

Fox Tales

Fox Valley Region

Model A Restorers Club

April, 2007

Crossroads Meeting

The Joliet Region certainly can throw a party! The Crossroads Membership Meet was a fine balance of old and new friends, familiar and new information, work and fun, and goodie bags! The weather was much better than forecast and Joliet was a splendid surprise!

Thursday's dinner theatre-event at the Rialto Theater was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The renovated theater is an architectural gem from the time just before the introduction of our favorite Fords – which were abundantly arrayed in the street and parking lot. The "Hall of Mirrors" and the rotunda were set as a dining hall for hundreds of Model A fanciers out for a night on the town. The reception hour buzzed with Model A stories, as Club members got acquainted. After a tour of the facility, the grand organ console rose slowly from the orchestra pit. The organist demonstrated the instrument's range and variety of sounds. It even made a very convincing Ahooga! That was important because the treat was a Laurel and Hardy film called The Two Tars. The action line was a series of slapstick auto wrecks – all complimented by a special "soundtrack" played on the organ. It was *just like when!*

Harry and Charlie audited Howard Taylor's Carburetor Class on Friday and Bruce and Charlie became authorities on judging underframes and lamps on Saturday. (Ask Charlie about drum and teacup taillights). The general membership meeting gave just about every sub-group within our organization a time on the soapbox.

Interestingly, *Estate Planning* was a recurrent theme during the afternoon chats. Several speakers urged each *current* Model A driver to identify and groom *the next* driver of his/her Model A. However, the grim truth was stated – our Model A's likely will still be around after we've begun pushing up the daisies! The underlying point, of course, is that MARC needs an infusion of young blood. Illustrating this dilemma, the membership was poled after the banquet on Saturday night to assign some door prizes. The couple that drove furthest in an "A" to



In spite of a threatening sky, the parking Lot at the Joliet Holiday Inn was filled with a great selection of Henry's Ladies. One Brewster Green Cabriolet was especially tempting! Russ Harley (who escaped the camera!), Charlie Lenz, Harry and Kathleen Klimek (and two of the best-behaved kids on the plant – especially since there were no little kids' goodie bags!), Steve Stevenson, Jan Winslow, and the fabricator represented Fox Valle Region.

get to the event covered 300 miles. The oldest driver to arrive in an "A" was 82-years old, while the youngest was just ... 53. Quite a few folks who stand in line to inherit the care and feeding of our Model "A's" were nowhere to be seen!

It was a sobering thought.



Steve, Harry, and Bruce pose with Model A Icon and long-standing MARC Technical Chairman, Roger Kauffman, who was still smiling after being peppered with impromptu questions. Several of his pronouncements to the quiz included: *put that one under the bench and have a reputable shop build a touring engine for you; never, NEVER install an overdrive; and 45 mph, tops.* Roger's claim that most MARC members read his Model "A" News column "first" was irrefutably confirmed by his rock star-like reception in the hallways.

