

Central Oklahoma



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Next meeting:

The January meeting will be held at
M & W Wallpaper, 3000 N. MacArthur,
Oklahoma City at 3:00 p.m.

Sunday
Jan. 11, 2004

Meeting minutes Dec. 13, 2003

Meeting as called to order by President: Bill Washam
Location: Cimarron Steak House

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as printed in
Dashboard: Yes.

Meeting adjourned at: 1:30 p.m. **NEXT MEETING** will
be 3:00 p.m., January 11th at M&W Wallpaper.

Visit us on the Web — <http://www.55-57chevys.com/coccc>

The Dashboard

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The Central Oklahoma
Classic Chevy Club.
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January 2004

A&W Drive-In closes its doors

Reprinted from The Oklahoman,
Thursday, December 11, 2003
by Elizabeth Camacho Wiley,
Business Writer

The Central Oklahoma Classic Chevy Club has held many meetings at this location and we will miss going there. -Ed.

At 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Ray Doonkeen and his sister, Yvonne Gonzales, will flip the door sign at their A&W Root Beer Drive-In restaurant to the "closed" position one last time.

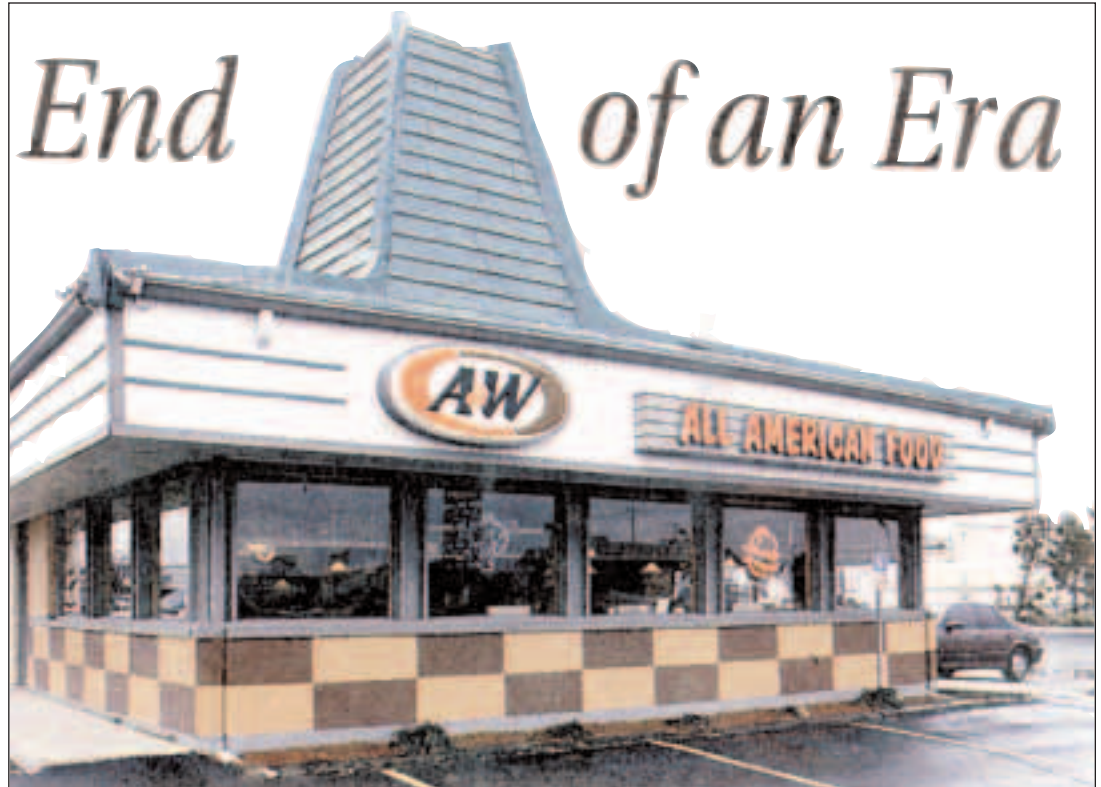
In business for 26 years at SW 89th and Western Avenue, Doonkeen recently sold the A&W franchise to the parent company, Louisville, Kentucky-based Yum! Brands Inc., for an undisclosed amount.

The purchase is expected to help further Yum! Brands' multi-branding concept, where more than one restaurant share a location.

