



Greetings From Hotel Del Coronado

BACKFIRE

Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America

VOLUME 14

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APRIL 2009

I May Be Calling You!

In order to achieve

what I would like this newsletter to look like, I may be calling you! I feel our members have a lot to contribute to this publication.

A regular member to contribute will be Jim Wright. I felt that with all the research that he did for the Dixie book he has more stories to expand on or relate than could be published. Jon Lasota will be tapped for a story when "Tech Nights" happen. For his story telling talents Bob Steinmetz and for pictures, Joe Krygowski will contribute. Just remember when your phone rings I hope to be utilizing your input too.

Header Picture:

Nancy and I on the beach in San Diego with Marilyn on March 9th 2009

More inside!



The Carp Editor and Chief

Inside this Months Issue:

- 2009 "Some Like it Hot" Banquet review
- Lisota's Garage tech talk review
- Jim's Dixie History
- Meeting synopsis

A's R Us – 2009 “Some Like It Hot” Annual Banquet

Bob Steinmetz:

It would be irresponsible to say that this year was anything less than what we have seen in the past years. In fact, it would be more accurate to state that the ‘Banquet Queen’ outdid herself yet again. The décor was outstanding, the room was better than before and the night flew by.

It was rumored that many of our members had grave reservations about the A's R us D- capabilities but it all seemed to work out well. We probably had more raffle prizes than were needed but, they didn't outstretch Wally's ability to do improvisations at length about each item.

Unfortunately, we were only able to lure 28 loyal members to the event, which is quite troubling. Maybe we need to try some other type of event, different time of year, different menu, or no open bar to reduce costs. One of our members might have a suggestion also.

Bottom line is there are many, many thanks due to Robin & Bob Rodriguez, Kay & Wally Ekstrom, Marlene & Joe Krygowski, Linda & Bill Thornburg and all the others that gave their time to make this an enjoyable event.



A little History Lesson on the “Hotel Del Coronado”

. On May 15, 1846 Governor Pio Pico issued a land grant to Don Pedro Carrillo for "the island or Peninsula in the Port of San Diego." Carrillo's ownership of the land was brief as he sold the property just five months later to the American captain of a trading ship, Bezer Simmons, for \$1000.00. The peninsula changed hands several times over the next 39 years until Elisha S. Babcock, Jr., Hampton L. Story, and Jacob Gruendike purchased it, for \$110,000.00 on November 19, 1885. Babcock then invited his brother-in-law, Heber Ingle, and Josephus Collett, a railroad stockholder, to become investors. Thus the founding fathers of what is today known as Coronado organized the Coronado Beach Company on April 7, 1886. The Hotel Del Coronado, officially opened its doors to the public on February 19, 1888. Work began immediately on the resort community that the Beach Co. investors envisioned. The men hired hundreds of laborers of various nationalities to begin the division and landscaping of lots, the laying of railroad tracks, and the construction of a water and irrigation system. In order to accommodate the growing number of people journeying to the peninsula, Babcock and Story created the San Diego and Coronado Ferry Company on April 16, 1886 with the ferry Coronado completing its first run on August 19th.



Babcock and Story leaked news of a proposed hotel on Coronado to the local newspapers which caused a great deal of excitement in the community of San Diego and beyond. With the increased publicity surrounding this grand venture came new interest in the community planning of the peninsula. Thus on November 13, 1886 the Coronado Beach Co. held an auction for the sale of lots ranging in price from \$500.00 to \$1600.00. By the end of the day, the Beach Company had sold 350 lots for a total of \$110,000.00, which was, incidentally, the purchase price of the entire peninsula. The resort community was now coming together with many new residents building homes and businesses. The



investors then began to concentrate on the design and construction of the new hotel. The Beach Company hired James and Watson Reid as the architects of the [Hotel Del Coronado](#) (pictured above) and work began almost immediately with the groundbreaking ceremony held on March 19, 1887. The Hotel Del Coronado, officially opened its doors to the public on February 19, 1888. By the fall of 1887 and throughout 1888 Coronado was developing into a community, particularly with the founding of various organizations. The first school session began on January 24, 1887 in the

walled tent on Seventh Street and D Avenue until construction of the first schoolhouse was completed in 1888. A Boating Club was organized in late 1887 with an Athletic Club and a Baseball Club to follow in early 1888. July 1889 proved to be a momentous month in the history of Coronado as John D. Spreckels became an investor in the Coronado Beach Company, buying out Hampton L. Story's one-third interest. Over the next three years, Spreckels bought controlling interest in the company and became the sole proprietor of the Hotel Del Coronado. He also oversaw the building of the grand mansion on Glorietta Boulevard, the establishment of Tent City, and the sale of North Island to the U.S. government in 1917. While the Hotel Del Coronado



became one of California's most beloved destinations, the resort community increased its visitors with the rise of Tent City. Vacationers flocked to the make-shift city at the foot of the Hotel Del for

summer fun. There were swimming facilities, carnival booths, a Ferris wheel, a children's bull fight, aquaplaning, sailing, and numerous activities for the entire family. Tent City remains a fond memory for many



residents of Coronado and vacationers from around the world who visited the peninsula between 1900 and 1939.

