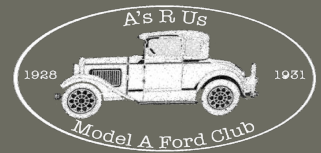


BACKFIRE



Volume #21

Issue #3

March 2016



*The Carp,
Editor in Chief*

The grandchildren are here!
Jennifer gave birth to two healthy babies.
Brady 6.6 lb's and Mackenzie
6.0 lb's. Then 5 days later Sarah had
Wyatt 7.8 lb's. All are doing well and
Nancy and I couldn't be happier. I would
say that this has been a busy month.
Model A's? I hope to get them out soon.
We will have to see how time allows as
you can tell. **Phil**



Presidents Comments

There is a movie quote by Dustin Hoffman where he asks “is it safe”. Which leads me to the thought is winter over and is it safe to take the ‘A’ out yet? The weather took a quick turn for the better and I’m contemplating unwrapping it. I hope the battery kept its charge over the winter.

By the time you read this we will have had a breakfast/Dixie meeting. Lots to get buttoned down and it is fast approaching. On the day of the event we hope to have all hands on deck to help our once a year formal and most profitable event. The proceeds help us to provide numerous charitable functions during the year. However small the gesture, the rewards are always big. So save the date of June 18th please.

A quick thank you to Sandy Kaleta for shooting e-mails to the membership. Without reminders I think some would be disappointed at missing events, etc.

Here is a follow-up on Al Kaletas engine. It will be getting new Babbitt and is due back by the end of the month. I have a goal of 2 tech talks. First will be assembly of the engine, and second will be the installation. I hope to see it fired up by April 10th with the assistance of our fellow members. Without their knowledge and assistance, many of us would probably not be enjoying this hobby, so THANKS. E-mails will go out on the upcoming dates. Help will be needed, and even if you wish to watch and learn, valuable tips will be learned.

And finally a huge thanks to Ray Schmude. During this engine rebuilding process some of us are also getting engines done. With numerous times to the shop, he has given me insight into the engine rebuilding process. And also has shown me the tools needed to make our parts usable again.

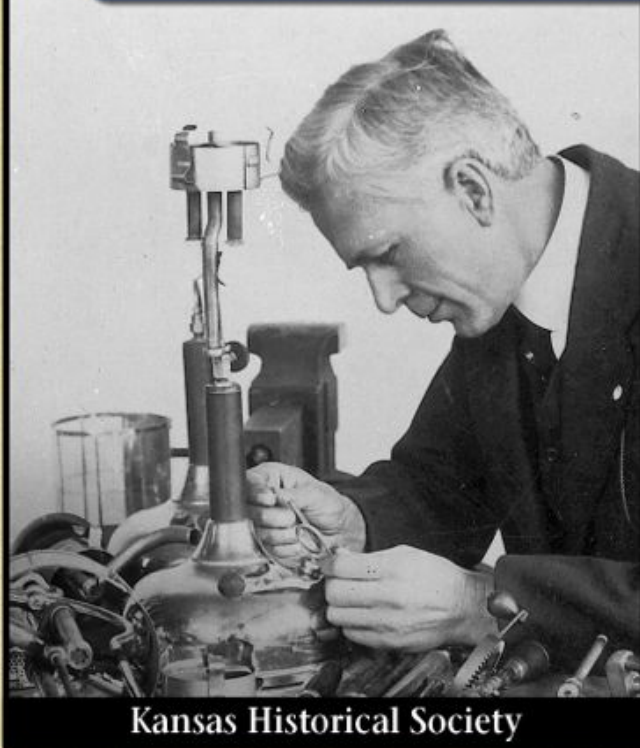
Ken



HISTORY FROM THE WEB



Meet William Coleman



Kansas Historical Society



FIRST LIGHT (1900 – 1929)

In 1905, W.C. Coleman wanted to demonstrate just what his new gas lamps were capable of. He strung his lamps from poles on both sides of the football field at Fairmount College in Wichita, Kansas. According to Coleman historians, the first night football game west of the Mississippi occurred that evening under Coleman gas lights and resulted in a 24-0 shutout of Cooper College by the Fairmount College Wheatshockers.

At the turn of the century in America, electric service was not an option in rural parts of the country. When the sun went down, the work day ended. In 1909, W.C. Coleman started selling a portable table lamp that would become a staple in rural homes, and five years later introduced a product that would help transform the company from a local concern into a national necessity. The new 300 candlepower lantern provided working light in every direction for 100 yards and could light the far corners of a barn. The Coleman® lantern lengthened the time farmers and ranchers could work. This significantly boosted productivity, and fundamentally changed the work dynamic in rural America. It wasn't just for civilians either, as the U.S. Government declared this lantern an "essential item" for the troops serving in World War I, and nearly 70,000 lanterns were distributed to American forces fighting in Europe.

Sandy Kaleta Reporter on The Know

DOWNTON ABBEY

THE FINAL SEASON OF DOWNTON ABBEY IS ALMOST OVER. SOME OF OF THE FAVORITE LOOKS FROM CURRENT AND PAST SEASONS ARE PORTRAYED BELOW.

THE DINNER DRESS IS EVERYONES FAVORITE, BEADED LACE AND AND EMBROIDERED GOWNS.

NOT ALL OF LIFE AT DOWNTON WAS SPENT IN GLAMOROUS EVENING ATTIRE.

IN THE 1920'S DAY TIME FASHION TURNED FROM MOSTLY DRESSES TO SPORTIER CASUAL SEPARATES. LOOSE FITTING

BLOUSES, LONG THIN SKIRTS AND CARDIGAN STYLE LIGHT WEIGHT JACKETS WERE THE RAGE. THE DROP WAIST WAS IN FASHION AND EVERYTHING A WOMAN WORE MADE HER FIGURE APPEAR TALLER.

TO CREATE THESE LOOKS, USE WHAT YOU HAVE OR CAN BUY ON LINE (<http://vintagedancer.com/1920s/>). THERE ARE DOWNTON ABBEY 1920 COSTUME IDEAS FOR ALL OCCASIONS DAY TO NIGHT.



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DOWNTON ABBEY COSTUME IDEAS



VintageDancer.com



The Lakeside Inn

has a long and varied history.

Seventy-eight acres including land now occupied by the Lakeside Inn were purchased in 1844 by 58 year old Alfred Ames, who came from Vermont. The area was known as the Clay Banks because sailors used the high clay bluffs as

landmarks as they sailed along the lake shore. Ames' wife, Mary, remained in Illinois for the first year while Alfred built a log cabin on the property. This was the first home built on the lake proper in the area. The first school in the township was at the Ames' house with Mrs. Ames acting as the teacher of the nine children in attendance. The Ames themselves had two children, Alfred born in 1848, and Fisher in 1856. Alfred Ames died young of small pox in 1864. At the young age of 12 Fisher became the man of the family and helped his mother open a resort on the lake called Pleasant Grove. Sunday school gatherings as well as family picnics were the normal event at Pleasant Grove during the summer months. The Ames' Grove was also the meeting place of the Lakeside Anti-Horse Thief Association, formed in 1876. Legend has it that a horse thief was once hanged from a beech tree on the bluff along the lake, in front of where the hotel now stands.

The most illustrious owner of the property was Arthur Aylesworth. He and his brother discovered the resort as boys on a camping trip, and in 1901 persuaded their parents to purchase it, including almost 30 acres of land for \$4,500. Arthur Aylesworth's father died in 1917, and two years later his mother deeded the property to him. He had been a world adventurer, having traveled in South America, and produced films about his game hunting in Alaska. He had toured with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, operated a gambling hall and bar in Las Vegas, and had married and divorced Florence Young, the sister of a movie star named Clare Kimball Young. At this time the property was referred to as the Aylesworth Hotel.

After the turn of the century automobile traffic had become more frequent on Lake Shore Road, which went all the way to Chicago, and the inn had to be expanded with the first of what ultimately would be three additions.



The most prosperous era for the Lakeside Inn was the 1920s when the economic boom and increased use of the automobile made it a major vacation spot for Chicagoans, and others. Rooms, which rented for \$7.50 per night, were often reserved a year in advance, and Sunday dinner cost \$2.50. The restaurant employed African-American waiters who worked at the Palmer House in Chicago during the rest of the year. Aylesworth had beautiful gardens, and a mini-zoo behind the hotel, which included a pet bear, deer, goats, and peacocks. There was gambling just off the lobby, and heavy consumption of liquor, especially during Prohibition. In fact, it is said the bootleggers' boats from Canada would beach themselves in front of the hotel, and the guests would wade out into the lake to help unload the cases of whiskey.

