

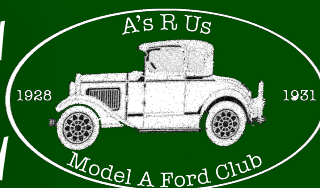


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ISSUE 11

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# BACKFIRE



Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America

<http://www.drivingthedixie.com>

<http://asrus.homestead.com>



We are coming into the home stretch now almost literal. Our club members enjoyed a night at the races late last month with a trip around the track and a race named for us. There was plenty of food and a night of

watching the ponies run and a good time was had by all. Now we are almost done with November and our last events are going to soon be here. We have a number of Christmas parades to attend so start to figure out how to best your last years decorating. If you have never been in a lighted parade and need some help to decorate ask other members that have done it for some tips. Our next meeting is the 17<sup>th</sup> at Chucks new garage so I hope to see you there.

**Header Picture:**

A's at Balmoral race track,  
Crete, IL October 27th



*The Carp  
Editor in Chief*

*Phil Serviss, Editor*



FALL TRIP – 2012  
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

Ever heard someone say, "You just don't know what you're missing". We knew what we were missing; we just couldn't allow ourselves to consciously admit how deeply. That was the discussion Joe and I had all weekend long. This trip was not supposed to happen for us but here we were, back with friends, who are like family, and Bob, Penny and Betsy, our actual family. It really surfaced as we were riding with Tim Dionne to the thirty-eight-room J.D. Oliver Mansion. Everyone apparently had slept well the night before and all were well rested. The excited chatter on the radios was non-stop. Joe, Tim and I were laughing because it sounded like all the fourteen year olds in the area had been let loose in their first cars. It happened again on the way to dinner at the Studebaker Mansion later that evening when everyone went in different directions. We actually split into three groups on three different streets. That's usually referred to as a Chinese Fire Drill or Keystone Cop move. Now for the rest of the story....

We all met for breakfast at the Egg & I in Chicago Heights. Twenty-plus cars arrived on a particularly beautiful Friday morning. Ron Bonneau stopped by to wish us well on our trip even though he couldn't join us. Connie & Tim Borchert brought friends Jo and Mike with them. Nancy Serviss also brought her friend Mary. This was a first Model A outing for them. I'm sure it was the first time for a lot of in and out of a car and unexpected events. It's always fun to see new people experience what we all know as organized mayhem.

Heading out on Route 30 we made our way to the Dyer, IN Historical Society and their Lincoln Highway Exhibit. We learned about the early 1830 settlers and Dyer's impact on the growth of Northwest Indiana.

Deep River Mill and Park was our next destination in Lake County, IN. We were able to see a demonstration of how a gristmill actually works. We heard the history of this particular mill built in 1837 and the flood that destroyed it. Parts were rebuilt later but, the mill actually fell unused in the 1930's. The mill was eventually purchased by the Lake County Parks and is now on the National Register of Historic Places. We all had a chance to watch corn milled and time to visit the gift shop, which was, at one time, a 1904 church. There were very nice handcrafted goods to purchase, especially the freshly ground corn and all kinds of jams and preserves. .





The country roads we traveled heading toward Plymouth, IN were exceptional, to say the least. In addition to well-paved roads we were treated to nature's unending Fall show of color. There were the most vibrant yellows, pungent burgundy, flaming vibrant reds, with still an abundance of greens, browns and beige. How fortunate we are to see such wonders riding along in equally amazing little automobiles, which also range in color. We actually have several greens, a red, a butterscotch gold, a gray, a couple of taupe and brown tones, couple of hints of blue and black. We put on a pretty fair show ourselves. If you ride in the back of the line you really get the full effect.

In Plymouth, we had lunch at the Brass Rail Restaurant and added a little time for shopping. Joe took a little snooze on the back seat of Bob's car. Well, at least until people started looking in the window and saw him, exclaiming, "there's a man sleeping in there". Joe replied, "No, I'm not", then proceeded to answer questions about Bob's car. I went to sit in our car and decided to call the Ivy Court Inn and see if they had any cancellations. We were supposed to spend Friday at the Residence Inn. Viola! They were able to give us a room. That helped a lot because then Joe and I didn't have to unpack twice. Just trying to save the man some unnecessary use of energy. Great accommodations! More about that later.