Nancy and I visited the hotel on March 9th and took many great pictures. We were told that the reason the movie was filmed there was because the hotel was cheap to stay at for the filming crew. The movie saved the hotel by making it popular to stay at again. The woodwork in the hotel is fantastic. I don't believe it's cheap to stay there now.



DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright

Paving the Dixie Highway in Illinois started in 1916 and was completed by August 1921. Most of the highway, which extended from Chicago to Danville, was paved with concrete. Here, work crews are completing a stretch of concrete pavement in Iroquois County just north of the Vermilion County line. The photo from 1920 is a great shot showing the light rail locomotive used for hauling aggregate materials to the site, the steam-powered paver and a screeding or finishing device with a team of horses next to it. In Vermilion County, most of the highway was paved with brick.



Dick Tracy 1930 Strip #1



Jon Lisota: Motor Medic



At the last tech talk we had nine guys show. I think everyone was tired of staying in all winter. It was suggested that we cover brake and brake rod adjustments. We would like to thank

Chuck Fritz for volunteering the use of his car. Most everyone in the club has a brake system like his. My 28 is the earlier type, with a three piece cross-shaft with brake rods that aren't adjustable. I believe Joe's is the same way. So we put Chuck's car up on jack stands and everyone got to crawl underneath to see how the system actually works. In the process we fine-tuned adjusted Chuck's brakes. They all lock up now with only about 2 inches of pedal travel. This will improve when he finishes putting cast iron drums on the rear as we installed the fronts earlier.

Well then the gentlemen then got interested in the process of swaging the studs. So we had a nice talk about this process. So if anyone has loose studs on your hubs we can replace or possibly tighten them up. I look forward to the next tech talk, which will be held at Bob Steinmetz's barn. We are going to set up the dimensions to properly align the headlights. This is something that is needed for many of our cars to focus them. So everyone bring your cars for the free adjustments.

See you there.

Jon Lisota



March Meeting was held at Chuck and Linnea's house.

Old business: All that attended the banquet had a good time. The club footed \$305.87 for the event. Discussion included how to attract more members to the event in the future.

Chuck bought another set of radios for the shake down cruise to test. A discussion on how to proceed with "Driving the Dixie" in this day of lawsuits was had. Also Markham was showing an interest in the event **July 26th picnic with the Highland club was discussed. They may not be there because of the national meet. We will go on with or without them.**

New business: A letter from MAFCA asking for an extra \$50.00 to keep insurance going for the chapter's liability. **Approved** Talk of having a "Ladies Day Tour" south on 41 to Toto, IN.

No Stinking Badges fines: \$6:00

Wednesday 15th of April Meeting

7:00PM meeting at Bob Steinmetz's Garage in Frankfort.
24356 South Harvest Hills Road, Frankfort 60423



Wednesday 20th of May Meeting

7:00PM meeting at Jon and Yvonne's home in Crete.
511 West Stanton Lane
Crete IL. 60417

Up Coming Calendar of 2009 Events

Saturday March 28th Cracker Barrel / Matteson / 8:00AM Breakfast

Saturday 18th of April

Shake Down cruise and scavenger hunt. Meet at the Wilmington House Family Restaurant in Wilmington, IL for breakfast early. We will be leaving at 9:00 AM sharp! It will be a fun day of driving the cars and shaking the bugs out for the season.

Wednesday April 22nd "Tech Talk" at Bob's garage in Frankfort. Headlights will be in focus for the night.

Friday 1st, Saturday 2nd and, Sunday 3rd of May

Spring Tour with your hosts Chuck Fritz, Ron Bono and, Jon lasota. Destination Dixon, Illinois.

Hotel reservations @ Quality Inn – 1-815-284-0500. Call now to reserve a room. They have 20 rooms blocked for us and you need to call by April 1st then the rooms will be released. Breakfast is included in the room price.

Monday May 25th Memorial day parade in Crete

Friday June 5th Blue Island for a TGIF night. Car show movie and food. Looks like a donation may be made to the club to attend.

Sunday June 7th Sharon Wisconsin for model A days.

Saturday June 20th Driving the Dixie starting in Blue Island at 7:00 for set up and ending up in Momence around 4:00PM for relaxation. We may as in the past go for pizza as a club afterwards.

Sunday June 28th St. James Church

April 2009

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A's R Us officers and Staff

President – Chuck Fritz

Treasure – Tim Dionne

Historian – Tim Bots

Web Page – Joe Krygowski

Director of Safety – Ron Bonneau

Nat'l Rep. – Marlene Krygowski

Sgt. At Arms – Steve Coe

Newsletter – Phillip Serviss

Banquet Queen – Robin Rodriguez

Motor Medic - Jon Isota

Vice President – Jim Wright

Secretary – Dale Chamis

Member relations – Joe Krygowski

Parade Coordinator – Wally Ekstrom

Please send **Backfire** articles or items of interest to:

Phillip Serviss

220 Poplar Lane

Beecher, IL 60401

E Mail to: taxserviss@att.net



Front entrance of Hotel Del Coronado 1930's

BACKFIRE
P.O. Box 3

Crete, Illinois 60417

