



Special Interest Articles:

- Alma Cogan:
Entertainer, Met Owner
- Holidays with
the Lathams

Contributing Writers:

Bill Latham
Gail Brandys
Bob Greenlee
Emily Darak
Rich McGarty
David Austin

Message from the President

January and February have come and gone. Now we're into March and soon spring time. I hope everyone had a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. There have been a couple of changes since our last newsletter. The first is Mark Hardy volunteered to take over the running of our web site from John Teschky in Aug. of 2007. At the Holiday party at the Latham's, Emily Darak agreed to take over the publishing of the newsletter. This is her first issue. John has been doing the website since June of

2001, than added the Newsletter in January of 2005. I want express our thanks to John for the excellent job he has done for the past several years. John has built a good foundation for Mark and Emily to build on. Thanks again John. On February 24 after the British Swap Meet our planning meeting was held. Thirteen members attended the planning session. Mark already has the years events posted on the website. There will be some additions and up dates as the year

progresses. With spring just around the corner (finally, I think!) it's time to start getting our Mets ready for an active year of events. If anyone wants to plan a Tech session, picnic, cruise night or just an impromptu get together to drive our Mets please let us know.



Bob Greenlee, Pres.

First Meeting of 2008

Several club members came together on Sunday, February 24, 2008 to plan the club events for upcoming year. We met at the Burger King in Wheaton after the British Swap Meet and brainstormed for some really 'happening' events for this year. The Event Schedule is included in this newsletter on page 7. If you have any questions or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact Bob Greenlee at (630) 369-1348 or rlgreenlee@wowway.com. Have a Wonderful 2008 and enjoy your Met!

Feedback from you...

If you are interested in getting a group together for a Kane County Cougars baseball game, give Bob Greenlee a call.

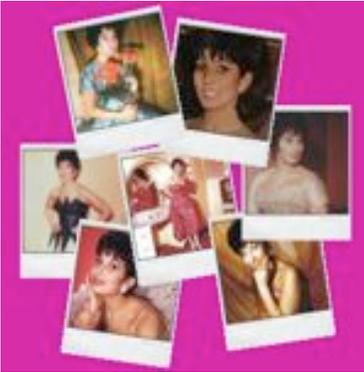
<http://www.kccougars.com/index.html>



Late calendar entry: If anyone is interested in participating in the Oak Lawn 4th of July Parade, there is an application in this newsletter and will be added to the Calendar of Events in future issues of the newsletter.

2008 Dues Reminder

If you have not sent in your membership dues for 2008, please send \$10.00 to Marge Greenlee as soon as possible.



Alma Cogan: Entertainer, Met Owner

Thank you to Richard McGarty and David Austin for this story.

The story goes that the car used to belong to Alma Cogan. She was a very popular English singer and entertainer during the 1950s and 1960s. It is believed that the car was taken to the Rambler/Nash dealership in West London for servicing, but the Singer died in 1966, and the service bill was never paid. The car was kept pending payment, but over time, since it was taking up space, it was moved to the roof of the building where it suffered the ravages of the harsh English climate.

It became quite a land-mark as the elevated part of the M4 Motorway (known as the "Chiswick Flyover") that ran into Central London was very close to this building, and could be seen by commuters as they traveled this stretch of the

Motorway (Freeway).

Eventually the new owners of the building (Honda) wanted to get rid of this "eye-sore" and contacted the Met. Club (UK) to ask if they wished to take any salvageable parts. Some members attended and stripped the vehicle, and the rest was cut up and disposed off. Bill Dowsing may know more as he was involved in this salvage operation.

The curious thing is that the car is Left-Hand Drive not Right-Hand Drive which would be usual for the UK. I suspect that Alma Cogan (if it was her car) pulled strings to get a Metropolitan prior to their release in the UK when normally they would only be available to US Servicemen and Diplomats serving overseas. At this time, probably 1956, only LHD cars would have been available. It's

an interesting thought!!

David Austin checked the photo more closely, and he stated it looks as if the car is a Series IV (i.e. with Trunk Lid & Vent windows) so it must date from at least 1959 and not 1956/57 as previously thought. It is still a mystery why it is LHD and not RHD. It could be again that she pulled strings to get an Export Metropolitan Series IV, since they were not available in the UK until August 1960, but available in the US from April 1959.

David also checked some websites about Alma Cogan. One mentioned she owned a "Red Hudson Rambler Convertible". It is not beyond a possibility that this may refer to a Metropolitan, but it is not conclusive.

Attached is a copy from the "Motor Trader" magazine of January 1978 that carried the story.



One of the better known landmarks to regular M4 commuters is the sorry sight of this Nash Metropolitan, parked alone, forlorn and sadly neglected on the roof of the old Rambler building at the North Circular roundabout at Chiswick. Now occupied by Honda Parts Department, the building has had a variety of motor agents and manufacturers there during its recent history, but has sported its rooftop Nash for over 15 years now.

Stories about the car vary, some recalling that the car was left over from stock. However, another — more romantic but unconfirmed—story is that the car used to be the property of the famous singer Alma Cogan. When she died the car was in for service at Nash, and after a long period in the workshop it was eventually pushed out onto the roof.

Just who it belongs to now must be one of the more complicated legal tangles of modern times.



Professional Nash Metropolitan Maintenance, Repair, Restoration & Customization by Illini Mets Member Businesses

Roscoe Restoration
Met Repair, Restoration, Parts
Gary Bosselman
(Past President, Illini Mets)
6812 E. Rockton Road
Roscoe, IL 61073
815-389-9500
815-389-9510 fax
gary@roscoe-restoration.com



The 'Vair Shop
Met Repair, Restoration, Parts
Larry Claypool
(Past Vice President, Illini Mets)
21403 S 80th Ave
Frankfort, IL 60423
(815) 469-2936
larry@vairshop.com



Mikes Met
Met Parts & Custom Accessories
Mike Potts
(Vice President, Illini Mets)
2N754 Alma Ave
Lombard, IL 60148
(630) 469-2936
POTTS2N754@wmconnect.com



Pictures from Holiday Party at the Lathams, January 12, 2008



Is Bill and Alice Latham's house haunted? Read and find out....



Holiday Party at the Lathams

This years Illini Mets Holiday Party was hosted by Alice and Bill Latham. It was generous of them to open their home to us. It was a really beautiful setting and a fun time was had by all. The appetizers were yummy, the food was tasty and the desserts were delicious. Bill gave tours of the home since it has quite a history to it.

Short History of Latham House

by Bill Latham

One of the first owners of the house was John Winterburn, the first mayor of Mount Forest (later named Willow Springs).

Then in 1925 the house was briefly occupied by Edward Zine, aka Diamond Tooth Eddie. He was one of the many Chicago land gangsters in the 1920's who wanted to make it rich quickly. Eddie had grand aspirations and tried to help Samoots Amatuna take over the Sicilian Union. Samoot's actions angered many people including someone call Alfonse Capone. Within a few weeks Samoots was shot and died a short time later. Diamond Tooth Eddie went to his funeral. Returning from the funeral at about 2AM in his blue Stutz Bearcat automobile, Eddie was confronted by three armed men in the backyard and shot three times. She ran back in to

telephone for help, but found the line was dead, because the assailants had cut the phone lines to the house. She then ran down the front stairs and summoned help via a neighbor's telephone. When the Cook County deputy sheriff arrived, they moved Eddie into the house and placed him on the couch where he died shortly thereafter.

Everybody always asks me if we have a ghost in the house because of how and where he died. We've lived here over 30 years and have never seen any evidence of it.

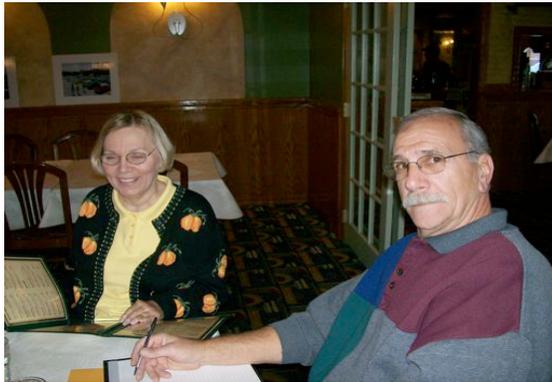
In the 1950's, Jim Hanlon lived in the house. He was a radio announcer for WGN radio (I think he was a sportscaster, but I'm not sure). In the 1950's the Hanlon family made a lot of repairs to the house and found several bottles of old whiskey hidden in spaces between the floor joists. They also found a six-shot revolver hidden in a wall.

While working upstairs I found a distiller's union booklet dated 1915 under the floor boards. And when I first worked on the roof I found the 1911 front page of the Chicago Tribune stuffed between the roof joints in what must have been a futile effort to stop a leak.

The house is built on glacial moraine left over from the last ice age about 10,000 years ago. A huge glacier sat where Lake Michigan is today and the melt from the glacier formed the Des Plaines River Valley. 10,000 years ago, the run off was over one mile wide and my house would have been on the shoreline of the mile wide river. The Des Plaines River still runs down the valley, but it's only about 200 feet wide today. Because the house is perched on the edge of the valley, we can see all the way across the valley. If we look to the northeast from the top floor, we can see Sears tower and other tall buildings downtown which are 17 miles away.



Bi-Annual Membership Meeting, November 2007 at Oakfield Family Restaurant



Elvis Presley's Met Saved

I always thought Elvis was a Cadillac or Lincoln man but last year when the fires were blazing through California, I heard a news story that Elvis Presley's Met was saved from the fire.

From the news:

Elvis Presley's Nash Metropolitan car and his U.S. Army jacket were among the memorabilia items saved from Kashan Castle in Malibu, California, which was destroyed by fire on Sunday, October 21, 2007. The famous landmark was one of

the first buildings destroyed by the Malibu fires. Owned by philanthropist and collector Lilly Lawrence, the estate, also known as Malibu Castle and Hodge Castle, also featured memorabilia items belonging to late royals Grace Kelly and Diana, Princess of Wales. Many of the items housed in the castle's private museum were destroyed in the fire.

See how sturdy the little Nash Met is?



Elvis, however not with his Met

Message from New Editor

Greetings to my fellow members! My name is Emily Darak and I have been a member since September 2004. This is a great group of people in the Illini Mets. I purchased my car in April 2005 and have been enjoying it ever since. I work full-time for Chas Levy Company in Human Resources. I have worked there for 2 years now. I live with my four dogs, one of which is Ming. He is my navigator when I drive my Met. He even has a few appearances in the 'Mets Around the Clock' slide

show as the doggie with the sunglasses and lounging in the lawn chair. I hope I can live up to my predecessors in this new endeavor. This is my maiden newsletter so I hope it is a good one and, hopefully I will improve with upcoming issues. If there are any items that you would like me to write about, please feel free to give me a call or send me an email.



2008 Calendar of Club Events

Saturday, March 22, 2008 **Membership Meeting** at 1:00 p.m.
Oakfield Family Restaurant, 27W229 Geneva Road, Winfield, IL (630) 690-3303

Saturday, April 12, 2008 **Engine Building Tech Session** at 9:00 am (all day)
Gary Bosselman's Garage, 6812 E Rockton Road, Roscoe, IL (815) 389-9500 or gary@roscoe-restoration.com
Please bring a dish to pass around

Sunday, May 18, 2008 **Outing at Shabbona Lake Station Recreation Area** at 11:00 am
4201 Shabbona Grove Road, Shabbona, IL (815) 824-2106 or <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/PARKS/R1/SHABBONA.HTM>

Sunday, May 25, 2008 **Silver Springs Auto Show and Swap Meet** at 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Sandwich Fairgrounds, Sandwich, IL
For more information, you may call Bob at (815) 498-2433 or robrun32@juno.com

Saturday, June 7, 2008 **Picnic at Blackwell Forest Preserve** at 10:00 am
Blackwell Forest Preserve, Winfield Road & Butterfield Road, Warrenville, IL (630) 933-7248 or
<http://www.dupageforest.com/preserves/blackwell.html>

Saturday, June 21, 2008 **St. Andrew Society Highland Games & Scottish Festival** at 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Oak Brook Polo Grounds, Oak Brook, IL or <http://www.chicago-scots.org/>

Thursday, June 26 to June 29, 2008 **MOCNA Regional** hosted by Rocky Mountain Mets in Colorado
Registration Forms in Met Gazette

Thursday, July 17 to July 20, 2008 **Mitten Mets Invitational 2008** in Adrian, MI
Insert in this newsletter with more information

Saturday, July 26, 2008 **Outing at the Cascade Drive-In** 6:30 pm to ?
Meet at Augustino's Rock and Roll Deli at 6:30 pm
300 W North Ave, West Chicago, IL (630) 293-8602 or <http://augustinos.com/>
Then to Cascade Drive-In
1100 E North Ave, West Chicago, IL (630) 231-3151 or <http://www.cascadedrivein.com/>

Sunday, August 3, 2008 **Illinois Railway Museum Outing** at 8:00 am
Illinois Railway Museum
Union, IL (815) 923-4000 or (800) BIG-RAIL or <http://www.irm.org/>

Sunday, August 3, 2008 **Ball Horticultural Event**
Ball Horticultural, 622 Town Road
West Chicago, IL (630) 231-6300 or
<http://www.ballhort.com/usinfo.html>
\$5.00 admission fee

Sunday, August 10, 2008 **Momence Gladiolus Festival**
Momence, IL (815) 472-6353 or <http://www.gladfest.com/>

Sunday, August 17, 2008 18th **Annual Orphan Auto Picnic** at 10:00 am
Korthauer Estate, 1020 Aurora Ave, Aurora, IL (877) COR-VAIR or <http://www.ccecorvair.com/OAP/> (rain date of August 24)

Sunday, September 7, 2008 **Sanwich Fair**
Sandwich, IL (815) 786-2159 or <http://www.sandwichfair.com/>

Sunday, September 21, 2008 **Greenlee's End of Summer Picnic** at 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Bob & Marge Greenlee, 819 E Bailey Road, Naperville, IL (630) 369-1348 or rgreenlee@wowway.com or margsmet@wowway.com
Please bring a dish – Meat will be provided (rain date of September 28)

Saturday, October 4, 2008 **Fall Color Tour and Apple Run** at 10:00 am, SHARP
Meet at Gary Bosselman's Home, 6812 E Rockton Road, Roscoe, IL (815) 389-9500 or gary@roscoe-restoration.com

Saturday, November 8, 2008 **Membership Meeting** at 1:00 pm
Oakfield Family Restaurant, 27W229 Geneva Road, Winfield, IL (630) 690-3303

Holiday Party in January 2009 TBD

Illini Mets Officers & Contacts

President

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819 E Bailey Rd
Naperville, IL 60565
(630) 369-1348

rlgreenlee@wowway.com

Vice President

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2N754 Alma Ave
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POTTS2N754@wmconnect.com

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Newsletter

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Chicago, IL 60707
(773) 622-0388

er_darak@sbcglobal.net

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.illinimets.org

Webmaster

Mark Hardy

gnash@illinimets.org

Mets Around the Clock Slide Show Preview on You-Tube!

If you would like to see a Preview of the Mets Around the Clock 2007 International Meet Slide Show Gail Brandys put together on You-Tube check out the following link!

<http://www.branmuffinindustries.com/mets/Mets.html>

"Hope you enjoy it and share it with whomever you like!" – Gail Brandys



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TINh0Oqz1Is>

Gail also put up a web page to sell the slide show and the quirky Met magnets by Tiffany.

Upcoming in the Newsletter

We will begin attempting to do member profiles very soon. I will be calling members to set up a time to talk with them about being a member of the

Illini Mets, some background information and hopefully pictures. Pictures are wonderful because they fill the newsletter up. We will

also have listings of various cruise nights in the Chicagoland area.

If you have a story...

If you have a story, please email the story to Emily at er_darak@sbcglobal.net. I am also going to try to start an "Ads" section (which will

be called "Bits n' Pieces") to the newsletter so we can offer services, sell items of interest or may need an item for your Met o. If you need to get in touch with me, my cell phone number is 773-206-

9607 and home number is 773-622-0388.

ILLINI METS

Emily Darak

er_darak@sbcglobal.net

1723 N Oak Park Ave

Chicago, IL 60707



"Be it ever so humble..."

COMPANY NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, ST 22134





Application entry deadline: Friday, June 27, 2008

Entry Information

Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Fax number: _____ Email address: _____

Type of Entry: Float _____ Vehicle _____ Marching (Number of Participants) _____

Other: _____

Additional information regarding your entry: _____

Parade Route

The Parade route will begin westbound on the North side of 95th Street from 51st Avenue to 55th Ct. Parade participants will need to be at 51st Avenue and 95th Street (Pilgrim Faith Church/Metra Parking lot) by 9:00 a.m. We strongly encourage parade participants to bring candy to toss to spectators along the route. If you have any questions, please contact Chad Weiler (cweiler@oaklawn-il.gov) at (708) 499-7821 or Deanne Adasiak at (708) 899-4400.

Please return this application via fax to (708) 499-7823 or mail to the Village of Oak Lawn Attn: Parade Coordinator 9446 S. Raymond Avenue Oak Lawn, IL 60453-2449.

PARADE KICK OFF IS AT 10:00 A.M. ON FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2008

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THE VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN'S ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



Tentative Schedule of Events

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Registration at hotel
Early Bird Ice Cream Social

Friday, July 18, 2008

Registration at hotel
Driving Tour - lunch included
Burkholder Toy Collection
Hubbard Personal Automobila Collection
Hidden Lake
McCourtie Park
Cruise Night in Onsted - Dinner in private hall right in Onsted
Cookie Contest Judged

Saturday, July 19, 2008

Car show in Onsted (Gates open at 7:00am, optional pancake breakfast at 7:00am. Opening ceremonies begin at 10:00am. Award ceremony at 3:00pm.)
Judging by categories done by meet participants (Onsted Car show trophies to top 100 as selected by participants, plus other awards)
Judging by Mitten Mets Invitational participants
Club Tent at Show
Evening banquet, awards, auction

Sunday, July 20, 2008

Optional Ganton's Collection - by pre-registration only (\$5)
Goodbye





Registration Form

July 17-20, 2008

Please fill out and return attached form too.