The old drive-in will be replaced by an A&W/Long John Silver's restaurant less than one mile away, near Interstate 240 and Western Avenue—the location of a former Long John Silver's—in early January.

Doonkeen says he does not know what the company will do with his building.

Yum! Brands operates and owns more than 35,000 restaurants in 10 countries under the brands A&W, Long John Silver's, Taco Bell, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Pizza Hut.



The company has blended many of those restaurants under one roof to offer customers more convenience and menu item choices.

Yum! Brands subsidiary, A&W All American Restaurants, contacted Doonkeen six months ago about purchasing the franchise that he and his father, Servellon Doonkeen, co-founded in 1977.

His sister, who joined the family business as assistant manager five years after it opened, said, "We grew our families here. My three sons all worked here."

After chewing on the idea for three weeks, Doonkeen turned to his father, who owned a chain of five A&W franchises in Oklahoma City, for advice about the company's offer.

The elder Doonkeen told his son to

"take it" while he was still young enough to pursue other business ventures. Servellon Doonkeen emphasized that it's difficult to run a restaurant at an older age.

Servellon Doonkeen opened his first A&W restaurant, near SW 61st and Western, in 1965 with about \$2,500. He saved that money while working in an Oklahoma City meat-packing plant for 21 years.

The restaurant made him one of the first Hispanics in Oklahoma City at that time to own a national franchise, said Ray Doonkeen, who is president of the Greater Oklahoma City Hispanic Chamber of commerce.

Servellon Doonkeen, now 80, subsequently bought four other A&W restaurants and later gave them to his two sons and nephews.

Continued on page 2

High Pointe Christmas Party

A small, but impressive, contingent of Chevis met at I-35 and N.E. 23rd Street on Sunday, December 21 to tour out to High Pointe residential care facility. Our cars are a popular part of the annual Christmas Party held for the young patients there. It was a perfect day for the short cruise out N.E. 50th Street to the facility. We enjoyed visiting with anyone interested in the cars, sampled the refreshments and watched as Santa passed out gifts to the residents.

Richard & Linda Bahr, Curtis & Kay Welch, Rudy & Gloria Escalera, Bill Washam, Ken & Cecilia Monroe, True Osborne, Mike & Carole Smith, David & Mahala Jones and Johnny Hays brought nine cars.



A&W *Continued from page 1*

"They didn't have to put any money into them," Gonzales said.

Eventually, family members began selling the free-standing restaurants because "the restaurant business is a tough business," Ray Doonkeen said.

They closed the fourth restaurant in 1991, leaving Doonkeen and Gonzales to continue the family business at the SW 89th location.

Doonkeen said he never consid-

ered ending the business operation until the Yum! Brands' offer.

"I guess I just love it. I've been happy here," he said. "But the purchase offer was too good to pass up and the timing was perfect."

Doonkeen said he agreed to sell the restaurant under the condition that his nine employees, including his sister, were considered for positions with the new A&W/Long John Silver's.

Meanwhile, he plans to take a

couple of months off before pursuing other business opportunities with his family. That includes building and operating recreational vehicle parks with his father. He and his father bought Roadrunner RV Park, near I-35 and SE 51st, in 1989 and plan to build a second operation near SW 50th and Santa Fe Avenue.

"We knew that some day we would want to wind down, and that would be an easier way of making money than the restaurant business."

Club Christmas Party

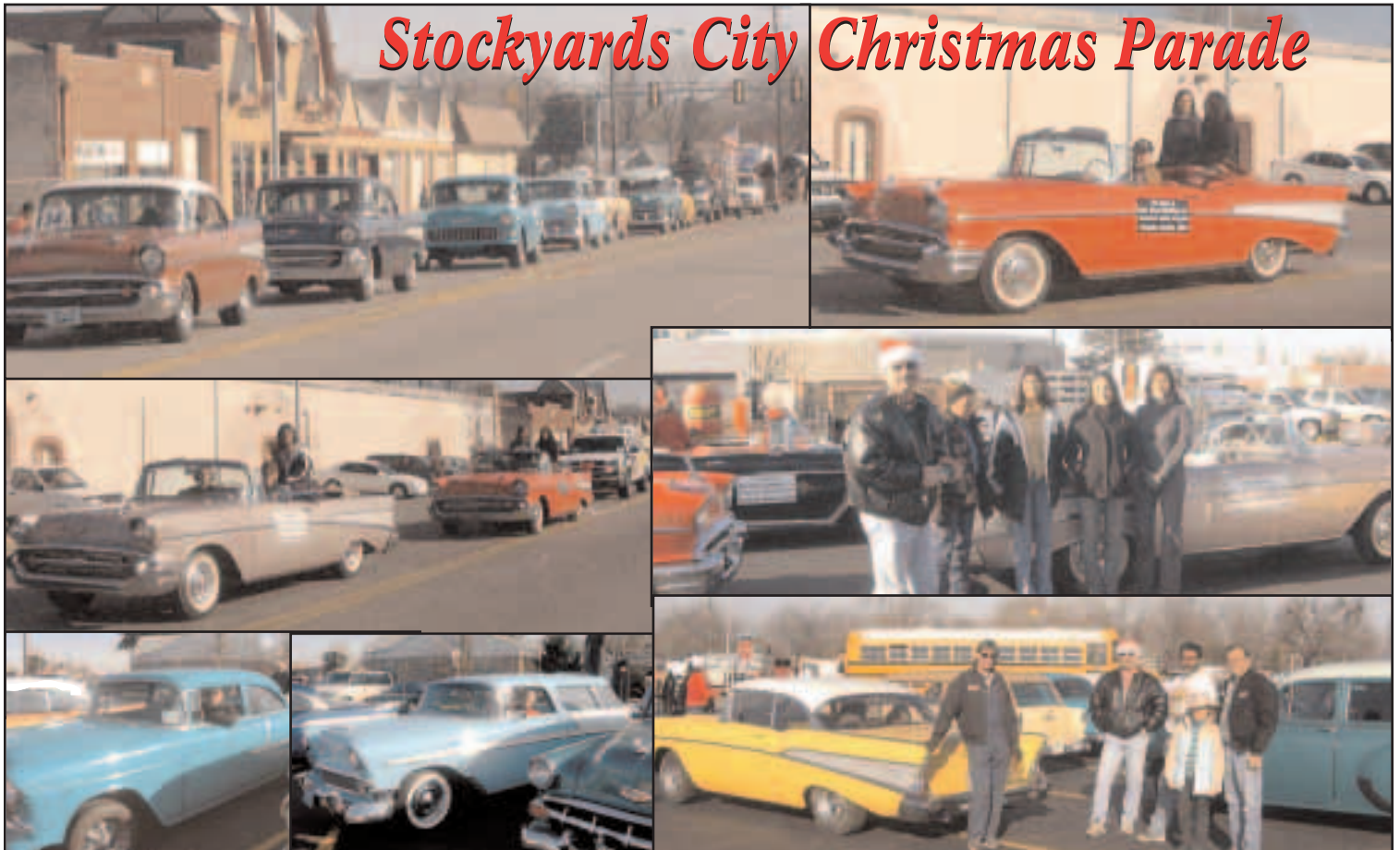
The Annual Club Christmas Party was held Saturday, December 13th at the Cimarron Steak House. A heavy snow fall Friday night prevented the attendance of ANY old Chevies.

We enjoyed a lively Dirty Santa gift exchange. The most stolen gifts were Chevy-related items, a small Craftsman socket set and M&M's/Chevy items. Least desired item was a pair of Fartless Factory men's briefs, which eventually went home with Bill Preston. Or maybe the least desired item was a set of "over the hill" biker figurines taken home by Rudy Escalera... It was a close draw!

Attending were Phil Austin, Richard & Linda Bahr, Don Bays, Carol Davidson, Ken & Peggy Buchanan, Bobby Burton, Rodney & Martha Duerkson, Jack Duncan, Rudy & Gloria Escalera, Mel & Rustyne Harris, David & Mahala Jones, Ken & Cecilia Monroe, Larry & Annette Myers, True & Sherry Osborn, Bill & Diane Preston, David & Linda Reeds, Mike & Carole Smith, Bill & Marge Washam, Ruby Watt, Curtis & Kay Welch.



Stockyards City Christmas Parade



What could be more fun on a crisp, clear December day than following a herd of Longhorn Cattle down the main streets of the Stockyards!!! *It's a Christmas tradition!* The club members participating and/or furnishing cars were: Larry & Annette Myers, Curtis & Kay Welch, Rudy & Gloria Escalera, Bill Washam, Mel Harris, Fred Hensley, David & Mahala Jones, Ruby Watts, Harry & Helen Pouder, John Sargent, Bobby Burton and David & Linda Reeds.