

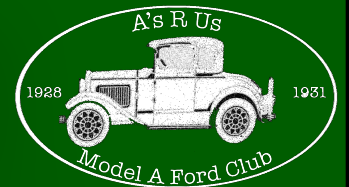


VOLUME 16

ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2011

# BACKFIRE



Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America

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



As the heat of summer has hit us driving your model A may be a little uncomfortable. I recommend that you check the air conditioner before driving any distance. Insure that all controls are fully functioning so you can fully vary the amount of air supplied to the interior compartment. The lock down controls always need adjustment attention. Insure that the variable reflow controls work in the second seat area to insure complete driving and passenger comfort. Also a full ice charge in the 6 or 8 cell

cooling containment unit in the rear will also complete the system check for your next trip on the road.

**Header Picture:** Takoma Park, Maryland, circa 1928. "Hendrick Motor Co. garage.

*Phil*



# DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



The Curtis Brick Company was established in Grant Park in 1881. At the height of its operation, over 25 rail carloads of brick were shipped a day to Chicago.

The brickyard supplied over 30,000,000 bricks to Sears, Roebuck and Company for their warehouse and office facilities completed in 1906 on Chicago's west side.

The brickyard facilities were severely damaged by a tornado that struck Grant Park on April 21, 1912. The brickyard rebuilt, but suffered severe damage by fire in 1916.

It was never rebuilt after this and ceased operations. Today the old yard is the site of Lake Metonga and a residential subdivision on the Grant Park's east side, one of the many destinations along the annual *Drivin' the Dixie*.

# **DRIVING THE DIXIE 2011**

**by Irv and Char Darnall**

It was a very HOT day, lots of BEAUTIFUL vehicles, plenty of donuts, lots of maps and instructions.

We were very excited about “Driving the Dixie”, as this was our first time and didn’t know what to expect. We arrived in Blue Island at the check-in point and were amazed at all the vehicles in the parking lot. We wheeled our “A” in and made a beeline for registration so we could get an early start. We wanted to “Drive the Dixie” but we were to help out at the Poker Run in Steger at 10:30. After we indulged in fresh donuts and coffee, we said goodbye and started our dash. We left the starting point and headed north to Memorial Park.

At Posen, we rolled up, our car was blessed, got our stamp, and like a flash, we were gone...On our way!

We made brief stops along the way. We didn’t stay for the car show in Homewood but cruised right on thru. We arrived at Dari-Whip in Steger, and set up the Poker Run checkpoint and Ten in the Bag. We were later joined by Al and Sandi. Sandi and Char had the Poker Run participants pull a card out of the bag as they arrived.

A large, delicious lunch was donated by Dari-Whip to the “Driving the Dixie” participants. Big Boppers Live Band was there to entertain us with a variety of music.

Then.....weird things started happening.....

All of a sudden, we found ourselves dodging what seemed like a machine gun spray of marshmallows, they were everywhere....(PVC marshmallow guns were being sold next to us.)

Also, we had a visit from a “Friend of Jesus”, who brought his own soapbox to stand on and a very large cross. He began preaching and asked all of us if we had found “Jesus” yet? A voice from the crowd said “I didn’t know he was missing”. Then came the sermon and then he vanished.

***Continued on pg. 4***



Al and Sandi had to get on their way to their next point and asked us to stay until the last car arrived. She volunteered to leave her folding chair as Char was sitting in it. Char needed a short rest from the heat, so now Irv took the chair position. Next thing...there was a crash, Char turned around and saw Irv on the ground entangled in the partially folded up chair. Irv yelled, "Help, I've fallen and I can't get up". It took two people to get him unfolded and up off the ground. He said, "Uh oh, now we owe Sandi and Al a new chair." No damage was done except to the chair AND Irv's pride.

We didn't get to stop at the Sears Roebuck homes because we were trying to make up for lost time. So off to the races, Balmoral Race Track that is, a welcomed air conditioning break and race track history. We traveled on down the Dixie Highway and took a tour of the Beecher train depot and museum; we visited the Point School in Grant Park, which was very interesting, a far cry from today's schools.