Registration Information

Registrant Name(s) _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Car Information:

Make: _____

Model: _____

Year: _____

Note: Metropolitans will be parked in reserved parking on show field. Non-Metropolitans will be parked nearby. Mets will be run around the track together in a special presentation. Non-Mets will run around the track at a different time. To participate in this event with our group, you MUST register through the Mitten Mets. If you send your registration to Onsted, you will not be with our block. You will receive your window card and other materials for the event through us.

GIFT for first 30 registrants.

Hotel Reservations to be made at the Super 8 Hotel, Adrian, MI (517) 265-8888
 Ask for the Mitten Mets room block
 Rates are \$72.69/night tax inc.
 Availability is limited. Rooms at Holiday Inn Express will be released once the Super 8 is full.

Registration Fee

\$45/person # attending _____ \$ _____

\$60/person after June 1 _____ \$ _____

Events:

Thursday: Welcome Party (included)
 # attending _____ \$INCL.

Friday: Driving Tour w/lunch \$10/person
 #attending _____ \$ _____

Friday: Cruise Night/Dinner \$15/person
 # attending _____ \$ _____

Saturday Car Show \$20.00/car \$ _____

Saturday Banquet (included)
 # attending _____ \$INCL.

Sunday Tour Ganton Collection
 \$5/person # attending _____ \$ _____

Shirts/Hats/Etc.

Shirt \$18 each
 ___ Small ___ Med
 ___ Large ___ XL ___ 2XL \$ _____

Hat: \$12 each
 # ordered _____ \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Check Payable to: Mitten Mets
 Send Registration to:
 Mitten Mets
 c/o Rhonda Gelstein
 8139 Rene Dr.
 White Lake, MI 48386

Please note: Guidelines require that all cars attending meet must have a DOT or Hallogen fire extinguisher whether the car(s) is judged or not.
www.mitten-mets.com



Information

TROPHIES / AWARDS

Rather than the traditional judging classes, we are awarding trophies to the following "participant's choice" categories. Non-Metropolitans are available for these categories as well. Keep an eye on our website as other categories may be added.

Most Detailed Engine Compartment
Best Accessories / Best Display
Metropolitan Driven furthest to Show
Outfit Most Coordinated with Car
Diamond in the Rough / Car You'd Most Like
To See Restored

Cleanest Car
Most Unique Paint
Most Unusual ???
Trailer Queen



SHIRTS / HATS / ETC.

To help with inventory control, please purchase items with your registration form or through our website. On-site inventory will be limited. Sport Shirt has Racing Check collar and cuffs around the short sleeves. Logo is embroidered.



Logo is embroidered on the hat. Hat has racing checks around brim as shown in photo. Photos of available items can be seen on our website.

AUCTION

There will be an auction at the banquet. Donation of items is greatly appreciated.

GANTON COLLECTION

The Ganton Collection (optional Sunday event) is a private, invitation-only collection of cars, pedal cars, toys, Coca-Cola collectibles and more. Well worth the visit!



Cookie Contest



Break out your best cookie recipe! Enter it into our Metropolitan Cookie Contest. Bring at least 1 dozen of your favorite homemade cookies to the Invitational. The best part, we all get to enjoy the results! Once the cookies are judged they will be available for attendees to sample at the show on Saturday.



Cookies must be made, not purchased. Show off your family favorites



Cookie Name, Cook's name, and cookie recipe must be submitted to Rhonda Gelstein no later than June 30th. Late entries will not be included in the program book.



Bring at least 1 dozen of cookies made from your recipe. Turn in your cookies when you pick up your registration packet. Please be sure your name is clearly marked on your cookie container. Please bring them in a container you do NOT want back.



Cookies will be judged by our team of cookie judges on Friday night. Cookies will be assigned a number, so judges will not know who made which cookie.



Once cookies are judged, they will be made available to all attendees at the show on Saturday in the Hospitality Tent.



You are welcome to enter more than one cookie/recipe. The more the yummiier!



Awards will be presented in several categories. Awards will be given at the Saturday night banquet.

This is a fun event created to help provide items for the hospitality area and get more people involved in the festivities. The judges' decisions are final. Contestants will not be present during judging. We appreciate your participation. This could be the yummiest Met meet yet!

Please submit recipes to:

Mail:
Rhonda Gelstein
8139 Rene Dr.
White Lake, MI 48386

Email:
RMGelstein@sbcglobal.net

www.mitten-mets.com