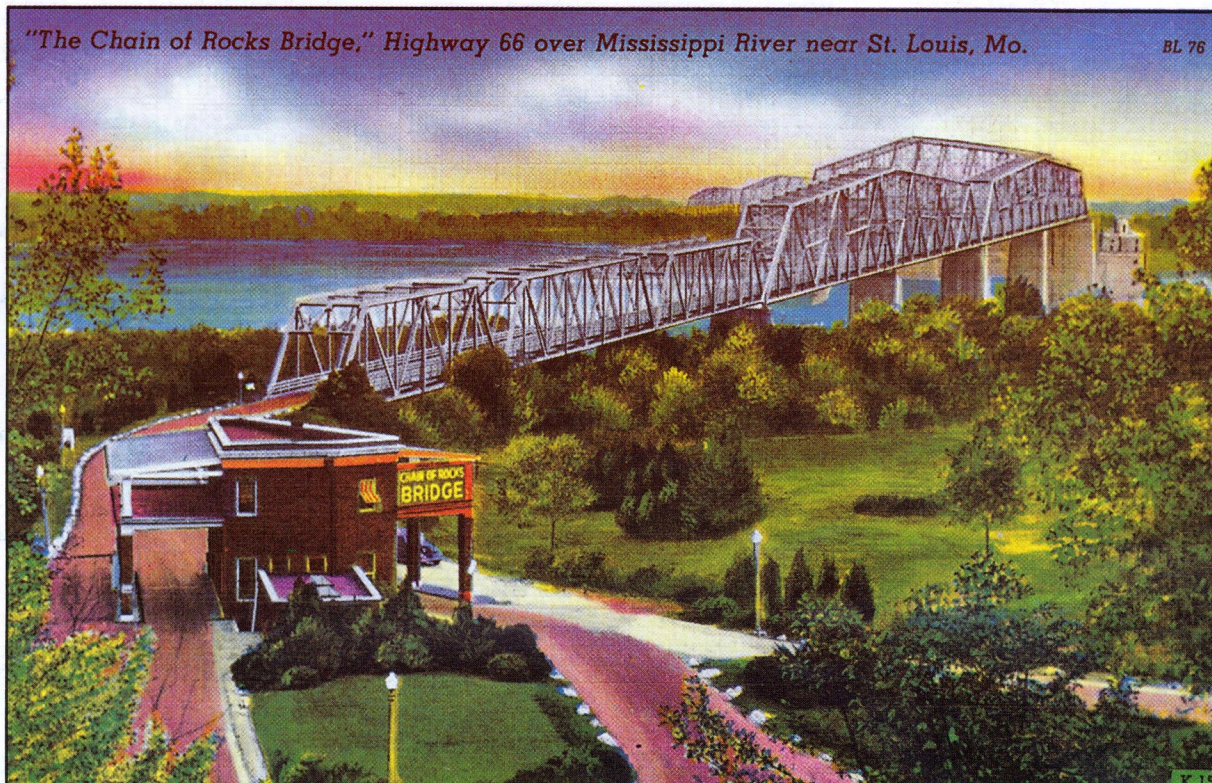


ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

The 66 News!

"The Chain of Rocks Bridge," Highway 66 over Mississippi River near St. Louis, Mo.

BL 76



Our Spring 1998 Newsletter

CHAIN OF ROCKS BRIDGE
St. Louis, Mo.



"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.

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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.

Welcome Our New Members!

by Priscilla Mathews

Since the last two issues of *The 66 News*, 40 new members have joined the membership of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. Let's give a warm hand to our new members and hope to meet with some of them at one of our meetings this year, and thanks for your support to preserve, promote, and enjoy Route 66 in Illinois!

Here are the General Members:

George Pachla, Chatham • Bill Sanders, Normal • Louise Hari, Montgomery • Vada Cartwright, Crest Hill • Donald Meyer, Minooka • John Foster, Chenoa • Rose DeFrancesco, Flanagan • Frank DeFrancesco, Flanagan • John A. Jones, Saunemin • Mike & Barb Winandy, Morrison • James Krupa, Bourdonnais • Loyce Stonecipher, Odell • Harold Brown, Springfield • Robert Wall, Fairbury • Linda Stockman, Lansing • John Nowakowski, Lansing • Maynard Suhre, Monticello • Paul & Nancy Hindel, Oak Lawn • Edward R. May M.D., Graylake • Gerald Leifel, Chicago.

Out of State General Members are:

David L. Sunny, East Chicago, IN • Michael J. Sunny, Crown Point, IN • Thomas Repp, Lynnwood, WA • Gary Adkins, St. Louis, MO • Dean Arney, Bettendorf, IA • Dr. Marvin Collentine, Davenport, IA • James Keyoth, Bettendorf, IA • Fred Leonard, Davenport, IA • Philip Menk Jr., Kenner, LA • Barbara Siemens, Toledo, OH • Wesley & Merle Weber, Evansville, IN • Jim Dolan, Ballwin, MO • George A. Boley, Woodbridge, VA • Tony Anderson, St. Paul, MN • Kathi Roberts, Lafayette, IN • Tom & Fonda Davis, Stillwater, MN • John Classen, Madison, WI.

We have two Business Members:

Edwardsville Intelligencer, from Edwardsville, IL, and A-Town Merchants, from Armarrillo, TX.

And one Sustaining Member: The Tropics, Lincoln, IL.

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Our Next Association Meeting

The next Board-General meeting of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will not be at Feddersen's Pizza Garage as was advertised in the Winter 1997 issue. Instead, it will be in Odell, Illinois at Pour Richards Tavern-Cafe located at 210 W. Tremont. It is just off to the west of the railroad tracks from old 66 as you go downtown. For other information, call Pour Richards at 815-998-2556. Also, you can call Hall Of Fame member John Stonecipher at 815-998-2161 for directions, too. There is plenty of room for seating so this will be a good place to get to know Odell better while you're there! The Board meeting is at 11:00 A.M. and a break for lunch at 12 Noon. Then on to our General meeting at 1:00 P.M. Hope to see you all there as we lay out our Association plans for this exciting year on Route 66!

Other Dates to mark down: The Motor Tour meetings are set for March 8, and May 17, at the Mt. Hope Township Hall in McLean. The meetings start at 12 Noon.

ATTENTION PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

There will NOT be an April 18, 1998 meeting at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight as was mentioned in the Winter 1997 issue of *The 66 News*. For a future date, please call John Weiss at 815-469-5219 or E-mail him at KAYO66@aol.com

SPECIAL NOTE: Your Newsletter Editor Randy Smith is requesting that everyone that is submitting articles and information for the next newsletter (the Summer 1998 issue) will need to be mailed in to me no later than April 19 before the Board-General Meeting! With the Hall Of Fame inductees and last minute Motor Tour news, I can get the Summer issue out in the mail before the Motor Tour. I must have everything in a timely fashion to make this deadline, which includes the membership list. Thank You!

Minutes from the January 18, 1998 Board-General Meeting

by Marilyn Pritchard

The Route 66 Association Of Illinois Board-General meeting was held on Sunday, January 18, 1998 at the Heritage House in Springfield, Illinois with about 40 members present.

President Frank Lozich welcomed everyone & conducted the meeting. His 1998 focus is communication-organization-preservation & tourism. He expressed that preservation & tourism are long term goals, which will work hand in hand.

Secretary Marilyn Pritchard read the minutes of the previous meeting. They were approved as read.

Treasurer Tim Palm presented a checking account balance of \$4,278.88. Merchandise report by Tim Palm in the absent of Jeff Meyer...\$3,100 worth of merchandise was sold in 45 days at Dixie's Truckers Home. Inventory of merchandise is approximately \$7,500.

Minutes from the Board-General Meeting, *continued from page 3*

by Marilyn Pritchard

The Association has asked the Newsletter Editor Randy Smith to add to the merchandise order form and the membership application form that the Association will only accept U.S. Funds only.

A new finance committee will be formed at the April 19, 1998 Board-General meeting.

Motor Tour Chairman Jeff LaFollette gave a brief report on the 1998 Motor Tour which will be June 12, 13, and 14 this year. The Tour is starting at Edwardsville and ending at White Fence Farm in Romeoville. Part of the plans for the 1999 Motor Tour are to have special license plates from the State of Illinois were discussed. The next Tour meetings are March 8 and May 17 at the Mt. Hope Township Hall in McLean at Noon.

Betty Estes, Tourism Director from Pontiac presented the information on the grant for the Illinois Heritage Program on Route 66. The winners will be announced at the Illinois Governor's Conference on Tourism in Springfield in February. Marge Heissinger, Director of Central Illinois Tourism Development of Springfield, explained how the Illinois Heritage Program works. She wished they could all be winners.

Tom Knudsen reported on the Depot Museum. The Committee decided to discontinue the Depot Museum project. It was discovered that the McLean Historical Society would like to plan a Route 66 Museum Room in the Historic Courthouse in Bloomington. This would be staffed seven days a week. President Frank Lozich appointed a committee that would send a notification letter to the people who had sent in donations for the Depot Museum.

John Weiss is the new Preservation Committee Chairman. The next Preservation Meeting is February 7 at 5:00 P.M. at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight. John announced the Mayor of Odell will form a Committee called 'Odell Tourism & Development' and start making some plans on the old Odell Station.

John also mentioned about the 1869 Wilmington Train Station. Wilmington will have a fundraiser on Saturday, January 31, serving spaghetti and bake sale. They are hoping to raise \$10,000 to save the Station. All Route 66 members are encouraged to participate in this event.

President Frank Lozich introduced Jim Jones from Pontiac who will be involved on the Membership Committee. Priscilla Mathews reported about the Membership...124 Family and 3 Business members renewed. 21 of those Family members are new as are 2 Business members. Priscilla turned in \$2,730 to the Treasurer.

Hall Of Fame Chairman Tom Teague announced we are seeking recipients for the 1998 Hall Of Fame. The Hall Of Fame meeting will be March 8, following the Motor Tour meeting. John Weiss will join this Committee. Tom Teague presented an update about the present owner of the Soulsby Station and the Soulsby Station Society.

By-Laws were passed out by Priscilla Mathews.

Dorothy Seratt & Terri Ryburn-LaMonte presented a slide presentation that was used for State approval for the multiple & individual property listing for the National Register Of Historic Places. Ann Swallow, National Register Co-ordinator from the Illinois State Historic Agency explained what the qualifications are for the Historical Sites. She presented a Certification Of Appreciation from the State Of Illinois to Dorothy Seratt and Terri Ryburn-LaMonte dated November 9, 1997. Ann also presented to the Association a Certificate inscribed as "State Of Illinois & United States Department of the Interior National Park Service" for the Standard Oil Gasoline Station in Odell on the National Register Of Historic Places dated November 9, 1997.

John Weiss passed out U.S. Postal Stamp Ballots and encouraged Members to fill out and mail it in.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Illinois County (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____

Interests in Route 66: _____

How I Can Help: _____

Annual Dues

General	\$15
Business	\$30
Sustaining	\$200 or more

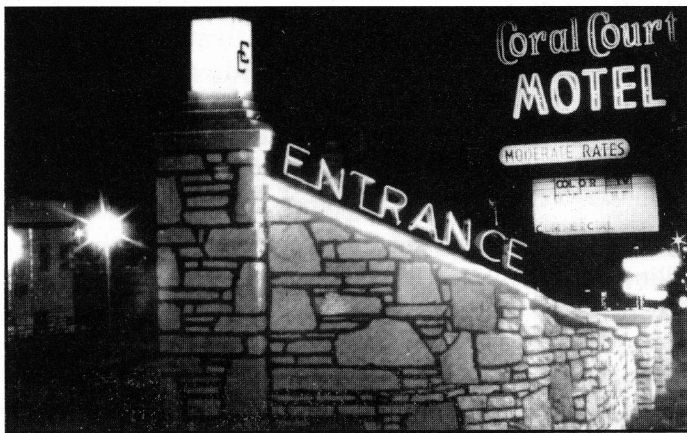
Please mail to:
Membership
Route 66 Association
2743 Veterans Parkway
Room 166
Springfield, IL 62704

Please submit U.S. Funds only!

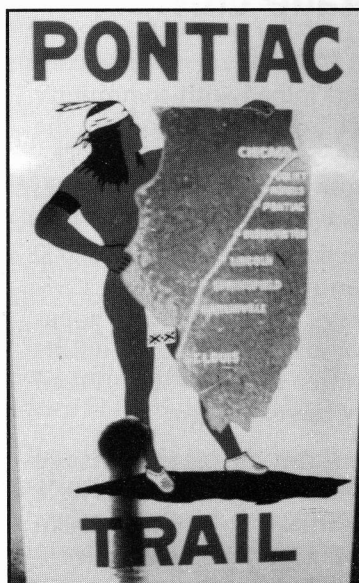
For questions or information on membership, call 217-324-5551

In Other News...

Owners Bob and Peggy Kraft, owners of the Riviera Restaurant which is a Hall Of Fame landmark near Gardner, had to replace its septic tanks last fall. The cost was \$225,000. That's not much less than the restaurant's asking price when the Krafts first put it on the market nearly four years ago. "There goes my retirement money," Peggy said. But she's proud of her business. Peggy also reported that the state plans to control the flow of the Mazon River, and may raise its water level when it flows past the Riviera. To prevent flooding of the property, the state has proposed to build an 8 foot berm along the restaurant's river frontage. Peggy hopes it can be shorter or that there will still be some way for visitors to see the river. Sometime next summer, Peggy said the Riviera also hopes to sponsor an outdoor band concert like the ones it had during the road's heyday. Look for details in future issues of *The 66 News*.



Another postcard that Shellee Graham sent in. A night shot of the well known Coral Court in Missouri before it got razed to the ground. May it rest in 66 peace! (Amen)



Here is an outstanding Association Board Member, Duke Cartwright. This man has a 49 Dukemobile (I forgot to ask him what make).

This original Pontiac Trail sign from Marilyn & Durelle Pritchard has lined the route during the era of about 1915, until it later became Route 4, and then ultimately Route 66.

The Route 66 Motorplex racetrack on Route 66 near Joliet (Route 53) is scheduled to open this May of 1998, and is located near Route 53 and Schweitzer Road. This huge track, worth 17 million dollars and will host many national events, including The National Hot Rod Association and Nascar. It takes up about 250 acres, and can seat 50,000 fans. The facility can also be used for concerts and other activities.

In a past Fall 1997 newsletter article on the town of Birds (Birds Bridge) it was stated that the map was 1940. Dan Hess, from Streamwood corrects the point in the year of the map, which according to Dan the map seems to be actually 1956 to 1960, due to changing in nearby routes 54 and 83.

From Duane Stevenson of St. Charles, Illinois comes a great TV shot off the well known Wheel Of Fortune game show. It had Route 66 as a background this day it ran!



This photo from John Weiss is cute. A man named Mr. Kick owns three Phillips 66 gas stations in Illinois, none of them are on Route 66.



This is one of the popular postcards from one of our Association members...Shellee Graham. The photo is a dog on Route 66 near Miami, Oklahoma.

Motor Tour News

by Jeff LaFollette

Planning for the 1998 Motor Tour is in full swing. Meetings were held at Mt. Hope Township Hall in McLean, Illinois on November 16 and January 4th. 32 members and guests attended in November, and 24 attended the January meeting.

The dates for this years' tour are June 12-14. Pre-tour festivities will begin in Edwardsville. The city is planning its Festival 66 that weekend and will welcome us there with outdoor entertainment and food vendors. Registration is being planned for downtown.

Earlier on Friday, Association Vice-President Rich Henry is looking into the possibility of walking across the Chain Of Rocks Bridge. Trailnet, Inc. is presently renovating the structure to connect trails in Illinois and Missouri. Over \$2,000 was raised by Trailnet last year when the Motor Tour concluded there with people walking across and even a few brave souls driving their vehicles across the historic bridge.

The tour leaves Edwardsville Saturday morning and rolls into Staunton for a passport stop. The tour takes a different twist and winds up Illinois Route 4, which was Route 66 from 1926-1930. The Illinois 4 portion will be dedicated in the passport as the "Rimini Run," in memory of former Association Board Member George Rimini.

Lunch will be in Carlinville, a charming little town with brick streets in the downtown square. They will offer "A Taste Of Carlinville" with local restaurants serving food in the square, and tours of the "Million Dollar Courthouse" and a jailhouse built in 1869.

The tour continues up Illinois 4 over old stretches of 16 foot wide pavement and bridges built in 1920. The next stop will be near Auburn where passport stickers will be handed out to cars as they drive over an original brick section of Route 66. This section was built in 1920 and is in remarkably good shape for being over 75 years old.

Leaving Auburn, we will continue on Illinois 4 and roll into Springfield for our overnight stop. Our host hotel will be the Renaissance Springfield, and they are offering rooms for \$69. Cross the skywalk over to the Prairie Capital Convention Center for the Hall Of Fame Banquet and induction of new members into the Illinois Route 66 Hall Of Fame. More motel information will be sent out in the registration forms.

Sunday morning, we leave Springfield and head north to Atlanta for a passport stop. Coffee and donuts will be served, and tours of the library museum, 1909 clock tower, and the J.H. Hawes 1900's grain elevator will be available. Leaving Atlanta, be sure to stop at the Dixie's Truckers Home in McLean to see the Hall Of Fame Museum and collect a passport sticker.

Sunday's lunch stop will be in Chenoa. We will have a police escort into town. Lunch will be served in the park and entertainment will be provided.

Leaving Chenoa, we will stop in Odell at the Standard-Sinclair gas station which was recently placed on the National Register Of Historic Places, and pick up a passport sticker there.

Take a quick break at the Riviera in Gardner for cookies and lemonade before rolling into Joliet for a tour of the Union Station, a restored train depot. Get your passport sticker and a few surprises there.

The tour ends at the White Fence Farm in Romeoville, where owner Bob Hastert Jr. has provided us a room that will seat a minimum of 100 people and a P.A. system. You are welcome to eat dinner off the menu if you wish. We will hand everyone from the tour a raffle ticket as they enter, for chances to win prizes. Be sure to finish the tour there!

Yes, the committee has been busy, but not busy enough to begin plans for the 1999 Motor Tour. We have over half of the stops set up for that tour, so the future of the tour is going strong as well.

The Motor Tour Committee would like to extend a big THANK YOU to Meta Minton-Edwardsville, Judy DeMoisy-Collinsville, Jodie Padgett-Carlinville, Betty McLellan-Atlanta, and Darla Binkley-Chenoa for giving presentations on behalf of their towns. Their support of Route 66 is fantastic.

We are looking forward to this years' tour. Driving the Illinois 4 section will definitely be the highlight of the tour. There are some really nice, scenic stretches plus two old bridges and 16-foot wide pavement and the Red Brick Road. Be sure to come and see it for yourself.

If you would like more information on 1998's tour or have suggestions for 1999's tour, please call Jeff LaFollette at 319-893-6653 or Marilyn Pritchard at 815-844-6937.

Route 66 Cultural Heritage Corridor

by Tom Teague

Several Association members joined with community leaders and tourism officials in December to form the Illinois Historic Route 66 Tourism Council. The council's purpose was to apply for designation of Route 66 as a cultural heritage corridor by the state. This would make sites along the road eligible for \$100,000 in matching grants between now and June 30, 1998, plus more in future fiscal years. The council also hopes to promote joint marketing and promotional efforts along Illinois 66, including a web site and a study based on the guest books so many travelers sign.

Eighteen groups applied for cultural heritage designation. Only six will be selected. The winners were slated to be announced February at a state tourism conference in Springfield. If 66 is selected, look for another great year for the road. If it isn't selected, still look for another great year. 66 is alive and kicking!

Plans From The Motor Tour Committee

by Marilyn Pritchard, our Secretary

Twenty four members and guests met at Mt. Hope Township Hall in McLean on Sunday January 4, 1998. Review & additional plans were discussed by the Motor Tour Chairman Jeff LaFollette.

It was announced that a nice article was in the Edwardsville and Alton newspaper about the Route 66 Motor Tour.

Rich Henry reported that Staunton City Council will take care of the arrangements for the Mini-Stop.

A discussion of various motels in Springfield. A motion was made by Lenore Weiss and seconded by Lou Vandiver to select the Renaissance Hotel with Convention Center & Banquet Room and guarantee of 75 rooms. Will be leaving at 8:00 A.M. Sunday morning. Majority present were in favor of this motion.

Betty McLellan from Atlanta expressed a band will play. The Library Museum, 1909 Clock Tower, J.H. Hawes 1900's Country Grain Elevator, Laurasian Institute with murals dating back to 1887 and Antique Shops will be open. The Grainery will weigh people for \$1 person. Arrival time around 10:00 A.M.

Darla Binkley, Commissioner from the Village of Chenoa expressed their interest for the lunch stop on Sunday. She talked with local groups about food and entertainment, this will be confirmed later. We will travel by the old Steve's Cafe building and then through an Archway set-up by the recently painted mural. A passport sticker will be passed out at this area. The "Scott House" will seek history of the town to be passed out. The FFA will have a tee-shirt with the picture of the mural. The Historical Society possibly will have some type of Christmas Ornament for sale at City Park. Jeff LaFollette made a motion to accept Chenoa as the Sunday lunch stop. This was seconded by Bill Przybylski. The stop will be 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Majority present were in favor of this motion.

At 2:15 P.M. till 2:45 P.M. will be a Mini Stop at Standard-Sinclair gas station in Odell. Dorothy Seratt will handle this.

Will have a Mini Stop at the Riviera Restaurant north of Gardner from 3:15 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Between 4:00 P.M. and 4:30 P.M. there will be a stop at the 1912 Union Station in Joliet. They will provide dash plaques to be passed out by John and Lenore Weiss.

Tour will arrive between 5:00 P.M. and 7:30 P.M. at the White Fence Farm in Romeoville to view antiques, autos, etc.

Then we will be having our evening meal together. A motion was made by Dorothy Seratt and seconded by Durelle Pritchard. Majority present was in favor of this motion. There will be a cash drawing at the end of the Tour.

The colors for the Tour in 1998 will be red & white. The passport will mention "Look for the Red hats" if you need

help or information. The passport will be dedicated in Memory of George Rimini. It will be called "Rimini Run" because George, our deceased Board Member, was always in favor of having the Tour travel on Old Route 4.

Discussion was held about posters, flyers & registration forms. Jeff Meyer had a quote of \$448 for 10,000 and \$896 for 20,000 flyers. Marilyn Pritchard had quotes of \$217 for 2,000 and \$319 for 3,000. Lou Vandiver made a motion & was seconded by Lenore Weiss to have Jeff order posters & flyers with the Odell Gas Station imprinted. On the material to mention prices for the Tour, \$30 for non-members and \$25 for members.

Marilyn Pritchard will order the dash plaques. Silver with black imprint of the Odell Gas Station. She will also order the static window stickers, which will be red with white lettering.

Jeff Meyer will check on 100% cotton Tee-Shirts in the price range of \$6 each. Frank Lozich will check into the Goodie Bags. Marilyn Pritchard will check about antenna flags and license plates from executives of the Chevrolet Division of General Motors.

Remaining Tour Meetings are as follows: March 8, and May 17 all to be held at the Mt. Hope Township Hall in McLean, Illinois starting at Noon.

By March 8, information is needed for the Route traveled on the Motor Tour and also advertising to be put on the passport. Newsletter Editor Randy Smith needs all final and last minute information from the Motor Tour by March 18 to get it in the Summer issue of *The 66 News*. Randy also mentioned about getting the issue out before the Motor Tour starts, so everyone can read up on the latest just in time for the trip.

If necessary, we will have a short Motor Tour meeting after the April 19 General Meeting in Odell, Illinois at Pour Richards.

George Leone made a motion & Jeff Geisler seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 P.M.

Tentative 1999 Motor Tour Plans

Navy Pier for the start of the Motor Tour...George Leone Joliet Breakfast. by City Employees (Rich Henry made motion & seconded by George Leone).

Pontiac Lunch Stop at noon on Saturday. (Dorothy Seratt made motion & was seconded by John Weiss)

Lincoln to have Banquet at the K-C Hall on Saturday evening.

End of Tour at Collinsville. (Dorothy Seratt made motion & was seconded by Terri Ryburn LaMonte)

Possible stop at Divernon.

Preservation Committee Report

by John Weiss

Our Association's goal are to preserve, promote, and enjoy Historic 66. I think we are doing a wonderful job.

Statistics have shown that Route 66 is one of the biggest tourist attractions in the state of Illinois. Reports show that at least 59% of all travelers are from other countries. IDOT's new Route 66 map will be in four languages.

However, if we, the Preservation Committee, do not do our job, there won't be anything left on Historic 66 to see or do.

As reported in a previous issue of *The 66 News*, several worthy sites and attractions have been eliminated. We did not hear about the impending destruction in time.

To fully enjoy the 66 experience, there has to be a blend of history, nostalgia, adventure, safety, comfort, and a way of life not found any where else.

In Illinois we have it all, but it is fragile and always in danger of so-called progress.

All of you have to be like a sub-committee of the Preservation Committee. We need your eyes and ears. We are ready, willing and able to help preserve and promote.

Help us by reporting anything you believe needs our attention. Or, if you have an idea, we would love to hear it.

If you would like to be put on the mailing list, attend a preservation meeting, or have something to report, contact John or Lenore Weiss at 815-469-5219.

Atlanta is Waiting To Welcome Route 66 Motor Tour Caravan

by Betty McLellan

Atlantans are looking forward to Sunday, June 14 1998 at 9:00 A.M. when they will host the 9th annual Motor Tour of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. The approximately 200 cars on the tour will be having their passports stamped in Atlanta.

They will be welcomed by Mayor Bill Martin and others at the passport stop and then will be directed to parking areas by Police Chief Steve Flater and his officers. From the parking areas they can walk to "Kaminsky's Clothing Store" (in reality the walled corner lot across from the library) where they will be served coffee and donuts.

As the group enjoys their coffee they will be entertained by the Atlanta Band from the library lawn. This group consisted of Atlantans from teen-agers to octogenarians who do a great job under the leadership of Kathy Gemberling. After finishing their coffee and donuts, they have several choices of things to do.

The library and library annex will be open with Vaughn Craft and Ruth Gordon, librarians as hosts.

Seldom Mentioned Places

by John Weiss

The Crosley Museum is a fun and educational stop for the whole family. The museum evolved from the hobby of Karl Krotz. It is located in, around, behind and outside of the Krotz and Sons nursery in Lincoln. The nursery business itself was established in 1919 and has been in the same family ever since.

Many of you may say, "What is a Crosley?" Well, it's the first mass produced economical radio. It's also refrigerators, cars, and more. The thing about Crosley is their innovative early days. For example, the Crosley car is one of the smallest, most unique ever engineered.

When you enter this historic building, you sign the guest book then wander around. The nursery is still in business, so you may need to step around the grass seed to see one of the many antique displays. Take your time...Karl has a lot of neat things to see.

Outside in the nursery gardens are more of the unexpected. A torpedo, a refrigerator, a stove, a Crosley car full of bullet holes, and a whole lot more. Some items are for sale, some are for show, and some are just for fun. But the whole experience is free.

The Krotz and Sons Nursery is located about one mile north of downtown Lincoln on Kickapoo Street. Kickapoo Street runs somewhat parallel with the marked 4 lane alignment of Historic 66. As a matter of fact, Kickapoo Street is an original Route 66 alignment. For more information, call 217-732-6431.

So visit Illinois 66, where the kicks begin!

The J.H. Hawes restored elevator will be running the restored gasoline engine with Deane May and others on hand to explain early grain handling in Illinois and for the small fee of \$1 you can be weighed on the elevator scale. No charge for the elevator tour, but donations would be greatly appreciated by this group.

Sherman's Antique Shop on First Street will be open for buyers and browsers. Last but not least, the Laurasian Institution on the corner of Arch (old 66) and Race Streets will be hosting tours of their restored building featuring the Masonic murals.

The murals were discovered hiding under the old wallpaper and paint during the remodeling. These murals bear a date of April 3, 1887.

Have a great time in Atlanta, eat plenty of donuts, then get weighed on the elevator scale or perhaps not! At any rate be sure to come back anytime and spend a day or two with us. We have a very nice motel also. See you on the Motor Tour!



Depot Gives Way To McLean County Proposal

by Tom Teague

A strong proposal from the McLean County Historical Society has led the Association to reconsider its plans to open a Route 66 Museum at the old rail depot in McLean. The Historical Society has offered to open a Route 66 Welcome Center in the Old Courthouse Museum in downtown Bloomington. The offer is contingent on receiving \$35,000 in matching funds from the state Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. Instead of opening a similar facility so close to Bloomington, the Association Board chose to suspend its plans for the Depot Museum.

If they wish, all donors to the depot effort may receive refunds. However, they will also be offered the chance to direct their donations to other preservation activities supported by the Association.

Depot Committee member Tom Teague urged Association Members not to think of the change in plans as a failure. "We've worked for over a year to have a program like this," he said. "This is our best chance for success. The McLean County Historical Society has fine leadership in Greg Koos. It has a solid volunteer base. It has a plan and it can match the possible state grant. We could hardly hope for more."

Depending on the timing of the state's support, Koos said the new center will open by early summer. More details on its exhibits and other features will be reported in the next issue of *The 66 News*.

Soulsby Station Society Update

by Tom Teague

The Soulsby Station Society hopes potential new state funds to promote tourism along Route 66 can be used to help save the road's oldest gas station. The society met in January in McLean to adopt its annual plan. It calls for many physical improvements to the station including refinishing of the grease rack to its original color. However, most plans hinge on the approval and co-operation of the station's new owner, Mike Dragovich.

Mr. Dragovich, a neighbor to Russell Soulsby for many years, appreciates the station's history. He has shown every sign of being co-operative with the society. By the next issue of *The 66 News*, it hopes to announce specific details. Among other things, it will provide Mr. Dragovich technical support if he applies for any state funds. It may also apply directly for such funds, depending on its agreement with Mr. Dragovich.

Help Save the Soulsby Station: Join the *Soulsby Station Society*!

Built in 1926, the Soulsby Shell Station in Mount Olive is as old as the road itself. Its founder, Russell Soulsby, is retired, but Route 66 advocates are organizing as the Soulsby Station Society to reopen the station as a museum. Help us keep this priceless relic open to the public by joining the Society. Just Xerox this ad, fill it out, and sent it in.

I want to help save the Soulsby Station!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____

I want to be: _____ A General Member (\$20 a year)
 _____ A Sustaining Member (\$100 once)

Send to: Soulsby Station Society
 1208 W. Edwards
 Springfield, IL 62704

It's Time to Go to the...DRIVE IN!

by Randy Smith

Yes, it is time to get out your treasured classic or antique automobiles you all have tucked away in storage, get a fresh bottle of chrome wax and maybe a little boot polish and mix up the octane for the petrol you feed it. History is going to be repeated **BIG TIME** on a Saturday, April 18 1998 this Spring. Starting that morning, it will be nothing short of a riot for this big bash of Route 66 fans from all over the world, including just about every well known and respected name from all Route 66ers. This Summit is one of those rare cases of a 66 get

together from **EVERY** Association from all 8 States, and from most magazine publishers of Route 66. The names of everyone are too numerous to list, and this is one big sheebang that you must not miss out on. This event will be as big or actually larger than the Run To The Heartland event that happens in Texas every so often.

The famous 66 Drive In at Carthage, Missouri on the West end of town is the location. Situated on Route 66 just leaving town out west, it sits silently. Silently watching the snowflakes fall and melt away to the dawn of a re-birth. This well known Drive In has been closed for a long time, and was in a ghostly shape not too long ago...full of every unimaginable junker and beater of a wrecked vehicle dotted its landscape. A very pitiful sight the last time I saw it, which was last year. Never did I imagine that it would rise from the ruins to be totally restored to its original beauty and fame that it once had, and will have again! This Drive In has a soul of its own...it defied the works of "progress" as we know it now, and it has decided the era of the dreaded Shoe Box Theatres is definitely **NOT** the answer to modern entertainment. I agree with the spirit of this Drive In...it



The ghostly screen, a living monument to Route 66 from Missouri. A beautiful find!



The entrance board. Still looks great for its age! Even has neon lighting in it!



The Carthage 66 Drive In. This was taken two years ago before restoration.

Sullivan shows, and at times strange clutter from the passing UFO's that went by. Solid chrome dash, and last but not least, a different power plant under the hood, with the 671 Weiand Blower. This car was well known to all the Petrol Stations, the way it went through the octane. You could just about visually watch the gas gauge "move" from right to left as you engaged the belt. It was fun watching the "other" guys jerk backwards like being in reverse when I went by them. This toy of mine was a Drive In car, not a show rod! Time for a movie!!!

And the restoration of the Carthage 66 Drive In to its original splendor and play movies again on its original screen is just the answer for kicking the New Year off to a flying start. There will be more "toys" there than boys, and enough grease on everyone's hairdos plus the skirts and nicotine sticks hanging out the sides of mouths, along with leather jackets and of course, some motorcycles. This event will be **MORE** than watching just the movies that night, April 18, 1998. Every 66 enthusiast will also fight for the limited space available, and not every vehicle will be able to get in. But the power and spirit of Route 66 will be

takes me back in time about 20 years ago when the Drive Ins were "in" for me. Every weekend, I would get out my 1962 Mercury Meteor. This 20 foot long 4 door, with rocket turbines on each side of the hood, and the foot long cone lights in the rear and a trunk large enough to get The Brady Bunch into, was my play toy during my times. The steering wheel was two foot across with the "spinner" on it and had the old tube type A M shortwave radio in the dash which picked up just about everything, including broadcasts of The Ed

DRIVE IN, continued



The twin towers Bel Air Drive In at Mitchell, Illinois. Boards are torn down, in ruins.

in to the destruction of buildings and roadway that belonged to Route 66. Especially in my younger days, when we still had the 1929 Model A we enjoyed a slow, quiet ride on 66 in it, and each of us in the family had a head and arm stuck out every window...some people even mistakened us for the Beverly Hillbillies! I even remember a time when we ran out of gas and Dad would take a bottle of whiskey which had enough "vapor" in it and pour it down the tank to get us up the road another mile to the next Petrol Station, but after a few big backfires, though. Still, we made it to the 66 Drive In at the south end of Springfield not far from the Cozy Dog. Problem with the Drive Ins for me is by the time I grab one of those squawking window speakers and hang it on the window, have the Car Hops take my food order (those gals were quite cute!) and get it choked down...then I adjust the seat back all the way and slouch back quite relaxed. Often I fall asleep, and snore loudly until the Drive In board lights come on for intermission. Then I get excited again and laugh along with all the old animated commercials...especially Fat Joe when he bites into that greasy hot dog and yell OOOWWWOOOHHH, like a wolf! That made me laugh enough to choke on a puff of my own nicotine sticks which I used to enjoy, until I broke the habit. Now it's Coke, and M & M's these days!

Yes, the works of modern "progress" on 66 makes me sick, and as much as I hate to say it, it stinks. An example of that is when they tore down the Drive In up North here in Illinois, on the corner near La-Grange. I believe a Venture store took its place, and as I motor on down the Mother Road, I see all the other 66 Drive Ins dead. The well known Phil Kron on the southern end of Bloomington, the 66 Drive In at Springfield, and the Twin Towers Bel Air Theatre in Mitchell. All sit today in quiet silence, awaiting a miracle if any to come to life like the Carthage 66 Drive In is. There were times I cried myself to sleep over missing the "good old days" of entertainment that Route 66 gave to us all. Even today when I take a drive down 66 here in Illinois, I often stop at these places of memory, and pay quiet tribute to these sights. After regaining my composure to being "upset" with the loss of these magnificent structures, I motor on down the road to another memory. This was truly Route 66 as most of us remember. At least for now, I go to

re-wrote history for this grand re-opening, and is a great time to meet and talk to ALL of Route 66's most noted people from all eight states.

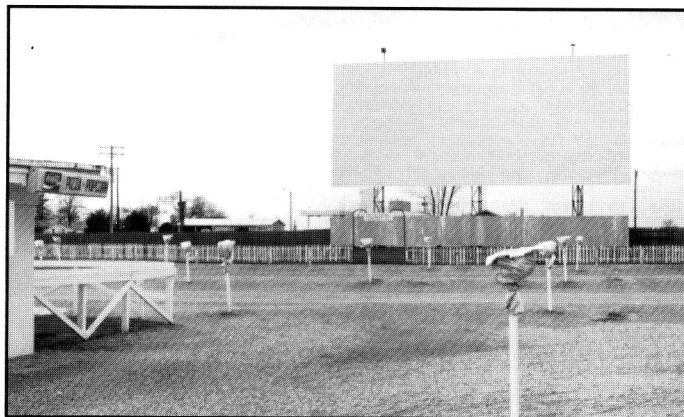
I was always attached to the Drive Ins...I was sorry to see most of them all close, and fall victims to "progress" which didn't serve my purpose. I was too old fashioned to give



The well-known 66 Park In Theatre that used to be on Watson Rd. in Missouri. Gone now.

the Sky View Drive In at Litchfield and see a movie down there, since it is still and has always been in operation, until one time when a tornado took down the original Board, and a new one had to be erected. The original Board was very pretty, with a picture of a shooting star on the front of it visible to the road. One thing I remember quite well about the Sky View Drive In was that "tire strip" at the exit. I have seen a few dummies try to sneak in there, and get at least two flats for their efforts. I laughed so hard when I seen that happen that I choked on my Coke! This same thing happened at the well known 66 Park In Theatre on Watson Road in St. Louis, down the street from the Coral Court. That Drive In had a wide double row of those "tire strips" and it was also a joy to watch a sucker sneak in there and hear the atomic **POOF** of air hiss out of their tires...makes you wonder when people ever learn from their mistakes! Oh well, the old saying...Make My Day!

Good Luck to you all there at the grand re-opening of the Carthage 66 Drive In on that Saturday morning before the show at night, on April 18 1998. You are guaranteed to have a good time, and one you will certainly remember on Route 66 forever! As an afterthought...how about writing me a few lines about **YOUR** times at the Drive Ins? Better yet, E-mail me at: The66News@aol.com and share **YOUR** good times you had on Route 66. Maybe we can get some more fun and interesting stories going for this Newsletter, and enjoy the "Good Old Days" together again and Get Your Kicks, too!!!



The Sky View Drive In at Litchfield, Illinois on old Route 66. Still in business!

INTERNATIONAL BIOREGIONAL
OLD ROUTE 66 PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

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

Phone (520) 769-2605



Issue #5
Free while
they last

OLD 66 DISPATCH, December, 1997

AND SO, YEAR #4 HAS PASSED. AS USUAL I AM BEHIND IN COMPOSING MY ANNUAL MIS-SIVE - MY "GLORIFIED FORM LETTER" COMPLETE WITH ALL-NEW DRAWINGS. THIS IS MY ONCE-A-YEAR OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE TO MYSELF THAT I CAN STILL DRAW.

ONCE AGAIN, IT WAS AN EVENT-FILLED, "YEAR TO REMEMBER." THE HIGHLIGHT OF HIGHLIGHTS - & THERE WERE MANY - OCCURRED IN LATE MARCH, WHEN MY MOM CAME TO VISIT. SHE (GINNY), MY BROTHER BUZ, HIS WIFE SUE & THEIR 4 SONS (ED, DIE, JOSH, TONY & NICK) FLEW OUT TO PHOENIX, RENTED A MINIVAN & DROVE UP.

MY BRAVE MOM "CAMPED" IN THE "GUEST ROOM" - IN THE BACK OF THE VISITOR CENTER - FOR 4 CHILLY NIGHTS! SHE WAS AS SNUG AS A BUG IN A RUG, WITH PLENTY OF BLANKETS. THE NIGHTS WERE COOL BUT THE DAYS SUNNY & BALMY.

EVERYONE HAD GREAT FUN - THE KIDS DID LOTS OF HIKING & EXPLORING. MY NEPHEW TONY - AN ASPIRING HERPETOLOGIST - NATURALIST - HELPED ME LOCATE THE BLACK WIDOW SPIDERS IN THEIR WEBS (BY FLASHLIGHT AT NIGHT; THEY HIDE BY DAY). ALAS! WE GOT TO SEE NO RATTLES OR TARANTULAS STILL A BIT TOO COOL.

SO SOME MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY FINALLY GOT TO SEE WHAT I HAVE ESTABLISHED HERE & I WAS THRILLED TO SHOW THEM. THEY LEFT TOO SOON, BUT I HAD LITTLE TIME TO FEEL LONELY AS THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING BROUGHT EVER-INCREASING NUMBERS OF VISITORS.

ONCE AGAIN, THEY CAME IN DROVES: THE FASCINATING FOLKS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, TRAVELLING SINGLY, IN PAIRS, ENTIRE FAMILIES (SOME WITH 3 GENERATIONS ALONG!), TOUR GROUPS ON BUSES, CARAVANS & AN ASSORTMENT OF FILM CREWS, PHOTOGRAPHERS & JOURNALISTS, ALL "CAPTURING 66."

THERE WERE MANY "REPEAT VISITORS" FROM NEAR & FAR - A FEW OLD FRIENDS & MANY NEW. QUITE A FEW - MOSTLY CROSS-COUNTRY BICYCLISTS - CAMPED HERE, ENJOYING A TRANQUIL, STAR-FILLED NIGHT, THE HORIZON AGLOW WITH THE LIGHTS OF LAS VEGAS, AMERE 100 MILES TO THE NORTHWEST.

AS ALWAYS, THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE YEAR WAS THE "RT. 66 FUN RUN" IN APRIL. THIS WAS THE 10TH ANNUAL FUN RUN, SPONSORED BY THE HISTORIC RT. 66 ASSOC. OF ARIZONA. MANY 66'RS FROM NEAR & FAR - EVEN OVERSEAS - MADE THEIR ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO JOIN THIS EVENT. THERE WAS A SOMBER TONE OVER ALL THE FUN, IN MEMORY OF THE LOSS OF JERRY RICHARD, WHO WAS KILLED IN A PLANE CRASH ON JANUARY 22ND, 1997. JERRY WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN STARTING ARIZONA'S 66 ASSOCIATION BACK IN 1987.

THANKS TO VOLUNTEER HELPERS, MUCH WORK GOT DONE OUTSIDE THIS YEAR. THE CATCHMENT POND ("GOLDFISH POND") EXCAVATION IS NEARLY COMPLETE. THANKS TO SHOVELLERS TOM MRAZ, MAX TENORIO & JORGE HANSEN, JEFF FERRELL FROM FLAGSTAFF CREATED THE FIRST SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET OF THE NEW "66 HIKING-BIKING TRAIL" LINK.

AND DON PEASE ("CARETAKER #1" AND PAID, INTERMITTENT, ALL-ROUND MAINTENANCE MAN) DID A LOT: HE ELIMINATED ALMOST ALL OF THE LEAKS BY RE-COVERING NEARLY THE ENTIRE VISITOR CENTER ROOF WITH ROLL-ROOFING PAPER. HE HOOKED UP MY FANCY NEW TANKLESS, ON-DEMAND GAS HOT WATER HEATER (FOR THE SHOWER IN THE LIVING QUARTERS IN THE BACK OF THE VISITOR CENTER) AND HE DID SOME WIRING & PLUMBING WORK & SOME CARPENTRY, TOO. I DID BUILD & LETTER 3 OUTDOOR INTERPRETIVE SIGNS. I OPENED UP THE TINY "HACKBERRY ROOM," WHERE LOCAL HISTORY IS SHOWCASED. I'VE HAD TO EXTEND BOTH THE BUSINESS CARD COLLECTION & THE LICENSE PLATE COLLECTION ONTO THE CEILINGS, HAVING RUN OUT OF WALL SPACE.

AND I ACCOMPLISHED SEVERAL OTHER LES-SER PROJECTS, COMPLETED SEVERAL NEW POSTCARDS & SKETCHES, DID LOTS OF WORK ON MY BUS, & INSTALLED A HANDRAIL IN THE SUNKEN GARDEN.



PORCH SWING NEEDS TO BE RE-BUILT. SIBERIAN ELMS SHADE THE HOUSE. SCREENED ENCLOSURE IS FOR VINES TO COVER.

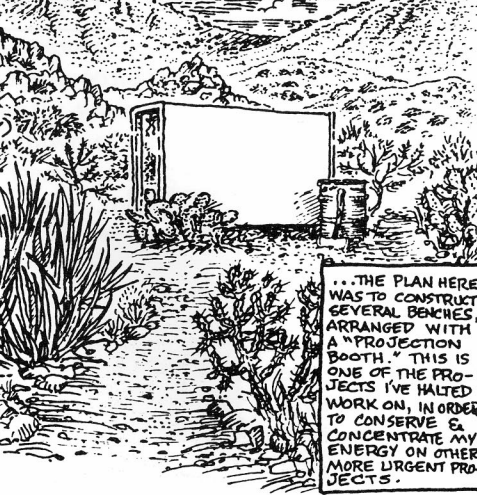
HAPPY 66th BIRTHDAY, HOUSE!
YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL!

...SO READS A SIGN I ERECTED IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE THIS YEAR. IT REALLY IS A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE HOUSE. IT LOOKS SO LONELY, WITH NO ONE TO LIVE INSIDE! BUILT IN 1931, THIS COZY 4-ROOM BUNGALOW FEATURES AN ENCLOSED, WRAP-AROUND PORCH. IN ANTICIPATION OF MOVING IN, THE PREVIOUS OWNERS - BILL & LOIS ROAN - DID MUCH WORK IN THE HOUSE (NEW SEPTIC SYSTEM, NEW PLUMBING & WIRING, NEW WOOD STOVE, DRYWALL WORK, ETC.). BUT THEY NEVER MOVED IN & THE HOUSE HAS BEEN VACANT THROUGHOUT THIS DECADE. THIS FALL, DON PEASE ("CARETAKER #1") DID A LOT OF WORK IN THE HOUSE, CONNECTING THE TOILET, HOOKING UP A HOT WATER HEATER & SINK IN THE KITCHEN, & INSTALLING A PHONE LINE & PHONE. SO, SLOWLY BUT SURELY, THE HOUSE IS BEING READIED FOR OCCUPANCY!

IN JULY DON WATCHED THE PLACE FOR ME WHILE I MADE A *QUICK TRIP DOWN TO THE CHIRICAHUA. FOR SOME MUCH-NEEDED REST & RELAXATION. I CAMPED, HIKED & SKETCHED THERE FOR FIVE GLORIOUS DAYS DURING OCTOBER & NOVEMBER. BOTH DON & PAMELA TOOK TURNS WATCHING THE PLACE SO I COULD DRIVE MY VAN TO ILLINOIS. I WAS GONE 4 WEEKS, & SPENT 16 PRECIOUS DAYS WITH MY MOM. I GOT MUCH ACCOMPLISHED, ESPECIALLY MOST OF THE WORK ON MY SOON-TO-BE-PRINTED 16-PAGE BOOKLET ON MY FATHER'S LIFE (THIS WILL BE A FINE GIVE-AWAY TO PRECEDE THE ACTUAL BOOK).

NOW SHOWING!
WELCOME TO THE
OLD 66 HIKE-IN THEATRE

THE SNOW-WHITE BACKSIDE OF THIS LONG-ABANDONED COOLER WOULD MAKE A PERFECT "SCREEN" ON WHICH TO PROJECT A CLASSIC MOVIE... ON A STARTLIT SUMMER NIGHT. A SHORT, WINDING TRAIL HAS BEEN CREATED FROM JUST BEHIND THE VISITOR CENTER TO THE SITE. PAMELA LYALL ("CARETAKER #2") DID MUCH WORK AT THE SITE THIS YEAR, CLEARING A SMALL AREA FOR "SEATING."



...THE PLAN HERE WAS TO CONSTRUCT SEVERAL BENCHES, ARRANGED WITH A "PROJECTION BOOTH." THIS IS ONE OF THE PROJECTS I'VE HALTED WORK ON, IN ORDER TO CONSERVE & CONCENTRATE MY ENERGY ON OTHER MORE URGENT PROJECTS.

AND NOW THE SAD NEWS, FOR IT IS TIME TO TELL THE WORLD OF MY DECISION: I WILL BE CLOSING THE OLD 66 VISITOR CENTER, SELLING THE PROPERTY, & RE-LOCATING.

THIS DECISION WAS A LONG-TIME IN-TH-MAKING & HAS BEEN VERY PAINFUL TO MAKE. THIS IS A TIME OF GRIEVING FOR ME, AS I WORK THROUGH THE PROCESS OF "LETTING GO." IT IS AKIN TO THE DEATH OF A DREAM. I HAD INTENDED TO SPEND THE REMAINDER OF MY LIFE HERE BUT IT IS NOT TO BE.

THERE WERE MANY UNFORESEEABLE & UN-ANTICIPATED CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS DECISION. MOST OF THEM CONCERN VARIOUS MANIFESTATIONS OF GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA. I ESTIMATE THAT ROAD TRAFFIC HAS TRIPLED SINCE I MOVED HERE 4 YEARS AGO. THIS IS LOCAL & COMMUTER TRAFFIC ("66'rs" - THOSE MAKING THEIR 66 TRIPS - CON-STITUTE A TINY PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL VOLUME OF TRAFFIC). BOTH CARS & TRUCKS MOVING ALONG AT 80, 90, EVEN 100 MPH, ARE NOT UNCOMMON. WITH THE VISITOR CENTER BEING A MERE 100 FEET FROM THE EDGE OF THE PAVEMENT, THIS BECAME UNNERVING & INTOLERABLE LONG AGO.

THERE IS ALSO A ROCK QUARRY BEING ESTABLISHED IN MY BACKYARD - JUST UP THE HILL, ACROSS THE PROPERTY LINE.

OTHER ROCK QUARRIES UP THE ROAD, HEAVY RELATED TRUCK TRAFFIC, NEW SUBDIVISIONS & POWER LINES ALL CONTRIBUTE TO THIS SENSE OF BEING EN-CROACHED UPON. IT IS LIKE A CONTINUOUS "GNAWING AWAY" OF THE LAND & ITS REMOTENESS. IT IS PAINFUL TO WITNESS. AND FINALLY, BY NATURE, I AM A RECLUSE & A LONER. I HAD FORGOTTEN THAT, WHEN I WAS "SWEEPED UP" IN THIS GREAT, GLOBAL PHENOMENON CALLED "ROUTE 66" 10 YEARS AGO! I AM NOT CUT OUT TO PLAY PROPRIETOR & HOST TO THE MASSES (ALTHOUGH I ADMIT, IT'S BEEN GREAT FUN, AND I AM GOOD AT IT).

SO I WILL LEAVE THIS "UNFINISHED DREAM" TO OTHERS, WITH THE SINCERE HOPE THAT IT WILL BECOME A LOVING, HAPPY HOME FOR SOMEONE WHO WILL WANT TO CONTINUE THE PROTECTION & PRESERVATION OF THIS LAND, THE NATURE & THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS HERE.

IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE BUYER WOULD WANT TO CONTINUE THE VISITOR CENTER, MUCH OF THE COLLECTION COULD GO WITH THE PLACE & REMAIN HERE. MOST LIKELY, IT WILL BE SPLIT UP - SOME GOING BACK TO THE FAMILY IN ILLINOIS, SOME BEING DONATED & SOME GOING WITH ME TO THE CHIRICAHUA, WHICH IS WHERE I LEFT MY HEART LONG AGO. SO IN A SENSE, I AM GOING "HOME," "HOME" BEING WHERE THE HEART IS.

THESE 4 YEARS HERE HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY ENRICHING, NURTURING & INSTRUCTIVE. I WILL ALWAYS CHERISH THE MANY FRIENDSHIPS MADE HERE. THANK YOU ALL!

(cont.)

...SO, MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH,
THE VISITOR CENTER WILL CONTINUE
TO OPERATE — AT LEAST THROUGH 1998 —
PRETTY MUCH "AS IS" THAT MEANS "BY
CHANCE OR BY APPOINTMENT", WITH
MY USUAL ERRATIC HOURS — "I'M
OPEN WHEN I'M AWAKE"

PLAN TO BE HERE, OFF & ON, THROUGH-
OUT THE YEAR, CONTINUING WORK ON
SOME OF THE PROJECTS (WATER CATCH-
MENT SYSTEM, THE "GOLD-FISH-MEDITATION"
POND, THE "OLD 66 HIKING-BIKING TRAIL" LINK,
THE MODEST "OLD 66 HALL OF FAME-WEST"
EXHIBIT INSIDE).

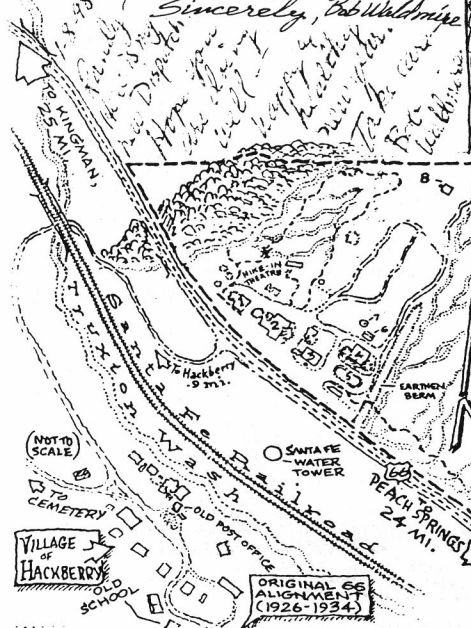
OTHER PROJECTS HAVE BEEN HALTED (THE "66 HIKE-IN THEATRE" THE "INTERNATIONAL PEACE VILLAGE" CAMPSITE, THE PLANTING BED AT BASE OF LEAN-TO GREENHOUSE, THE "WALDMIRE FAMILY PICTORIAL HISTORY" EXHIBIT INSIDE, & THE GOAL OF TAKING THE ENTIRE HOMESTEAD "OFF THE GRID").

SOME OF THESE PROJECTS & SEVERAL OTHERS I HAD PLANNED HERE ARE—I BELIEVE—WORTH DOING. IT IS MY GREATEST HOPE THAT WHOEVER "TAKES THE REINS" HERE WILL WANT TO CONTINUE AT LEAST SOME OF THE PROJECTS — BUT THAT WILL BE UP TO THEM.

IN THE MEANTIME, DO STOP BY THE PLACE
WHENEVER YOU'RE OUT THIS-A-WAY → IT'S
STILL ONE OF THE GREAT "CROSSROADS
OF THE WORLD."

MAY 1998 BE A GREAT, SAFE ADVENTURE FOR ALL OF YOU. GO SLOW WHEN YOU CAN, & STEP SOFTLY.

Sincerely, Bob Waldmire



- ① "DUPLEX" (FORMER RENTAL UNITS)
- ② OLD STATION-GENERAL STORE (NOW THE VISITOR CENTER)
- ③ OLD ROCK SHOP
- ④ HOUSE
- ⑤ CACTUS GARDEN
- ⑥ GARAGE (ONE-CAR)
- ⑦ OLD DOME WATER TANK (ABANDONED)
- ⑧ WELL & PUMPHOUSE
- ⑨ HIKING TRAILS

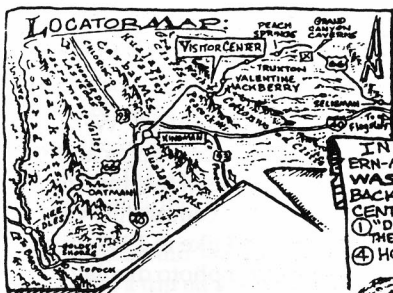
THE "CROWN JEWEL" OF THE VISITOR CENTER IS JUST INSIDE THE DOOR: THE EDWIN WALDMIRE MEMORIAL LIBRARY. MY FATHER—AVID READER & LOVER OF BOOKS—OCCUPATIONALLY ACCIDENTALLY BROUGHT ON THROUGH HIS LONG LIFE HE CHERISHED HIS BOOKS & HE LOVED TO SHARE HIS LIBRARY WITH OTHERS. WHEN I TOLD HIM OF MY IDEA TO SET THE BOOKS UP HERE, INSIDE THE VISITOR CENTER—TO BE, HE APPROVED. HE KNEW THAT A STEADY STREAM OF PEOPLE WOULD GET TO SEE THEM HERE. HE, TOO, WOULD SURELY BE GRATIFIED WHEN THE OCCASIONAL TRAVELLER—MOMENTARILY NOT PRESSED BY THE TIME LINE—WOULD SELL TO DO SOME BROWSING OR READING.

THE SPECIAL SECTIONS NUMBERED ABOVE ARE:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 WALT KELLY & POGO | 8 MOHANDAS GANDHI |
| 2 ALTERNATIVE ENERGY | 9 ERIC SEYAREID |
| 3 MARK TWAIN | 10 HENDRIK WILLEM VAN LOON |
| 4 MISC. CLASSICS | 11 THOMAS PAINE |
| 5 PHILOSOPHY | 12 ROBERT INGERSOLL |
| 6 THOMAS JEFFERSON | 13 RELIGION (NO BIBLE) |
| 7 WILL ROGERS | 14 MISCELLANEOUS |

THE EVER-WARY, EVER-GRACEFUL, GHOSTLY
GRAY FOX (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)
STOPS BY FOR SOME SUNFLOWER SEEDS,
LEFT OUT NIGHTLY FOR TUFFY? THE KANGA-
ROO RAT ACTUALLY SEVERAL KANGAROO RATS).
THE GRAY FOX IS A GREAT Mouser, CAN
EXCELLENT CLIMBER WHOLLY BENEFICIAL.
RANGES THROUGHOUT MUCH OF U. S. &
DOWN INTO MEXICO.

OLD 66 VISITOR CENTER
R. Waldmire, Caretaker
BOX 46
HACKBERRY, ARIZONA 86411
Phone (520) 769-2605



IN THIS NORTH-FACING VIEW, THE SOUTH-ERN-MOST FOOTHILLS OF THE **GRAND WASH CLIFFS** FORM A DRAMATIC BACKDROP TO RT. 66 & THE "VISITOR CENTER." BUILDING LEGEND BELOW:

① "DUPLEX"; ② OLD STATION-STORE (NOW THE VISITOR CENTER); ③ "ROCK SHOP"; ④ HOUSE.



Randy Smith
116 Canterbury Cof.
East Peoria, Ill. 61611

NEW GOALS AND A NEW DIRECTION

by Frank Lozich

I would first like to thank everyone who attended the last General-Election meeting which was held October 19 1997 at the Country Buffet in Normal. And most of all I want to thank many of those in attendance for their support in allowing me to serve as the Association President for the next two years.

During the last nine years the Illinois Route 66 Association has been pretty successful at sticking to the Purpose of the Association as mentioned in our By-laws. The By-laws state that "the purpose of the Association shall be to preserve, promote and enjoy the past and present of U.S. Highway Route 66". So far the Associations' endeavor at promoting the highway has been a success. In 1995 the Illinois Department Of Transportation (IDOT) put the Historic Route 66 signs along the highway. This was the result of a fast growing interest in travelers making Route 66 in Illinois one of their vacationing destinations. The Association was a major player at promoting new interest and travel on old U.S. 66. The annual Route 66 Association Motor Tour has also had an impact with the communities along this famous highway. With the attention that the annual Motor Tour draws from the media, and the great number of participants who partake in the event, more and more communities are becoming anxious to get onto the 66 bandwagon. Many of these communities are trying to do more to promote their Route 66 history than ever before. I believe that promotion and enjoyment for the highway has been successful. But do we stop here? So now what is next?

Preservation! Preservation is also part of the Association By-laws. I feel that preservation of historical landmarks along the highway should be our next long term goal. We have been able to promote and certainly enjoy some of the highway's past that still exists, but if nothing is done to help save and/or restore these artifacts, there may be nothing left to enjoy.

Our first step will be to give support and encouragement to community efforts regarding the restoration of highway sites and landmarks. This can be achieved with help in fundraising efforts and personal involvement. So far the Preservation Committee has been successful in this area. Members of this committee helped create an interest with the old Standard-Sinclair gas station in Odell that eventually led to that communities' plan to restore the station. The formation of the Soulsby Society by Association Members is also another preservation project in the making. The Multiple Listing with the National Register will be a great help at identifying sites and making them eligible for possible grant money. I already feel that we are off to a good start. There may be some road blocks along the way and we may have to learn from our mistakes, but we can at least try.

As President for the next two years I also intend to restructure our General Meetings with an agenda that will be well planned ahead with speakers, slide presentations, and possible tours and programs. By planning these meetings well in advance, you will be able to preview the program in the upcoming newsletters. Many members have to travel several hours to attend a General Meeting. I feel that it is my job to make sure that your time was well spent. This will be my first goal.

My next goal will be to help prepare the Association for the next century. I believe that it is time the Association gets on the Internet and onto a web site. The use of modern communication technology will enable us to promote Route 66 in Illinois world wide. This will also help in promoting tourism as well. Tourism plays an important role in trying to preserve our Route 66 heritage. The tourist dollar is vital to keeping our roadside attractions alive.

If we, as a Not-For-Profit can achieve these new goals in the next two years, we shall be able to help save an important part of American history for generations to come. THANK YOU!

A SNEAK PREVIEW FOR THE APRIL 19 1998 GENERAL MEETING

by Frank Lozich

If you plan on coming to the Board-General Meeting in April, then here is a little bit of inside scoop to let you know what to expect. The Board Meeting will begin at 11:00 A.M. and we will be discussing new business. One of these subjects will be regarding the Route 66 Association Of Illinois and the Internet. We will have a speaker, Mr. Chris Christofferson (not the singer) who is with Bigbook.com, the yellow page network on the Internet. Mr. Christofferson will give a talk about the benefits of being on the Net and a Web Site. We will also discuss an upcoming event, the "Route 66 Summer Festival" that the city of Joliet is planning for the weekend of May 29-30 1998.

Our afternoon program beginning at 1:00 P.M. should be a delight for Route 66 adventurers and nostalgia buffs alike. We will have a guest speaker, Mr. Lon Haldeman, an Association Member who has traveled the entire route via bicycle several times and who is also planning another tour in the future. Mr. Haldeman will be telling of his adventures and many experiences while touring Route 66 on a bicycle. And that's not all! The Odell Historical Society will show a previously restored movie that the community filmed for Odell's 1954 Centennial. This movie is about 45 minutes long and will show what Route 66 and Odell looked like in 1954 during the highways' heyday. Nostalgia buffs will be able to get a kick out of this! The Historical Society will also have a photo display for your viewing pleasure. This meeting will be at Pour Richard's Cafe in downtown Odell. Hope to see you there!

LAST MINUTE NEWS...The next meeting of the Preservation Committee will be April 4 1998 at Feddersen's Pizza Garage on Old 66 in Dwight. The dinner starts at 5:00 PM and the meeting starts at 6:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend, including the public! Any questions or suggestions for this meeting, please feel free to contact John Weiss at 815 469-5219 or E-mail at KAYO66@aol.com

HELP WANTED...THE ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!

by Frank Lozich

The Association is looking for a volunteer to fill a vacancy for Board Member, Macoupin County. If you are a member of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois and reside anywhere in Macoupin County, you are eligible for this position. The duties of the Board Member are to be able to attend four General Meetings a year, and serve as spokespersons and general co-ordinators of Association activities in the county they represent. If anyone from Macoupin County is interested in this position as well as a chance to get involved in helping to preserve Route 66's rich history as it winds through your region, you can call Mr. Rich Henry, the Association's Vice-President at 618-635-5655. Rich will be happy to answer any questions. Hope to hear from you soon!

PEDAL ACROSS AMERICA AT THE APRIL 19 1998 MEETING

by Lenore Weiss

Ever wonder what it would be like to pedal the entire route of Historic 66 on a bicycle? Well, Lon Haldeman from Sharon, Wisconsin will share with you the many highlights and few pit falls of his 24 day trip. Lon will be the guest speaker at our General Meeting on Sunday, April 19 at Pour Richard's Cafe in Odell beginning at 1:00 P.M. Lon, a professional cyclist, had taken the Route 66 trip along with 30 other cyclists ranging in ages from 8 to 68 last May. He will share with you the Route 66 personalities he met along the way as well as the memorial accomplishment of cycling across the Mojave Desert, and running into several Harley Davidson motorcyclists. In May 1998 this year Lon will lead another tour of the entire length of Route 66 starting in California and ending in Chicago 24 days later. Mark your calendar for this fun and very interesting meeting. Come on out and share Lon's many experiences! Learn about the new Route 66 Summer Festival in Joliet on May 29-30. Circle those dates if you want a fun filled 66 kind of day for you and the family. Full details will be available at our April meeting.

THE EVER CHANGING FACE OF ROUTE 66

by John Weiss

Here in Illinois some major changes are taking place on Historic 66. We have a 10 mile stretch of 66 that is about to experience a total rebirth. It begins 4 miles south of Joliet.

First a little background information. In the late 1930's, Route 66 was divided around the Joliet area. The new alignment of Route 66 would take travelers further west through the town of Plainfield, then south. The newly created Alternate 66, the original alignment, would pass through Joliet and beyond. They would rejoin in the town of Gardner. Along Alternate 66, just south of Joliet, the military developed the Joliet Arsenal. It was officially opened in 1942 to produce ammunition. This complex encompassed 23,000 pristine acres. They ceased operations in 1976.

In 1996 the Arsenal was divided into sections. One 1,000 acre section will be known as the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. It is expected to be in operation by 1999. Much of the new National Cemetery will be surrounded by adjacent Midewin Tallgrass Prairie. This will provide the cemetery with a pastoral setting to honor our military dead. Along here Historic 66 is a beautiful, rambling 4 lane divided highway. It is very lightly developed. The entrance to the National Cemetery will be 1/2 mile south of the small town of Elwood at Hoff Road.

Another 19,000 acre section of the old Joliet Arsenal is for the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Here will be the first national tallgrass prairie park east of the Mississippi. Bison may even be reintroduced to the fenced-in land. This American symbol once flourished in the area. Their presence will help to naturally manage the thousands of acres of beautiful grassland habitat. Here we have a wonderful program of preserving unspoiled nature for all future generations.

The temporary visitors center is located on Historic 66, 4 miles south of the town of Elwood. A permanent visitors center will be built next door. Preservation doesn't get any better than this. For information, phone (815) 423-6370.

Access to Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery is only possible by traveling Historic 66 (Route 53).

Let's return now to Joliet. Exactly 3.5 miles south from Interstate 80 on Historic 66 (Route 53) is the Route 66 Motorplex. They begin racing in May of 1998, and will be open 7 months per year. They will host many events, including Nascar. It has two tracks...one is a quarter mile drag strip, and the other is a 1/2 mile oval. Permanent seating is for 35,000 spectators with temporary seating possible for 90,000. There will be parking for 11,000 cars. Concerts and other special events are also planned. This ultra modern track will undoubtedly become famous nationwide due to the popularity of auto racing and the major televised events that will take place here. Historic 66 is the only way into this huge attraction.

Some say that all this will harm the historic integrity of original Route 66. Not necessarily. This helps keep it alive and vibrant. People learned years ago that a trip on Route 66 was a destination in itself, and would lead travelers to fun and adventure. From history to glitz and glitter, you will find it all on the Mother Road. This area merely exemplifies everything that Route 66 was intended to do, and continues to do.

Come visit us soon in Illinois, where the kicks begin!

YES, VISIT 12 NEW TOWNS! ON A NEW ALIGNMENT, IL-4 (ROUTE 66, 1926-30) FROM STAUNTON TO SPRINGFIELD. NEW STOPS-CARLINVILLE, AUBURN, ATLANTA, ODELL GAS STATION, JOLIET'S UNION STATION & WHITE FENCE FARM FOR OUR POST TOUR GATHERING.

THIS YEAR'S MOTOR TOUR WILL BE GOING FROM SOUTH TO NORTH. FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT COME DOWN EARLY, THERE WILL BE TOURS OF THE CHAIN OF ROCKS BRIDGE ON FRIDAY AFTER NOON PROVIDED BY TRAILNET, THE GROUP THAT IS WORKING TO SAVE IT.

FRIDAY NIGHT WE WILL KICK OFF THE TOUR IN DOWNTOWN EDWARDSVILLE FOR A PRE-TOUR FESTIVAL CELEBRATION GIVEN BY THE PEOPLE OF EDWARDSVILLE.

ON SATURDAY MORNING WE WILL BEGIN OUR WEEKEND JOURNEY ON ROUTE 66 IN EDWARDSVILLE AND HEAD TOWARDS CHICAGO. OUR FIRST STOP OF THE DAY WILL BE IN STAUNTON FOR REFRESHMENTS. THEN WE WILL TRAVEL IL-4, OLD 66, TO CARLINVILLE WHERE WE WILL HAVE LUNCH AT THEIR TASTE OF CARLINVILLE ON THE BRICK COVERED TOWN SQUARE WHILE ENJOYING THE ENTERTAINMENT IN THE GAZEBO. WE WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT THE MILLION DOLLAR COURT HOUSE, VISIT THE 1869 COUNTY JAIL, AND HAVE YOUR PHOTO TAKEN BEHIND BARS. YOU CAN DRIVE THROUGH THE STANDARD EDITION OF OVER 100 SEARS, ROEBUCK & COMPANY MAIL ORDER HOUSES.

FROM THERE WE WILL JOURNEY THROUGH TOWNS & SITES NEVER BEFORE ON THE MOTOR TOUR. ONE WILL BE A 1.4 MILE LONG BRICK ROAD NEAR AUBURN THAT DATES BACK TO THE 1920'S.

THEN IT WILL BE ON TO SPRINGFIELD TO SEE THE SITES. THE BIG EVENT SATURDAY NIGHT WILL BE THE 1998 INDUCTION INTO THE ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS' HALL OF FAME. THIS BANQUET WILL BE AT THE PRAIRIE CAPITAL CONVENTION CENTER WHICH IS ON OLD 66 (BUS 55). WE WILL BE STAYING AT THE NEWLY BUILT RENAISSANCE CENTER. IT IS CONNECTED TO THE CONVENTION CENTER. THERE IS A SPECIAL PRICE FOR THE MOTOR TOUR, SO CALL THEM AT 217-544-8800 AND MENTION THE ROUTE 66 MOTOR TOUR. FREE, UNDERGROUND, SECURITY PARKING WILL BE PROVIDED.

SUNDAY MORNING WE'LL LEAVE THE STATE CAPITAL FOR A 2ND DAY OF FUN ON ROUTE 66. WE WILL HEAD TO ATLANTA FOR A BREAKFAST REFRESHMENT STOP AND TOURS OF THE HISTORIC MUSEUM, LIBRARY AND GRAIN ELEVATOR. BOTH ARE ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. DEPARTING ATLANTA, WE WILL TRAVEL TO THE DIXIE TO SEE WHAT'S NEW IN THE ROUTE 66 HALL OF FAME.

THEN IT WILL BE ON TO CHENOA FOR LUNCH AT THE CITY PARK. WE CAN SEE WHERE STEVE'S CAFE ONCE WAS AND SEE THE MATTHEW T. SCOTT HOUSE. WE WILL THEN TRAVEL ON TO ODELL AND STOP AT THE STANDARD/SINCLAIR GAS STATION WHICH IS BEING RESTORED AND IS NOW ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

FROM THERE WE WILL HEAD TO GARDNER FOR A MINI STOP AT THE RIVIERA, A HALL OF FAME ESTABLISHMENT, WHERE REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED. THEN, CONTINUING OUR JOURNEY, WE'LL GET SOME KICKS IN JOLIET BY STOPPING AT THE HISTORIC UNION STATION FOR A WELCOME FROM THE CITY WITH PLENTY OF FUN AND SURPRISES.

WE'LL END THIS YEAR'S TOUR AT HISTORIC WHITE FENCE FARM IN ROMEOVILLE FOR A POST TOUR GATHERING WITH FUN AND PRIZES. DINNER WILL BE AVAILABLE. WE CAN ALSO ENJOY THE PETTING ZOO AND THEIR ANTIQUE MUSEUM.

MOTEL AND UPDATED INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW ONCE YOUR REGISTRATION IS RECEIVED. AND DON'T FORGET TO ADD THE COST OF BANQUET TICKETS TO YOUR REGISTRATION FEE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL JEFF LAFOLLETTE, MOTOR TOUR CHAIRMAN, AT 319-893-6653, MARILYN PRITCHARD, 815-844-6937, JEFF MEYER, 847-392-0860, OR RICH HENRY 618-637-2886.

New! New! New!

**New Towns • New Stops • New Route IL-4
(Old 66 1926-1930 Alignment)**

On Route 66 In Illinois 9th Annual Motor Tour of Illinois June 12-14, 1998

With Stops in  **Edwardsville**  **Carlinville** 

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See The Sights in  **St. Louis**  **Stauaton**  **Auburn**

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**Visit The Route 66 Hall of Fame at the
Dixie Trucker Home in McLean**

Attend The Hall of Fame Ceremony in Springfield

See The Odell Gas Station on the National Register of Historic Places

Pre-tour Celebration in Edwardsville, June 12

Post-tour Gathering at White Fence Farm in Romeoville, June 14

Sponsored by the Route 66 Association of Illinois

Registration Form

Any Vehicle, Any Model

Please Print or Type

Registration Fee: \$25.00 for Members per vehicle \$30.00 for Non-Members per vehicle

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ We plan to attend the Hall of Fame Banquet. Add \$10.00 per person to accompany registration.
Add \$5.00 for children under 12

How Many Adults _____ How Many Children _____

Mail To:
Motor Tour
Route 66 Association of Illinois
2743 Veterans Parkway #166
Springfield, IL 62704

More Info:
Jeff LaFollette Tour Chairman (319) 893-6653
Marilyn Pritchard (815) 844-6937
Rich & Linda Henry (618) 635-5655
Jeff Meyer (847) 392-0860

Sorry No Refunds. Rain or Shine.

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 Il 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: _____

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

- ___ Mother Road Route 66 metal license plate frame \$7.00
- ___ Illinois US 66 hat pins \$4.00
- ___ Route 66 earrings (circle choice: post or dangled) \$6.00
- ___ Pewter 66 Belt Buckle \$11.50
- ___ Land of Lincoln "Route 66" license plate key chain \$2.50

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

- ___ **New!** *Traveling the New, Historic Route 66 of Illinois* by John Weiss \$17.95
- ___ *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
- ___ *A Guidebook to Highway 66* by Jack Rittenhouse (reprint of 1946 book) \$9.45

- ___ *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
- ___ *The Feeling of Jazz* by Bobby Troup (CD only) \$14.00

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- 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.**
- Please submit U.S. Funds only!

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

Speaking In Plates

Recently, we come across some attention getting license plates that help promote Route 66. Some of them can be spotted just about anywhere, as long as you have your eyes open to spot them. However, most 66ers forget to carry their Minolta's with them and miss out on snapping one of these fun loving plates. Some of our 66ers write a list sometimes as they spot them, such as Association Member Marie Jibben, whom spotted 26 plates recently, too numerous to mention! Here are our entries for this issue, and hope to see your submission in next time by sending it in to your Newsletter Editor.



From James A. Gorski comes the 66 RYDR, off his pick up. James is an Association member from Lisle, Illinois. Keep on riding, James! (Editor)



Here is a real winner! From Robert Pilling out of Grafton, West Virginia comes the ultimate Route 66 plate! Great advertising to the East Coast.



Now here's a real 66 winner, and that is Don & Verna Cutler from Springfield who sports this GO N 66 plate, and also the tire cover is quite charming. Keep up the motoring you two!



This plate was spotted at the last Association Picnic in Miller Park. The proud owner is Art Gregg, off his pick up truck. Art is obviously a 66 FAN!

Route 66 Association of Illinois
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Springfield, Illinois 62704

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ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

The 66 News!

Presents...A Fun-filled Summer 1998 Newsletter

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"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.

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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.

Welcome Our New Members!

by Priscilla Mathews

Since the last issue of *The 66 News*, we have 38 more new additions to our membership list in the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. Let's give our new members a warm welcome to the Association and join us all in our pursuit of our intent to preserve, promote, and enjoy Route 66 in Illinois, as well as the entire route to California!

Here are the General Members:

Jim Hardy, Frankfort • Larry Pedrigi, Elgin • Donald L. Meyer, Minooka • Albert Gienow, Trivoli • James Mlnarik, Lisle • Jodie Steggerda, Champaign • Patrick O'Neill, Collinsville • William & Phyllis Bryson, Mt. Pulaski • Bennie W. Powell, Chicago • John Bartosiewicz, Burbank • Thomas Reynolds, Chicago • Kevin Sager, Parkersburg • Frank & Carol Abernathy, Joliet • Gary Martin Sr., Lombard • James Yunker, Des Plaines • Howard Deatrick, Peoria • William Janak, Glenview • Len & Carol Pflughaupt, Deerfield • Raymond Hedrich, Aurora • Ed & Ethel McConnell, Morris • David M. Ruff, Mt. Vernon • Edwardsville Chamber Of Commerce, Edwardsville.

Out of State General Members are:

John B. Haydon, Fox Point, WI • John Snoble, Sandusky, OH • Lyle Durham, Grand Rapids, MI • Lois & Irma Knobloch, Gallatin, TX • William Henry, Manchester, MO • Dr. Ted Rokita, Munster, IN • H.M. Darbishire, West Lafayette, IN • The Craig Andersons, Brentwood, MO.

And two out of country members...Masayuki Tomita, Osaka, Japan • Horst Bunn, Berlin, Germany.

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The Kerry Piper, Hinsdale • Dixie Management Group, Bloomington • John Ruh, Chicago • Holiday RV Center, Chatham • Renaissance Springfield Hotel, Springfield • U DROP INN, Shamrock, TX.

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Sneak Preview for the Upcoming July 19 Board-General Meeting

by Frank Lozich

The summer Board-General Meeting of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be held at the Skylight Restaurant, 6334 W. Ogden Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois. It's up near Chicago. The phone number at the restaurant is 708-795-0088. The Board Meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. There will be a lunch break at 12 Noon. The General Membership Meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. The meetings are also open to the public who wish to attend. The program for the afternoon will focus on the Chicago National Portage Site. The site is where the explorers Marquette and Joliet carried their canoes over land along a trail from one waterway to another. Segments of that trail would eventually become US 66. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County will be giving a presentation on this subject with a slide presentation and a short 15 minute walking tour of the area following the meeting. The Portage site is located between I-55 and Route 66. This should be interesting for Route 66 and history buffs alike. For more information on the upcoming meeting, you can contact Frank Lozich at 708-429-9173. Please leave a message and name. Hope to see you all there at this upcoming meeting, and bring your ideas and suggestions, too!

Minutes of the April 19, 1998 Meeting

by Marilyn Pritchard

Nineteen Board Members were present at the Board-General meeting of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois at Pour Richard's in Odell, Illinois on Sunday, April 19, 1998.

President Frank Lozich welcomed everyone, and conducted the Meeting.

A motion was made by John Weiss and seconded by Rich Henry to send a letter and donations back to those who had contributed to the Depot Museum Fund. The Museum project was discontinued.

Rich Henry announced the Finance Committee, consisting of: Rich Henry; Chairman and Tim Palm; Co-Chairman. Other members of the Finance Committee are...George Leone, Duke Cartwright, Chester Henry, Marilyn Pritchard, Jeff Meyer, Chuck & C.J. Beeler.

Minutes from the previous Meeting as received in the mail were accepted. Rich Henry made motion and was seconded by Paul Gleason.

Treasurer report by Tim Palm...balance on hand is \$5,701.57.

Merchandise report by Jeff Meyer...\$7,489 on hand.

continued on page 4

In Other News...

Rich Henry announces some new goodies to his Route 66 store in Staunton. He added a 1989 Yamaha 250cc Route 66 Special motorcycle, and also he got a prized Campbell's 66 Humpin' To Please Trailer! Jeff LeFollette from Iowa spotted it in Moline, and tipped Rich off about it. Rich brought it down from upstate, and showed it off proudly on his way down to Staunton with Snortin Nortin!

From Steve & Glaida Funk comes some news from New Mexico...a historic 66 bridge west of Albuquerque, a Parker Through Truss bridge about 250 foot long crossing the Rio Puerco next to I-40 will not be razed. There will be a new interstate bridge built alongside it and the state will leave it as a 66 monument, since it is on their National Register Of Historic Places.

During the last month, May 1998, the PAC Tour came through Illinois. They are the bicycle group headed by Lon Haldeman. The tour started from Santa Monica in California and finished by Chicago around May 25. They pedaled about 2500 miles, and averaged about 75-125 miles per day, depending on the weather. PAC stands for Pacific-Atlantic-Cycling Tour, and this is their second bicycle tour on Route 66.

On May 30, John Weiss presented a Route 66 program at the Joliet Public Library.

During May 28-31, there was the first big races at the Route 66 Motorplex near Joliet. This included well known NHRA Winston Drag Racing, and other major racing events, including Funny Car, Top Fuel, Pro Stock and Pro Stock Truck, and Bike racing.

And in Chicago, at Grant Park was the Chicago Blues Festival, that ran June 4-7. There were a large variety of performers too numerous to list.

During our Motor Tour, there will also be a large Corvette show in Joliet the same June 12-14 weekend. This will be one of the largest Corvette shows, with racing and judging going on and a host of other activities there, too.

Some Upcoming Events on 66 this Summer:

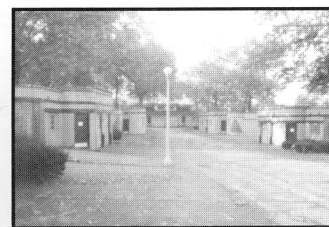
July 10-12 in Willowbrook will be the Cruising 66 event. It includes car shows, flea market tables, Route 66 merchandise, arts, crafts, and a host of other things going on.

July 25-26 is the Lexington Taste Of Country Fair. This is one event that your Newsletter Editor likes to go to! Also known as the Route 66 Reunion, it has activities going on throughout the day and night, and several blocks of flea market tables and crafts plus tours and other things.

September 19-20 is the Harvest Days event in Dwight. There is also a host of activities all through-out this weekend.



The Route 66 State Park at Times Beach, Missouri is still under construction. The government people are still "working" on the original plot of Times Beach across the Meramec River. Hopefully this Summer later, it is suppose to be open for a State Park. Each time your Newsletter Editor get near there, they give him a rather mean and cold reception. Obviously they don't like the media people no more than we don't like our taxpayers money wasted on their messing up towns on Route 66.



One of our Association members, Shellee Graham is recruiting your help in looking for info you might have regarding the Coral Court that got razed on Watson Rd. stretch in St. Louis. Shellee is looking at writing a book on this famous art deco structured wonder, and can use whatever stories, photos, etc. you might have on it, including remembrances and memories. If you can help her with her project, please write to her at P.O. Box 802, Bridgeton, Missouri 63044. Also, you can E-mail your stories to coralcourt@yahoo.com or try to send it to her at shellee66@earthlink.net

Minutes, continued from page 3

Membership report by Priscilla Mathews...\$2,218 was sent to the Treasurer.

C.J. Beeler announced that on August 23 at 12 Noon the Dixie Trucker's Home in McLean will host a Pig Roast-Celebration for the Association in observance of their 70th Anniversary of being in business on Route 66, and the Annual Route 66 Association of Illinois Picnic will be blended in with the celebration at the Dixie's that Sunday, August 23. So bring some side dishes and munchies, and plan on some fun and 66 fellowship! Plus, you get to see the Hall of Fame Museum while you're there!

John Weiss invited everyone to join in with the Route 66 Summer Celebration in Joliet on May 29 and 30.

Tom Flasch and Tom Teague shared a discussion about an Association Web Site. A committee is being formed.

At Noon, a delicious dinner was served to 55 Members and guests. There were many new faces that attended this meeting.

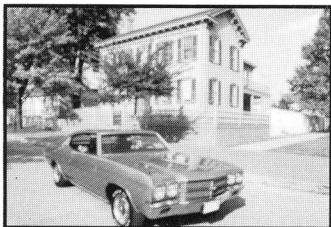
At 1:00 p.m., Lon Haldeman from Sharon, Wisconsin presented a wonderful program about his bicycling on Old Route 66. He will be with a PAC Tour coming through this area in June.

Odell Mayor Bill Wilkey welcomed the Association to the Village Of Odell. He mentioned about the papers to be signed soon about the Odell Standard Station to be owned by a local association.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

In Other News...

One of our Hall Of Famers from Springfield...Bill Shea, has a new shield sign up at his 66 Museum at 2075 Peoria Rd., Springfield, IL 62702. His museum is closed Sunday & Monday, but this is one of the most interesting Museums that I ever seen here on Route 66 in Illinois, and well worth the stop!



Al & Sue Cramton sends us this photo of a basketball board shaped like a 66 shield, spotted in Gardner, along with a nice old car from the 1950's.



Dave & Pat Josters recently got to enter the closed off area of Abraham Lincoln's Springfield home, with their 1970 Chevelle with the YES RT 66 plate on it.



Preservation Committee Current Projects

by John Weiss

The owner of the Meramec Caverns barn north of Pontiac has offered to work with us to save this Route 66 icon. Committee members will do the labor with materials supplied by the owner. If you would like to help us save this historical structure, please give John a call. We need all the help we can get, especially if you are a handy carpenter or painter. This is a real "feel good project."

The committee is also doing everything it can to save and protect the 1 1/2 mile brick road north of Auburn. IDOT wants to tear up and pave over most of it. We see this as destruction of history that can never be replaced. There are other choices to consider that would save this wonderful stretch of road.

If you have never driven, or seen this brick segment, be sure to do so. Or enjoy it on this year's motor tour. Then you will understand why we are so outraged at the thought of losing it.

If you would like to voice your concerns, write to Michael E. Vaderhoof, District Environmental Studies, Unit Chief V, Illinois Department Of Transportation, District 6, 126 E. Ash St., Springfield, Illinois 62704-4792. By writing and protesting this destruction, you will be on IDOT's mailing list that will inform you of all upcoming plans and actions. (This is what we were told they would do.)

For information on these or other preservation projects, call John Weiss at 815-469-5219.

The next meeting will be a working event. The next formal meeting will be at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight on August 8 at 5 pm. That starts the dinner buffet. The meeting begins at 6 pm. (The buffet is \$7 per person, which includes tax and tip.)

1999 Motor Tour News

by Jeff LaFollette

Planning for the 1999 Motor Tour is going strong, and since it will be the 10th Annual Tour, the committee is trying to come up with new and different ideas. One idea for the tour is to have a special 10th Annual Motor Tour Commemorative license plate made by the State Of Illinois for the tour. This was approved by the Board at the January meeting. In order to get the plates from the state, we need a 50 plate minimum order. The plates can be displayed 60 days prior to and through the Motor Tour. At the present time, the committee has not established a cost for the license plate, but we have set a limit of charging no more than \$30 per pair. The final cost will be determined by the quantity of plates ordered, and the number of colors used in printing. Non-Illinois residents can purchase plates as well although they cannot be displayed in the state of their residence.

If you would be interested in ordering plates, or have questions regarding the plates, please call Jeff LaFollette at 319-893-6653 or drop me a letter with your name, address, and phone number to 2351 Highway 130, New Liberty, Iowa 52765. This way we can start a file of names to see if there is enough interest to warrant the continuance of this project. More information will follow in the Fall and Winter Newsletter. We need to request authorization from the State Of Illinois for issuing special plates by November 30 1998 so please contact me soon. If you have ideas for the 1999 Motor Tour, please feel free to contact me any time.

Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes from the February 7, 1998 meeting

by Jeff LaFollette

The Preservation Committee of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois conducted a meeting on February 7, 1998 at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight, Illinois with our new chairman, John Weiss conducting the meeting.

Those present included: Marty Schledger, Roger Berta, Jeff Geisler, Jeff Meyer, Tom Flasch, Dorothy Seratt, Frank & Roxie Lozich, John & Lenore Weiss, Larry Boyd, Bill Przybylski, Durelle & Marilyn Pritchard, Jeff LaFollette, Marie Jibben, and your Newsletter Editor Randy Smith.

John Weiss was presented by Association President Frank Lozich as the new chairman. John welcomed all to the meeting. He also reported that at this time, Route 66 is not a heritage corridor for 1998, but they will try to get it listed in 1999.

Dorothy Seratt reported that the Village Of Odell has formed a committee regarding the Standard Gasoline Station renovation project, and that they will be holding meetings soon. She asked when the Preservation Committee should present the National Register Certificate to the Mayor of Odell. Dorothy also handed out copies of the National Register Certificate to all committee members.

John Weiss reported that Wilmington held their spaghetti dinner to help raise funds for moving the historic depot. Lenore Weiss reported that Wilmington is very close to their \$10,000 goal (which later they did get). She also reported that Wilmington will be holding Log Cabin Fever Days on Sunday, February 22 1998. The city would open the historic Eagle Hotel, and that we could stop to see the depot as well. Plans were made for a field trip to Wilmington.

John reported on the two Meramec Caverns barns on Route 66 in Illinois. He sent a letter to Meramec Caverns to possibly see if they would re-paint the barns. We are waiting for a reply. John also mentioned about the Mail Pouch barn near Elwood.

Dorothy gave an update on the 1.5 mile brick road near Auburn off of Illinois 4. She went to Springfield to do some research on Route 66. She learned that the brick section is located in District 6 of IDOT. She spoke with Mike VanDerHoof who is in charge of the brick road project. She gave a timeline about the history of Illinois 4. IDOT has several plans to do work on the road while saving all or some of it. IDOT has projected a start work date of April 2001.

Jeff Geisler reported that to date he has not received any historic data sheets, which were printed in the Winter edition of *The 66 News*. John corrected him saying that he has one and encouraged all to look at some projects to send to Jeff. John read his sheet regarding the Lamplighter Motel in Springfield. Jeff also reported about several different possibilities of projects, and also encouraged all to send in projects.

Frank Lozich gave a message about a phone call he received from the owner of the Lazy A Motel in Springfield. The owner



currently lives in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The motel is now vacant, and was more recently converted to efficiency apartments. The owner does not want to sell the motel but would rather see it return to its heyday and be restored as it was in 1949. Frank hopes that he convinced the man not to sell it.

John discussed the National Register. He encouraged that we

need to get out and talk to people up and down the road to see if they would be interested in having their properties nominated. John read a list of properties for possible register consideration. Dorothy will come up with a list to help out in filling out National Register forms. Jeff LaFollette volunteered to help Dorothy with writing up history and significance of possible properties for consideration. Larry Boyd will also volunteer to help with this.

Bill Przybylski suggested that the Association have a Route 66 Car Show. Discussion followed. Frank reported that a group from Europe wants to come to the U.S. and drive vintage cars on historic roads, including Route 66. Bill and Roger Berta will look into organizing a possible car show for a future date and will bring the committee their findings at the next meeting.

Later, on February 22, the Preservation Committee had an outing. First they visited the 1869 Railroad Depot in Wilmington. This wonderful brick railroad station has been saved from destruction and will be moved down Route 66 to its new home in the Midewin Tall Grass Prairie.

Next, the committee visited the Old Eagle Hotel located at Route 66 and Water Street in Wilmington. This building was built in 1836 and added on to in 1843. At that time, things were very primitive in the area. This building is under the control of the Wilmington Historical Society. They knew we were coming and treated the committee to a complete, guided tour of the historic structure. This is never open to the public, but they made an exception for the Route 66 Preservation Committee. We truly thank the Wilmington Historical Society for their time and efforts.

Next, the committee detoured off of Historic 66 by a few miles to visit Metal Art by Jack, located in the small town of Essex, east of Braidwood. This man is a genius in turning junk into art. Jack also invited us to see his workshop and private collections. This is simply another form of preservation. You can't help but have fun at Jack's place.

Some of the committee then finished off the day at the Hall Of Fame, Riviera Restaurant in Gardner. The Riviera is a survivor of the hey days of 66, and is still serving fantastic food at remarkably low prices.

NOTE...if you would like to be part of the Preservation Committee or want to be on its mailing list, call John at 815-469-5219.

Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes from the April 4, 1998 meeting

by Lenore Weiss

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight, Illinois.

In attendance were: Dorothy Seratt, Tom Flasch, Durelle & Marilyn Pritchard, Paul Wendt, Gretchen Staats, Jeff Geisler, Jeff Meyer, Marty Schleder, and John & Lenore Weiss.

Marilyn Pritchard motioned to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Dorothy Seratt. Approved.

Jeff Geisler gave a report on the February field trip to Wilmington that included the Railroad Depot, Eagle Hotel, Metal Art by Jack and dinner at the Riviera. Everyone especially enjoyed the Eagle Hotel tour and behind the scenes.

Wilmington wants to put their jail on the National Register Of Historic Places. It was also reported that the architect that Wilmington uses may come out and inspect the Odell station.

John passed around a book on Legal Preservation Information from the National Trust For Historic Preservation purchased for our committee by John.

Archives report, Jeff Geisler. Jeff received information on a Phillips 66 station in Hamel from Bernard Paul, attorney, Marion, Illinois. Jeff Meyer and Jeff Geisler agreed to work together to obtain a lot of history from all the previous Route 66 News! Jeff Meyer has a complete set and will share them with Jeff Geisler. John Weiss submitted the Pine Lodge, now Wendells Sports Bar, Braceville, and the Porterhouse Steak House near Willowbrook. Jeff Meyer will also work with Jeff Geisler regarding all the information he has on past and present locations along Route 66. A discussion of format followed. It was suggested to have a different address for Archives.

Marilyn Pritchard reported that the owner of the Meramec Caverns barn in Cayuga agreed to have the barn repaired and painted by the Preservation Committee and the owner will pay for materials. Presently the barn is constructed with wood shingles. Otherwise, she will have to cover the barn with aluminum siding to protect it. Marilyn will arrange to have Paul, Gretchen, and others from the Preservation Committee look into work needed to preserve the sign. Paul will inspect the building. The possibility of contacting the Barn Society was also mentioned. Hopefully the next preservation committee meeting will be a working event to help repair and preserve the barn.

Dorothy Seratt updated us on the Odell Station Motor Tour Stop. Passport stickers will be distributed for approximately 30 minutes. Hopefully, T-shirts and hats will be available for sale. Dorothy also reported that the money is in the bank and the officers were named. There are five people on the board of the Odell Tourism and Development Committee Board, Inc. Dorothy and John Stonecipher are both members. Dorothy will send out press releases to other associations. Odell T-shirts and hats will also be available for sale at the April 19 general meeting. It was decided to present the National Register Of Historic Places plaque at

a later date. Dorothy will sell Odell shirts and hats during the European tour at the station.

Lenore Weiss gave a brief report on the Joliet Route 66 Summer Festival scheduled for May 29 and 30. John will present a program at the Joliet Public Library at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 30.

Cindy Fleischli from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Community Affairs is working on getting Route 66 on the regular state maps as a result of John's inquiry at the Heritage Corridor meeting when it was brought to their attention that it is not on any state maps.

Jeff Meyer will check on an old gas station across from the Soulsby station spotted by David Newton.

Discussion followed regarding the brick road segment of the 1926-30 alignment and that volunteers will be needed during the Motor Tour. We will petition to call for a public meeting if necessary. John submitted the application to include the two bridges to be on the Illinois Historic Bridge Survey, and Dorothy explained the application to include the brick road and original concrete curve north of Auburn to be on the National Register Of Historic Places. John showed his submission as to how to alter Route 4 (truck route) without destroying any of the original brick concrete road.

Letters of encouragement to save the historic brick road north of Auburn are highly recommended. They can be mailed to: Michael E. Vanderhoof, District Environmental Studies, Unit Chief V, IDOT, District 6, 126 E. Ash St., Springfield, IL 62704-4792.

John presented enlarged details of a 1926 Rand McNally Road Atlas showing Route 66 as originally Route 60.

A letter from Roxane Lozich was read by Dorothy regarding Midewin National Tall Grass Prairie. A guided tour will be provided of the entire facility (not open to the public) on Saturday, May 30 at 10 a.m. The tour will be 2-3 hours and is limited to 15 people. There is no fee, but a donation would be appreciated. Please call Roxane at 708-429-9173 to reserve your space. This will be announced at the general meeting on April 19. Remember, it is limited to 15 people.

John read correspondence from Jack Barker, Metal Art by Jack, thanking the group for their visit. John also read a letter from Robert Lazewski, Streamwood, regarding a U.S. Highway Route 66 metal sign with permission to print a copy of it in the newsletter. This will be forwarded to Randy Smith, editor.

Tom Flasch offered to scan photos, text, etc. and discussed a prototype of the web site.

Lenore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and was seconded by Dorothy.

The next Preservation Committee meeting will be August 8 at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight. The buffet dinner will start at 5 p.m. and the meeting at 6 p.m.

The New Year Starts Off Perfect...At The Drive In!

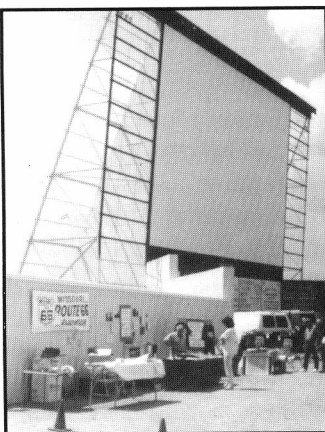
Preservation Success at its best, at the 66 Drive In

by Randy Smith & Marie Jibben



April 18, 1998 was surely a day to remember! Never have I seen so many fans and BIG TIME names of so many well known people all get together for a spiritual 66 re-union at one of the most successful preservation restoration projects ever anywhere on the entire route of 66. The 66 Drive In at Carthage, Missouri was as I predicted a sell out, and did we have a good time? WE HAD A BLAST!

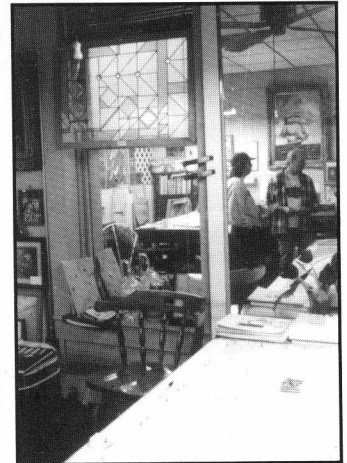
We arrived in Carthage the day before, on a Friday about 1 p.m. There were already quite a few people there and a lot of preparation still going on for the big night, on Saturday. I got to talk to one of the owners, Mark Goodman. He seemed to be just as excited about pulling this thing off. Mark mentioned how he had one of those car crushers brought in earlier this year, and lost count of how many of those clunkers got squeezed into pancakes! That was a clever way to get rid of the mess in short time, and the sale of the metal covered the expenses. After getting rid of those eye sores, then they went to work on getting the grounds maintained, and repainted the original board. It is actually about 28 feet shorter than the last time I saw it. The so-called leaves on the left and right were taken down since so many of them were in



need of repair, they just took them down and made the screen a little shorter. With the lettering re-done, and bushes neatly trimmed, and of course the charming neon marquee out front fixed, it indeed looked just like a new Drive In! The weather was perfect...in the 60's, so the event couldn't get any better than this. So we left to explore the rest of Missouri 66 by going through Joplin, and then on to Kansas 66. I had

the grave stone of the Civil War soldier that got buried in-between, sort of inside two buildings! It was along Military Avenue, so it took me a bit to find what I was looking for.

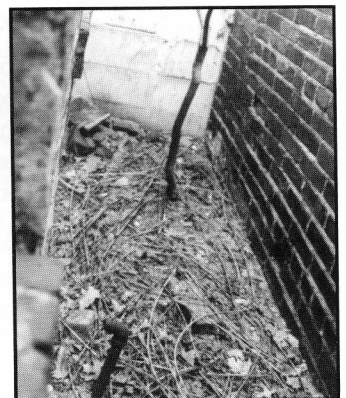
The story has been told before...during the Civil War, Baxter Springs was a divided town on the North and South. Before they started the National Cemetery there for the war dead, if you got killed, you got buried where you laid. So a soldier got buried alongside the old mid 1800's building that Tommy Cooksen owns. Tommy himself was a very interesting guy...he was an expert with making stained glass. His work graces many Churches, and well known establishments. After seeing samples of his work, I was quite astonished by the skill of this man. Then, I eventually had to ask him the ultimate

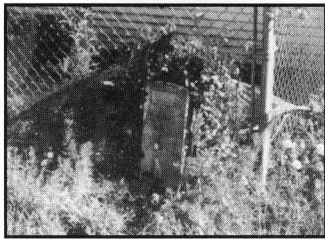


question that caused me to drive about 600 miles to ask...where at was the Civil War soldier buried at? Tommy takes me back in his shop, and near an old window about 150 years old, and had to move a lot of stuff away from it. It was a mirrored window, so you



couldn't see through it. After moving stuff, and a few tugs on it with some creaking and groaning, after all it was one of those windows with the ropes and weights. (see photo) It gave way, and behold did my blood freeze up! In a confined space of about 3 feet by 12 feet was a grave, surrounded by four concrete walls! (see 3 photos) No way in, no way out, and I looked straight up and nothing but sky. After the war, there were more buildings built on Military Ave. so one got put up next to Tommy Cooksen's and only had 3 feet between the two structures, so later on a concrete wall was put in to attach the two buildings, thus trapping the poor soul in...his name was Brown, supposedly a farmer. I really felt sorry for this poor soul...all stuck up in this lost



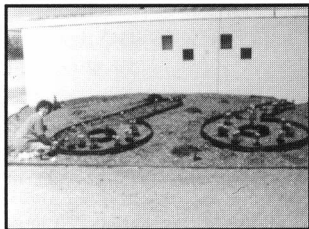


hidden hole with no one to worry about but himself. He might as well been forgotten by all of the Earth, except for the Great One from up higher! I was surely mortified, as well as astonished. Tommy showed

me all the legal documentation to this eerie adventure...a census dated 1870, and mentioned the man I think was a farmer, and lived in the area. There were letters and other things dated back then in the days of Abraham Lincoln. I studied the documents, some of them notarized and all. It was interesting reading all right, since Tommy never showed them to very many people unless he knew they were really interested, as most of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois surely knows THEIR editor to be the

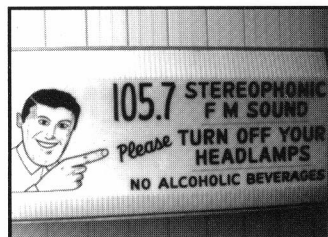


one to take the challenges and dares that most others dare not venture! Poor Marie...she was a little speechless to all this, and also read over the documentation. She did wonder how I knew where to look at on 66 for these unusual odd things, and she just makes sure she has her Minolta with



her since it is usually a "surprise" she will see, I tell her in advance. (HA) So I snap off a full roll of film on this situation knowing not too many have this opportunity on 66, and then another odd situation cropped out of this.

Tommy informs me according to those mid 1800's survey papers there was another poor soul that dropped in an alley not too far from here. This specific story I have NOT read of in most any other 66 magazines, so we took off in pursuit of another odd, if not eerie grave. It took some looking all right, but as I was about to give up, I found it...another Civil War soldier buried in a tight alley, behind a garage covered with weeds, next to a dog house with the poor mutt howling OOOWWWOHHH! Surely, he was just as scared stiffless as if the Spooks were out to get him! As I approached the tombstone, he quit his whining, and I went to work like Indiana Jones (but on 66 though!) and tore away at the weeds that covered about 95 percent of it. Another, different relation to the other same man named Brown, EXACTLY the man I saw on that mid 1800's census report! I got some more pictures of this once

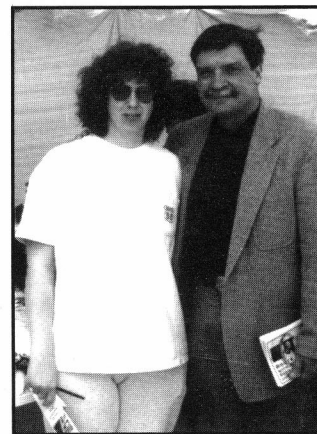


in a lifetime find, and Marie by now was getting nervous...she stayed in the car this time! (see the two alley grave photos) I paid Tommy a tip and a ton of thanks for the info, since he loved to see me hunt down these 66

stories, and yeah, I felt ready to be buried myself after all of this. We doubled back to see the original DX gas station still standing, and of course the well known Rainbow Curve Bridge. (see two photos) It was still a pretty sight, and still looked as good as I saw it about two years ago. I checked my Sun Dial...time to get back to Carthage before I get screwed out of a ring side seat to park! It was going to be a long day ahead of me...

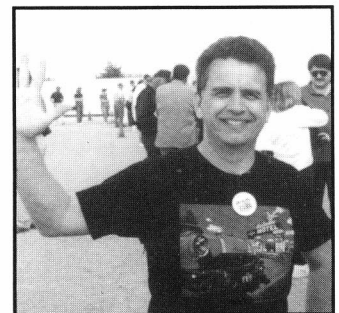
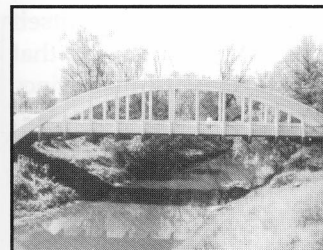
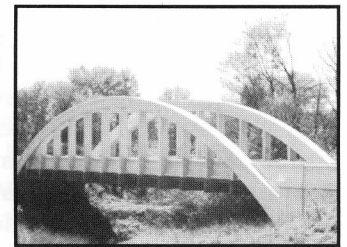
I had a fitless sleep, dreaming of the Spooks out to get me on 66! After awaking to sweat building up around my forehead, I realize its the BIG DAY on 66! Saturday,

April 18 has finally came at last. I got in such a hurry getting dressed that I didn't realize I put my Illinois 66 shirt on upside down, where I was advertising Route 99! I told



myself to get my "act" together, and DO IT RIGHT! Then off I went, back to the Drive In to pre pay for a parking spot, since by then there were already that morning 60 spaces sold! I head into the Goodie Store at the Drive In, and open up that wallet to some collectables on

sale there! It was quite a 66 store to see, and then we gathered up the Minoltas to get busy doing my EDITOR job! As I entered the compound, sure enough the merchandise tables were set up as far as the eye could see, and I immediately see quite a few familiar 66 faces that sure put me at ease, and them, too! Reunion time.



New Year, continued

hat, but without the horse! I admired his dozen so 66 hat pins on that big hat, and dreamed of them on my leather jacket. Ron and I had a great time of chat, and got to talk about their Motor Tour coming up this fall. Next to Ron was another attention getting table, and that of Gateway Trailnet, with Jim Gilbert along with his wife, Louise. He told me of the upcoming June 12 (Friday) at 12 noon to 4 pm opening of the Chain Of Rocks Bridge for the Illinois 66 Motor Tour, and also the **first legal wedding** also on the Bridge, June 27 starting at 3 pm and the wedding itself starting I think at 5 pm. This is another attention-getter that your Newsletter Editor will be on hand to write up on, since Jim invited me to it. Down the line we moved, and next was Skip Curtis, author of the Missouri Route 66 Tour Book. Then a vendor of custom Route 66 rugs, Al & Linda Syverson. Bob & Ada Moore, selling a variety of Route 66 pins. We got to talk to Kathy Anderson from the Oklahoma Route 66 Association at her table. One of our Illinois 66 Association members, Buz Kinkel with his merchandise from Original Route 66 Accessories Co., and then I run into another interesting guy...Jerry McClanahan from Route 66 Magazine! I got to chat with Jerry for awhile about 66 business, since his magazine has a subscriber base of about 40,000 members! And another interesting feller' Ken Turmel with his charming wife Melissa. He sold some of his Post Mark Art prints advertised on the back of the Winter 1997 issue of The 66 News. Then the gentlemen from the Kansas Route 66 Association, one was Bob Cassel and the Kansas secretary Dean Walker. Dean was the one I met on the Rainbow Curve Bridge on Kansas 66 two years ago. His wife Paula was there with him on that arch bridge. The Route 66 Cook Book was going by Marian Clark herself, and more 66 merchandise by Tom & Kellie Gibson, for Tom's 66 Wear. There were a lot more people there, and the other part owner of the 66 Drive In is Wes Alumbaugh. Throughout the day, we ran into Michael Wallis several times, and it was great to have him with us all!

Some other names we chat with...Laurel Kane, Kent & Mary Sue Sanderson, Randy & Melody May, Marge Jovanovic, John & Pat Reed of the Route 66 Cruisers (of Illinois), Shellee Graham and her good friend Jane Dippel, Fran Eickhoff,

and two from the Route 66 Cruisers (from Illinois) Dave & Kay Josters, Tom & Hari McNally, Derek & Marsha Smyth, a photographer-writer from Michigan named Tim Thompson, and the



Carthage constable William Barksdale whom was very helpful with tour information and happenings around town while we were all there. There were hundreds of other names, but I'm limited in space here! Just to give you an idea this was a really big showing of 66 fans, and the two movies playing was US Marshals and The Wedding Singer. They tried to get Titanic, but they had to be open full time, and needed the leaves back on the original screen for the wide format of the screening, I think they call it CinemaScope, or panoramic view. Next to us, Michael Wallis sat out front on a car bumper and also enjoyed the show in the open evening air, since it was cool out with a still wind. Fortunately, no rain this weekend, so you couldn't have picked a better time to enjoy a great weekend on Route 66.

We made a few dozen stops on the way back home, and also seen Bruce Barnes at his Toy Museum near the Meramec Caverns, as well as stopping at the Caverns, too. We also got to see some other vacant Drive Ins...the one in Webb City between Joplin and Carthage, the Holiday Drive in at Springfield, and another abandoned Drive In Near Bowes Ave. exit off I-44, which was full of mobile homes. It was surely a Drive In trip we had!

So as I mentioned in the past...for you couch potatoes getting bored stiff with the VCR's and the Shoe Box Theatres, it's time to get up and go to a Drive In yourself! Show your kids that you are still young yourselves, and treat them to a movie in the fresh open air...meaning, head down to the Sky View Drive In at Litchfield and plan on a weekend there, and ask for Linda or Carol Stuttle! They'll make sure you have a good time there, and have some fun as well. Otherwise, it's back to slaving away at this keyboard and monitor to keep on working on *The 66 News*!!!

Soulsby Station Society Update

by Tom Teague

There's some good news for a change on the Soulsby Station in Mt. Olive. Mike Dragovich, the station's owner, has agreed to work with us to preserve the historic nature of the site and make it a pleasant roadside stop for Route 66 travelers. Mike will maintain ownership, and he'll take care of the grounds and pay insurance premiums. All the Society has to do are the things which encourage and enrich visits. To help us out, Mike is even going to loan us a key to the building. Having a key gives us the chance to put displays inside the station, but for the short term, I suggest that we concentrate on the outside.

The Society now has a colorful T-shirt for sale (on the back of this issue), and other things going on are forthcoming. To keep posted on other activities, please write to: The Soulsby Station Society, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, Illinois 62704 or E-mail me at: teague66@eosinc.com

British Invasion Comes To Route 66

by Frank Lozich

Back in the mid 1960's when the Beatles were recording hit songs one after another and London was swinging, several young English lads were developing their own musical skills with American Rhythm and Blues. As with all young musicians comes the dream of, maybe someday, stardom and fame. With these young Britons, there was the dream of performing their music in the U.S. and traveling down one of our famous highways, Route 66. Today these lads are now businessmen in England. They disbanded some time in the 1970's, but now their dream is about to come true. Last year they re-united with a mission in mind; to come to America and play their blend of Rock-N-Roll and Rhythm & Blues by doing some gigs along Route 66. That is the "QUEST."

The QUEST will be playing bookings from Chicago to Los Angeles coming this October 1998. They will be kicking off their tour in Chicagoland with a performance at the Dell Rhea Chicken Basket, 645 Joliet Road, (Old 66) in Willowbrook, Illinois on October 3, 1998.

The QUEST will play many familiar Rock-N-Roll favorites from the 1960's. Most will be the sounds of American Rhythm & Blues that influenced artists such as the Rolling Stones, Eric Clapton, plus Eric Burdon & the Animals.

On October 5, the QUEST will perform at the Chain Of Rocks Bridge before heading off for a gig in Oklahoma City. So, mark your calendars and come out to hear some great Rock N-Roll and support a dream come true.

For more information regarding the October 3 kick-off performance, you can call the Chicken Basket at 630-325-0780 or you can call Frank Lozich at 708-429-9173.

Speaking In Plates

Here are some good shots of fun loving 66 plates. The two antique Corvettes was sent in by Tim Masten of Bloomington. Both Corvettes have ROOT 66 plates. One plate is from Missouri, and it sure shows! Buz Kinkel sports his BUZ RT 66 plate. And the last one, LUV RT 66 was sent to me without a name! But that's OK. Keep your eyes out for these great plates, and maybe in the next issue it will be YOUR turn to be in *The 66 News*!



Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Illinois County (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____

Interests in Route 66: _____

How I Can Help: _____

Annual Dues

General	\$15
Business	\$30
Sustaining	\$200 or more

Please mail to:

Membership
Route 66 Association
2743 Veterans Parkway
Room 166
Springfield, IL 62704

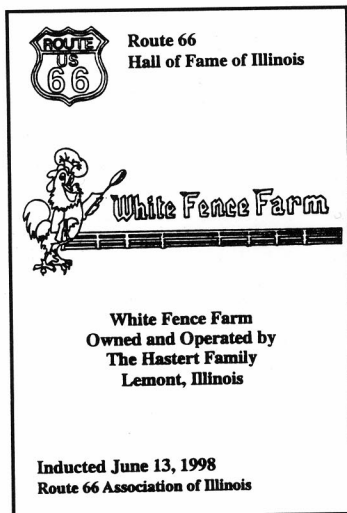
Please submit U.S. Funds only!

The Class of 98

by Tom Teague

Fried chicken. Ice cream. Open-air movies. Steel across a river. This year's new members of the Route 66 Hall Of Fame show what a diverse community our Main Street Of America was. They also show what a bright future it has. On June 13, at our motor tour banquet in Springfield, we will honor:

The White Fence Farm, Lemont, owned and operated by the Hastert family.
Arline and Elmo Winterland, Oasis Drive-In, Lexington.
The Sky View Drive In Theatre, Litchfield.
The Chain Of Rocks Bridge, Madison.



White Fence Farm *nominated by John & Lenore Weiss*

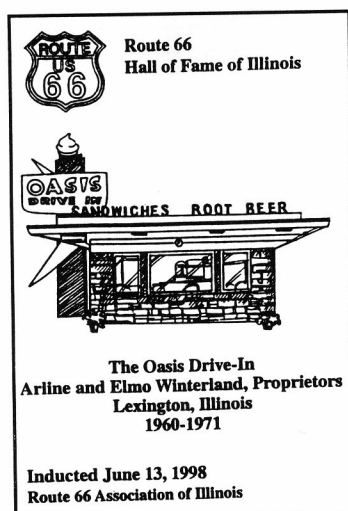
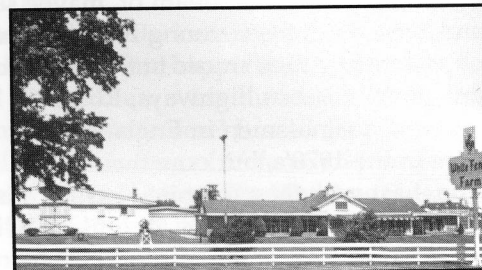
Coal mining magnate Stuyvesant Peabody built the original White Fence Farm restaurant in the 1920's on acreage he owned near Lemont. He thought people would enjoy good food served well in a family farm-like atmosphere. Over 40,000 diners agreed in the first four months and the restaurant became an early Route 66 mainstay. Fried chicken is its specialty; a rooster in chef's gear is its logo.

Robert and Doris Hastert purchased the Farm in 1954. Their son, Robert Jr., manages it today. It's been remodeled and added onto many times. The original rooms are still there, though, distinguished by their handcarved tables and beams and Peabody's collection of Currier & Ives prints. So is the original philosophy of good food served well in a friendly atmosphere.

To make a visit to White Fence Farm more than just a meal, the Hasterts also operate a petting zoo and a museum. The latter attraction is housed in the same building as the

restaurant and is one of the road's underappreciated gems. It has antique cars, collections of clocks, guns, music boxes and travel memorabilia, and even old kiddie rides for the children.

White Fence Farm is open Tuesday through Sunday evenings and also Sunday afternoon. For people who just have to keep on driving down the road, there's a carry-out store in back.



Arline and Elmo Winterland, Oasis Drive-In, Lexington *nominated by the Lexington High School History Club*

Although the Oasis Drive-In's career along Route 66 was too brief, its distinctive sign and classic profile make it a landmark yet today. Arline and Elmo Winterland opened the fast food eatery in 1960. They had a window service only. Customers ate at tables out front...at first under umbrellas, then under a patio roof. By 1965, they added a carport.

The Oasis became a gathering place for people from Lexington and surrounding towns...particularly on Sunday evenings. The Route 66 tourist trade was always good. Arline remembers counting 13 trucks parked along the highway once, so truckers obviously have liked it, too. And when a school bus on a field trip honked three times as it went by in the morning, that meant it would be stopping

there that night.

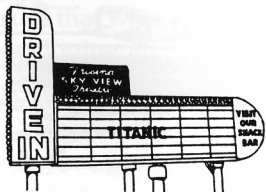
In 1971, because of Elmo's failing health, the Winterlands sold the Oasis. Not too much later, I-55 came through and took most of the trucks, buses and cross-country traffic with it. With only local customers to support it, the Oasis had to close.



New Hall of Fame Members



Route 66
Hall of Fame of Illinois



The Sky View Drive-In Theatre
Norman Paul, Owner
Litchfield, Illinois
Since 1949

Inducted June 13, 1998
Route 66 Association of Illinois

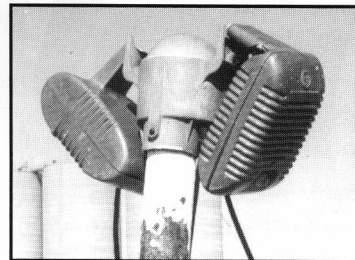
Sky View Drive In Theatre, Litchfield *nominated by Randy Smith & Tom Teague*

America once had 4,000 drive-in theatres, of which 33 were on Route 66. Nationally, there are less than 500 drive-ins left today. On Route 66 there are only five. The longest lived of them is the Sky View Drive In at Litchfield, Illinois.

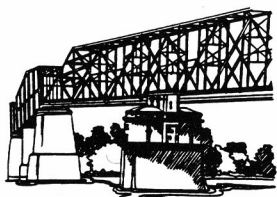
Friscina, a regional theatre chain, opened the Sky View in 1949. Its 16-acre lot holds 600 cars. Its present owner, Norman Paul, bought it in 1982. Paul also runs Carlinville's Marvel Theatre, which his mother opened nearly 70 years ago.

The decline of drive-in theatres had many reasons: Television, rising land values, smaller cars, VCR's and even Daylight

Savings Time. Yet the Sky View thrives. Some 300-400 people attend weeknight showings; more than a thousand show up on weekends. Paul attributes this to good advertising, family-worthy movies, and the \$1 admission price. He also salutes his loyal staff...all four regulars have been with the Sky View for more than 20 years.



Route 66
Hall of Fame of Illinois



The Chain of Rocks Bridge
Owned by the City of Madison
Operated by Trailnet
Since 1929

Inducted June 13, 1998
Route 66 Association of Illinois

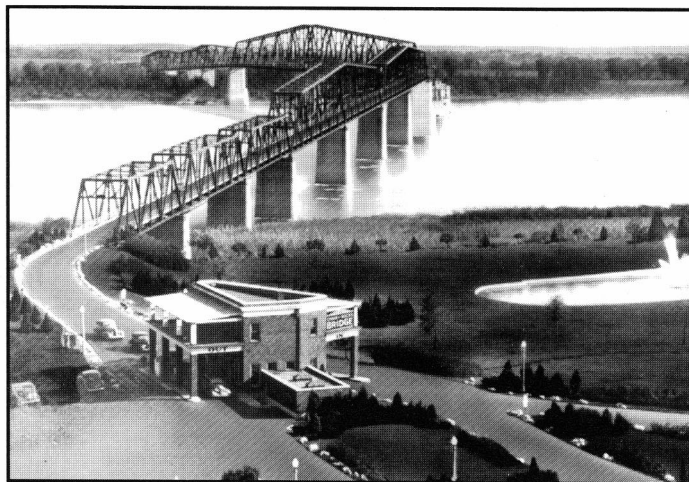
The Chain Of Rocks Bridge, Madison *nominated by Jeff LaFollette & Randy Smith*

The Chain Of Rocks is Route 66's best known bridge, an alluring and enduring symbol of the open road. It was privately built in 1929 as a toll bridge for \$2 million. Its distinctive features are a 24-degree turn in the middle and two ornately-styled pumping stations nearby...one for Missouri River water and one for Mississippi River water.

Low income put the Chain Of Rocks into receivership, but it was rescued in 1935 when highway officials routed US 66 over it. It carried the Mother Road's traffic for 30 years. But when a free interstate bridge was opened just north of it in 1966, the Chain Of Rocks quickly declined. With maintenance costs far exceeding tolls, the City of Madison, its owner since 1939, closed the bridge in 1970. For many years, the only people who crossed it were adventurous trespassers.

New life came to the aging landmark in 1997 when it was leased by Trailnet, a not-for profit organization that maintains a series of

recreational trails in Illinois and Missouri. Trailnet immediately embarked on an ambitious and successful program to repair the bridge and its surface. As a result, the bridge will re-open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic by September 1998. In June 1998, a wedding was even scheduled to take place at the turn in the bridge. Romance lives on Old 66!

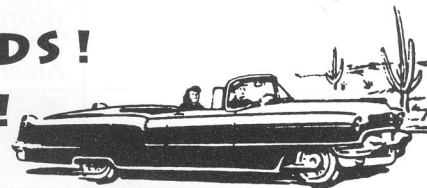


Be sure to stop by the Hall Of Fame soon to see all our new exhibits. It's located at Dixie's Truckers Home in McLean. Like the Dixie, we're open all day and everyday. Some brand new remodeling at the Dixie should make the Hall Of Fame more attractive and popular than ever.

ILLINOIS ROUTE 66

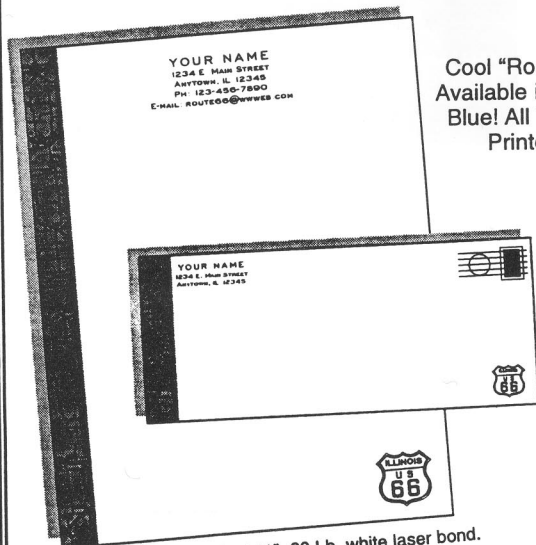
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• MEMO PADS !

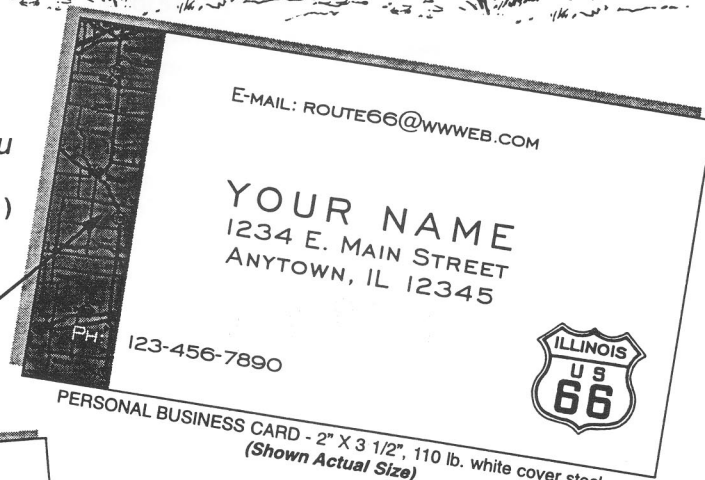


"GET HIP TO THIS TIMELY TIP!"

"Make a **FABULOUS** Impression On Everyone You Meet or Correspond With and Help the Illinois Route 66 Association at the Same Time!" (*)



Cool "Roadmap" Border!
Available in Red, Green or Blue! All Text and Shield Printed in Black.



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- Please allow 2 - 4 weeks for delivery

SEE YOU ON THE MOTOR TOUR!

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 IL 50, and watching a new Venture store going up where the screen used to be for the Drive In Theatre 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.

The Preservation Committee will be collecting these Historic Record Data Sheets for possible publication in a loose-leaf format or as a calendar, and at a later date use as a fund raising project for preservation efforts.

Send the photos and information to: Archive, Route 66 Association Of Illinois, Room 166, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Springfield, Illinois 62704

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: _____

New! New! New!

**New Towns • New Stops • New Route IL-4
(Old 66 1926-1930 Alignment)**

**On Route 66 In Illinois
9th Annual Motor Tour of Illinois
June 12-14, 1998**

With Stops in  **Edwardsville**  **Carlinville** 
 **Springfield**  **Chenoa**  **Romeoville** 
See The Sights in  **St. Louis**  **Stauaton**  **Auburn**
 **Atlanta**  **Odell**  **Gardner**  **Joliet** 

**Visit The Route 66 Hall of Fame at the
Dixie Trucker Home in McLean**

Attend The Hall of Fame Ceremony in Springfield

See The Odell Gas Station on the National Register of Historic Places

Pre-tour Celebration in Edwardsville, June 12

Post-tour Gathering at White Fence Farm in Romeoville, June 14

Sponsored by the Route 66 Association of Illinois

Registration Form

Any Vehicle, Any Model

Please Print or Type

Registration Fee: \$25.00 for Members per vehicle \$30.00 for Non-Members per vehicle

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ We plan to attend the Hall of Fame Banquet. Add \$10.00 per person to accompany registration.
Add \$5.00 for children under 12,

How Many Adults _____ How Many Children _____

Mail To:
Motor Tour
Route 66 Association of Illinois
2743 Veterans Parkway #166
Springfield, IL 62704

More Info:
Jeff LaFollette Tour Chairman (319) 893-6653
Marilyn Pritchard (815) 844-6937
Rich & Linda Henry (618) 635-5655
Jeff Meyer (847) 392-0860

Sorry No Refunds. Rain or Shine.



ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

MOTEL LIST FOR THE 1998 MOTOR TOUR

ALL MOTELS HAVE ROOMS BLOCKED FOR THE ASSOCIATION.
BE SURE TO MENTION THAT YOU ARE WITH THE ROUTE 66 MOTOR TOUR.

FRIDAY NIGHT, JUNE 12TH

COMFORT INN
3050 S. ST. RT. 157
EDWARDSVILLE, IL 62250
618-656-4900
ALL 71 ROOMS BLOCKED
\$66.00 + TAX

SUPER 8 COLLINSVILLE
EXIT 11, I-55 & I-70
COLLINSVILLE, IL 62234
618-343-8008
20 ROOMS BLOCKED
\$47.59 - 49.39 + TAX

FAIRFIELD INN
EXIT 11, I-55 & I-70
COLLINSVILLE, IL 62234
618-346-0607
\$65.00 + TAX. RESERVE BY
MAY 12 TO RECEIVE SPECIAL RATE

DRURY INN
EXIT 11, I-55 & I-70
COLLINSVILLE, IL 62234
618-345-7700
\$72.95 + TAX. RESERVE BY MAY 12
TO RECEIVE SPECIAL RATE

SATURDAY NIGHT, JUNE 13TH

RENAISSANCE SPRINGFIELD HOTEL
701 E. ADAMS ST.
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701
217-544-8800
\$69.00 + TAX. RESERVE BY MAY 15
TO RECEIVE SPECIAL RATE.
THIS IS THE HOST HOTEL. THE HALL OF
FAME BANQUET WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT
DOOR AT THE PRAIRIE CONVENTION
CENTER VIA THE SKYWALK. HOTEL HAS
UNDERGROUND, SECURED PARKING.
WATER WILL BE AVAILABLE TO CLEAN CARS.
150 ROOMS BLOCKED.

RAMADA INN SOUTH PLAZA
625 E. ST. JOSEPH ST.
(JUST OFF 6TH ST., OLD 66)
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703
217-529-7131
25 ROOMS BLOCKED
\$45.00 + TAX

SUNDAY NIGHT, JUNE 14TH

SUPER 8 (CLOSEST TO WHITE FENCE FARM, 1 1/2 MILES)
1301 MARQUETTE DR. (RT. 53)
ROMEIOVILLE, IL
630-759-8880 - 20 ROOMS BLOCKED.
\$40.00 + TAX. RESERVE BY JUNE 7 TO RECEIVE SPECIAL RATE.

FAIRFIELD INN
820 W. 79TH ST. EXIT 274 FROM I-55
WILLOWBROOK, IL
630-789-6300
\$49.95 SINGLE, 56.95 DOUBLE + TAX
12 ROOMS BLOCKED
AAA & AARP DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

WISHING WELL MOTEL
JOLIET RD. (RT 66) & BRAINARD AV
COUNTRYSIDE, IL
708-352-3615
\$40.00 SINGLE, 50.00 DBLE. + TAX
ORIGINAL 1940'S MOTEL

"ILLINOIS — WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."

9th Annual Motor Tour

Route 66 Association of Missouri

Miami, OK to St. Louis, MO

September 11 – 13, 1998

OPEN TO EVERYONE – Round up your family, friends, and even your mother-in-law for three fun-filled days on Missouri's fabulous Ozark Route 66 with stops in Carthage, Springfield, Strafford, Conway, Lebanon, Rolla, Stanton, Villa Ridge, and the former Times Beach – now the location for the new Route 66 State Park. See Known Sights including Hooker Rock Cut, Munger-Moss Motel, Devil's Elbow, Route 66 Drive-In Theater, Antique Toy Museum, and Jesse James Museum.

Dash Plaques – Goodie Bags – 50/50 Drawing – Cruisin' Classics on Display – '66 Old-Fashioned Days Festivals in Strafford & Conway

Friday, September 11 – Pre-Tour Registration and Socializing in Miami, OK

You will enjoy a social gathering and early tour registration at *Miami's Best Western Inn* from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., where a block of rooms has been reserved at a discount rate. The *Miami Best Western Inn* is located near the I-44 overpass at 2225 E. Steve Owens Blvd. Phone for your reservation at 918-542-6681 or fax at 918-542-3777, and be sure to mention that you will be with the Route 66 Association of Missouri 1998 Motor Tour.

Saturday, September 12 – Mid-Tour Bar-B-Que Dinner Saturday Night in Lebanon

Tour registration will begin again at 6:00 a.m., and the Motor Tour will depart promptly at 7:00 a.m. from the *Miami Best Western Inn* parking lot. This year's tour will again be a caravan-style, and we will cruise from west-to-east. Please feel free, of course, to make the cruise at your own pace if you prefer that format. The first stop will be at the Route 66 Drive-In Theater in *Carthage*. Next is a stop at our "way station park" area in *Springfield* at the intersection of Kearney and Glenstone. *Stafford* and *Conway* are scheduled sojourns for their Old Fashioned Days Festivals. We have arranged for a block of rooms at *Lebanon's* celebrated **Munger-Moss Motel**. This motel is located at 236 E. Seminole (City Route 66 E.) Phone for your reservation at 417-532-3111 and mention that you will be with the Route 66 Association of Missouri's 1998 Motor Tour. Saturday night's bar-b-que dinner will be at the Kenneth Cowan Civic Auditorium, 500 E. Elm Street (old '66), Lebanon, and will be preceded by a display of our historic motor tour cars.

Sunday, September 13 – Post-Tour Lunch prepared by Ginger of Pacific's Famous Red Cedar Inn, @ Route 66 State Park

The tour caravan will start from *Lebanon* Munger-Moss Motel promptly at 7:00 a.m. There will be a stop at the Chamber of Commerce building in *Rolla*. Next stop will include the Antique Toy Museum and Jesse James Museum in *Stanton*. Our next destination will be Ike's Smokehouse in *Villa Ridge*. The tour will conclude at the new *Route 66 State Park* in the former *Times Beach* area.

Registration Form for the 9th Annual Missouri Motor Tour

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

I/We plan to register for the tour Friday night in Miami ☐ Yes ☐ No
I/We plan to register Saturday morning in Miami ☐ Yes ☐ No
I/We plan to attend the Sunday '66 State Park Lunch ☐ Yes ☐ No
I/We plan to attend the Saturday bar-b-que dinner in Lebanon ☐ Yes ☐ No
If "Yes" lunch, how many will attend? _____ How many will attend dinner? _____

Total picnic lunch fee enclosed @ \$5.50 per person \$ _____
Total dinner fee enclosed @ \$12.50 per person \$ _____
Motor Tour fee enclosed @ \$25 per vehicle \$ _____
Grand Total amount enclosed for tour and meal fees \$ _____

*For more information,
contact Ron Robb at 417-358-7742 or Kent Sanderson at 314-227-1262*

Please print or type and
mail by **August 30** to:

Jane Dippel
7920 Captain Conn
St. Louis, MO 63123

*Make check payable to
Route 66 Association of
Missouri*

**RAIN OR SHINE
SORRY,
NO REFUNDS**

Route 66 Association Merchandise Order Form

Clothes

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

___ Association nylon Jacket, polyester-lined	\$30.00
___ Association Sweatshirt	\$16.00
___ Association T-Shirt (circle Choice: black or white)	\$12.00
___ Association Cap (black)	\$7.00
___ Association Embroidered Patch	\$4.00
___ Glow-in-the-Dark Shield T-Shirt	\$13.00
___ Neon 2-sided T-Shirt (circle choice: Chevy, 'Vette, Mustang, or T-Bird)	\$15.00
___ Betty Boop Hitchhiking Route 66 T-Shirt	\$15.00
___ New! Betty Boop T-Shirt with Corvette or Jukebox back	\$14.00
___ Patch with shield IL US66	\$3.00

Collectibles

___ Belt Buckle	\$12.00
___ 12-oz drinking glass with Historic 66 Illinois Sign and slogan "Get My Kicks"	\$3.00
___ Ceramic mug (black) with Historic 66 Illinois Sign and Slogan "Get My Kicks"	\$5.00
___ White coffee cup with shield	\$5.00
___ Route 66 shield metal refrigerator magnet	\$4.00
___ Historic Illinois 66 refrigerator magnet (looks like new signs)	\$2.00
___ Rubber magnet vette with Chicago or IL	\$2.00
___ Route 66 ceramic salt and pepper shakers	\$6.00
___ Reproduction Route 66 shield sign (full-size, 16-gauge steel)	\$40.00
___ Prism Bumper Sticker - Corvette	\$2.00
___ Route 66 Pen with Corvette	\$2.00
___ Golf Balls	\$6.00
___ Route 66 Watch with IL historic sign	\$25.00
___ Spoon with shield	\$3.00
___ Route 66 Bell with shield	\$4.00
___ US 66 rubber car magnet	\$10.00
___ Mother Road Route 66 metal license plate frame	\$6.00
___ Illinois US 66 hat pins	\$3.00
___ Route 66 earrings (dangled)	\$5.00
___ Land of Lincoln "Route 66" license plate key chain	\$2.00

Postcards

___ Large Letter State Postcards by Bob Waldmire (set of 8)	\$2.00
___ "Scenes of 66" Postcards by Bob Waldmire (set of 37)	\$9.00
___ Hall of Fame Postcards (set of 15)	\$3.00

Maps

___ It's Here! Full set of eight state maps by Jim Ross and Jerry McClanahan	\$15.00
___ Map by Bob Waldmire - 10 pages plus 6-page legend	\$5.00

Books

___ "Greetings from the Mother Road!" Postcard Book by Michael Wallis	\$9.95
___ New! Traveling the New, Historic Route 66 by John Weiss	\$14.95
___ New 2nd Edition! Guidebook to the Mother Road by Bob Moore and Patrick Grauwels (great photos and mile-by-mile detail)	\$21.95
___ New 2nd Edition! Searching for 66 by Tom Teague	\$14.00
___ Route 66 - The Mother Road by Michael Wallis (paperback)	\$19.95
___ Route 66 Roadside Companion by Tom Snyder	\$10.95
___ A Guidebook to Highway 66 by Jack Rittenhouse (reprint of 1946 book)	\$7.95
___ Route 66 Going Somewhere. The Road in McLean County by Terri Ryburn-Lamonte	\$9.95
___ Route 66: The highway and Its People by Quinta Scott and Susan Kelly (large format paperback)	\$19.95
___ Route 66 Cookbook by Marian Clark (folklore and recipes)	\$17.95
___ New! Main Street of America Cookbook by Marian Clark	\$14.95
___ New! Return to Route 66 Postcards Postcard book by Shellee Graham	\$9.95
___ Route 66 Fun Book (for kids of all ages!)	\$3.00
___ Route 66 Souvenirs	\$17.95

Videos

___ A journey Down Route 66 narrated by Michael Wallis (90-minute video)	\$19.95
___ Route 66 Revisited with Michael Wallis (40 min.)	\$16.95
___ *Greetings from Route 66 (30 min.)	\$9.95
___ *Drive Route 66 (30 min.)	\$14.95
*Both new with coupons with discounts	
___ Route 66 Return to America Hosted by Martin Milner (2 hr.)	\$39.95
___ Route 66: An American Odyssey Video (formerly Route 66: The Video Road Trip) featuring famous 66-ers (60 min.)	\$19.95

Cassettes/CDs

___ New! The Songs of Route 66 by David Sanger et al (cassette)	\$10.00
___ (CD)	\$15.00

Send orders to:

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Springfield, IL 62704
(847) 392-0860

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8% sales tax!

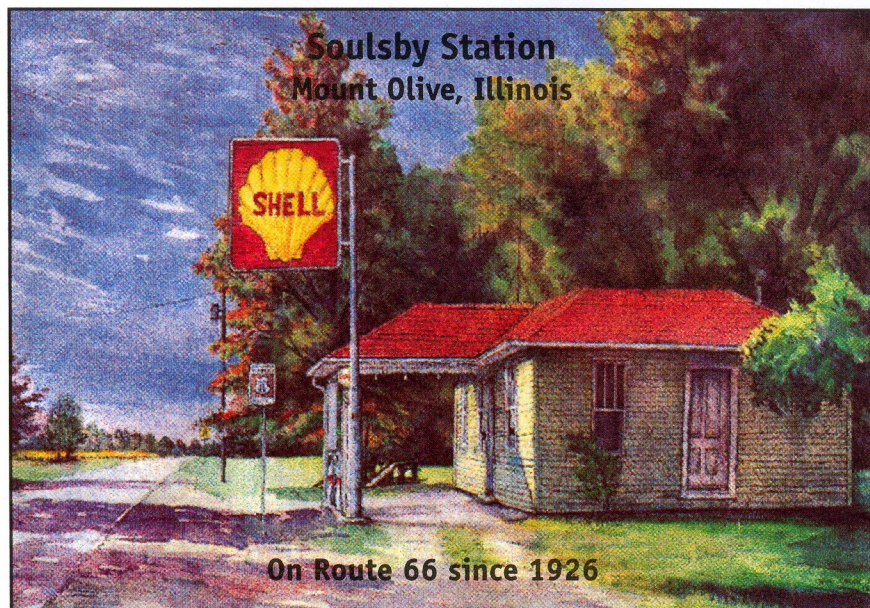
•Make checks payable to Route 66 Association of Illinois

•US Funds Only

•Please add postage and handling as follows:

\$0 - \$10 add \$2.00
\$10 - \$20 add \$3.00
\$20 - \$30 add \$4.00
\$30 - \$40 add \$5.00
\$40 - \$50 add \$6.00
\$50 and up add \$7.00

Accept no imitations or limitations! All products purchased benefit the Association!



Show Your Soulsby!

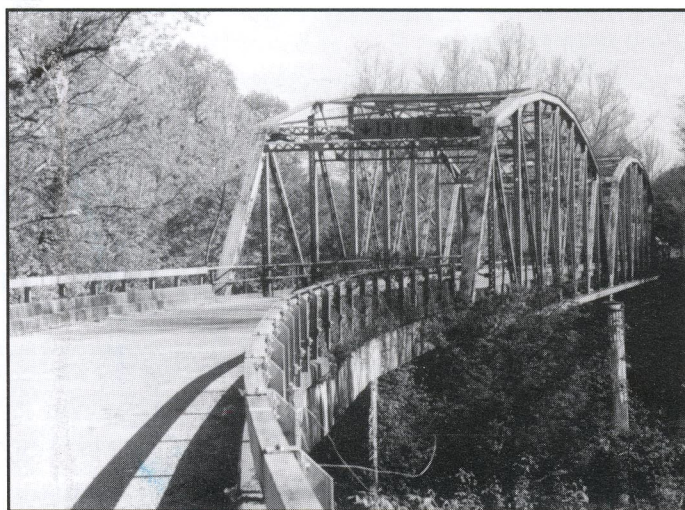
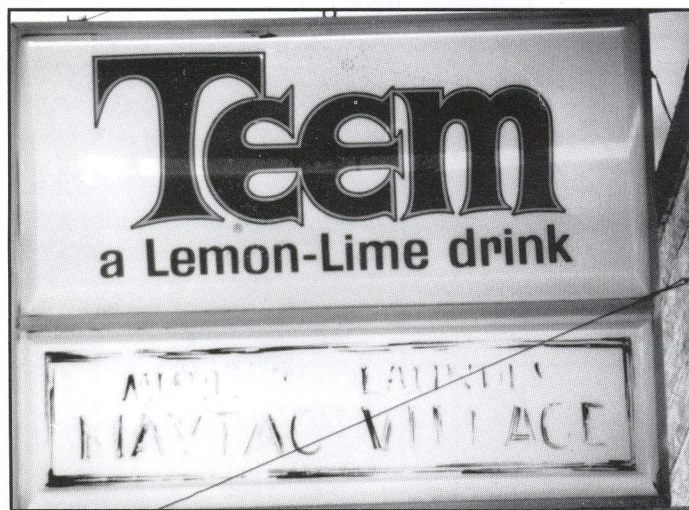
This original painting by Route 66 artist Bill Crook is available in full color on a 100% cotton T-Shirt. Wear it and help save the road's oldest gas station! All proceeds go to keep this landmark alive and accessible to the traveling public. Order it from the Merchandise Page or send \$15 (\$17 for XXL) and \$2 for shipping to:

Soulsby Station Society
1208 W. Edwards
Springfield, IL 62704

To join the Soulsby Society or to find out more about it, just send a note to the above address or e-mail us at teague66@eosinc.com

Name That Spot! *by Randy Smith*

On my recent cross country trip on Route 66, I went through four of the eight states that Route 66 went through. Here are two photos of interest, and rare to find as they are both one of a kind and very distinct in Route 66 history. Do YOUR part now, and think of what these two treasures are and identify where they are at! We'll give your name a good mention in *The 66 News*. Write to me at: 116 Canterbury Ct., East Peoria, Illinois 61611. Or E-mail me at: The66News@aol.com



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**FALL 1998
NEWSLETTER**



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.

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618-684-6330
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319-893-6653

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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.

Illinois Route 66 Association Meeting News

Next Association Meeting

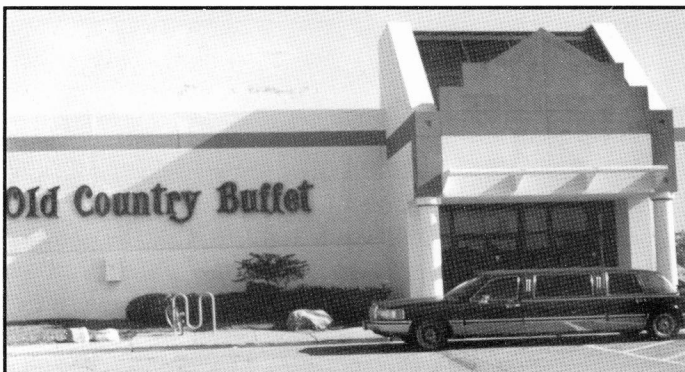
The next Board-General meeting of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be on October 18, 1998 at the Old Country Buffet in the College Hills Mall in Normal, Illinois. They have an excellent buffet to satisfy your appetite for around \$8 per person. The Board Meeting will begin at 11:00 A.M. and last an hour. Then the buffet dinner at 12 NOON. The General-Elections meeting then will start at 1:00 P.M.

Future locations and dates in 1999 (to be announced later of where at) are as follows: January in Lincoln; April in Pontiac; July in Carlinville; October in Bloomington.

All meetings of the Association are open to the public and members alike. Feel free to bring friends and family to hear what we all got going in this changing Association, and bring your ideas and suggestions, too! We all have the same common goal of preserving, promoting, and of course enjoying Route 66 in Illinois as well as the entire Mother Road to California. Hope to see you all here at any of our meetings!

SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

All articles and items to be considered for the next newsletter, the Winter 1998 issue needs to be either brought in to this meeting to give to Randy Smith, or you can mail it in advance if you won't be able to attend.



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Minutes of the July 19, 1998 Board-General Meeting



The Board - General Meeting of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois met at the Skylight Restaurant in Berwyn, Illinois with a 10 A.M. Motor Tour meeting starting first by Jeff LaFollette. On their

agenda were introductions, good things about the 1998 tour, things that need to be improved for 1999, and set some meeting dates. For more information on future dates, call Jeff LaFollette at 319-893-6653.

Then the Board Meeting started at 11 A.M. President Frank Lozich conducted the meeting, and made motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting, which was accepted. Tim Palm gave his Treasury report, and Jeff Meyer gave the Merchandise report...most of the years' supply of merchandise has been purchased.

continued on page 4

Election Time!

Yes, it is elections time again for positions in the Association. This year, all members in the Route 66 Association Of Illinois are eligible to go for a position or go for re election to another two year term. Here are the positions that are up for nomination...

From the slate of Officers are: Vice-President and Treasurer.

From the slate of Board Members' counties are: DuPage, Livingston, McLean, Sangamon, Macoupin, Madison, and St. Clair.

And two At-Large positions are also up, too!

The elections will be during the General Meeting of the Association, which will be held at the Old Country Buffet in Normal, Illinois at the College Hills Mall on October 18, 1998 after 1:00 P.M. Hope to see you all here and show your support for these positions to help shape the way of the Association into the year 2000!

If you are interested in being nominated for any position, please let us know in advance, and the last two members that handled the elections were: Debbie Mileur, phone: 618-684-6330 and Vada Cartwright, phone: 815-726-3574. Hopefully they can get you on the nomination ballet in time, so give them a call!

Minutes, continued from page 3

Newsletter Editor Randy Smith gave his report on promoting Route 66 at the Carthage Drive In and also in the *Illinois Country Living* magazine, which has a subscriber base of 148,000 people. Not mentioned at the meeting was also the Chain Of Rocks Bridge Wedding that Randy also attended, which went well. More info from the Motor Tour...Jeff LaFollette has accepted to be the Chairman for the 1999 10th Annual Motor Tour, and was of course nominated.

Frank also brought up the 501(c)3 Tax Code subject, which is different from the 501(c)4 status the Association has now, which the 501(c)4 does not give the Association a discount on Postage mailing, and some other things of discussion. The 501(c)4 is the designation from the IRS that we are Non-Profit, and can qualify the Association for many grants which we can benefit from. Information has been passed around for Board review and will be brought up at the next Board Meeting in Normal at the Old Country Buffet at the College Hills Mall on October 18, 1998.

The General Meeting went ahead and started at 12 NOON and Frank brought up the Senate Bill S.2133 that went through the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources part of Congress. More on this important bill in this newsletter.

C.J. Beeler announced the Association Picnic to be held August 23, 1998 at 12 NOON at the Dixie's in McLean. C.J. mentioned not to bring any tableware or other items, since all will be furnished. C.J. did mention that she needs a head count if possible of all people that plan to attend. This will be a fantastic picnic, and will host a great get together of many well known 66 people here in Illinois as well as a few neighboring states.

John Weiss gave his Preservation Committee speech, mentioning about the Red Brick Road near Auburn getting on the Bridge Survey, and also about the upcoming work to be done on the Meramec Cavern Barn near Cayuga. A Preservation Committee meeting was scheduled for August 8, 1998 at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight at 5 P.M.

The Association had dinner at about 1:30 P.M., and then settled down to a nice slide presentation and speech given by John Elliot from the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. He gave much detail to the recreational facilities from around the area, and the Chicago Portage. A lot of the subject hinged on the historic journey of Lewis and Clark, and at the conclusion of the General Meeting, the Association was invited and also accepted a field trip to see some history in the area. It was about 3 P.M. that the Association adjourned, and all of us had a great time.

Special News About Special Plates by Jeff LaFollette

Since the article in the summer edition of the newsletter regarding ordering special license plates for the 10th Anniversary Motor Tour, 30 people have responded by sending a note with their name, address, and phone number. But we are still about 20 short of what we need to proceed with ordering special plates. If you would like to be added to the list for ordering plates for the 1999 Motor Tour, please contact Jeff LaFollette by sending a note with your name and address to 2351 Highway 130, New Liberty, Iowa 52765. Or call me at 319-893-6653 and leave a message.

As stated in the last newsletter, the Motor Tour Committee has not yet set a price to charge for plates but has set a limit of charging no more than \$30 per pair. Plates can be displayed 60 days prior to and through the 1999 Motor Tour. We need to send a letter to the Secretary Of State's office by November 1, 1998 so then we need to know by no later than October 25, 1998 to get your name on the preliminary list. Once we reach the minimum of 50, then we can order more, but it helps to have a list so that we have a number to work with. Names can be added after November 1 once we get the required minimum amount. More information will follow in the Winter edition of *The 66 News*. If you have questions about the plates, please feel free to call me and I will answer any and all inquiries.



We all went to see a historic marker, and also viewed the swampy river that Lewis and Clark traveled. Also as a bonus, we all got together for a great group shot! Compliments go to Frank Lozich for planning a meeting that hopefully will lead the way for more of these field trip type meetings that are beneficial to preservation and informative as well.

Other News on Route 66

From Laura Cohen comes some news on the Chain Of Rocks Bridge. The Bridge will be open to the public Saturday, September 26, 1998 for everyone to enjoy in the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the founding of TrailNet, the not-for-profit organization that is leading the \$3.9 million effort to renovate the Bridge. The Chain Of Rocks Bridge is the world's longest bike and pedestrian bridge, and is slated for an official re-opening dedication in the Spring of 1999. More information will follow in The 66 News later. The Chain Of Rocks Bridge is 10 miles north of the Gateway Arch and can be entered just off Interstate 270 from Illinois and Missouri. For more information about the upcoming September 26 event, call TrailNet at 314-416-9930 or at 618-874-8554.

C.J. & Chuck Beeler of the Dixie's Truckers Home in McLean has mentioned the remodeling of the very popular restaurant. It is near completion and really has that 66 feeling! Even the Hall Of Fame Museum also has a different layout in the hall. This is a must see for you all that enjoy a delicious meal and a taste of 66. Even outside there is a new billboard with a charming 50's style sign portraying the Dixie's that is visible from all around. Make this your next stop when motoring down the Mother Road! (Editor) There was a Preservation Meeting Saturday, August 8 at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight. They were successful on getting the Brick Road near Auburn put on the National Register Of Historic Places. The two bridges on that Brick Road were also accepted into the Illinois Historic Bridge Survey. The Meramec Cavern barn project is ready to start. Hopefully the owner of the barn (Joy) will also join in. The barn is next to Cayuga north of Pontiac, and is on the Ladyboss Ranch.

There will be a rather interesting motor tour coming up for the year 2000, and that is coming from the Adventuretours RV Tours. They will have two trips at the same time, one coming from the west and one from the east. This is exclusively for vintage motor homes or vintage trailers which are over 35 years old! The Westbound trip is set for May 18 of the year 2000, and the Eastbound trip will run May 20 through June 4, 2000. This is a one of a kind trip, and for some information, write to: Chris Yelland, Adventuretours R.V. Tours, P.O. Box 944, 305 W. Nolana, Suite 2, McAllen, Texas 78505-0944. Also try them at: Telephone & Fax-956- 630-0341 or at their web site: www.adventuretrek.com

The Association's Motor Tour Banquet held in Springfield, Illinois was one of the best, well attended banquets with about 400 people there. The awarding went well, and we all had a great time on traveling the Route 4 alignment of Route 66. There were a lot of compliments going around from several tourists mentioning that they never seen or



John Darbishire, from the Pac Tour Cycling group mentions on May 2, 1998 that 20 cyclists left Santa Monica, California to pedal the 2400 miles to Chicago, Illinois. The cyclists, ages ranging from 40 to 65 averaged 104 miles a day. By all accounts it

was a successful trip. The cyclists were favored with perfect cycling weather and a westerly wind. The Chain Of Rocks Bridge was opened especially for the cyclists to cross the Mississippi River. A fine meal was taken at the Ariston Cafe in Litchfield. Rumor has it that there was a stand-off with a pack of burly, leather clad bikers at the Cozy Dog in Springfield. However, when the Harly Boys saw the massive thighs and forearms of some of the cyclists, they backed off, so a potentially ugly situation there was resolved with hand shakes and trading stories of Old U.S. 66. On Saturday, May 23, 1998 the group took a lunch stop at the Pig Hip rest area in Broadwell, Illinois. Cyclists were entertained with Route 66 stories by Hall Of Fame Member Ernie Edwards. The last leg of the ride was from Joliet to Chicago's lake front on Memorial Day. Our hats go off to the intrepid group of cyclists and their leader Lon Haldeman (who is pictured with Susan Notorangelo). These lucky people get a first hand sampling of the road, motels, diners, and the people who make up U.S Route 66.



John & Lenore Weiss (pictured) have been extremely busy educating the public about Route 66 in Illinois. In May, they conducted an educational Route 66 program at the Joliet Public Library. In July, they did five lectures and a one hour radio show. They also appeared on television nine times. Scheduled for upcoming months are more talks and several bus tours. Johns mentions, "Educate, preserve, and promote. That is the concept we strive for. If we are successful, then everyone will have something worthwhile to enjoy."

Other News, continued

traveled this 1926-1930 stretch of 66, and look forward to traveling it again!

Our Corresponding Secretary, Dorothy Seratt and also Terri Ryburn-LaMonte have been continuing their interests in the National Register Of Historic Places, and recently had a fantastic six pages of Route 66 story in the well publicized *Historic Illinois magazine*, which is from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency of whom David Newton represents. David Newton has been quite instrumental to the Association in helping Dorothy and Terri on getting nominations accepted into the National Register. The volume 21, Number 1 issue of June 1998 magazine was indeed a winner that deserves top recognition! (Editor)

Tom Teague this summer hosted his 5th Elderhostel trip-tour of Route 66, and the group had dinner at the McLean United Methodist Church, since at that time the Hall Of Fame Museum at the Dixie's was in the process of being remodeled but is now finished. Tom continues to promote 66, and run the Soulsby Station Society, a group dedicated to preserving and enjoying Route 66's oldest gas station, located in Mt. Olive, Illinois.

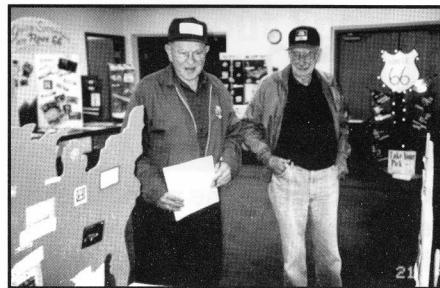
At a special Board Meeting held on May 17, 1998 the Association discussed the new brochures which are a set of six to be printed soon. It was also discussed to have County and Business Membership lists available to Officers and Board Members.

The Fourth Annual Pioneer Craft Festival, hosted by the Wilmington Area Historical Society will be held Sunday, October 11 on the North Island. It is located one block west of downtown Wilmington, right off historic U.S. 66. All proceeds will go to the Wilmington Area Historical Society for renovation of the 1836 Eagle Hotel. For more information, call Sandy Vasko at (815) 476-9311.

Volunteers are needed for the Merchandise Committee. If you can help out with Jeff Meyer at events to set up our merchandise tables and help with sales of Association merchandise, please contact Jeff Meyer at (847) 392-0860 or write to Jeff at: 2802 Fremont St., Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008.



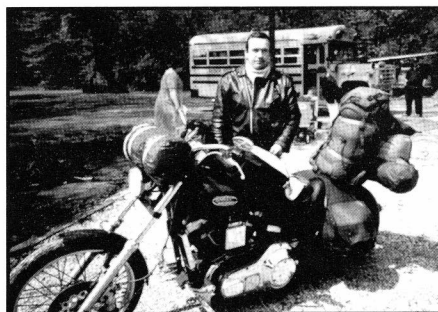
Lorrie Fleming (pictured) from the Canadian Route 66 Association has sent a lot of info of what the Canadian 66 Association has been up to. They took a full course 66 trip in May this year, and had a really good time on Arizona 66 in Kingman, Oatman, and Williams. Earlier in March, they got to see Shellee Graham's 66 exhibit at the Bellevue Community College in near Seattle, Washington. Lorrie always wears her 66 clothing at the Corvette car shows up in Canada and does a lot of advertising for Route 66. My hat is off to her! (Editor)



Our Secretary, Marilyn Pritchard along with her husband, Durelle, have been busy, too, in promoting Route 66. Earlier in May of this year, they hosted a lunch stop for a group of 17 foreign travelers from 14 different countries at the Old Log Cabin restaurant in north Pontiac. It was a very interesting time for them to host a large group. Earlier this year in May they had a chance to look into the Lexington High School Geography Class to view their displays which won top honors; all three were Route 66 displays. They were named: *Going Somewhere On Route 66*, *Route 66...Mirror Of America*, and *Take Your Pick On Route 66* (displays shown in picture).



As usual, more news from the Sirup Farm. Glaida Funk continues to promote Route 66 by getting more visitors to join our membership, and hosting tours of the popular Pure Maple Sirup camp which they run. Recently, there were buses stopping by for tours and browsing their 66 gift shop, and there has been many more plays being performed of *Lemonade Days*, a



well known 66 story book by Susan Kirby. The German delegation of 66 tourists stopped by here, and also a lone 66 traveler from France came by on his beautiful Harley Davidson motorcycle, which was well equipped for the long 2448 mile trip. This gentleman is Pap Jean Michel. There were some strings of Burma Shave signs up near the Sirup Camp, too!

Route 66 and The U.S. Senate...And How You Can Help!

by Frank Lozich

On June 4, 1998, two U.S. Senators from New Mexico: Senator Pete V. Domenici and Senator Jeff Bingaman introduced a bill to the Senate floor to designate and authorize former U.S. Route 66 as "America's Main Street, and authorize the Secretary Of The Interior to provide assistance." This bill is known as Bill S.2133

Sue Bohannon Mann, President of the New Mexico Route 66 Association was helpful in explaining this bill to me in simpler terms. This Bill, if passed, would pave the way for preservation and restoration for remaining portions of the highway, its businesses and its sites of interest. This would include public and private lands in the vicinity of the highway.

A management office will also be created to sustain these interests. This office would also act as a clearing house for communication between Federal, State, local and private persons interested in preservation. This office would also work with regional groups to develop preservation plans to protect historic and important resources along Route 66.

This is a great opportunity to voice support for this bill by writing your U.S. Senator. You can simply express your feelings and concerns about saving Route 66 and urge them to support this bill.

If you are on the Internet or have a friend who is, you can track this bill by visiting the congressional web site at <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Enter S.2133. You will be able to read the entire bill and track its progress.

I urge you to help support this bill by writing to your U.S. Senator. For Illinois residents, you can write to:

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
364 Russell Senate Building
Washington, DC. 20510

AND

The Honorable Carol Mosley-Braun
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC. 20510-4303

National Route 66 Preservation Bill S.2133

This important bill, pending in Congress, has been pursued by David Knudsen from the National Historic Route 66 Federation for about three years, and is getting close to being passed!

Here is the bill in its entirety, and brings to you a lot of interest and hope to preservation efforts to ALL of the Route 66 Associations all across Main Street Of America. It would provide a major boost to tourism renewed over, and should help keep Route 66 preserved on a long term basis.

Let's all support this bill together!

BILL S.2133

To designate former United States Route 66 as "America's Main Street" and authorize the Secretary Of The Interior to provide assistance.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House Of Representatives of the United States Of America in Congress assembled;

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

1. ROUTE 66 – The term "Route 66" means—
 - A. portions of the highway formerly designated as United States Route 66 that remain in existence as of the date of enactment of this Act; and
 - B. public and private land in the vicinity of the highway.
2. PRESERVATION OFFICE – The term "Preservation

Office" means the Office for the Preservation of America's Main Street established by the Secretary under section 3.

3. PRESERVATION OF ROUTE 66 – The term "preservation of Route 66" means the preservation or restoration of portions of the highway, businesses and sites of interest or potentially of interest to the public along the highway, or other resources of the highway.

4. SECRETARY – The term "Secretary" means the Secretary Of The Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

5. STATE – The term "State" means a State in which a portion of Route 66 is located.

SECTION 2. DESIGNATION.

Route 66 is designed as "America's Main Street".

SECTION 3. MANAGEMENT.

A. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE – The Secretary shall establish an office, to be known as the "Office for the Preservation of America's Main Street."

B. DESIGNATION OF OFFICIALS – The Secretary shall designate officials of the National Park Service stationed at locations convenient to the States and interested persons in the States, to perform the functions of the Preservation Office under this Act.

C. GENERAL FUNCTIONS – The Preservation Office shall:

1. support efforts of State and local public and private persons and entities in the State to preserve Route 66

Bill S.2133, continued

by providing technical assistance participating in cost sharing programs, and making grants and loans;

2. act as a clearing house for communication among Federal, State, and local agencies and private persons and entities interested in the preservation of Route 66, and:

3. assist the States in determining the appropriate form of and establishing and supporting a non-Federal entity or entities to perform the functions of the Preservation Office after the Preservation Office is terminated.

D. **AUTHORITIES** – In carrying out this Act, the Preservation Office may:

1. enter into cooperative agreements;
2. accept donations;
3. provide cost-share grants;
4. provide technical assistance in historic preservation and fundraising; and
5. conduct research.

E. **ROAD SIGNS** – The Preservation Office shall sponsor a road sign program on Route 66 to be implemented on a cost-sharing basis with State and local organizations.

F. **PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE.**

1. **IN GENERAL** – The Preservation Office shall provide assistance in the preservation of Route 66 in a manner that is compatible with the idiosyncratic nature of the highway.

2. **PLANNING** – The Preservation Office shall not prepare or require preparation of an overall management plan for Route 66, but shall cooperate with the States and local public and private persons and entities in developing local preservation plans to guide efforts to protect the most important or representative resources of Route 66.

SECTION 4. RESOURCE TREATMENT.

a. **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** –

1. **IN GENERAL** – The Preservation Office shall develop a program of technical assistance in the preservation of Route 66.

2. **GUIDELINES FOR PRESERVATION NEEDS.**

A. **IN GENERAL** – As part of the program under paragraph (1), the Preservation Office shall establish guidelines for setting priorities for preservation needs.

B. **BASIS** – The guidelines under sub-paragraph (A) may be based on National Register standards, modified as appropriate to meet the needs of Route 66 so as to allow for the preservation of the spirit of Route 66 by including more modern resources that are integral to the evolution of the Route 66 experience.

b. **PROGRAM FOR COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.**

1. **IN GENERAL** – The Preservation Office shall coordinate a program of historic research, curation, preservation strategies, and the collection of oral and video histories of Route 66.

2. **DESIGN** – The program under paragraph (1) shall be designed for continuing use and implementation by other organizations after the Preservation Office is terminated.

c. **COST-SHARE GRANTS** – Cost share grants for preservation of Route 66 shall be available for resources that meet the guidelines under subsection (a).

SECTION 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

These are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

SECTION 6. TERMINATION.

The Preservation Office shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Illinois County (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____

Interests in Route 66: _____

How I Can Help: _____

Annual Dues

General \$15

Business \$30

Sustaining \$200 or more

SEND TO:

Membership

Route 66 Association of IL
2743 Veterans Pkwy, Rm 166
Springfield, IL 62704

Please submit U.S. Funds only!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – Jim Jones is a Hall Of Fame Member of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois.

He is now our Membership Chairman, and you can write to him on updates or status

changes at: Jim Jones, 842 S. Walnut St., Pontiac, IL 61764 • Phone: 815-844-5657 • E-Mail: NG9E@dave-world.net

Love on the Chain Of Rocks Bridge

by Randy Smith

A wedding on the Chain Of Rocks Bridge, after being closed for 30 years? YOU BET! Not only are there several thousands of 66 fans that LOVE the Chain Of Rocks Bridge, there was a lively couple that had other ideas...and so did Jim Gilbert, of Gateway Trailnet.

This started with a fun radio show on K-HITS, 96.3 FM. Valentines Day was when it started. Then by March 20, 1998 a couple were announced winners to be married on the bridge. Jim Gilbert arranged all the plans to have the wedding on the bridge on June 27, 1998.

I tell you one thing...it was hot as hell! It was 95 degrees with a heat index over 115 degrees! I watched a little girl go up to a food vendor to get an ice cream cone. Just as soon as the vendor handed it to the little girl, she stuck her tongue out to give it its first lick, and before her tongue got to it, it melted down to the cone like a microwave trick, all in a few seconds! She didn't get to taste it, so she was a smart little girl...she handed it back to the vendor and politely asked for a REFILL! I got a charge out of watching this. So much fun here, and more!

Good ol' Jim Gilbert...he's one of those little rollie-pollie guys. He's got a smile all the time, fun humor, and very likable and with the women, he seems so cuddly. Seems like Jim has it all. Jim sent me a personal invitation to the Wedding and Reception, so Marie got to go along with me, too.

So we took the Minoltas and got plenty of good photos... the most attentive was the specially modified 1957 Chevy Limousine. It must have been about 40 feet long. Quite an attention getter to those who think they have it all. There was also a fleet of antique Corvettes there, too. I would estimate about 600 people were there for this. As we approached the bridge, there was a stage set-up for a Rock and Roll band called the King Of Hears Rock N' Roll Show.



There were merchandise and food vendors lined up all over the bridge, and I got to see quite a few familiar people there. The Missouri 66 Association was there in full staff, the well known Jerry McClanahan from *Route 66 Magazine* was there. I believe our own Tom Teague went, but I presume poor Tom caught too much air conditioning on the way down, and soon as he opened up his car door to sniff the heat, the poor guy had to leave. I admire Tom's courage to come out on a day hot as this to get in on the attention, so my hat is off to him!

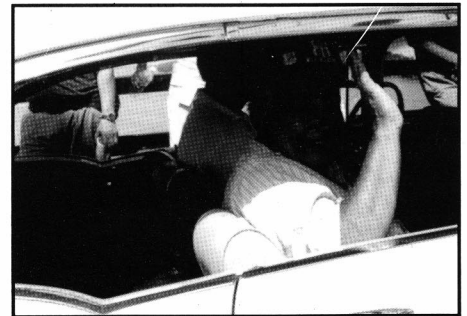
So the day went on like a carnival, there were indeed even a few clowns there, too. The wedding was running late...about 3:20 P.M.

The couple was Rich Spickler and Cynthia Rockwook. The wedding lasted about 1/2 hour, and there was a lot of news media people there and TV crews. This

wedding was indeed well covered. After the vows exchanged and everyone applauded, we all got in our vehicles to caravan to the Red Cedar Inn restaurant in Pacific, Missouri, about 3 miles from Six Flags on Route 66. Once there, the dinner was excellent and so was the evening. Again, the Band set up stage, and everyone had a blast. I had the chance to tell Jim Gilbert that we had a good time, and gave him high marks for planning so well such an event.

I have been informed that next year, the bridge will have a 70th anniversary, and an even bigger event will be planned, that should include Michael Wallis and several other 66 greats.

We'll keep you informed about events planned as they get going.



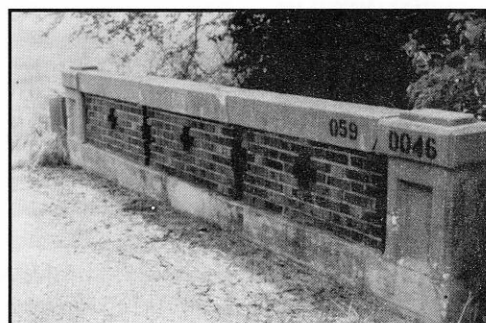
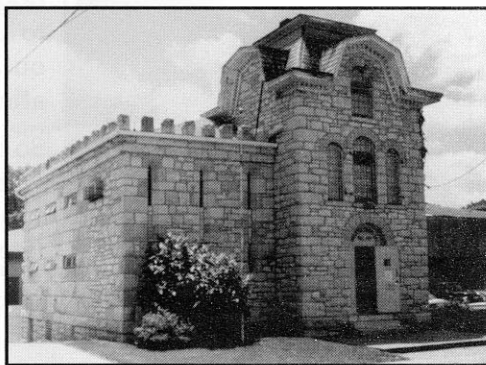
Ninth Annual Motor Tour Gives Many Folks Their Kicks...

The 9th annual motor tour conducted by the Route 66 Association Of Illinois is now in the books and may go down as the best and most successful motor tour ever held.

Over 230 cars registered for the trek, which began at the Chain Of Rocks Bridge on Friday afternoon and ended Sunday evening at the White Fence Farm near Romeoville. This is the first time a tour has ever started and finished at Illinois Route 66 Hall Of Fame member locations. The in between time was one of the best tours ever and very enjoyable, as commented by many of the travelers on the tour. Many states were represented on the tour this year. Those states include Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, Oregon, West Virginia, New York, and Arizona. There was also a Route 66 enthusiast from Luxembourg along for the ride as well.

The tour began from the Missouri side of the Mississippi River with a walk or drive over the Chain Of Rocks Bridge, a 1998 inductee into the Hall Of Fame. A peregrine falcon nesting on the bridge prevented walkers from going too far across. The falcon was attacking people on the bridge earlier in the week because she had a nest of baby falcons under the deck so walkers could go only as far as the bend in the middle, but those who wanted to spend \$20 to drive across were welcome to.

You could drive across and go directly into Mitchell and Old Route 66 all the way to Edwardsville, where the festivities began Friday evening. However, it all began with a bang as about 5:30 P.M. in the afternoon the Police evacuated the park at the library because a tornado had been sighted near St. Louis and was headed for Edwardsville. Vendors, including our own registration table, and merchandise booth packed up as quickly as possible and prepared for the worst. A few hardy souls (myself included) waited out the storm under the tents, and when we saw a rainbow after the storm we knew good things were coming up.



After the ALL CLEAR was sounded within 30 minutes, the park was up and running again. Altogether, 160 registrants had picked up their goodie bags, ate in the park and enjoyed the Festival 66 party thrown by the City of Edwardsville.

Saturday morning, a wonderful breakfast was served at the Edwardsville High School by the staff of the food service department. After the breakfast and a sendoff by Tour Chairman Jeff LaFollette and Festival 66 Chairman Meta Minton, the tour rolled north being led by the Shell Oil pace car. The caravan rolled through Hamel past Ernie's Bar and continued on to our first stop in Staunton, where we were treated to refreshments and the local merchants had specials for those wanting to stop.

The tour then rolled north on Illinois Route 4, which was the 1926-1930 alignment of Route 66. This was the first time the motor tour had taken this historic path and the Route 4 section was dedicated as the Rimini Run in memory of George Rimini, a former Board Member from Girard, Illinois. There were many sights to behold such as an old 16 foot wide section, complete with a bridge built

in 1920. Lots of folks stopped to take photos or just admire this old path from the past.

Carlinville awaited us for lunch and the town did not disappoint anyone at all. Butterfly pork chop sandwiches served by the Macoupin County Pork Producers as well as plenty of other good things to eat from local restaurants was the fare for lunch in the town square along with a band playing in the gazebo as cars rolled by on the brick street that lined the park. Tours of the Million Dollar Courthouse built in 1869 and the Macoupin County Jail that was also built in 1869 were available and many took advantage. You could even get your picture taken in jail as my wife and I did, and then we told our friends and family who saw the photo what we really did on the weekend.

After we left Carlinville, more old 16 foot wide sections of old Route 66 awaited and took us into Girard where

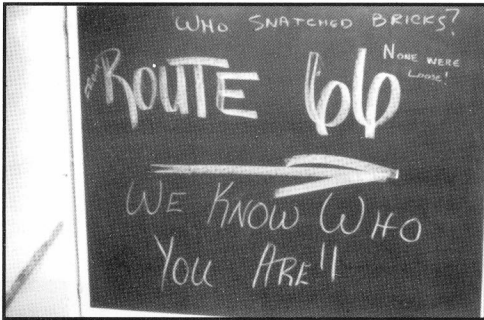
...on the Old Alignment of Route 66

a presentation was made to Edna Rimini, who wrote a poem which adorned the back of the motor tour shirts. Edna is the mother of George Rimini, of whom I mentioned earlier as the man who the Illinois Route 4 section of the motor tour was dedicated to. Cookies baked by local citizens along with lemonade & iced tea were served by the Lions Club of Girard.

Leaving Girard, the caravan headed north toward the highlight of the 1998 tour. We drove through Auburn and just north of town the old road jogged left onto the Red Brick Road which the day before was accepted onto the National Register Of Historic Places. This presentation was given in Rock Island, Illinois by John & Lenore Weiss and Dorothy Seratt of the Preservation Committee. Passport stickers were passed out as cars drove along the 1.53 mile section of brick pavement. Many folks stopped to get out and walk across the road or take a picture, two or three.

Once the caravan left the brick road, we proceeded on to Springfield to check into the Hotels to freshen up for the Hall Of Fame Banquet and induction ceremonies. A wonderful meal was served by the Renaissance Hotel staff to over 400 attending the banquet. The four inductees into the Hall Of Fame were presented their plaques by Hall Of Fame Committee Chairman Tom Teague. The new Hall Of Famers include the old Chain Of Rocks Bridge in Madison, the Sky View Drive In at Litchfield, Arline & Elmo Winterland from Lexington, and the White Fence Farm in Romeoville.

Sunday morning brought a little rain and drizzle, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the tour participants as we headed north to Atlanta where coffee and donuts awaited the drivers. Tours of the J.H. Hawes Grain Elevator, the Atlanta Library & Clock Tower, and the Laurasian Institute which once housed the Masonic Lodge and where old Masonic murals were uncovered when the old wallpaper was taken down.



This was the first time the tour has stopped in Atlanta, and the folks there did a fine job and showed us a very good time. As we headed north toward Chenoa, the skies cleared. Chenoa was our lunch stop for Sunday, and lunch was served in the City Park and tour of the Scott House were available. As we drove into town we could see the Route 66 mural painted on the side of the old Ritz Theatre building. This was done by art students from Chenoa High School.

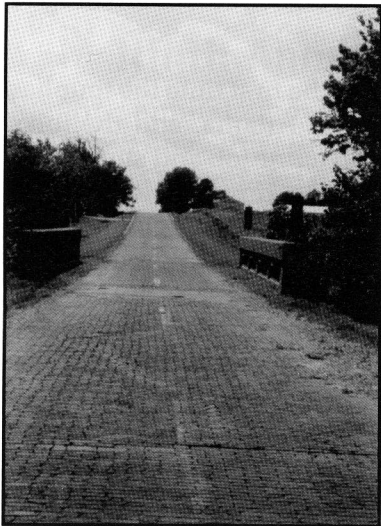
Leaving Chenoa, the tour continued north through Pontiac to Odell where our next stop was the Odell Standard Oil Gasoline Station, which was inducted onto the National Register Of Historic Places in 1997. While there, T-shirts and hats were sold to help raise funds to restore this historic structure built in 1927.

Joliet was the next stop at the tour began to wind down. Union Station awaited us for more cookies & drinks, plus a walk-through tour to see the exquisite curved mural painted inside the station as well as the station's other features. Union Station was built in 1912 and restored in 1991.

The 1998 Motor Tour ended at the White Fence Farm where over 200 people gathered to eat and look back on the tour. Prizes and cash were raffled, and Bob Hastert was presented his Hall Of Fame plaque. Also presented were trophies from the city of Joliet for those who came the longest distance. Winners were from New York, West Virginia, and Oregon.

As I bring this to a close, I just want to thank the Committee again for the fantastic job they did and also to those in charge in their respective towns where we stopped. Without you, this tour would not have been possible, and the future of the motor tour looks bright. Next year will be the 10th Annual tour, and plans are already being made. It will be hard to top THIS ONE, but we will give it our best shot. Thanks, all of you for getting your kicks on Illinois Route 66!

Written by Jeff LaFollette



Preservation Committee Story

by John Weiss, Chairman of the Preservation Committee

Here is a little story about a piece of road in Illinois. It is almost 1.5 miles long. The distinguishing feature is that it is of hand laid bricks and it is in the middle of farm land. The 1998 Motor Tour also saw and drove across this scenic road near Auburn.

In 1926, this section of road was designated as part of the first alignment of the newly created hard road known as Route 66. At the time, it was 16 feet wide and made of Portland cement. It had a sharp curve in the middle and crossed over two bridges that were built in 1920. On this section of road were three farm houses, one at each end and one at the curve. From 1926 to 1930 this piece of hard road served travelers very well. In 1931, Route 66 was moved farther east. You would have thought that this little piece of road would have slipped into obscurity, but it did not.

For some reason, in 1932 this section of road was resurfaced with hand laid bricks. It was also widened to 20 feet. The sharp curve was left in place and a new, more gentler curve was added. The reason for this extensive improvement has been lost in time.

So it is today, about 1.4 miles of hand laid brick. It is in fantastic condition. Keep in mind it is 66 years old. (Yes, 66!) The 16 feet wide Portland cement curve is still there as well as the two 1920 bridges. These are also in remarkably good condition considering they are 78 years old.

So what is all this? Is it an obsolete piece of old road or a piece of legitimate history?

We, the Preservation Committee of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois consider it as history...a wonderful example of the evaluation of road and bridge building. Each brick represents a moment in time, the Portland cement a piece of the past. But as the saying goes, "Treasure is in the heart and mind of the beholder."

The Illinois Department Of Transportation (IDOT) looks at things a little differently. They consider it an old road with deteriorated bridges and a useless, narrow concrete curve. We say that if this kind of thinking were wide spread, there never would be anything preserved.

Glimpses into the past would be non-existent.

We do respect the officials of IDOT. We also understand they are doing their job. But, this is one of those situations that require a closer look and more thought.

Recently, our individual committee of three, consisting of Dorothy Seratt, my wife Lenore, and I submitted a formal application. We applied to have the bridges placed on the Historic Bridge Survey, and to have the little, concrete curve and the brick roadway placed on the National Register Of Historic Places.

To make a long story short, we succeeded! This area was unanimously approved by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council to be placed on the National Register Of Historic Places. We also received word that the bridges have also been accepted for inclusion into the Illinois Historic Bridge Survey. This is a great feather in the cap of the Preservation Committee. But it does NOT mean any of it is protected. It merely means the entire area is declared historically significant. But it can still be destroyed in the pretense of progress.

If you get the opportunity to be in the area north of the town of Auburn, Illinois on Route 4, take a moment to slowly drive or walk this road and savor this piece of history. Let your imagination take you back in time, and enjoy the ride! Remember, without preservation efforts, there will not be a Route 66. To get involved, Call John at 815-469-5219 for information on current projects.



In this photo are Dorothy Seratt, David Newton, Lenore & John Weiss. This group, seen at the Hall Of Fame Ceremony, has reason to smile. They are holding an issue of Historic Illinois, which features a lot of coverage on Route 66. Much of what is accomplished by the Preservation Committee would not have been possible without the help and professional guidance of Mr. David Newton from the Historic Preservation Agency.

Soulsby Station Society Report

by Tom Teague

June 1998 was a good month for the Soulsby Station and our society. Tom Flasch, Pat O'Neill and my wife and I attended the work weekend. We cleaned the place up, put a fair amount of memorabilia on display inside, and filled a brochure holder by the door with our new flyer. Randy Wierzgac made a wonderful replica sign to replace the one that used to hang between the canopy's columns. Brian Ferrier sold eight of our T-shirts at his golf course in Michigan and ordered a dozen more.

But the main reason things are looking so good for Soulsby's is the time and money that new owner Mike Dragovich has put into it. He fixed the sunken floor in the northeast corner of the building. After we did some scraping on work weekend, he hired a man to paint the sign pole and all the wood trim. He's even had a couple of picnic tables built and primed. And if someone doesn't get over there quick to paint them, Mike will bet the job done ahead of us. So if you have some weekend time available, just call me, I'll check with Mike, and we'll have something ready for you to work on at Soulsby's.

The only part of June I'm not happy with is T-shirt sales. Counting the 20 that Brian Ferrier has signed on for, we've sold just 53 of the 100 shirts. I'd hoped for better than that, but we sold only 8 on the Route 66 Motor Tour. So if someone wants to follow Brian's example, just call me. We'll work things out. And think what a wonderful birthday or Christmas present a Soulsby shirt would make.

Ed Hickey is still on line to refurbish the grease rack sometime this summer. He's also going to get an old gas pump to Jim Branham in Springfield for restoration and eventual placement at the station. And we have a line on a "new" Shell sign to replace the damaged one that we have now. We're going to try to get it for free, but might have to invest a reasonable amount instead. Mike has the equipment and know-how to remove the old sign from its present pole and hang it on his. What do you think? I'm also looking for a chain saw artist who can do a statue of Russell Soulsby for us. Any volunteers?

Mike and I figure that all the outside improvements will be in place by next year, making the station as traveler friendly as possible. Then we'll start work on the inside.

One last thing...those of you with an "X" by your name on the address label are up for membership renewal. I know the personal benefits of membership may not be much, but look at what good shape the station is in! Please consider renewal so we can keep it looking good.

The British Are Coming!

An update on the "Quest"

by Frank Lozich

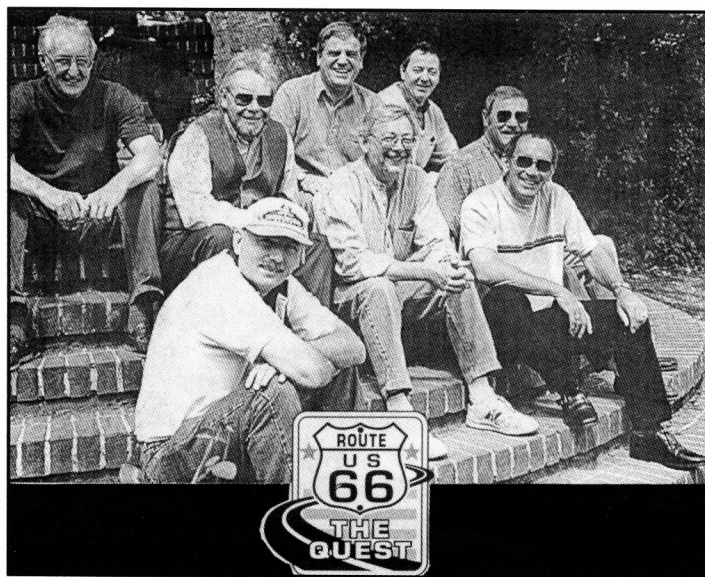
If you recall in the summer issue of *The 66 News*, I made mention of a group of British musicians who have been playing a blend of British flavored Rock-N-Roll with American Rhythm-N-Blues roots. That band, the "Quest" has been in touch with me expressing their excitement and anticipation with coming to America to tour and perform bookings along America's Main Street...U.S. Route 66.

They will arrive in Chicago on October 2, 1998 and start with their kick-off performance October 3, 1998 at the Dell Rhea Chicken Basket, 645 Joliet Road (old 66) in Willowbrook, Illinois. For more information regarding the performance, you can call the Chicken Basket at 630-325-0780. Remember to mark your calendars for October 3, 1998 at the Dell Rhea Chicken Basket, and while you're there, enjoy a delicious meal which is one of the best in the business, here on Illinois Route 66!

Other dates set for the "Quest" to be performing:

October 5	St. Louis, Missouri
October 7	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
October 9	Amarillo, Texas
October 10	Tucumcari, New Mexico
October 12	Albuquerque, New Mexico
October 17	Williams, Arizona
October 19	Hackberry, Arizona
October 23	Los Angeles, California

CORRECTION NOTICE: The "Quest" will not be performing on the Chain Of Rocks Bridge as mentioned in the Summer issue of *The 66 News*.



PRESERVING ROUTE 66

The Route 66 Association of Illinois in the beginning was an enjoyable escape from the demands of everyday life, and an opportunity to get together with old friends and to make new friends. Members enjoyed the annual motor tours and individual excursions down old Route 66. Then, a funny thing happened. Members began to notice that familiar landmarks—motels, gas stations, roadside diners, and signs—had disappeared. Telephone lines heated up as members reported the latest bad news about Route 66, not just in Illinois, but in every state the road ran through. It was clear that the motor tour and other events would mean nothing if the places associated with the road disappeared. If ignored, would there be enough of the route left to tour?

Enter the Route 66 Preservation Committee. After several months of discussions a committee member suggested that members sign up for a workshop on the National Register of Historic Places, sponsored by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. At the May 1996 workshop preservation committee members learned how to nominate a property to the National Register of Historic Places.

Before the committee could present any properties for nomination to the National Register, it first had to prepare a multiple property documentation form for approval by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council. Members presented the form to the council in September 1997, and it was approved unanimously. The committee then presented the first property, the Standard Oil Gasoline Station in Odell, which also received unanimous council approval. Needless to say, the authors of the nominations and the several Preservation Committee members who attended the session, were ecstatic.

The road to success was new territory for the preservation committee.

Although no one in the group had any previous experience writing a National Register nomination, all wished to preserve the road and the numerous roadside sites that played an integral part in the cultural development of the country. Committee members learned at the workshop that a multiple property documentation form is usually written by a professional or a group of professionals who are well versed in the language and intent of the National Register. The Preservation Committee remained undaunted.

First, the committee began a survey to determine what existed along Route 66 in Illinois from 1926 to 1956, the years of significance. After sixteen months and several revisions, the survey was complete. Included in the survey were many structures that were no longer standing, but happily the committee rediscovered sites that had become obscured. An old wood bridge led one committee member to discover an abandoned segment of the road that passed through a town that no longer existed; members found a Meramec Caverns sign on an old shed that was obscured by foliage; and forays into a wooded area turned up the supports that had once held a wooden bridge on one of the earliest paths of Route 66. Each new discovery was invigorating and enough reason to delve deeper into the history of the road.

Of primary concern, of course, was the road itself. It was necessary to know the earliest alignments (paths) and trace the evolution of alignment changes. Illinois was the first of the eight U.S. Route 66 states to be paved, partially because the commercial traffic already existed between Chicago and St. Louis, Missouri.

Important sources included old road maps, Illinois Department of Transportation annual reports, local city and county historical societies, and written histories. Committee members

especially enjoyed interviewing local residents who had lived alongside Route 66. Their stories tell of the cultural development of not just Route 66 but also the country.

The next step was to decide what sites to include in the multiple property documentation form. Structures such as bridges, gasoline stations, cafes, restaurants, tourist camps, and motels were to be included. And there were many to document. As commercial and recreational traffic increased along Route 66 in the 1930s, commercial enterprises appeared in response to motorists' demands for services. For example, ten gas stations existed at one time on just the short stretch of Route 66 that runs through Odell. Some stations stood only a few yards apart, yet all thrived during the 1930s and 1940s.

It was often difficult to determine the dates of construction, additions, and improvements to structures because many smaller communities did not regulate business and construction. Building permits were not required, and few smaller communities had building codes or zoning ordinances. Sometimes the search for information led to old newspapers. Another source, and sometimes the only one, was old tax records.

All the hard work paid off, and committee members are proceeding with other nominations. The committee learned that the National Register process is not reserved for preservation professionals. Indeed, grass-roots organizations like the Route 66 Association usually possess determination and commitment—two qualities that can contribute enormously to successful ventures.

Dorothy R. L. Seratt

Route 66 Association Merchandise Order Form

Clothes

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

___ Association nylon Jacket, polyester-lined	\$30.00
___ Association Sweatshirt	\$16.00
___ Association T-Shirt (circle Choice: black or white)	\$12.00
___ Association Cap (black)	\$7.00
___ Association Embroidered Patch	\$4.00
___ Glow-in-the-Dark Shield T-Shirt	\$13.00
___ Neon 2-sided T-Shirt (circle choice: Chevy, 'Vette, Mustang, or T-Bird)	\$15.00
___ Betty Boop Hitchhiking Route 66 T-Shirt	\$15.00
___ New! Betty Boop T-Shirt with Corvette or Jukebox back	\$14.00
___ Patch with shield IL US66	\$3.00

Collectibles

___ Belt Buckle	\$12.00
___ 12-oz drinking glass with Historic 66 Illinois Sign and slogan "Get My Kicks"	\$3.00
___ Ceramic mug (black) with Historic 66 Illinois Sign and Slogan "Get My Kicks"	\$5.00
___ White coffee cup with shield	\$5.00
___ Route 66 shield metal refrigerator magnet	\$4.00
___ Historic Illinois 66 refrigerator magnet (looks like new signs)	\$2.00
___ Rubber magnet vette with Chicago or IL	\$2.00
___ Route 66 ceramic salt and pepper shakers	\$6.00
___ Reproduction Route 66 shield sign (full-size, 16-gauge steel)	\$40.00
___ Prism Bumper Sticker - Corvette	\$2.00
___ Route 66 Pen with Corvette	\$2.00
___ Golf Balls	\$6.00
___ Route 66 Watch with IL historic sign	\$25.00
___ Spoon with shield	\$3.00
___ Route 66 Bell with shield	\$4.00
___ US 66 rubber car magnet	\$10.00
___ Mother Road Route 66 metal license plate frame	\$6.00
___ Illinois US 66 hat pins	\$3.00
___ Route 66 earrings (dangled)	\$5.00
___ Land of Lincoln "Route 66" license plate key chain	\$2.00

Postcards

___ Large Letter State Postcards by Bob Waldmire (set of 8)	\$2.00
___ "Scenes of 66" Postcards by Bob Waldmire (set of 37)	\$9.00
___ Hall of Fame Postcards (set of 15)	\$3.00

Maps

___ It's Here! Full set of eight state maps by Jim Ross and Jerry McClanahan	\$15.00
___ Map by Bob Waldmire - 10 pages plus 6-page legend	\$5.00

Books

___ "Greetings from the Mother Road!" Postcard Book by Michael Wallis	\$9.95
___ New! <i>Traveling the New, Historic Route 66</i> by John Weiss	\$14.95
___ New 2nd Edition! <i>Guidebook to the Mother Road</i> by Bob Moore and Patrick Grauwels (great photos and mile-by-mile detail)	\$21.95
___ New 2nd Edition! <i>Searching for 66</i> by Tom Teague	\$14.00
___ <i>Route 66 - The Mother Road</i> by Michael Wallis (paperback)	\$19.95
___ <i>Route 66 Roadside Companion</i> by Tom Snyder	\$10.95
___ <i>A Guidebook to Highway 66</i> by Jack Rittenhouse (reprint of 1946 book)	\$7.95
___ <i>Route 66 Going Somewhere. The Road in McLean County</i> by Terri Ryburn-Lamonte	\$9.95
___ <i>Route 66: The highway and Its People</i> by Quinta Scott and Susan Kelly (large format paperback)	\$19.95
___ <i>Route 66 Cookbook</i> by Marian Clark (folklore and recipes)	\$17.95
___ New! <i>Main Street of America Cookbook</i> by Marian Clark	\$14.95
___ New! <i>Return to Route 66 Postcards</i> Postcard book by Shellee Graham	\$9.95
___ <i>Route 66 Fun Book</i> (for kids of all ages!)	\$3.00
___ Route 66 Souvenirs	\$17.95

Videos

___ <i>A journey Down Route 66</i> narrated by Michael Wallis (90-minute video)	\$19.95
___ <i>Route 66 Revisited</i> with Michael Wallis (40 min.)	\$16.95
___ *Greetings from Route 66 (30 min.)	\$9.95
___ *Drive Route 66 (30 min.)	\$14.95
*Both new with coupons with discounts	
___ <i>Route 66 Return to America</i> Hosted by Martin Milner (2 hr.)	\$39.95
___ <i>Route 66: An American Odyssey Video</i> (formerly <i>Route 66: The Video Road Trip</i>) featuring famous 66-ers (60 min.)	\$19.95

Cassettes/CDs

___ New! <i>The Songs of Route 66</i> by David Sanger et al (cassette)	\$10.00
___ (CD)	\$15.00

Send orders to:

Merchandise
Route 66 Association
of Illinois
2743 Veterans Parkway
Room 166
Springfield, IL 62704
(847) 392-0860

- Illinois residents please add 8% sales tax!
- Make checks payable to Route 66 Association of Illinois
- US Funds Only
- Please add postage and handling as follows:

\$0 - \$10 add \$2.00
\$10 - \$20 add \$3.00
\$20 - \$30 add \$4.00
\$30 - \$40 add \$5.00
\$40 - \$50 add \$6.00
\$50 and up add \$7.00

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Name That Spot!

on Route 66

by Randy Smith

Here we go again, on another of my many treasure hunts in Illinois here on Route 66 to look for an artifact still on the Mother Road, and what do I come upon? A real winner...a rare to find Tourist Court still there, but almost unrecognizable. As you can see by these two photos, they surely date back in time, and the smaller Tourist Cabin used to be two units, but the right hand door was taken off. For those of you in Illinois, including all our book writers, scholars, map makers, etc. here's your chance to locate and name this 66 spot that has been left out of all 66 information that I ever read! It is definitely here on 66 in Illinois so let's get traveling and start looking for this so I can get your name and a good mention here in *The 66 News*!

In the last issue, there were some guessers to the bridge photo on the back cover of your summer issue of *The 66 News*. Kent Sanderson, a director of the Missouri 66 Association, was the first to guess the Devils Elbow Bridge, crossing the Big Piney River that is in Missouri, between exits 163 and 169 off Interstate 44. The second one to guess it was Rob McLean of Waterloo, Wisconsin. Rob also was correct in describing where it was at. Good job, you two!

However, NO ONE yet identified where the TEEM sign was at! One member tried to guess it, but was wrong in the location. That was Jeff Boylan, from Jeffersonville, Indiana. Good try, Jeff, but MORE LOOKING! Hope someone can guess where it was by the Winter issue. By then, I'll have the answers to this one and that one both! So let's all get out there on the Mother Road and LOOK for these goodies on 66!



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THE 66 NEWS!

Winter
1998

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

Merry

"ILLINOIS - Where the Road Begins."

Christmas

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.

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217-554-1963

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217-324-5551

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618-585-3081

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Wilton Rinkel, **St. Clair**, 10-00
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Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-1625

5 At-Large Positions

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24156 S. Kings Road
Crete, IL 60417
708-672-7937

Ray Rueck, 10-99
1312 N. East Road
Onarga, IL 60955
815-268-4459

Chester Henry, 10-99
910 N. East Street
LeRoy, IL 61752-1231
309-962-5361

Lenore Weiss, 10-00
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Frankfort, IL 60423
815-469-5219
E-mail: KAYO66@aol.com

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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

Next Association Meeting

The next Board-General meeting of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be on January 17, 1999 at the Community Action Agency building in Lincoln, Illinois. It is by the VFW Hall, behind a Motel and a Bowling Alley, and is the same site that the Board-General met before in January, 1997. Notice: There will be a Motor Tour Meeting at 10:00 a.m. to begin the day with. Then the General Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Paul Gleason will be making a special presentation of Route 66 history in McLean County, and it will include Lincoln and its different alignments of Route 66. Paul is a historian of this subject and has made many presentations on its history and Route 66 through the area. Plan on being here at this very informative meeting. All Association meetings are open to the public as well as all members.

Future 1999 meeting date, with locations to be announced later are: April, at Pontiac, July in Carlinville, and October in Normal. Each meeting will be on the third Sunday of each of those months unless otherwise notified.

Election Results

by Marie Jibben

Change has been made in about five positions, plus several retaining their current positions for another two years. In addition to seeing the differences on Page 2, here are the changes as we head closer to the year 2000...

Vice President: Jeff LaFollette

Treasurer: Marty Blitstein

DuPage County: Gretchen Wendt

Macoupin County: Oliver Schwallenstecker

At-Large: Chester Henry

At-Large: Ray Rueck

Re-elected are:

Livingston County: John Stonecipher

McLean County: C.J. Beeler

Sangamon County: Don Cutler

Madison County: Linda Henry

At-Large: Bill Przybylski

At-Large: Lenore Weiss

You can check their address and phone numbers on the Officers & Board Members page two of *The 66 News!*

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In Memory of...

Earlier, during the Summer of this year, one well known 66'er, **George Rook**, passed away. George was the president of the Texas Route 66 Association in the past.

On October 22, 1998 another well known member of our Association passed away. **Bob Hastert Sr.**, owner of the Hall Of Fame White Fence Farm up in Romeoville, will be greatly missed by the Route 66 Association Of Illinois.

Let us pray and offer our deepest sympathy to these two loved ones, both 66 greats whom shared a lifetime of growing up along Route 66.

Advertising in *The 66 News*

by Randy Smith

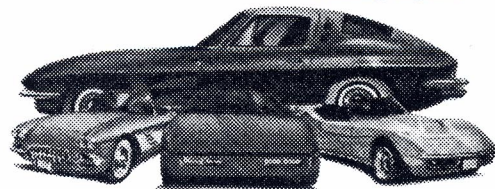
Some of you might not be aware that on the very bottom of page 2, we do indeed have advertising available at a reasonable cost, **and have not raised the rates** at all in the last 5 or so years. For a business card ad, it is only \$10. A quarter of a page is \$30. A half page is \$50. A full page, or the back cover (in black & white) is only \$90. This can be a fun way of putting a holiday or birthday greeting photo in for a loved one, or a fun message or riddle to someone, or just about any business-personal advertising that you may have! In a lot of other cases, the newsletter just gets full of other things and often has to leave out other things. Our advertising rates are one way to get your message through even before the news!

So think of something you would just love to see in our newsletter, and hunt up a photo of something of interest or whatever you can think of, and mail it in to your Newsletter Editor. My address is on page 2.

When submitting, please state how much to a page space you want, notice the rates above, and if you send a check along with your submission, make it out to the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. Once I see the ad is covered, I will send the check to the Treasurer, and in the next upcoming issue, we'll make sure your ad get in there. Give us a try!

Auto Outpost Of Joliet

MARK RAMSEY - Purchasing Agent



Phone (815) 458-0611
Pager (815) 773-0419

Not affiliated with Chevrolet.
2525 New Lenox Rd.
Joliet, IL 60433

Welcome, Our New Members! - by Jim Jones

Since the Summer issue of *The 66 News*, we have over-hauled our membership and now have succeeded on getting it all set up on a new, different format and can be easily converted into ASCII code, for all computers to read. This should have been done years ago, but is now done right. This was a joint effort involving a Hall Of Fame member, Jim Jones and of course your Newsletter Editor Randy Smith along with some others. We didn't have this finished by the Fall 1998 issue, so now we can run the list of new members and welcome them all to the Route 66 Association Of Illinois and we look forward to your continued support along with all the rest of our members, and hope you enjoy the route in terms of preserving and promoting the experience of our rich heritage of The Mother Road here in Illinois on Route 66!!!

One sustaining member...Michael A. Keen from Lansing, Illinois.

All other new members are . . . Jean & Sam McKie, Oneida, IL • Lyle Thompson, Kettering, OH • Martin & Geri Bilecki, Twin Lakes, WI • Jimmie & Nancy Nabors, Pontiac, IL • David J. Bardelmeier, Edwardsville, IL • Russ & Kathy Finkler, Davenport, IA • Lee Sartin, Wildwood, IL • Jordan & Cathy Goodman, Frankfort, IL • Rosemary Bick, Plainfield, IL • John & Marge Hettwer, Odell, IL • Catherine Sloman, Pawnee, IL • Floyd A. Niemeyer, Mattoon, IL • Walter Richardson, McHenry, IL • James & Andrea Johnson, McHenry, IL • Thomas Murphy, Palatine, IL • Thomas Paulich, Staunton, IL • Alan Zordan, New Lenox, IL • John Brewer, St. Charles, IL • Robert McDade, Tinley Park, IL • David Newton, Vermont, IL • Thomas Lewis, Springfield, IL • The American Highway Project, LeRoy, NY • William Freshley, Country Club Hills, IL • Robert Derewjcmko, Lyons, IL • William

Dixon, Chicago, IL • Sharon Kelleher, Hanover Park, IL • Rodney Anderson, Bloomington, IL • Dale Richards, Germantown, TN • James Kouzmanoff, Danville, IL • Michael S. Orlowski, Highland, IN • Brad Johnson, Rockford, IL • John J. Miller, Posen, IL • Roy & Eleanor Olson, Dyer, IN • Richard Haynes, Chenoa, IL • Kelly Baumgamer, Elmwood, IL • Art Kameshka, Naperville, IL • James & Susanne Owens, Bloomington, IL • Howard & Juanita Benthine, Galesburg, IL • Emile F. Chevai, New Lenox, IL • Thomas Weber, Dresden, Germany • Judith Idorwatt, Chicago, IL • James C. Mengarelli, Northbrook, IL • Stu & Hope Chapman, Hoffman Estates, IL • Alexander Wojtonik, Chicago, IL • Frank & Bonnie Kalembe, Chicago, IL • David Krys, Chicago, IL • Dan Kerns, Chatham, IL • Robert LaFollette, Galesburg, IL • Brian & Joyce Ford, Rolling Meadows, IL • Ann & Ben Wasman, Yorkville, IL • John Jurgovan, St. Peters, MO • Gloria R. Collins, Bloomington, IL • Robert L. Frost, Mattoon, IL • Jerry McGuinn, Tinley Park, IL • Albert Bommer, St. Peters, MO • Michael LaMontagna, DuPage, IL • Nancy L. Jones, Westville, IN • Roy D. Wise, Harrisburg, IL • Jim & Kris Martinaitis, N. Riverside, IL • Mr. & Mrs. M. Michaels, Livingston, IL • James E. Rutledge, Granite City, IL • Marisa Laskowski, Bridgeview, IL • Cindi Rittgam, Naperville, IL • Stuart M. Szumski, Frankford, IL • Rodney Burr, Lomax, IL • James Hall, Chicago, IL • Larry Scinto, Oak Lawn, IL • Cecil Cunningham, Rushville, IL • John Fyock, Freeport, IL • Louis J. Pempek Jr., Palos Heights, IL • William Mitchell, Brighton, IL • Michael P. Kirkoff, Reading, PA • National Route 66 Museum, Elk City, OK • Roger Hage, Coon Valley, WI • Travis E. Tyer, Quincy, IL • Gloria R. Collins, Bloomington, IL

HALL OF FAME NOMINEES SOUGHT - by Tom Teague

Each year our Association honors those people and places who gave Route 66 such special character at our Motor Tour Hall Of Fame banquet. At this event, we induct new members and also honor those from past years.

Nominations for new Hall Of Famers may be made now through February 28, 1999. They can be made by Association members, historians and the general public. All you need to do is write a 250-word summary of your candidate's accomplishments on Route 66. Photographs, clips and other supporting material are welcome, but not required. Just send what you have to Route 66 Hall Of Fame, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

The Association's Hall Of Fame committee will meet in early March to elect new Hall Of Famers. The committee consists of the Association's officers, several historians, and several Hall Of Fame members.

NEWS FROM BILL SHEA

The Route 66 Association Of Illinois proudly presents its youngest Sustaining Member, and would you believe only 2 months old! Yes, a little girl only 2 months old is now on record to stand of being the youngest of any Sustaining Member in this Association. And that is the proud grand-daughter of our own Hall Of Famer Bill Shea, of Shea's 66 Museum in Springfield. Her name is Gillian Nicola Shea, born October 24, 1998. The proud parents are John & Denise Shea. John is Bill's grandson. Little Nicola is the first member in Bill Shea's fourth generation of Shea, and the fourth generation of a 66 family to carry on the memories of the Mother Road. Hopefully by the Spring issue of *The 66 News*, Bill will send me a photo of our youngest member and we'll all get to see her! Good luck to the Shea's! (Editor)

NAME THAT SPOT WINNERS! by Randy Smith

Since the Fall 1998 issue of *The 66 News*, we have a winner to naming the two photos on the back cover, of that Tourist Cabin. Linda Henry is the first to correctly name the string of Cabins as the Green Gables Tourist Cabins, just south of Elwood on Route 66, across from the VFW hall. Jeff Meyer also correctly guessed it too, after Linda did. John Weiss has mentioned the vacant place on page 22 of his book "Traveling The New, Historic Route 66 Of Illinois" but John didn't know the name of it at the time of print. Several other Association members guessed where it was at, though they didn't know its name. Here are a few: Steve Williams from Downers Grove, Ed Harrigan from Joliet, and Alan Houchin from Joliet.

In the Summer issue of *The 66 News*, the TEEM sign that your Editor put on the back cover has not been correctly guessed, so I will now tell you all where it is so on your next trip out West, you can mail me a photo of it to verify you've seen it! And the sign hangs on a building in Galena, Kansas on the front of a Laundromat facing only to the East, so you must travel West to visually see it, since it is only on one side. You will not see it when coming from the West. It is directly on 66, through Galena so you can't miss it. By the upcoming Spring issue, I will put in a bridge photo from a 66 bridge here in Illinois for you all to guess, and I hope I am not disappointed on that one! So let's plan your Spring motoring early for the 1999 season, and have bridges on your mind so you can show your Editor you've been looking for our own 66 treasure here in Illinois, and have fun looking, too!

Meeting Minutes from October 18, 1998

There were about 60 people at the Board-General Meeting at the Old Country Buffet in Normal, Illinois. The main subject during the Board Meeting centered on the Association's finances. Suggestions were brought up on some trimming in all aspects of spending, and another result was a 12 page newsletter from time to time, depending on the expenditures. It was also rumored that the records kept by the former Membership Chairperson may have been lost or destroyed, possibly due to a suspected computer crash. If this is so, plans are made to mail a notice in the Winter newsletter to inform members and ask to mail in their known month-year date to help the Association update the new records by Jim Jones, our new Membership Chairman. Also suggested was to start the ones with no responses a pre-set date and write to them to renew. Membership renewals are a top priority in keeping the finances going for the Association, especially in covering the costs related to our newsletter at the number one priority. *(More on this from Frank in this issue.)*



There is also discussion of liquidating the merchandise at as many events and some Board General meetings to help get some income coming in to the Treasurer. There was also an unanimous vote to not have a Merchandise Chairman.

Rich Henry also mentioned how the Finance Committee is doing since its formation. All purchases to be made will have at least two or more bids for pricing, and will need to be approved by the Finance Committee before any purchase can be made. This is a smart plan to watch expenses and make sure we are getting the best pricing for anything. It was also brought up of the possibility of having a two sign check system for the Treasurer so that it would take two signatures to sign so that there is a double check for seeing that everything is final and properly approved before being committed to paying a vendor or other related service for Association business.

There is a newly formed By-laws Committee, consisting of Lou Vandiver, Jeff LaFollette, Vada Cartwright, Bill Przybylski, and Marie Jibben. These five will be reviewing all of our many dozen-modified By-laws, and revamp them entirely into a new, updated and corrected set of By-laws. Our current By-laws have been modified at times without approval by the Board, so it is time to get them back in proper order. There will be a report by these five at the next Board-General Meeting on January 17, 1999 at the Community Action Agency in Lincoln, Illinois. (It is by the VFW building)

John Weiss reported on the Preservation Committee. There is a big celebration party planned for the success they been having all year long, which will be at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight on Saturday, November 14, 1998. This year of 1998 will go down as history in being known for professional restoration of the well known Meramec Caverns barn in Cayuga, Illinois on the Ladyboss Ranch. This was a project that was very demanding and took several days to complete in 95 degree heat! (See story elsewhere in this issue!)

Tom Teague proudly mentioned his win of the Steinbeck Award at the Route 66 EXPO in Amarillo, Texas this Fall. (See story on this elsewhere in this issue!) Good job, Tom! And thanks from the Association on his many efforts to promote and preserve Route 66 in Illinois. We can use more folks like Tom in keeping this Association strong and active!

Also the Elections for several positions went on time at 1:00 p.m. There were some different players for the Association, and we welcome their teamwork to making us stronger and even more viable than ever before!



The Association wishes to extend its thanks to Tim Palm for serving as our Treasurer for the last year. Tim took up the job in a time of need and did an excellent job of getting our records back in line. Tim showed up at most meetings and kept us well-informed of his progress.

Important Membership Renewal Notice To All Association Members

The Association Needs Your Help!

by Frank Lozich, President

Due to a computer crash this past summer, the renewal dates plus the dates of the original joining members of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois plus your phone numbers were lost for many of our members.

The funds generated by renewal of your membership is the life-blood of the Association. The loss of these funds has hurt the Association financially.

As a result of this financial shortfall, we have to publish a newsletter that is not of our usual standards. The Association apologizes for this.

We urgently need your help to rebuild our membership data as soon as possible. We are asking each member of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois to please fill out and return the form below.

PLEASE PHOTO COPY THIS ARTICLE AND FORM, AND MAIL IT IN SOON!

1. What is your original date of joining the Association? _____
2. What is your membership renewal date? _____
3. If your renewal date is past, please renew your membership with this form.
4. If your membership renewal is a date in the next 6 to 8 months, filling out this form will help us send your renewal notice at the correct time.

The information you fill in above will enable us to rebuild the Association's data base and get the membership list back in order. This is a matter that needs each of us to attend to at once.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the form and mail it today.

We apologize for this inconvenience and thank you for your help.

SEND FORM TO:

Membership
Jim Jones
842 S. Walnut St.
Pontiac, Illinois 61764

Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Illinois County (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____

Interests in Route 66: _____

How I Can Help: _____

Annual Dues

General	\$15
Business	\$30
Sustaining	\$200 or more

SEND TO:

Membership
Route 66 Association of IL
2743 Veterans Pkwy, Rm 166
Springfield, IL 62704

Please submit U.S. Funds only!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION – Jim Jones is a Hall Of Fame Member of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. He is now our Membership Chairman, and you can write to him on updates or status changes at: Jim Jones, 842 S. Walnut St., Pontiac, IL 61764 • Phone: 815-844-5657 • E-Mail: NG9E@dave-world.net

A Great Picnic

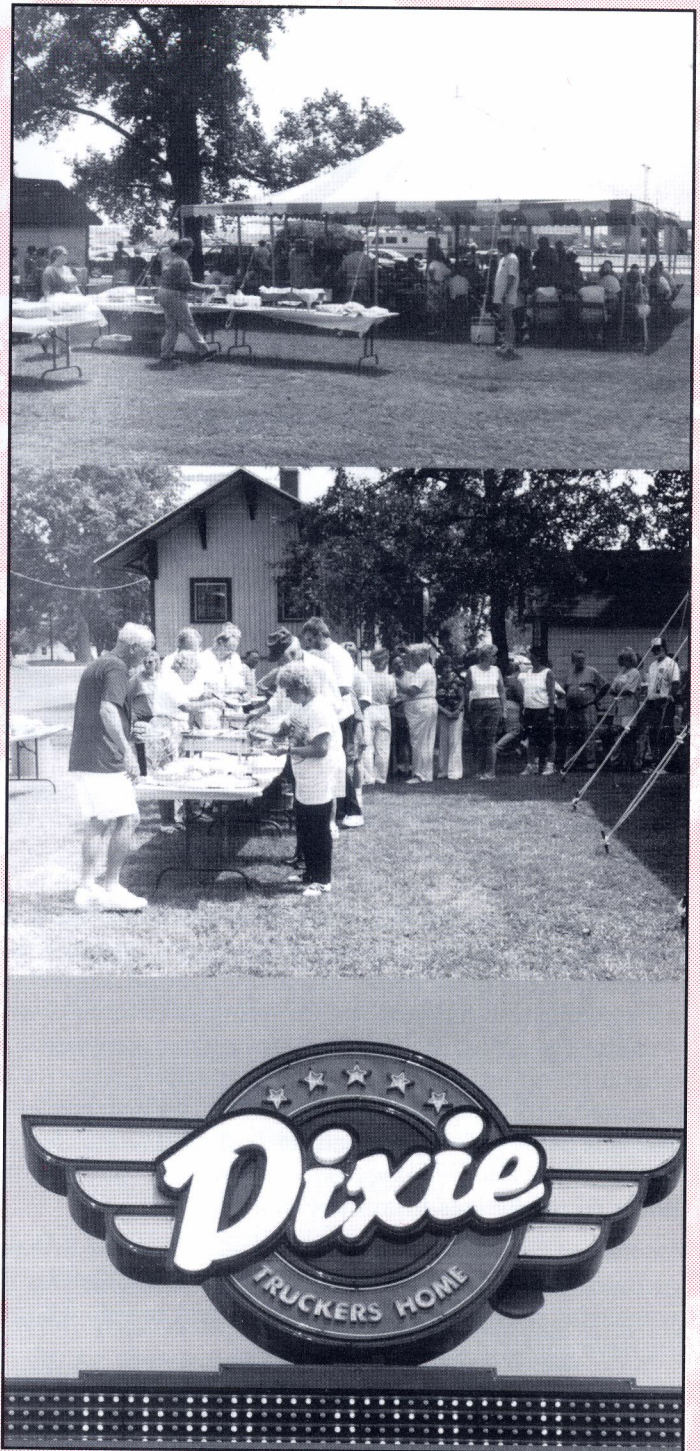
by Randy Smith

This year's Association Picnic was by far the best that I've seen here for a great get together of our membership plus other Route 66 fans that came, too.

Sponsored by C.J. and Chuck Beeler, owners of the Dixie Truckers Home for a long time, sure knew how to plan the best Route 66 picnic! They had a professional crew from their staff catering the entire deal, and it was second to none in quality and professionalism in planning. They had a tent set up for shade, and it WAS warm...about 93 degrees. I couldn't resist keeping watered down on those Cokes that I'm so hooked on, and the food? Excellent, or five star rating from me! Being rather thin myself, I did stuff as much of their delicious smorgasbord style food that my thin tummy could hold...didn't want to get my stomach "upset," you know. I estimated about 120 or so folks there, and it was also a good time to catch up with some chat with other Association members, and I of course had a great time chatting with several fine people that has donated stories, photos, and articles to our outstanding newsletter, and had the opportunity to thank them all for the support, as well as making YOUR newsletter the best!

I have to admit that I didn't know the Beelers were going to Europe at the same time, though for awhile I looked all over for them so I could thank them for their first class hospitality, and also the staff they have that run the Dixie. The Dixie itself has been known the world over for being a noted stop, and a long time spot on Route 66. It sits just about 1 mile from the official center of 66 here in Illinois, but the only landmark that close so in my book the Dixie sits in the center here in this state. Ever since they opened in the beginning of Route 66, the Dixie grew in size and popularity. They used to have weekend outside ""parties"" that involved all the local people and other nearby farm families, as well as customers and truckers that got to know one another pretty well. Once, the Dixie caught fire, and was closed one day. But since then, it has never closed. Even with the nearby Interstate 55, it never put a damper on business for the Dixie, whereas it unfortunately caused many dozens of other diners and cafes to close, or fold up to the modern works of progress. Some stayed open, even at a loss of income out of their own pockets for simply the battle of resistance. But all soon had to give way, and eventually hang up that CLOSED sign.

But the Dixie thrived! Actually, the interstate even helped in terms of an exit there and the billboards that advertise the Dixie...even the charming 501s style sign up there now sure has appeal to the comfort of the GOOD OLD DAYS. The remodeling inside added to that same taste, and gives you a very welcome feeling of being there, and of course the Hall Of Fame Museum is the best in this state on 66. I never tire of going through the hallway, and again reading and viewing the set-up. It makes me wish that the Dixie



was located in my back yard! It doesn't get any better than this, so I deeply encourage you all to stop in there on your 66 travels, and get that GOOD OLD DAYS feeling yourself while there, and of course don't forget a full meal before you take off again to get your kicks on Route 66.

Again, my most sincerest thanks for the Beeler family for their outstanding hospitality and their excellent crew there that run the business. May the many years of doing business for the motoring 66 fans carry us well into the 21st Century and continue to support Route 66 for another many generations to come!



*Illinois was well represented at the Expo. Here are only some of many attendees.
From left, Tom Teague, Bob Waldmire, Lenore Weiss, John Weiss, Judy Herder & John Herder.*

Route 66 Expo '98

Amarillo, Texas: "Was the Place to Be!"

What a great event this was! It had something for everyone. There were fantastic bus tours and events covering all the great attractions in and around Amarillo. Along with an abundance of sight seeing excursions, there was also a morning devoted to learning many aspects of what is going on with Route 66. The speakers came well prepared with insight all who attended. We also partied and saw some great presentations by Jim Ross and Jerry McClanahan. People came from everywhere. The farthest Route 66 roadie was from Luxembourg.

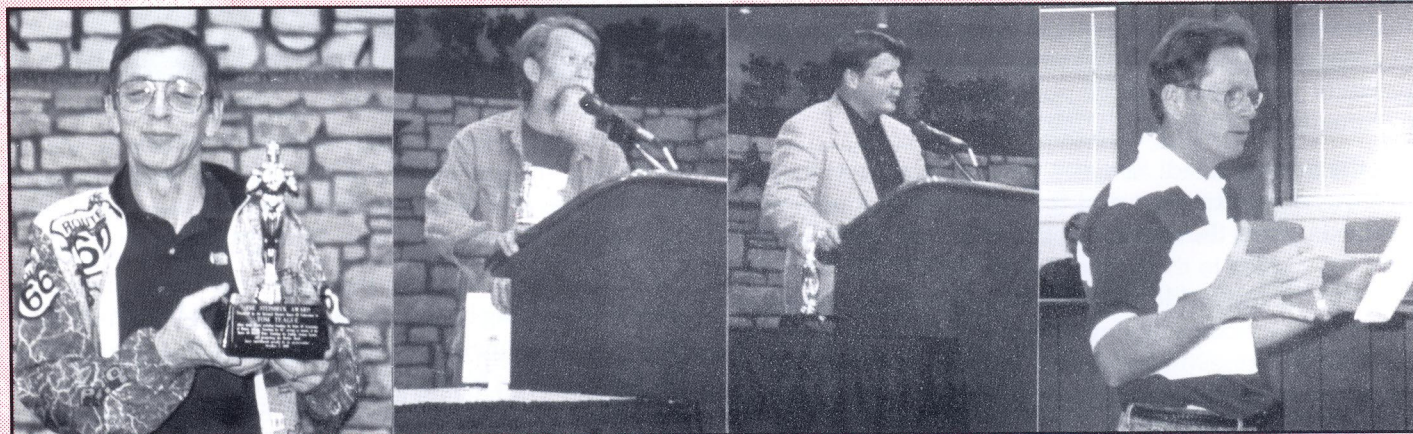
On the last day, many talented Route 66 writers and artists gathered to meet, greet and sign autographs. This was a wonderful opportunity to personally meet people whom we have all heard of.

My only complaint was that none of the Route 66 participants attempted to eat one of those 72-ounce steaks offered for free at the Big Texan!

The event was hosted by the National Historic Route 66 Federation, a not for profit organization run by David and Mary Lou Knudsen. These two dedicated and fun people never ran out of energy.

The final evening concluded at the Steinbeck Award Banquet. (John Steinbeck wrote the 1939 classic book titled *The Grapes Of Wrath*.) The purpose of the actual award is to recognize an individual who significantly contributes to the preservation of Route 66.

continued on page 9



Scenes from the Expo – From left, Tom Teague, Bob Waldmire, Michael Wallis

Upcoming Motor Tour Meetings

by Jeff LaFollette

The 1999 Motor Tour plans are well under way. Our first meeting was held on October 4, 1998 at Mount Hope Township Hall in McLean, Illinois. Most of all of the 1999 stops are planned. We will be having more meetings to plan this tour and the one for the year 2000. All association members are invited to attend these meetings and bring ideas to share. Our meetings are held at the Mount Hope Township Hall in McLean, Illinois at 12:00 Noon, with the exception of the January meeting, which will be held in Lincoln, Illinois at 10:00 A.M., one hour before the Board Meeting, and they are scheduled for the following dates...

January 17, in Lincoln, February 21, in McLean. March 14, in McLean. May 16, in McLean.

If you have ideas for future tours, please feel free to call tour chairman Jeff LaFollette at 319-893-6653. Remember that all our meetings are open to all association members. Hope to see you at one of our future meetings.

1999 Tour License Plate Update

The 1999 Motor Tour will be the 10th Annual tour and the Association will have special commemorative license plates made by the State Of Illinois. To update you on the progress of the plates, as of the writing of this article on October 17, 1998, a letter seeking authorization to have plated made has been mailed to the Illinois Secretary Of State's office and I am awaiting a reply. This was the letter that needed to be sent in 6 months prior to the tour. I also have a printer working on some possible designs for the plates. So the first steps are underway. As of this date, 55 people have either called or written me asking for plates. It is not too late to get your name on the list. Write to Jeff LaFollette at 2351 Hiway 130, New Liberty, IA 52765 or call me at 319-893-6653 to get your name added to the list. When I get notification of the next steps that the association needs to do, I will contact you by mail, or by phone for those who did not send me an address. Thank you all for your support in this venture.

While going on a trip to the Mall Of America in Minneapolis, Minnesota in August, Jeff & Annette LaFollette discovered the 66 Motel across the border from Iowa in a little town called Spring Valley, Minnesota. The only thing strange about this is that Route 66 never went through Minnesota and the road that they were traveling at the time was U.S. Highway 63. Jeff didn't get a chance to speak to the owners of the motel about why it was named the 66 Motel, but he plans to follow up on this sometime and report it in a future issue of The 66 News.



Expo '98, continued from page 8

The first recipient of this prestigious honor went to Michael Wallis, acclaimed author of *Route 66 The Mother Road*. Mr. Wallis exemplifies the spirit of Route 66.

It was not known who the next recipient would be. It is announced at the banquet. I am happy to tell you that the recipient is our very own Tom Teague. His book and lectures have made him an icon of Route 66. He is a worthy recipient. When we congratulated him, he said he was "proud and happy he could bring this award to Illinois." In his acceptance speech, he encouraged everyone to come visit us in Illinois (*pictured on page 9, first person on the left*).

Executive Director of the Route 66 Federation, David Knudsen, stated, "Tom was preaching the gospel of the Mother Road long before most people even knew it was endangered. He knows how to gather people together for a common cause as witnessed many times in the organizations he's founded. The most recent example of his work is restoring the Soulsby Station in Mount Olive, Illinois. In short, he knows how to get the tough job of preservation done."

The Main Street of America Reception and The Steinbeck Award Banquet were highlights of the EXPO, a nationwide Route 66 celebration held across the Texas panhandle.

Speakers for the evening included:

- Michael Wallis – *"Route 66: The Mother Road"*
- Ken Turmel – *Postmark artist*
- Marian Clark – *"Main Street Of America Cookbook"*
- Dan Harlow – *Author/artist/photographer*
- Joann Harwell – *Oldham County Chamber of Commerce*
- Jim Ross – *The Route 66 Map Set*
- Delbert Trew – *Texas Route 66 Association*
- Bob Waldmire – *Old Route 66 Visitors Center*

The Cyrus Avery Award for Creativity was also presented during the evening by the Federation. It was given to Amarillo artist, Darren Dunham for his design of the US EXPO '98 poster. This award goes to artists, writers, photographers and sculptors who excel in depicting Route 66. It is named for Cyrus Stevens Avery, the "Father of the Mother Road" who developed and ultimately promoted the route.

Plans are already being made for another expo. Do yourself a favor and plan on attending the next one.

For information on becoming a member of the National Historic Route 66 Federation, contact David and Mary Lou Knudsen at P.O. Box 423, Tujunga, California 91043-0423. I highly recommend that you join this wonderful organization.



Ties to the past are often visual, mainly signs, billboards, and structures. These past attempts at roadside commercialism are looked upon as direct links to the past. Signs and billboards that have survived over the years have been viewed by virtually millions of people. In their day, many of them created excitement of what lay ahead. Very few of these historic highway icons still remain.

Nowadays, we are bombarded by television, the Internet and other high tech, advertising gimmicks. In the past, it was the ingenuity of Mom & Pop businesses or clever companies. A good example would be the Burma Shave slogan signs. Another good example are, the painted barns of the Meramec Caverns. Old advertising is like a window to another time, or a reflection of the many eyes who have observed them before you.

Three painted barns still exist on Route 66 in Illinois. Two are Meramec Caverns and the other one is Mail Pouch Tobacco. Because of the highway Beautification act of 1967, no new barn signs have been created. The old ones are considered non-conforming advertising, were grandfathered in, and can be repainted when the barn is rebuilt.

The most photographed barn on Route 66 in Illinois is the Meramec Caverns barn in Cayuga, just north of Pontiac. It clearly advertises the Meramec Caverns location on Route 66 in Missouri. The barn sits in a very picturesque setting on the Lady Boss Ranch. Most travelers of Route 66 in Illinois have seen this structure. But time was taking its toll on this painted lady. She stood proudly but begged for help. I wrote two letters to Meramec Caverns requesting their advice and help. They had originally planned to repaint it in 1995. A reply was never received. As chairman of the Preservation Committee, I felt that we, as a group, needed to do something to help. A barn such as this is somewhat of a country art form. No two are exactly the same.

First, we went and talked to the owner, Joy Beutel. She was very excited about restoring the barn. We then took a close up look at the project. The 100 plus year old barn had 30" wide asphalt shingles for siding over the red painted barn board. It was first painted by Meramec in the late 40's or early 50's. Then, in 1961, they came back and completely painted over the original sign and the entire side of this huge barn.

Preserving Nostalgic Advertising

by John Weiss

They then repainted their advertisement. A close look at the before photo clearly shows the old lettering bleeding through. It read at the top, "See" then in a single line it read, "Meramec Caverns." We concluded that the shingles were well over 50 years old and that it had been 37 years since the first lettering was painted over. The problem was with these old dried out shingles. They were slowly falling off the building. It was not repairable in its current condition.

I put the word out for some professional volunteers. A carpenter, Paul Wendt, and a sign painter, Randy Wierzag came forward. With their guidance we figured we would need to totally restore this nostalgic relic. It would take money and man power. The barn owner chipped in and we had some funds due to the generosity of people who donated to our preservation projects account. Now we needed workers. That was easy. Many men and women volunteered for this "feel good" project.

The barn itself was in good shape but all the old siding shingles needed to be replaced. We felt it was very important to have the sign be identical to how it was when painted in 1961. As we removed each shingle, we had to trace onto the barn its exact letter location. Then, as each new shingle was added, we had to trace onto it the precise alignment of the original letters. This was time consuming, but very important.

As a fundraiser for future projects, the old shingles with lettering were saved as much as possible. We hope people will want to own a piece of this historic sign.

The side of the barn is 56 feet wide and 30 feet high. As we worked our way to the top, the ingenuity of Paul, the carpenter, was very beneficial. We had scaffolding up that resembled a maze. It was very dangerous work but we were determined to get it done.

It took three full days to complete the project. We also had temperatures in the 90's. Add to that, four horses and a mule who constantly came by to check on our progress.

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The Meramec Caverns Barn Restoration Project

The Editor's View...by Randy Smith

Talk about work! What a project! When I recently turned 40 on my last birthday, I felt the "Golden Years" coming sooner or later. As I envisioned a new office chair to replace the one I have now (it is 20 years old, and got fixed a few times), I quickly found out that "sitting around" the computer all the time can get you burned out, especially when you're an Editor. When I heard of the restoration plans from the Preservation Committee of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois for fixing and restoring the entire side of that well known Meramec Caverns barn by Cayuga, I decided it was time to get out of the chair and bust my ass! The "Golden Years" can go YOU KNOW WHERE!

Sure, I hear the excuses...by the dozen. Even some people that know me well couldn't understand why I would drive a good two hours one way on two weekends to work for nothing! I heard such things as "no insurance" and "what ifs" in terms of trying to hamper such a project of this magnitude. Seems like some people get political with these terms to stop such a project before it gets started! Not YOUR Editor! I'm the kind of guy that feels up to a challenge on Route 66! I could care less about the resistance from some that don't want to see something become successful. It isn't a thing that you vote no or yes to...I do what I want to do on Route 66 either way without letting hindrances come in front of me. It is true that I am often stubborn...I take risks sometimes, and I have had some things go wrong in my quest for adventure on 66. That's my decision...I don't ask or expect others to follow in my footsteps. Regardless of reason, it was just as obvious to quite a few others that somewhat agree to my reasoning, and there was indeed a sizable task force there determined to take on this project no matter how impossible the odds. I felt at home working with these spirited 66 people from all ages.

It was hot! About 94 degrees on the opening day. I made sure my cooler was full of ice to keep my Cokes cold. Work became a team effort that had no room for single heroes! All were equally committed to getting this done, and of course you have a little fun in-between. A good example was the Horses and a Mule. They would come by every so often to check up on us. They also got a little ornery at times...such as when boss Frank wouldn't give the brown Horse a cigar, the Horse had alternative ideas...he went for Frank's beer, and got it! The same brown Horse also got a hold of Roxie's book she was reading. All the Horses joined us for lunch each time, and we all fed them something. So the work went on, and it was a little shaky up on the ladders, and once in a while you might drop a shingle on someone's head and hear them say "ouch"! Other times, I've seen a big drop of paint come off a brush from up high, and mess up someone's hairdo! Still, no punches were thrown or tempers flare. Just good old fun, and working together with the same goal in mind...to be



known as one of the bunch that made it happen! There was no better feeling than the one you had knowing YOU were one of them that did it! It was for the enjoyment and benefit of all Route 66 travelers to see a historic landmark be restored for everyone else to enjoy and benefit by having something worthwhile to see on Route 66 here in Illinois. It was truly an experience that I can reflect back on when the "Golden Years" sneak up on me later.

But yes, my 20 year old chair now feels good under my rear end...time for a break, before the Preservation Committee comes up with another one of these BIG DEALS, and I wouldn't be surprised if I jump out of semi-retirement again and GO TO WORK! But on 66, of course! Until that comes again, it's time to keep pounding away at this keyboard to keep shaping out yet another great Newsletter for the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. I also wish you all a spirited Christmas, and a more fun and successful year of 1999 for more projects and for me, adventures on Route 66. You all watch out for me, and I will watch out for you! God Bless!

Preserving, continued from page 10

When we finished on August 30, 1998, we thought back to 1961. We envisioned Mr. Jim Gauer, the Meramec's sign painter since 1956, standing back and checking out how it looked as we were now doing. The sun was setting; we opened champagne and patted ourselves on the back for a job well done. We hope all future travelers on Route 66 enjoy our accomplishment. We also suggest that for a moment you think back to all who have passed this way before you. At that moment you will have stepped back in time. Your eyes are seeing exactly what they had seen.

The workers who so unselfishly volunteered their time and talent are as follows: Roger Berta, Larry & Gretchen Boyd, Jeff Lafollette, Frank & Roxane Lozich, Bill Przybylski, Marty Schleder, Dorothy Seratt, Randy Smith, Gretchen Staats, John & Lenore Weiss, Dennis & Paul Wendt, and Doug & Randy Wierzgac.

I could not have done this project without them. These are people I am very proud to know. Enjoy the ride on Route 66!

Merry
Christmas

BEFORE



*From The
Preservation
Committee!*

AFTER



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

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