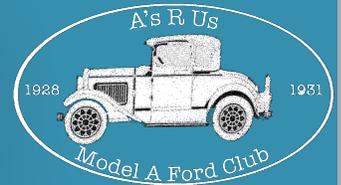




# BACKFIRE



Chicago Southland Chapter, Model A Ford Club of America

VOLUME 15

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MARCH 2010

<http://www.drivingthedixie.com>  
<http://asrus.homestead.com>

## Coconut Grove Success!

What a great time everyone had at the winter banquet this year. Almost everyone stayed till the end. Nancy and I danced and I sure showed her how to cut the rug didn't I! The food was great and the room was very nice with all the decorations. Again we thank our banquet Queen Robin Rodriguez and her Page Bob for a fine evening with friends. I am including pictures in this month's newsletter of the dinner with a special thanks to Joe Krygowski for taking them.

**Header Picture:**

Cars in front of the out cottages at the Portage Point Inn October 2007

*Phil*

*The Carp  
Editor in Chief*

### Inside this Months Issue:

- New! Message from Chuck
- Jim's Dixie History
- Banquet
- Spring Trip
- Meeting synopsis

More inside!

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# A Message from the Prez.



Spring is in the air and it's time to start thinking about the new driving season. All of us need to do a few things to get our pride and joy on the road once again. One of the most important items that we all should review, is our medical information that we carry with ourselves and also in the club safety director's file. This only takes a few minutes to review and in case of an emergency could be a lifesaver. We all should take advantage of the tech nights where many different topics are covered. Our first tech night is on March 9th at Jon Lisota's garage. The topic will be Model A brakes. If you suspect a problem with your brakes, this is a perfect opportunity to solve your brake problems. We will be having a headlight aiming and focus tech night prior to our shakedown cruise as there is a possibility that we may have darkness before returning home. We have already corrected some "worm burners" and "wild searchlight" problems. Lots of interesting comments were expressed in our previous sessions.

Just a reminder, hotel reservations for the spring tour must be made by March 31st. The hotel will release any remaining rooms on April 1st.

Let's all have a great driving season and enjoy our Model A's and the friendship of our club members.



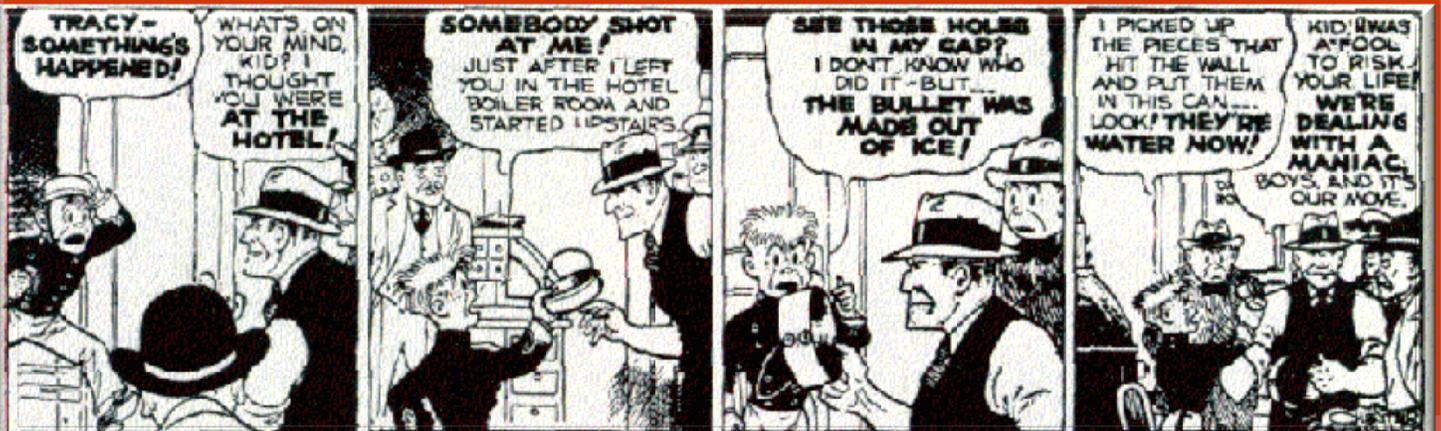
# DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