We cruised into Momence and went straight to the Island Park; we were close to the last ones to arrive...HOT, tired, and hungry (like everyone else).

They started the raffles earlier because of the possible storms approaching. They called off a few winning numbers, then posted the rest of the winning raffle numbers. Char went up to check the numbers and found two of their numbers were winners. She quickly grabbed a folding lawn chair in a bag and a gift certificate in an envelope. She ran back to Irv, "It's a miracle...I've got a replacement chair for Sandi and Al already." That made Irv feel sooo much better.

Irv also won third place in the Poker Run, which REALLY made his day.

All in all, it was a fantastic day, can't wait to drive the 2012 Dixie. We thought the "Driving the Dixie 2011" was a well planned and successful event, even though....you had to stand on your head to read the tour guide map to navigate correctly.



**“DRIVING THE DIXIE”**  
**EST. 1915**

**DH**

**JUNE 18TH, 2011**

**\*STARTING IN BLUE ISLAND, IL. SIGN-UP STARTING AT 8:00AM**  
**\*MAIL \$15.00 BY JUNE 14TH / TO:**  
A'SRUS @ P.O. BOX 3 CRETE, IL. 60417

- \$20.00 THE DAY OF THE EVENT. YOU MUST START IN BLUE ISLAND, IL TO GET THE OFFICIAL PASSPORT FOR RAFFLE PRIZES.
- LUNCH IN STEGER IL.
- RAFFLE PRIZES IN MOMENCE, IL.
- MANY TOWNS WILL HAVE OPEN HISTORICAL INTERPRETATIONS.
- DRIVE AT YOUR LEISURE AND LEARN THE HISTORY OF THE "DIXIE HIGHWAY"

**MORE INFORMATION AT [HTTP://WWW.DRIVINGTHE DIXIE.COM](http://www.drivingthedixie.com)**



## IT WAS SUCH AN EXPERIENCE!

This story has nothing to do with cars in general. This story, however, has everything to do with the Model A Ford and a family.

It's hard to know where to begin so I'll begin with the ending, which was last night, June 29, 2011. About half of the members of the A's R Us Model A Club met to welcome home our most senior member from the Honor Flight Chicago at Midway Airport. Midway Airport was so named to honor the World War II Battle of Midway. We really didn't know what to expect but knew we wanted to surprise Herman Senkpiel along with his children, grandchildren, and great-grand children. Herman and his late wife, Ruth, have been members of our club for at least ten years. I don't know exactly how many Model A's he's had over the years, probably more than the two I know of. His son Randy and wife Bonnie are also members of A's R Us.

Honor Flight Chicago is an event that takes World War II veterans to Washington, DC for a day trip. It's a very long day trip. They see the monument devoted to honoring their service and sacrifice in the ugly and horrific battles they experienced. They also saw other DC monuments and historic sites of interest. On the return trip the vets have a mail call not unlike what they had in the remote areas of the world during their time in service. Friends and family were able to write letters prior to the flight and sent them to the Honor Flight Chicago address. Herman's son Randy told me he thought about fifty letters were sent on Herman's behalf. That's some kind of Mail Call.

Sixteen A's R Us members walked into the lower level of Midway Airport and were collectively blown back by the sheer numbers of people already waving flags and cheering. We were told that each of the 97 World War II veterans on the flight would individually be escorted by a member of the military as they came down the roped off aisle. There were color guards, honor guards, Viet Nam vets carrying flags, the motorcycle honor groups that greet current military returning home, bands, bagpipers, escorts and an energy in the airport that was beyond description. I have been to Chicago Bear's games and Chicago Bull's games and the energy was equal. None of the vets expected such a welcome I'm sure. The ability to shake a



veteran's hand and say "thank you" after all these years surfaced more emotion than either the vets or the rest of us anticipated. As they maneuvered the gauntlet you could hear, "welcome home", "thank you for your service", "yeah, grandpa" and on and on as the 97 veterans passed us. Some walking, most in wheel chairs, and one in his old uniform. How amazing he looked.



