



Have you heard the NEWS



"There's Good Rocking Tonight"

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

Elvis, a Cadillac and a brown paper bag

Roy Allan Eddins stood out as the consummate self-made man, rising from a job as a clerk in a parts department at a Memphis car dealership to owner of one of the largest Chevrolet dealerships in the county. "He was an old-school businessman," said his son, Mark Eddins, owner of Friendly Chevrolet in Dallas. "He did business based upon handshakes, his word and his reputation." Mr. Eddins, 82, died this month of complications related to surgery. Possessing a keen business sense, Mr. Eddins was an insightful judge of people, family members say.

"He was one of the smartest men that I've ever met," said Tracy Watson, one of his sons-in-law. "He was not formally educated, but you could sit down in a business meeting and he could figure it out in his head before anybody with calculators could do it."



Born in Memphis, Mr. Eddins was from a family of meager means. His was a hardscrabble childhood at the height of the Great Depression. Eddins trained as a military pilot toward the end of World War II. The war ended before he completed training. Mr. Eddins' love of cars led to a lifelong career. He started as a clerk in the parts department at Chuck Hutton Dodge in Memphis in 1946, quickly rising to sales manager. One of his greatest memories was selling a used Cadillac to a young Elvis Presley in the 1950s, his son said.

"The salesperson ran inside and said, 'Boss, Elvis Presley is outside,' and my father said, 'Well, great, who is that?' " Mark Eddins said. Elvis made a lowball offer on the car. He and Mr. Eddins haggled back and forth until they reached a selling price. "Elvis asked dad if he had a piece of paper," Mark Eddins said. "Dad had a brown paper bag. He tore off one side of the paper bag and Elvis wrote, 'Pay to the order of Memphis Bank and Trust' and then he signed it. My dad said, 'What is that?' Elvis replied, 'I have all my money in Memphis Bank and Trust.' He said, 'I guarantee you they will take this.' "

"The check is framed in the dealership to this day," he said. **(News, Source: TANYA EISERER / The Dallas Morning News)**

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Elvis Trivia

During June 9-11, 1972, entertainment history is made as Elvis, in advance, sells out all four engagements at Madison Square Garden. Among the 80,000 attendees were John Lennon, George Harrison, David Bowie, Bob Dylan and Art Gurfunkel. His stirring rendition of "An American Trilogy" was a highlight. Surprisingly, this was Elvis' first live concert in New York City.



Tom Jones Story

As I am going to see Tom Jones in October at the SECC in Glasgow, I thought about some of the stories about Elvis that Tom has shared with people over the years. This one was quite funny.

Tom Jones was once left shocked when he found Elvis's gun in his dressing room lavatory. The veteran Welsh singer struck up a close friendship with The King and they would often spend time together when they were in the same city on tour. But on one occasion, after Jones appeared at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, he was stunned to find a silver-plated Colt .45 automatic pistol on his toilet cistern after Presley had used the bathroom. Jones tried to discreetly hand it back, only to see Elvis shrug off the incident. He says, "I wrapped it up in this towel, took it out and said, very quietly, 'Er, Elvis, you left your gun in the toilet.' And Elvis just goes: 'Aw s**t man, ma .45', and stuck it in his belt. I was trying to be very discreet about the whole thing, but he couldn't have cared less."

Sad news from Memphis

Without any advanced notice, Poplar Tunes has closed its doors on September 10th. The record shop was visited by a young Elvis and they were the first to sell his records. The historical location was a 'poplar' place to visit by Elvis fans as they could imagine a young Elvis browse the records there many years before. Once again, a piece of history in Elvis' hometown is gone. The store is a victim of changing music tastes, digital downloads and the Internet.

Elvis Returns to The Shell

On July 30th, 1954, a young Elvis Presley played what is considered his first real public concert at the Overton Park Shell. Elvis' first single for Sun Records, the now legendary "That's All Right (Mama)," had just been released, and Presley was a relatively unknown opening act on a multi-artist bill headlined by country singer Slim Whitman. Elvis would perform several shows at the shell over the next year, before becoming the biggest star rock-and-roll would ever know. This autumn, the King returns, in a way, to the venue that launched him when Elvis, the 1968 NBC television special now popularly known as "The '68 Comeback Special," will be screened in the park as part of the 12th Indie Memphis Film Festival. The screening will take place at 7 p.m., Friday, October 9th, at the recently refurbished and renamed Levitt Shell. The screening is being presented by Elvis Presley Enterprises and co-presented by the Levitt Shell and the Memphis Flyer. It will be free and open to the public.

"Elvis changed the world with his performance of 'That's All Right' at the Overton Park Shell 55 years ago. It's exciting that a whole new generation of Memphians will be able to experience that song and many others in the same venue in 2009," Scott Williams, vice president of marketing for Elvis Presley Enterprises, said in a release announcing the event.



Source: www.elvismatters.com

Elvis Movie Night

The Elvis Movie Night organised recently was hopefully thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present, and despite a low turnout of only 15 I think everyone who attended had a great time on the night. The lineup of film material included 'Tupelo's Own', 'Easy Come, Easy Go' and the second sit down show from the '68 Comeback Special'.

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking everyone who turned up on the night for supporting the event and hope that we can organise something similar in the future. Any ideas are most welcome!

Contact info

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Next Dance: Friday 25th September