

PRESS RELEASE

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Submitted by [Joe Krygowski](#)

Members of the Chicago Southland Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America, A's R Us, have recently been involved with the filming of "Public Enemies", starring Johnny Depp. Universal Studios has begun production of this depiction of the 1930's gangster era including Baby Face Nelson, John Dillinger and others. Johnny Depp is playing the part of Dillinger.



Filming began in Crown Point on April 25th for the club members with three of the member's cars being used in the famous Dillinger Jail Break. **Jon Lisota**

of Crete with a 1931 Ford was joined by **Phil Serviss** from Beecher with his 1931 Ford truck along with **Bob Steinmetz** of Oak Forest in his 1929 Ford. Filming lasted two days and all three vehicles were used in the escape scene. Friday, April 28th Bob Steinmetz drove his '29 Ford downtown for a night scene on Surf Street just west of Broadway for a shootout scene involving Baby Face Nelson.



On Monday, April 31st, six members of the club were called for scenes along Martin Luther King Drive between 33rd and 43rd streets. The six involved were the three from the Crown Point filming along with **Ken Chamis** of Oak Forest with his 1929 Ford; **Tim Dionne** of St. John, Indiana with his 1929 Ford; and **Joe Krygowski** of New Lenox with 1929 Ford. Two separate scenes were arranged with one being a caravan of Indiana State Police escorting Dillinger from Chicago Municipal Airport (Midway) back to Crown Point after being captured in Arizona. The other scene was a crowd reaction in Wisconsin to Dillinger riding in his Cadillac along a city street. Later in the night, three of the club members were chosen to film a phone booth scene near the 106th street steel

bridge east of Torrence Ave.

Sunday May 18th the group grew to twelve Model A's enroute to downtown Chicago for a street scene along LaSalle Street. In addition to five already involved, the eight new additions were: **Wally Ekstrom, Chuck Fritz, Bob Granko Sr., Karen Kolenda, George Magyar, Claude Poulsen George Magyar and Marvin Rauch**. About half the vehicles from our club were moving during the shooting. Unfortunately, the others were strategically parked but still may have been seen by the camera.



Six cars were again called for the scene near the Biograph Theater where Dillinger was betrayed by the "Lady in Red" and met his demise. The scene took six nights to complete and the nights were 14 to 16 hours in length. Due to personal scheduling problems, it took seven club drivers and a local volunteer to get the six cars to the set and get them in position on the six nights. Five of these

six cars were again used in a daytime scene where Dillingers girl friend was picked up by the FBI just as Dillinger appeared on the scene.

The AA truck owned by Phil Serviss was the lone club vehicle called to a rural scene depicting a “Safe House” used by Dillinger following his escape from the Indiana prison. This was a daytime shoot and Phil grasped the “Golden Ring” scoring a photo with both Michael Mann and Johnnie Depp at the conclusion of the shoot.

Phil again scored the lone call for filming at the Joliet Prison where his AA was again used in this scene. The call for the final day of shooting went out to Tim Dionne with his 29 Tudor and Wally Ekstrom in his 31 Victoria. There were two scenes in Lockport, Illinois. Tim managed a photo with Michael Mann at the conclusion while Wally got a pat on the back from Johnnie Depp.

In total, members of A’s R Us logged over 90 days on the set of Public Enemies.

The A’s R Us group is headquartered in Crete and are co-producers of the “Drivin the Dixie” event held the third Saturday in June. The historic Dixie Highway event begins in Blue Island and travels thru all the Dixie Highway communities to Momence, Illinois. This year’s event will be held on June 21st with registration beginning at 8:30am. For more information about “Drivin’ the Dixie” or the A’s R Us Model A Club, contact **Bob Steinmetz** at 708/596-6302.

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