

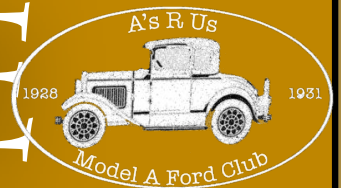


VOLUME 19

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2014

# BACKFIRE



Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America

<http://www.drivingthedixie.com>



A great job was done by the Spring Trip Group of, Ron Bonneau and Jon lisota.

Even though Jon and Yvonne couldn't make the trip Jon had worked with Ron to get everything ready. It was very an enjoyable weekend as the weather cooperated for the most part. We had an awesome Hotel staff at the Hilton Inn in DeKalb. Cooking on Sat was a group event at the "Chuck Wagon" smoking the rear parking lot with plenty of grilling BBQ pork chops! There was even a surprise birthday singing for me on Saturday night.

Nancy and I did have to leave the group on Sunday and go to Jennifer and Adam's house to see our new Granddaughter Morgan. I'm now preparing for visitors from England that will be staying two weeks. I will be talking to the A's group to drive to Pontiac as we have done in the past and give our visitors "A Day in the A". Phil



*The Camp  
Editor in Chief*

**Header Picture:**

Karosseriefirma Gläser of Dresden  
1931 Ford Victoria

# Presidents Comments

## LETTER FROM THE PREZ

We survived the spring trip of 2014.

A big hand goes out to Jon and Ron for a well planned trip. Never a dull moment. We had a wonderful breakfast at Little Joe's in New Lenox. A short time was used for minor repairs on Ricochet's Tudor. Quick repair of an oil leak, and replaced a missing manifold bolt, that caused an oil line to burst. Spark-plug Bob had all the necessary parts to make the repairs.

Then, like a herd of snails, we were off! We were in route to the Classic Aviation Museum. We saw several restored WWII aircraft.

Weather was a bit chilly, so we had Friday's picnic at the Hampton Inn located in DeKalb. Then it was off to the Ellwood mansion, home of the Barbed Wire tycoon. The wagon train then split up. Some went to the NIU indoor practice facility; some went to the Hotel to relax for the Pork Chop Gala. Then Friday night cocktails.

Saturday breakfast at the beautiful Hampton Inn. After the feast, it was off to the Bookie's (Nancy S.) and placed our bets on our Kentucky Derby Favorite. Then the trusty A's were off again, to the Egyptian Theater (Haunted) in DeKalb for a tour. Next it was off to the Chocolate shop for a special treat that Jon and Ron prearranged.. .....An all chocolate Model A Ford with A's R US written upon it. The next hour was a shopping extravaganza!!!!!!!!!!!! Off to lunch at PJ's Tavern. What an experience, just as our waitress brought our drink order, flash, the electrical power goes out! We were offered cold cut sandwiches or hot dogs and chips. A vote was taken, we decided to stay, then flash the electric came on, things were back to normal. Great lunch. You were on your own till 5:30, at this time, you'd better be in your seat for the running of the Kentucky Derby. All the A's jockeys and passengers were at the long table in front of the big screen, there was a long silence...like lightning, and they were off. A slight roar was heard at the first turn, then as the horses neared the finish line, the noise was deafening as California Chrome crossed the line, that was Penny's horse. Coming in 2nd and 3rd was Bonnie and Nancy's horses. It was a ladies race. After dinner at O'Leary's Pub, it was back to the hotel for a surprise birthday party for Phil, lots of cake and more cocktails.

Sunday was a tour of the Scouting Museum in Ottawa, then on to brunch at Hank's Farmhouse. Afterwards, shopping at Hank's Gift and costume shop. Next we drove along the scenic Illinois River on our way home.

This was a great trip, thank you Ron and Jon.

Ricochet



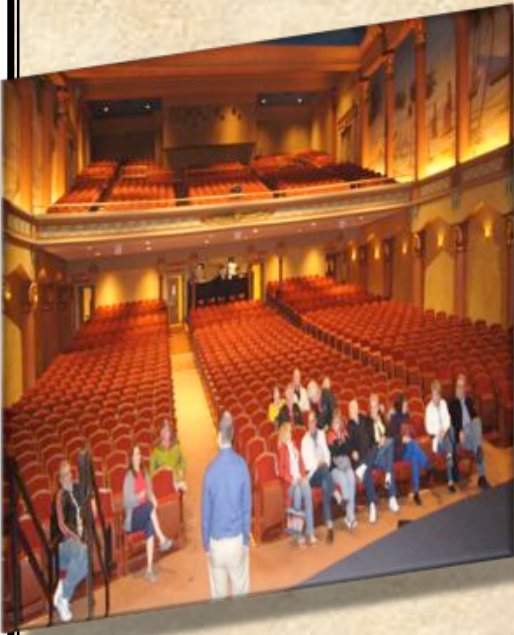


# Spring Trip 2014





# Spring Trip 2014



Egyptian Theater Blt. 1929

Jordan Lynch





## A rare 1931 Ford Model A Victoria [Joe](#)

[MacFarland](#) / Apr 16

Once upon a time, cars were not the mass-produced clones you see on the road today. Each car produced was a meticulous work of art, like a fine time-piece, to be passed on from generation to generation, father to son or mother to daughter. The listing quotes the following:

*"... if we do it right, they're going to be here long after we're gone-- and as such, we're not really owners, we're simply the custodians of these beautiful automobiles."*

We couldn't agree more. Rarely do these pieces of stunning craftsmanship come up for sale, and if they do, they are usually half-rusted barn finds in need of some serious facelifts. Today's remarkable find is already picture-perfect, and has quite the storied past, having survived World War II hidden from the occupying Nazi forces - a metallic survivor in more ways than one.

Today's remarkable find is this [1931 Ford Model A Victoria](#):



The coach work done on this car was from the renowned German coach builder Karosseriefirma Gläser of Dresden, and the car is said to be "made of Ash and Oak wrapped in steel." (We love the poetry of that sentiment!) Unlike today's car, there is not a bit of fiberglass to be found anywhere. The car is in great shape, and the listing notes that "this was the cover car for the "AACAA Antique Automobile" magazine in 1965, November-December issue, and a several-page article was featured inside as well, giving wonderful insight to this unique car's history." Two copies of the magazine will be sent to the winner of the auction, as well as the car.

Some of that history is related on the [listing's description](#), which is worth a read in its entirety. Here is an excerpt:

*"Just when Germany's Reichstag elections had produced The National Socialist Party, under Adolf Hitler, as Germany's majority political power, Ford chassis #3957780, was built in Detroit-- September 1930. The chassis was shipped to Ford of Cologne, Germany, who sold it in turn to Karosseriefirma Gläser of Dresden-- arguably the finest coach builder in all of Europe. Built to perfection, this car was purchased from Gläser, and its original "custodian" was a Danish nobleman (here affectionately known as "The Baron"), who took delivery in mid-1931. A year later, in August of 1932, it was sold to S.V. Salzwendel, a Danish Army officer whose homeland was invaded and occupied by the Nazis in 1940. Although, since 1938, Hitler's National Socialist Party had confiscated some 3700 automobiles from around Europe, Salzwendel somehow managed to hide his fine Gläser during five years of German occupation in Denmark.*

*He owned this car for 31 years before eventually selling to Ib Jensen of Copenhagen in 1963. Jensen had been shown photos of the car, which by then was well-known in Aarhus, Denmark's second largest city. Jensen purchased the car from Salzwendel eight days later on the promise that he would never sell it back into Germany-- Salzwendel perhaps a little bitter after WWII had taken such a toll on so much of Europe where many Gläsers and other extraordinary automobiles and coaches are believed to have perished. In (estimated) early 1965, after a thorough and beautiful restoration, Jensen (today still a member of an antique automobile club in Copenhagen) kept his promise and sold this surviving Gläser to John H.*



*Timmis, III, of State College, Pennsylvania, USA. Much of the next 49 years is sketchy at best. The car is owned today by Heather Anderson of Tucson, Arizona. It is remembered to have been shown at the renowned Hershey Car Shows in Pennsylvania during the late 60's and early 70's; and, having undergone at least one more restoration, it resides today in a small town in Southeastern Arizona."*

# DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



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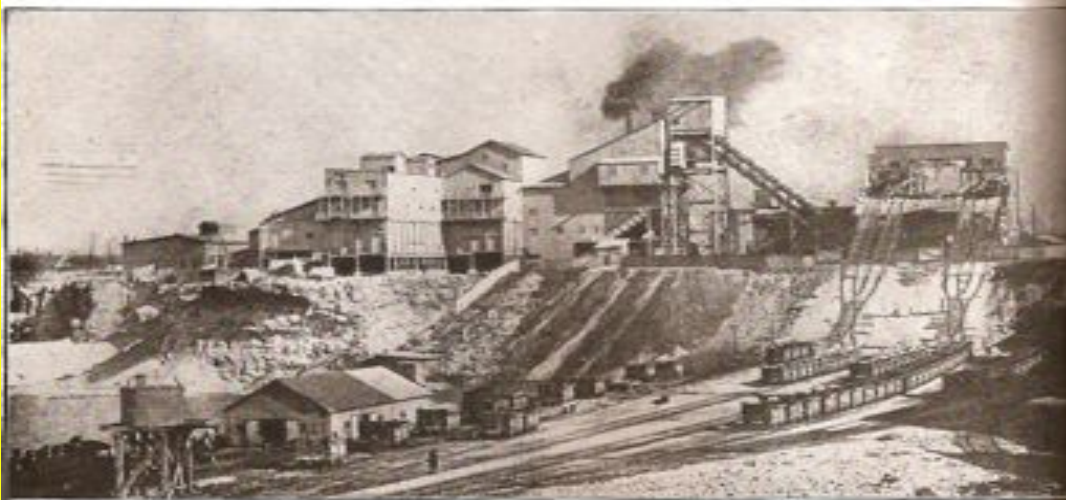
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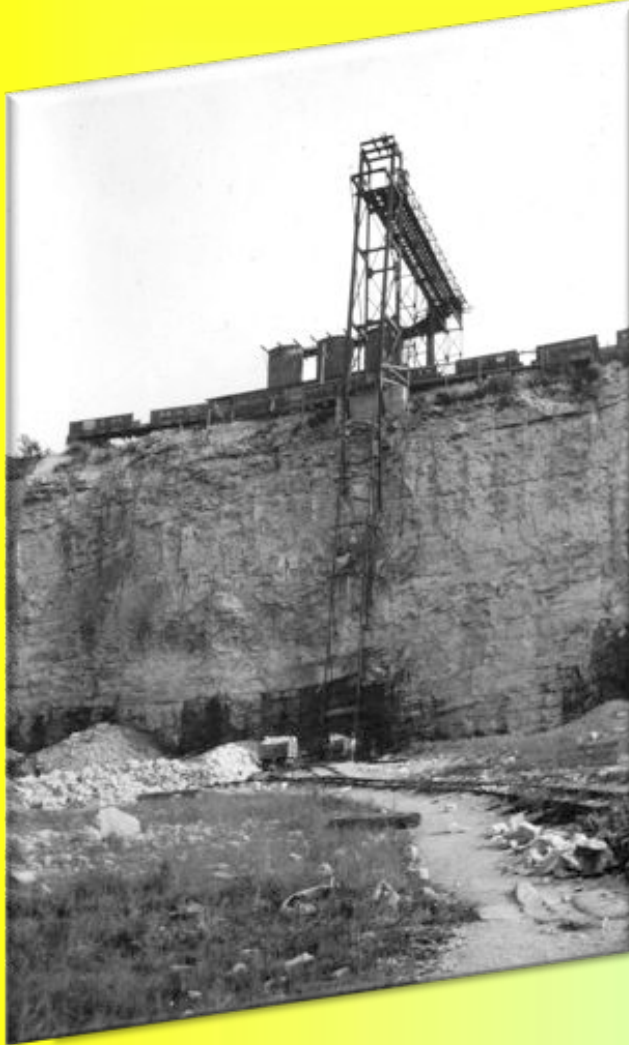


Although the Thornton Quarry is not on the Dixie Highway, it has figured prominently in the history of the Dixie Highway and road building throughout northern Illinois for over a century. Quarrying has taken place in Thornton since 1838 when Gurdon Hubbard opened the first quarry in town. Earlier in his life Hubbard had gained fame as a fur trader who blazed a trail between Vincennes, Indiana and Chicago, much of which would later become the template for the Dixie Highway in Illinois. Others operated quarries and lime operations at Thornton for the remainder of the 19th century and it was not until 1886, when R.E. Brownell took over these operations, that production increased significantly.



## DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



By 1915, when the Dixie Highway was routed, the Brownell Improvement Company's Thornton facility was the largest stone crushing plant in the world, a position held for decades. Much of that crushed stone, then as now, went to pave streets and highways throughout the state. In 1938, the quarry was sold to the Material Service Corporation. Since 2006 the Lehigh Hanson Cement Company has owned the quarry. Today, the quarry continues to produce over 7 million tons of crushed rock, aggregates and other stone products found in concrete, fertilizer, asphalt coatings and a variety of other uses. This year, the quarry will be an exciting new stop on Drivin' the Dixie in June.



# Sandy Kaleta Reporter on the Know!



## FASHION: MENS FASHIONS 1920-1930

Men accessorized well in the 1920's. Big Al Capone was known as the third best dressed man in history for this era. He always wore a Fedora tipped down over one eye at a rakish angle and was very selective with his ties.



Hats were a must and stylish men with a good attitude and guts to pull it off could easily choose from the Fedora, Trilby, Porkpie, Classic Top Hat, Bowler or Newsboy Cap. Neckties were wide with bold geometric designs, including stripes and quadrilateral designs. Let's not forget ascots and the classic bow tie.

Shoes were a big part of style in the 1920's and Oxfords were typically worn. The classic black and white or black and tan wingtip or captoe looked very classy and were a popular choice for formal evening wear. Finishing touches for the well dressed man were Suspenders, a pocket Scarf and Fob Watch.



During the 1920's many men began to actively participate in sports, such as golf, tennis and swimming. The more affluent enjoyed yachting and polo. New styles of sportswear were designed to provide comfort and ease of movement. Sportswear also reflected the celebrity-conscious society of the time. Tennis and polo stars became trend setters, wearing cotton polo shirts and short sleeved pull overs. Style conscious golfers wore knickers, with colorful argyle woolen knee socks. By 1925 men wore three-piece sports suits, consisting of a jacket, vest and knickers for golf games and for casual wear at resorts. This look was popularized by professional golfers like Walter Hagen and Bobby Jones. This craze evolved into a style worn by men, especially in England, until 1950.



A's R US MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 16, 2014

**MEETING LOCATION:** Tim and Connie Borchert's, Frankfort, Il.

**CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT IRV DARNALL AT:** 7:05 pm, 20 members were present and one guest.

**MINUTES from the MARCH** meeting were approved as written.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jim: the report was accepted as read.

**FAMILY NEWS:** Sandy Kaleta called and reported that Al is to have surgery on his left eye for repair of a detached retina. Recovery time will be lengthy so they won't be able to attend our upcoming outings, including our Spring trip and maybe others. She said they have cancelled their reservations for hotels for the Spring trip. They also cancelled their Paris trip. We passed a get well card around for everyone to sign.

Linnea is continuing her chemo and they also won't be able to attend our Spring trip.

Dale's son, Corey, is home now but is going through tests to determine what is causing the blood clots recurring in his system.

Cards will be sent to the above.

Phil and Nancy's daughter is expecting and the due date is May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Phil is hoping the baby will arrive before May 2<sup>nd</sup> or after May 4<sup>th</sup>....Good luck Phil.

Sandi and Paul Hankowitz called and expressed their feelings about our great "BACKFIRE". They also inquired if any of our members were going to Sharon, Wisconsin on June 1<sup>st</sup>, they would be happy to meet them there.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Received The "A" Preserver which was passed around.

The Model A Youth Restoration Award Program sent us a thank you card for our contribution.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Irv reminded everyone about our SHAKEDOWN CRUISE on April 26<sup>th</sup> to the Morton Arboretum. We will meet for breakfast at Anthony's Pancake House in Lockport, they open at 6:00 am. We will depart from there about 9:15 am. If interested, you can take an hour open tram tour, followed by a picnic lunch. Bring your own sandwiches, beverages and a dish or dessert to pass. Afterwards, you can tour the 1600 acres at your leisure on foot or in your car. We plan on departing for home at about 2-2:30 pm with a stop at the Dairy Queen in Lockport. Hope to see you there. Jon prepared a list for everyone so they could go over it and check off items to get their cars ready for the Shake Down Cruise.

**The SPRING TRIP** will be May 2, 3 & 4<sup>th</sup> to DeKalb and Sycamore. Meet at Little Joe's, at 8:30 am Some of the highlights will be the Classic Aviation Museum, Elwood House Mansion tour, NIU indoor practice facility, Egyptian Theatre tour and many more stops along the way. Phil will be sending an e-mail soon with details of this trip.



**CLUB PICNIC** is June 29<sup>th</sup> at Meadowlark Pavilion in Goodnow Grove.

**EXPOSURE TRIP** will be September 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup>, make your reservations now.

**FALL TRIP** to Shipshewana or Nappanee, Indiana, will be discussed at May's meeting when Wally returns from hibernation.

We received a wonderful report from THE BRIDGE TEEN CENTER about the support they received from our A's R US Club members. On April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, members demonstrated how to operate, tear down and put together parts of the Model A. The kids really got into it. Irv read the letter received from THE BRIDGE, thanking us. A big hand was given to those members who put their time and effort into such a great program for the youths, Bob Steinmetz, Claude and Travis Poulsen, Ken Chamis and Randy Senkpeil, they did a wonderful job.

Our annual visit to the **VETERANS HOME IN MANTENO** will be set up by Jim Wright, tentatively August 9<sup>th</sup>.

**CAMP QUALITY** will have dates in June, July and August for their car shows, should know dates by next meeting.

Thanks go out to Tim and Connie Borchert, they did a great job on setting up the **JOHNNY CASH SHOW** (and dinner). Everyone enjoyed this outing. Thanks also, to Phil for a good write up in the **BACKFIRE** on this activity.

Regarding the Fire Department's Museum chemical unit to be restored, Phil, Jon and Jim will visit again to find out how much the Fire Museum wants to spend on restoration and other details, a report will follow at May meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Elaine Egdorf called to let us know that the next **DRIVING THE DIXIE** meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Homewood Village Hall Board room, 2020 Chestnut Road. Attending the meeting will be a representative from the Chicago Southland Visitors and Convention Bureau to share ideas on how to promote the drive for the Centennial in 2015.

**COMING EVENTS:** **SHAKE DOWN CRUISE**, Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**SPRING TRIP**, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup>.

**TECH TALK:** Should contact Chuck to move trailer to Jon's and find out when this can be done.

**BREAKFAST:**

**NEXT MONTH'S MEETING:** Bob Steinmetz's garage in Frankfort.

**BADGE FINES:** \$5.00

**50/50:** Split to Phil

**ADJOURN:** 8:10 pm

## MEETINGS FOR 2014

**MAY: BOB STEINMETZ**

**JUNE: BOB STEINMETZ**

**JULY: STEVE COE**

**AUGUST: KEN & DALE CHAMIS**

**SEPTEMBER: AL & SANDY Kaleta**

**OCTOBER: IRV & CHAR DARNALL**

**NOVEMBER: CHUCK & LINNEA FRITZ**

**DECEMBER: TO BE DECIDED**

**Remember to up-date your medical form for next year. A new form is on page 14 of the newsletter.**



**A's R US Confidential Medical Form**

Date Filled Out: \_\_\_\_\_

Last NAME: _____	First Name: _____
DOB: (mo/date/yr): _____	Age: _____
SSN: _____	
Name of Emergency Contact: _____	
Phone of Emergency Contact: (      ) _____	
Name of Primary Health Physican: _____	
Phone Number of Primary Health Physican: (      ) _____	

**List Medications and Dosage Below**

	Name	Dosage in Mg	How Often Taken
#1	_____	_____	_____
#2	_____	_____	_____
#3	_____	_____	_____
#4	_____	_____	_____
#5	_____	_____	_____

**List any Allergies or Medications of Which You are Allergic Below:**

#1	_____
#2	_____
#3	_____
#4	_____

**List Any Serious Diseases That You Have (Diabetes, Cancer, Heart, Thyroid, Etc) Below**

#1	_____
#2	_____
#3	_____

It is understood that the information contained within this form is to be kept confidential UNLESS a medical situation develops during the course of an activity being conducted by the A's R US car club that necessitates the release of this information to medical personnel.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Up and coming 2014 Events:

### May Meeting @ Bob's Garage

Wednesday May 21st 7:00.

Green Gardens



## 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. 1<sup>st</sup>

Exposure Trip 2014

Tentative / September 6<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>

Newport Hill Climb

October 3rd – 5<sup>th</sup>

Fall Trip





## ***'Illinois Largest moving car show!'***

- \* Meet new people and enjoy the automotive hobby with 150 other enthusiasts
- \* Self Guided with passports to win prizes at the end of the run.
- \* Lunch Provided by Steger, IL with your entry fee
- \* Blue Island to Momence down Historic Dixie Highway
- \* Historic Homes, Historic business to Learn and explore at your leisure
- \*\*New this year the Thornton quarry will open its lookout with interpreters to explain the operation\*\***

**\$15.00 Pre registration cutoff June 10**

**Mail registration to: A'sRUS PO Box #3 Crete, IL 60417**

**\$20.00 the day of in Blue Island Starting at 8:00 am  
Dixie and High Street downtown Blue Island rain or shine.**

**website: [drivingthedixie.com](http://drivingthedixie.com)**



## 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:

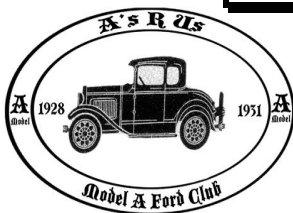
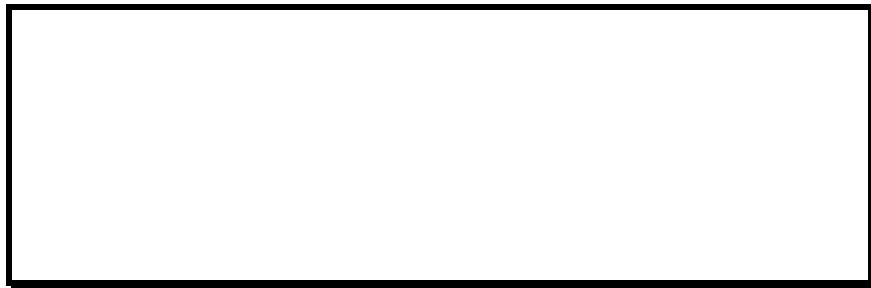
E Mail to: [taxserviss@att.net](mailto:taxserviss@att.net)

Nancy and Ken at NIU  
New indoor practice  
Facility.



## BACKFIRE

P.O. Box 3  
Crete, Illinois 60417



Mail To: