



# BACKFIRE

VOLUME #22 ISSUE #12

DECEMBER 2017



**It's the holiday season and time for the annual Christmas Parades. The A's were at the Homewood parade Friday December 1st, the Crete parade Saturday December 2nd, and the Tinley Park parade Sunday December 3rd.**





**Diane and I were able to make it to the Tinley park parade. Also there were Ken and Dale Chamis, Phil Serviss, Steve Coe, Randy Senkpeil, Al Koleta, Jon Lisota, Bob and Penny Steinmetz and Ray and Jerry Schmude.**



**A few grandchildren came with dressed for the occasion. Looks like they're having a great time.**





**This being our first Christmas parade to be a part of, we were amazed at the level of detail and decoration the A's applied to their cars.**



**Although we had some lighting issues with our decorations, we still had a great time. We also got some great inspiration and advice for next year. Some of the A's used small gas powered generators or marine batteries to run their lighted decorations.**



**I would like to thank Michael Zychal at the Subway at 17217 Oak Park Avenue for providing the free sandwiches and sides to the participating club members.**



**Michael and his “elves” were also handing out cookies along the parade route..**





**We were behind Al Kaleta in the procession when we noticed him handing something to one of the parade workers walking beside the cars. It turns out he was passing out toys to little children along the parade route. Now that's the Christmas spirit!**

**And speaking of Christmas toys, did you know that one of the most popular toys for 1930 was;**

### **Charlotte Clark Mickey Mouse Doll**



**The small stuffed dolls were designed and produced by Charlotte Clark and her staff after the Walt Disney short “Steamboat Willie” was released to great accord. In true 1930s fashion, when demand exceeded production, patterns for mothers to make a Mickey for their children were released by Clark! What followed in the years after was a slew of merchandise on everything from notepads to watches to socks and everything in between.**



**Other popular toys from the 1930's were;**

### **1932 Rockford Sock Monkey**



**This icon of American childhood would not have been possible without the Nelson Knitting Company, which created the first no-seam socks during the 19th century (in Rockford, Illinois). When copycat socks began to chip away at their business, a red heel was added in 1932 to assure customers that they were buying the original. As needs must during the Great Depression, mothers soon made use of this red heel as the mouth for an easy to make home-made toy that could be produced from a worn out sock. It was not until the 1950s that the Nelson Knitting Company acquired any kind of patent for a sock monkey, despite the fact that they had been including a pattern with each pair of Red Heel Rockfords for years.**





## **1933 Kewpie Doll**



## **1934 Buck Rogers Pocket Pistol**



**The first 3-D Buck Rogers toy ray gun appeared in 1934. This XZ-31 Rocket Pistol, a 9 ½-inch toy gun that produced a distinctive “pop!” sound, retailed for 50 cents. It was the first of six Buck Rogers toy guns manufactured over the next two decades by Daisy Manufacturing Co.**



**A few words from Ken on his 1929 coupe rebuild.**

**So this is going to be part 2 of a public thank you to the A's R US club members.**

**There have been several guys who came over to help take apart and lift the body off my 1929 special coupe. This way we were able to get the fenders, etc. off and get them to the sandblaster and then to the body shop. I'd like to thank the following guys who did help. Chuck Fritz, Randy Senpeil, Jon Lisota, Bob Steinmetz and Steve Coe. I think that's the guys that were there and if I missed anybody I sincerely apologize. I definitely learned more about the car and hopefully there was a little bit more knowledge spread around for the rest of the guys. Since that time most of the car has been put back together and as of this writing we are still waiting for the hood. I went to the body shop today and they are working on it but it's not painted yet.**

**It did feel good to drive the car again as it's been a while and those who did see it will see that the mini makeover should give a new life for many years to come.**

**I was out of town and Al and some of you may remember Rocky from some of the trips that we have taken and some of the events, decided to put the body back on the frame.**





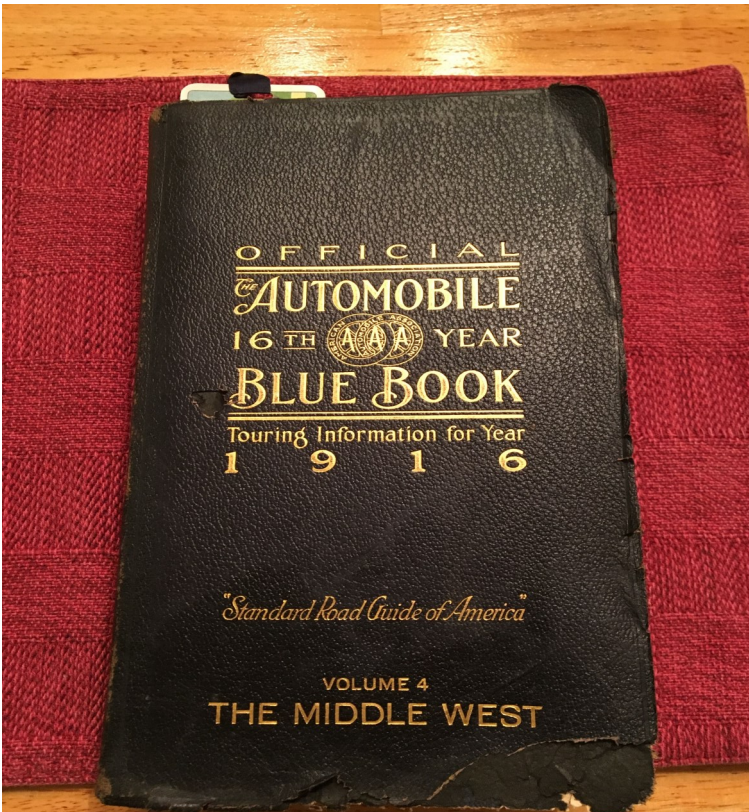
**They did a nice job and I would like to send a special shout out to Rocky for his efforts and great job.**

