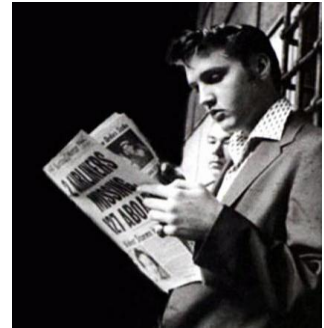




Have you heard the NEWS



There's Good Rocking Tonight ~

News letter for members of the Official Elvis Presley Fan Club, Elvis-Aberdeen.

Elvis Helps Aussies fight Bush Fires !

Many of you will have read about the recent tragic bush fires in Australia, however few of you may have known that when fire storms hit Victoria, the pilots of aircrane Elvis were ready to rock 'n' roll, lifting the 10-tonne orange beast skyward within minutes. Pilots Jim Tipler, 52, of Medford, Oregon, and Pete Bradley, 49, of Seattle, Washington, are professional fire chasers. They follow bushfires around the world from Australia to America and Europe, working three weeks on and three weeks off.

'Elvis' works in tandem with a support helicopter which directs it to work with firefighters on the ground. 'You wouldn't want to let loose nine tonne of water in the



wrong spot', he says.

'Elvis doesn't put out the fire, but gets it to a point where the ground crews can get in and put it out'. Aircrane Elvis re-fills - a load of 9000 litres of water and flies at a top speed of 185 km/h.

For Mr Bradley, life can't get any better.

'Elvis is the neatest machine I have ever laid my hands on', he says. 'It's purpose built to take a lot of weight and then go straight up.

'It rattles and shakes and is hot and loud, but it does the job'.

Inside this issue:

Elvis Fights Bush Fires	1
Membership Fees	1
Elvis Trivia	1
Graceland Before Elvis	2
Grammy for Burton	2
Contact Details	2

Elvis Trivia

Nassau Coliseum, Uniondale, New York, is the venue where, on July 19, 1975, Elvis played the piano in public for the first time. He sang "You'll Never Walk Alone" as he played. Elvis had been scheduled to appear again at the Nassau Coliseum on August 22nd 1977.

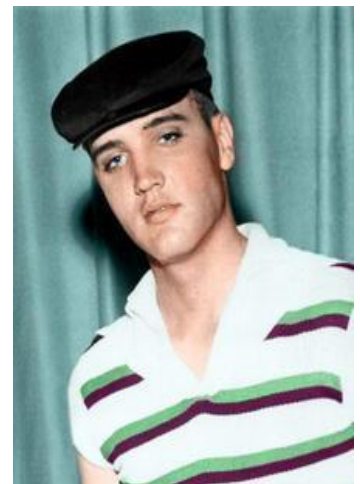
REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE 31st MARCH

Everyone should have received a Membership Renewal form for 2009.

The Annual Membership Fee which remains at £5 is due for payment by 31st March 2009. Please send a cheque as per Renewal Form details, or alternatively pay at either the February or March Dance.

The Membership Renewal will now become due at the same time each year, 31st March for everyone.

You will see that there is a space for email address, please include this if you have one as we are trying to encourage everyone to receive the newsletter by email where possible. There is also a space for dates of birth, we may use this in the future for including birthdays on the newsletter so please advise unless of course you don't want to tell everyone how old you are!



Ruth Cobb is one of the few people outside Elvis Presley's family to visit the upstairs of Graceland. It was before it opened as a tourist attraction, and Cobb, who lived there before Elvis, soon learned her old upstairs bedroom had been turned into a music room. She had grown up at Graceland as an only child. When she married Charles Cobb, they remained at Graceland with her parents at first while Ruth toured the country as part of a professional harp ensemble. Her father, Dr. Thomas Moore, was a prominent surgeon and urologist. Her mother, Ruth Brown Moore, was a volunteer who enjoyed club work and became president of the Tennessee Association of Garden Clubs.

Cobb visited in 1967 at the invitation of Elvis' grandmother, and later when the Presley family planned to turn the home into a tourist attraction. It reminded Cobb of her own music career and left her slightly quizzical about a few decorating changes. 'We did not have a jungle room growing up', she says. There was also no fabric on the ceiling of the billiard room in her day. 'We didn't have a billiard room', she says. Other distinctive touches added during Elvis' ownership of Graceland drew little attention from Cobb, but there was one: 'Elvis didn't like the chandelier we had in the dining room. It came from New Orleans.

They built Graceland in 1939, naming it for Ruth's great aunt, Grace Toof, who had left the farm to Ruth's grandmother. The grandmother divided her 520-acre farm into three parts, leaving it to her three children. Two of them sold their shares to Ruth's father. The house on 20 acres began as what Ruth Cobb calls 'just a comfortable country home'. It would become as familiar to America as Tara, Scarlett O'Hara's home in 'Gone With the Wind', and it would rival Monticello, Mount Vernon and other once-private homes among the biggest tourist attractions in the country. There, Ruth's father taught her to shoot well enough that she once downed three geese with a single shot. He also taught her to fish in a 25-acre man made lake behind the house. But her first love was music.

Ruth played the piano, but she loved the harp, studying, then touring with one of the world's leading harpists, Carlos Salzedo. Her favourite music was classical, but Ruth says she liked all music from country to Elvis' music. 'I wasn't really crazy about his music, but my mother marvelled at his hymns', she says. When her mother decided the property was more than she wanted to keep up, she asked Ruth and Charles if they would like to stay. 'We just didn't have time to take care of a big house', says Charles. 'It cost \$1,000 a month to keep it up. The yard alone was like trying to take care of a golf course. We had a yard man who worked two to three days a week'.

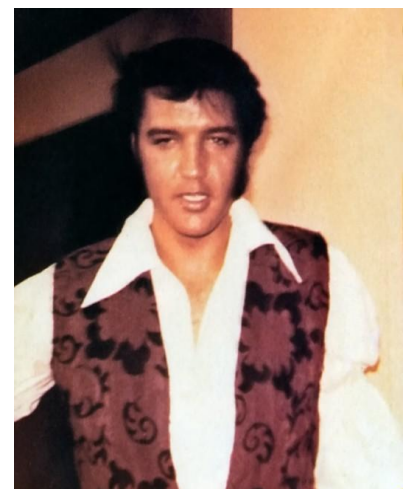
When the property was put up for sale, Ruth said there were three potential buyers -- Sears Roebuck Co.; a private party who wanted to turn it into an exclusive restaurant, and Elvis. By then, most of the surrounding land had been sold to developers for a subdivision, and the lake behind the house had been drained. Ruth says a church, Graceland Christian Church, wanted to buy 5 acres on the northwest corner of the property. Sears and the restaurant interests did not want to split the 5 acres off for the church, but Elvis said he would be glad to have a church next door, she says. That helped seal the deal. Elvis bought the property for \$102,000 in 1957.

When the church next door, Graceland Christian Church, eventually decided to move, the Presley family bought back the land and turned the church into the headquarters of Elvis Presley Enterprises.

Charles met Elvis during the closing on the sale of Graceland, but Ruth never met him. She has since returned to Graceland as a tourist with her grandchildren. 'I thoroughly enjoyed it, but it didn't feel like home', she says.

[Grammy for James Burton](#)

On February 15th, the winners of the 51st Grammy Awards were announced and Elvis-guitarist James Burton, along with Brad Paisley, Vince Gill, John Jorgenson, Albert Lee, Brent Mason, Redd Volkaert & Steve Wariner won in the category Best Country Instrumental Performance for Paisley's track 'Cluster Pluck'.



Next Dance: Friday 27th February