



ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

# THE 66 NEWS!

CHICAGO  
CICERO  
BERWYN  
LYONS  
MCCOOK

ROMEOVILLE  
CREST HILL  
JOLIET  
ELWOOD

Lake Michigan

PONTIAC  
ODELL  
D'WIGHT  
GARDNER  
WILMINGTON  
BRANDWOOD

CHENOA  
LEVINSON  
TOWNSEND  
NORMAL  
BLOOMINGTON  
FUNKS GROVE  
MCLEARN

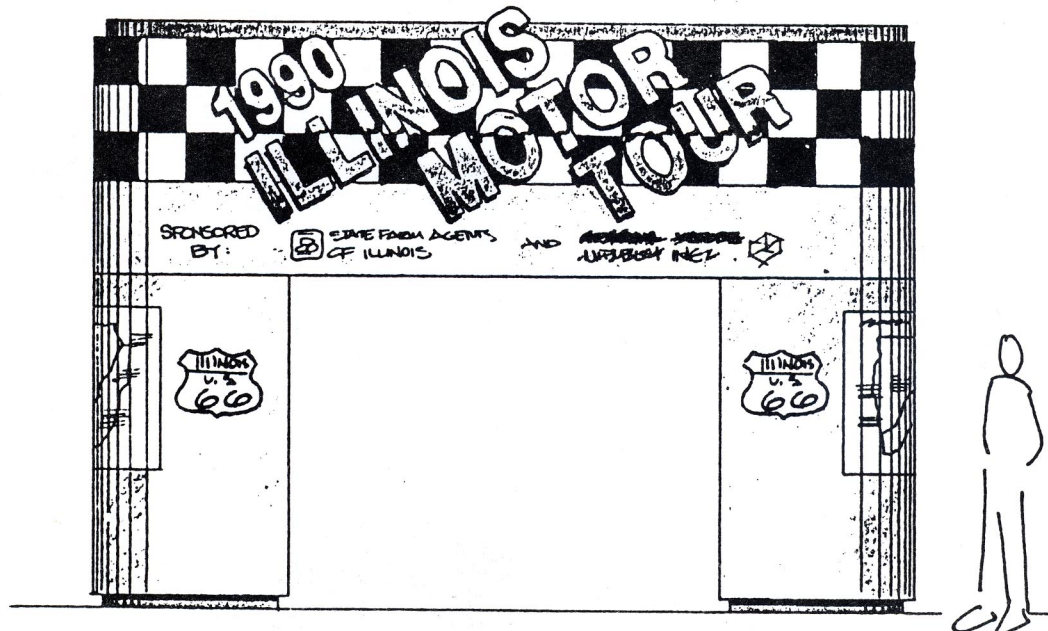
ATLANTA  
LINCOLN  
BROADWELL  
ELKHART  
SHERMAN  
SPRINGFIELD

DIVERNON  
FARMERSVILLE  
WAGGONER

LITCHFIELD  
MT. OLIVE  
WILLIAMSON  
LIVINGSTON

HAMEL  
BROOKLYN  
EAST ST. LOUIS

Issue #3 March, 1990



Above is an artist's concept of The Arch, constructed through a contribution from State Farm Insurance, for The Tour. The portable structure will be used at the beginning of The Tour, then moved along the route for use in each town where special activities are planned. The driver of each car registered for The Tour will have an opportunity to drive through The Arch and have his passport stamped at pre-determined locations.

## The Association Motor Tour is on a roll

By Tom Teague  
Association President

Dust off all your seldom-used metaphors, folks. When the last car reaches St. Louis June 10, it looks like we're going to need them to describe the association's 1990 Route 66 Motor Tour.

The Tour will begin at 9

a.m. on June 9 near the intersection of Columbus Drive on Chicago's lake front. At noon, the city of Dwight will host a picnic stop for the tour. Then we'll go to Pontiac where some 66 friends are planning a reception for us.

Continued on Page 2

"ILLINOIS — WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

At 4 p.m., we'll gather at the Dixie Truckers Home in McLean for the first induction of members into the Route 66 Hall of Fame of Illinois. AT 8 p.m., the city of Lincoln will end the tour's first day with a dance party.

Before he left for Washington, Abraham Lincoln christened the town of Lincoln with a watermelon. To start the second day, Abe has agreed to return to Lincoln and rechristen Route 66! He's not sure that he'll be able to get a watermelon that early in the season, but he guarantees a proper ceremony.

We're still negotiating this detail, but we hope to cruise into the Illinois State Fairgrounds at 10 a.m. on June 10 and take a lap around the world's fastest dirt track. Then at 12:30 p.m., the Wolf Pack Car Club of Litchfield has promised us a parade

through that city.

The Tour will end at Ted Drewes Custard Stand on city 66 in St. Louis. Ted is a true 66-er. His answer to blizzards, those thick treats from Dairy Queen, is the Concrete. And especially for our arrival, he is creating a Route 66 Concrete.

In Chicago and all other stops along the way, State Farm Insurance is sponsoring the Route 66 Motor Tour Arch. To document their participation in the Tour, drivers will pass through the arch in each city and have their Route 66 passports stamped.

Look for a Tour registration form elsewhere in this issue. Be sure to turn it in early--we're cutting registrations off at 500!

When government first declared that Route 66 was no more, there was a general tendency for people to believe it. But we know better than that don't we? By June 10, so will a lot more people.



Fred Hoppin of Lincoln and Thressia Usherwood of Atlanta, both Association members, are among those working on the gala party to take place in Lincoln the evening of June 9. They also plan a big kick-off the morning of June 10 which will include ceremonies appropriate to the occasion.



# Down the Road

By Jeff & Laura Meyer

66 Roadologists

Things sure have been hopping all over the Route! (and we haven't had much time ourselves, what with work and packing of our FREE trip to 'Aloha'. . .but enough of that. Let's get on with it.

The Route 66 Association of Missouri has 60 members so far. Their BIG meeting was held 1/13/90 at the Holiday Inn in Lebanon, Mo. President Jim Powell and Director Thelma White of Whitehall Merchantile are co-founders.

The officers were elected and the agenda prepared for the year. Upcoming meetings are March 24, St. Roberts; June 10, Ted Drewes in St. Louis (to greet us at the end of the Illinois tour); Sept. 15, Rolla; Nov. 10, Springfield, Mo.; and sometime in January in Lebanon.

Jim has two state reps, Jim Mitchal and J. Dan Willow introducing a bill in the Missouri Legislature to try and make 66 a State Historic Highway.

Jim has also done a three-part article for the March, April, May issue of Corvette Fever magazine. In it, he highlights the 66 trip he took with his brother, Don.

And here's more good news! The notorious Coral Court Motel celebrated its 50th anniversary and to mark the event it has been officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places. (Save us Room and Garage #53, please!)

Oklahoma Route 66 Association and Tulsa Chapter members are planning what they call a car Poker Run for June 8-10, 1990. There will be



starting points in both Elk City and Claremore. Playing cards will be given out at certain stops along the way and whoever has the best Poker hand at the end of the run wins.

On June 8 parties will be held in both OKC and Tulsa. The Tulsa party will be hosted by the Tulsa Chapter. Saturday, one group will start out in Elk City to Claremore and the other will travel 66 from Claremore to Elk City.

Sunday there'll be an awards ceremony in Stroud. The Tulsa Chapter will host a state meeting on March 17.

Our Travlin' Goodwill Ambassador Bob Waldmire has finished the work on Oklahoma's brochure and is getting his 66 map completed slowly but surely. In Hydro, visited Lucille Hamons at her Historic Highway establishment. As a matter of fact, if it wasn't for her, there would have been no Tom Teague or Bob Waldmire! She put them in touch with each other, which eventually led to us and -TADA! We thought about forming an organization in Illinois.

In Clinton, Bob met with Mrs. 66 herself, Gladys Cutberth! Anything for Oklahoma's newsletter should be sent to Kris Marek at P.O. Box 166, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

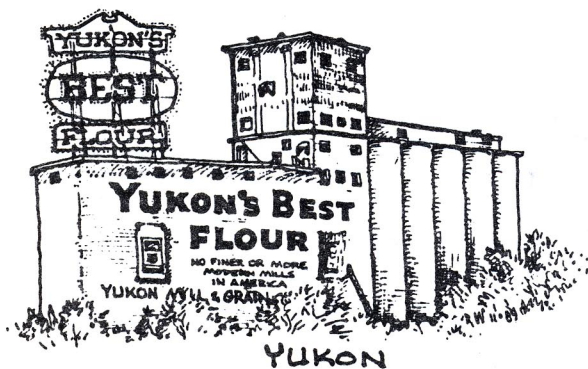


Dan Scott reports that they have nearly 150 members now.

Things are finally beginning to roll in Texas! Delbert Trew of Alanreed, Texas is trying to get a group together. His plans are to open a 66 Museum and a Barbed Wire Archive. (Why not!)

In Amarillo, the 6th Street Merchants Association is using a \$25,000 grant to revitalize a 13 block stretch of old City 66 called the San Jacinto Area. It's an almost endless string of antique shops.

You can contact Mr. Trew at Trew Ranch, Box A, Alanreed, Texas, 79002, 806-779-3164.



At the Jan 23 board meeting of the New Mexico Route 66 Association, they came up with the month of October for a national conference (day still uncertain).

We feel that a national is a good idea. However, we believe that each state should get its association established from a grass roots level and progress from there. Once we have achieved this goal, then we can concentrate on a national.

As of Feb. 1, President Judy Snow says they have 110 members.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR THE  
MICHAEL MARTIN MURPHY ROUTE 66

VIDEO. It should be shown on TNN, VH1 and other music channels.

Bob Audette who resides in Tijeras Canyon put a festival together in the fall of '88 to save 66. He had live music and sold I Saved 66 t-shirts. You can write to Bob Audette at 1357 Historic Route 66 East, Tijeras, NM 87059.

The office of the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona at 711 Andy Devine is closed. Temporary headquarters is at the Quality Inn, 1400 Andy Devine Ave, Kingman, Ariz 86401. They may relocate the office at the Kingman Chamber of Commerce. Stand by for details!

All systems are go for Arizona's third annual Fun Run. Final plans were laid out at a four-hour meeting on Jan. 14.

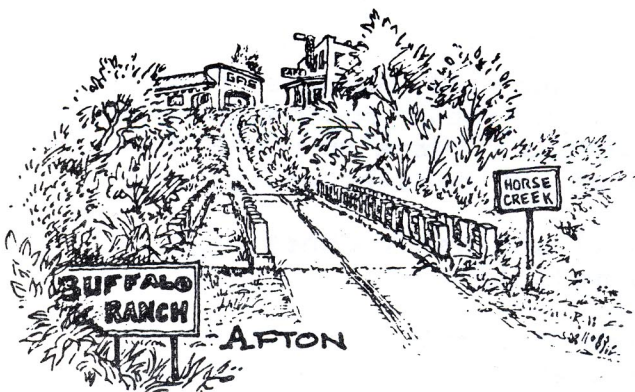
A welcome reception will kick off festivities in Seligman on Friday. Then the Miss Route 66 Pageant will take place. The Delgadillo band will perform as only they can do it, lead by Angel (president of the Arizona Association) his brothers and with vocals by Angel's sister, the delightful Mary O! She and

Jerry Richard sing Kicks on 66 as no one else can do it. The night will conclude with dances at both the O.K. Saloon and the Black Cat Bar.

On Saturday the cars will line up and head on to Kingman, on Route 66, of course. Each little town along the way will provide something of interest. The day will end in Kingman with a Car Show/Auto Swap Meet. On Saturday night, a 50's/60's Dance Party is scheduled at the fairgrounds. The car award ceremonies will be held there as well as the Kingman Businessmen's Showcase.

After a Sunday morning pancake breakfast, car owners





will get a chance to show their babies one more time before we line up and parade on to Oatman (Scary turns and all!) We will arrive in the old mining town, tour the shops and stick around for the gun fights and burros.

The finale is cruising down to Topock/Golden Shore with a farewell reception and goodbyes until next year.

For Fun Run information, contact Sami Carter at 602/753-5001; for lodging and accommodations, 602/753-6106; Fun Run Chairman, Jerry Richard, 602/753-5531.

Kingman had a float in the Fiesta Bowl Parade with a theme of Get Your Kicks on Route 66 (a 50's/60's flavor). The parade was shown on New Year's Day and it looked great!

Media attention is still flying high all over Arizona. Billie Jo Moore reported that the L.A. Times & AAA did articles on Oatman. The Japanese have done a story in their magazine called Spy. A television crew was out on 66 from Montreal. Jerry Richard said the cable station Nickelodeon will do a 66 feature on Nick at Night.

Anyone wishing to place an ad in the Arizona newsletter can talk to Sami at the office.

In California, Bob Lunday and Darin Kuna are attempting to generate life on 66 in San

Bernadino and L.A. Counties. They formed a Route 66 Preservation and Promotion committee co-chaired by Sara Faulds of Santa Monica. Their first meeting was Dec. 13 at the Barstow Station Inn. The second was Jan. 31.

The legendary Buster Burris (of Roys Cafe in Amboy) is eager to see a 66 Museum spring up in his town which, by the way, is being sold for a paltry \$2,500,000.

Michael Wallis' book, Route 66 \_The Mother Road, has a scheduled release date of April 23. (St Martin's Press) A promotion tour is set for June and Michael will be behind the wheel of a red '63 Vette!

Until the next time, we're giving our Buick Century a week's rest and hopefully WE can take a week's worth of rest as well, cos the only wheels that'll be spinning will be on United Airlines Flight #1 to Oahu, Hawaii.

So Aloha, everyone!



## Tour volunteers still needed

Volunteers are still needed for a variety of details connected with this undertaking. If you are able to help, contact Tom Teague at 1208 West Edwards, Springfield, Ill. 62704.

People are needed to help both before and during the tour and assignments can be tailored to fit your special skills and the time you have available to help.



# Members

As of February 1, the Association had 144 members from 14 states. They included 42 families, 20 Illinois businesses, two mayors, a city and several tourism groups. Here are the folks who've joined us since the last issue of our newsletter.

Paul and Marian Adams  
Atlanta, Ill.

The City of Atlanta  
Atlanta, Ill.

Bob Audette  
Tijeras, N.M.

Becker Marathon  
Dwight, Ill.

Larry Brandt  
Milwaukee, Ore.

Bill Burden  
Bloomington, Ill.

Doug Carlson  
Dwight, Ill.

Isabel Conley  
Countryside, Ill.

Constance Edwin  
Dwight, Ill.

Paul Gleason  
Lincoln, Ill.

Bill and Connie Graber  
Springfield, Ill.

Helen Grzybowski  
Rolling Meadows, Ill.

Joe Gugliemucci  
Cicero, Ill.

Michael Jackson  
Springfield, Ill.

Jenn McBauer Builder  
Dwight, Ill.

Cecil and Nancy Jones  
Normal, Ill.

Roger Koscik  
Bartlett, Ill.

Al Lopinot  
Litchfield, Ill.

Edward Mann  
Park Ridge, Ill.

Lorman and Dorothy Mansholt  
Litchfield, Ill.  
Sustaining

Jeanne Meyer  
Rollings Meadows, Ill.

Ol Horse Inn  
(dba New Log Cabin)  
Pontiac, Ill.

Ott's Honey  
Lincoln, Ill.

Gorham L. Pigg  
Litchfield, Ill.

Nina Pigg  
Litchfield, Ill.

Clarence Puffer  
Dwight, Ill.

James and Gillette Ransom  
Elkhart, Ill.

Elinor Reed  
Chicago, Ill.

Jim and Sherry Rondi  
Staunton, Ill.



(New members continued)

San Bernardino County  
Tourism & Development Council  
Ontario, Calif.

Russell Soulsby  
Mount Olive, Ill.

Bill Stark  
Dwight, Ill.

Leonard Szudy  
West Allis, Wisc.

Delbert and Ruth Trew  
Alanreed, Texas

Ray Turner  
Lincoln, Ill.

The Van Gundy Agency  
Normal, Ill.

Warren Wilkerson  
Dwight, Ill.

Zeke and Delores Zimmerman  
Dwight, Ill.

Yesterday's Market &  
Chicken Coops  
Litchfield, Ill.

Our next meeting will be held on April 1, 1990 (no fooling) at high noon at the Holiday Inn located at 6201 Joliet Rd (Rt. 66) and LaGrange Road in Countryside. Exit on Joliet Road from I-55.

There will be a \$5 charge per person for the luncheon and the use of the Terrace Room. The folks at the Holiday Inn are paying for the other half of the expense!

For that \$5, you'll also have a chance to win a Rt. 66 reproduction sign (a \$59.95 value). Wow!

Let Jeff and Laura Meyer know if you will be able to attend. Call or write by Thursday, March 28. Their address is 2802 Fremont St., Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008, telephone 708/392-0860.

The Ariston on Old Rt.66 in Litchfield was the location for the January 14 meeting of the Association. Proprietor Nick Adam rolled out the red carpet for the group, which included local and area folks as well as the "regulars" who wouldn't miss a meeting on either end of the state. The Ariston is known as the "St. Louis-Springfield" restaurant.



Photo by Al Lopinot



# Sugar weather comes to Funks Grove

Editor's note: This is a portion of an article written by Hazel Funk Holmes for the 1955 Centennial History of McLean, Ill.

``Sugar Weather'' comes to Funks Grove about the time of Lincoln's birthday.

Then travelers along Route 66 will notice shiny tin buckets hanging on the trunks of the tall maple trees and the white steam coming out of the ventilator of the sap house where they are boiling.

Sap has been made in Funks Grove off and on from the time the Indians lived there. My grandfather, Isaac Funk, who came to Funks Grove in 1824, tapped trees with wooden ``spiles'' and with his sons made sirup and maple sugar for home consumption.

My first memory goes back to my girlhood when my cousins, Lawrence and Arthur Funk, made and sold sirup from Funks Grove over 50 years ago.

The sap house they made and used can now be recognized in the little peaked cabin which I acquired from Lawrence and moved to my timber and remodeled into a guest house, long after it had been abandoned as a sap house.

Sirup is now being made every year in my timber with modern equipment of every kind. We hang about 1200 to 1500 buckets year; we gather sap with a tractor; tap trees with a power tapper; wash the buckets with an electric bucket washer, and cut fire with a chain saw. In another season or two we will boil the sap over heat furnished by oil or gas. Alas for progress! No more will the pungent smell of wood smoke mingle with the sweet fragrance



of boiling sap. Our sirup evaporator bought from a Vermont factory is the best of its kind and turns out as much as twenty to thirty gallons of sirup a day.

This is a far cry from the first season we made it, about 1924. The new ``hard road'' which was put in right through the center of my land by the railroad, offered access to my timber for the sirup venture..

Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup is the name of the business. It is not a company. There are no officers. I am merely the owner of the land on which the trees grow. The sirup maker is usually the tenant who farms the land that joins the timber.

Continued



After Jim Moran moved, Sam Spaulding came to the North Farm adjoining the timber. He, with his brother, Arthur and son, Everett, ran the Sirup camp, interrupted only by the second World War, until Sam moved over to the South Farm.

Then as the clock of time moved around the calendar and years, the sons of Arthur and Lawrence Funk made the sirup. They are Duncan and Stephen. Steve, as he is best known (Lawrence's son) has continued to make sirup for me and has had various partners. One needs a lot of help for the sirup making. . .

It is not easy work even when we are as mechanized as we are. It is a young man's job. Many a night when the sap has been running fast the boys work in shifts straight through until daylight. I am proud of our organization. It could not have grown as it has without the cooperation furnished by Steve and his partners and the know-how they have acquired from long experience.

The sirup is sold at the place or by mail order as far as California and Washington. The register we ask customers to sign, if they care to, contains names of almost every state in the Union. Route 66 is a much traveled road. . .

## Early bird will lead June tour

Register for the tour before April 1, and you may be the lucky winner of the drawing to determine which car will get the position of honor at the head of the tour.

## Memorabilia needed for Route 66 Hall of Fame

During a recent meeting of the Hall of Fame committee held at the Dixie Truckers Home, an architect's drawing was shown to the group by Chuck and C.J. Beeler.

The Hall will be beautiful, spacious and accessible to everyone who stops at the Dixie. It will feature lighted display cases and a central pedestal for displaying very special items.

Now, all we need are items to display, and this is where you can help.

If you have Route 66 memorabilia to either loan or donate to the Association for exhibit, please contact C.J. Beeler at the Dixie Truckers Home in McLean, 309/874-2323, or Steve Funk at 309/874-3360.

In addition to photos and newspaper clippings, the committee is seeking such items as milk bottles, games, sheets and pillow cases, signs, or anything else you might have which bears the Route 66 logo, or has a tie-in with the road.

Items will be accepted for display during the upcoming tour and induction of members into the Hall of Fame until May 1.

The exhibit will be a rotating exhibit, so we'll still be interested after that date if you happen to come across some goodies you'd like to share. However, we must have the first items by May 1 so that informational sheets can be prepared to display with them.

Be sure to call Steve or C.J. before you send an item. They'll be able to give you guidelines about where to send things and what information we'll need to accompany the items.



# Association offers Route 66 souvenirs for sale

You can get your kicks and support your Association at the same time by enjoying these nifty Route 66 items.

**A GUIDEBOOK TO HIGHWAY 66**-A reproduction of the 128-page guidebook written by Jack Rittenhouse in 1946. Price: \$6.95 plus \$1.25 postage and handling.

**ASSOCIATION SWEATSHIRT**-Black with white and red shield design designed by Bob Waldmire. Price: \$12 plus \$1.50 postage and handling. Indicate Small, Medium or Large.

**ASSOCIATION T-SHIRT**-Same design as above. Price: \$7 plus \$1.50 postage and handling. Indicate Small, Medium or Large.

**BUMPER STICKER**-Black and white-"We get our kicks on Route 66. Route 66 Association of Illinois". Price: \$1 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

**BUTTON**-Black and white. Same wording as above. Price: \$1 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

**LAPEL PIN**-Black and white shield. Price: \$3 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.



**REPRODUCTION SIGN**-All eight states available. Blanked in shield shape from 16 gauge steel, 16" by 16 1/2" at

extreme dimensions of shield shape, deep embossed, bonderized 20 year paint. Weighs approximately 4 pounds. Meets all specifications of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, April, 1929. Price: \$59.95 plus \$5 shipping.

Yeah, we know. We're asking you to spend more for shipping on some of these smaller items than the items cost. Never fear! Have we got a deal for you! You pay the \$1.50 shipping on the first item you order and then just add 50 cents for each additional item (except on the sign. We do need \$5 postage and handling for it because of the weight).

Just think of the postage money you'll save by ordering lots of stuff! Just think of the fun you'll have! You'll be the envy of all your friends! What a deal!

Send your orders to Route 66 Association of Illinois, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, Ill. 62704, along with your check or money order.

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**The Ariston**  
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Nicholas P. Adam  
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Old Rt.  
Litchfield, IL 62056  
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**Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup**  
Still located on Old Route 66

Stephen Funk

309/874-3360

Route 1, Box 41A  
Shirley, Ill. 61772





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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**

### Advertising rates announced

Support this newsletter.  
Sell an ad to a Route 66  
business, or buy one yourself!

Rates (all for camera ready  
copy) are \$10 for business card  
size; \$25 for a quarter page ad;  
\$45 for a half page ad; and \$90  
for a full page.

Send copy and check or money  
order made out to the Route 66  
Association of Illinois to Nancy  
Saul, P. O. Box 159, McLean,  
Ill. 61754. Deadline for the

next newsletter is May 1, 1990.

We need information, too!  
What's going on in your area?  
Thanks to Jeff and Laura Meyer,  
we know what's going on in other  
states.

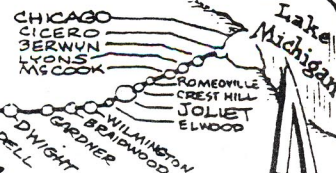
We need your reports to keep  
us up to date about what's  
happening in Illinois. Send  
information to Nancy Saul at the  
above address by May 1 for the  
next newsletter.





# ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

## THE 66 NEWS!



Issue No. 4 July, 1990

### 1990 Motor Tour gets rolling

By Tom Teague  
Association President

After six months of planning and a week of rain, June 9 brought beautiful lakeside weather in Chicago and the Association's 1990 Route 66 Motor Tour got off to a wonderful start.

One hundred cars and the State Farm Insurance hospitality motor home made the starting line-up in Grant Park. The day began when a crew from the state Department of Transportation put a new sign at the corner of Jackson Boulevard and Columbus Drive: HERE BEGAN ROUTE 66.

Much thanks to John Burke and Charlie McLean of DOT for their help in getting this sign up. It set a hopeful, magical tone for the rest of the tour. And many thanks also to Jim Sheahan and Barry Dolins of the Mayor's Office of Special Events for their logistical help in Chicago.

Ron Varon, a newscaster for WLS-TV of Chicago, emceed the opening ceremonies. She did a great job of making everyone feel welcome to her city. Then Harry Abrams, our Grand Marshall, gave a few words of encouragement. Then we were off through the Motor Tour Arch and on our odyssey.

We stopped for lunch at

Renfrew Park in Dwight, where we were treated to great food and fine entertainment in the perfect setting for a 66 event. About 30 cars joined the tour there before we headed off for Pontiac.

At Pontiac, the mayor himself stamped each tourer's Route 66 passport before welcoming us onto the grounds of the Old Log Cabin Inn for an ice cream social. About 15 more cars joined us there, some on the spur of the moment.

Then it was on to Lexington, where Chuck Wright and the State Farm folks had teamed up with DOT to open up a two-mile stretch of Old 66 north of Lexington which hadn't been traveled in more than 30 years. Driving that stretch of old road was like entering another era. Interstates sure don't let you get that close to the landscape! We hope Chuck is successful in his plans to have that section of 66 opened up on other special occasions.

District Six of the Illinois State Police hosted a reception for Hall of Fame member Capt. Francis Mowery at District Headquarters south of Pontiac. Folks who took advantage of this opportunity got to meet Capt. Mowery and chat with him a few

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"ILLINOIS — WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."



(Tour gets rolling-from Page 1)

moments before heading on down the road.

Hall of Fame ceremonies in McLean on Saturday afternoon opened with the presentation of the colors by the McLean American Legion. They were accompanied by the Pipe and drum Corps of the Illinois State Police, when then played several selections for us.

Steve Vogel, news director of WJBC-AM in Bloomington, did a wonderful job of presenting the six Hall of Fame members. McLean's fire and police departments also did great work in seeing that everyone got into and out of town efficiently and safely. After a tour of the Hall of Fame in the nearby Dixie Truckers Home, we went to Lincoln for an evening dance party.

Next morning, President Abraham Lincoln (aka Charles Ott) got the tour's second day off to a smashing start by rechristening Route 66 with a watermelon.

In Springfield, the Waldmire family treated us to hot coffee and homemade donuts at their Cozy Dog Drive In. Fifteen more cars joined us at each of these stops. In Litchfield we became a parade, then enjoyed a car show, hosted by the Wolf Pack Car Club. About 125 cars made it to tour's end at Ted Drewes Frozen Custard in St. Louis.

In many towns along the way, local folks brought their lawn chairs and coolers to their front yards and waved at us as we passed through. And when tourers got to each stop, it was just like a mini-reunion. And of course, our hosts at each stop did a wonderful job of making us feel welcome and at home. I know I about wore this

phrase out on the tour, but Route 66 truly was more than just a few million yards of concrete - it was a 2,200 mile long community. One June 9 and 10 in Illinois, we proved it again!

Harry Abrams, our grand marshall,, was a contestant in Route 66's first great race, the 1928 Bunion Derby. The race followed Route 66 from L.A. to Chicago, then took other roads to New York. A walker (as opposed to a runner), Harry used up 12 pairs of 69-cent sneakers on the trip. This time, he rode in style: Bob DeBolt chauffeured him the first day in a 1956 Chevy, while Dan Uscian drove him the next day in his 1950 Hudson.

The tour featured everything from a 1928 Whippet to a 1990 Corvette. One car vaporlocked several times during the slow processions through towns. But it did make the entire tour in timely fashion.

Special thanks to C.J. and Chuck Beeler of the Dixie Truckers Home for building the Route 66 Hall of Fame for us and helping with so many other details.

Extra special thanks go to state Farm Insurance and its people. State Farm designed and built the motor tour arch for us and donated passports and atlases for every tour entrant. Then staff of state Farm transported the arch from city to city and set it up so we could drive through it and have our passports stamped. This was grueling work in the warm weather, but they did it efficiently and with style. At every stop along the way, the red, black and white of State Farm Insurance was a welcome and friendly sight. Like a good neighbor, State Farm was there.



# Down the Road

By Jeff & Laura Meyer

66 Roadologists

Whoo!!!

With our Motor Tour weekend June 8-10, and two other states doing something simultaneously, and all the TV/newspaper/media attention, and Michael Wallis' book, ``Route 66 \_ The Mother Road,`` we'd say that all the hard work and love for 66 is paying off in a BIG way.

Here's a rundown on what's been happening down the ``Road of Flight.`` Things have been shankin' in the ``Show Me State.``

Missouri has made 66 State Historic Highway by a vote of 158-0 in the House and 29-0 in the Senate! The Missouri Association would pay for signs outside of the cities and the cities would be asked to pay for signs within their borders.

On June 10th, it was ``Route 66 Day`` at the famous Ted Drewes Frozen Custard stand in St. Louis.

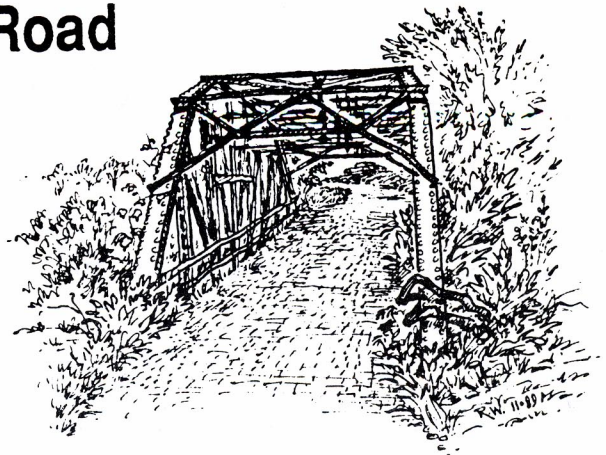
There were Missouri repro signs, bumper stickers promoting the new 66 Mix Concrete concoction, T-shirts, keychains, hats \_ the works.

Jim Powell's members of the Missouri organization came by after their meeting at Grassie's on the old 66 by-pass.

Michael and Suzanne Wallis were there autographing copies of his book. (By the way, the first edition of the book is sold out!)

The Missouri group is planning a car cruise in September from St. Louis to Joplin! Their next meeting will be in Joplin on September 30.

In Oklahoma, 66 signs are back up! (Well, not as U.S.



signs, but as brown ``Historic Route`` signs. They were put up, appropriately enough, on 6\6. A dedication took place in Warr Acres, west of OKC.

On June 9, the first Oklahoma 66 cruise and Poker Run was held using 166 miles of 66 from El Reno to Claremore - or vice-versa. Several towns had dancing, flea markets, chili cook-offs, BBQs, crafts and what have you.

At least 2,000 cars were involved and the winning poker hand, aptly and coincidentally, was two pairs of sixes. Scary, isn't it?

Our get well wishes go out to ``Mrs. 66,`` Gladys Cutberth of Clinton. Take care! We'll see you next year!

Lucille Hamons, of Hydro's Historic Highway, has been getting a lot of media coverage, and frankly it's about time \_ after 46 years, I would say so!

In Tulsa, Mike Higgs, president of the Tulsa Chapter, has a nifty display of 66 memorabilia at the Will Rogers Museum in Claremore OFF of 66.

Other Oklahoma events include a Rod & Custom Round-up in Elk City on Sept. 15 and a Poker Run from Elk City to McLean, Texas, a distance of 66 miles, natch!

In Texas, the Old Route 66 Association is alive! They are (continued on page 4)



(Down the Road, from Page 3)  
working on a Route 66/Barbed  
Wire & Tool Museum. The  
building will be big enough to  
hold souvenirs, conduct  
collector shows, conventions and  
whatever!

In McLean (Texas, not  
Illinois) a 66 Roundup\Rodeo was  
held June 8 and 9. Our  
thanks to Delbert and Ruth Trew  
for letting us visit with them  
and talk 66.

Things are picking up in New  
Mexico, too.

Judi Snow reports that they  
are going to have a stateside  
event in the fall and everyone's  
invited. They're also planning  
a brochure.

In Arizona, it was a wild  
weekend for the Third Annual  
Fun Run April 27-29. We were  
travlin' along with Reid and  
Nan Sondrup and they insist that  
there's a Rt. 66 that runs  
through their home state \_ Utah!  
Close, but not quite, guys.

Anyway, congrats to this  
year's Miss Route 66 of Arizona,  
Amy Mackl. On Friday the  
pageant was held along with two  
street dances. The ever-popular  
Delgadillo Orchestra put on a  
terrific show, as usual.

On Saturday, we lined up the  
cars and boogied from Seligman  
to Kingman and each town along  
the way had something going on.  
I.e., Peach Springs had a BBQ  
and Indian dances, Truxton had  
cheeseburgers and chips for  
\$2.66 at the Frontier Cafe,  
Hackberry and Valentine gave  
historic building tours, Grand  
Canyon Caverns gave cave tours  
and Kingman had a business  
showcase and car show at the  
fairgrounds.

Sunday, there was a pancake  
breakfast sponsored by the  
Rotary Club and we were eating  
our pancakes with members of  
other 66 Associations, just to

talk and meet.

Then it was out to Oatman for  
the wild burros and the  
gunfighters' show. And, to  
conclude, in Topock/Golden  
Shores, they dedicated a sign  
on the Arizona/California border  
saying ``Historic Route 66.'' Cars  
there participating in the  
good times numbered 320.

Our thanks to everyone in  
Arizona (you all know who you  
are!), but especially ``Mr.  
Cool,' ' Jerry Richard, who, once  
again, took time out of his  
hectic weekend to spend a few  
fun (and sad) hours with us.  
Oh, how we hated to leave!

See you all next year. You  
can count on it!

As a tribute, this Fun Run  
was dedicated to the memory of  
Ray Barker, who died on the  
Friday before the run took  
place. He was a friend to us  
and to everyone. He will be  
missed.

(Continued on page 5)



Route 66  
Hall of Fame of Illinois



Captain Francis W. Mowery

District 6  
Illinois State Police  
1941 - 1974

Inducted June 9, 1990  
Route 66 Association of Illinois



(Down the Road from Page 4)

Billie Jo Moore of Oatman is now the president of Arizona's Historic 66 Association. Angel Delgadillo stays on as past-president. (Jeff needs another shave and hair cut, Angel!) Jerry ``What's Happenin'' Richard is executive V.P.; Jim Pope is V.P. East; Chuck Charfield V.P. west; Sami Carter is secretary/treasurer; and, of course, Mary Martinez is the official song director!

Holbrook, Ariz., had a 66 car show on May 19-20. Ever go to the Buckets of Blood Saloon?

Other tidbits: Bobby Troup called us! He must have known that he's on our answering machine doing HIS version of ``66.'' More details will be revealed soon. NOT finalized yet!

Corvette Quarterly Magazine did a great story on ``66.'' and the June ``Collectors Showcase Magazine'' had a space for Michael Wallis and us. Oh, shucks!

There's another new version of ``66'' done by cajun virtuoso Buckwheat Zydeco on Island records. Title: ``Where There's Smoke, There's Fire.''

In Arizona, Mike and Linda Cutillo just came out with the ultimate anti-interstate cassette! ``I-40\_ You Ain't Nothin' But a Curse!'' It's terrific, and totally right on! Listen to the words \_ you'll love it!

For more info, contact the Cutillos at: 9868 Alpine St., Cucamonga, Calif. 91730.

We met Michael and Suzanne Wallis on June 5. They're on a six-week book signing tour, making stops along 66 in a red Corvette \_ what else!

He was at the Chicago Historical Society and the cast of ``Pump Boys and Dinettes''

greeted him with tunes, including ``66.''

He had a great but brief stay in Illinois. (Tell us a story about the L & L Motel!) See both of you next year, too!

Well, I guess that about covers it! In closing, we'd like to thank EVERYONE in every 66 state that we went through in April and May (They know who they are). We appreciate it. We'd also like to thank all who were responsible for our Motor Tour (and who made it an absolute success. More about that in our next newsletter.)

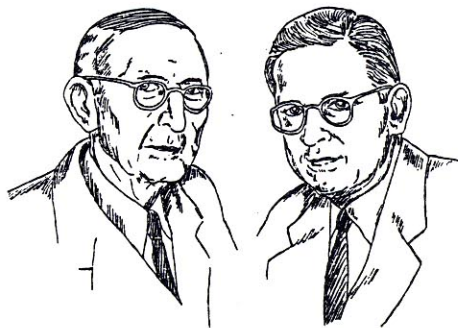
Congratulations to Robert Calvert of Hillsboro who won the drawing for the 66 repro sign! He says he's showing it off already.

We'd also like to thank God for giving us perfect weather for the weekend! I prayed hard for this one!

(Continued on Page 6)



Route 66  
Hall of Fame of Illinois



J. P. Walters and John Geske  
Founders and Operators  
Dixie Truckers Home  
McLean, Illinois  
Since 1928

Inducted June 9, 1990  
Route 66 Association of Illinois



(Down the Road from Page 5)  
There're so many wonderful folks involved in our 66 life \_ well, too numerous to mention, so we'd better stop before Nancy kills us.

Just two more (for the road?):  
Thanks to the Holiday Inn in Countryside and to Vlado Lenocho who hosted the April meeting, and thanks to Steve and Glaida Funk for their donation for the brochure.

Here're the addresses for the other Associations. Our road was smiling that weekend!

Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona, P.O. Box 66, Kingman, Ariz. 86402, Sami Carter, secretary/treasurer, telephone 602-753-5001.

Missouri Route 66 Association, P. O. Box 8117, St. Louis, Mo. 63156, Jim Powell, president, telephone 314-982-9635.

New Mexico Route 66 Association, P. O. Drawer Q, Gallup, N.M. 87305, Judi Snow.

Oklahoma Route 66 Association, P. O. Box 66, OKC, OK 73102, Mark Rogers, president, 918-171-6790.

Old Route 66 Association of Texas, P. O. Box 66, McLean, Texas 79057, Delbert Trew, national correspondent, telephone 806-779-3164.

And, finally, a TV special will air on Channel 7 out of Chicago on July 27.



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Route 66  
Hall of Fame of Illinois



Ernie Edwards  
Founder and Proprietor  
Pig Hip Restaurant  
Broadwell, Illinois  
Since 1936

Inducted June 9, 1990  
Route 66 Association of Illinois

## Minutes of the April 1, 1990 Route 66 meeting

Our last meeting was held April 1, 1990, at the Holiday Inn on Joliet Road, alias 66, and LaGrange Road in Countryside.

Forty people attended and the meeting began at 1:12 p.m. following lunch. We had a microphone this time, and that made it so much easier to communicate.

Tom Teague introduced himself and all of us at the head table. Then the others in attendance introduced themselves and told where they were from.

As a guests, we had Eric Zorn from the Chicago Tribune. He did a feature story on 66 and the Association and it ran in the April 5 Tribune. Jim Tennison of the Countryside Life was also on hand to take a quick pic and split!