Onward toward South Bend! Arriving in Donaldson, IN we were privileged to visit the Ancilla Domini Chapel, which means Handmaid of The Lord. It is the Ministry Center for the order Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. The German baroque stained glass windows add to the beauty of this huge chapel that is almost 150 feet from the door to the altar. The ceilings rise 60 feet high and the building is about the same in width. Even the colors within the chapel are shades of gray to create a vision of incense burning. Green-gray for hope; purple-gray for sorrow; and rose-gray for joy. A lovely and peaceful place. Without telling the other, Joe and I both gave thanks for the miracle of this trip.

More beautiful roads and we arrive at our destination. Tired, somewhat hungry but satisfied that the day had gone well. We had cold cuts, potato salad and, copious quantities of dessert, much of it home made. We probably had the single largest variety of liquid refreshment in many many trips. You couldn't have gone to the local bar and had that much variety! Almost. Accommodations at the Ivy Court were better than most of us expected. We had the whole room to



ourselves and really appreciated the opportunity to just sit, relax and mull over the events of the day. It's hard to spend time with everyone but I believe we all did our best to spend a little time with each other. Hopefully we made our new friends feel welcomed. It is said that several people had a wonderful night's sleep due to Chuck Fritz' Moonshine. Hmmm.

Breakfast at Ivy Court was so good. Crisp bacon, eggs, yogurt, waffles, pancakes served banquet style. It helped us get ready for the day. Off to the Studebaker National Museum and Copshaholm, the home of J. D. Oliver and his family. It is one of three historic houses owned by the Center for History. We first visited The Worker's Home decorated in typical 1930's style. Amazing how many of us recalled the feeling of that house and many of the contents within. The flip toaster, the claw foot tub in the bathroom, the relatively small rooms. I felt like I was back at my grandmother's house. I remember using that flip toaster and thinking that's pretty nice. Our toaster at home only popped up. Boring.

I have to say the thirty-eight room Copshaholm mansion was beyond description. It outshone most of previous mansions we've toured. They were cottages compared to this home. I'm not even going to describe it other than to say it was three floors of jaw dropping ambiance and furnishings. Walking up and down three flights of stairs was good exercise but a challenge for some. Our docent was knowledgeable and gave us great insight into the family and the family oriented patriarch who built it. A tour of the carriage house was the last stop. Again, it must have been quite a site to see the stables, carriages and wagons back in the day. We walked over to the Studebaker Museum and viewed the beautiful



historic cars and many of the exhibits provided for the public.



Finally it was then time to walk over to the parking area where Chuck Fritz and the Chuck Wagon were in full operation. We had a lunch of burgers, brats, chicken, coleslaw, potato salad, and again more and more desserts. We sat around viewing the beautiful grounds in the warm sunlight. Once again we were blessed with a perfectly beautiful Fall day. Part of the group went on to tour the beautiful Notre Dame University campus. Some of the group had the opportunity to attend Mass at the Notre Dame Basilica. Time for a rest and then off to dinner at Tippecanoe. This was the residence of Clement Studebaker. The mansion was built in 1889. We had dinner on the top floor of the former mansion of forty rooms and approximately 24,000 square feet. After dinner we returned to the group room at Ivy Court. Saturday night happened to be the Fall Harvest Moon. Yes, a few of us actually stood in the parking lot and sang "Shine on Harvest Moon" and remembered the words. Hmmm, old.



Sunday morning was again beautiful and sunny. We had a good breakfast at the Inn, gathered our suitcases, packed the cars and were once again on the 1913 alignment of the Lincoln Highway. Our destination was New Carlisle. This was land once occupied by the Pottawatomie Indians until 1826. Today about 1900 residents occupy the town. The attraction here is a magnificent house called Old Republic near Hudson Lake. It is actually the Jeremiah Service House known as Old Republic. Yes, there is a connection between this person named Service and our own Phil and his dad, Russ Serviss.

Next stop was a visit to a dance hall on Hudson Lake called Hudson Lake Casino. Built in the 1920's and still in use to this day. This was a little longer stop than planned because the "Vickie" refused to leave. Eventually persuaded, the car purred along and we were off to Valparaiso. We had lunch at the Industrial Revolution Restaurant



and just relaxed recounting the entire trip and how much fun we all enjoyed. We had our usual hugs and goodbye ritual that is always an important part of the trip. One group headed south and the remaining group headed west and north. The radios began to crackle losing transmission as we traveled. We heard, "your tire is going flat". Just couldn't end the trip without a tire going flat. What a wonderful weekend it was. It was just the medicine Joe and I needed. We were once again with our group who have been our motivation to just keep on keeping on. Thanks Jim, Phil and Henry for a great trip. Thanks Chuck and Linnea for the food. We now knew exactly what we had been missing for sure!

