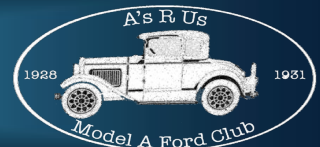


BACKFIRE



Volume#20

Issue# 10

October 2015

The Carp, Editor in Chief



How many here have had to deal with an estate of their parents? Lots of you I can see. You then know how much time it can consume. Nancy unfortunately has such a task and she has been dealing with getting a garage sale put together along with the rest of the estate. I also have spent time hauling and helping as best as I can but not nearly the time involvement. That being said I have found treasures to share with you from the estate. I hope you like what I will present in the coming issues.

My first Treasure is a DeVry 16mm Projector found in the basement; produced around 1935. Research brought me to Michael Rogge from Norway on the Internet and he had this to say: "Indeed you seem to have an exceptional model as none of my sources report on a C model. The history of DeVry is quite complicated. This may be the reason that this model escaped attention to the researchers. Lossau in his Movie Projectors does not mention this model either".

The following story is condensed from a article by Dr. **C. R. Crakes**.
Enjoy, Phil



A'sRUS Ford Club

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

**Herman DeVry
1876-1941**

Dr. Herman A. DeVry

**Founder of the world-famous DeVry Corporation,
"Founder of Visual Education"
Co-founder of DeVry Institute of Technology
(Now DeVry University)**

On March 23, 1941, in the city of Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., there came to a close the active life of a man whose influence on American education, if not on the education of the world, has been most dramatic and revolutionary. Tools of learning developed by this leader served as tremendous aids in the winning of the Second World War and will certainly have a tremendous influence on the training of the youth and adult population of the entire world in the future.

Herman Adolf DeVry, D.S., engineer, manufacturer and educator and, more specifically, the inventor of the first portable motion picture projector, is an American whose life history may well be taken as a saga or story by American youth.

Herman A. DeVry was born in Mecklenburg, Schwerin, Germany, November 26th, 1876, son of Wilhelm H. DeVry and Maria Kunigunde of Dirnberger, Germany. At the age of nine he came to this country with his parents and attended the public schools.

After receiving educational training offered in American public schools, this young man began his business career as a salesman for a barber supply concern. He next worked for a while in a retail sporting goods establishment. About 1894, we find him working in a penny arcade in Kansas City for a gentleman by the name of Guth. Mr. Guth had brought over from Europe one of the original Lumiere motion picture cameras. So far as records show, this was the first practical motion picture camera used in America. He very shortly learned how to take pictures and to project them with the same machine. Records indicate that limelight was used and that the flicker of the film on the screen was terrible.

We next find him serving as a motion picture operator in theatres at Galveston, Texas and Bisbee, Arizona. In these theatres the Lumiere camera and projector were largely used. The film was approximately 35mm in width, there being two holes under the center of each frame to engage the claws. The performance was anything but standard. A short time later, Herman secured and used a Gaumont machine. In 1900, young Herman engaged in a type of activity, which was to bring him considerable fame for the next ten years. During this year he secured and showed at the Omaha Exposition a film entitled The Battle of Manila. The first Edison motion picture projector was used for the showing of this picture.

In 1901 the young showman secured 900 feet of 35mm film showing the President McKinley funeral cortege. This picture was shown at carnivals in Buffalo, Washington and Canton, Ohio.



It was at this early stage in his career that, from the standpoint of an itinerant exhibitor, DeVry began to evolve those principles of economy of parts and reduction in size of equipment necessary for convenient transportation.

Coming into 1902 or 1903, we find Herman operating a bicycle repair shop in the 1600 block of 16th Street in Denver, Colorado. This building was located at the southeast approach of the 16th Street viaduct, a block and a half from Union Station. It was here that during his spare time he began to work with the rather crude motion picture cameras and projectors then being used.

From Denver he moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he worked in an electrical fixture shop and for a while served as city electrician. While in Tulsa he invented and built what was considered this nation's first traveling electric sign.

We next find this young wizard building intricate stage illusions and apparatus for several of the outstanding magicians of the time, including Thurston and the Great Herman.

Mr. DeVry next brought together a carnival in which he used the electric fountain and some of the illusions and mechanical figures. During 1905 and 1906. This carnival traveled all over northern Colorado and Wyoming. In 1908 Mr. DeVry was the first person to build and attempt to fly a plane in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He gave up this venture after two unsuccessful attempts. During these years in show business Herman continued to dream of some type of portable motion picture projector making it possible to bring motion pictures to a larger number of people than the limited theatres of that day. In 1910, he moved to Chicago, Illinois and became a cameraman for the Rothacker Corporation. It was here during his spare time he began to work on what was to be the world's first portable motion picture projector, or the *Theatre in a Suitcase*.

During this period he exhibited throughout the first flight theatre circuits one of the first travel lecture films called *Around the World in 90 Minutes*. During 1913 he took a trip to Texas and exhibited this film, which was made up partly of his own camera work and partly from various foreign sources.

In 1912 we find him devoting more time to experimental work on his portable projector. However most of his time was devoted to the production of movies, which he sold to weekly newsreels. His customers included Pathe, Universal, Melies, and Eclipse.

In 1913 he finally quit the road and started in earnest to make his dream of a portable motion picture projector come true. His laboratory and factory were in the basement of his home. To help finance his experimental work on his *Theatre in a Suitcase*, he built calliopes for circus use. In 1913 he formed the DeVry Corporation for the manufacture of his 35mm portable silent motion picture projector, the famous Model E.

In 1914, DeVry proceeded to manufacture the tools, which would be necessary to produce his projector. For now that he was sure of successful performance of his machine, he knew it must be made on a volume basis, as well as on the basis which would permit prices within the range of the public and could maintain a production schedule adequate for a general consumer's market.

In the spring of 1915, with plans well formulated and with sufficient experimental work completed to assure successful operation of his projector, the factory was opened at 117 North Wells Street, Chicago. Advertising was immediately placed before a doubting world announcing that movies were now possible outside of the theatre - indeed that they could now be shown at home and school with the same ease and efficiency that slides were used in a magic lantern. Even during these early days, he insisted on making a projector foolproof, as he expressed it, and so simple that a child could operate it.

The complete mechanism was housed inside a suitcase light enough for a boy to carry. These projectors were not toys - every wearing part was made from the finest steel for the same rugged and continuous service required for professional machines. These famous Type E models immediately became tremendously popular with schools, churches, and business firms. Including improved models, over 50,000 of the silent 35mm portable projectors were sold. This total is more than all other makes of similar portable projectors developed.

From this beginning in 1913, the business known as the DeVry Corporation grew and expanded to become the leading manufacturer of portable precision-built 35mm and 16mm motion picture projection equipment. Thus, with the introduction of his portable equipment, was ushered in the era of amateur motion pictures. It took much of the money that Herman realized from the sale of his early projectors to convince the public that so small a projector was practical. He soon made the DeVry E standard nontheatrical equipment in the schools and churches of America.

DeVry kept his projectors abreast of every improvement. A motor soon replaced the hand drive. In 1925, the famous 35mm "A" automatic newsreel camera became the favorite of newsreel men and explorers like Beebee, Byrd, Buck and Craig.

In the production of "Desert Victory"; the famous British war film of the World War II North African campaign, 95% of the footage was made with De Vry 35mm motion picture cameras. Early in 1925 he established the DeVry Summer School of Visual Instruction. This school was continued for a number of years, expenses being borne entirely by Herman DeVry. To the school came hundreds of educators and religious leaders to learn what was new and what the future held for motion pictures in education. Topics as Visual Aids in Church, Y.M.C.A and Community Work; The Literature, Organizations, Sources of Visual Education; Modern Pedagogy Applied to Film Lessons; Motion Pictures in the Business World; The Mechanics of Cinema Photography and Projection; Amateur and Professional Uses of the Movie Camera; State, County and City Centers of Visual Education.

The success of this summer school attracted such nationwide attention that eventually the entire project was taken over by a group of interested educators and became what is now known as the "National Conference on Visual Education. DeVry started producing a pioneer series of strictly educational films, which were made available along with lesson plans or teacher's guides, to schools throughout the nation. Eighty-six reels were produced and had wide distribution.

Everyone
Can Now
Enjoy
Home Movies



This is the new DeVry Home Movie Projector. It shows your own precious movies with sharp, flickerless theatre brilliance. It is silent, dependable, and amazingly easy to operate. It sells for the very reasonable price of \$95.00.

Go to your camera store today and ask for a demonstration. Learn how you can supplement your own movie program with the world's best photoplays, comedies, travelogues, etc., from the famous Pathegram Home Movie Library. Address the DeVry Corporation, Dept. 4-H, 1111 Center Street, Chicago, Illinois, for free folder.

DeVry

[102-8]

This organization produced some of the finest teaching and training films used in American schools. In 1927, DeVry introduced the famous Model G, a 16mm silent movie projector for home, school, church, club and business use. About this time there were also produced a number of pieces of equipment supplementary to the production and projection of motion picture films. A candid still, was introduced for mostly home study and resident training.

The original projector, hand made in 1912, is on permanent display at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

During World War II the DeVry Corporation was the only manufacturer of motion picture equipment to earn five Army-Navy flags for excellence in production and quality.

The company developed and produced the world-famous J.A.N. (Joint Army Navy) 16mm sound projector, which still remains as the standard for the Armed forces, with no peer.

A DeVry 35mm automatic was the first movie camera placed in a V2 rocket to take movies 65 miles in outer space. Johns Hopkins University conducted this epochal event in November, 1946.

The DeVry brothers also founded Energy Concepts, Inc., a leading supplier and developer of electronic training systems and equipment. Over five thousand public and private educational institutions, and hundreds of industrial firms use these training materials.

In January 1975, the National Audio Visual Association, in a convention at Las Vegas, Nevada, honored the DeVry family in part as follows "Whereas the DeVrys, father and sons, through their vision and leadership played a significant role in the creation of useful and practical audio-visual devices; and Whereas, this innovative family, Herman the father, and Edward B. and William C. the sons, played a leading role in the birth of the audio visual industry as we know it today..."

DeVry Technical Institute, a family enterprise, needed additional capital to expand its two schools in Chicago and Canada so they decided to merge with Bell & Howell, which resulted in four additional schools throughout the United States, bringing the total to six.

In 2014, DeVry had over 60,000 students across 90 campuses throughout North America and over the Internet.



Presidents Comments

As I write this it's a blazin 89 degrees outside. Next week it will drop like a rock. The unofficial end of summer is upon us. However there are several upcoming road trips planned before the snow flies. We are looking forward to all of them. I went to go to the Tinley Park Cruise night on Tuesday and they are already over for the year. Really? Way to early to end their season. Several of us made it out to the Blue Island cruise night. We were the featured guests. A cloudy day but nonetheless an enjoyable evening. Even got my son to bring his 1951 Chevy truck. He's beginning to venture out further from home. I remember when I got my first Model A, "The yellow coupe". I thought it would travel to the ice cream stand, and I wondered would I make it there and back? Many thousands of miles later, along with many states of squiggly roads (a reference to our editor in chief Phil Serviss), it's amazing that there is no longer that fear of will I make it back home. Actually a better thought is just when will it break down and the ladies crack open a bottle of wine, open the cheese and crackers, and wait for the repairs to be completed. Dale and I do take it for outings in-between our club trips, and she loves to wave. Even at the ice cream stand she enjoys letting the kids climb on in and show them where the horn button is! And that's an important aspect of our hobby. Getting future generations to have an interest in this early auto history. To experience the ride in a rumble seat, to hear our distinguishable ahoogah horn, traveling back roads of our country, and most important, making memories with family and friends.

Ken aka "Squeaks"



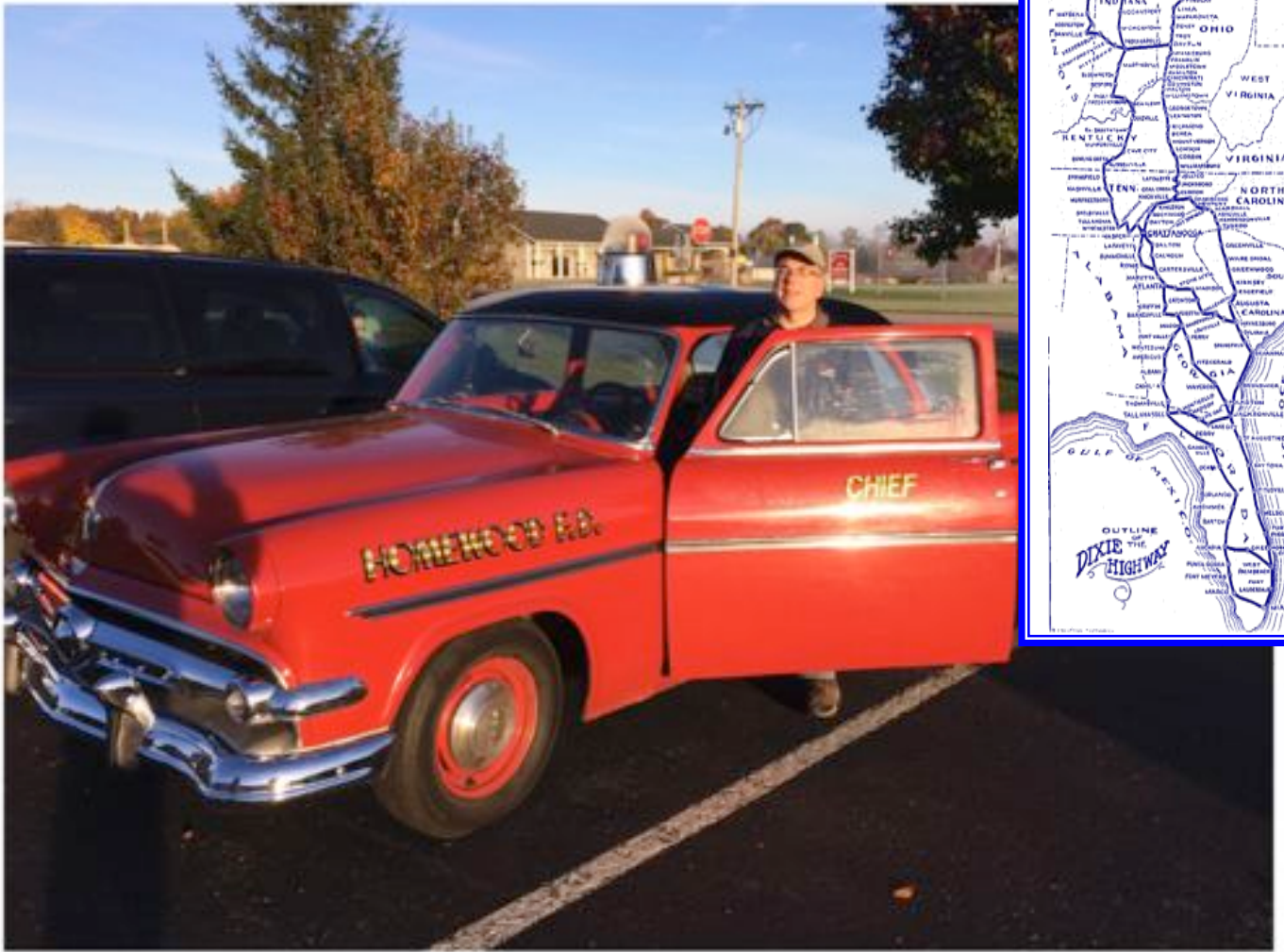
For Sale

Bob Granko Jr, is selling his four-door. It's a 1929 Murray four Door sedan. It was a ground up restoration probably 10 to 15 years ago. All new wood rebuilt engine etc. For more information contact him directly. He wants \$15,000 and his price is firm. If you have an interest, [815-645-4533](tel:815-645-4533).



DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



Jim has the month off and I have reprinted the first two articles from March and April of 2009.

As you can see the pages were a lot less colorful and only were 1 page. Now he gives me up to 3 pages worth of information for everyone to read. Enjoy the trip back to 2009.

**RELEASE IN JUNE 2009 TO
HISTORICAL SOCIETYS NEAR
YOU!!!**

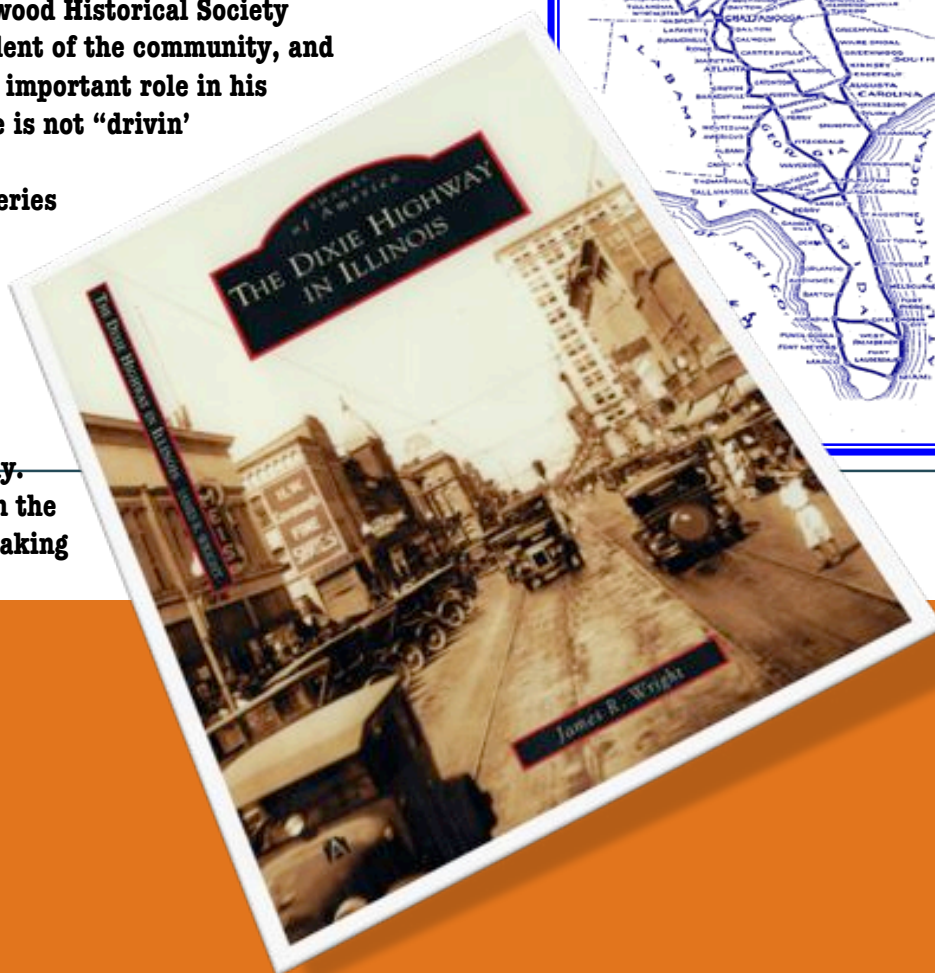
The Dixie Highway, once a main thoroughfare from Chicago to Miami, was part of an improved network of roads traversing the landscape of 10 states. A product of the Good Roads Movement of the early 20th century, construction on the highway in Illinois took place from 1916 to 1921. When completed in 1921, the Dixie Highway was the longest continuous paved road in the state. It ran through parts of Cook, Will, Kankakee, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties, with service stations, roadside diners, and campgrounds sprouting up along the way.

With over 200 vintage photographs, The Dixie Highway in Illinois takes readers on a tour from the Art Institute in the heart of Chicago on Michigan Avenue to the Illinois state line east of Danville, exploring this historic highway and the communities it passes through.

James R. Wright is a local historian and author and has been a member of the Homewood Historical Society since 1983. He is a lifelong resident of the community, and the Dixie Highway has played an important role in his life. Hardly a day goes by that he is not “drivin’ the Dixie.”

The Images of America series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shapes the character of the community today. Arcadia is proud to play a part in the preservation of local heritage, making history available to all.

**IMAGES
Of America
“The Dixie Highway
In Illinois”
James R. Wright**



DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright

Paving the Dixie Highway in Illinois started in 1916 and was completed by August 1921. Most of the highway, which extended from Chicago to Danville, was paved with concrete. Here, work crews are completing a stretch of concrete pavement in Iroquois County just north of the Vermilion County line. The photo from 1920 is a great shot showing the light rail locomotive used for hauling aggregate materials to the site, the steam-powered paver and a screeding or finishing device with a team of horses next to it. In Vermilion County, most of the highway was paved with brick.



Dick Tracy 1930 Strip #1



Sandy Kaleta Reporter on The Know!



Pratique. ENVELOPEUR 99 fr.
bains tête, cheveux traités. **25 fr.**

FER à friser 3.90

21 307. BARBETTE à ongles.
Long. 10 cm. Nickelée. **1.45**

BROSSE A TETE soie blanche.
dos bois des Iles. 9 rangs. . . **9.75**
11 rangs . **12.50** | 13 rangs . **14.90**

VAPORISATEUR
pâte soie, effet
cristal, bouchon
nickelé. **7.85**

21 307. RAU DE COLOGNE fine, extra
vieille. Le flacon,
20 fr. 13 fr. **2.50**
5 fr. 5 fr. et

LAVE-TÊTE
cuivre nickelé, cuvette
creuse, pied fonte
avec robinet
de vidange. **150 fr.**

21-5368. Démétoir-râteau à
manche, belle corne jaspée,
longueur 20 ½..... **284. »**

**A'S R US MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 15, 2015**

MEETING LOCATION: HOST: STEVE COE @ 349 Main St. Park Forest, IL

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT KEN CHAMIS AT 7:09 PM. The minutes were read by Sandy and approved as read.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Jim gave a thorough report including bill submissions from Driving the Dixie. Dixie Account: [REDACTED]. A'S Account: [REDACTED].

Jim discussed the need to order more T Shirts for our Fall Trip. Jim reported there are 24 shirts left 2 more were sold.

FAMILY NEWS:

Phil & Nancy announced that Jennifer had Twins and Sarah is expecting. Linnae will be having surgery on August 25th. Remember her is your prayers.

OLD BUSINESS:

DRIVING THE DIXIE 2016:

Jim reported that 5 communities were present at the meeting and are interested in running D/D again in 2016. Phil again noted that attendees were very positive this year about the event. Bob and Ken suggesting we revamp the event for next year to make it more interesting and bring back previous participants.

SIGN DEDICATIONS:

Crete and Homewood had their sign dedications. Jon noted that the Crete Newspaper ran a very nice article regarding the dedication and the A'SRUS were mentioned frequently. QR LINK: Again it was noted the need to add a QR link to the signs, possibly as an add-on.

GRINDERS:

Game is August 23rd at 2:00 at the Hobart Field. Bring chairs, food and own beverages. Bring a goodie to share. There will be 2 meeting times, 11:00 and 11:30, an e-mail to go out to the membership.

CAMP QUALITY:

Was a success, the weather was nice and there were 8 or 9 cars.

THANKS TO:

Tim and Connie for a fun time at All Shook Up and Teibols Restaurant.

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

**Karen reported that she needs to be in touch with Gerry.
More info to follow.**

MANTENO VETERANS HOME:

Was not available in September and the date of October 17 didn't work for the club. Conversation ensued re: another VA facility in Melrose Park, but the event appears to be cancelled for this year.

BALMORAL RACE TRACK:

Wally reported that the Lincoln room would be available to us. A buffet dinner on Saturdays is \$22.95 @ and on Sundays \$16.95 @. The membership was interested in Saturday November 7th and it was discussed briefly that we would be in period dress. Wally will follow up.

OTTAWA ILLINOIS HISTORIC WALK:

Wally reported that this could be turned into an overnight event, Saturday September 26th and Sunday September 27th. The membership agreed. So far Steve, Randy, Karen, Jerry, Wally, Bob, Jim and Al expressed interest. More information will be sent to the membership by e-mail. If interested contact Wally directly to make arrangements.

CORN/SHRIMP BOIL:

Cedar Lake on Saturday September 5th at 3-4:00. An e-mail will go out and if interested please notify Wally or Tim.

FALL TRIP: Jim reported that Danville will be dedicating two signs, there will be a Museum event and then a car show program on the Dixie Highway. Jim is going to check on Van rentals to take those interested to the Covered Bridge Festival. Jim further stated that we are counting on the Chuck Wagon for Friday. Wally shared that Chuck notified him it would be ready. Jim asked if the A's wanted to make a donation of an A'SRUS shirt to the mayors or officials of the towns participating in the Sign Dedications. The motion was made and approved by Bob and Al . It was proposed by Bob that we purchase 50 more shirts at [REDACTED] a piece to take to Danville to donate or sell for \$10.00 a piece. This motion was approved and second by Bonnie.

NEW BUSINESS:

MAFCA MUSEUM has requested more funding from the Model A Clubs. It was decided the A's would make their regular donation of \$100.00 in December.

GILMORE 1-DAY TRIP:

September 19th 9:00 till 4:00. Ken stated a notice will be e-mailed and there will be no Model A's driven. Possibly a single van for everyone wanting to attend.

DUES: Jim reported it is time to pay our club and MAFCA dues. \$20.00 to the A's and \$40.00 to MAFCA. A check for \$60.00 needs to be paid to Jim by the November meeting at the latest.

OCTOBER MEETING:

Saturday October 24th at 5:00. Hayride/Meeting. Menu To be discussed at the September meeting. This meeting is open to member's families.

MISC DISCUSSIONS:

BRIDGE TEEN CENTER:

_Bob mentioned there will be an engine demo on September 10th. Nothing had been decided as yet. Call Bob if interested.

BLUE ISLAND CRUISE NIGHT:

Monday August 24th at 5:00. Western Ave and York Street.

DIXIE HIGHWAY SIGNS:

Ron made mention that he has noticed the color red has and is fading on the Dixie Highway signs. It was noted these signs were purchased from Roeda in South Holland. Jim agreed and stated he will contact Roeda to see what can be done about that. Ron also recommended we add a small placquard under the posted signs indicating 100 years. Jim said he will send an image of the existing signs to show the fade and an image of the sign Bobs daughter designed for 100 years to Roeda.

**Next months mtg: SEPTEMBER 16TH at Al & Sandy's house 5035 W. 171st Street
Tinley Park, Il**

Breakfast Meeting for August was tabled.

Badge fines: _\$2.00; 50/50: _\$85.00; Winner: Allan E. \$42.00 / Club \$43.00

Adjourn: Ken thanked Steve for hosting our meeting and everyone who brought goodies. Ken adjourned the meeting at 8:40.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

**SANDY KALETA
SECRETARY**

Up and coming 2015 Events:



DeVry cameras

Looking forward into 2015

Teen Bridge Center

Veterans Home

58th. Annual Hesston Steam & Power Show 2015

Newport Hill Climb

Fall Trip

Camp Quality

Labor Day Sept. 1st

October 3rd - 5th

October 8,9,10

**Dues are due this months meeting. Bring
your $\frac{1}{4}$ sheet and \$60.00**

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

1920's advertizing car.

Submitted by Fran Granko



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

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