



All Smiles! Mardi Gras Nocona Style

When the name Pete Horton is mentioned, one automatically thinks Nocona, Texas, and classic cars. Pete loved Nocona and collecting cars was his passion.

It all started when Pete moved to Nocona with this family when he was 15 years old. He attended Nocona schools through graduation, married the love of his life, Barbara Keck, a Nocona native. Soon after they married, they relocated to Louisiana to work in the offshore oil business; another one of Pete's passions. They were blessed with three daughters Jana, Sugie and Brandy.

Pete was a gifted oil producer and was highly successful in life. One of his most amazing attributes was his generosity to share his successes. He and Barbara were instrumental in the revitalization of Nocona in the early 2000's. They brought to life a "feel" of New Orleans to our downtown area turning an old, dilapidated building into a Creole style townhouse, which is the most iconic pieces of architecture of News Orleans. They opened up the Horton Classic Car Museum in 2013, which is an incredible compilation of cars, some of which are the most sought out antique automobiles in the world. The museum has been visited by people from all over the world and this led to the Texas State Designation of "Classic Car Capital of Texas."

His passion did not end with cars. Pete loved Mardi Gras, everything Mardi Gras – the celebration, the costumes and most of all the parade down Clay Street. He would sit on his balcony, watched as the parade went by, waving and smiling at the riders.

Nocona was Pete's "Happy" Place. Seeing other's happiness was one of his greatest pleasures in life. Whenever Pete signed a greeting card, left a note for friends or family, or left a simple gesture it was always signed off with a "smiley face".

The Nocona Mardi Gras Committee has dedicated the Mardi Gras Ball to Mr. Pete Horton. May he "smile" in peace.