Harley-Davidson, Inc. purchased Elvis's Harley from Fleming and Mary.

Hopefully, Harley-Davidson will share this historic motorcycle with enthusiasts from all over the world. We understand that Harley-Davidson may display the bike at Daytona during Bike Week and then again in Sturgis during the annual Harley event there. The motorcycle may then be placed on permanent display at Harley-Davidson's headquarters on Juneau Street in Milwaukee, WI.

Personally, I hated to see the little bike leave. It was kinda neat to visit Mary and Fleming and actually sit on the same bike seat that Elvis had sat on. I guess only a female would think like that. Oh well, we know the bike is now in good hands and others can enjoy seeing it besides just us Memphis folks.

Fleming and Mary must be proud that they preserved this piece of history and that it's now going to a good home as we like to say. I'll just bet they will be packing up their motorhome and heading for Daytona this year, just to get another peek!!!

Then in March, 1956, Lew and Ron Elliott of



Elvis on his 1956 KH Harley-Davidson. This picture was taken by Ted Bruehl of Memphis, TN and later appeared on the May 1956 cover of The Enthusiast Magazine.

THE CONFEDERATE CHAPTER AMCA MEETS AT --

ZINNIE'S EAST RESTAURANT  
1718 MADISON AVENUE  
MEMPHIS, TN

7:30 P.M.  
2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH



POSTCARD PICTURE PROBABLY DURING  
THE 50S. IDENTITY OF OWNER/RIDER  
OF MOTORCYCLE IS UNKNOWN.

