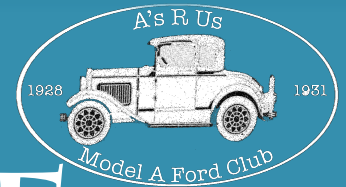




Kewanee, IL. 09/09/2009



# BACKFIRE

Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America

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<http://www.drivingthedixie.sinthasite.com>

<http://asrus.homestead.com>

## It's travel time!

With 5 cars and 10 members we had a very successful trip to Kewanee, IL. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Nancy the Navigator and John the Co-navigator for the help on this adventure. As usual the trip was a success. We are now getting ready to travel again to Milwaukee, WI. Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>. With 17 or so cars and 40 plus members.

This time with your help on the way up there we will arrive ship-shape. Instructions will be given to every driver and you should have no problems on the first half. 45 miles on Western Ave. The entire drive is only 110 miles. Piece of cake! See everyone soon,

**Header Picture:** Our cars pictured with a WWI "Newport II BeBe" aircraft at Kewanee airport during the "Exposure Tour"

*Phil*

More inside!

pg. 3

*The Carp  
Editor in Chief*

## Inside this Months Issue:

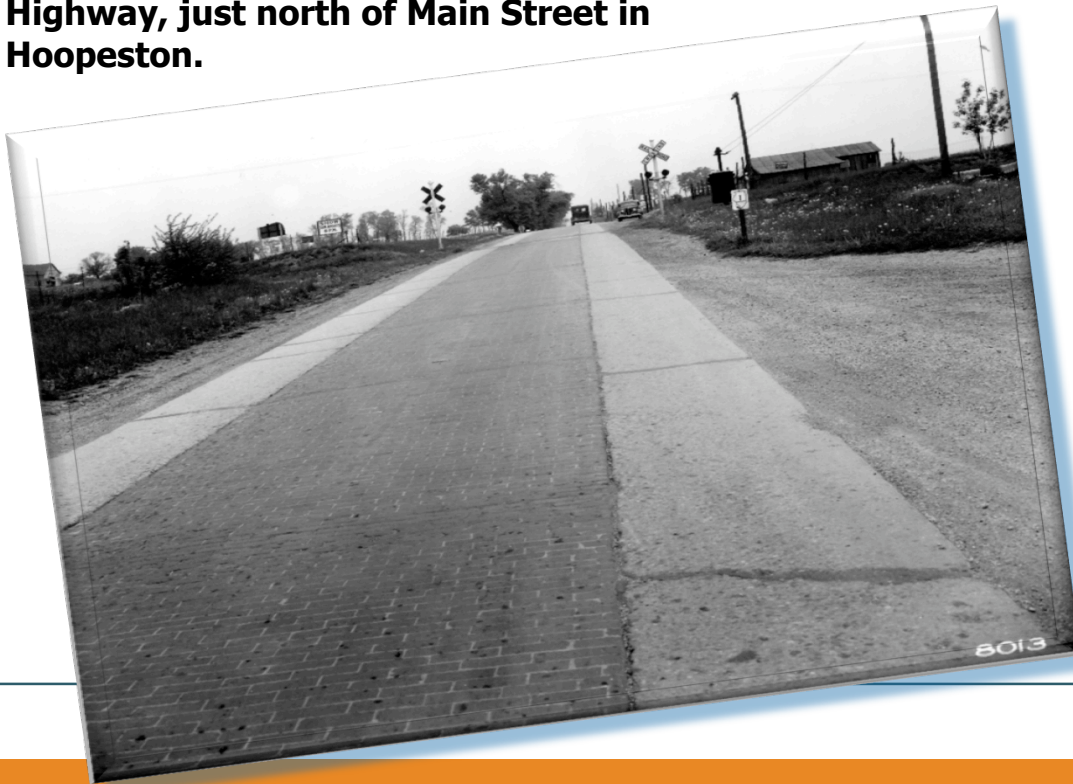
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# DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



Vermilion County officials selected brick as the paving material for the Dixie Highway through their county rather than concrete, which was used elsewhere on the highway in Illinois. In much of Vermilion County the highway was initially paved to a width of 10 feet. County and state highway officials quickly realized the 10 foot width posed a danger to motorists and, by the early 1920's, had added 4 foot concrete shoulders on each side of the roadway, bringing the total width of the highway to 18 feet. This view from 1940 is looking north on Route 1, the Dixie Highway, just north of Main Street in Hoopeston.



