

# BACKFIRE

Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America

VOLUME 15

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2010

<http://www.drivingthedixie.com>  
<http://asrus.homestead.com>

## Another year has passed

The parades are done and we had a wonderful turnout for the first week of December. Three events in a row and the weather was on our side. The extreme cold hit the next week so we could survive in our cars without heaters. It seems that our mechanic Jon has survived pneumonia and will be back on his feet ready to repair cars again. Now is the time to contact him while we have them sitting for the winter or other members to get them ready for spring. 16 weeks till shake-down cruise.

**Header Picture:**

2010 is here.

*Phil*



*The Carp  
Editor in Chief*

### Inside this Months Issue:

- Christmas Past
- Jim's Dixie History
- Lisota's Garage tech talk
- Meeting synopsis
- December activities schedule

More inside!

**Pg. 4**

# DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

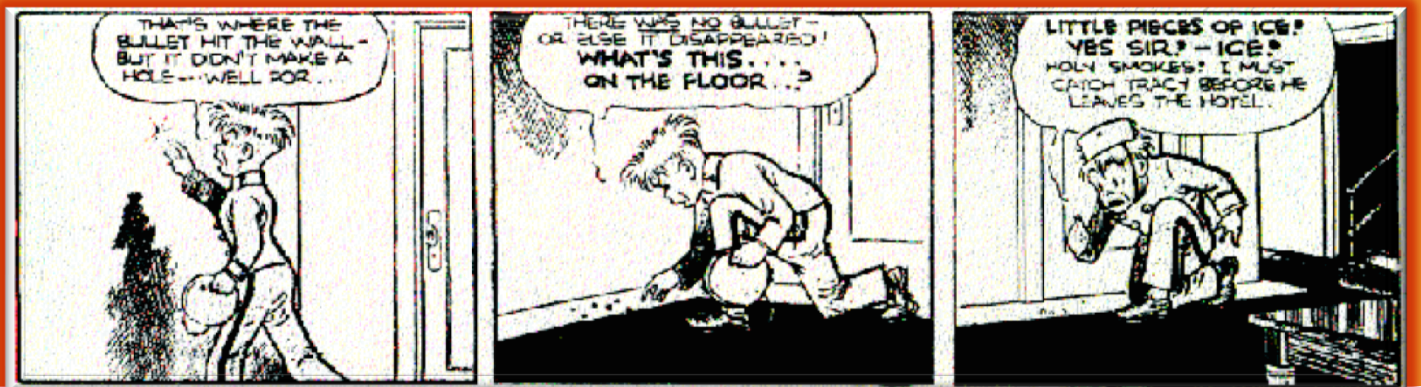
By Jim Wright

One of the lures of the Dixie Highway was to allow Northerners caught in the clutches of winter to escape to the sunny climes of southern Florida. Many times road conditions like this thwarted those dreams. Even



today, travel along open stretches of the Dixie Highway is treacherous during winter storms where blowing snow can cause whiteout conditions along with drifting that may close the roadway. During the early days of the highway, primitive snow removal equipment was hard pressed to keep traffic flowing and many a daring winter driver was left in a lurch like this "Diver" north of St. Anne on the original alignment of the Dixie Highway in Illinois.

## Dick Tracy 1930 Strip #10



# Jon Lisota: Motor Medic



The next tech talk will involve Joe Krygowski's engine knock that he seems to have acquired on the last trip. There will be a separate Email if it will happen before the next meeting.

*Jon*

Please be at the next meeting with any input for the final choice of meal for our winter dinner and dance banquet.

## *Coconut Grove Club*



*Your ticket to a night out with your sweetheart! Enjoy fine cuisine, entertainment and friends.*

*Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2010*



# Christmas Past



He still looks the same today!



Both of these kids are members.

**At the suggestion of members we will publish the minutes and try to only accept with or without changes to facilitate the meeting.**

**December 9, 2009  
A'S r Us Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting location:** Beggars Pizza  
**Call to Order:** 6:35 pm

President Chuck Fritz called the meeting to order at 6:35. The reading of last months minutes was dispensed as the minutes are now included in our newsletter. Minutes were approved.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Due to the absence of Tim Dionne, a report was unavailable.

**MEMBER NEWS:**

Matt Kalivoda, son of Marlene Krygowski is recovering from a recent heart surgery. All went well.

Chuck thanked our members for a great year, and great participation. We are looking forward to new and exciting events in the coming year.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**TECH NITE/BREAKFAST CLUB:** Will be postponed for December due to holidays.

**DRIVIN THE DIXIE:** Letters have been sent to the Mayors of the participating towns asking for help. Ken Chamis noted Markham is looking forward to participation in the 2010 event.

