



## Mississippi Classic Cruisers bring Detroit to

**By Matt Staggs**  
Staff Writer

GLENN HEPNER, 40, has a hobby. He keeps several Mustangs in his Reservoir home. Of course, Hepner's Mustangs aren't the kind that eat hay, and the only horses to be found in the Hepner residence are the ones that dwell under the cars' hoods. Hepner is the Vice-President of the Mississippi Classic Cruisers car club, a newly formed group of enthusiasts who are devoted to the promotion and preservation of classic cars.

Hepner grew up in a car family. He said that he got his love of automobiles from his father, who is an avid mechanic and car enthusiast himself.

"I grew up about 60 miles outside of Detroit and cars are very important there," said Hepner. "When I was growing up we weren't out getting into trouble, we were at a buddy's house putting in a camshaft or tuning a car up. My father worked for Ford for 41 years. He was a car collector and he had approximately 50 cars.

"PROBABLY WHEN I was 11 or 12 years old he started taking me down to the garage to show me how they work. Since he had all of these old cars it was nothing for me to get out and tinker with an old flathead Ford -engine. We enjoyed going to swap meets and meeting people."

Hepner himself worked for Ford as a performance and durability test driver. Hepner remembers those days



**Classic Cruiser** Glenn Hepner enjoys restoring classic cars in his Reservoir area garage.

very fondly. Eventually he left Ford to take a job with Raytheon, the high technology and aerospace corporation. Hepner lived around the world for many years until he was transferred to Mississippi.

Hepner brought his love of classic cars along with him to Rankin County. He met some other automobile enthusiasts who shared his pas-sion but had felt out of place in some of the local area car clubs that sometimes restrict membership based on the year and model of the car owned by the applicant.

"The club was started in March of this year and annual dues are \$25," said Hepner. "I am one of the charter members. We aren't worried about what kind of car you have or what you do for a living. You don't even have to have a car! If you like getting together and looking at old cars you're in."

Hepner described the car club as, being a family-friendly place where people of all kinds are welcome.

"This is one of the best things about the car club. It is family orient-ed," said Hepner. "My wife and I

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