## Dick Tracy 1930 Strip #7



# Jon Lisota: Motor Medic



A GREAT turnout, 17 members, 3 guests...Art & Jerry LaMear and Mason . The topic was to be “dropping pans” and “oil leaks”. Once we inspected the main crankshaft it was determined that the wear has been minimal at best after 6,000 miles of use. Tolerances were still gauging at 1,000<sup>th</sup> clearance! When valves were checked and we found that adjustments were necessary. This is when it turned into a night about valve clearances and adjustments. It was also noted that with a well-adjusted carburetor the spark plugs will burn clean and not carbon up the heads and cylinders. A date for the next tech talk and topic will be determined AFTER our trip. Gabber at you later,

Jon

## Milwaukee Fall Tour



2155 West 183rd Street, Homewood, Illinois 60430 (708) 922-0800

We will be meeting for breakfast around 7:00am and leaving Homewood up the Dixie Highway around 8:30 – 8:45am. Around 30-35 minutes later we should be arriving at 95<sup>th</sup> street on the Dixie to pick-up anyone who doesn't want to come to Homewood in the morning. See you soon,

*WSJ Tours: featuring exclusive touring and fine dining experiences for AsRUs club members for 7 years*

# Bishop Hill

ILLINOIS



**When someone said our trip this fall will be to Kewanee, Illinois, what exciting visions come to mind? Absolutely none!**

What was on the agenda? Not much really, maybe a stop at Bishop Hill, IL. We didn't know what that was, none of us really did, but it sounded good.



What a magnificent opportunity it ended up being, to fall blindly into a perfectly wonderful four-day trip.

It was a normal beginning with breakfast in Wilmington. There was the usual fixing of a car, a fan belt, and then it was time to hit the road. Phil & Nancy Serviss, Irene & Marvin Rauch, Jon & Yvonne Lisota, Ken & Arlene McNeely, and Joe & Marlene Krygowski. Because a few of us had not seen the historic school at Carbon Hill, we stopped there first. The woman from the historical society made a special trip to open the school for us and provided some one-to-one time answering questions. Learned that about 90% of Illinois' land covers lots and lots of coal. We all live at the very northern edge of the coalfields. Some of the most tragic mine disasters in history happened in Northern Illinois. We headed west toward Morris and managed one more fix on Ken's car, a leaking gas gauge. The ultimate fix was, however, a little farther down the road. Phil's car's "wolf whistle" came apart and a piece flew into the intake manifold or something and his car lost compression. That had to be a first for the club, a repair due to a flying wolf whistle. Jon Lisota to the rescue!

In Morris a gentleman from the historical society spotted us parked near the I&M Canal boat. He was nice enough to invite us to their new historical museum and many new exhibits. Onward then to Starved Rock. Large fast moving trucks going in the opposite direction of Model A's on steep winding two lane road is not always a good combination. A few brake "lock ups" were heard but the cars were none the worse for wear. Nancy had brought everything for a great picnic lunch. We enjoyed sandwiches, salads, fruit and desserts at a Starved Rock picnic area. Of course, the usual laughs and craziness went along with good food. I think Arlene and Ken were beginning to figure out we're a pretty laid back group if they didn't already know.



After arriving in Kewanee and getting settled in our rooms it was time to head out to dinner. Jon and Yvonne's son Greg, who lives nearby, joined us for dinner at the Pioneer Pub & Grub. Before dinner was over Greg had figured out his parent's friends might not have been the brightest bulbs in the box! That may have something to do with Joe's description of the Illinois seal. Somewhere during the course of dinner Phil and Joe challenged each other to a game of pool back at the hotel. Didn't know Joe was an aging pool hustler. Phil got close but Joe beat him four games. The restaurant owner asked if we'd come back and take pictures in front of the building. We did that the very next morning. Nancy will send copies back to the restaurant.

Wednesday morning during breakfast at the hotel we met a man who worked for the FAA. He was in Kewanee on business and told the group about a "little" event called the 38th National Stearman Fly In being held in six different towns. Kewanee and Galesburg being two of them. There are a few of us in the group who are nuts about airplanes so there was no holding us back from a visit to the airport. We took off in the fog and when we arrived we were told that busloads of school kids would be arriving to see the planes come in. When the first class of third graders arrived they immediately zeroed in on our cars. Ken and Arlene's car quickly became loaded with kids. The car looked as if two-legged ants had attacked it. All five cars had kids honking horns and having the time of their lives. Oh yeah, they kind of like the airplanes too. While waiting for the fog to clear a gentleman who had a replica "Newport II BeBe" open cockpit plane invited us to look at it. He built the plane himself, answered questions and gave us a great photo op for the cars and us. Subsequently, we were invited to attend the Stearman Fly In the next day at Galesburg.



