

Plunk's Wrecker Service

By Mona L. Hayden

You've probably driven past their building numerous times but never took notice. Although Plunk's Wrecker Service has been serving north Louisiana since 1949, it sits quietly and modestly off the road as it has for decades. When you consider Plunk's, you automatically assume they offer top-notch wrecker services with 24-hour towing, but did you know they offer new and used auto part sales, a body shop, a mechanic shop, a DOT Inspection Station, and motor vehicle inspection stickers? They also purchase



salvage vehicles and dabble in used auto sales. Established on July 1, 1949 by Robert Plunk, this business has grown immeasurably and now serves customers throughout Louisiana and in neighboring states, with ICC Authority to operate in any state in the U.S. Robert was in the used car business when he started the wrecker service, and his family continues his legacy.

24/7 towing service EVERY day of the year.

“We believe this is one of the oldest continually running wrecker services in the state,” says co-manager Sharon Plunk Parker. Along with her husband and co-manager, Louis, they run a seamless operation that's positioned for growth in this service-oriented industry. With the new 65-ton Rotator added to their fleet, Plunk's now sports the largest recovery vehicle in the state. This vehicle was purchased in Dallas several months ago and has already been put to the test – very successfully. The fleet consists of a 65-ton Rotator capable of lifting 130,000 lbs. with a 360 degree rotating boom that slides back 14 feet. This impressive machine comes from Canada and has four winches and three 10' stages of boom for a total reach of 44'. It can easily recover motor homes, boats, 18-wheelers, water tanks, etc. Their fleet also includes five huge wreckers, three roll-backs, six smaller size wreckers with two more on order, a low-boy service for hauling equipment ranging from huge A/C units and portable buildings to cotton modules and corn conveyors. They also work closely with the crane companies and can even contract professional divers to assist with recovering vehicles and airplanes that are under water. As they carry on Robert's tradition of providing quality service at a reasonable price, Plunk's continues to build on its solid reputation.

Jean Plunk, the majority owner of the company, retired from the State several years ago but has always been involved with the family business. Aside from the obvious success, she is most proud of their long-time participation in civic events such as the Christmas and Mardi Gras Parades. “It's our longevity in the business that I think is most impressive.” says Jean. “We have several 20+ year employees and quite a few long-term client relationships. My daughter,



Sharon, grew up here and manages the business with her husband. Her daughter, Ashley Plunk, a senior accounting major and dance instructor at Linda Lavender School of Dance, still finds time to work in the family business.”

Plunk's offers 24/7 towing service EVERY day of the year. They also own 20 acres of salvage with over 2,000 vehicles available for used parts. The full service parts department, located at 108 Jonesboro Road in West Monroe, is open from 7:30-5:30 Monday - Friday. At Plunk's, they actually pull and install the used parts on your vehicle. Louis says their goal is to continue being the forerunner in the industry. They provide high-quality body work, evident from Louis's 1969 SS Camaro he purchased last year. This car had been towed from a field where it sat for four years. They recovered it and had it street ready by restoring it from top to bottom. Louis is comfortable in the knowledge and competency of the crew at Plunk's to work on his prized muscle car. As a matter of fact, three cars restored by Plunk's placed first, second, and third in a local car show event! The body shop, managed by 23-year veteran Tommy Kicklighter, can also assist with fiberglass repairs for Corvettes and boats.

Clients who utilize Plunk's services include auto dealerships, motor clubs, local businesses, large trucking companies, and individuals. Their services range from a simple tow, lock out, or fuel delivery to moving heavy equipment and recovering trucks containing hazardous materials. They were recently issued the TOP GUN award from Asurion, who is contracted with cellular companies to provide roadside assistance.

Located just south of I-20 off the Stella Street Exit (115), Plunk's can be reached at (318) 388-2313, 1-800-234-9697, or at info@plunks.com. Visit their website at www.plunks.com. You just may want to program this number in your phone right now!

The Bagwell Antiques Show & Sale

Collectors and antique lovers alike will marvel at the beauty, quality, and selection of treasures that can be found at the Fall Bagwell Antiques Show & Sale. On October 26-28, the Mississippi Trade Mart will be filled with everything from hand-made gold and silver jewelry to hand-built furniture and fine art.

For 33 years, the Bagwell Antiques Show & Sale has become the source for antique collectors, dealers, and enthusiasts. Customer's travel from all over the deep South searching for the most interesting and unusual items to fit every budget and taste. Merchandise will be represented by 75 dealers from all over the country.

This show has maintained a large number of furniture booths featuring items from elegant to primitive. Other finds include oriental rugs, paintings, lamps, antiques books, linens & lace, maps & prints, clocks, statues, and vases. Look for glassware, china, sterling silver, porcelain, pottery, ceramics, bronze, brass & copper, and antique & estate jewelry. Don't miss the quilts, tools, advertising, kitchenware, sewing and much more!

Professional crystal and glass restoration will be offered on-site. Our professionals also clear clouding glass and repair, replate, and polish sterling silver. Bagwell Antiques Shows also assist with porcelain repair and the restoration of oriental rugs.

Public show hours are from 10-6 Friday and Saturday and 12-5 Sunday. Parking is free. Weekend admission is \$5 for adults and half price for children. For more information, contact Britt Caldwell at 662-231-9654 or bagwellantiques@afo.net.

Cotton Country Folk Life & Trade Day

The Louisiana Cotton Museum will host the 2nd Annual Cotton Country Folk Life & Trade Day on Saturday, October 20 from 9am-3pm.

There will be plenty of food, crafts, and new and old stuff for sale. Also on hand will be craftsmen performing ole time skills such as making soap and jewelry and baking bread like they did fifty year ago or more.

The Louisiana Cotton Museum is located at 7162 Highway 65 North in Lake Providence. For more information, call (318) 559-2041 or e-mail cotton@sos.louisiana.gov.

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