



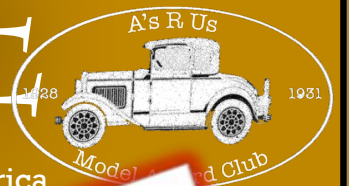
VOLUME 19

ISSUE 12

DEC 2014 / JAN 2015

BACKFIRE

Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America



<http://www.drivingthedixie.com>



I don't know how many of you have gotten the flu vaccine this year but I did get mine over 2 months ago. So the question is how can I have been suffering for four weeks now with the flu? The answer is it's a different flu that what was in the vaccine.

Unfortunately my ability to get the newsletter out has been hampered with time constraints that pull me in to many directions. I am hoping to get back on track in the next month. I will have a Fall Trip wrap-up next month. Sooo.....
See you at the Christmas party.

Phil

Header Picture:

Corn harvesting in Shipshewana, IN on our Fall Tour 2014

Presidents Comments

LETTER FROM THE PREZ



November 2014

October was an exciting month. The great visit to the Amish country with our A's, what a gala! Beautiful fall colors, shopping and more shopping, food, food, and more food, never a dull moment.

Another record breaker at our October A's R US auction. Henry and Irv, the Club auctioneers, squeezed \$648.00 from the wallets of the Club members. Thanks to all for the donated items and your participation in bidding.

Then November came, the great arrival of the A's R US hayride. This year, the hayrack was pulled by Chuck's Model A. Hot dogs, chili and all kinds of desserts were available. Thanks to all that made this possible. Never a dull moment at our A's R US activities....Keep up the good work.

Happy Thanksgiving to all our members and their families.
See you at our Christmas Party/December meeting.

Da Prez,
Ricoche

Christmas Party

Balagio's Resturant

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17TH: CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY.

Balagios 175th & Dixie. Homewood,IL. 60430

6:00 cocktails, 7:00 Dinner.

PLEASE NOTIFY BOB OF YOUR ENTRES choice BEFORE DEC. 1ST.

(Pork Chop, Talapia, or Lasagna).

COST: Members: \$10.00 @,Guests \$27.00 @. Cash bar... Please make arrangements to prepay your dinner. Also make arrangements to provide a picture (age 2-5yrs old) of each person attending. Party Attire suggested (informal).

**Bob Steinmetz at abssurplus@aol.com
Looking forward to seeing you.....**

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.....

DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



The Man and the Factories Behind the Steger & Sons Piano

A Personal Word From "The Man Behind the Name"

"We are building for the future. By concentrating every effort to secure the highest efficiency throughout our organization, by constantly studying the best methods of piano-building and by using that knowledge, we give to the making of each Steger & Sons Piano and Natural Player-Piano the greatest care in workmanship, years of experience and the finest materials the world can supply, realizing that our future growth and progress depend upon the artistic worth and durability of every instrument sent forth from our factories."—John V. Steger.

Steger & Sons
Pianos and Natural Player-Pianos

When you buy a Steger & Sons Piano you pay for no commission or allowances or extras. You pay only the factory cost, plus a small profit, and you get an instrument of excellent qualities, which will provide the highest type of pleasure for your home circle.

Steger & Sons Pianos easily take rank with the finest products of Europe and America. They are made in the great Steger & Sons piano-factories at Steger, Illinois, the town founded by Mr. J. V. Steger.

Plans for Payment that Make Buying Convenient

The "Steger Plan" Approval Plan. Send for our catalog and other interesting literature, which explain it. Sent free on request.

Steger & Sons
Piano Manufacturing Co.
Steger Building Chicago, Ill.

VIQUEPIANOSHOP.COM

STEGER

The reproducing phonograph of excellence


BEAUTY of tone, elegance of design, faithful reproduction, rare skill of mechanical construction—all combine to make the Steger the finest reproducing phonograph it is possible to construct. The wonderful patented tone arm and tone chamber are features of only the Steger. They bring to you the voice of the artist and the music of your favorite instrument with fidelity. The Steger Phonograph plays all records correctly. There are no parts to change. It is an enjoyable companion always ready to entertain you. Hear and play it yourself. Steger dealers everywhere. Style Book sent on request. Prices \$60 to \$1250.

STEGER & SONS PIANO MFG. COMPANY
Steger Building, CHICAGO, ILL.
Founded by John V. Steger, 1879.
Factories, Steger, Illinois, where the "Lincoln" and "Dixie" Highways meet

Steger, a Dixie community, was once proclaimed as the "World's Piano Capital." John V. Steger opened his piano manufacturing plant several miles south of Chicago Heights on the Chicago-Vincennes Road, now a part of the Dixie Highway, in 1893. The area around the plant eventually incorporated as a village and was named in honor of Steger, the town's largest employer. By 1923, company advertising indicated "the immense Steger factories located at Steger, Illinois, where the "Lincoln" and "Dixie" highways meet are the largest piano factories in the world and are equipped with every machine or device, which will assist in turning out better work, while at the same time minimizing production costs. If the size of the plants were the only measure of its greatness, the Steger institution would still hold a commanding position in the piano-world; its factories, including lumber yard, occupy over 32 acres."

DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

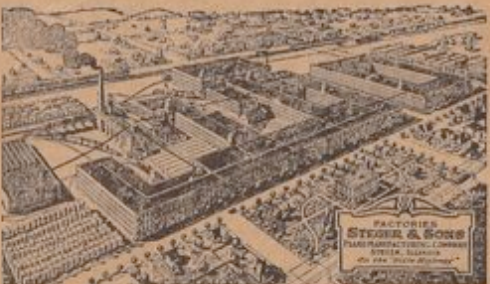
By Jim Wright



OVER 40 YEARS
of piano-making experience are back of the STEGER—the most valuable piano in the world.

The general offices and display-rooms of Steger & Sons Piano Manufacturing Company are housed in the 19-story Steger Building, at the Northwest Corner of Wabash Avenue & Jackson Boulevard, "The Piano Center of America." From an architectural standpoint, the Steger Building constitutes one of the finest examples of modern fire-proof construction in Chicago.

The immense Steger factories, located at Steger, Illinois (where the "Lincoln" and "Dixie" highways meet), the largest piano factories in the world, are equipped with every machine or device, which will assist in turning out better work, at the same time minimizing production costs. If the size of its plant were the only measure of its greatness, the Steger Institution would still hold a commanding position in the piano-world; its factories including lumber yards occupying over 32 acres.



STEGER & SONS PIANO MANUFACTURING COMPANY
Makers—Steger & Sons, Reed & Sons, Singer, Thompson, Artemis Pianos and Player-Pianos, Steger Phonographs.
Capacity: 18,000 Player-Pianos, 12,000 Pianos, 30,000 Phonographs per annum.

14 THE TALKING MACHINE WORLD August 15, 1920



STEGER

The Steger Talking Machine is the finest reproducing Phonograph in the world. No matter what music makes the record, the Steger Phonograph will reproduce every record perfectly. It is the standard Phonograph, that plays all records—correctly. There are no parts to change.

The Steger is the Phonograph that you have chosen and cannot, even if you would, reproduce in the Talking Machine world. It gives the greatest pleasure when playing in such a rich and clear and steady performance. The Steger cannot compare to any other.

STEGER & SONS PIANO MFG. CO.
Chicago, Illinois

At the height of the companies' production in the early 1920's, its factories were producing 18,000 player-pianos, 12,000 pianos and over 30,000 phonographs per year under the Steger & Sons, Reed & Sons, Singer, Thompson, Artemis and Steger Phonograph brands. The company went out of business in 1926, a decade after John Steger's death, and the factories were sold. Today, a K-Mart occupies the site of the main piano manufacturing facilities.

Americans have been celebrating Thanksgiving since the time of the pilgrims in different ways. From cozy family dinners, high end banquets or meager meals at a soup kitchen. At no time were the differences more apparent than the late 1920's during the Great Depression, when food as well as employment was scarce. Though times have changed, some things remain the same, school plays with Puritans and Indians, a day spent with family and friends, Macys Thanksgiving Day Parade and football.

On November 12, 1920, Woodrow Wilson the 28th President of the United States passed Proclamation 1580 – Thanksgiving, 1920



WOODROW WILSON
XXVIII President of the United States: 1913-1921

Proclamation 1580 - Thanksgiving, 1920
November 12, 1920

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

The season again approaches when it behooves us to turn from the distractions and preoccupations of our daily life to contemplate the mercies which have been vouchsafed to us, and render heartfelt and unfeigned thanks in manifold goodness.

This is an old observance of the American people, deeply imbedded in our thought and habit. The burdens and life have their own insistence.

We have abundant cause for thanksgiving. The lessons of the war are rapidly healing. The great army of freedom America sent to the defense of Liberty, returning to the grateful embrace of the nation, has resumed the useful peace, as simply and as promptly as it rushed to arms in obedience to the country's call. The equal justice of our received steady vindication in the support of a law-abiding people against various and sinister attacks, which is only the bane of agitations of war, now happily passing.

In plenty, security and peace, our virtuous and self-reliant people face the future, its duties and its opportunities; vision to discern our duties; the strength, both of hand and resolve, to discharge them; and the soundness of heart that the truest opportunities are those of service.