At about 10:00 o'clock each night, the handyman who lived in one of the out-buildings behind the inn, would be awakened, he says by the ghost of Virginia Aylesworth, and he would go to the inn, wake up Mr. Aylesworth, and tell him it was time to undress and go to bed. Through the following decades, many people have detected the presence of the ghost of Mrs. Aylesworth, perhaps most especially artists from Eastern Europe who were there in the 1980s, but also including guests up to the present day. There is less agreement as to whether there's also a male ghost on the premises, presumably Mr. Aylesworth. A guest at a recent wedding in the ballroom swears she saw his outline there, complete with his pet raccoon on his shoulder. In any event, all indications are they are harmless, and pleased with the inn's current reincarnation.

**A'S R US MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2016**

MEETING LOCATION: Bill and MaryEllen Seper

CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT KEN CHAMIS AT 7:18 PM. January Minutes were read, and approved as read.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Jim reported the Dixie account balance was \$ [REDACTED] and the A'SRUS account balance was \$ [REDACTED]. Driving the Dixie expenses were discussed at the meeting and above balance for driving the dixie account includes a \$ [REDACTED] after expenses deposit.

FAMILY NEWS:

MaryEllen and Bill announced that their daughter will be getting married in June.

MAIL:

Ken read a thank you for our donation to Model A Youth Restoration. It was discussed that our grand children who are old enough (under 21) and have an interest in the Model A's should register and take advantage of sponsorship and possibly a \$2,000.00 donation toward the restoration of a car. Sign up on their website: WWW.Maffi.org. Ken proposed A'SRUS sponsor their membership as we are a family club. There was no motion made.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tim Borchert, volunteered to host the September meeting.

WE STILL NEED A HOST FOR THE MARCH MEETING.

SHAKE DOWN CRUISE:

SATURDAY APRIL 30TH. We will meet at the Country Charm Restaurant, Rte. 30 in New Lenox. If you are planning on breakfast arrive around 8:00 and we will leave around 9:30.

SPRING TRIP:

Tim Dionne reported that he talked with the Lakeside Inn. They presently have 24 rooms reserved for us, only 14 have been reserved to date. If you are interested in going please make your reservation. They are offering pay for one night and get the second free. May 20 & 21st Lakeside Inn 269-469-0600

DIXIE DASH:

Jim and Ken reported that they have proposed shortening the day and having it end at 3 or 4 o'clock at Grant Park. The communities seemed receptive, but nothing has been finalized yet. We talked about continuing the Poker Run, 10 in a Bag, and selling more t-shirts. Jim is checking with the printer for price and we need a count on the sizes we still have. It was proposed that Gerry and Ray run this project again. It was also proposed that the community's put together a Find The Facts and that gifts be given for correct answers. Ken proposed that our club form visiting teams to reach out to other car groups in the area, to motivate interest in Driving the Dixie. All the men present at the meeting were receptive to doing that. Dale proposed that we advertise with MAFCA, Lead Foot, The Patch, Local papers as well as the internet. Ken and Al feel we can have as many as 200 cars/400 people. The communities liked the Find the Facts idea. Next meeting March 12th.

NEW BUSINESS :

NEWSLETTER: To help keep out newsletter current, Al K. proposed that the chairs of events take pictures, write a couple paragraphs or more and submit them to Phil. Discussion followed and was approved. Everyone is always welcome to submit articles or pictures to Phil.

DALE proposed we obtain more red Henley, club shirts for new members and those who wish to purchase another one. Randy proposed getting a pocket, Henley for those interested. Tim D. will look into availability and price for both style shirts.

MISC DISCUSSIONS:

DALE expressed an interest in attending the Michianna Antique Vintage Arts and Handicraft SpringFest Show in Michianna on Saturday April 22nd. This would not be a Model A trip. If interested in going e-mail Dale at hidamma@gmail.com

TECH TALK:

A Tech Talk will be held at Al Kaleta's garage, 5035 W. 171st Street date and time to be set. Project: to reassemble Big Reds engine and install it.

BREAKFAST MEETING:

March 12th, 8:30AM at Peachtree Restaurant

Badge fines: 50/50: winner Ken \$24.00 and amount to the club \$24.00

Ken thanked Bill and MaryEllen for their hospitality and goodies. Mini Tech Talk: members were in awe at the progress made on the Sepers 1934 Pontiac.

Next months mtg: March 16th at 7:00 PM. Where: to be announced.

WE STILL NEED A HOST FOR THIS MEETING.

ADJOURN: Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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

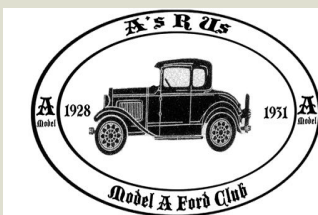
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