U.S. Route 66 near Hamel, Illinois

FOUNDER'S DAY SLATED FOR OCTOBER 8
by Tom Teague

Our statewide organization meeting is slated for Noon, Sunday October 8, at the VFW Hall on Old 66 in Dwight. This is an important meeting for all members and 66 fans to attend because we will approve bylaws, elect officers and a board of directors, and make some plans for what we'd like to do next year.

Here are some possible feats for us to accomplish in the next 12 months:

* Publish a brochure and map
* Work to get the highway rededicated
* Hold a two-day car rally from Chicago to the Chain of Rocks Bridge
* Establish a Route 66 of Illinois Hall of Fame (could be held in conjunction with the car rally)

This is a pretty ambitious agenda, but we can do it. Route 66 proved time and time again that people, if given the chance, could succeed by dint of their own efforts. Let's prove that one
more time for the highway itself.

All this means work, of course. So if you're interested at all in helping to get it done, please come to the October 8 meeting prepared to volunteer for something. We'll need candidates for each office, plus a board member from each county along the way, plus a newsletter editor, plus people to serve on various committees. Anyone who wants to volunteer in advance should call me at 217-787-8839 or write to me at 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, IL 62704.

The bylaws are included as an insert in each member's copy of this newsletter. Please read them carefully so we can expedite their approval at the meeting.

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Moyemonts to Host October 8 Meal

Our official meeting will start about 1 p.m., October 8. Prior to that, however, Paul and Gretchen Moyemont, proprietors of the Carefree Motel in Dwight, have graciously offered to host a free luncheon for us. If you plan to attend the luncheon, please call Paul or Gretchen before September 24 at 815-584-3079.

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MEMBERS

As of August 31, we had 56 members already! They are:

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Anderson
Lexington, IL
Edward Bingley
Normal, IL
James R. Black
Woodridge, IL
Leon & Susan Bornder
Lexington, IL
Dan Brintlinger
Decatur, IL
Mr. Tracy Brockmeyer
Bloomington, IL
Walter Bush
Wood Dale, IL
Carefree Motel
Dwight, IL
Desert Life Magazine
Victorville, CA
Dixie Truckers Home
Bloomington, IL
Nedra Dues and Family
Gardner, IL
Steve and Glaida Funk
Shirley, IL
Mike Fortney
Bloomington, IL
Ed Graham
Lexington, IL
Diane Guse
Normal, IL
Tim Hadac
Chicago, IL
Robert Heath
Bushnell, IL
Clifford Horine
Bloomington, IL
Eric Hience
Chicago Ridge, IL
Roger Jackson
West Bend, WI
Tim Johnson
Bloomington, IL
Brian Jurgensen
Alsip, IL
Tom and Pat Knudsen
Bloomington, IL
Evelyn Lillevig
Joliet, IL
Mary Louher
Pontiac, IL
Michael Lynn
Chicago, IL
Jim and Betty McClellan
Atlanta, IL
Jeff & Laura Meyer
Rolling Meadows, IL
Terry R. Moews
Bloomington, IL
Gary L. Mool
Lexington, IL
New Log Cabin
Pontiac, IL
Wallace Pfeifer
Joliet, IL
Paula Pomerene
Normal, IL
James R. Powell
St. Louis, MO
Robert Powell
Lexington, IL
Gayle Richards
Toledo, IL
Herman Rutledge
Bloomington, IL
Randy Schmitt
Streator, IL
James A. Schultz
Springfield, IL
Edward Schumann
LaGrange, IL
Don & Vauna Smith
Lexington, IL
Reid & Nan Sonderup
Salt Lake City, UT
Floyd Sutter
Lexington, IL
Dana Swann
Urbana, IL
Tom Teague
Springfield, IL
Daniel E. Uscian
Mount Prospect, IL
Ed Waldmire
Rochester, IL
Margaret & Johnathan Walker
Pekin, IL
Michael & Suzanne Wallis
Tulsa, OK
Gladys Warthen
Plainfield, IL
Terry Wilde
McHenry, IL
Boyd Wilson
Gridley, IL
Douglas Wolf
Belleville, IL
Chuck & Mary Wright & Family
Lexington, IL
Tony Young
Bloomington, IL
Larry Ziarko
Chicago, IL

THANKS AGAIN to the Wright family and other fine Lexington folks for helping our Route 66 Reunion there on July 23 such a success—and fun! Thanks also to Robert Waldmire, whose artwork adorns our newsletter.
DOWN THE ROAD
With 66 Roadologists Jeff and Laura Meyer

As with all of us in Illinois, a great amount of things have been going on along the Mother Road.

Let’s start with Missouri. Jim Powell of St. Louis is going to do 66 in September from start to finish. Jim and his brother will be driving a ’60 Vette. When he gets back, he will be starting a Route 66 Association of Missouri.

In Oklahoma/Kansas, JoAnn Vervinck of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism has been active in getting an association started there. They had their kick-off day May 31 in Chandler. The governor was there and also many community reps. They gave away hot dogs, moon pies and Coke in bottles! In August, JoAnn and Dr. Tom Snyder of Route 66: An American Adventure in California traveled Route 66 in Oklahoma, surveying the tourism potential of towns and sights along the way.

On October 29, they’ll have their statewide organizational meeting in Oklahoma City. They’ll be working on the model developed by folks in Tulsa, who have already formed a Tulsa Chapter of the association! This group held their first meeting June 22 at the Route 66 Diner in Tulsa. Mike Higgs is president, Sherry Higgs is secretary and Gini Hinch is treasurer. Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the University of Tulsa.

Tulsa’s Mike Wallis has written a book called Route 66: The Mother Road, which St. Martin’s Press plans to publish next spring. Along with Tom Teague’s book Searching for 66, it should make a fine addition to anyone’s 66 library.

New Mexico held its first meeting in March. Since then they’ve worked with country singer Michael Martin Murphy to produce a video of Bobby Troup’s song “Route 66.” At their organizational meeting in August, they elected Judi Snow as president, Mary Kay Cline as secretary, and Ron Chavez as treasurer. They will meet quarterly in Albuquerque.

Jerry Richard, executive vice president of the Arizona association, would say things are wild and happening there. For the past two years, they’ve had three-day parties along 66 from Seligman to Topock! They also got that stretch of the road rededicated as a historic highway by the state of Arizona. They hope to turn their Kingman office into a visitors’ center with information about places to see all along the route.

Senator Pete Dominici of New Mexico was the primary sponsor of the Route 66 Study Act, which recently passed the Senate. Look for more word on this in future issues—it could lead to Route 66 being declared a national scenic highway like the Blue Ridge Parkway or the Santa Fe Trail.

Well, that’s it from the Pontiac Trail, the Beale Wagon Trail, the Will Rogers Highway, the Main Street of America and the Mother Road—Route 66. These roadologists will see you next time!

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ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME ____________________________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________________________

CITY __________________________ PHONE __________________________

INTERESTS ____________________________________________

HOW I CAN HELP ____________________________________________

DUES: $10 Individual, $15 Family, $25 Business, Sustaining—your choice

RETURN TO: Route 66 Association of Illinois, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, IL 62704
T-SHIRTS AND STUFF

Bob Waldmire has designed a beautiful, two-color sweatshirt and t-shirt for our association (see illustration below). They will be on sale for the first time at Harvest Days September 16-17 in Dwight. Sweatshirts can also be ordered by mail for $12 plus $1.50 postage and handling by writing to the Route 66 Association of Illinois, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, IL 62704. T-shirts are available for $7, plus $1.50. Please specify whether you want medium, large or extra large.

We also have some nice bumper stickers and buttons available for a dollar apiece, but we haven't figured out an economical way to mail them yet. Please write us if you have any suggestions.

Quantity discounts on all our merchandise are available. Please write to the Route 66 Association of Illinois, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, IL 62704 for details.

Don't forget October 8!

Route 66 Association of Illinois
1208 W. Edwards
Springfield, IL 62704
The covered bridge which spanned Salt Creek on Route 66 south of Union Cemetery at Lincoln, long since replaced, was photographed by Sam Doyle of Lincoln in 1900. The print was made by the late L.B. Shroyer and is from the collection of Weldon Frantz of Lincoln.

We gather together...

By Tom Teague
Association President

...to cruise 66! At our organizing meeting October 8 in Dwight, everyone was polite and courteous as we dutifully trudged through the adoption of by-laws, the election of officers and all those other formal things we have to do at least once. But when a cruise next year along Route 66 was suggested, smiles blossomed on faces and everyone’s eyes lit up. We don’t know all the details yet, folks, but we know we’re going to succeed. It’s the 66 way.

Like the highway itself, our cruise will be open to virtually everybody—whether they drive an REO or a Toyota Corolla. We’re shooting for a Saturday and Sunday in early June, depending on what dates we can get all the necessary permits for. We’ll start in Chicago’s Grant Park on a Saturday and cruise down to the Dixie Truckers’ Home in McLean for the Route 66 Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. Hopefully, a town along the way will host a lunch break for us.

After the hall of fame ceremonies, we’ll proceed to Lincoln, where an evening of central Illinois hospitality has been offered us. Sunday, we’ll drive on down to St. Louis and conclude our cruise under the Gateway Arch. Along the way, Litchfield will show us what’s so friendly about that town’s folks.

A planning meeting for the cruise, or rally, took place November 5 at the New Log Cabin Restaurant in Pontiac. Twenty-one people showed up—ready to work. Jeff and Laura Meyer, Dan Uscian, Frank Lozich and Chuck Wright Jr. (who will also work on corporate sponsorships) will work on the permits we’ll need in Chicago and St. Louis. Harvey Hodges and Howie Thornley will put together a “goodie bag” for all entrants. The city of Lincoln which sent a five-member delegation, will provide hospitality on Saturday evening. Chuck Wright Sr. will help with the Hall of Fame. Tom Teague will handle publicity and everybody else will also pitch in at one time or another.

Look for entry forms and other details in upcoming newsletters. They’ll be coming.
By Jeff & Laura Meyer
66 Roadologists

Things are still moving along on the Will Rogers Highway. While we plan for our first every Fun Run, Arizona is working on their 3rd annual! Here’s the rundown on what’s goin’ on in Missouri, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Missouri Route 66 Association (P.O. Box 8117, St. Louis, Mo 63112) had their first meeting for the Western part of the state on October 20 in Mt. Vernon. Twenty-five people attended. The meeting was hosted by Thelma White of Whitehall Mercantile in Halltown (on 66!).

The next meeting was at the Tri County Truck Stop (the old Diamonds Restaurant) in Villa Ridge, Mo. on Nov. 18th for that part of the state.

Brothers Jim and Don Powell took the whole Route in September and they had a good time. Jim’s doing a three-part story for Corvette Fever with the first part due out in January.

There was also a Car Rally from Carthage to Baxter Springs, KS, sponsored by a Missouri car club.

Oklahoma Route 66 Association (500 Will Rogers Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73105) held a statewide meeting at the Blue Room of the State Capitol on October 28, folks were selling Route 66 stuff in the hallway outside, including our own Rt. 66 GOODWILL AMBASSADOR Bob Waldmire! He’s doing the artwork on the OK brochure for the Department of Tourism.

The hit of the event was our buddy, Lucille Harmon’s, proprietor of the Historic Highway in Hydro. She was all excited about 66 and was selling HER T’s as well! Lucille is so cool! Be sure to visit her when you’re toolin’ down You-Know-What! (Need we write more?)

This meeting had several slide shows featuring architecture and road shots provided by JoAnne Ver- vinck and Tom Snyder. Michael Wallis gave a few readings from his Rt. 66, The Mother Road book as well.

All in all, 125 attended and four people were there from “No place like Texola!” How about that?!

In the afternoon it was down to business. The steering committee was formed and has since met twice. This committee includes Dan Scott, Sherry Higgs and Lucille Harmon.

Another meeting was held Nov. 11 at the state capitol.

On Oct. 21, OKC’s KMOA had a Classic Car Show to benefit ‘66.’ It was held in the infield of Remington Park while the horse races were going on.

Meanwhile, the Tulsa Chapter has been very busy promoting 66 in that part of the state.

They had a Fall Foliage Tour down 66 from Tulsa to Chelsea with 30 cars participating. We were the guest speakers at their September meeting. For info on the Tulsa Chapter and the State, write OK Route 66 Association, Tulsa Chapter, PO Box 4782, Tulsa, OK 74104 919-274-6790.

Thanks to Mike and Sherry Higgs and Michael and Suzanne Wallis for letting us stay with them while we were in Tulsa. Also, Gladys Cutberth of Clinton to whom we gave a lifetime membership along with Tulsa for all the work she and her husband Jack did with the Old Association.

New Mexico Route 66 Association membership info is available from 10749 Prospect NE, Apt. C., Albuquerque, NM 87112. For general information, write PO Drawer Q, Gallup, NM 87305.

They put out their first newsletter, which will be published quarterly. Ron Chavez of the Club Cafe is doing a good job! His establishment is an institution in Santa Rosa. They also have a contest to design their logo, open to all New Mexico residents, and the prize is $66. The winner was determined at their Nov. 16 meeting when they also voted on bylaws.

Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona (write PO Box 66, Kingman AZ 86401, 602-755-5001) is planning a third Fun Run for April 27-29. For more information, write to the above address. We plan to be there with Reid and Nan Sondrup of Salt Lake City, UT, looking for ideas for our car thing next summer.

They’re very busy out there. On Labor Day weekend in Oatman, they held their gold Camp Days. Everyone had a blast. Also, the Second Annual Christmas parade down 66 was held at Kingman on Dec. 3.

And there was the Great Foot race from Oatman to Topock on Oct. 29. Jerry Richard has been talking to a British film crew which is going to do a movie on 66 in the Spring. (Out there and down the Route. Send them there to see what everybody is missing in Illinois, Jerry.)

Eloise Wycott from Holbrook’s Main Street project attended the October meeting. She’s interested in getting something going out there. Ash Fork, Williams, Winslow and the rest of the states on 66 are coming along.

A final thought comes from President Angel Delgadillo, who, in a letter to us, made this comment, “I get high on 66 like some do with beer.” How true!

Well, that’s all for now. MERRY CRUSIN’ TO ALL AND TO ALL A 66 NEW YEAR!!!

Happy New Year
from Your Rt66
Association Board of Directors!
Members

We now have 102 members—nearly twice as many as when our first newsletter came out. We come from eleven states and include Gladys Cutberth, whose husband, Jack, was the longtime executive secretary of the national Route 66 Association. Also among our number are the Arizona, Oklahoma, and New Mexico Route 66 Associations and two sustaining members: State Farm Insurance Companies of Bloomington and the Ariston Cafe (Nick Adams, owner) of Litchfield.

These are our new folks:

Ariston Cafe
Litchfield, IL
Sustaining

Michelle Buhl
Ashland, IL

James and Betty Bunting
Dwight, IL

Mrs. Jack Cutberth
Clinton, OK

Anthony Caciopo
Chicago, IL

Darrell Condon & Family
Dwight, IL

The Elder Family
Pasadena, TX

George & Lois Hager
Dwight, IL

Lee Haldorson
Joliet, IL

Lucille Hamons
Hydro, OK

Michael & Susan Herren
Aurora, IL

Mike & Sherry Higgs
Owasso, OK

Historic Route 66
Association of Arizona
Kingman, AZ

Michael Yates Family
Washington, IL

Harvey & Adella Hodges
Champaign, IL

Mary C. Hoffman
Champaign, IL

Ruel & Helen Hoffman
Dwight, IL

Frederic Hoppin
Lincoln, IL

Irene Kanzawa
Dwight, IL

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Baker
Clinton, IL

Dareyl Brown
Armington, IL

Vlado Lenoch
Countryside, IL

Myra Linden
Key Biscayne, FL

Joe Lojewski
Medinah, IL

Frank & Roxanne Lozich
Tinley Park, IL

Joe and Julia Makula
Staunton, IL

J. Alex McWilliams Jr.
Dwight, IL

Tom Young Family
Atlanta, IL

Linda Miller Family
Columbia, MD

Taylor Moyemont
Dwight, IL

New Mexico Route 66 Association
Gallup, NM

Oklahoma Route 66 Association
Tulsa Chapter

John & Peggie Powers
Springfield, IL

Jerome Price
Cassopolis, Mich

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Randall
Gilman, IL

Route 66 Service Center
Dwight, IL

Ray & Nancy Saul Family
McLean, IL

Raymond & Dorothy Schroeder
Dwight, IL

State Farm Insurance
Bloomington, IL
(Sustaining)

Otto Struhelka
Pewaukee, WI

Howie Thornley
Ashland, IL

Thressia Usherwood
Atlanta, IL

Bud & Lou Vandiver
Champaign, IL

Ramona Wahl
Edwardsville, IL

Diane Washburn
Muskego, WI

Bob Williamson
Chicago, IL

Next Board Meeting Jan. 14

The next board meeting of the Route 66 Association of Illinois, open to all members and other interested persons, will be held at the Ariston Cafe in Litchfield, IL on Sunday, Jan. 14, 1990. If you plan to be there for the noon luncheon, RSVP to Nick Adam at the Ariston no later than Sunday, Jan. 7.
Remember when The Dixie Truckers Home looked like this? The photo was loaned by Mrs. Charlotte Beeler, one of the principal owners of the business.

**Dixie Truckers home at McLean to house Route 66 Hall of Fame**

Dixie Truckers Home in McLean has been named as the location of the Illinois Route 66 Association Hall of Fame.

"The Dixie Truckers Home is probably the oldest truck stop in the United States," said Mrs. Charlotte "C.J." Beeler, one of the principal owners and secretary to the Board of Directors for Shirley Oil and Supply Co., Inc., and manager of the Dixie retail stores.

"Our front door is on old Route 66 and our back door is on new Interstate 55. Our sons are the fourth generation of our family in the business. The Dixie Truckers Home was started by my grandfather, J.P. Walters, and father, John Geske. My husband, Charles Beeler, is president of the corporation."

"The business is unusual in that it has been established for 61 years, since 1928," she said.

Dixie Truckers Home has operated continuously since opening except for a few hours on June 28, 1965, when fire destroyed the original building. The fire occurred at 2 p.m. and cars and trucks were again being serviced by that evening.

Charles Beeler says the Dixie is undergoing extensive remodeling and that the Hall of Fame will be incorporated into the project, which is expected to be completed by early spring, 1990.

A committee of the Route 66 Association will be appointed to consider nominations of people and places to the Hall of Fame. A public appeal has been issued for donations of memorabilia for the Hall of Fame.

According to Mrs. Beeler, the Dixie now has Route 66 T-shirts and will carry more items after the Hall of Fame is established. Dedication ceremonies are planned in conjunction with the Association's June tour from Chicago to St. Louis.

**Nancy Saul is responsible for this**

Nancy Saul, an experienced journalist and freelance writer from McLean, is our newsletter's editor. Fellow association members Michelle Buhl and Betty McLeLan are helping her. Like everyone else in our group, they are donating their efforts. Let's give them our support and show them our appreciation. And if you operate a business on 66, buy an ad. For advertising rates, contact Saul at P.O. Box 159, McLean, IL 61754.

**The Association as Seedplanter**

By Tom Teague
Association President

Route 66 became the stuff of legend partly through fate, but mostly through grass roots promotion. Jack Cutberth, executive secretary of the old national association, spent 30 years traveling 66, passing out brochures like a Johnny Appleseed of the road. We certainly don't aspire to the legendary status that Jack had, but our state association is going to publish a brochure—maybe even two.

If we can sell enough advertising, we'll publish a temporary brochure in January. It will consist of a map of Illinois 66, plus some of our usual love-struck comments about the road. In June, we hope to publish a much larger brochure. It will have photos, pictures, stories, a more detailed map and a program of our 66 cruise.

Tim Hadac, who edits a chain of newspapers in suburban Chicago, will be the brochure's editor. He will be aided by his photography editor, Antony Caciopo—plus fellow journalists and others interested in their project.

We need words. We need visuals. We need lots of ad salesmen. Contact Tim if you can help in anyway. His address is 3846 W. 59th Place, Chicago, IL 60629.

Members and other fans of the road can sponsor the brochure (and get their names in it) by sending $10 to the Route 66 Association of Illinois, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, IL 62704.

Thank you for your support.

**Election of officers**

The following officers were elected at our October 8 organizational meeting: Tom Teague, president; Jeff Meyer, vice president; and Laura Meyer, secretary and acting treasurer.

Board members are Tim Hadac, Eric Hince, Betty McLeLan, Paul Moyemont, Nancy Saul, Ray Schroeder, Ed Schumann, Chuck Wright Sr. and Mike Yates.

We are still looking for board members from Grundy and the route's southern counties. Call and offer us your name.
A Guide Book to Highway 66—and other neat Route 66 stuff to provide your kicks

Sensing that the end of World War II would bring a travel boom along Route 66, fledgling author Jack Rittenhouse researched, wrote and self-published A Guide Book to Highway 66 in 1946.

The 128-page, pocket-sized book sold 3,000 copies at $1 apiece, but was aces out of the market when an eastern manufacturer came out the next year with a cheaper but smaller product. Jack is a retired books editor and rare book dealer now and lives in Albuquerque. Until 66 buffs started knocking on his door a few years ago, he'd practically forgotten about the guide book. But now there's been so much interest in it that the University of New Mexico Press has reprinted it.

The book features detailed descriptions of roadside features and travelers' amenities. It also has numerous cultural and historical notes which make it fascinating reading. Copies are available through the Route 66 Association of Illinois, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, IL 62704. Send $6.95 plus $1.25 postage and handling.

You can buy Association sweatshirts for $12, T-shirts for $7, buttons and bumper stickers for $1 apiece and lapel pins for $3. Minimum postage and handling charge is $1.50, plus 50 cents for each additional item.

Revive the Old National?

That's our goal. With active state level associations in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona, we should reach it in 1992. And you know what that means? It means a cruise along the entire 2,200-mile length of 66 in 1993!

Look for a national reorganization meeting in 1991 in Clinton, Oklahoma—Jack and Gladys Cuthbert's hometown.

A HEARTY THANKS TO THE FOLKS AT THE NEW LOG CABIN RESTAURANT IN PONTIAC WHO PROVIDED HOSPITALITY FOR THE PLANNING SESSION IN NOVEMBER!

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

INTERESTS

HOW I CAN HELP

DUES: $10 Individual, $15 Family, $25 Business, Sustaining—your choice

RETURN TO: Route 66 Association of Illinois, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, IL 62704