(Continued on Page 7)



(April minutes from Page 6)

We all applauded the announcement of the marriage of Howie Thornley and Michelle Buhl. Congratulations! Then it was on to business.

For the first time ever, yours truly (Laura Meyer, secretary) read the minutes of the previous meeting (and oh, was I nervous!).

Jeff Meyer read the treasurer's report and the balance on hand stood at \$1,670. Then Jeff did a lengthy national report, mentioning, among other things, that Missouri's Coral Court Motel was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. He also talked about Oklahoma's Poker Run, Texas' newly formed organization, Arizona's Fun Run and a story from San Bernadino. He stated how many members were in each association. Then Tom acknowledged that, as of today, we acquired our 200th member!

Tom did his president's state report, which contained more info about the Hall of Fame and good news concerning the brochures. We received a grant in the amount of \$1,659.

Since Nancy Saul was unable to attend, Tom did a brief newsletter update.

Then Tom introduced Chuck Wright Sr. and he went on with the state report. He talked about the "Humungous" State Farm Arch and all of the town check points. He went on to say that the Arch would be easy to assemble and dismantle and that it could be stored and used for future events in the local towns. He then discussed how the passports would be handled and the provisions for late stamping.

Ray Schroeder and Pat Knudsen gave us the Dwight report. There were four meetings held

there concerning food and entertainment. Ray talked to the Rotary Club and Tom Knudsen said that the Kankakee and the Bloomington Car Clubs would be in attendance at our Tour.

Tom Teague had more great news! In honor of Captain Mowery being inducted into the Hall of Fame, he told Tom that the District Six State Police Department would provide coffee and donuts and a police escort would be provided from Pontiac to McLean! Dan Moran explained Pontiac's procedure for the events, too.

Eric Hince was elected to the temporary position of Sign Posting Chairman. He's in charge of putting up and taking down the yellow signs and arrows to point everyone in the right direction.

Chuck Wright Jr. was  
(Continued on Page 8)



Route 66  
Hall of Fame of Illinois



Francis Marten  
Our Lady of the Highways Shrine  
Raymond, Illinois  
Since 1957

Inducted June 9, 1990  
Route 66 Association of Illinois



(April Minutes from Page 7)  
nominated for 66 Traffic Control  
and Frank Lozich and his Band  
will provide the music in  
Chicago. Howie and Michelle are  
in charge of the goodie bags and  
they are to be distributed as  
each person registers.

C.J. Beeler did a Dixie Hall  
of Fame report. She explained  
how and where the cases would  
be set up and she said that  
Steve Vogel from WJBC radio will  
be the master of ceremonies for  
the Hall of Fame induction.

Thressia Usherwood told us  
about the plans in Lincoln on  
the first night of the Motor  
Tour. She told us where  
everything will be located; that  
cold drinks will be served; and  
that prizes will be presented  
for the oldest car, oldest  
driver, etc. We agreed that on  
Sunday morning ``Abe Lincoln''  
will rededicate 66 with a  
watermelon.

Tom Teague appointed Jeff and  
I in charge of 66 merchandise!

We then went over a few  
articles of business. In the  
by-laws, we moved and passed an  
amendment stating that  
Sustaining Members who have  
contributed \$100 would  
automatically receive a Lifetime  
Membership.

We moved and passed a motion  
saying that County Board  
positions which aren't filled  
will be occupied by an At-Large  
member until the seat is filled  
by someone from the county.

We elected Tom Knudsen as an  
At-Large board member and Ivan  
Burnett was named Sangamon  
County representative.

We set the date for our next  
meeting, which will be in  
Lincoln on Sunday, July 15.  
(Editor's note: The meeting time and date have  
since been changed to 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug 5, at  
Starks Restaurant in Dwight on Old Route 66.)

And, finally, Chuck Wright

Jr. talked about the success  
of last year's Taste of Country  
Fair.

In conclusion, Paul Moyemont  
resigned as treasurer, so Tom  
Teague and I are in charge of  
that task as well.

We adjourned at 2:45 p.m.  
-Laura Meyer, Secretary/Treasurer

## Next board meeting

It's a little early yet to  
tell what form it will take, but  
the sentiment to have another  
motor tour next year is pretty  
strong. If you'd like to talk  
about one tour or the other,  
come to our next board meeting  
at Starks' Restaurant on Route  
66 in Dwight. The meeting  
starts at 1 p.m. Come earlier  
if you'd like to have lunch with  
us. RSVP to Stark's Restaurant  
at 815-584-2920.



Route 66  
Hall of Fame of Illinois



**Russell Soulsby**  
Founder and Proprietor  
Shell Service Station  
Mount Olive, Illinois  
Since 1926

Inducted June 9, 1990  
Route 66 Association of Illinois



# New members

Since our last issue, more than 250 new members have joined our Association. That brings our total, as of July 1, to 350 members from 20 states and Belgium. Welcome to our highway, folks, and keep on 66-ing.

## New members are:

Harry Abrams, Andy Allen, Stuart Anderson, Genevieve Anthony, Antique Mall of Chenoa, Tom Armbruster, Baker-Hauser Co., B.D. Books, John & Karen Becker, Mr. and Mrs. David Beeler, Mark Beeler, Charles & Marilyn Benedict, Betty Bergmann, Thomas and Mary Bossom, Brian Bothun, Dale Boyd, Frederic F. Brace Jr., Brennan Design Group, Lee J. Brooks Family, Robert Burkham, Howard P. Burkhart, Ivan & Lucille Burnett, Bill Byers, Marianne Cahill, Roselind J. Carsten, Central Illinois Classic Chevy Club, Marion Chase, Jim Classing, David E. Clauter Family, George Colvin, Henry Cooley, Alice Gray Creech, Christine Darbo, Bob Dauner, DeBolt Refrigeration, Sal DeFilipo, William Deutsch, Illinois Petroleum Marketers Assoc., Piet Derveauz (from Belgium!), Howard Diercks, Mrs. Ann Diskin, Rich Dombrowski, Thomas E. Donovan, Judy Dunlap, James & Lori Dunn, Dwight Area Chamber of Commerce, Dwight Historical Society, James and Barbara Eby, Mildred M.E. Ehman, Glen A. Ekey, Lee & Janice Faulkner, George P. Fawns, Ray Featherstone, Anne Fishbein, Mel Fisher, John Flanagan, Russell & Ellen Fox, Carl Franzo Sr., Jim Fryer, Grover Full Jr.

Carolyn Gaston, Jon C. Gerard, Roberta Gerard, Nila Giles, David Ginter, Mary & Joe Ginter, Ruth Gish, Bill & Janice Gora, John Granado, Dennis Gullo, Don Gunderson, Belton & Jo Gustafson, Bill & Barb Gwodz, Nancy Hagthorp, Ali Hakim, Maynard Hawkins, Flossie Hillier, Jay Hockenberry, Honors 11 English Class, Chuck Houser, Jerry Hughes, Rick Husarik, Taylor Johnson, Todd Johnson, Alfred Jones, Chris Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Jordan, Dave Jostes, Robert L. Joynt.

Lisa Kahane, Kankakee Federal Savings & Loan, Mark Killian, George Kletz Jr., George & Germaine Knudsen, Sam Kofron, Tom & Ellen Kotschi, Ray & Delores LaFore, Dennis Lammert, Fred & Toni Larsen, Greg Laxton, Jeff Lessenberry, Dr. Mike Leuzzi, Ron & Sharon Lindquist, Alberta Lisk, Howard & Ginger List, Litchfield Chamber of Commerce, Robert J. Lojewski, Harold Longworth, Howard Lopeman, Eugene Lopez, Terrence MacDonald, Lee & Andrea Malkin, Ron Malkin, Ethel Mansholt, Dene Martin, Anna McCulloch, Charles McGee Family, Mr. & Mrs. Elbert McIntire, Mr. & Mrs. Burt Mercier, Robert Micham, Herb & Katie Minard, A.C. Moore, Steve Mottin, Rand & Sue Mundschenk.

Ted Ness, Dave & Candy Nolan, June Oakes, Ken Oglesby, Neil & Barbara Olson, Frank Opalka, Dawn Overend, John & Jean Parrett, Delores & Jim Patton, Bernard Paul, Harry & June Pease,

Joe & Amy Pellerito, Henry Perri, Robert C. Pilling, City of Pontiac, Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce, Alan Post, Marshall Ramsey, Robert R. Raymond, Marvin & Ellen Real, Dwight & Linda Reeb, William Reitz, Wade Roberts, Mark Rogers, Route 66 Assoc. of Missouri, Rub Chevrolet, Buick, Oldsmobile, Geo, Edward Rudny, Fuzzy Elvis Rukin.

Dan Scott, Curt Schlueter, Raymond Schmid, Larry & Shirley Seabert, Pearl Shaffner, Howard Sharp Jr. Family, Mary Simonait, Ray & Lois Sims, Mrs. Wheeler Sloman, Bill Smith, Paul & Allison Smith, Jim Steger, Gary Steinke, Steve's Cafe, Mrs. Wanda Streder, George & Patricia Strepka, Howard & Audrey Stovall, Super Sign Service.

Alan Tedrick, James Thompson, Winifred S. Tombaugh, Peter Tozzi, Brad Trafnor, Dorothy Trevey, Tom & Lynda Vastine, J.E. & Linda Vermetti, Richard Wagner, Dennis Walker, Velma & Del Walker, Charles Walters, Pat & Bev Ward, Mark D. Watanabe, Raleigh & Marilyn Weber, John & Lenore Weiss, Melvin L. Weller, Werth Amoc, Gary Westerfer, Glenn Westphal, Phil White, Lawrence & Carol Wilda, Robert & Joyce Williams, Tom Wise and W.C. Zonitzer.

## April planning meeting

An Illinois Route 66 Association meeting was graciously hosted in Dwight on April 21. Mrs. Knudsen from Bloomington read the minutes of the previous February 14 meeting. Seventeen members and non-members attended.

The car rally and Refrew Park reception were discussed, regarding Old 66 guidance signs for the tour, the arch, food, entertainment, auto tour ID's and the necessary pit stop facilities.

-Ray Schroeder, BOD, Livingston County

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# Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 22, Sunday, July 23, 1990 \_ TASTE OF COUNTRY FAIR, Lexington, Ill.

Sunday, July 23

9 a.m.-Church in the park.

Horse drawn calliope.

Children's parade.

ROUTE 66 REUNION ACTIVITIES.

1 p.m.\_Parade of vehicles on Lexington main street. No pre-registration required.

Five hundred dollars in total prize money will be awarded to the oldest car, the car traveling the longest distance and the car club with the most cars present.

Hospitality tent including Route 66 Memorabilia, a chance to swap information about the route and information about the new Route 66 Association of Illinois.

Also, a Rocking Chair Brigade where old timers will share stories about Route 66.

Display of old cars.

Old time Medicine Show (four performances).

Continuous live entertainment.

Craft and flea markets.

Fifteen food booths.

50s band.

Live broadcasts by WJBC Radio.

All activities, rain or shine.

For more information, call 309-365-8522 to find out about the Old Route 66 Reunion, or 309-365-8372 to find out about the craft and flea market booths.

DWIGHT HARVEST DAYS will be Sept. 15-17, 1990 in Dwight.

BOARD MEETINGS, FOR THE ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS WILL BE HELD:

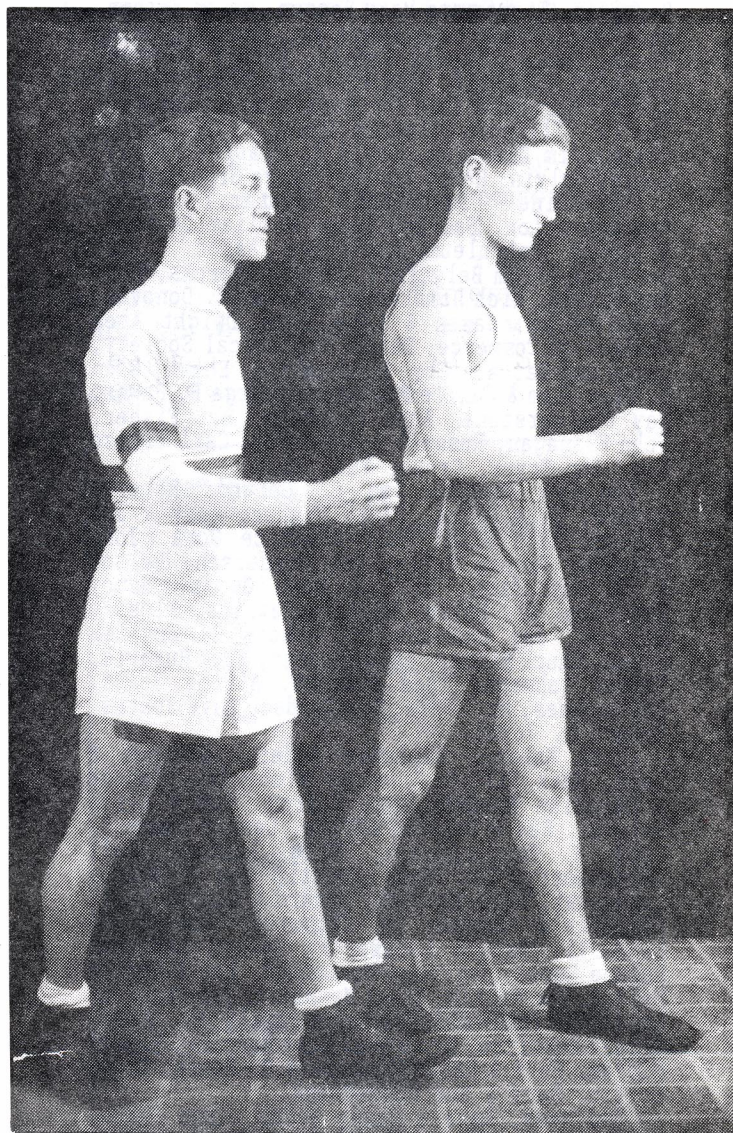
\* Sunday, Aug. 6, 1990, 1

p.m., Stark's Restaurant, Old Route 66, Dwight, 1 p.m.

\* Sunday, Oct 21, 1990, Lincoln.

\* Sunday, Jan. 13, 1991, Litchfield.

\* Sunday, March 31, 1991, Chicken Basket, Illinois 83 and US 66 off of I-55, Willowbrook.



Harry Abrams, right, was photographed with a friend in Chicago in 1928 during his transcontinental walk from Los Angeles to New York.



# For Sale

You can get your kicks and support your Association at the same time by enjoying these nifty Route 66 items.

**REPRODUCTION SIGN**-All eight states available. Blanked in shield shape from 16 gauge steel, 16" by 16 1/2" at extreme dimensions of shield shape, deep embossed, bonderized 20 year paint. Weighs approximately 4 pounds. Meets all specifications of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, April, 1929. Price: \$59.95 plus \$5 shipping.

**A GUIDEBOOK TO HIGHWAY 66**-A reproduction of the 128-page guidebook written by Jack Rittenhouse in 1946. Price: \$6.95 plus \$1.25 postage and handling.

**ASSOCIATION T-SHIRT**-Black with white and red shield design designed by Bob Waldmire. Price: \$10 plus \$1.50 postage and handling. Indicate Small, Medium or Large.

**1990 AUTO TOUR T-SHIRT**-Same design as tour flyer with sign and red Corvette. Price: \$10 plus \$1.50 postage and handling. Indicate Small, Medium or Large.

**1990 AUTO TOUR DASH PLAQUE**. Price \$3.00 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

**BUMPER STICKER**-Black and white-"We get our kicks on Route 66. Route 66 Association of Illinois". Price: \$1 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

**BUTTON**-Black and white. Same wording as above. Price: \$1 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

**HAT PIN**-Black and white shield. Price: \$3 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

**DANGLE EARRINGS**, same design as above. Price \$7 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

**ROUTE 66 NECKLACE**, same design as above. Price \$5 plus

\$1.50 postage and handling.

**ASSOCIATION HAT**. Price \$6 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

**ASSOCIATION VISOR**. Price \$6 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

**BURMA SHAVE HAT PIN**-Red enamel. Price: \$3 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

Yeah, we know. We're asking you to spend more for shipping on some of these smaller items than the items cost. Never fear! Have we got a deal for you! You pay the \$1.50 shipping on the first item you order and then just add 50 cents for each additional item (except on the sign. We do need \$5 postage and handling for it because of the weight).

Just think of the postage money you'll save by ordering lots of stuff! Just think of the fun you'll have! You'll be the envy of all your friends! What a deal!

Send your orders to Route 66 Association of Illinois, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, Ill. 62704, along with your check or money order.

**NOTE:** Business owners wishing to sell Route 66 Association merchandise should contact Tom Teague, association president, at the above address; or Jeff Meyer, vice president, at 2802 Fremont St., Rolling Meadow, Ill. 60008.p.m., Stark's Restaurant, Old Route 66, Dwight, 1 p.m.

## CLOCKS & WATCHES

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BLOOMINGTON  
TOWANDA  
LEXINGTON  
CHENOA

Issue No. 5 Sept. 1990



The Rittenhouses, then

### Hitchhiking honeymooners used Route 66 in thirties

Florence Rittenhouse of Pontiac and Chuck Binna of Chicago eloped in the fall of 1930, but waited until they graduated from the University of Illinois the next summer before embarking on their honeymoon.

Starting from Los Angeles, they hitchhiked all the way home to Chicago on Route 66.

A satchel held their belongings; a blanket roll and tarp provided their shelter.

"Catching rides down the highway was easy in 1931," Chuck said. "People were glad to help a young couple on their way during the Depression."

"But when I began traveling the Rocky Mountain states as a self-employed manufacturer

representative in 1949, Flora made me promise never to pick up a hitchhiker — and in 28 years, I never did. It had become simply too risky — even on Route 66."



The Rittenhouses, now

### Motor Tour to be discussion topic for October meetings

By Tom Teague  
Association President

A planning meeting for our 1991 Motor Tour will be held at noon Sunday, Oct. 7, in the Conference Room of the McLean Dairy Queen.

All places, cities and people interested in being part of the tour should be at that meeting.

We will work out an itinerary then that will be presented to (Continued on Page 8)

"ILLINOIS — WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."



## **Knudsens were association reps at Wilmington car show**

"The Best Little Car Show by a Dam Site" was held Sunday, Sept. 2, at Wilmington. There were over 1,000 cars entered in the event.

It is one of the best car shows in the state and it is only three years old.

Board members Tom Knudsen and his wife, Pat, and son, Matt, from Bloomington were there representing the Route 66 Association of Illinois.

They passed out brochures and membership applications. They also sold 66 memorabilia.

The Knudsens wish to thank Ray Schroeder, Livingston County board member, and his wife, Dorothy, from Dwight, for stopping by.

They were able to meet Steve Carlock, president of the car club; Mayor Robert P. Weidling of Wilmington; and Police Chief Frank Lyons of Wilmington; Jim Fryer, the owner of Midwest Street Rods, Ltd. of Bolingbrook; and many others interested in the association.

Of the many who stopped by and visited, a lot of people mentioned hearing about the tour or reading an article in the newspaper or seeing the TV program about Route 66.

The Knudsens talked to people, explaining that the original 66 was the road they drove on before entering the park for the car show.

-Tom and Pat Knudsen



**The Old Log Cabin**

## **August Minutes**

After lunch at Starks Restaurant, the meeting commenced at 1:22 p.m. We all introduced ourselves and told where we were from.

The minutes from the previous meeting were in the newsletter, so they weren't read.

While Jeff was looking for the treasurer's report, Tom did his President's thing.

He praised the Motor Tour and went into the heavy media coverage and how well the Hall of Fame has been received.

He said that we've exceeded 375 members \_ in 23 states.

Jeff reported a total of \$3,808 in the bank and then did the National Report.

He talked about the Historic Highway signs that are already up in Oklahoma and that Missouri is next for signage.

He stated that Kansas has over 200 members in their newly formed association.

He mentioned that Arizona was having a U.S. 66 Golf Tournament and we weren't sure about what was going on in New Mexico or California.

We discussed old business (the tour). Ray Schroeder did the Dwight report and thanked all of the contributors.

Betty McLellan commented about Logan County's interest for the tour next year and that Lincoln was opening a new hotel as well.

Priscilla Mathews talked about all of the enthusiasm in Litchfield.

We set the date for next year's tour on June 8-9, 1991. We also formed a steering committee for the tour and we set the meeting date for Sunday, Oct. 7, at the Dixie at noon. (Note: The meeting location has (Continued, page 3)



## BUSINESS MEMBER



1990-1991

We now have 44 Business Members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois.

The following business members are selling association merchandise:

Ariston Cafe, Litchfield; Dell Rhea Chicken Basket, Willowbrook; Dixie Truckers Home, McLean; Pig Hip Restaurant, Broadwell; and Steve's Cafe, Chenoa. American Travel Masters Litchfield, Ill.

(Minutes, from Page 2) since been changed to the Dairy Queen Conference Room.)

We batted around ideas about a flag and a Hall of Fame sign for the Dixie and various things about the 1991 brochure and the National.

We addressed the subject of when renewal would be due.

Pat Knudsen mentioned that we should include events along 66 and plug them in advance and try to sell merchandise.

We adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

-Laura Meyer, secretary

## Upcoming meetings

Sunday, Oct. 21, 1990

Al's Main Event

Fifth Street

Lincoln, Ill.

Noon

For reservations, call Jeff and Laura Meyer at 708/392-0860, or Betty McLellan at 217/648-5057.

Sunday, Jan. 13, 1991

Ariston

Old 66-46 Ill. 16

Litchfield

Sunday, April 14, 1991

Willowbrook

Chicken Basket

Ill. 83 & U.S. 66 off of I-55

Sunday, June 23, 1991

Steve's Cafe

305 Morehead St.

Old 66

Chenoa

## Help wanted!

Anyone wishing to help out at any 66 event that the association will attend, including the '91 tour, please contact: Jeff and Laura Meyer  
P.O. Box 8262  
Rollings Meadows, Ill. 60008  
708/392-0860

OR

Tom and Pat Knudsen

1202 Eastholme

Bloomington, Ill.

61701

309/828-2925

OR

Priscilla Mathews

410 N. Monroe

Litchfield, Ill.

62056

217/532-6454



## **Design contest planned for Motor Tour T-shirts**

A design contest will be held for next year's tour T-shirt.

The grand prize will be (what else?) \$66.66.

All entries should be sent to:

Illinois Route 66 Association,  
P. O. Box 8262,  
Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008

The winner will be decided at the Jan. 13 meeting.

DEADLINE IS NEW YEAR'S EVE  
— DEC. 31, 1990.

## **Thank you**

Thanks go out to: The people of Lexington (Chuck Jr. and Sr., Mary Wright, Sherry & Don).

Betty McLellan.

Tom and Pat Knudsen for assisting at O'Dell and Wilmington.

Ray and Dorothy Schroeder.

Russell Soulsby for being there in Mount Olive.

Priscilla and Deb in Litchfield for working your fingers off.

## **Calendar planned**

We're putting together a calendar of events for next year.

Anyone with listings should contact Pat and Tom Knudsen. Hopefully, we'll be able to get everything into the Dec./Jan. newsletter.

“Sixty-six towns” with events going on are encouraged to send information — the sooner, the better.

## **Goodie Bags**

Any business with items to donate for the '91 Tour goody bag should send their contribution to:

Bud and Lou VanDiver  
2504 Berkshire Ct.  
Champaign, Ill. 61821  
217/356-4949.

At this point, we're estimating that 250 bags will be processed. We'll keep everyone posted.

## **New board members**

At large:

Tom Knudsen  
1202 Eastholme  
Bloomington, Ill.  
61701  
309/828-2925

Montgomery County:

Priscilla Mathews  
410 N. Monroe  
Litchfield, Ill.  
62056  
217/532-6454

DuPage County:

Jeff Lessenberry  
3231 Fox Dr. Apt. 2C  
Woodridge, Ill.  
60517  
708/910-3498

Cooked RIGHT Served RIGHT Priced RIGHT

A “Better Place to Eat”

**The Ariston**

The “St. Louis-Springfield”

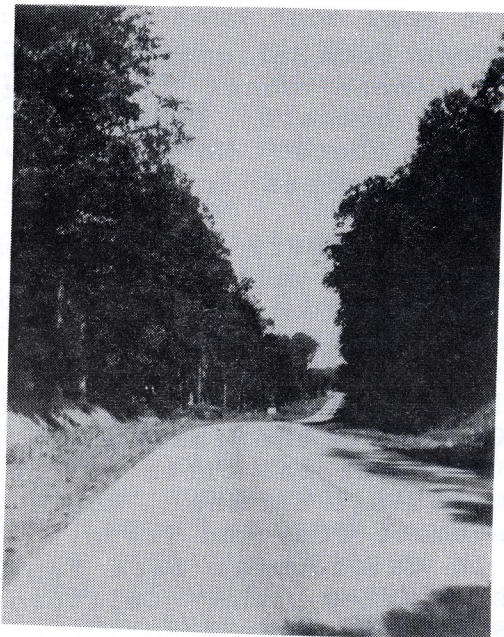
**Restaurant**

Nicholas P. Adam  
Proprietor

Old Rt.   
Litchfield, IL 62056  
217-324-2023



## Down the Road



### Funks Grove Visa-

This photo was taken south of Funks Grove, looking north, soon after Route 66 was paved in the late 1920s. It was presented as a wedding gift by Carrie Wheelock to Louise Foley and Dean Erickson.

By Jeff & Laura Meyer

66 Roadologists

Well, there's been a lot of action in and around us, so let's get on with it:

In Missouri, on July 13, Governor John Ashcroft "got his kicks" by signing into law a bill that officially makes Route 66 a Historic Highway in the "Show Me State."

There will be signs posted soon (which the association and the towns will have to pay for at cost from the state.)

Here's what Missouri House Bill No. 1629 says.

"United States Highway 66 is hereby designated as a historic highway. The department of highways and transportation may place suitable markings and

informational signs along United States Highway 66. Such signs shall consist of the usual United States highway sign with the words 'Historic Route 66' printed on the face of the sign. The department shall not use state moneys for such signs, but may accept donations from private sources or federal grants to construct and erect signs described in this section."

In our opinion, this should be our next goal — to get a State Representative or Senator to sponsor a bill doing the same thing.

It might take some effort, but true 66'ers aren't afraid to do something that's very important and something that they really believe in!

Let's hear from you out there. Contact us, or your nearest board member, and see if we can stir up some interest.

Also in Missouri, the Tri County Truck Stop (A.K.A. the Old Diamonds) will soon be the home of the Missouri Route 66 Hall of Fame. More details as they become available.

In Kansas, Bruce Meyer (no relation) and Carolyn Brozek (whom we met in Kingman at April's Fun Run) have formed the Kansas Route 66 Association (for all 13.2 miles!)

The already have 150 memberships, including ours.

Trivia: Kansas has only three towns that 66 went through. Can you name them? If not, the answer is Baxter Springs, Riverton and Galena!

They're working on a Route 66 Exhibit and they want to reconstruct highway markers to designate the original Kansas 66. Congrats to all of them!

(Continued, Page 6)



(Down the Road from Page 5)

In Texas, everything is back to normal after their event in June.

In McLean (TEXAS, not Illinois), the United Methodist Church Women, along with Ruth

Trew, are creating a Route 66 cookbook.

It will be a cornucopia of ethnic favorites from the midwest to the southwest, to the west coast.

All recipes can be sent to: Cookbook Project, Box 125, McLean, Texas, 79057.

There's going to be action in New Mexico at El Rey Theater in Albuquerque on November 3. Their association will host the First Annual New Mexico Route 66 Concert to raise funds for the organization.

The show will feature Top 40, Country, Rock, Blues and the Oldies (including Ronnie Eden and The Route 66 Band debuting their new tune, "Back on Route 66.")

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.

For more information, contact The New Mexico Route 66 Association, c/o Dixie Eden, 14215 Domingo Ct. NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87123

And great news! The legendary El Vado Motel is opened and is getting back its original splendor.

the owner, Ali Hakim, is back and says, after a year-long absence, he's "back where he belongs."

He and his family have been working extremely hard to rejuvenate the classic motel. Take care and we'll see you all next year.

In Arizona, plans are being made for the 4th Annual Fun Run

Weekend from Seligman to Topock.

And none other than "Mr. Kick" himself, Bobby Troup, will be there. He's so nice!

It promises to be another wild time.

In October, the Arizona Association will take part in their Preservation Foundation's annual meeting and conference — with the focus on 66. This will be held in Williams, Ariz., "Gateway to the Grand Canyon."

The official title of their new exhibit is the "Route 66 Museum of Time and Travel."

In California, Sara Faulds has formed the California Historic Highway Association — with the main emphasis on 66. Details to follow.

Other "Mother Road" odds and ends: Susan Croce Kelly's and Quinta Scott's book, "Route 66: The Highway and It's People," is now out in paperback (\$17.95 list) and in the fall, Tom Snyder (St. Martin's Press) will be releasing a "Route 66 Travelers Guide & Roadside Companion."

The first edition of Michael Wallace's book sold out in six weeks during his summer promotional tour.

St. Martin's Press has put it up for a national book award, and Reader's Digest will do a thing for the book in the December issue!

In one year, Illinois has come a long way as an organization.

We've put together a brochure, a successful motor tour and have established the Hall of Fame at the Dixie.

All the media coverage didn't hurt, either. But we still have lot of work ahead of us.

(Continued on Page 7)



(Down the Road from Page 6)  
preservation. This is to  
protect the charm and the  
character of the road and the  
buildings that make 66 special.

We must try to get some  
landmarks on the National  
Register of Historic Places.

Another thing, we need to  
come up with a list of places  
where travelers can stop.

We've gotten them down 66  
with the brochure and now we  
need to get them to visit the  
towns and cities along the way.

We've conquered our goals  
before and if we stick together,  
we can continue to do so.

One thought: one's own  
personal interest should not  
be emphasized. It can destroy  
an entire group.

It's a bond of togetherness,  
so let's strive \_ not just for  
us, but for the road!

We'll do another motor tour  
in 1991 and Sate Farm will  
sponsor us again. There will  
be events in the Chicago area  
on Friday night.

Our hosts will be Pat Rhea  
at the Chicken Basket Restaurant  
in Willow Brook, Jim Fryer at  
Midwest Street Rods in  
Bolingbrook and Vlado Lenocho at  
The Holiday Inn in Countryside.

On Saturday, the main stops  
will be in Odell, Chenoa, The  
Dixie and the overnight stop  
will be in Lincoln with a  
downtown event and a new motel.

Sunday's highlights will  
include a Cozy Dog stop in  
Springfield and something in  
Litchfield and ending somewhere  
in Granite City.

We hope that other towns along  
the way will take part in  
staging flea markets, crafts and  
others odds and ends throughout  
the two days.

In future newsletters we'll  
be having a calendar of events  
listing the locations where  
we'll be selling merchandise  
throughout the year.

With this being our election  
meeting, we need board members  
from Will, Gundy, Macoupin,  
Madison and St. Clair Counties.

Well, that covers it for  
now! Take care, all!

## Condolences

Our condolences go out to  
Ivan Burnett on the loss of his  
son. Our thoughts are with you.

2802 Fremont  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008



### ROADOLOGISTS

Looking for America's Road Culture  
Old Maps, Postcards and Memorabilia

Jeff & Laura Meyer  
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1½ Miles E of Rt. 53



# *When service stations really served*



Bill Shea

In the heyday of Route 66, gas stations were truly service stations \_ not the self service filling spots they are today.

Bill Shea knows \_ after returning home from World War II, he opened a Texaco Station on City Route 66 in his native Springfield, Illinois.

In the 1950's he moved approximately one block north and switched over to Marathon.

In 1965, he started selling camper truck tops as a sideline.

Then, in the 1970's Interstate 55 bypassed him.

It wasn't long before Bill switched off the pumps, had them removed and started selling camper tops exclusively.

You can still meet Bill and get a feel of Old 66 at Shea's Finest Truck Covers on Ninth Street in Springfield.

If you order a custom window cut, he uses the surplus fiberglass to make a clock!

Bill and his wife, Helen, recently became sustaining members of the Association. He celebrated the occasion by donating many rare memorabilia to our Hall of Fame \_ including a genuine Route 66 highway marker that he rescued from the front of his station in 1977.

-Tom Teague



Bill Shea and Customer

## *Association in Charity Cruise*

When our motor tour stopped in Springfield, local banker Bill Glaze was so impressed that he called the association and asked if our arch could be used in that city's Cruise for Charity.

The cruise is an annual fundraiser for local charities. It features a thousand custom cars and street rods from all over the midwest.

Thanks to Chuck Wright and his crew from State Farm Insurance, cruisers got to drive through the arch at the event's start this year.

As they did for our motor tour, the State Farm folks took a picture as each car passed through the arch and set it to the owner in a souvenir folder.

(October meetings from Page 1)  
the full board for approval at the October 21 meeting in Lincoln.

We're thinking about starting the tour in Chicago; ending it in Granite City or Edwardsville; and making one less stop on the first day. Let us know what you think.



# Memories of Route 66 and Atlanta

By  
Betty McLellan

It wended it's way  
through city and  
farm,  
Past Mom's old home  
with it's age and  
charm;  
And when I was a kid  
and spent the night,  
My eyes wouldn't  
close and I shivered  
with fright,  
When the big old  
trucks shifted their  
gears,  
Their noise was so  
loud it rang in my  
ears.  
But they sped on by  
carrying apples and  
wheat,  
And other things for  
our nation to eat.  
To eat and wear,  
things for work and  
play,  
They drove many  
miles both by night  
and day;  
The cars filled with  
people following a  
dream,  
Kept flowing by in  
an unending stream.  
It ran from Chicago  
to California so  
far,  
I wished for a dollar  
for every car;  
As some people went  
west and others came  
east,  
The Lone Pine Inn  
served many a feast.  
Ivin's Sinclair sat  
at the town's north  
curve,  
Sold lots of gas  
and would also serve

A bottle of pop and  
a bar of candy,  
For a country kid  
this was just dandy.  
As the wheels rolled  
down Arch St. or old  
``66,``  
There was Phillips's  
Garage waiting to  
fix,  
Flat tires or an  
engine that started  
to clang,  
Or even a ``back  
fire`` that made a  
loud bang.  
And when I was 12,  
many long years ago,  
The People's Bank  
clock at 2 a.m. was  
aglow,  
As the Plymouth  
turned south and we  
were on our way,  
We drove long hours  
and it took us two  
days.  
Grandparents, Aunt  
Rose and Auntie Mad,  
Little cousin  
Dareyl, he wasn't  
too bad;  
A dream trip come  
true; twelve dollars  
paid my way,  
That wouldn't go  
far in this age and  
day.  
We crossed the  
Mississippi at the  
Chain of Rocks,  
On into Missouri  
for the first of our  
stops.  
Webb City, Missouri  
was quite a town,  
As ``66`` veered  
and turned around

and around.  
Then, into Kansas,  
just a corner small,  
But the wheat it  
grew was very tall;  
Oklahoma came next  
and we spent the  
night,  
At a motel in Afton,  
lit up so bright.  
We rose again long  
before day began,  
On to Amarillo to  
see Aunt Tot and  
Aunt Anne;  
Everyone cried and  
hugged and hugged  
gain,  
A very strange way  
for a visit to  
begin.  
We spent a week and  
then headed for  
home,  
Oklahoma's red mud  
caused Grandad to  
moan;  
But a farmer was  
found with a mule so  
strong,  
He pulled us out  
and sent us along.  
We slept that night  
in a motel in  
Missouri,  
Up again at dawn to  
hurry and scurry;  
Anxious to see  
Illinois with it's  
fertile loam,  
A ``66`` trip is  
great, but there's  
nothing like home.





# ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

## For Sale

ILLINOIS RESIDENTS: ADD 7%  
SALES TAX FOR ALL ITEMS.

NEW! BLACK NYLON/POLYESTER  
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XXL) Price \$20, plus \$1.50 P &  
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NEW! "ROUTE 66 THE MOTHER  
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REPRODUCTION SIGN-All eight  
states available. Blanked in  
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1929. Price \$59.95 plus \$5 P  
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A GUIDEBOOK TO HIGHWAY 66-A  
reproduction of the 128-page  
guidebook written by Jack  
Rittenhouse in 1946. Price  
\$6.95 plus \$1.25 P & H.

ASSOCIATION T-SHIRT-Black  
with white and red shield design  
designed by Bob Waldmire. Price  
\$10 plus \$1.50 P & H. S-M-L-XL-  
XXL (XXL, add \$1)

1990 AUTO TOUR T-SHIRT-Same  
design as tour flyer with sign  
and red Corvette. Price \$10  
plus \$1.50 P & H. Sizes above.

BUMPER STICKER-Black and  
white-"We get our kicks on  
Route 66. Route 66 Association  
of Illinois". Price \$1 plus  
\$1.50 P & H.

BUTTON-Black and white. Same  
wording as above. Price: \$1  
plus \$1.50 P & H.

HAT PIN-Black and white  
shield. Price: \$3 plus \$1.50  
P & H.

DANGLE EARRINGS, same design  
as above. Price \$7 plus \$1.50  
P & H.

ROUTE 66 NECKLACE, same  
design as above. Price \$5 plus

\$1.50 P & H.

ASSOCIATION HAT. SALE price  
\$4, plus \$1.50 P & H.

ASSOCIATION VISOR. SALE  
price \$4 plus \$1.50 P & H.

BURMA SHAVE HAT PIN-Red  
enamel. Price: \$3 plus \$1.50  
P & H.

On multiple item orders, you  
pay the \$1.50 shipping on the  
first item you order and then  
just add 50 cents for each  
additional item (except on the  
sign. We do need \$5 postage and  
handling for it because of the  
weight).

Send your orders to Route 66  
Association of Illinois, P.O.  
Box 8262, Rolling Meadows, Ill.  
60008., along with your check  
or money order.

NOTE: Business owners wishing  
to sell Route 66 Association  
merchandise should contact Tom  
Teague, association president,  
at 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield,  
Ill. 62704; or Jeff Meyer, vice  
president, at 2802 Fremont St.,  
Rolling Meadow, Ill. 60008.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:

Dec.-Dec. 1, 1990

March-March 1, 1991

May (Motor Tour Issue)-May 1,  
1991

Sept.-Sept. 1, 1991

ANY ITEM RECEIVED AFTER DEADLINE  
WILL BE HELD UNTIL THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER!

All ad copy must be CAMERA  
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Newsletter Editor, P. O. Box  
159, McLean, Ill. 61754.

Ad rates: \$10 business card;  
\$25 1/4 page; \$45 1/2 page; \$70  
3/4 page; \$90 full page.

Help wanted: Ad salespeople!

"ILLINOIS — WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."



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Springfield, IL 62704

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2802 Freemont St.  
Rollings Meadow, IL 60008

Secretary/Treasurer

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2802 Freemont St.  
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Dwight, IL 60420

Montgomery County

Priscilla Mathews  
410 N. Monroe  
Litchfield, IL 62056

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Tom Knudsen  
1202 Eastholme  
Bloomington, IL 61701

Lou Vandiver  
2504 Berkshire Ct.  
Champaign, IL 61824

Tim Hadac  
3846 W. 59th Place  
Chicago, IL 60629

Mike Yates  
Route 1  
Washington, IL 61571

Newsletter Editor

Nancy Saul  
P. O. Box 159  
McLean, IL 61754

If each of you could send a couple of paragraphs of information about what's going on in your area for each of our newsletters, it would help us to keep our membership informed as to how our association is progressing.

News should be sent to Nancy Saul, newsletter editor. Deadlines and address are listed on page 10. Thanks for your help!

-Nancy Saul





# ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

## 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**

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"ILLINOIS — WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."





# ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

## THE 66 NEWS!

CHICAGO  
CICERO  
BERWYN  
LYONS  
MAGDOOK

ROMEOVILLE  
CREST HILL  
JOLIET  
ELWOOD

Lake Michigan

December, 1990

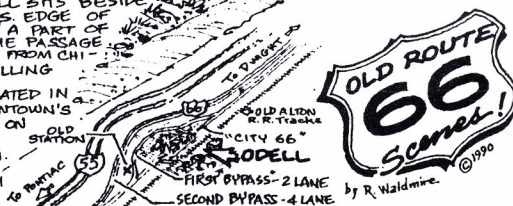


### ODELL, ILLINOIS

THIS OLD SINCLAIR STATION, BUILT IN THE EARLY 30's, STILL SITS BESIDE THE EARLIEST 66 ALIGNMENT, ON THE E. EDGE OF ODELL. THIS ALIGNMENT WAS ORIGINALLY A PART OF ILL. RT 4, WHICH WAS CREATED WITH THE PASSAGE OF A BOND ISSUE IN 1918, & WHICH RAN FROM CHICAGO TO E. ST. LOUIS, ROUGHLY PARALLELING THE FUTURE RT. 66.

ODELL (ALT. 721 FT.) WAS INCORPORATED IN 1854 & WAS NAMED FOR WILLIAM ODELL; DOWNTOWN'S BEAUTIFUL OLD BRICK BUILDINGS PERCH ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RAILROAD TRACKS.

IN ADDITION TO THE OLD "CITY 66" ALIGN. WHICH WINDS THROUGH THE TOWN, & THIS "EARLY 2-LANE BY-PASS" A PRISTINE STRETCH OF 4-LANE 66 CURVES AROUND THE TOWN.



## Postcards from the edge (of the road)

Bob Waldmire, our association's resident and itinerant artist, has spent more time traveling Route 66 these past few years than anyone I know.

Many of you have probably seen his VW van, which he calls "The Unofficial Route 66 Information Center," somewhere along the road.

Some day soon, you may also see the 1966 Chevy school bus that Bob is converting and hopes someday to moor permanently on a site near Ed's Camp in western Arizona.

Bob has been drawing maps of many other places for about 20 years. He also designed our association's letterhead, newsletter cover art and souvenirs.

His grand plan related to Route 66 is to publish a detailed and complete map of the highway from Chicago to Santa Monica.

And by "detailed," I mean you'll need a magnifying glass to read parts of it. This is an incredibly complex project and has already taken Bob three (Continued on page 8)

"ILLINOIS — WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."



# ***Minutes of the October 21, 1990 meeting***

After lunch at Al's Main Event in Lincoln, we commenced at 1:10 p.m. Twenty-five members were in attendance.

The minutes from the last meeting were contained in the newsletter, so they weren't read.

Jeff Meyer did the treasurer's report, which breaks down to approximately \$2,800 in the bank, with \$13,000 worth of merchandise and only two outstanding bills (these have since been paid).

Tom Teague did his President's State Report and talked about the goals we have achieved including the tour, Hall of Fame and brochure.

He praised our continuing efforts and we went on to Jeff's National Report. Jeff mentioned that Missouri had their successful tour, Kansas formed an association and has over 250 members and Oklahoma was recuperating after a busy summer. Texas is putting out a cookbook and getting their 66/Barbed Wire Museum set up at an old Sear's Bra Factory!

New Mexico was pretty quiet, Arizona had a 66 golf tournament and there was an upcoming cruise in California.

Jeff also stated that Michael Wallis' book is going into its third printing. (See Down the Road for media coverage report).

Not much Old Business, except the dreaded ``I-66'' talk. (Boo!)

Betty McLellan said the Patricia Buckley who wrote the mini-66 booklet, ``Remnants,'' would let us have full rights

to sell copies.

Charlie Williams and Phil from the Knights of Columbus spoke about their idea of a 50s-60s show on May 10-11 in Lincoln. This is a month prior to our second tour. They said we would be welcome to sell merchandise and that they hoped we would offer our support for the project.

We went on to new business, which was the election of officers.

Tom will retain the presidency for another year, Jeff Meyer was elected to a two-year term as vice president and Laura Meyer was elected to a two-year term as treasurer. Pat Knudsen was elected to a one-year term as secretary.

We set up the elections this way so we wouldn't be electing all our officers anew at the same time.

Jeff Lessenberry is a new board member from DuPage County and Priscilla Matthews is the new board member from Montgomery County.

Priscilla and her co-worker at American Travelmasters in Litchfield, Deborah Mileur, have also taken over the task of managing the association's mailing list.

Lou VanDiver volunteered her services to send out renewal notices.

We passed an amendment to have 21 board members instead of 20 (the county board members would be listed separately).

Priscilla reported that we have 478 members! We all agreed to new passports, goodie bags (Continued on page 8)



# No more gas to be sold at Soulsby's



**Russell Soulsby**

In November, the Environmental Protection Agency did to Soulsby's Service station what the interstates did to the tiny towns.

It was an end of an era on Illinois St. (old two-lane 66) in Mount Olive when the E.P.A. forced Russell Soulsby to quit selling Shell gasoline after 64 years in the business, because the old gas tanks were too costly for him to replace.

Is that any way to treat a 66 Hall of Famer?

But never fear! Russell hasn't closed his door yet. The pumps and sign will still be there, and Russell will be busy repairing television sets and hawking lottery tickets.

The landmark was opened in July, 1926, even before 66

highway.

And talk about innovation! They were one of the first mini-marts in the country, providing weary travelers with gas and oil for their cars and sandwiches, soda and ice cream for their tummies.

As a side hobby, the boys fixed TVs. There was even a one-armed bandit on the counter, which was ripped off in broad daylight (cops?).

The station has been visited by many locals, tourists, journalists and writers.

Russell keeps in fine form by dancin' the night away every Friday and Saturday at the Crystal Ballroom in Staunton.

CONGRATULATIONS on your upcoming marriage, Russell, and all the best to Ola!

## Correction

In our last issue, we printed a story about Chuck and Flora Binna, who spent their honeymoon more than half a century ago hitchhiking along Route 66.

We regret that we reported their names incorrectly. If you didn't receive the last issue, you can read about the Binnas in their exhibit at the Route 66 Hall of Fame in Illinois.

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# Teague to publish

After working on it for more than four years, association president Tom Teague has finally announced plans to publish his book on Route 66, "Searching for 66," in the spring.

Tom is a freelance writer and a publicist for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. A lifelong traveler along 66, he is also executive director of the Illinois Central Blues Club.

He began writing articles about Route 66 five years ago and has already won two awards for them.

In 1986, he passed up a chance for a promotion at work and took a four-month leave of absence instead.

He spent the time traveling 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica — talking with people, making friends and studying how Route 66 came to occupy such a special place in the hearts and lives of so many people. Then he came home and, while working 40 hours a week, also worked 40 hours a week writing his book.

At least two other books on Route 66 have been published recently. Tulsan Michael Wallis wrote "Route 66 The Mother Road," available in hardback, and St. Louis photographer Quinta Scott and Chicago writer Susan Croce Kelly teamed up to produce "Route 66," which is available in both hard and soft cover.

Both books have received deserved commercial success.

Tom's book will be published in paperback format and will sell for approximately \$10.

He promises original photos and drawings and about two to

three times as much text as the other books.

"I hope to give readers a much more detailed picture of the people and history of the mother road," Tom says.

"Searching for 66" will be on sale by early June, 1991. More details will be announced as they become available.

## 66 text for sermon

Joe Eby, a student at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, has come up with perhaps a 66 first — a sermon in which the old highway serves as a central metaphor!

Joe wrote the sermon for a course called "Releasing Your Imagination in Preaching." On the basis of subject alone, we'd have to give him an A+.

Using a passage from Isaiah as his base ("Make straight in the desert a highway for our God."), Joe talked about the ancient Hebrews' roadbuilding skills.

"They had well-developed commerce and had traveled the bustling trade routes of their corner of the world," Joe said. "They had developed their vital infrastructure. . . . In the process, however, they had lost the vital infrastructure of themselves."

Then, he went on to make the same comparison between modern travelers and their interstates. The answer for ancient Hebrews was to return to their faith. The answer for modern travelers is to return to 66.

Joe's parents, James and Barbara Eby of LeRoy, are members of our association.



# Members

We now have 48 **Business Members** of the Association.

Welcome to: Abe Lincoln Tourism Bureau; Chenoa Chamber of Commerce; Esper & Finch and the Kansas Route 66 Association.

Businesses selling Association merchandise include: Ariston Cafe, Litchfield; Dell Rhea Chicken Basket, Willowbrook; Dixie Truckers Home, McLean; Pig Hip Restaurant, Broadwell; and American Travel Masters, Litchfield.

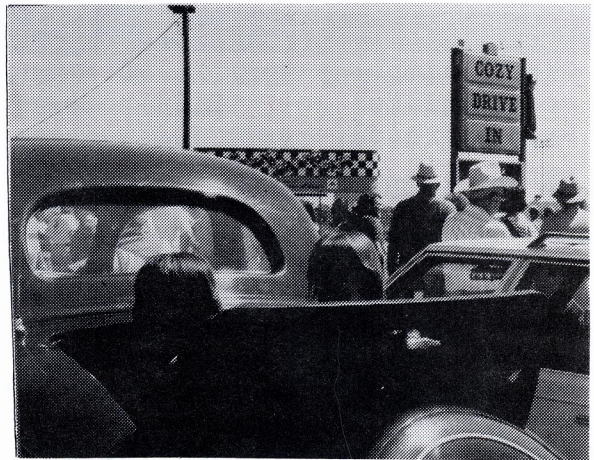
**Sustaining Members** include Jeff and Laura Meyer; Ray and Dorothy Schroeder, Bill Shea and Dick and Rick Unsabee (Dick's Feed Barn).

**New Members** who have joined since September, 1990, include J. Robert Barr, Pam Bousman, Kirk Brown, Charles Boyd, 1st Lt. and Mrs. Boyd (Hawaii!!), Dwight Cannon, Steve Charusch, Fred L. Cook, Chris Davis, Peggy Davis, Ronald Edlund, Gladys Fairfield, Bill and Paula Hart, Dan and Darlene Hoffman, Wayne and Donna Holous, Marilyn Horath, David Jum1, Mary Kay, Dick George & Co., David Lewis, Tony and Jacqueline Los, Curt Nilsen, Armando Pagnucci, John J. Perun Sr., Allen L. Royster, Susan Sams, Ronald Simon, Roger Surratt, The Waldmires, Victor Walsh, Edward Williamson, Tim Wollin and Larry J. Zabel.

Judy thoroughly enjoyed Old 66, frequently accompanying her son, Dana, on 66.

Dana, who lives in Urbana, is a serious Rt. 66 alignment researcher and is currently compiling a map of Rt. 66 alignments.

-Submitted by Robert Waldmire



Members of the 1990 Auto Tour enjoyed the Cozy Dog Drive In from the rumble seat of a vintage auto. (Photo by N. Saul)

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# Condolences

Dana Swann's mother, Judy Swann, passed away Oct. 2, 1990. She turned 74 eight days before she died.



# Down the Road

Page 6



Old camper top. (Drawing compliments of Bill Shea, Springfield)

By Jeff & Laura Meyer  
66 Roadologists

Well, first of all, Happy Holiday to You and Yours and don't get too stressed out!

Now, on to business: **Missouri's** first cruise was held Sept. 15-16. At 8 a.m., 80 cars left the Ralston Purina parking lot (by the MacArthur Bridge, which once was a 66 artery before it was closed).

The first stop was at Ted Drewes for custard (at 8:30 a.m.?) only proves that ANY TIME is a good time for a Route 66 Concrete!

Next was the Tri-County Truck Stop for coffee. This will be the home of the Missouri Hall of Fame next year. Lunch was in Cuba, Mo. at the Rt. 66 Lounge. The food was provided by the Old 66 Cafe (naturally).

Then, it was off to Route 66 Motors in Rolla for cold drinks. After stopping in Devils Elbow and Waynesville, it was on to LeBanon, Mo., for a night at the Mungermass Motel.

When coming in, President Jim Powell counted 66 cars in the procession. (This is getting scary!)

There was antiquing at Hall

Moore Stuff, a steak dinner (given by the Elks Club), open bowling and Route 66 Night at the I-44 Raceway (should be the 66 Raceway).

Sunday, participants left for Springfield, Mo., with breakfast and antiques between there and Halltown and then over to Joplin for lunch and, finally, a general meeting was held and Michael Wallis gave a talk.

The Coral Court Motel in St. Louis was put on the National Register of Historic

Places on Oct. 7. All right!

As **Kansas** says, they are "tying 66 together." In October, Bruce Meyer and Carolyn Brozek were in Baxter Springs for "Cowtown Days." (After all, they claim to be the first cowtown in Kansas, so why not!)

In **Oklahoma** the Tulsa Chapter had their second annual Fall Foliage Tour from Tulsa to Chelsea on Nov. 10. More than 50 cars took part on a beautiful autumn afternoon.

On Nov. 13, trees were planted on Eleventh St. (Rt. 66) in Tulsa. Good luck to all!

Oklahoma State Chapter has a new office in Bethany (west of Oklahoma City) as of Aug. 14. Nancy Lyon is doing a great job. They had their election meeting on Nov. 17. Kent Martindale was nominated as president. A Park Service rep. was present too.

**Texas'** Route 66 Cookbook should be out soon. Stay tuned!

Work is progressing on the Texas Rt. 66-Barbed Wire Museum (at the old Sears Bra Factory).

On Sept. 8, members of the Texas Association began restoration of an old Phillips 66 gas station on old 66 in



(Down the Road, continued)  
McLean, Texas.

The McLean, Texas Groom News is running old 66 stories weekly. Delbert, we want copies!

No report from **New Mexico.**

A sad note from **Arizona:** Sami Carter, secretary/treasurer, had to leave the Arizona Association due to personal reasons. We wish her all the best. But! Yours truly (Laura, that is)

took a solo flight to Lake Havasu City and Kingman (a "save my sanity mini-vacation") Oct. 29-Nov.6.

I met the new secretary/treasurer, Lynda Moore. We had a blast! I helped her with the files, straightened out the office, etc.

The next day, Lynda and her husband, Duke, took me with them to Flagstaff for a limited 66 exhibit titled "Diners, Lizards and Cactus" (Oct. 5-Nov.11).

The exhibit, at the Cocorino Center for the Arts, featured a lot of "Yo Dude! Jerry Richard's memorabilia, as well as various sketches by other artists, old cars and a "road" complete with fake rattlesnakes on it!

Back to Bittersweet news: The Route 66 Distillery Restaurant is no more (It's back to La Posada and it's NOT affiliated with the Quality Inn in Kingman anymore.)

But, you'll be able to see all the goodies when the Kingman Rt. 66 Museum of Time and Travel is ready.

Plans are underway for the Fourth Annual Fun Run Weekend

April 26-28. Bobby Troup will be there along with us, the Sondrups from Utah, Danny Scott A.K.A. "The Route 66 Peddler," Bruce and Carolyn from Kansas and who knows who else?!

Should be a gas!

Andy Devine Days were held in Kingman Sept. 29-30 with a parade, food, etc. (By the way, Andy Devine Ave. is Rt. 66)

Again, I just want to thank all of you who were so nice to me (Johnny Lott, Cindy Hicks, Lynda and Duke, Helen and Dave, Linda Garrison, those Delgadillos, 66 Rent a Car, the girls at the Quality Inn (Dorothy, Janice, Evelyn, Michelle and Lorraine) and of course, especially that Jerry guy and Debi and his family for letting me drive 'em crazy.

I appreciate it very much and I shall fly solo again (either in late September or early October). It was just excellent.

The San Bernadino County Tourism Development Council in **California** had a Foothills to the Desert Cruise from Pomona to Barstow. Approximately 200 cars were in attendance.

**In other news,** Lucy Badenhop will take 66 cars down Old 66 from L.A. to Chicago June 16-23 and return July 1-8, 1991.

In between, they'll be at a straight axle Corvette Enthusiasts National Convention in Springfield, Ill., June 24-26; in Bloomington, Ill. for the Corvette Gold Show June 27-30, 1991; then back to California.

Media-wise, the crew from "Eye on L.A." (KABC-California) came through Illinois to film an upcoming (Continued on Page 8)



**(Down the Road, continued)**

``66 Special.''

They visited the Chicken Basket, Midwest Street Rods, the Dixie Hall of Fame and the Tropics Restaurant in Lincoln.

They interviewed Steve and Glaida Funk, Ernie Edwards and Bob Waldmire. Bob took them to ``Dead Man's Curve'' and the Cozy Dog. They spent the night in Litchfield and talked with Francis Marten and Russell Soulsby the next day.

Reader's Digest is supposed to be doing an article on 66 in January, and the November issue of Photographic Magazine featured Dan Baldwin's pix and a story.

Finally, Michael Wallis' book, ``Rt. 66, the Mother Road,''' has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize! All right, Michael and Suzanne!

Well, better sign off and leave some space. Take care, 66ers!

**(Postcards, from Page 1)**

But to tantalize us, he has taken 18 scenes from the map and put them on a series of postcards. Seven of those scenes feature sites in Bob's native Illinois.

Bob's postcards are finely printed on recycled poster stock. You'll see them for sale at many restaurants and bookstores along the way.

They're also available through the association (See page ? for details). Meanwhile, we're reprinting a few of them in this newsletter for your enjoyment.

**(Minutes, from Page 2)**

Priscilla reported that we have 478 members! We all agreed to new passports, goodie bags and an updated brochure. Bob

Waldmire volunteered to put a map on the new brochure.

We said that we'd induct only two or three Hall of Fame members in 1991.

We elected a Hall of Fame Committee made up of Nancy Saul, Paul Gleason, C.J. Beeler, Michelle and Howie Thornley, Mike Yates, Tom Teague and Jeff and Laura Meyer.

Michelle said that we should all write a letter to a state representative to support the 66 bill once it is established.

We also agreed that any Hall of Famer automatically receives a lifetime membership.

Nancy did a quick newsletter update.

In conclusion, we unanimously voted to have Michael Wallis at our Jan. 16 board meeting. We adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

-Laura Meyer, secretary

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## Upcoming meetings

Sunday, Jan. 13, 1991,  
Ariston, Old 66-46 Ill. 16,  
Litchfield. Guest speakers,  
Suzanne and Michael Wallis. For  
reservations, call Jeff & Laura  
Meyer at 708/392-0806, or Pris  
& Deb at 217/324-5551

Sunday, April 14, 1991,  
Willowbrook Chicken Basket, Ill.  
83 & U.S. 66 off I-55.

Sunday, June 23, 1991,  
Steve's Cafe, 305 Morehead St.,  
Old 66, Chenoa

## Help wanted

Anyone wishing to help out  
at any 66 event that the  
Association attends, including  
the '91 tour should contact:  
The Meyers, 708/392-0860; The  
Knudsens; 309/828-2925; or Pris  
& Deb, 217/324-5551.

Anyone with listings for  
the Calendar of Events should  
contact the Knudsens at the  
number above.

Sixty-six towns with events  
planned for 1991 are encouraged  
to send information — A.S.A.P.

Any businesses with items  
to donate for the '91 Tour goody  
bag should send their  
contributions to Bud and Lou  
VanDiver, 2504 Berkshire Ct.,  
Champaign, Ill. 61821 (phone  
217/356-4949).

We estimate that 250 bags  
will be filled.

Thanks to the Schrodgers and  
Knudsens for sending in reports  
about what's going on in their  
areas.

If you have a story about  
living, working, hitching, or  
doing anything else of interest  
on Route 66, send it along to  
the Association, or to Nancy  
Saul at P. O. Box 159, McLean,  
Ill. 67754.

Thanks to Tom Teague, who  
submitted the stories about Joe  
Eby and Bob Waldmire, and to the  
Meyers, who sent the story about  
Russell Soulsby's service  
station, for this issue!

Also, thanks to Betty  
McLellan, for proofreading; to  
Betty and Pat Knudsen for  
running to the printer, labeling  
and mailing the newsletter; and  
to Priscilla Matthews for  
supplying the labels.

Speaking of labels, don't  
forget to check yours to see if  
your membership is expired!

Designs are still needed  
for the Motor Tour T-shirt  
contest. The grand prize is  
\$66.66 and the deadline is Dec.  
31, 1990.

NOMINATIONS are now being  
accepted for the 1991 Hall of  
Famers.

The nominations (as well  
as the T-shirt designs) should  
be sent to the Route 66  
Association of Illinois, P. O.  
Box 8262, Rolling Meadows, Ill.  
60008.

## Newsletter deadlines

March 1, 1991

May 1, 1991 (Motor Tour issue)

Sept. 1, 1991

ANY ITEM RECEIVED AFTER THE  
DEADLINE WILL BE HELD UNTIL THE  
NEXT NEWSLETTER.

All ad copy must be CAMERA  
READY and submitted by the above  
dates. Send ads and news to:  
Nancy Saul, Newsletter Editor,  
P. O. Box 159, McLean, Ill.  
61754.

Send payment with ads.  
Rates are \$10, business card;  
\$25 quarter page; \$45 half page;  
\$70 three-quarter page; \$90 full  
page. Help wanted-ad  
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# For sale

ILLINOIS RESIDENTS, ADD 7% SALES TAX. ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD OUR NEXT MOTOR TOUR, FUTURE PROJECTS, SIGNS, ETC. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

## CHRISTMAS SALE!

REPRODUCTION SIGN-All eight states available. Blanked in shield shape from 16 gauge steel, 16" by 16 1/2" at extreme dimensions of shield shape, deep embossed, bonderized 20 year paint. Weighs approximately 4 pounds. Meets all specifications of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, April, 1929. Original Price: \$59.95 Now just \$45 plus \$5 shipping.

NEW - ILLINOIS U.S. 66 METAL SHIELD FRIDGE MAGNETS-\$4 plus \$1 postage and handling.

NEW - 66 SWEATS (SAME AS BLACK T)-S-M-L-XL-XXL (Add \$1 for XL)-\$15, plus \$1.50 postage and handling. 50/50 quality, made in U.S.A.

NEW - RT. 66 ROADSIDE COMPANION MAP/BOOK BY TOM SNYDER, \$8.95 plus \$1 postage and handling.

NEW - SET OF 18 BOB WALDMIRE ORIGINAL DRAWING POSTCARDS, \$4.50 per set.

A GUIDEBOOK TO HIGHWAY 66-A reproduction of the 128-page guidebook written by Jack Rittenhouse in 1946. Price: \$6.95 plus \$1.25 postage and handling.

ASSOCIATION T-SHIRT-Black with white and red shield design designed by Bob Waldmire. Price: \$10 plus \$1.50 postage and handling. Indicate S-M-L-XL-XXL. (XXL, add \$1) 50/50 quality, made in the U.S.A.

BUMPER STICKER-Black and white-"We get our kicks on Route 66. Route 66 Association of Illinois". Price: \$1 plus .50 postage and handling.

BUTTON-Black and white. Same wording as above. Price: \$1 plus .50 postage and handling.

HAT PIN-Black and white shield. Price: \$3 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

ASSOCIATION HAT. Sale Price \$4 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

ASSOCIATION VISOR. Price \$4 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

BURMA SHAVE HAT PIN-Red enamel. Price: \$3 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

On multiple-item orders, you pay the \$1.50 shipping on the first item you order and then just add 50 cents for each additional item (except on the sign. We do need \$5 postage and handling for it because of the weight).

Send your orders to Route 66 Association of Illinois, P.O. Box 8262, Rolling Meadows, Ill. 60008, along with your check or money order.

NOTE: Business owners wishing to sell Route 66 Association merchandise should contact Jeff Meyer, vice president, at 2802 Fremont St., Rolling Meadow, Ill. 60008.



## **Williamsville Cruise-In**

Pat and Tom Knudsen of Bloomington manned an Association booth at the First Annual Rt. 66 Cruise In in Williamsville Oct. 6.

They arrived at 8 a.m., were set up by 9 a.m. and sold a \$10 newsletter ad as well as \$927 in Association merchandise!

There were 89 entrants in the Cruise In and a tremendous amount of interest shown for Rt. 66.

The Knudsens donated black T-shirts for door prizes. Tom won the door prize, a Rt. 66 wall clock.

The two-day event featured many arts and crafts booths in the business district, a Sunday tour of historic homes, food booths, a flea market, games, entertainment and a Saturday night dance.

-Submitted by Pat Knudsen

## **ODell offers picnic**

The town of ODell has expressed their great desire to be the first picnic stop for the June 8-9, 1991, auto tour. John Stonecipher of ODell arranged a meeting at 6 p.m. on Nov. 11 in the Community Hall with 16 people present.

Tom Teague, association president, made a presentation expressing the meaningful desire to preserve Route 66 as an historic highway.

He also related information regarding the initial beginning and the one-year advancement of the association. He explained State Farm Insurance Co. sponsorship of the drive-through portable arch and each town stop-off where the arch was set

up and again disassembled.

Ray and Dorothy Schroeder of Dwight passed out an itinerary of itemized suggestions for the stop-off in ODell. A question and answer period followed. Refreshments were served and the meeting was adjourned.

-Submitted by Ray and Dorothy Schroeder

## **Wallises to attend Jan. 13 meeting**

All members are urged to attend our next meeting at noon Sunday, Jan. 13, at the Ariston Cafe in Litchfield.

Our special guests, author Michael Wallis and his wife, Suzanne, will give a Rt. 66 slide presentation. Their book - "Rt. 66, The Mother Road," will be on sale for \$25 and Michael will give a Rt. 66 slide presentation.

The Ariston Cafe, a Rt. 66 original, was opened in Carlinville in 1924 on Illinois 4 by Pete Adam, father of Nick Adam, the current proprietor.

In 1931, the Ariston moved to Litchfield, then moved again to its present location in 1935. It strategically settled between the two-lane and four-lane alignments of Rt. 66.

The Ariston has outlasted such 66 places in town as Skinnys Truck Stop, The Annex Cafe, The Blue Danube, The Saratoga Club and Chicken in the Basket Restaurant.

Still serving the public and always crowded, the Ariston is a must on your 66 journey.





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Each director is requested to  
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