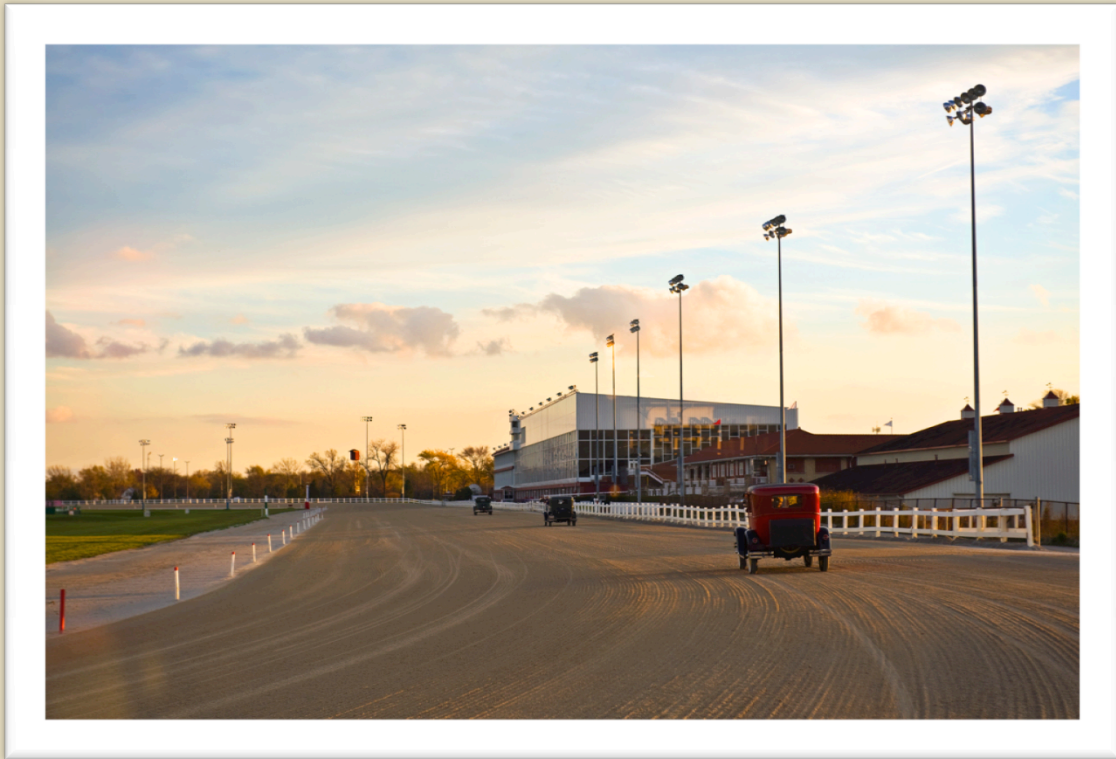








# Balmoral Race Track





# DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



A number of improved roadways were developed in our area during the second decade of the 20th century. Some of these cross-country routes included the Yellowstone Trail (1912), the Lincoln Highway (1913) and the Dixie Highway, which was routed in 1915. Another important route in our area was the Egyptian Trail. Like the Dixie Highway, the Egyptian Trail was established in 1915. It was an intrastate route running from Chicago to Cairo, following as closely as possible the Illinois Central Railroad tracks. The Egyptian Trail, like the Dixie, originated in downtown Chicago and followed Michigan Avenue to Garfield Boulevard and then followed Halsted Street south to Harvey. From Harvey, the trail followed Park Avenue through Homewood and then Western Avenue to Matteson and used other existing roads through Monee, Peotone, Kankakee and points south to Cairo. Heavily traveled in its day, much of the trail is now U.S. 45 south of Kankakee and U.S. 51 south of Centralia. North of Kankakee, the Governors Highway, completed in 1928, replaced the trail route for all but local travel. Although all but forgotten today, the impact of the Egyptian Trail is still felt as Interstate 57 closely follows the old trail route through Illinois.



## A'S R US MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2012

MEETING LOCATION: Wally & Kays home

CALL TO ORDER BY VICE PRESIDENT KEN CHAMIS AT : 7:00PM Mark Dunkin was introduced to the group and welcomed by Ken. It was also great to see Paul H. again. The Minutes were read by Sandy and approved as read.

TREASURERS REPORT: Jims treasurers report was submitted and approved. Jim reminded the membership dues need to be paid and that he is submitting a check on Monday.