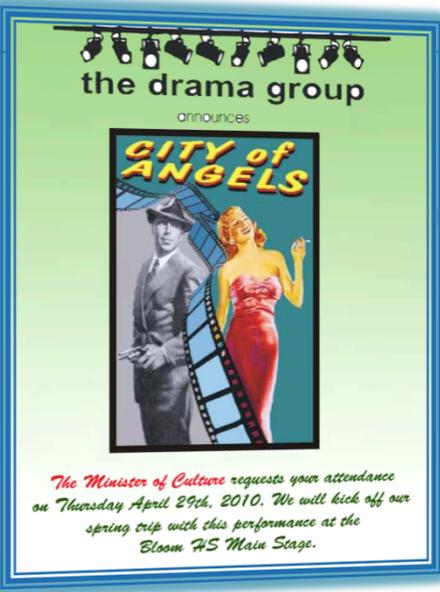
By Jim Wright



The Art Institute (on the right) is considered the starting point for the Dixie Highway in Illinois. Ceremonies preceding the start of the historic Chicago to Miami motorcade of highway officials and enthusiasts in October 1915 took place on the front steps of the Art Institute building. The Art Institute was founded as the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts in 1879. The name was changed in 1882, and shortly after, the institution was already in need of a new home for its expanding collection and growing student body. As the city prepared to dazzle the country as host of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, the Art Institute's trustees negotiated with the city's civic bodies for a new structure located on a park site at Michigan Avenue and Adams Street. The Art Institute officially opened their classical Beaux-Arts style building on December 8, 1893. Since then the building and the Art Institute have been a treasure in Chicago on Michigan Avenue and the Dixie Highway.

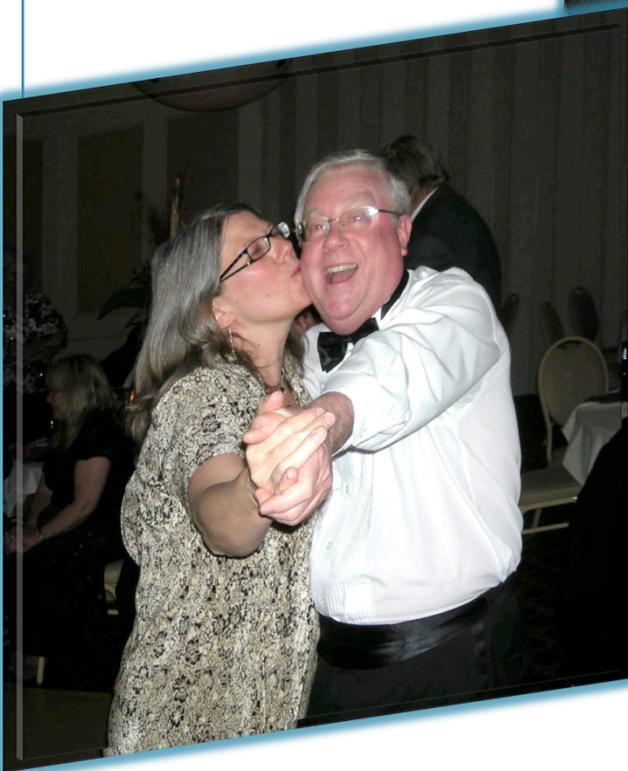
## Dick Tracy 1930 Strip #12





**The night before the Spring Trip we will have an opportunity to attend this event. It will be a chance to see Jon Lisota's first efforts in the field of Drama!**

# Winter Banquet Feb 2010



# Spring Trip 2010



## The DeSoto House Hotel

Opened its doors in 1855 and continues to welcome guests with hospitality, charm and history, awarding us the title of "Illinois' Oldest Operating Hotel."

Throughout the years we have welcomed such memorable guests as Abraham Lincoln, William Jennings Bryan, and serving as the presidential campaign headquarters for Ulysses S. Grant just to name a few.

Nestled in the heart of Downtown Galena, the DeSoto House puts you in the midst of fine antique shops, restaurants, boutiques, historical points of interest and picturesque 1800's architecture.

Galena's rich history comes alive the minute you step into our Lobby. Our staircase and ballroom are reminiscent of grand and gala events that took place throughout the past 152 years.

Today, the DeSoto House welcomes guests with genuine warmth and hospitality and is dedicated to making each guest feel that they are our first priority and part of our ongoing History. While visiting us, please take time to enjoy our self-guided walking tour and our Quiet Room with historic video.

**Galena Illinois April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 2nd**  
**Call for reservations today 1-815-777-0090 or 1800—343-6562**

**February 17, 2010**  
**A'S r Us Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting location:** Crete Township Hall  
**Call to Order:** 7:05 pm

Our president Chuck Fritz called the meeting to order. A motion to accept the minutes was accepted by Jon Lisota and Karen Kolenda.

