

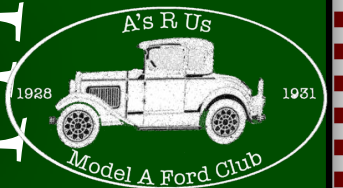


VOLUME 18

ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2013

BACKFIRE



Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of

<http://www.drivingthedixie.com>



The year is ending shortly and will be assessing the repairs to both my A's that can be accomplished over the next few months. I now have a transmission to re-work on the 29 so I can get the thumping out of first gear. Second and more involved is to take off both side mounts and replace the arms that are broken. The previous owner had welded the brackets to the frame so this will be more involved than it should. The



Header Picture:

Washington, D.C., circa 1922. "Oldsmobile sales window." Some of us beyond a certain age might remember the Oldsmobile, or even have driven or owned one. National Photo Company Collection glass negative.

bigger question is what do you need to address on your A? Now's the time to start looking at it before the next drive.

Phil

Presidents Comments

As I approach this holiday season, I find myself thinking of friends and family that are no longer with us during this joyous time of the year. As a club, we have endured loss and hardship as well. I would like to say that I am proud to be a member of an organization that reaches out to each other and the community to lend support as well as to celebrate our passion for our hobby, the Ford Model A.



First, lets celebrate the lives of those that we have lost this year:

- Louann Darnall
- Victor Bonneau

Nettye Hepner
Ray Nelson

Joe Krygowski



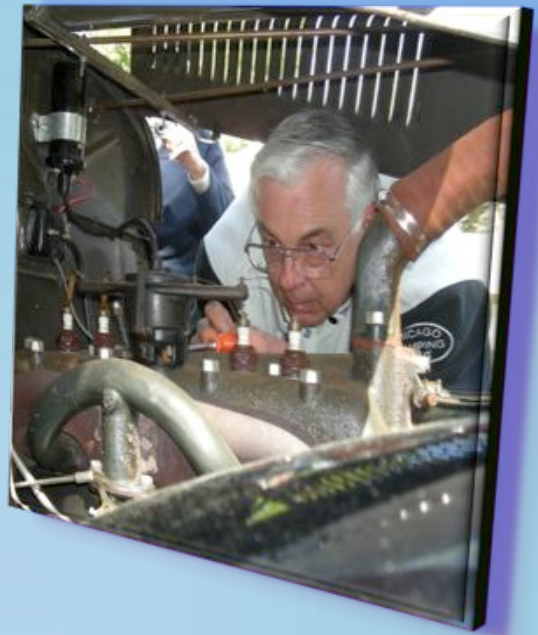
Second, Please join us in celebration of the holidays at our Annual Holiday Party at Aurelios in Frankfort on Rte 30 on Wednesday December 18 at 6:00 pm. Don't forget to BRING A \$20.00 GRAB BAG, MALE/FEMALE and CHILD (FOR THOSE BRINGING CHILDREN).

Finally, this is my last President's Message. I would like to thank all members of the club and the fellow Officers for their help this year. Any success that I achieved as President was because of the helping hand given to me by our members

See you all at the Party and Happy

Holidays..... *Tim*

Jon Lisota:



Well this year we will have a white Christmas. It would be nice to see some photos of your cars out in the snow.

We got the Christmas parades done for this year. It was bitterly cold out, around ten degrees the first night in Homewood. All the cars ran fine, when they were started up. But we had Old Red decide not to start. So we used the towrope and pulled him through the parade route. We then had to get out some wrenches and loosen the starter bolts, then whack it several times with the hammer. The bendix finally popped free and Old Red was starting on it's own once again. Yes we did try to pull start him, but the engine would not turn over. So Bob Steinmetz thought the starter was jammed and that's what it turned out to be.