**2010 Board Elections:** Since no new nominations were received, members unanimously approved the 2010 Board as follows:

**President:** Chuck Fritz      **Treasurer:** Jim Wright  
**Vice Prez:** Tim Botts      **Secretary:** Dale Chamis

**NEW BUSINESS/UPCOMING EVENTS:**

1. Dec 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm Jim Wright will be at the Crete Library promoting Dixie Highway.
2. **Shakedown Cruise:** Date is set for April 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 with Tim Borchert and Chuck Fritz as tour guides. Suggestions are welcome.
3. **Banquet:** Menus were again discussed, and it was suggested to review and decide at our next meeting. Chuck suggested "upgrading" our menu selection. Chuck will contact Bob Rodriguez for more information.

No split the pot or badge fines for December. January meeting will be held at the Park Forest Police Station.

The meeting was adjourned so that we could begin the festivities.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!!

*Submitted by: Secretary / Dale Chamis*

**12/04/2009 Homewood Parade / Marlene Krygowski**

The wind and weather were much nicer than last year but still cold. Despite the cold, more than a dozen Model A's showed their Christmas lights, ornaments and finery for the people of Homewood. While some of us waited for the rest of the group to arrive, Tim#3 and Joe took advantage of the market being held at city hall and bought some freshly baked loaves of bread and hot coffee. Jim Wright led the parade in his brightly light car. Our group was finalized by a gigantic snowman on the roof of the car belonging to Ken and Dale Chamis. The rest of us just blinked and twinkled in between. The crowds were much larger than last year as we went through downtown Homewood. Final stop for the group was at a huge bonfire in the middle of town where the cars were being judged for the best in show. Still don't know who won. I'm sure this won't be the last Christmas parade we do in Homewood.

*Mar*

**12/05/2009 Crete parade of Lights / Phillip Serviss**

We couldn't have asked for better weather for the parade weekend. The temperature was cold but not to the point that we were confined to the cars till the parade started. The Thornburg's opened their house to anyone wanting libations before the big event started. I believe we had 14 cars decorated for this event and they were all great! Nancy and I was near the end with our truck and all I could see was the Stay Puff Marshmallow Man waddling behind us. I thought we should be calling the Ghost Busters! After the event we all met at Aureilo's Pizza to warm up and have a wonderful dinner with friends.





For a quick look at the Crete parade its on **YouTube!**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Crwom7aPaa4>

Toy Box Connection 12/06/2009 / Phillip Serviss

Our day started at 10:30 at the Palos Height warehouse for our run to Darrin IL. to the Parkhurst Army Reserve Center. We met Michelle the founder and got a lowdown on the beginnings of the 2-year-old charity. Her former job was a police officer in Orland Park. She took leave to have a family and decided to keep busy with a toy exchange on the Internet. The problem was more people wanted to give her toys for needy families rather than exchange.



Long story short she had a decision to make when Orland called her up to go back to work. She decided that fate was pushing her to work to expand the idea she started and the Toy Box Connection was formed. She collects toys that are new or use as in new shape to distribute to all sorts of needy families or organizations. She works with a multitude of volunteers to get the job done and is in the midst of jelling the charity to fulfill the needs she has set out to serve.

Ron Bono was given the task to transport Santa to the destination and the rest of us filled the cars with gifts. Many soldiers took great interest in the delivery mechanism that we arrived in greeted us at the base. They were in the midst of a dinner and we were invited to eat with them. After Santa was done with his task of giving gifts to the children of the soldiers it was time to depart. Needless to say it was a long day and we all had fun helping deliver the gifts and food.

Of course after a long day we couldn't pass up the opportunity to stop and have dinner, then it was time to go home.

*Phil*



Santa catching Ron breaking into his Sleigh!



Line for Santa



Steve Coe's boys  
decorating cookies







Michelle of the TBC



End of a Great Day!



Nancy S. Reindeer

### Up Coming Calendar of 2010 Events

January 20<sup>th</sup> 2010: Meeting @ the Park Forest police Station 7:00 pm

February 20<sup>th</sup> 2010: Spring Banquet

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

April 17<sup>th</sup> : Shakedown Cruise

April 30, May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> : Spring Trip

Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup> : Morton Arboretum Picnic

**January 2010**

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	<b>20</b>	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**February 2010**

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

**March 2010**

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

# 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

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

E Mail to: [taxserviss@att.net](mailto:taxserviss@att.net)



Winter on Road to Perdition set.  
Ken Chamis and Phil Serviss in  
West Dundee. 3/20/2001

**BACKFIRE**

P.O. Box 3

Crete, Illinois 60417



Mail To:

