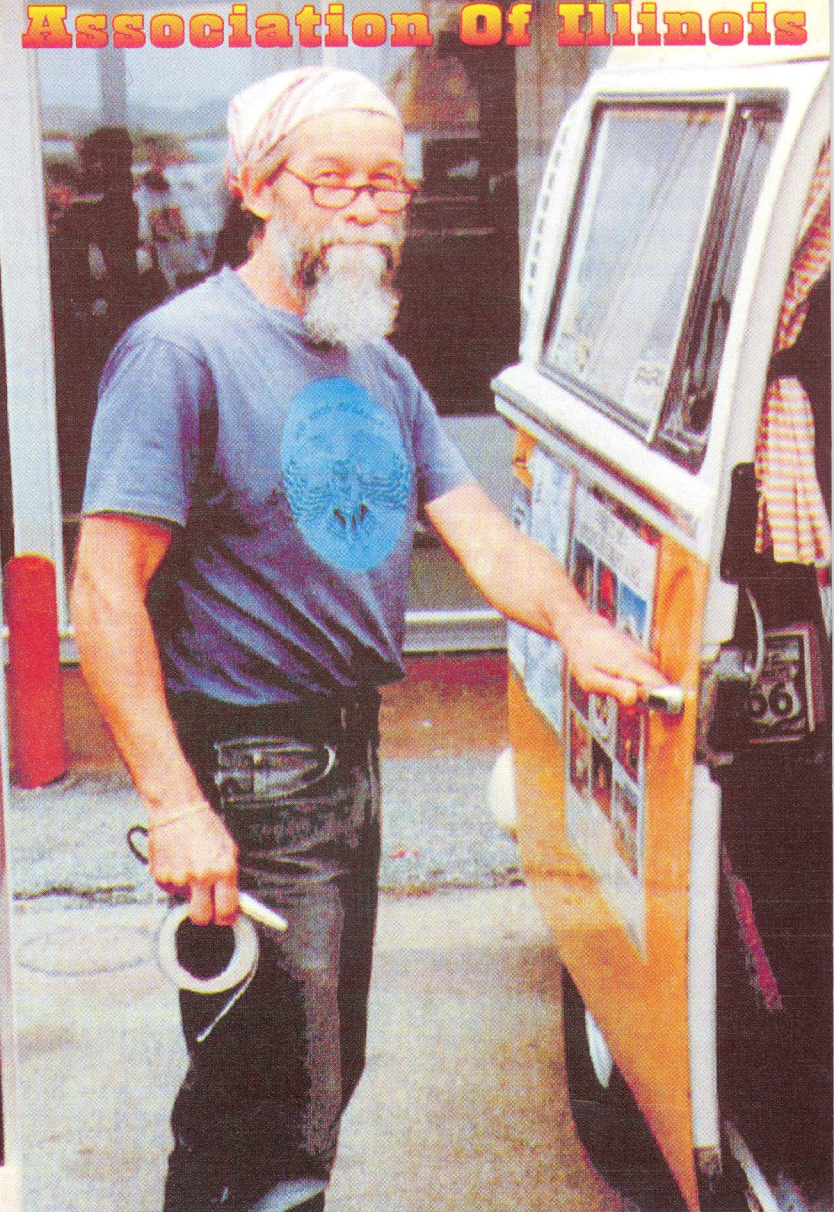


THE NEWS!

Spring 1999



"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.

Minutes from the Board-General Meeting – January 17, 1999

by Marilyn Pritchard

Sixteen Board Members were present at the Community Action Agency in Lincoln, Illinois at 11:00 a.m. Before that, at 10:00 a.m., there was a Motor Tour meeting.

President Frank Lozich conducted the meeting. There was one correction from minutes of the October 18, 1998 General Meeting. The correction was to read \$300 was paid for materials used on the Meramec Caverns barn, sent by the owner instead of \$600. The remaining \$346 was paid for by donations of others. Dorothy Seratt made a motion to correct this and George Leone seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

The second correction was to amend the Litchfield stop from the October 4, 1998 meeting. Bill Przybylski made the motion and Gretchen Wendt seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

President's Report: Frank Lozich reported that the mood of the Association has been very good, a successful project of the Meramec Caverns Barn by Cayuga and the Red Brick Road by Auburn placed on the National Register, and a good Motor Tour.

Some of our members traveled to Texas for the Expo 98, and our first founder, Tom Teague received the John Steinbeck award, which is a great honor. Congratulations, Tom! We have formed four new committees and have great goals for the coming year.

Hall Of Fame: Tom Teague talked about the first organized meeting held in Pontiac 10 years ago at the New Log Cabin and reported it was October 8, 1989 when the first slate of Officers were elected for this Association. By-laws were approved and with 56 members there at the VFW Hall in Dwight, Illinois. The Association is to preserve, promote and enjoy this highway. Hall Of Fame Museum at Dixie Truckers Home has been an excellent example of this and can be seen 24 hours a day. At the present, you can view original sheet music of Bobby Troup "Get Your Kicks On Route 66", a Tucker car hood ornament (which only 15 were made), and an original sign from the Route 66 Series. Tom expressed a budget of \$1,600 for the Hall Of Fame Committee, which would cover the cost of plaques, and display materials for the Museum, plus Hall Of Fame meals. A discussion of Hall Of Fame meals was tabled at present time.

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Our Next Board-General Meeting

The next meeting of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be held at Pour Richard's Cafe in Odell, Illinois on April 18, 1998. Pour Richard's was the site of a Board-General meeting last Spring, and their address in Odell is 210 Tremont. If you are coming off the Interstate 55, take exit 209. They serve an excellent dinner consisting of salad, pork loin, chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetables and dessert. It cost just \$8 per person which includes tax & tip. The Board meeting will as usual be at 11 a.m., with dinner starting at 12 Noon. Then the General meeting at 1 p.m., with a little bit of everything being discussed for the years' plans and activities. All meetings of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois are open to all members and the public who wish to attend as well. Plan on bringing some friends and family with you to share in a good time of 66 discussion and plans for the 1999 season!

Welcome, Our New Members!

by Jim Jones

Since our last issue of *The 66 News*, there has been some more new names to the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. Our membership chairman, a Hall Of Famer named Jim Jones, has been doing an outstanding job of keeping the membership list, and can at will make a list of the membership available to Officers-Board Members upon request, and do it for you on a Floppy Disk, which is more feasible to do than mail out a list of papers which cost a bit to mail. Jim has worked with your Newsletter Editor on this to get the mailing labels, and info for the newsletter. My hat goes off to Jim. (*Editor*)

In Illinois, we welcome:

Terri L. Surratt, Atlanta • Bill & Linda Thomburg, Crete • Ronald Hinton, Quincy • Dean & Rita Brubaker, Oswego • Howard L. Stovall, Chicago • Robert J. Price, New Lenox • Justine Chval, Chicago • Stephen R. Lock, Monticello • Dr. G.E. Dammann, Lena • John Gorzell, Woodridge • Ernie & Bobbie Miraldi, Westchester • Tom & Kathy Gransee, Wheaton • Robert L. Angelo, Rock Island • Ross Funk, Morton • Phil Gorman, Mokena • Donna Gorman, Mokena • Tim Moreau, Lombard • Eugene Huebner, Prospect Heights • Bryce Bachman, Plainfield • James Yunker, Des Plaines • George Svoboda, Naperville • Cathie Stevanovich, Flossmoor • Martin A. Blitstein, Flossmoor.

Out of state new members are:

Kathryn Welch, St. Louis, MO • John Golfis, St. John, IN • Barbara Ferro, Boardman, OH • David J. Winkler, St. Louis, MO • Robert Lanier, Wixom, MI • Mike Potokar, Green Valley, NV.

And one sustaining member: Gillian Nicole Shea, Springfield, Illinois.

Thank you all for your interests in Route 66! Hope you all have a great season on motoring down the Mother Road here in Illinois, and of course the rest of the route to California!

Meeting Minutes from January 17, 1999, continued



By-laws: Lou Vandiver was not present for this. Only the members of the By-laws Committee had copies, so the other Board Members couldn't approve of the updated version. This was tabled until the April 18 meeting.

Membership Report: Frank gave a written report from Jim Jones. 26 new members, one sustaining member, and 218 renewals. Total membership around 1,108. Since October 20, 1998 Jim Jones sent \$2,840 to the Treasurer. He gave him a current membership list and a copy of the spreadsheet with all activity since October of last year. In regard to our request in the Winter 1998 newsletter for members to send us their dates of joining the Association and their renewal dates, we have had only 85 replies to date.

Treasurer Report: Marty Blitstein passed out two sheets. Notes for membership, and a financial sheet. He requested it be read over and then make comments and ask questions. At the meeting, you would have seen one pile of bills paid for \$4,000, and approved by the Finance Committee. There was a pile of unpaid bills (\$2,799.10) and the checkbook was passed around for everyone to see. Current bank balance is \$4,605.62. Marty recommended that the Treasurer's job be made two years and two months, so that banking transactions can be taken care of. The Treasurer should have a set of rules to go by. Treasurer should also be audited. Marty suggested that we have a Business Committee. Ollie Schwallenstecker volunteered to chair this committee, and will have a report by the next Board-General Meeting. Marty also thanked our group on two recommendations, so that we can start a yearly budget. Vera Cutler thanked Marty for all the time and effort he has put forth on being our new Treasurer.

A motion by Linda Henry and seconded by John Weiss to take time out for a delicious lunch at Noon. All members were in favor.

The General Meeting started at 1:00 p.m. with 36 members present. And the Board voted on two recommendations on memberships made by the Finance Committee for the future By-laws.

George Leone made a motion that the Board accepted...that ALL membership dues be made May 1st. This will run a fiscal year from May 1 through April 30. Motion was seconded by Bill Pryzbylski, and all members were in favor. Members who have paid since January 1, 1999 will be paid up until May 1, 2000. So whether you all have started in different months throughout the year, your renewal dues will be needed to be sent in by May 1st of every year, a little earlier would be better to keep the books in line so no one is over-due so we won't have to keep sending out a renewal letter every time.

Dorothy Seratt made a motion and seconded by John Weiss that all foreign memberships outside the borders of the United States be set at \$35 per year, to help keep the postage costs in line to offset expenses. All members were in favor. Dorothy also suggested that we add a page in our newsletter "Shop at our Route 66 Business", promoting the business members we have down Route 66. It was also suggested by Marty that with a Business Membership paid, they would receive a nice decal in their window. A goal for 300 businesses.

John Weiss mentioned the next Preservation Committee meeting to be February 20, 1999 at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight, to start a dinner at 5 p.m. and the meeting at 6 p.m. John also reported on a letter from IDOT of plans for regarding traffic and parking along the road by the Meramec Caverns barn at Cayuga. Plans will be done soon on a Poker Run in Odell on May 15 for a fundraiser to help restore the Standard Gasoline Station in Odell. John also mentioned his book, selling 3000 of them in just 18 months and it is in the third printing.

Frank read a letter from the Chamber Of Commerce of Edwardsville, inviting us down to the "66" Festival during the Motor Tour. They are planning three blocks of business

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An Important Message To All Members!

by Frank Lozich

The Route 66 Association Of Illinois has had many successes during these last ten years, but the road to success is not always a smooth one. As we head into 1999, we as a volunteer organization not only have to tend to problems that arise, but also have to change our methods of operations to meet the needs of a growing organization. With a membership of approximately 1,100 members, we have certainly outgrown our methods of the past. In the Spring of 1998, the Associations' finance committee was reorganized to help steer the Association in a direction that will help it become more economically viable not only for the present, but for the future. This committee, made up of Officers, Board Members, Hall Of Fame members, and private entrepreneurs with a keen sense for business practices, has had a busy agenda making the finances of this Association its number one priority!

The annual cost of keeping a not for profit, volunteer organization operational is getting greater and the time has come to stream-line our overhead and maintain a tighter budget. Several changes have been recommended and approved by the Board regarding this. I would like to explain these changes to you:

Membership

In the last issue of The 66 News (Winter 1998), the Association ran an Important Membership Renewal Notice, informing the general membership of the loss of the members' renewal dates due to a computer crash. As mentioned in the article, 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. The response of this article was less than two percent from the readers. A professional recommendation was given to the Board Of Directors and approved at the January 17, 1999

meeting to make all General Membership Renewals due on May 1st, starting here in 1999. If you renewed your membership before January of 1999, your renewal will be due May 1, 1999. If you renewed your membership after January 1999, your membership will be paid until May 1, 2000. The Officers and Board Members truly understand that a few of you may feel a bit disappointed and we apologize for any inconvenience to you, but the greatest cure for this will be your help and understanding with this matter. And for that the Association is truly grateful.

Foreign Membership

As of May 1, 1999 all foreign membership outside the USA will be increased to \$35. This increase will help pay for the high cost of postage for our foreign members.

Merchandise

At the October 18, 1998 meeting, the Board Of Directors voted to discontinue the sale of merchandise. It was decided by the Board that maintaining an overhead of merchandise was becoming too costly. Existing merchandise is being thoroughly inventoried and will be returned to the suppliers of origin. What is not returnable will be sold possibly during the upcoming Motor Tour. In the future, the possibility of selling Association related merchandise may be a consideration.

These decisions by the Officers and Board Members of your Association were not easy ones to make. But these decisions had to be made in the better interests for the future of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. For this group to survive as the most venerable watchdog of the old highway here in Illinois, we have to be strong! And to be that, we have to be a financially strong Association! Thank you very much for your understanding.

Meeting Minutes from January 17, 1999, continued from page 4

districts to look like Route 66 days of years ago. They are highlighting the A & W Root Beer Stand and Jack's Service Station during the Motor Tour.

Jeff LaFollette gave a Motor Tour report. There are 81 license plates sold out of 150. So get in contact with Jeff if interested in a set. Plans are moving along smoothly. The next Motor Tour is February 21, 1999 in McLean at the Mount Hope Township Hall.

Logan County Board Member, Paul Gleason, gave an excellent presentation on the "History Of Lincoln, Illinois." That is a hard bound book, which Paul himself wrote, and was a sell-out in six weeks of 3,000 copies! It took Paul 18 months to write, and it dates back to the days of the Indians. Lincoln, Illinois was known for the largest greenhouse in the state of Illinois, the largest chicken factory, shipping

out by rail, a Lincoln China factory from 1916-1917, and also had four coal mines and five different newspapers.

The next Board-General Meeting will be April 18, 1999 at Pour Richard's in Odell. Meal will be \$8, which includes tax & tip. The Board Meeting will start at 11:00 a.m. and lunch at Noon. Then the General Meeting at 1:00 p.m. The program for this meeting will be "Police Officer History Of Route 66," with a guest...Robert Jones of Pontiac has been employed for 38 years with City, County, and State Law Enforcement. He served as Livingston County Sheriff from 1978 to 1986. He is currently serving on the Livingston County Board since 1986.

A motion by Dorothy and seconded by Duke Cartwright to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

1999 Motor Tour License Plate Update and Motor Tour Report

by Jeff LaFollette

To keep you informed as to the progress of the special plates for the 10th Anniversary Motor Tour, as of this writing on January 20, 1999 the artwork for the plates have arrived in Springfield and they are working on them at this time. With any luck we should have the plates by early April. If you haven't ordered plates yet, you have one more chance to get them. They will be sold first come, first served until they are gone. As of January 20, we have sold nearly 100 pairs, which will leave us with about 50 pair left to sell. If you are interested in receiving a pair of plates for \$30, please contact Jeff LaFollette by phone at 319-893-6653 or write me at 2351 Highway 130, New Liberty, Iowa 52765. Don't be left out...when they are gone, they're gone! If you wish to display them, also send a copy of your current vehicle registration, otherwise just request them as souvenirs and you will still receive a pair, but you cannot display them on your vehicle. Thanks again to all who have purchased plates. I hope to see a lot of them on the Motor Tour this year!

LAST MINUTE UPDATE! On January 23, 1999 I came home and got my mail, and to my surprise I received the sample plate from the state of Illinois. I did not expect to see that for at least another 3 weeks. So, we are ahead of schedule so far. But now is where I really need your help, and this was my fault that I did not ask for this when I requested that you send in your money for the plates. Those of you that want to display your plates on your vehicles need to send me a copy of your current vehicle registration card of the vehicle that you plan to display them on. You may display them on B-Trucks, too! I would like to have these by no later than February 15, 1999. For you out of state folks that purchased plates don't have to worry about doing this, since you can

not display them unless you have a valid Illinois registration plate. But for the Illinois folks that do not plan on putting these plates on your vehicle, please call me at 319-893-6653 to let me know you want them for souvenirs only. If I'm not there, please leave your name and address on the answering machine. The state says that the plates must be registered to be displayed, but I've heard reports that you can display them as long as you have your current plates and registration card in your vehicle with you. I'm trying to do this the right way so no one gets picked up for a registration violation. Some folks have inquired about picking up plates. I was told by Karen Boggs from the Secretary Of State's office today that I will be able to pick up the plates on April 1, 1999 which she said is standard procedure to have them delivered two weeks before you can display them. So if you want to pick them up, I should have them at our April 18, 1999 Board General Meeting in Odell, Illinois. Otherwise, I will be happy to mail them to you!

Also, if you have not paid for your pre-sold plates by March 15, 1999 I will assume that you have changed your mind that you do not want the plates and we will sell them outright. As of this letter, I have pre-sold 94 sets which leaves me with about 56 sets left to sell. If you know of anyone who may be interested in plates, please have them contact me. Remember those dates! Registrations sent to me by February 15, 1999 and last payment date for pre-sold plates no later than March, 1999. Thanks again to all of you that have sent in money and registrations already. If you have any questions about your plates, please contact me anytime. My address and phone number are also on page two in this newsletter on the Officers and Board Members page.

Motor Tour Report

The 1999 Motor Tour plans are progressing smoothly. Meetings were conducted October 4 and November 15 of 1998, and again on January 17, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. before the Board Meeting in Lincoln. The following stops are planned for the 1999 Motor Tour.

Friday, June 12

Pre-tour party plans are still being made for a place to hold our party.

Saturday, June 13

Chicago Navy Pier	leave at 8:00 a.m.
White Fence Farm	9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Wilmington	10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Pontiac (lunch)	12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Bloomington	3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.
McLean (<i>Dixie, Hall of Fame</i>)	4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Lincoln	Arrive around 5:00 p.m.

Banquet will be at 7:00 p.m. with Hall Of Fame ceremonies to follow at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 14

Breakfast to be served at the American Legion in Lincoln from 7:00-8:00 a.m.

Lincoln	leave at 8:30 a.m.
Broadwell	8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.
Springfield (<i>Cozy Dog</i>)	10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Girard (<i>Ill. Rt. 4</i>)	11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We will then take Illinois Route 4 and go until we get to Illinois Route 16. Then we will turn East on Route 16 to Litchfield and pick up the newer alignment of Route 66.

Mt. Olive (<i>Soulsby Station</i>)	2:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Collinsville	arrive around 4:00 p.m.

Collinsville will host our past four festivities, to be focused around the 50th anniversary of the Brooks Catsup Bottle water tower. Also, we hope to be able to go onto the Chain Of Rocks Bridge on Monday, June 14, for those planning to stay overnight in the Collinsville area.

Future Motor Tour meetings are May 16 at Mount Hope Township Hall in McLean.

10 YEARS OF KICKS ON ROUTE 66!

**Join Us In Celebrating 10 Years of
the Route 66 Association of Illinois
On Our
10th Annual Motor Tour of Illinois
June 11 - 13, 1999**

With Stops in:
***Chicago • Romeoville • Wilmington
Pontiac • McLean • Bloomington
Lincoln • Broadwell • Springfield
Girard • Mount Olive • Collinsville***

***Drive Two Alignments from Springfield to Staunton
See the Route 66 Hall of Fame at the Dixie in McLean
Attend the Hall of Fame Ceremony in Lincoln
See Soulsby's Shell Station in Mount Olive***

***Pre-Tour Celebration on Friday June 11 to be Announced
Post-Tour Gathering in Downtown Collinsville Sun. June 13***

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 \$12.50 per person to accompany registration

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

More Tour Information:
Jeff LaFollette, Tour Chair 319-893-6653
Marilyn Pritchard 815-844-6937
Jeff Meyer 847-392-0860

Sorry, No Refunds. Rain or Shine



ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

MOTEL LIST FOR THE 1999 MOTOR TOUR

ALL MOTELS HAVE ROOMS BLOCKED FOR THE ASSOCIATION
BE SURE TO MENTION THAT YOU ARE WITH THE ROUTE 66 MOTOR TOUR
ALL RESERVATIONS NEED TO BE MADE BY MAY 21, 1999 TO RECEIVE SPECIAL RATES

FRIDAY NIGHT JUNE 11TH

RED ROOF INN
7535 KINGERY HIGHWAY (RT.83 EXIT)
WILLOWBROOK, IL
630-323-8811
\$65.99 + TAX
25 ROOMS BLOCKED
GIVE THEM BLOCK #B167000294

BAYMONT INN
855 W. 79TH STREET
WILLOWBROOK, IL
630-654-0077
\$55.95 + TAX
30 ROOMS BLOCKED

SUPER 8 MOTEL
1301 MARQUETTE ST. (IL RT. 53)
BOLINGBROOK, IL
630-759-8880
\$50.00 + TAX
20 ROOMS BLOCKED

FAIRFIELD INN
820 W. 79TH STREET
WILLOWBROOK, IL
630-789-6300
\$80.95 + TAX
10 ROOMS AVAILABLE

SATURDAY NIGHT JUNE 12TH

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
130 OLSON DRIVE
LINCOLN, IL
217-735-5800
\$50.00 + TAX
70 ROOMS BLOCKED

SUPER 8 MOTEL
2809 WOODLAWN RD.
LINCOLN, IL
217-732-8886
\$59.88-\$65.88 + TAX
40 ROOMS-AVAILABLE

BUDGET INN (OLD DAYS INN)
2100 KICKAPOO ST.
LINCOLN, IL
217-735-1202
\$45.00 + TAX
40-45 ROOMS AVAILABLE

LINCOLN COUNTRY INN
1750 W. 5TH STREET
LINCOLN, IL
217-732-9641
\$38.95 + TAX
30 ROOMS AVAILABLE

COMFORT INN
2811 WOODLAWN RD.
LINCOLN, IL
217-735-3960
\$54.95 + TAX
CHECK FOR AVAILABILITY AFTER APR.30. THEY HAVE A WEDDING BOOKED ON 6/12.

SUNDAY NIGHT JUNE 13TH

FAIRFIELD INN
4 GATEWAY DRIVE
COLLINSVILLE, IL
618-346-0607
\$59.00 + TAX
40 ROOMS BLOCKED

SUPER 8 MOTEL
2 GATEWAY DRIVE
COLLINSVILLE, IL
618-345-8008
\$66.00 + TAX
50 ROOMS BLOCKED

DRURY INN
301 N. BLUFF RD.
COLLINSVILLE, IL
618-345-7700
\$66.00 + TAX
25 ROOMS BLOCKED

"ILLINOIS — WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."

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

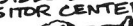
OLD 66 DISPATCH, Dec. 1998-Jan. 1999...

AND FINALLY, I MISSED MY SOLITUDE & I REALIZED THE ONLY WAY I COULD EMBARK ON THE GREAT PRIVILEGED OF WRITING A BOOK ON THE LIFE OF MY FATHER ED WALKWIRE, WAS TO MOVE BACK TO OUR FARM IN ILLINOIS. MY MOM WAS THERE WOULD NEED HER HELP TO WRITE THE BOOK...

AND THUS

THIS IS MY "FUTURE HOMESTEAD," ON THE EASTERN SLOPE OF THE CHIRICAHUA MOUNTAIN. THIS MOUNTAIN RANGE ENCHANTED ME ON MY VERY FIRST VISIT, DURING THE SUMMER OF 1966. IN SHORT ORDER, I DECIDED THIS WAS THE PLACE I WANTED TO "END UP" IN — TO RETIRE TO WHEN MY TRAVELLING DAYS WERE DONE. I RETURNED HERE SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE YEARS, MAKING FRIENDS, CAMPING, EXPLORING, DRAWING.

THE PURCHASE OF THIS 4-ACRE HOME WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SALE OF THE 66 VISITOR CENTER PROPERTY.



AFTER A FEW DAYS, IT WAS TIME TO PARK THE MUSTANG, PUT ITS CAR COVER ON, & HOP ON A GREYHOUND BUS BACK TO ARIZONA, TO RESUME SORTING & PACKING FOR MY BIG MOVE.

DRIVING THEM IN COLD WEATHER. AND THE
25 WINTERS OF SHIVERING I ENDURED HAS BEEN
MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR A LIFETIME).
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH, THE
HAPPIEST OF ALL CIRCUMSTANCES WAS A

...BOUT TO HAPPEN... (Continued on page 1)

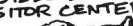
ONT.) NEV. UTAH

BENSON COX

MY CHIRICAHUA HOMESTEAD HAS "GUEST
QUARTERS" (1), & A WELL & WATER TANK (2).
BUT NO ELECTRICITY. SO THE PLAN IS TO CREATE
A SOLAR & WIND-GENERATED ELECTRICAL SYSTEM.
I WILL ALSO BE WORKING ON AN INTERPRE-
TIVE HIKING TRAIL & A CERT BOTANICAL GARDEN
& WILL NEED TO CONSTRUCT A BUILDING BESIDE
THE "GUESTS" TO HOUSE ALL MY STUFF. ONCE
I MOVE TO THE CHIRICAHUAS FROM ILLINOIS
AROUND 2002 - I'LL LIVE IN MY SCHOOL BUS.
I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO HOSTING A TRICKLE
RATHER THAN A FLOOD - OF VISITORS!

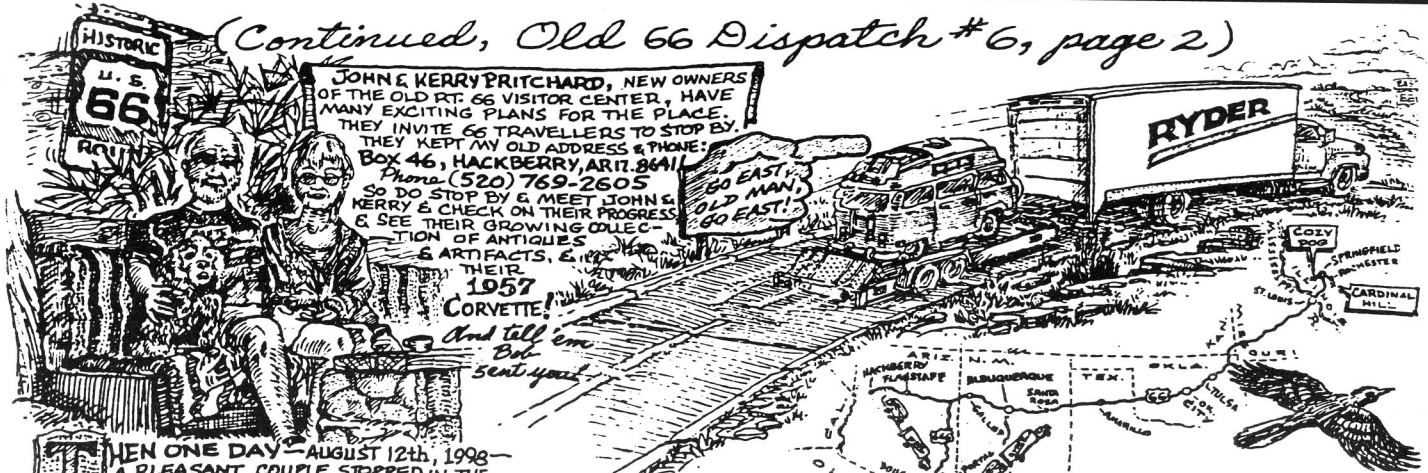
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THE PURCHASE OF THIS 4-ACRE HOME WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SALE OF THE 66 VISITOR CENTER PROPERTY.

[illegible]

PORTAL PEAK (8,544 FT.) LOOMS TO THE WEST IN THIS VIEW.

(Continued, Old 66 Dispatch #6, page 2)



THEN ONE DAY—AUGUST 12th, 1998—A PLEASANT COUPLE STOPPED IN THE VISITOR CENTER, & WITH SMILING FACES, TOLD ME THEY REALLY WANTED THE PLACE, AND SUDDENL, IT HAD HAPPENED! THE SALE—PURCHASE WAS NEGOTIATED, & WITH JOHN & KERRY SCHEDULED TO MOVE IN ON DECEMBER 1st, I COULD NOW PLOT OUT MY BIG MOVE ON THE CALENDAR.

THERE WAS MUCH TO DO—FIRST, TO GET MY BUS READY FOR ITS GREAT JOURNEY. THIS INVOLVED COMPLETING MANY PROJECTS, BOTH ON THE INSIDE & THE OUTSIDE OF THE BUS.

THROUGH THE SUMMER & FALL THE BUS WAS READY FOR HER TRIP. DON PEASE GOT RUNNING GOOD ENOUGH TO DRIVE DOWN TO KINGMAN, WHERE EXPERT MECHANIC RICHARD LUDINGTON GAVE THE BUS A THOROUGH GOING-OVER: NEW PLUGS & POINTS, NEW CARBURETOR, NEW BRAKE LINES & BRAKE CYLINDERS, NEW REAR AXLE SEALS, NEW COIL & HE FIXED THE HORN! (VERY IMPORTANT FOR A VEHICLE THAT DOES NOT STOP IN A SHORT DISTANCE.)

THEN ON SEPTEMBER 28th, AFTER A LAST-MINUTE BATTENING DOWN OF HATCHES, THE BUS RARED TO LIFE & HEADED EAST AS THE SUN SET.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF MANY GREAT STOPS, VISITS & ENCAMPMENTS WAS TO ARRIVE IN AMARILLO IN TIME FOR THE "66 EXPO '98" CELEBRATION. THIS GATHERING INCLUDED MANY "66 NOTABLES" FROM NEAR & FAR (TYGE JANTZEN & HIS SON CAME CLEAR FROM LUXEMBOURG)! THE EVENT WAS A GRAND REUNION & GREAT FUN. THE PRESTIGIOUS JOHN STEINBECK AWARD WAS PRESENTED TO TOM TEAGUE.

AT THE CLOSE OF THE EVENT I HEADED ON INTO OKLAHOMA, FOLLOWING JUST BEHIND A LINE OF EAST-BOUND TORNADOES & THUNDERSTORMS... THEN ONWARD TO ILLINOIS.

AS "D-DAY" (DEPARTURE DAY) DREW NEAR, WELL-WISHERS DROPPED BY TO SAY GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK, & I SAID MY GOODBYES TO A HANDFUL OF KINGMAN FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS. I WILL MISS THEM, TOO.

TO SHARE THE FLIN (& LOADING WORK) OF MOVING, I SCHEDULED A "GOING AWAY PARTY" FOR "BOB'S BIG MOVE," FOR DECEMBER 8th. (THE DAY AFTER I WAS TO PICK UP THE RYDER TRUCK & TRAILER IN KINGMAN). IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MOVE WITHOUT MUCH HELP. ONCE AGAIN BOTH DON PEASE & PAMELA LYALL ARRIVED TO HELP (DON FROM BELEN, NEW MEXICO & PAMELA FROM NORTHERN CALIFORNIA).

OTHER LONG-DISTANCE VOLUNTEERS WERE ED DITMER (WHO CAME FROM CALIF. IN HIS RESTORED & CONVERTED 1962 WHITE TRACTOR-TRUCK) & JEFF FERRELL, WHO CAME DOWN FROM FLAGSTAFF. SEVERAL LOCALS WHO DROPPED BY FOR THE "PARTY" HELPED LOAD THE TRUCK (Cont. next column)...

ALL WERE INDISPENSIBLE. HEROIC CHIRICAHUA EFFORTS WERE MADE, AND RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, ON THE EVENING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9th, AFTER GOODBYE HUGS WITH JOHN & KERRY & PAMELA (WHO STAYED ONE MORE DAY) & A QUICK LIGHT-CHECK, I HEADED EAST.

DON PEASE HAD LEFT THE VISITOR CENTER 6 HOURS AHEAD OF ME, HEADING FOR THE CHIRICAHUA WITH HIS FLATBED TRAILER FULLY LOADED. WE BOTH DROVE ALL NIGHT & RANDEZVOUS THERE THE FOLLOWING DAY.

AFTER UNLOADING 3,000 POUNDS OF MY STUFF THERE, DON HEADED ON HOME TO BELEN. I STAYED AN EXTRA DAY, RESTING UP & LUXURIATING IN MY NEW-FOUND FREEDOM. THEN, ONWARD TO ILLINOIS, WHERE I AM SETTLING IN, THAWING OUT AFTER SURVIVING THE GREAT BLIZZARD OF 1999. SO UNTIL NEXT TIME...

Sincerely, Bob Waldmire

What my new year holds for me:

1999 WILL FIND ME HERE IN ILLINOIS MOST OF THE TIME, GETTING STARTED IN CARNET ON THE BOOK. I PLAN TO MAKE A TRIP TO THE CHIRICAHUA SOMETIME THIS SUMMER, FOR PERHAPS A FEW WEEKS.

I WILL MAKE ANOTHER TRIP TO THE CHIRICAHUA THIS COMING WINTER. MY ROUTE FOR THESE TRIPS WILL BE (66) TO SANTA RITA, THEN SOUTH ON (66) ON TO (66) THROUGH ALAMOGORDO. IT'S A 1,450-MILE TRIP FROM ROCHESTER. MY NEXT "DISPATCH" WILL HAVE UPDATES ON THE BOOK & ON THE CHIRICAHUA HOMESTEAD.

THE BUS CROSSES THE FAMOUS CHAIN-OF-ROCKS BRIDGE, OVER THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AT ST. LOUIS. THIS BRIDGE, BUILT IN 1929, WAS CLOSED TO TRAFFIC IN 1968 (IT HAS TO HAVE CONNECTIONS).

THE BRIDGE IS BEING RESTORED & WILL BE A LINK FOR HIKING & BIKING TRAILS THAT LINE BOTH SIDES OF THE RIVER. IT WILL ALSO BE USED FOR NATURE STUDY & BALD EAGLE-WATCHING. IT IS AN IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR PRESERVATION & SURELY WILL ENCOURAGE & INSPIRE OTHER PRESERVATION EFFORTS.

IN MY "NEW LIFE AS AN EX-ICON" I WILL NOT ABANDON OLD RT. 66. I PLAN TO STAY INVOLVED PERIPHERALLY, AS AN ARTIST, ADVOCATE FOR PRESERVATION & FELLOW-66 TRAVELLER-EXPLORER.

SO YOU MAY FIND ME ALONG THE ROAD FROM TIME TO TIME, PERHAPS AT A 66 EVENT. AND IF YOU ARE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD, PLEASE FEEL WELCOME TO DROP BY FOR A VISIT. PLEASE CALL OR WRITE IN ADVANCE, & BEAR IN MIND I WILL BE (OR BETTER BE) BUSY IN THE MIDST OF WRITING A BOOK.

TILL THEN, MAY YOUR LIVES & TRAVELS BE SAFE & JOYOUS.

THE "ARCHIVES BUILDING" & "MY HOME'S TEMPORARY HOME" ON THE CARDINAL HILL FARM. THIS WAS THE LAST OF MANY BUILDINGS MY FATHER BUILT ON THIS FARM, WHICH HE PURCHASED IN THE 1950's. HE CALLED THIS THE "ARCHIVES BUILDING" BECAUSE ITS PURPOSE WAS TO PROVIDE A SAFE, WEATHER-PROOF & MOUSE-PROOF STORAGE FACILITY FOR HIS & HIS FAMILY'S IMPORTANT PAPERS & RECORDS. IT IS APPROPRIATE THE BOOK ON THE LIFE & TIMES OF BOB WALDMIRE WILL BE WRITTEN HERE.



WE (THE BUS & ME) ARRIVED IN ILLINOIS ON OCTOBER 7th. AFTER PARKING & SECURING THE BUS ON THE CARDINAL HILL FARM, I HOPPED ON A GREYHOUND BUS BACK TO ARIZONA, ARRIVING AT THE VISITOR CENTER ON OCT. 15th. I NOW HAD 6 WEEKS FOR FINAL SORTING & PACKING. BUT BEFORE BEGINNING, THERE WAS ONE LAST EVENT TO HOST: THE GREAT "66 QUEST," A TRAVELLING MUSICAL TOUR OF BRITISH MUSICIANS, WHO FLEW IN TO CHICAGO, BOARDED A CLASSIC 1954 SCENIC-CRUISER GREYHOUND BUS, & HEADED DOWN 66, PERFORMING ALONG THE WAY. THEY PLAYED AT THE VISITOR CENTER OCT. 19th—GREAT FUN WAS HAD BY ALL.

THEN, THE SERIOUS PACKING BEGAN. BOXED STUFF WAS STACKED IN TWO "PILES" ONE TO GO TO THE CHIRICAHUA & THE OTHER TO GO TO ILLINOIS. VISITORS CONTINUED TO STOP BY THROUGH NOVEMBER & INTO DECEMBER. I WAS ABLE TO ADD THE 62nd SPECIES TO MY LIST OF BIRDS WHEN A SMALL FLOCK OF TINY BREWER'S SPARROWS SHOWED UP. I WILL MISS THE BIRDS MOST. THEY HAVE BEEN MY CONSTANT COMPANIONS. IT IS HEARTENING TO KNOW THAT JOHN & KERRY PLAN TO CONTINUE FEEDING THEM.

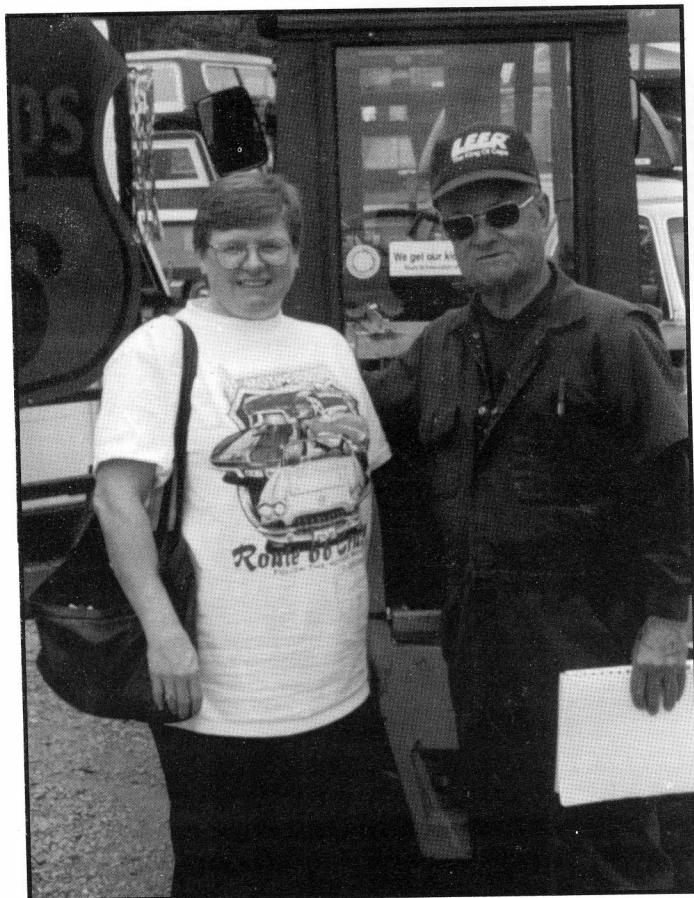
Bill Shea Update

By Tom Teague

Shea down, then up! It just wasn't Bill Shea's time to go. Even though it was his day off, bad weather took the Springfield Hall Of Famer down to his station-museum on Monday, December 21, 1998.

He wanted to make sure the snow plow blade for his pick-up was in working condition. When he found himself short on welding gas, he walked to a store across the street to get some. After a few moments of conversation, Bill suddenly grabbed the edge of a merchandise shelf, and said "Oh Hell!" and crumpled to the floor. His heart had stopped. One store employee gave Bill CPR while the other called 911. By coincidence, a fire department emergency crew was passing by after a call. They were in the store within a minute and a half and shocked Bill's heart back into action.

Hospital tests showed Bill needed triple bypass surgery. He underwent this the day after Christmas. He observed his 77th birthday in the hospital, but was able to go home the next day. For two weeks, he felt quite weak, mostly because he hadn't let doctors replace the blood he'd lost. But by the end of January 1999, he was ready to go back to the station. Except for the coughing that follows all heart surgeries, he says he never felt any pain. It just wasn't his time!



Some Jeff's You Should Know

by Frank Lozich

The Association has been very lucky to have dedicated volunteers and I thought that the time is right to pay a little tribute to a few in particular. They are our three Jeff's. The first Jeff to put his heart and personal time into the benefit of Route 66 here in Illinois is Jeff Meyer. Jeff is one of the founding members of the Association and has also been known as the original "Roadologist." Jeff Meyer also served as chairman of the Association's Merchandise Committee and always gave his undivided attention to help support your Association with selling merchandise at public events and on every Motor Tour. Although the Association's Board has voted to discontinue being involved in the merchandise business, we still want to give Jeff Meyer a big THANK YOU for his contribution to the Association. This year's Motor Tour will be the first one where Jeff will have a chance to cruise it and enjoy it instead of working it. During the Motor Tour, if you see a blue Buick cruising along 66 with the license plates that say MR RT 66, give him a honk and a wave. That is one of our Jeff's.

Another Jeff of interesting character is Jeff Geisler. Jeff Geisler is also a very active supporter of Route 66 here in Illinois. Jeff Geisler could usually be found busy helping Jeff Meyer on the Motor Tour selling merchandise or directing traffic. He's the Jeff you see with the amber yellow police light on the roof of his car during the Motor Tour. Jeff is also very active with the Preservation Committee and is an avid railroad buff as well. Let's give this Jeff a BIG THANKS as well.

I hope I don't cause any confusion, but we have one more Jeff to tell you about. And his name is Jeff LaFollette. And he is the Vice President and Motor Tour Chairman of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. Jeff and his lovely wife, Annette, have been active with the Association for about a good five years now. Talk about dedication, Jeff and Annette reside in Iowa and drive into Illinois often to attend meetings and to help in organizing your Associations' successful Motor Tours. Last October, Jeff was nominated and elected for the position of Vice President. The LaFollette's are also very active with the Preservation Committee. Jeff loves to cruise the Motor Tours in his metallic blue 1967 Ford Galaxie 500. You may see him off to the side of the road with his hood up looking like he is in trouble. Actually it's a trick to try to get you to pull over for a bit of friendly conversation.

Well, now that you have met "My Three Jeff's", let's give them a big cheer for their help and devotion to helping promote and preserve Route 66 in Illinois. Now I have to find out who will play Tramp the Dog, and who will be Uncle Charlie!

Preservation Committee Report

By John Weiss

The Preservation Committee of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois conducted a meeting on Saturday, November 14, 1998 at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight with 26 members and guests attending. Chairman John Weiss conducted the meeting.

John asked that the minutes of the last meeting needed to be approved. Dorothy Seratt motioned and Lenore Weiss seconded. Motion carried.

John reported on the Auburn brick road section and showed a book from IDOT containing letters, newspaper articles, etc. John also read a letter from IDOT acknowledging the Preservation Committee and its activities. Our plan for the road will cost 1.25 million dollars. Plans that John submitted have been implemented into planning by IDOT. Dorothy reported that if we had not gotten involved, the brick road may have been paved over.

John sent letters to the owner of Meramec Caverns in Missouri about the work the committee did to the barn near Cayuga. He read the letter he sent to Mr. Turelli, Jr. John received a response back from Mr. Turelli, Jr. of the Meramec Caverns. He was impressed with the job the Committee did and sent a check for \$500 to help pay for a sign or other preservation projects. The last time the barn was painted was in 1961. It was mentioned that Randy Wierzgac would be interested in making a Roadside Attraction sign for around \$50.

Jeff LaFollette motioned to have Randy do this and Lenore seconded. Motion carried. John has sent an article to three different newsletters about the barn restoration. All materials used in the restoration of the barn cost \$646. The amounts donated totals \$800. That creates an excess of \$154. This amount will be deposited with the special preservation project account.

A letter was read from Ann Hacker from ISHPA concerning the area near the barn. John sent a letter to IDOT regarding traffic and parking along the road by the barn. He received a letter back stating that his suggestion is being considered by IDOT at the present time. Discussion followed about safety concerns.

Terry Ryburn-LaMonte reported about a Route 66 tourism workshop in Bloomington, Illinois at the McLean County Courthouse on Saturday, November 21, 1998. There will be a Friday evening get together. Saturday will feature a National Register How To conducted by David Newton from the ISHPA. This workshop will also help with writing grant applications. The cost is \$15 per person for the workshop. Ollie Schwallenstecker and Larry Boyd volunteered to attend with admission being paid for by the Committee. Dorothy motioned for this and Marilyn Pritchard seconded. Motion carried.

A report was made about the Towanda gas station. What is history (?) and what can we do to preserve it? John also reported that a class at Normal Community High School has a grant to do a project on Route 66 between Lexington and Towanda.

Becker's Marathon, in Dwight...the owner Phil Becker contacted the Association and asked if it would like to have the station to make a museum or something out of it. He went to the town of Dwight and received no response. Discussion followed.

Bill Przybylski noted that Illinois has a law that requires that service stations with metal tanks must have them removed by January 1, 2000. More discussion followed. If anyone has any thoughts on this, please contact John.

Dorothy reported that she needs volunteers to write up nominations for the National Register. Gretchen Wendt will do Dell Rheas Chicken Basket and Larry Boyd will work on Becker's Marathon Station.

John reported that the town of Odell would like assistance from the Association to help clean and spruce up around the Standard Gas Station sometime in the Spring of 1999. Also, the people who own the property behind the station donated \$150 to help in the restoration. A sign has been installed at the site as well. Dorothy is looking for a Standard Oil sign. Roger Berta will look into getting an original sign or a reproduction. He has a handle on one in Seneca, Illinois.

It is estimated that it will cost \$5,000 to repair the roof of the station. The roof needs to be replaced soon. John has said that the Committee would help with a fund raiser, possibly a poker run or a 5K race.

Newsletter space could be provided to advertise this. Larry made a motion to proceed with this plan and Terri seconded. Motion carried. A tentative date of May 15 has been set for the fund raiser.

A letter was read by John from the daughters of the owner of Art's Motel near Divernon. They would like the Association to explore the possibility of using a half acre of land on their property for Association use. Discussion followed.

Newsletter Editor Randy Smith presented John a shirt with a before and after picture of the Meramec Caverns barn near Cayuga, and also stated that the photos would grace the back cover of the Winter 1998 Newsletter. John thanked Randy for this.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Preservation Committee will be here again at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight on Old 66 on Saturday, April 17, 1999. Dinner will be at 5:00 pm and the meeting is at 6:00 pm.

Fun Day On Route 66 – S.O.S. (Save Odell Station)

Saturday, May 15, 1999 • Odell, Illinois

by John Weiss, Chairman of the Preservation Committee

Here is your chance to cruise Route 66, the Mother Road, have loads of fun, help save the historic Standard Gasoline Station in Odell, possibly bring home an armload of goodies, and truly get your kicks on Route 66.

The town of Odell is trying desperately to save and restore their famous old Standard Gasoline Station. It is so original that it is listed on the National Register Of Historic Places. This is one of the most photographed structures on Route 66 here in Illinois.

We, the Preservation Committee of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois, have taken on the challenge to help raise some funds to turn this dream into a reality.

How can you help? That is easy! Come to Odell on May 15th, then cruise to selected locations along Route 66, draw a card at each place and see if you end up with one of the best poker hands. That's all there is to it.

Federal regulations for 1999 have caused most small Mom & Pop style gasoline stations to close forever. We intend to help restore this classic station so future generations can see and appreciate what gasoline service stations once were like. It will be restored to resemble how it appeared in 1939. This will attract tourism into town and that will also be very beneficial to Odell.

At this writing in late January, plans are still being formulated for this fun day, but much is already known.

Some awards will be in the form of rare Route 66 collectibles. Food and raffle tickets will also be provided



free with each poker hand you purchase. More food, raffles and souvenirs will also be available for sale. Additional drawings and awards will be given away. We know you WILL HAVE FUN!

All proceeds will go directly to the Odell Tourism and Community Development Board, a not for profit group formed in Odell exclusively to restore the old Standard Gasoline Station.

The hours for this fun filled day are tentatively scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We need you and anyone else you can get. This is a win-win situation. We will all have fun and accomplish something very worthwhile. So talk it up, encourage others to have a group outing and a great time!

Donations of all kinds are eagerly solicited. Items that can be used as awards will be greatly appreciated and noted. Cash donations are also encouraged.

If you enjoy Route 66 in Illinois, if you want to help create history, if you are at all nostalgic, please join in and help us.

You can call to receive fliers and entry forms for you and your group. Everyone is welcome. All kinds of vehicles are encouraged from roller blades to semis. You can participate even if you don't have wheels.

Call John or Lenore Weiss at 815-469-5219, or Dorothy Seratt at 815-998-2300. We look forward to hearing from you! WE NEED YOU, RAIN OR SHINE! (No rain date)

A Route 66 Moment In Time

by John Weiss

On December 16, 1998 we closed the door and turned off the lights at the old Inn of the Lamplighter in Springfield, Illinois. Then we stood back and watched as the once proud symbol of the Inn, the 58 foot observation tower, came unceremoniously tumbling down.

We watched as it tried to stay up, it fought the big crane. Deep down we all rooted for this tiny tower. It had stood watch over Route 66 for all these years. It wasn't going to give up without a fight.

Then, as it finally came crashing down, a remarkable thing happened. A box came out of the upper wall of the tower. It broke open like a time capsule. It did not belong there. It contained decorator gift boxes originally intended for the Gift Shop. The gold boxes were marked "Gift Shop at the Inn of the Lamplighter, U.S. Route 66 South (R.R. 4), Springfield, Illinois."

Yes, that old Inn was saying good bye, but it found a way of saying, "Don't forget me!"

Another moment, another time, another memory.

Some original postcards from the late 1970's have been salvaged. The photos on them date back to the 60's, but the address has been changed from Route 66 to I-55 in order to accommodate the elimination of Route 66 in 1977. The Inn itself closed in 1980.

A total of 5 original, different postcards and an Inn of the Lamplighter envelope can be purchased for \$12. This price includes shipping and handling. These are in perfect condition.

Also, we have ten NEVER USED and very rare printed gold gift boxes (12" by 12") from the gift shop (see paragraph above for info!).



One printed lid is \$25, with an unprinted bottom, at \$30. Please add \$3.50 for shipping and handling on these boxes. Checks should be made payable to "The Route 66 Association Of Illinois." All proceeds will go to the Preservation Committee account. Supplies are limited, and while they last! These items were recovered by John Weiss and are being donated to the Preservation Committee as a fund raiser for preservation projects on Route 66.

For other requests and information, write to Historic 66, P.O. Box 16, Frankfort, Illinois 60423.

Meramec Caverns Barn News

by John Weiss



Follow up on the Meramec Caverns barn project: The restoration of the Meramec Caverns Barn, north of Pontiac in the area of Cayuga, was reported in the last issue of The 66 News! Since then, two interesting events have occurred. Mr. Lester Tureli, Jr., owner of the Meramec Caverns in Stanton, Missouri, sent a very complimentary letter about our work on the barn and also donated a sizable check to be used for future preservation projects of our choice.

Also, the Illinois Department Of Transportation (IDOT) has informed us that in the year 2001, changes in Route 66 from a four lane divided highway to a two lane will take place at the location of the Meramec Caverns Barn. IDOT has acknowledged the fact that the barn is a tourist attraction. As a result, they will create a safe, 500 foot across pull off and turn around at this location, large enough for even tour busses! This is wonderful news. We truly appreciate the forethought of IDOT.

Hopefully, this will be only one of several roadside attractions we have in mind for visitors of Route 66 in Illinois.

Advertising In *The 66 News!*

by Randy Smith

Here in this issue are several proud businesses, some on 66, and some elsewhere near 66. All these fine people are our proud sponsors of this newsletter, and we wish to give them a welcome page to show how we appreciate their support! These ads are only \$10 so why not mail in your today, and we'll add you to this special page in every issue of *The 66 News!* We have other advertising rates for 1/4 page, 1/2 page, and a full page. Prices are on the bottom of page 2 with the Officers and Board Members page. I look forward to seeing YOUR ad next!



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Soulsby Station News

by Tom Teague

Dear Soulsby Society Friends,

1998 was a very good year for Soulsby Station and our Society. 1999 should be even better.

Early last year, we reached a sound, but simple working agreement with the station's new owner, Mike Dragovich. He would maintain the building. We would maintain exhibits and handle other improvements to make it traveler friendly. Together, we've made a good team.

- Mike has all the wood trim painted last Spring. He also fixed a section of sunken floor inside.
- Tom Flasch, Pat O'Neill and my wife and I took part in a clean-up weekend in early June of 1998.
- Randy Wierzgac made and installed a replica of the sign that hung between the canopy pillars of the station. We published a flyer.
- Later in the summer, Pat and Kelly O'Neill painted a picnic table that Mike had built.
- Ed Hickey brought an old gas pump down to Springfield for restoration.
- Bill Shea offered an old lubester for restoration.
- Brian Ferrier sold 20 of our T-shirts in Michigan!
- Rob McLean donated some great maps.
- The station and Russell were featured in the *Chicago Sun Times*.

At year's end, we had 26 members, \$1,000 in the bank, about 30 T-shirts in inventory and no debt.

On Sunday, June 13 of this year, the Route 66 Association's annual Motor Tour will make a stop at the Soulsby Station. I propose the following improvements by that time:

1. Refinish the grease rack. This just didn't get done last year. My hope this year is that Mike will have it sandblasted and Ed Hickey will paint it.
2. Fix or replace the pole sign in front of the station. The Fassero family, original gas suppliers to the station, have offered us the long term loan of a sign that could have stood at the station during the 1960's.
3. Hang more signs inside. Randy Wierzgac has two signs that he bought at the auction in 1997.

They relate to Russell's TV and radio business. He has offered to reinstall them if we'd like.

4. Install a restored gas pump or lubester out front. This



is the trickiest proposition. Jim Branham, our Springfield friend who offered to restore the Ed Hickey gas pump, finally determined the machine was just too far gone. He has offered to find us another one, though. If that doesn't pan out soon, I suggest we go with a lubester. I know we can get one of them. Then we could also clean up the pump that is still there from the station's last active days.

5. Spiff up the grounds.

On the day of the tour stop, I'd like to have a hospitality committee at the station. I'd also like to sell some merchandise, even if it's just the remainder of our T-shirts. Your suggestions in both areas are welcome.

As for the rest of the year, Dorothy Seratt has offered to assess what needs to be done at the station to get it on the National Register Of Historic Places. Eventually, I'd like to help Mike replace the ceiling and some of the interior walls. That could get complicated because Mike uses the inside of the station as a private office and we're a not-for-profit corporation. But we've figured everything else out so far. I don't know why we can't succeed here. It would make a first class attraction even classier.

Anyone interested in joining the Soulsby Station Society, please contact: Tom Teague, The Soulsby Station Society, 1208 W. Edwards, Springfield, Illinois 62704
Phone: 217-787-8839. E-mail: teague66@eosinc.com



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Metamorphosis

by Roxane
Renaud-Lozich

It was the opening weekend of the Route 66 Speedway! But for a small group of Illinois Route 66 Association members, it was a trip back in time. In the eerie silence of the Midewin Tallgrass Prairie a lone

red tail hawk greeted his guests with a brilliant display of his aerial skills. He glided serenely against the pale blue sky as concrete bunkers sprawled uniformly across the vast acreage below him. We were venturing over a land that bore the many facets of man's industrial revolution. A place where, at one time, Indians skillfully hunted bison across the unending prairie and where the first settlers battled the blazing sun of summer and winter's icy winds.

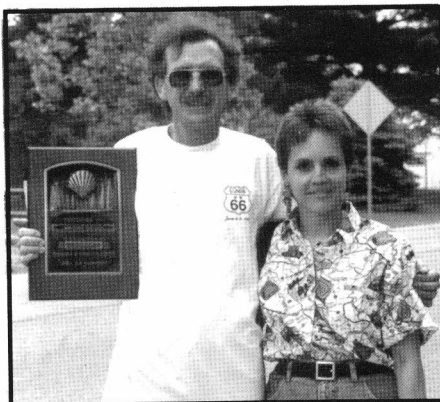
As we plunged deeper into the midst of the swaying grass, a feeling began to creep through the entire group, a feeling of being projected back into time where we were the sole inhabitants. With the sun beating down on us relentlessly, we strode amidst the endless rows of concrete "igloos" which once stored TNT and ammunition during the war years. This now quiet and desolate place was once the old Joliet Army Ammunitions Plant, also known as the Joliet arsenal, which produced weapons of destruction for the war effort.

Pat Thrasher, our guide for the tour, gave us a brief history of the arsenal during its years of operation. He told us how the arsenal peaked during the 1940's with the onset of World War II and how it was reactivated during both the Korean and Vietnam Wars with its ultimate cessation in the late 1970's. He then spoke of the future and how this expanse of

acreage will slowly transform into a land of peace and tranquillity, leaving behind its war related past. This brings to mind the word Midewin which is a Potawatami word meaning "a time of healing", and it is this healing that will bring forth new life and new meaning to our Midwestern heritage.

But unfortunately I realized at the end of this very informative and enjoyable tour was that there was no mention of the role that Route 66 played in all this activity. Route 66 not only extended right down the middle of the arsenal, it became the vital artery to its existence and in part to our country's.

Even with the passing of time as the once oiled gates and machinery began to creak, paint chipped and technology raced by, locals, tourists and those from foreign lands still travel Route 66 to reach their destinations as the arsenal slowly erodes in the background. As the future approaches and families gather to make their trek to the Midewin Tallgrass Prairie in the hopes of enjoying some precious time together amidst God's creations, it is Route 66 that they will venture on to reach a little bit of serenity.



Graham's Route 66 Exhibition 1999 Schedule

Below are the dates and locations of Shellee's well-known exhibits of Route 66. They include many photos and narrations. This exhibit has traveled all over the United States, so for you all that hasn't seen this fabulous exhibit, make a note on your 66 travels to stop by one of these many places to see it!

March 10, 1999 through April 7, 1999: Kansas State University, 301 Kansas State Union, Manhattan, Kansas 66506-2800. Phone: 785-532-6571

August 7, 1999 through September 4, 1999: Stoneridge Mall, One Stoneridge Mall, Pleasanton, California 94588. Phone: 925-737-4118

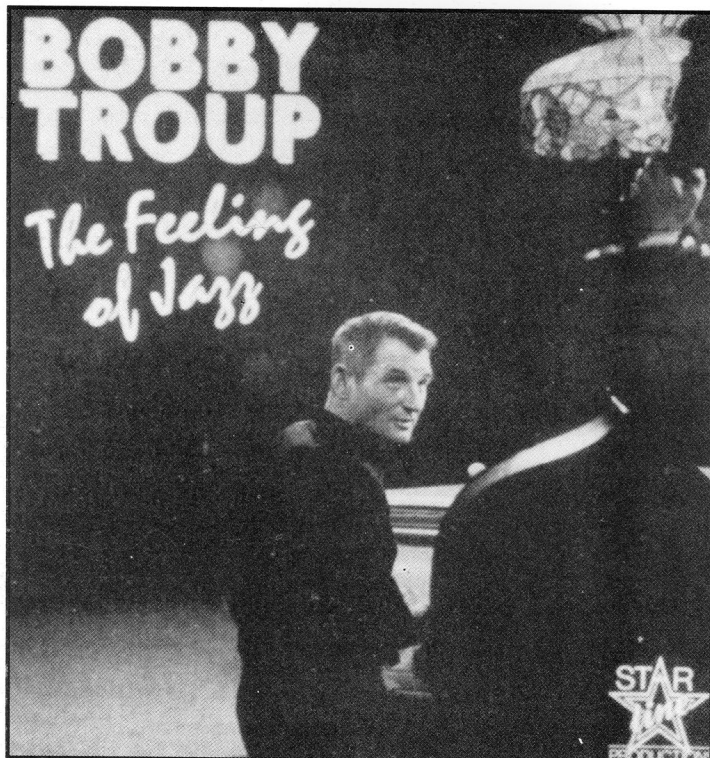
September 28, 1999 through November 8, 1999: Grout Museum of History & Science, 503 South Street, Waterloo, Iowa 50701. Phone: 319-234-6357

And for a SPECIAL ATTRACTION, you must see Coral Court...The No-Tell Motel. This is a new exhibit and will be running from September 1 through September 29, 1999 at: Componere Gallery, 6509 Delmar Blvd., University City, Missouri 63130 in the St. Louis area. Phone: 314-721-1181. It will be open on Friday, September 10 until 9 pm for the Missouri Route 66 Motor Tour participants. The gallery is directly across the street from Blueberry Hill. For more information, E-mail Shellee Graham at: shellee66@earthlink.net

In Memory Of Route 66

by Tom Teague

Route 66 lost its greatest gentleman and the one person most responsible for its becoming a legend when Bobby Troup died on February 7, 1999 this year. He was 80 years old and a longtime resident of Encino, California. He is survived by Julie London, to whom he was married for 39 years,

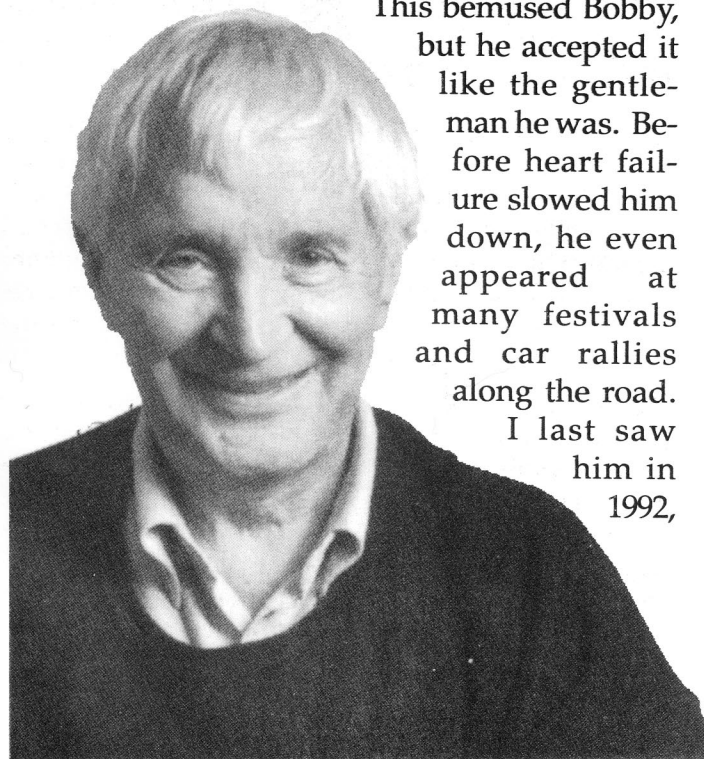


and six children.

The most frequent comment on all Route 66 memorabilia is "get your kicks" or some variation. The words come from Bobby's song. He always thought his first hit "Daddy" which topped the charts for nine weeks in 1941, would live the longest. But "Route 66" which he wrote in 1946, so well defined the dreams and possibilities of post-war America that it became an incidental anthem. Hundreds of artists, from Nat King Cole to the Rolling Stones, have recorded it. And from it came generations of hipsters and hippies.

Bobby preferred the life of a live performer. He was prouder of the jazz history series he hosted on PBS. He was probably best known for his role as Dr. Earley on the TV show Emergency. He even

got to say the last words in the movie M*A*S*H: "Goddamn army!" (I knew there was a reason I liked the man). But it was that one casual song, half of it written while driving through Illinois, that drew the most attention.



This bemused Bobby, but he accepted it like the gentleman he was. Before heart failure slowed him down, he even appeared at many festivals and car rallies along the road. I last saw him in 1992,

when we rode the merry-go-round together at the Santa Monica Pier in California.

As for hippies, Bobby's first wife, Cynthia Troup, should get the credit. She came up with the song's long title, "Get your kicks on) Route 66," while trying to rhyme something like "six." Later, Bobby needed a word to rhyme with "tip." Cynthia just twisted the pronunciation of the word "hep," which meant something like "cool." At the time, she thought she was forcing it, but boy did it work! Bobby's simple song named two generations. It inspired the TV series. And more than 52 years later, "Get your kicks" remain a byword for visitors from all over the world.

So long, Bobby. You took a right turn up to heaven, I'm sure. Someday, if I ever get off this road myself, I hope to meet you there.



Name These 66 Spots!

It's Springtime now, and time to get those classics and beaters out of storage and stroll on down the Mother Road to look for 66 goodies, like these two! The restaurant on top is NOT located on Route 66, and could take some global traveling to find where this is. The bottom photo I have warned you all about in the last issue of The 66 News. It is an abandoned bridge in the early days of 66 for a short period. It is here in Illinois, and it followed an earlier path of Route 4, which later became 66 and this was a short-lived section of the early road which has gotten passed up by every one of our Motor Tours, and I have NOT seen this abandoned bridge in any published book or other magazine. As you can see, it is one of those 1910 style concrete bridges, but this is the only one that has a big pipe running off to the left of it, and it dead ends in the woods to nowhere land! So let's get serious this time on your travels, and I hope to get a response to this finding, and if possible some more information on this early alignment of 66 that had a short life. Let's make it YOUR turn to get mentioned in The 66 News! Write to me at my new address on page 2. Until you guess this one, I will be looking forward to throw you all another challenging find, and we can have fun together traveling Route 66 here in Illinois, and get our kicks, too! (Editor)

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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

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Welcome, Our New Members!

by Jim Jones

Since the last issue of The 66 News, there has been 30 new members added to our growing membership in this top rated newsletter. Our new membership chairman, Jim Jones, has done an excellent job on this important function of Association business, and has kept up the database on a reliable backup system, and can run out a floppy disk quickly at will. Jim takes pride in a job well done, and this is a good motto for ALL of us in the Association to adhere to, and practice on. So let's welcome these spirited 66er's to the Route 66 Association Of Illinois and enjoy with us in our goal of promoting, preserving and enjoying Route 66 here in Illinois and throughout to California!

General Memberships are: (in Illinois) James E. Robinson, Viola; Mike McBride, Dixon; Mike Schafer, Lee; David A. Vasta, N. Riverside; Donavin S. Calmer, Woodhull; Roger C. Claar, Bolingbrook; Lola DeVore, LeRoy; Ted Geovanazzi, Frankfort; Rich Blaha & Vi Lipkowski, Darlen; Warren Dorn, Elmhurst; James Seay, Rantoul; Robert Tuskey, Downers Grove; Gerald Gall, Carol Stream; Lenny Scinto, Chicago Ridge; Patrick Orlowski, Burbank; Andrea & Teri Parker, Hometown; James G. Mullahy, Westmont; Don Spires, Mundalein; Rod & Linda Copeland, Prophetstown; Roy Schlosser, Robinson.

Out of state members are: Jerry Benner, Ferguson, Missouri; Robert Gehl, Wildwood, Missouri; Patrick Bremer, Indianapolis, Indiana; Robert Bowers, Newtown, Connecticut; Scott Piotrowski, Valley Village, California; Shirley Underwood, Pasadena, Texas; and one out of country member...Mr. Kay Koppehel, Pinneberg, Germany.

Three Business Members: (Illinois) Ev's Cottage Collectibles, Hodgkins; John Cobb, 3 "C" Company, Chicago; Nicky Stratton, Springfield CVB, Springfield.

There is one correction to make to the last issue of The 66 News. The names of Bill & Linda Thornburg were misspelled, and was Thornburg in the last issue. We apologize for this error. They were at the April 18, 1999 General Meeting, and it was nice to meet them and to welcome them to the Route 66 Association Of Illinois.

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Our Next Board-General Meeting

The next Board-General meeting of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be in the middle of Summer, on Sunday, July 18, 1999 at the Glades Restaurant. Glades is on Illinois Route 4 in Carlinville. Their phone number for more directions there is 217-854-5256. The Board Meeting will start at 11 am, with a break for lunch at Noon. Then the General Meeting at 1 pm, which will feature a program by the Macoupin County Historical Society. All members and the public are welcome to come to this meeting, learn more of what the Route 66 Association Of Illinois is currently doing, and meet new members.

Next Motor Tour Meeting

The last Motor Tour meeting was held Sunday, May 16, 1999 at the Mount Hope Township Hall in McLean, IL. It started at Noon. This was the last meeting before the Motor Tour.

Other Committee Meeting Info

At press time, no immediate meeting was set for the next Preservation Committee meeting, or the Finance Committee meeting. Current members of these two committees will get a letter or E mail later announcing times or dates later on.

John Weiss, Chairman of the Preservation Committee said for future information on their next meeting, just write, call, or E-mail him at his address on Page 2 of the At-Large members.

Minutes From the April 17, 1999 Finance-Board-General Meetings

There were three different meetings on Sunday, at Pour Richard's Cafe in Odell. At 10:00 am the Finance Committee met. At 11:00 am the Board meeting started. There was a break for lunch at Noon. Then at 1:00 pm the General meeting got underway.

At the Board meeting, it was approved to give our Membership Chairman Jim Jones the OK to mail out an estimated 400-500 renewal notices to members that have not renewed yet. It was also mentioned that after 30 days of the person receiving the notice, if they have not renewed then we will have to start removing names from the mailing list as it can get expensive to mail out that many newsletters, not to speak of printing as well.

The minutes of the last Board-General meeting were approved that was in the Spring issue of The 66 News.

Marty Blitstein opened up a Savings Account as a separate thing, to put money in there for the Newsletter and its related costs, so it can be there and up front at all times when the bills come due, and hopefully be able to pay them in a more timely fashion. Marty also reports we have about \$10,000 worth of merchandise on hand to dispose of. Dorothy mentioned we will try to sell as much of it as we can during the Motor Tour.

continued on next page

Meeting Minutes from April 17, 1999, continued

Jim Jones mentions we have over 1100 members, but that can change after 30 days of mailing out those renewal reminders to those that have not renewed. It was approved by the Board to have Jim mail out some 400-500 renewal reminders to those that have not renewed their membership yet. They will have 30 days to do so before we start to delete names from the membership list. Jim also passed out a membership list to all the Board Members that had the members in their own counties, for their general reference.

Attendance at the Finance Committee meeting was about 15 people, the Board meeting had around 38, and the General meeting had about 48.

Motor Tour Chairman Jeff LaFollette gave his report, mentioning the starting point change from the Navy Pier to Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket in Willowbrook, due to insurance problems with the Navy Pier. He mentioned that they mailed out Motor Tour flyers to about 96 non-members that have attended one of our tours before.

Jeff LaFollette also mentioned a joint effort by the Missouri & Illinois Route 66 Associations of a possible deal to get both of us to start our Motor Tours together at the same time, where-as ours would start from Chicago, and theirs would probably start from near Kansas and both of us would schedule the two Tours to join together at the Chain Of Rocks Bridge as the ending point for us both! This would be a fantastic idea, as well as a first in a joint adventure on 66! It would surely bring a major amount of publicity and attendance as well. It would be to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Route 66 for the year 2001. The Board voted the OK for Jeff to check into all these plans as a possibility to happen.

John Weiss mentioned about the original Route 66 sign that the Preservation Committee has to raffle off. He mentioned to the Board that it would be a good idea to have a separate raffle for this original sign at the Motor Tour Banquet, so that all the Motor Tour people, and all other members of the Association can have an equal chance at getting this sign, and he mentioned the only stipulation is that all proceeds need to go to the Odell Station restoration project. The Board gave an unanimous approval to this idea!

The General meeting started at 1:00 pm. It was voted on to vacate the Montgomery County Board position for the remainder of the summer until the Elections in October.

The By-Laws Committee, hosted by Lou VanDiver presented the new, updated By-Laws. There were a lot of major changes to it entirely, and re-worded much differently from the last half a dozen old ones that were never properly approved by the Board for the constant changes that were made to them unapproved. Now, we have a whole new updated and polished edition that took about a half hour to go over, and was unanimously approved by ALL members! Later on, we will have the corrected set printed for all Officers and Board Members to obtain.

John Weiss mentioned the May 15, 1999 plans for the Odell Station fundraiser in detail, like he did at the Preservation Committee meeting on April 17. He encouraged all of us to come and be a part of this monumental dream that will surely succeed and come true!

Frank mentioned the four new Hall Of Fame members for this year. They are all featured in this issue. The Motor Tour Banquet will be at the Knights Of Columbus Hall in Lincoln.

Tom Flasch gave his report on the Association's Web-Site, which is www.il66assoc.org and that changes can be made and was open for suggestions from members that would like to see something posted on it. He mentioned Steve Look too, as being the one to secure the site and get us started on it.

To end the meeting, there was a nice presentation from Robert Jones, from the Illinois State Police on stories of patrol on Route 66 here in Illinois, from the 30's up to today. He mentioned all kinds of situations that arose on the Mother Road, and all the pursuits that were remembered, and Chester Henry was having a great time reflecting back on his own memory of being a State Trooper on Route 66 here in Illinois. It was very informing, and we gave him a big hand of applause.

Editor's note...Randy wrote these minutes for this issue since we were pressed to get this issue out before the Motor Tour, so they had to be done earlier. We will get a minutes report sent out by mail later from our secretary, Marilyn Pritchard, which that will be the official minutes once they are out later.

Finance Committee Notes

Marty Blitstein presented two nicely detailed statement sheets on all our current finances. We are still in the black, but not by much. That will improve later on in the year. There were about 8 or so bills that were approved to be paid, including \$300 to Frank Lozich for his paying a tax form 990EZ. Also, it was approved to order the window stickers and an Odell Station metal plate, the size of a business card as well as 200 T-shirts for the Motor Tour. Your Newsletter Editor Randy Smith has been added to the members of the Finance Committee.

Nominating Committee for Fall

The Fall Elections are only a few months away, in October. Here below are the names of who is on this Committee this year: Gretchen Wendt, Linda Henry, Paul Gleason, and your Newsletter Editor Randy Smith. Jeff Geisler is the Chairman of this group. If you are looking to run for a Board Member, Officer, or At-Large position here in the Route 66 Association Of Illinois then look them up to get in touch to have your name put on the ballot. Their addresses are on page 2, except for Jeff Geisler, which his address is: 814 West 61st Street, LaGrange Highlands, Illinois 60525. Phone: 708-354-8746

Motor Tour Meeting, March 21, 1999 at McLean, Illinois

by Marilyn Pritchard

Seventeen members and one guest met at Mt. Hope Township Hall in McLean on Sunday, March 21, 1999. Chairman Jeff LaFollette conducted the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Discussion on the Pre-Tour Party and Saturday starting point. George Leone had contacted some place in Lyons and also Berwyn. They offered a sit-down meal for \$16. with 2 meats/ dessert & drink and would need advance reservations. Jeff LaFollette checked with Del Rhea's Chicken Basket...they would reserve a room for 70 people. You may order from their menu and possibly have a tent. Open cash bar from 5-8 pm.

A motion was made by John Weiss and was seconded by Durelle Pritchard to have Friday evening party at the Chicken Basket. 4 members voted for the Chicken Basket and 2 for Berwyn. A motion was made by George Leone that Berwyn be the starting point at 8:00 am Saturday with breakfast on your own and seconded by Duke Cartwright. It was a tie vote, so with some discussion, Durelle Pritchard changed his vote to start Saturday in Berwyn. Chairman Jeff LaFollette was glad that the Tour will start in Cook County. Berwyn will have police escort.

John Weiss announced Wilmington is ready for the Tour and will have their own goodie bag.

Cheri Lambert (CEO) of the Pontiac Chamber Of Commerce presented Pontiac's Lunch Stop. Nearly all plans are finalized and will have their own goodie bag.

McLean Historical Society in Bloomington will have an added attraction; Shellee Graham's Traveling Post Card Exhibit "Return To Route 66."

A motion was made by George Leone and seconded by Ernie Edwards to ask book authors if they would like to donate one of their books for a raffle item. All members were in favor.

Jeff reported that 24 Special Event license plates are left to purchase.

Marty reported that he received \$475. from Lou VanDiver for the Motor Tour and one membership.

Marilyn reported that \$590. had been spent on window stickers, dash plaques and flyers for this year's Tour.

A motion was made by Lenore Weiss and seconded by Annette LaFollette that the raffle be held at the Banquet after the Hall Of Fame Ceremony. All members were in favor.

The Preservation Committee has acquired an original Route 66 road sign (shield) which may be a separate raffle. George & Duke will be in charge of this raffle. Paul Gleason will get the license for the raffles in Lincoln. It was suggested that a copy be made for the Secretary and President.

Theresa questioned where the money goes for ads in the Passport. Marty receives it. Marilyn reported that she has

collected \$650. worth of ads for the Passport.

Theresa said whatever number for the Banquet turned in is what we pay for. They will have round tables and 8 may be seated at each. She also asked about the Logan County Postcards. She would take Elkhart, Lincoln & Atlanta. Ernie Edwards would take 318 Broadwell cards. Maybe Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket would buy theirs.

Marty said he has 10 books of John Weiss and 18 books of Tom Teague; 15 are the 1st printing, and 3 are second printing. Marty also mentioned that all members should be honored for whom all participated on all 10 Motor Tours.

Two motions were made by Finance Committee members present: Frank Lozich made a motion and was seconded by Duke Cartwright that Frank contact postal annex that Lou VanDiver will receive Tour information. All Finance Committee members approved.

Jeff LaFollette made a motion and was seconded by George Leone that Jeff send out Tour information to non-members from 1997 & 1998 Tours.

Marilyn will notify Litchfield Chamber Of Commerce about maybe having the Saturday afternoon Association Picnic at the Sky View Drive In, and in the evening watching a movie sometime in the year 2000.

Board Members & Officers requested no seating arrangement at the Hall Of Fame Banquet.

Discussion on the year 2000: Rialto Theatre is reserved and will hold a 15 to 30 minute musical for \$4. around 3:30 pm on Sunday. Litchfield Drive In will observe their 50th Anniversary, and we may possibly stop there to have coffee and donuts. A motion was made by John Weiss that in the year 2000 the Tour travel the new alignment from South to North, and this was seconded by Ernie Edwards. Motion carried. Edwardsville will be the Tour starting point for that year.

The Tour of year 2001 is in the planning stage with Missouri and Kansas 66 Associations'. People and towns involved are Dan Harlow, Scott Nelson from Kansas, Bob from Missouri, the City of Madison, Edwardsville and Collinsville. It will also be the 75th Anniversary of the Mother Road, built in 1926.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm. Thanks to Marilyn Pritchard for doing such a great job on collecting notes about this meeting! (Editor)



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Important Motor Tour Update

by Jeff LaFollette

The 1999 Motor Tour is coming up fast and there are a couple of changes that all of you that are planning to attend need to know about.

First of all, we will have the pre-tour party at Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket in Willowbrook on Friday, June 11, 1999 from 5-8 pm. Registration and goodie bag pickup will be going on there. Also there will be Route 66 authors to visit with as well. They will have copies of their books to sell and autograph. You may order dinner off the menu as well. We will have a room reserved or you can eat in the dining area. Say hi to Patrick Rhea if you see him working around the restaurant.

Secondly, and this is the biggest change of the tour...we will NOT be starting from the Navy Pier in Chicago. Due to insurance problems at Navy Pier, and road construction at the Ogden Avenue bridge in Cicero, Saturday mornings starting point will be in Berwyn, but you can register down the road at the White Fence Farm in Romeoville. We will leave from Berwyn at 8:00 am sharp. We thank George Leone for his efforts in coordinating this with the city of Berwyn with such short notice. We also thank the city of Berwyn and Pat Rhea from the Chicken Basket for allowing us to kick off our 10th annual tour at their locations.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call Jeff LaFollette at 319-893-6653 for answers or more information.

The Route 66 Association Of Illinois Web Site

Here is the latest home for the Web Site for our Association. So for all of you with computers and an ISP hook-up, here is the one and only place to keep up with what's going on with our Association. <http://www.il66assoc.org/> I think the other place to possibly look into is www.illinois66.com

Many thanks goes to Stephen R. Look for securing the site, getting it registered, and advertised. Tom Flasch is handling the day to day Web upkeep. Both of these fine 66 fans have put a lot of hard work and effort in such a project, and it also keeps us in pace with thinking ahead for the 21st Century as the year 2000 comes upon us. So we now have a home on the Web (Internet) and can look forward to more advertising for our great Association that we have, and with the Web Site, it is possible to get some more new members from around the World to join as surfers look for us via a computer. So for those of you that do not have a computer yet (Editor's note...I have four!) it is now time to get out that plastic credit card or take the hammer to the kid's glass piggy bank, count those copper coins and get to the stores and order your dream system today! With the Route 66 Association Of Illinois extending its hard surface globally, there's no excuse now to NOT have a computer! See you all on the Internet! (Editor)

Elections Time!

This coming Fall, there will be several positions in the Route 66 Association Of Illinois that will be up for re-elect or to be elected. There will be more information in the upcoming Fall 1999 issue. Here below are some of the positions that will be voted on at the October 17, 1999 Board-General-Elections meeting...

President, held by Frank Lozich.

Secretary, held by Marilyn Pritchard.

Corresponding Secretary, held by Dorothy Seratt.

And from the Board Members (Counties) list are...

Cook, held by George Leone.

Will, held by Duke Cartwright.

Grundy, held by Ray Starks.

Logan, held by Paul Gleason.

Montgomery, held by Priscilla Mathews.

Also, there are three At-Large positions up for grabs...

1. Held by Ray Rueck. 2. Held by Chester Henry.

3. Held by John Weiss.

So for all of you that are interested in running against one of these fine 66 people, or to go for a position that they do not run again for, it is your chance to step up in helping the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. We are looking for dedicated, hard working volunteers that want to help us grow in strength and ideas. Working together is a must! Here lately, this has been a changing Association that has a lot going for it, and if you feel that you can fit in with teamwork, then call a member of the nominating committee or write Jeff Geisler (Page 4), and let him know what you want to go for. He'll get you on the list, and we'll keep this list going up to the Election Day this Fall.

Shellee Graham's Exhibit Schedule

For those into 66 art, you can't beat the Route 66 Photo Exhibit that Shellee Graham has. This exhibit has traveled all over the United States, and along communities on Route 66. Even during our Motor Tour this year, it will be in Bloomington so you can feel like you're getting a bonus out of your trip! Take a look below to see where the schedule might suit your traveling needs on Route 66, and look forward to seeing you at one of these showings!

June 8 to July 6, 1999: McLean County Historical Society, Bloomington, IL; Phone: 309-827-0428

August 7 to September 4, 1999: Stoneridge Mall, Pleasanton, CA; Phone: 925-737-4118

September 28 to November 8, 1999: Grout Museum of History & Science, 503 South Street, Waterloo, IA; Phone: 319-234-6357

February 2000: Peninsula College, Port Angeles, WA; Phone: 360-417-6393

You can also check the Exhibit Touring Service web page for the Route 66 Exhibit at www.visual.arts.ewu.edu/ets/304sum.html

Mark Your Calender...

Some Events This Year On Route 66 In Illinois...

July 10-11, 1999 in Willowbrook: The Cruisin' 66 Festival. This is a community festival with a car show and what nots.

July 24-25, 1999 in Lexington: This is one of your Editor's favorites, and that is the Taste Of Country Fair-Route 66 Reunion. They have an antique car show on the 24th, and there are about one mile of booths and craft tables to look over and other activities.

September 17-19, 1999 in Dwight: Harvest Days. Another great community get-together for all kinds of activities, booths, crafts, etc.

Our Summer Picnic!

The annual picnic of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be held on Sunday, September 12, 1999 at Noon. The location is in Atlanta at the Park. This is the same site of the 1996 picnic. Hope to see you all there for some good 66 fellowship!

Other picnic news...it was also approved by the Board to see if we can check into having the year 2000 picnic a little earlier, July 16, 2000 on a Saturday at the Litchfield's Sky View Drive In, and possibly stay to see a movie later that same day when it gets dark, for those that want to stay all day. This will be a first for having the picnic in the Summer instead of in the Fall. All will depend on getting the OK from the Drive In, and then we will pursue the plans in full. We'll keep you all posted on this in *The 66 News!*

See Historic WILMINGTON

by Marvett Minnick

"Discover the best kept secret in Illinois!" – Enjoy the quaint atmosphere of our 12 antique shops and malls, all located on Water Street. Spend the day strolling through our historic buildings filled to the brim with glassware, pottery, jewelry, toys, advertising items, collectibles, and quality American and European furniture.

Most stores are open 7 days a week, from 10 am to 5 pm. For information, call 815-476 5061. We are located south of Joliet, at the intersection of old Route 66 and Route 102.

The Route 66 Motor Tour will be stopping in Wilmington in June, 1999. So why not take this opportunity to load up on some souvenirs and collectibles while you are enroute to the west! Make it a more enjoyable trip by visiting with us as you go by. See you on the Tour!

sponsored by the Wilmington Area Antique Dealer Association

A History Lesson

by John Weiss

Last summer while investigating some history on Route 66, I spoke on the phone with an old timer. His name was "Farmer" Glasscock. This is a name well known around Will county because of his popular farm produce stand.

Well, Farmer Glasscock couldn't answer the questions I had at the time, but he was a storehouse of additional information. He invited me over to see his old photos of the area on Route 66 and tell me more. I was really excited about this great opportunity, but I was too involved with other projects at the time. I would make it a point to interview him later.

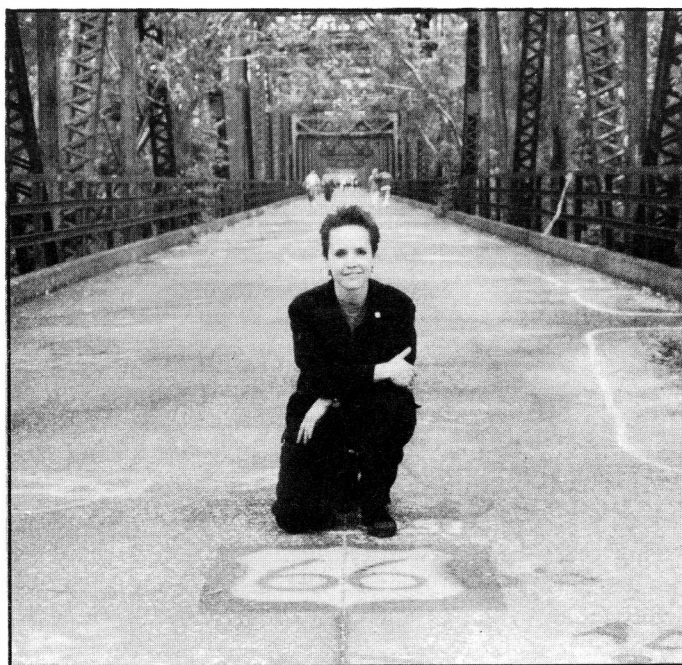
In March of 1999, Farmer Glasscock, age 82, died. Along with him went stories and memories that only he could provide.

We need your help! We need people to go out and interview these old timers. We need a crew who likes to talk and find roadside history fascinating. Most everyone will agree that someone should do something to save these memories. Well, don't be the one to say it, be the one to DO it!

Time is our enemy! If we don't act now, so much will be lost. For this is not something you can buy in an antique shop, this is life itself. These stories represent what we once were, and what we have become.

We need a crew armed with tape recorders. What we will ultimately do with this information is irrelevant at this time. The most important thing is that we get started NOW!

If you are interested in forming this Preservation crew, just call me at 815-469-5219, or write me at 21149 Hillside Rd., Frankfort, Illinois 60423. It doesn't matter where you live. This is history in its truest form.



Route 66 Hall Of Fame

by Tom Teague

This year's new Hall Of Fame members...a movie palace, a gas station, a restaurant, a flower market and the families who built them all show the great variety of commerce and culture that made Route 66 such a special road. They will be inducted at the Motor Tour banquet on June 12 in Lincoln.

The Association, with Dixie Truckers Home, established the Hall Of Fame in 1990. It has since become the most visited Route 66 attraction in Illinois, if not the entire country. True, a great many visitors are just passing through on their way to somewhere else. But that fits in with the spontaneous nature of Route 66 travel. Once they're in our hallway, something always catches their eye. And we do it all for less than \$2,000 a year.



**Route 66
Hall of Fame of Illinois**



**The Rialto Square Theater
Joliet, Illinois
Since 1926**

**Inducted June 12, 1999
Route 66 Association of Illinois**

The Rialto Square Theatre, Joliet

Nominated by Jim Hardy and John & Lenore Weiss

The Rubens brothers built the Rialto in 1926 as a "palace for the people." Its cost was \$2 million. The inner lobby is modeled after the Palace of Versailles. The arch that opens onto the rotunda is a copy of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. In the rotunda itself, eighteen Corinthian columns surround the Duchess, a 5,000 pound chandelier with 250 lights. In the showing room, hints of Italian Renaissance, Roman, Byzantine, Rococo, Venetian and Baroque architecture abound. Its beauty so moved Liberace when he performed there that he said, "At last! A theatre to match my wardrobe."

The Rialto also featured a Barton Grand Organ and fans blew over huge blocks of ice to cool the air. But the theatre fell prey to changing tastes and times and in the 1970's, a proposal was made to tear it down and replace it with a parking lot. But local schoolteacher Dorothy Maverich led a drive to save it. In 1981, after a \$6 million restoration, it reopened to the public. A separate club restored the organ. The theatre now hosts nearly 100 concerts, movies and community events a year, plus many private receptions. A dedicated corps of 350 volunteers help host events and guide tours.

Bob Johnson and his Brandtville Restaurant, Bloomington

Nominated by Terri Ryburn-LaMonte

Bob Johnson's business career began during high school and college when he ran a popcorn stand near downtown Bloomington. In 1950, he skipped his last year of college and bought a Baker's Hamburger Inn, a cafe on City 66, instead. The former owner promised to stay with him a month. But he was gone by the second day...before Bob even knew how to make a pot of coffee. He learned by doing, though, and ran the cafe successfully for seven years.

In 1957, sensing that traffic was shifting from City 66 to the beltline, Bob leased the Brandtville Cafe at the corner of Routes 150 and 66. He specialized in broasted chicken and put a large fiberglass chicken on his front roof to draw customers in. For many years he catered primarily to truckers, although such celebrities as Louis Armstrong also stopped there. Its truckers' specials were also popular with area college students. But when construction of I-55 started, he started to develop his town trade through such promotions as free late night coffee and Christmas dinners. He retired in 1984, still a young man. His motto then, as always, was "Take care of them, 'cause they'll be back."



**Route 66
Hall of Fame of Illinois**



**Bob Johnson, Owner & Operator
Brandtville Restaurant
Bloomington, Illinois
Founded 1957**

**Inducted June 12, 1999
Route 66 Association of Illinois**

The Class Of '99 is Classy

Myron FitzHenry, FitzHenry Oil Company, Joliet

Nominated by Janis Puddicombe, his daughter

Myron FitzHenry left the family farm in Lewistown, Illinois, in 1930 to start FitzHenry Oil Company, Joliet's first cut-rate gas station. His father said, "You'll come crawling back." But Fitz, as his customers came to call him, knew that automobiles were here to stay and Route 66 was where they traveled. He built his own station, painted it a bright red and white, and topped it off with the word "BONDED" in three-foot high letters. At the north end of the property, also red and white, he built the Bonded Cafe, a diner with a counter and six booths.

Fitz believed that good service was as important as fair prices. As soon as a car drove in, employees were instructed to be on the driveway and be polite. He hand delivered monthly statements to his large accounts. Valuing a neat appearance, he wore a khaki uniform and black ties with coveralls on top and gloves to keep his hands clean.

During Route 66's prime, Fitz pumped 160,000 gallons a month. I-55 bypassed him, but truck scales he'd installed in 1959 helped keep his trucking customers loyal. He finally retired in 1984 after more than 53 successful years in business. He sold the station to Paul Toth, a longtime employee. Paul added two service bays and specialized in car repairs. In 1998, he sold the business to his nephew, Dave Haake. Dave uses the same counter and roll top desk that Fitz did and hopes to restore the station to its original condition.



Route 66
Hall of Fame of Illinois



**Myron FitzHenry, Owner & Operator
FitzHenry Oil Company
Joliet, Illinois
Established 1930**

**Inducted June 12, 1999
Route 66 Association of Illinois**



Route 66
Hall of Fame of Illinois



**Casey's
Bloomington, Illinois
Since 1949**

**Inducted June 12, 1999
Route 66 Association of Illinois**

Casey's Market and Garden Center, Bloomington

Nominated by Mary Lou Mercier

Eldon "Casey" Casebeer bought a fruit stand at the corner of North Main and Kelsey in Bloomington in 1949. Soon it became a full-fledged neighborhood grocery. Aware even then of the threat of chain stores, Casey was always looking for the competitive edge. He was the first area business besides Dairy Queen to sell soft serve ice cream. Fruit baskets and other produce became a specialty. At Christmas time, he sold trees and giant red bows. And as other mom & pop stores were closing down, he became the city's first 24 hour grocery store.

The flower business started simply. Customers so admired the store's rose bushes so much that employees cut the flowers off and sold them. In the early 1960's, Casey bought a lot behind the store and opened a seasonal garden shop. In 1968, he sold the grocery so he could focus on the garden shop as a year-round business.

Casey's daughter Alice Jayne and her husband, Ray Lartz, worked with Casey for many years. In 1972, a few months before Casey's death, they bought the store from him. They continue to operate it today with their son, Casey Lartz.

Preservation Committee Report

by John Weiss

The February 20, 1999 meeting of the Preservation Committee of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois netted a total of 39 members! It was held at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight, Illinois. Attended were: John & Lenore Weiss, Bill & Barb Gwodz, Frank & Bonnie Kalembe, John & Marge Hettwer, John & Loyce Stonecipher, Larry & Gretchen Boyd, Marilyn & Theodore Giovanazzi, Larry & Ann Scinto, Lenny & Dolores Scinto, Roger Berta, Greg Anderson, Jeff Meyer, Gerry Gall, Lauren & Brett Gall, Terri Ryburn-LaMonte, Bill Sanders, Marilyn & Durelle Pritchard, Jeff & Annette LaFollette, Bill & Theresa Przybylski, Dorothy Seratt, Gretchen & Paul Wendt, Frank & Roxie Lozich, Marie Jibben, and your Newsletter Editor Randy Smith.

Extra newsletters and Association brochures were distributed by Randy Smith for others to distribute in their communities.

The minutes were approved as received, motion made by Jeff LaFollette and Barb Gwodz seconded.

It was reported that Bill Shea is improving from his heart attack. Perhaps some members may want to send him a card. Also reported that Bobby Troup, author of the Get Your Kicks On Route 66 song, died on February 8, 1999.

A request to submit a petition to "Restore the Pullman Clock Tower" after the fire was signed by members as well as individual post cards distributed to send to Pullman with the same request. The Florence Hotel, across the street from the Clock Tower and Factory, is open, has a Sunday brunch



available, offers free mini-tours of the hotel and is on the National Register Of Historic Places.

A request for help from the Preservation Committee was received to help save the Old Route 66 bridge (1926-1930 alignment) just south of Carlinville. John & Lenore Weiss drove there to take photos and record the necessary information of this 1920 bridge and will submit the application for the National Bridge Survey. John suggested for residents to attach letters to the application of reasons to save the bridge.

Midewin requested help by writing a letter concerning an environmental waste dump. We responded on behalf of the Preservation Committee.



Meramec Caverns Barn Update: John read a brief letter from IDOT regarding closing southbound lane of Route 66 by the barn near Pontiac. After being made aware of the many tourists that stop there, IDOT wrote back and said they plan to have a parking area, a median crossover to the parking area and an 80 degree turn-around for buses, tourists, etc. to continue to enjoy the historic barn. This is scheduled for the year 2001. This barn story will be published in the flier provided by Pontiac for the Motor Tour.

Rich Henry and his father-in-law will look into restoring the Meramec Caverns barn in Hamel.

Marilyn Pritchard reported that the original Steak & Shake site in Normal may be torn down.

Preservation Committee Report, continued

John gave a report on the demolition of the Inn Of The Lamplighter. Thanks to Bill & Theresa Przybylski for bringing a TV-VCR, and a 15 minute video of the death of the Lamplighter tower as well as some brief television news versions of John trying to save the tower was shown. John explained about post cards and various other mementos he saved from the Lamplighter. He also salvaged very rare gold gift boxes with the name, Route 66 address on them. They will be donated for preservation funds and the Odell fundraising project. Also, postcards, envelopes, etc. and 50 different post cards were donated by John and will be sold with funds going towards our preservation funds account. They will be sold \$5. cheaper than suggested price of sale to Preservation members.

National Register Of Historic Places. Larry Boyd is working on the Marathon Station in Dwight and is still trying to get information from Phil Becker. He will follow up. Larry Boyd is still doing a follow up on R & M's in Wilmington. John reported that the train depot in Wilmington may be purchased by Marge Bell and moved across the tracks to a permanent location to be developed into a mini-mall. Marge, owner of the Mill Town Market, will also look into getting the depot placed on the National Register Of Historic Places. Dorothy Seratt will contact her and offer the help of the Preservation Committee. Gretchen Wendt informed us that the Chicken Basket no longer wants to be placed on the National Register due to plans to remodel.

Roger Berta informed us there are no reproductions of a hanging Standard sign for the Odell station. Discussion followed. He will look into the Petroleum Show in Iowa and other resources. Jeff LaFollette will check into a reproduction from the person who designed the Odell shirt logo.

A report on the Odell Station followed. The village bought the station, cleaned it up, and cut down some trees because of a drainage problem and let the wood dry out. The progress has come to a standstill due to a lack of funds. We promised the Odell community that we would do one fundraiser. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 or more. Lots of discussion followed. Various newspaper reports were read. John updated on various letters, fliers, etc. being distributed. Pleas for donations, volunteers, printing copies of fliers, etc. In other words, "HELP OUT!"

The plans for the fundraiser are: It will be Saturday, May 15, 1999 from 10:30 am to 4 pm. We will have a poker run on Route 66 with local places participating. We will furnish the dealers from our volunteers. An explanation followed as to how this program will work. It was stressed that we will need lots of volunteers. Gretchen Wendt volunteered to be in charge of

dealers. Discussion of prices of hands, raffle tickets, prior payment of hands, more raffle tickets and raffle prizes took place.

Marty Blitstein will donate all food, service stuff, etc. Jeff LaFollette volunteered all soft drinks and 2 large banners donated by the 7 UP Company in Iowa.

We need bubbly bouncy people to sell additional hands as well as a 50/50 raffle, and raffle tickets for prizes. We will need traffic control, food volunteers, and possibly a tent. We are looking for donations, raffle prizes, proxy hands, news releases, etc.

If Roger has fliers by March 20, he will pass them out at a cruise night at Mr. B's west of the racetrack. He has also volunteered to be in charge of a Trivia Game at the fund-raiser.

Theresa Przybylski volunteered to have all early sign ups mailed to her and she will enter them into her computer, etc.

All checks for poker hands, donations, etc. should be made payable to ODELL TOURISM C.D.

An information sheet was distributed and a volunteer sheet was also passed around. Discussion followed and permission was given by President Frank Lozich, to send out S.O.S. fliers and donation sheets, and other information was given to Dorothy Seratt, the Route 66 Corresponding Secretary.

John & Lenore purchased 50 Odell post cards from Bob Waldmire as a donation for Odell, sold half, and collected \$11 to contribute.

It was mentioned that Hall Of Famer Bill Shea will donate us some original signs for the Odell Station, and quite a few other invaluable station items for it once the restoration is complete.

continued on next page



Preservation Committee Report, continued

The next Preservation Meeting is scheduled at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight on Saturday, April 17, 1999 (one day before the Board-General Meeting in Odell the next day) 5:00 pm for the buffet, and the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Dorothy Seratt made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bill Przybylski seconded, and all were in favor.

Information on Preservation Committee Meeting on Saturday, April 17, 1999:

This meeting will have many exciting things to report on. But the main purpose is to finalize plans for the May 15 Odell fundraiser.

We have been overwhelmed with the response and interest shown for this project. So far, over 60 people have volunteered to help.

We have seven locations on Route 66 that will be dealing cards. We also have a large quantity of raffle dinners and items donated from each of them. We have free food, compliments of Economy Food Co. from Marty Blitstein, and free soft drinks from 7 UP in Iowa through Jeff LaFollette's efforts. The Route 66 Root Beer Company will be there with root beer floats, and to introduce its two new flavors. Roadhouse Bar-B-Que Company and Spike Odell have offered their support. The Route 66 Federation from California has sent \$120. worth in subscriptions. We have raffle prizes from Route 66 Accessories, Royal Canin, Harrah's Casino, Pac Tour, Hallmark, Dominicks, and many, many others. We have specialty and collectible items from the Pig Hip, Cozy Dog, Tom Teague, and Route 66 Nail Polish. We have very collectible Beanie Babies, as well as Soda, Candles, Toys, and so much more.

We also have one extra special raffle prize: AN ORIGINAL ROUTE 66 HIGHWAY SIGN! It was donated by Paul & Tammy Panczuk. Not only that, but the Lions Club of Odell has donated \$500. to the S.O.S. fund!

Lots of people have been printing and distributing fliers and getting donations. Don't feel bad if you haven't done so yet, it is not too late. The more money and raffle items, the better. PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO HELP! We desperately need you to promote and get people to participate. Encourage buying poker hands in advance.

Most of the plans are made. Now we must organize volunteers to make it all happen. That is what we will do at this meeting. This is your opportunity to be part of an exciting, historic happening. Yes, you may have to do some work, but I guarantee you will be very proud of yourself. When this is finally done, you can ride by and tell everyone you helped make it happen.

Now for the big news: Professional work has begun on the station. The office floor and inside corners have all been carefully removed. The building corner has been jacked up and all has been stabilized. Work can now be directed to the

roof. More is being done every day. This show of confidence in us and our ability to conduct a very successful fundraiser is complimentary, yet frightening. Don't let the Preservation Committee and Odell down. Together we can earn the money needed to continue this most important, historical work.

Grant money is available for project like this. Dorothy is working on getting some. A successful fundraiser like this will help tremendously on the application.

Odell S.O.S. shirts and hats will be available to purchase at this meeting. T-shirts are only \$10 to \$12, Sweatshirts are \$20 to \$22, and Hats are \$10. You may want to purchase now and wear it on the big day!

P.S. We are in need of S.O.S. fliers. If you have extras or can get some printed, please bring them along.

Notes From The April 17, 1999 Preservation Committee Meeting

There were about 35 people at this meeting. The Mayor of Odell was on hand for this meeting. The Pullman Clock restoration project has netted about \$1.9 million dollars. WOW! Mention of the curved bridge that is closed near the Riviera. It may get re-painted and kept from being razed for now, which is good news. Dorothy spoke of some grant named "TEA 21" which we might be able to apply for, which can help the Odell Station project and possibly some others. She is looking into applying for this grant. There are 3 stretches of Illinois Route 66 now on the National Register Of Historic Places. More will be added to the list later, until all of the Route here in Illinois is on the National Register. Tom Teague and Bob Waldmire are working together on saving a section of 66 north of Sherman from being re-developed or razed. There was some big thing with them and the 66 Cruisers at the Carpenter Park. The Towanda 66 bridges that were abandoned for some time has officially been taken off the danger list. It is being developed into a park by the kids from Normal Community High School. All of the Lamplighter merchandise that was for sale, mentioned in the last issue of The 66 News, is all sold. No more orders are being taken. It sold fast.

Recently, the Route 66 Federation had a picture of the restored Meramec Caverns barn by Cayuga in their magazine. Jeff Geisler mentioned the 1909 Ridgely Junction Depot train station being restored by the Illinois Terminal Railroad Museum Society. It is located behind the Springfield Township Maintenance Building. More report on the Odell Station...it was built up about 14 inches and stabilized, and some roof work started. Details were ironed out on how the Poker Run was going to work, with 8 businesses dealing the cards, which include the Antique Mall, Old Log Cabin, the Odell Station, Pour Richards, Feddersen's Pizza Garage, Gardner Haus Inn, the Riviera, and the Polk A Dot Drive In. For more information on this major event, call John Weiss or Dorothy Seratt. Their addresses are on page 2.

Name That Spot Winners!

by Randy Smith

Since the Spring issue of *The 66 News*, this time some of our members did an excellent job of searching out the guessing goodies I put up on the back cover of the issue. For the Motel 66 was located in Canada, and is called Western 66 Motel. It is at 2401 Mount Newton X Road, Saanichton, B.C. V8M 2B7. The photo was donated by Flo & Charlie Danbrook, members of the Canadian Route 66 Association. And the only one that guessed it correctly was Harold Levy, a member of the Road Runners. Good job, Harold! I bet that cost you some petrol looking that up!

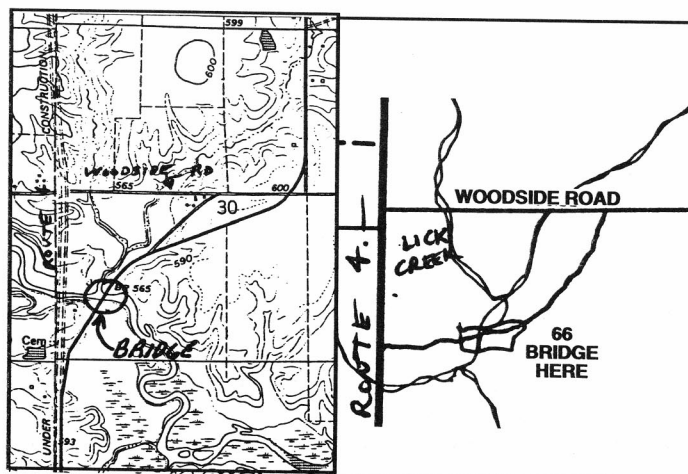
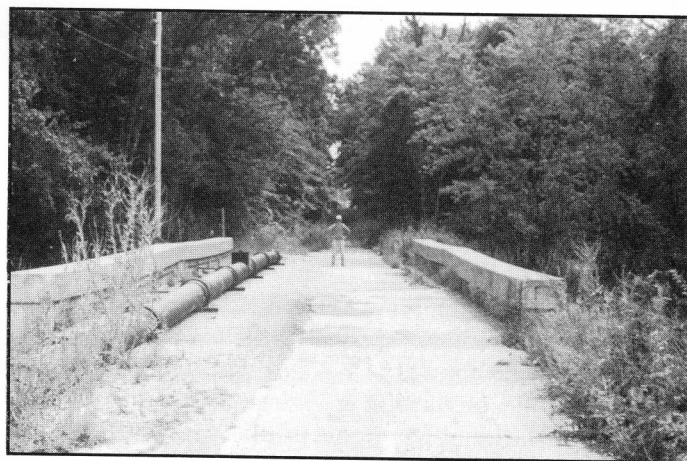


And for the big find, the missing 66 bridge photo that had your Editor standing on it...the first to respond to that (no, none of the book writers knew!) was a native in the area itself where the bridge is! And that is Danny L. Kerns from Chatham. The second correct guesser was Linda Mascondelli from Springfield. Both of these 66ers had a lot of history information to share on the bridge. So for you all that tried in vain to get some info on it, here is some story on it to add to your 66 information books and notes...

This rare alignment of Route 66 was used only in 1926 to 1930. It even had a name, which was called the Graham Bridge. It spanned over Lick Creek, and was part of Woodside Road. It got bypassed by the Route 4 alignment that went around it, and became Route 66 later. It connected south Springfield to Chatham. This bridge, also known sometimes as the Lick Creek Bridge, has only one accessible way to it. I put up a map so you can see this. This alignment was also used BEFORE they finished the Spaulding Dam, which filled Lake Springfield sometime in 1935. That was when the Springfield Bridge was built to carry traffic over it, I think. From Danny comes some information on the mystery of that big pipe running across that bridge...the origin of the pipe across the bridge is somewhat interesting. Up until the late 1970's, the newer portions of the Village of Chatham were on septic systems, rather than a sanitary sewer system. The older portion of the village had a sewer

system that ran to open air lagoons on the west side of the village (now site of the Westside Park). In the late 1970's, after completion of the new alignment of Illinois Route 4, a new sanitary sewer system was installed for all Chatham residents, and the system was tied into the Springfield Sanitary District. As part of this new sanitary sewer system, several sewage lift (pumping) stations and gravity and force mains were installed to transport the sewage to the treatment plants on the north side of Springfield. One such lift station is now located immediately northeast of Lick Creek Bridge. It is suspected that the pipe over the bridge is a gravity main carrying sewage from the Village of Chatham to the lift station. Since the bridge was abandoned after the new alignment of Illinois Route 4 was constructed, the bridge was probably a convenient way of getting the sewer main across Lick Creek. Rather than trenching it in or using directional drilling techniques to pass the pipe under Lick Creek, which would have been costly, it appears the designers elected to just lay the pipe over the bridge.

So there you have it all! Your tired Editor is going to take a break this issue to think on another guessing goodie to put in the Fall issue. I got to get the mud and horse s__t off my hiking boots first, so look out for your next issue of *The 66 News* and see what your next assignment will be to search out for me. Let it be YOUR turn to get a good mention in this number one publication of Route 66!



In Other News...

The World still mourns the loss of Bobby Troup, founder of the song Route 66. Out in San Bernardino, a memorial wreath was put up on the plaque honoring Bobby, to honor his influence on the Mother Road.

This Spring, an animal chewed up a fiber optic cable on Route 66 a few miles north of Lexington, cutting phone service to about 40,000 customers serviced by GTE. Makes me wonder what ever happened to the idea of using two soup cans and a string! (Editor)

IDOT was going to raze two abandoned lanes of Route 66 at Towanda, but it was reported that the Normal Community High School social studies club has launched an offense to save the bridge. It seems to be picking up steam, as the Mayor of Towanda, Jack Jenkins, is involved as well as some legislatures. There will be a park near it, and the students will be involved in the project. IDOT is taking a second look at their ideas, and so far it looks like the bridge will be saved as an important piece of Route 66 and our traveling heritage. My hat is off to these spirited kids showing a major in Route 66 history! (Editor)

It is mentioned that the Missouri Route 66 Association is looking for a Newsletter Editor to replace the well known Skip Curtis, whom is leaving the job after doing it for many years. Skip is working on a new 66 book, and most of it consists of his compilations he did for the Newsletter and more. Skip is moving from St. Louis back to his hometown in Springfield, Missouri where he will be restoring an old firehouse he bought, so it is a retirement project for him once he moves. Skip did an excellent job for the Missouri 66 Association, and will be surely missed as being their best editor yet for them!

Some news from the New Mexico Route 66 Association...the New Mexico Route 66 Association is partnering with the City Of Albuquerque and the Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau to produce a National Diamond Jubilee for the 75th Anniversary of Historic Route 66. The dates are tentatively set for July 20-22, 2001. They have hired a professional events planner and fundraiser to put together a national scale event. The agenda is still in the works. As soon as we learn more, we'll pass that information on! Their Association invites you all to attend and their intentions are to ensure every organization and group with interests in Historic Route 66 to have a way to participate. Let's make the 75th Anniversary in every Route 66 state and in every Route 66 community a remarkable year! For more information, call 505-832-4087 or fax at 505-246-0211.

A letter from the National Historic Route 66 Federation...Dear Randy, the holiday cover of your

Winter issue was outstanding. We looked for the name of the artist but we weren't able to find it. Our congratulations to him or her! Thank you very much for the EXPO '98 coverage. We had a great time with your members and Tom Teague was a very deserving recipient of the Steinbeck Award. As you likely know, the National Route 66 Preservation Bill got lost in the Clinton-Budget-Monica confusion at the last moment, so we have to start all over again now. If it passes, it would create more dollars for preservation projects such as yours along the route. We are so pleased to see how active and effective the Illinois Route 66 Association has been towards preservation projects and have featured several in our magazine. (This was written by David M. Knudsen, the Executive Director of the National Historic Route 66 Federation, based in California) Their E-mail is: national66@national66.com and their Web Site is: www.national66.com For more information on this international 66 organization, call 818-352-7232 or write to them at P.O. Box 423, Tujunga, California 91043-0423.

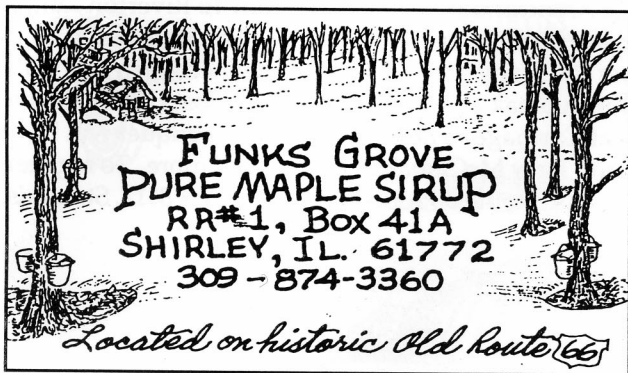
From Annice Tatken and Maureen Geoghegan of Chicago, comes a new store called HIT THE ROAD. It is located at 3758 N. Southport Avenue in Chicago, Illinois 60613 just six miles north of Route 66, west of the Lakewiew neighborhood. It is a unique retail store specializing in merchandise related to U.S. roadtrip travel. It is the place to go to find that perfect gift for the traveling enthusiast. It is a must stop for Route 66 roadies beginning their pilgrimage in the Windy City.

Maureen and Annice were the ones that created the Route 66 Legends T-shirts, a total of 16 different ones. They were inspired to found the store following their first cross country trip on the Mother Road (Route 66) in August of 1994. They have been seen at quite a few 66 events along the highway in almost every 66 state with their fine display of merchandise. They have an E-mail: drivetheus@aol.com They are open Tuesday through Thursday from 11:30 am to 7 pm, Friday & Saturday from 11:30 am to 8 pm, and on Sunday from 11:30 am to 5 pm. For more information, call them at 773-388-8338.

From our Board Member, Wilton Rinkel, comes some news. A little town named Alhambra (in Illinois) is having a Sesquicentennial Celebration during June 18, 19, and 20 the week after the Motor Tour. They are celebrating 150 years of their town.

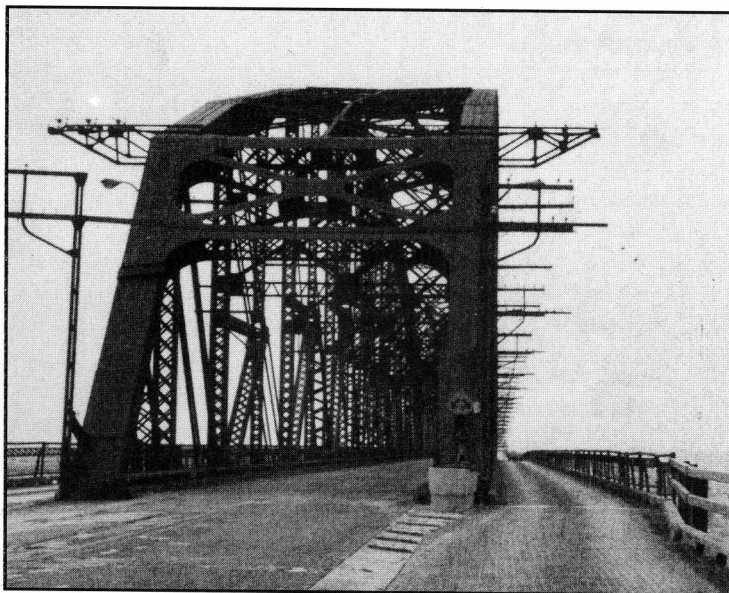
For those of you that are into camping or RV's, there is a campground right off Route 66 east of Staunton, on 12246 Binney Rd. It is called Route 66 Campground. Info: 217 456-8041. Try them out next time you set up your tent!

In Other News...



Funks Grove Maple Sirup camp continues this year to host tours of all kinds to interested parties in seeing how maple sirup is produced. Debbie Funk hosted students from Brigham Elementary School. Some 3,000 trees in 160 acres makes around 1,600 gallons of sirup. It is reported that this is going to be a good year for the camp due to the freezing and thawing we had earlier this year. Make a point of stopping in on your way out west! (See business card)

The McKinley Bridge, this famous Mississippi River structure, which for the most part now currently routes 66 down it, is falling upon financial hard times due to loss of revenue from competition from adjacent free bridges and the MetroLink. To make the problem worse, the bridge is deteriorating as funds for maintenance are being stretched to pay the salaries of the toll booth employees, plus the ever present effort to pay off the bridge bonds, which in October of 1998 the City of Venice defaulted on the 4.2 million dollar bonds used to buy the McKinley Bridge in 1958. It is reported that up to the point of default, the city was only paying the 2 percent interest. It is estimated that the bridge generates 2.4 million dollars in tolls from the 15,000 some cars that cross it daily, but a good 1 million dollars is used for annual repairs with the remaining balance going towards salaries and other costs. The bridge is estimated to have left a 10 to 15 year life span, recently received a 4 million dollar Federal funding grant that will project a possible 10 years of life to the bridge after repairs. However, the free bridges of the Popular Street Bridge (I-55), the Chain Of Rocks Bridge, and Interstate 270 Bridge in addition to the MetroLink have all cut into the possible revenue that the McKinley generates.



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

Missouri Route 66 Motor Tour

This is the 10th annual Motor Tour for the Missouri Route 66 Association. They dub it "Run To Riverton" and it will start at the Route 66 State Park, right at Times Beach. The dates are September 10 through 12. The Tour will start at the park September 11 and will end in Riverton, Kansas on September 12. Many great events are planned, such as a walk on the Chain Of Rocks Bridge, a stop in at the Meramec Caverns, a lunch break at Allman's Market & Post Office, a drive over Devil's Elbow Bridge, and a fun get-together at the 66 Drive in at Carthage. Their reception and banquet will be in Springfield, Missouri with speakers from near and far, like Jim Ross and Jerry McClanahan and several more. To register, send a self addressed stamped envelope to tour leader Ron Robb, Missouri Route 66 Association, P.O. Box 8117, St. Louis, Missouri 63156. E-mail: ronrobb@ipa.net

• Tour Highlights •

Sept. 10 • Visit the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, the historic Route 66 Mississippi River crossing that was built in 1929.
• View a Coral Court Motel Photo Exhibit by **Shellee Graham** – Route 66 Photographer / Author.
• Evening Tour Check-In and Social Gathering in St. Louis.

Sept. 11 • Tour St. Louis to Springfield, Missouri with stops at Route 66 landmarks: New Route 66 State Park, Meramec Caverns, Devils Elbow and Munger Moss Motel!
• Evening Banquet and Special Route 66 Presentation featuring:
Jim Ross – Route 66 Author / Historian
Jerry McClanahan – Route 66 Artist / Historian

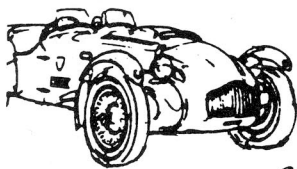
Sept. 12 • Tour Springfield to Riverton, Kansas with stops at more Route 66 landmarks: 66 Drive-In Theatre in Carthage and Eisler Bros. Old Riverton Store!

Join us for this exciting event!
For a complete registration packet, please write or E-mail:

Route 66 Association of Missouri–1999 Motor Tour,
P.O. Box 8117, St. Louis, MO 63156-8117
or E-mail: ronrobb@ipa.net

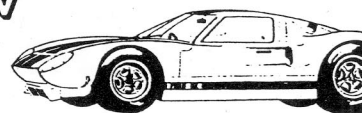


Send for Your
Packet Today!



KIT CAR & REPLICA SHOW

AT THE



'99 CLUB SANDWICH CENTRAL

+++++

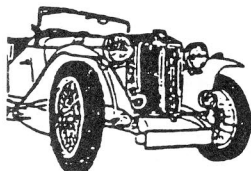


Saturday July 17th, 1999
at Woodland Park in Collinsville, Illinois



Co-hosted by the Greater St. Louis Kit Car Club & the Kansas Kit Kar Klub

Dash Plaques for the first 100 Vehicles



12 Kit Car Classes + + 3 Awards per Class + + 5 Special Awards
Judging by Independent Professionals
Food & Drink Attendance Prizes Games & Trivia
Valve Cover Racing Provided by "The Prehn Racing Team"



Registration, 8:am till Noon at the Woodland Park Show Site
Judging will be from 12:30 to 3:pm +++++ Awards at 4:pm



-----cut & mail-----

Send this pre-registration to: GSLKCC, 106 W. Country Lane, Collinsville, IL 62234



Enthusiast's Name _____

Address _____

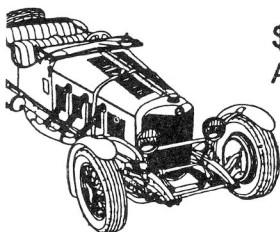
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # (____)-____-____ Club _____

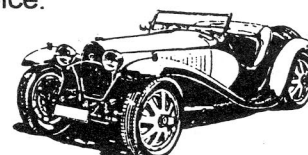
Vehicle _____ Mfg. By _____

Replica Year _____ Body Style _____ Model _____

Engine Make _____ Year _____ Size _____



\$10.00 Pre-Show Entry Fee (by July 10), or \$12.00 Day of Show.
A Group Pizza Party & Car Cruise to follow show, participants choice.
For additional information, call Don Shank @ 618-344-5698
or Bill Striegel @ 618-377-6095



10 YEARS OF KICKS ON ROUTE 66!

**Join Us In Celebrating 10 Years of
the Route 66 Association of Illinois
On Our
10th Annual Motor Tour of Illinois
June 11 - 13, 1999**

With Stops in:

***Chicago • Romeoville • Wilmington
Pontiac • McLean • Bloomington
Lincoln • Broadwell • Springfield
Girard • Mount Olive • Collinsville***

***Drive Two Alignments from Springfield to Staunton
See the Route 66 Hall of Fame at the Dixie in McLean
Attend the Hall of Fame Ceremony in Lincoln
See Soulsby's Shell Station in Mount Olive***

***Pre-Tour Celebration on Friday June 11 to be Announced
Post-Tour Gathering in Downtown Collinsville Sun. June 13***

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 \$12.50 per person to accompany registration

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

More Tour Information:
Jeff LaFollette, Tour Chair 319-893-6653
Marilyn Pritchard 815-844-6937
Jeff Meyer 847-392-0860

Sorry, No Refunds. Rain or Shine



ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

MOTEL LIST FOR THE 1999 MOTOR TOUR

ALL MOTELS HAVE ROOMS BLOCKED FOR THE ASSOCIATION
BE SURE TO MENTION THAT YOU ARE WITH THE ROUTE 66 MOTOR TOUR
ALL RESERVATIONS NEED TO BE MADE BY MAY 21, 1999 TO RECEIVE SPECIAL RATES

FRIDAY NIGHT JUNE 11TH

RED ROOF INN
7535 KINGERY HIGHWAY (RT.83-EXIT)
WILLOWBROOK, IL
630-323-8811
\$65.99 + TAX
25 ROOMS BLOCKED
GIVE THEM BLOCK #B167000294

BAYMONT INN
855 W. 79TH STREET
WILLOWBROOK, IL
630-654-0077
\$55.95 + TAX
30 ROOMS BLOCKED

SUPER 8 MOTEL
1301 MARQUETTE ST. (IL RT. 53)
BOLINGBROOK, IL
630-759-8880
\$50.00 + TAX
20 ROOMS BLOCKED

FAIRFIELD INN
820 W.79TH STREET
WILLOWBROOK, IL
630-789-6300
\$80.95 + TAX
10 ROOMS AVAILABLE

SATURDAY NIGHT JUNE 12TH

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
130 OLSON DRIVE
LINCOLN, IL
217-735-5800
\$50.00 + TAX
70 ROOMS BLOCKED

SUPER 8 MOTEL
2809 WOODLAWN RD.
LINCOLN, IL
217-732-8886
\$59.88-\$65.88 + TAX
40 ROOMS-AVAILABLE

BUDGET INN (OLD DAYS INN)
2100 KICKAPOO ST.
LINCOLN, IL
217-735-1202
\$45.00 + TAX
40-45 ROOMS AVAILABLE

LINCOLN COUNTRY INN
1750 W.5TH STREET
LINCOLN, IL
217-732-9641
\$38.95 + TAX
30 ROOMS AVAILABLE

COMFORT INN
2811 WOODLAWN RD.
LINCOLN, IL
217-735-3960
\$54.95 + TAX

CHECK FOR AVAILABILITY AFTER APR.30. THEY HAVE A WEDDING BOOKED ON 6/12.

SUNDAY NIGHT JUNE 13TH

FAIRFIELD INN
4 GATEWAY DRIVE
COLLINSVILLE, IL
618-346-0607
\$59.00 + TAX
40 ROOMS BLOCKED

SUPER 8 MOTEL
2 GATEWAY DRIVE
COLLINSVILLE, IL
618-345-8008
\$66.00 + TAX
50 ROOMS BLOCKED

DRURY INN
301 N. BLUFF RD.
COLLINSVILLE, IL
618-345-7700
\$66.00 + TAX
25 ROOMS BLOCKED

"ILLINOIS — WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."

Route 66 Christmas Tree

by Ramon H. Raguse

This past Christmas, I decided to do something different from the usual, and try something different for conventional decorating in my home for the holidays. I decided to decorate my Christmas tree with a Route 66 theme in mind. I surprised myself with the amount of things I had in my possession that could be used to carry out this theme.

Once the tree was in place and the little lights were strung, I proceeded to take a wide ribbon of off-white color to make a highway complete with stripes on the edges and passing and no passing lines down the center. The road started at the top of the tree on Jackson Boulevard in Chicago and proceeded southward as it wound it's way around the tree throughout Illinois where it crossed over the Mississippi River into Missouri.

Along the way, the road was marked with appropriate signs for curves, passing, no passing, speed limits and points of interest such as the Route 66 Raceway near Joliet, the White Fence Farm restaurant, the Route 66 Hall Of Fame in McLean, and signs for a number of communities along the way with population or miles to the town identified on the sign. At the very top of my tree I placed a nice Route 66 flag in place of the traditional star. At the bottom of the tree the road left Illinois and continued through the other seven states ending in California. Each state was identified with a border sign and at least one major city along the way. Little cars and trucks adorned the highway the whole length. At the base of the tree, a train circled the pedestal and various pieces of Route 66 memorabilia were placed about the tree.

My family enjoyed the tree and the change of pace, and I had a great time putting it all together. Here is a photo of it to better enable you to see what I tried to describe.



Newsletter Deadline! Any article, advertising, stories, etc. that you all would like to see in the Fall issue of *The 66 News* will need to be either mailed to me no later than July 18, 1999 or brought in to the next Board-General Meeting, which is that same day, too. It helps to get the issues out as early as possible, so that we can keep getting the issues out on time, which is generally in the first week of June, September, December, and March. Thank you all for noticing the deadline, and the earlier you send in something, the better! (Editor)

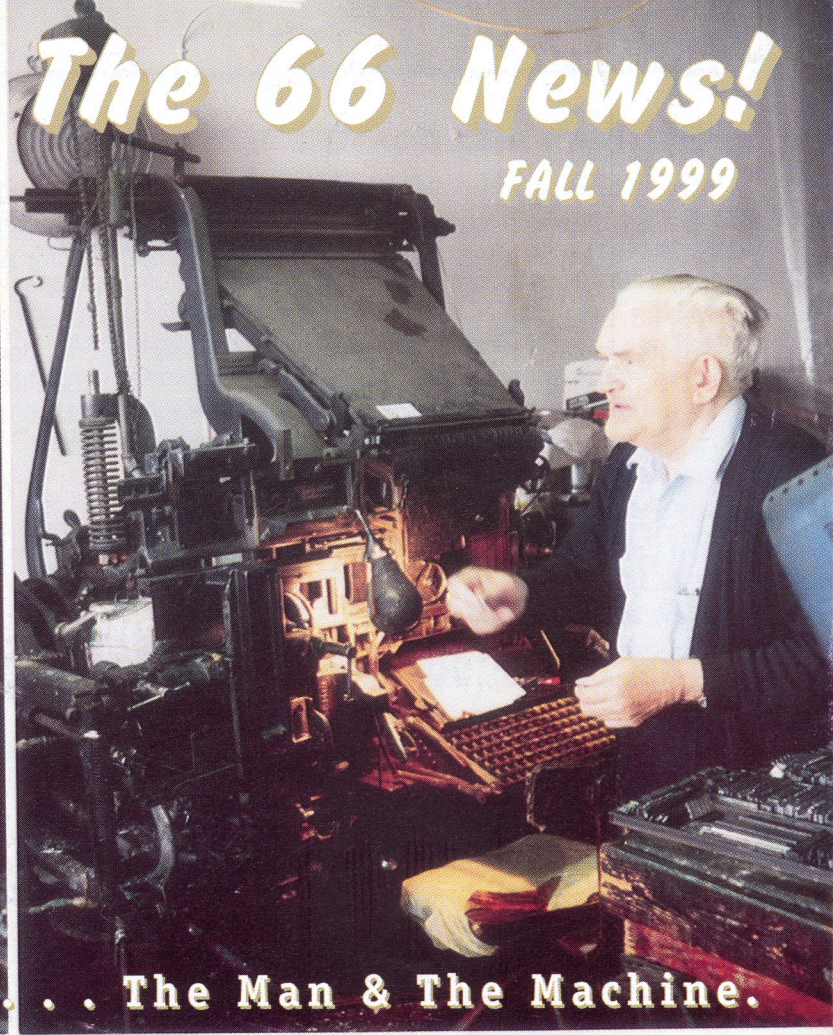
Route 66 Association of Illinois
2743 Veterans Parkway • Room 166
Springfield, Illinois 62704

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Permit No. 106

**ROUTE 66
ASSOCIATION
OF ILLINOIS**



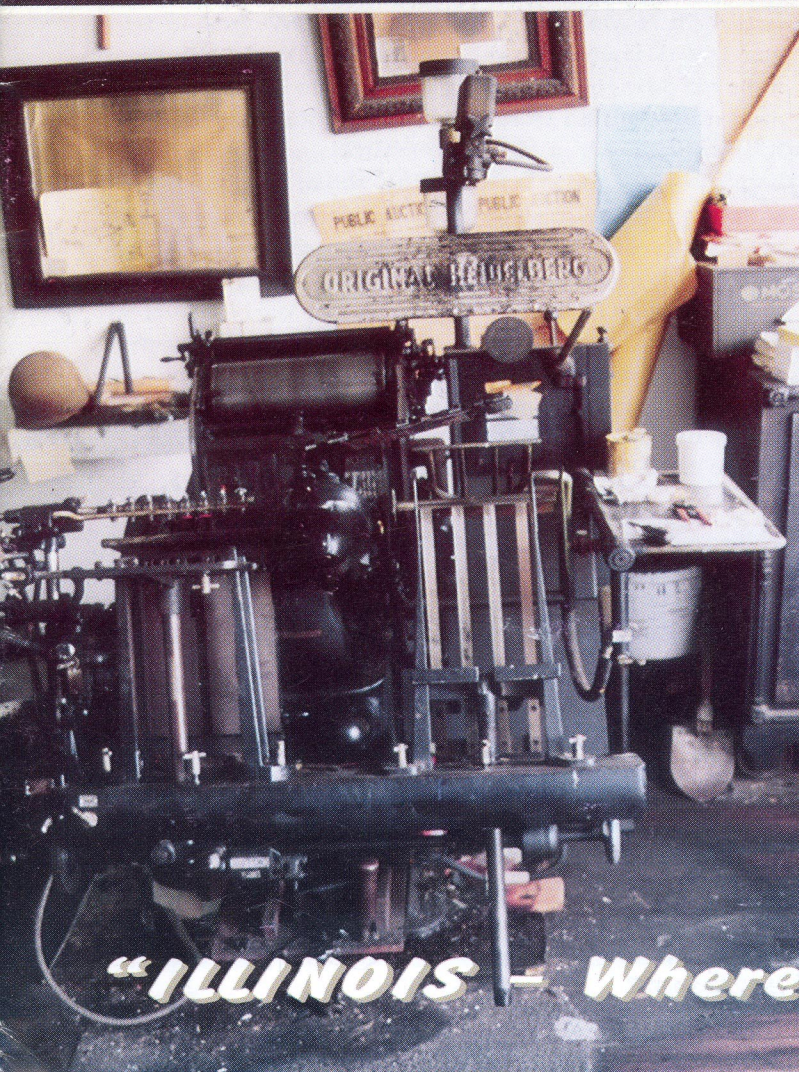
A Salute to Burt Parkinson



The 66 News!

FALL 1999

... The Man & The Machine.



"ILLINOIS - Where The Road Begins."



Officers and Board Members

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

President

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7270 W. 174th Place
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-429-9173

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E-mail: AJon66@aol.com

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Flossmoor, IL 60422
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E-mail: economy@ameritech.net

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Newsletter designed
by Kimberly Kuman

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24W441 Wellington Road
Naperville, IL 60563

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

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

John Stonecipher, **Livingston**, 10-00
216 E. Prairie Street
Odell, IL 60460
815-998-2161

C.J. Beeler, **McLean**, 10-00
2 Canterbury Court
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-874-2832

Paul Gleason, **Logan**, 10-99
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Lincoln, IL 62656
217-735-9111

Don Cutler, **Sangamon**, 10-00
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217-554-1963

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Old Rt. 66 and Madison Avenue
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618-637-2886
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Oliver Schwallenstecker, **Macoupin**,
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Bunker Hill, IL 62014
618-585-3081

Linda Henry, **Madison**, 10-00
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618-637-2886
E-mail: route66@midwest.net

Wilton Rinkel, **St. Clair**, 10-00
5539 St. Rt. 157 North
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-1625

5 At-Large Positions

Bill Przybylski, 10-00
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
21149 Hillside
Frankfort, IL 60423
815-469-5219
E-mail: KAYO66@aol.com

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

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

Internal Publication Information

The 66 News is published quarterly by the Route 66 Association of Illinois around the first of March, June, September & December. It is meant as a service to Association members and other people and Organizations interested in the preservation, promotion, and enjoyment of Route 66. Contributions are accepted, but we do not pay. **ANY ARTICLE WITH A BY-LINE IS COPYRIGHTED BY THE AUTHOR, AND MAY NOT BE USED IN ANY FORM WITHOUT THE AUTHOR'S EXPRESSED PERMISSION.** Any article that you submit remains your property and cannot be reused in any way by the Association or anyone else without your permission. Advertising rates are \$90 for a whole page, \$50 for a half page, \$30 for a quarter page, and \$10 for a business card ad. Submit 1st-class camera ready copy only. **NO XEROXES!** All stories & ads must be submitted 6 weeks prior to publication. Address inquiries & contributions to Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

Our Summer Picnic

The annual picnic of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be held on Sunday, September 12, 1999 at Noon. The location is in Atlanta at the old library in the center of town. We will have the picnic on the outside lawns if weather permits. There will be an inside plan if it rains. Hope to see you all there for some good 66 fellowship! The actual dinnertime may be at 1 PM, but come early by Noon if you can.

The antique shops, J.J. Hawes Grain Elevator, and other stores will all be open for us to browse and shop in while enjoying our picnic. Betty McClellan made most of these arrangements for us in Atlanta, so come with a dish to pass, lawn chairs, and if you like, some lawn games. The Association will furnish the meat and some other things. *See you all here!*

Membership Report

by Jim Jones

The Route 66 Association Of Illinois membership roles has been rebuilt. We have 844 current names on our membership list. We have had 46 new members join us during the second quarter of 1999.

A breakdown of the members we have in the Association is as follows: Sustaining Members: 101. Business Members: 33. Hall Of Fame Members: 45. General Members: 665.

We mailed renewal notices to a bit over 800 members the first of May. We have received 360 renewals from that mailing during the second quarter. 65 renewals have come in since the end of the quarter. All members who have not replied to the mailing have been taken off the mailing list. We still have these former members in the database, but they will not be on the mailing list. There have been 3 or 4 members who expressed some concern in losing months from last year's membership, but nowhere the number that some thought. Several members have realized that they had not paid last years' dues and included it with this year's renewal. To these members we express our sincere thanks. The foreign membership renewals have not been a good percentage. We have five foreign members of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois.

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Our Next Board-General Meeting

The next Board-General Meeting of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be on Sunday, October 17, 1999 at the Old Country Buffet in Normal, Illinois. It is located in the College Hills Mall, in the back. This is also our Elections Meeting as well. The Board Meeting will start at 11 AM with a break for lunch at Noon. Then on to the Elections Meeting which should start after 1 PM after some General Meeting news. Plan on attending this important meeting, which will have some positions changing hands, and maybe even some new people coming in, too! This is a changing Association and teamwork is a must, and working together towards the same common goal is essential. If you feel that is you, then come to the meeting and put your name on the ballot for a position open.

Welcome New Members!

by Jim Jones

During the second quarter of 1999, we have 46 new additions to the ever-growing list of members in the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. Here is the latest, and a big welcome to the crowd of Route 66 fans!

GENERAL MEMBERS IN ILLINOIS: Bill & Joan Kordt, Manhattan. Coalbe Holverson, N. Riverside. John Mauk; Schaumburg. Wilbur Gaedtka; Springfield. Alex Bakalet; Franklin Park. Sheila Rueck; Onarga. Jon Doi; Lake Bluff. Joseph Clegg; Jacksonville. Steve Cotta; Frankfort. Mike Werner; Downers Grove. Jimmie Rambeau; Carbondale. Bruce Heinrich; Elmhurst. Pour Richards; Odell. James Kupiec; Mokena. Barbara LaFollette; Galesburg. Marilyn Bakalet; Franklin Park. A.C. McMillen; Lincoln. Richard Hartop; Wheaton. Steven Nalefski; Bloomington. Sherman Dairy Queen; Sherman. Carl L. Johnson; Hillside. Joan Kimpell; Chicago Ridge. Tammy Shoemaker; Tinley Park. John Shoemaker; Tinley Park. Robert & Jacqueline Newberry; Plainfield. Joyce Price; New Lenox. Denise Wellen; Highland. Pete Bachman; Lexington. Jack & Carol Downs; Colona. G.W. Zacheis; Steeleville. John & Cheryl Koutsky; Milan. Roe Abshire Jr.; Frankfort. Kenneth Gatewood; Mokena. Scott Bickett; Princeton. Chris Mahaffey; Park Ridge.

AND FOUR HALL OF FAME MEMBERS: Raymond Lartz; Bloomington. Robert Johnson; Bloomington. Marie FitzHenry; Joliet. Brien McHugh; Joliet.

OUT OF STATE GENERAL MEMBERS: Chris Cameron; Denver, Colorado. Thomas Kotschi; Cudahy, Wisconsin. David & Chris Williams; Sugar Hill, Georgia. Wilberta Dearth; Libby, Montana.

TWO BUSINESS MEMBERS: Route 66 Campground; New Douglas, Illinois. I-Way One, Inc.; Frankfort, Illinois.

SUSTAINING MEMBER: Howard Hay; Lake Bluff, Illinois.

Thank you all for joining, and renewing your applications! Hope to see you on Route 66!

Minutes of the July 18, 1999 Board-General Meeting

(written by Randy Smith)

About 25 people showed up at this meeting, and there were around 16 or so Board Members and Officers present.

Frank welcomed everyone to the Glades Restaurant on old Route 4 in Carlinville, and has mentioned that he is not going for re-election to President this October at the Elections Meeting, which will be held at the Old Country Buffet in Normal at the College Hills Mall in the rear.

The Minutes of the last Board-General Meeting in Odell were approved and passed by the Board, the one that Marilyn mailed out later on after the minutes that Randy wrote in the Summer issue of *The 66 News*.

Treasurers report: Marty continues to give us a dose of good news. We are some figure OVER \$17,000 in the green! Never in the history of this Association have we been this financially sound, so a big round applause for Marty Blitstein from us all. Some bills were approved to get paid, and others are pending. Marty also had a professionally detailed 3 page balanced budget list that showed all incoming-outgoing bills, and balance left. There were no hidden entries. All old bills and new ones were on the list, and accounted for. He stated to me that he enjoys his work, and loves it! (Editor)

There was mention to let a gift shop near the Rialto in Joliet liquidate some of our merchandise, which can offset some other bills we need to take care of when they come later.

Jeff LaFollette mentioned some on the Motor Tour report. They cleared a profit this year of \$7,259.35. Jeff also mentioned of again ordering special license plates for next year since the response this year was overwhelming. A vote was held, and approved to run the special license plates again for next year's Motor Tour. There will be 200 sets ordered this time compared to the 150 this year. It is expected to sell them all.

We also had a very interesting guest from the Missouri 66 Association, and that was Bob Gehl, the Motor Tour Chairman for their group. Bob mentioned the idea originally from Jeff LaFollette on getting both Associations to meet at the Chain Of Rocks Bridge as the ending point for both Motor Tours for the year 2001 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Route 66. The Missouri Tour will adjust their time frame of starting and ending so we can both schedule our days to meet at the bridge. Bob also complimented Editor Randy Smith on advertising the Missouri Tour in our newsletter, and that he will see to it that their Missouri newsletter starts putting our Motor Tour Flyer in their newsletter, like Randy has done for them over the years. Bob also mentioned our newsletter as a class newsletter, and a good job doing it. Jeff also made some notes on the Preservation Committee report in the absence of John Weiss. The next Preservation Committee Meeting will be August

21 at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight, starting with dinner at 5 PM and the meeting at 6 PM. All are encouraged to attend these meetings. They get a lot accomplished in terms of preservation efforts and projects.

It was also approved to spend \$200 for a special plaque from the Association to put on the Chain Of Rocks Bridge, on the rail. It will read: Route 66 Association Of Illinois.

The subject of the Newsletter Editor going from a Board Member position to an Officer position was mentioned in detail. It was voted to send the matter back to the By-Laws Committee for further review and changes to make for Board Approval to the measure at the next Board-General Meeting in October at the Old Country Buffet in the College Hills Mall in Normal, Illinois.

Future dates for Board-General Meetings: January 16, 2000 in Lincoln. April 16, 2000 in Joliet. July 16, 2000 in Litchfield. October 15, 2000 in Bloomington. Locations to be announced later as they come near.

The Association Picnic was mentioned to have it in Atlanta at the old library, with the antique clock outside. If no rain, it will be out on the lawns.

To end the meetings, there was a very nice presentation given on Route 66 through Macoupin County, given by Jim Frank and Josephine Remlene from the Macoupin County Historical Society. They gave a lot of history documentation of its alignments and other interests along this 1926-1930 alignment of Route 66, when it was known as Route 4, and today is still known as Route 4, which was its original Route name.

SPECIAL NOTE: Newsletter Editor Randy Smith wrote these minutes as a temporary thing to get by with since we were attempting to get the issues out by the picnic. Marilyn Pritchard, our secretary, will have the official minutes out in the mail later on as they have many Route 66 weekends booked up and would not have the minutes done fast enough before the picnic. Marylin's minutes will be the official ones once they are out later.



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In Other News...

Earlier this year, the 66 bridge over Money Creek just north of Towanda was saved through the efforts of the social studies club at Normal Community High School. They collected over 1,000 signatures on a petition and submitted them to two state legislators...Senator John Maitland and Representative Bill Brady. They got IDOT to reconsider their plans to raze the bridge, so it is permanently saved.

From Mark Duncan comes a suggestion...All Route 66 organizations have been trying to get people off the interstates on to The Mother Road. Why not have a yard sale along Route 66? The longest yard sale on record is the US Route 127 sale, that started in Gasden, Alabama to Covington, Kentucky. This sale was 450 miles long. Route 66 could top that if every 66 state would join the bandwagon. It might take a few years to develop this idea, but it would survive. The US Route 127 sale is every August.

News on the upcoming Vintage RV Journey on Route 66...in the Spring of 2000, Adventuretours of McAllen, Texas will organize and lead the first-ever "Vintage RV Tour Of Route 66". Participation in this event requires tour member RV's be 30 years old or older (post 1970), and that all participants have a passion for slow-paced travel. Rendezvous will be in Chicago, Illinois. The group of vintage RV enthusiasts will spend 20 days traveling through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. A second trip eastbound will follow shortly after the first. The tour fee includes all camp fees, reservations, tours and sights along the way with experienced tour leaders. Members will be provided with a guidebook, mile by mile road log with directions across Route 66 from start to finish, a custom decal for your vehicle and a embroidered souvenir patch. Special events related to Route 66 will be coordinated during the tour. For more information, contact Chris Yelland, Adventuretours, 305 W. Nolana Loop, Suite 2, P.O. Box 944, McAllen, Texas 78505-0944. Phone: 1-800-455-8687 or Fax at 1-956-630-6595.

Annice & Maureen from the new roadie store Hit The Road are reporting good sales, and a host of other events there from time to time. There were guest speakers, presentations on unique travel experiences, exhibits of relevant collectibles, films and road trip story telling. Thomas Repp, author of *Empires Of Amusement* (a new book on Route 66 roadside attractions) was there to autograph books sold there. Hit The Road is open Tuesday through Thursday from 11:30 AM to 7:00 PM, Friday & Saturday from 11:30 AM to 8:00 PM, and Sunday from 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM. For more information, contact Annice & Maureen at Hit The Road, 3758 N. Southport Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60613. Phone: 1-773 388-8338. Website: www.roadtripstore.com, E-mail: hittheroad@roadtripstore.com

As mentioned in the Fall 1997 issue of The 66 News, Pat Swisher and Annabelle Parkinson are looking for anyone that has or might have a video tape of the Hall Of Fame Induction in 1995, at the Bloomington Court House. Pat wants to copy the speech that inducted Burt Parkinson into our Hall Of Fame. They would appreciate any help for the whereabouts of the video, if anyone at all taped it. Please call 815-458-2703 or 815-237-2305 if you are able to help Pat out on finding this video.

From R.J.'s RELICS Antiques and Collectibles in Wilmington: "We would like to say thank you to the Route 66 Association for making Wilmington one of their stops on the Motor Tour this summer. We certainly enjoyed the old cars and the wonderful people." For those of you traveling this Fall, here is their address: R.J.'s Relics, 116-120 N. Water St., Wilmington, Illinois 60481. They are open 7 days a week, 10 AM to 5 PM. E-mail them at relics@cbcast.com And say hello to Rosalee Jameson!

From Shellee Graham comes some news on her traveling exhibit...one museum booked her photo exhibit in the year 2001 for 6 months. Usually, a booking is 3 months, so that will be one of the longest exhibits of this famed display by this talented young lady!

We got a lot of tidbits from Steve & Glaida Funk: Bloomington-Normal Cruise Night had the State Farm Route 66 Motor Tour Arch in downtown Bloomington for a Corvette show, enroute to the Interstate Center in Central Illinois earlier this summer. And during June 14th in Atlanta, there were flags all up and down Route 66 to celebrate Flag Day. One lady there, Georgia Green, embroidered about 250 flags. On June 4-6 there were several major races at Route 66 Raceway near Joliet. There were the Fram Nationals, NHRA Pro Stock Trucks, Holley Dominator Duel, Funny Car, Pro Stock, and Pro Stock Bike. The Route 66 Raceway is a multi-million dollar track that is one of the largest in the world, and conveniently located here in Illinois on Route 66 near Joliet. During June this year, a British cooking show was traveling 66. The two charming ladies; Janice Broxp and Ayshea Buksh were traveling from Chicago to Oklahoma looking for all kinds of Mom and Pop restaurants to feature on a British show called "Cooking About with Greg and Max." They were assisted by Betty Estes from Pontiac for two days and the girls spent some time at the Old Log Cabin restaurant. Also in late June, there were two bicyclists from Denmark to travel the entire Mother Road. They are: Carsten Knudsen and Brian Olsen. Their trek was a charity fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity. Their trip just ended after about 45 days of pedaling. They raised near \$10,000 or more for their efforts on Route 66. Another group of 30 bicyclists stopped by Funks Grove Sirup Farm. They were from Switzerland. In July, a Norwegian Motorcycle Tour of about 23 cycles also stopped by the Sirup Farm. This place the Funk's have is one of the most stopped at places anywhere in Illinois on Route 66. They get to see first hand the many different people that travel Route 66, and have hosted tours for them all that stop in to visit. Same with the Route 66 Museum we have at Dixie Truckers Home in McLean.

There is a new 66 book out, called *Route 66: The Empires Of Amusement*. It covers most of the old carnival roots and travels by these entertainment groups that set up show along 66 in various towns from Illinois to Texas. This is book one of two. The second book is called *Route 66: The Lands Of Magic*. The first book, sells for \$34.95 is published by Mock Turtle Press, and you can view some photos and excerpts on the Internet at www.mockturtlepress.com The book, *The Empires Of Amusement* can be ordered for \$34.95 plus \$3. shipping from Mock Turtle Press, Box 3168, Lynnwood, Washington 98046-

In Other News..., continued

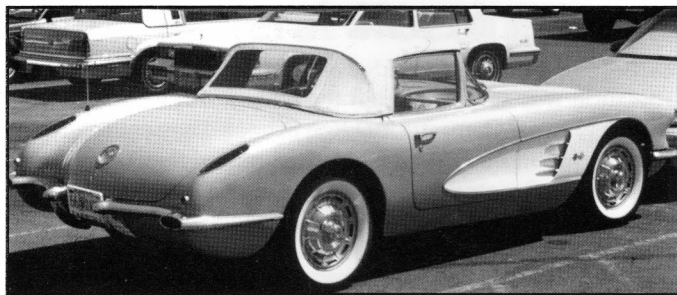
3168. Credit card orders call toll free at 1-877-285-5434.

In Carlinville, Illinois there will be the 10th annual Christmas Market from December 3 through 5 later this year. This is a large, town-wide holiday event that includes historic tours of the area, nativity scenes, entertainment, kid stuff, and trolley car rides. Many restaurants to choose from, and they host too many events and things to do and see during this 3 day weekend holiday celebration. Plan on spending some time this Christmas in Carlinville, and take home some of that Christmas Spirit! This information was supplied by Kristy Foiles, Administrator. For more info, E-mail them at chamber@carlinville.com or check out their web site at www.carlinville.com/chamber.

From the Bill Shea 66 Museum in Springfield comes some news: There is a new travel trip package called The Best Of Route 66. It is a 6 day trip covering all of Illinois Route 66 and some of Missouri. It highlights several key stops, which include Bill Shea's 66 Museum, the Cozy Dog, the Ariston. Earlier in the trip, the Gemini Giant, and the Funk's Maple Sirup Farm. It ends I think on the Watson Road stretch of 66 in St. Louis at the Ted Drewes Frozen Custard Store. This is truly an amazing tour, which cost only \$299 per person based on double occupancy. This tour has dates all year long available up to March of the year 2000. For complete information, write to: On The Scene, 54 W. Illinois, Suite 550, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

And as mentioned elsewhere in this issue, Congress did indeed approve HR66, which authorizes the National Park Service to award grants to public and private groups for improving and restoring historic sites along the route, which can include old diners, gas stations, bridges (maybe), tourist cabins, etc. I sincerely HOPE that our Preservation Committee is in the early stages of going after this entire 66 jackpot, which is \$10 million dollars! As an afterthought, I want to see OUR state get gold plating done for our Illinois stretch of Route 66! Maybe even add a dozen more gas pumps to Bill Shea's 66 Museum, maybe a separate building on the side of Dixie Truckers Home for our Route 66 Museum, and some more signs and goodies for Feddersen's Pizza Garage! Also, more pigs stocked for Ernie's Pig Hip Restaurant, and extra signs on all of Interstate 55 to direct people to the Cozy Dog in Springfield! The imagination here has NO limits, with \$10 million Dollars! Maybe they can funnel some of that 66 cash cow here to your number one Editor, and I can then finally run the BIG ISSUE of The 66 News that I so dreamed of doing, to cap off my career as the Association's best Editor! So how about it fans? Tell me what's on your mind for Route 66 in Illinois? I listed some of what's on my mind, so tell me what's on yours! Maybe then we can get some more 66 hat pins for Uncle Tom Teagues' big brown cowboy hat that he wears from time to time. (Editor)

Here is a cool photo from Shellee Graham, of her latest bird house! Her husband Doug had the idea to paint the white bird house to look like one of those Meramec Caverns advertisement signs you see in Missouri. It is also presumed the idea was inspired by John Weiss' Cayuga project, so this must be the only 66 bird house! However, TOO BAD Shellee didn't make a nice 66 dog house for the poor mutt sitting next to this bird house. I can tell the poor pooch is looking for a different deco for his old doggie house, too!



As every year, again the Canadian Route 66 Association, headed by Lorrie Fleming, has took yet another Route 66 trip, heading to the Fun Run which is sponsored by the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona. There were over 1,000 cars registered for this huge 66 get-together. I think Lorrie's group had about 18 cars. They were also paying a tribute to one of their members that died just before the trip, and that honorary member was Neil Taylor. Lorrie still sports her favorite plates, which are ROOT 66. Lorrie has kept me posted (Editor) on their cruises and other 66 trips, and I can tell you that the Canadian 66 Association is one of the most glamorous of the foreign groups of 66 fans that love to travel such long distances from home to enjoy what America has to offer in forms of the cherished love of the automobile and the Main Street Of America that they drove on, and that was of course Route 66.

My hat (and shoes!) are off to this special group and hope someday to spend some 66 chat time with them when they are in Illinois on one of their runs. Who knows? One of our Motor Tours or better yet, one of our Association Picnics, or Corvette Shows that are all over the state

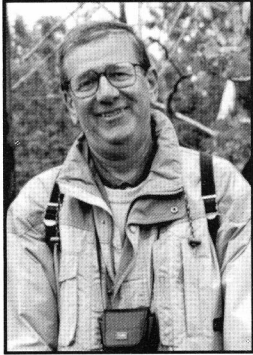


Tenth Motor Tour is in the Books as the Wettest

224 Cars Get Their Kicks

by Jeff LaFollette

The tenth annual Motor Tour may go down in the archives as the wettest tour on record so far, but that didn't dampen the spirits of the participants as 224 cars cruised on Route 66 from Berwyn to Collinsville. The 224 cars were only nine short of last years 233 total.



Ten states and one foreign country were represented this year on the tour. Those states were Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Oregon, Indiana, Connecticut, Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Colorado. Luxembourg was the foreign country represented.

Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket was the site of the pre-tour festivities, and just as last year in Edwardsville, as

the tents were set up, the wind and rains came and moved the festivities indoors. Route 66 authors: Tom Teague, John Weiss, Dave Kinkel, Terry Ryburn-Lamonte, and Thomas Repp were on hand selling and autographing copies of their books. Thanks go to Patrick Rhea for his hospitality, allowing us to use his restaurant to kick off the tour.

The tenth Tour began with a nice sendoff from the City of Berwyn. Over 100 cars left at 8 AM from Ogden Ave. (Historic Route 66) The cars cruised into White Fence Farm in Romeoville where they joined with those cars that registered on Saturday morning. White Fence Farm was open to check out the antiques on display and for restrooms. From there the cars headed south on Route 66 towards Wilmington.

Wilmington awaited us in the downtown area with all the great antique shops and the Eagle Hotel being open for tours. The Launching Pad was a popular first stop into town as folks pulled in to get their picture with "The Gemini Giant" or to cool off with a root beer float or an ice cream cone. Once all got their fill of browsing and shopping in Wilmington, everyone packed up and headed south to Pontiac. Cars lined up at the Old Log Cabin inn to parade into town. The parade headed to the downtown area where the cars drove through the State Farm Arch, which was making a return to the Motor Tour. The mayor of Pontiac greeted the cars, as they drove through, and parked near the Courthouse. Local merchants and the Livingston County Pork



Producers were on hand to serve up a fine lunch to the hungry participants. Entertainment was also featured on a stage at the East Side of the Courthouse. Pontiac did not disappoint anyone, as there were a lot of fun and festivities going on. Once the caravan started to leave, the rain started to fall.

Bloomington was the next stop on the tour at the old Courthouse in the downtown area. The McLean County Historical Society hosted us with their exhibits and Route 66 author Shellee Graham was on hand with her photo exhibit and also was giving a talk about her exhibit and Route 66. For the second year in a row, our Motor Tour Chairman had his picture taken behind bars in a holding cell in the Courthouse. I guess I need to quit causing so much trouble out there and pay attention to the tour details! But a lot of fun was had by all as a lot of folks had their pictures taken in the cell as well. From there the tour headed down to McLean to the Dixie Truckers Home to see the Hall Of Fame Museum, where the Hall Of Fame members are enshrined. Leaving McLean, the rain started again as the tour pulled into Lincoln for the Hall Of Fame Banquet and the overnight stop.



The Hall Of Fame Banquet was held at the KC Hall in Lincoln. 359 people attended the banquet and ceremonies. New members this year include: The Rialto Square Theatre and FitzHenry Oil Company, both from Joliet. And Bob Johnson's Brandtville Restaurant plus Casey's Market & Garden Center, both from Bloomington. Tom Teague, Hall Of Fame Committee Chairman, presented inductees plaques.

Sunday morning greeted the tour with more rain, but the cars continued their southward trek. After breakfast at the American Legion in Lincoln, Broadwell was the first stop. The Pig Hip Restaurant, which was in business on Route 66 from 1937 to 1991 was opened and owner plus Hall Of

continued on page 11

Preservation Committee Minutes

by John Weiss

The Preservation Committee met at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight, Illinois on June 19, 1999 at 6 PM.

In attendance were Lenore Weiss, Dorothy Seratt, Jeff Meyer, Dave & Doreen DeJohn, Joe & Jeanne Purpura, Tim Palm, Joe & Lynn Martinek, Marilyn & Ted Giovanazzi, Dolores & Len Scinto, Larry Scinto, Roger Berta, Greg Anderson, John & Kath Miller, Frank & Bonnie Kalembe, Bill & Barb Gwodz, Vi & Rich Blaha, Gretchen Wendt, Sean & Karen Meehan, Jaque & Bob Newberry, John & Loyce Stonecipher.

Dorothy Seratt made a motion to accept the minutes as received, seconded by Roger Berta. Motion carried.

John gave a report on the Route 66 sign with the proceeds going to Odell. Raffle tickets sold totaled \$1,066.25. Lou Vandiver won the sign, donated it back to Odell and it was sold at auction for \$400. Total amount generated was \$1,466.25. A round of applause went out to Paul and Tami Panczuk who donated the sign. To date, a total of \$10,871.75 has been received in cash to help

the Odell Station, and all other donations of items for the station including many from Bill Shea can be estimated at \$4,000. That equals about \$15,000 to date.

Dorothy Seratt thanked John & Lenore for all of their hard work.

Dave Miller is trying to get reproduction signs of Miller Tire for the front posts of the station. He said he will donate them if necessary. (Thank you, Dave!)

It was mentioned that the folks who sponsor a poker run in Wisconsin for the American Cancer Society came down and helped deal cards.

Bill Przybylski, Paul & Gretchen Wendt, John & Lenore Weiss, Greg Anderson, Dorothy and Mayor Seal all worked on the roof and cleanup on June 6, 1999.

Western States offered to do all of the labor to install the roof shingles for \$300. Odell will furnish the necessary materials for the permanent roof. Paul suggested making templates for regular shingles if needed. They have to have 4 tabs. Volunteers will be needed. Many people volunteered to help cut shingles. We may have a Shingle Cutting Picnic.

Dorothy discussed grant money and will work with others. She also explained grant applications and the importance of having them in by November.

Greg Anderson will be doing electrical work June 26 at the Odell Station.

Using the shingles from the back of the building to put on the front for the posts was discussed. A Painting Party was briefly discussed and the date is still to be announced.

John reported that photos of the Meramec Caverns barn and some of the volunteers are in the Hall Of Fame. They are also on our web site at il66assoc.org/

We have an additional \$17 in our Preservation account from shingles we sold. Jeff Meyer reported that he donated a shingle he bought to Hit The Road store in Chicago. It is on display there.

A model of the Marathon Station was shown and is available at Beckers Amoco in Dwight.

The Association Picnic in Atlanta will be on Sunday, September 12, 1999 starting at Noon. Please bring a dish to pass, chairs, etc. All buildings preserved will be open to members and guests. It should be a great day! John suggested we all attend.

John reported that he had a discussion with Marty Blitstein, Treasurer, regarding the Depot money and what Odell should have and also preservation. John explained details. The Association borrowed money when needed and may be returning it to Preservation and Odell soon.

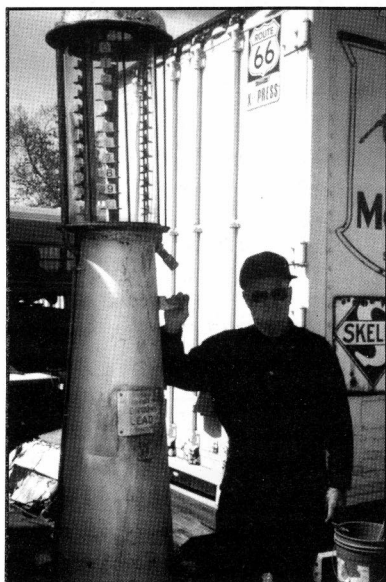
The Joliet Area Historical Society has applied for a grant looking for a transportation theme. They mentioned Route 66 and the I & M Canal and the railroads. Their new building is on the corner of Route 66 and Lincoln Highway.

Dorothy reported that various road pavements on Route 66, now 4 sections, are on the National Register. They are working on a fifth piece. From Dwight to south of Pontiac is on the Multiple Listing and will help with writing up a new site on Route 66. Dorothy explained all replacements have to be "in kind." The sixth section is the Brick Road in Auburn. Discussion followed.

Talk followed regarding the streetcar behind the Riviera, and its history. We submitted the story to the Newsletter Editor with permission from the author.

Discussion followed about using a Roadside Attraction sign similar to the original one that Randy Wierzgac made for all Route 66 attractions.

Discussed license plates that Dave DeJohn can offer for sale and donate money back to Preservation via the Internet. Dave also gave a delightful report of his first experience, with his friend Joe Purpura on Route 66.



Preservation Committee Minutes, continued

John read a letter from a fellow in New York regarding the Brick Road. He picked up one brick when he was out here for his extensive collection. He cannot put it on display as "The brick is lonely and wants to go home." He intends to bring it back in August and replace it back where it belongs. (We highly respect his integrity)

Congress got its kicks by approving \$10 million dollars for Route 66. House Bill 66 allows awards for preservation of motor courts, diners and gas stations. Details for this 10 year program are being worked out. We will aggressively go after as much money as we can get.

McCook Quarry detour. We are supporting McCook to preserve original Route 66. Repairs at the base of the quarry through the tunnels are needed. Various letters regarding this were read to the committee.

Dave DeJohn looked into trying to save the Gardner Bridge. It received an award in 1939 and is now closed to the public. Brief discussion about a biking-hiking trail and getting municipalities involved. Dave will research this farther.

Discussion followed to possibly put up a sign by the "Hole In The Wall" by the Meramec Caverns barn where squad cars used to hide to watch for speeders on Route 66. The sign would simply name the spot.

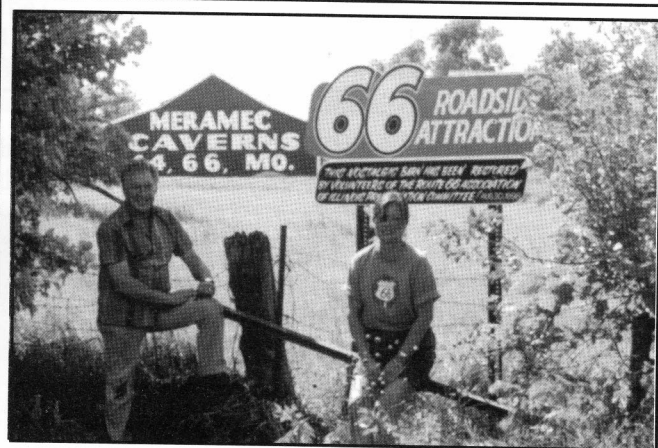
Route 4 bridge in Pontiac is in need of new plexiglass. John & Loyce Stonecipher and Dorothy will replace it. John will help if needed.

John reported that the billboard showing "The Lodge" which is now the Country Mansion should be sealed so it doesn't fade away. He showed a postcard advertising The Lodge on Route 66, to see the windmill, swans and a herd of deer. It is the only remaining intact billboard that goes back to the Route 66 era.

Lenore, John and Gretchen Wendt had the opportunity to rummage through a remaining building at the Inn Of The Lamplighter. One of the residents presented John & Lenore with an engraved letter opener and several keys. Gretchen found a special key for herself.

Discussion of books and videos followed regarding Route 66. It was noted that some highlighted Illinois.

It was reported by Dorothy that the daughter of the owner



A photo of the Route 66 Roadside Attraction sign painted by Randy Wierzgac was passed around and Dorothy pointed out where she touched up a screw on the sign. Randy painted the sign, furnished posts, etc. for only \$50. (John & Lenore donated the wood) John, assisted by Dorothy & Lenore installed the sign. Randy was paid 2 days after the bill was submitted to the Treasurer. The owner of the property wants to illuminate the barn at night. We will help if necessary.

of Odell Station told of a ghost named Oscar she would play with when alone, and living next door. A person by the name of Prosper owned the property at Odell Station in 1852. (Could it be the child confused Oscar with Prosper?) Additional funds were turned over to John Stonecipher from John Weiss towards the Odell fundraiser.

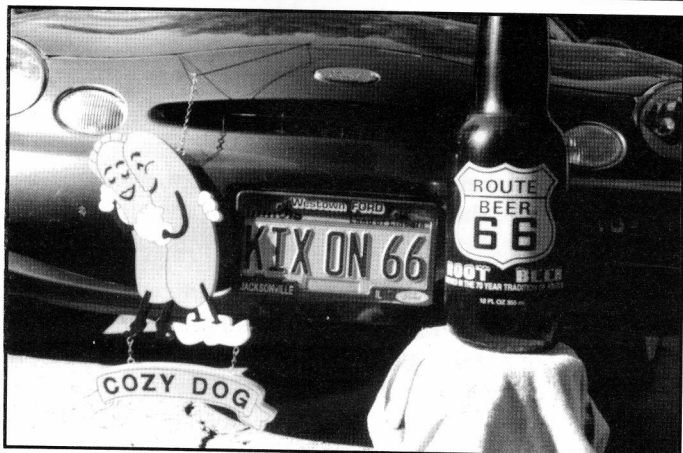
HELP NEEDED! We need desperately the help of 2 special people: one who is familiar with writing and applying for grants, and an architect or a structural engineer. If you can help, please call John Weiss at 815-469-5219. You'll be glad you did!

NEXT PRESERVATION MEETING: The next Preservation Meeting of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be on Saturday, August 21, 1999 at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight on Old 66. They start off at 5 PM with a meal, and then by 6 PM start their meeting. Everyone including the public is invited to attend, and bring your ideas!

Speaking In Plates

by Tom Teague

Veteran plates spotter Tom Teague suggests that contributors to this column jazz up their photos. As a guide, he sent in a pic of his own plate, which he's had since 1986. He calls this little tableau "Always Advertising."



S.O.S. Save Odell Station Fundraiser

A Fantastic Success! We Exceeded All Expectations!

by John Weiss

Lenore and I discussed what we felt were fun and successful ways to raise money. We decided to fashion this fundraiser after an event we both enjoy and help with that takes place in September at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. They call their 3 day Classic Car Rally "According to Hoyle." Proceeds benefit children's cancer research.

Okay, now we have a borrowed idea, next we needed volunteers. We put out the word, and over 60 people came forward to help. Next came a need for prize donations. Our volunteers came back with over \$2,000 in raffle prizes. In the process, \$1,000 in cash donations was also received. On top of all this, we also received an offer for all the free soda we needed from Jeff LaFollette from 7UP in Iowa. We also received an original Route 66 highway sign to be raffled off.

The event...our one day poker run and cruise consisted of 8 dealer locations, each in a business along Route 66. Some were north, others south of our location in Odell. Participants were given maps and directions to these selected locations. They would then drive to any 5 of them and draw a playing card. The best poker hands win. The players were encouraged to visit additional towns and sights along the way. One direction was called the Antique Route and the other was the Restaurant Route. The total distance was 90 miles. Those not wanting to drive the whole route could do any part of it and draw the remaining cards at the Odell Station. Most players purchased 3 to 15 blank poker hands. Cards could be drawn any time between 11 AM and 3 PM. They had to be turned in by 3:30 PM and awards were given out at 4 PM.

Another good idea is that anyone who purchased hands ahead of time and could not attend, had their hands played by proxy by one of our members. (Note...one proxy hand came in second place.)



A nice aspect of the north-south layout is that it created a loop. This had people traveling both directions at the same time. Lots of tooting and waving to each other took place. In most cases while on a Route 66 Motor Tour, it is only one direction, like a convoy. This made things totally different. We had participants from England, Germany, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, and of course Illinois.

Since we had a lot of raffle items and gift certificates donated, they were grouped into packages worth \$50 or more. We had so many that we had to create a catalog showing what was in each package. Numbered jars were placed in front of each of these packages so participants could attempt to win the one they specifically wanted. Several items donated had values of \$100 or more. These items were laid out individually and offered as a

silent auction. A few other items were offered for sale. Also available were trivia games, a 50-50 raffle and a clown to entertain the kids.

The vendors were the local ladies selling fantastic home made pies slices (they earned \$243). The Route 66 Root Beer Soda Company set up its complete display and added a lot to the theme. Odell also sold their S.O.S. T-shirts and hats.

A raffle was also held for an original Route 66 sign that was donated by Paul and Tami Panczuk of Indiana. The drawing was delayed until the Hall Of Fame Banquet during the Illinois Motor Tour. The sign generated \$1,066 in raffle ticket sales. The winner was Lou Vandiver. (She only bought 6 tickets) After winning the sign, she donated it back to us! We then held an auction for the sign. It sold for \$400. The total income from the sign was \$1,466.

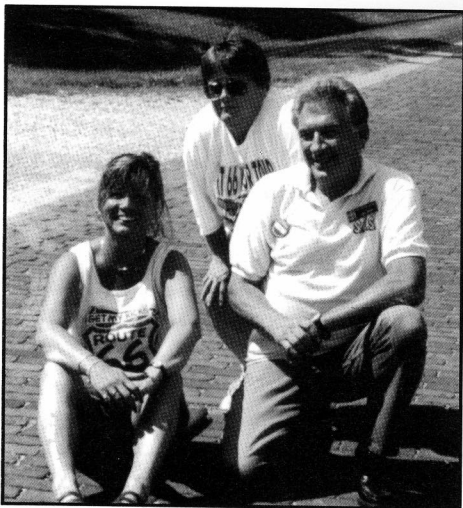
The end result is we cleared \$10,871.75 in cash and also received over \$3,500 in donated items for the station. All total, our efforts will have collectively produced between \$14,000 and \$15,000. Not bad for a first time event!

continued on page 12

Motor Tour Report, continued from page 7

Famer Ernie Edwards was there to greet people in his chef's hat and he also handed out autographed place mats from his restaurant. These were vintage 1962 place mats, a real collector's item from an original business along Route 66 in Illinois. Ernie and his wife Frances were there to greet everyone who stopped in. Leaving Broadwell, we continued on to Springfield. As the cars were leaving, more rain started to fall.

Springfield's scheduled stop was at the Cozy Dog Restaurant, where Buz Waldmire opened the place up for tour participants to get a taste of a Cozy Dog. The Cozy Dog has been on Route 66 since 1949 and was founded by Buz's father Ed Waldmire. Ed, who passed away a few years ago invented the Cozy Dog, known in some circles as a



corn dog, but Route 66 aficionados know that there is only one true Cozy Dog and that is in Springfield. Thank you Buz, for opening up and serving us a great 66 treat!

Leaving Springfield, the tour took Illinois Route 4, the 1926-1930

alignment of Route 66 through Chatham and Virden. Just before the town of Auburn, many of the cars turned off the newer alignment of Route 4 to drive on the old Brick Road just north of Auburn.

This 1.53 mile section was put on the National Register Of Historic Places in 1998, and was a real treat to drive on. This is the only remaining brick section of Route 66 that is still driveable in Illinois. Mother Nature gave us a break as we rolled into Girard for our Sunday lunch stop. Originally, our lunch stop was supposed to be in downtown Girard, but construction on the downtown square area changed that and lunch was at the Girard High School. This worked out great because there was plenty of parking and plenty of food. The Girard Lions Club did an excellent job serving the hungry travelers. Thanks go to the Lions Club for a great effort!

Once leaving Girard, the tour continued down Route 4 through Carlinville, Nilwood, Gillespie and Benld. Outside of Carlinville, the skies opened up for what seemed to be a never-ending battle with rain for most of the rest of the afternoon. Lots of cars stopped quickly to put their convertible tops up, myself included, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the tour. Once we reached Benld,

the tour took a new twist. We turned east on Illinois Route 138 and headed for Mount Olive to see the Soulsby Shell Station. This marks the first time that the Motor Tour has traveled two alignments of Route 66 on the same tour.

In Mount Olive, the Soulsby Station awaited the arrival of the cars. Russell Soulsby who had worked at the station from Route 66's beginning in 1926 until he closed it up in 1991, was on hand to greet people and sign autographs. The Soulsby Society, headed by Tom Teague was there also selling shirts and giving tours of the station. New station owner Mike Dragovich was on hand to greet folks as well. Close to \$700 was raised in shirt sales and donations for the Soulsby Society whose goal is to preserve the station and hopefully make it into a museum someday.

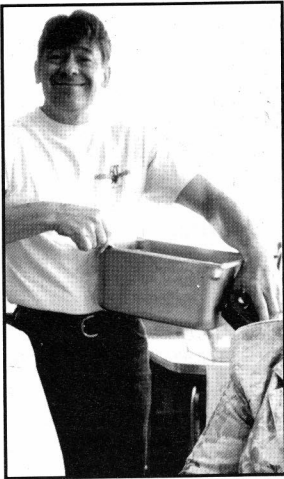
The tour left Mount Olive and once again the skies opened up and the rain fell. The tour headed into the home stretch and the final stop in Collinsville awaited us. But before we arrived there were a couple of things yet to see for those who wanted a little bit extra. Earnie's bar in Hamel was having a street fest and the rain stopped long enough for those who wanted to stop off for a cold one and listen to some music. Also, Edwardsville was celebrating their Festival 66 and although it was not one of our scheduled stops, the town invited us to come down and take part in the fun if anyone so desired. Thanks to these two towns for getting into the spirit on Route 66. Collinsville was the final stop of the tour and in conjunction with the tenth annual Motor Tour, Collinsville was celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Brooks Catsup Bottle water tower. The tower was built in 1949 and underwent a renovation completed in 1995, thanks to the efforts of Judy DeMoisy and the Downtown Collinsville Association. Catsup Bottle water tower merchandise was being sold there, and there were food vendors plus a 50th birthday cake for the Catsup Bottle. Also there was a parade that some of the Motor Tour participants took part in.

Those who could stay around Monday morning got the chance to walk or drive across the Chain Of Rocks Bridge near Mitchell.



The skies were clear Monday and offered a scenic view of the Gateway Arch and the St. Louis skyline. This was a free event this year but donations were being accepted. All proceeds go to the continuing restoration of the bridge. The bridge, operated by Trailnet, Inc. out of St. Louis is now open on weekends for biking & hiking.

continued on page 12



It's A Family Tradition

by Tom Teague

Before his death in 1993, Hall Of Famer Ed Waldmire hosted a pancake and waffle breakfast each Spring at the family estate near Rochester. His son Bob carried on that tradition May 16 when he held the Edwin Waldmire Memorial Pancake Breakfast at the Cozy Dog in Springfield. The menu: whole grain pancakes filled with

strawberries or pecans and topped off with Funks Grove maple sirup. More than 100 people, including many of Ed's oldest friends, came to enjoy Bob's work.

Bob also used the occasion to officially unveil the Cozy Dog's new centerpiece: the Edwin Waldmire Memorial Library. Housed in a refurbished back bar that he brought home from Arizona, the library includes books by all his father's favorites...from Pogo to Thomas Paine.

Also at the breakfast, Bob took several tables and put many of his father's scrapbooks, photos and other memorabilia on display. Then he had a guest register where visitors could record their own memories and anecdotes of Ed. He hopes to include these reminiscences and the interviews they lead to in the book he's doing about his father.



Odell Station Fundraiser

continued from page 10

A big contributor of accessories for the station was the Shea family from Springfield. The Bill Shea petroleum museum is a favorite stop for all Route 66 Roadies traveling through Illinois. The Sheas donated a gravity flow gas pump, a lubester, Standard signs, a cash register and lots more.

The little station WILL BE SAVED. One corner of the building had to be jacked up over 14 inches. The rotted sunken corner had twisted the entire structure. Now it also has a new roof and partial floor. The building is again solid and strong.

The next time you are near Odell, Illinois, stop by to see the progress. We still have a lot to do. But little by little it will get done. By the way, donations are always welcome. Send to: John Weiss, P.O. Box 16, Frankfort, Illinois 60423. Phone: 815-469 5219.

This is a successful fundraising idea that worked. If any club or group would like copies of the materials we used, just let us know. We will be happy to furnish them. Please send \$1 to cover costs of shipping to John at the above address.

Motor Tour Report,

continued from page 11

All in all, despite the wet weather, the Motor Tour was a success. We can't control the weather, but we all had a lot of fun and good times. Not everything always goes smoothly, but we strive to make these tours fun and enjoyable for everyone who participates.

Next year's tour is already being planned. We have a beginning and an ending and a couple of stops in between lined up. The Motor Tour Committee is always looking for comments, input, and fresh ideas. We invite any and all suggestion, and most of all we appreciate any and all help you as members of this association can give us. If you have a comment or suggestion for future tours, please drop a note to Jeff LaFollette at the address on page 2 of this newsletter, or E-mail me at AJon66@aol.com and we will discuss any and all suggestions at tour meetings coming up.

Our next tour meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 12, 1999 in Atlanta' just before the Association Picnic. If you would like to attend, contact me and I will put you on the mailing list and keep you updated. Thank you for all your support and we look forward to next years' tour!

It's A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood!

by Jim Gilbert

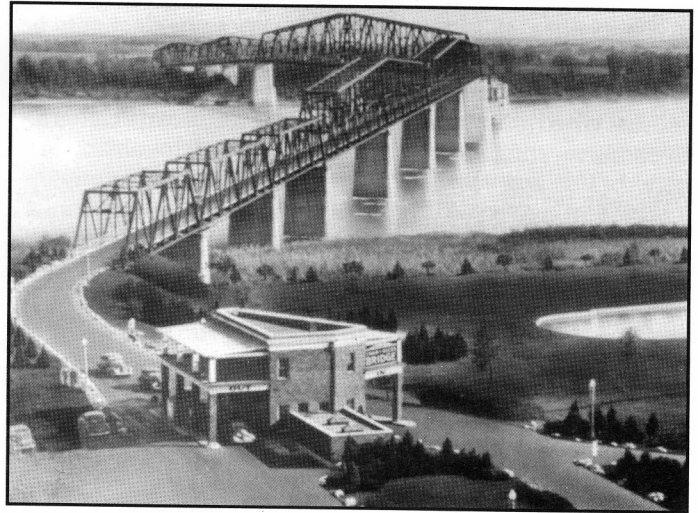
Saturday, June 12, 1999. Well, almost...we had a few sprinkles overnight, and it was overcast at sunrise, but now the sun is starting to overtake the sky. St. Louis weather...what can I say? It looks like Mother Nature will be on our side today.

Why should we care about today? This is the first day the old Chain Of Rocks Bridge is open to the public. It is now the world's longest pedestrian bridge. For the time being the hours will be 9 AM to 5 PM CSDT on weekends only.

True, last weekend was the official opening and I'm happy to say we had a tremendous turnout. Today however, is the first day of regular operation.

It's been a long haul restoring this link between Illinois and Missouri. Thanks should go to Trailnet, Inc.; Friends of the Old Chain Of Rocks Bridge Group; The Illinois and Missouri Route 66 Associations; The National Historic Route 66 Federation; Route 66 Magazine; State and Local governments and so many other individuals, companies, and organizations, too numerous to name. Most of all, thanks should go to John Q. Birdwatcher, John Q. Jogger, and John Q. Roadwarrior for all the support and contributions.

Some facts and figures: The bridge measures 20 feet in width and is 5,348 feet, 3 5/8 inches long...(about 1 1/10th of a mile). The bridge opened at 1:45 PM on Saturday, July 20, 1929 and is still the 12th longest continuous span bridge in the world, and now the world's longest pedestrian bridge too! The original



cost was between 2 to 2 1/2 million dollars in 1929. The toll was 35 cents for both car and driver, plus 5 cents for each additional passenger. It's the only bridge on Route 66 with a 24 degree bend in the middle. What a lady!

Yes, it is a beautiful day in the neighborhood. Won't you be our neighbor? Stop by next time you're motoring west, and enjoy a pleasant walk down history lane. Thank you all for your support...from Jim Gilbert. For more information: E-mail: old66@worldnet.att.net Bridge Hotline: 314-741-1211 or try Jim at home: 314-741-7410, Web Site: <http://home.att.net/old66>

HELP WANTED! The Missouri Route 66 Association Needs a Good Editor!

by Randy Smith

As of our last Board-General Meeting in July, I was informed that the Missouri Route 66 Association is still in desperate need of a good, qualified Newsletter Editor to run their newsletter. Being an Editor myself, I am aware of the massive amount of time and talent it takes to be a good Editor.

Speaking of our own Newsletter, it started off as a pen and paper thing, set up by Tom Teague, and it suited its purpose though generic in form sometimes. This was 10 years ago! Now, times have changed and the technology revolution has grasped our Newsletter. For those that are not aware of how we do things with our Newsletter, I will fill you in some.

I usually write the articles up on wpt. files, and later on convert them to ASCII code. In other cases, I will scan entire pages of text, run them through an OCR program, and then edit the text from that layout, which in some cases can save weeks typing every little thing that comes along. Once done and converted, I send the work in a package to my charming layout girl, Kim Kuman. Her talent is second to none using the Adobe Pagemaker program. She is an expert in her field. Kim gets it all put together and laid out for me, then when she sends it back, I look it over good, and when I make my trip to Lincoln Printers, Bob Borowiak has his Macintosh set up where I get a floppy disk from Kim that has the newsletter laid out on it, and

we put it in Bob's PC, then I make yet some more little changes, add ons, or other modifications to the work, then Bob runs a final print and we look it over for the finished product.

As in the last three issues, I personally have designed the front cover, though I do not consider myself a pro at it. I use my IBM, with a 36 bit scanner and run my proof on a 1200 DPI printer. I run it all through a program to add the text and so forth, then Bob gets a color separation made off of it, and then it all gets done and ready for pickup in about 1 1/2 weeks.

All of this takes an undue amount of time, and in my case sometimes working overtime at my job, I am fortunate to have the time at all to do the Illinois Newsletter. But I been at it for 3 years now, and I am trying to stay at it as long as possible, but as most people fear, it is often true that the Editor position can and probably is the hardest position to fill and maintain of any position in any Association.

So I most sincerely hope that the Missouri Association does find a good Editor to fill in for Skip Curtis when he retires from it in about two more issues. If you might know someone that can help out, try to E-mail Ron Robb from the Missouri Association at: ronrobb@ipa.net or their address at: Route 66 Association Of Missouri, P.O. Box 8117, St. Louis, Missouri 63156-8117.

Elections Time!

This coming Fall, there will be several positions in the Route 66 Association Of Illinois that will be up for re-elect or to be elected. There will be more information in the upcoming Fall 1999 issue. Here below are some of the positions that will be voted on at the October 17, 1999 Board-General-Elections meeting...

President, held by Frank Lozich.
Secretary, held by Marilyn Pritchard.
Corresponding Secretary, held by Dorothy Seratt.
And from the Board Members (Counties) list are...

Cook, held by George Leone.
Will, held by Duke Cartwright.

Grundy, held by Ray Starks.

Logan, held by Paul Gleason.

Montgomery, held by Priscilla Mathews.

Also, there are three At-Large positions up for grabs...

1. Held by Ray Rueck
2. Held by Chester Henry
3. Held by John Weiss

So for all of you that are interested in running against one of these fine 66 people, or to go for a position that they do not run again for, it is your chance to step up in helping the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. We are looking for dedicated, hard working volunteers that want to help us grow in strength and ideas. Working together is a must! Here lately, this has been a changing Association that has a lot going for it, and if you feel that you can fit in with teamwork, then call a member of the nominating committee or write Jeff Geisler, which his address is: 814 West 61st Street, LaGrange Highlands, Illinois 60525. Phone: 708-354-8746. He'll get you on the list, and we'll keep this list going up to the Election Day this Fall.

Special Events License Plates

by Jeff LaFollette

I would like to thank you all for your support of the Route 66 Association Special License Plates. We sold all 147 of the 150 sets and the remaining three were donated. Number 5 went to the designer, Jim Robinson of Viola, Illinois in exchange for his services. Number 66 went to the Hall Of Fame Museum in McLean, Illinois and Number 150 went toward the Odell Standard Station Fundraiser. All told, the sale of the plates raised over \$2,300 for the Association. A big THANKS YOU to you all!

I have received many inquiries about having special event plates for next year. The Association has thought about doing plates in 2001, the 75th Anniversary of Route 66, but the year 2000 has not been discussed. Due to the interest that I have received, I would like to see if any of you would be interested in plates.

It was approved by the Board at the Carlinville meeting to order 200 plates this time for the year 2000, up from 150 sets this year. If you want to keep the same number you got last year or want a different one, please call or write me to my address on page 2. You can now E-mail me at AJon66@aol.com

Memories Of Route 66

by Jim Jones

We want to introduce you to a new feature of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois Newsletter. It's called "Memories Of Route 66". We offer you a means of sharing your favorite Route 66 stories with your fellow members. We all have stories that warm our hearts and give us that warm and fuzzy feeling. Those are the stories we want.

Kathy Gransee sent us the story below for all to share. We are sure there are many more tales to be told by the membership. This is the forum for sharing them.

Please send stories to: Jim Jones, 842 S. Walnut St., Pontiac, Illinois 61764. Don't worry about flooding us with your stories...we will hold them and use them as space allows. We truly enjoy the personal touch of stories such as Kathy's. Please share your adventures on Route 66 with the rest of us!

My interest in 66 is the history and the memories of a better, safer and friendlier time. My Dad drove a truck for a living back in the 50's. When school got out in the summer, my sister and I would go on my Dad's route with him. We traveled throughout Illinois and had some great times. The truck stops had great food and the waitresses always gave us a free piece of candy or bubble gum. We would sit in the cab of the truck and sing along with the songs on the radio. When we got to one of the small stores on my Dad's route, we would try to help him unload. All the grocers and store owners felt sorry for us so they would sit us by their back door, give us a Nehi soda and a donut, a piece of pie or cake and we thought we died and went to heaven! Sometimes we didn't get home until 10 or 11 at night. My mother could never understand why we never felt very good the next day. Dad always said, "It was hot on the road yesterday and they are just tired." We knew it was all those nice freebies we ate and drank from the good, generous people we met along Route 66. Until I was 16, I thought there were only 3 roads in the whole state...Route 51, Route 45, and Route 66!

(Submitted by Kathy Gransee)

Hall Of Fame Improvements

by Tom Teague

The Route 66 Hall Of Fame of Illinois, already the most visited roadside attraction along 66, will soon feature more display space and a guest book for travelers to sign. The Hall Of Fame Committee had discussed these improvements with Dixie Truckers Home, the Hall's host, for more than a year. But the Dixie's own extensive remodeling program delayed the progress on these improvements. But Mark Beeler, the Dixie's chief executive, announced just after this year's Motor Tour that work on them would soon begin. Not only that, but it will be done at the Dixie's expense.

Tom Teague is donating the guest book. Its stand will likely be in the southeast corner of the main display area. He estimates thousands of people a year could sign it. The other enhancement will be a set of sliding brackets above the east display cases that will hold Hall Of Fame plaques. This will free up space below for memorabilia and photos. No date has been set for either of these projects. But they should both be in place well before the end of the year.

A Message from Jeff LaFollette

For those of you who do not know me, please let me introduce myself. My name is Jeff LaFollette, the current Vice-President of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. I also have been the Chairman of the last two Motor Tours. I write this article today to announce my intention to run for President of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. Our current President, Frank Lozich, is stepping down at the end of his term this October, and I would like to assume the role that he has more than capably held for the past two years.

I have been married to my wonderful wife, Annette, for almost 8 years. I have a 20 year old daughter, Diana, who will be starting her third year of College this Fall. I have been a member of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois since 1994, as a sustaining member. I have served on the Preservation Committee, the By-Laws Committee, the Finance Committee, and I have chaired the Motor Tour Committee for the past 2 years. I feel my experience as a Chairman of the Motor Tour has helped me to refine my leadership abilities and I feel that I can do a very good job as President.

Frank Lozich was elected President in the Fall of 1997. He received the reigns of an Association that was in disarray and that lacked strong direction. There was some financial hardship as well.

Frank put his leadership abilities to the test and has over the past 2 years pulled the Association together, helped form a Finance Committee that now has controlled spending and put more money into our coffers. Preservation efforts as well have taken off with an effective leader of that committee. Mr. John Weiss, who has spearheaded many worthwhile projects such as the Meramec Caverns Barn project in Cayuga and the fundraiser for the Standard Station in Odell. Under Frank's strong leadership, the Illinois Association is well known for its preservation efforts up and down Route 66.

Frank will leave the Association in excellent shape when his term ends in October. My agenda is simple. I want to pick up

where Frank has left off. I want the Preservation Committee to continue its efforts to find projects along 66 in Illinois to restore or rebuild. I want the Finance Committee to continue to keep our expenses down and keep the revenue coming in, so that we may have the capital to possibly help in some projects down the road. I want our Newsletter to continue the quality of reporting and stories it always has and give our Newsletter Editor the freedom to edit as he sees fit. I want to see our Membership continue to grow and be accurately accounted for as Mr. Jim Jones has done so well for us over the last year. And lastly, I want to see that our Motor Tour does nothing but get better and better. Over 450 cars signed up the last two years. I would like to see 200 cars OR MORE per year as the norm.

The one thing that I would like to see as we go into a new millennium is more of the membership getting involved in our projects. We always open our meetings to the General Membership and that includes Committee Meetings as well. We are always open to new ideas and anyone is welcome to contribute. We can always use help on various projects such as Preservation, Motor Tour, etc. I would also like to see our County and At-Large Board Members take a more active role in planning activities and events within their Counties or areas. This Association is always looking for individuals and businesses that would like to help with our events and projects. I would like to see a growth in volunteerism during my term in office.

In closing, let me state that my goal as President is to make the Illinois Route 66 Association a model that other state Associations will look to and use as an example to follow by. I am not here for glory or title, but to keep our Association growing strong and also to keep it a viable force within the State Of Illinois. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call or write me at the address on the Officers and Board Members page (2), or you can E-mail me at AJon66@aol.com Thank you for your support!

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

When Faith Klein Bekker looks at that old streetcar, she is filled with memories. Memories of her mom's death and her grandma's cooking.

Memories of playing dolls with her girlfriends. Memories of people with different accents. Memories of good times in the summer.

The old streetcar is now permanently parked behind the Riviera restaurant on Illinois 53 near Gardner. It's just a storage shed now.

But when Bekker, 66, looks at the old streetcar she wishes its walls could talk. They would tell her stories about her family.

In the early 1930's, Bekker's uncle, George Kaldem, pulled the streetcar from Kankakee to Gardner. He parked it along what was then Route 66, built on a small kitchen and turned it into a restaurant.

A roadside restaurant with his mother doing the cooking. Minnie Springborn, Bekker's grandmother, was known far and wide for her good cooking. Her fresh pies, stew, fried chicken and homemade bread were considered some of the best that could be eaten anywhere.

In 1937, Bekker, then a 4 year old, and her little brother, Edward, just a year old, came to live with their grandma. Their mother, Edna, was in a tuberculosis sanitarium. With these new responsibilities, the grandmother could no longer do the cooking at the streetcar restaurant.

Some other folks managed the restaurant for a couple of years. Then it closed down and the streetcar was moved into the grandmother's yard, where it was turned into a cottage.

A summer cottage for Bekker's mother to die in. Her mother lived inside the streetcar for about 2 months before dying from TB at the age of 34. That's Bekker's only memory of her mother: seeing her in a casket at the wake inside the streetcar.

By that time, World War II had started. Jobs at the Joliet Arsenal brought in hundreds of workers from other states. There was a shortage of housing for them to live in.

The streetcar became a home to some of these families. First there was a couple from Alabama who talked with a slow Southern drawl. Then there was a family from Massachusetts with an Eastern accent.

Bekker remembers each family that lived there with fondness. After the war ended, the old streetcar became a summer cottage for the family once again. It was her playhouse and a place to sleep on hot summer nights.

She remembers playing dolls and house there with girlfriends from the neighborhood. She remembers sitting on the bed with the girls and playing cards while they laughed and talked about boys.

The old streetcar gave them the privacy they needed as children. As teen-agers, it was a place they could think of as their own.

The streetcar was still there when Bekker grew up and moved away to work. Her grandma died in 1955, and the property was sold. The new owners moved the streetcar to its present location behind the Riviera restaurant. For many years, it was used there again as a home and cottage.

Bekker and her husband, Don, eventually moved from Chicago to Morris, where they raised their own two sons. They now have three grandchildren.

Occasionally, the Bekkers have dinner at the Riviera. She usually takes a peek at the old streetcar parked behind the restaurant. And she remembers.

She remembers her grandma's cooking on an old wood burning stove. She remembers her grandma's meat pies with the crust on top. Her dumplings that were as light as air. Her kumla, which is a potato dish. Her grape jelly rolls and oatmeal cookies. Her cherry pies with cherries picked from trees in the yard.

"I think she made a pie of some sort everyday of her life," Bekker said. "She made cooking seem so simple. There were no recipes, just add a little of this and a little of that."

Bekker easily recalls coming home from school to be greeted by the odor of her grandma's freshly baked bread. It was always a treat to eat before supper.

She showed me a photo of herself and her brother standing in front of the old streetcar. They were just youngsters then. The photograph was dated in 1940.

"That old streetcar brought a lot of good times into our lives," Bekker said.

Not long ago she was watching a television program about the famous Route 66. One portion of the show was about the restaurants that were dotted along that route of yesteryear. The announcer mentioned the Riviera.

And in the sequence, there were some scenes of the old streetcar parked out back. Time and weather has deteriorated what it once was, she said.

But nothing can destroy the memories that old streetcar still holds for Bekker.

TREASURE LURKS BEHIND THE RIVIERA NEAR GARDNER!

Streetcar filled with a wealth of memories from years past.
by John Whiteside, of the Herald News in Joliet.



DEADLINE FOR THE WINTER 1999 NEWSLETTER!

Any articles, stories, news, etc. to be considered for the Winter 1999 issue of The 66 News will need to be sent to the Editor NO LATER than October 17, 1999 which is the same day of our Board-General-Elections meeting at the Old Country Buffet in Normal, Illinois. This will be for the Winter-Christmas issue due out by the first week of December. So plan ahead, and sometimes its a first come, first served basis on entries, so the earlier you send in information, the better chances of it making it in the last issue for this century, until the year 2000! So let's shape this issue into a good one to launch us into the next century of cruising Route 66 here in Illinois! My mailing address is on page 2, on the Officer's page. And for those wanting to save a stamp, use my E-mail at: The66News@aol.com

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THE 66 NEWS!

WINTER 1999



"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.

We are a not-for-profit organization

Membership Report

by Jim Jones

Since the last issue of *The 66 News*, there has been 26 new (some renewal) members added to the growing membership of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. Four are Business Members. This list consists of the 3rd quarter. Total so far of members counted are 889. Here is a breakdown of the complete list:

Sustaining Members	102
Business Members	40
Hall Of Fame Members	45
General Members	702

We have received 94 renewals during the 3rd quarter. Let's give these Route 66 fans a big welcome to the Route 66 Association Of Illinois, and hope to see you on the road or at one of our many meetings that we have all year long!

General Members In Illinois: Brennan Weber, Staunton. Samantha Kaderabek, Woodridge. John Conway, Crete. Carl Baker, Burr Ridge. Alan Christensen, Rock Island. David DeJohn, Oak Forest. Pat Crawford, Urbana. Eleanore Wojnarowski, Joliet. Louis Vargo, Posen. Jay Johnson, Lockport. Carol Lussky, Elgin. Steven Sumner, Palatine. John Bartosiewicz, Burbank. Phil Lipinski, Mokena. Marney Lipinski, Mokena. Dirk Sheppard, Lenox.

Out Of State General Members: Carlton Wilkes; Rocky Mount, Virginia. Lorrie Fleming; Anmore, British Columbia (Canada). John F. Heckmann; St. Charles, Missouri. Paul Walker; Iowa City, Iowa. Jerry Lee; Evatt, Australia. Mannewitz Hannes; Oberhaus, Germany.

Business Members: (all are in Illinois) Country Classic Cars, LLC; Staunton. Cassens Transport Co.; Edwardsville. Hillendale Bed & Breakfast; Morrison. Hit The Road, Inc.; Chicago.

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Deadline For The Spring 2000 Newsletter

All articles, stories, photos, committee reports, etc. to be considered for the next Spring 2000 issue of *The 66 News* will need to be mailed to me (address on page 2) no later than January 16, 2000 which is the same day we meet for the Board-General Meeting in Lincoln. If you all can send something as soon as possible, it has a better chance of making it in the next newsletter. So think of what's on your mind for Route 66 in the New Year 2000, and drop me a line! Thanks. (Editor)

Our Next Board-General Meeting

The next meeting of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois will be held on Sunday, January 16, 2000 in Lincoln, Illinois at: The Community Action Agency building. This is located by the VFW Hall, and behind a motel and a bowling alley. This is the same site of our last Winter meeting and also in January of 1997.

NOTICE: The Board Meeting will start earlier than it has in the past! The Board Meeting will start at 10:30 AM. So we hope you all get to sleep earlier Saturday and get up on time. There will be a break for lunch at Noon, with service being provided at a reasonable cost. The General Meeting will start at 1:00 PM. Hope to see you all there, as it will be our first meeting in the new year of 2000!

Election Results

by Marie Jibben

Here are the election results from the Elections Meeting at the Old Country Buffet in Normal on Sunday, October 17, 1999. This time, there are quite a few changes in positions and new people trying out for valuable positions as Officers and Board Members of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. Let's give them our support to help the Association grow even stronger than it is, with all that's going to happen in the year 2000.

PRESIDENT: Jeff LaFollette.

He won 37 to 22 against Rich Henry.

VICE PRESIDENT: John Weiss.

He was elected by the General Members to fill a one year vacancy left by Jeff LaFollette when he was elected President.

SECRETARY: (Recording Secretary) Cathie Stevanovich.
She was unopposed.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Marilyn Pritchard.
She won 39 to 16 against Jeff Meyer.

AT-LARGE POSITIONS: (Total of 3) Roger Berta,
Lou Vandiver, and Chester Henry.

COOK COUNTY: Jeff Geisler.
He replaced George Leone.

WILL COUNTY: Larry Boyd.
He replaced Duke Cartwright.

GRUNDY COUNTY: Marie Jibben.
She was elected by the General Members due to a vacancy.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY: Margaret Hettwer.
She is filling a one year vacancy by John Stonecipher, who resigned.

LOGAN COUNTY: Paul Gleason.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY: Rich Henry. He was re-elected.

Minutes of the October 17, 1999 Board-General Meeting

by Marilyn Pritchard

The Route 66 Association Of Illinois met Sunday, October 17, 1999 at the Country Buffet in Normal, Illinois. Twenty Board Members were present with President Frank Lozich welcoming and thanking everyone present. Frank suggested maybe starting the Board Meeting at 10:30 AM in the future because of having more issues. He suggested getting more volunteers and maybe forming an Archive Committee.

Secretary Marilyn Pritchard mailed minutes to Board Members and these were approved by Paul Gleason and seconded by Rich Henry. All members were in favor.

Treasurer Marty Blitstein gave a financial report. He said Federal Form 990EZ was filed on time at no cost. The State Sales Tax was mailed on time. It amounted to \$212. Marty has one outstanding bill from VHPS Publishing. The balance is \$108.29 and a motion was made by Dorothy Seratt and seconded by George Leone to pay this bill that was dated back to July 24, 1998. All members were in favor. Marty said all bills are now paid since he took office. He also mentioned that Patty Waszak (Route 66 Store) across from the Rialto Theatre in Joliet is doing well selling our merchandise. She has sold \$600. worth of our merchandise to date.

Chris Mahaffy gave a presentation about challenges and opportunities. He can give suggestions for "Not-For-Profit" organizations like ours. He was open for questions and could be very helpful in the future.

Jim Hardy shared brochures and booklets that our association may benefit from for Special Events. A motion was made by Dorothy Seratt that the Association have a reciprocal membership with Heritage Corridor Convention & Visitors Bureau. Jim Hardy would be the liaison. This was seconded by John Weiss. Twelve members were in favor, and five were not.

Dorothy Seratt made a motion that the meeting adjourn. All were in favor.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL-ELECTIONS MEETING

Sixty-one members were present for the 1999 Elections and everyone enjoyed the wonderful large buffet at Noon.

The Nominating Chairman, Jeff Geisler, conducted the elections.

For President, Jeff LaFollette (name on ballot). Duke Cartwright nominated Rich Henry. The vote results as follows: Jeff 37 and Rich 22.

Bill Przybylski nominated Cathie Stevanovich as Recording Secretary. A motion was made by Dorothy Seratt, I so move by Acclamation that Cathie be Recording Secretary and this was seconded by Bill Gwodz. All members were in favor.

For Corresponding Secretary (Jeff Meyer was on the ballot), Betty Estes nominated Marilyn Pritchard. The vote was Marilyn 39 and Jeff 16.

A motion was made by Ollie Schwallenstecker that I so move by Acclamation that John Weiss fill the Vice President's remaining one-year term. This was seconded by Bob LaFollette. All members were in favor.

A motion was made by Chuck Beeler and seconded by Rich Henry that 6 people were nominated for At-Large Board Members. Only 3 will be selected. The 6 are as follows: Ray Rueck, John Miller, Roger Berta, Marie Jibben, Chester Henry, and Lou Vandiver. Roger Berta received 44, Chester Henry received 38, Lou Vandiver received 33, Ray Rueck received 21, John Miller received 20, and Marie Jibben received 15. Cook County: Jeff Geisler. Will County: Larry Boyd. Logan County: Paul Gleason

Ollie Schwallenstecker made a motion that I move by Acclamation that Marie Jibben be elected for Grundy County Board Member. This was seconded by Linda Henry. All members were in favor. Ollie also made a motion that I so move by Acclamation that Rich Henry be elected as Montgomery County Board Member. This was seconded by Jeff LaFollette. All members were in favor.

John Stonecipher requested his resignation as Livingston County Board Member. The President accepted the resignation, and the recommendation of Margaret Hettwer of Odell. A motion was made by John Weiss and seconded by Dorothy Seratt that we accept Margaret Hettwer as Livingston County Board Member for the one-year left on the term. All members were in favor.

During the General Meeting: Marty announced that the Postal Annex has new rules from U.S. Postal Service. A new form and the requirement of 2 photo ID's for identification in order to receive Association mail.

The Depot-Museum Fund total is \$2,410. Members have placed their wishes where these funds will be used, as follows: Trailnet, \$500. Soulsby Station, \$70. Odell Station, \$830. Preservation, \$360. General Fund, \$650. A motion was made by Dorothy Seratt to send cheques of Depot-Museum money to whom they were attended for. This was seconded by Bill Przybylski. All members were in favor.

A motion was made by Rich Henry and seconded by George Leone that Board Members allow the Treasurer Marty to have permission to transfer monies between Association Checking account and Savings, or vice-versa. All members were in favor. All bills are paid and we owe nothing. Today's bank balance is \$14,158.05 and in the savings account is \$252.42. Marty expressed that he has been Treasurer one year ago from today. He received a huge round of applause.

Jeff LaFollette announced that the next Motor Tour Meeting is Sunday, November 7, 1999 at the Mt. Hope Township Hall in McLean, Illinois. Everyone is always welcome to attend. Jeff reminded members to order special event license plates.

Minutes of the General Meeting, continued

Membership report by Jim Jones: As of October 1, 1999 the Association has 889 members. 26 new members, which consist of 5 new business members. Jim received 94 renewals in the third quarter. Breakdown: 102 Sustaining Members, 40 Business Members, 45 Hall Of Fame Members, and 702 General Members. Jim was thanked for such a great job and received a nice round of applause.

John Weiss announced the next Preservation Committee Meeting was on Saturday, November 6, 1999 at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight, Illinois.

C.J. Beeler explained about the approved bike path plans to be along Old Route 66. It is a 6 million-dollar project.

Marilyn Pritchard suggested that we purchase plants for the shut-in Hall Of Fame members on this Thanksgiving Day. After a discussion, Norma Usherwood made a motion that we do so. This was seconded by Betty Estes. Secretary Marilyn Pritchard will fulfill this project.

An appreciation plaque was presented to Frank Lozich, our out-going President by Jeff LaFollette. A long, standing ovation followed.

Marilyn Pritchard thanked the Association for all the cooperation she received the past 6 years as Recording Secretary. She also received a standing ovation.

President Frank Lozich mentioned the \$10 million dollar Federal Grant the Government is giving out over a 10-year period for various projects such as Route 66.

The January 16, 2000 Board-General Meeting is to be held in Lincoln. Logan County Board Member Paul Gleason is in charge.

SPECIAL NOTICE: Hats off to our seven longevity Route 66 Members who completed 42 dedicated years to our

Association. These people have fulfilled their duties according to our by-laws:

Ray Starks of Morris, Illinois served as Grundy County Board Member since 1991. Ray was on the Hall Of Fame and Finance Committees. Eight years of great dedication.

John Stonecipher of Odell, Illinois served as an At Large Board Member one term and also as Livingston County Board Member. Served on various committees over an 8-year period. He was also selected into the Hall Of Fame in 1992.

Marilyn Pritchard of Pontiac, Illinois served as Recording Secretary since 1993. She also served on the Hall Of Fame, Finance, and Motor Tour Committees. Six years of great dedication.

Frank Lozich of Tinley Park, Illinois served one term as an At Large Board Member, three terms as Vice President, and finished one term as President. Frank chaired two Motor Tours and formed the Preservation Committee. Six years of great dedication.

Duke Cartwright of Crest Hill, Illinois served as Will County Board Member since 1994. He served on the Nominating, Finance, and Motor Tour Committees. Six years of great dedication.

George Leone of Midlothian, Illinois served as Cook County Board Member since 1995. He contributed many hours to surrounding towns in his County to promote the Motor Tours. George served on the Finance Committee. Four years of great dedication. He recently has moved to Tinley Park.

Dorothy Seratt of Odell, Illinois. Starting in 1995 she served as the first Corresponding Secretary. Dorothy has great interest in the Preservation Committee, the Odell Gas Station, and writing grants for the Association. Four years of great dedication.

Treasurers Report

Our latest bank balance, subject to change, was \$14,158.05. Today marks one year that Marty held the Treasurers position. At the October 17 Elections Meeting, two more bills were OK'ed to pay, and the Federal Form 990EZ was filed on time at no cost. Will send a follow up letter to the Federal Government to try to get back our \$300 late pay fee we had to send in last year. Had the person doing the form filed for an extension, we would not have had to pay the \$300 fine.

Sales Tax is done. \$212 was mailed on time.

Postal Annex has forwarded to us the new rules from the U.S. Postal Service. Anyone that wants to have mail forwarded to them from the Annex must fill out a form available from Marty, which includes all new Officers and Board Members.

There is still some Route 66 merchandise left for sale. Marty has the inventory.

It was voted on to distribute the Depot funds to other sources to cover other Association costs and Preservation costs.

It was brought up to transfer most of the checking account to a savings account, that can draw us interest.

It was also mentioned to the possibility of creating a Bereavement Committee.

Marty also passed out a statement on all Association's transactions since 12-3-1998. It was a professionally, well-prepared statement that was 4 pages long, and showed where all the money was coming and going.

(Editor): Marty has done a remarkable job on getting us out of the red and well into the green. He is maintaining a plus account, and keeping funds ahead at all times to cover our newsletter and its related costs, as well as other things needed by other Committees. This man is a major asset to the Association, and I hope he continues to run for re-election when his term is up next October of 2000.

Motor Tour News

by Jeff LaFollette

CORRECTION: In the Fall edition of *The 66 News*, one important group was left out of the report, which was very influential in the success of this year's tour. That organization was the Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau of Logan County. They were responsible for helping organize the motels, and securing the K of C Hall in Lincoln that hosted the Hall Of Fame Banquet. Not only that, the Bureau paid the fee to reserve the hall for the banquet. Special thanks go out to Thressia Usherwood and her staff in making the Lincoln stop a success. We apologize to the Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau for this omission and thank them again for their efforts.

And here's the latest Motor Tour Report...

The Motor Tour Committee of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois has not met since the end of this year's tour, but plans are under way for next year's tour already. Here is what has been happening: Regarding the Special License Plates for 2000. The letter requesting authorization has been sent to the Illinois Secretary Of State and we are awaiting a reply.

Edwardsville Chamber of Commerce has been contacted and invited to the next meeting and the Comfort Inn is reserved for the Association for Friday, June 9, 2000.

Springfield Tourism and Chamber of Commerce have been contacted for hotel and banquet site proposals as a probable overnight stop on Saturday, June 10, 2000.



The town of Gardner has contacted John Weiss and is interested in being a tour stop for next year.

C.J. Beeler has informed me of some plans for a Sunday morning stop at the Dixie Truckers Home in McLean.

And lastly, a raffle is in the works for plate number 66 for the year 2000. This will raise more money to help defray Motor Tour expenses.

I will be receiving a membership disk from Jim

Jones. Off that list I plan to send letters to our Business Members, asking them if they would like to donate raffle items, advertise in our Passport Book, or donate cash or sponsor stops on the Motor Tour.

Our first 2000 Motor Tour meeting was held Sunday, November 7, 1999 at the Mount Hope Township Hall in McLean, Illinois at 12 Noon. All Board Members were part of this committee so your attendance was most helpful in planning the 2000 tour. Talk up the tour in your counties and come to future meetings with some ideas for tour stops. At Large Members: You can help, too! Bring any ideas to the table and we'll continue to make the Motor Tour a success!

For those who want more information on the year 2000 Motor Tour, contact Jeff LaFollette. My complete address and E-mail are on page 2 of the Officers page.

Route 66'ers Enjoy Atlanta by Betty McLellan

Sunday, September 12, 1999: In spite of a cloudy day, Atlanta enjoyed hosting about 65 members and guests of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois for their annual picnic. This was the third time Atlanta had been selected as the site of the picnic.

As the cars arrived from 19 Illinois towns and one Iowa town, they were met with the beautiful sight of 32 American flags lining the sidewalk at the Atlanta Public District Library. These flags are a small part of approximately 300 that have been donated by families of veterans that are flown in the downtown area on all major holidays.

The Route 66 Association Of Illinois was organized in 1989 and its major goal is to promote the uniqueness of small town America and the Mom and Pop businesses that grew and thrived along Route 66, the Main Street Of America.

It is also actively promoting the preservation of buildings, bridges, sections of the old highway and other artifacts that serve to keep history alive and let us remember from whence we came.

With the help of the A-Team (some were Bill Thomas and his daughter Rachel) and other local volunteers, a walking tour of the downtown area was available for the Association members to enjoy. There were pictures of the old buildings along Arch Street (old Route 66) posted at their original sites to be enjoyed. Also open were the Library, the Museum Annex, the Laurasian Institute, the J.H. Hawes restored grain elevator and Sherman's Antique Shop.

After a welcome from Atlanta Mayor Bill Martin, lots of good food and hospitality made an enjoyable day! Thanks Atlanta and volunteers!

Special Events License Plates

by Jeff LaFollette

For the 11th Annual Motor Tour, it was approved by the Board at the Carlinville meeting to order 200 plates this time for the year 2000, up from 150 sets this year. If you want to keep the same number you got last year or want a different one, please call or write me to my address on page 2. You can now E-mail me at AJon66@aol.com

2000 License Plate Update

Just to update everyone on the 2000 Special License Plates, I have sent a letter to the Secretary Of State's Office to receive authorization to have plates made for the Association for the 2000 Motor Tour. I should receive word back from Springfield in about 3 to 4 weeks. I have received about 70 requests for plates. That is over one third reserved already. Which means there are about 130 sets left.

If you would like to get your name on the list for 2000 plates, please send me your name, address, and phone number. I will put you down on my computer file and add you to the growing list. If you have a specific number you would like from 1 to 200, please request it and if it is not taken, you will

receive that number. If it is taken, you will receive a number in the order of where your name is on the list. So get your requests in early.

I do not know with the increase in plate fees in Illinois what the cost will be yet. That information will be sent to me with the authorization letter. But as soon as I get the authorization from the state, then I will send a letter out to everyone who has requested plates and let you know how much you need to send, and also send a copy of your current registration of the vehicle on which you wish to display the plates. Please send your letter to: Jeff LaFollette, 2351 Highway 130, New Liberty, Iowa 52765. My phone number is: 319-893-6653. Thank you all for your support of the 2000 Special License Plates, and I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Last Minute Notice! As of 10-23-1999, I have received a letter from Jesse White's office (Secretary Of State) and the state has given us the go ahead to have special event plates for 2000. I will have letters sent out to you all as soon as I get word from Karen Boggs, which will be the cost info on design and so forth. Then I will have an accurate fix on cost of the plates, which I presume to be around \$30, same as last year. We'll keep you posted by letter and also in the Spring issue of *The 66 News*.

IN MEMORY OF: Russell Soulsby 1910-1999

by Tom Teague

Those of you who have E-mail have already received this news. For the rest, it is my sad duty to tell you that our Society's namesake, Russell Soulsby, died on October 30, 1999. He was 89. His funeral was November 5, 1999.

Russell was a true Route 66 original and a defining voice of the Route 66 revival. He and his father built their station just as Route 66 passed through Mount Olive in 1926. At only 13 by 20 feet, it was smaller than the restroom in many modern stations. They added another 13 by 20 foot section in the 30's, but the station was still minuscule by modern standards. Car repairs had to be performed on a drive-up grease ramp outside.

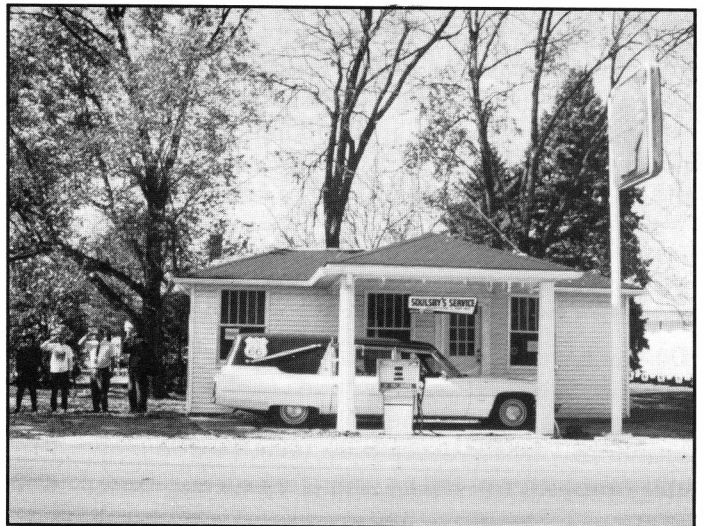
After serving as a radio communications instructor in World War II, Russell came home and took over operation of the station. His sister Ola joined him as a full time partner. And just as television was becoming popular, he added a TV repair service to his business. This helped get him through the thin days caused by the enroaching interstate system.

Russell pumped gas at the station until 1991. For the next two years, he sold sundries and checked oil. When Ola entered a nursing home in 1993, Russell didn't have time to take care of her and the station both. So he signed power of attorney for the station over to his sons. They tried to sell the property to the state preservation agency, then the Village Of Mount Olive, then the Route 66 Association, then the Soulsby Station Society. When none of these plans worked, they finally sold it at auction in 1997. The new owner is neighbor Mike Dragovich, another son of a miner. He has worked quite well with the Soulsby society as well as the 66 Association to make the station as traveler-friendly as possible.

Family members at first thought Russell died of an aneurysm.

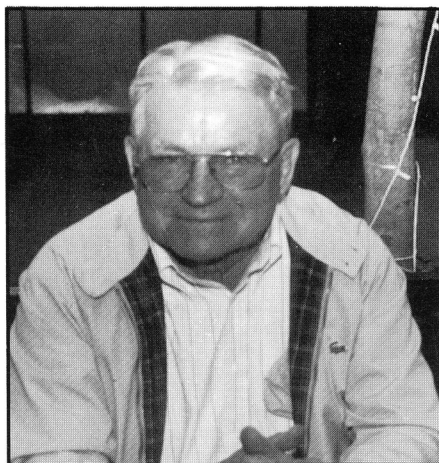
It now appears that death came from a combination of ailments brought on by old age. He is survived by sons Ed and Ron, plus his longtime companion and dancing partner, Olivia Dobrinich. After the service on November 5, Society-Association members gathered at the station. They included: Jeff LaFollette, Shellee & Trevor Graham, Ernie & Frances Edwards, Wilton Rinkel, Marie Jibben and your Newsletter Editor Randy Smith. When the procession came by, they saluted it as each car passed directly under the station's canopy between the support columns and the front door. (Photo courtesy of Shellee Graham)

Russell's sons plan to clean out their dad's house in about six months. At that time, they've promised to pass much of Russell's memorabilia on to the Society and the 66 Association. This will be just in time for the Association's year 2000 Motor Tour, which may well be dedicated to Russell's memory.



Hall Of Famer Passes

by Tom Teague



Hammering Hubert Henry, who drove trucks for 61 years and more than 5 million miles, pulled out of one last parking lot August 25, 1999.

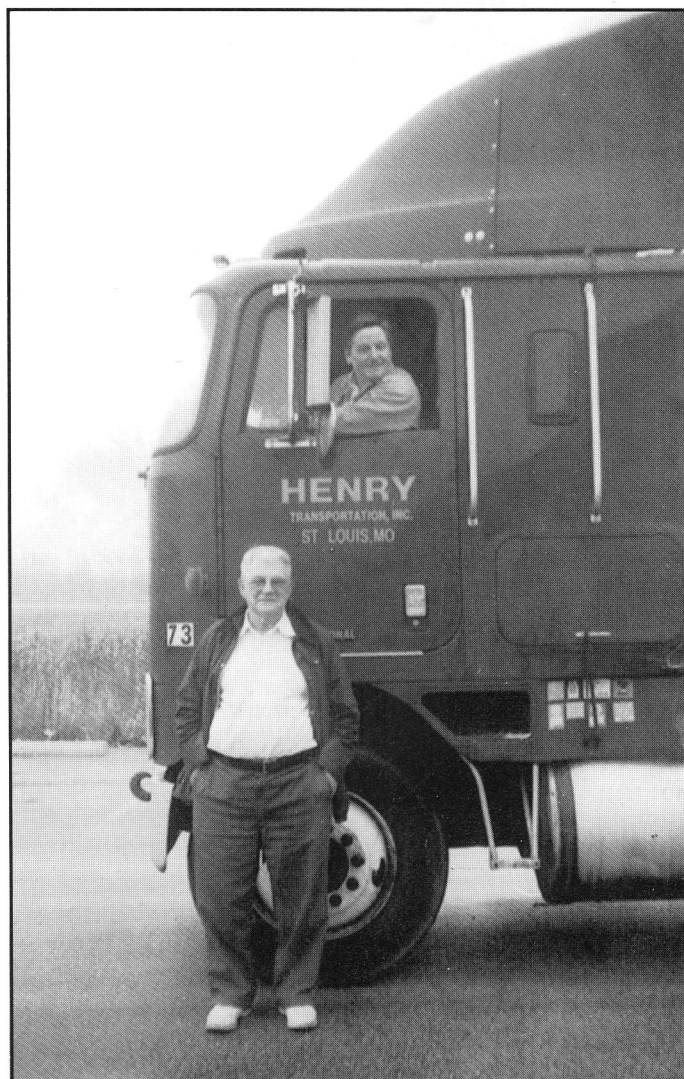
He had a stroke in March, then pneumonia. Then that quietly fierce spirit that kept him behind the wheel

so long started slipping and his 78 year old body gave up the fight. They buried him in Spanish Lake, Missouri, where he had lived for the past 40 years.

I first met Hubert in 1993 because of a dumb mistake I had made. His son Rich had nominated him to the Route 66 Hall Of Fame that year. But I mislaid the letter without opening it, forgot it, and didn't come across it again until August. In just those few words that Rich wrote, I could see the scale of my mistake. To help make up for it, I arranged to meet Hubert that October to do a story for our newsletter.

We sat down at his dining room table and didn't get up again for three and a half hours. I have never heard so many good stories in such a short stretch of time. And whether they involved towing a brother along snow-packed roads, pushing a buddy's bus faster than it could run, or any number of close calls, Hubert explained or ended most with a reference to putting the hammer down. That gave me the idea for the story's title: Hammering Hubert Henry. Hubert took the title as a nickname and wore it proudly the rest of his life.

I didn't lose Hubert's nomination next year and he made it into the Hall Of Fame easily. Since then, I've probably seen him more often than any other Hall Of Famer who doesn't live in Springfield or nearby. He is one of the few people who has been a part of all six Elderhostel programs that I've conducted. Although it was less than two months after his stroke, he even made it to this year's session in May.



That kind of loyalty can never be replaced...only honored and remembered.

One of Hubert's sons, Bill, runs Henry Transport, a mid-size trucking company in St. Louis. He had one of the company's new tractor-trailers parked outside the church at his dad's funeral service. When it was time to go to the cemetery, the truck pulled out onto Bellefontaine Road and blocked the southbound lane until the procession could get by.

"I am sure Hubert enjoyed the funeral very much since he always liked friends and family gatherings," Rich wrote later. "But he had to love that part of it more than anything else."

Stories On 66 Wanted! by Marilyn Giovanazzi

Do you have a small or tall tale on 66 to tell? The Illinois Route 66 Preservation Committee is working not only to preserve sites along the "Mother Road," but also her memories. We need your stories, your tales, your memories and your pictures. Tell us your story for our magazine.

Help us honor her treasured past and keep the memory alive. Mail your story to: Marilyn Giovanazzi, 23012 Big Run Drive, Frankfort, Illinois 60423. Please enclose your address and phone number. You can call me at: 815-464-6678.

I n O t h e r N e w s . . .

There is a large exhibit in Jefferson City, Missouri, of Missouri Route 66, including artifacts, postcards, signs, photos, etc. is on display at the Capitol Building in Jefferson City from November 6, 1999 to January 30, 2000. There are many contributors to this exhibit, which include Jim Powell, Skip Curtis, Shellee Graham, Kenny Story, Scott Sargent, and many more. The organizer of this large exhibit is Kenny Storie of Columbia, Missouri. Kenny is also the Secretary of the Missouri 66 Association.

From one of our members, Lynnie Bagdon comes some 66 news on the Internet. It is some kind of 66 chat room done on E-mail. It is: members.tripod.com/~greglaxton/66list.html Lynnie mentioned that she and Jeff Meyer took a 15 day trip on Route 66 to California. Lynnie reported taking the photos in Verichrome Pan film (black & white) and only a few in color. They took 45 rolls! They also took the Missouri Motor Tour, too.

And from our motorcycle friend out West from Texas (Kirk Woodward) comes one of his Web sites on the Internet worth checking into: www.hhjm.com/rally/products.htm There are a lot of interesting things on Route 66 to see at this site, so check it out! You can also get in touch with Kirk himself on your interests on Route 66 at his E-mail at: kirk@hhjm.com

Shortly just after the 10 million dollar Route 66 bill passed in Congress, the Oklahoma Dept. Of Transportation is trying to 4 lane a historic stretch of it's Route 66 there. Mentioning the Route 66 Bill, you can read the text of the Bill on the Congressional Web Site: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas2.html>

Some from Rich & Linda Henry...tourists continue to stop in daily at their Route 66 Museum Shop in Staunton, Illinois. Rich has some interesting news for those die hard Campbell's 66 trailer collectors. He has acquired another of the famous Snortin' Nortin 66 trailers, and that being a 1977 Copco 45 footer, number 6-2675. He already has trailer number 6-6190 along with the cab, number 539. They picked it up around September 27th this year. They have located a THIRD trailer, and are continuing to look for other Campbell's 66 artifacts. If you all can help Rich & Linda add to their Museum of any Route 66 artifacts or other related old road items, please give them a call at 618-635-5655 or on the E-mail, send them a letter at: route66@midwest.com There is a video for IDOT being done on the new Route 66 Rest Area near Hamel off of I-55 that is scheduled to be open sometime this November 1999. Should be open by the time you read this newsletter. Rich has some interesting motorcycles for sale there. One is a Route 66 special edition put out by Yamaha, a 1988 model beige in color with less than 5000 miles on it. The other is not for sale, and it's an 89 model of a Route 66 Special that is black with less than 4500 miles. For those of you into biking 66, check out these 2 wheelers there!

Rich & Linda also took the Missouri Route 66 Motor Tour this year, and the Missouri 66 Association thanked us for the complimentary page we gave them in our Summer 1999 issue of The 66 News. During their tour, a couple from Kansas had their red 1966 Chevelle convertible (your Editor calls these things Flip Tops) stolen! We are also asking everyone to look out for this car...it has a white top with red interior, and Kansas license plate# LOE914. vin=136676K189349. The owners are Elmer & Barbara Rairden, 319 N.E. 12th St., Abilene, Kansas 67410. Home: 785-263-3760 E-mail: rairden@ikansas.com It was stolen from a motel in Bridgeton, Missouri Sept. 9th this year. I HOPE Shellee Graham is watching her 66 bird house to see if it didn't fly off, too!

Earlier this summer, the Pop Hicks Restaurant in Clinton, Oklahoma burned to the ground. It was Clinton's most famous and one of the oldest restaurants on the Mother Road. The actual cause of the fire seems to be old electrical wiring. Owner Howard Nichols said that he likely will not rebuild the restaurant since he had no insurance, due to the fact that a previous insurance policy had been canceled by the company several years ago due to roof leaks. With the Pop Hicks fire and other fires and disasters of similar Route 66 landmarks in recent years, it may be time for business owners who can afford the renovations to improve the safety of their businesses by replacing older electrical systems with more modern systems, if it is feasible to do so as a precaution against such impending disasters. Remember that the old Club Cafe in Santa Rosa, New Mexico was closed down due to numerous safety and fire code violations. Other 66 businesses could meet the same fate.

For those of you with computers and the Internet, here is the New Mexico's Route 66 website: www.rt66nm.org They get about 7000 hits a month, so check it out!

From Jeff Geisler comes some on the McKinley Bridge. Recent reports indicate that the future survival of the McKinley Bridge in Venice, Illinois is bleak. Traffic studies indicates that vehicle traffic is 35 percent less than projected, resulting in reduced revenue. The City of Venice defaulted on its bond debt in November and future support of funding is in question. The city need to come up with \$20 million over the long term to keep the bridge in business, but the bridge needs improvements to toll booths, electrical systems and steel structure. The bridge generates \$2.5 million in annual revenues, with \$700,000 to \$900,000 a year going for repairs. To further compound the problem is the possibility of a new bridge being built over the Mississippi River in the next 15 years.

Across the street from the Rialto Theatre in Joliet was a grand opening of a new gift shop. It is owned and operated by entertainer Patty Waszak. The store specializes in Route 66 merchandise.

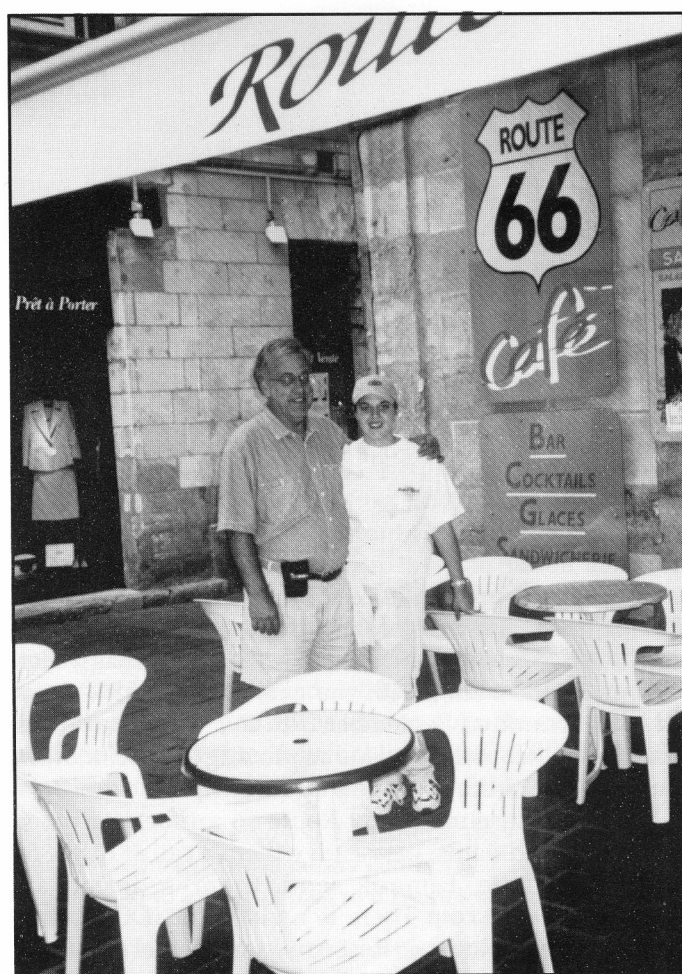
In Other News . . .

As your Editor has mentioned in the last issue of *The 66 News*, the Missouri 66 Association is (as of 10-23-1999) still in dire need for a Newsletter Editor. Skip Curtis has retired from doing their newsletter for quite a while, and they haven't gotten their Summer or Fall 1999 issues yet. By press time, they might have but I don't know. They have a membership of around 536 or so members, and in my opinion the Missouri part of Route 66 is among the most scenic of all the 8 states. There is a lot in terms of photo-taking and stories to write for this great 66 state. They have a lot of dedicated contributors to providing stories and news. This would make a great job for someone there, not to speak of the attention you will receive. I hope by Christmas they get a good person there to fulfill this important job that needs to be done.

A newsletter is the viable source of information in any association that keeps the members informed, especially those that are not able to attend meetings, and so forth. It lets the readers know when meetings and activities are going on in their state, and gives them the opportunity to be involved! Off the record, I would be afraid to wonder just where the Route 66 Association Of Illinois would be if they lost their Editor! Hopefully, maybe one of our many supporters would send me a Christmas Card! (Ha!) For those that might know a good, qualified Editor to help their great association, contact Ron Robb: Route 66 Association Of Missouri, P.O. Box 8117, St. Louis, Missouri 63156-8117. You can E-mail Ron at ronrobb@ipa.net Let Ron know if you can help. (Editor)



Some news from Glaida Funk out at the Sirup Farm in Funks Grove...it has continued to be a busy year for tourists stopping in off of Route 66. In this dual photo, the top photo is a large group from France there for a picnic, and the bottom photo is of the two charming British women on tour of Route 66 for a cooking show named "Cooking About With Greg And Max." They are Janice Broxp & Ayshea Buksh, both checking out all the mom and pop restaurants on Route 66 from Chicago to Oklahoma. They also stopped to see the Funks Grove site.



Earlier this summer, another member, Jim and (?) Tarla Robinson of Rock Island, Illinois went to France along with their daughter April. While there, they ran across a Route 66 Cafe there! Goes to show that Route 66 is still quite popular overseas, and still reels in its fair share of American tourists!

Preservation Meeting Minutes Submitted by Lenore Weiss

The meeting on Saturday, August 21, 1999 was called to order by Chairman John Weiss at 6:05 PM. In attendance were: John & Lenore Weiss, John & Marge Hettwern, Jeff & Annette LaFollette, Bill Przybylski, Jeff Geisler, Dorothy Seratt, Larry & Gretchen Boyd, Marty Schleder, Loretta Lebenorge, Marilyn & Ted Giovanazzi, Larry Scinto, John J. Miller, Greg Anderson, Roger Berta, Joe & Lynn Martinek, Marie Jibben and your Newsletter Editor Randy Smith.

The minutes had one correction...John Miller's name was inadvertently printed as Dave Miller. Motion to then accept by Dorothy, seconded by Jeff Geisler.

The 10 million dollar grant was discussed. An inquiry from a newspaper reporter in Washington, D.C. to John re: Illinois' plan. John read newspaper article from Springfield explaining how it was signed into law to preserve Route 66 over 10 years in 8 states. Matching funds for grants should be available. The Governor of Illinois also earmarked 10 million dollars for tourism revenue and grants for historic preservation and economic development. Discussion also followed.

Dorothy reported that Michael Lambrecht, an architect from Plainfield, will help Dorothy fill out grant papers for Odell. The submission requires an architect to complete the grant. Discussion followed raising funds to show we can match the grant. Especially important is to have the location on the National Register. We need additional help to get more structures along Route 66 on the National Register.

We need a committee to fill out grant forms. Discussion followed. There will be a Sub Committee of Preservation to assist Dorothy Seratt and volunteers include Jeff LaFollette, Larry Boyd and Gretchen Wendt. It was recommended that Frank Lozich also be a part of this Sub Committee as well as Terri Ryburn-LaMonte.

Bill Przybylski mentioned requesting a larger budget from the Association.

Bill also reported that he heard the Route 66 section of McCook, the Vulcan Material quarries, is already deteriorated from cave-ins from the tunnels. The rock is gone so they would need steel beams to support the road. Discussion followed. McCook and Hodgkins are going to hire an individual outside engineer for a consultant to look further into this.

It was also reported that the Cicero Avenue bridge is completely gone.

The Pontiac bridge with the Rt. 4 emblem, that was restored in May 1996 by the Preservation Committee and is also on the Historic Bridge Survey is in need of repairs. We recently purchased a new plaque to replace the one that could not be found, and Lenore outlined the Route 4 and it will be sealed with coating and caulking for the sign. John & Lenore will put on the first coat and Dorothy will finalize with the



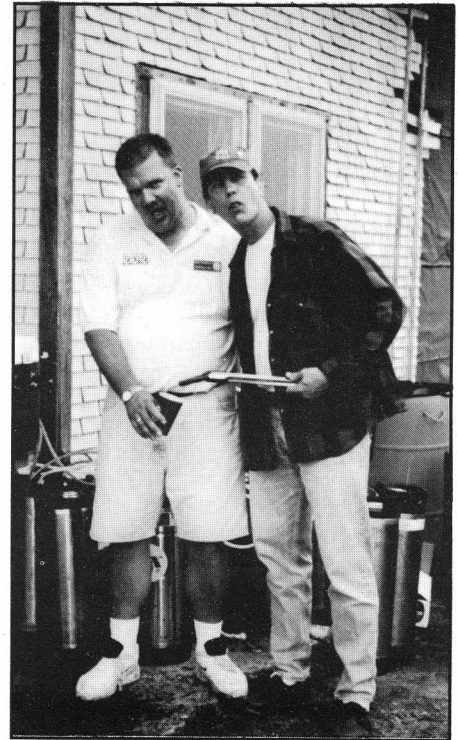
2nd coat. Total expense was \$32. It was paid for with Preservation Funds. Directions to the bridge were given.

Discussion then followed of the electric work done by Greg Anderson, assisted by Len & Larry Scinto and Greg's father-in-law. They reported the inside office is wired and inside lighting panel. The next step will be the soffit lights,

new sockets to be "like in kind." Thanks goes to these guys for a great job well done!

John Miller reported he is working with Blue Island Collier Sign Company for the Miller Tire company signs. Materials of signs were discussed.

Paint was also discussed as was the Standard Oil Company painted on the roof. Roger reported no Standard Red Crown signs found at one of the largest sign shows in America. Brief discussion followed. Roger also reported that the gas pump is at the sand blaster's for 3 weeks of body work. The lubester is sanded and ready for painting reported Bill. Decals discussed. Bill and Roger will work together.



It was reported that the Odell grant needs to be submitted before November for funding for this year, and that we cannot get grant money for things already done.

Preservation Meeting Minutes, continued

Michael Lambrecht is looking into roofing shingles needed.

Three copies of a Federation News article were made available for anyone interested.

Dave DeJohn has talked to Jerry Jacobsen regarding the Gardner bridge to think about the possibility of having a meeting on turning it into a hiking-biking trail. Jerry said, no promises, but would look into it. This is also an award winning bridge on the Illinois Historic Bridge Survey.

Discussion that we have \$470. in Preservation Funds plus money due to us from failed Depot money as well as money for Odell. John inquired with Tim Palm that we had a sizable amount of money designated for preservation. Dave DeJohn donated \$90. for license plates sales. One person went \$30. for a shingle from the Meramec Cavern Barn to go towards preservation.

A discussion followed Recording History. A crew from California wants to be a part of this but wants to be housed in members home, have meals available to them, etc. They would do the interviews and give us a copy. We passed on that idea. We can do it ourselves. Volunteers are needed for this committee to interview the old timers. An example from Evergreen Park was shown and how they had folks fill out a Memory Form. We need to contact individuals and ask them to give us their special memories regarding Route 66. As an example, Burt Parkinson was mentioned and how he is still running his type setting machines that has not been turned off for over 50 years. John related an afternoon he spent with Burt. Volunteers are needed to tabulate stories for us. Dorothy told us the story of Prosper (Oscar) The Ghost from Odell. A few forms would be needed for interviews. Various stories followed.

The Preservation outing is scheduled for October 2. Included in the outing will be Metal Art by Jack in Essex, and his museum, Gardner, Burt Parkinson, the Gardner bridge and the 2 cell jail as well as the streetcar at the Riviera and finishing up with dinner at the Riviera.

Dave DeJohn talked to Route 66 Raceway to have the largest car show in the world. They will volunteer their staff and extra money with all proceeds going to the Association and Preservation.

The Marathon station was discussed and also mentioned that models of the station are available at Becker's Amoco on Route 47. Larry Boyd submitted information to the state and noted that the bays were added in 1942. Larry will bring a photo to the next meeting. This information was sent to David Newton where Larry also took the time to go through a training program with David Newton. 18 photos were submitted. David is to get back to Larry. We'll support Larry as much as possible. He will continue his efforts. Dave DeJohn is thinking of buying the Marathon station and will have a discussion with owner, Phil Becker.

In Darien there is an older building on Route 66, but no one has been successful reaching the owner. The building has been painted recently, but locals want to tear it down. It is 3/4 mile west of Cass Street on North Frontage Road and Bailey Rd. It is approximately 50 by 50 foot with a 10 by 10 foot concrete pad.

Frito Lay wants to donate money but wants a permanent sign advertising their products. John presented the thought on the 66 by-pass with one or two antique looking billboards suggesting coming into town to see the Odell station. A few more could go up and be like Memory Lane in Lexington. One of our members, who has done work for Disney, is willing to design this for us. Discussion then followed regarding various advertising signs with sponsors paying for them. Dorothy will talk to Mayor Ed Seal, and Bill will ask Marty Blitstein to find out from Frito Lay exactly what they want, etc.

Jeff Geisler reported the old McKinley bridge vehicle flow is down 49 percent. This is a toll bridge that was an original on Route 66. There is a possibility that it may be closed.

Newsletter Editor Randy Smith read an E-mail about the Pop Hicks Restaurant in Clinton, Oklahoma that burned down. Fire codes and other establishments were discussed.

"News You Can Use" - Michael Lambrecht helped make moving the Plainfield Railroad Station, right down Route 66 a reality along with the help from the Plainfield Historical Society. Mayor Tom Wise agreed to fix up the 2 cell jail in Gardner. Arrangements are being made for mannequins, a committee, signs, desk, etc. He wants it to be a Route 66 tourist attraction. He is also trying to get a sign on I-55 to exit at Gardner to get to the Route 66 Raceway. He has the support of all local mayors. The Lincoln Highway signs are ready to be installed, but Congress failed to vote on them before recess.

Jeff LaFollette reported the Illinois Route 66 Association will have a plaque on the Chain Of Rocks Bridge. He attended the Missouri meeting and they told him that they are very impressed with what the Illinois Preservation Committee is accomplishing. He gave a big thank you to John, Dorothy, Lenore, and Frank.

Newsletter Editor Randy Smith reported that about 50 percent of the Fall newsletter has Motor Tour and Preservation news, and wants to make it interesting and keep everyone informed and updated with Association news. Brief discussion regarding covers and the next one for the Fall will feature Burt Parkinson.

John & Lenore reported they are doing 2 bus tours for the Orland Park Bank in October and both are sold out. It is a 12 hour trip exclusively of Route 66. The first one sold out and as a result had to have another one just 6 days later!

John showed an antique mirror given to him by the Goodmans from the Trekker Implement of Odell. Photos were then shown from the Odell fund-raiser.

News of the Preservation Outing on October 2, 1999

by John Weiss, Preservation Committee Chairman.

Once a year, the Preservation Committee has an outing. This year we visited a number of sites that in some way represent preservation. Joining us were: John & Lenore Weiss, Gretchen & Paul Wendt, Tim Palm, Dorothy Seratt, Jeff Geisler, Marty Schleder, Bill Przybylski, Larry & Gretchen Boyd, Marilyn & Ted Giovanazzi, Lenny & Dolores Scinto, Gerry & Lauren & Brett Gall, Larry & Ann Scinto, Bill & Barb Gwodz, Andy & Louise Hari, Paul & Marney Lipinski, and Bud & Lou Vandiver.



We met at the nostalgic Polk-A-Dot Drive In at Braidwood. Our first stop took us off on Route 66 to the little town of Essex. We visited Metal Art by Jack. This man is a genius at taking junk and turning it into an art form. Some pieces are serious works while others clearly show the humorous side of his creations. Jack also showed us his vast collections of additional items, then had us dancing as he played an antique organ and then an accordion. On our way to the next stop, we pulled over to view an exotic animal farm.

Our next visit was in Gardner to view the progress of the renovation of the original 2 cell jail. Mayor Tom Wise greeted us and answered questions. The restoration efforts are looking great. When finished, the jail will have cots, mannequins, and many accessories. A special plastic will be over the bars and new electricity will be installed.



As a result, you will be able to look inside even when it is closed. This is an exiting project!

We then walked over to visit with Burt Parkinson at his print shop. Burt is retired from the newspaper business, but still keeps busy with private printing orders. (See front cover of the Fall issue of *The 66 News*!) He demonstrated how his Line-O-Type machine works. It is the only one still functional in the state. He uses it daily. Anyone interested in history could easily spend hours talking to him and seeing his all original shop.

Next, we walked onto a closed section of Route 66 to view an award winning bridge that may be destroyed. A fence prevents access onto the actual bridge. This south side is a peaceful area. There is some discussion going on with IDOT about this structure located in Gardner.



Then we caravanned back to Godley so members could see the K-Mine Park. This beautiful facility shocked even our most experienced roadies. They had not known about this place.

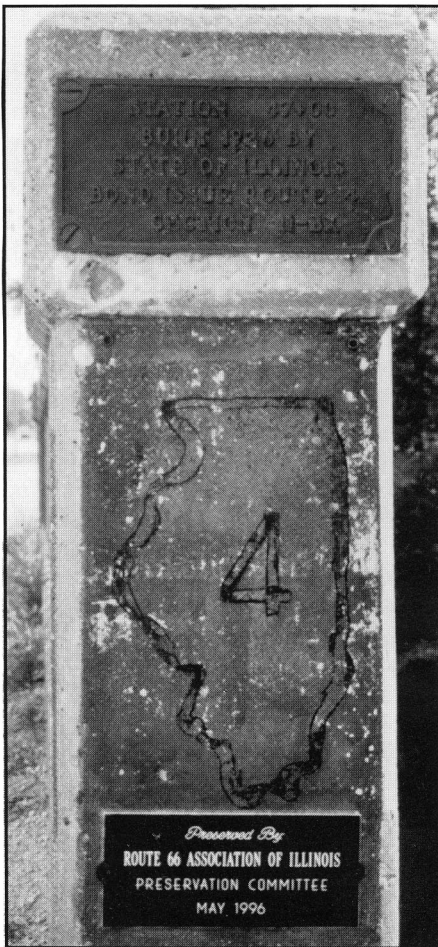
We then cruised the tranquil Mazonia Fish & Wildlife area. This scenic sportsman's paradise was created from the remnants of old mining days.

Finally, we ended up at the Riviera Restaurant in Gardner. We viewed the old streetcar in the back yard. (See the back cover of the Fall issue of *The 66 News*!)

We ended the day with dinner at the Riviera. Some in our group had never eaten there before. The homemade food, great prices and excellent service are hard to match.

Author Thomas Repp and his wife, Becky from the state of Washington joined us for a while. He was in town doing a book signing at the Old Log Cabin for his book about Route 66, called "The Empires Of Amusement." We recommend this book.

The weather was great and our large group saw many new places and learned more about the world of preservation.



Route 4 Bridge Sign Restored Again

by John Weiss

In 1996, the Preservation Committee saved and restored the only remaining original Route 4 directional sign. This painted emblem dates to 1926 and is located on the end of a bridge in Pontiac, visible from traveling west. This Route 4 alignment was soon changed to Route 66 and the rest is history. We were successful in getting the whole bridge on the Historic Bridge Survey and the National Register of Historic Structures. The painted Illinois 4 is a wonderful example of how highways were originally marked. It is also the only remaining Route 4 bridge in existence of this type. What we have is a very distinctive and historically significant structure.

At the time, we covered the sign with Plexiglas. This has not worked well. Several times the plastic has been broken by rocks thrown by passing vehicles. We needed something better. John Weiss talked to a sign painter. He suggested we coat the painted emblem with a special clear coat that is used to protect wall murals from fading and vandalizing. The plaque we had originally installed was also missing. He suggested the new one be cemented in place. He offered to furnish all necessary materials at cost. We took his advice. On a sunny day in September, we cleaned up the emblem and freshened up the paint in a few spots. We then coated it twice and installed a new plaque. All expenses required for this project came from donations many people have made to the Preservation Committee. The workers on this project were John & Lenore Weiss and Dorothy Seratt.

To view the bridge, follow the road south alongside the railroad tracks behind the Old Log Cabin restaurant (Pontiac Road). It will turn into Lincoln and then into Ladd Street. The bridge is one mile from the Old Log Cabin restaurant. Look for it on the right side of the street.

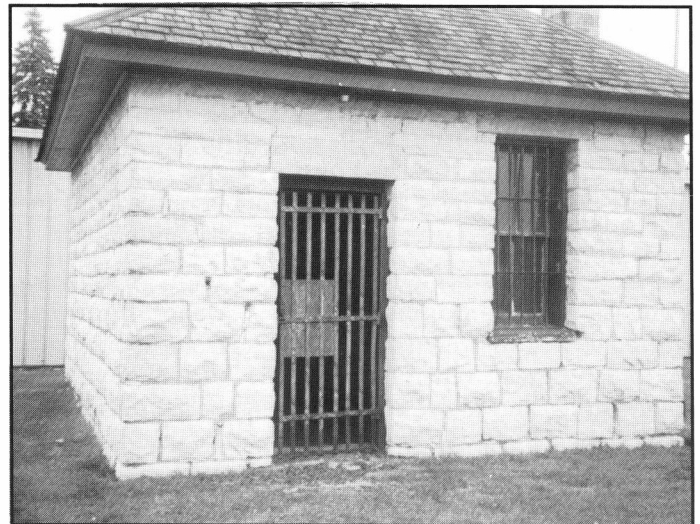
Gardner Jail

by John Weiss

The turn of the century, two cell jail in Gardner is now being completely restored. This exciting project is the result of a conversation between Preservation Committee Chairman, John Weiss and the honorable Mayor of Gardner, Tom Wise. It was decided that this nostalgic building would make a great tourist attraction. For years it was used as a storage building for the village maintenance department.

The restoration is being funded exclusively by the Village of Gardner and the work is being done by a group of volunteers. When it is finished, it will have mannequins, cots, desk and other visual paraphernalia used during the time the jail was active. The original pot belly stove is being reinstalled and the original lights will be rewired. A special type of plastic sheeting will be installed over the bars at the front door. This way, even when it is not open, visitors can come and view the great indoor display. The lights will be on inside so that you can clearly see everything.

The town is seeking props that would be appropriate for this site. Mannequins, clothing, desk, cots, etc.



If you have something to donate, or if you can help, call Mayor Tom Wise at the Village Hall, at 815-237-2592.

Be sure to visit the town of Gardner soon. See how the jail is progressing and also stop in at the old bank building gift shop. Visit with Burt Parkinson at his print shop and have lunch or dinner at one of the fine restaurants in town.

This is another wonderful Route 66 Roadside Attraction. Please support the local merchants in all of our Route 66 communities. Let's all show how much we care!

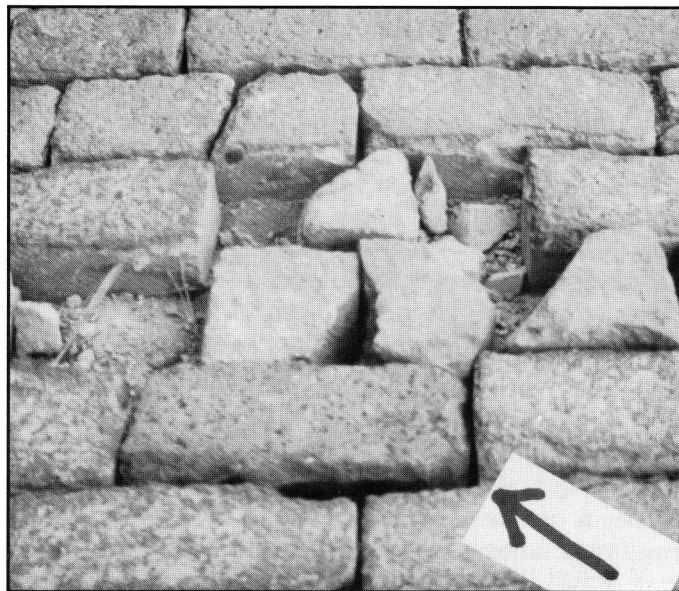
The Brick Is Home

by Steve Rider

The brick is home. On August 2, 1999. In the brick section of old Route 66 near Auburn, Illinois.

Two years ago, the writer was returning home after a fantastic four week tour of Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica and back again, touring almost every known current, alternate, or abandoned alignment. Countless photographs were taken, souvenirs purchased, and authentic artifacts sought. The latter included pavement samples from abandoned alignments or discarded piles along the road. Samples of every type of paving material were collected, including at least one specimen from each Route 66 state. While on the brick alignment near Auburn, the writer enjoyed a walk of the entire length of the section, and looked for a broken chunk of brick along the side of the road to complete the collection. A good chunk was found, then an entire brick was spotted nearby buried in the sand, about 2 feet off the road. It, too, was taken, to be the showcase specimen in the collection.

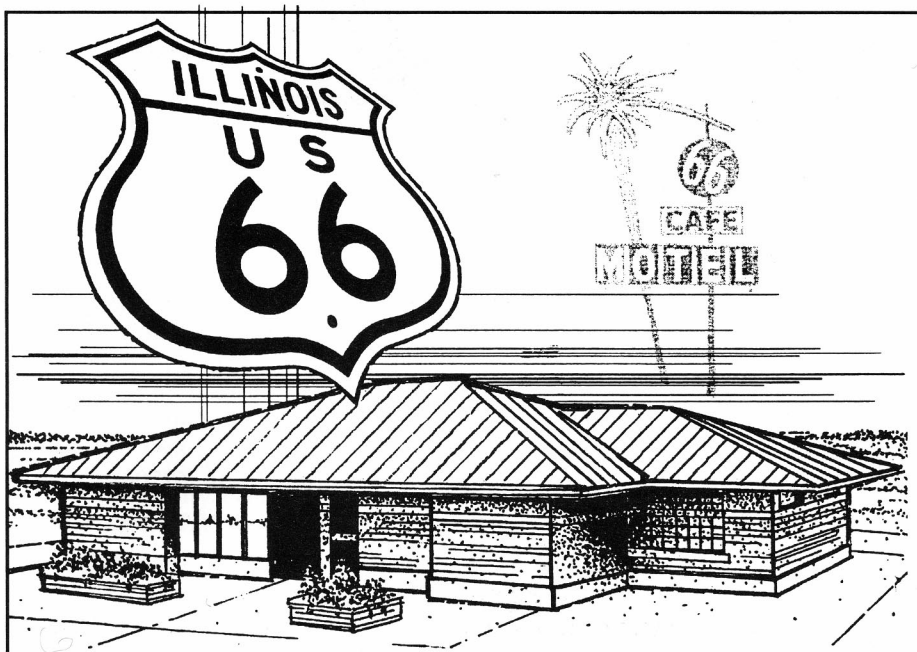
Once home, the various chunks of pavement became a major part of the writer's Route 66 display, the various ages, geographic locations, and materials revealing much about the history of the road. One specimen, however, didn't make it into the display. The brick. Looking forlorn, the brick didn't look good among the crumbling relics of past road construction. It almost cried out, "Why didn't you put me back into the road? I sat forgotten off the side of the road after being dislodged years ago and I have more useful life yet. You could have found someplace to put me back. I don't belong on someone's shelf!" The brick was stored in a box while its future was contemplated. How could it be returned?



A mini-tour of Route 66 was arranged for August of 1999 and the brick was assured that it would somehow once again grace the road. As we neared the brick alignment the box containing the brick was brought to the front seat of the car. Almost magically the brick's color seemed brighter as the van pulled onto the brick alignment. It didn't take long to find a spot where several bricks were missing from the center of the road, creating a small pot hole. Dirt was scraped and the brick was lovingly placed into position. Several larger brick pieces were also located along the side of the road to fill in more of the hole.

The brick seemed to be beaming with pride as the writer departed, both brick and writer now satisfied that the right thing was done and with the hope that it and the whole brick section can be enjoyed for many years to come.

Hamel 66 Rest Area Opened Now by Jerry Jacobson



This November of 1999, the Homestead Rest Area at Hamel is the Southern Welcome Center for the Illinois portion of Interstate 55, the highway that replaced U.S. 66 in Illinois. In recognition of Historic Route 66, the Homestead Rest Area will incorporate interior design elements reflecting a Route 66 theme and will provide information displays about the route and associated points of interest. (Editor: So for you all in a hurry and just can't get off the fast lane, at least stop in this Rest Area and check out the beautiful theme set-up in here, and feel like you at least paid your respects for Route 66. My thanks to IDOT for doing this great job for travelers, and hope any other future built Rest Area incorporates this same theme!)

New 66 Museum Additions!

by Bill Shea

In Springfield at Bill Shea's 66 Museum, Bill has added several giant 200 gallon sized cans of oil. And he has some other cool signs up, too.

This is the most unique and must see of any 66 museum in Illinois. So next time you are traveling down Peoria Rd. U.S. 66 in Springfield, make sure you stop and check out these newest museum goodies in Bill Shea's never-ending additions to his world-known 66 Museum.

Bill has been known to bring in more Sustaining Memberships to this Association than any other individual 66 fan, so we owe this man a big thank you for his never-ending support for the Mother Road, and he is also a proud member of our Hall Of Fame.

Thanks also to his charming wife Helena, who takes good care of Bill and keeps him on the job for us 66 fans to visit! (Editor)



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
Foreign	\$35
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

Soulsby Station Society News

by Tom Teague

Most of you already know this because you were there. But just for the record, I want to say that we had a wonderful Motor Tour stop this summer. Russell and his daughter-in-law were there. Mike Dragovich and his dad, George, were there. Among the 300-400 other folks who stopped by, I remember the following Soulsby Society members: Frank & Roxie Lozich, Jeff Meyer, Bill Przybylski, Dorothy Seratt, Phil & Marnie Lipinski, Tom Flasch, Jeff LaFollette, Ed Hickey, Pat & Kathy O'Neill, Tim Palm and John & Lenore Weiss. I'm sure there were more.

The list of people who helped make the day a success is



even longer. The O'neills drove up the Sunday before the tour and painted their second picnic table for the station. Randy Wierzgac drove down early from Oak Lawn and left two large lighted signs that used to belong to Russell. We couldn't get the grease rack cleaned and painted, so the Mount Olive Garden Club planted a line of yellow and orange marigolds in each "trough." Newsletter Editor Randy Smith loaned Russell's 30th year service plaque to the station, plus a framed print of Ken Turmel's stamp & postmark art map of Route 66. Rob McLean donated a Shell oil can and an ashtray. Jeff Geisler loaned us a miniature Campbell 66 Express truck. Steve & Glaida Funk have donated more than \$150. I know there's been more, but I can't remember it all.

On the day of the Motor Tour itself, Phil & Marnie Lipinski took charge of T-shirt sales and stayed on duty virtually all day. We took in \$638! They also brought a large jug of water for visitors. Tom Flasch also brought water, plus the original painting on which our T-shirt is based. The O'Neills and the Weisses helped out with the passport stickers and general hospitality. Ed Hickey offered to loan us his display of auto trim which used to be in the Hall Of Fame Museum at the Dixie's. Jeff LaFollette made announcements over a loudspeaker. Russell signed a lot of autographs. It didn't rain until the very end. The folks who were left just gathered

under the station's canopy.

We still want to get the sign that Russell's gas distributor has offered the station. We're still looking to Jim Branham for the gas pump and lubester he's offered. To inspire him, I've written a story about Jim for the National Historic Route 66 Federation's newsletter. And eventually we want to get that grease rack spiffed by some more. But so far, so good. We may not be major, but we're still doing a good thing. Keep your ideas and help coming!

In Other News...

Earlier this Fall, Shellee Graham had her Coral Court show opened in a Gallery in Missouri of this famed art deco structured wonder. It was opened for the month of September 1999, and some of their Motor Tour stopped in to view it. I think it was called the Coral Court...the No Tell Motel. Shellee's well know traveling exhibit of Route 66 was recently set up in Waterloo, Iowa. It ran until early November. In the last issue of The 66 News, Shellee got her 66 birdhouse put up, but apparently no winged 66 travelers has checked in yet. Her two pups live indoors, so no 66 Doggie House, yet!



Notes From The Mother Road

by Lori Indovina-Valus

On June 14th, Monday AM, John and I left the company of our friends at the Shell Museum in Roxanna, Illinois. It was the last stop on the 10th Annual Illinois Motor Tour. As we have for the last 3 years, we enjoyed all the stops and starts along the way, visiting and revisiting the grand old Illinois 66! The highlights: talking with Russell Soulsby and Ernie Edwards in full chef's regalia! And me, a somewhat "vegetarian" eating a Cozy Dog, (*I have a picture to prove it*).

So here it was, Monday AM. We felt a little apprehensive but excited as we left the comfort of our friends and tour guides in Illinois and set off for adventures unknown, crossing the U.S. through seven more states on what was our honeymoon trip. The question in my mind were "Would we be able on our own to find interesting places and friendly people as we have always encountered on our Illinois tours?" The answers to both we found to be a resounding YES!

Right off the bat, being an avid "collector", I immediately became enamored with old motel signs and Missouri had more than I could handle. Ozark Court, Wagon Wheel, Munger Moss, Sunset Motel are just a few. This was just the beginning of a cross-country quest to photograph them all. The outstanding lush scenery of Missouri will draw us back. Place we'd like to return to: Devil's Elbow, Missouri. An original curvy section of Route 66 in a scenic bend of the Big Piney River.

Wrink's Grocery in Lebanon, Missouri was a step back in time. A reminder of all those old general stores when I was a kid. John, being a toy truck collector and historian, was thrilled in Springfield when we found the original home of Campbell's 66. We were allowed inside the building to photograph a large mural of "Snortin' Norton". Our favorite town in Missouri: Carthage. A laid back, quaint town square with a beautiful courthouse and a lot of history.

Short and sweet in Kansas, we spent some time at the Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge, built in 1923, just outside of Riverton.

Most notably a change in terrain entering Oklahoma, drier, less green, flatter. In Miami, Oklahoma we're greeted by a beautifully restored Coleman Theatre built in 1919! Great find: on a loop of older 66, west of Sapulpa, the Rock Creek Bridge, a steel truss bridge with a brick deck in use since 1921. Lunch at the Rock Cafe, and had homemade peach cobbler for dessert!

The Round Barn in Arcadia, built in 1898 is a treasure trove of interesting memorabilia. Place we'd like to return to: The Blue Whale. We missed it and John will never let me forget it, so we have to go back again sometime!

First stop in Texas, the U Drop In Cafe in Shamrock. Closed now, but still in great shape. A beautiful art deco station and cafe built in 1936. Our favorite town in Texas is Amarillo, with its' old town atmosphere, antique shops and then the awesome Cadillac Ranch.



Spookiest place: Glen Rio, Texas. A real ghost town.

New Mexico, a place I would love to live, with 300 sunny days a year and multi-cultural influences in architecture and the arts & food. Lunch stop was at La Cita in Tucumcari. Albuquerque has an enchanting old town of shops surrounding San Felipe de Neri Church, built in 1706. You can wander for hours amongst the picturesque garden pathways connecting shops brimming with the fine work of craftsmen and artisans.

Place we'd like to return to: The El Rancho Hotel in Gallup. Opened in 1937 and built by the brother of D.W. Griffith, it became a gathering place for the famous. Autographed photos of the stars adorn the magnificent two story lobby with its circular stairway, heavy beams and Navajo rugs. The local area was the stage for hundreds of movie sets and the hotel rooms are named for the stars who stayed there. We stayed in the Jack Benny room! Gallup also has a wonderful cultural center which supports the Southwest Indian Foundation.

The landscape is changing all along our route and entering Arizona we were treated to the panoramic color variations of The Painted Desert and The Petrified Forest. We enjoyed dazzling colors, geographical history, Indian petroglyphs and a visit to the historic Painted Desert Inn, built in 1924. The inn is a pueblo structure with original furnishings and murals illustrating Indian life.

On to Holbrook, the Wig Wam Motel, Geronimo Trading Post and Joseph City. Yes, we stood on the corner in Winslow. John looked at vintage pickups for sale in Flagstaff and we strolled the streets of Williams for hours, also visiting with Sandi Taylor, of the *Route 66 Magazine*.

continued on next page



A Profile of A Mature American

by Ernie Edwards, from the Pig Hip Restaurant

We were here before the pill and the population explosion; before television, penicillin, polio shots and antibiotics, before frozen foods, nylon, Xerox, Dr. Ruth, radar, fluorescent bulbs, credit cards, ball point pens and an outrageous national debt.

Time sharing meant togetherness, not computers or vacation condos. A chip was a piece of wood and hardware meant hardware. Software wasn't even a word, yet.

Women didn't wear slacks. We were before pantyhose, drip-dry clothes; before ice makers, dishwashers, clothes dryers, freezers and electric blankets.

We were here before Hawaii and Alaska were states, before men wore long hair and earrings and before women wore tuxedos.

We were before Ann Landers, plastics, 40 hour work weeks, minimum wage laws and seat belts.

We courted, married, lived together and had our children without surrogate mothers...how quaint were we?

Closets were for clothes, not coming out of and rabbits were bunnies, not Volkswagens.

We were before Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and Snoopy, before DOT, vitamin pills, disposable diapers, Jeeps, pizza, instant coffee, McDonald's and Burger King.

We thought fast food was for Easter Lent. We were before FM radio, tape recorders, VCR's, electric typewriters, word processors and disco dancing.

In our day, grass was for mowing, Coke was a soft drink and pot was something that we cooked in.

If we had been asked to explain CIA, Ms., NATO, UFO, NFL, JFK, IRA, ERA, or SS, we would have said "alphabet soup."

We just made do with what we had...no revolving credit.

Shrink was what happened to your wash if the water was too hot! We didn't jog, do aerobics, pump our own gas or practice Yoga.

There are some things that never change. Like our ability to have a good time and our love for each other.

We are today's Mature Americans, a hardy bunch when you think of how our world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make.

EDITOR'S NOTE TO ERNIE...sounds like good old Pig Hip Restaurant talk in the good old days of your well-known business, Ernie! It also sounds like if today's younger generation can go to the potty and wipe their rear ends clean without someone helping with the wiping, they just might survive in our tough world today!

Notes From The Mother Road, continued from page 18

A notable experience was meeting the Delgadillo Brothers, whitty Juan and most hospitable Angel and his daughters. We were lucky to meet them all on our short visit through Seligman. Arizona offers a wealth of diverse cultures, historical places and stunning scenery, throughout as we continued on: Grand Canyon Caverns, Hackberry, and Kingman.

Here's where we arrive, completely unaware of what lies before us, at the most singular experience of our road trip: the road to Oatman, Arizona. The last and best part of the western section of old Route 66 in Arizona. Civilization fades away and you can envision what it must have been like traveling Route 66 some 50 years ago as our parents did. The rugged terrain through the Black Mountains, the switchbacks, the lack of guard rails, and the sublime vistas as we approached the town of Oatman, wild burros stop our car looking for handouts. This old mining town could be a movie set...looks like it hasn't changed in 100 years. The landmark Oatman Hotel is part honky-tonk, part rustic cowboy rooming house, where Clark Gable and Carole Lombard spent their honeymoon.

Entering California, we drove through the formidable Mojave Desert to Barstow. Victorville, and a stop at the Roy Rogers Museum to see Trigger the stuffed horse! Also remember Bullet the dog and Buttermilk, Dale Evans' horse, plus much more to see in their outstanding museum. Up to Cajon Summit for lunch. Monrovia, California in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains hosts an art deco hotel, The Aztec, built in 1926. It is an architectural jewel. We meandered through Pasadena and Los Angeles and finally made it to the Santa Monica Pier and the Will Rodgers plaque in Palisades Park! What a tour!

I felt like we had been on a long treasure hunt, checking our guidebooks, looking for signposts, spotting the landmark sights, or sometimes imagining where they might have been. It was a grand game, searching and finding, a puzzle to solve, putting together a lot of pieces, sometimes finding the missing links. It was a long trip but not long enough. A lot of driving but so much more to see. Would we do it again? YOU BET! There's a lot we didn't stop to see because of time constraints, but we will go back!

THE BOSS

RETIREES

by
**Randy
Smith**



The meeting we had on Sunday, October 17, 1999 was surely one to remember, emotionally! Our third Association President, Frank Lozich, stepped down and handed the reigns over to our fourth, newly elected President Jeff LaFollette. A special award was made up by the Association honoring Frank's dedicated service to the Route 66 Association Of Illinois. It was such an honor to receive, that there was a standing ovation that lasted long in honor of this 66 great. I couldn't write enough pages on Frank to tell you all what I think of him, and his service to Route 66. But I will share with you all my thoughts as being one of the best Editors on Route 66. Frank's accomplishments has exceeded his own expectations, and ours as well!

Frank ruled with the cigar. He knew how to blow smoke rings when things got rough. He had Ideas ahead of his time. He also has one of the most charming wives a man could ever have, and that is Roxie. She stood by him all the way in support of his 66 cause. I often believed that Roxie was his supporting drive to achieve his goals, and with her assured support, his determination produced reality. I, myself, have nothing but admiration for them both. Speaking of our newsletter, there was a time when It was not as good as it should have been. I was determined that this newsletter of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois be one of the best, If not THE best of all 8 Route 66 states. Frank came along and shared my opinions on how a top notch newsletter should really be, and that way was to restore the rights of the Editor by guaranteeing him his Constitutional Rights to free speech and the press. Once this was restored, the rest was history. I take pride in my product, and expressing myself to you all on my views and opinions relating to Route 66. I have given control of the newsletter back to YOU, our members! This became YOUR product, and one to be proud of. As long as I am Editor of this newsletter, we will not be controlled by any one individual, but will be shared by all. This has been a very challenging job, and in my early days as Editor, there was a time I asked myself if I could really pull this thing off! I had to get over my own fears and concerns, and made a model of which to go by. And as I enter my fourth year as Editor, I still continue to look forward to seeing what Route 66 has In store for us In the year 2000. With the \$10 million dollar grant coming up, It is sure to be an interesting, happy New Year to look forward to for sure!

Now we have a new President, and that is Mr. Jeff LaFollette. I have a habit of calling him Jiff, or sometimes Jiffy. I know too many Jeff's in my life, so I have to distinguish him differently out of the crowd. Jeff has been with this Association I think since 1994 or so, and also is accommodated by his supporting wife, Annette. I have had good luck working with Mr. Jeff, and I have confidence in his abilities to lead. He has assured me control of my product, so we should work along just fine. Mr. Jeff doesn't puff away on foot long cigars, but seems to be hooked on Dr. Pepper. He needs to watch his pizza Intake, though. But I do believe Mr. Jeff has his work cut out for him, since this Is a growing Association with this \$10 million dollar grant coming on and a Preservation Committee that is the most successful of any of its kind! There is a lot going on for the Illinois portion of Route 66, and it continues to be a challenge of keeping up with it. Special thanks also goes to our Founder, Mr. Tom Teague. I can be sure that he is proud of the Association that he formed himself in 1989. Mr. Teague continues to be supportive of Route 66, and does a fantastic job managing the Soulsby Station Society. I look forward to working with all past and present members of the Route 66 Association Of Illinois, and a Merry Christmas plus a happy New Year to you all. As I said before, you pull for me and I will pull for you! Have a safe, and warm Holiday this Winter, and travel safely as you go on Route 66 for the Holidays, and God Bless you all! (Editor)

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