Saturday at the Crete parade it seemed to be colder. The temperature was about the same, but the wind made it feel a lot colder. Old Red showed up and behaved his self. Started every time. We had nine cars decorated and the parade went off nicely. Then off to the pizza parlor we went to warm up and socialize. A great time was had by all. Tim and Carol Dion showed up, which was nice to see him after his time with

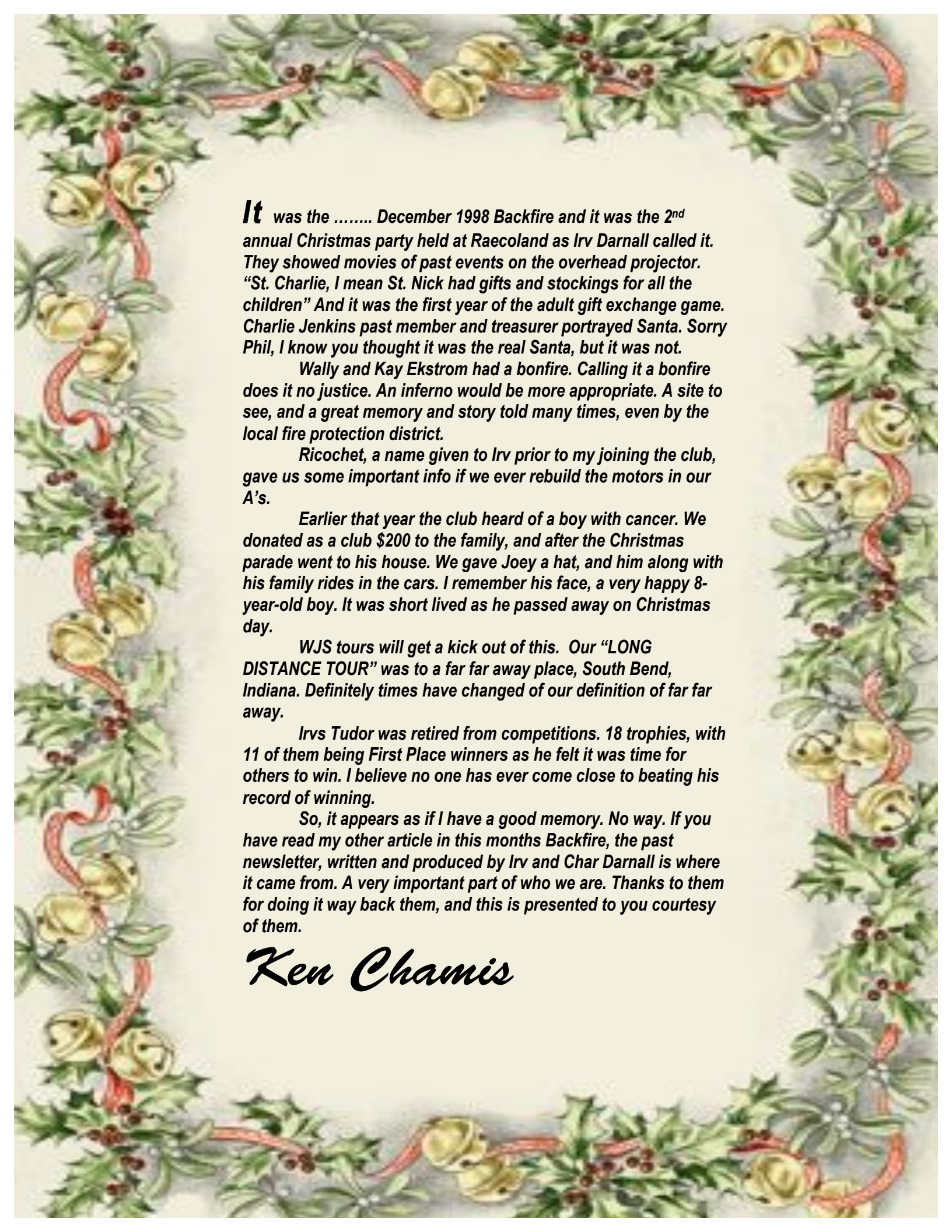
his medical problems. We all said our goodbyes and all got started up. On the way home I come upon flashing lights along the road by Balmoral Race Track. It's a modern car, so I don't worry too much. But as I get by it, I see Karen K., there's Steam coming out of her radiator. So I pull over and Phil asked if I had any water. We pour in some water and they are on their way. Before I get into my garage, Phil calls again. Karen is steaming over again. So out came the towrope, my truck and we have to pull Karen home to Beecher. I got the car into the garage and will have to wait for it to thaw out. She forgot to check the anti-freeze. Don't we just have all the fun with these models A's?