**MEMBER NEWS:**

Linnea Fritz has begun another round of chemo, but at this time no surgery is needed. Marlene's sons are doing well, both recuperating nicely. Jon Lisota is also doing well after having surgery for his teeth.

**DRIVIN THE DIXIE:** A meeting was held on 2/7 preceded by a breakfast. Elaine wrote a letter to all participating towns requesting information.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Camp Quality:** Dale talked with a member today and, yes they do accept monetary donations. She will also speak with the director about A's R Us assisting with any upcoming events.
2. **Angels on Assignment:** Wally to inquire and report next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS/UPCOMING EVENTS:**

1. **Shakedown Cruise:** Tim Borchert reported the trip is planned. We will begin our day with breakfast at Raspberry Hill on Chicago Road, just north of Kmart. Approximately 120 miles round trip. We will be visiting an old car museum, and dinner is planned at the Strong Bow Inn in Valpo.
2. **Spring Tour:** 12 rooms have been reserved so far; 20 total have been blocked off for our group. Anyone still needing a room please call the DeSoto Hotel in Galena.
3. **'CITY OF ANGELS':** Jon Lisota will be making his acting debut at Bloom High School Thursday April 29<sup>th</sup>. Phil Serviss suggested making a donation to the theatre group. More info to come later.
4. **Fall Tour:** No new updates at this time.
5. **Illinois Veterans Home Outing:** Tentatively set for Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>. Jim spoke with them and they are very excited and looking forward to our visit. Chuck will bring his photo printer and we will provide instant photos for the veterans. Dale will purchase "mini cardboard frames."
6. **Ladies Outing:** Robin to coordinate with Dale Chamis.
7. **Banquet:** Just about all set. Get your dancing shoes ready!!!
8. **Joliet Jackhammers Outing:** A date has been set for August 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:10 pm. Chuck Fritz will order tickets in advance. For those interested in attending, please let Chuck know. Ken asked if we could show our cars prior to the game. Chuck will inquire.
9. **Museum Outing:** Wally suggested a day trip to a museum in Highland Indiana. More info to come later.

**Here is one example of the cakes that Tim Borchert has provided the club on meeting nights.**



**10. Permanent Meeting Location:** Much discussion as to have a permanent place for our meetings. The opinions were both pro and con. The group has set locations for the remainder of the year:

- March:** Phil & Nancy Serviss
- April:** Ken & Dale Chamis
- May:** Tim & Connie Borchert
- June thru Sept:** Steinmetz Garage in Frankfort
- Oct:** Wally & Kay Ekstrom
- Nov:** Ken & Dale Chamis
- Dec:** TBA

**11. Tech night:** The next tech night will be Tuesday 3/9 at Jon Lisota's home. 6:00 pm. The topic is Brake Adjustments.

**12. New Rosters:** Joe has new rosters for all of our members.

There were 2 no badge fine. Split the pot of \$30 went to Ben Heppner.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

### Up Coming Calendar of 2010 Events

**Wednesday March 17 Meeting:** Phil and Nancy's House  
220 Poplar Lane Beecher, IL 60401

**Sunday Brunch at Mill Race Inn:** Chuck suggested a brunch here, located on Rt. 31 along the river and a tour of the Morton Arboretum. Date to be announced

**Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup>:** Shakedown Cruise

**Thursday April 29<sup>th</sup>:** City of Angles Play @ Bloom High School

**Friday thru Sunday April 30, May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Spring Trip

**Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup>:** Morton Arboretum Picnic

**March 2010**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	<b>17</b>	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**April 2010**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	<b>21</b>	22	23	24
25	26	27	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

**May 2010**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	<b>19</b>	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# A's R Us officers and Staff

President – Chuck Fritz Vice President – Tim Bots Treasure – Jim Wright Secretary – Dale Chamis

Member relations – Joe Krygowski

Web Page – Joe Krygowski

Newsletter – Phillip Serviss

Parade Coordinator – Wally Ekstrom

Director of Safety – Ron Bonneau

Nat'l Rep. – Marlene Krygowski

Historian – Tim Bots

Sgt. At Arms Steve Coe

Motor Medic - Jon Lisota

Banquet Queen – Robin Rodriguez



Jon and Yvonne Lisota at the banquet.

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

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

**BACKFIRE**

P.O. Box 3

Crete, Illinois 60417



Mail To:

