

**ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS**

# **THE 66 NEWS!**

**SPRING 1996**

**\$2.00**



**"ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."**

# Officers and Board Members

The officers and board members of the Route 66 Association are available at most reasonable times to answer your questions and hear your comments about Route 66. Please feel free to contact them if you need to. The date to the right of each officer's or member's name is the expiration date of their term.

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Executive Committee members  
are the officers, plus Jeff Meyer  
and Ray Schroeder.

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## Internal Publication Information

The 66 News is published quarterly by the Route 66 Association of Illinois around the first of March, June, September and December. It is meant as a service to Association members and other people and organizations interested in the preservation, promotion and enjoyment of Route 66. Contributions are accepted, but we do not pay. However, any article that you submit remains your property and cannot be reused in any way by the Association or anyone else without your permission. Advertising rates are \$90 for a whole page, \$50 for a half page, \$30 for a quarter page and \$10 for a business card ad. Submit first-class, camera-ready copy only. We can't use Xeroxes. All stories and ads must be submitted at least six weeks prior to publication. Address inquiries and contributions to Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, IL 62704.

## New Members

compiled by Priscilla Mathews

Since our last issue, 22 new members from five states and Canada have joined our association. They include one business member, one sustaining member and seven family members, bringing our total to 905. We extend a hand in fellowship and welcome to: the Robert Janick family, Justice; the Dalamin Estes family, Pontiac; **the Gerry Woloshyn family, Victoria, B.C.** Victoria Thyme Inn, Carlinville; Shirley Pauley, Wood River; the John Havens family, Rochelle; Keith Sculle, Springfield; John Klueter, Highland; Michael Gassmann, Collinsville; **Mid Illinois Caliper, Springfield, sustaining**; the Tom Potts Family, St. Joseph, MI; Mike Howell & Stephanie Ferrell, Bowling Green, KY; Bill Kraus, Bolingbrook; Ron Isenhath, Lansing, MI; Gil Zych, Indian Head Park; Stanley and Margaret Wendt, Elmhurst; Robin Smith, Rensselaer, NY; Lila Frisch, Bellevue, WA; Anthony Messana; Orland Park; Gary Hoffstetter, Staunton; Harold Bennett, Springfield, and Scott Lewis, Springfield.

## Meeting Schedule

All Association members are welcome to attend all meetings of the Association. This concept of openness was so important to us that it was written into our by-laws. So take advantage of it and please join us. Board meetings in 1996 are set for April 21 in Hamel, July 21 at Wolf's Head Inn in Indian Head Park and October 21 in Springfield. They start at 11 a.m. with a break for lunch at noon. Motor tour meetings are tentatively set for March 3 and May 12. Each starts at noon at Mount Hope Township Hall in McLean; bring your own lunch.

Since meeting dates and times can change, it's always a good idea to check with your board member or an Association officer before leaving your driveway.

## Back Issues!

Back issues of this newsletter are available and worth collecting. Issues published through Fall 1993 are \$1 apiece, including postage. Those published since then are \$2 apiece. Here the available issues: September '90, December '90, March '91, May '91, October '91, January '92, Summer '92, Winter '92, Spring '93, Summer '93, Fall '93, Winter '93, Spring '94, Summer '94, Fall '94, and Winter '94 and Spring, Summer and Winter '95. Order by writing to Merchandise, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, IL 62704.

### Cover

*Melio Copp and a Shell salesman at Melio's Shell station in the early '30s.*

## In Memoriam

We extend our deepest sympathies to Association member Lorene Weiss on the death of her son. Lorene, of Franklin Park, is a board member, a frequent contributor to this newsletter, a member of the preservation committee, and an officer in the Route 66 Cruisers.

## Meeting Minutes

by Marilyn Pritchard, Secretary

The Association's quarterly board meeting was held January 21 at the Tropics Restaurant in Lincoln. Thirty members were present.

Priscilla Mathews reported that the Association now has 905 members. Deborah Mileur reported that the April 21 board meeting will take place at Earnie's Restaurant in Hamel. Rich Henry introduced his father-in-law, Wilton Rinkel, who has lived on Route 66 near Hamel since before there was a Route 66. Ray Starks announced that Hall of Famers Burt Parkinson and Effie Marx were interviewed recently by WMAQ Radio of Chicago. He added that Burt would like to see the Association organize a bus trip along Route 66 to California.

Mike Yates gave the treasurer's report. Our current bank balance was \$4,732. A motion was made and passed to have an examiner review the Association's books for the first two quarters of this fiscal year. By board agreement, Mike will also investigate the cost of having a professional bookkeeper manage our accounts receivable and payable. In addition, Mike will arrange to have the treasurer's position bonded for up to \$50,000 if the annual premium is no higher than \$250.

The board passed a motion to reprint the Association's brochure in time for the 1996 travel season. President Tom Knudsen will oversee the project. This includes applying to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs for a grant to help meet printing costs.

Frank Lozich and Terri Ryburn-LaMonte gave a presentation on "Preserving the Recent Past," a national conference on preservation that they attended in the spring of 1995. Their attendance at the conference helped spur formation of the Association's own preservation committee.

Motions were made and passed to incorporate amendments about the Hall of Fame Committee and the Preservation Committee into the Association's bylaws. They will be presented and considered at the April 21 meeting. Tom Teague will draft them.

# Running Away on Illinois 66

by Kent Sanderson

I entered the world in 1940 in Chicago where the road began. Dad was a seminary student at the University of Chicago at the time. After he finished, we lived in Michigan for awhile, then moved to Dwight, Illinois. Dad was minister of the Congregational Church on Delaware Street. We lived in the parsonage two houses north. It was a huge, two-story home with an attic and a large basement. At the time, Delaware Street was a brick thoroughfare, a WPA project from the '30s.

Life in Dwight was grand and provides wonderful memories—the steam locomotives, the billboard that listed local servicemen and women, the Sip 'n' Bite ice cream shop where being “good” was rewarded, the Blackstone Theater where Al saw *Wizard of Oz* for the first time, the barbershop overlooking the railway station, the five and dime, and many more. I saw a lot of Dwight because Dad took me with him whenever he and Mom called upon their parishioners. Sometimes when Dad made these calls alone, Mom and I walked downtown to patronize the local merchants. Usually, however, we just window shopped because money was scarce.

Neighbors on Delaware Street included Mrs. Nelson next door, playmates Sandy and Barbara Hillman, Kenny Nevill and Dick Branz. I saw another friend, Buster Jacobsgard, frequently because his dad and mine were avid bird hunters who carved wooden decoys whenever they could get together to do so (I still have a few of Dad's old ducks and can't believe the detail that went into them).

We'd drive on 66 in our '41 Oldsmobile whenever we went to the Jacobsgards or the Branzes. Usually we'd stop for gas at the intersection where Becker's Marathon is now. There used to be gas stations at all four corners there! When we visited my grandparents in Milton, Illinois, we'd drive Route 66 south. This trip took us through strange-sounding places like Pontiac, Chenoa, Cayuga and Towanda that seemed to a boy as if they were on a different planet. One such trip on a snowy Christmas day nearly ended in disaster when an old Ford with side curtains pulled across 66 in front of us.

After the war ended in 1945, my parents decided to move back “home.” It was a decision I didn't understand and one that brought much sadness into my life. I remember pulling away from the big house on Delaware Street in the Old for our new home in Pittsfield. The neighbors stood on the curb and waved. It was a sad event and for a long time I wondered when we were going back “home” to Dwight.

I grew to love our new home, but never completely forgot about Dwight and Route 66. In 1956 when I was a rebellious teenager, I bought a '41 Olds coupe for the princely sum of \$200. The car's only redeeming quality was that it was virtually indestructible. One summer afternoon, for reasons understood only by me, I decided I wanted to see Dwight again and took off in that direction. No map was necessary because the route was indelibly etched in my mind, including all the turns required to get through larger towns like

Springfield and Bloomington, even though it had been 11 years since I'd made my last trip.

I stopped for gas at Dixie Truckers Home. Dwight's silhouette appeared just before dark and I made a right turn off 66 at the filling station corner. Another right turn by the Catholic church and another block down at the Congregational church put me on Delaware Street. I parked in front of Mrs. Nelson's house and spoke with her while she sat on her porch. To my amazement, she recognized me and I was transported back to 1945. Former parishioners Elmer and Mary Bundersen invited me to spend the night and I was thankful. I'm certain nobody understood why I was there alone, even though I offered some vague explanation about wanting to see Dwight again. My plan to find a job and live there was, no doubt, cause for some concern. I had time to rethink this during the night, but still looked around for some kind of work the next morning. Naturally, there was nothing for an unknown kid from out of town. I was secretly grateful.

I got in touch with my friend Dick Branz that afternoon. He was working nights at the Standard station on 66 and asked me to join him during his shift. We filled gas tanks, check oil levels and washed windshields non-stop until midnight. Dick convinced me it would be a good idea for him to call my dad and let him know I was safe and sound. It was great to hear Dad's voice and I was struck with a consuming case of homesickness. I spent the night at Dick's house. The next morning, his mom fixed a breakfast feast. Later, I made one more trip around Dwight to burn it all into my memory. Then I pointed the Olds' long hood south and drove back home on Route 66.

My wife Mary Sue and I have driven Illinois 66 many times as members of the state association. Each time, I get a feeling of euphoria. We always drive through Dwight, down Delaware Street, past the old parsonage that I would dearly love to walk through just once more, and park downtown to stroll the streets that were mine fifty years ago.

I know Thomas Wolfe probably never drove Route 66—it's one road that can still take you home!

## The Good, the Bad and the Good

Good news, bad news and more good news comes from Route 66 in California. The first good news is that there's now a Route 66 museum in Victorville. It's at 16849 D Street. We haven't heard much about it, except that it's small but ambitious. Mark Ward of the Oldtown Victorville Association is the main man behind it.

Mark is also involved in the good part of California's bad news: Miles Mahan, host of Hula Ville, the open-air, litter-turned-landmark museum near Hesperia, has finally retired. He's been living the past several months with a family in Hesperia. When souvenir hunters kept taking their toll of the untended Hula Ville, Mark arranged to have all its principal exhibits put in safe storage. Someday he hopes to have it on display again.

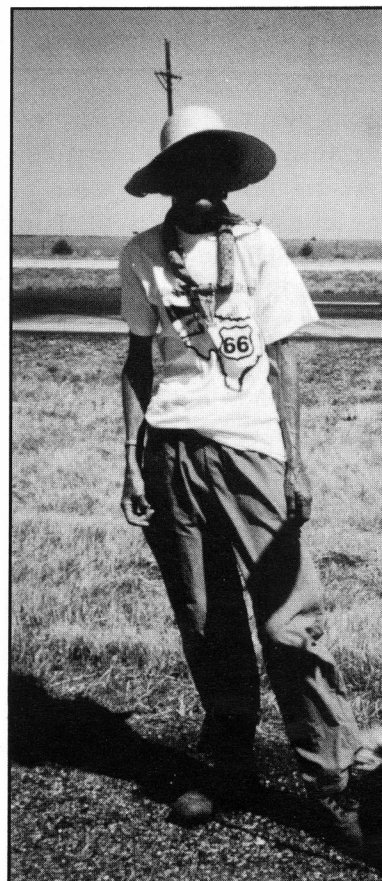
## Run to the Heartland, and other news that fits

Plans for **Run to the Heartland**, the 70th birthday party planned for Route 66 on October 11 and 12, keep getting bigger and bigger. The National Historic Route 66 Federation is sponsoring a dinner October 11 in Vega, Texas, at which fans of the road can meet such Route 66 luminaries as Michael Wallis, cook book author Marian Clark and video producer John Paget. In addition, the Texas Cloggers and other entertainers will perform in the afternoon and there will be a Route 66 Oldtimers Forum.

On October 12, the Old Route 66 Association of Texas will sponsor a day-long party in Landergin, Texas. It will feature a car show, music, a motorcycle rally, a round-up exhibition and a Taste of Texas display, along with the Cloggers and the Vera Brothers Band in the evening. The U.S. Postal Service has commissioned a special drawing by 66 artist Jerry McClanahan and will use it on commemorative stamp cancellations in eight cities on Texas 66. About a week before the big party, caravans of Route 66 fans will depart for Texas from both Illinois and California. Watch for details about the Illinois caravan and other events in our next issue. Plan to honor the road properly because someday you, too, may be 70. For more information, call George Rook in Texas at 806-267-2719.

Midwesterners traveling are being offered **discounts by Comfort Inns** in Oklahoma City on October 10 and in Amarillo on October 11-12. Both will offer rooms for 1-4 people for only \$45 a night if you are going to the Heartland party. The OKC Comfort Inn is even on Old 66! For reservations there, call Lori Petit at 1-800-628-5011. For reservations at Amarillo's Comfort Inn, call Dee Giles at 1-800-628-5013. They will be glad to hear from you.

Margie McCauley, the California woman who set out last spring to walk the entire length of Route 66 with her dog, had to cut her trip short in September near Gray Summit, Missouri. Her dog got perturbed with another dog and tried to chase it away. Unfortunately, Margie's dog knocked over her luggage cart in the process. The cart, in turn, knocked Margie over and broke her ankle. Unable to walk, Margie flew home. She hopes to start the journey again this spring in Gray Summit and continue on to Chicago. There is no word yet on whether her dog will accompany her.



Margie McCauley, 66 Walker

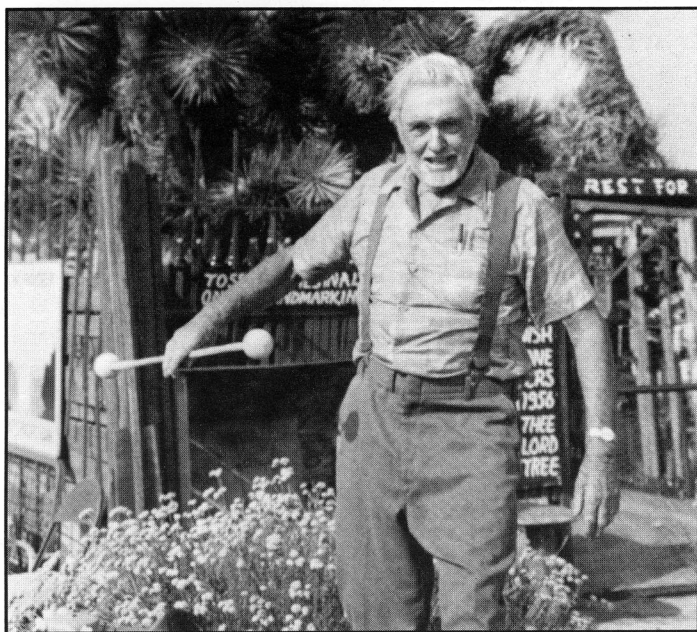
**Jim Powell** has retired as president of the Route 66 Association of Missouri. He is the last of the first generation of 66 association leaders to do so. During Jim's tenure, Missourians enjoyed several tours, a fine newsletter and news signs along 66 in their state. Con-

gratulations on a fine career, Jim! Ron Robb of Carthage, Missouri, is the new president. Our best wishes go to him, too.

Phillips Petroleum has plans to build 200 new **Phillips 66** stations around the country. Each will have a concession stand called "KIX." We have no more specifics than that.

Singers Roseanne Cash, Nanci Griffith and John Stewart are planning a **musical documentary** this year about Route 66. They will perform acoustically in front of such noted landmarks as the Villa Cubero in New Mexico, where Ernest Hemingway wrote part of *The Old Man and the Sea*. The project is the brainchild of Stewart, who used to be with the Kingston Trio. More details later.

A mark of good books and videos about Route 66 is how well they treat subjects that everyone else has already treated. In that respect, *Along Old Route 66*, a 1995 production of Arizona State University, gets a top grade. Barber Angel Delgadillo of Seligman, Arizona, is probably the most widely interviewed Route 66 personality. Yet his words in this video are fresh and eloquent. The work also features several other interviews, old photographs and some spectacular mountain views. It can be ordered for \$17.95 plus \$3 shipping by calling 1-800-OLD ROAD.



Miles Mahan

# The 66 Eye of Randy Smith

Randy Smith, an Association member from East Peoria, wants to get the best look possible at Route 66. That's why he spends so much time walking long stretches of the road. With camera in hand, he records many sights that most of the rest of us barely notice--if we see them at all. Among his recent and most noteworthy discoveries are a series of concrete pillars between Towanda and Dwight.

"Some say 'State.' Some say 'R.O.W.' and some say 'State R.O.W.,'" Randy reports. "They were put in in the early 1920s along old, old 66 (State Route 4) to mark its right of way. Other state roads have them, too--but only the early ones."

We salute Randy for his sharp eye and sturdy legs and present here a portion of his work. There will be much more.



*On Old 66 north of Lexington*



*Along the abandoned stretch of Old 66 north of Lexington*



*Standard Gas pump and elevator in Lexington*



*In Dwight*



*In Dwight*

# Copp's

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*EDITOR'S NOTE: This feature was written with the generous help and support of Mary Copp Frank, who furnished the pictures and also some memories of her Springfield childhood.*

Melio Copp and his family moved from their native Austria to Springfield, Illinois, around the turn of the century. His father found work in the area's burgeoning coal mining industry. When Melio was old enough, that's where he went, too. But when his father died of a heart attack in the mine one day, Melio decided he'd had enough of the underground life. He left the mines and spent the rest of his career developing surface land instead.

In the early 1920s, the land south of the Allis Chalmers plant in Springfield was considered to be well out into the boonies. But the rumbles of

*(continued on page 8)*



*Upper center: downtown Springfield. Center: Allis Chalmers plant. Lower Center: St. Joseph's home. Copp's Corner is west and slightly north of St. Joseph's.*

change which would lead to Route 66 had already begun. Melio bought a large parcel of land near what is now the intersection of Stevenson Drive and South Sixth Street Road (aka 66). The first building he put up was a Shell station with gravity flow pumps. Soon he added a garage, then tourist cabins, making it the first motel in the area. As time passed and more buildings went up, the neighborhood became known as Copp's Corner.

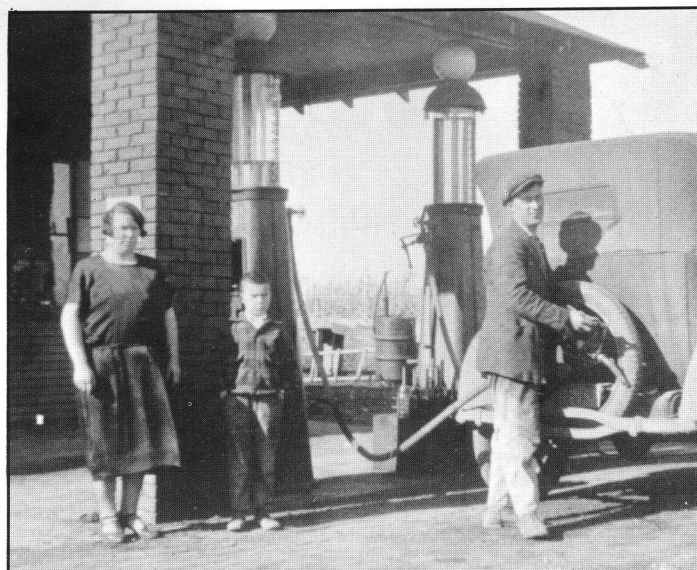
Melio and his wife and newborn daughter, both of them named Mary, lived in an apartment at the back of the Shell station until Melio completed a Standard station a few doors away. He then rented out the original station and moved his family to an apartment in back of the newer station. Daughter Mary remembers living in virtually every building that her father ever put up. Like Route 66 itself, few of them had just

one use. Melio would build one, live and work in it until he had the next one ready, then rent the older building out and move into the new one.

In time, Melio put up a grocery store, a restaurant and bus



*Melio and his assistant at the Standard station. The cabins at the back of the station had apparently been connected by this time. To the left of the Quaker State sign, note another modern amenity—a ladies' restroom. The Copp family had an apartment at the back of the station.*



*Pauline Pleshe (Melio's sister), her son Robert and Melio in the early days.*



*This grocery store was the fourth building at Copp's Corner. It was run by the Maddox family (shown) for several years, then by Melio's cousin, Joe Copp.*





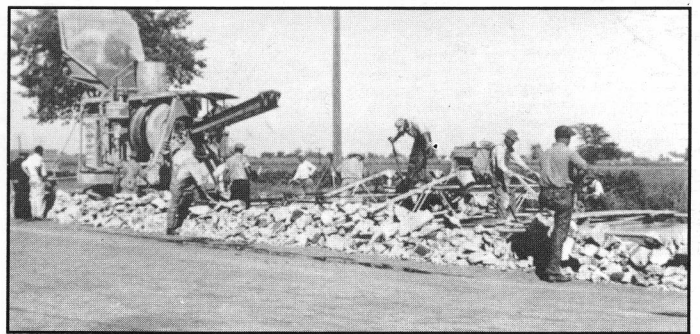
*Comerford's Inn was another family-operated business at Copp's Corner. Now a tavern, it is the only building left.*



*The original Shell station at its grandest. When the garage on the right became a meatpacking house, the station served as its office.*



*Copp's Corner around 1930, looking south.*



*Widening Route 66 prior to World War II.*

station and another garage. Not bad progress for a Austrian coal miner's son, huh? But that's the kind of opportunities that Route 66 gave to people. And he did it all without a franchise manual. But when a new alignment of Route 66 bypassed Copp's Corner, business started changing. The grocery store closed. Both gas stations and their garages were converted into meat packing plants. Melio retired. The restaurant, Comerford's Inn, became a late hours bar, the Curve Inn. Today it is the only part of Copp's Corner that's still there. The rest is parking lots for a church and McDonald's. It may not look like much now, but for awhile it was a little corner of heaven.

# INTERNATIONAL, BIOREGIONAL OLD ROUTE 66 PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

Robert Waldmire, Caretaker, Box 46, HACKBERRY, ARIZONA 86411

Phone (520) 769-2605



Issue #3  
Free - while they last

## OLD 66 DISPATCH, Winter 1995

AND NOW, YEAR #2 HAS PASSED. INCREDIBLY, A YEAR THAT—LIKE THE 1st YEAR HERE—DEFIES CONCISE DESCRIPTION. THUS, HERE—WITH, ANOTHER YEAR DESCRIBED

"IN A NUTSHELL": THIS YEAR WAS FULLER; SO THIS DISPATCH'S TEXT MUST BE PRINTED SMALLER. MY APOLOGIES FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE OR EYESTRAIN. PLEASE DON'T READ WITHOUT ADEQUATE LIGHT &, IF NECESSARY, EYEGLASSES OR A MAGNIFIER.

DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES I MUST CONTINUE TO LIMIT MY DISPATCH\* TO A SINGLE, ADDRESSABLE & STAPLE-ABLE 8 1/2" X 11" SHEET. I WOULD LOVE TO FILL A SMALL BOOK WITH SOME OF THE COUNTLESS DELIGHTFUL DETAILS OF THE "ENDLESS PARADE" OF FASCINATING FOLKS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WHO HAVE DROPPED IN HERE, HAVING FUNNELLED ONTO 66 MUCH AS THE MIGRANTS FROM THE "DUST BOWL" DID. THESE MODERN-DAY PILGRIMS ARE THE MOST EXCITED, HAPPIEST BUNCH OF PEOPLE I'VE EVER MET. THEIR ENTHUSIASM IS CONTAGIOUS! THEIR OWN STORIES, IDEAS, COMMENTS, THEIR SENTIMENTS WRITTEN IN THE VISITOR REGISTERS COULD FILL A SMALL BOOK. BUT FOR THE SMALL PROBLEM OF 100 OTHER PROJECTS, I'D GET STARTED ON THAT ONE RIGHT AWAY!

THE YEAR (1995) WAS VERY WET & EVERY MILD. IN FACT THERE WASN'T MUCH OF A WINTER AT ALL. SO SPRING WAS LONG AND LUSH, WHICH LED TO MORE OF EVERYTHING: FLOWERS, SEEDS, GRASSES, FORAGE, MORE INSECTS, BIRDS, REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS & MAMMALS. A GOLDEN EAGLE REMAINED IN THE AREA FOR A FEW DAYS IN JANUARY. THAT MONTH THERE WAS A BEAUTIFUL, 6-INCH SNOWFALL—ALL MELTED WITHIN 2 DAYS. IN FEBRUARY, A JAVELINA CAME DOWN MORNINGS TO GRAZE ON NEW PLANT GROWTH UP THE HILL.

IN THE SPRING IT BECAME A "BIRD-WATCHER'S PARADISE" HERE. THE BIRD LIST HAS GROWN TO 52 SPECIES SIGHTED ON THE PREMISES. VERMILION FLYCATCHERS, WESTERN KINGBIRDS, SAY'S PHOEBES, BROWN TOWNEES, NORTHERN ORIOLES & HOODED ORIOLES ALL NESTED & RAISED THEIR YOUNG NEARBY.

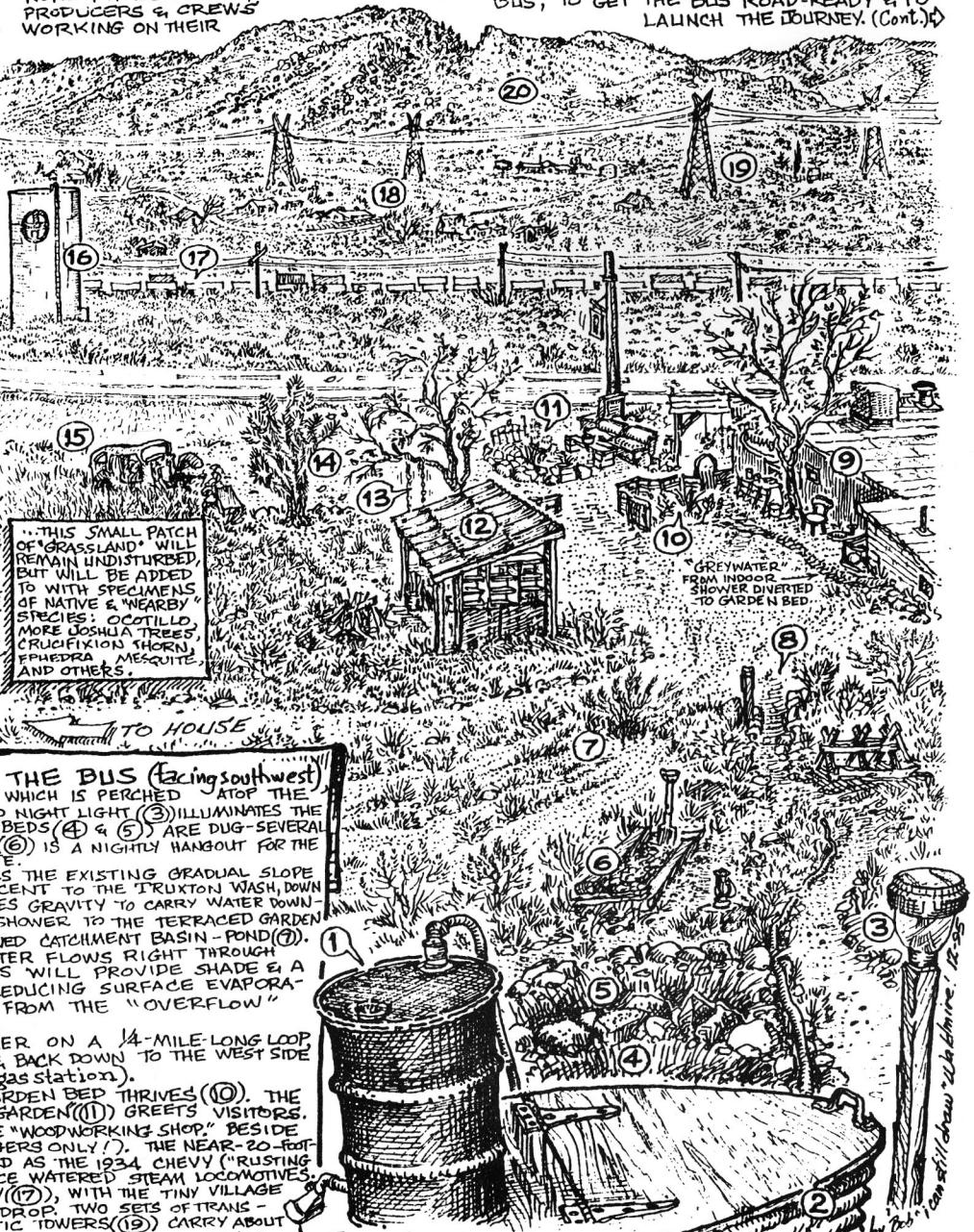
SEEMS LIKE ALL THE "CRITTERS" LIKE IT AROUND THE VISITOR CENTER. THEY'RE ALL WELCOME—THE MORE VENOMOUS, THE BETTER! MANY SCORPIONS, BLACK WIDOW SPIDERS, RATTLESNAKES, & AN EXQUISITE MELLOW, 2-FOOT-LONG GILA MONSTER "WOULD" VISITORS & WERE STAR AT TRACTIONS, AS THEY "DID TIME" IN AQUARIUMS BEFORE BEING RELEASED (ALL CAPTIVES WERE RELEASED BEFORE WINTER).

HUMANS SEEM TO LIKE THE VISITOR CENTER ENVIRONMENT, TOO—THEY CAME IN DROVES: INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES, WHOLE FAMILIES, TOUR GROUPS, ON BICYCLES, MOTORCYCLES, RENTAL VEHICLES, VINTAGE VEHICLES & TOUR BUSES. AND ONE DOING 66 ON FOOT—66-YEAR-OLD MARGIE McCauley (WITH HER DOG, LOLLIPOP).

THERE WERE REPEAT VISITORS FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES, & MANY FRIENDS FROM NEAR & FAR DURING ARIZONA'S ANNUAL 66 "FUN RUN" IN APRIL. BILL CROOK—ILLINOIS ARTIST—WAS HERE THEN, TOO, DOING LOTS OF SKETCHING & PAINTING. FROM MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, THERE WERE PHOTOGRAPHERS, WRITERS, FILM PRODUCERS & CREWS WORKING ON THEIR

RESPECTIVE 66 PROJECTS. AS THE PACE PICKED UP. IT WAS LIKE STANDING BESIDE A MERRY-GO-ROUND, WITH AN ENDLESS STREAM OF INTERESTING VISITORS FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE, HOPPING OFF BRIEFLY, THEN HOPPING BACK ON & SPINNING AWAY... & ME LEFT STANDING HERE, WAVING & STARING AFTER THEM IN AMAZEMENT.

BY SUMMER IT HAD ALL BECOME A BLUR, BUT I FORGED AHEAD, SETTING ASIDE FUNDS & MAKING PLANS FOR MY EPIC BUS JOURNEY. THIS REQUIRED 2 TRIPS TO ILLINOIS: ONE IN JULY IN MY VAN, TO LASH DOWN & SECURE EVERYTHING & TO PACK THE BUS. AND ONE IN SEPTEMBER, ON A GREYHOUND BUS, TO GET THE BUS ROAD-READY & TO LAUNCH THE JOURNEY. (Cont.)



...THIS SMALL PATCH OF GRASSLAND WILL REMAIN UNDISTURBED, BUT WILL BE ADDED TO WITH SPECIMENS OF NATIVE & NEARBY SPECIES: OCOTILLO, MORE JOSHUA TREES, CRUCIFIXION THORN, EPHEDRA, MESQUITE AND OTHERS.

\*GREY WATER FROM INDOOR SHOWER DIVERTED TO GARDEN BED

TO HOUSE

...VIEW FROM THE DECK OF THE BUS (Facing southwest) OVERLOOKING THE SOLAR SHOWER (1), WHICH IS PERCHED ATOP THE WATER TANK (2). THE SOLAR-POWERED NIGHT LIGHT (3) ILLUMINATES THE TRAIL AT NIGHT. THE TERRACED GARDEN BEDS (4 & 5) ARE DUG—SEVERAL MORE ARE PLANNED. THE COMPOST PILE (6) IS A NIGHTLY HANGOUT FOR THE RABBITS, SKUNKS & OCCASIONAL COYOTE. THIS "PERMACULTURAL DESIGN" UTILIZES THE EXISTING GRADUAL SLOPE OF THE LAND, WHICH CONTINUES ITS DESCENT TO THE TRUXTON WASH, DOWN NEAR THE RAILROAD. THE DESIGN UTILIZES GRAVITY TO CARRY WATER DOWN SLOPE, FROM THE WATER TANK & SOLAR SHOWER TO THE TERRACED GARDEN BEDS, THE COMPOST, & ON TO THE PLANNED CATCHMENT BASIN-POND (7). WHEN THE WASHES ARE FLOWING, WATER FLOWS RIGHT THROUGH THIS SPOT. A SMALL PLANTING OF TREES WILL PROVIDE SHADE & A WINDBRAKE FOR THE POND, THEREBY REDUCING SURFACE EVAPORATION. THEIR ROOTS WILL DRAW MOISTURE FROM THE "OVERFLOW" CATCHMENT BASIN. THE TRAILHEAD (8) TAKES THE HIKER ON A 1/4-MILE-LONG LOOP UP THE HILL, ALONG THE FENCELINE, & BACK DOWN TO THE WEST SIDE OF THE VISITOR CENTER (9) the old gas station. IN A PROTECTED SPOT, THE FIRST GARDEN BED THRIVES (10). THE IN-PROGRESS "OLD 66 BOOTHILL-CACTUS GARDEN (11) GREET'S VISITORS. THE OPEN-AIR POLESHEED (12) HOUSES THE "WOODWORKING SHOP." BESIDE IT, THE SWING (13) BECKONS FOR SWINGERS ONLY (?). THE NEAR-20-FOOT-TALL JOSHUA TREE (14) MAY BE AS OLD AS THE 1934 CHEVY ("RUSTING IN PEACE" (15). THE WATER TANK (16) ONCE WATERED STEAM LOCOMOTIVES. ANOTHER SANTA FE TRAIN RUMBLES BY (17), WITH THE TINY VILLAGE OF HACKBERRY (18) PROVIDING A BACKDROP. TWO SETS OF TRANS-MISSION LINES SUSPENDED ON GIANTIC TOWERS (19) CARRY ABOUT 300,000 VOLTS BETWEEN PHOENIX & LAS VEGAS. BEYOND IT ALL, THE SERENE, MAJESTIC PEACOCK MOUNTAINS (20) LOOK ON, SEEMINGLY UNCHANGING, AT LEAST FOR NOW.

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

## Continued, OLD 66 DISPATCH, Page 2

IT WAS A WHIRLWIND, ACTION-PACKED 10-DAY PERIOD OF FINAL PREPARATIONS. THE BUS — WHICH SAT FOR 8 YEARS ON OUR FARM — GOT A THOROUGH GOING-OVER BY 2 EXPERT MECHANICS: DAVE JOSTES (DID MECHANICAL-RELATED STUFF) & FRED LEVINE (DID ELECTRICAL & BRAKE-RELATED STUFF). AND I HELPED!

ON FRIDAY, SEPT. 22nd, I DROVE THE BUS TO THE COZY DOG FOR A "FAREWELL" GET-TOGETHER. MANY FRIENDS VISITED & TOURED THE BUS, SOME STAYING LATE INTO THE NIGHT. AND THEN I SLEPT, EXHAUSTED AFTER GOING CONTINUOUSLY FOR 36 HOURS... AND SATURDAY MORNING, THE SUNNY DAY BEGAN EARLY, WITH MANY MORE VISITORS — OLD FRIENDS, WELL-WISHERS, COZY DOG CUSTOMERS & CURIOUS PASSERS-BY.

AS THE LONG-AWAITED HOUR OF DEPARTURE DREW NEAR, THE AIR SEEMED ELECTRIFIED, & SHORTLY AFTER NOON, I HOPPED ABOARD (WITH MY MOM, GINNY). THE BUS ROARED TO LIFE, ROLLED OFF THE COZY DOG LOT & HEADED DOWN OLD 66, LEAVING BEHIND A CROWD OF WAVING, CHEERING FRIENDS. (PERHAPS GLAD TO "SEE ME GO"?!)...

THE GREATEST OF ALL THE HIGHLIGHTS WAS HAVING MY DEAR MOM ON-BOARD, & SHE RODE ALONG AS FAR AS DIVERNON — WHERE SHE WAS "RETRIEVED" BY BROTHER JEFF & CAROL.

DETAILS & HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS INCREDIBLE JOURNEY CAN'T BE SQUEEZED IN HERE, & I PLAN TO RECORD THEM ALL FOR LATER PUBLICATION.

BUT NOW I'M HERE, IN GLORIOUS SOLITUDE, IMMERSING IN MY MANY PROJECTS, AS WINTER ROLLS IN. THE BUS IS PARKED UP THE HILL, BEHIND THE VISITOR CENTER. IT IS THERE I WILL BE WORKING ON MY DAD'S "BOOK" (THE STORY OF ED WALDMIRE). ALL THE OTHER PROJECTS ARE DOWN IN THE VISITOR CENTER.

MUCH THAT I ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR, REQUIRING ME TO BE AWAY FOR WEEKS AT A TIME, WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY DON & JUDY PEASE, WHO MOVED ONTO THE PREMISES IN MARCH, PARKING THEIR OWN CONVERTED SCHOOL BUS BEHIND THE HOUSE. THEY ARE THE RESIDENT, INTERMITTENT, "CARETAKER-HOSTS." DON'S ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING EXPERTISE CONTINUE TO BE APPLIED. I WILL BE HELPING HIM COMPLETE THE WIRING & PLUMBING IN THE HOUSE IN COMING MONTHS, SO LODGING CAN BE PROVIDED FOR VISITORS — EVENTUALLY...

AND SO... THE "VISION" CONTINUES, THE PLANS REMAIN THE SAME. MUCH HELP WILL BE NEEDED FOR SOME PROJECTS, & I'M PLANNING TO BECOME A HOST IN THE T.E.B.N. PROGRAM: THE "TRAVELLERS EARTH REPAIR NETWORK" MADE UP OF MOSTLY YOUNG TRAVELLERS FROM MANY NATIONS WHO ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN "EARTH-FRIENDLY" ENDEAVORS: TREE-PLANTING, GARDENING, PERMACULTURE, RESTORATION ECOLOGY.

IN ANTICIPATION OF ALL OF THAT PLUS THE RAPIDLY-APPROACHING START-UP TIME OF THAT GREAT MERRY-GO-ROUND OF MARVELOUS VISITORS, I'D BETTER BEGIN TO REST UP NOW FOR IT ALL. BECAUSE, COME SPRING, WE'LL ALL BE TURNING AGAIN! So, UNTIL THEN, go safe, go slow, go 66, & STOP BY.

For the Earth,  
Bob Waldmire

## New Editor Needed

by Tom Teague

After nearly five years, I'm retiring as newsletter editor after the Summer '96 issue. We need someone to carry on after I'm done. For all our members who don't take part in the motor tour or visit the Hall of Fame, the newsletter *is* the Association. And there are a lot of folks like that—we have more than 900 members in virtually every state and from 25 other countries. We've reached that number and maintained

it in large part because we communicate with each member four times a year through the newsletter. When people know what we're doing, it's easier for them to get involved in it. That's how we become a community.

The editor of our newsletter has a lot of freedom (English translation: "work"). You will write some stories, solicit others, gather illustrations, obtain updates of regular features like the merchandize page and new members, and turn them all into printed matter. Mike Getz of Urbana has designed and laid out the newsletter for me the past five years and is willing to continue working for the new editor. If that's who you want to be, contact me at (217 787-8839 or Association President Tom Knudsen at (309) 828-2925.

I have enjoyed producing this newsletter for you and I leave the post with some trepidation. Whatever comes, I will still be a regular contributor. And overall, I will not be spending any less time on Route 66—I will just be doing some different things. Watch for me and I'll watch for you.

## Cozy to Relocate

The Cozy Drive-In, a fixture on South Sixth Street in Springfield since 1950, will build a new home this spring on land now occupied by the neighboring A. Lincoln Motel. Demolition of the A. Lincoln was expected to begin in February. Once the new Cozy is ready for business, the building that houses the current restaurant and a Dairy Queen will be razed. In its stead a Walgreen's will rise.

Cozy owner Buz Waldmire, son of founder and corn dog inventor Ed Waldmire, did not seek the move, but welcomes it. It became necessary when operators of the Dairy Queen, who co-owned the building and lot with the Waldmires, decided last year to sell out. Bus had first option, but the price tag, coupled with the cost of much needed repairs, was more than dogs on a stick could carry. Selling the old property and building a new restaurant on a smaller lot were the family-owned business's best chance for long term survival.

Buz says the new Cozy will have as much seating space as the original. It will also retain its displays of Cozy Dog memorabilia and his brother Bob's art. The Dairy Queen, though—one of the first in the chain—is done.



The Cozy Drive In in the '50s

## Route 66 Association Merchandise

**CLOTHES**--All Association clothes feature black, white and red shield by Bob Waldmire. Available in S, M, L, XL, XXL unless noted. **Add \$2 for XXL.**

Association nylon Jacket, polyester-lined	\$22.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Association Sweatshirt	\$15.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Association T-Shirt--choice of black or white	\$10.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Association Fanny pack (black)	\$ 8.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Association Cap (black)	\$ 6.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Association Embroidered patch	\$ 4.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Glow in the Dark Shield T-Shirts	\$12.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Neon 2-sided T (specify Chevy, 'Vette, Mustang or T-Bird)	\$12.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Too Kool collar	\$ 8.00 + \$1.50 p/h
<b>Price Cut!</b> 1995 Motor Tour T-shirt	\$ 8.00 + \$1.50 p/h
<b>New!</b> Betty Boop Hitchhiking Route 66 T-Shirt	\$12.00 + \$1.50 p/h

### COLLECTIBLES

<b>New!</b> 12-oz drinking glass with Historic 66 Illinois sign, "Get My Kicks)	\$ 4.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Illinois Historic Route 66 sign, 13 x 16, just like signs the state is putting up!	\$25.00 + \$6.00 p/h
8" x 8" Illinois US 66, shield-shaped rubber car magnet	\$11.00 + \$1.50 p/h      Pair \$20.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Large Letter State Postcards by Bob Waldmire, set of 8	\$ 2.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Historic Illinois 66 refrigerator magnet (looks like new signs)	\$ 2.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Route 66 shield metal refrigerator magnet	\$ 4.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Set of 42 Bob Waldmire Postcards--scenes of 66	\$ 8.50 + \$1.00 p/h
Hall of Fame Postcards (set of 15)	\$ 3.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Route 66 ceramic salt & pepper shakers	\$ 5.00 + \$2.00 p/h
Illinois US 66 hat pins	\$ 3.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Mother Road Route 66 metal license plate frame	\$ 6.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Route 66 earrings (specify post or dangled)	\$ 5.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Reproduction sign--shield shape, full size, 16-gauge steel)	\$40.00 + \$5.00 p/h
Ceramic mug--black	\$ 5.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Pewter Route 66 belt buckle	\$10.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Prism bumper sticker--Corvette	\$ 2.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Greetings from the Mother Road! postcard book by Michael Wallis	\$ 8.95 + \$1.50 p/h
Land of Lincoln "Route 66" license plate key chain	\$ 2.00 + \$ .50 p/h

### BOOKS, MAPS, VIDEOS AND MUSIC

Guide Book to the Mother Road, Bob Moore & Patrick Grauwels. Great photos and mile-by-mile detail	\$17.95 + \$2.00 p/h
Missouri fold-out map of Route 66 by Jim Ross and Jerry McClanahan	\$ 3.00 + \$1.50 p/h
It's Here! Full set of eight state maps by Ross & McClanahan	\$20.00 + \$3.00 p/h
Bob Waldmire map--10 pages, plus 6-page legend	\$ 5.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Searching for 66 by Tom Teague	\$14.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Route 66--The Mother Road by Michael Wallis, paperback	\$19.95 + \$2.00 p/h
Route 66 Roadside Companion by Tom Snyder	\$10.95 + \$1.50 p/h
A Guidebook to Highway 66 by Jack Rittenhouse (reprint of '46)	\$ 7.95 + \$1.50 p/h
Route 66: The Highway and Its People by Quinta Scott and Susan Kelly. Large format paperback	\$19.95 + \$2.00 p/h
Main Street series by Susan Kirby: Lemonade Days, Home for Christmas, Home Front Hero & Good Bye, Desert Rose. Paperback	\$ 3.50 + \$1.50 p/h each
"A Journey Down Route 66," 90-minute video narrated by Michael Wallis	\$19.98 + \$2.50 p/h
"Route 66: An American Odyssey" video (formerly Route 66, The Video Road Trip) featuring famous 66-ers	\$24.95 + \$2.50 p/h
Route 66 Cookbook by Marian Clark (folklore & recipes)	\$17.95 + \$2.00 p/h
Route 66 Fun Book (for kids of all ages)	\$ 3.50 + \$1.00 p/h
<b>New!</b> The Mother Road audiotape, Michael Wallis	\$17.95 + \$2.00 p/h
"Route 66" music album by David Williams	\$15.00 + \$1.50 p/h for CD      \$10.00 + \$1.50 p/h for cassette
"The Feeling of Jazz" by Bobby Troup	\$12.00 + \$2.00 p/h CD only
<b>New!</b> "The Songs of Route 66," by David Sanger et al	\$10.00 + \$1.50 p/h cassette

### Clearance Sale! Price Cuts!

Fuzzy Dice with Illinois U.S. 66 shield	\$ 3.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Two-in-One beverage holder	\$ 1.00 + \$1.00 p/h

Send orders to:

**Merchandise**

**Route 66 Association of Illinois**  
**2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166**  
**Springfield, IL 62704**

Illinois residents please add 8 percent sales tax!

*Accept no imitations or limitations!*  
*All product purchases benefit the Association!*  
*Prices good through 12-31-95*

# Route 66 Associations and Museums

Looking for information about Route 66 in other states or countries? Contact these people for help:

## **Route 66 Association of Missouri**

P.O. Box 8117  
St. Louis, MO 63156  
Jim Powell, 314-982-5500, 314-367-2418

## **Kansas Historic Route 66 Association**

P.O. Box 169  
Riverton, KS 66770  
Scott Nelson, 316-848-3330

## **Oklahoma Route 66 Association**

901 Manvel  
Chandler, OK 74834  
Ron Burden, 405-258-0008

## **Oklahoma Route 66 Museum**

2229 Gary Blvd.  
Clinton, OK  
Nancy Lowe-Clark, 405-323-RT66

## **Old Route 66 Association of Texas**

P.O. Box 66  
McLean, TX 79057  
George Rook, 806-354-7916

## **Texas Route 66 Hall of Fame**

P.O. Box 66  
McLean, TX 79057  
Delbert Trew, 806-779-3164

## **New Mexico Route 66 Association**

1415 Central NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
505-246-0211

## **Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona**

P.O. Box 66  
Kingman, AZ 86402  
Anita Lemming, 520-753-5001

## **California Route 66 Museum**

16849 D St.  
Victorville, CA 92393  
Mark Ward, 619-243-0474

## **California Historic Route 66 Association**

2117 Foothill Blvd., #66  
LaVerne, CA 91750  
714-289-8666

## **Route 66 Territory Visitors Bureau**

Thomas Winery Plaza  
7965 Vineyard Ave., Suite F-5  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
Bob Lundy, 909-948-9166

## **National Historic Route 66 Federation**

P.O. Box 423  
Tujunga, CA 91043-0423  
David Knudson, 818-352-7232

## **Dutch Route 66 Association**

Postbus 2012  
1620 EA Hoorn  
The Netherlands  
Harry VanLuten, Tel. 02290-18318

## **Route 66 Association of Belgium**

Georges Moreau Street 172  
1070 Brussels  
Belgium  
Patrick Grauwels, 32-2-6402635

## **Association Francaise Route 66**

88 rue de Chateau  
F.92600 Asnieres  
France

# Be Lucky.



## Take Our 7th Annual Motor Tour St. Louis to Chicago June 7-9, 1996

With stops in Collinsville, Hamel, Mount Olive, Springfield, McLean,  
Pontiac, Joliet and Willowbrook

Also featuring a farewell to the Cozy Drive In, Bill Shea's Golden Anniversary museum, a  
continental breakfast served by the Route 66 Cruisers,  
the Route 66 Hall of Fame, and a tour of the Rialto Theater

Plus a pre-tour banquet in Collinsville, a post-tour banquet at Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket in  
Willowbrook, and bags full of goodies!

**Only \$25 per car for Association members and \$30 per car for non-members!**

**Sign up for the Hall of Fame Banquet, June 8. 12.50 per person**

*(You must register and pay for Hall of Fame Banquet in advance)*

### Motor Tour Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make and year of Car \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee enclosed (\$25 members, \$30 non-members) \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at Hall of Fame Banquet June 8. \$12.50 apiece. Check enclosed.

**Total Amount Enclosed for Tour and Banquet: \_\_\_\_\_**

Send to:

**Motor Tour**

**Route 66 Association of Illinois  
2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166  
Springfield, IL 62704**

(continued from page 16)

Chicago to Santa Monica.

Teague published the first edition of *Searching for 66* in 1991. The Los Angeles *Daily News* called it a "pop American gothic, embellished with neon and homemade chili." Since then, he's been president of the Route 66 Association of Illinois, manager of its Hall of Fame, chairman of its annual motor tour, editor of this newsletter and Sangamon County board member. Last year he helped lead a successful effort to have 500 new Route 66 road signs posted in Illinois. He also gave 60 talks, tours and Elderhostel programs about Route 66 from Chicago's North Shore to Needles, California. This year's clients include the Bloomington Gold Corvette Show, the Harley Davidson HOG Rally, and the Boulder, Colorado, Public Library.

Bob Waldmire is the book's principal artist, contributing 37 interior drawings and the cover. He lives in Hackberry, Arizona, where he operates the International Bioregional Old Route 66 Visitor Center. His father, Ed Waldmire, invented the corn dog on Route 66.

Lon Haldeman of Sharon, Wisconsin, wrote the travel guide. During the 1980s, he and his wife, Susan Notorangelo, set several cross-country bicycling records, many of them on tandems. Since then, they have sponsored several bicycle tours a year throughout the U.S. as PAC Tour, Inc. The guide was written for a Route 66 tour they will lead in June 1996. It has been quadruple-tested. In addition to mile-by-mile driving instructions, it offers frequent suggestions on places to visit.

The color insert of original Route 66 art features work by artists from four states and Canada. Established 66 painters Jerry McClanahan and Waldmire and photographer Shellee

Graham are among the contributors. Teague commissioned several of the other works. Ralph Smith, who owns an ad agency in Toronto, Canada, painted a California desert scene for the book.

*Searching for 66* is available through the Association for \$14 plus shipping. See our merchandise page for details



Log Cabin Inn, Gallup

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**ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTS IN 66 \_\_\_\_\_

HOW I CAN HELP \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES:** Individual-\$10, Family-\$15, Business-\$25, Sustaining-\$100 or more.

**TO:** Membership, Route 66 Association, 2743 Veterans Pkwy., Springfield, IL 62704

**Attention Motorcycle Fans!** If you would like information about a Route 66 Motorcycle Association, please check this box:

# Searching for 66 Goes to Second Edition



"The Nat Cole Trio," a freehand and computer design by Becky McVay, from *Searching for 66*.

Tom Teague bills the second edition of his *Searching for 66*, due out in March, as "The Complete Route 66 Book." It will have all the text of the first edition, plus three times as

much art, seven new chapters, an eight-page color insert of original 66 art, and a full guide on how to drive Route 66 from  
*(continued on page 15)*

**Route 66 Association of Illinois**  
2743 Veterans Parkway, Suite 166  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

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ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

# THE 66 NEWS!

SUMMER 1996

\$2.00



"ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."

# Officers and Board Members

The officers and board members of the Route 66 Association are available at most reasonable times to answer your questions and hear your comments about Route 66. Please feel free to contact them if you need to. The date to the right of each officer's or member's name is the expiration date of their term.

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*RANDY SMITH AS OF 7-21-96*

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217-324-5551

Executive Committee members are the officers, plus Jeff Meyer and Ray Schroeder.

*JEFF LAFOLLETTE*

*AT LARGE AS OF 7-21-96 TO 10-97*

### Internal Publication Information

The 66 News is published quarterly by the Route 66 Association of Illinois around the first of March, June, September and December. It is meant as a service to Association members and other people and organizations interested in the preservation, promotion and enjoyment of Route 66. Contributions are accepted, but we do not pay. However, any article that you submit remains your property and cannot be reused in any way by the Association or anyone else without your permission. Advertising rates are \$90 for a whole page, \$50 for a half page, \$30 for a quarter page and \$10 for a business card ad. Submit first-class, camera-ready copy only. We can't use Xeroxes. All stories and ads must be submitted at least six weeks prior to publication. Address inquiries and contributions to Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, IL 62704.

# New Members

Compiled by Priscilla Mathews

Since our last issue, 31 new members from nine states have joined our Association. They include eight families and one business. We extend a hand in fellowship and welcome to: Walter G. Ashworth, Forest Hills, NY; Carl & Annette Cline, Rantoul; Michael Patrick, Lahaina, HI; Rudy Zubaty, Tinley Park; John O'Dea, Chicago; Norman & Lois Savoie, Bradley; Mary Jane Simpkins, Bloomington; Karen Kilmer, Glendale Heights; Earnest Pergrem, Arlington Heights; Jerry Henderson, Crete; Robert Schnoor, Park Forest; Tom Flasch, Naperville; George Huse, Danbury, CT; John & Kristin Torpy, Chicago; Cecil Gatewood, Ottawa; Robert Heisler, Evergreen Park; Eddie Held, Pearl Harbor, HI; Dale Simms, Pekin; Joan Spencer, Lynn, MA; Arnold & Elaine LaMore, Shelby, MI; Bryan & Jennifer Sloop, Longview, WA; Scot Purdy, Olney; Dean Battistella, Chicago; Melvin & Ila Duesenberg, Atlanta; Marlene Raffaele, Euclid, OH; Michael Cobb, Chicago; Jim Leader, Belleville; Robert Lokcik, Chicago; James Little, Chicago; Sandy Longton & Will Gonzalez, Chicago, and Rob McLean, Watertown, WI.

# Back Issues!

Back issues of this newsletter are available and worth collecting. Issues published through Fall 1993 are \$1 apiece, including postage. Those published since then are \$2 apiece. Here the available issues: September '90, December '90, March '91, May '91, October '91, January '92, Summer '92, Winter '92, Spring '93, Summer '93, Fall '93, Winter '93, Spring '94, Summer '94, Fall '94, Winter '94, Spring '95, Summer '95, Winter '95 and Spring '96. Order by writing to Merchandise, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, IL 62704.

## Our Meeting Schedule is Not

# A WELL KEPT SECRET

Most travelers on Route 66 never stop here. From the outside it has little to catch your eye. But you are in for a very pleasant surprise when you walk through the wooden entry doors that once hung in a New England church. Inside, every inch of every room deserves investigating. For example, all the booths were taken from the famous Pump Room in Chicago. Can you imagine how many famous buns have sat on them? Now yours can, too. There are items from the movie *Gone with the Wind*, Al Capone memorabilia, and much, much more.

This unique place is a casual, fun restaurant called the Wolf's Head Inn. It's located on Route 66 in Indian Head Park. The location is on Joliet Road near where it joins I-55.

When is the best time to visit the Wolf's Head Inn? On Sunday, July 21st! That's the date of our next general and board meeting and it will be held at the Inn. We have arranged a brunch for \$8.95 or a champagne brunch for \$13.95. Or you may order from the Inn's unique menu.

The meeting begins at 11 a.m. and is open to all. Lunch is at noon and the meeting starts again afterwards. We hope to see you all on July 21st.

Our annual meeting and elections will take place on Sunday, October 20, at the new Cozy Drive In in Springfield. The Cozy's traditional full menu will be available. We hear that the restaurant's endearing advertising icons, the Cozy Couple, are running for office in the Association. So you can not only eat a corn dog that day--you can vote for one, too! The last 20 folks in the door should plan on bringing their own folding chairs, though, because we're expected to fill up the place. Seating area in the new restaurant will be about the same as in the old one, but it will still be, shall we say, cozy.

# Route 66 Trivia

by Randy Smith

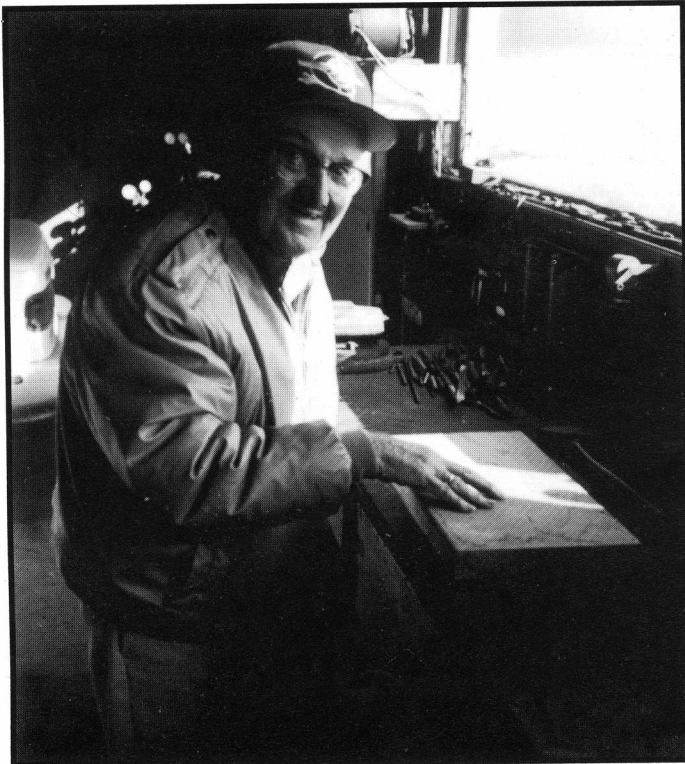
1. How long is the Chain of Rocks Bridge?
2. How long is the McKinley Bridge?
3. Is the north-to-south version of Illinois 66 as long as the south-to-north version?
4. Where is the halfway point of Illinois 66?
5. If you took the Plainfield alternative on 66 instead of going through Joliet, how much longer is the trip?

6. If the Chain of Rocks Bridge were open today, how far would it be between Chicago and Missouri?
7. How many unavoidable miles of interstate do you travel in getting from Chicago to St. Louis?
8. Name at least three old towns on Illinois 66 that are no longer on the map.

**Look for answers later in this issue.**

# Volcano Joe

by Tom Teague



*Volcano Joe in his shop*

Joe Chivatero's ties with Route 66 are many and varied. Three generations of his family worked the coal mines whose clay piles still dot the landscape in Grundy and Livingston Counties. When the road came through Gardner in the 1920s, it took part of the Chivateros' farm for its right of way. Joe himself helped survey the route. As a young man, he cheated 66's most infamous gangster, Al Capone, and got away with it. And when the automobile replaced the horse, he left the family blacksmithing trade and built a machine shop on 66 in Gardner. He lives to this day at the apartment in back, 87 years old and still tinkering.

Joe's grandfather moved to Pittsburgh from Italy shortly after the Civil War. He worked awhile as a welder and pick sharpener in the area's mines. Then his wife, who'd stayed behind in Italy, decided he wasn't lonely enough and

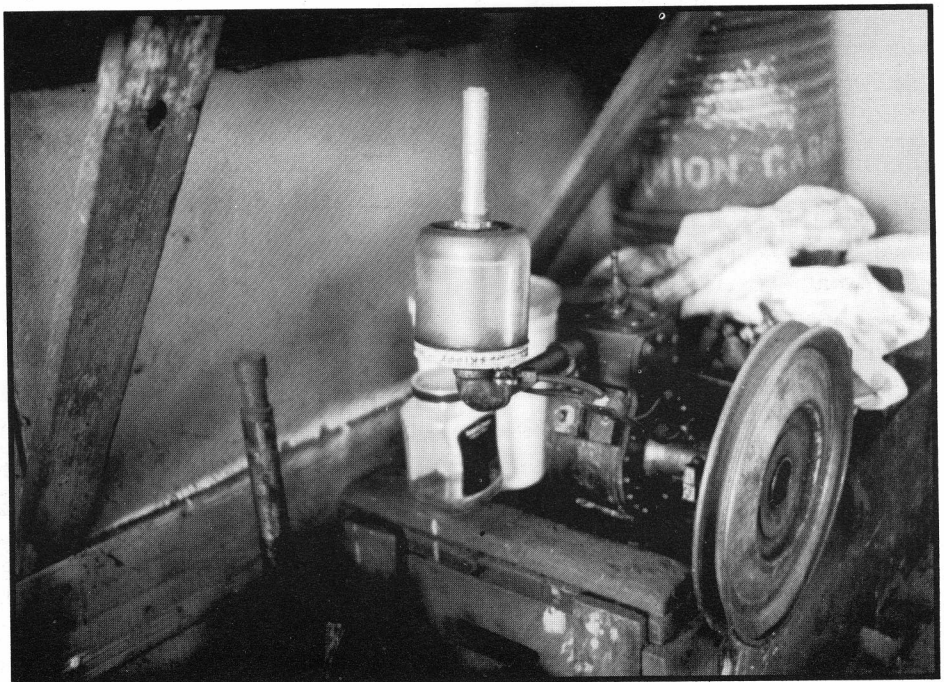
came to join him. At her suggestion, they moved to Grundy County, where they had kin. They settled in Turino, about eight miles east of Godley. Turino was a bustling town then with a church, three stores, four taverns and its own rail line. Today it lies under the waters of the Braidwood power plant's cooling lake.

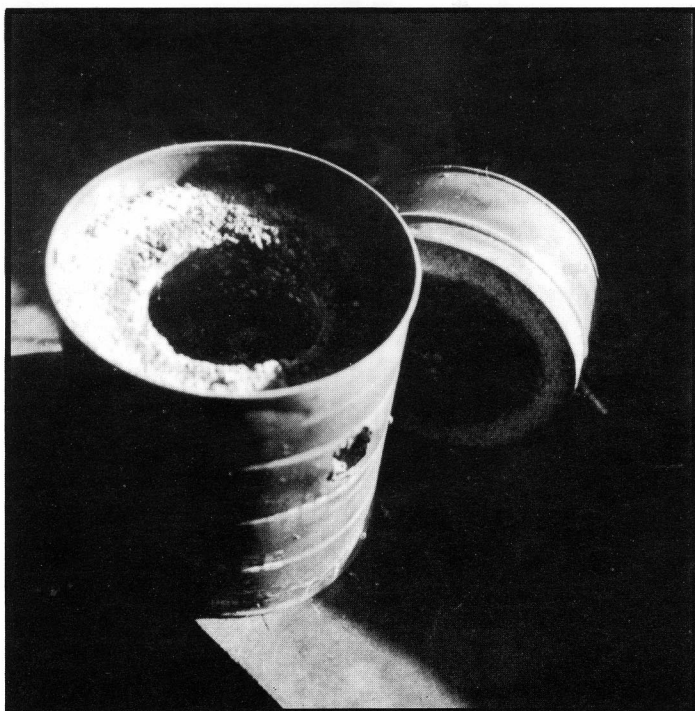
Joe's father worked in the mines, too, welding and sharpening. Looking for work above ground, he bought a farm. His barn stood where the Gardner Family Restaurant does now. But the land was poor and he couldn't afford fertilizer. So when engineers wanted part of his land for the new hard road, he gladly ceded it.

Joe started out in the mines, too. Perhaps that explains his lifelong fascination with energy. Although he never finished high school, he knows and discusses the difference between one isotope of uranium and another. In his shop, he's converted coal into natural gas. He built a hydrogen engine there piece by piece, melting scrap aluminum and casting it in homemade molds. He also invented--out of necessity--an automatic, electric safety relay for his band saw. He says he made more than a million dollars from his inventions, but spent most of it on women and immodest living. He lives simply today, but still has enough saved up to indulge another passion--climbing volcanos. So far, he's hiked up 27, including one in Costa Rica in January.

In the days before computer-assisted design and massive service manuals, Joe had to make do with what he had and figure things out on his own--the same way most people did along 66. Although he's sold a lot of his equipment, Joe's shop is still packed with mementoes of

*A peanut butter jar is a functioning part of this machine at Joe's*





*A homemade arc furnace in Joe's shop*

his ingenuity and resourcefulness. There's a wooden spark plug wrench, for example, and an arc furnace housed in a coffee can. The hydrogen engine is still there, as are a homemade telescope, piston molds, an electrical relay in a jelly jar, jewel-cutting equipment and a periodic chart autographed by a physicist friend. There's even a Burma Shave jar with cream left in it, not to mention drills, saws, a lathe, spare parts and bottles full of shop chemicals. Whatever you wanted, Joe could make it.

Which is what got him into trouble with Al Capone. Joe and a friend came upon a nice thick sheet of steel one day. At his shop, they stamped out several pockets full of quarter-sized slugs. Then they went to area speakeasies controlled by the gangster and played slot machines until slugs started coming back out at them. When Capone found out about the scam, he blamed it on one of his own people and had the man killed.

"I didn't worry about Capone, though," says Joe (even if he should have). "He was a bad man, but I was just as mean as he was. I didn't go back to any of those bars for awhile, but I didn't worry."

## Preservation Committee Report

*by John and Lenore Weiss*

Although it's still new, the Association's Preservation Committee has already met several times. We're growing and having fun, learning and accomplishing good things. People who've attended our meetings so far include Jeff Geisler, Marie Jibben, Jeff and Annette LaFollette, John and Barbara Cienski-Lorenz, Frank Lozich, Roxane Renaud-Lozich, Tim Palm, Durelle and Marilyn Pritchard, Bill and Terri Przbylski, Terri Ryburn-LaMonte, William Sanders, Dorothy Seratt, Randy Smith, Gretchen Staats, John and Loyce Stonecipher, John and Lenore Weiss, and Tom Teague.

Each meetings begins at 5 p.m. in Dwight at Fedderson's Garage. This is a theme restaurant with a huge, very inexpensive buffet. It alone is worth the trip. After eating comes the purpose of the evening--preservation of vanishing icons of Illinois Route 66. From small to large projects, if we don't get busy, what is left will surely fade away.

Many misunderstand the meaning of preserving Route 66. It does not mean the road bed itself or alone. Our goal is to preserve the places, objects, and way of life that made this the magical highway--the people and places all

touched and joined by this road we call Route 66. No, we cannot roll back the clock, but we can help slow it down. We want to save, preserve and protect signs, structures and memories of Route 66.

Our by-laws state that the purpose of the Route 66 Association of Illinois is to "preserve, promote and enjoy the road. Here is your opportunity to be part of that purpose and to learn about the people, places and things of Route 66. Get involved. Join in a meeting. You won't be sorry!

For more information and meeting dates, contact Frank Lozich at 7270 W. 174th Place, Tinley Park, IL 60477, phone 708-429-9173.

*The Preservation Committee*



# Motel Postcards of 66

Motel postcards are a lot like Route 66—they're still out there, but they're getting harder and harder to find. Association member Jeff Meyer of Rolling Meadows knows this well.

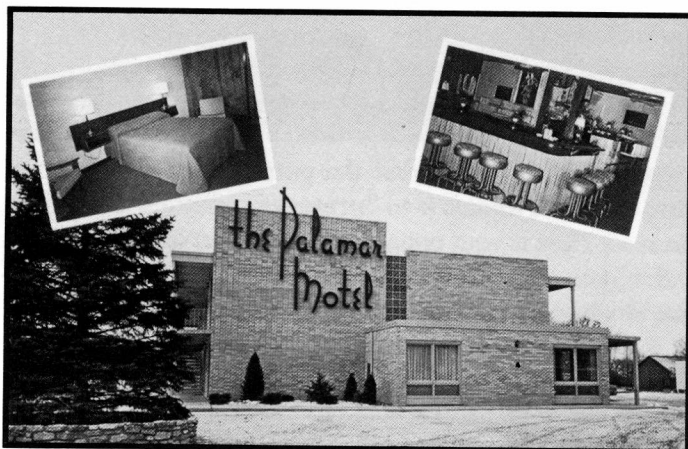
He and his wife Laura have spent countless hours patiently sifting through card files in the country's antique stores and flea markets. Their finds have been featured in *Route 66 Magazine* and on the recent PBS *Great Drives* documentary about 66. Each is a piece of history preserved. Featured here are several of their cards of Illinois motels.



*The Wishing Well Motel, LaGrange*



*The Manor Motel, Joliet*



*The Palomar Motel, Pontiac*



*The Lexington Motel, Lexington*



*Da-Jo Motel, Pontiac*



*The A. Lincoln Motel, Springfield*

# Four New Members Enter Hall of Fame

Four new members whose ties with Route 66 total 221 years will enter our Hall of Fame at the induction banquet June 8 in Springfield. They are the Edward Baize family of Eddie's Pure/Union 76 Truck Stop in Towanda, the Old Log Cabin Restaurant in Pontiac, Irvin Brothers, Inc. of Bloomington, and Wilton Rinkel of Hamel. They bring the number of Hall of Fame members to 27. Their banquet and induction will begin at 7 p.m. in the Springfield Hilton, 700 E. Adams St.

The Association started the Hall of Fame in 1990. Its purpose is to honor those people, places and events that give the highway its unique blend of hardy individualism and grassroots community spirit and helped make it the Main Street of America. The Hall is located at Dixie Truckers Home in McLean. Updated exhibits there honor each new member, as well as the general history of the road. Admission is free and it's open all day. If you're passing by, there's no excuse not to stop.

**Joe and Victor Selotti and the Old Log Cabin**  
*Nominated by Marjorie O'Brien (a niece)*

*The Old Log Cabin in its early days*



Route 66  
Hall of Fame of Illinois

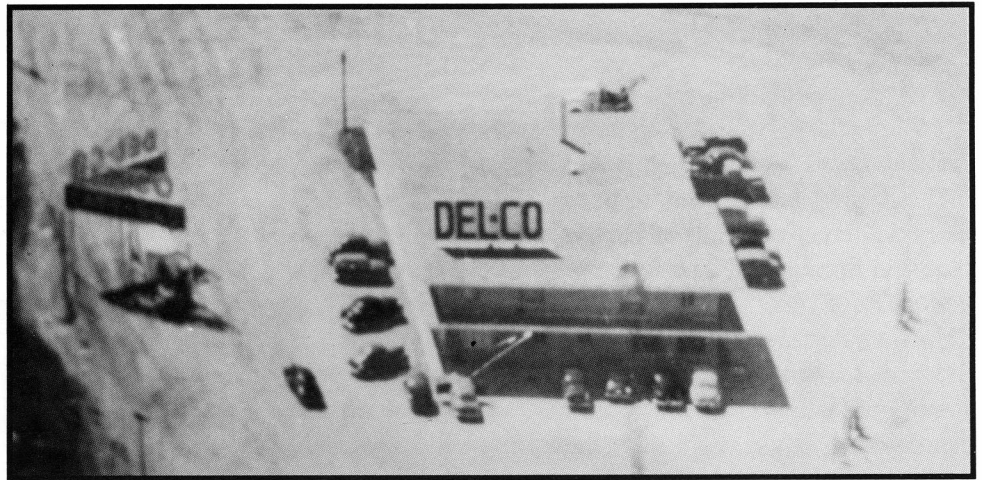


**The Old Log Cabin Restaurant**  
**Joe and Victor Selotti, Founders**  
**Pontiac, Illinois**  
**1926 - Present**

**Inducted June 8, 1996**  
**Route 66 Association of Illinois**



In 1926, Joe and Victor "Babe" Selotti used cedar telephone poles to build a gas station and lunch room near Pontiac facing what was then State Highway 4 to the east. But when Route 66 gained its own pavement through the area, it passed by on the west side. So the brothers jacked up both buildings off their foundations and turned them half way around so they would face the new road. They set the station on a new foundation about 50 feet closer to the new road. They also remodeled the lunch room to give it a bigger dining area.



*Aerial view of Eddie's Truck Stop*

The station sold Mobil gas at first, then Texaco. It closed in 1977, but is still used as a tack shop. The original lunch room is gone, but its replacement is still operating. The Selottis called their it the Log Cabin Inn at first. When another restaurant in town opened with the name "Log Cabin," they changed the name of their business to the "Old Log Cabin Inn." Although the competing restaurant now has another name, the original Log Cabin is still called "Old."

The lunch room was famous for its barbecued beef, which was cooked on a revolving spit over charcoal. For a time, the Selottis cooked it in its own special building with windows all around so people could watch. After the meat was done, Uncle Joe would slice it very thin, top it off with barbecue sauce and serve it on a bun with pickle relish. I don't know where they got the recipe for the sauce, but I still have it.

Brad and Debbie Trainor have owned and operated the Old Log Cabin since 1986. They bought it from Debbie's mother, Carol Hollinger, who had run it since 1973. Debbie has worked there 23 years so far. The food is as rich and hearty as ever, although instead of barbecued beef today, you might find a gourmet ostrich burger instead. The Trainors have also done a fine job in building a substantial catering business for the restaurant.

Besides the restaurant and gas station, Babe and Joe Selotti operated the first airfield in Pontiac on land directly north of the station. They were both pilots and needed a place to park their planes. But when an unfortunate fire destroyed the hangar and planes in the early 1930s, the brothers chose not to rebuild.

### **The Baize Family Truck Stop**

*Nominated by Janet Baize Sheppelman*

My father, Edward Baize, ran Eddie's Pure Truck Stop/ Eddie's Union 76 Truck Stop in Towanda from May 1952 until it closed in June 1976. Route 66 and the truck stop both played major roles in the lives of my entire family. In fact, we lived in one of the two upstairs apartment at the truck stop

until all three children were born.

My mom, Marjorie, and the kids can attest that Dad worked harder and put in more hours out on the drive servicing vehicles than any of his employees, especially since the stop was open around the clock for all those years. As a child, I remember many middle-of-the-night phone calls when Dad needed to go help change a tire, take fuel to someone, or solve some other problem at the station. Sometimes the problem was as complex as a family stranded with



**Route 66  
Hall of Fame of Illinois**



**Edward and Marjorie Baize  
Eddie's Pure/Union 76 Truck Stop  
Towanda, Illinois  
1952 - 1976**

**Inducted June 8, 1996  
Route 66 Association of Illinois**



no gas and no money. Usually Dad was able to work out something for these people and get them on the road again.

Many a weary truck driver caught up on his rest, somewhat, in the dormitory room, and many drivers became lifelong friends to the family.

The truck stop and restaurant became a meeting place for many people living in the area or passing through. Anyone who spends much time in a small town knows about the morning "coffee club" each town has.

My fondest childhood Christmas memory came in the 1960's when we had so much snow one year that the highway was officially closed. Two or three drivers were stranded at the truck stop. Dad, of course, had given all his employees the day off, so the family was working the station that Christmas. Dad ran the pumps for the few people braving the elements to travel, Mom took money in, and we three kids had a blast keeping the drive somewhat clear with the Jeep and snowblade. Eventually the weather deteriorated to the point that it was just us and the few stranded motorists. Our Christmas dinner, the most memorable one for me, consisted with grilled hamburgers shared with a few people who had no family present and were unable to get closer to their loved ones. I think many businessmen would have closed their operations for the holiday, especially with such rotten weather conditions. But not my Dad--he's no run of the mill man. He found a way to help those in need and still be able to spend the day with his family. It was our choice, of course, he gave us both options. As much as they could, Mom and Dad instilled in us kids their special qualities, one of which is responsibility. There was a need that cold, snowy Christmas that we, as a family, could fill--so there really was no other option to be considered.

My brother, sister and I have always been able to say that we grew up in a truck stop because we spent part of each day there. Mom was the bookkeeper, so we were there every day at least long enough for her to check out the register. Each of us kids also got our start in grown-up life at the truck stop. My brother was an employee of Dad's for several years during high school. My sister and I were waitresses in the restaurant and both met our future husbands while working there.

It was a tough day for the Baize family when the truck stop closed due to the newly opened I-55, and an even tougher day when the green block building was demolished. But we each have our memories and two or three of those same green blocks to keep our memories alive.

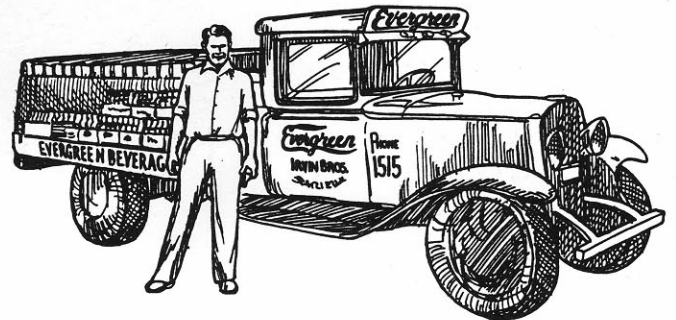
### **Irvin Brothers, Inc.**

*Nominated by Terri Ryburn-LaMonte*

When Maurice Irvin and his brothers, Lawrence and Leo, founded the Evergreen Beverage Company in 1930, they began a 57 year tradition of customer service along Route 66. At first they delivered soda in 6-1/2 ounce bottles from the



### **Route 66 Hall of Fame of Illinois**



**Irvin Brothers, Inc.  
Bottlers of Pepsi Cola  
Bloomington, Illinois  
1930 - 1987**

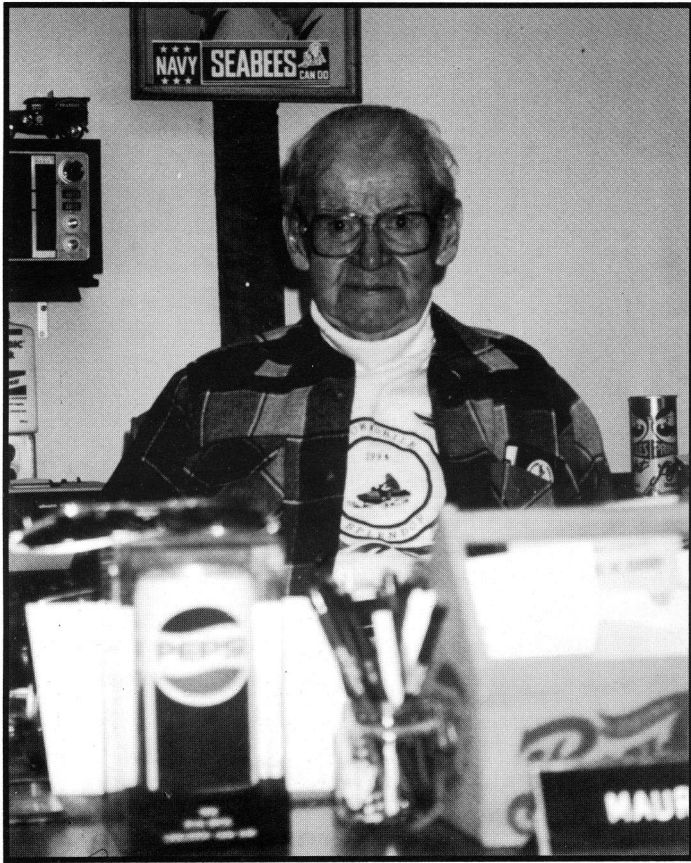
**Inducted June 8, 1996  
Route 66 Association of Illinois**

trunk of their Model T Ford. After a half dozen years, Pepsi Cola offered the brothers a franchise and they accepted. Pepsi was at first sold in 12-ounce bottles with paper labels. This posed a problem at first when the water in old coolers soaked the labels off, but vending machines cured that.

The Irvins did everything from keeping the books to making sales calls to bottling the soda itself. At first they distributed Pepsi only in Bloomington, then in all of McLean County, then also in DeWitt and Logan Counties. They split advertising expenses 50-50 with Pepsi, using billboards and taste tests at grocery stores to almost put Coca Cola out of

*Contemporary shot of Irvin Brothers' successor*






Recent shot of Maurice Irvin

business for a few years. Maurice was mechanically-minded and took care of the bottling equipment. Leo was the advance man and made most calls and sales. Lawrence left the business after a while to pursue other interests. But business grew every year and according to Maurice, there were no bad years. Because of rationing during World War II, though, they had no tires for their trucks and no sugar for the soda.


Also according to Maurice, the formula for Pepsi was “no big secret.” In fact, he said there used to be 15 or 20 colas which all tasted similar. The difference, Maurice says, is in the way the soda was blended. Pepsi shipped the concentrate to Bloomington by truck, where the Irvins added sugar and carbonated water.

Right after World War II, the Irvins moved their business from its original site at 1020 W. Washington out to the new Route 66 beltline. Over the years, they added onto the building 13 times. In 1986, they celebrated 50 years in the Pepsi business and also sold their millionth case of the product. At the time, they were the only Pepsi franchise still owned by its original family. Just a year later, however, Pepsi made them such a generous offer for the franchise that they, too, sold out. Today Maurice is the only Irvin brother left. As lasting testimony to the trio’s hard work and dedication, however, Pepsi still enjoys a large market share lead over all other soft drinks in the Bloomington area.

Wilton C. Rinkel, Hamel  
Nominated by Rich Henry



**Route 66**  
**Hall of Fame of Illinois**



**Wilton Rinkel**  
**Farmer and Route 66 Historian**  
**Hamel, Illinois**  
**1915 - Present**

**Inducted June 8, 1996**  
**Route 66 Association of Illinois**

For all 80 years of his life, Wilton Rinkel has lived in the same home on what is now Illinois 157 three miles south of



Accident in Hamel, circa 1936



*Accident at Rinkel's Curve, circa 1953*

Hamel. He was there before, during and after it was Route 66. He is the only child of John and Anna Rinkel, who married in 1900. Their son was born in 1915. He saw and remembers vividly when what would become Route 66 was being built past their farm. At first, he had to stand on a pail by the kitchen window so he could see the workers. They stored their equipment and materials in the Rinkels' barns.

John Rinkel was killed in 1927 as he was bringing in a team of six horses and two mules from the fields. He was struck by a drunk driver on 66. At the time, he'd been farming 200 acres. But with his dad gone, financial hard times hit Wilton's family and they were able to keep only the 15 acres that he now lives on.

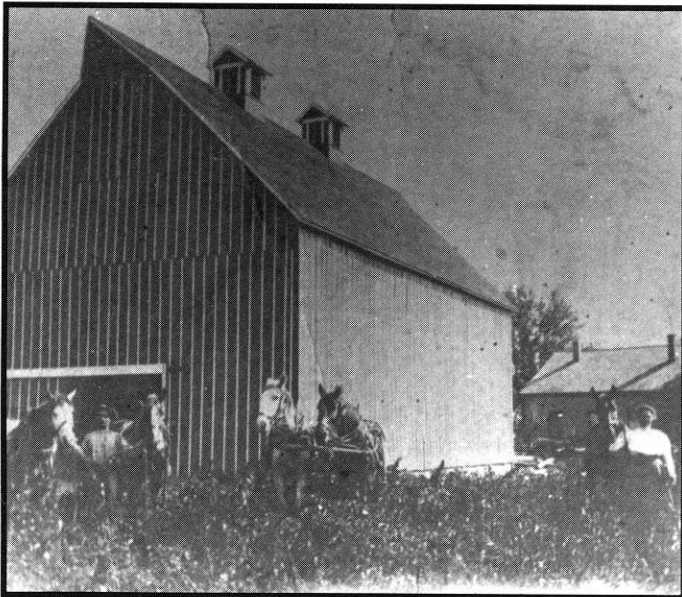
While still in school, Wilton took his first job, working parttime at Cassen's Used Cars on Route 66 in Hamel. He stayed with them after high school as Cassen's became one of the largest auto haulers in the midwest. He worked in the shop, too transport trucks to drivers that were broke down, and brought the disabled vehicles back home. At the same time, he kept farming the family's 15 acres. At one time, barns on his property had Meramec Caverns as

*Wilton, center, and two of the Cassens, mid-1930s*





*Wilton's parents and neighbor child, circa 1901*



*The Rinkel Family farm, circa 1901*

well as Mail Pouch Tobacco signs painted on them. He also continued to help travelers, who broke down, needed directions, or had an accident along the curve by his property. There were many accidents, especially when the road was slick with rain.

Wilton began dating his future wife on a bet. Evelyn Schaefer of Prairietown was a waitress at the Princess Cafe in Hamel. One day in 1936, his friend Bill Renken bet \$5 that Wilton would not ask Evelyn out. Wilton won the bet and, in

1940, Evelyn's hand in marriage. They raised five children on Rinkel's Curve: Glenn, Robert, Linda, Judy and Jane--all of them born at home.

A big thrill for the Rinkel kids on rainy days was to sit on the front porch and wait for a vehicle to go off the road at Rinkel's curve. They were seldom disappointed. If Wilton was at home when there was an accident, he was there to help, wanting nothing in return.

Wilton started work at the Tannery in Hartford, Illinois,

in 1940. Twelve years later, he went to the Shell refinery in Roxana. In 1985, he finally retired from Shell. Until recently, though, he continued to farm the family's original 15 acres. He spends his time today promoting Route 66. To catch people's attention, he's posted eight Route 66 signs in his front yard--one for each state. When travelers stop by to take a picture, he's sitting there under his shade tree, ready with a hundred stories about the Main Street of America.

*Accident at Rinkel's Curve, circa 1953*



# Heartland Run and Other News

*Compiled by Chance*

This October's **Run to the Heartland** to honor the 70th birthday of Route 66 is taking on an Illinois flavor. Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket, the Hall of Fame restaurant in Willowbrook, will host a kick-off dinner party on Friday, October 4. Special guests will be those 66 fans who are planning on making the run, plus you. Dinner will be served from the regular menu. Arrive at your leisure, but think about calling ahead for reservations (dial 708-325-0780). After dinner, a '60s band will play in the lounge. If the weather's nice, a lot of folks may also gather in the parking area to talk and informally inspect each other's cars. Join us that evening as we celebrate seven decades of 66!

Dell Rhea's owner, Pat Rhea, will take off for Texas shortly after the kick-off party. There he plans to serve up his famous fried chicken to what we're sure will be an appreciative new audience. With luck, this might be the beginning of a longer term western venture for Pat.

Illinoisan Tom Teague hopes to drum up interest in the run's grand finale party October 11 & 12 near Vega and Landergin, Texas, by giving several **public talks** on his way there. He'll speak at the Joplin (MO) Public Library on October 7, the Edmond (OK) Historical Society on October 9, and the Elk City (OK) Carnegie Library on October 10. Each talk will begin at around 7 p.m. Call the sponsoring institution for details.

Route 66 fans from all over the country will converge on Texas for **the party itself**. The National Historic Route 66 Federation is sponsoring a luminary dinner October 11 in Vega. The next day by Landergin there will be a car show, live music, clog dancers, a motorcycle rally, a Taste of Texas display, plus thousands of Route 66 fans enjoying each other's company. For more information, call George Rook in Texas at 806-267-2719.

The Comfort Inn in Oklahoma City is offering Heartland runners **special discounts** on October 10 and the Comfort Inn in Amarillo is doing likewise on October 11 and 12. Both are asking only \$45 for up to four people in a room. Call Lori Petit in Oklahoma City at 1-800-628-5011 or Dee Giles at 1-800-628-5013 for reservations.

Back in his home region, Teague will also give talks June 2 at the Bartlett Library, June 3 at the Danville Library, July 22 at the Quincy Library, August 8 the Schaumburg Library, August 10 at the Truckers Jamboree in Waupun, Wisconsin, August 28 at the Elmhurst Library, September 7 at the Kingshighway branch of the St. Louis Library, September 19 at the Oak Lawn Library.

He'll also do a bus tour from Belleville Area College on June 28, and his fourth Elderhostel program September 8-12 at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. And if you're in Boulder, Colorado, on November 26, look for Tom there, too. His wife, Beth, says that Tom will still be talking for days after he dies and that he may even be able to deliver his own eulogy!

**Margie McCauley**, the California woman whose walk along 66 was interrupted last September when she broke her ankle in Missouri, picked up her journey again April 17 near the accident site. She is again accompanied by her dog, Lollipop, who helps pull her luggage cart. By night she'll sleep in the homes of friends or in a tent by the side of the road.

"A lot of people tell me it is dangerous to walk through cities," the grandmother of 15 recently told a reporter. "I am not afraid. I feel people are basically good no matter where the neighborhood."

*Yesterday's Highways* is a new bimonthly publication out of North Carolina. It is dedicated to "exploring the U.S. off the interstates." Each 28-page issue features folksy articles, plus tons of travelogue-style driving instructions for exploring America's great old roads. Several issues this year will feature Route 66. For a six-issue



*Ron Chavez and a cousin at the Club*



*Navy Pier's ferris wheel tops 150 feet*

subscription, send \$18.95 to *Yesterday's Highways*, 49 Church St., Weaverville, NC 28787.

Chef **Ron Chavez**, formerly of the Club Cafe in Santa Rosa, is leading Route 66 onto the Internet. He's marketing his Sol Santa Fe line of chile and salsa mixes at (<http://www.salsa66.com>) on the net. Technologically-challenged folks can call 1-800-662-4552, but they'll miss the fun of exploring America's favorite new communications medium. "Get your salsa fix on Route 66," Ron invites in

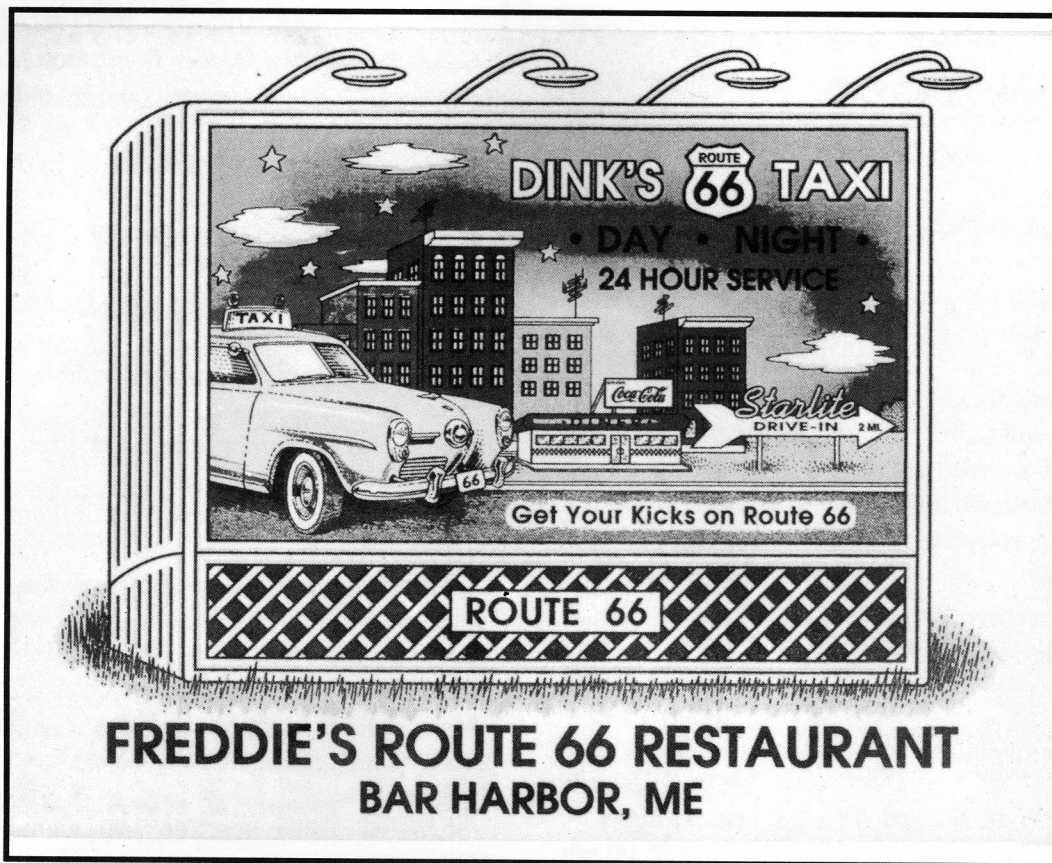
a style reminiscent of his old radio show. "Let's get wild about chile! Ole! Catch you in cyberspace, amigos!"

Red Dog Beer and Visa ATM cards are also sponsoring Route 66 "pages" on the internet. The Red Dog page will feature Bill Shea's gas station museum in Springfield, plus plenty of other advice. The Visa ATM page will also have an Illinois emphasis. We don't know yet what their addresses will be, but anyone with experiencing in navigating the internet should have no trouble in finding them.

Railspitter Wanderers, a walking club based in Springfield, is sponsoring a series of seven **volkswalks** this year to honor the 70th birthday of Route 66. Each will be about six miles long. Walks have already been held in Lincoln and Williamsville. Future walks are set for June 15 in Sherman, July 13 in Springfield, August 17 in Chatham, September 21 in Auburn and October 19 in Divernon. All events are free and open to the public. Members of the American Volkswalks Association can, for a small fee, earn

credits for achievement awards. For more information, write to Railspitter Wanderers, P.O. Box 6051, Springfield, IL 62708.

Former Association president Tom Teague is working with the folks at Navy Pier to see if that Chicago landmark can gain the same kind of profile among 66 travelers that Santa Monica's pier has come to enjoy. He and a number of other Illinoisans--including Terri Ryburn-LaMonte, Susan Kirby and David Williams--will take part in part in



a Route 66 Weekend there on June 15. There will be music, talks and 66 displays. On June 27, Teague will also lead a caravan of Corvettes from Navy Pier down to the Bloomington Gold Corvette Show in Springfield. "Neither pier is actually on 66," he said. "But they're both close to it and they are both natural starting or ending places for journeys along the road. Santa Monica has its carousel. We have a giant ferris wheel. If this works, I

even have a new motto for the road: 'From pier to shining pier!'"

Navy Pier was built in 1916 to combine the business of shipping with the pleasure of public entertainment. After years of disuse, it opened again in 1995 after a \$150 redevelopment effort. Families can shop there, enjoy a meal, see live entertainment, take a boat ride, or simply stroll a half mile to the pier's eastern end for a breathtaking view of Chicago's skyline. The magnificently rehabilitated pier also houses the Chicago Children's Museum.

Last issue, we extended our condolences to Association members Lenore and John Weiss on the death of Lenore's son, Jason. Lenore and John, of Frankfort, are board members, frequent contributors to this newsletter, and officers in the Route 66 Road Runners. Recently, they sent us this thank you note:

"Route 66 will never fade away, thanks to the spirit of its people.

"The spirit of our son, Jason, will also never fade away, thanks to the people of Route 66. It will live on in the form of a beautiful pear tree we received from the Association in Jason's memory. It was personally delivered by our president, Tom Knudsen, and his wife, Pat. They surprisingly showed up with shovels in hand! We appreciate this very much.

"We also want to thank everyone up, down and around Route 66 who sent cards, memorials, called and so much more. Your thoughtfulness helped tremendously."



## Route 66 Association Merchandise

**CLOTHES**--All Association clothes feature black, white and red shield by Bob Waldmire. Available in S, M, L, XL, XXL unless noted. Add \$2 for XXL.

Association nylon Jacket, polyester-lined	\$22.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Association Sweatshirt	\$15.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Association T-Shirt--choice of black or white	\$10.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Association Fanny pack (black)	\$ 8.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Association Cap (black)	\$ 6.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Association Embroidered patch	\$ 4.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Glow in the Dark Shield T-Shirts	\$12.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Neon 2-sided T (specify Chevy, 'Vette, Mustang or T-Bird)	\$12.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Too Kool collar	\$ 8.00 + \$1.50 p/h
New! Betty Boop Hitchhiking Route 66 T-Shirt	\$12.00 + \$1.50 p/h

### COLLECTIBLES

New! 12-oz drinking glass with Historic 66 Illinois sign, "Get My Kicks)	\$ 4.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Illinois Historic Route 66 sign, 13 x 16, just like signs the state is putting up!	\$25.00 + \$6.00 p/h
8" x 8" Illinois US 66, shield-shaped rubber car magnet	\$11.00 + \$1.50 p/h      Pair \$20.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Large Letter State Postcards by Bob Waldmire, set of 8	\$ 2.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Historic Illinois 66 refrigerator magnet (looks like new signs)	\$ 2.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Route 66 shield metal refrigerator magnet	\$ 4.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Set of 42 Bob Waldmire Postcards--scenes of 66	\$ 8.50 + \$1.00 p/h
Hall of Fame Postcards (set of 15)	\$ 3.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Route 66 ceramic salt & pepper shakers	\$ 5.00 + \$2.00 p/h
Illinois US 66 hat pins	\$ 3.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Mother Road Route 66 metal license plate frame	\$ 6.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Route 66 earrings (specify post or dangled)	\$ 5.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Reproduction sign--shield shape, full size, 16-gauge steel)	\$40.00 + \$5.00 p/h
Ceramic mug--black	\$ 5.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Pewter Route 66 belt buckle	\$10.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Prism bumper sticker--Corvette	\$ 2.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Greetings from the Mother Road! postcard book by Michael Wallis	\$ 8.95 + \$1.50 p/h
Land of Lincoln "Route 66" license plate key chain	\$ 2.00 + \$ .50 p/h

## BOOKS, MAPS, VIDEOS AND MUSIC

<i>Guide Book to the Mother Road</i> , Bob Moore & Patrick Grauwels. Great photos and mile-by-mile detail	\$17.95 + \$2.00 p/h
Missouri fold-out map of Route 66 by Jim Ross and Jerry McClanahan	\$ 3.00 + \$1.50 p/h
It's Here! Full set of eight state maps by Ross & McClanahan	\$20.00 + \$3.00 p/h
Bob Waldmire map--10 pages, plus 6-page legend	\$ 5.00 + \$ .50 p/h
New! 2nd edition <i>Searching for 66</i> by Tom Teague	\$14.00 + \$1.50 p/h
<i>Route 66--The Mother Road</i> by Michael Wallis, paperback	\$19.95 + \$2.00 p/h
<i>Route 66 Roadside Companion</i> by Tom Snyder	\$10.95 + \$1.50 p/h
<i>A Guidebook to Highway 66</i> by Jack Rittenhouse (reprint of '46)	\$ 7.95 + \$1.50 p/h
<i>Route 66: The Highway and Its People</i> by Quinta Scott and Susan Kelly. Large format paperback	\$19.95 + \$2.00 p/h
Main Street series by Susan Kirby: <i>Lemonade Days, Home for Christmas, Home Front Hero &amp; Good Bye, Desert Rose.</i> Paperback	\$ 3.50 + \$1.50 p/h each
"A Journey Down Route 66," 90-minute video narrated by Michael Wallis	\$19.98 + \$2.50 p/h
"Route 66: An American Odyssey" video (formerly Route 66, The Video Road Trip) featuring famous 66-ers	\$24.95 + \$2.50 p/h
<i>Route 66 Cookbook</i> by Marian Clark (folklore & recipes)	\$24.95 + \$2.00 p/h
<i>Route 66 Fun Book</i> (for kids of all ages)	\$ 3.50 + \$1.00 p/h
New! <i>The Mother Road</i> audiotope, Michael Wallis	\$17.95 + \$2.00 p/h
"Route 66" music album by David Williams	\$15.00 + \$1.50 p/h for CD      \$10.00 + \$1.50 p/h for cassette
"The Feeling of Jazz" by Bobby Troup	\$12.00 + \$2.00 p/h CD only
New! "The Songs of Route 66," by David Sanger et al	\$10.00 + \$1.50 p/h cassette

### Clearance Sale! Price Cuts!

Fuzzy Dice with Illinois U.S. 66 shield	\$ 3.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Two-in-One beverage holder	\$ 1.00 + \$1.00 p/h

Send orders to:  
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2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166  
Springfield, IL 62704

Illinois residents please add 8 percent sales tax!

*Accept no imitations or limitations! All product purchases benefit the Association!*



# Route 66 Associations and Museums

Looking for information about Route 66 in other states or countries? Contact these people for help:

## **Route 66 Association of Missouri**

P.O. Box 8117  
St. Louis, MO 63156  
Ron Robb, 417-358-7742

## **California Route 66 Museum**

16849 D St.  
Victorville, CA 92393  
Mark Ward, 619-243-0474

## **Kansas Historic Route 66 Association**

P.O. Box 169  
Riverton, KS 66770  
Scott Nelson, 316-848-3330

## **California Historic Route 66 Association**

2117 Foothill Blvd., #66  
LaVerne, CA 91750  
714-289-8666

## **Oklahoma Route 66 Association**

901 Manvel  
Chandler, OK 74834  
Ron Burden, 405-258-0008

## **Route 66 Territory Visitors Bureau**

Thomas Winery Plaza  
7965 Vineyard Ave., Suite F-5  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
Bob Lundy, 909-948-9166

## **Oklahoma Route 66 Museum**

2229 Gary Blvd.  
Clinton, OK  
Nancy Lowe-Clark, 405-323-RT66

## **National Historic Route 66 Federation**

P.O. Box 423  
Tujunga, CA 91043-0423  
David Knudson, 818-352-7232

## **Old Route 66 Association of Texas**

P.O. Box 66  
McLean, TX 79057  
George Rook, 806-354-7916

## **Dutch Route 66 Association**

Postbus 2012  
1620 EA Hoorn  
The Netherlands  
Harry VanLuten, Tel. 02290-18318

## **Texas Route 66 Hall of Fame**

P.O. Box 66  
McLean, TX 79057  
Delbert Trew, 806-779-3164

## **Route 66 Association of Belgium**

Georges Moreau Street 172  
1070 Brussels  
Belgium  
Patrick Grauwels, 32-2-6402635

## **New Mexico Route 66 Association**

1415 Central NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
505-246-0211

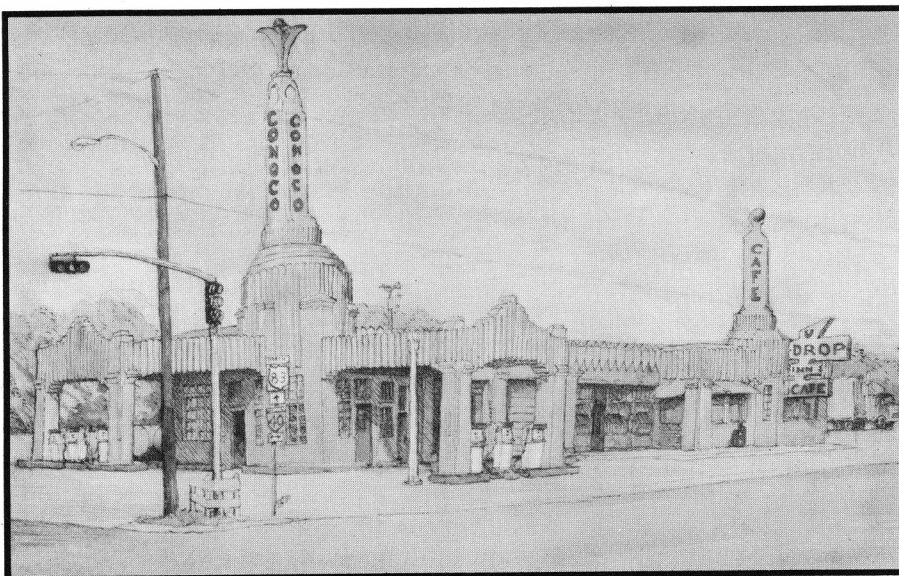
## **Association Francaise Route 66**

88 rue de Chateau  
F.92600 Asnieres  
France

## **Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona**

P.O. Box 66  
Kingman, AZ 86402  
Anita Lemming, 520-753-5001

# The 66 Art of Bill Crook



# You Still Have Time

If you're reading this newsletter before June 8, you still have time to be part of the Association's seventh annual motor tour. Formal activities begin with a pre-tour banquet on Friday evening, June 7, at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Collinsville. Early arrivals can enjoy independent tours to the catsup bottle water tower in Collinsville, the Shell History Museum in Roxana, or Cahokia Mounds.

The actual drive begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 8, at the convention center in Collinsville. We'll cruise through Mitchell, Edwardsville and Hamel and enjoy lunch in Litchfield. Passport stops in Springfield include the Cozy Drive In, Shea's gas station museum, and the Hall of Fame banquet at the Hilton Hotel. After the banquet, live music of special appeal to Route 66 fans will be played in the hotel's lounge until way past everybody's bedtime.

**PLEASE NOTE: Hall of Fame Banquet tickets are \$12.50 apiece, tax and tip included. You must have a ticket to attend the banquet, although you can attend induction ceremonies at 8 p.m. without one. A limited number of tickets will still be available on Friday evening, June 7, at the pre-tour party. Pick a pair!**

Sunday morning will begin with a continental breakfast at the recently re-opened Route 66 rest stop in Sherman. Springfield's Route 66 Cruisers car club will be our hosts. We'll visit the newly redecorated Hall of Fame in McLean, have lunch in Pontiac, stop briefly at the "Route 66" theme McDonald's and tour Joliet. To end the day, there will be an outdoor party and music at Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket in Willowbrook.

It's too late to mail in your registration for the motor tour. We suggest that you just show up instead and register on the spot. Start wherever you wish. Registration is \$25 for Association members and \$30 for non-members.

# Speaking in Plates

Association member Jeff LaFollette became a first-time contributor to this column by sending a list of several plates he spotted in the Quad Cities, including **GO RT 66** on a '63 Corvette. Regulars Randy Smith and Tom Teague also contributed. Here's what the trio found: **BURBN 66, KIMM 66, PHNTM 66, FEZ 66, KATTS 66, 66 FUNK, CORNY 66, 66 DO IT, PP 66, SHEL 66, 66 JAKE**. Jeff also reports that he will soon be sporting **KIX ON 66** plates on his Iowa-registered car. These are the same plates that Tom Teague has carried on his Illinois car for the past decade. "Those are really great plates," Tom said as he let the air out of Jeff's tires. A Wisconsin car with **KIX ON 66** plates has not been seen again since Tom spotted it one morning at the Cozy Drive In in Springfield.

# Route 66 Trivia Answers

1. 1.1 miles
2. 1.2 miles from the toll booth to Broadway in St. Louis
3. No. From north to south, Illinois 66 is 297.1 miles. From south to north, it's 297.8
4. In McLean at the Hall of Fame!
5. The Plainfield route is 21.4 miles longer.
6. 293.3 miles
7. 11.2 miles
8. Ballard (between Chenoa and Lexington), Selbytown (between Williamsville and Sherman) and Thomasville (between Divernon and Farmersville) disappeared from our maps after World War II.

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## ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTS IN 66 \_\_\_\_\_

HOW I CAN HELP \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES:** Individual-\$10, Family-\$15, Business-\$25, Sustaining-\$100 or more.

**TO:** Membership, Route 66 Association, 2743 Veterans Pkwy., Springfield, IL 62704

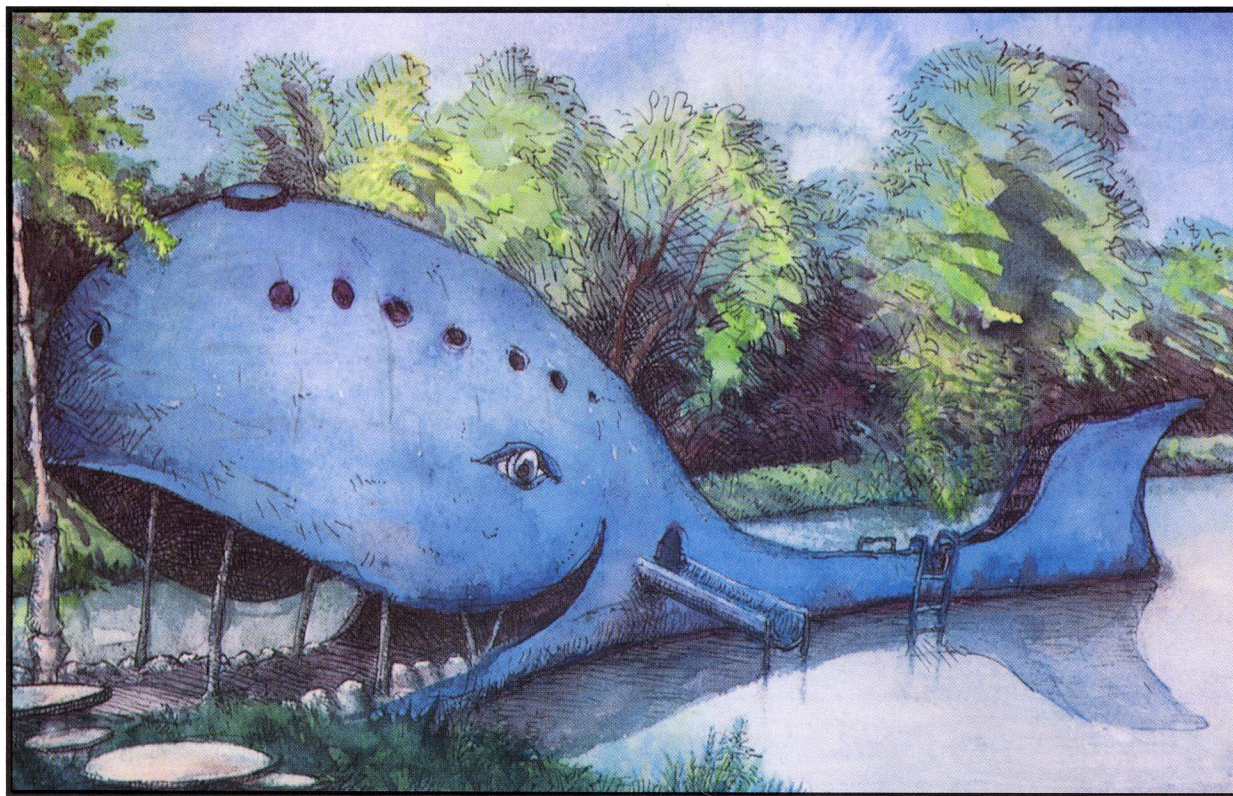
**Attention Motorcycle Fans!** If you would like information about a Route 66 Motorcycle Association, please check this box:

# The 66 Art of Bill Crook

Springfield artist Bill Crook is a master at watercolors and pen and ink drawings. He also produces fine prints on a letterpress machine in his basement office. He's lived on or near Route 66 almost all his life, but did not look at it as a subject until recently. He preferred instead to focus on natural scenes and historic landmarks around Springfield. But a lifelong friendship with Bob Waldmire and a slightly shorter one with Tom Teague finally pushed Bill over the edge last fall. Earlier in the year, he spent a week at Bob's Route 66 Visitor Center in Arizona. Then he accompanied Bob on the latter's bus odyssey to Hackberry last October.

Sketching all the time, he came home with the beginnings of the colorful new series of Route 66 postcards featured on this page. The cards are printed on fine, heavy paper and feature thumbnail histories on the back. They sell for \$3.20 a set, plus \$1 postage. Send cash or check and your order to Prairie Press, 945 S. 1st St., Springfield, IL 62704.

Bill also painted the watercolor used on the cover of this issue shortly before its inspiration, Springfield's A. Lincoln Motel, was torn down earlier this year. He donated its use to the Association in honor of this being Tom Teague's last issue as newsletter editor. *(More Crook art on page 18)*



**Route 66 Association of Illinois  
2743 Veterans Parkway, Suite 166  
Springfield, Illinois 62704**

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ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

# THE 66 NEWS

FALL 1996



"ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS."

## Officers and Board Members

The officers and board members of the Route 66 Association are available at most reasonable times to answer your questions and hear your comments about Route 66. Please feel free to contact them if you need to. The date to the right of each officer's or member's name is the expiration date of their term.

### President

Tom Knudsen, 10-97  
1202 Eastholme  
Bloomington, IL 61701  
309-828-2925

Gretchen Staats, Dupage, 10-96  
206 N. Ellsworth, 2nd Floor  
Naperville, IL 60540  
708-961-1774

Marci Rimini, Macoupin, 10-97  
R.R. 2, Box 16  
Girard, IL 62640  
217-965-4748

### Vice-President

Frank Lozich, 10-96  
7270 W. 174th Place  
Tinley Park, IL 60477  
708-429-9173

Duke Cartwright, Will, 10-97  
407 Pasadena Ave.  
Crest Hill, IL 60435  
815-726-3574

Deborah Mileur, Madison, 10-96  
410 N. Monroe  
Litchfield, IL 62056  
217-324-5551

### Treasurer

Mike Yates, 10-96  
421 Brookcrest Dr.  
Washington, IL 61571  
309-444-9301

Ray Starks, Grundy, 10-97  
714 E. Illinois Ave.  
Morris, IL 60450  
815-942-0350

### At Large

Barbara Lorenz, At Large, 10-96  
2516 Royal Oaks Dr.  
Freeport, IL 61032  
815-233-1148

### Secretary

Marilyn Pritchard, 10-97  
601 W. Reynolds  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
815-844-6937

John Stonecipher, Livingston, 10-96  
216 E. Prairie St.  
Odell, IL 60460  
815-998-2161

Jeff Meyer, 10-97  
2802 Fremont St.  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008  
~~708~~-392-0860  
847

C. J. Beeler, McLean, 10-96  
Box 360  
McLean, IL 61754  
309-874-2323

Jeff LaFollette, At Large 10-97  
2351 Hiway 130  
New Liberty, Iowa 52765  
319-893-6653

### Corresponding Secretary

Dorothy Seratt, 10-97  
408 N. Front  
Odell, IL 60460  
815-998-2300

Paul Gleason, Logan, 10-97  
P.O. Box 291  
Lincoln, IL 62656  
217-735-1361

Lenore Weiss, At Large, 10-96  
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Frankfort, IL 60423  
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### Newsletter Editor

Randy Smith, 10-97  
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East Peoria, IL 61611  
309-699-2228

Tom Teague, Sangamon, 10-96  
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Springfield, IL 62704  
217-787-8839

John Weiss, At Large, 10-97  
21149 Hillside  
Frankfort, IL 60423  
815-469-5219

### Board Members

George Leone, Cook, 10-97  
3725 W. 152nd St.  
Midlothian, IL 60455  
708-388-7360

Priscilla Mathews, Montgomery, 10-97  
410 N. Monroe  
Litchfield, IL 62056  
217-324-5551

Executive Committee members  
are the officers, plus Jeff Meyer  
and John Stonecipher.

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### Internal Publication Information

The 66 News is published quarterly by the Route 66 Association of Illinois around the first of March, June, September and December. It is meant as a service to Association members and other people and organizations interested in the preservation, promotion and enjoyment of Route 66. Contributions are accepted, but we do not pay. However, any article that you submit remains your property and cannot be reused in any way by the Association or anyone else without your permission. Advertising rates are \$90 for a whole page, \$50 for a half page, \$30 for a quarter page and \$10 for a business card ad. Submit first-class, camera-ready copy only. We can't use Xeroxes. All stories and ads must be submitted at least six weeks prior to publication. Address inquiries and contributions to Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, IL 62704.

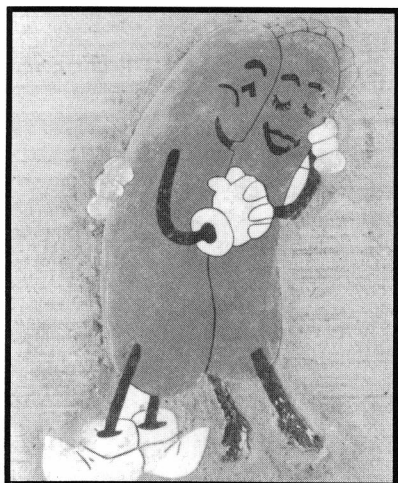
## Some Minutes From The Board Meeting

There were some changes to the board members, which are as follows: Gretchen Staats is filling in for Ed Schumann of DuPage County, John Stonecipher is filling in for Ray Schroeder of Livingston County, and Jeff LaFollette is filling in for the At-Large position from Gretchen. We were informed that Ed and Ray have been ill, so we hope they get to feeling better! Tom Teague finally stepped down from the Newsletter Editor position that he held for around 5 years. The board voted to elect Randy Smith to try out for the post.

The situation with Russell Soulsby's Shell Station continues to be looked into. It was last reported to carry a \$20,000 price which includes the house. Possibilities were brought up for purchasing or acquiring the property with the idea of making a sort of Route 66 Museum out of it as well as some other possible ideas. It was mentioned to be considered for a possible preservation project as well. More on this as it goes along!!

## October 20 1996 Annual Meeting

To be held on Sunday, at the new Cozy Dog Drive In on South 6th Street (exit 92 off I-55) in Springfield. This meeting is expected to be standing room only if you don't get there early enough! What a way to enjoy a great day on 66 at one of the most widely known businesses on the Mother Road here in Illinois! The new building is designed to keep the Cozy Couple going strong for the long haul well into the 21st Century! The Board Meeting will start at 11:00 am with a break for lunch at noon. Then by 1:00 pm we'll have the General Meeting and then on to the Elections! So plan on coming to this important meeting to help shape the way for the Association!!!



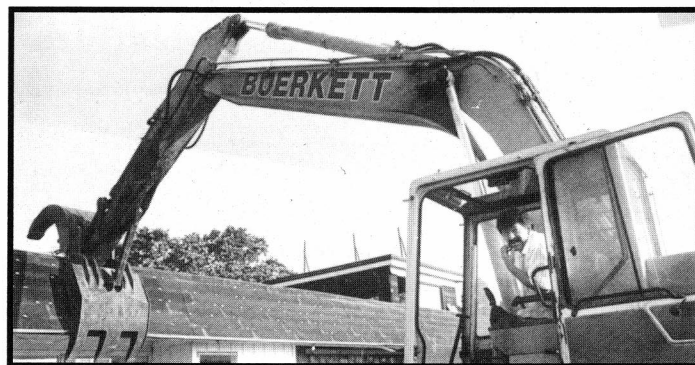
*The Cozy Couple up for election*

## New Members!

*Compiled by Priscilla Mathews*

Since the summer issue of The 66 News, there has been yet another increase in membership in the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. They include 19 family and 36 individual memberships. Let us all give them a big welcome and thanks of support for the Association!

Listed here is our new members: Frank Zabielski of Chicago, Lori Merkenner of Beecher, Jerry Smith of Sugar Grove, Nick Burton of Decatur, John & Charlotte Tournear of Quincy, Kevin Martin of Peru, Bob Troyer of Tinley Park, Rhoda Mae McMillen of Jacksonville, John Drew of Dwight, Dean & Linda Kinzer of Elmhurst, Steven & Diane Nalefski of Bloomington, Amy Werden of Dorsey, William North of Lockport, Kimberly Kuman of Chicago, Arthyr Freyman of Bloomington, Rick Romero of Champaign, Susan Nachman of Chicago, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Pepper of Barrington, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Baumgartner of Naperville, John Wesselmann of Highland, George A. Pochos of Lake Forest, Susan Kratochvil of Braidwood, W. Scott Bateman of Palos Hill, Don Ostrowski of Romeoville, Raymond and Dannette Wasilowski of Mokena, Paul & Pearl Cooper of Orland Park, Paul Nelson of Sycamore, Allan Cramton of Elgin, Kenneth & Lisa Phillips of Roxana, C. Roger & Janet McDaniel of Joliet, Marion Nafziger of Stanford, Gordon & Theora Stark of Normal, Robert Bode of McLean, John Tust of Villa Park, Gordan Close of Hinsdale, JoAnne Nabor of Downers Grove, Steve Coleman of Burr Ridge, Christine Harrison of Chicago, Dennis & Charlotte O'Rourke of Troy, Gregory Anderson of Seneca, Gary Tyler of Cahokia, Billy & Sandra White of Pleasant Plains, and Jack & JoAnn Melcher of Waukegan. Out of state members are: Mark Crane of San Francisco, CA. Francis & Katherine Bevans of Wilmington, DE. Bob & Melissa Cassel of Lenexa, KS. John Snoble of Sandusky, OH. Greg Naylor of Lynchburg, OH. Jeffrey Shively of Greencastle, IN. Peter & Sandra Prescott of Gardiner, ME. Rob McLean of Watertown, WI. Chas Nowak of Buffalo, NY. Dale Worcester of Canton, MI. Sandra Keller of Jasper, MI. And one member from over-seas: Sadie Antoine of Weat Sussex, England. We're glad to have you all with us in our preservation, promotion, and enjoyment of Route 66!!!



*Buz Waldmire did the honors when it came time to tear down the old Cozy Drive Inn. The new one is next door.*

## Nominating Committee

Duke Cartwright is the chairman for the Nominating Committee for the upcoming October 20 1996 Elections. The supporting members of the Nominating Committee are as follows...

Debbie Mileur, Tim Palm, Lenore Weiss, and Bill Przybylski.

Any Association member who would like to be considered a nominee for any position up for election should call one of the above from the nominating committee and request your name be put on the ballot for the post being up for election. We will try to keep a running list in future issues for members that would like to be nominated for a position when that election is due. For example, the next future elections will be for October of 1997. Refer to page 2 to see what positions are up by noting the date next to them. As the issues come out later, we can maybe get an insight on who would like to be nominated for a position. We encourage everyone to get involved if interested!!!

## October 20 1996 Elections

Duke Cartwright will host the elections for us. The positions up for re-elect or to be nominated will run a two year term to October of 1998. They are as follows...

Vice-President, currently held by Frank Lozich. Treasurer, currently held by Mike Yates. And the following Board Member positions: DuPage County, temporarily held by Gretchen Staats in place of Ed Schumann. Livingston County, temporarily held by John Stonecipher in place of Ray Schroeder. McLean County, currently held by C.J. Beeler. Sangamon County, currently held by Tom Teague. Madison County, currently held by Debbie Mileur. At-Large position, currently held by Barbara Lorenz. And a second At-Large position, currently held by Lenore Weiss. The Newsletter Editor is to be voted on, too!!!

All of these positions are to be voted on by our Association Membership, so we encourage all of you to attend this yearly meeting to vote and fill these positions to keep our Association running strong as an organization working together towards the same common goal! All of your support benefits us all, and supports our cause of preservation, promotion, and enjoyment of Illinois Route 66, as well as the entire Mother Road!!!

### In Memory of...

We all wish to extend our heart-felt sympathy for the loss of one of our most recent Hall of Fame members, Maurice Irvin. He died July 26 1996 in an accident with a tractor that tipped over. Let us all pray for him and his family in this time of loss.

## A Letter by Our Hall of Fame Member Maurice Irvin.

*Sent by Terri Ryburn-LaMonte, dated June 12 1996*

Dear Terri: Just a note to thank you for a wonderful weekend. I know it was you who is responsible for me being chosen for the 66 Hall Of Fame. How can I ever thank you enough! We met so many wonderful people. It's a fun group, and I hope we can continue to be a part of all the activities. When you see any of the Committee, please tell them how grateful I am. I thank you, Terri, from the bottom of my heart. Thanks for taking us home, and everything. If there is anything I can do for the Association, please let me know. Come and see us! You are something special. Sincerely, Maurice.

*(Editor's note) Maurice thought a lot of being a Hall Of Fame nominee, and has told so many people about that. He was very proud of being a part of 66 History, too. He died doing one thing he liked best, and that is tilling the land he shaped himself. He took his tractor too close to a ravine edge, and it tipped over on top of him, pinning himself underneath. This man worked all his life, and thought more of others more often than he did himself. On behalf of all the Association, I wish to extend my heartfelt sympathy to Maurice and his family and he will always be one great Hall Of Famer that we will all remember. I hope we find more nominees like Maurice. Please, don't hesitate to nominate someone special that you know that has ties to Route 66! We do want to hear it!*

## In Other News...

Terri Ryburn-LaMonte is heading for England for a 7 week vacation. Roadologist Jeff Meyer has mentioned going to Texas on 66 business. Deborah Funk reports that business is going along fine this year at the Funks Grove Maple Sirup farm. Buzz Waldmire keeps business humming along at the new Cozy Dog Drive In. Bill Shea just never quits working round the clock at his Shea's 66 Truck Covers. Marilyn & Durelle Pritchard continue to cruise 66 in their 1928 Whippet. I presume Tom Teague is enjoying his "vacation" away from running the Newsletter! We'll try to keep you all posted on what our members are up to as they keep busy and travel on Route 66!!!

## Editor's Note:

Any article that is to be considered for the Winter newsletter needs to be submitted to the Newsletter Editor no later than October 20 1996 at the Elections meeting, or sooner if you can mail it in.



# 1996 Hall of Fame News...



1996 Hall Of Famers

The Hall of Fame, formed by the Association in 1990, continues to grow bigger and better every year since its introduction. Not only do you see our Hall of Famers just at the banquet, but else-where as well. Most of them were in the Taste Of Country Fair/66 Reunion in Lexington. They were in the Antique Car Parade on July 28 1996. It was an honor to see these Association members as well as other members in the parade. This event drew quite a few thousand people! There were quite a few of our members in it, too numerous to list!

One of the most notable booths at the 66 Reunion was our Association booth! And a big HOORAY for our fundraisers who volunteered their time and efforts, too! Here is a list of the fundraisers that helped on the weekend at the booth: Tom Knudsen, Pat Knudsen, Matt Knudsen, David Knudsen, Traci Graves, George Hinthorn, Barb Hinthorn, Raymond Starks, Phyllis Starks, and Durelle Pritchard. Fundraising is a major part of the Association as much as the Preservation Committee, as well as the



efforts of all of us combined! Let's all keep up the good work, keeping our Association going strong and growing bigger!!!

Here is a list of some of our Hall of Famers that were in the Parade: Margie O'Brien & Marian Weber of the Old Log Cabin, Eddie & Margie Baize of the Union 76 Station, Burt Parkinson & Annabelle, Bill & Helen Shea of Shea's Truck Covers, Peggy Kraft & Violet Giroe of the Riviera, Effie Marx, and John & Loyce Stonecipher of Odell.

Association members John & Lenore Weiss came in 3rd Place in the Parade for having the 3rd largest entry of vehicles!

Notice this old original Lexington city sign? What do you see different with it? The original neon lighting got repaired! How far back in 66 time could you remember it being lit last? This sign has been a fixture on 66 in Lexington since its early days!!!



Association Fundraisers!



History repeats itself again on 66 with the neon being repaired!

## Preservation Committee Report

by Dorothy Seratt

The Preservation Committee (of the Route 66 Association of Illinois) under the direction of its chairperson Frank Lozich, has been very busy this past year. Six members of the Committee: Frank Lozich, Gretchen Staats, Terry Ryburn-LaMonte, Tim Palm, Jeff LaFollette, and Dorothy Seratt all attended a workshop presented by Ann Swallow and David Newton of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The workshop was an all day meeting concerning the National Register Of Historic Places. This was an enlightening experience for all concerned. The workshop was a prelude to the beginning of a major project for the Association; the submission of an application to place U.S. Route 66 through Illinois on the National Register Of Historic Places. The research and writing of this multiple listing is being completed by Terri Ryburn-LaMonte and Dorothy Seratt. Two individual listings which will be submitted with the multiple listing are being completed by Gretchen Staats and Jeff LaFollette. Tim Palm has been invaluable to this project with his work in researching various necessary details to get the job done. Tim also has a separate project he is working on, one that I find most interesting! He is looking into acquiring a semi-trailer for use by the Association. This is one of those "Snortin' Norton" Campbell's 66 trailers, and is a valuable piece of the history of early commercial transportation along U.S. Route 66. A better idea yet (from the editor) would be to park it at the Dixie's Truckers Home Museum where centrally located would catch quite a glance!

This particular project should not be hard to accomplish with minimal cost and just might be a feasible idea to pursue! We'll keep you posted on the developments of this deal!

Other committee members, John & Lenore Weiss have successfully completed the first preservation project. The Route 4 bridge in Pontiac on 66 has been accepted to the Illinois Historic Bridge Survey. Good work! And a job well done! (Story to follow!)

The Preservation Committee is also looking into the feasibility of preserving the Standard-Sinclair Gas Station in Odell. This will be a demanding project, but one we can all agree is necessary to preserve the historical integrity of U.S. Route 66 here in Illinois. To that end, we will be soliciting expert advice from a historical restoration architect. News about this and other preservation projects will be forthcoming in future newsletters. So stay tuned! All Association members as well as the general public are invited and are encouraged to attend these preservation meetings. The more input and active participation we receive, the more preservation projects we can successfully complete. Remember, time is of essence when it comes to preserving history, especially Route 66!

## A Rare Find Preserved by the Preservation Committee

(Story by Association members John & Lenore Weiss)

We are proud to announce that through our efforts a bridge in Pontiac, Illinois has been declared historically significant. As a result, it has been accepted for listing on the Illinois Historic Bridge Survey and by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency!

This story began a couple of years ago when John &



Preservation Committee

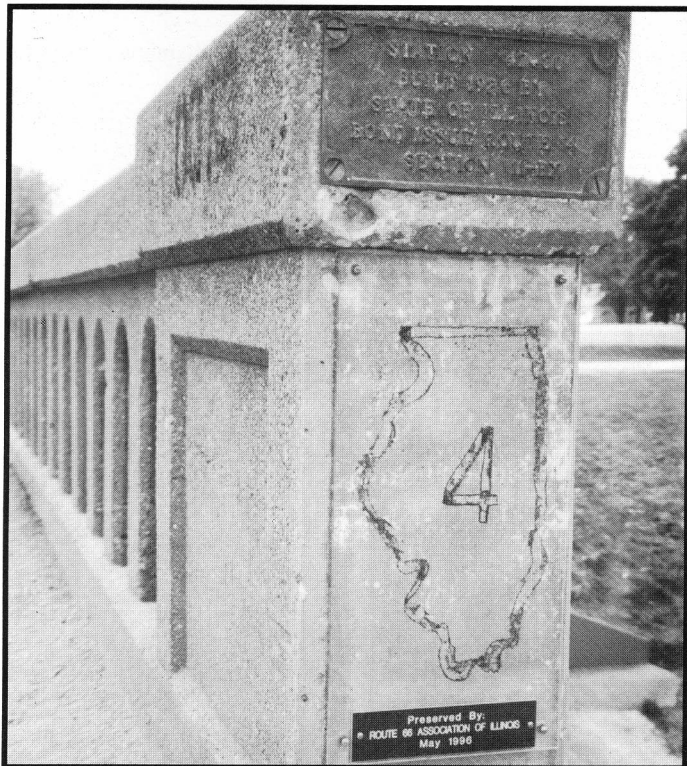
Lenore Weiss were cruising some original alignments of Route 66. Lenore's eagle eye spotted something unique on a bridge. So they took some pictures of the painted 4 inside an outline of Illinois. It also had a sealed over plaque above it. As it turns out, no one knew about this, but several of us knew what it meant. Lenore had found the one and only remaining sign, dated 1926, of Route 4 (which was to become the fabled Route 66) painted on that bridge. Back in those early days, many sections of Illinois



Preservation Committee Project?

Route 4 were connected together to become the early alignment of Route 66 in 1926 to 1930.

At the time of this discovery, the Route 66 Association of Illinois was forming a Preservation Committee. This bridge



*Completed Preservation Project*

sign became the first project of that committee. We felt that somehow this sign had survived 70 years, but how much longer could it last?

First, we had secured the necessary legal permission from state and city agencies. Then, on a rainy day in May of 1996, a large group of active members gathered for an early meal at the Old Log Cabin restaurant in Pontiac. This Hall Of Fame establishment is only a couple of blocks north of the bridge on the original path of Route 66. The weather cleared up and the group got busy! The plan was to not only preserve the sign and plaque on the bridge, but to also clean up the creek and paint over graffiti on the bottom bridge walls. This became a major project performed with great spirit and enthusiasm. Some local kids came by to see what we were doing. They too pitched in and helped out! Since then, they have done a fabulous job of keeping the creek and area clean. Also, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has declared this sign to be a very rare find in their recent survey of Route 66.

We invite all of you to visit this historic bridge and the surrounding area, and don't forget to head up the road to the Old Log Cabin for a bite to eat! Re-live history again!!

For further information about the Preservation Committee, contact Frank Lozich at 708-429-9173, Terry Ryburn-LaMonte at 309-452-5325, or Dorothy Seratt at 815-998-2300.

## More 'Other News'...

If you are cruising 66 through Bloomington on Veterans Pkwy., stop in and check out the 66 theme setting inside the Burger King-Shell Station, right across the street from the Route 66 Car Care car wash. A Ziebart sign is going up where the 66 Car Care sign went, due to some kind of leasing change, but the 66 Car Care oil change service will still operate with the car wash. But yes, take a look in the Burger King! It is similar to the 66 theme setting in the McDonald's store past Braidwood up north on 66. There is a glass case display that has quite a few familiar things you'll remember as well as some old things. It is cute to see with all those model cars in glass cases, and other 66 stuff all over the inside. There is nothing on the outside to see, until you walk in. This is just a small example of other 66 things here and there on the road that are popping up.

Susan Kirby continues with her Main St. series of 66



books in form of speeches on a touring schedule. I had the opportunity to hear one of her 1 hour story-speeches, which was fun to watch and hear, along with some 66 questions for everyone to answer. Quite a few people didn't know the answers. It goes to show that there is still quite a lot of educating we need to do for the general public to keep them informed about Route 66. Apparently, when too much time goes by, it sure seems to get forgotten. One of these days, maybe the Secretary Of State can add the 66 outline and the shield on the free maps that you get at the drivers license offices. At least it would be a reminder when they use the map.

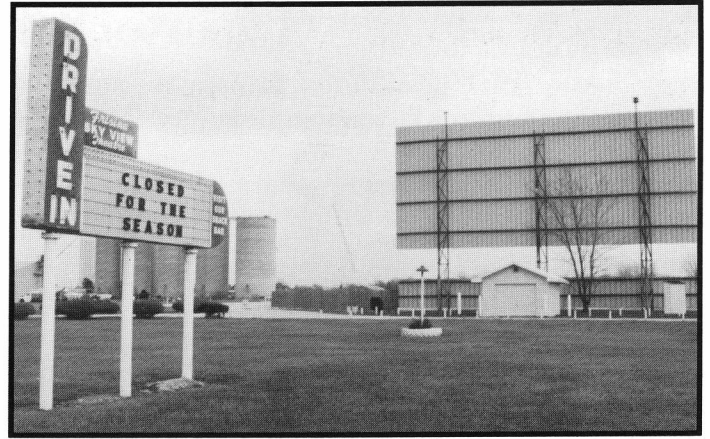
If you're heading in the direction of Vega, Texas on 66, they are having their 'Run To The Heartland' weekend, October 10 and 11 this fall. It was reported that the famous author Michael Wallis will be there. Could also be where Jeff Meyers may be at, too!

While heading up north to Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket in Willowbrook, they are celebrating their 50th year of business on 66! This has always been a wonderful place to eat and also admire the 66 theme inside the restaurant. So stop in and congratulate them Hall Of Famers!

## 1997 Hall of Fame Nominees Sought!

It is never too early to start looking for nominations for next years' Hall Of Fame. One idea of mine (Randy Smith) is to see about getting the Sky View Drive In from Litchfield on as a nominee! Here is a classic example of an old 66 business still running after all others disappeared. The only one left here in Illinois on Route 66. (See Photos) They use an FM transmitter to air the sound on your stereo radio in the car! That was a new idea to me at the time, but a smart one when you consider the cost of fixing old wiring going to the existing speakers, as well as vandalism. The Drive In gets my vote!

So how about it, readers? Who do you know that we need to nominate? Send us a story and photos if possible, and we'll keep a running list of nominees in the newsletter!!!



*Possible Hall Of Fame Nominee!*

## From The Newsletter Editor

Randy Smith has been a sustaining member in this Association for about 3 years now. He spends a lot of his time looking for whatever is left to be re-discovered that is being forgotten on Route 66, especially here in Illinois. This should be the same goal that we all should set as a priority as well as fundraising and preservation projects. Most goals that we all try to accomplish never get handed to us over-night. We all have to work for it, in whatever way, shape, or form possible. This also includes the efforts of all Board members and other elected members in this Association. All members are also encouraged to work toward this same common goal. As Newsletter Editor, I would like to ask everyone to contribute to that goal! Send in what news is going on in your Counties. I want to hear it! Look through Gramma's attic for pictures! Interview people! Knock on doors, make phone calls, look back through old newspapers! Take your automobiles and fill up with Ethyl, and drive 66 in search for news along with myself! Let's help make The 66 News more informational to us all. You hear of something going on in your town, write an article on it, and send it in. This is an Association project for all to share!!!

## Speaking in Plates

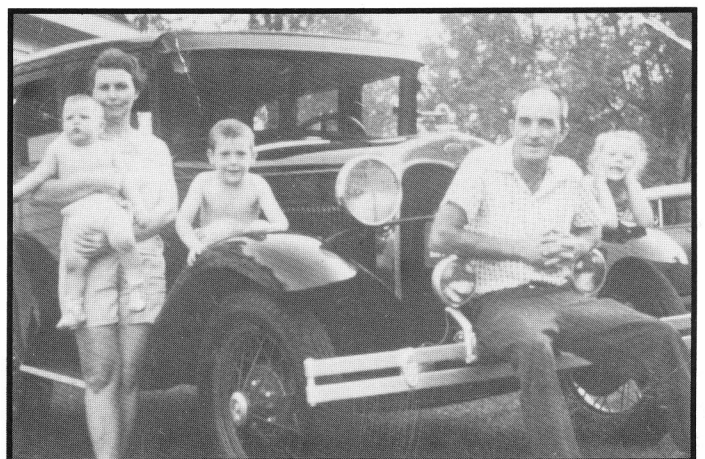
There are two plates here lately that sure caught my eye! One is the MAIN S 66 plate that belongs to one of our well known Association members, and that is Susan Kirby. And the other has been forthcoming for some time now, and is finally here! And that is the KIXON66 plate by Association member Jeff LaFollette, which is a blue Iowa plate. I sure can imagine Tom Teague day-dreaming of getting one off Jeff's car to hang on his garage wall of souvenirs! Between Jeff LaFollette, Randy Smith, & Marie Jibben, here are a few other examples spotted: SMILE 66, PARK 66, KAROL 66, RESTO 66, CRAPS 66, DARN 66, END 66, FUN ON 66, HARLEY 66, ONE OF 66, SUSIE 66, and 66 DO IT. Since this column started some time ago, Randy & Marie together as a team have a list of 296 different plates! We will continue to run a sampling as long as everyone keeps their eyes open for them!!!



*Jeff LaFollette's Plate*



*Susan Kirby's Plate*



*Guess where your Newsletter Editor is in this photo!  
Randy Smith is sitting on the front right fender above the wheel!  
We got our fair share of Kicks On 66 in this 1929 Ford Model A..*

## Route 66 Association Merchandise

**CLOTHES**--All Association clothes feature black, white and red shield by Bob Waldmire. Available in S, M, L, XL, XXL unless noted. Add \$2 for XXL.

Association nylon Jacket, polyester-lined	\$22.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Association Sweatshirt	\$15.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Association T-Shirt--choice of black or white	\$10.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Association Fanny pack (black)	\$ 8.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Association Cap (black)	\$ 6.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Association Embroidered patch	\$ 4.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Glow in the Dark Shield T-Shirts	\$12.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Neon 2-sided T (specify Chevy, 'Vette, Mustang or T-Bird)	\$12.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Too Kool collar	\$ 8.00 + \$1.50 p/h
New! Betty Boop Hitchhiking Route 66 T-Shirt	\$12.00 + \$1.50 p/h
<b>COLLECTIBLES</b>	
New! 12-oz drinking glass with Historic 66 Illinois sign, "Get My Kicks)	\$ 4.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Illinois Historic Route 66 sign, 13 x 16, just like signs the state is putting up!	\$25.00 + \$6.00 p/h
8" x 8" Illinois US 66, shield-shaped rubber car magnet	\$11.00 + \$1.50 p/h      Pair \$20.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Large Letter State Postcards by Bob Waldmire, set of 8	\$ 2.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Historic Illinois 66 refrigerator magnet (looks like new signs)	\$ 2.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Route 66 shield metal refrigerator magnet	\$ 4.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Set of 42 Bob Waldmire Postcards--scenes of 66	\$ 8.50 + \$1.00 p/h
Hall of Fame Postcards (set of 15)	\$ 3.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Route 66 ceramic salt & pepper shakers	\$ 5.00 + \$2.00 p/h
Illinois US 66 hat pins	\$ 3.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Mother Road Route 66 metal license plate frame	\$ 6.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Route 66 earrings (specify post or dangled)	\$ 5.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Reproduction sign--shield shape, full size, 16-gauge steel)	\$40.00 + \$5.00 p/h
Ceramic mug--black	\$ 5.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Pewter Route 66 belt buckle	\$10.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Prism bumper sticker--Corvette	\$ 2.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Greetings from the Mother Road! postcard book by Michael Wallis	\$ 8.95 + \$1.50 p/h
Land of Lincoln "Route 66" license plate key chain	\$ 2.00 + \$ .50 p/h

## BOOKS, MAPS, VIDEOS AND MUSIC

<i>Guide Book to the Mother Road</i> , Bob Moore & Patrick Grauwels. Great photos and mile-by-mile detail	\$17.95 + \$2.00 p/h
Missouri fold-out map of Route 66 by Jim Ross and Jerry McClanahan	\$ 3.00 + \$1.50 p/h
<b>It's Here!</b> Full set of eight state maps by Ross & McClanahan	\$20.00 + \$3.00 p/h
Bob Waldmire map--10 pages, plus 6-page legend	\$ 5.00 + \$ .50 p/h
<b>New! 2nd edition</b> <i>Searching for 66</i> by Tom Teague	\$14.00 + \$1.50 p/h
<i>Route 66--The Mother Road</i> by Michael Wallis, paperback	\$19.95 + \$2.00 p/h
<i>Route 66 Roadside Companion</i> by Tom Snyder	\$10.95 + \$1.50 p/h
<i>A Guidebook to Highway 66</i> by Jack Rittenhouse (reprint of '46)	\$ 7.95 + \$1.50 p/h
<i>Route 66: The Highway and Its People</i> by Quinta Scott and Susan Kelly. Large format paperback	\$19.95 + \$2.00 p/h
Main Street series by Susan Kirby: <i>Lemonade Days, Home for Christmas, Home Front Hero &amp; Good Bye, Desert Rose.</i> Paperback	\$ 3.50 + \$1.50 p/h each
"A Journey Down Route 66," 90-minute video narrated by Michael Wallis	\$19.98 + \$2.50 p/h
"Route 66: An American Odyssey" video (formerly Route 66, The Video Road Trip) featuring famous 66-ers	\$24.95 + \$2.50 p/h
<i>Route 66 Cookbook</i> by Marian Clark (folklore & recipes)	\$24.95 + \$2.00 p/h
<i>Route 66 Fun Book</i> (for kids of all ages)	\$ 3.50 + \$1.00 p/h
<b>New!</b> <i>The Mother Road</i> audiotape, Michael Wallis	\$17.95 + \$2.00 p/h
"Route 66" music album by David Williams	\$15.00 + \$1.50 p/h for CD      \$10.00 + \$1.50 p/h for cassette
"The Feeling of Jazz" by Bobby Troup	\$12.00 + \$2.00 p/h CD only
<b>New!</b> "The Songs of Route 66," by David Sanger et al	\$10.00 + \$1.50 p/h cassette

### Clearance Sale! Price Cuts!

Fuzzy Dice with Illinois U.S. 66 shield	\$ 3.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Two-in-One beverage holder	\$ 1.00 + \$1.00 p/h

Send orders to:  
**Merchandise**

**Route 66 Association of Illinois**  
2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166  
Springfield, IL 62704

Illinois residents please add 8 percent sales tax!

*Accept no imitations or limitations! All product purchases benefit the Association!*

# Run to the Heartland!

by Tom Teague

Interest in this October's Run to the Heartland for Route 66's 70th birthday party continues to build. Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket, the Hall of Fame restaurant in Willowbrook, will host a kick-off dinner party on Friday, October 4. Special guests will be those 66 fans who are planning on making the run, plus you. Dinner will be served from the regular menu. Arrive at your leisure, but think about calling ahead for reservations (dial 708-325-0780). After dinner, a '60s band will play in the lounge. If the weather's nice, a lot of folks may also gather in the parking area to talk and informally inspect each other's cars. Join us that evening as we celebrate seven decades of 66!

People who want to drive caravan-style to the Texas party may gather at Chicago's Navy Pier at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 5. At this time, we don't know how many folks will want to caravan. A lot of Illinoisans are going to the party, but we imagine they'll be leaving at a wide variety of times. Still, for those folks who want to travel as a group, the opportunity is there.

Dell Rhea's owner, Pat Rhea, will take off for Texas shortly after the kick-off party. There he plans to serve up his famous fried chicken to what we're sure will be an appreciative new audience. With luck, this might be the beginning of a longer term western venture for Pat.

Association member Tom Teague hopes to drum up interest in the run's grand finale party October 11 & 12 near Vega and Landergin, Texas, by giving several public talks on his way there. He'll speak at the Joplin (MO) Public Library on October 7, the Edmond (OK) Historical Society on October 9, and the Elk City (OK) Carnegie Library on

October 10. Each talk will begin at around 7 p.m. Call the sponsoring institution for details.

Route 66 fans from all over the country will converge on Texas for the party itself. The national Historic Route 66 Federation is sponsoring an awards dinner October 11 in Vega. The next day by Landergin there will be a car show, live music, clog dancers, a motorcycle rally, a Taste of Texas display, plus thousands of Route 66 fans enjoying each other's company. For more information, call George Rook in Texas at 806-267-2719.

The comfort Inn in Oklahoma City is offering Heartland runners special discounts on October 10 and the Comfort Inn in Amarillo is doing likewise on October 11 & 12. Both are asking only \$45 for up to four people in a room. Call Lori Petit in Oklahoma City at 1-800-628-5011 or Dee Giles at 1-800-628-5013 in Amarillo for reservations.

For a last minute update on the Run to the Heartland, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Tom Teague, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, Illinois 62704.



*What a great way to celebrate 70 years of Route 66 with a delicious dinner at one of our Hall Of Famers, Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket*

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## ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTS IN 66 \_\_\_\_\_

HOW I CAN HELP \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES:** Individual-\$10, Family-\$15, Business-\$25, Sustaining-\$100 or more.  
**TO:** Membership, Route 66 Association, 2743 Veterans Pkwy., Springfield, IL 62704

# Help Save The Soulsby Station!



*Early photo of Russell Soulsby's Shell Station.*

*by Tom Teague*

Our association is negotiating with the family of Russell Soulsby in Mount Olive to purchase Russell's gas station and maintain it as a museum. If all goes well, ownership could pass over before the end of the year. In fact, the station may already be open on weekends by the time you read this article. But for long term success, the project needs the help and support of our entire membership.

The Soulsby Station is one of the oldest and best maintained gas stations in all America. Foreseeing the retail demand for gas that a national road system would create, Russell and his father built it in 1926 when they learned the new hard road would be coming through Mount Olive. Russell sold Shell gas there until 1991. When he had the old storage tanks removed that year to meet EPA regulations, there wasn't enough business to merit putting in new ones, so he retired. But the station continues to draw visitors and news media from all over the world. When I first met Russell in 1985, he already had two drawers full of their business cards. I'm sure that the station can remain a major Route 66 attraction until well into the next century. All we need to do to turn it into a museum is open the door.

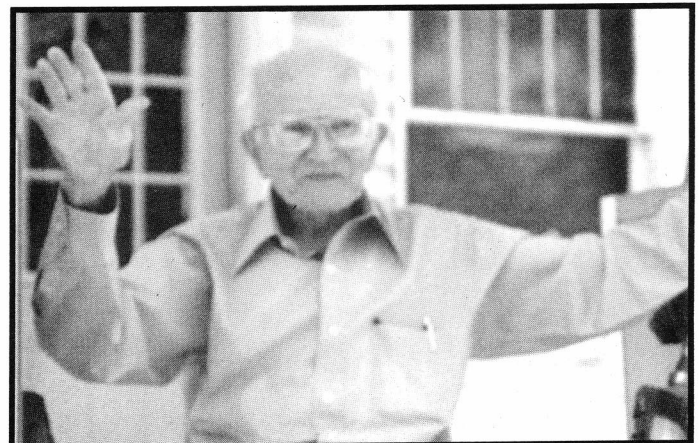
Russell's sons have been maintaining the station since their father's retirement. Although its upkeep costs are modest, none of them live in the area anymore. Rather than sell it to commercial interests, they chose to offer it to the association. To sweeten the deal, they included a small house next door where Russell's aunt used to live. This could be used for storage and support.

Russell's son, Ron, called me in June about the station. I think it is one of the best preservation opportunities we'll ever have. I wondered at first if our association were strong enough

to take on the project. But then I started wondering if we were strong enough to pass it up. What do the rest of you think? There are three ways you can help right now: become a partial guarantor of the station's contract for deed; make a cash contribution to help us maintain the station until we can sign a formal ownership agreement; or volunteer to spend a Saturday, Sunday, or a whole weekend at the station greeting visitors and talking about 66.

If you have comments or contributions, send them to Tom Teague, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, Illinois 62704. Or call me at 217-787-8839. Meanwhile, I'll keep you posted in future issues of the newsletter. In our bylaws, our stated purpose as an association is to "preserve, promote, and enjoy Route 66." With the Soulsby station, we have the chance to put those words into action!!!

*Russell Soulsby waves 'farewell' to us. We will surely miss him!*



# Some News From The 1996 Motor Tour

*Story & Photos by Marilyn & Durelle Pritchard*

The 1996 Motor Tour was a mixture of something for everyone this year! There were other events also going on around the time of the Motor Tour. There was a colorful group of motorcyclists that took a trip on 66 through Illinois. The photo to the left had a well known comedian, Flip Wilson! And the photo to the right are a bicycle group from the Pacific-Atlantic Cycling Tour, whom had a group of 34 riders that ranged in ages from 45 to 65 years old, were averaging between 100 to 130 miles per day on their tour of the entire 2,435 miles that were planned for them on Route 66. These riders all came from a variety of nationalities...Switzerland, Spain, the Netherlands, Australia, and from Alaska, Colorado, Missouri, New York, Connecticut, Ohio, California, Georgia, Minnesota, and Illinois. These photos were taken in Pontiac on their way through on Route 66.



## Coming in the Next Issue:

Route 66 shows some of its' 66 Tales From The Crypt, some interesting Cemetery coverage from the Mother Road. Also, some info and photos of what was found on some missing 66 towns in Illinois. An article on what is disappearing on 66 and what we can do to stop it! Updates from the Fundraising and Preservation Committee. More from Association members and more interesting 66 stories! Don't miss out on the next issue of The 66 News!!

**Route 66 Association of Illinois**  
**2743 Veterans Parkway, Suite 166**  
**Springfield, Illinois 62704**

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ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

# THE 66 NEWS

WINTER 1996

CHRISTMAS EDITION



"ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS."

## Officers and Board Members

The officers and board members of the Route 66 Association are available at most reasonable times to answer your questions and hear your comments about Route 66. Please feel free to contact them if you need to. The date to the right of each officer's or member's name is the expiration date of their term.

### President

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Bloomington, IL 61701  
309-828-2925

Duke Cartwright, Will, 10-97  
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Linda Henry, Madison, 10-98  
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### Vice-President

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Morris, IL 60450  
815-942-0350

**5 At Large Positions**  
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Crete, IL 60417  
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Mike Yates, 10-98  
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Washington, IL 61571  
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815-469-5219

### Board Members

Andi Hari, Dupage, 10-98  
1785 Turnbridge Ct.  
Montgomery, IL 60538  
708-892-2914

Priscilla Mathews, Montgomery, 10-97  
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Litchfield, IL 62056  
217-324-5551

Executive Committee members  
are the officers, plus Jeff Meyer  
and John Stonecipher.

Marci Rimini, Macoupin, 10-98  
R.R. 2, Box 16  
Girard, IL 62640  
217-965-4748

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### Internal Publication Information

The 66 News is published quarterly by the Route 66 Association of Illinois around the first of March, June, September and December. It is meant as a service to Association members and other people and organizations interested in the preservation, promotion and enjoyment of Route 66. Contributions are accepted, but we do not pay. However, any article that you submit remains your property and cannot be reused in any way by the Association or anyone else without your permission. Advertising rates are \$90 for a whole page, \$50 for a half page, \$30 for a quarter page and \$10 for a business card ad. Submit first-class, camera-ready copy only. We can't use Xeroxes. All stories and ads must be submitted at least six weeks prior to publication. Address inquiries and contributions to Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, IL 62704.

## UPCOMING BOARD- GENERAL MEETING DATE!

Our next upcoming board meeting will be in Lincoln, Illinois. There will be the Board Meeting at 11:00 am and a break for lunch at Noon. Then the General Meeting at 1:00 pm. Both meetings are open for all members and the general public who wish to attend. We hope to see you all there!

Future meetings are...April 20 1997 at Dwight, July 20 1997 at Litchfield, and October 19 1997 in Bloomington. Locations will be posted in the newsletter after it is announced where they will be at. We'll keep you posted on these dates.

## OUR 1996 ANNUAL ELECTIONS RESULTS...

*(By Marilyn Pritchard)*

Duke Cartwright, Chairman of the Nomination Committee presided over the election of various Association positions. His Committee consisted of George Leone, Dorothy Seratt, Bill Przybylski, Tim Palm, Lenore Weiss, and Debbie Mileur.

For two year terms, here are the winners of the elections...

Vice President, Frank Lozich. Treasurer, Mike Yates. DuPage County, Andy Hari. Livingston County, John Stonecipher. McLean County, C.J. Beeler. Sangamon County, Don Cutler. Madison County, Linda Henry. Macoupin County, Marci Rimini. St. Clair County, remained vacant. And the two At Large positions went to Lenore Weiss and Bill Przybylski.

The next elections will be sometime in October 1997. Date and place to be announced later.

## HALL OF FAME NOMINEES NEEDED!

We need suggested nominees for induction into the 1997 Hall Of Fame. So far, we do have one nominee, and am sure to see more follow. Our Hall Of Fame continues to grow bigger and better every year. Do your part! Think of people or places that you know of that would be a good induction in the Hall Of Fame. The examples could be present or past here on 66 in Illinois. Include a story and photographs of your subject, and mail it in to: Tom Teague. We'll get a section out in the March issue of The 66 News on the nominees for 1997 to be voted on. Here's your chance to get involved, so hit the road or get on the "blower" (tele-phone) and look for candidates to nominate! So far, we have 27 Hall Of Fame members and we look forward to more new members. We might need your entries in by February 28 1997. The 1997 Motor Tour will start up North, with the dates set for June 6, 7, and 8th of 1997. More Hall Of Fame and Motor Tour news to be forthcoming in your next issue of The 66 News. Mail entries to: Tom Teague, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

*(By Priscilla Mathews)*

Since our Fall newsletter, another 46 members have joined the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. We are happy to have you all here in support of the Mother Road! Here listed is our new members, and a warm welcome for your show of support!

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS:** Marvin Schultheiss of Rockford, Roger Klenske of Schaumburg, Jeff Winkelmann of Island Lake, Charmaine Zawila of North Riverside, Richard Neumann of Naperville, Virginia Schulueter of Edwardsville, Steven Rider of Albany-New York, Alan Houchin of Waukegan, Robert Ackermann of Schaumburg, Dale Boroviak of Lansing, Terry Burns of Elmhurst, Robert Chestoskey of Greenfield-Indiana, Wes Barber of Glen Carbon, Richard Smika of Decatur, Leonora Drennan of Franklin Park, Nolan Zobrist of Moro, Harold Gihring of Moro, Van Nightingale of Orange-California, Michael McKnight of St. Louis-Missouri, Peggy Wingardh of Arlington Heights, Kirk Woodward of Grapevine-Texas, Don Cavallini of Lexington, Kenneth Paslay of Ozawkie-Kansas, Philip Baker Jr. of Florissant-Missouri, Andrew Ducay Sr. of Wood Dale, David Goodwin of Valparaiso-Indiana, Pete Glendon of Morris, and Shiro Watanabe of Matsuyama City-Japan.

**FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS:** Robert & Glenda Grant of Roseville, Ken & Rita Linoski of Des Plaines, David & Gloria Traiforos of Elmwood Park, Lloyd & Nancy West of Peoria, Dean & Shirley Call of Columbia City-Indiana, Sam & Deborah Mulay of Wheaton, Lowell & Denise Wellen of Highland, Robert & Kathleen Weimer of West Chicago, Steve Spangler family of Morris, and Tony & Ruth Stoyan of Woodbridge-Ontario-Canada.

**BUSINESS MEMBERS:** Community Planning And Development of Chicago, and the Holiday Inn of Carlinville.

**SUSTAINING MEMBERS:** Steve Helenthal of Hamilton, Oldham Graphic Supply of Springfield, the Comfort Inn of Edwardsville, Martin Schleder of Evergreen Park, Randall & Racheal Martin of Lockport, and Christian Rintelen of Zurich-Switzerland.

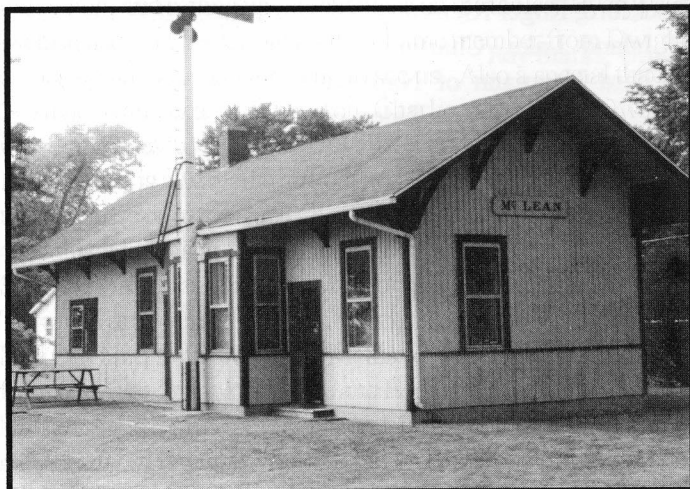
## IN THE NEXT ISSUE...

More news on other missing 66 towns, our 1997 Hall Of Fame Nominees, a story on the Chain Of Rocks Bridge, plus an article on Traveling 66 In Illinois. Some news on the 1997 Motor Tour plans, plus what some of our member are up to on 66. A report from the Preservation Committee on some of their plans for 1997 and what's going on with our Fundraising efforts. It'll be Spring before you know it, and we'll all be out in force traveling 66 and getting involved in another busy year of activities. So keep an eye out in March 1997 for your copy of The 66 News!

# MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 20 1996 MEETING...

(By Marilyn Pritchard)

The last meeting at the well known Cozy Dog Drive In at Springfield, Illinois turned out great! Special thanks to Buzz Waldmire for serving us all for lunch. The food was great, and so was the crowd! Plenty of Hall Of Famers, and some new members were there. The elections went well, and of course the



Our upcoming 66 Museum in McLean.

Cozy Couple won their re-election easily. Our famous artist Bob Waldmire came to our meeting, all the way from Arizona.

Of the 23 positions in the Association of officers and officials, there were 20 people present, which is the largest attendance of Board and Officers ever to attend at a single time. Good to have the overwhelming support of the Association show up for this meeting!

The Board meeting was called to order, with 15 Board members and Officers present.

New membership forms were available. Randy and Rachel Martin of Lockport were welcomed as new Sustaining members to the Association. Our By-Laws will be discussed at the January 19 1997 meeting in Lincoln.

A hearty thanks was given for the use of the Cozy Dog Restaurant for our October meeting. Buzz Waldmire had the new Restaurant built just north of the old one, on the grounds of the old Abe Lincoln Motel site.

Membership status presented by Priscilla Mathews: 57 new individual members, 37 new family members, 2 business members, 4 sustaining members, 204 individual renewals, 106 family renewals, and 15 business renewals for a total of \$5,395!

President Tom Knudsen reported Fundraising efforts. At the Taste Of Country Fair/Route 66 Reunion at Lexington netted about \$2,200. And at the Harvest Days event in Dwight, around \$1,440 was made. Good job well done!

On the Newsletter...Randy Smith was complimented on a fine job done on his first sample issue of The 66 News. President Tom Knudsen appointed Randy as the Official Newsletter Editor. Tom and Randy will review the Newsletter before it is printed.

There was a report by Frank Lozich of the Preservation Committee. He reported on the project at the antique Standard-Sinclair station in Odell. Story and report to follow elsewhere in this issue. The next Preservation Committee meet is to cover projects for 1997 and to do some checking on old vacant billboards along the highway to be used for the promotion of Route 66.

Tom Teague gave a report on the Run To The Heartland event in Landergin, Texas. It was held October 11 and 12. Around 500 people attended this get-together event on 66.

Durelle Pritchard gave his report on the 7th Annual Route 66 Rendezvous in San Bernardino, California on September 19 through 22. Approximately 2,000 autos were on display and over 200,000 people attended this giant event!

Tom Teague presented the Soulsby Gas Station Proposal. Mike Jackson of the Historical Preservation Agency presented information on the station. He mentioned about it being Authentic, Genuine and it's Originality. He stated this was one of the best preserved gas stations of its' era. The Soulsby family built it, owned it, and has all the original papers to it. It could be placed on the National Register sometime!

It was also mentioned about the rest stops on I-55 at Hamel and Funks Grove. There will be added information on Route 66 in their display cases. The State Of Illinois is funding an Interpreter display at the Kinpatrick House at I & M Canal, Lockport. The State will also promote a visitor center at Berwyn.

The General Meeting got underway, with about 55 members present.

C.J. Beeler presented the McLean Depot Proposal. The



Our Secretary Marilyn Pritchard, with her husband Durelle on the right. Margie McCauley is on the left. They got to visit her for a while.

building has 900 square feet of space, consisting of four rooms. It is centrally located on 66 here in Illinois. Jeff LaFollette made a motion to accept the Beeler proposal, and was seconded by Marci Rimini. The vote was unanimous! We should get the new museum open in 1997.

President Tom Knudsen appointed the following people to the Museum Committee...Chester Henry, C.J. and Chuck Beeler, Tom Teague, Don Hancock, Tom Knudsen, Priscilla Mathews, Ernie Edwards, and Ray Starks. If members have ideas for the museum, please contact any of these members of the Museum Committee.

A hand vote was taken about acquiring the Soulsby Station Proposal. Fifteen members were in favor, and 22 opposed it.

A vote of thanks went to Paul Olson, Lucille Peck, and Betty McLellan for the fine job they did for the Fall Picnic we had in Atlanta.

Tom Teague made a suggestion as to the start-up use for the Route 66 Depot Museum...to use Shellee Graham's well known exhibit for an estimated cost of \$2,500 to \$3,000.

And Bob Waldmire mentioned about his friend Bill Crook making and starting up a set of water colored postcards of Route 66 to be sold at the Dixie Truckers Home in McLean.

## NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION PICNIC

(by Pat Knudsen)

The 1996 Annual Route 66 Association Of Illinois picnic was held Sunday, September 8 1996 at the Atlanta Park in Atlanta, Illinois. There were about 70 people present. We were so glad the members came early to visit. Members were present from as far south as Granite City, and as far north as Rockford-Sycamore area. There was a couple that came from the State of Washington by the Pacific Ocean, names: Thomas and Becky

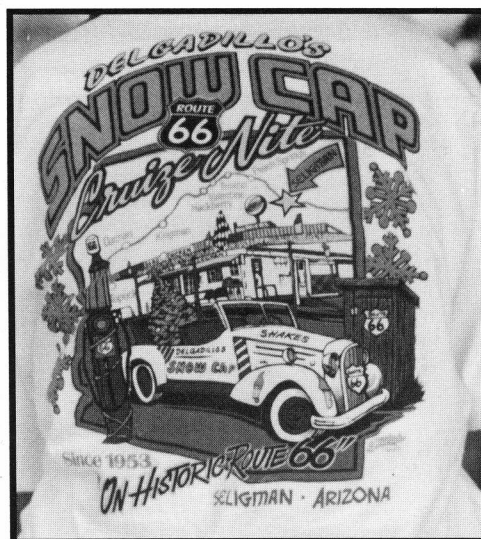


There was plenty of good food and fellowship at the 1996 picnic.



We had a meeting and discussion of Association business.

Repp. Glad to have 66 fans come from that far away to visit us! Special thanks to Betty McClellan for her help in organizing the picnic, along with Lucille Pech for making the barbecue. It sure was good! Thanks also to the Abraham Lincoln Logan County Tourism for helping host the picnic. Also thanks to Charlie Ott "Mr. Abe Lincoln", Theresa and Ken Usherwood, and Mayor and Mrs. Richard Lynch of Atlanta for hosting the Association members and guests. We enjoyed visiting Sherman's Antique Shop and the J.H. Hawes Grain Elevator Museum in Atlanta. Everyone liked learning about the business history along Route 66. The youngest person present was Sally Rebecca Kubinski whom was 3 months old. Kayla Victoria and Sally Rebecca are both daughters of Pam Starks. Pam is the D.J. "By Request" that has played at our pre-tour parties and also our Hall Of Fame Banquet and ceremony in Lincoln. They are the grand-daughters of Ray and Phyllis Starks, our Grundy County Board Members. The following Hall Of Famers were present...Hubery Henry, Wilton Rinkel, Ernie Edwards, Bill Shea, Steve and Glaida Funk, and John Stonecipher. Let's hope more of us can come to next year's picnic, and have more fun and 66 fellowship!



Becky Repp, from the state of Washington, wore this colorful 66 shirt.

## HARVEST DAYS

(by Tom Knudsen, President)

The Route 66 Association Of Illinois continued its efforts with fundraising at the Harvest Days event in Dwight, on Saturday and Sunday, September 21 and 22 of 1996. A special thanks goes out to Phyllis and Ray Starks, both whom are Grundy County Board Members, for being there both days with helping set up, selling Association merchandise, and taking the booth down. When we go and sell merchandise, we load everything up on Saturday evening, so there is a lot of loading, unloading, and setting up merchandise on the tables. Every year Meta Jensen, a 95 year old Hall Of Fame member from Dwight comes by on Saturday morning to see us. Also a special thanks to Irene Kanzawa and her son Charlie, also from Dwight. Charlie comes to Harvest Days every year from Anderson, Indiana. He is always at the booth on Saturday night to load the merchandise onto the truck. It is always good to have a fresh set of hands and legs at that time of the day to load the truck. On Sunday, Margie and Eddie Baize, our 1996 Hall Of Famers from Towanda drove the car that Rub furnished for the Parade. Other Hall Of Famers in the car were Metha Jensen and Burt Parkinson from Gardner. Thanks Margie and Eddie for escorting the other Hall Of Famers in the parade! Effie Marx, another Hall Of Fame member from Dwight was honored as being one of the Parade Grand Marshals as she is 80 years old and just retired from working in several restaurants along Illinois Route 66 in Dwight. A special thank you goes to Rub's for letting us use an air conditioned car on a warm, beautiful day for the Parade. Pam Starks, "D.J. By Request" and her daughters Kayla and Sally stopped by the booth on Sunday. Burt Parkinson's family stopped by the booth on Sunday, along with Matt and David Knudsen, Traci Graves, George Knudsen and his wife Gerri along with daughters Trisha and Grace. We all had a great time as well as raised a lot of funds for the Association, some figure over \$1000. We'll keep you posted on all the upcoming fundraising activities and results as we go along on Route 66!



Route 66 fundraisers at work for the Association.

## McLean Depot Our Next Preservation Stop

(By Tom Teague)

When it comes to museums, Route 66, the Mother Road, is a mother lode. While doing research for my book, I visited halls or monuments dedicated to cars, oil, mining, carneys, cowboys, corn dogs, neon, firefighters, fishing tackle, barbed wire, Precious Moment figurines, helium, and even roadside litter. From Chicago to Santa Monica, I walked through the doors of so many historical exhibits that I feared the accumulated information in my head would someday reach critical mass and I would vaporize and float away in a cloud of footnotes and photographs. But so far, my luck has held, even though I tempt it with each trip along 66 by visiting at least one more museum.

Now America's Main Street's plate of collections and recollections is being heaped even higher with a spate of museums and visitors centers dedicated to the road itself. The Texas Route 66 association operates a Hall Of Fame and has restored an old gas station. A state 66 museum opened in Clinton, Oklahoma last year and a national one is planned soon for nearby Elk City. California 66 advocates have acquired an old bank building in Victorville and converted it into a museum. A classic motel in Springfield, Missouri has been donated to that state's 66 association for use as a museum. Arizona has two Route 66 visitors centers. Kansas partisans have restored and repainted a rainbow arch bridge along the road and reopened it to traffic.

In Illinois, our association has operated a Route 66 Hall Of Fame since 1990. It is located at Dixie Truckers Home in McLean. Dedicated to the people and businesses who gave 66 such unique character here in Illinois its exhibits include the nameplate from a Tucker automobile, a rare copy of Bobby Troup's "Route 66" anthem, a WPA brush hog and a Root 66 root beer can from Anheiser-Busch.

With the Hall Of Fame, our association has already played a significant role in preserving and promoting the memory of 66. Recently, however, we were presented with two opportunities to take such work a quantum step forward. The Beeler family, owners of the Dixie, offered us a five-year lease on a century-old railway depot in McLean. The 900-square foot depot sits directly north of the Dixie. The Beelers moved it there some 30 years ago and have used it as an antique store and business office. They have offered it to us for \$1 a year for use as a museum and visitor center. The Hall Of Fame would stay in its home at the Dixie.

The other offer came from Mount Olive, where the sons of Russell Soulsby offered to sell us their father's Shell station and the house next door for \$20,000. Russell and his father, Henry, had the station built in 1926. A few years later, they doubled its size to its current 480 square feet. Russell all but retired in 1991 when the station's storage tanks were

removed (EPA is expected to certify that there is no residual damage or liability from the tanks). Although modern amenities such as running water, air conditioning and a new ceiling are needed, the building itself is sound and sturdy. As a site which has seen the entire history of Route 66 pass by its front door, the station would function as a museum itself.

The Association's board of directors discussed both opportunities extensively at the October 20 board meeting. Although there was considerable interest in the Soulsby station, the majority believed that the McLean depot offered a better opportunity. We voted to accept the Beelers' offer. A committee is now working on a plan on how to use the building. Nothing is firm, yet, but our hope is to have a first class attraction that will serve up heaping portions of Route 66 history and hospitality to many thousands of visitors. We hope to have something open in time for next year's tourist season.

Do you have any suggestions on how to use the depot? Better yet, do you have any memorabilia or artifacts that you can loan or donate to the museum? If you do, please call President Tom Knudsen at 309-828-2925, C.J. and Chuck Beeler at 309-874-2323, or myself at 217-787-8839. We look forward to hearing from you.

Although our association voted not to get involved in preserving the Soulsby station at this time, I am still interested in saving it...either in Mount Olive or in a historical park somewhere. Anyone interested in joining a separate, not-for-profit syndicate to get this done should write to me at 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, Illinois 62704, or call me at 217-787-8839. Call soon, please, because time may be running short for this historical jewel on 66.

## PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT... GETTING THE BALL ROLLING!

(By Frank Lozich)

On Saturday, September 6, 1996, 11 members of the Illinois Route 66 Association Preservation Committee ventured on an effort to prevent further deterioration of the roof structure on the old Standard-Sinclair gas station in Odell, Illinois.

Our work entailed covering the shingled section of the old roof with a plastic tarp to protect the office and canopy sections of the structure. The tarp will act as temporary protection against further deterioration from the elements of weather.

Members present were Bill Pryzbyiski, Randy Smith, Marie Jibben, John and Lenore Weiss, Jeff and Annette LaFollette, Dorothy Seratt and her son Nate, along with Frank and Roxane Lozich.



*The Preservation Committee at work again, on its second project. On top of the roof is your Newsletter Editor, Randy Smith. Everyone else contributed to getting the job done, and cheered on. There was Route 66 music going all day for us.*

The station has been currently owned since 1952 by Robert (Bob) Close. Bob was present that morning and is interested in the historic preservation of the structure.

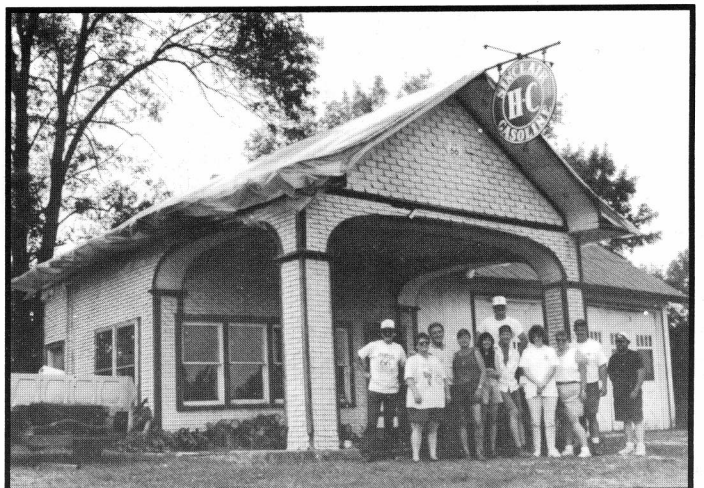
The project was successful, and with the owners' permission, the Preservation Committee donated a Route 66 shield to mount on front of the building that can be seen from the road. It took about 4 hours to get the job done.

Afterwards, the group headed south to the Old Log Cabin in Pontiac for lunch, where Frank conducted a meeting.

The Committee hopes that this effort will spur local interest in historic preservation of the station and Route 66.

For further information regarding this subject and other preservation activities, contact Frank Lozich at 708-429-9173 or John Weiss at 815-469-5219.

*The Preservation Committee, posing in front of its completed project. Notice the donated Route 66 shield they put up by the Sinclair sign.*



## A CLOSER LOOK AT TODAY'S ROUTE 66... SELDOM MENTIONED PLACES TO VISIT

(By John Weiss)

Rialto Square Theatre, Chicago Street, Joliet, Illinois. Tours of this magnificent theatre are every Tuesday at 12:45 pm for \$3.00. This is a jewel of Route 66. Built in 1926 at a cost of 2 million dollars, the Rialto is considered to be one of the most beautiful theatres in the nation with over 200 hand cut crystal chandeliers and lights. One of the largest in North America and is absolutely elegant! It is impossible to mention all that you will see. This is something that should be on your must-see list. Do the tour or call for a current list of performances at 815-726-6600.

The White Fence Farm restaurant and free museum is located on Joliet Road (Route 66) near Romeoville. (Exit 269 from I-55) Opened in the early 1920's, they served over 40,000 customers in the first 4 months. They now can serve 1,000 people at a time in 12 dining rooms. Eating here is a treat, and it is O.K. to just stop in and enjoy their museum. They have a first class display worth seeing. Also, meander out back and visit the mini animal zoo, also free. The White Fence Farm is open Tuesday through Saturday from 5 pm to 8:30 pm, and on Sunday from Noon to 7:30 pm. They are closed all of January and February.

Atlanta, Illinois. Downtown...this picturesque town has a great clock tower located at the public library building. Don't miss the excellent museum in the basement of the library. Admission is free and hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

Pioneer Settlement, Lockport, Illinois, is located 1 mile east of Route 66 on Route 7. Located on the shore of the historic Illinois and Michigan Canal, there is access year round. Many events are held in the settlement and at that time the buildings are open. The scenic area of the Illinois and Michigan Canal is a great place to just take a stroll. All of the buildings in the settlement have been moved there and are original. There is lots to see and do. For information, phone 815-838-5080.

This is merely a sample of what I hope will be a well read and used feature article. I intend to list upcoming events and places on Route 66 that I hear of. You can help by sending me your town's attractions, festivals or club events. We hope to encourage tourists and local residents to visit a Route 66 happening. Send in events to: John & Lenore Weiss, 21149 Hillside Rd., Frankfort, Illinois 60423.

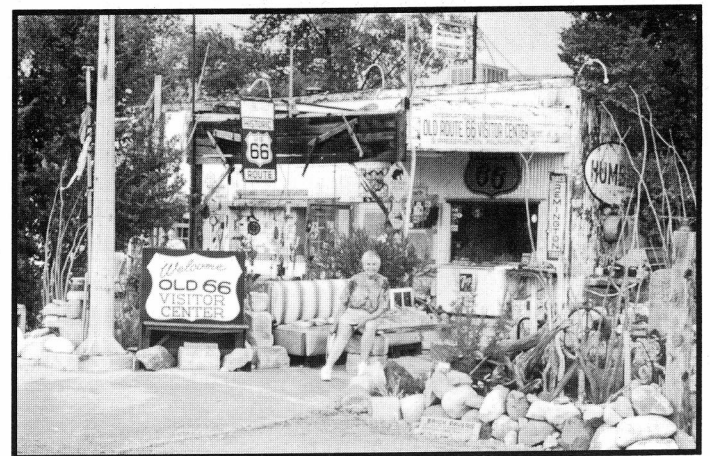
## IN OTHER NEWS...

Kmart, one of the nations largest retail giants, has been selling a large line of back to school clothing supplies, as well as some general clothing, from shirts to blue jeans, book bags, shoes, and a few other oddities. They sport a Route 66 logo on them, and most kids back in school and college are wearing these clothes and supplies.



This is #42 in the 66 postcard series to get for your collection from Bob Waldmire.

For you 66ers that are into collecting, this was the latest postcard, number 42 by our ever-famous Bob Waldmire. Stop by where you know our 66 merchandise is sold at and look for this card for your collection. Better yet, make a trip to his store in Hackberry, Arizona to get it! Here's a good photo to go by finding this well known 66 paradise along the Mother Road. It's well worth the trip. His address is: Old Route 66 Visitor Center, Box 46, Hackberry, Arizona 86411.



One of the most well known places to see in Arizona...The Old Route 66 Visitors Center in Hackberry, Arizona. Is this Bob's rumored "lady friend" we've been hearing about???

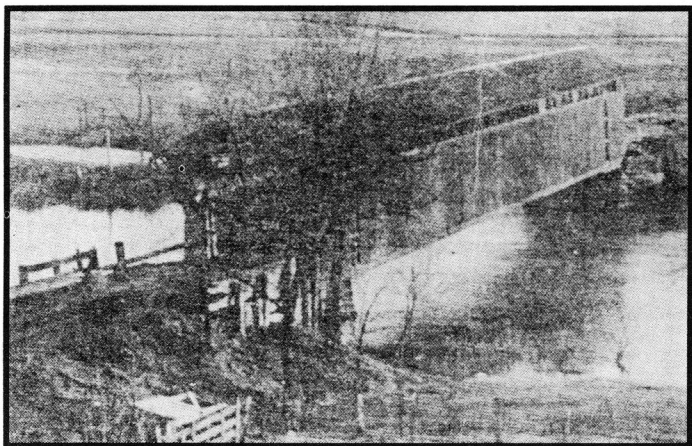
Association Member, Glaida Funk was sent a nice poem from Margie McCauley, the woman that recently



walked the entire length of Route 66..."I came across these words in my mind: I may travel many roads where the traffic may flow, but the old Mother Road is the road I choose to go."

Glaida Funk also reports on a Route 66 marker that was put up in Lexington. A state historic marker for Route 66 was dedicated at a formal ceremony adjacent to Route 66 at Main Street. Students of the Illinois History Club of Lexington High School raised around \$950 for the marker. McLean County Historical Society director Greg Koos had a speech about the importance of Route 66 to Lexington and Central Illinois. The Reverend Ed Doerner of St. Paul Lutheran Church gave the invocation. Also speaking was the Mayor Frank Feigl whom accepted the marker on behalf of the community. Tom Shields spoke about the development of the site as a park, and Illinois State Historical Society director Jon Austin also had a speech. So for you 66ers looking out, spot the marker in Lexington!!

Association Member Betty McClellan from Logan County dug up some requested research for me on some information on the original wooden covered bridge that went over Salt Creek in Lincoln, on what was known at that time as the Pontiac Trail, which later became Route 4, and then later Route 66. It was built sometime in the 19th Century, and lies beyond the gate between the Holy Cross and Union



*The old wooden covered bridge that spanned Salt Creek south of Lincoln, down old Route 4, which later became Route 66. This photo was taken in 1900.*

Cemeteries. The photo was taken by Sam Doyle in 1900. Later, it was replaced by an Iron Bridge, before it too was taken down after the 4 lane 66 by-pass was completed to the East of it. Great job, Betty! She has been in the Association since its formation in 1989, and she did a wonderful job in organizing the Annual picnic we all had this past Fall of 1996.

Association Member Ray Starks, from Grundy County gives us some info on how the 48th annual Grundy County Corn Festival, which was held on September 29 1996. There were some of our Hall Of Fame members in the parade there, which included Burt Parkinson. Pat Swisher,

his granddaughter, drove the convertible they rode in. (In my days, we called these things 'Flip Tops'.) Annabelle Parkinson and Ray Starks were also in the parade. They all had a great time in the parade, and in helping promote Route 66 in the process.

**JANUARY MEETING - JANUARY 19, 1997**  
Community Action Building - Behind American Legion-  
1740 5th Street & Old Route 66  
Meeting 11:00; Break For Noon; Back at 1:00  
Meal Served - \$5.00

## VANISHING SPECIES

*(by Randy Smith & John Weiss)*

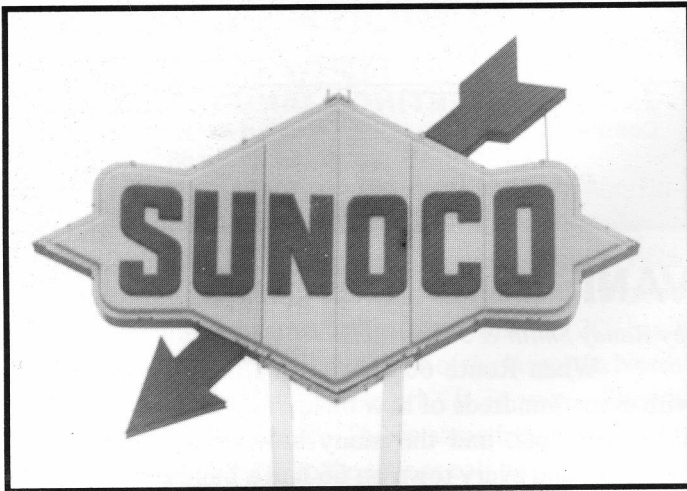
When Route 66 started in Illinois, it flourished with many hundreds of new businesses and eateries. Car dealership lots, and the many billboards. Maps were drawn up and every town on 66 had a business or service of some kind to offer the motoring public. Up sprang the



*This used to be a popular place to eat just outside of Dwight*

Drive-Ins, and every form of entertainment you can think of. After the era of the Great Depression, just about everyone on 66 was out to make a living one way or the other. Thanks to Route 66, quite a few people had a successful life of living off its business that it generated. Unfortunately, very few businesses survived in the long run. As the threat of the Interstate system started to appear in everyone's vision, a lot of businesses started to sell out before it was too late. Most of them knew that the Interstate was going to take traffic around them, and they all fought with the State and Federal D.O.T.'s to get an exit ramp put on to get people to drive off the Interstate to conduct business. Again, unfortunately there were not to be all the exits that everyone wanted. Once the Interstates were driven, and the people saw their business plummeting down the tubes, many of them closed shop. Here in this article, we will attempt to look a little back in time to see just what is starting to disappear from Route 66. Most are things that were recently closed or now missing from sight

on 66 in Illinois. This is a good set of many examples of why we all need to live up to the motto of our Association to promote, preserve, and enjoy 66. Hopefully, with some



*All the Sun Oil Co. stations pulled out of Illinois. This SUNOCO sign was down the road from BABAS II Restaurant.*

of the goals of the Preservation Committee as well as every member of the Association, we can work together to preserve what is left and to establish a better communication link to notifying one another in advance of a city or



*One of the rare Meramec Caverns signs in Pontiac. It no longer exists.*

town that may take action on demolishing or removing artifacts left on 66. All Association members are urged to check in your counties with the city hall meetings that take place and council meetings. There have been too many instances when things start to disappear and no one notices until too late! With more active involvement, we would have the opportunity to sign up petitions to present to these meetings, come up with some different ideas, or have action postponed for a hearing by the Association. Furthermore, we need more participation in the Preservation Committee and Fundraising to help deter such action.

Volunteer efforts help, too! But it doesn't all just stop there. It takes plain determination to carry out such plans. Here and there, we might be able to reverse the disappearing artifacts left on 66 and there are some new businesses popping up, and subdivision housing being built. This is what we need to do! Get people interested in building on 66 again and get business going again. It can indeed be the once successful route that it was. With that thought in mind, that is why the newsletter editor changed the word "began" to "begins" on the cover of the issues! Just like in 1926!

To get involved, call Frank Lozich, chairman of the Preservation Committee at 708 429-9173, or to check on fundraising ideas, call Tom Knudsen at 309-828-2925.



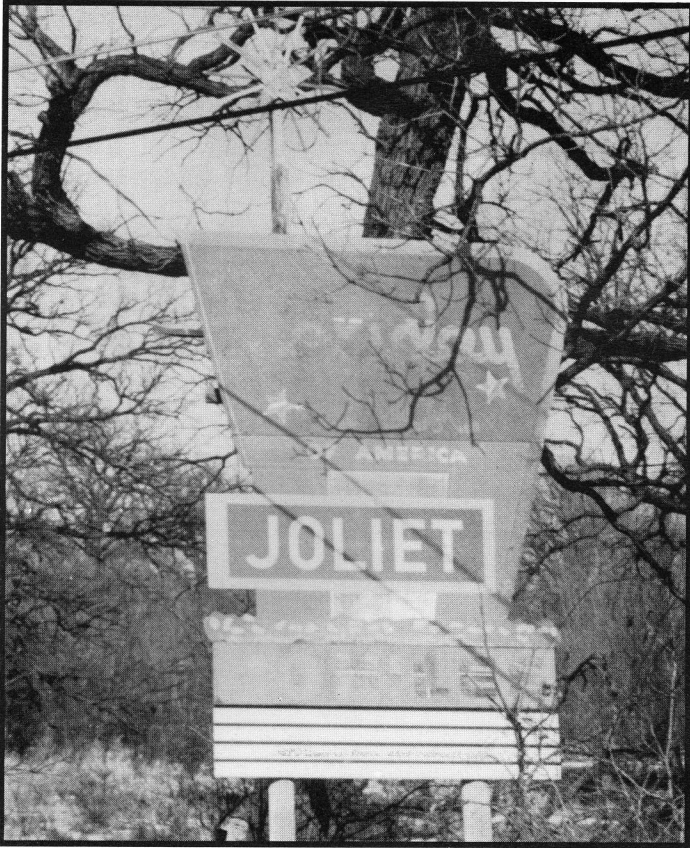
*An old Shell Station that was next door to the Roadhouse Inn. It closed too, due to lack of traffic and business.*



*Russel Soulsby's Shell Station in Mt. Olive. We are hoping to see this once famous and well known station be re-opened for a Route 66 Museum some day.*

**UPCOMING MOTOR TOUR MEETINGS**

- Sun., December 15 – 12 Noon - Mt. Hope Hall - McLean, IL
- Sun., February 16 – 12 Noon - Mt. Hope Hall - McLean, IL
- Sun., March 16 – 12 Noon - Mt. Hope Hall - McLean, IL
- Sun., May 18 – 12 Noon - Mt. Hope Hall - McLean, IL



*This Joliet sign vanished without a trace sometime after 1994.*



*An original schoolhouse in Cayuga burned down about a year ago.*



*This old Standard gas pump vanished from Lexington this year!*



*The Carefree Motel closed in Dwight sometime after 1995.*



*The Roadhouse Inn. Another once popular eating place on 66 in Illinois.*

# MISSING 66 TOWNS FOUND!!!

(by Randy Smith)

There are several 66 towns here in Illinois that were on our highway maps at one time or another. Most of them that disappeared were from the early days of 66 that faded back into time as the Interstates cut them off. Here is some spottings from three towns that I uncovered from the past. Some had to be found by foot! These three one-time 66 towns



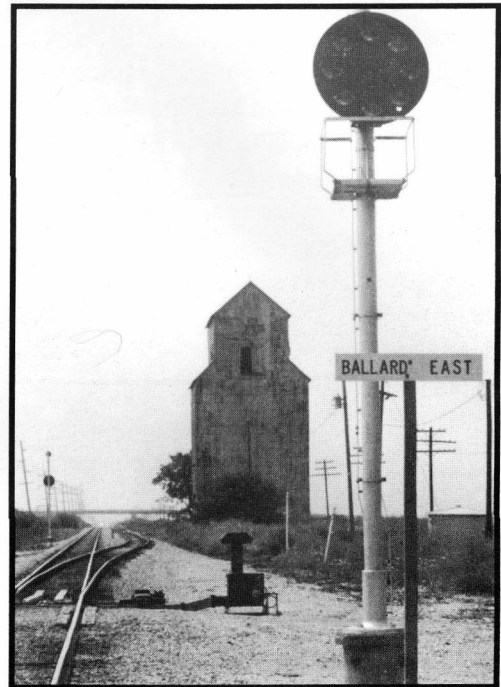
#1 The road to Ballard.

were: Ballard, which was between Chenoa and Lexington. Selbytown, which was between Williamsville and Sherman, and Thomasville, between Divernon and Farmersville.

Ballard, didn't really have a known population, since it was mainly known as one of those train stops for grain, and other produce. In this photo #2, this grain elevator should come fresh to your memory, since it is quite visible on 66 between Chenoa and Lexington. Notice the sign posted along the railroad tracks identifying Ballard. Small wonder that most of us never knew this was Ballard! One of the most



#2 At the arrow is the old grain elevator, a visible sight of Ballard.



#3 The old style railroad signals. Notice the only sign on the signal, that says Ballard East. I bet you all never seen this! Look for it on your next trip.

noted thing you see in photo #3 is the round style railroad signal. This is one of the older type that was used to signal trains coming to make a stop, which was usually within 300 feet of the signal. The grain elevator reminds you of the J.H. Hawes Grain Elevator in Atlanta, which was similarly built. It also had the same type of round railroad signal as well.



#4 Coal deposits all over this area for a mile!

This grain elevator in Ballard got its use in the early days of 66 up to about the 50's, when it was no longer used, and since, the train roared through there non-stop. So, when you're motoring out west-wards, take note of those old round railroad signals and give them a salute to their contributions to 66 by adding several once-known 66 towns to the maps.

Selbytown, was a real challenge to re-discover! This town is not visible to the eye by automobile, so it required hiking boots to track down and verify. Sure enough, that is what I did, being the adventurous type. Selbytown had a coal mine, and it also was another train stop, like Ballard was. In photo \*4, it is hard to see what it is, but sure enough it is old



#5 Small wooden plank bridge in Selbytown.



#8 The railroad signal nearby for verification of a stop for coal.



#6 A long, sturdy 120 foot wooden plank bridge I found.

coal deposits! The abandoned mine was off to the east of it, but has been long vacant and apparently filled in. As I explored the area around the mine, coal piles were quite easy to spot. A trail of it led me to the train tracks, where there was more coal piles! I started to unravel this mystery...there had to be one of those old style railroad signals nearby since it was loaded here! I checked my compass readings carefully with the old early 30's Gazette maps, and noticed I was within 2 miles of it. So, I continued my trek to the South along the tracks, and I came across an old wooden plank bridge, shown in photo\*5. It has been there longer than most of us know of! So I trot across it, thinking of the numerous horse carriages that went over it. Then I find my next objective (8), the round



#7 Looking at it to the North.



#9 The only sign you will find with Thomasville on it.

railroad signal! YES, I Exclaimed! My evidence that trains had to stop here for that load of coal which Selbytown was known for. Then, at last I found the oldest wooden bridge I've seen yet along 66 here in Illinois! Here in photos \*6 and \*7, a long 120 foot span of a beautiful wooden plank bridge...the type that Abraham Lincoln may have even went over on his trips up north! It took awhile for all this history along 66 to grip me. Most of this beauty can not be seen by automobile on 66. It must be found by foot...I wouldn't doubt that one of our 66 pioneers, Bob Waldmire, has found these relics as well! So this wraps up our discovery of Selbytown, which was right in-between Williamsville and Sherman, and by the early 40's it started disappearing from the road maps.

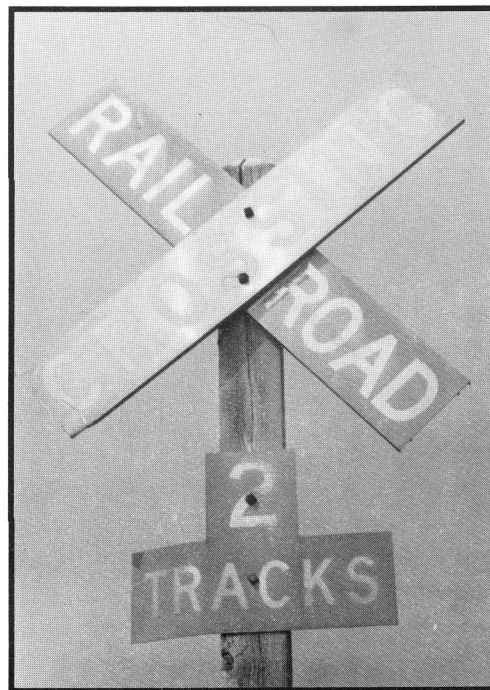


#10 The road to Thomasville.

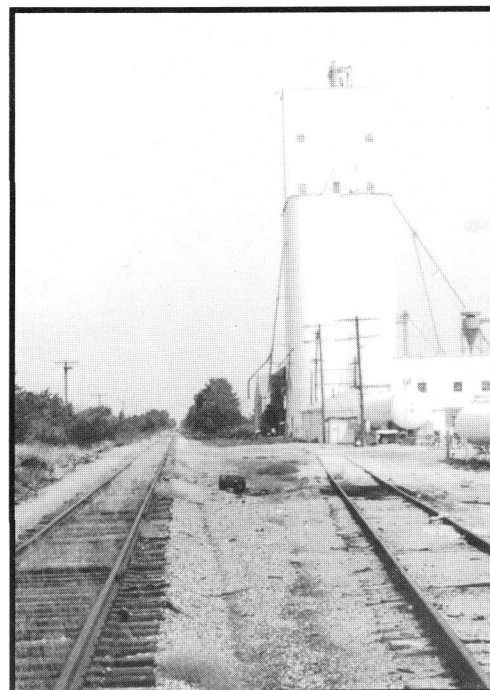
Thomasville was easy to find! You see this sign in photo \*9 off of 66, between the towns of Divernon and Farmersville. You go down this road to the west (photo \*10) and like the other forgotten 66 towns, you also see where it was also a major train stop to get corn, and just about every type of crop there was. This old railroad crossing sign is quickly vanishing, since you don't see many of them around any more. (Photo \*11) You can see where the trains stop to

load up the produce, and here in Thomasville the train stop is still used today! (Photo \*12) Makes me wonder why they took it off the old maps. Most of the area has scattered farms with a lot of acreage to farm.

This wraps up some info on our forgotten 66 towns here in Illinois. My hiking boots are sure looking pretty beat...like the ones the Beverly Hillbillies wore. Maybe for Christmas I can get Santa to stop by my chimney and get me a new pair under my 66 tree!



#11 Old wooden railroad signs.



#12 Another grain stop down yonder in Thomasville, at another elevator.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

(By Randy Smith)

After getting back from my long trip from traveling Route 66 to Texas, I still have not adjusted back to the relaxed feeling of my water bed. It sure takes some getting used to the variety of Motel beds and other primitive forms of sleeping, including straw mats, hammocks, and bus stop benches. Getting back in rhythm seems to be the order of the day, and getting some news out on Route 66. The responses I been getting since the sample issue have been overwhelming! I didn't really anticipate that, but it shows there are a lot of people out there that want to talk about 66 and share in the news, as well as the adventures. I have a trip up North planned soon up 66 to do some more of my 'foot research', and keep in step with Mother Nature. I have always been the type to explore things in a pioneer's way, so it isn't unusual to find me spending a lot of time talking to people on 66 and getting some news in the process. It's like a magnet drawing me to the location. It's a game I play with my compass...I spin the dial and it tells me if it will be North or South on 66 here in Illinois, and the next thing you know, the trip is planned with a mission in mind. I never come back empty handed. Usually, I have very successful 66 missions. Lots of friendly people and businesses on 66 that are quite helpful and eager to give you answers to your questions or directions to what you are looking for. Generally, things go smoothly and I get more news to add to my stories or satisfy my own curiosity. But as with every 66 mission I plan, there are rare times that things go sour in my quest for news on 66. Sometimes my 66 trips aren't for everyone, especially in the sense of adventure. In some of my pursuits of 66 news, I've had mean dogs chase me away at warp speed, been shot at thrice, had cops pestering me about my "suspicious activities", been stared at more than too often, and above all a hundred questions. No wonder I get back home feeling beat and exhausted. I often asked myself: At my age doing this, I must be nuts! Still the same question remains. What is my mission on 66? And the answer is...I don't know, yet! I'll be sure to let you all know if I ever find out! But I do know that I have fun, start up excitement, learn something new, meet people, and take a lot of photographs. During my trip to Texas at the Run To The Heartland activities, I shot 17 rolls of film, a total of 433 photographs covering 5 of the 8 states that 66 runs through. I never really have the time to write stories, but it seems like I get put in that position. Tell you all what...I will make this article From The Editor's Desk a regular column to keep you posted on a little of what I'm up to in-between issues, plus some 66 stories I can come up from in my memory banks. With the sample Fall issue of The 66 News out of the way, I can settle down to a really cluttered desk full of tid bits and oddities of 66 to wade through and figure out what direction to steer the newsletter into, and with a little luck possibly accomplish that task. Of

course, your feedback is crucial to doing a good job. Please do not hesitate to write me what's on your mind. You might have news I'm looking for! Don't just be a bystander...get involved! With the Fall 1996 Elections done with, hopefully we will all see even more participation in everything going on. The Museum-To-Come at the McLean Depot across from Dixie's Truck Stop, more fundraising activities, preservation meetings and projects planned, and the Motor tour for 1997. No wonder this is all starting to make my head swim! This Association is going to be getting very busy in short time. Above all, I still ask of all our members to participate in whatever way you can. Remember, if you have news going on in your 66 territories, write me a line or two. And don't forget the photos if you have any. For now, it's back to this Word Processor to do what is expected of me... running the Newsletter. Se ya all later!!!

**EDITOR'S NOTE...**Any article that is to be considered for the Spring 1997 issue needs to be submitted by January 28 1997 at the latest. You can drop them off with me at the January 19 1997 meeting, or sooner if you can mail it in.

## 66 TRIVIA

(by Randy Smith)

1. What is the oldest bridge on Illinois 66 that is open today?
2. What are the dates of the two 'Castle' shaped pumping stations that run along the Chain Of Rocks Bridge? When were they built?
3. What bridge is not accessible on the 11.2 miles of unavoidable Interstate travel in Illinois and where is it at?
4. What year did Interstate 55 start appearing along Route 66 in Illinois?
5. What year did 66 stop going the Route 4 way South of Springfield to Staunton?
6. Of all the old style concrete 66 bridges, where is the only curved one located?
7. What was the year that the Chain Of Rocks bridge closed?
8. How many known Drive-In movie theatres did Illinois 66 have?
9. In 1926 when Route 66 was born, what automobile drove on it the most?
10. Can you name another missing 66 town not on the maps?

Test your 66 I.Q. with this sample trivia. Send in your answers to the Newsletter Editor. Answers to run in the Spring 1997 issue of The 66 News.

## Route 66 Association Merchandise

**CLOTHES**--All Association clothes feature black, white and red shield by Bob Waldmire. Available in S, M, L, XL, XXL unless noted. **Add \$2 for XXL.**

Association nylon Jacket, polyester-lined	\$22.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Association Sweatshirt	\$15.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Association T-Shirt--choice of black or white	\$10.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Association Fanny pack (black)	\$ 8.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Association Cap (black)	\$ 6.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Association Embroidered patch	\$ 4.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Glow in the Dark Shield T-Shirts	\$12.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Neon 2-sided T (specify Chevy, 'Vette, Mustang or T-Bird)	\$12.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Too Kool collar	\$ 8.00 + \$1.50 p/h
New! Betty Boop Hitchhiking Route 66 T-Shirt	\$12.00 + \$1.50 p/h

### COLLECTIBLES

New! 12-oz drinking glass with Historic 66 Illinois sign, "Get My Kicks)	\$ 4.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Illinois Historic Route 66 sign, 13 x 16, just like signs the state is putting up!	\$25.00 + \$6.00 p/h
8" x 8" Illinois US 66, shield-shaped rubber car magnet	\$11.00 + \$1.50 p/h      Pair \$20.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Large Letter State Postcards by Bob Waldmire, set of 8	\$ 2.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Historic Illinois 66 refrigerator magnet (looks like new signs)	\$ 2.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Route 66 shield metal refrigerator magnet	\$ 4.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Set of 42 Bob Waldmire Postcards--scenes of 66	\$ 8.50 + \$1.00 p/h
Hall of Fame Postcards (set of 15)	\$ 3.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Route 66 ceramic salt & pepper shakers	\$ 5.00 + \$2.00 p/h
Illinois US 66 hat pins	\$ 3.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Mother Road Route 66 metal license plate frame	\$ 6.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Route 66 earrings (specify post or dangled)	\$ 5.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Reproduction sign--shield shape, full size, 16-gauge steel)	\$40.00 + \$5.00 p/h
Ceramic mug--black	\$ 5.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Pewter Route 66 belt buckle	\$10.00 + \$1.50 p/h
Prism bumper sticker--Corvette	\$ 2.00 + \$ .50 p/h
Greetings from the Mother Road! postcard book by Michael Wallis	\$ 8.95 + \$1.50 p/h
Land of Lincoln "Route 66" license plate key chain	\$ 2.00 + \$ .50 p/h

## BOOKS, MAPS, VIDEOS AND MUSIC

<i>Guide Book to the Mother Road</i> , Bob Moore & Patrick Grauwels. Great photos and mile-by-mile detail	\$17.95 + \$2.00 p/h
Missouri fold-out map of Route 66 by Jim Ross and Jerry McClanahan	\$ 3.00 + \$1.50 p/h
<b>It's Here!</b> Full set of eight state maps by Ross & McClanahan	\$20.00 + \$3.00 p/h
Bob Waldmire map--10 pages, plus 6-page legend	\$ 5.00 + \$ .50 p/h
<b>New! 2nd edition</b> <i>Searching for 66</i> by Tom Teague	\$14.00 + \$1.50 p/h
<i>Route 66--The Mother Road</i> by Michael Wallis, paperback	\$19.95 + \$2.00 p/h
<i>Route 66 Roadside Companion</i> by Tom Snyder	\$10.95 + \$1.50 p/h
<i>A Guidebook to Highway 66</i> by Jack Rittenhouse (reprint of '46)	\$ 7.95 + \$1.50 p/h
<i>Route 66: The Highway and Its People</i> by Quinta Scott and Susan Kelly. Large format paperback	\$19.95 + \$2.00 p/h
Main Street series by Susan Kirby: <i>Lemonade Days, Home for Christmas, Home Front Hero &amp; Good Bye, Desert Rose.</i> Paperback	\$ 3.50 + \$1.50 p/h each
"A Journey Down Route 66," 90-minute video narrated by Michael Wallis	\$19.98 + \$2.50 p/h
"Route 66: An American Odyssey" video (formerly Route 66, The Video Road Trip) featuring famous 66-ers	\$24.95 + \$2.50 p/h
<i>Route 66 Cookbook</i> by Marian Clark (folklore & recipes)	\$24.95 + \$2.00 p/h
<i>Route 66 Fun Book</i> (for kids of all ages)	\$ 3.50 + \$1.00 p/h
<b>New!</b> <i>The Mother Road</i> audiotope, Michael Wallis	\$17.95 + \$2.00 p/h
"Route 66" music album by David Williams	\$15.00 + \$1.50 p/h for CD      \$10.00 + \$1.50 p/h for cassette
<i>"The Feeling of Jazz"</i> by Bobby Troup	\$12.00 + \$2.00 p/h CD only
<b>New!</b> <i>"The Songs of Route 66,"</i> by David Sanger et al	\$10.00 + \$1.50 p/h cassette

### Clearance Sale! Price Cuts!

Fuzzy Dice with Illinois U.S. 66 shield	\$ 3.00 + \$1.00 p/h
Two-in-One beverage holder	\$ 1.00 + \$1.00 p/h

Send orders to:  
**Merchandise**

**Route 66 Association of Illinois**  
**2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166**  
**Springfield, IL 62704**

Illinois residents please add 8 percent sales tax!

*Accept no imitations or limitations! All product purchases benefit the Association!*



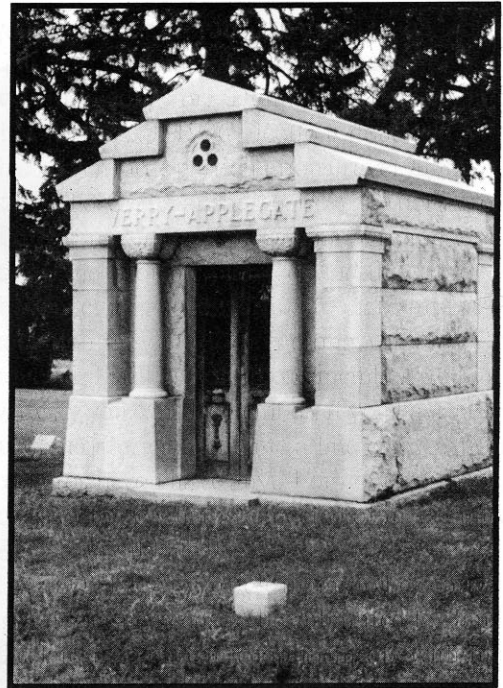
# 66 TALES FROM THE CRYPT

(by Randy Smith)

Route 66 has some of the most oldest known cemeteries and crypts. We stop at some of them to see what history has to show. Most of them honor our war veterans from the 18th Century on up to today. Pictured here is a sampling of some unique stones and crypts plus mausoleums we spotted while cruising down the Mother Road here in Illinois...



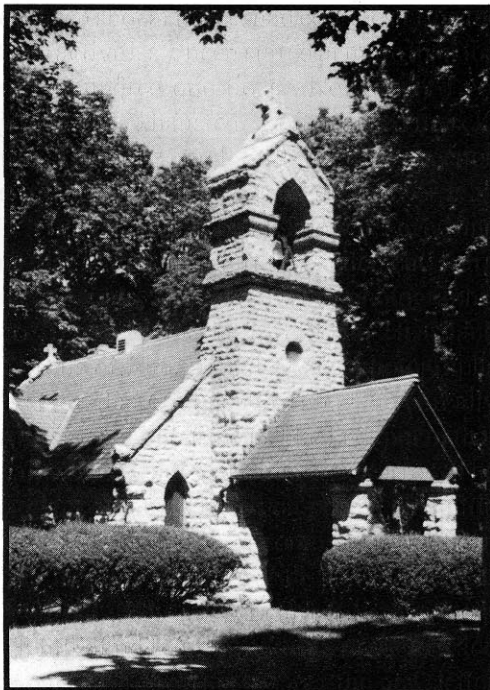
*One of the Crypts in the Union Cemetery at Lincoln.*



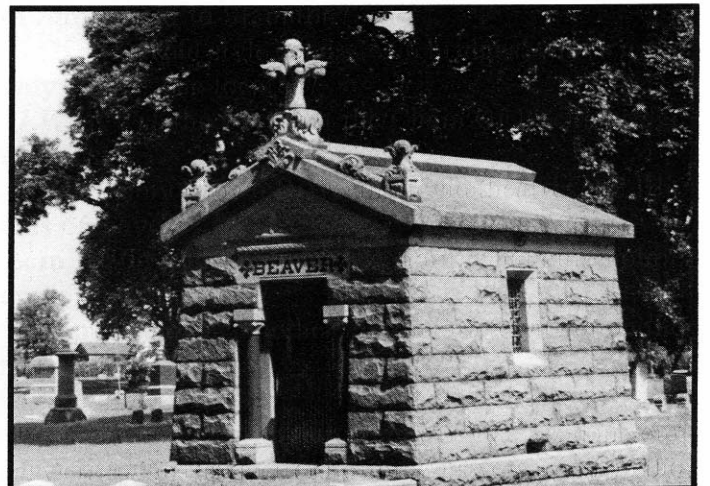
*A third Crypt at Union Cemetery.*



*A Crypt in Elkhart, in the Nina Lemira Gillett Memorial Gate.*



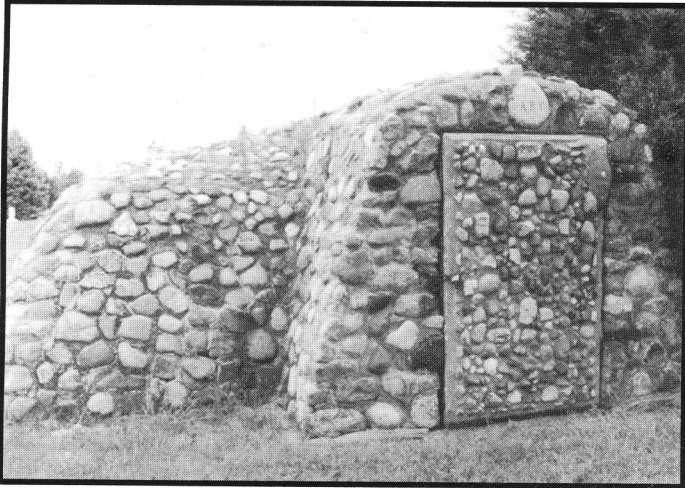
*An old stone church at the cemetery in Elkhart.*



*Another Crypt in the Union Cemetery.*

*(more crypts on next page)*

## Crypts continued



*A most unusual hand built stone Crypt in Atlanta.*



*A tree stump shaped stone found in the Odell cemetery.*



*The Mother Jones Monument in the Union Miners Cemetery in Mt. Olive.*



*In the Funk's Grove Cemetery, lies a very unusual act of nature...a tree grows right through one of the Funk stones, an American Legion veteran.*



*This cemetery in Lexington is one of the oldest, which has many of our war veterans from the War Of 1812. The old stones were laid flat on the ground, which usually stand up. It was a very tiny cemetery, but well kept for its age. It is called the Scrogin Cemetery on old old 66, on Memory Lane!*

## SPEAKING IN PLATES...

I received some rather cool plates that has been spotted down the Mother Road here lately. It's also about time that Tom Teague size up to his competition for his Kix On 66 plate. Here are two prime examples sent in by Dave Kinkel from Route 66 Accessories. One is from a 1957 Pontiac from Sandusky, Ohio. The other one is from Author Jim Ross (of The Map Series) off his 1979 Corvette, from Oklahoma.

Association member Marie Jibben sent me a list of nearly 50 plates she spotted, too numerous to list. So far, Marie has spotted the most plates since this article started some time ago by Paul Melchert from Tinley Park.

So for all you 66ers out there motoring down the Mother Road, KEEP your eyes open for these fun loving 66 plates that speak for themselves! Send them in to the Newsletter Editor and we'll keep a sampling of plates going as a regular column.



The Union Miners Cemetery in Mt. Olive.



Plate off a 1957 Pontiac from Ohio.



Plate spotted at Dwight. It IS the Route 66 Plate!



Plate off a 1979 Corvette from Oklahoma.

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### ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

INTEREST IN 66 \_\_\_\_\_

HOW I CAN HELP \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES:** Individual-\$10, Family-\$15, Business-\$25, Sustaining-\$100 or more.

**TO:** Membership, Route 66 Association, 2743 Veterans Pkwy., Springfield, IL 62704

## MORE FROM THE FRONT FEATURE PHOTO!

This unique and original Phillips 66 gas station is surely one of the oldest known anywhere on Route 66 today. Matter of fact, it got moved from its original location on 66 to another location. I spotted it on my way to the Run To The Heartland activities in Landergin, Texas. Can you guess what state this was in? Long ago, it once sat on the dirt road that was later to become 66, and paved with portland cement. The motoring public catered to this station, and seen its fair share of the Model T's and all other automobiles in the days before 66 came down its path. The starter wasn't an item at this time, yet, but soon came along shortly after. It has been moved from its location off Route 66 and re-located to another spot just off 66 to be safeguarded. Beautifully restored from the inside out, no wonder my curiosity peaked out when I drove by and seen the fella holding the sign reading 19¢. At today's gas prices, I couldn't resist the urge to fill up with Ethyl! Even the out-house had a fresh roll on the spool! Yeah, I said to myself...this surely was the way Route 66 used to be like, indeed. So for all you serious 66ers, tell me where this gem is. (Out of curiosity, I wonder if Bill Shea ever sold gas for 19¢ a gallon)



**Route 66 Association of Illinois  
2743 Veterans Parkway, Suite 166  
Springfield, Illinois 62704**

## NAME THAT 66 SPOT!

This rather old and weathered sign along 66 here in Illinois has been in its place since around 1949. I walked by it out of curiosity, and sure enough my shoes blew off my feet, leaving my pant legs rolled up and my socks down! I wasn't about to test MY tires out at this spot. So put your 66 thinking caps on and test your 66 I.Q. Write to the Newsletter Editor to submit your answer! Answer to be announced in the Spring 1997 issue of The 66 News.



**BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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PERMIT NO. 17  
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61754**