Jon

New Zealand **circa 1910**. "Studio portrait, young woman in Christmas tree fancy dress and hat costume, with little presents and decorations hanging off her, Christchurch." Half-plate glass negative by Adam Maclay.





It was the December 1998 Backfire and it was the 2nd annual Christmas party held at Raecoland as Irv Darnall called it. They showed movies of past events on the overhead projector. "St. Charlie, I mean St. Nick had gifts and stockings for all the children" And it was the first year of the adult gift exchange game. Charlie Jenkins past member and treasurer portrayed Santa. Sorry Phil, I know you thought it was the real Santa, but it was not.

Wally and Kay Ekstrom had a bonfire. Calling it a bonfire does it no justice. An inferno would be more appropriate. A site to see, and a great memory and story told many times, even by the local fire protection district.

Ricochet, a name given to Irv prior to my joining the club, gave us some important info if we ever rebuild the motors in our A's.

Earlier that year the club heard of a boy with cancer. We donated as a club \$200 to the family, and after the Christmas parade went to his house. We gave Joey a hat, and him along with his family rides in the cars. I remember his face, a very happy 8-year-old boy. It was short lived as he passed away on Christmas day.

WJS tours will get a kick out of this. Our "LONG DISTANCE TOUR" was to a far far away place, South Bend, Indiana. Definitely times have changed of our definition of far far away.

Irvs Tudor was retired from competitions. 18 trophies, with 11 of them being First Place winners as he felt it was time for others to win. I believe no one has ever come close to beating his record of winning.

So, it appears as if I have a good memory. No way. If you have read my other article in this months Backfire, the past newsletter, written and produced by Irv and Char Darnall is where it came from. A very important part of who we are. Thanks to them for doing it way back then, and this is presented to you courtesy of them.

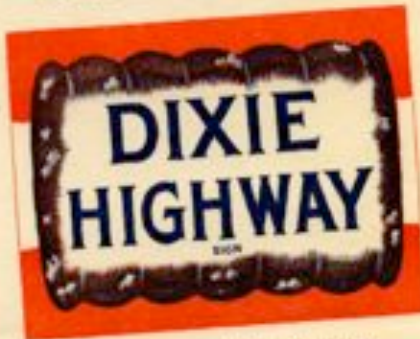
Ken Chamis

DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



OFFICIAL DIXIE HIGHWAY MARKERS



REGISTERED 1914 BY DIXIE HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION
SIZE 10 BY 14 INCHES

Handsomely lithographed and embossed on heavy steel (28 gauge) in Red, White and Blue with outside of cotton bale in Brown. **Can be tacked on Fences, Barnes, Poles, etc.**

20 Cents Each

In order to make the marking of the Highway uniform, the Dixie Highway Association is urging the use of not less than Eight Dixie Highway Markers for every mile and at road intersections

The greater frequency with which these official signs appear the more firmly is impressed on tourist and farmer alike the important fact, that he is traveling along or resides on this Great North and South Highway.

Every City and town should have their streets over which the Dixie Highway is routed marked with at least Two Official Markers to each city block

The immense publicity which has been given the DIXIE HIGHWAY is an ASSET you cannot afford to overlook. Take pride in thoroughly marking your section of the Highway.

The Design on this marker is protected by copyright and can only be used on officially designated sections of THE DIXIE HIGHWAY