In a spirit, then, of devotion and stewardship we should give thanks in our hearts, and dedicate ourselves to the merciful and loving purposes to His children.

Wherefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States do hereby designate Thursday, the twenty-fifth of November next as a day of thanksgiving and prayer, and I call upon my countrymen to cease from their ordinary avocations upon that day, giving it up to the remembrance of God and His blessings, and their dutiful and grateful acknowledgment.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done in the district of Columbia this twelfth day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and twenty the one hundred and forty-fifth.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Woodrow Wilson".

Audrey Serviss:
Contributor.



INGREDIENTS

Crispy Peanut Butter Balls
Servings: 40-45 balls

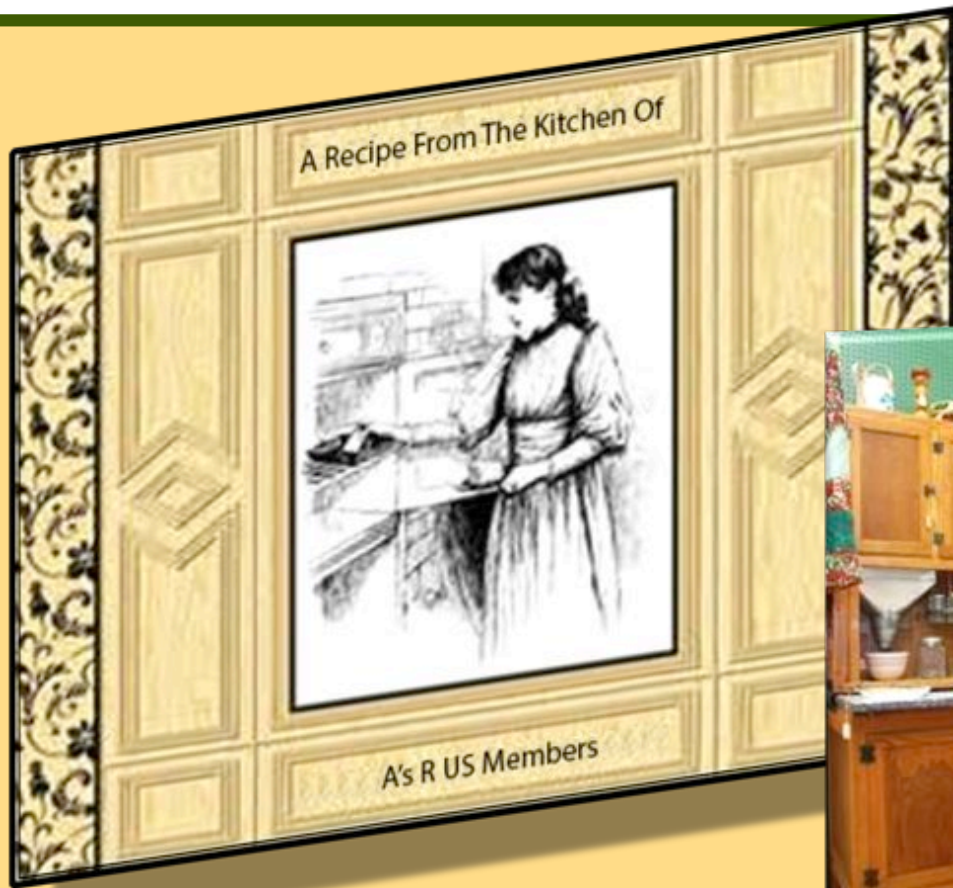
Ingredients:

2 cups creamy peanut butter
1/2 cup butter, softened
3 3/4 cups powdered sugar
3 cups rice krispy cereal
4 cups chocolate chips
1/4 cup shortening



DIRECTIONS

1. In large electric mixer bowl, beat peanut butter, margarine until well blended.
2. Add sugar on medium speed until thoroughly combined.
3. Add KELLOGG'S RICE KRISPIES cereal, mixing thoroughly.
4. Portion mixture, using rounded teaspoon. Shape into 1" balls.
5. Refrigerate.
6. Melt chocolate morsels and shortening in small saucepan, over low heat, stirring constantly.
7. Dip balls into chocolate using a toothpick. Tap on the side of the bowl to allow excess chocolate to drip off.
8. Place balls on parchment paper and allow to dry.
9. Refrigerate until firm. Store in airtight container in refrigerator.



Jon Lisota:
Contributor



For those who enjoyed the Salisbury Steak at the Amish dinner. Linda was kind enough to share her receipt.
Of course you will need to down size it.

- 10 lbs. Hamburger
- 1 lrg. onion chopped
- 2 tablespoons of salt
- 6 cups of cracker crumbs
- 1 can of Milnot

Mix ingredient thoroughly, shape into patty's and cook until done. These were fried.

The milk gravy receipt.

- Three cans of mushroom soup
- Three cans of milk

Mix together and season to taste.
Heat in deep sauce pan.



A's R US MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 8, 2014

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: By President, Irv Darnall at 7:10 pm, 34 members present with several guests. Our annual hayride, chili dinner and meeting was held at Chuck and Linnea's son's in Peotone.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of October's meeting were read and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jim Wright announced our annual auction brought in \$648. Dixie account has a total of \$ [REDACTED]. A's R Us account balance is [REDACTED]. Report was approved as read.

FAMILY NEWS: Dale has requested anyone who would like, to send her Mom a birthday card, her goal is 75 cards as her Mom will be 75 this November.

CORRESPONDENCE: MAFI has announced they are within $\frac{3}{4}$ to their goal for their indowment fund. They are requesting a donation towards helping to pay utilities, etc. There was a motion to send a donation of \$110 (same as last year) to go towards a portion of the upkeep.

OLD BUSINESS: This year's auction was a huge success, thanks to everyone who participated and also to our auctioneers, Henry and Irv. It was our largest proceeds to date.

THANKS to Wally & Kay, Bob & Penny, and all others who helped in the planning of this **GREAT TRIP** to Shipshewana. There was so much to see (the countryside with the sun shining on the fall trees which gave us a breathtaking view), a warm Amish family sharing their delicious meal with us to a fantastic play about an Amish President of the USA. There was great shopping thrown in also, if you missed this trip, you missed a lot. A big hand was given to our motor medic, Jon, for the various situations that arose during our trip. We had quite a few A's that needed assistance. The frosty cold weather also had a big effect on our cars.

Bob and Wally filled us in on the final details of our Christmas Dinner Party. There was a motion made for the proceeds from the auction to go towards the dinner party, motion carried.

Jim Wright will give us a Dixie Centennial sub-committee report in January. Our Club trailer is almost complete, thanks to Chuck and Jon and the many others who have spent time on this project, it's looking great.

The nominating committee have been busy working on nominations for our 2015 officers.

Those running are: President – Ken Chamis, Vice President – Randy Senkpeil, Secretary – Sandy Kaleta, and Treasurer - Jim Wright.

NEW BUSINESS: Spring Tour, this is tabled for future meeting. Ron suggested we think about reimbursing those planning tours for our Club, possibly up to \$100 per tour to cover the cost of gas and research for these tours.

Budget committee, consisting of Dale, Ken, Chuck, Karen and Jim, will meet to propose a budget for 2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Christmas Parades: December 5th – Homewood, December 6th – Crete

A's R US Holiday Dinner Party will be Wednesday, December 17th at Balagio Restaurant, 175th & Dixie Highway, Homewood. Time is 6:00 pm cocktails, 7:00 pm dinner – till ? Sit down dinner with choice of Pork Chop, Talapia or Lasagna entrée with potato and vegetable, salad, dessert, coffee, tea or soft drink. Cash bar. Cost: \$10.00 per member or \$27.00 per guest. Live music during dinner, member identity game, A's R US bingo. Prizes will be awarded to game winners. **NOTE:** Please *provide a photo* (anything from wallet size to 8x10) of each person attending *before December 1st which was taken between the ages of 2 and 5 years old. This can be via actual photo sent to Bob Steinmetz, 15451 Kilpatrick, Oak Forest, Il. 60452. (Photo will be returned.) or you can scan the photo and email it to Bob Steinmetz at absurplus@aol.com.* Party Attire Suggested: Informal

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING: Balagio Restaurant, 175th & Dixie Highway, Homewood.

BADGE FINES: \$13.00

50/50: \$41.00 Gerry and Ray Schmude (donated back to the Club)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by Secretary, Char Darnall.

Up and coming 2015 Events:



Looking forward into 2015

Ronald McDonald House

Shake Down Trip

Veterans Home

58th. Annual Hesston Steam & Power Show 2015

Exposure Trip 2015 Door County WI ?

Newport Hill Climb

Fall Trip

Teen Bridge Center

Spring Trip

Camp Quality

Labor Day Sept. 1st

September

October 3rd - 5th

• A's R Us 2014 officers and Staff

- President – Irv Darnell
- Vice President – Steve Coe / Treasure – Jim Wright / Secretary – Char Darnell
- Newsletter – Phillip Serviss
- Member Relations – Ken Chamis
- Web Page – Allen Swicago
- Parade Coordinator – Wally Ekstrom
- Director of Safety – Ron Bonneau
- Nat'l Rep. – Ken Chamis
- 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

Waiting for Jon to catch up with the group, the breakdown food rolled out!

BACKFIRE

P.O. Box 3
Crete, Illinois 60417