FAMILY NEWS: Joe was able to join us and he said Marlene had another injection . He also said that he will also be having an injection for macular degeneration. Linnea wasn't able to come to the meeting due to a sinus infection. Chuck reported she did well with her recent Chemo Treatment and she thanks everyone for their prayers. Allen shared that he and Roselyn have a contract on their house.

OLD BUSINESS: **Manteno VA : Bob & Dale** reported there was a great resident response this year, they really seemed to appreciate the photos and we thanked our professional photographer for his help.

**Balmoral Race Tract:** October 30<sup>th</sup>. Wally requested we arrive in period dress by 5:15 at Gate 4, to line up for the drive around the trace. All money was to be collected at this meeting. It appears we will have 10 cars and 25 people in attendance.

**Gilmore, Spring 2013 trip:** Bob reported that the Comfort Inn is adding rooms to our block, but he was not sure how many. It is recommended if you want to attend, make your reservation NOW.

NEW BUSINESS: **Budget Meeting:** Ken began a discussion regarding donations and our group budget. Dale proposed that we set a date for a meeting. It was proposed that the people on the Budget Board remain the same and that proposal was approved by the membership. A date is to be set for that meeting and results reported at the next meeting.

**Xmas Party:** It was proposed and approved that the party will take place on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM Joe will check with Beggars in New Lenox and get back to the group.

**Elections:** Bob & Wally will present a slate at the November meeting. Nominations will be accepted at that time. Wally asked that all nominees be asked prior to nomination and willing to serve.

ON GOING BUSINESS: Ken reviewed : Bainquilt Tour will be in early May prior to the spring tour

Gilmore will be our Spring Tour in Mid May; The Exposure Tour will be around Lake Michigan; Fall Trip Atlanta Illinois: There will be further discussion regarding proposed tours and dates.

**Homewood Parade:** Jim stated it should be on Friday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. He will get back to us with further info.

**Crete Parade:** Wally stated it should be on Sat. Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, more info to come.



MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Dale discussed the couple of **breakdowns** our group had returning from our Fall Tour. She stressed the danger we are in when it is on a major highway and recommended every driver have a vest. Nothing definite was decided, but the group felt this was a good idea.

**Ancilla College** has thanked us for visiting their church and has invited us to return.

Tech Talk: Postponed until January.

Breakfast: Next Breakfast will be Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at Peachtree Restaurant at 8:30AM. Decembers date will be on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, same time same place. Joe invited everyone to JOIN him.

Next months mtg: Next months meeting will be at Chucks new garage. The Date was changed to Sat. Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. Agenda: 5:00 PM Hayride, followed by a PotLuck Dinner and a 7:00 Meeting. This change was approved by the membership. 50/50 winner was Paul H. \$47.00 and \$4.00 was collected in badge fines.

Adjourn: Ken thanked Wally & Kay for their hospitality and the membership for contributing to the Pot Luck dinner. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM. Henry, Wally, Jim & Al proceeded with the Auction.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: SANDY KALETA  
SECRETARY

## **Gilmore Museum Grande Opening**

**May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**Comfort Inn**

**622 Allegan Street**

**Plainwell, MI**

**269.685.9891**

**93.49 King or 2 Queens 99.10**



## Up and coming 2012 Events:

Meeting Saturday November 17th: Time 5:00P

Chuck Fritz's new Garage

Pot luck and hay rides

Christmas Parades: Homewood Friday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm

Crete Saturday Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00pm

Beecher Saturday Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 6:30

Christmas Party: December 12<sup>th</sup> Beggars' New Lenox

Gilmore MI, spring Trip: May 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

Exposure Trip / Lake Michigan Circle Tour:

September 7<sup>th</sup> thru the 13th

### Meeting Places:

Nov 17th          Saturday          Chuck's Garage

December 12th          Christmas Party          New Lenox

**Sign-up for meetings will be passed around soon. Please think about a date you can host.**



## A's R Us 2012 officers and Staff

- President – Tim Borchert
- Vice President – Ken Chamis / 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:

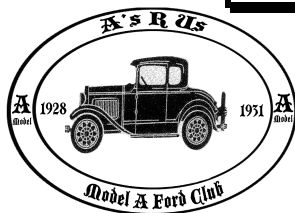
E Mail to: [taxserviss@att.net](mailto:taxserviss@att.net)

My 1931 Decorated for the trip to South Bend, IN



## BACKFIRE

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