**As I am writing this it reminds me of a story about the coupe from many, many years ago. As a club project we decided to take the engine, transmission and rear end out of the car to get it all rebuilt. After that was all done the guys left and never came back. It took about 6 months to get everything back together but I definitely learned a lot. And it just occurred to me that when we first began this project I happened to notice that there were two gaskets on the manifold. I took them off and we noticed that there were multiple repairs on the intake manifold and the exhaust manifold was all warped. It had not been running the best and I suspect that that was the problem. With the help of Ray Schmude we were able to get a new intake manifold and then marry them together and get them ground down smooth. So one gasket and eliminating all of the air leaks has improved the engine performance.**

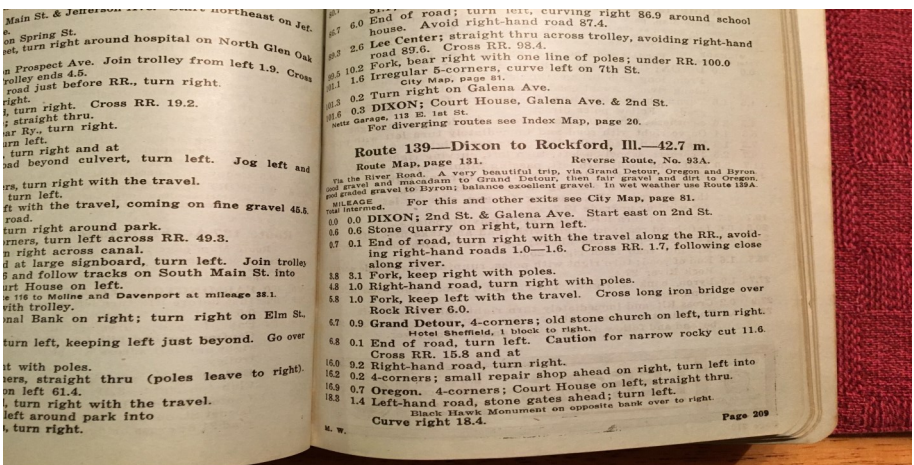
**So with all that said I would really like to thank everybody for their help. That's something about this club as everyone is ready to lend a hand when needed to anybody. We've got a good family in our A'S R US club and we should be proud!**



**I received an early Christmas gift from Karen Kolenda, An Automobile Blue Book, Standard Road Guide of America for the year 1916. It seems it was an old barn find.**



**Knowing your starting point and destination you could calculate distances and directions. Roads were listed and mileage traveled on each road were given. Also which direction to turn.**







**I had no idea something like this existed, it's very interesting and I happen to like books too. This is like Google maps before there was Google maps. Thanks Karen.**

**And now for some official club business.**

**MEETING LOCATION: HOSTS WERE BONNIE AND RANDY SENKPEIL**

**MEMBER NEWS:** The McNeely's are back in Florida, hoping their good days out-weigh the bad with the help of warm weather.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Tim thanked Chuck, Linnea, Eric and family for a great time at the October Meeting.

Jim reminded the members that MAFCA dues are due now and to be mailed to them.

Al K reported on the DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY. A head count is

Needed by the end of the month. \$15.00 due per member and \$30.00 per non-member.

Tim reported the DIXIE COMMITTEE will be meeting on Friday. Jim reported the Flossmoor sign and posts are ready to be placed.

**NEW BUSINESS: AUCTION MEETING for 2018,** Tim suggested we move the Auction meeting to warmer weather. Members present agreed and Bob S.

Stated that would work out perfectly at his garage. More info to follow.



**2018 MEETING HOSTS:** February and March are available.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**\*\*\* PRESIDENT: JON LISOTA      VICE PRESIDENT: HENRY JASICA**

**TREASURER: JIM WRIGHT      SECRETARY: SANDY KALETA**

Tim thanked Wally and Bob S for a great job. 2018 officers will be

Installed at the December Dinner meeting.

**AMPLIFIER PURCHASE**, was discussed at length and tabled for now.

**RANDY** noted Jon and Yvonne's grand son was in the recent Restorer as a

Recipient of a \$1,000.00 scholarship award  
**DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS.**

It was motioned that Jim check to see if we are donating to this fund through MAFCA and if not to send a \$100.00 donation. Vote was unanimous.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** KEN stated he received an Email from a Haggerty agent

Offering to come and talk to our group. Members declined at this time.





## **MISCELLANEOUS CONTINUED**

**PHIL** stated we will do a review of CPR and emergency care at the January meeting. It was discussed and recommended that we update our medical forms and make sure the person who is chairing a tour, trip, event etc. have that information available. It was also suggested by **Randy** that a copy of the form be put in the door pocket of your car. **Sandy** introduced the HEART App on the iPhone and recommended members fill theirs out as it is free and makes information available to emergency teams.

**NEXT MONTHS MEETING: CAVALINIS AT THE TINLEY PARK TRAIN DEPOT. 6700 SOUTH ST. Wednesday December 13th, at 6:00pm.**

**Badge fines: \$1.00 50/50 winner was Dale, \$36.00 and \$36.00 to the club.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED: At 8:30PM.** Tim thanked **Bonnie** and **Randy** for hosting this meeting and for the amazing spread they provided. Thanks also for those who brought goodies.



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(OF 2017)