I saw three of the 97 vets who were women who had also served our country during World War II. I wondered as I saw them wheeled by what their experiences had been. Had they been in the [Pacific](#), [Asia](#) or [Europe](#)? Were they medical people? What had they seen? Were they pilots delivering planes to needed areas as they came off the assembly lines? So many thoughts! Mostly I remembered my uncles and one family friend who was a WAC and wished they had lived long enough to experience this day.

What I really want to share in this story is that because of a little old Model A Ford approximately 35 people joined together as a club and became a family. As in all families, everyone was not able to attend the event, but A's R Us is still a family who all coincidentally drive the same model car. A Model A Ford. Some are Tudors, some are Roadsters, some are a Victoria, some are trucks, a Phaeton, but all are Model A Fords. The veterans, most of whom are now in their eighties, are as stalwart as the cars we love, drive and respect.

RESPECT is the word. That is why we were there to greet Herman and his fellow vets' home. If you want or need to have your American pride rekindled, go to Midway Airport or any of the other airports that support Honor Flights for World War II veterans. Shouts of [USA](#), USA and all the flags and energy will remind you of whom we were as a country and still are.

What an Experience!

Respectfully submitted by,  
Marlene Krygowski





## A'S R US MEETING MINUTES

July 20, 2011

MEETING LOCATION: Bob's Garage

**CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT TIM BOTS AT:** 7:04PM

June minutes were read and approved.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Jim gave a verbal/written report regarding monies collected from the Driving the Dixie event. He asked that any outstanding bills be submitted as soon as possible. John reported that picnic expenses totaled \$223.78 and submitted the bills. There was a motion to approve the treasurer's report as submitted.

**FAMILY NEWS:** Herman thanked the membership for their support and for meeting the plane at Midway Airport.

Tim thanked Phil & Nancy for hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> of July lunch and of course to Diablo for entertaining the children.

Arlene & Ken thanked the members for their emotional support when her brother died and for the donation to the National Lung Association in his name.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Tim reviewed the Driving the Dixie event and thanked all club members for their participation. A special thanks to Joe and Marlene for all their help. They said it would be easy to replicate next year, as it is all stored on flash drive. Tim stated 50 surveys were turned in, 25 with comments.

Bob asked if there was a way to contact people regarding their comments and those who did not participate this year, but have in the past. Dale assured us it is all handled, she and Karen have a listing from this year and last year, which can be compared and used to contact non-participants.

Bob stated all signs have not been accounted for, Jim and Wally stated they have some signage they need to turn in to him. All signs etc for Driving the Dixie will be stored at Bob's Garage. Tim appointed Wally to contact Elaine re: a date for a Revenue Sharing meeting. Jim requested all bills from Driving the Dixie be turned in prior to that meeting.

A thank you card was requested and sent to Tim owner of Dari Whip in Stegar for the fantastic job he and his staff did for Driving the Dixie. A thank you was also posted on his website and Facebook. Wally stated he personally thanked Tim and FYI: Tim is opening another Dari Whip in Homewood. A cruise night was suggested and dinner similar to Teenbridge at Chick Fi Lete

Tim thanked members who showed for the TeenBridge Cruise night.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Tim mentioned Camp Quality, which will hold its event on Tuesday August 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 PM. Meet at the Trolley Barn; be sure to bring your Drivers License and Insurance card.

Fall Trip: Jim reported that 13 of the 20 rooms have been reserved. The upcoming newsletter will contain more information.

Grinders Ball Game: August 21<sup>st</sup>, rain date Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. Starts at 2:00PM see this newsletter for directions to the field. Club Arrival 11:30—12:00PM, hot dogs are sold at the part, or we can

Bring cheese and crackers etc. The game lasts 2 hours and the members agreed to go to Dicks Restaurant after.

Joe talked with our Bride re: her Sept 24<sup>th</sup> wedding. She still wants us to transport the bridal party. A question was raised regarding the club members attire (?period dress). Joe stated he would contact the bride and let us know.

