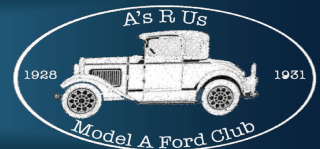


BACKFIRE



Volume#20

Issue#2

February 2015

The Carp, Editor in Chief



Well a new year and a new look. Let me know what you think. You may be wondering where the January issue went. Just a reminder it was combined with the December issue. Our December meeting/Christmas Party was a nice change and the activities were a good time. I'm looking forward to this year's activities and hope I can attend more than I was able to last year. Congratulations to our new Board:

President: Ken Chamis,

Vice President: Randy Senkpeil,

Secretary: Sandy Kaleta,

Treasure: Jim Wright

(Picture) Our 2014 fall trip to Shipshewana, IN



A'sRUS Ford Club

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

Presidents Comments

So, thanks again for the vote of confidence or the railroading to be this years president. I've had time to talk to some of the members, and I would like us to take the club to a new level. We began the club as a social club, but also to teach members the ins and out of the cars.

We have strayed a bit, and a desire to return to those days appears to be needed. So I will propose numerous ideas and welcome expansion to those, so please try to think of new and exciting ideas in the year ahead. In addition, I hope to see a role by those creative, and visionary women to start up a charitable, and crafty side of A's R Us, to really put us on the map in the Chicago Southlands. I will explain more of my own vision on these thoughts at our January meeting.

It should be an event filled year; with short and longer events to accommodate those already busy schedules we have. It's the right time to plan as our A's are hibernating, and we are stuck inside on these below freezing days.

The Serviss home is this month's destination, and after the meeting we will be taking a peek inside Phil's transmission, and seeing how many stripped gears he has.

Ken aka "Squeaks"



DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



Natural disasters are a part of the history of the Dixie Highway in Illinois. Blizzards, floods and tornadoes have all wrecked havoc on Dixie towns over the years. Arguably, the worst disaster to strike a Dixie town in Illinois occurred on April 21, 1912. The Mornence Journal headline from Friday, April 26, 1912 proclaimed, ***Cyclone Ruins Grant Park, In One Minute the Terrible Twister Turns Happy Homes to Ruins. Many Have Narrow Escapes and the Property Loss is Estimated at \$200,000.***

The paper went on to cover the story, "At 5:30 Sunday afternoon, the most terrific storm that ever visited Kankakee county, descended on the peaceful village of Grant Park, and in one breath, swept a wide swath through the residential part of the town. The real violence of the storm lasted but about 60 seconds it is said, but it seemed to be ages to those in the grasp of the cyclone."

"The violent wind lasted for several minutes and was followed by a downpour of rain and a fierce storm of hail and then all was calm and the citizens went out to view the terrible havoc wrought by the storm and to rescue those pinioned beneath the debris."

DIXIE HIGHWAY HERITAGE

By Jim Wright



"The loss of property is great and, in many cases, falls heavily upon those who are of moderate circumstances and paying for their homes on the installment plan....The Curtis brick factory also was leveled to the earth and it is hard to say what the loss is, but V. S. Curtis and others say it will be about \$35,000-\$40,000."

When all was said and done, in addition to the brickyard, seventeen houses and twenty-one barns were destroyed, fifty houses were partially damaged and twenty-five townspeople sustained injuries. The brickyard was rebuilt, but was destroyed by fire in 1916 and never reopened. Grant Park rebuilt and prospered.

POPULAR VINTAGE TOY OF THE 1920'S:

Now that Christmas is over and Santa has come and gone, I thought it would be fun to look at the toys parents had to choose from in the 1920's. Most toys were made of wood and metal as plastic had not yet been invented ...

The still popular Teddy Bear was named after President Theodore Roosevelt, whose nick name was Teddy. A 10" bear was \$0.79, 12" was \$1.00 and 14" was \$1.19. Tom Tinker Toys were round smooth balls threaded on a cord, for \$0.59. Tinker Construction Kit ranged from \$.63 to \$1.75 depending on the number of sticks and spools in the kit. The ever popular Erector Set is one of few toys still around from the early 1920's. These sets ranged in price from \$.99 to \$9.98 depending on the range of things the set was able to erect.

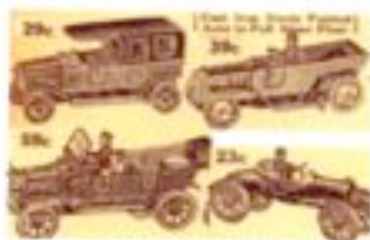
Gift and Jacobin
Teddy
Bears.
10 in.
79c
12 in.
\$1.00
14 in.
\$1.19



Tom
Tinker
59c

Flossy Flirt Doll was very popular with the girls. She said the word Ma Ma, rolled her flirty eyes and closed them when she slept. She was priced by size ranging from 14" to 23" and priced from \$1.98 to \$4.98.

Boys loved the small cast iron cars of the day which sold for \$0.39 apiece.



Bigger toys included the Columbia 3 Wheel Velocipedes more commonly known as a tricycle. It included a bicycle bell, adjustable handle bars, padded leather saddle with coil springs, tubular frame, ball bearing wheels and bicycle spokes all for \$8.98. A Two Wheel Bike \$15.98, was suitable for boys ages 6 to 12. It had small wheels and cost \$5.00 less if you didn't want the rear coaster brakes. The 20's Pedal Car starting at \$10.98 was based on the popular cars and trucks of the day. Mostly Cadillac, Lincoln cars and MAC trucks.



The Olympic Flyer Wagon was only \$4.98, Riding Horses, geared more for girls were \$2.98 and best of all was the Hand Cars for \$3.98. The children used their arms and hands for a push/pull handle and steered with their feet. This would be a great exercise toy for children today.



A's R US DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2014

A short meeting was held before our Christmas Dinner.

The meeting was called to order by our President, Irv Darnall at 6:45 pm at Balagio's Restruarant in Homewood.

A motion was made to accept the November minutes as written. Our treasurer Jim Wright, reported a balance in the A's account as \$ [REDACTED] and the balance of the Dixie account as \$ [REDACTED]. The report was accepted as reported.

Al Kaleta is home and resting after surgery. Tim Borchert's son is recovering also.

We received a letter from Sandy Kaleta thanking all for their get-well cards for Al.

The 2015 slate of nominees are as follows:

President: Ken Chamis
Vice President: Randy Senkpeil
Secretary: Sandy Kaleta
Treasurer: Jim Wright

A motion was made to close the nominations, it was voted on and passed to accept these as our 2015 officers.

There was a motion to close the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by secretary,

Char Darnall

A's R US master sign up responsibilities sheet 2015

So that not just a few people are overwhelmed with things to keep a smooth oiled running club, a list of some things that we have available for the members can do for the upcoming year. And don't be afraid to sign up for more than 1 item, or team up with someone.

Thanks

- 1. Parade coordinator ...Keeps us up to date on local events, does applications, and informs the club of items for the event.***

- 2. National Representative ...Liaison between the club and the MAFCA. Also submits a summary of our events for the Restorer.***

- 3. Inter club relations officer ... Keeps in touch with the other local clubs for one or more joint ventures during the year.*** _____
- 4. Swap meet, cruise night event manager***

- 5. Calendar of events manager... Keeps a complete calendar of all upcoming club events, informs both Sandy to email and Allan to add to the club website he maintains***

- 6. Historian ...Keeper of the items of our past***

- 7. Spring trip organizers***

- 8. Fall trip organizers***

- 9. Shakedown organizers***

- 10. Tech talks presenters***

- 11. Breakfast meeting manager***

- 12. Director of safety***

- 13. Greeter ...Welcomes guests, contact person for them***

- 14. Bereavements***

- 15. Sergeant at arms & 50/50 raffle manager***

- 16. Director of Cultural affairs ...*** _____ ***Phillip Serviss*** _____
- 17. Events sub categories..***
 - a. Picnic***

 - b. Christmas festivities ...*** _____
 - c. Grinders ball game ...*** _____



*Have you checked out the A's R Us web page yet? **Al Betschart** has done a great job creating a portal into our clubs world. There are some pictures of our past, plus a list of the existing officers. Want to know where this months meeting is but forgot. Click on events and presto, instant answer. In addition, there are some of the past newsletters, all at your fingertips. The process, which will be a huge undertaking, will put the newsletters all the way from volume 1, issue 1, March 1996. That first issue is now available. Go check it out. Phil Serviss has really come a long way from those early days. Expansion will also include more of the upcoming events so if you misplaced your notes from the meetings, you can click and get up to date information. It's also nice to refer to the events to avoid conflicts with all the family activities we plan. So my suggestion is the next time you turn on that computer, check it out, bookmark it in your favorites, and enjoy.*

Up and coming 2015 Events:



Looking forward into 2015

Ronald McDonald House

Shake Down Trip

Veterans Home

58th. Annual Hesston Steam & Power Show 2015

Exposure Trip 2015 Door County WI ?

Newport Hill Climb

Fall Trip

Teen Bridge Center

Spring Trip

Camp Quality

Labor Day Sept. 1st

September

October 3rd – 5th

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

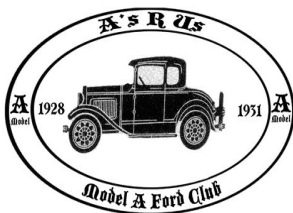
Wrench time for Big Red



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