Our main destination for the trip had been Bishop Hill, an old Swedish colony settled in the mid 1800's. We were able to go into several shops and a museum. It's a quaint little town with lots of people willing to share their stories and admire our cars. The highlight of the trip, though, had to be the "restaurant" we chose for lunch. I don't think any of us expected such a fun lunch or meeting such friendly and warm people. It really looked like a biker bar from a distance. The place had been a filling station many years ago but at some point was turned into a small restaurant. I think it was called The Station. A big welcoming but rustic front porch, a swinging screen door that squeaked, uneven floors and maybe ten small tables but what a place. There were daily specials on the menu that they had mostly run out of. Everything offered was homemade and GOOD. There was one piece of apple pie left and one piece of another pie that Jon and Ken must have rolled dice over. The rest of us suffered with the most amazing homemade blackberry cobbler we'd had in a long time. Earlier Jon had asked the owner for some onion slices for his sandwich. She brought out a whole sliced red onion in her hand. Jon looked at her kind of funny and she said, "I'm going to touch it anyhow so...!" The kicker was, after we had been served, when the owner said, "I'm going out on the porch for a cigarette, you all just help yourselves to whatever". But that was only the beginning. All the locals pretty much help themselves to coffee and tea, etc.

We were all standing out on the porch after lunch. The young woman owner of the restaurant was truly lusting after Ken's roadster. Being the nice guy he is, he offered her the keys and told her to take it around the block. She and her mom got in and took off like she'd been driving it for years. They were waving all the way down the street. Some of us speculated that Ken may now be the new owner of a restaurant instead of a Model A roadster. They did come back and thanked us all for stopping there. Nancy is going to send photos of the group and her in the car.

After such a full day nobody was really hungry for dinner so we created a picnic in the hotel parking lot. We used Jon's trailer as a buffet table and finished up all the picnic food. We sat outside until the sun went down; it had been a great day!

Phil decided to go swimming after dinner and ended up talking to some high-tension electric line inspectors and they suggested to go see a "Mayberryish" town called Cambridge not knowing much more than it's a cute town. So Thursday morning with ¼ mile visibility fog the group routed the drive thru Cambridge.

When we rolled into town the only thing moving was a cat crossing the street and we found the Historical society closed at the end of town. A public works man came over after a few minutes on his lawn tractor and asked if we would like to visit the museum. Off he went and a few minutes latter a society member appeared and opened the buildings up for us. The society was saving their old county court house "1845" a sheriffs stable and a train depot on a lot at the edge of town. Shortly after a gal from the local newspaper showed up and wanted a story and a picture of us. We were then invited to an "Old, Odd & Unusual Museum" started by a local retired contractor and his wife who decided to return back from California and display a lifetime of ecliptic collecting. 3 hours later we left knowing we have to return again because we couldn't take it all in.

We had lunch in Galva on the way to Galesburg. While in Galesburg we shopped in the historic district and visited the home of the poet and author Carl Sandburg. He is buried there in a garden with his family. There is a huge rock to mark the spot, which is called Remembrance Rock. The path to and from the garden is marked with flagstone carved with many quotes from his famous poetry.

It was on to the Galesburg airport. There were about 80 Stearman, open cockpit planes tied down on the grassy area as well as the tarmac. We were requested to pull our cars on to the tarmac by an organizer who we met on Wednesday at Kewanee airport, which put us pretty much in the middle of the planes. People there were so friendly and curious about the cars. Again, Ken shared his car with one of the pilots. In turn for Ken's kindness the pilot gave him a ride in an older Army piper cub. The week of fly in events was to culminate on Saturday and Sunday. While we were sitting around talking several of the pilots began getting airborne to practice for the weekend festivities. They practiced formation flying at a fairly low altitude in groups of four and five planes. There was a pair of planes that flew very low and practiced laying down smoke on the runway. One pilot did some skywriting and made a huge heart right over where we were parked. There was so much going on. We noticed a Model A sitting by the huge hangar. It belonged to the manager but hadn't started again since running out of gas. Our car medic and the guys fixed it. As dusk began to fall we were invited to join with the few hundred pilots and others for pizza. Talk is that we've been invited to attend next year's event and bring more cars. Sounds like another trip to me. It was just a great day.

Friday meant we needed to head back home. Joe's car had been knocking and acting up most of the trip. Jon assured us we'd make it home but it was a little nerve wracking. Guess it's a wrist pin problem. It was a truly uneventful trip home other than the GPS and county maps not knowing where an apple orchard was actually located. We found Boggio's Orchard and Produce store a few miles away. Lots of apples, squash, Indian corn, cider, mum plants and everything else. Nice, nice place. We were invited to come back for the Pumpkin Harvest Craft Show. We had a great lunch in Oglesby. Our trip together ended in Wilmington at the Launching Pad for some ice cream. We had a great time, everyone stayed safe and, well, and you just can't ask for more than that.

*Marlene*



***A special thanks to Dale Chamis for providing the minutes of the meeting every month. This is a Great help in getting this newsletter together.***

***Thank You!***

**September Meeting** was at the Park Forest Police Dept. with host Steve Coe.

A slide show from the Exposure trip was shown after the meeting.

**MEMBER NEWS:**

1. Henry & Marie Jasica welcome a 6<sup>th</sup> grandchild, a boy. Tyler Leland.
2. Bob & Debbie Granko celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.
3. Carol Dionne has been sick. She is undergoing tests to determine illness.

The Senkpeil family is on baby watch. 5<sup>th</sup> grandchild/great grandchild (a girl) is due any day  
**WEDDING:** Bob Granko Jr. thanked everyone who participated and presented the club with a gift. Congratulations Bob and Debbie.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Date is set for Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup>. Beggars Pizza located at 15600 S Cicero in Oak Forest. We have added the additional hour, giving us 3 hours for our event.

**BREAKFAST CLUB:** Next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at the Peachtree Restaurant Rt 30 & Gov's Hwy.

**CLUB DUES/MAFCA:** Dues were due tonight, however deadline has been extended to next meeting. Please send your check for \$60, and "green card" to Tim or bring to the October meeting.

**BANQUET:** Bob Rodriguez said he and Robin met with the owner of Scrementi's and he has agreed to keep the price/package the same and suggestion was made to go to their new location. Date is set for Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 2010.

**Wednesday 21st of October Meeting**

**6:00PM** meeting at The Ekstrom's house, 24030 Kings Road, Crete, IL. 60417  
Chili cook-off and hot dogs. Bring those unwanted items for an auction to take place after dinner.

**WSJ Tours presents: Fall Trip to Milwaukee Wisconsin / Oct. 9,10,11**

**Individual Reservations Under A's R Us** - Call the Hotel Directly at

**414-345-5000 or 888-322-3326**

For a King or double queen the cost will be \$109.00 per night.

You may cancel up to 2 days prior to the event.





## Up Coming Calendar of 2009 Events

**Friday September 25<sup>th</sup> MOKENA VIP NIGHT** – We have been personally invited by the mayor of Mokena to attend. Date is at the Tinley Park Holiday Inn located at 183<sup>rd</sup> & Harlem. There will be approximately 30 cars on display; our cars will be shown inside. Artwork, cash bar, silent auction and food will be served. We should arrive by 4:45 so that we can get our cars inside. Bob Granko Jr. said the Mokena mayor is an avid car fanatic, and will personally greet everyone.

**Monday September 28<sup>th</sup> TEXAS ROADHOUSE:** Once again the Bridge Teen Center is holding a “Show & Dine “Event to raise money for their center. The event will be held from 4 – 10:00 pm. Present the flyer and 10% of your dinner bill will be donated to the Bridge Teen Center. Bob Steinmetz said at the last event held in July, the trustee of the Andrew Foundation attended and donated \$50k to the center!

**BALMORAL SUNDAY BUFFET** – BOGO coupons were given at Dixie Dash. We could use the “new press room” located on the track for our group. Cars would be lined on track prior to race time. Perhaps sometime in late October to do this event.

**Sunday Brunch at Mill Race Inn:** Chuck suggested a brunch here, located on Rt. 31 along the river and a tour of the Morton Arboretum. Date to be announced

**Fri, Sat, Sun October 9,10,11\_Fall Trip to Milwaukee WI.**

7:00am Breakfast will be at Blueberry Hill Pancake House, 183rd & Harwood in Homewood. Leave around 8:30am. Another rendezvous' point for those who live north will be at 95th & Western. Plan to leave at 9:15 am. from this point.

**September 2009**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	<b>25</b>	26
27	<b>28</b>	29	30			

**Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>:** Crete Christmas parade

**Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas party Beggars Pizza in Oak forest **6:00 PM**

**October 2009**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	<b>21</b>	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**November 2009**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	<b>18</b>	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**December 2009**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	<b>5</b>
6	7	8	<b>9</b>	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	<b>24</b>	25	26
27	28	29	30	<b>31</b>		

# A's R Us officers and Staff

President – Chuck Fritz Vice President – Jim Wright Treasure – Tim Dionne Secretary – Dale Chamis

Member relations – Joe Krygowski

Web Page – Joe Krygowski

Newsletter – Phillip Serviss

Parade Coordinator – Wally Ekstrom

Director of Safety – Ron Bonneau

Nat'l Rep. – Marlene Krygowski

Historian – Tim Bots

Sgt. At Arms Steve Coe

Motor Medic - Jon Lisota

Banquet Queen – Robin Rodriguez



Bishop Hill Historical Society is housed in this building on 3 floors.

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

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