Wally stated the Highland Club has invited us to attend their Lincoln Hwy Adventure 2011 on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Each car requires a \$20.00 registration fee. Wally stated it would be nice for 10 cars to attend, (by attending their event we may encourage them to attend Driving the Dixie). No final decision was made.

**Misc. BUSINESS:** Tim thanked Bob for hosting the past 2 meetings. He also thanked Jon, Chuck, Yvonne, Linnea and Pat for the great job they did on the Club Picnic.

Tim presented a flyer re a Greek Style Joliet Regional Quad meet on Sunday Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, dinner at 12:30.

MAFCA 2012 in planning their National convention, Marquette, Michigan 6-18 thru 6-21-2012, and are soliciting for donations.

**Tech Talk:** Deferred for cooler weather.

**Breakfast:** August 6<sup>th</sup> was proposed for those attending the Lincoln Hwy Adventure, more to follow.

50/50 drawing: \$95.00 Winner Irv \$42.50 There was a second drawing for the ingredients to make Hermans famous Taco Soup. Winner Tim

FYI: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Secret Stamp is in the possession of Tim Dionne.

**Next months mtg:** August 17<sup>th</sup> at Ken/Dale Chamis 4924 Timber Ct. Oak Forest. IL.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:12PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: SANDY KALETA

# Return to Delavan Lake Wisconsin

Fall Trip - Friday October 7 through Sunday October 9, 2011  
**Delavan/Lake Geneva, Wisconsin**

Block of Rooms Reserved under **A's R Us** at  
Delavan Lake Resort (800-430-8164)  
\$110 per night for 1 bedroom/1 bath suite  
\$145 per night for 2-bedroom/2-bath suite

<http://lakedelavanresort.com/suites.html>



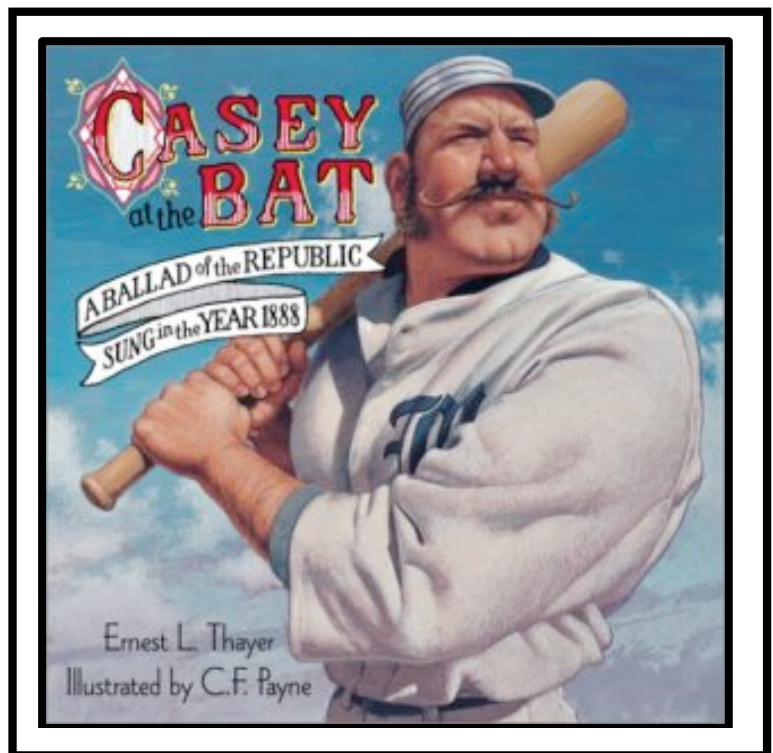
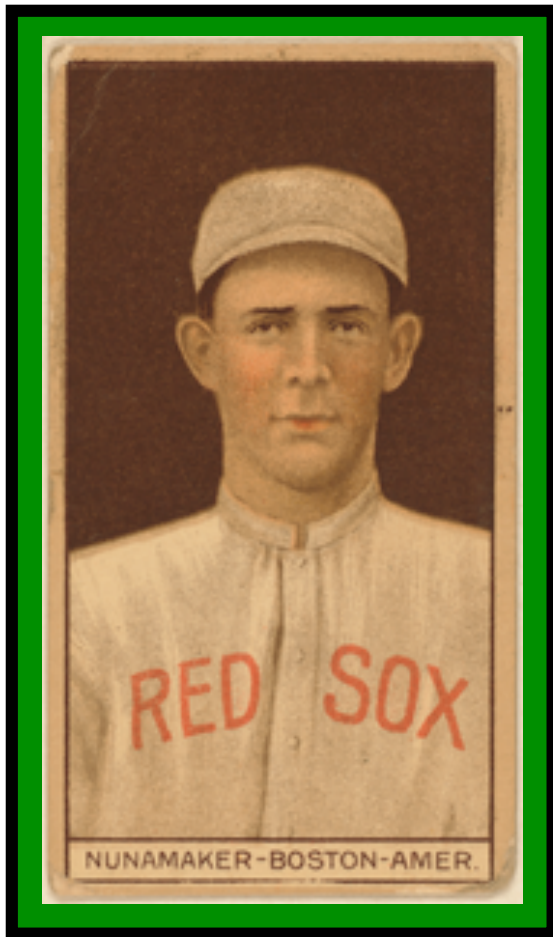
# Up and coming meeting locations:

## Up Coming Calendar of 2011 Events

**Wednesday August 17th:** Ken and Dale's / Oak Forest

**Saturday August 21st:** Grinders Baseball Game  
**Location**

The Deep River Grinders play their home games on Grinder Field in [Deep River County Park](#) 9410 Old Lincoln Highway, Hobart, Indiana. Travel U.S. 30 to Rt. 51 then north to the first stop sign (Old Lincoln Highway). Turn right (east) onto Old Lincoln Highway then 2&1/2 miles to the park. Located at intersection of Old Lincoln Highway and (Lake and



**August 2010**

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29	30	31				

**September 2010**

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25	26	27	28	29	30	

**October 2011**

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## A's R Us officers and Staff

- President – Tim Bots
- Vice President – Tim Borchert / Treasure – Jim Wright / Secretary – Sandy Kaleta
- Newsletter – Phillip Serviss
- Member Relations – Joe Krygowski
- Web Page – Joe Krygowski
- Parade Coordinator – Wally Ekstrom
- Director of Safety – Ron Bonneau
- Nat'l Rep. – Marlene Krygowski
- Historian – Ken Chamis
- Sgt. At Arms Steve Coe
- Motor Medic - Jon Isota

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

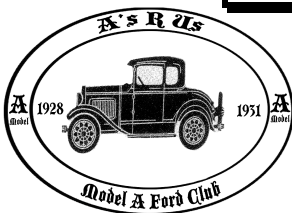
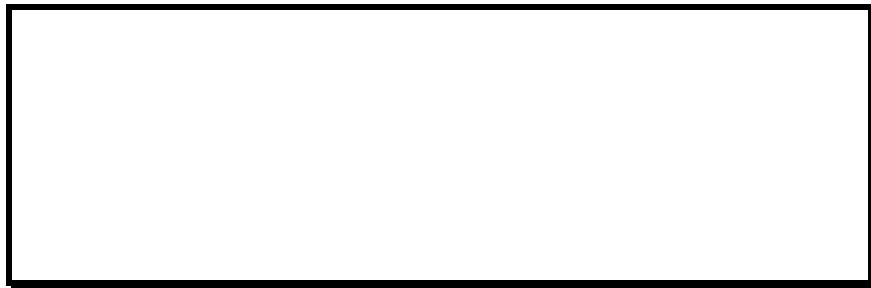
E Mail to: [taxserviss@att.net](mailto:taxserviss@att.net)

**Steve Coe with his boys at the picnic.**



## BACKFIRE

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Crete, Illinois 60417



Mail To: