ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE 66 NEWS

OUR SPRING 1997 NEWSLETTER

"ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS."
Officers and Board Members

The officers and board members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois 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

Vice President
Frank Lozich, 10-98
7270 W. 174th Place
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-429-9173

Treasurer
Mike Yates, 10-98
421 Brookcrest Drive
Washington, IL 61571
309-444-9301

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

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

Newsletter Editor
Randy Smith
116 Canterbury Court
East Peoria, IL 61611
309-699-2228

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

Andi Hari, DuPage, 10-98
1785 Turnbridge Court
Montgomery, IL 60538
708-892-2914

Duke Cartwright, Will, 10-97
407 Pasadena Avenue
Crest Hill, IL 60453
815-726-3574

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

John Stonecipher, Livingston, 10-98
216 E. Prairie Street
Odell, IL 60460
815-998-2161

C.J. Beeler, McLean, 10-98
2 Canterbury Court
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-663-5807

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

Don Cutler, Sangamon, 10-98
2200 Yale Boulevard
Springfield, IL 62703
217-544-1963

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

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

Linda Henry, Madison, 10-98
Old Rt. 66 and Madison Avenue
Staunton, IL 62088
618-637-2886

Debbie Mileur, St. Clair, 10-98
410 N. Monroe
Litchfield, IL 62056
217-324-5551

5 At-Large Positions
Bill Przybylski, 10-98
24156 S. Kings Road
Crete, IL 60417
708-672-7937

Jeff Meyer, 10-97
2802 Freemont Street
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
847-392-0860

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

Lenore Weiss, 10-98
21149 Hillside
Frankfort, IL 60423
815-469-5219

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

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

Internal Publication Information

The 66 News is published quarterly by the Route 66 Association of Illinois around the first of March, June, September & 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. ANY ARTICLE WITH A BY-LINE IS COPYRIGHTED BY THE AUTHOR, AND MAY NOT BE USED IN ANY FORM WITHOUT THE AUTHOR'S EXPRESSED PERMISSION. 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 1st-class camera ready copy only. NO XEROXES! All stories & ads must be submitted 6 weeks prior to publication. Address inquiries & contributions to Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, Illinois 62704.
Upcoming Board-General Meeting Dates...

Feddersen’s Pizza Garage on Old 66 in Dwight.

Our next Association meeting will be on April 20 1997 in Dwight, at Feddersen’s Pizza Garage, Old Route 66, Dwight, IL 60420 in the Conference Room in back. The Board meeting will start at 11:00 am with a break for lunch at Noon. Then on to the General meeting at 1:00 p.m. They feature a great buffet for $6 per person, or you can order from their menu. Both meetings are open to all members and the general public who wish to attend. Future meeting dates are: July 20, 1997, in Litchfield, and October 19, 1997, in Bloomington. Locations to be announced later in the upcoming Summer 1997 Newsletter.

Minutes from January 19, 1997 Meeting

by Marilyn Pritchard

Our last meeting, held at the Community Action Building in Lincoln, brought in about 35 members, with 18 of them being Board Members. The temperatures and snow played its role in it being a smaller meeting than usual.

Secretary’s minutes were received in the mail and Treasurer Mike Yates presented a balance sheet, which detailed the profit and loss statement.

Our membership chairperson, Priscilla Mathews, sent $2,625.00 to the Treasurer for new and renewal memberships, including several new sustaining members.

Newsletter Editor Randy Smith mentioned setting a budget figure for doing a 16-page newsletter to fit a cost of around $1,350 per issue, considering it meets approval by the Association Board Members. He also mentioned going to an all new layout design at a reduced cost. This example is included in this Spring 1997 issue.

A motion was made by Jeff LaFollette and seconded by John Weiss that membership dues be changed to $15, Business Members to $30, and Sustaining Members to $200. This will still have to be approved by the By-Law Committee.

The Association extended their sympathy to Ken Usherwood for the loss of his Mother.

As for the General Meeting, a delicious lunch was served by Thressia Usherwood of Lincoln, and some other volunteers.

Priscilla Mathews gave a report on the Route 66 Visitor Center-Beeler Building (the McLean Depot Building). Their Committee met in November of 1996 with eight members present. The Committee is checking into insurance coverage and cost. They would like all Association members to get involved in soliciting funds and donations to help defray costs for this project to operate for one year.

Dorothy Seratt gave a report on the Preservation Committee, when they last met September of 1996. That was another work day at the Standard-Sinclair gas station in Odell. Dorothy Seratt, Gretchen Staats, and Terri Ryburn-LaMonte are compiling paperwork for getting the entire stretch of Illinois Route 66 on the National Register of Historic Places. This project is important, and consumes a lot of time to do, and well worth it!

A motion was made by Ray Starks that Board-General Meetings be held on the third Sunday of each quarter and changes would be made accordingly to holidays. This was seconded by Rich Henry. This will need to be approved by the By-Law Committee.

Our 1997 annual picnic will be held September 6 at the Miller Park-Zoo in Bloomington at 12:00 noon, which is on a Saturday. Drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats will be furnished by the Association.

Tom Teague mentioned having the Hall of Fame Committee meeting the first week in March.

Upcoming Motor Tour Dates...

All Motor Tour meetings will be held at the Mt. Hope Hall in McLean, Illinois. Upcoming meetings will be on Sunday, March 16, 1997, and Sunday May 18, 1997, at 12 Noon. Please eat before you come. These meetings are also open to all members who wish to attend. Make note that the Motor Tour itself will run from Friday, June 6, 1997 through Sunday, June 8 1997.
Welcome To Our New Members!

By Priscilla Mathews

Since our Winter 1996 Newsletter, another 39 new members have joined the Route 66 Association of Illinois. We are glad to have you all with us in our quest to preserve, promote, and enjoy Route 66! Here listed are our new members, and a warm welcome from us all for your show of support for the Mother Road!

Individual Memberships:
John Valus of Henry • Gregory Redfern of Romeoville • C.M. Hood of Bethel-Connecticut • Nancy Placko of Palatine • James C. Kostka of Palatine • John Wylder of Springfield • Warren Stull of Farrell-Pennsylvania • Gregory Bresley of Mundelein • Marjorie Yates Smith of Edwardsville • Warren Sievers of Roselle • Matt McClure of Schaumburg • Glenn Rygel of Roselle • Jim Robinson of Rock Island • Don Farris of Lombard • Jeffrey Arnesen of Wood Dale • Joseph Gregor of Naperville • Elaine Dow of Lombard • William Hubbard of Aurora • George Bowen of Schaumburg • James Gustafson of Wilmington • Clarke Ingram of Rochester-New York • Thomas W. Petrie of Hinsdale • Charles Kestler of Oakbrook Terrace • Rod Griffis of Sycamore.

Family Memberships:
Lorrie Fleming & Robert Walker of Anmore-British Columbia-Canada • Jim & Louis Gilbert of St. Louis-Missouri • Jim & Judy Otis of Arlington Heights • Andrew & Melissa Girard of Romeoville • Duane & Florence Stevenson of St. Charles • Larry Fleagle of Romeoville • Billy Burns of Chicago • Dean & June Ammon of Collinsville • Gary & Susan Mitchell of Philadelphia-Pennsylvania • Jim & Mackie Quinn of Burbank • Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hassakis of Charleston • Jack & Edie Burns of Villa Park • Ed & Jean Melbourn of Oak Forest.

Sustaining Members:
William Rufus Patterson Jr. of Springfield • Doris Schuster of Tirschenreuth-Germany.

Trivia Answers, from the Winter 1996 issue

by Randy Smith

1. What is the oldest bridge on Illinois 66 that is open today? The McKinley Bridge built in 1910.

2. What are the dates of the two “Castle” shaped pumping stations that run along the Chain of Rocks Bridge? When were they built? 1891 and 1910. See photos in the “Chain of Rocks Bridge” story this issue.

3. What bridge is not accessible on the 11.2 miles of unavoidable Interstate travel in Illinois and where is it at? The S.B.I. Rt. 126 Bridge, between Glenarm and Divernon. Built in 1949.


5. What year did 66 stop going the Route 4 way South of Springfield to Staunton? In 1935, it by-passed the Route 4 way, going from Glenarm down to Mt. Olive.

6. Of all the old style concrete 66 bridges, where is the only curved one located? The only curved concrete 66 Bridge is in Wilmington (see photo below).

7. What was the year that the Chain of Rocks bridge closed? In 1968, with the completion of I-270 to the North.

8. How many known Drive-In movie theaters did Illinois 66 have? There were 5 known 66 Drive-Ins here in Illinois. Can you remember them all? 1. Route 66 Drive-In at Countryside 2. The Phil Kron Drive-In at Bloomington 3. 66 Drive-In at Springfield near the Cozy Dog 4. Sky View Drive-In at Litchfield 5. Bel Aire Drive-In (the only twin board) at Mitchell

9. In 1926 when Route 66 was born, what automobile drove on it the most? The Ford Model T, and the second was the Chevrolet.

10. Can you name another missing 66 town not on the maps? Birds – it was between Plainfield and Bolgget. Not too many serious 66 map collectors can find a map with this town on it!
In Other News...

One of our well known Association Members, Glaida Funk, reported some more interesting news...this time from the U.S. Postal Service! There is currently a nomination in the Citizen’s Stamp Advisory Committee for a Route 66 stamp, and is under consideration as a proposal. The Committee will review the proposal and make subject and design recommendations to the Postmaster General.

New stamps are generally announced about 6 months prior to the year in which the stamp will be issued. It could be a few years down the road if this happens, but will be a great seller to the Association Members! I sure would be one of the first to stock up on these stamps if they come out! (Editor)

Also, Glaida is looking up an interesting picture from Sweden, which has a Route 66 Cafe! Soon as I get this we will get it in the Newsletter. Should be interesting to see! Keep up the good work, Glaida. She has been very outstanding in this Association, so let’s give her a big hand next time we see her. Same for Steve, and of course Susan.

Another Association Member, Terri LaMonte, has been very active with her activities in Europe this past year. She has been in just about every Country over there, with a lot of active 66 fans! There’s as much interest in Route 66 going on overseas than most of us realize. During the months of January and February, 1997, Terri and Bill will be traveling 66 to continue researching and writing in order to meet her deadline for turning in her dissertation, to earn her Doctorate’s Degree. Yes, we just might have our first “Doctor 66” before too long! Keep up the good work, Terri!

Our well known artist, Bob Waldmire, wrote to mention some more of his artistic postcards that he is working on, called “66 Dispatch #4.” He’ll send me some to put in our Newsletter when they come out, about anytime now. Bob also did a great sketch of the Chain of Rocks Bridge for the Route 66 Magazine (which I wished I had for our newsletter). One of these days we’ll get that Hubble Space Telescope adjusted to zero in on his drafting table and we’ll have up-to-date satellite coverage from Bob!

At Large Members John & Lenore Weiss were involved with a High School in New Lenox, that had a theme “Get Your Kicks On Route 66”, which was attended by over 500 people, and they had the opportunity to pass out around 300 of our Illinois 66 Brochures there to interested people in Route 66.

Furthermore, they were on radio WBIG 1280 AM for 45 minutes to do a talk show about Route 66 in Illinois. Good to hear this duo get some 66 advertising out for the Association. Membership participation pays!

Another of our well known Association Members, Shellee Graham, wrote to mention of her well known Route 66 Exhibit being set up in Fullerton, California at the Fullerton Museum Center. It will be there ‘till March 16, 1997. This display has been improved, and has been viewed by over 12,000 people in each place it has been. Shellee Graham is from Missouri, and is also an Association Member from Missouri as well. She has been very supportive of Route 66 and shares the same enthusiasm as most of us does. We’ll keep you posted on where her exhibit will be at later. Hope to see it again at Chicago sometime! I enjoyed this exhibit and endorse it to anyone interested in a historic display of the Mother Road, as well as the curious passer-bys. Keep up the good work, Shellee!

Here is the responses of the Name That 66 Spot, from our Winter 1996 issue of The 66 News...the winner goes to Jeffrey Boylan from Jeffersonville, Indiana. He correctly identified the “Danger: Your Tires Will Be Blown” sign as being located at the Sky View Drive-In at Litchfield, Illinois. Jeff says, “I spotted the sign three years ago on my first 66 photo tour through Illinois. The spikes are gone now, but I’ll bet they impaled the tires of more than a few autos that tried to sneak in without paying over the years.” Good eyes, Jeff. I guess our out-of-state Members are sometimes more active than some of us realize! We do indeed have a very large amount of Members from out-of-state that support the Illinois Route 66 Association, so a salute goes out to you all!

And the first mention of where that antique Phillips 66 Station was, that was featured on our cover of the Winter 1996 issue came from an anonymous caller on the “blower” whom never left a name. The person did mention the correct location of that 66 station, but as for in writing with a name, credit goes to another out-of-state member Kenneth Paslay from Ozawkie, Kansas. He correctly identified the original station as being moved to the Red Oak II village, just upon entering Carthage, Missouri, off to the North about one mile from its original location on Route 66. Ken mentions, “This is a great stop when touring Route 66.” Good job, Kenny! One of these days we’ll have a Coke and a Burger somewhere next time I cruise through 66 in Kansas! (Editor)

There will be another Motor Tour coming through Illinois after our own Motor Tour, which is June 6, 7, and 8th of 1997. That Tour is the Mother Road Ride/Rally Motorcycle Tour, which consists of motorcyclists that gather from either end of the Route and drive through to wherever their destination may be on Route 66. For more information on this Tour, contact HHJ&M, Inc., 2024 Heatherbrook Dr., Grapevine, Texas 76051, Phone: 1-800-859-5817. Information compliments of Kirk Woodward. Dates for this tour is June 14-19, 1997.

We’ll keep you all posted on what’s going on as news comes in through this column!
The Chain of Rocks Bridge
by Randy Smith

So many tales have been told about the Chain of Rocks bridge that you could just about write a book on it by now. Just about every major magazine by now ran a story or two on it, so it's about time that we ran one to inform our own Association of what is known about it, including what I remembered of it in its heyday.

I was always confused about it. That cursed "bend" in the middle bothered me the most. I can remember in the mid 60's how we went across it and here came one of those Snortin' Nortin' semi trucks coming around it like he owned the road. I remembered how Dad would slam on the brakes and nearly cause a chain reaction, and try to back up in reverse and get a few others behind him to do the same. Reminded me of the Drive Ins. You couldn't go into the bend together or else! I don't know how many times I think about it like a dream that hangs on. Of course the answer is Route 66. Where else do these things seem to happen? So here goes a story on it and maybe I can get some sleep later....

In the early days of transportation, the one thing we all lacked was a good set of hard roads. And second to that were some good, sturdy bridges to get us out of the confines of our own cities. So here in Illinois, to get out of this state, you looked west to Missouri. In 1926 when 66 was on the drawing boards, it went down through East St. Louis over I believe the old Eads Bridge, which is closed. There were not that many bridges but two or three to get you over to St. Louis. The traffic jams through there was a story in itself for you who remember these times. So shortly after Route 66 was born, it became quite obvious that there had to be an immediate solution to this traffic congestion that stuck us all like a sore thumb. So behold, the Chain of Rocks bridge came onto the drawing board, and got erected in 1929, just three years after the birth of 66.

Originally, it was slated to be a four lane bridge, but instead got made into a two laner. During its construction, the engineers on the Missouri side were in such a hurry to get their half of the bridge done that they never planned ahead of what they were doing. Never did they imagine they would wind up going out in the middle of the river to find out there was no solid rock bed to continue building out to Illinois. That put our engineers in Illinois on the spot to solve this expensive problem and make a go of the project after all. No one wanted to think of going back to that traffic nightmare in St. Louis.

So as it turns out, our engineers went a few hundred feet to the north to find solid rock bed that went out to where the half finished bridge sat. The problem at least had a happy ending, that it did indeed get completed, but not without a catch. It left a sharp bend, about 45 to 60 degrees in the middle. It didn't seem to be a problem until the semi trucks were allowed to go on it. Then the problems came to light. Traffic from the other direction had to stop, and in some cases back up to allow those big rigs to pass through. But however, it seemed to be a small price to pay for that inconvenience compared to turning around to get through the traffic jams in St. Louis. So the purpose of the Chain of Rocks bridge was to be a bypass way around the downtown part of the city to ease the congestion, but at a cost as well.

They put up a Toll Booth on the Missouri side of the river and charged 35¢ to cross it, since the city of Madison, Illinois bought the bridge from the Chain of Rocks-Kinghighway Bridge Co., sometime around 1939. It was bought for a figure over 2 million dollars. It seemed to be a money making opportunity as well as pay for upkeep. So by around 1951, the city of Madison treated all its citizens with a token they would surely remember...their property taxes were eliminated! The toll from the bridge was enough to run the city, nearly! This about created an exodus to the area to people interested in affordable living, especially with NO property taxes! This was the time to cash in on the freebies.

That situation lasted awhile, until other communities started whining about the free rides that Madison seem to have over ownership of that bridge. So enough other communities got together to sue them through the U.S. Attorney's office. By 1966, legal action was taken through the U.S. Attorney, stopping the town of Madison from collecting any more tolls since the bridge bonds were paid off, upkeep met, and nothing but a money machine left pumping out green like picking it off a tree. Sure enough the town of Madison fought off this challenge, but quickly lost the battle. The free rides was about to end.

So, one year later, in 1967, the new interstate I-270 was completed and traffic barreled down this faster lane, and eventually left the Chain of Rocks bridge at a stand-still, with barely 100 cars a day crossing it. Then, the town of Madison seen it started to need maintenance again, and realized without the toll, and with the new I-270 open, there
This project is widely endorsed by many other connections and with a little luck, it just might again get re-opened to cross it legally. For those of you interested in some information, write to Gateway Trailnet, Inc., 7185 Manchester Rd., St. Louis, Missouri 63143. Phone 314-644-0315 or by E-Mail: trailnet88@aol.com You can help support this mammoth project by donations, or other help. Give them a call today! This is one of the largest structures here in Illinois on 66, and also an important part of our 66 history. I hope to see our Motor Tour be arranged sometime to go by it, better yet arrange a tour one of these days, since there are a lot of vintage motels and other artifacts on the Chain of Rocks Road.

continued on page 8

This is the view from the Illinois side, upon entering the bridge. The beauty of nature wraps itself around it, like buried treasure.

was not going to be funds enough to keep it open much longer. They wasted no time closing it in 1968. They once considered scrapping it, but at a cost of nearly a million dollars to do so was out of the question. So it sat abandoned for a while.

By 1973, it was at one time up for sale if you wanted to buy it! The price tag...half a million dollars. To my surprise, NO one bought it! I felt sorry for the town of Madison then. Stuck paying property taxes for it sitting there vacant, costing them money. All this hassle because of the new Interstate systems, cutting the little guys out!

So it sat, dead it seemed, until 1981 a movie company decided to use it to make the movie Escape From New York, starring Kurt Russell. I wouldn’t be surprised if they paid Madison a nice tip for its use, probably enough to keep paying the taxes for it sitting. But the movie was a hit, and today is still watched on video and cable. It was the grand finale of the movie to use the bridge for the daring escape scene, which was about 5 to 8 minutes of it. It gave Route 66 more exposure later when people knew that the bridge used for that movie. When the movie people were done, then up went the fences and razor wire to keep people off the bridge since it wasn’t intended to be used again.

I always considered the Chain of Rocks bridge to be Illinois property, which it was for the most part. More footage of the 1.1 mile bridge rests in our boundaries than it does in Missouri. But after all these years of being closed, there just might be a happy ending for it after all.

Currently, a non-profit organization named Gateway Trailnet, Inc. based in St. Louis, Missouri, are trying to raise funds to preserve the bridge as a park and biking-hiking trail. It may include plans to put up a tall fence on both sides of the bridge to keep crossers safe from not falling over its sides.

This is the cute white pumping station and is the oldest when you notice the 1891 date below the fence, and it was the first built.

The second pumping station. Notice the Roman Numerals below the fence. It reads 1913, and is the closest to the bridge.

The Preservation Committee, wrapping up a study of the bridge from the Missouri side, in the Fall of 1995. In the group are: your Newsletter Editor Randy Smith, Frank and Roxie Lozich, Jeff and Annette LaFollette, and Tim Palm. It was quite a scenic journey that we will surely remember on Route 66!
A side view look towards Missouri, from the right side, looking west.

This important stretch of 66 has a lot of vintage treasures to see in form of old motels, gas stations, diners, and tourist cabins. As your Newsletter Editor, I been occasionally forming small groups of interested parties to stroll over the entire length of the bridge and to answer questions about it as well as 66. Most people really enjoyed this scenic stroll and recommend it to others interested in Illinois 66 history. Should your curiosity peak out enough, write me a line sometime and maybe we can get more people interested in our 66 history to view this structure up close, or some other stretches of the road that often get passed up by people in a hurry. Its time to get out of the fast lane and back into the slower, more paced form of life we once known! It won't be long before the entire stretch of Illinois 66 get put on the National Register of Historic Places, and believe me, there will be a lot of people out there getting their kicks again!

Route 66 Association of Illinois
Depot Museum
McLean, Illinois
GIANTS in the Road
By Ole Rolvaag

The Launching Pad Drive-In’s Gemini Giant in Wilmington is one of the best known landmarks along Illinois’ part of Route 66. A beefy boy at 20 feet tall and 500 pounds, the Giant was manufactured by International Fiberglass Company in Venice, California. When his home restaurant opened around 1960, it took the name “Launching Pad” to honor the country’s just-announced quest to land a man on the moon. No one remembers where the giant came from and what he did before settling in Wilmington. Some say he was a lumberjack. Others say he sold tires. After a few years of wondering, people just gave up and let him be. After all, he’s shown up for work faithfully every day for 35 years. What more can we ask?

What many folks also don’t know is that the Gemini Giant has not one, but two nearly identical brothers at work on Illinois’ part of 66. One stands in front of the Bunyon Drive-In on Ogden Avenue in Cicero. But instead of wearing a helmet and bright green spacesuit like the Gemini Giant, this one’s bare-headed and is wearing jeans and a “flannel” shirt. And unlike his scientific brother, who holds a rocket ship in his outstretched hands, this one holds a hot dog that would satisfy a giant’s appetite.

On Wabash Avenue in Springfield, Route 66’s first path through that city, there stands yet a third giant. He wears a “knit” cap and, unlike the others, sports a beard. And because he works for Lauterbach Tire and Auto Supply, he’s holding a tire instead of a rocket ship or food. He’s been with Lauterbach’s since about 1978, but it’s only his second job on 66. For 18 years before that, he beckoned travelers into the Round-Up Cafe in Farmersville. But when that restaurant went under after the interstate bypassed it, he had to move on.

I invite Route 66 fans who spot similar-looking giants along the road to take pictures and send reports to my friend, Tom Teague, at 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, IL 62704. Who knows, maybe they are actually brothers, given up for adoption at birth by parents who couldn’t afford their food bills. Perhaps someday we could sponsor a reunion!

Name that 66 Spot!
This well-known sign (pictured left) on 66 here in Illinois has guided us safely on our way down the Mother Road for a long time. Matter of fact, it is the only one left standing when all others have disappeared. Not only do I ask you all to tell me where this is, but also tell me what business this represented in its day.

And, for another mind teaser, guess where this News-Stand is on 66. It is a new business that has been there for about 2-3 years now. It should be easy to find.

Write your answers to the Newsletter Editor. My address is on page 2. I’ll print your names in the Summer issue of The 66 News when I get the answers in. By the next issue, I’ll put in a real mind-bender! So as you travel, KEEP your eyes out for hidden 66 treasure that is all over up and down the Mother Road here in Illinois, on Route 66!
February, 1997

Dear Association Members:

I am writing to request your financial assistance in helping the Association open a first class Route 66 attraction at the old rail depot north of the Dixie Truckers Home in McLean, Illinois. You have probably read about the depot in our last two newsletters. Its owners, the Beeler family, have offered us a five-year lease on it for $1 a year. At the Association's October, 1996 meeting, the Association's board accepted the Beeler's offer. A committee appointed at that same meeting has since developed the following objectives for the depot:

Welcome Route 66 travelers
Answer their questions
Provide information about the road in Illinois
Promote other Route 66 attractions in this state
Display historical and cultural artifacts of the road
Sponsor events and activities related to Route 66
Sell a line of quality Route 66 merchandise to help support the depot and, as possible, other programs of the Association

We hope to open the depot in August, 1997. It will join a rapidly growing number of museums and related new attractions in other states along 66. With all the traffic that comes to the Dixie and the gas station across the street, we're sure it could draw thousands of visitors a year—and keep Illinois in the forefront of Route 66. But we are, in effect, getting a new business off the ground. Start-up expenses for the depot will include signs, interior paint, display development, office furnishings and an initial merchandise inventory. Recurring expenses the first year will include insurance, utilities, maintenance, more merchandise, phone service, promotion, and general supplies. The depot committee has planned as conservatively as possible, but still estimates we will need $20,000 to get the depot started and see it through its first critical year of operation. After that, we expect the depot to be self-supporting or even profit-making.

But until then, we need your help. Please consider the value of the opportunity that the depot represents and donate as generously to its success as you can. I personally am writing a check for $100. Whatever you choose to give, I assure you it will be appreciated and put to good use. Just send your contribution to Depot, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, IL 62704. If you want to donate or loan a Route 66 memento or artifact for display at the depot, please call me directly at 309-828-2925,

Thank you,

[Signature]

Thomas A. Knudsen
President

"ILLINOIS — WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."
Seldom Mentioned Places To Visit On Route 66

By John D. Weiss

Let’s dispel a myth. Route 66 is not dead! It is now being run by different folks. Stop in and meet them.

There are many people, places, and things to see and do on today’s Route 66.

Here are two more very worthwhile stops along the highway. They are fun for you and the whole family:

Isle A La Cache Museum
501 East Romeo Road
Romeoville, IL 60441
Phone: 815-886-1467

Take Route 53 (66) to the stop lights at Romeo Rd. Go east 1/2 mile. This is a very modern, free museum. It is dedicated to the French-Indian fur trade area. A stop here in the summer is a treat. Beautiful grounds, trails along the river, picnic areas, canoe launch, and more. Inside, the displays are wonderful. Very upscale, not dusty or boring. You and your family will enjoy this adventure. Open all year.

Beich Candy Factory
(A Nestle Company)
2501 Beich Road
Bloomington, IL
Phone: 309-829-1031

The easiest way to find it is to leave I-55 at the Shirley exit. Go north on the Frontage Road off I-55. (The Frontage Rd. is Route 66)

This is another family attraction. Free 40-minute tours complete with free samples. A retail outlet is also available, but only on Saturdays. Tours are available from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday.

Both of these stops are free, fun, and educational family adventures. They represent just a sampling of what’s happening on the new Route 66.

Make the Historic Route 66 of Illinois a part of your vacation plans this year. If you need help, call me at 815-469-5219.

Last Minute Updates...

by various Association Members

Logan County Board Member Paul Gleason had a chance to go to Washington D.C. to the Presidential Inauguration. While he was there, I hope he checked into what happened to the original two signs from Chicago by Grant Park that said End of 66, and the shield that went with it (Editor)! They were taken down sometime in the mid 70's.

Glaida and Steve Funk reports one of our 1995 Hall of Fame Members, Delmar Benedict, passed away February 1, 1997. The Association extends all its sympathy on our loss, as well as to his wife Linney. A memorial service was held in Normal at the Weslyan University on March 2, 1997 at the Evelyn Chapel. Glaida and Steve are also working on a 66 story and news from Sweden, which we hope to get in the Newsletter later this year.

John Weiss received a letter from the Mayor of Odell regarding the Standard-Sinclair gas station in Odell. At the time of this writing, the officials of the village of Odell have voted on implementing the project of restoring the historic station. They are currently taking all steps necessary to save this 66 structure and turn it into a historic site.

And from Bob Waldmire out of Arizona comes the report of the 10th Annual Route 66 Fun Run Weekend to be held April 25, 26, and 27th this Spring! It starts off Friday in Seligman, Arizona and on Saturday runs from there to Kingman. Sunday, it goes from Kingman to Topock. It is sponsored by the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona. Martin Milner, of the Route 66 TV series of the early 60's will be there. This is a huge event that attracts many thousands of 66 fans all across the nation.

Bob Waldmire also reports (like Tom Teague has) on the death of Jerry Richard, founder of the Arizona 66 Association. Jerry led the way for their state in keeping 66 alive. Bob tells us they will keep the 66 dream alive for him in his absence.

Speaking In Plates...

The plate spotting in this issue goes to Rich Henry, one of our Association members from Staunton. He presented me with this "optical illusion" plate that certainly fooled me. I missed the Q in it instead of an O, off of a Volkswagen. Good job, Rich! I'll make a note to get my next eye exam sooner.

Another Association member, Richard Curtis, from Des Plaines sent in a plate off an old 1968 Mustang. It sports the OLRTE 66 plate, to mean Old Route 66. Also, member Marie Jibben from Peoria spotted a few cute ones, like: DISCO 66, SMILE 66, and CME ON 66. I encourage you all to carry a camera on your trips and join the fun in finding these fun loving 66 plates that speak for themselves. Make it your turn to get it into The 66 News!
From the Editor’s Desk...
by Randy Smith

Here it’s going to be Spring soon, and another busy year on Route 66 it’s going to be! I can smell it, for sure! The Motor Tour is not too far off, and so are the plans of everyone involved in 66. The McLean Depot 66 Museum, and Preservation Committee projects as well. Not to speak of the numerous events in just about every 66 town, too! I have been mulling over several odd research tasks of my own that will take time to research into a few good stories of 66. It’s also exciting keeping in touch with you all on missions of your own. That’s what makes the news go around these days.

Let the Mother Road be your destiny, as well as your desire to enjoy the scenic side of Illinois in the process. As many times as I traveled the road, one thing continues to hang on to me. And that’s the feeling of being somewhere I feel that I belong. I can feel the road in my system every time. You could blindfold me, drive me on to 66, and I can just feel that I’m on 66! It must be a habit of some kind, silly as it sounds, but quite true. Guess I’ll blame it on the old man.

He sure took me on 66 all the time when we visited relatives in Granite City, or headed up to Chicago to look through the museums. I always got a thrill going up to the top of the Sears Tower and looking down at the beginning of 66 near Grant Park. If only they were able to hoist that Hubble Space Telescope up there, I could surely see Santa Monica in California! But with the eye, 66 fades from my view over 2000 miles away, like a beacon.

No wonder this great road helped tie America together. It had a purpose, and it was well served. It was the birth certificate of what was yet to come in its day. All the towns that sprang up, and became a dot on the map with a name. All the businesses that came and went. It used to be that you sat down for a good home style cooked meal at all the diners, but most people now-a-days seem to be in a hurry, and you see them speed through the fast food joints in 59 seconds or less. Too fast for me! Not to speak of the taste of some of that 59 second food. It’s OK for Fast Freddy, but not for me!

I’m going to take my sweet time on Route 66, and enjoy that home-cooked food, and patronize with the business people on it and share with them that 66 spirit. That is what life was supposed to be, so we thought. Oh well, no point in dwelling on the past too long. It’s time now to look forward to a relaxing time of driving 66, and looking out for news! Even after 70 years of the Mother Road, there is still something to see and do on 66. Legends don’t die, and neither will 66! I hope you all will share in my enthusiasm and look forward yourself to a fun and relaxing year here in Illinois on Route 66. And don’t forget your Kodaks! Get them pictures! Look for something exciting going on and write a story on it!

Don’t think for a moment that you’re wasting your time...make it worthwhile. Drop me a line, and we’ll get it in the news. Remember...it is your duty as well to 66 that we keep the way of life going that it was meant to be. Be a part of that effort...whether it be in Fund Raising, Preservation, or enjoyment of 66. Call an Officer or a Board Member today to see what you can do to help, or if you’re out to set higher goals for yourself, then go for a position yourself at the upcoming Elections 97 in October and show us your potential!

It’s good to get all the help we can get in keeping this the best Association of them all, as it continues to grow with more goals in mind all the time. There is something going on all the time here in Illinois on 66, so I challenge you all to compete for NEWS! Let’s also help make this the best Newsletter of them all, as well. It is YOU that makes this all happen. Watch out for Hall of Fame candidates as well. There are a lot of nice 66 people that need to be recognized, and I hope this is another great year to do so. By the next issue, I’ll be up to my neck in 66 news, so keep my mailbox stuffed for me, OK? See ya all on 66!!

---

Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip Code: __________
County: __________________________
Phone: (h) __________________________ (w) __________________________
Interests in Route 66: __________________________________________
How I Can Help: __________________________________________

Annual Dues
Individual $10
Family $15
Business $25
Sustaining $100 or more

Please mail to:
Membership
Route 66 Association
2743 Veterans Parkway
Springfield, IL 62704

Spring 1997 The 66 News! Page 12
**Route 66 Association Merchandise Order Form**

**Clothes**

- Association nylon Jacket, polyester-lined $23.50
- Association Sweatshirt $16.50
- Association T-shirt (circle choice: black or white) $11.00
- Association Fanny Pack (black) $9.00
- Association Cap (black) $7.50
- Association Embroidered Patch $4.50
- Glow-in-the-Dark Shield T-Shirt $13.50
- Neon 2-sided T-Shirt (circle choice: Chevy, Vette, Mustang, or T-Bird) $13.50
- Too Kool Collar $9.50
- New! Betty Boop Hitchhiking Route 66 T-Shirt $13.50

**Collectibles**

- New! 12-oz drinking glass with Historic 66 Illinois Sign and slogan "Get My Kicks" $5.50
- Ceramic mug (black) $6.50
- Route 66 shield metal refrigerator magnet $4.50
- Historic Illinois 66 refrigerator magnet (looks like new signs) $2.50
- Route 66 ceramic salt and pepper shakers $7.00
- Illinois Historic Route 66 sign, 13" x 16" (just like the signs the state is putting up!) $31.00
- Reproduction Route 66 shield sign (full-size, 16-gauge steel) $45.00
- Prism Bumper Sticker – Corvette $2.50
- 8" x 8" Illinois US 66 shield-shaped rubber car magnet for one: $12.50 for a set of two: $21.50

**Postcards**

- Large Letter State Postcards by Bob Waldmire (set of 8) $3.00
- "Scenes of 66" Postcards by Bob Waldmire (set of 42) $9.50
- Hall of Fame Postcards (set of 15) $4.00
- "Greetings from the Mother Road!" Postcard Book by Michael Wallis $10.45

**Maps**

- It's Here! Full set of eight state maps by Jim Ross and Jerry McClanahan $23.00
- Missouri fold-out map of Route 66 by Ross and McClanahan $4.50
- Map by Bob Waldmire – 10 pages plus 6-page legend $5.50

**Books**

- Guidebook to the Mother Road by Bob Moore and Patrick Grauwels (great photos and mile-by-mile detail) $19.95
- New 2nd Edition! Searching for 66 by Tom Teague $15.50
- Route 66 – The Mother Road by Michael Wallis (paperback) $21.95
- Route 66 Roadside Companion by Tom Snyder $12.45
- Route 66: The Highway and Its People by Quinta Scott and Susan Kelly (large format paperback) $21.95

**Main Street Series by Susan Kirby (paperback) $5.00 each Circle choice(s): Lemonade Days, Home for Christmas, Home Front Hero, and Good-bye, Desert Rose
- Route 66 Cookbook by Marian Clark (folklore and recipes) $26.95
- Route 66 Fun Book (for kids of all ages!) $4.50

**Videos**

- A Journey Down Route 66 narrated by Michael Wallis (90-minute video) $22.48
- Route 66: An American Odyssey Video (formerly Route 66: The Video Road Trip) featuring famous 66-ers $27.45

**Cassettes/CDs**

- New! The Mother Road Audiotape narrated by Michael Wallis $19.95
- New! The Songs of Route 66 by David Sanger et al (cassette only) $11.50
- Route 66 Music Album by David Williams Cassette: $11.50 CD: $16.50
- The Feeling of Jazz by Bobby Troup (CD only) $14.00

**Clearance Sale! Price Cuts!**

- Fuzzy Dice with Illinois US 66 shield $4.00
- Two-in-one beverage holder $2.00

---

**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!
- Make checks payable to Route 66 Association of Illinois
- PLEASE NOTE: All prices include postage and handling.

---

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

Spring 1997 The 66 News! Page 13
News from the 1997 Motor Tour
by Marilyn Pritchard

The 1997 8th Annual Motor Tour, planned by the Route 66 Association of Illinois continues to build up steam! The Motor Tour Committee has been meeting every month to iron out the numerous plans for this huge event. There has been many members participating in this joint effort, which is sure to attract over a thousand people from various points along 66 in Illinois. The Committee put out a tremendous amount of volunteer effort to get this job done!

Marilyn sends out this note:

Hello, Route 66 Enthusiast! Spring is just around the corner. The Route 66 Association of Illinois is making final plans for the 1997 Motor Tour. This year, the Tour starts in Chicago and ends at Edwardsville during June 6, 7, and 8th 1997. The Association would joyfully welcome you as one of our sponsors. Any gifts or financial help with the following items would be greatly appreciated: Business Ad in Passport Souvenir Book, gifts to be put in Goody Bags, Business Ad on side of Goody Bags, and any monetary assistance for special license plates, flags, and other miscellaneous things.

Rich Henry mentioned after the Motor Tour, on Monday, June 9, 1997, that the Chain of Rock Bridge will be open to foot traffic. More information on this can be obtained by calling Rich Henry at 217-324-5551 or at 618-637-2886.

There are changes from time to time on the Motor Tour news. For those wanting the latest update in plans, call Tom Knudsen at 309-828-2925 or Marilyn Pritchard at 815-844 6937. Next meeting will be May 18, at 12 noon, Mt. Hope Hall in McLean.

---

8TH ANNUAL ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MOTOR TOUR

COME JOIN THE FUN ON 1997 TOUR

CHICAGO TO EDWARDSVILLE

JUNE 6 THROUGH 8, 1997

YOU'LL HAVE FUN AT:

PRE TOUR PARTY FRIDAY P.M. AT SKYLIGHT WEST (BERWYN)

DEPART SATURDAY MORNING FROM GRANT PARK (CHICAGO)
FIRST STOP—WHITE FENCE FARM (ROMEOVILLE)
MINI STOP—POLKA-DOT RESTAURANT (BRAIDWOOD)
LUNCH STOP IN (ODELL)
RT.66 HISTORIC DISPLAY IN (LEXINGTON)
VISIT RT.66 HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM (DIXIE) (McLEAN)
BANQUET & HALL OF FAME CEREMONY (LINCOLN)
BUFFET BREAKFAST (AMERICAN LEGION) (LINCOLN)
MINI STOP (WILLIAMSVILLE)
VIEW LINCOLN TOMB—MEMORIALS (SPRINGFIELD)
PUNKIE'S PALACE
LUNCH STOP (LITCHFIELD)
MINI STOP (MT.OLIVE)
DOWNTOWN CELEBRATION (EDWARDSVILLE)

GET YOUR PASSPORT STAMPED AT EACH OF DESIGNATED STOPS
1997 MOTOR TOUR REGISTRATION FORM
8TH ANNUAL ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MOTOR TOUR
Chicago to Edwardsville
JUNE 6 THROUGH 8, 1997

Registration Fee: $25.00 for Members per car $30.00 for Non-Members per car

Name ____________________________ Phone __________________

Address __________________________ State ________________ Zip ____________

City ____________________________

Where do you plan on joining the Motor Tour? ____________________________

Number of persons ____ planning on attending the Hall of Fame Banquet Saturday
P.M. at the Lincoln Community Center; $10.00 per person PRE PAID __________

AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR MOTOR TOUR REGISTRATION AND PRE PAID BANQUET TICKETS _____

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS. PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION.

RAIN OR SHINE - SORRY NO REFUNDS

------------------------------ CLIP AND SEND ------------------------------

Mail to: Motor Tour  For Further Tom Knudsen (309)828-2925
Route 66 Association of IL Info or 2743 Veterans Parkway
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Contact: Marilyn Pritchard (815)844-6937

SUGGESTIONS OF LOCAL MOTELS IN AREA (Register Early)

WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS, STATE YOU ARE WITH THE ROUTE 66 MOTOR TOUR.

FRIDAY NIGHT (Willowbrook) (Reservations must be made by May 15th.)

Red Roof Inns  Budgetel Inn  Fairfield Inn
Willowbrook, IL  Willowbrook, IL  Willowbrook, IL
(708)323-8811  (708)654-0077  (708)789-6300
$69.99 Plus Tax  $48.95 Plus Tax  $59.95 Plus Tax
20 Rooms Blocked  30 Rooms Blocked  20 Rooms Blocked

SATURDAY NIGHT (Lincoln)

Lincoln Country Inn  Super 8, Lincoln  Comfort Inn, Lincoln
1750 W. 5th. St., Lincoln  2809 Woodlawn Rd.  2811 Woodlawn Rd.
(217)732-9641  (217)732-8886  (217)735-3960
$28.99 for one  $59.00 for two  Cost ????
$38.95 for two  30 Rooms Blocked  40 Rooms Blocked

Holiday Inn Express,  Days Inn,
Lincoln  Lincoln
130 Olson Drive  2100 N. Kickapoo
(217)735-5800  (217)735-1202
$49.00 Room Rate  $45.00 & Up
60 Rooms Blocked

SUNDAY NIGHT (Edwardsville)

Comfort Inn  Ramada Limited  Best Western Camelot
3080 South State Route 157  5105 Hwy. 111  1240 E. Chain Of Rocks Rd.
Edwardsville, IL  (1/2 mile South of I-270)  (Historic 66) at Hwy.111
(618)656-4900  Pontoon Beach, IL. 62040  Mitchell, IL. 62040
1-618-797-2727 1-618-931-2262

Spring 1997 The 66 News! Page 15
Westwards on 66...
By Randy Smith

One of the most must-see spots to stop at on 66 is in our neighbor State of Missouri. It is the Antique Toy Museum, run by Bruce Barnes and his wife Lorraine. It is located on 66 next to the road leading to Meramec Caverns, off exit 230. Here is a classic example of a relaxing trip back in time when we were once kids. Here, you can re-live your younger days again by viewing over many thousands of toys collected from a span of 100 years. The collection is worth over 1/2 million dollars, and is well worth stopping in to see! Even our very own, Bob Waldmire, has spent time in this store-display to study this fine collection of goodies. Myself, I found four model semi-trailers of the Snortin North 66 Cambell's Express trucks with the 66 Camel on them! Sure, I wanted one! This store has something for everyone, and also has a gift shop to browse through when you're done. I have made it a habit to stop by here several times each year to visit, which they are open generally from March to November during warm weather. This business is directly on 66, instead of being off 66 like so many other tourist spots are.

I asked Bruce about his business on 66 and how he likes it. He once planned on putting his collection at Branson, but land there was too expensive, so he settled for where he's at and has been there about 10 years or more. There is also a 1948 Mack Truck with only 40,000 actual miles on it, and some other semis as well. He enjoys the people that stop in while driving by on 66. Hospitality there is the best! So for all of you 66ers that are going west, I strongly encourage you to stop in and visit this Toy Museum, and enjoy your visit there while traveling 66!

Coming in the Summer 1997 Issue...
→ The Hall of Fame Nominees for 1997 → A Story on the Sky View Drive-In at Litchfield
→ Traveling 66 in Illinois → News from the Preservation Committee
→ Plans for the McLean Depot 66 Museum

Watch your mailboxes in June 1997 for YOUR issue of The 66 News!!!
ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS
THE 66 NEWS
OUR SUMMER 1997 NEWSLETTER

“ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS.”
Officer and Board Members

The officers and board members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois 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

**Vice President**
Frank Lozich, 10-98
7270 W. 174th Place
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-429-9173

**Treasurer**
Mike Yates, 10-98
P.O. Box 250
Washington, IL 61571
309-444-9301

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

**Board Members**
George Leone, Cook, 10-97
3725 W. 152nd Street
Midlothian, IL 60445
708-388-7360

Andi Hari, DuPage, 10-98
1785 Tunbridge Court
Montgomery, IL 60538
630-892-2914

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

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

John Stonecipher, Livingston, 10-98
216 E. Prairie Street
Odell, IL 60460
815-998-2161

C.J. Beeler, McLean, 10-98
2 Canterbury Court
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-874-2832

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

Don Cutler, Sangamon, 10-98
2200 Yale Boulevard
Springfield, IL 62703
217-554-1963

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

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

Linda Henry, Madison, 10-98
Old Rt. 66 and Madison Avenue
Staunton, IL 62088
618-637-2886

Debbie Miler, St. Clair, 10-98
410 N. Monroe
Litchfield, IL 62056
217-324-5551

**5 At-Large Positions**
Bill Przybylski, 10-98
24156 S. Kings Road
Crete, IL 60417
708-672-7937

Jeff Meyer, 10-97
2802 Fremont Street
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
847-392-0860

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

Lenore Weiss, 10-98
21149 Hillside
Frankfort, IL 60423
815-469-5219

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

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

Internal Publication Information

The **66 News** is published quarterly by the Route 66 Association of Illinois around the first of March, June, September & 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. ANY ARTICLE WITH A BY-LINE IS COPYRIGHTED BY THE AUTHOR, AND MAY NOT BE USED IN ANY FORM WITHOUT THE AUTHOR’S EXPRESSED PERMISSION. 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 1st-class camera ready copy only. NO XEROXES! All stories & ads must be submitted 6 weeks prior to publication. Address inquiries & contributions to Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

Summer 1997 The **66 News** Page 2
Minutes From Our April 20, 1997 Meeting
by Marilyn Pritchard

The Association Meeting was held at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight, with 60 members and guests. Twenty one present were Officers and Board Members.

Secretary’s minutes were received in the mail; there were no corrections so they stand as received.

Our membership chairperson, Priscilla Mathews, sent $2,255.00 to Treasurer Mike Yates for new and renewal membership, which included several Sustaining Memberships.

Merchandise Chairman, Jeff Meyer, reported new merchandise has been ordered for the Motor Tour and help is needed to sell merchandise on the Tour.

Priscilla Mathews passed out new copies of the By-Laws. The motion that was made at the January meeting was the favorable vote of 14 to 3. After November 1 1997, the General Membership will be $15., Business Membership at $30., and Sustaining Memberships at $200.

Tom Teague presented Depot Museum report; Plans are to have the Museum open by August 1 1997. The committee has a general plan for the Museum...volunteers and donations. They have received $5,171.00 in donations up to this date. Other Memorabilia donations consist of the following: Original Route 66 Cambell Express hat, Antique Route 66 motorcycle license, Sangamon County milk bottle, Library Rack by John & Lenore Weiss, and interior & exterior paint plus a completely restored Gas Pump by Bill Shea.

Frank Lozich reported on the Preservation Committee. Many attended the Dedication Ceremony for the 1860 Historic Building which will be used as National Headquarters for the Lincoln Highway at Franklin Grove.

John Weiss reported four Association Members met with the owner’s daughter of the Odell Station, discussing the matter of preserving the structure. The mayor of Odell, Village Board, and the Lions Club have showed much interest.

The city of Berwyn has promoted the Highway 66 by special signs, which can be viewed on the 1997 Motor Tour.

Priscilla Mathews made a motion that Tom Teague, Tom Knudsen, and Randy Smith prepare some guidelines for the Newsletter. This was seconded by Andi Hari. All Members were in favor.

In six weeks our 1997 Motor Tour will be traveling down the Mother Road. Dash Plaques have arrived. Tom Teague, the Hall Of Fame Chairman, announced the four Hall Of Fame nominees to be inducted Saturday evening, June 7 are as follows...Reverend “Shug” Benton of Bloomington, J. Richard Jones Garage of Odell, Albert Cassens Transport Co. of Edwardsville, and Ralph Hays of Divernon. The Committee is planning the Ceremony at the Lincoln Banquet.

Elaine Dow, 111 South Lodge of Lombard (60148) who is observing her 66th birthday, is planning to ride her bicycle on Route 66 for 66 miles. She plans to start in the Joliet area and travel South. Any one interested in riding with her may contact her at 630-620-8339.

Tom Teague reported the Soulsby Gas Station is on hold at the present time.

Marilyn Pritchard announced five achievements of the Lexington History & English High School Class have done. They won 5 Blue Ribbons at Regional History Fair at Charleston, with their Route 66 Exhibits. They recently displayed their Exhibits of Route 66 at the Lexington Senior Citizen Potluck with 125 people attending. They will advance to the State Competition on May 14. Following the Potluck, a panel of 5 discussed Old Route 66. The panel consisted of Elmo Page, Arline Winterland, Chester Henry, Terri Ryburn LaMonte, and Durell Pritchard.

Debbie Miler and Vada Cartwright are planning a slate for the 1997 Elections of Officers, which will be held October 19 in Bloomington.

Next Two Board-General Meetings

Our next upcoming Board-General meeting of The Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be held in Litchfield, Sunday, July 20 1997 at Hombrey's Southwest Cantina located on South Old Route 66 in Litchfield. There will be a Mexican-American Buffet costing $7.95 with includes dessert plus tax, tip, and beverage.

The fall meeting for the Association will be Sunday, October 19 1997 at the Country Buffet in the College Hills Mall in Normal, Illinois. This is also our Annual Election Meeting. We will be meeting in their private dining room. The Board Meeting will start at 11:00 am, and stop at Noon. We'll eat from their buffet. Our Annual Elections will start at 1:00 pm. Watch for directions on getting to the Country Buffet, at the College Hills Mall in Normal in our Fall 1997 Newsletter. If you have any questions before then, feel free to call Tom Knudsen at 309-828-2925.

---

**IN THIS ISSUE**

News from the Route 66 Depot Museum.......................... 4
In Other News/Speaking in Plates .................................. 6
Rt. 66 Hall of Fame Welcomes Four New Members .......... 8
S.O.S – Save Odell Station............................................. 10
Preservation Committee Report .................................... 11
Frisina Sky View Drive In............................................. 13
Seldom Mentioned Places/Association Picnic.................... 14
Summer Events on 66................................................... 16

**Coming in the Next Issue...**

Finally, your Editor gets his Traveling 66 In Illinois story out, a look into what’s in store for us at the McLean Depot Museum opening soon, an article on the missing 66 town called Birds, a wrap-up of how the Motor Tour went, plus other adventures our Association Members had this fun summer of 66-ing!

Stay tuned to your next issue of The 66 News!!!
Welcome To Our New Members!
By Priscilla Mathews

Since our Winter 1996 Newsletter, 24 individuals, 20 families, and 3 sustaining members have joined the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. We are glad to have you all with us in our quest to preserve, promote, and enjoy Route 66! Here listed are our new members, and a warm welcome from us all for your show of support for the Mother Road!

Individual Memberships:
David Bickford, Los Molinos, CA • John Craig, Godfrey • Louis Decompo, St. Catherine’s, Ontario, Canada • Barbara Domagala, Romeoville • Edward Friese, Arlington Heights • Mary J. Hadley, Bartlett • Stephen Krask, Burbank • LaVirra Lehman, Palatine • Sharon Leone, Midlothian • Ellen Lydigsen, Dwight • James Lydigsen, Selah, WA • Laura Meyer, Rolling Meadows • Jerold Montgomery, Libertyville • Greg Paradowsicz, Mt. Prospect • Nardi Prate, Carpentersville • Roxane Renaud-Lozich, Tinley Park • Tim Rigby, Cedar Point • Donald Ryba, Chicago • Vinaya Sharma, Hinsdale • Stuart Sullivan, West Chicago • Mike Traverse, New Hampton, NY • Kevin Weaver, North Aurora • Lenore Weiss, Frankfort • Mary Frances Woolsley, Porter, IN

Family Memberships
Dean and Betty Benton, Bloomington • Donald and Dolores Castell, Hoffman Estates • Earl, Gloria, Erica, and Corbenn Claus, Cissna Park • H. John Dargishire, West Lafayette, IN • John and Susan Dunphy, Godfrey • Donald R. Glass, Jr., Lorain, OH • James and Earlene Hamilton, Lockport • Donald and Patricia Hayward, Jr., Downers Grove • Norman and Jill Hunt, Bethalto • Edward and Adelle Johnson, Norridge • Ken and Louise Kryger, Sr., South Elgin • Richard and Elaine Ray, Lincoln • Richard and Caroline Rogier, Glen Carbon • Ray, Shelia, and Tyler Rueck, Onarga • Bud and Linda Shank, Port Townsend, WA • Rick and Carol Sheffler, Wheeling • Mike and Suzanne Stenger, Monmouth • William and Miriam Wallace, Palos Hills • Steve and Lu Wegmet, Jacksonville, TX • Eddy Wiles, Damascus, MD

Sustaining Members:
Ronald Hodel, Momence • Polk-A-Dot Drive-In, Braidwood • George Van Hooser, Edwardsville

Name That 66 Spot!
by Randy Smith

As I mentioned in the last issue, I would put in a tough find that would certainly take more than the actual detective work to name where this very popular Route 66 Restaurant is. It does a booming business, that has fed uncounted thousands of hungry travelers. A small hint...it would take more than your imagination to find it! Send in your responses to the Newsletter Editor. We'll print your name as the winner in the Fall issue of The 66 News!

News From The Route 66 Depot Museum
by Tom Teague

The Association’s Route 66 Depot Museum in McLean is on track to open by August 1 of this year. The effort is being steered by our Depot Committee, but the participation and interest of Route 66 fans elsewhere is welcome.

The depot project began last October when the Board Of Directors accepted the Beeler Family’s offer to lease the century-old building to the Association for $1 a year. Some worthy preservation efforts are underway in Illinois, including the Sinclair/Standard station in Odell and the Soulsby station in Mount Olive. The Sky Light Restaurant in Berwyn and the Cozy Drive In in Springfield both have museum-like displays. Hall Of Famer Bill Shea of Springfield has turned his former gas station into a museum. And Association member Rich Henry has some interesting sights planned for his Old Route 66 Visitor Center in Staunton.

The Association welcomes and encourages such enterprise, but it believes that the depot museum in McLean offers the greatest opportunity of all. With the Dixie Truckers Home and Funk’s Grove nearby, this location probably draws more Route 66 visitors than any other part of the road in Illinois. We expect that it will become not only a first class museum, but also a great hospitality center for Route 66 fans from around the world.

At the depot museum, the Association will welcome Route 66 travelers, answer their questions, provide information about the road in Illinois, and have a museum display. It will be open from about 9 am to 4 pm Wednesday through Sunday, until the end of October.

In the beginning, volunteers will staff the depot, although the committee hasn’t ruled out the possibility of hiring a paid employee or manager. Because the depot will essentially operate as a small business, the committee may also retain a financial service or manager.

A donation drive led by Association President Tom Knudsen has netted more than $5,000 so far. In addition, the Association may “donate” T-shirts and other merchandise from its general inventory to help the depot get started.

After that, the committee and the board expect the facility to be self-supporting. Most of its income will come from the sale of high quality line of souvenirs and Route 66 memorabilia at the depot itself.

Donations of cash or memorabilia for the museum will always be welcome. So will volunteers. Interested? Contact Tom Knudsen, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, Illinois 62704.
Museum Depot Donation List
as of April, 1997
by Tom Knudsen

The following is a list of donors to the Route 66 Association Of Illinois Depot Museum in McLean, Illinois. Many thanks to each and every one of you all for your support!

Ken and Susan Arnold, Garner, IL
Sam and Leah Ayers, Northfield, OH
David Babb, Belvidere, IL
Dr. Thomas Blaieke, Peotone, IL
Wayne Brels, Schaumburg, IL
Ted and Kathryn Buchman, Burrington, IL
Peter and Jean Buenziger, Niagara Falls, NY
Hurst Burn, Berlin, Germany
Marian Clark, Tulsa, OK
Al Conraadt, Aurora, IL
Fred Cook, Murphysboro, IL
Tom and Bernadette Cooney, Chicago, IL
Alkun and Susan Cranton, Elgin, IL
Don and Verna Cutler, Springfield, IL
Andrew Ducay Sr, Woodale, IL
Ron and Sandra Edlund, Muskegon, IL
Horace and Loretta Farris, Lombard, IL
First National Bank of Dwight, Dwight, IL
Tom and Gloria Flasch, Naperville, IL
Alice, Fontana Chicago, IL
Harold and Dorothy Ghering, Moro, IL
Michael and Marilyn Gorman, Mokena, IL
Shelley Graham, Bridgeton, MO
Art and Peggy Gregg, Bloomington, IL
William and Barbara Gwodz, Downers Grove, IL
George and Lois Hager, Dwight, IL
Harvey and Adella Hodges, Champaign, IL
Kenneth Howard, Dwight, IL
Bill and Stephanie Hubbard, Aurora, IL
Norm and Martha Huff, Clinton, IL
Tom and Sharon Jaguszowski, Chicago, IL
Metha Jensen, Dwight, IL
Karen L. Kilmer, Glendale Heights, IL
Bob and Marie Kufel, Park Ridge, IL
Bruce and Janet Kukuch, Highland, IN
Ron and Sharon Linquist, Inverness, IL
Lexington High School History Club, Lexington, IL
L. and Jacqueline M. Los, Lansing, IL
Don and Charlene MacGregor, Chicago Ridge, IL
Susanne W. McCarthy, Winston Salem, NC
R.L. McDaniell, Morris, IL
Anna Medhurst, Alexis, IL
Philip and Ruth Menk, Kenner, LA
Mary Mercikr, Bloomington, IL
Don and Laura Mette, Edmonton, KY
Gary and Susan Mitchell, Philadelphia, PA
Ann, Morris Taylorville, IL
Francis and Elizabeth Mowery, Fairbury, IL
Bob and Carol Mrazek, Hinsdale, IL
Gerald and Majorie Nelson, Serena, IL
Gary, O’Rourke Rochester, MI
Don and Maxine Olson, Lansing, IL
Jeffery W. Parker, Aurora, IL
Roxeylen Peffer, Burrellton, IL
Jim and Phyllis Priest, Chicago, IL
Jim Quinn, Burbank, IL
Tom Reynolds, Chicago, IL
Richard Seiffert, Quincy, IL
Fae Tour, Sharon, WI
Ottie and Doris Shaw, Arlington Heights, IL
Bill and Helen Shea, Springfield, IL
Bill and Mary Shepke, Schaumburg, IL
Tom, Sigler Lakeside, OH
Jerry and Elizabeth Simmons, Hammond, IL
Jerry A. Sladek, Berwyn, IL
Ray and Phyllis Stark, Morris, IL
Paul, Steinhauser Des Plaines, IL
Dennis Stevens, Bloomfield, CT
James L. Stevenson, Dwight, IL
John and Charlotte Tournear, Quincy, IL
Marlene and John Tust, Villa Park, IL
John J. Valus, McHenry, IL
Bud and Lou Vandier, Champaign, IL
Frank and Pat Walker, Knoxville, IL
Tim Watsh, St. Ann, MO
Chuck and Esther Watters, Dwight, IL
George and Mary White, Virginia, IL
Ralph White, Spring, TX
Leonard and Lorraine Wirges, Rantoul, IL
Elone Wejnarski, Joliet, IL
Fred Zander, Topeka, KS
Floyd and Valerie Zwieg, West Allis, WI

February, 1997

Dear Association Members:

I am writing to request your financial assistance in helping the Association open a first class Route 66 attraction at the old rail depot north of the Dixie Truckers Home in McLean, Illinois. You have probably read about the depot in our last two newsletters. Its owners, the Belder family, have offered us a five-year lease on it for $1 a year. At the Association’s October, 1996 meeting, the Association’s board accepted the Belder’s offer. A committee appointed at that meeting has since developed the following objectives for the depot:

- Welcome Route 66 travelers
- Answer their questions
- Provide information about the road in Illinois
- Promote other Route 66 attractions in this state
- Display historical and cultural artifacts of the road
- Sponsor events and activities related to Route 66
- Sell a line of quality Route 66 merchandise to help support the depot and, as possible, other programs of the Association

We hope to open the depot in August, 1997. It will join a rapidly growing number of museums and related new attractions in other states along 66. With all the traffic that comes to the Dixie and the gas station across the street, we’re sure it could draw thousands of visitors a year—and keep Illinois in the forefront of Route 66. But we see, in effect, getting a new business off the ground. Start-up expenses for the depot will include signage, interior paint, display development, office furnishings and an initial merchandise inventory. Recruiting expenses that year will include insurance, utilities, maintenance, more merchandise, phone service, promotion, and general supplies. The depot committee has planned as conservatively as possible, but still estimates we will need $20,000 to get the depot started and see it through its first critical year of operation. After that, we expect the depot to be self-supporting or even profit-making.

But until then, we need your help. Please consider the value of the opportunity that the depot represents and donate as generously as your means allow. I personally am writing a check for $100. Whatever you choose to give, I assure you it will be appreciated and put to good use. Just send your contribution to Depot, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, IL 62704. If you want to donate or lease a Route 66 monument or artifact for display at the depot, please call me directly at 309-828-2925.

Thank you.

Thomas A. Knudsen
President
In Other News...

One of our Association members, Kent Sanders, reports that Gateway Trailnet, the not for profit organization for the Chain Of Rocks Bridge held a few open houses for crossing the bridge. The last one was April 12 1997. The turnout was tremendous, drawing several thousands of people from all over! Kent also reports that the Missouri 66 Association will host their Motor Tour from September 12 through the 14th.

Kent also was the first to respond to the “Name That Spot” on page 9 of the last issue, on the As You Travel Ask Us sign. It is on the old alignment of 66 going through Staunton, on old Route 4 as you head into town from the west, which is at an old Standard Station! Also, another Association member, Amy Werden, later also identified the same spot. Amy says, “I always keep my eye out for little details on 66. It’s like a discovery hunt every time I go driving!” Nice philosophy, Amy! Keep up the good observation on 66!

However, NO ONE yet identified where the 66 News Stand was on page 9 of the Spring Issue! I hope by this Summer Issue that I get a winner to that Spotting! (Editor)

Also, Roger Berta correctly identified the year 1940 that the missing 66 town of Birds was on the maps in Illinois, which is nested between Plainfield and Bolingbrook. Actually, it is one mile west of Route 6 and Route 66.

C.J. Beeler had a chance to go to Florida for awhile, but is back now.

Marilyn Pritchard got a call from Michael Wallis, who reports that he will be traveling 66 with a group called Entertainment Group, whom will be making a 66 video of all of Route 66, and mentioned giving Illinois some great coverage! They will be in the area sometime in mid-June, this summer. Marilyn also sent some informational literature on Phillips 66, which was interesting to read since it was mentioned from Frank Phillips in a 1938 company memo mentioning Route 66 was brought up as part of several reasons for naming the company “Phillips 66”, though it had the name in the 20’s before 66 was born.

Jim Powell, another Association member from Missouri and also the Founder of the Missouri 66 Association sent a wealth of information concerning the Chain Of Rocks Bridge. Also, there were several of our readers that sent stories of their experiences with the Chain Of Rocks Bridge, and the story we ran was well received, but with a lot of mixed responses.

A well known member, Jerry McClanahan, also wrote some compliments on “The 66 News!” Jerry said, “Dear Randy, first let me say how much I’ve enjoyed The 66 News (along with the Missouri newsletter). It consistently remains one of the best club publications, and I appreciate your efforts to track down the forgotten bits of Route 66 history in Illinois. Keep up the good work with The 66 News!” My thanks (Editor) goes out to ALL our members for combining teamwork and effort to get our Newsletter off to a great start towards the year 2000, and our goal is to be second to none!!!

The Association expresses its deepest sympathy to member Marie Jibben in the death of her father, Ken Jibben, who passed away February 28 1997.

Tom Teague reports a Soulsby Station update: No progress in the past three months on plans to acquire the former Soulsby Shell station in Mount Olive and operate it as a museum. Hopes are still high, though, and Tom expect better news for the next issue of this newsletter. The hold-up at this point is mostly procedural: A sponsor is willing to make an offer for the station and the house next door, but is waiting until the Environmental Protection Agency officially certifies that the ground underneath the station is not contaminated. Once that happens, which may be soon, serious negotiations for the station will begin. Tom has formed the Soulsby Station Society to operate the facility if plans to acquire it are fulfilled. For information about the society, or the Soulsby Station itself, contact Tom Teague at 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, Illinois 62704, phone 217-787-8839, or E-Mail: teague66@eosinc.com

Terri Ryburn-LaMonte has been selected as one of only 30 Illinoisans named a road scholar by the Illinois Humanities Council for its Road Scholars Speakers Bureau. Road Scholars continue the long tradition of the itinerant teacher-scholar, taking their programs on the roads of Illinois, traveling to diverse communities and groups across the state. continued on page 7

Summer 1997 The 66 News! Page 6
In Other News, continued

The program provides non-profit organizations the opportunity to provide humanities programs free of charge. Terri has two presentations that relate to her love of Route 66. A slide presentation, “Route 66: A Time Machine, 1926 to the Present” provides the history and development of the fabled highway. “Marked for Life: My Travels on Route 66 in 1953” provides a history of the road and a humorous account of a cross-country trip with her parents, four brothers, and two hunting dogs in a pickup truck. Terri also had an article published in the Fall 1996, Bulletin of the Illinois Geographical Society. Entitled, “Route 66: Still Kickin’ but Why?,” the article speculates about the relationship between popular culture and the continuing popularity of the road. For some information relating to these articles, contact Terri Ryburn-LaMonte at 309-452-5325.

Marilyn Pritchard reports on the PAC Tour Cycling 66 group, which will make another run from Santa Monica, California to Chicago, Illinois on Route 66. This will start May 1, 1998 and run to around May 24. They will cover 2400 miles in 24 days, averaging 100 miles per day. The PAC Tour has around 30 bicyclists enlisted in this trip. More information can be obtained by writing to: PAC Tour Cycling 66, 202 Prairie Pedal Lane, P.O. Box 303, Sharon, Wisconsin 53585. Phone: 414-736-2453, Fax: 414-736-2454, E-Mail: pactour@mc.net Attn: Lon Haldemen.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Randy regrets not having the room in this issue to run a story he’s working on called Traveling 66 In Illinois. It is in best interests of the Association to get as much news and information from our members as possible. I did encourage and challenge membership participation in getting involved with our newsletter, and the response has been overwhelming, to my surprise! I hope someday that the Association will approve an occasional 20-page issue, possibly around Fall or Winter as a suggestion, to handle the responses that we’ve been getting! This Association is continuing to grow, and along with growth always comes MORE news! My plans to make our newsletter “second to none” takes a lot of effort, and vision to create. It couldn’t have been done without your support! Please continue to COMPETE for news, and make your turn to get into The 66 News!!!

Speaking In Plates...

Keep your eyes open for these 66 plates that carry along a message of The Mother Road! If you spot one, hit it with your Minolta, and send it in to the Newsletter Editor. Let it be your turn to be in The 66 News!!!

Another Route 66 Association has formed!
This is the Canadian Route 66 Association, based in Vancouver. Run by Lorrie Fleming, they have received official sanction from the California-based Route 66 Association. They have a membership, plus Motor Tour as well. For some information on this new group, contact Lorrie Fleming at P.O. Box 31061, # 8292 St. Johns Street, Port Moody, BC Canada, V3H 4T4.

The Chain of Rocks Bridge was leased for $1 from the City of Madison, for a 20 year lease which Gateway Trailnet signed. The deal carries an additional 20 year option. Repairs are planned, which Gateway Trailnet raised over $650,000 for its goal of $820,000 to get major repairs done to the bridge. This is one of the largest, and most successful Route 66 fundraising projects ever taken by anyone, and it connects Illinois to Missouri.

There are plans from Gateway Trailnet to spend about $1.8 million to get the bridge in top shape and an estimated $3.4 million to turn the bridge and area around it back into a similar setting like the park it used to have near the Toll Booth. These realities are no longer dreams now, so I (Editor) look forward to seeing this structure finished, sometime around September of 1998 after engineering work is done. It has been one of my own personal quests on Route 66 here in Illinois to see this come true, since it ends your 66 trip here in our state to start your 66 trip again in Missouri. Look back in your Spring 1997 issue of The 66 News for more information.

From Dave "Buzz" Kinkel of The Original Route 66 Accessories from Western Springs, sports this "Route US 66" plate on his Corvette.

Here is a nice plate that sure gets hip to this timely tip! This one comes from Dick and Kay Thompson, Association Members from Pontiac, off their Chevy Blazer.
Route 66 Hall Of Fame of Illinois

Garage owners, a truck driver-turned-pastor, a car dealer and a pioneer in the auto transport business are this year’s new members of the Route 66 Hall Of Fame, of Illinois. Dick Jones of Pontiac, Dean Benton of Bloomington, Ralph & Frank Hay of Divernon, and the Albert Cassens family of Hamel and Edwardsville will be inducted June 7 at our annual Motor Tour Banquet in Lincoln’s Community Center. Plaques and memorabilia about the new members will also be on display at the Hall Of Fame itself at the Dixie’s in McLean. In addition, Albert Cassens will be honored in special ceremonies in Edwardsville on June 8. As these new members join our community, we hope that we can become part of theirs!

Dick Jones
Jones Garage
Odell, Illinois
1904-1975
Nominated by Jim Jones, his son.

Dad grew up in the car business. His own father, B.M. Jones, built Pontiac automobiles in Pontiac from 1907 to 1910. When he was barely 10 years old, Dad made his own key to the family car. The ride was fun, but returning home wasn’t. Then as a young man, he worked at several garages in Pontiac. Finally, in 1940 he was able to buy his own garage on Route 66 in Odell.

Dad’s first tow truck at the garage was fashioned from a 1920’s Cadillac sedan. It took him two years to build his own. It had a three-ton rear axle with a five-ton Tulsa winch strung with 5/8-inch cable. Although he changed chassis once, Dad used the same wrecker bed, boom, and winch for the rest of his career. It was last seen in Kankakee a few years ago...still running and still working its trade.

For a time, Dad was a sub-dealer for the Oldsmobile dealer in Pontiac. Then in 1943, he took over the Ford dealership in Odell. With World War II going on, there were no new cars to sell. However, Dad was able to maintain a substantial parts inventory and built himself quite a reputation as an expert mechanic. Hundreds of wartime travelers on 66 were able to continue their journeys because of him.

Dad eventually closed the car dealership, but kept running the garage for some time. My brother and I worked there when we were young, pumping gas, selling soda pop, and cleaning parts. We eventually went on to our own careers, but Dad kept on at the garage on 66 until his retirement in 1974. In February of 1975, less than six months after selling the business, he passed away.

Dean Benton
Truck Driver & Pastor
Bloomington, Illinois
1922-Present
Nominated by Glaida Funk

Dean Benton hauled his first freight down Route 66 when he was five years old. It was on Main Street in Bloomington. Of course, his truck wasn’t very large. In fact, it was a tricycle. His trailer was a red wagon and the cargo was his little sister. A million miles later, he would take a different career, but not until he’d had more than his share of adventures along the Mother Road.

Dean’s parents separated not long after that first ride and he ended up living with an aunt in Funk’s Grove. A neighbor there had five trucks. First, he let Dean ride with him as he hauled coal, gravel, grain, and cattle. Then when Dean was barely 13, the neighbor let him start driving. By age 14, he’d already hauled a load of bulls to Chicago. By age 16, he had his chauffeur’s license...five years early.

When he was 16, Dean was two days late picking up a load of butter in Champaign. The dry ice that kept it cool long evaporated and by the time Dean got to Chicago, butter was running out the doors. He walked into the trucking company’s office, gave the keys to the first man he saw, and bid him a quick farewell.

During World War II, Dean ran convoys on the Burma Road. When he got home, he applied for a job at Hayes Freight Line in Mattoon. The man who interviewed was the same fellow he had given the keys to years before! He got the job anyway and spent many years driving for Hayes, Knaus, Staley, Brandt, Johnson, and several other lines. Then, while being initiated into the Masons, he had a religious epiphany. It led him to get his GED, talk his way into MacMurray College in Jacksonville, and eventually Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston. For the past 40 years, he has been a minister. Seven of them were spent as pastor at Funk’s Grove Church and resident manager of its cemetery. He lives today in Bloomington and still preaches weekly at a small church in nearby Covell.
Welcomes Four New Members!

Albert Cassens
Cassens Transport Family
Hamel & Edwardsville, Illinois
Nomination by Rich Henry
To induct Albert Cassens and his family into the Route 66 Hall Of Fame is practically like inducting the entire town of Hamel, as well as a good portion of nearby Edwardsville, for practically no part of life or business there is without their influence. Industry, integrity, and a consuming public spirit...no family along the entire length of Route 66 shows these qualities better than the Cassens.

Albert and his older brother, Arnold, were the sons of George and Louise Cassens. They grew up on a 280-acre farm in Hamel. In 1918, when Albert was only 6, the family started its first automotive venture...a Reo dealership in Hamel. Two years later, they added Hudsons. To keep those cars running, they also built a large garage that still stands today on the southwest corner of Old 66 and Illinois 140. Across the street they had a used car lot.

The family formed a business partnership in 1930. For three years, they hauled milk to a dairy in St. Louis. Then in 1933, they started their first major car dealership...the Dodge & Plymouth agency in Edwardsville. When they couldn’t get cars from the factory fast enough, they bought their own transport truck to haul them. Their early transports hauled only four cars. Not until 1959 did their capacity increase to six cars. Today, each transport holds 14 cars. Operating revenue has grown accordingly...from $66,000 in 1936 to nearly $157 million in 1994.

Albert moved to Edwardsville in 1934. From there he ran the Dodge-Plymouth dealership and the business end of the transport company. Arnold stayed in Hamel, where he and George took care of the company’s operations and equipment needs. They also ran the family farm, the Hamel car dealerships, the Hamel Oil Company, and a farm implement store. In 1937, they also built the Tourist Haven Restaurant, now known as Earnie’s, which Louise Cassens ran for 20 years. Down Route 66 a ways, Albert was a co-founder of the Bank of Edwardsville.

George was a firm believer in hiring local people and also in observing the sabbath. That’s why you could drive around Hamed on a Sunday afternoon and see a transport truck parked in practically every driveway.

When Hamel needed water and storm sewer systems in the 1930’s, George and Arnold stepped up and had them built. Then they sold them to the city for $1 apiece!

Ralph and Frank Hay
Hay Brothers Garage
Divernon, Illinois
1932-1977
Nomination by Howard Hay, Ralph’s Son.

Dad was born on a farm near Divernon. He rode on Route 66 during his high school days. He drove to Normal every weekend while my mother was in college. And in 1932, he and my Uncle Frank opened Hay Brothers Garage in Divernon. They had gas pumps, a repair shop, and also a small trucking business on the side. In the mornings, they’d haul household goods. At night, they’d run loads of cattle down to East St. Louis. They made it through World War II by selling gas to local residents who had defense jobs in Springfield. After the war, they also became school bus drivers. My brother, my cousin, or I would run the station for them while they were gone.

In the early years, there weren’t many service stations along Route 66 that offered major repair services like Hays Brothers did. This brought in many travelers. There were chances to take advantage of people, but Dad and Uncle Frank treated all their customers with respect. They never practiced price gouging...local people and travelers paid the same prices for parts. They even kept some decent used tires on hand if a family on the road couldn’t afford new ones. During bad weather, they’d let hitchhikers sleep in the back of the shop by an old pot belly stove. They made room for a comfortable little waiting area in their office. And when a family waiting for a part from Springfield didn’t have money for supper, Dad would bring them food from our own table.

Ralph Hay closed his garage in 1977, the same year that I-55 officially replaced Route 66 in Illinois. It was one of many that would close that year. Ralph himself passed away in 1985.

Cassens, continued
In Edwardsville, Albert supported no end of public causes. The Edwardsville school system, ranked today as one of the top 100 districts in the country, gives Albert a great deal of the credit for this status.

George, Louise, and Arnold have all passed away. But Albert, at age 85, is as busy as ever, keeping the dates in his appointment book filled for months in advance. Most of the buildings they put up are still standing and Cassens Transport, which once consisted of just one truck, now has 1,500 employees.
This article first appeared in the Spring 1997 issue of the “National Historic Route 66 Federation News.” It is reprinted here by permission of the author, John Weiss.

There it sits, a simple structure. Long past its prime. Long past the days when it served a useful purpose. A relic. Now it is just a silent sentinel of days gone by.

Those were just some of the thoughts I had one day as I looked at the old Standard/Sinclair station in Odell, Illinois. This little gas station has been closed since 1967.

Time has taken its toll. And yet it seems like everyone who gets involved with Route 66 knows about it. They photograph it, paint pictures of it, and talk about it. But no one does anything to help it. It is dying a slow, but graceful death.

Last summer a group of us talked about the little station. We all agreed, “Something should be done to save it.” I was asked to be in charge of this seemingly improbable project. I reluctantly agreed. At the time there was no plan of action. So I figured, “Nothing is impossible, some things are just more difficult than others.”

The first thing we had to do was buy time. This was done by a group of volunteers dedicated to saving the little station. Using our own funds, we worked to cover the old roof with plastic. There were holes in the roof that were causing indoor and structural damage.

This direct involvement with the building, and the enthusiastic attitude of the volunteers was inspiring. Finally somebody is doing something. I felt like we were the cavalry riding to the rescue.

Then I got an idea. At first it seemed a little far fetched. But after more thought and study, I realized I actually had a plan.

In 1995 a report about Historic Route 66 in Illinois was authorized by the Illinois Department Of Transportation (IDOT). It was prepared by Barton-Aschman Associates, Inc. of Minnesota, along with Archeological Research, Inc. of Chicago. The purpose was to identify and suggest ways to use and preserve natural and cultural resources along the Route 66 corridor. This 2 inch thick report mentions the Odell station many times.

The report had a number of suggestions. I believe one of their ideas can be used to save the Odell station. They suggest developing a Thematic Pull-Off. The description is quite lengthy, but in essence they say it “would evoke a sense of time and place.” The idea is to have an original facility along Route 66 somewhat like a time museum. One suggestion is a gas station.

I began to envision the Odell station as a Thematic Pull-Off. There is room for parking on one side. The station could be re-done, looking as it did in the 30's and 40's. A restaurant used to be on the other side. This would be a wonderful spot to build restroom facilities, interpretive displays, etc.

Yes, the Odell station has it all. It is very well known, and is just off an exit ramp of I-55.

This may be a great idea, but first, where is the money going to come from? Who would run and maintain it? Saving the station and providing entertainment to the public is not enough.

There has to realistically be more benefit. There is! Remember the saying from the movie, Field Of Dreams? BUILD IT, AND THEY WILL COME. I believe we can use that same concept. Let's take a look at what will happen when this project is complete. First, even though no advertising is allowed of I-55, we will now have a special, historic place. One that can be promoted at all rest areas. Signs on I-55 will direct you off to the Thematic Pull-Off onto Historic Route 66. Odell is in between Dwight and Pontiac, a 20 mile section that has already been declared a route for those wanting to experience Historic 66.

The town of Odell has been severely hurt throughout the past years. This idea should attract thousands of people yearly into town. It will be a tremendous boost to local businesses and the community.

I discussed my plan with the mayor of Odell. He too could envision the potential outcome of this project.

Recently I received a letter from the mayor that states “The Village Board is in full agreement.” They are implementing a plan “...to purchase and preserve the building and land as an historic site.” The mayor will be meeting with the current owner to see how the village can acquire the property. Once the village has ownership, a not-for-profit board will be appointed to oversee the project. The mayor has also “…secured the 100% backing and support of the Lions Club. This is an encouraging beginning. But no guarantee of completion. It will be a long, tedious task. The help of everyone who cares about preservation and promotion of our Mother Road will be needed.

continued on page 11
Preservation Committee Report
by Terri Ryburn-LaMonte

The Preservation Committee met at Feddersen’s Pizza Garage in Dwight on March 15 at 5:00 pm. Members present were: Tom Flasch, Jeff Geisler, Marie Jibben, Randy Smith, Frank & Roxie Lozich, Marilyn & Durelle Pritchard, Bill Przybylski, Terri Ryburn-LaMonte, William Sanders, Dorothy Seratt, and John & Lenore Weiss.

The meeting began at 6:10 pm with a thank you from Frank for everyone’s commitment to preservation and for bringing a positive attitude to the meetings and the projects. Dorothy gave an update on the Multiple Property Documentation Form for the National Register Of Historic Places nomination. David Newton, Assistant National Register Coordinator, has returned the nomination with suggestions and comments. Dorothy has made changes on her section and Terri Przybylski is typing the corrections; Terri R-L is working on the “Statement of Historic Context” section, and Gretchen is working on the Odell Standard-Sinclair Station, which will be the individual property required for submission with the multiple property documentation form.

John Weiss discussed the latest news of the Odell Standard-Sinclair Station. When he was asked by Dorothy to work on this project, he admits that he was a little reluctant to take it on, but it has proven to be a very positive experience. We realized very early on that there were only two possibilities for preserving the station: Town ownership or corporate ownership. John provided a handout which described his interactions with the Mayor of Odell and added that since he wrote the newsletter article, he has had a letter from the Mayor who said that the town has voted to implement a plan to save the Odell Station. A second choice to preserve the station would have been seeking a grant from Standard Oil Co. (Tom Flasch, who works for AMOCO, said that there would only be a slight chance of getting grant money for the station.)

The committee thanked John for his work and talked about how well this is working out. When the committee met for the first time, one of the things we discussed was the fact that we couldn’t own anything, but that we could encourage communities to get involved in preservation of Route 66 pavement and buildings. This is an example of our mission.

Frank provided a letter written by Tom Teague about membership in the Soulsby Station Station Society (SSS). Tom thanked the Committee for the “very real inspiration” that we provided to that project and invited our future participation through having one of our members serve on the board of directors, joining the SSS, and coming to Mt. Olive in May for a “Blitzkrieg weekend of cleaning and inventorying.” Frank mentioned that Joann Pandis, who had written a letter to Frank about getting involved with the preservation committee, is a licensed architect and that she is working with Tom Teague on the SSS project. Frank encouraged the Committee to support this effort. Frank was unanimously elected by the committee to serve on the SSS Board of Directors.

New Business: John has been working on a book about Route 66 in Illinois, from the perspective of today’s travelers. In the process, he discovered that there are 66 towns on Route 66 in Illinois. During his inventory, John also found two Meramec Cavern barn signs, one Mail Pouch barn sign (at Elwood), one S & H Green Stamp sign, and one billboard for The Lodge (in Dwight). He has some ideas for preserving these signs. For instance, we may be able to replace a few boards in some instances and in other instances, the barn may be too far gone or the owner may want to raze it. If that is the case, we could possibly use the boards in a museum. Dorothy mentioned that the 66 Meramec Caverns barn at Cayuga is getting worse and desperately needs painting. Marilyn will get the name of the owners for permission to take a look at it. We can then talk about our options.

Jeff Geisler has been working on an article for the newsletter which will allow the Preservation Committee to build an archive of historic Route 66 sites in Illinois. He passed around a draft of the article and a form which seeks readers’ favorite sites, photographs, etc. The results of this effort would be organized in loose-leaf binders and would be available to the Association. It was suggested that Jeff try to get the article in the December 1997 issue of the newsletter.

John and Lenore talked about the Lincoln Highway Association (LHA). It was decided that the committee might want to attend one or more of their meetings as a show of support and to get some ideas for our own projects. The latest LHA meeting was April 19 1997 and some of our committee members were there.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. The Preservation Committee met again at Feddersen’s Pizza on April 26 1997 at 5 p.m. Further plans and project updates to be announced later! The July meeting for the Preservation Committee will be held in Frankfort on Saturday, July 19 1997.

For more information, contact: Frank Lozich at 708-429-9173, John Weiss at 815-469-5219, or Terri Ryburn-LaMonte at 309-452-5325.

S.O.S., continued from page 10

My wife, Lenore, has come up with the theme for this endeavor: S.O.S. - “SAVE ODELL STATION.”

Although we’re not set up to accept them yet, financial donations will certainly be required. But, also, encouragement and compliments go a long way. Why not sit down and write a letter to the officials in Odell. Tell them you are behind their efforts. Offer your support and help. Write to S.O.S. c/o Mayor Bill Wilkey, 213 South Front, Odell, Illinois 50460.

This project is merely one of many along 66. With your help, a little vision, and a lot of work, they can all succeed!
Traveling the...
NEW, HISTORIC ROUTE 66 OF ILLINOIS

The only guide book exclusively of Illinois

With this you will easily visit all 66 towns located on Historic 66

Included are numerous side trips to back road adventures and wholesome family fun

Every alignment is covered

You will visit many old and new Mom & Pop restaurants and interesting shops

This guide will lead you to hearty handshakes, big friendly smiles, and homemade apple pie

There is even a section on Historic Route 66 by rail
An armchair view of the Mother Road

9 x 11 spiral bound book with 94 exciting pages containing 75 enticing photographs in 14 fascinating sections

It adds up to more than just a summer of fun!

Now you too can experience down home America as you travel the famous Mother Road - Historic Route 66 of Illinois

IT'S A GREAT RIDE!

*ORDER YOURS TODAY*

MAIL TO:
HISTORIC 66
P.O. BOX 16
FRANKFORT, IL 60423

SHIP TO:

NAME ____________________________
ADDRESS ____________________________

CITY ____________ STATE ________ ZIP ____________

Book Price $14.95
Postage & Handling $3.00
Illinois Residents Add $.97
Sales Tax

Total ________________

(Please pay in U.S. Funds)

☐ Check here for information on wholesale & quantity
The Frisina Sky View Drive In
By Randy Smith

Here in this article, we travel down 66 to Litchfield, Illinois to check out one of the most outstanding businesses that surely brings back memories for all of us to re-live over again, and that is the thrill of going to an outdoor Drive In!

Yeah, I heard some people tell me, “Randy, you’re getting old fashioned!” And I tell them, “Sure! Why the heck not?” I then got mis-directed to a near-by ‘shoe box’ theatre, and watch a show there. I didn’t feel right...the chairs were hard plastic, which made my rear-end sore. To add to my discomfort, the people on each side of me had their arms rested on the arm rest, leaving me with no place to relax my own mummified arms. The sound was tinny, and the room gave me the feeling of being in a morgue. After a few moments, the guy on the left fell asleep out of boredom and snored loudly. The gal on the right had too much perfume on...I fought not to sneeze. I didn’t even get to see part of the show until I realized this was the pits! Count me out!!!

Once outside in the fresh air again, I looked to the East, and saw the Sky View Drive In, on old 66 in Litchfield. Instantly, I felt transferred back in time about 30 years ago, and remembered the great times I had at the Drive Ins. I took the Mercury around to get a closer look, and what a sight! It was built in 1949, and run by the Frisina chain of theatres. It was original, and still had its ‘All Shows $1.’ sign still posted. The movie playing that night was called Courage Under Fire. I checked my watch, about 5:30 pm. No one around, so I pull the Mercury up to the ticket booth, shut off the motor. I thought back, and wondered when was the last time I was first in line. I gathered my Minolta gear, and proceeded to tour this beautiful structure. Sure enough, there were a few cars around the refreshment-projection house, so I walked over to check it out. I found myself introduced to a charming lady named Carol Stuttle.

Carol has worked for the Drive In for 28 years, and has been its manager for the last 4 years. This is quite a term to serve for a Drive In, I thought. Carol was very hospitable, and gave me a tour of the business.

Inside, the refreshments were getting brewed up for a busy evening...hot dogs toasting, pop corn popping, pizza getting started, and the pop fountains getting filled. One thing didn’t change...the prices were a little steep for my sweet tooth. But I reasoned that it makes up for the buck you paid to get in, so I understood the compromise.

Next, Carol showed me the projection room up close. I really never been inside one before. She showed me how the film comes in a long, continuous spool of 35mm film, which is sat on a platter that goes around at a certain speed, and goes through an original projector, that is about 48 years old now. She told me those things were really reliable, and has held the test of time. I figured they used a VCR of some kind these days for a projector, but not this one! All original. Even the old wired window hanging speakers still worked, but there was an added option for sound if you chose. On 97.5 FM, they broadcast the sound in stereo that you can listen to on your own car radio. This was a new idea to me, but a smart one when you consider the cost of having the old wiring re-done plus occasional vandalism to the old window speakers.

I asked Carol what the secret to success was in keeping the Drive In open, since all the others in the state have closed by now. And she says, it’s a good value! You get to see about two shows, and for a buck that’s cheaper than renting a movie. Furthermore, with all the other Drive Ins closed or gone, there has been people all over the state of Illinois that will drive a distance to see a movie at a Drive In, since it is...
Sky View Drive In, continued

The sun goes down the horizon, a beckoning to the old speakers to come alive with audio, to invite drivers to park and get ready for an entertaining evening!

different than anything else. Carol also says, for that buck, the place gets packed most of the time, so with enough admittance, they do indeed make money!

I thanked her for the tour and looked at my watch again. Almost time to open the gates. I stalked around, and got off a few good photos with the Minolta, and got back to the ticket booth. Sure enough, the lines of cars waiting were amazing. Carol was right after all. The ticket booth opened, I paid my buck, and drove around a few laps for a suitable spot to park, and it was a balmy night, about 74 degrees out. Down went my windows, and I reached for one of those squawking speakers with the cable on it, and hung it on. I pushed the seat back, and slouched back, quite relaxed. When intermission time came, they still played the old original refreshment cartoons, and other old clips. I surely remembered them all, which were early 60's style. I got a laugh out of Fat Joe biting into one of those greasy hot dogs and hollering OOOOWWOOOH!!! Same old thing 30 years ago.

Never have I been so relieved to really enjoy a fun and relaxing evening here at the Sky View Drive In. It can qualify to be on the National Register Of Historic Places, and I hope the Preservation Committee checks into this! And for the rest of you 66ers that are turning into couch potatoes with those VCR rentals, please consider your next movie to be at the Sky View Drive In, and while you're there ask for Carol Stuttle. You will all experience your younger years all over again, the way 66 was meant to be, and have a good time, too!!!

Seldom Mentioned Places On Historic Route 66 Of Illinois

by John Weiss

When summer arrives, so does the temptation to travel the back roads of Historic Route 66.

This time, let's go to the zoo. Did you know that there are two on Historic 66 between Chicago and St. Louis? Well, not right on 66. Both are a little off the historic route.

Miller Park Zoo is in Bloomington, and was opened in 1891. It is the home of many exotic and domestic animals. You will find the rare Sumatran tigers and red wolves, a tropical rain forest with snow leopards and Asian lions. There is a children's zoo and much, much more. All of this is first class.

Open daily 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is $2.50...Seniors and Youth, $.75. Phone # (309) 432-2250.

While here, be sure to visit Miller Park itself. This free public park has pretty lagoons and bridges. There are peddle boats, swimming, and picnic area. Do yourself a favor and visit both of these attractions.

To get to Miller Park and Zoo, take Historic Route 66 (BUSN. 51) to Wood St. Turn west and travel about 1/2 mile.

Grindstone Valley Zoo is located in Chatham. It is a private facility that claims to be "The largest zoo between Chicago and St. Louis." Located in a rustic country setting. They are open seasonally from May to October. A fee is charged.

To get to Grindstone Valley Zoo take Historic Route 66 (Route 4) to Chatham. You will find this town just south of Springfield on the 1926-1930 alignment. At the Main St. intersection of town turn east on Walnut St. Travel 1/2 miles to Gordon Dr., turn right. Travel 1/2 mile to the entrance.

(Reminder...as mentioned in a previous column, the White Fence Farm restaurant in Romeoville also has a small free zoo behind the restaurant.)

There is a lot to see and do on and around Historic Route 66. Some attractions date back to the 1800's while other places are just getting started. Spend a day enjoying Illinois Historic Route 66. It's a great ride!

Route 66 Association Of Illinois Annual Picnic

by Tom Knudsen

The annual picnic for the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be held Saturday, September 6 1997 at the Miller Park, in Bloomington, Illinois. The meal will be served at 12:00 noon. The Association will furnish drinks, hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats. Everyone attending can bring a dish to pass. While being there at Miller Park, there is a miniature golf course to play on and the zoo (see story above).

Please bring lawn chairs and games to play! There will be Hall Of Fame members there with stories to tell and pictures to show. Please call Tom Knudsen at 309-828-2925 to let him know you are attending, so enough food is ordered and tables brought. The side porch of the Pavilion has been reserved in case of rain. Plan on attending for some fun and fellowship of "Getting Your Kicks On Route 66!" (Note: The 1930-1940 alignment of Route 66 went down Morrist Ave., along the zoo.)
# Route 66 Association Merchandise Order Form

## Clothes

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Association nylon Jacket, polyster-lined</td>
<td>$23.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Sweatshirt</td>
<td>$16.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association T-shirt (circle choice: black or white)</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Fanny Pack (black)</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Cap (black)</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Embroidered Patch</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glow-in-the-Dark Shield T-Shirt</td>
<td>$13.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neon 2-sided T-Shirt (circle choice: Chevy, 'Vette, Mustang, or T-Bird)</td>
<td>$13.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Kool Collar</td>
<td>$9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty Boop Hitchhiking Route 66 T-Shirt</td>
<td>$13.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Collectibles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New! 12-oz drinking glass with Historic 66 Illinois Sign and slogan “Get My Kicks”</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceramic mug (black)</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 66 shield metal refrigerator magnet</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Illinois 66 refrigerator magnet (looks like new signs)</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 66 ceramic salt and pepper shakers</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Historic Route 66 sign, 13” x 16” (just like the signs the state is putting up!)</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproduction Route 66 shield sign (full-size, 16-gauge steel)</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8” x 8” Illinois 66 shield-shaped rubber car magnet for one: $12.50, for a set of two: $21.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Postcards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large Letter State Postcards by Bob Waldmire (set of 8)</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Scenes of 66” Postcards by Bob Waldmire (set of 42)</td>
<td>$9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall of Fame Postcards (set of 15)</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greetings from the Mother Road! Postcard Book by Michael Wallis</td>
<td>$10.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Maps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It’s Here! Full set of eight state maps by Jim Ross and Jerry McIlvaine</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri fold-out map of Route 66 by Ross and McIlvaine</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map by Bob Waldmire – 10 pages plus 6-page legend</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guidebook to the Mother Road by Bob Moore and Patrick Grauwels (great photos and mile-by-mile detail)</td>
<td>$19.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New 2nd Edition! Searching for 66 by Tom Teague</td>
<td>$15.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 66–The Mother Road by Michael Wallis (paperback)</td>
<td>$21.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 66 Roadside Companion by Tom Snyder</td>
<td>$12.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Guidebook to Highway 66 by Jack Rittenhouse (reprint of 1946 book)</td>
<td>$9.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Videos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Journey Down Route 66 narrated by Michael Wallis (90-minute video)</td>
<td>$22.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 66: An American Odyssey Video (formerly Route 66: The Video Road Trip) featuring famous 66-ers</td>
<td>$27.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Cassettes/CDs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New! The Mother Road Audiotape narrated by Michael Wallis</td>
<td>$19.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New! The Songs of Route 66 by David Sanger et al (cassette only)</td>
<td>$11.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Feeling of Jazz by Bobby Troup (CD only)</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

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

---

# Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: ________________________________</th>
<th>Annual Dues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address: ______________________________</td>
<td>Individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City: __________________ State: ______ Zip Code: ______</td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County: __________________ Phone: ______________</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interests in Route 66: __________________</td>
<td>Sustaining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How I Can Help: ________________________</td>
<td>$100 or more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Please mail to:
Membership – Route 66 Association
2743 Veterans Parkway
Springfield, IL 62704

- Illinois residents please add 8 percent sales tax!
- Make checks payable to Route 66 Association of Illinois
- PLEASE NOTE: All prices include postage and handling.
Summer Events on 66 by Pat Knudsen

The following is a list of events that are planned along towns following the Route 66 alignment in Illinois. We suggest that you call ahead to make sure dates are accurate. The events Route 66 Association of Illinois will be involved in have an * mark.

Wheaton
7/23-27 DuPage County Fair, 630-668-6636

Willowbrook
7/11-13 Annual Cruising “66” Festival, 630-654-0909*

Joliet
6/14-15 Car Show Festival, 815-740-2216
7/2-6 Grundy County Fair, 815-942-5043

Peotone
8/20-24 Will County Fair, 708-258-3266

Dwight
7/4 4th of July Fireworks, 815-584-2091
9/19-21 Harvest Days, 815-584-2091

Pontiac
6/14 50’s and 60’s “Hang Loose” 800-835-2055
6/20-22 11th Annual ABATE of Illinois State Rendezvous, 800-87-ABATE
7/12-13 “Christmas In July”, 800-835-2055
7/21-24 Livingston County 4-H Fair, 800-835-2055
7/27 7th Annual Pontiac 7 of 7 Passing Tournament, 815-844-6113

Chenoa
7/4 4th of July Celebration, 309-829-6344

Lexington
7/26-27 Taste of Country Fair, 309-365-8105 or 309-365-3061*

Towanda
7/4 4th of July Celebration, 309-829-6344

Belleville
8/5-10 St. Clair County Fair, 618-235-0666

Normal
6/20-22 Illinois Special Olympics State Summer Games, 309-888-2551
6/23-27 Bands of America, 309-438-2160
1/4 4th of July at Fairview, 309-454-9540
7/12-13 Sugar Creek Arts Festival, 309-454-2444
8/23-24 Downtown Corn Festival, 309-454-9557

Toward
20 Illinois Route 66 Association of Illinois Annual Meeting-Election Meeting-at the Country Buffet, College Hills Mall, 309-828-2925*

Bloomington
6/15 Third Sunday Market, 309-452-7926
6/27-8/3 Illinois Shakespeare Festival, 309-438-2535
6/28-29 Downtown Heritage Festival, 309-829-5691
6/28-29 Hoops For Home Basketball Tournament, 309-662-9333
7/4 4th of July Celebration, 309-829-6344
7/20 Third Sunday Market, 309-452-7926

Atlanta
7/29-8/2 McLean County Fair, 309-829-3976
8/17 Third Sunday Market, 309-452-7926
8/23-24 Prairie Air Show, 309-829-5071
9/4-7 Fall Carlisle Mid-West Collector Car Flea Market & Car Corral, 717-243-7855
9/6 Miller Park-Illinois Route 66 Association Annual Picnic, 309-828-2925*

Atlanta
9/4-6 Atlanta Fall Festival, 217-732-8687

Lincoln
7/29-8/3 Logan County Fair, 309-829-3976
8/22-24 Lincoln Art & Balloon Fest, 217-735-2385
8/24 1800’s Craft Fair, 217-732-8930
9/13-14 Abraham Lincoln National Raisin Splitting & Craft Festival, 217-732-7146

Elkhart
7/17 Elkhart Homecoming, 217-732-8687

Williamsville
10/5-6 Autumn on the Boulevard, 217-566-2106

Springfield
6/15-21 International Carilion Festival, 217-753-6219
6/27-29 Bloomington Gold/Corvettes USA, 309-662-6367
7/4 Capitol City Celebration Fireworks, 800-545-7300
7/5 Nineteenth Century Children’s Festival, 217-785-7961
7/11-12 Springfield Air Rendezvous, 217-789-4400

New Berlin
6/18-22 Sangamon County Fair, 217-488-2685

Carlinville
7/15-20 Macoupin County Fair, 217-854-9422
9/20-21 Annual Fall Festival, 217-854-8500

Raymond
7/3-5 4th of July Celebration, 217-774-2244 or 217-229-4516

Litchfield
7/20 Route 66 Association Board Meeting, 217-324-5551*
8/15-16 Party In The Park, 217-324-2533
8/16 Internal Chili Society District Cook Off, 217-324-2533

Mount Olive
6/20-22 Mount Olive Homecoming, 217-999-7674

Highland
7/20-25 Madison County Fair, 618-887-4483

Madison
6/26-29 NHRA Craftsman Nationals Gateway International Raceway, 618-482-5501
7/24-26 NASCAR Bush Series/Grand National Division, 618-482-5501

Collinsville
9/19-20 Italian Fest, 618-344-2884

Route 66 Association of Illinois
2743 Veterans Parkway • Suite 166
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Get Your Kicks... on Route 66!

OUR FALL 1997 NEWSLETTER

"ILLINOIS – Where the Road Begins."
Officers and Board Members
The officers and board members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois 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

Vice President
Frank Lozich, 10-98
7270 W. 174th Place
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-429-9173

Treasurer
Mike Yates, 10-98
P.O. Box 250
Washington, IL 61571
309-444-9301

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

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

Newsletter Editor
Randy Smith
116 Canterbury Court
East Peoria, IL 61611
309-699-2228
E-mail: randysmith@theonramp.net

Board Members
George Leone, Cook, 10-97
3725 W. 152nd Street
Midlothian, IL 60445
708-388-7360

Andi Hari, DuPage, 10-98
1785 Turnbridge Court
Montgomery, IL 60538
630-892-2914

Duke Cartwright, Will, 10-97
407 Pasadena Avenue
Crest Hill, IL 60453
815-726-3574

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

John Stonecipher, Livingston, 10-98
216 E. Prairie Street
Odell, IL 60460
815-998-2161

C.J. Beeler, McLean, 10-98
2 Canterbury Court
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-874-2832

Paul Gleason, Logan, 10-97
1621 Rutledge Drive
Lincoln, IL 62656
217-735-1361

Don Cutler, Sangamon, 10-98
2200 Yale Boulevard
Springfield, IL 62703
217-554-1963

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

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

Linda Henry, Madison, 10-98
Old Rt. 66 and Madison Avenue
Staunton, IL 62088
618-637-2886

Debbie Mileur, St. Clair, 10-98
322 N. 11th Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966
217-324-5551

5 At-Large Positions
Bill Przybylski, 10-98
24156 S. Kings Road
Crete, IL 60417
708-672-7937

Jeff Meyer, 10-97
2802 Freemont Street
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
847-392-0860

Jef LaFollette, 10-97
2351 Hiway 130
New Liberty, Iowa 52765
319-893-6653

Lenore Weiss, 10-98
21149 Hillsdale
Frankfort, IL 60423
815-469-5219

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

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

Internal Publication Information
The 66 News is published quarterly by the Route 66 Association of Illinois around the first of March, June, September & 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. ANY ARTICLE WITH A BY-LINE IS COPYRIGHTED BY THE AUTHOR, AND MAY NOT BE USED IN ANY FORM WITHOUT THE AUTHOR’S EXPRESSED PERMISSION. 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 1st-class camera ready copy only. NO XEROXES! All stories & ads must be submitted 6 weeks prior to publication. Address inquiries & contributions to Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, Illinois 62704.
Minutes from the July 20 Association Meeting
by Marilyn Pritchard

Our last meeting was held at Hombrey’s in Litchfield, with 20 members present.

Tom Knudsen made a motion to accept the new by-laws and was seconded by Jeff LaFollette. The motion passed by the Board.

Priscilla Mathews gave the membership report. She reported that the Association has increased in members, reportedly about 1,100. $2395 was sent to the Treasurer for new and renewal memberships.

It was reported that merchandise sold at Willowbrook was $6,015.

The Depot Museum Committee has met several times and has decided to wait until Spring of 1998 to open. The Museum Fund has received $5,200 to date.

The Preservation Committee met Saturday, July 19 in Frankfort. Fourteen members attended the Lincoln Highway Celebration, and reported it was a very interesting and delightful day with the activities planned throughout the entire day. The Preservation Committee will plan to hold their meetings on Saturday, the day before Board-General meetings on Sundays.

Newsletter Editor Randy Smith gave his report. He mentioned staying within range of a suggested budget for a 16 page newsletter of $1,350. The last two issues were a little below that. Randy also brought up the request to run a 20-page issue for the Winter issue, in December. The request is still pending, depending on cost and approval, which was reported to cost an estimated $1,700. Layout cost has held at $200 per run.


Linda Henry took notes from the meeting as a Pro-temp Secretary for Marilyn.

Effie Marx, one of our Hall Of Fame members of 1993, passed away August 4, 1997, at Morris, Illinois Hospital. Early that same evening, she was playing Bingo. Her family hosted a big 80th birthday party for Effie earlier that summer. Effie was a well-known and respected waitress from several restaurants on 66 for over 54 years. Our prayers go with Effie from everyone in the Route 66 Association of Illinois, along with her family. She will be missed by her one son, one daughter, one sister, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Next Board-General-Elections Meeting

Our next upcoming Board-General meeting of The Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be held in Normal, Illinois, on Sunday, October 19 1997 at the Country Buffet in the College Hills Mall. It is right off Veterans Parkway to the West upon entering Normal. We will eat from their buffet. The Board Meeting will be at 11:00 am and lunch at Noon. Then on to our annual Elections! We encourage you all to attend this Election Meeting, and help lead the Association in its endeavors. The following positions are open for Election, or Re-Election for a two year term...

President, Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary from the slate of Officers. Board Member Counties: Cook, Will, Grundy, Logan, and Montgomery. Three At-Large positions are up, too!

Vada Cartwright and Debbie Mileur will host the Elections. If you are interested in running for one of these positions listed above, please call Vada at 815-726-3574, or Debbie at 217-324-5551.
In Other News...

We finally have only ONE member that identified the Name That Spot photo on page 9 of the Spring issue of The 66 News. The News-Stand Maga-Zines place is located just two blocks North of the Cozy Dog Drive In on 66 in Springfield, and naturally I expected our very own Tom Teague to step forward to name this, and he finally did! Good job, Tom!

And another member, Amy Werden from Dorsev announced that the other Name That Spot photo, the As You Travel Ask Us sign has now vanished, along with the Standard sign, in place of it is another business. I miss seeing this old torch! (Editor) It was located in northern Staunton on the Route 4 alignment of old Route 66 upon entering the town.

We have a request from Annabelle Parkinson and Pat Swisher. They are looking for anyone that has a video tape of the Hall Of Fame Induction in 1995, at the Bloomington Court House. Pat wants to copy the speech that inducted Burt Parkinson into our Hall Of Fame. They would appreciate any help for the where-a-bouts of the video, if anyone taped it. Please call 815-458-2703 or 815-237-2305.

LADIES TAKE NOTICE...Romeo & Joliet is but one name of twelve that O.P.I. nail polish and lip products has chosen for this fall’s color presentation of their Collectors Collection. They have selected names of towns popular on Route 66. (Some names include two towns.) You will have your choice of: Los Angeles Latte’, Tucumari Boys n’ Berry, Chicago Champagne Toast, St. Louis Sorbet, Mother Road Rose, Amarillo Almondine, Tulsa Tootsie Roll-a, Flagstaff Fries To Go, Not In Kansas Anymore...Red, Route Beer Float, Needles in a Haystack, and Romeo & Joliet. The colors have a subtle metallic shimmer reminiscent of the fabulous finishes on many classic cars, and should be available after September 15th of this year.

A correction to make on the Depot Museum donation list from the Summer 1997 issue...the name listed as Dennis Stevens should have read Dennis Hubs of Bloomfield, Connecticut. He also preferred it to have listed “D & D Travel Service” as the donor. We apologize for the error, Dennis! Thanks for informing us.

From Association member Paul Melchert comes some 66 news. Paul reports from the Illinois Department Of Commerce And Community Affairs, Bureau Of Tourism which has a number you can call: 1-800-2CONNECT. You can call them for a free Historic Route 66 Travel Map. It is a very informative 66 map, and you can plan your weekend on 66 here in Illinois by using it.

Depot Report

by Tom Teague

After much consideration, the Depot Committee recommended at the July board meeting that the Association not open its museum at the Depot until next spring of 1998. An August opening had been planned, but a key exhibit became unavailable at the last minute. Donations were good...over $5,000...but projected expenses, particularly for start-up, were better. The ongoing source of income for the Depot would be merchandise sales and the Committee thought there just wasn’t enough time left in the tourist season to recoup those costs. Reluctantly then, and with sincere regrets to the rest of the Association, the Committee voted against opening the museum this year. The Committee will draw up a new plan for the museum and present it to the board at the October meeting. Look for a first class attraction next year!

Please continue to send in donations to support your 66 museum, whether by donations or by items you would like to see displayed in it. Send to: Depot, Route 66 Association Of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, Illinois 62704. For more information, call Tom Knudsen at 309-828-2925.

Since as early as Spring this year, Association member Glaida Funk reported on a little known Blue Star Memorial Highway marker that has been put at the Funk’s Grove Rest Area, off Interstate 55. The marker mentions the Route 66 Association Of Illinois on it. Glaida was at this dedication ceremony, as well as a host of several dignitaries. The dedication was sponsored by the District III, the Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. The Memorial takes its name from the blue star in the service flag, and is a living memorial to “all those who have served or will serve in the nation’s armed forces.” The Blue Star Memorial Highway system includes more than 70,000 miles of highway.
In Other News, continued

Paul Melchert also mentions that Burma-Shave is trying to make a come-back with an advertising campaign. The ads will herald a new line of Burma-Shave products that began arriving in stores this Summer. The road signs will also be making a come-back as well! The new signs will be erected along highways in more than a dozen states, and in baseball parks across the country. The original signs began appearing in 1926, when Route 66 was born. By the early 1950's, there were 7,000 sets of these signs on display in 45 states. In 1963, Burma-Shave became part of American Safety Razor and it stopped making the brand. By the late 1960's, most of the signs were all gone. But now, American Safety Razor is trying to take advantage of Burma-Shave’s nostalgic fame. The new commercial out on TV features a couple driving a 1958 Chevrolet Corvette along a picturesque road winding past a new set of signs, reading: You don’t have a care...you don’t have a worry...you’ve reached a point...where you don’t...have to hurry...Burma-Shave.

Again, NO ONE identified the Name That Spot in the Summer 1997 Newsletter that was on page 4! Surely, there is someone out there in our membership that has had a meal at this restaurant! I hope to get a winner to that spotting so we can get YOUR name in the Winter 1997 Newsletter, so take a second look at that photo, and put your 66 thinking caps on! It was mentioned that it would be a hard one to point out! (Editor)

For those of you into computers, here is a software spotlight...Route 66, Route Planner for Windows 3.1, 95, and Macintosh 7.0. This interesting software can map out a route for you around those interstates, and save you miles and time as well as get you around those Toll Booths, too! It retails for $60 to $80, and is produced by Route 66 Geographic Information Systems Inc. Phone: 800-569-0878. You can use this at home to plan a 66 trip, or if you have a lap top, use it on the go!

Randy was at the Taste of Country Fair on Sunday to watch all the Hall Of Fame members in the parade, and with the heat the parade went through at Warp Speed, in 16 minutes, a new record for the shortest parade! It was reported that the nearby Lemonade Tent did a booming business off the Knudsen's! They reported that sales of Association merchandise was still good, and that their next Fund-raiser will be up in Dwight in September on the 19th through the 21st at the Harvest Days festival. Hope to see you all up there for this event!

The Association Fund-raisers of Tom and Pat Knudsen did an excellent job of braving the heat at the Taste Of Country Fair held in Lexington on July 26 and 27. It reached 99 degrees with a heat index of 110! They were the only two that ran the Association’s merchandise table for both days.

Since early summer this year, the students from the Lexington High School, to whom donated the roadside memorial for Route 66 participated in the Illinois History Exposition held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield. Originally, the students from Lexington won Blue Ribbons on their Route 66 displays, from five student teams at the Eastern Illinois University in April. Two Blue Ribbon winners went to the displays: Route 66, The Sign Of The Times. And the other was: Route 66, Traveling Through The Past. A Red Ribbon went to: Cruisin' Classic 66. Two White Ribbons went to: Traveling Down The Mother Road, and: On The Road Again. All these outstanding projects were set up earlier this year at the Pontiac Public Library in June.

The 1997 Hall Of Fame banquet in Lincoln was great! About 350 to 400 people were there, and everyone had a good time! (See photos on page 6.)
Photo Highlights of 1997 Motor Tour

The Hall Of Fame had other interesting guests, like Charlie Ott playing the role of "honest Abe Lincoln" along with Association member Doug Graham, and a frightened tyke Trevor!

During the Motor Tour, there was an auction at the Soulsby Shell Station in Mt. Olive. There were several 66 fans on hand for this event.

To wrap up the 1997 Motor Tour, the Chain Of Rocks Bridge was opened for us to cross!

1998 Motor Tour Meeting
Sunday, September 28, 1997 - 12:00 Noon
Depot Museum, McLean, Illinois

Russell Soulsby himself was at the auction, autographing a 30-year plaque for your Newsletter Editor, Randy Smith. There were about 30 Association members there.
Traveling 66 in Illinois
by Randy Smith

Since the beginning, before the invention of the automobile, it was human nature to travel to new places never before seen. It was a destiny in itself to leave the confines of your own back yard, and travel to where no one has been before. At that time, it meant to get a horse. And with the trails you had to travel, it could take weeks to get where you were going, considering you knew how to travel trails without the invention of the compass. Not to speak of possible hostile environments you may encounter along the way. It took a lot of courage and nerve to travel, and instead of depending on not leaving home without your Master Card, you took your gun! There was no guarantee your trip would be safe, and who knows what lies ahead of your path on the other end of the trail once you got there.

The steam engine, especially the train, came upon us, and the era of the rail travel started to change the face of the Earth, in form of breaking the barrier to the fear of traveling. It was hailed as the manifest destiny of our times!

Seemed like people started to drop their fear of traveling on horse and not worry about running into a Gatling Gun somewhere! By the late 1800's, the invention of the internal combustion engine was getting applied to the coming age of the automobile. It was still a challenge to navigate the rough rut covered trails with one of these Horseless Carriages. The rain was it’s worse enemy...it didn’t take but a few feet to get stuck in the middle of the trail somewhere, and have to depend on good ol’ push power by human hands to get you on your way. It did not take long to realize that the benefits of an automobile were a waste of time without a good set of dependable roads to travel on.

This situation still hounded us long after the mass production of the Model T. By then, the automobile was refined to the point where reliability wasn’t the problem with travel, nor the cost! Henry Ford made sure the poor guy could afford one. So by the early 20's, the Congress saw the need for a highway system, and Mr. Avery was quite instrumental in helping out with getting maps laid out to where roads were to be built, and what numbering system to use for them.

continued on page 9
Traveling 66 in Illinois

In Cicero, lies these twin Snortin' Nortin 66 trailers. Tim Palm mentions there were a total of four of these trailers at ROADCO. I spotted these two side by side!

In Romeoville, by the White Fence Farm, flies this Red Baron Air Mail up high on its perch. I often wonder how the Pony Express would get up there to stuff Herr Richthofen's box full of mail!

➡️ Down Memory Lane in Lexington lies this billboard, one of my favorites!

By the time I went through Broadwell, I thought the Pig Hip Restaurant was re-opened again, when I spotted this 'New Style' building! Upon closer examination, I knocked on the door, received a grunt, and peeked inside!

Just another mailbox full of junk mail, to my disappointment! I was hoping it would 'dispense' me one of those delicious sandwiches, to satisfy my hungry 66 appetite!
Traveling 66 in Illinois, continued from page 7

Used to be Trail Signs was all you seen, to identify a route with. But by 1926, the job got started for Route 66, and the paved trails! By this time, the red bricked roads seemed like a luxury, but now has come to past!

Illinois was the first among the 66 states to be fully paved. At last, the answer came to the meaning of the word, travel. Now, there were Constables, Deputies, and Sheriffs to patrol these roads to see to your safety, and you could at last travel without fear! That is, as long as you didn’t run into Dillinger or Al Capone!

Most of these new highways followed the route of the railroads, and the telegraph poles. You could at the beginning see where they were going to lay out the Mother Road, by looking for those concrete markers (see page 6 in your Spring 1996 issue). With the job done finally, now comes the untold millions of stories and adventures of travelers on Route 66, and what it meant to us all later when our years came along. 66 became a story book with no ending, just more destiny, and a reason to exist.

Now, we jump ahead about 70 years now, and what do we see? Preservation efforts being laid out to preserve and protect our traveling heritage, since it almost became a thing of the past, until the Route 66 Associations were born, and here in Illinois it was in 1989 that the Route 66 Association Of Illinois formed. It’s vision was to promote, preserve, and enjoy Route 66, and it has come a long ways in its mission to do just that!

Now, as many times as I traveled this legendary highway, I continue to see things that just marvels me! It isn’t just things of the past to look for, but to see what’s out there today, and what you see that changes from year to year.

The greatest fear in my book goes to the destructive force of the Bulldozer and the Back Hoes. There has been sections of 66 here in Illinois that fell victim to these machines of destruction to our heritage of travel!

If they are to turn the Mother Road back into the dirt trails they once were, then I speculated that the car dealerships will soon be stocking Horses instead of Cars. This surely didn’t make any sense to me, not to speak of the piles of horse manure I have to watch out for when wearing my hiking boots! What a switch, to go from ruins to riches, and then back to ruins again.

Why didn’t they just leave 66 the way it was, and take their “dumb ideas” somewhere else, since this is one taxpayer that doesn’t want to see a dime of MY money spent for tearing out sections of 66. It made more sense to buy a bag of patch to fix a hole on 66 than to bulldoze it!

But as for my own travels, 66 is the place to be! History was one of those “things” I enjoyed...I was old fashioned, and liked the way things used to be, not the way they are now! But then again, you grow with the times, and have to “accept” what is to be.

So fine then, but as long as I have a choice, 66 is where you’ll find me. If I can’t seem to find the action, then I create some of my own and chase after it to no end! The last adventure was scary...cut my right palm on razor wire on 66 somewhere in Missouri, and spent that trip in a Hospital getting stitched up, not to speak of hearing Marie’s repeated echo, “I can’t believe you lost your 66 mind, Randy!” You know what...she’s right!!!

For those of you who share the same feelings I do for 66, how about putting down your Newsletter, and sound off! Write me a few lines, give me your opinions. Tell me what YOU would do in my place as far as my opinion is of 66.

Together we'll stand firm to our commitment to the promotion, preserving, and enjoyment of Route 66 here in Illinois, and may your journey down the Mother Road be one you will remember to tell your Grandkids someday!

This photo, supplied by a nice couple, Wayne & Juanita Henderson from Selbytown, shows a shed that was once another ad for the Meramec Caverns. The shed is still there, but the roof was covered over, to where you can’t see this sign. Selbytown was one of a few forgotten 66 towns that were once on our 66 maps long ago.
Soulsby Station Sold
by Tom Teague

On June 8, Route 66’s oldest gas station changed hands for the first time. The new owner of the Soulsby Shell Station in Mount Olive is a neighbor, Mike Dragovich. Its auction took place just as this year’s Motor Tour passed through town.

Henry Soulsby built the station in 1926. His son Russell quit school to help run it. Route 66, that great agent of progress, brought America to their pumps. Then in the ’70s came the interstates. Mile by mile, ramp by ramp, America’s Main Street became the side street. Agent of progress became victim of progress. Owner-operated businesses like Soulsby’s gave way to corporate affairs. In 1992, Russell set the nozzle back on its hook for the last time and retired. Not much later, he had the gas storage tanks removed to satisfy EPA regulations. He’s come back since only to check for mail and greet visitors.

At 13 by 20 feet, the Soulsbys’ original station was smaller than the restrooms in many modern ones. It had room for a desk, a cash register, a battery charger, and a few supplies. They doubled its size in the 1930’s, but it was still never big enough to accommodate a car. Oil changes and minor repairs were performed on a drive-up ramp outside. When Russell stopped using it, he let an oak tree grow up through the ramp to keep area kids from using it at night. Inside, he took up TV repair.

When I first met Russell in 1985, he already had a drawer full of business cards from traveling journalists and documentary producers. A pixie in work clothes, he’d charmed them all. His smile, whether wide or sly, always threatened laughter. Soon he was drawing Route 66 fans from all over the world. Germans on Harleys, Japanese on buses, and Americans on everything. And always more journalists. The less gas Russell pumped, the more people came.

Many old timers along the road make their living now by selling T-shirts, cups, and bumper stickers. One recent traveler on 66 spent $9,000 on souvenirs.

But cashing in like that never interested Russell. He just liked to hang out and talk with people. Still, he found enough money after the station closed to put on siding and a new roof. It wasn’t his living anymore, but it was still his life.

In 1993, Russell’s sister and long time partner, Ola, had to enter nursing care. She’d lived in the house next door. When Russell couldn’t take care of her and the station both, he gave power of attorney for the station to his three sons.

Russell’s sons appreciated the station’s history. But they all live out of state and couldn’t take care of the property themselves. So they tried to interest the state in buying it. The Historic Preservation Agency suggested it could be a functional gas station once again. This plan had undeniable charm and value, but it would cost $125,000 a year and no appropriation was forthcoming.

Next, the Soulsby sons tried to sell the station to Mount Olive. It could be a park or museum. But no funds materialized there, either. Still trying, the sons offered the station and Ola’s house to the Route 66 Association Of Illinois last summer for $20,000. Even the Association declined, however, in favor of opening a museum across from Dixie Truckers Home in McLean.

At the last minute, I recruited a private sponsor, a young couple from northern Illinois. They would buy the property package, keep the house, and sell the station to a new not-for-profit group for $1 to operate as a museum. The head of this group, the Soulsby Station Society, was yours truly. The Soulsbys agreed to negotiate.

continued on page 11
Come To Dwight - For Harvest Days
September 19-21, 1997

This will be the next major Fund Raiser for the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. Tom and Pat Knudsen will have the merchandise table running during this three day event. Dwight is one of the oldest 66 towns here in Illinois and is rich in history. Most of the buildings date back to the 1800's and are well preserved. We encourage all Association Members and your families to come to this fun and colorful event, and have a good time!

Pictured is a beautiful model of The Country Mansion, which the model is located on old 66 just a block north of Feddersen's Pizza Garage. The actual Windmill was built in 1896, and is visible upon entering Dwight, off to the East.

This photo is the old Railroad Depot building, back in the early days of the train.

Soulsby Station Sold, continued from page 10

But first we decided to wait for the final remediation notice from the EPA. This took six months. In the interim, my sponsor couple decided to adopt. As a career employee of the Department of Children and Family Services, I not only supported them...I steered them to the Adoption Listing Service.

In June, after many visits, three sisters that they met through this service came to be part of their family.

Their priorities changed and the couple reluctantly withdrew their offer. With no sponsor, I had no deal. The Soulsby brothers at last decided to sell the station, Ola's house, and their contents at auction. When an auctioneer appraised the property, she told the brothers they should have better locks on all the doors. They complied. Somehow Russell didn’t get a key. This may have mattered, but not since June 8. It’s not a Soulsby station anymore.

Association members Frank and Roxane Lozich made a spirited, last-minute attempt to buy the station. They had offers of support from other members present. Their plan was to maintain it as a museum. But they had to drop out of the bidding at around the $15,000 mark. The new owner, Mike Dragovich, lives next door to Ola's house. His winning bid for the station was $18,500. He also bought Ola's home and two adjoining lots. When I asked him why, he pointed across the street where another neighbor had made a warehouse out of old boxcars. "I didn't get on top of that," he said. "This time, I did."

Right after the auction, a large group of Association members had an opening conversation with Mike. He has no plans to use the station or rent it to someone else. He also has no plans to remove it and put up something else. We told him we wanted the public to still have a chance to visit it. Perhaps we could have a Thematic Pull-Off like the one they're planning in Odell. Mike seemed open to the possibilities. It was too early to discuss specifics, but we left Mount Olive with a great deal of hope.

The long campaign to save the Soulsby Station is still alive and active!
Seldom Mentioned Places
by John Weiss

This trip lets you visit a few mansions. Three of them are for visiting only, while the other two are bed and breakfast homes. (Phone them for specific directions and additional information.)

Shirley – Funk’s Prairie Home & Gem-Mineral Museum
The Prairie Home is the 1864 mansion residence of Lafayette Funk. Among other things, he was the co-founder of the Chicago Stockyards. He was also an Illinois Senator. The home is beautifully maintained as it would have been in the late 1800’s. A Gem & Mineral Museum is also on the property. It is a special treat. Much more interesting than its name would imply. A great display of rare and beautiful stones and more. Reservations required. Call 309-827-6792. Free 90-minute tours Tuesday through Saturday.

Bloomington – David Davis Mansion
This mansion was built in 1872. Magnificent describes this very nicely. A tour is a must. David Davis was appointed to the Supreme Court by Abraham Lincoln in 1862. These grounds, known as Clover Lawn, once covered 1,000 acres. Call 309-828-1084. Admission, $2 for Adults and $1 for Children. Open Thursday through Monday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Farmersville – Punky’s Palace & Mansion
Here we have a mansion built in 1888 that has been converted into a bed and breakfast. Tours are also offered for $6 on most days. In front is a Ferris Wheel. Next door is a huge antique mall and tea room. This complex is a wonderful example of what’s old and new on Historic Route 66. Call 217-227-3733.

Carlinville – Anderson Mansion
This mansion is the current home of the Macoupin County Historical Society & Museum. The style of the building is Italianate and Queen Anne. It looks like a big gingerbread home. Other buildings are also on the grounds. Open some weekdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 217-854-8916 or 217-854-8500.

Carlinville – Victoria Tyme Inn
This mansion is also a bed and breakfast. It is located in the historic district, a few blocks from the town square, on Historic 66, and was built in 1876-78. The house’s twenty-story rear home constructed earlier, was the birthplace of famed author, Mary Hunter Austin. This home is decorated with antiques and period furnishings and boasts of beautiful floral grounds as well. For additional information, call 217-854-8689.

This information was taken from the book “Traveling the NEW, HISTORIC ROUTE 66 OF ILLINOIS.

Association members, John & Lenore Weiss have been very busy promoting Route 66 in Illinois over the air-waves, on radio! Here they are during a live one hour radio talk show broadcasting from the Aurora-Naperville area.

Now Available...
Traveling the New, Historic Route 66 of Illinois
by John Weiss

The Only Guidebook Exclusively of Illinois
Now you too can experience down home America as you travel the famous Mother Road! This new spiral-bound guidebook contains 94 exciting pages with 75 enticing photographs divided into 14 sections – including one on Historic Route 66 by rail! You’ll visit many old and new Mom & Pop restaurants and interesting shops and numerous side-trips to back road adventures!

Get you copy today by using the Merchandise Order form on page 15!
WHY 66?

Submitted by Marilyn Pritchard & Tom Flasch
(Reprinted by permission)

For years, people have wondered why Phillips picked the number 66 for its trademark. Many different explanations have circulated, so we’ll sort through them.

One was that when Frank Phillips started in business, he was 66 years old. Another, that his ranch covered 66 sections of land. Another, that the name was adopted because Frank Phillips' parents were married in the year 1866. Another, that the Phillips brothers had only $66 left when they hit their first oil well. One story speculated that “66” referred to the octane number of the gasoline, although in the 1920's gasoline wasn’t rated by octane numbers.

One especially bizarre story was that a Phillips official won the company’s first refinery in a dice game when the owner rolled “double sixes.”

The record was set straight by Frank Phillips himself in a 1938 message to employees. Here's the real story from the man who should know:

In making the bold venture into gasoline marketing, the company was committed to offering the public a gasoline superior to any on the market. Striving for this goal had caused delays in agreeing upon a name right up to the last minute.

As is usual in naming new babies, none of the suggestions collected seemed entirely suitable. We felt that our identifying emblem must be unusual, completely new and thoroughly distinctive.

Among those which were proposed but discarded because they did not strike our fancy as being adequate to symbolize our product was 66.

However, as time was running out an unusual coincidence brought 66 down off the shelf again.

A company official was returning to Bartlesville in one of the service cars being used to road test the new Phillips gasoline.

“This car goes like 60 on our new gas,” the company official remarked. “Sixty nothing,” exclaimed the driver glancing at the speedometer, “we’re doing 66!”

This experience was laid on the table at the next conference for discussing names. Someone inquired where the incident took place. The reply was, on Highway 66 near Tulsa. Already we had envisioned Highway 66 as the backbone of our future marketing area.

A quick decision was imperative, so we just decided then and there to use Phillips 66, and we never regretted our hasty decision.
Route 66 Associations and Museums

Looking for information about Route 66 in other states or countries?

Old Route 66 Information Center
Route 66 & Madison Ave., Box 66
Staunton, Illinois 62088-0066
Contact: Rich and Linda Henry
Phone: 618-635-5655

Route 66 Association of Missouri
P.O. Box 8117
St. Louis, Missouri 63156
Contact: Ron Robb
Phone: 417-358-7742

Kansas Historic Route 66 Association
P.O. Box 221
Riverton, Kansas 66770
Contact: Dean and Paula Walker

Oklahoma Route 66 Association
2609 N.W. 160 Terrace
Edmond, Oklahoma 73103
Contact: Joseph Kisicki
Phone: 405-348-3589

Oklahoma Route 66 Museum
2229 Gary Blvd.
Clinton, Oklahoma
Contact: Nancy Lowe-Clark
Phone: 405-323-RT66

Route 66 World Association
204 N. Main
Casa Grande Hotel (on Rt. 66)
Elk City, Oklahoma 73644
Phone: 405-243-0437

Old Route 66 Association of Texas
P.O. Box 66
McLean, Texas 79057
Contact: George Rock
Phone: 806-354-7916

Texas Route 66 Hall of Fame
P.O. Box 66
McLean, Texas 79057
Contact: Delbert Trew
Phone: 806-779-3164

New Mexico Route 66 Association
1415 Central NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106
Phone: 505-246-0211

Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona
P.O. Box 66
Kingman, Arizona 86402
Contact: Anita Lemm
Phone: 520-753-5001

Old Route 66 Visitors Center
Highway 66, Mile Post 81, Box 46
Hackett, Arizona 86411
Contact: Bob Waldmire
Phone: 520-769-2605

National Historic Route 66 Federation
P.O. Box 423
Tujunga, California 91043-0423
Contact: David Knudson
Phone: 818-352-7232

California Historic Route 66 Association
2117 Foothill Blvd., #66
LaVerne, California 91750
Phone: 714-289-8666

California Route 66 Museum
16849 D St.
Victorville, California 92393
Contact: Mark Ward
Phone: 619-261-8766

Route 66 Territory Museum
8916-C Foothill Blvd.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
Contact: Bob Lundy
Phone: 800-564-7866

U.S. Route 66 Association
Central Region
P.O. Box 150
West Point, Indiana 47992-0150

Dutch Route 66 Association
Postbus 2012, 1620 EA Hoorn
The Netherlands
Contact: Harry VanLuten
Phone: 02290-18318

Route 66 Association of Belgium
Georges Moreau Street 172
1070 Brussels, Belgium
Contact: Patrick Grauwels
Phone: 32-2-6402635

Association Francaise Route 66
88 rue de Chateau
F 92600 Asnières, France

Congratulations
To Our New Members:
William R. Dixon, Chicago; Keith Johnson, Montgomerie; Brent Jewell, Crown Point, IN; Richard L. Hartz, Davenport, IA; Howard Hoyt, Bensw; Albert Brown, Freeburg; John L. Hansow, Des Plaines; Nancy Schafer; Carl Taylor, LaPorte, IN; Ralph & Shirley Hermann, Manville; Cindy Dumbaugh, Tinley Park; Rita Gordon, Chicago; Tim & Mary Spensal, Clinton, IN; C. Dale & Jeanette Richards, Germantown, TN; Marilyn Lyon, Taylor Ridge; John Rinaldo, Cherry Valley; Dave & Darie Jones, Downs; Terry & Mary Bellman, Brighton; Gail & Betty Peterson, Normal; Coaches Bar & Grill, Gardner; John Beckman, Kearney; David & Allison Schauber, Lewiston, NY; Mark & Paula Bloedel, Oak Park; Susie Sherrick, Gardner; Gerald VonQualen, Gardner; Robert T. Poole Sr., Gardner; Luella Stutzman, Glen Ellyn; Theophiel Hecht, East Moline; Charles Fabian, Chicago; Kit & Carol Kitchos, Darlen; John Muldoon, Arlington Heights; Lillian Ewing, Fairview Heights; Sheila Voelinger, Fairview Heights; Paul Dibenettito, Roscoe; William W. Mitchell, Brighton; Jerry Keen, Schiller Park; Annette Lafollette, New Liberty, IA; John & Karen Foxond, Freeport; George Blume, Edwardsville; Bill Pickett, St. Bonfo; Andrew Berek, Saarbruecken, Germany; Naoaki Inomata, Chicago; George Ashburn, Etna, OH; Sharon Komeyak, Des Plaines; Mary Maggio, Wheaton; Betty McKinnon, Edwardsville; Apple Valley Motel, Granite City; Walter Mittreng, Elk Grove Village; Robert Grove, La Salle; James Foushee, Sr., Moline; Elizabeth Enrank, Mt. Vernon; David & Marny McEvoy, Fowlerville, MI; Delma McLeod, Park Forest; Michael Davis, Clinton; Doris White, Chicago; Andrea Matzek; Burr Ridge; Joe & Debra Kriese, Indianapolis, IN; Clare Richardson, Chino Hills, CA; Robert & Anne Gregor, Edwardsville; Steven D. Jeffers, Rantoul; Frank Kuffal, Rowayton, CT; George Peso, Evergreen Park; Paul Wendt, Naperville.

Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

Name: __________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City: __________________________________________ State: __________ Zip Code: ______
County: __________________________________________ Phone: ______________________

Interests in Route 66: __________________________________________

How I Can Help: __________________________________________

Annual Dues
General Membership . . $ 15
Business ................. $ 30
Sustaining .............. $200

Please mail to:
Membership • Route 66 Association
2743 Veterans Parkway • Rm 166
Springfield, IL 62704

Fall 1997 The 66 News! Page 14
Route 66 Association Merchandise Order Form

Clothes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Association nylon Jacket, polyester-lined</td>
<td>$23.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Sweatshirt</td>
<td>$16.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association T-shirt (circle choice: black or white)</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Fanny Pack (black)</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Cap (black)</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Embroidered Patch</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glow-in-the-Dark Shield T-Shirt</td>
<td>$13.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neon 2-sided T-Shirt (circle choice: Chey, 'Vette, Mustang, or T-Bird)</td>
<td>$13.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too Kool Collar</td>
<td>$9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New! Betty Boop Hitchhiking Route 66 T-Shirt</td>
<td>$13.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Collectibles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New! 12-oz drinking glass with Historic 66 Illinois Sign and slogan “Get My Kicks”</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceramic mug (black)</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 66 shield metal refrigerator magnet</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Illinois 66 refrigerator magnet (looks like new signs)</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 66 ceramic salt and pepper shakers</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Historic Route 66 sign, 13&quot; x 16&quot; (just like the signs the state is putting up!)</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproduction Route 66 shield sign (full-size, 16-gauge steel)</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prism Bumper Sticker - Corvette</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8&quot; x 8&quot; Illinois US 66 shield-shaped rubber car magnet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for one: $12.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for a set of two: $21.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mother Road Route 66 metal license plate frame</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois US 66 hat pins</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 66 earrings (circle choice: post or dangled)</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pewter 66 Belt Buckle</td>
<td>$11.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land of Lincoln “Route 66” license plate key chain</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Large Letter State Postcards by Bob Waldmire (set of 8)</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Scenes of 66” Postcards by Bob Waldmire (set of 42)</td>
<td>$9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall of Fame Postcards (set of 15)</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Greetings from the Mother Road!” Postcard Book by Michael Wallis</td>
<td>$10.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It’s Here! Full set of eight state maps by Jim Ross and Jerry McClanahan</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri fold-out map of Route 66 by Ross and McClanahan</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map by Bob Waldmire – 10 pages plus 6-page legend</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New! Traveling the New, Historic Route 66 by John Weiss</td>
<td>$17.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidebook to the Mother Road by Bob Moore and Patrick Grauwels (great photos and mile-by-mile detail)</td>
<td>$19.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New 2nd Edition! Searching for 66 by Tom Teague</td>
<td>$15.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 66-The Mother Road by Michael Wallis (paperback)</td>
<td>$21.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 66 Roadside Companion by Tom Snyder</td>
<td>$12.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Guidebook to Highway 66 by Jack Rittenhouse (reprint of 1946 book)</td>
<td>$9.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Route 66: The Highway and Its People by Quinta Scott and Susan Kelly (large format paperback)</td>
<td>$21.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Street Series by Susan Kirby (paperback)</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle choice(s): Lemonade Days, Home for Christmas, Home Front Hero, and Good-bye, Desert Rose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 66 Cookbook by Marian Clark (folklore and recipes)</td>
<td>$26.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 66 Fun Book (for kids of all ages!)</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Videos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Journey Down Route 66 narrated by Michael Wallis (90-minute video)</td>
<td>$22.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Route 66: An American Odyssey Video (formerly Route 66: The Video Road Trip) featuring famous 66-ers</td>
<td>$27.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cassettes/CDs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New! The Mother Road Audiotape narrated by Michael Wallis</td>
<td>$19.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New! The Songs of Route 66 by David Sanger et al (cassette only)</td>
<td>$11.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Feeling of Jazz by Bobby Troup (CD only)</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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!
- Make checks payable to Route 66 Association of Illinois
- PLEASE NOTE: All prices include postage and handling.

Accept no imitations or limitations! All product purchases benefit the Association!
Birds
by Randy Smith

Sure enough, some people thought I was getting a little bird-brained when I brought up the subject of a short-lived, one time 66 town called Birds, which was on an Illinois road map in 1940.

Association member Roger Berta identified the year in a previous issue when I brought up the question of what year. I went to the area a few times since then to see what I could find out about Birds, and it was a quiet area. Apparently deserted, like the other three forgotten 66 towns (see your Winter 1996 issue), it was located one mile north from the intersection of Routes 66 and 6.

The road got severed by Interstates 55 and 80, which cut the road off. The rail line of Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad runs right through the area directly. You will notice a Road Ends sign on one side of the road (West), but the other side (East) had another grain elevator operation that isn’t in business now. It took another spat of hiking, one of my 66 habits, to look and see what lies beyond the barriers, and sure enough there were the remains of a stretch of 66 that got taken up, but you can still see the planks on the railroad tracks that show there was indeed a crossing before Interstate 55 made it Rest In Peace. (Amen)

Should any of you 66’ers dig up some definite information on this town of Birds, which could include any old gas stations, diners, or other tid bits, send your Editor a line or two, and we’ll get this info in future issues of The 66 News.
ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

The 66 News!

Our Winter 1997 Newsletter — Special Edition

A Christmas Gift from the Preservation Committee

Illinois Route 66 is hereby nominated to the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

“ILLINOIS – Where the Road Begins.”
Officers and Board Members

The officers and board members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois 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
Frank Lozich, 10-99
7270 W. 174th Place
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-429-9173

Vice President
Rich Henry, 10-98
1016 S. Madison and Rt. 66
Staunton, IL 62088
618-635-5655
E-mail: route66@midwest.com

Treasurer
Tim Palm, 10-98
6054 W. 55th Street
Chicago, IL 60638
312-518-5940

Secretary
Marilyn Pritchard, 10-99
601 W. Reynolds
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-6937
E-mail: durelle@fcg.net

Corresponding Secretary
Dorothy Seratt, 10-99
408 N. Front
Odell, IL 60460
815-998-2300

Newsletter Editor
Randy Smith
116 Canterbury Court
East Peoria, IL 61611
309-699-2228
E-mail: The66News@aol.com

Board Members
George Leone, Cook, 10-99
3725 W. 152nd Street
Midlothian, IL 60445
708-388-7360

Andi Hari, DuPage, 10-98
1785 Turnbridge Court
Montgomery, IL 60538
630-892-2914

Duke Cartwright, Will, 10-99
407 Pasadena Avenue
Crest Hill, IL 60435
815-726-3574

Ray Starks, Grundy, 10-99
714 E. Illinois Avenue
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0350

John Stonecipher, Livingston, 10-98
216 E. Prairie Street
Odell, IL 60460
815-998-2161

C. J. Beecher, McLean, 10-98
2 Canterbury Court
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-874-2832

Paul Gleason, Logan, 10-99
1621 Rutledge Drive
Lincoln, IL 62656
217-735-1361

Don Cutler, Sangamon, 10-98
2200 Yale Boulevard
Springfield, IL 62703
217-554-1963

Priscilla Mathews, Montgomery, 10-99
410 N. Monroe
Litchfield, IL 62056
217-324-5551

Rich Henry, Macoupin, 10-98
1016 S. Madison and Rt. 66
Staunton, IL 62088
618-635-5655
E-mail: route66@midwest.com

Linda Henry, Madison, 10-98
Old Rt. 66 and Madison Avenue
Staunton, IL 62088
618-637-2886
E-mail: route66@midwest.com

Wilton Rinkel, St. Clair, 10-98
5539 St. Rt. 157 North
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-1625

5 At-Large Positions
Bill Przybyski, 10-98
24156 S. Kings Road
Crete, IL 60417
708-672-7937

Debbie Mileur, 10-99
322 N. 11th Street
Murphysboro, IL 62966
618-684-6330

Jeff LaFollette, 10-99
2351 Hiway 130
New Liberty, Iowa 52765
319-893-6653

Lenore Weiss, 10-98
21149 Hillside
Frankfort, IL 60423
815-469-5219
E-mail: KAYO66@aol.com

John Weiss, 10-99
21149 Hillside
Frankfort, IL 60423
815-469-5219
E-mail: KAYO66@aol.com

NOTE: Executive Committee members are the officers, plus Linda Henry and John Weiss.

Internal Publication Information

The 66 News is published quarterly by the Route 66 Association of Illinois around the first of March, June, September & 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. ANY ARTICLE WITH A BY-LINE IS COPYRIGHTED BY THE AUTHOR, AND MAY NOT BE USED IN ANY FORM WITHOUT THE AUTHOR’S EXPRESSED PERMISSION. 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 1st-class camera ready copy only. NO XEROXES! All stories & ads must be submitted 6 weeks prior to publication. Address inquiries & contributions to Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, Illinois 62704.
Special Notice for the 1/18/98 Association-General Meeting

Mark down these dates set for our next upcoming Association Board-General meetings... The January 18, 1998 meeting for the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be at the Heritage House, in Springfield, IL.

The Heritage House is just a few blocks south of the Cozy Dog on the same side of the road at 3857 S. 6th Street. The Board Meeting is at 11 a.m., then lunch by 12 noon. Then on to the General Meeting at 1 p.m. All Association members and the public are welcome to attend.

This will be a special meeting to kick off the New Year for Route 66! David Newton, from the Historical Preservation Agency will be here with a slide presentation on what the National Register Of Historic Places is all about. David Newton was also very instrumental in helping the Preservation Committee with the Galesburg nomination of getting Illinois Route 66 on the National Register.

Also, for a bonus to the Association, Terri Ryburn-LaMonte and Dorothy Seratt will also have a slide presentation similar to the one they used to get Illinois 66 on the National Register!

This special meeting is one that is NOT to be missed, so come early and get a seat as they will be limited. Join in on the celebration by the Association for our new major achievements, and hear what we have planned for the New Year, and an insight as to where we’re heading for the year 2000!

Next Meeting Dates To Know

There will be no meeting of the Preservation Committee on Saturday, January 17, 1998 at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight on Old 66. The meeting will be held Saturday, April 18, 1998 at Feddersen’s Pizza Garage in Dwight.

This meeting will give you the opportunity to meet the new Chairman of this group, John Weiss. Many future plans and ideas for getting more nominees on the National Register Of Historic Places will be brought up, as well as some fundraising ideas and what nots. Now is your chance to make it to one of these exciting meetings, and bring in your suggestions, too! Teamwork is what motivates this highly skilled group, and it will definitely advance the Association to new heights in terms of preservation efforts.

The April 18, 1998 meeting of the Preservation Committee on a Saturday will be at Feddersen’s Pizza Garage in Dwight, and also the Spring meeting for the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be announced later in the March 1998 Spring Issue. We’ll keep you reminded of these meetings and dates again by the March 1998 issue of The 66 News.
Special News from the Preservation Committee
by Jeff LaFollette

September 18, 1997 will be remembered as a very important, historical day for Route 66 through Illinois. The Illinois Sites and Advisory Council, a branch of the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency, met in Galesburg, Illinois to give their approval to the Multiple Property Documentation for Architectural and Historical Resources of Route 66 through Illinois.

Preservation Committee members Terry Ryburn-LaMonte and Dorothy Seratt gave the presentations. Terri gave her presentation on various historical aspects of the highway, breaking it down into three main sections which included transportation, commerce, and architecture along Route 66 in Illinois. Terri was given 25 minutes to present her presentation, which was basically a speech and slide presentation showing old segments of Route 66, old maps, slides of early roadbuilding techniques, businesses along Route 66 including gas stations, restaurants, and tourist courts as well as historic districts and bridges. Terri also sprinkled bits of humor into her talk, showing a slide of two lane Route 66, then following it with "what is called progress today," showing a slide of an aerial view of a Chicago expressway interchange which drew a chuckle from the crowd.

After Terri’s presentation, David Newton, Assistant National Register Co-ordinator then gave the Historical Preservation Agency opinion, which was positive in all points of her presentation. The council then voted unanimously to accept the Architectural and Historical Resources of Route 66 through Illinois to be given National Register status.

Dorothy Seratt then gave her presentation on the Odell Standard Gasoline Station. Dorothy was given 10 minutes to give her presentation, which was also a speech and slide presentation. Dorothy's slides showed past and present views of the station describing it as a "house with a canopy", or a domestic type that was the very early type of service station. Dorothy also showed many external views and internal pictures of the station as well. David Newton then gave the Historical Presentation Agency opinion as positive, and that the station is an excellent example of the early service stations along Route 66. As with Terri’s presentation, the Council came to an unanimous decision to accept the Odell station for nomination to the National Register as well.

The Galesburg meeting is the first step for both projects to be given National Register status. Now the write-ups will be fine tuned, and then sent to Washington D.C. where final approval is given. This process usually takes 45-60 days.

The Preservation Committee was well represented at the meeting. Chairman Frank Lozich along with his wife Roxane, John and Lenore Weiss, Tim Palm, Jeff LaFollette, Marie Jibben, and your Newsletter Editor Randy Smith. Also present were several members of the Lincoln Highway Association, who came to learn and lend moral support.

"The anticipation was well worth it," stated Frank. "The ladies did a fine job. I believe this is a moment that will be very historic for the Association." Dorothy Seratt added: "I’m glad it’s over! It was a lot of hard work, but it was well worth it. This is just the beginning." John and Lenore summed it up this way: "Together, we can make it happen and teamwork goes a long way."

This is the culmination of sixteen months of work. This project began in May 1996, one year after the Preservation Committee was formed. There was a lot of hard work and effort put forth by every member of the committee, as was evident by the joy of everyone there when the nominations were approved.

Also, the approval paves the way for nominating properties along Route 66. Since the Architectural and Historical Resources portion was approved as a multiple property designation, it makes it easier to approve individual listings as they can be referred to the multiple property designation.

continued on page 5
Route 66 is Officially Recognized
by John Weiss

This is wonderful news for all towns and people who
own property or structures on Old Route 66 in Illinois.

On September 18-21, 1997, the Landmarks Preservation
Council Of Illinois held a conference in Galesburg. The
first day was devoted to the Illinois Historic Sites
Advisory Council. The purpose of this council is to
review applications and listen to presentations
concerning historic sites. If an applicant is successful,
the committee will nominate it for inclusion onto the
National Register Of Historic Places. This is a prestigious
honor given only to truly historic and significant sites.

The story begins 16 months ago. The Illinois Route 66
Preservation Committee appointed Dorothy Seratt of
Odell, Illinois to the monumental task of gathering
information pertinent to Historic Route 66 in Illinois.
She needed to tabulate all architectural and historic
resources of Route 66 through Illinois from 1926 to 1956.
She immediately asked for help from Terri Ryburn-
LaMonte of Normal, Illinois. Terri is an expert on Route
66, and is working on Route 66, and is an expert on Route
66, and is working on Route
66, and is working on Route
66,

Together, this dynamic duo set out on a project that
everyone thought was almost impossible to accomplish.
The feisty two-some went to work along with some
other volunteers who also helped out on this project,
and less than 1 1/2 years later the job got done!

They then applied to the State Preservation Agency to
be heard. The Advisory Council had previously read
the lengthy submission. Next, they watched a 15 minute
narrated slide presentation. The voting results were
unanimous, and the Route 66 corridor in Illinois is
recognized as historical. This then encompasses all
properties along the famous highway. The designation
is known as M.P.D., which stands for Multiple Property
Documentation form.

Now, anyone who has a site within the Route 66
corridor that is seeking inclusion on the National
Register Of Historic Places in Illinois can use this report
to do so.

The dynamic duo wasn’t finished yet. They were
prepared to put their work to the test. They presented
for consideration the old Standard Oil Gasoline Station
in Odell, Illinois. Once again, an unanimous decision
was reached by the council. The little gas station was
nominated to be on the National Register Of Historic
Places, just like Route 66!

This should be only the first of many worthy structures
to be recognized along the Mother Road here in Illinois
on Route 66. For more information, contact Dorothy
Seratt at 815-998-2300 or Terri Ryburn-LaMonte at
309-452-5325.

Special News, continued from page 4

As stated in the by-laws, the purpose of the Association
shall be to preserve, promote, and enjoy the past and
present of U.S. Highway Route 66. A large step to
preserve Route 66 was taken in Galesburg, a town that
is not a part of 66, but a town that has a rich heritage of
preserving its past. Let this be our guide as an
Association to use this great preservation effort to
continue to promote the past and present of our historic
highway so that future generations will mark
September 18, 1997 as historic a date as November 11,
1926. Let’s continue the effort started by the
Preservation Committee. And the next time you see
Terri or Dorothy, give them a big thank you. The ball is
rolling, so let’s keep the momentum going!

(Editor’s Note) This was truly a day to be remembered, and
one that I was proud to witness. As a reward, I was the ONLY
one in the room that was allowed to video tape the entire
proceedings of these two nominees. Hopefully later, we can
arrange for the Association to watch this tape, about 41
minutes long. Then we can all equally share in the joy of this
major accomplishment to the Association.

The Dynamic Duo of Terri Ryburn-LaMonte & Dorothy Seratt
(no, not Batman & Robin) holding up a celebration cake of
Route 66 to commemorate getting Route 66 in Illinois on the
National Register Of Historic Places.
Welcome, Our New President!

President Frank Lozich prepares for the explosive blast of the cork coming off this bottle of bubbly...to celebrate the victory of getting Route 66 in Illinois on the National Register Of Historic Places. Looking on in the background is At-Large Board Member Lenore Weiss.

Frank Lozich has been a member of the Association since its formation. Along with his charming wife Roxie, they have supported Route 66 here in Illinois, and has spent a lot of volunteer effort. Frank has chaired two successful Motor Tours, and has been the Vice President for the last 3 years. Frank also formed the Preservation Committee back in May of 1996, and set goals to achieve for the Association in terms of preservation efforts. Now with his leadership, the Association can look forward to a lot of teamwork. This man is known to use his cigar instead of a gavel to direct business! So look out for those smoke rings...they have the smell of accomplishment!

We also thank past President Tom Knudsen for serving the last 4 years for the Association. Tom has put in a lot of hard work and has been quite active in fundraising for us. Tom's attendance was excellent in all aspects of Association business and meetings.

Minutes of October 19, 1997 Association Meeting
by Marilyn Pritchard

The Route 66 Association Of Illinois Board-General Meeting was held on Sunday, October 19, 1997 at the Old Country Buffet in the College Hills Mall in Normal, Illinois with 58 members present.

President Tom Knudsen welcomed everyone and conducted the meeting with Committee reports first.

Treasurer report was $3,125.32.

Membership report from Priscilla Mathews: The Association has 1,111 members now. Priscilla sent $2,330 to the Treasurer. She stated that she has new Membership Applications on hand.

Merchandise report was given by Jeff Meyers. Everyone was given a big Thank You for everyone that helped sell merchandise.

By-laws will be printed for the January meeting.

Museum Depot Report: The Museum Fund has $5,400 to date.

Motor Tour Report: The Tour this year was very successful, and another big Thank You to everyone that helped in any way. About 400 people attended the banquet in Lincoln.

Our 1998 Motor Tour Chairman is Jeff LaFollette. The Tour will start from the South and end in the Chicago area. The first Motor Tour meeting will be November 16 1997 at McLean Township Hall.

There will also be a Depot Museum meeting following the Tour meeting.

Newsletter Editor Randy Smith was commended on a great job of doing the Fall newsletter and the front cover, by President Tom Knudsen.

The Association Picnic in 1997 that was held at Miller Park in Bloomington had about 70 people in attendance.

Preservation Chairman Frank Lozich praised Dorothy Seratt and Terry Ryburn-LaMonte for the excellent preservation given September 18 1997 at the Landmark Preservation Council of Illinois Conference, held in Galesburg, Illinois. They worked together as a team on the Multiple Property Documentation for Architectural and Historic Resources of Route 66 through Illinois. They spent many hours the past 16 months preparing this presentation. High honors goes to Dorothy and Terri. Route 66 was nominated to the National Register Of Historic Places. They also was able to get the old Standard Oil Station in Odell also on the National Register.

Tom Teague will help Terri Ryburn-LaMonte to seek material for a State Grant.

Linda Henry and John Weiss will serve on the Executive Committee, with the Association Officers.
Preservation Alert
by Jeff LaFollette

Remember the last time you traveled on Route 66? Maybe you stopped to investigate an abandoned road segment you hadn’t notice before, ate lunch in a “Mom and Pop” restaurant, or took a few pictures of a great, old gas station. Whatever it was, you were enjoying the experience; and you would like to continue to enjoy that experience.

With the unanimous approval of the Multiple Property Documentation Form “Historic and Architectural Resources of Route 66 through Illinois” by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council, it has become simpler for Route 66 enthusiasts and preservationists to ensure that future excursions on Route 66 will be just as enjoyable.

It is time now for all Association members to suggest those road segments, restaurants, gas stations, motels, bridges, and other structures that can be placed on the National Register Of Historic Places. The National Register sub-committee is willing and able to answer questions, document structures, assist in implementing National Register proceedings, or do the writing of the submission. We need people now to help nominate sites, to help preserve Route 66 structures in Illinois.

If you can aid in any way with this project, please contact Dorothy Seratt at 815-998 2300 or Terri Ryburn-LaMonte at 309-452-5325. Help do YOUR part in saving what’s left on Route 66 here in Illinois!

Soulsby Station Society Update
by Tom Teague

Members of the Soulsby Station Society had dinner with the station’s new owner, Mike Dragovich, at the Ariston in August. We stressed to him that we want to keep the station available to the Route 66 public. Mike is very agreeable to working with us and we all left the meeting feeling very positive about the station’s future. Eventually, Mike may have to locate a business there, but he is even willing to get the Society’s advice on that before making final arrangements.

Look for several outdoor improvements at the station next Spring. The Society will work with Mike to put up picnic tables and new signs inviting people to stop. Some day in April of 1998 we’ll have a clean up day. Depending on what else Mike does with the station, we also plan to have some displays inside. We even have a volunteer to clean and re-paint the station’s landmark grease rack. And on holidays and other special times, Soulsby Society Members and even Russell himself will be there to welcome visitors.

People interested in joining the Society or otherwise helping its cause may write to Soulsby Station Society, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, Illinois 62704. Membership is $20 a year.

Depot Museum Update
by Tom Teague

The Association has signed a three-year lease with the Beeler family for the home of our planned Depot Museum in McLean. A reconstituted committee was slated to meet on November 15, to draw up plans for a Spring opening. The museum will be the Association’s best chance to show our Illinois hospitality to the motoring public. Let’s all do what we can to make it happen!

Many people have donated or loaned exhibits for the museum. Among them is Bill Shea, who is loaning two restored gas pumps. Negotiations for some truly unique items are also under way. But there’s plenty of room for more. If you have something to loan or donate, please contact Association President Frank Lozich or Tom Teague, Route 66 Association Of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, Illinois 62704 or E-mail Tom Teague at: teague66@eosinc.com

The museum will have an alarm system. But we also need a skilled welder to install entry proof bars on the windows. We’ve seen this done with wrought iron fencing. All you have to do is weld it to the proper lengths and bolt it to the windows. If you can do this, get in touch with Frank or Tom. It will help us get even better exhibits!
In Other News

One of our well known 66 book authors, Susan Kirby, was at the fourth annual Mid America’s Book & Paper Fair at the Exposition Garndens in Peoria, Illinois on Saturday, September 27, 1997. Susan is known for her children’s books on Route 66 as well as other great novels. Also present at the Book Fair was another Association member, Marie Jibben, whom got in the local newspaper looking for old postcards of the Chain Of Rocks Bridge and many other valuable post cards.

The 3rd annual Mother Road Ride/Rally, hosted by Kirk Woodward rolled through after our Route 66 Motor Tour. This is a large group of motorcyclers, whom have a yearly 2 wheeling tour through 66 from California to Chicago. Their next tour, around June 13, 1998, will be even bigger and better. For information on this group, contact Kirk Woodward at 2024 Heatherbrook Dr., Grapevine, Texas 76051 or E-mail him at kirk@hhjm.com

An addition to make to the Fall 1997 issue of The 66 News on page 4 it mentioned about a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker. Tom Teague donated the $100 for the marker that was put up at the Funk’s Grove rest stop off I-55. Good job, Tom! Keep up the good work! Tom also continues to host bus tours for groups interested in Route 66, with one of his most recent, a trip from Chicago to Springfield.

Newsletter Editor Randy Smith went down to the Chain Of Rocks Bridge to talk to Louis Mavros, project director for the bridge through Gateway Trailnet, informs me that work is proceeding on time for the Fall opening of the bridge next year, but he did mention that it was possible that if work kept ahead of schedule, it could be open as early as Spring 1998. This would be great, and it might possibly be open again for another walk for our Motor Tour, if they plan on it. It’s still early to be precise on these plans, but we’ll keep you posted on the rebuilding of the famous 66 bridge.

Terri Ryburn-LaMonte was at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Bloomington on Wednesday November 5, 1997 to autograph and discuss her book Route 66: Goin’ Somewhere. There were several other people from Illinois State University Alumni that was there, too.

In our last issue of The 66 News, we ran a story on the back cover about the 66 town of Birds. Two Association members from the area: J. Reed from Shorewood, Illinois, and also Robert Heath from Bushnell, Illinois, wrote to respond to our request for any information.

The area was known more for being called Birds Bridge instead of just Birds. It was also shown on an Illinois state highway map in 1951.

Ten bicyclists from the Chicago area rode 66 miles on Route 66 to celebrate a birthday for Elaine Dow, whom turned 66. Elaine is from Lombard, and was inspired to take this bicycle tour after going on the Route 66 Motor Tour held earlier this June. The bike group had quite a few older cyclists...six of them were 66 years old, one was 79 and the oldest was 81. They had a relaxing stop in Pontiac, and were hosted by Marilyn & Durelle Pritchard, whom treated them to a hayrack ride through town, as well as a tour of the area. The Pritchards also took them to the Old Log Cabin for a delicious meal.

Marilyn & Durelle were also involved in “Return To The Road,” a caravan of old Corvettes along with the first seen 1998 models of the Corvette. Marilyn had the opportunity to get her picture taken with Bonnie Samsom, a 66 fan from Branford, Connecticut next to the first one of these new models sold! (See photo) This caravan started in Chicago and is headed to Santa Monica, California. It is a promotion tour for the 1998 models, and they had a long stop-over in Pontiac at Lynn Chevrolet. The caravan also had another stop at Lexington. Newsletter Editor Randy Smith also saw this group that day, September 10 1997 on his way up to Chicago.
In Other News, continued

The grain elevator that was pictured that is now vacant was called Birds Bridge. When I-55 bridge was built next to 66 here, the State didn't want to go over the expense to build another bridge on the access road (66) to connect back together original 66, so that is why in another photo shown, the bridge over the railroad tracks never materialized, so back in about 1952, the farmers found it a long and dangerous trip to go way around to Route 6 to get back to Birds Bridge to the grain elevator, so they quit going to it, and so ended the grain elevators business, and so it closed. There was no known town, no gas stations, no diners, etc. just the grain elevator that gave Birds Bridge its name on many maps at the time. So we have about four known “forgotten” 66 towns now exposed here in Illinois, since your Editor brought them up in previous issues of The 66 News.

So here’s a challenge to our membership...send me photos of any other “forgotten” 66 towns on an Illinois map along with as much info as you have and we’ll keep this research of 66 going on for the Association! My hiking boots are starting to look like a pet puppy chewed the hell out of them, so why not you all join me in the adventures on 66 here in Illinois, and be PART of the contributors for this top ranked publication, second to none! And my own personal thanks to ALL our members for your contributions. (Editor)

I still get too much in terms of news to fit in a 16-page issue, but if it doesn't show up in an issue, odds are it will follow later in another issue when space permits. One of these days, if I get an anonymous donor who wants to see a huge 32-page special newsletter someday, it is estimated to cost an additional $1,000. to do such a project. So with the budget allowed from the Association, we are happy to have a 16-page issue, so we'll stay in line with our expenses, and continue to enjoy our issues as they come out. For now, it's time for me to work on my Route 66 snowman out front, and I wish you all a Merry Christmas!!

Another well known Hall Of Famer, Eamie Edwards of the Pig Hip Restaurant in Broadwell, recently celebrated his 80th birthday, and was presented with a delicious Pig Cake!

Eamie was also our star chef a few years ago at the park in Funks Grove Cemetery, making us those delicious sandwiches of his at our Association picnic. In this photo, he wears an adorable message “Leave Me Alone! I'm Having A Crisis!” (Ha Ha)

It was easy to recognize him wearing his white “Top Hat.”

Earlier this year, Association member Carter LeBeau from Davenport, Iowa send us this photo of Routt 66 off of a Phillips 66 station outside of Steamboat, Colorado. It more reflects Routt County, but was an odd find on a Phillips 66 station. Good eyes, Carter, and keep on looking out for the Mother Road!

From the Front Cover:

The Preservation Committee of the Illinois Route 66 Association, from left to right:

Tim Palm, Roxie Lozich, Frank Lozich, Terri Ryburn - LaMonte, John Weiss, Lenore Weiss, Jeff LaFollette, Marie Jibben, Dorothy Seratt, and your Newsletter Editor Randy Smith
Help Remember Route 66
by Jeff Geisler, Preservation Committee Member

My first childhood memories of Route 66 are noticing one day that the U.S. 66 signs disappeared at the interchange with I-50, and watching a new Venture store going up where the screen used to be for the Drive In Theater at the intersections of Rt.66, 12-20-45. Route 66 had more losses since then (too many to name) but there have also been re-births, and places that will not succumb to "progress."

I'm sure that we all have a favorite past or present Route 66 site or two. The Preservation Committee would like your help in developing an "archive" of Illinois 66 sites. All that we are asking for is a photo (or 2) of your favorite site, past or present, and a description of it on the Historic Data Record Sheet.

We will be collecting these Historic Data Record Sheets for possible publication in a loose-leaf format at a later date, and will share the information obtained with any Association Committees.

*Send the photo(s) and information to: Jeff Geisler, 814 West 61st Street, LaGrange Highlands, Illinois 60525*

---

**Historic Data Record Sheet**

Date: __________________________  County: __________________________  City: __________________________

Name of Business-Structure: __________________________

Address-Location: __________________________

Existing Structure? ☑ Yes ☐ No  In 66 Association Hall of Fame? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Dates of Operation (if known): __________________________

Owners-Operators Name: __________________________  Phone: __________________________

A brief history of the business-structure: __________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Map of location or additional photo: (Include)

Other information you might have: __________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Data provided by (your name): __________________________

Your Address: __________________________

City: __________________________  State: __________________________  Zip: __________________________

Your Phone Number: __________________________

---
Harvest Days
by Pat Knudsen

This annual event in Dwight was held September 20 and 21, 1997. The Route 66 Association Of Illinois sold merchandise at this popular event, which attracts a lot of people. A lot of information was handed out about Route 66 to individuals stopping by to look at the merchandise that we had set up.

In fact, one of the schools were going to be doing a project about Route 66 so they appreciated getting the information and merchandise from the Association to purchase.

Burt Parkinson, one of our Hall Of Fame members from Gardner, was in the Harvest Days Parade which was held on Sunday, the 21st.

Harvest Days in Dwight has grown each year. It is always held on the third weekend in September. The Association merchandise table has always been set up there, too, which makes a great fundraiser for the Association, as well as an information booth for people interested in Route 66. We look forward to this again next year!

Also, Dwight is where the first meeting of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. It was held in November of 1989 at the VFW Hall.

Grundy County Corn Festival
by Pat Knudsen

The 49th annual Grundy County Corn Festival was held September 21 through the 28th this year. They had a nice 3 hour parade on Sunday, September 28, and it featured one of our Hall Of Fame members. Burt Parkinson from Gardner was in the parade. Also in the parade was Grundy County Board Member Ray Starks, from Morris. Ray also had his granddaughter Kayla Kubinski in the parade with him. Everyone had a great time at this annual event.

Recap of The Route 66 Association Of Illinois Picnic
by Tom and Pat Knudsen

The annual picnic of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois was held on a Saturday, September 6, 1997 at the Miller Park in Bloomington.

The picnic was very well attended for being held on a Saturday for the first time. There were about 70 people there in attendance.

The Association furnished the meat, chips, baked beans, and drinks. All members who attended brought dishes to pass. As always, there were a lot of good recipes being used for all of us to enjoy.

Some of the members and their families visited the nearby Miller Park Zoo, one of the best zoos in the world. Everyone had a great time, and the weather was perfect for this annual outing of the Association. Hope to see you all next year at our next picnic, which we will keep you informed in this newsletter of its whereabouts when announced later.

Hall of Fame
Nominations Sought

Each year the Association seeks to honor those people and places whose blend of hardy individualism and grassroots community spirit gave Route 66 such special flavor in Illinois by inducting them into our Hall of Fame. New members for 1998 will be inducted June 6 in conjunction with our Ninth Annual Hall of Fame.

If you'd like to see a person, place, or bridge honored this way, you may nominate them between now and February 28. All we ask is for 250 or more words about your nominee's history along the road—with as much specifics as possible. Photos, newscips, and other memorabilia are also welcomed. Support letters are okay, too, so long as they add new detail or reason.

Send whatever you have to Tom Teague, Route 66 Hall of Fame, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, IL, 62704.

Nominations will be judged by a panel of Association officers, historians, and Hall of Fame members.

Winter 1997 The 66 News! Page 11

Miller Park was full of several different groups there on a warm Saturday for the annual Route 66 Association Of Illinois picnic. The lunch was delicious, and notice the old steam locomotive in the background. Tom Knudsen kept the grill smoking, and I presume added a few pounds more to his hefty build!
Name That Spot!
by Randy Smith

This time, we look for an old sign on 66 here in Illinois. This photo of a 7-UP sign is almost hard to see in the summer, but with the leaves off the trees, you should be able to see it clearly. Now, while you all hibernate this Winter, look through your old photo albums or fill up your gas tanks and hit the road in search of this only remaining 7-UP sign here in Illinois on 66. Show us your potential to finding missing 66 treasure, and we’ll get your names in the Spring 1998 issue of The 66 News!

Furthermore, since the Summer 1997 issue, I put in a photo of a 66 restaurant for you all to guess on. NO ONE guessed it. I re-ran a quote in the Fall issue mentioning that I still awaited a response to that Route 66 Restaurant, and again, NO ONE knew! Well, it is your Editor’s fault for cheating on that! I did mention it would be a hard find, and indeed it is! Matter of fact, it is in Sweden, half way around the planet Earth! Furthermore, there are 21 of these Route 66 Restaurants over there, and the one that was pictured in the Summer 1997 issue is located on road E-22, in Fjalkinge. The photo was originally sent from 66ers Uno & Berith Johansson from Sweden, but the photo was sent to me by two of my beloved 66 people Gaia and Steve Funk, from the Funk’s Grove Sirup Farm. Make sure you all stop and see these Hall Of Famers! Well worth the visit. Next time, I’ll keep it on the road to make it easier for you all to guess! (Ha Ha).

Speaking In Plates

Here are a few cool 66 plates spotted by our members that cruised the Mother Road this year. In this photo, submitted by a sweetheart of a 66er from the Canadian Route 66 Association named Lorrie Fleming. She spotted this GO RT 66 at the Bloomington Gold Corvette Show on Friday, June 27 1997.

I CRUZ 66 comes from Eugene Pincsak off a Pontiac from Chicago, Illinois.

WHAT A 66 comes from one of our At Large Board Members, Jeff LaFollette. It is off a 1966 Mustang.

As we mentioned before, KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN for these fun loving 66 plates that carry a bold message down the road wherever they motor out west to. If you see one, especially one that resembles a direct meaning to 66, hit it with your Minolta, and send it in to your Newsletter Editor. Let’s make it YOUR turn to be in The 66 News!
From the Editor’s Desk...
by Randy Smith

What a year this has been! And a much happier new year, too, for the Route 66 Association Of Illinois! We are on the right track in terms of pulling together to keep the spirit of 66 alive and well. With the new leadership to steer us in the right direction, we can all look forward to better times ahead, and a “Happy New Year”! It will be determined teamwork pulling together towards the same common goal, which is to preserve, promote, and enjoy Route 66. To pull all of the committees and other members of this Association together in a strong family is just the cure for the Winter cold. I been looking forward to this for a long time, and the potential for lots of contributors to this great newsletter is very inspiring.

It is time to look forward to the year 2000, and what it is going to mean to Route 66. With the efforts of the Preservation Committee getting Illinois Route 66 on the National Register Of Historic Places is an achievement well to be noted! It ranks as the most significant of the goals attained since the formation of this Association.

Another noteworthy achievement was in 1995 getting those brown Historic Route 66 signs up, too. Instead of nudging ahead at a snails pace, we will sail ahead in leaps and bounds. Never have I been more enthusiastic to be in the position as Editor, to see these new changes and accomplishments flourish like never before, and also get unlimited NEWS in the process! It’s like seeing the rainbow in the Land Of Oz. I just hope I can keep up with you all on your own pursuits on 66, as I know there are many of you very loyal in your own interests on 66, and I look forward to sharing with you on my own missions, which are usually quite different in nature, as some of you know of my adventuristic nature as far as 66 is concerned. I still prefer my hiking boots and climbing gear instead of the automobile, and have a profound fondness of the way things used to be, and will still be once again!

With 66 in Illinois being on the National Register, it won’t be so easy and quick to see ANY more artifacts or roadway being torn down, without having the opportunity to have a say in the matter! Furthermore, it will pave the way to getting several dozens of well-worthy sites, businesses, farms, homes, and many other sites too numerous to list and nominated on the National Register.

This achievement will come much easier and sooner than you realize, so let’s all get ready for a major blitz to the efforts to get this job done. By the time the smoke clears, we’ll have the entire stretch of Illinois 66 looking like a 296 mile museum! What a sight to see! I been able to sleep much better these days, and look forward to this challenging job as being Editor, too. Special thanks to my ‘gal’ up north, in doing the layout for me (Kim Kuman). She has worked close with me on putting together a great newsletter, and sharing talents as well. It is still my own goal to make this newsletter “second to none” and credit also goes out to our outstanding members in this Association to making NEWS happen!

Please continue to write me a few lines or e-mail me, and be part of our mission! As for now, it’s back to this dusty keyboard and monitor to see what we come up with next. And may this be the merriest 66 Christmas yet for Route 66, and a great start for a New Year in terms of membership growth, and more success for our motto of preserving, promoting, and above all, enjoyment of Route 66 here in Illinois.

This is where your Newsletter Editor does his work for the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. This rather cluttered corner has it all—from a Pentium Computer with SVGA monitor, 3 hard drives, two printers, and a scanner, speakers, mike, etc. The old Word Processor to the right is still used for the text. One of these days hopefully, this system will design the newsletter, since it has the Adobe Pagemaker 5 program that is needed to do the job with. Currently, my sidekick gal Kim Kuman is doing our layout for a very reasonable price. Kim uses an older Macintosh using the same Adobe Pagemaker 5 program. Since this photo, I added a second scanner, and I am doing imaging design now. Don’t forget to use your computer to keep in touch with me, at: The66News@aol.com
Seldom Mentioned Places
by John Weiss

I often read about nostalgic drive-ins in other states. They rave about how they look, and how they evoke a sense of days gone by.

Well, we have a number of drive-ins here in Illinois that deserve equal praise and recognition. The drive-in restaurants we have here in Illinois are as good or better than any others.

Listed here are some that come to mind from Chicago to Springfield:

Henry's – Cicero
Bunyons – Cicero
Creamy Delight – Joliet
Launching Pad – Wilmington
Polk-A-Dot – Braidwood
Steak-N-Shake (the original) – Normal
Double Nickel – Bloomington
Cozy Dog – Springfield

Speaking of drive-ins, the other type is the theater kind. Drive In movies once were very popular with young and old, especially teenagers.

We are very fortunate to have one of the few remaining Drive In theaters in Illinois. Ours is located in Litchfield. They even use the original hang-on speakers.

At the price of $1 per person, and loaded with nostalgia, it is one of the best bargains on Route 66 in Illinois. (Editor...see page 13 in your Summer 1997 issue)

As part of your Route 66 plans for 1998, make sure to stop in and have a meal at one of these fine eateries!

66 Drive In To Re-Open!
by Randy Smith

For those of you motoring West this coming April 18 1998 on a Saturday, there will be a landmark fully restored to its heyday that will be open for business once again, and that is the well known 66 Drive In at Carthage, Missouri on the West end of town. This well-known structure sat vacant, full of junk cars and in disarray, is being once again opened for the old ways of entertainment when it gets completely restored. This is a great place to see a film, as there will be 66 enthusiasts from all over the world that will be traveling from everywhere to meet and get acquainted at this grand re-opening. Hope to see you all at this highly publicized Drive In, as there are not many left that are open, let alone still standing on Route 66.

A few years earlier, the other 66 Drive In on Watson Rd. in St. Louis got razed in place of a shopping mall. Marie and I went out there to see it and saw the Bulldozers leveling it to the ground. I remember saying several “explicit” things to the works of modern “progress” as I saw un-replaceable history being removed! It felt like a knife stabbed in my back, and a scar left behind. It is a sad loss of 66 history to see these famous structures being lost to “progress” as developers call it. I was fortunate to get a few good photos of that 66 Park In Theatre before it got tore down. In the next upcoming Spring issue of The 66 News, I will put in a photo of these two Drive Ins for you all to remember, and salute!

And don't forget to write your Newsletter Editor with YOUR opinions on how you feel about preserving Route 66, since we all share the same feelings! I'd like to hear from our members on your ideas for preserving, promoting, and enjoying Route 66, whether here in Illinois or in another 66 state. Lift up your pen to a few words, and drop me a letter, OK? See ya on 66!!!

---

Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

| Name: ____________________________________________ |
| Address: __________________________________________ |
| City: ___________________________ State: ___________ Zip Code: ___________
| County: ___________________________ Phone: ___________
| Interests in Route 66: ____________________________________________ |
| How I Can Help: ____________________________________________ |

Annual Dues
- Individual $15
- Business $30
- Sustaining $200 or more

Please mail to:
- Membership
- Route 66 Association
- 2743 Veterans Parkway
- Room 166
- Springfield, IL 62704
Route 66 Association Merchandise Order Form

Clothes

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

- Association nylon Jacket, polyester-lined $23.50
- Association Sweatshirt $16.50
- Association T-shirt (circle choice: black or white) $11.00
- Association Fanny Pack (black) $9.00
- Association Cap (black) $7.50
- Association Embroidered Patch $4.50
- Glow-in-the-Dark Shield T-Shirt $13.50
- Neon 2-sided T-Shirt (circle choice: Chevy, 'Vette, Mustang, or T-Bird) $13.50
- Too Kool Collar $9.50
- New! Betty Boop Hitchhiking Route 66 T-Shirt $13.50

Collectibles

- New! 12-oz drinking glass with Historic 66 Illinois Sign and slogan “Get My Kicks” $5.50
- Ceramic mug (black) $6.50
- Route 66 shield metal refrigerator magnet $4.50
- Historic Illinois 66 refrigerator magnet (looks like new signs) $2.50
- Route 66 ceramic salt and pepper shakers $7.00
- Illinois Historic Route 66 sign, 13” x 16” (just like the signs the state is putting up!) $31.00
- Reproduction Route 66 shield sign (full-size, 16-gauge steel) $45.00
- Prism Bumper Sticker – Corvette $2.50
- 8” x 8” Illinois US 66 shield-shaped rubber car magnet for one: $12.50 for a set of two: $21.50

Postcards

- Large Letter State Postcards by Bob Waldmire (set of 8) $3.00
- “Scenes of 66” Postcards by Bob Waldmire (set of 42) $9.50
- Hall of Fame Postcards (set of 15) $4.00
- “Greetings from the Mother Road!” Postcard Book by Michael Wallis $10.45

Maps

- It's Here! Full set of eight state maps by Jim Ross and Jerry McElhany $23.00
- Missouri Fold-out map of Route 66 by Ross and McElhany $4.50
- Map by Bob Waldmire – 10 pages plus 6-page legend $5.50

Books

- New! Traveling the New, Historic Route 66 by John Weiss $17.95
- Guidebook to the Mother Road by Bob Moore and Patrick Gravwels (great photos and mile-by-mile detail) $19.95
- New 2nd Edition! Searching for 66 by Tom Teague $15.50
- Route 66 – The Mother Road by Michael Wallis (paperback) $21.25
- Route 66 Roadside Companion by Tom Snyder $12.45

Route 66: The Highway and Its People by Quinta Scott and Susan Kelly (large format paperback) $21.95
Main Street Series by Susan Kirby (paperback) $5.00 each Circle choice(s): Lemonade Days, Home for Christmas, Home Front Hero, and Good-bye, Desert Rose
Route 66 Cookbook by Marian Clark (folkslore and recipes) $26.95
Route 66 Fun Book (for kids of all ages!) $4.50

Videos

- A Journey Down Route 66 narrated by Michael Wallis (90-minute video) $22.48
- Route 66: An American Odyssey Video (formerly Route 66: The Video Road Trip) featuring famous 66-ers $27.45

Cassettes/CDs

- New! The Mother Road Audiotape narrated by Michael Wallis $19.95
- New! The Songs of Route 66 by David Sanger et al (cassette only) $11.50
- The Feeling of Jazz by Bobby Troup (CD only) $14.00

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!
- Make checks payable to Route 66 Association of Illinois
- PLEASE NOTE: All prices include postage and handling.

Accept no imitations or limitations! All product purchases benefit the Association!
Since July 31, 1997, this beautiful historic postmark art has been released for sale, but only a limited edition amount are available for $150, which about 2448 prints are made for each mile of Route 66, include over 230 different postmarks from post offices along Route 66. The prints are on 80 pound stock paper, each one signed and numbered. Made by Ken Turmel (405-737-3739) from Oklahoma. His original print is appraised at about $25,000! His wife Melissa also helped him some on this tremendous project. More than 1000 museums, artists, and postmasters have confirmed his work as original! Ken has traveled over 25,000 miles and spent over $6,000 to do this once in a lifetime job of 66. There will NOT be another run of these prints once they're all gone, so think about your own collection of valuable arifacts you all have on 66, and if you want to be one of the few select to own this treasure from Ken Turmel, write to: Master Productions, 10524 Goldenrod Lane, Midwest City, Oklahoma 73130-7023. Or again, call Ken at 405-737-3739. Also, you can get one of these locally by stopping at the Funks Grove Sirup Farm, and ask for Glaida Funk (309-874-3220), in Funks Grove, Illinois, and for every print Glaida sells, she will donate $25 to the Association. Get yours today!

SPECIAL NOTE! Print number 466 has been loaned to your Newsletter Editor to loan to the Route 66 Association Of Illinois Depot Museum, opening next year! This print, which measures about 24 by 36 inches, will be brought in to an Association meeting for a display showing. Our thanks to Ken Turmel for his generous donation, and support for Route 66!

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