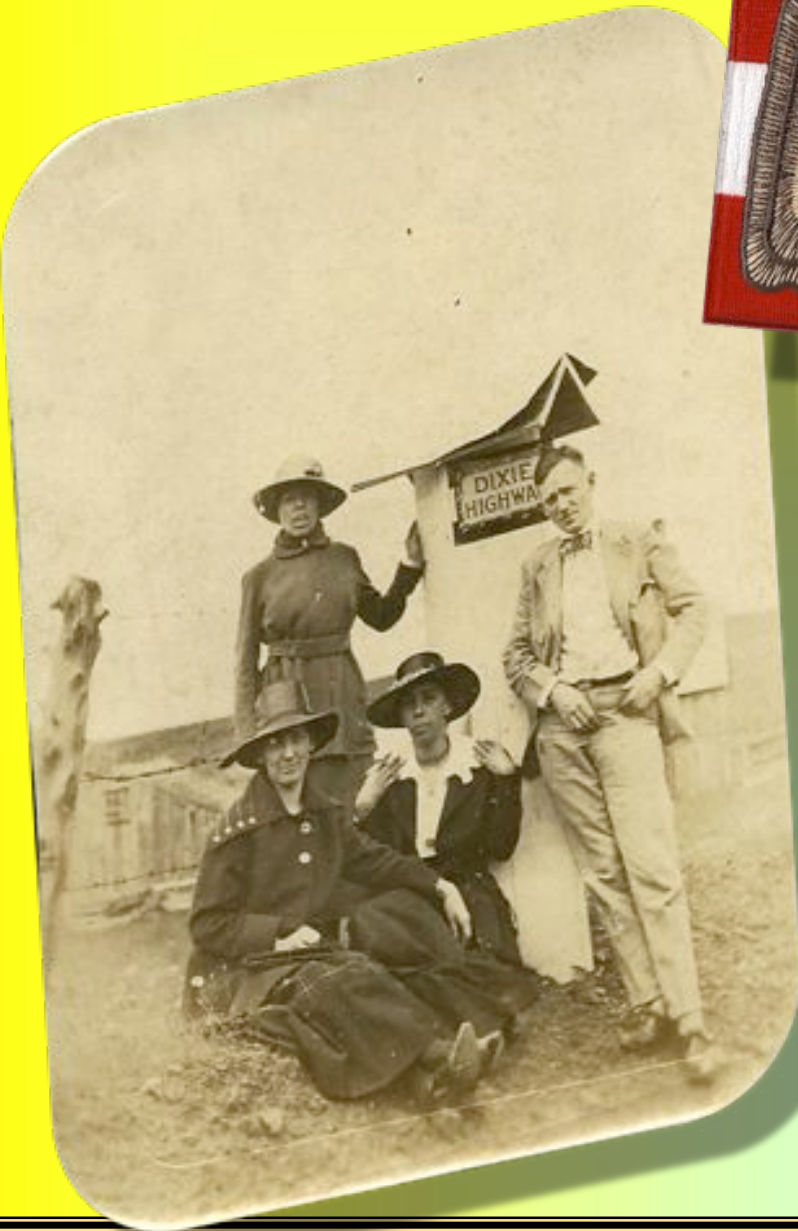
Have your local organization place their order at once for an ample supply of the Official Dixie Highway Metal Markers for your County and Town

DIXIE HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION
HOTEL PATTEN
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

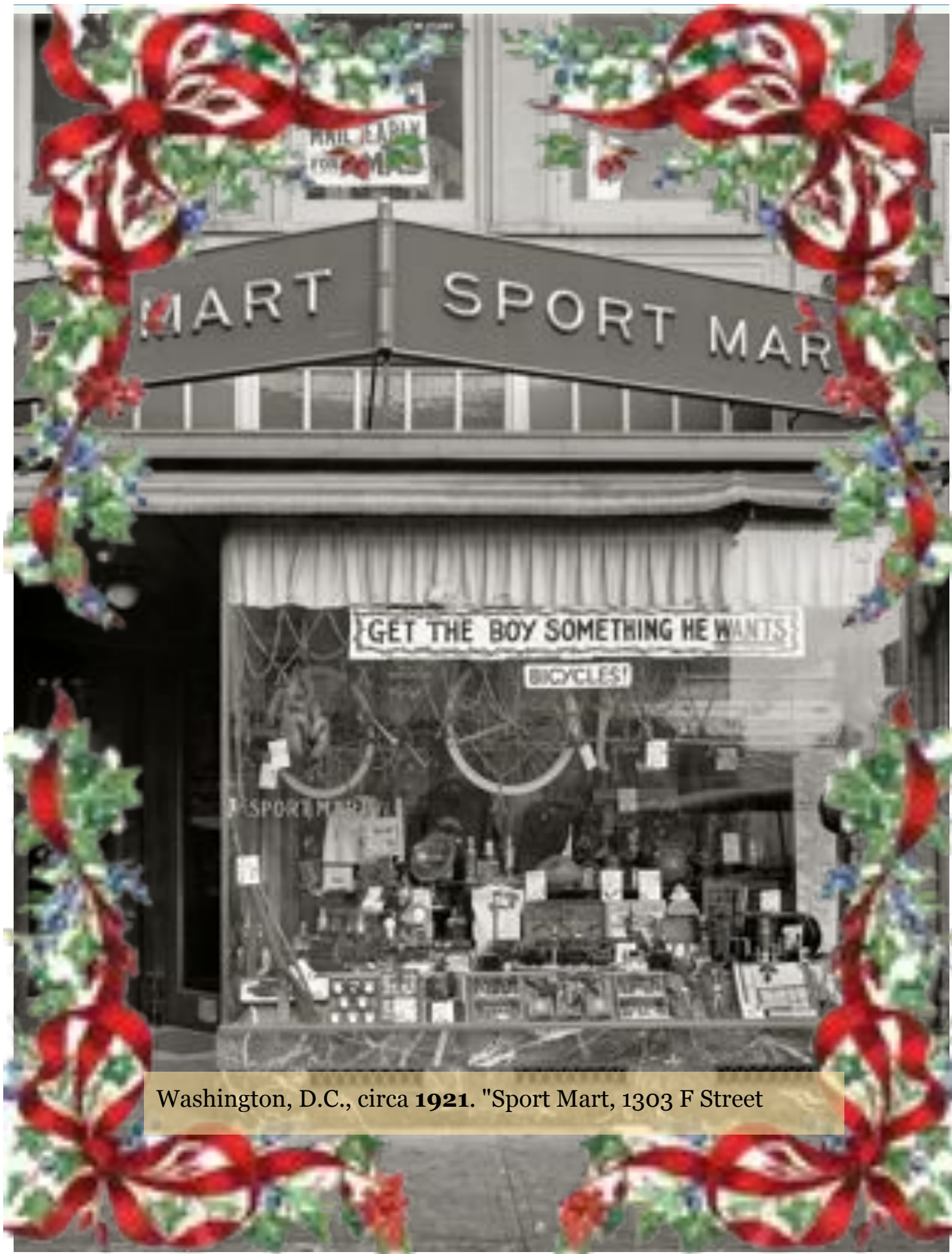
Over the last years we have all learned about and celebrated the Dixie Highway. But few of us, however, know the Dixie Highway was not the first name considered for the interstate highway linking North and South. In the fall of 1914 Indianapolis entrepreneur Carl Fisher and W.S. Gilbreath, secretary of the Hoosier Motor Club, began promoting the highway as the **Cotton Belt Route**. The original logo design featured a bale of cotton emblazoned on a background of red interrupted by a white stripe in the center.

DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



As the concept of the highway caught on, organizers looked for a name with a bit more pizzazz. They settled on the Dixie Highway, which was chosen to honor the 50 years of peace that, by then, existed between North and South after the end of the Civil War. For a few years, the cotton bale logo remained on signage marking the Dixie Highway. In the interests of making the logo easier to paint on telephone poles, a common route marking practice in the early auto era, the cotton bale design was replaced by the more mundane logo we are familiar with today - a white background with a red stripe in the center with the letters DH printed in white in the center of the red background.



Washington, D.C., circa 1921. "Sport Mart, 1303 F Street

A'S R US MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2013

MEETING LOCATION: Chuck and Linnea's Garage, 28340 S. Frontage Rd. Peotone, IL

CALL TO ORDER BY VICE PRESIDENT IRV DARNALL AT : 7:35 PM. The minutes were read by Sandy and approved as read. Tim BJ was unable to attend due to a death in the family.

TREASURERS REPORT: The report was given by Jim and approved as read. Driving the Dixie Account has a ----- balance, which includes the \$535.90 from the A'SRUS account. The A'SRUS account balance was -----, which included a deposit of ----- earnings from the Auction, ----- in dues and \$560.00 paid out to MAFCA for dues.

FAMILY NEWS: Ken reported that Herman is back in Silver Cross Hospital. He has had a stroke and is recovering from ulcer surgery. On 11/17 Herman will be 89 years old. Nancy Serviss father, Mr. Verberen is deceased and no date has been set for a service. Dale asked for approval to send a plant to the Serviss family. It was approved. Sandy reported that Tim D. is doing well and has started Cardiac Rehab.

OLD BUSINESS: A'SRUS CHRISTMAS PARTY: WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18TH, AT 6:00PM, AUREILIOS RESTAURANT, FRANKFORT, IL. Don't forget to BRING A \$20.00 GRAB BAG, MALE/FEMALE and CHILD (FOR THOSE BRINGING CHILDREN).

Homewood Parade: Friday 12/6, 6:30 Lineup, 7:00 Start. Same location.

Crete Parade: Saturday 12/7, 5:00 lineup, 6:00 Start. It was decided that we will meet at Aurelios for Pizza after the Parade.

Gilmore Donation: It was determined that our fair share of the utility bill for the Museum based on a \$4,000 monthly need with 475 chapters would be \$110.00. This was approved by the membership and Jim will send a check.

Centennial Committee Meeting: Jim reported that the signage was proposed and is scheduled for further discussing at the meeting on November 21st at the Radio Club, 170th & California.

Trailer Report: Chuck reported that the trailer should be finished for the Spring Tour. It needs a Rhino coating on the exterior, otherwise it is in good shape. He thanked those who have been helping and Ken for the grill that he donated.

Minutes Continued:

NEW BUSINESS: Irv noted that a **Nominating Committee** needed to be approved. Bob & Wally were again asked to serve in this capacity and have a slate ready to be e-mailed to the membership in 10 days. Voting will take place at the December Meeting.

Budget Committee: It was determined that the budget committee (Tim, Tim, Dale, Ken & Jim) will remain the same for 2014. The committee will be meeting after the holidays and have a budget proposal ready for the January meeting.

Ken Chamis reported he received a proposal from Ken McNeeley to present to the membership:

1. Shakedown Cruise: Proposal of a one day trip to North Judson, Indiana.
2. Spring Trip: Canton/Peoria area.

Irv stated it is still early, however, these proposals were appreciated and will be noted for further discussion.

Irv requested that a list be passed around for meeting signup. It will be passed again at the December meeting.

ON GOING BUSINESS:

TeenBridge: Bob reported that the program dates proposed by TeenBridge are 4/15 & 4/22. He will report on proposed agendas at another meeting.

Dale & Karen reported that they have been to Joe Krygowskis house and that they have the club forms & information from his computer. Karen reported she has 25 badges at home, anyone who needs one should notify her. Dale noted that the e-mail addresses needed to be updated and stated she would be happy to take care of that.

Tech Talk: deferred for the holidays.

Breakfast: deferred for the holidays.

Badge fines: \$8.00 **50/50** \$76.00 **Winner Ron** \$38.00

Next months mtg: Wednesday Dec. 18th at 6:00 Aurelios Restaurant Frankfort, Il

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM. Irv thanked Chuck & Linnea for a great time. The Hayride was terrific and the food delicious. He also thanked the membership for bringing desserts.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: SANDY KALETA
SECRETARY

Up and coming 2014 Events:

January Meeting @ Phil and Nancy's:

Wednesday Jan 15th 7:00.

220 Poplar lane Beecher, IL 60401



Posing with Santa Claus and reindeer at Kresge's Department Store in Lafayette, Indiana, 1947.

Looking forward into 2014

Ronald McDonald House

Teen Bridge Center

Shake Down Trip

Spring Trip

Veterans Home

Camp Quality

58th. Annual Hesston Steam & Power Show 2014

Labor Day Sept. 1st

Exposure Trip 2014

Tentative / September 6th through the 14th

Newport Hill Climb

October 3rd – 5th

Fall Trip

A's R Us 2013 officers and Staff

- President – Tim Borchert
- Vice President – Irv Darnell / 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:

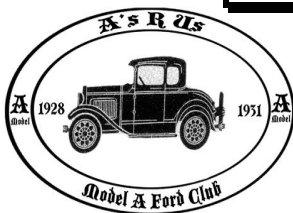
E Mail to: taxserviss@att.net

December 1900. Christmas tree in the home of Wilbur and Orville Wright at 7 Hawthorn Street in Dayton, Ohio, three years before their famous flight. 4x5 dry-plate glass negative by the Wright Brothers.



BACKFIRE

P.O. Box 3
Crete, Illinois 60417



Mail To: