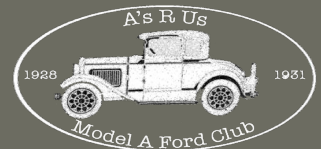


BACKFIRE



Volume #21

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*The Carp,
Editor in Chief*

Summer is finally here. I found that I had minimally buried both cars under junk over the winter. It didn't take long and I opened the garage and took both A's out for a drive. Now it's time to wash them and change the oil. Grease the suspension, steering links and check fluids in the steering box and trans. I plan on taking the 29 on the spring trip in a few weeks and then the 30 will go for the long haul to Greenfield, Michigan. In the mean time I have to clean the garage.

Phil



Another project update; The engine is back into the 1936 Ford. This was Glenwood's first fire truck bought used from Joliet, IL

Presidents Comments

Well last Wednesday we had a tech talk at Al Kaleta's home. This was the 2ND Tech talk in a series redoing his engine. As you can see in the picture we had plenty of help. Definitely appreciative to all those lend a hand. So now the engine is assembled and it will be put into his car prior to the Shakedown Cruise. Most of his original parts were used because all that was really wrong was the Babbitt. He is putting a new clutch, pressure plate and other parts in the car as it's a smart thing to do since it's all apart. This should run very well and drive like a brand new car. And hopefully this is the last time that this is ever taken apart. It should be as everything is more or less put back to original. So it would be good for many more thousands of miles. During this process a lot of people were instrumental doing some of the work prior as Ray Schmudes machine work to Jon Lisota, Bob Steinmetz, Bill Seper Tim Bots, Steve Coe, Randy Senkpeil and myself. Even my son Nik Chamis watched some of it. His 1951 Chevy truck has babbitt too. That's one of the nice part about being in a club is that you've got people willing to lend a hand so I know I was very appreciative also. So we still have one more Tech talk of the installation into the car which should only take a few hours and will get that done soon and get the car back on the road. There are still two more engines waiting in the wings to be built and we will try to do that maybe on a Saturday so those that work come and see what it's all about also. Some of the guys there last night definitely learned some things about their cars and that's what it's all about.



Ken

Jon Lisota: Motor Medic



The tech talk was held at Al Koleta's house this last Wednesday. About seven members showed up for the final assembly of Al's engine. We gauged the main bearings to 1-1/2 thousands. Then the valves needed to be readjusted after being reinstalled. The deck had been resurfaced and several thousands taken off, to clean it up. Some members tried their hand at adjusting the valves. The engine was then assembled with all new gaskets. This process took about five hours. Now it is ready to be installed back into Al's car. In the coming week we will try and install the engine back into his car.



HAROLD LLOYD

Born: April 20, 1893, Burchard, NE

Died: March 8, 1971, Beverly Hills, CA

Harold Lloyd was an American film actor and producer, most famous for his silent comedies.

Harold Lloyd in Safety Last



A standout contributor to the art of silent film comedy, Harold Lloyd (1893-1971) offers new generations a body of film work that is as fresh and entertaining as in its day. His roots were simple - born in rural Nebraska, product of a broken home, and initially destined for legitimate stage - yet by the 1920s Lloyd was, both at the box office and in the polls, the most popular comic actor in the world. His appeal was simple, yet legendary: the his Glasses Character, which formed the basis of roles from 1917-1947, Lloyd struck gold with a screen persona that forged new ground. The Boy, as he was most often called, had one trademark - lens-less horn-rimmed glasses- yet was able to reach audiences as no

contemporary could. He is regarded as the man who most greatly influenced eyeglass-wearing in America, and this single facet of Lloyd inspired youth worldwide. His screen normalcy - in look and demeanor - allowed moviegoers to relate to the Glass Character no matter what his label. Rich or poor, cowardly or flip, from film to film, Lloyd was a different Boy, and was able to create a cinematic legacy that remains both diverse and uniformly thrilling. Harold Lloyd might just be the funniest actor you've never seen - a silent screen comedian so often placed in the shadow of Chaplin and Keaton - but he continues to shine in some of the most enduring short- and feature-length comedies ever offered to audiences.

Contributed by: Steve Coe

Sandy Kaleta Reporter on The Know

1920 STYLE JEWELRY:

New 1920s costume jewelry, earrings, necklaces and bracelets.

Vintage inspired and vintage reproductions, long pearl necklaces, large gem stones, bangles and sparkling filigree are all icons of the 1920s.

Earrings were long drops that exposed the neck. Necklaces were single strands of beads or pearls and some had tasseled ends.

Bracelets were thick cuffs of gemstones or rounded bangles.

1920s jewelry was simple but colorful. Black, red, orange, teal and Sage were all popular colors of gems and beads.

Add some of this jewelry to your flapper or Downton Abbey outfit. You can find these pieces at any costume jewelry counter today.

Don't forget Hair Accessories too.





Phase Eight Melanie



Rosary Tassel Necklace



Deco Glam Pavé Barrette



Phase Eight Tilly Pearl



Black 60 Long Pearl



Phase Eight Aurelia



Circle Disc Link Bracelet

DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



One of our stops on the 100th Anniversary to dedicate the "Heritage Park Board" In Crete, IL.

DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright

Crete: farm towns growth fueled by horse racing & golf courses

Fur trader Gurdon Hubbard established trading posts from Danville to Chicago in the 1820s. He marked a trail for his pack ponies to carry the goods he traded with the Indians for their furs. The trail, known as "*Hubbard's Trace*" on early maps, eventually became the width of two wagons as early pioneers followed the trace.

In 1836 the Illinois General Assembly created a state road that connected Fort Vincennes in Indiana with Fort Dearborn in Chicago. The trail was selected as the most direct and favorable route as the first official route in Illinois, thus *Route 1*.

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 create a north-south route of connected paved roads from Chicago to Miami so automobile enthusiasts from the north could vacation in the south. Dirt roads on the Highway were paved, including Crete's Main Street, which was paved with concrete in 1920.

Crete: Historic Village and Township

In 1836, after a strenuous 5-week journey from Vermont, Willard and Dyantha Wood set foot in the Illinois wilderness that would become Crete. They built a small log cabin and farmed the land along the Chicago-Vincennes rutted dirt road. In 1848 Willard and Dyantha replaced their cabin with the Woods Hotel to meet the needs of the growing number of travelers on the road. Churches and more businesses were established on both sides of Crete's Main Street as settlers arrived to homestead the land and for a better life. In 1880 Crete officially incorporated as a Village.

In 1903 the first car built by a Crete machinist and fire chief, Myron Quackenbush, appeared on Main Street with the existing horses and carriages. Through most of Illinois, cars and horses continued to travel on dirt roads that were maintained by each town. By 1915 Crete boasted 200 cars. After Dixie Highway was paved, travel by cars became easier and faster.

By 1925 Colonel Matt Winn of Churchill Downs chose Crete as the location for his next racetrack. On Lincoln Fields' opening day on August 9, 1926, and each racing day thereafter, car after car traveled through Crete creating a massive traffic jam the length of Main Street. In 1955 the new owners of the racetrack changed the name to Balmoral Park.

As more people discovered the beauty of Crete's landscape, a Chicago group of investors built Crete's first 18 hole golf course in 1927 and Lincolnshire Country Club in 1928. Two more Lincolnshire golf courses opened in 1929 and lots around the courses were sold for homes. As additional 18 hole courses were built at Longwood, which straddles the state line, Tuckaway, Deer Creek, Balmoral Woods and Lincoln Oaks, which purchased one of Lincolnshire's courses, Crete has become a haven for golfers and also for homeowners who have built around the golf courses.

“Shake down Cruise”

The date of the Shake Down Cruise has been changed to Sunday, May 1st. Like last year, we are combining our cruise with a brunch to include 8 persons who purchased our recent Model-A ride/brunch auction donation to The Bridge Teen Center. Our destination for brunch is the Old Country Mansion in Dwight, IL (\$15.50 adults, \$7.50 kids under 10 plus tax and tip), with a few short stops, west and south, along the way. We will meet in Tinley Park in the Plaza parking lot at 177th and Oak Park, at 9:30 A.M. to pick up our guests. Please let Steve Coe know if you are planning on attending, as soon as possible, but no later than April 10th, scoe@vopf.com as reservations must be made at the Mansion for a large group. We look forward to seeing you there!

LAKESIDE INN IS ONLY HOLDING THE 4 REMAINING ROOMS TILL MARCH 20TH. IF INTERESTED PLEASE RESERVE NOW. 1-269-469-0600 *You can still try to reserve by calling*

CALUMET REGION SOUP DAY IS APRIL 17TH, IF INTERESTED IN ATTENDING PLEASE RESPOND BY APRIL 5TH.

**APRIL 20TH MEETING WILL BE AT:
ALLAN AND ROSALYNDAS
1633 RIDGE ROAD, HOMEWOOD, IL.**

A'S R US MEETING MINUTES

March 16, 2016

MEETING LOCATION: Bill and Maryellen Seper

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT KEN CHAMIS AT 7:08 PM. Minutes were read and approved as corrected. (There were 4 badge fines at February meeting)

TREASURERS REPORT:

Ken gave a brief treasures report. Dixie Account was \$ [REDACTED] and A's account was \$ [REDACTED], after expenses. Report was approved as read.

FAMILY NEWS:

Congratulations to Phil and Nancy for their three new grandchildren.

OLD BUSINESS:

APRIL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT ALLAN AND ROSALINDA EKSTROMs home.

CALUMET REGION SOUP DAY: April 17th 673 Penfield, Beecher, Il. Please respond by April 5th if you are attending. \$8.00 per person, \$15.00 per couple.

SPRING TRIP: Bob reported that there are only 4 rooms left Lakeside Inn, 269-469-0600. They will only hold them till March 20th. If you want to go please respond now.

BRIDGE AUCTION: Bob reported that their auction was again very successful. We will be taking several couples to lunch this year and it is possible we will Combine this event with our SHAKEDOWN CRUISE. That would change the date of our cruise. The date options chosen were April 24th or May 1st both dates are on a Sunday. Bob will let us know as soon as he hears from the Bridge.

BRIDGE WELDING EVENT: So far has been successful, 12 Kids, 6 girls/6boys, led by Claude, Travis and Bob. Bob asked for a couple volunteers for the next event as Claude and Travis will not be able to attend.

FORD STAMPING EVENT: Jon stated the open house is to be at the Chicago Heights Plant on May 14th. They have requested we bring our Model A's. Jon will find out the number of cars they would like and the time frame.

SHIRTS:

Ken reported we have 15 XXL and 10 XL remaining from our Driving the Dixie purchase last year. Color was discussed and Red or Gold were the popular colors for 2016. Ken will discuss our options with Jim.

A'SRUS SHIRTS: Tim D. reported that shirts without pockets are \$28.00, with pockets \$32.50. Wally asked that Tim look into Denim shirts. Tim will look into pricing. Orders will not be placed until after our April meeting.

TECH TALK:

Will be scheduled at the Kaleta home. Date and time to be announced.

Project; assembly of Red's engine followed by installation.

Two dates will be announced, everyone is welcome.

DIXIE MEETING, MARCH 12TH. Tim B. reported that the majority of the communities were present. They were receptive to reducing the number of prizes to 12 nice prizes and 1 grand prize. They were receptive to running a faster event ending in Momence by 3:00 PM and having lunch in Steger. Momence is willing to put together a Scavenger Hunt as a trial for future events.

We need event maps from the communities. As before their main theme for the community participation is to promote their history not merchandising.

NEW BUSINESS :

HOSTS: Ken opened a discussion regarding hosting of our monthly meetings and or the option of renting a park district room and take turns providing food. The members present expressed their desire to meet at member's homes. It was suggested we start the sign ups earlier than December. This year is complete.

JOLIET SPEEDWAY:

Bob suggested we investigate the option of a Vintage Drag Race as a fundraiser. Discussion followed, Jack suggested we also look into the option of the Old 41 for an event. He said the biggest need for an event like that is

marketing. If we are interested in pursuing a race, it will probably take 2 years to put it together and market.

MISC DISCUSSIONS:

FORD MODEL A SWAP: TAKES PLACE THIS SUNDAY IN Roselle, 7am to 2pm. There will be 20 vendors selling mostly used Model A parts.

THE STATE OF ILLINOIS HISTORIC SOCIETY IN SPRINGFIELD is presenting the A'SRUS with an award for our 100 years Dixie Highway Event. Tim B stated he will be in Springfield on April 23rd with his Chef class, who will be cooking for an event. He stated he would be happy to accept the award for us. Phil stated he also might be in Springfield that day.

UP COMING EVENTS: Briefly discussed.

July 4th Parade, Homewood;

Memorial Day Parade, Crete

Manteno VA Home, Jim to check into an event this year

Ronald McDonald House, Dale to check into an event this year.

BREAKFAST MEETING scheduled for April 2nd, 8:30 am, Peachtree Restaurant

Badge fines: \$4.00: winner Steve \$28.00 and club \$29.00 Total \$57.00

Thanks again to Bill and Maryellen for hosting our March meeting and for the snacks and desserts.

Next months mtg: APRIL 20TH. 7:00 PM

HOSTS: ALLAN AND ROSALINDA EKSTROM

1633 RIDGE ROAD

HOMWOOD, IL

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:08 pm KEN proposed a discussion to follow, on the "proverbial main rear leak, oil cap and tube leaks".

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: Sandy Kaleta, Secretary

A's R Us 2016 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

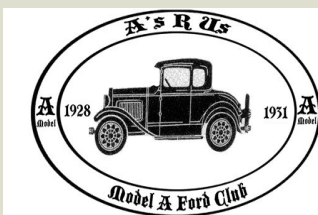
Putting together Al's engine
for "Big Red"



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

E Mail to: taxserviss@att.net

BACKFIRE



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