

Model A Fords come to and through town



Scott Brandush/Star

The Model A Restorers Club (MARC) visited several cities and towns in Northwest Indiana last week for the group's week-long convention in Merrillville. At left, a vintage Model A cruises through Cedar Lake on June 25 during a tour hosted by MARC. Above at right, it looks like a old-time parade of cars as the club ended its week-long convention with a tour around Northwest Indiana, finishing up at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Crown Point. The above photo was taken on 153rd Avenue near Lowell as the long line of Model A Fords headed to the fairgrounds.

Art Adventure | Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski

Artist Bill Jonas — painting with air



A self-taught artist, Bill Jonas learned various painting techniques by reproducing the paintings that piqued his imagination and challenged his talents as a painter.

At first, he kept his fine art techniques separated from his commercial work, using oil paints on canvas to satisfy his inner artist, and doing sign painting and airbrush work on motorcycles and guitars to satisfy the monthly bills.

"I knew I couldn't become an artist by waiting tables or driving a truck," he says, "so I got a job at a sign shop in Chicago that specialized in hand-painted lettering and custom airbrush work.

"That way, I was gaining experience in painting during the day that would benefit the canvas paintings I worked on when I got back to my home studio."

Though most of the work at the shop involved sign painting, Jonas received many requests for mural work. One mural downtown measured eight stories high (a quarter of an acre of painted surface); another in Lincoln Park was a reproduction of a Manet painting over a half-block long. He also reproduced the likes of Rubens and Escher in lacquer on motorcycles and vans.

Having won many trophies for his airbrush work on show cars and bikes, Jonas began to take photos of his work as it progressed step-by-step.

Using the photos, he would write a description of his processes and submit them to various art magazines for publication. Having had more than four dozen articles published in national and international magazines, he became known as one of the "top guns" in the airbrush field. He also entered the art contests promoted by the art magazines, garnering enough awards to prompt the publisher of



Photos provided to the Star

Self-taught artist Bill Jonas works include clockwise from above, "Chicago Bentley," "Life is a Carnival" and "Waterfall II."



Airbrush Action magazine to ask him to come aboard as the editor of the magazine.

As editor, he was able to meet many of the top airbrush artists from around the world, including renowned illustrators and fine artists who invited him to their studios to write about their various techniques and styles.

At the same time, he was learning the computer programs and processes involved in the publishing business, as well as becoming involved in the design of the magazine.

"Photoshop was in its infancy in the early '90s and was quite difficult to use," he says. "Even so, I was fascinated by the potential it offered as a design tool, and still use it today to explore possibilities before committing a design to paint."

See artist, page 3



MANAGING EDITOR
Kimberley Mathisen
 kmathisen@post-trib.com

Classified and Subscriptions
 (219) 663-4212
 FAX: (219) 663-0137

Office location
 112 W. Clark Street
 Crown Point, IN 46307

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Display Friday 12:00 p.m.
 Classified Friday 12:00 p.m.
 Legals Friday 12:00 p.m.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

One year \$26.00
 School \$20.00
 One year out of state \$32.00
 One year (foreign) \$54.00

The publishing procedures also offered another benefit—an intimate look at how color works in the printing industry. Most color printing is done using only four colors: yellow, red, blue and black. By using varying amounts of those four colors together, full color photographs can be accurately reproduced in print.

This gave Jonas the idea of transferring the process to airbrush painting. By layering transparent colors, he was able to create full color images using only yellow, red and blue paint without premixing any colors. (The carnival image shown here was produced by that method.)

“I found that it wasn’t necessary to use any black, since there is very little actual black seen in nature,” he says. “Layering the three colors



creates sufficiently dark shades, and using equal amounts of each will make a wide range of neutral tones. I did use some white to bring out the highlights, however.”

Having learned his way around in the publishing business, he was soon asked by another publisher to start up his own art magazine called

Local



Airbrush Magazine. The new magazine showed the step-by-step process of airbrushing as it related to many different fields, including commercial illustration, T-shirt painting, automotive murals, sign painting—even fingernail painting and cake decorating. He designed and produced the magazine single-handedly for five years.

Ten years ago, he was picked up by a major publisher in the pet book industry and went on to design and produce the world’s largest series of dog books (covering more than two hundred separate breeds), some available in as many as eight different languages. Advancing to become the art director of the book division for the largest supplier of pet magazines in the world, he designed many award-winning titles, eventually producing more than five hundred books in all. (See Kennel Club Books /BowTie Press)

Still, he considers himself to be a painter, first and foremost, as evidenced by the fact that he owns very little clothing that doesn’t have some paint on it somewhere. “I have a couple of guitars in the shop to airbrush right now,” he says, “plus I am one of the few people around that still does hand-lettering on signs.”

Jonas did a wall mural for Jon Bon Jovi’s



wife, Dorothea, when she opened her karate dojo. Jon had him work on a logo for him when he bought a football team as well. “I split my time between the computer and the paint shop,” he says, “as many customers need both types of services. I do their business cards and ad designs, then paint any artwork they may need.” And whenever there is a break in the commercial work, he always has some blank canvasses lined up. For more information about Bill Jonas you can contact him directly at (219) 531-8980 or email him at indyjonas@yahoo.com. To view more examples of Jona’s work please visit www.creativehotlist.com.

The Steeple Gallery will be displaying “Life is a Carnival” by the end of July. Please schedule a visit to see it in person. Information or questions with me at samowner@sbcglobal.net. Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski owns and operates The Steeple Gallery, Ltd. 11107 Thiel St. , St. John, IN. (219) 365-1014.

Clowning around at Crown Point’s 1895 July 4th celebration



Photo provided to the Star

On the 4th of July in 1895 this is how the businessmen of Crown Point help bring joy and laughter to the Parade down Main Street. They sure were not stuffy old men. Some may even be your ancestors. No list of membership in the band was provided, just the date. It must have been a lot of fun. If anyone knows some or all of these mirth-filled gentlemen, please let us know here at the Star and we will publish names.

Purdue offers healthy cooking

FROM PRESS MATERIALS

Is it getting more and more challenging to come up with a healthy meal for your family that doesn’t cause you to spend more than you have? Well that might well be the case for many homemakers in this trying economy.

The Purdue Cooperative Extension Service of Lake County can help limited income families learn how to stretch their food dollar while eating nutritious meals. The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) works with homemakers in their own home or in small group community settings throughout Lake County.

Family Nutrition Advisors (FNAs) meet with adults for a series of lessons relating to understanding the Nutrition Facts food label, food safety, family meals, My Pyramid, the importance of breakfast, and figuring out which fats to use. During the lessons, participants will learn basic food preparation skills, participate in hands-on learning activities, sample prepared foods, and receive educational materials for future reference.

If you are interested in learning how to stretch your food dollar and want to learn more about basic nutrition, contact Janet Reed, EFNEP Supervisor or her secretary Roz at the Lake County Extension Office by phoning 755-3240 or log onto lakeces@purdue.edu. EFNEP is free to limited income families with children in the home age 12 and younger. EFNEP is helping families eat better for less one person at a time.



INDEX

LOCAL **2**
 OBITUARIES **13**
 CLASSIFIEDS **14**
 SPORTS **28**

CROWN POINT STAR
An Independent Newspaper

Issue No. 27
 Published weekly at 112 W. Clark Street, Crown Point, IN.
 Entered as periodicals.
 Postage paid at Crown Point, IN 46307 (USPS 302-060)
 under act of Congress of March 9, 1879.

Postmaster: send address changes to P.O. Box 419, Crown Point, IN 46308-0419.

See terms and conditions relating to advertising orders, page 9.