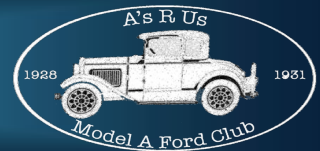


# BACKFIRE



Volume#20

Issue# 12

December 2015

*The Carp, Editor in Chief*



Jim

Wright and I recently took a trip out to Colorado to do a little research for my model railroad I'm going to build, and our first night we stayed in Colorado Springs. In the morning on our way to Pueblo we stopped to see Dave Beadles, a State Farm agent in Colorado Springs, who receives this newsletter and is a fellow model A owner. If you go on our Facebook site you will see him occasionally comment or post. It was a quick visit but nice to meet someone I've only talked to a couple times. It was good to see you Dave and some day I would love to drive Colorado in my Model A.

Phil



A'sRUS Ford Club

<http://www.as-r-us.com>

# Presidents Comments

Another year is fast approaching the end. I admit I did not get the A out enough. About time to tuck it in for the winter. But wait! We still have 2 more nights to cruise. The Homewood and Crete Christmas parades. I will try to get a morning breakfast scheduled to swap each others ideas for attaching those little suckers to the car without damaging anything. Maybe I'll drag the coupe out this year. Put some anti freeze in it and get the heater attached to keep Dale toasty warm. It's 2 back-to-back nights of A fun. If you're not driving your car, at least come out and freeze with the rest of us. There is chatter about several cool trips for next year and personally I'm excited about them. But aren't all the trips great? Congrats the to Borchart family on the new addition to the grand kid pool. Future Model A owners? Our annual auction is Wednesday, so bring your crap, I mean most treasured collectables to the auction at the Darnall residence grand ballroom, (their basement) and bid away the evening. Cash and checks with 2 forms of id are accepted. IOU's are not! Our hosts do require that all purchased items be removed at the end of the sale and storage fees will be accessed if they are not. On that note, I wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving!

*Ken aka "Squeaks"*





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### **Story by Dale Chamas**

This is just a tad late...5 months to be exact. Please accept my apologies however after the success of this event I was a bit preoccupied with my youngest son's nuptials. Over a year in the planning, October finally arrived. The wedding day came and went by all too fast. It truly was a fabulous wedding. Ok, enough of that and on to the real story here.

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, several of our Model A family gathered at the Ronald McDonald House in Oak Lawn to prepare a feast for some 30 families utilizing the house. This RMC House is the 4<sup>th</sup> of 5 in the Chicago area. It houses 16 rooms, 3 full kitchens, a dining area, an outdoor patio and play room directly across the street from Hope Children's Hospital, where our very own Sara Serviss Klein is a resident! 4 of the



Nancy Poulson and Dale Chamas

rooms are extended stay suites for those families needing to stay longer. The RMC house is designed to provide the simple comforts of home for those families who need it the most.

# DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



## Blue Island Dedication

*After 2 years of work many of the Dixie Highway interpretive signs have been installed. For the next issues, we will print images and photos of each of the signs, so you can read them and enjoy the fruits of our labors. Our first sign, dedicated June 12, 2015 is in BLUE ISLAND.*

# DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



Blue Island sits atop a 6-mile long glacial ridge, left behind 14,000 years ago when the 6000-foot thick Laurentide ice sheet melted and retreated, also scraping out the basin of Lake Michigan, to a depth of 340 feet below sea level.

In prehistoric times, Lake Michigan's shoreline was at the Blue Island ridge, then receded eastward to the Michigan Avenue ridge in Roseland, and finally to its present shoreline. Blue Island was truly an island then, surrounded by water 60 feet higher than today.

Prevailing winds, wave action and currents formed sand on the lee side of the island, which is now home to Mt. Olive and Mt. Greenwood cemeteries, as well as Pigo and Beverly Country Club, which show the subtle highs and lows of sand dune terrain. Gravediggers of old preferred the dry, yielding, well-drained soil.

## Why is it named Blue Island?

Pioneers traveling from the east steered covered wagons around the southern tip of Lake Michigan and encountered a heavily-forested ridge that rose abruptly 40 to 50 feet above the surrounding land. When viewed from a distance, the ridge appeared to be enshrouded by an azure vapor, hence the name "Blue Island."

In 1834 Thomas Courtney built a log cabin overlooking Stony Creek at what is now Grove and Ann streets, later the site of the First Lutheran Church of Blue Island. German immigrants founded four breweries in town in the 1860s. Beer was

stored in underground tunnels on the sides of the bluff to keep it cool during the hot summers.

Following a path worn by buffalo, Native Americans traveled the length of what is now the eastern border of Illinois. Fur trader Gordon Hubbard established trading posts along the route, known as "Hubbard's Trace" on early maps. With early pioneers following the trace, the trail eventually became two wagon widths wide.

In 1835 the Illinois general assembly created a state road that connected old Fort Vincennes in Indiana with Fort Dearborn at Chicago. The trail was selected as the most direct and favorable route; the first official route in Illinois, thus Route 2. The Vincennes Trail, partly a plank road, became Vincennes Road and passed through Blue Island. Norman Rosford built the Blue Island House on Wabash Road (now Western Avenue) between Grove and Fulton streets. The Rosford inn became a stopping place for wagons coming to and from the Wabash Valley.

## From a dirt road to wooden planks

On the 1858 Volk map of Blue Island, the part of Western Avenue below the hill is called "Main, or Wabash Road," and the part of Western Avenue on top of the hill is "Blue Island Avenue," the most direct road from Blue Island to the west side of Chicago. There was also a wooden plank road constructed at \$1800 per mile that charged a toll. Railroads were not looked upon favorably in the 1850s.

In March of 1893 the John V. McAdams Co.

was awarded a contract to pave Western Avenue with cedar blocks at \$1.14 per square foot for paving and 80¢ per linear foot for curbing. In 1895, property owners paved Maple Avenue from Union to Vermont at their own expense.

In March of 1897 an ordinance was proposed to prohibit women from wearing "high and widely flared hats," at shows and in other places of amusement, however, it died in the hands of the judiciary committee. In 1897 streetcars powered by batteries plied Western Avenue, an improvement on the old cable cars still in operation on some streets in Chicago. Trolley cars took over in 1902.

## A highway to promote cross-country tourism

The Dixie Highway, an idea of Carl G. Fisher of the Lincoln Highway Association, was formed in 1915 to promote tourism by creating a north-south route of connected paved roads from Chicago to Miami so automobile enthusiasts from the urban north could vacation in the rural south. Dirt roads were paved with brick or concrete to make them passable in any weather.

In Blue Island, Western Avenue served as the Dixie Highway, taking motorists through a bustling regional center of commerce and banking. Nationally-known retailers in Blue Island on the Dixie Highway included Sears, Wards and Piggy-Wiggly. Local favorites were Kline's department store, Wetland Cameras, Luchmansdor Jewellers, Tots and Teens, Pronger Brothers Hardware, Schreiber Hardware and more.

Sources: Ice Age East, by Dr. Owen Schmitt; The First 100 Years, by John Yola; Geology Underfoot in Illinois, by Raymond Wiggers; dixiehighway.org ©2014 Greg Lachow



This sign celebrates the 2015 centennial of the Dixie Highway and was made possible by the cooperative efforts of the A's R Us and Blue Island, Posen, Markham, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Flossmoor, Chicago Heights, Steger, Crete, Beecher, Grant Park and Mokenca.

I'll admit I was overwhelmed and nervous but with the help of many that soon passed. Our menu was simple. Grilled Italian Sausage, brats, baked mac & cheese, and a luscious fresh fruit salad. As we unloaded the groceries, Wally said "Ok dear (he calls everyone dear), you're in charge. Tell us what to do." I explained the menu and before we knew it, everyone took on a cooking task. Nancy Poulson and Karen Kolenda took to making baked mac & cheese. Penny Steinmetz and Kay Ekstrom began the task of putting together a fruit salad. With extra fruit Penny



found some whipped topping and made an all too pretty to eat but boy was it yummy fruit mousse. Tears were shed as Jim Wright sliced and diced onions! Gerry and Ray Schmude were busy in the far kitchen preparing a special salad. Our grillmaster, none other than Jon Lisota manned the grill in the rain. Ken, Bob, Wally and Claude lent their moral support and umbrellas as they were greeted by some unwelcome and nasty storms, including the tornado siren!

Dinner was served and after the staff ate, some families slowly trickled in. We were encouraged to dine with the families. We met a few families, and were there for a send off to home sweet home for two little babies.

At the end of the evening, RMC was welcoming a new family. We were invited to join



Bob, Jon and Wally

Each family is given a gift bag upon arrival in their new temporary homes.

The bags contain everything from candy, snacks, slippers, magazines, toiletries, and they also come with their very own teddy bear. A Timmy Bear to be exact. "Timmy Bears", are made by a family from Hometown who in March of 1997 tragically lost their 11 year old son in a pedestrian/auto accident. Timmy was also my son's best friend.



Our A's family also has a connection with another RMC House. Heather and Aaron Paap, daughter and son in law of Tim & Pat Bots were able to stay at RMC House near the University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital, which allowed them a close place to shower, rest and eat while giving them precious time with their son Gavin. Heather and her family will again this year be participating in Gavin's Gifts. They accept donations and take them to the RMC House. Last year, 5 car load of items were provided by donations. All of the RMC houses are in need of household items, toiletries, kitchen items and more.

I cannot thank everyone enough for their support on that not so sunny summer June night. I am hopeful for our club to do this again soon.

*Dale Chammas*







# Sandy Kaleta Reporter on The Know!



## The Bob by Michael Warner

Hairstyles of the 1920s created more controversy in hair fashion than in any other period of American culture. And one hairstyle, known simply as — “the bob,” would be at the center of this great debate. First introduced during the Great War, the bob haircut would eventually cause a revolution in the way women would wear their hair — forevermore.

It all started in 1915 with the debut of the Castle Bob, named after the celebrated ballroom dancer Irene Castle. While cutting her hair for convenience, little would she know that she would forever be associated with triggering a revolution in 20th-century hair fashion. The Castle Bob would be the first indication of things to come — the rage of short hair.



The bob haircut was simply a blunt cut, level with the bottom of the ears all around the head. It was worn either with bangs or with the hair brushed off of the forehead. It was a simple look but a drastic departure from the long feminine looks created by Gibson and Marcel.

The free-spirited youth of the day readily accepted the new look and made it the forerunner of many fads and fashions which eventually led to new curling, perming and coloring methods. When a woman had her hair cut short, she grew bolder. Soon she began wearing 'long beads, short skirts, rolled stockings, and rough on her knees,' an expression synonymous with — the flapper. The rebellious change in hairstyle was just the beginning of a major change in societal norms and values seen during the 1920s.



On May 1, 1920, the Saturday Evening Post published F. Scott Fitzgerald's short story "Bernice Bobs Her Hair." This infamous tale depicts a sweet-but-dull young lady who submits to the barber's shears and is transformed into a smooth-talking vamp by her fickle society-girl cousin. The heroine would become a role model for many young women.

By 1921, following the lead of fashion designer "Coco" Chanel and actresses Clara Bow and Louise Brooks, young women everywhere took the plunge and began bobbing their hair.

As the younger generation eagerly embraced this latest fad, women of all ages would soon find themselves having to face a critical decision – to bob, or not to bob. Many were fearful of taking the plunge only to discover that long hair would quickly be back in vogue. In fact, professional hair publications predicted an immediate return to long hair. However, it was difficult to ignore the continued popularity of the bob.



**A'S R US MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 24<sup>th</sup> , 2015**

**MEETING LOCATION: Chuck and Linnea Fritz Barn.**

**Ken thanked Chuck and Linnea for a fun time. The Hayride, Chucks terrific Chilli/Hot dog dinner and their hospitality. Thanks also to members who contributed sides and deserts.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**BY PRESIDENT KEN CHAMIS AT 7:42 PM..**

**Gerry introduced her Guests, Mitchell and John from Hoopston, Il.**

**Reading of the minutes was waived and they were approved as submitted to the membership by e-mail.**

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

**Jim reported that the Driving the Dixie Account has a Balance of \$[REDACTED], the A'SRUS account balance is \$[REDACTED]. There was a deposit of \$847.00 in dues to the A'S account, \$25.00 sent to the City of Chicago for a curb fee. Money was spent for a mock up sign for Chicago and for the Hazel Crest sign. Jim stated there are (7) signs left to be completed, (4) we will pay half the expense and (3) \$100.00 apiece. The membership approved a \$100.00 donation for the Model A Youth Restoration Club.**

**FAMILY NEWS:**

**Fran will be having cataract surgery on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. Keep her in your prayers.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**EXCURSION TRIP TO GREENFIELD, MI: Chuck reported he has talked with Phil regarding this trip and he is in accord. It will be the week After Labor Day 2016.**

**2016 CHRISTMAS PARTY/DECEMBER MEETING:**

**Karen reported the evening at Scrementi's Restaurant, Steger, Illinois starts at 5:00 on Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup>, dinner at 6:00. It was confirmed that the A's will pay \$10.00 @ for members dinner and guests will pay full price. It is a cash bar. More information to follow.**

### **BALMORAL RACE TRACK :**

Wally reported that we need to arrive at 5:00 in Period Dress to drive our Model A's around the track. Dinner is from 6:30-8:30, deserts 8:30 to 9:00. He requested those who have not paid bring a check made out to the A'SRUS for \$22.95 @ for dinner. Jim will submit a check to Balmoral from the club account. Please notify Wally if you are attending so he can add you to his count.

### **FALL TRIP :**

Jim gave a recap of our Danville Fall Trip, the sign dedications and the hospitality of the Mayors, officials and residents. Wally proposed a \$100.00 donation each to the Ottawa Museum (Boy Scouts of America), Iroquois Museum and Danville Museum for their gracious hospitality. The membership unanimously approved. Ken asked Jim if he would be willing to submit an article to the Restorer regarding our project and trip. Jim agreed.

### **NEW PROPOSALS:**

Erv and Char volunteered to host the November/Auction meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds go to the club and Erv will be our auctioneer. Ken noted at this meeting we will also conduct nominations for officers. If interested in serving please contact Wally or Bob. We will also be looking for Host/Hostess for the 2016 meeting schedule. Give it some thought.

### **DANVILLE:**

The Mayor of Danville has invited our club to attend their annual Balloon Feast in early July. We can make this a weekend trip. To be on the agenda for discussion next year.

### **MISC DISCUSSIONS:**

Bob read a Thank You card from Teen Bridge, thanking us for our support.

**Next months mtg: November 18<sup>th</sup> at Erv and Char Darnall's  
30461 S 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. Peotone, Il.**

### **November Breakfast Meeting:**

date wasn't decided, a notice will go out by email. It was discussed that the new ownership at Peachtree Restaurant deserved our continued business.

**Badge fines: \_\$9.00\_ 50/50 : \_\$100.00\_ Winner : \_Gerry Schmude\_\_\_\_  
Remainder to the club : \_\_\$50.00\_\_**

**Adjourn: at 8:16 PM**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: SANDY KALETA**



1920s advertisement for Colgate's Brilliantine.

### **Looking forward into 2015**

**Christmas Party:  
at Scrementi's Restaurant, Steger, Illinois starts at  
5:00 on Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup>, dinner at 6:00.**

## A's R Us 2015 Officers and Staff

- President – Ken Chamis
- Vice President – Randy Senkpeil
- Treasure – Jim Wright
- Secretary – Sandy Kaleta
- Newsletter – Phillip Serviss
- Member Relations – Ken Chamis
- Web Page – Allen Betschart
- 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

Ken Chamis and Penny Steinmetz at Ronald McDonald House



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

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

# BACKFIRE



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