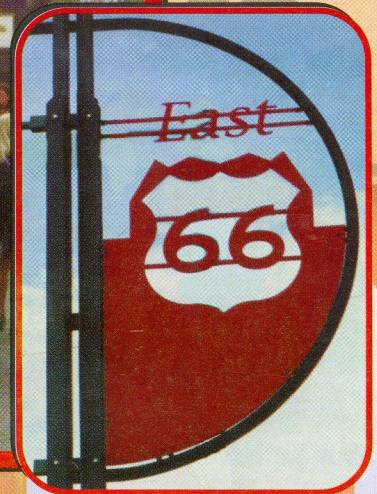
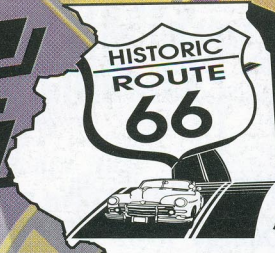


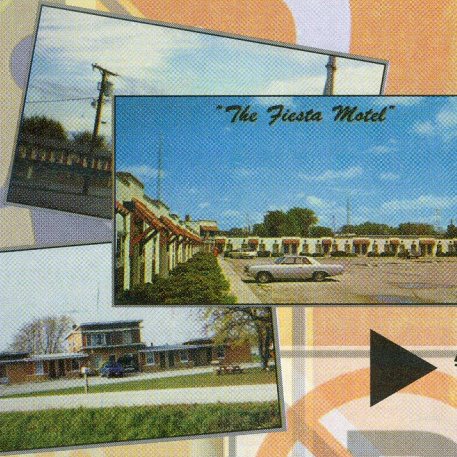
ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE NEWS

SPRING 2002



**CAMPBELL'S
TRACTOR & TRAILERS
PRESERVED IN STAUNTON**



**POSTCARDS
FROM THE
ROAD**



**MISSOURI
DIAMOND
CELEBRATION**

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The Route 66 Association of Illinois is a not-for-profit organization. Its purpose is to preserve, promote and help people enjoy the road in this state. Officers and board members are available at most reasonable times to answer questions and hear comments about Route 66. Please feel free to contact them when you need to. The date to the right of each person's name is when his or her term expires.

PRESIDENT

Jeff LaFollette, 10-03
2351 Highway 130
New Liberty, IA 52765
563-893-6653
E-Mail: AJon66@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Przybylski, 10-02
24156 S. Kings Rd.
Crete, IL 60417
708-672-7937

TREASURER

Martin Blitstein, 10-02
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-444-1312
E-Mail: blitz66@chicagonet.net

SECRETARY

Cathie Stevanovich, 10-03
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-444-1312
E-Mail: cathiesb@earthlink.net

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Kathy Miller, 10-03
14828 San Francisco Ave.
Posen, IL 60469
708-389-3823
E-Mail: Kathleen7081@home.com

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

John Weiss, Chairman
22550 W. Rt. 113
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-458-6616
E-Mail: KAYO66@aol.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jeff LaFollette
2351 Highway 130
New Liberty, IA 52765
563-893-6653
E-Mail: AJon66@aol.com

Photo Credits this issue:

Annette LaFollette, Jeff Meyer, Rich Henry
Jeff LaFollette, David Ingles, Michael Potokar
Ollie Schwallenstecker, Sharon Leone, Vic Lary

Magazine designed by

Creative Images Center, Geneseo, IL

BOARD MEMBERS

John Miller, **Cook**, 10-03
14828 San Francisco Ave.
Posen, IL 60469
708-389-3823
E-Mail: kixonrte66@hotmail.com

Lynn Bagdon, **DuPage**, 10-02
P.O. Box 313
Aurora, IL 60507
630-531-4577
E-Mail: lulupic66@aol.com

Larry Boyd, **Will**, 10-03
733 Fairlane Dr.
Joliet, IL 60435-5155
815-725-2457
E-Mail: Boydgrt@aol.com

Marty Bilecki, **Grundy**, 10-03
4200 Bargo Lane
Morris, IL 60450
815-941-3312

Margaret Hettwer, **Livingston**, 10-02
318 E. Elk St.
Odell, IL 60460
815-998-2219

C.J. Beeler, **McLean**, 10-02
2 Canterbury Court
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-874-2832

Ernie Edwards, **Logan**, 10-03
101 W. Oak St.
Broadwell, IL 62623
217-732-2337

John Murphy, **Sangamon**, 10-02
P.O. Box 500
Pawnee, IL 62558
217-625-7183

Tonya Flannery, **Montgomery**, 10-03
120 E. Ryder St.
Litchfield, IL 62056
217-324-5253
E-Mail: flannery94@hotmail.com

MACOUPIN

Oliver Schwallenstecker, 10-02
620 E. Warren St., Box 477
Bunker Hill, IL 62014
618-585-3081
E-Mail: mt_ollie@madisontelco.net

Linda Henry, **Madison**, 10-02
1107 Historic Route 66
Staunton, IL 62088
618-635-5655
E-Mail: route66@midwest.net

Wilton Rinkel, **St. Clair**, 10-02
5539 State Rt. 157 North
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-1625

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Louis Vargo, 10-03
14911 Richmond Ave
Posen, IL 60469
708-339-3640

Duke Cartwright, 10-02
407 Pasadena Ave.
Crest Hill, IL 60435
815-726-3574
E-Mail: dukecartwright@Mediaone.net

Robert Gehl, 10-03
1667 Timber Ridge Estates Dr.
Wildwood, MO 63011-1971
636-458-2244
E-Mail: rgehl66@earthlink.net

Marie Jibben, 10-02
215 Lawnridge Dr.
Creve Coeur, IL 61610
309-694-4142
E-Mail: MAJ66@earthlink.net

Jeff Geisler, 10-03
814 W. 61st St.
LaGrange Highlands, IL 60525
708-354-8746
E-Mail: Route66Railfan@msn.com

Executive Committee:

The officers, plus Linda Henry
and Jeff Geisler

Association Website: <http://www.il66assoc.org>

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Association publishes *The 66 News* in March, June, September & December as a service to its members, other people and related organizations. Contributions are welcome, but we do not pay. However, authors retain all copyright privileges. Submit all stories, photos and ads at least six weeks prior to publication. Address contributions and inquiries to Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, IL 62704. **Advertising Rates:** \$100 for a whole page, \$60 for a half page, \$40 for a quarter page and \$25 for a business card ad. Send camera ready copy only.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

From October 2001 through January 2002 the Route 66 Association of Illinois welcomed 18 new members to its rolls. 14 from Illinois and 4 from out of state. This brings our total membership to 882. Please join us in welcoming these new members for this quarter.

ILLINOIS

Ralph Dunbar- Normal
 Tonya Flannery- Litchfield
 Tom Flasch- Naperville
 Denise Giovanazzi- Oak Lawn
 Harold Ham- Crete
 Thomas Johnson- Carol Stream
 Patricia Knudsen- Bloomington
 Tom Knudsen- Bloomington
 Edmund Manik III- Calumet City
 Michael Manzke- Orland Park
 Ed & Sherry Remus- Oak Lawn
 Barbara & Robert Schultz- Willowbrook
 Ed Swiatkowski - Carlinville
 Melvin Weller- East Alton

OUT OF STATE

Tina & Kirk Johnson- St. Louis, MO
 Beth McLaughlin- Aurora, CO
 Liz Sees- Williamsburg, VA
 Jan Summers- Sun City, AZ



UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting of the Route 66 Association of Illinois will be conducted on Sunday April 21, 2002 at G.C. Cuisine and Cherub Gardens in Edwardsville, Illinois. It is located at 1230 University Drive (Historic Route 66 and IL 157).

To get there from the north drive through Edwardsville on Historic Route 66 which is Illinois Route 157. Go past Edwardsville Middle School & Junior High School, which will be on your right, and go underneath the railroad overpass. G.C. Cuisine is about a half mile further south on 66 on your left. If you get to the first SIU-Edwardsville entrance, you've gone too far.

The board meeting will begin at 10:30 AM. We will adjourn for dinner at 12:00 The General meeting will begin at 1:00 PM. There will be updates on the coming motor tour, the Route 66 Festival in Springfield, and the 2002 Special Event License plates will be available to be picked up. Plus the drawing for Plate number 66 will be conducted at the general meeting.

Please copy and fill out the form below for the dinner, and send it to Linda Henry along with a check for the proper amount. If you have any questions on how to get to the meeting location, or about dinner call Linda at 618-637-2886.

Come and join us and give us your input on what you'd like to see happen, or what is happening along Route 66 here in Illinois. If you have comments or suggestions, please contact Jeff LaFollette at 563-893-6653.

DINNER RESERVATION FORM

- MENU # 1 Tossed Salad, French Farm House Chicken, Smashed Yukon with parsley shallots, Butter Roasted Green Beans, Focaccia, Dessert, Tea & Coffee - \$10.50 (Includes tax & tip)
- MENU # 2 Caesar Salad, Sicilian Style Chicken Cacciatore over Gemilli, Focaccia, Dessert, Tea & Coffee - \$10.00 (Includes tax & tip)
- MENU # 3 A Half Wrap, Roasted Tomato Soup, Frog-Eye Salad, Dessert, Tea & Coffee - \$8.00 (Includes tax & tip)

NAME _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____ NUMBER OF MENU CHOICES #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____

AMOUNT OF CHECK \$ _____ (PAYABLE TO G.C. CUISINE & CHERUB GARDENS)

MAIL CHECK AND COMPLETED FORM TO LINDA HENRY, P.O.BOX 66 STAUNTON, IL 62088-0066.
 IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO PREPAY FOR YOUR MEAL YOU WILL PAY REGULAR MENU PRICE PLUS TAX & TIP.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LINDA HENRY AT 618-637-2886 OR RICH HENRY AT 618-635-5655.

SPRING 2002



POSTCARDS FROM THE ROAD

By Jeff Meyer

In this edition of "Postcards From The Road" Jeff Meyer shows us two motels and one restaurant. The first one is the Da-Jo Motel, which is at the intersection of Illinois Route 23 and US 66 in Pontiac. Today the Da-Jo is now used as efficiency apartments.

The second postcard, also from Pontiac shows the Fiesta Motel, which is located at the intersection of US 66 and Illinois Route 116. The Fiesta is still in business as a motel today along Historic Route 66, as seen in the photo taken in December 2000.

And the third postcard is from the Heritage House Smorgasbord, which hosted the Association's January Board Meeting. Opened in 1965, the restaurant maintains nearly the same look today as it did 37 years ago except for some window awnings and new siding.

In future issues, we hope to have a little more history on "Postcards From The Road" Thank you, Jeff for sharing these glimpses of past to present and we look forward to more from you soon.

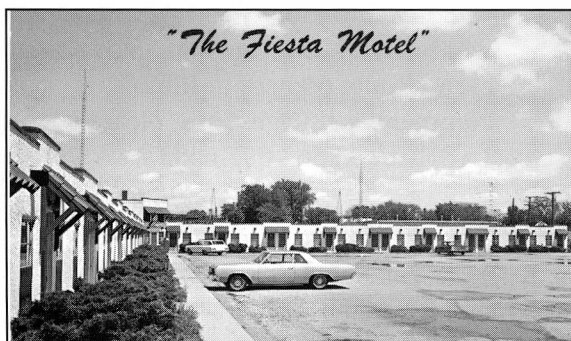
(Editor's note: This is a new feature that will appear from time to time in The 66 News! Jeff Meyer, one of the original founding members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois will share glimpses of the past through his vast collection of postcards and show with photos what those places look like today.)



Da-Jo Motel, Pontiac, Illinois Then



Da-Jo Motel, Pontiac, Illinois Now



Fiesta Motel, Pontiac Illinois Then



Fiesta Motel, Pontiac Illinois Now



Heritage House, Springfield, Illinois Then



Heritage House, Springfield, Illinois Now



RESTORED TEXACO PUMP

MISSOURI ROUTE 66 DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

By Ollie Schwallenstecker

Diamonds are rare, and a rare late fall day it was, when the Route 66 Association of Missouri celebrated the 75th Anniversary of their "Mother Road". Veterans Day, November 11, 2001, was drenched with bright sunbeams and a cloudless clear blue umbrella from dawn to dusk. Light breezes caressed the leafless boughs of the "Route 66 State Park"

Judy and I cruised off I-44 at exit 266 and immediately it was apparent we were coming to a big party. Traffic was backed up almost to the Interstate. We made a quick stop at the Visitors center and Museum. Buz Waldmire was parked about 3 spaces over and it appeared he was overhauling his VW bus. It took us a quarter of a mile of traffic to reach the parking area.

We started walking and immediately were greeted by Linda Henry, who was assembling a group for the shuttle bus. No common shuttle bus for this assemblage. Up pulled an original 1958 GMC Trail Ways Motor Coach. This unrestored Classic belongs to the American Association of Railroaders, Inc. of St. Louis and is one of the first Motor Coaches equipped with air conditioning and a rear John. What a thrill to board this Classic and ride to the party in style.

At the show ground over 300 classic vehicles sparkled and reflected in the bright noonday sun. Many of the roadies were in "T" shirts, and even a few were seen in short pants. Off the bus and walking through the car show area I remarked to Judy that maybe we should have brought our Pony to the show. We both agreed that it was an unusually warm day, but not quite convertible weather. Before we could go very far we ran into some Shell Oil roadies, who we promptly

invited to make the 2002 Illinois Motor Tour next June. Next we entered the Big Top where Tom Teague and several other authors were autographing their texts. Shellee Graham was touting her "Coral Courts", and smiled as we passed by. The Missouri Association had "T" shirts, Mo. memorabilia and was signing up new members. Lynn Bagdon grabbed me and honored us by having me autograph a Missouri 75th anniversary "T" shirt. I was pleased to be asked.

Across the tent you could buy a Ted Drewes Yogurt for \$3.00. We walked out the other side of the tent and promptly spied Lou Vargo seated at a picnic table enjoying the scenery. Lou explained that he, Lynn and John (Dave) Miller had shared a ride this day. We visited briefly and headed back through the show grounds to admire the Iron. All the while we enjoyed Route 66 Oldies played by the DJ. About two-thirds



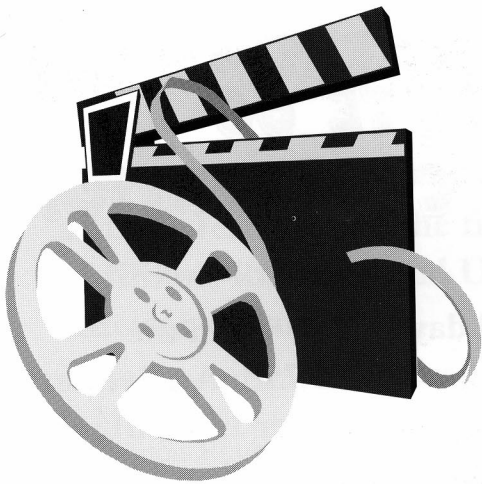
Bob Waldmire's VW Van

of the way across the show grounds we ran into John Miller. He was almost out of videotape when we reached him, and he explained that he was only burning tape on the Iron he liked. It was apparent that he must have liked most of it. Every one was amazed at the size of the crowd. I talked to John Reed, who was with the "Missouri Route 66 Cruisers" car group and registering vehicles, about the expected size of the turnout. He remarked that they expected about 150 vehicles, and was very pleased to have double that.

We headed back to the Big Top and arrived just in time to watch Linda Henry and her dad, Illinois Route 66 Hall of Famer Wilton Rinkle, giving an interview with a St. Louis TV reporter. We had watched a morning news cast giving info on the day's upcoming celebration. This may have helped bring out the roadies. The park parking lots were filled early and I saw Rich Henry directing the overflow to a new area. Our compliments to the Missouri Route 66 Association. They sure know how to throw a Diamond Jubilee Celebration.



1958 Trailways Motor Coach



CBS VISITS ILLINOIS ROUTE 66

American Airlines and CBS are working together to create a travel documentary of Historic Route 66.

The one-hour film will be shown on all American Airlines flights of two hours or more throughout the month of May 2002. Plans are to also use the gathered material to create a one-hour television program to be broadcast nationwide sometime in May or June of 2002.

CBS producer and writer Ged Young arrived from New York on November 27. For the next three days Mr. Young and his crew filmed people and places along Route 66 in Illinois. Route 66 author and historian John Weiss and his wife Lenore were traveling with him as guides. Their job was to suggest locations and make arrangements for people to be interviewed. John said, "The crew had originally planned to spend 1 1/2 days in Illinois, but they were so impressed, they filmed three full days". The first night was spent in Dwight, instead of their original plan, which was Springfield.

The goal of CBS and American Airlines is to encourage tourists to fly locally and visit American cities. The most well known highway is historic Route 66. Just the mere mention of the famous road brings to mind an image of Norman Rockwell, mom

and pop shops, and apple pie. This is the purpose: To revive the grassroots spirit along with a healthy dose on American nostalgia.

John & Lenore were selected by CBS to help with this project because of their knowledge of Route 66 in Illinois. John has written the highly acclaimed book, *"Traveling the New Historic Route 66 in Illinois"*. This book guides travelers to all the sights along this most famous road. They conduct talks; slide presentations, and bus tours of Route 66. John is also the chairman of the preservation committee of the Route 66 Association of Illinois.

Hundreds of thousands of people will be seeing our area, people and towns for the first time. It is predicted that many will come to visit Route 66 during the coming year. Let's put out the welcome mat and let these travelers know that we are glad to see each and every one of them. Let's encourage tourists to spend time enjoying the hospitality of our shops, restaurants, services, and attractions. We can help them get their kicks on Route 66 in Illinois, where this historic road begins.

A LICENSE TO BUILD

Rich Henry has a project that he is working on and needs your help to make it a success. Back in September, the Illinois Secretary of State began replacing the old passenger car plate design with a new one. What a shame for the old plates to be trashed. He has come up with an idea to build a replica tourist cabin and side it with... you guessed it, old license plates. It will be constructed on the Route 66 side of their property in Staunton. The size of the cabin will be based on how many plates he receives. The plan is for the construction to begin in September 2002. Recently, about five newspapers have put articles in about this project. Some 66ers have put his idea up in their chat rooms. So make your old plates a part of Route 66 history. Plates from any state will be accepted. Rich says he has plates from eight other states besides Illinois. To help Rich with this project, contact him by mail at Old Route 66 & Madison Ave. Staunton, IL 62088, by phone at 618-635-5655 or by e-mail at route66@midwest.net. Let's help Rich make this project a success!

CAMPBELL'S 66 TRACTOR AND TRAILERS PRESERVED IN STAUNTON

by Rich Henry



Its last day of operation for them was in March 1986. After Campbell's assets were liquidated, a small steel distributor, Tiger Steel Corporation with offices in Springfield, Missouri, and Tulsa, Oklahoma purchased the tractor, still maintaining Missouri plates on it. It appears they ran the tractor till sometime around 1992 or early 1993. At that time it looked as if tractor 539 was doomed for total devastation. It ended up at Truxton Truck Salvage and Parts in Springfield, Missouri on bypass 66 on the north side of town. They would use it to move trailers around in their salvage yard and pull other equipment, sometimes other disabled tractors with a chain to be cut up. Snortin' Norton must of thought he was doomed too, especially when a few parts off of 539 were taken off. In August of 1998, the Henry's saw it sitting there and stopped to take pictures of it. Once the pictures were developed and Rich's brain starting clicking, thinking wouldn't that look nice hooked to their already owned 1975 Snortin' Norton trailer they purchased in April, 1997 from Milan Surplus in Milan, Illinois, thanks to information Jeff LaFollette had given Rich. In September at a going out of business auction for Truxton Salvage, Rich was high bidder and # 539 was rescued. The nice thing, other than the doors being re-lettered during its absence from Campbell, the rest of the tractor maintained all of its original appearance. Even the unit #'s remained on it.

Now # 539 looks as original as ever and gets restless along with Rich for the open road and pulling one of their two Snortin' Norton trailers behind it, or maybe both of them. Here we have preservation, being a

Preservation comes in different forms besides permanent structures. The doors on Rich and Linda Henry's Campbell 66 tractor # 539 have been completely redone to original condition as when the tractor first hit the road for Campbell in 1981, running out of their Springfield, Missouri home office terminal.

piece of moving Route 66 history with it possibly being the only complete Campbell 66 tractor and trailers combination still in existence.

Be sure to see this unusual Route 66 site attraction when you get close to Staunton, Illinois on the 1930-1940 alignment. Even the Henry's Route 66 rabbits are saying, "Which way did that Campbell outfit go?"

If anyone has any of their own Campbell 66 stories they would like to relate to the Henry's, or have Campbell memorabilia they would like to share with them, or even know of where other Campbell tractors and trailers are at, please either e-mail Rich or Linda at Route66@midwest.net or call them at (618) 635-5655.



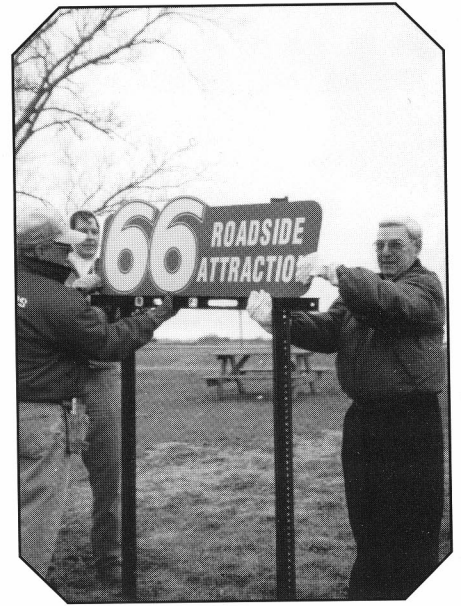
**Which way did that
Campbell Truck Go?**

ROADSIDE ATTRACTION SIGN ERECTED

by Sharon Leone

On a cold and blustery November Sunday, the second Route 66 Roadside Attraction sign was erected at the Standard Oil Gasoline Station in Odell, Illinois by members of the Preservation Committee.

Frank Lozich, Roe Abshire, and George Leone were the committee members who erected the sign, with the help of Nate Seratt. Also in attendance was the cheering section consisting of Dorothy Seratt, Roxane Lozich, and Sharon Leone.



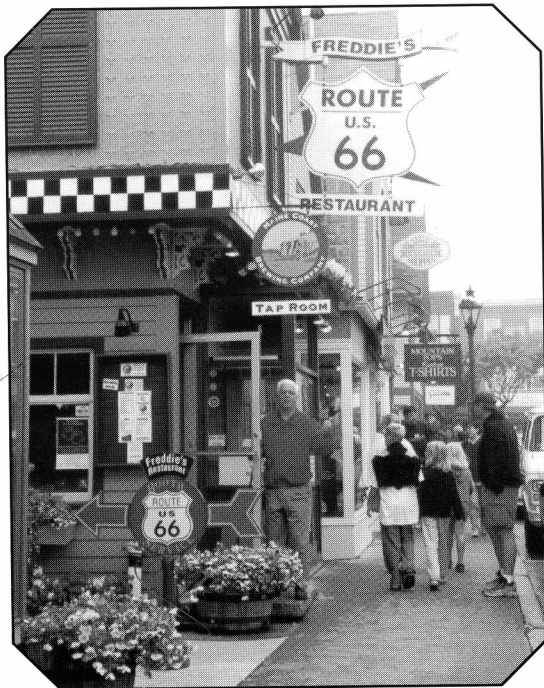
**Roe Abshire, Frank Lozich
& George Leone
installing the sign**



George, Frank, Roe & Nate a job well done!

The sign, besides proclaiming the station as a roadside attraction, also reiterates its status on the National Register of Historic Places. It was appropriate that the Odell Station sign be the one of the first to be erected, since its ongoing restoration by the Preservation Committee won the Cyrus Avery Award for the outstanding preservation project along all of Route 66 at the 75th Anniversary celebration of the Route in Albuquerque last July.

As more signs are completed, they will be erected at selected sites along the road in Illinois, and reported here in *The 66 News!*



Vic Lary at Freddie's Tap Room

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

This was sent to "*The 66 News!*" by Vic Lary, who stated in his letter that one is never far off the "beaten path", metaphorically at least.

Quoting Vic from his letter: "Recently we took the catamaran ferry boat ("The Cat") from Bar Harbour, Maine to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. On disembarking, parking and walking about a block up the main street, I was surprised to find I was back on "old 66". Maybe I shouldn't have been. Anyhow, my wife Barbara caught me dropping into Freddie's Tap Room for a cold one."

Thank you Vic for sharing this one with us. It goes to show that Route 66 is popular anywhere one might travel. If you have seen a Route 66 business somewhere off the beaten path, send it in with a picture and we'll print it in this column. It will be interesting to see just how many places adopt the Route 66 theme outside of the eight states the road crossed.

MOTOR TOUR NEWS

A MOTOR TOUR FIRST!

ENTIRE 2002 MOTOR TOUR TO DRIVE OVER THE CHAIN OF ROCKS BRIDGE!

By Ollie Schwallenstecker



Ollie Schwallenstecker
Motor Tour Co-Chair

The Chamber of Commerce of Glen Carbon and Edwardsville is again sponsoring a weekend Route 66 Festival at the Edwardsville City Park on the "Mother Road". The Association will have a Friday afternoon registration booth set up starting at approximately 5:00 p.m. We are also working with several organizations to sponsor a St. Louis area media event on the Chain of Rocks Bridge sometime after noon on Friday.

The tour will kick off on Saturday morning with a "Chuck Wagon" breakfast at the museum next to the Phillips 66 Refinery 9 (formerly Shell Oil) at Roxana, Illinois. Phillips 66 Company at the Wood River refinery is supporting the start of this year's motor tour by sponsoring the breakfast and along with Trailnet sponsoring our drive over the Chain of Rocks Bridge.

We will leave the Wood River Refinery History Museum at approximately 8:30 AM and cruise to the Missouri end of the Chain of Rocks Bridge. Time will be allowed to stop on the bridge, sight see, and snap a photo of the scenery. After a mid morning stop at Hamel, the Main Street Association at Staunton will serve lunch. We'll be following the original 1926 alignment between Staunton and Springfield.

Saturday afternoon stops include the Carlinville County Fairgrounds, Nilwood turkey tracks, Virden Sesquicentennial, Auburn square and the Red Brick Road, (this stop may be detoured due to restoration

Your 2002 Motor tour co-Chairmen are Ollie Schwallenstecker & Bill Przybylski. Bill and I have been working with the Motor Tour Committee and others to plan and organize a special event this year. This year's tour will travel from south to north the weekend of June 7 - 9, 2002.

to repair the red brick road to its original condition) and the Springfield Renaissance Hotel for the Motor tour Banquet and Hall of Fame Ceremonies.

Sunday morning starts off at Hall of Fame member, Bill Shea's service station museum. Intermediate stops before lunch in Chenoa include, the Williamsville train museum, Hall of Fame member Ernie Edwards Pig-Hip Restaurant for snacks, "The Dixie", and the Route 66 Hall of Fame at McLean and Memory Lane in Lexington.

Sunday afternoon intermediate stops begin at the restored Odell Standard Gasoline Station, the two-cell jail and Burt Parkinson's print shop in Gardner, and ending at the Wilmington antique district.

The theme for this year's Motor tour is "Cruisin' the Mother Road". The motor tour dash plaque and windshield decal base color is turquoise and the dash plaque design features the Chain of Rocks Bridge. Route 66 Association of Illinois license plates are again available for \$30.00 per pair.



Bill Przybylski
Motor Tour Co-Chair

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

MOTEL LIST FOR THE 2002 MOTOR TOUR

ALL MOTELS HAVE ROOMS BLOCKED FOR THE ASSOCIATION

BE SURE TO MENTION THAT YOU ARE WITH THE ROUTE 66 MOTOR TOUR

FRIDAY RESERVATIONS NEED TO BE MADE BY MAY 7, 2002 TO RECEIVE SPECIAL RATES

COMFORT INN

3080 S. State Route 157
Old Route 66
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-4900
\$66.00 plus tax
45 Rooms Blocked

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

14 Regency Parkway
Pontoon Beach, IL 62040
618-797-1207
\$66.00 Plus tax
20 Rooms Blocked

RAMADA LIMITED

5105 Highway 111
Pontoon Beach, IL 62040
618-797-2727
\$66.00 Plus Tax
15 Rooms Blocked

**NOTICE!!! THIS IS NASCAR RACE WEEKEND
BOOK EARLY AS POSSIBLE FOR FRIDAY NITE**

SUPER 8

4141 Timberlake Drive
Pontoon Beach, IL 62040
618-931-8808
\$65.00 Plus Tax
20 Rooms Blocked

BEST WESTERN CAMELOT INN

1240 East Chain of Rocks Road (Old 66)
Pontoon Beach, IL 62040
\$53.95 - \$56.95 Plus Tax
618-931-2262
20 Rooms Blocked

**SATURDAY JUNE 8,
HALL OF FAME BANQUET at RENAISSANCE HOTEL
SPRINGFIELD RENAISSANCE HOTEL**

**701 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701
217-544-8800**

This is the Host Hotel

\$66.00 Plus Tax • Parking \$5.00

175 Rooms Blocked • Reserve by May 17

HAMPTON INN

3185 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62703
217-529-1100
\$76.00 Plus Tax
50 Rooms Blocked

SUNDAY NIGHT JUNE 9, 2002

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

1823 W. Reynolds St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-4444
\$66.00 + tax
30 Rooms Blocked

SUPER 8

601 S. Deerfield Rd.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-6888
\$47.70 + tax
30 Rooms Blocked

COMFORT INN

1821 W. Reynolds St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-842-2777
58.50 + tax
40 Rooms Blocked

BOOK SUNDAY NIGHT ROOMS BY MAY 9

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS JOLIET

411 S. Larkin St. • Joliet, IL 60436
815-729-2000 • \$82.00 + tax
40 Rooms Blocked

COMFORT INN JOLIET

135 S. Larkin St. • Joliet, IL 60436
815-744-1770 • \$65.00 + tax
20 Rooms Blocked

“ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS”

**JUNE 7 - 9, 2002 ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 MOTOR TOUR
AND HALL OF FAME BANQUET
CRUISIN THE MOTHER ROAD**



CHAIN OF ROCKS TO WILMINGTON

Visit Festival 66 in Edwardsville

**Chuck Wagon Breakfast at the
Wood River Refinery History Museum**

Drive the Chain-of-Rocks Bridge

Drive Dead Mans Curves near Edwardsville

**See the World Famous Turkey Tracks
near Nilwood**

**Dine with New Hall of Fame Members
at the Springfield Banquet**

Snacks at Ernie Edwards Pig Hip Restaurant

**Visit the Illinois Route 66 Hall of Fame
at the "Dixie"**

**See the Restored Standard Oil Station
at Odell**

WITH STOPS AT:

Chain of Rocks Bridge

Hamel

Staunton

Carlinville

Virden

Auburn

Springfield

Williamsville

Broadwell

McLean

Chenoa

Odell

Gardner

Wilmington

← SPONSORED BY THE ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS →

Please Print or Type

REGISTRATION FORM

ANY VEHICLE * ANY MODEL * ANY MAKE

Registration Fee: \$25.00 for members per Vehicle

\$40.00 for non-members per vehicle (includes one year individual membership for non-members only)

You may join or leave the tour at any point or at anytime

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ **SORRY, NO REFUNDS. RAIN OR SHINE**

We plan to attend the Hall of Fame Banquet # _____ @ \$17.00 per person, tax & tip included TOTAL _____

**Mail To:
MOTOR TOUR**

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

More Tour Information:

OLLIE SCHWALLENSTECKER . . . Tour CoChair . . . 618-585-3081

BILL PRZBYLSKI Tour CoChair . . . 708-672-7937

MARILYN PRITCHARD 815-844-6937

JOHN MILLER 708-389-3823

CHESTER HENRY 309-962-5361

The Route 66 Association of Illinois is not responsible for any injury or misconduct.

ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL

HOTEL ROOMS BLOCKED

The Route 66 Association of Illinois has blocked 100 rooms at the Hilton Hotel in Downtown Springfield for its members who want to attend the International Route 66 Festival on September 27-29, 2002. Copy this form and fill it out, then send it to the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, and they will take care of reserving your accommodations for the event. If you have any questions, call the Springfield CVB at 800-545-7300 or Jeff LaFollette at 563-893-6653.

INTERNATIONAL ROUTE 66 MOTHER ROAD FESTIVAL FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27-SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2002 CAR CLUB MEMBER HOUSING APPLICATION

Any forms incorrectly filled out will not be processed and will be returned to sender.

A separate form must be filled out for each room requested. One form per room not per person.

Do not request a 2-Bed room unless there are two of more people. 2-Bed rooms are a premium.

Hotel room assignments are on a first-come, first serve basis. If hotels/motels of your choice are not available, the Housing Bureau will secure reservations for you at another hotel.

An Acknowledgment from the Housing Bureau will be sent to you upon receiving your housing form. Confirmation will be sent from your hotel/motel. Once a confirmation is received, please make all changes directly with the hotel/motel.

All individuals making reservations with a Car Club are required to return this housing form to the Housing Bureau no later than July 15, 2002, to guarantee reservations at the hotel with your car club.

No rooms will be held with out a credit card. If the hotel/motel does not receive an advance deposit check by August 26, 2002 the credit card will be charged the advance deposit of one night room and tax. All deposits are non-refundable. Any cancellation or arrival and/or departure changes must be made by August 26, 2002 to receive a refund.

CAR CLUB: ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION

Hotel Reserved: HILTON

Hotel Rate: \$69.00 plus 10% tax

Type of Credit Card: _____ # _____

Expiration Date: _____

(must be valid through 9/02)

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-Mail _____

Room type is needed: 1 Bed 2 Bed

If 2-Bed rooms are full, will a 1-Bed be acceptable? Yes No

List all room occupants including yourself:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

MAIL FORM DIRECTLY TO:

SCVB/Route 66 Housing

109 North 7th Street

Springfield, IL 62701

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE GALA JOHN STEINBECK AWARDS EVENING AT THE INTERNATIONAL ROUTE 66 MOTHER ROAD FESTIVAL

By David Knudsen, National Route 66 Federation

The annual John Steinbeck Awards Evening will be held this year at the International Route 66 Mother Road Festival in Springfield, Illinois. The gala Evening will take place Friday, September 27 from 7:00 pm through 11:00 pm at the Renaissance Springfield Hotel.

A lavish banquet, entertainment, dignitaries and other surprises in the Renaissance Ballroom will frame the presentation of the prestigious John Steinbeck Award and the Cyrus Avery Award.

The Steinbeck Award is presented annually to an individual who has contributed significantly to the preservation of Route 66. Previous winners have been Michael Wallis, Tom Teague, Angel Delgadillo and Jim Ross. The Cyrus Avery Award is presented to an organization for the most outstanding preservation project. The Illinois Route 66 Association for its work on the Odell filling station won it last year. Keynote speaker for the Evening will be Martin Milner, star of the 1960s television hit, "Route 66".

The Evening is \$39 per person which includes tax, gratuity and all entertainment. You can choose from Eastern Prime Rib or Western Baked Salmon entrées with all the trimmings. (A vegetarian entrée is available upon request.) entrées must be selected in advance. All reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance (by September 14). No one will be admitted at the door without

reservations. Reservations may be made by calling toll free (888) 339-0794. You may use your Visa, Discover or Master Card or send a check to: National Route 66, P. O. Box 423, Tujunga, CA 91043.

Other Federation sponsored events at the Festival will include the Route 66 Authors & Artists Expo and the Antique Mother Road Show.

The Route 66 Authors & Artists Expo will take place downtown on old Route 66, along with numerous other activities on Saturday afternoon, September 28. Here you will find the most famous Route 66 authors, artists and photographers displaying, signing and selling their work.

The Antique Mother Road Show will be similar to the Antique Road Show. However, all of the items to be appraised will be Route 66 related. It will take place Saturday morning at the hotel.

The host hotel for the National Historic Route 66 Federation is the Renaissance Springfield. To make room reservations, call (217) 544-8800.

Our special rate is only \$69 plus tax. (The regular charge for a single

room is \$140.) Our rate will be honored only if you give the code: "National Route 66 Federation" at the time you make your reservations. The special rate will apply from Thursday, September 26 through Sunday, September 29 and reservations must be made before September 7.

The Illinois Route 66 Mother Road Festival promises to be the largest Route 66 related event ever held. The city of Springfield, Illinois is pulling out all the stops for their 3 day celebration which runs from September 27 - 29. Just a few of the attractions include: street festivals throughout the city, Harley Davidson raffles, film festivals, motorcycle shows, the world's largest sock hop featuring the Drifters, Paul Revere & the Raiders, Herman's Hermits and others, the Illinois Route 66 cruise, "Rockin' the Neighborhood" featuring the Beatles Tribute, custom cars, classic cars and hot rods on display throughout the city, and the Federation events mentioned earlier.

For further information, contact David Knudson (818) 352-7232

THE JOHN STEINBECK AWARDS EVENING IS PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL HISTORIC ROUTE 66 FEDERATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JOHN STEINBECK FOUNDATION. THE ROUTE 66 AUTHORS & ARTISTS EXPO AND THE ANTIQUE MOTHER ROAD SHOW ARE PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL HISTORIC ROUTE 66 FEDERATION AND THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS. THE INTERNATIONAL ROUTE 66 MOTHER ROAD FESTIVAL IS PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

TALES ALONG ROUTE 66

By Ted & Marilyn Giovanazzi

STONEY'S SERVICE STATIONS

Hall of Famer, John Stonecipher was a very enterprising young man. Of the many gas and service stations in the town of Odell along Route 66, John owned and operated three of them at different periods of time.

His first was a small station just across the railroad tracks at the north end of town. The second station was purchased in 1949 after he returned from serving in the US Marines during World War II. This station was located in a large framed building that stood where the fire station now stands. This building also housed county vehicles, school busses, and Gussie's Café. In 1955, the entire building was destroyed by fire. The fire was so intense that the authorities dispatched someone to attempt to get a northbound passenger train stopped about a mile south of town. The engineer would not stop, and when the train passed the fire, all the windows on the fireside were blown out and the engineer was injured. The engineer was taken to the hospital when the train stopped in Joliet.

In 1955, John purchased his last gas station, which was located about a half block north of St. Paul's Catholic Church on Route 66. This building still stands. This station stayed in operation until 1989 when John retired. He and his lovely wife, Loyce still reside in Odell, and work very hard in the community as well as with the Route 66 Preservation Committee.

GARDNER JAIL

This two-room jail was built of stone in 1910. The original jail was located in the village hall, behind the existing structure. Gardner was known as a "Good Stop" for the many hobos who traveled the rails. They were usually locked up if they weren't out of town by nightfall. One hobo who didn't like this arrangement set his bedding on fire. Hence, the need for a new jail. The new jail was never used much for anything except local drunks and the housing of hobos who didn't meet the local curfew. Burt Parkinson, a deputy sheriff, amongst other things, tells of housing as many as a dozen at one time in this small jail. Before the inmates were locked up for the night they would visit Burt's newspaper building and collect old newspapers, then they would place them down on the jail floor to be used as bedding and believed that the COOTIES would not travel over the papers. The jail is no longer being used, but is now being restored.

PIG-HIP RESTAURANT

Ernie Edwards of the famed Pig-Hip Restaurant, credits his long success in business from 1937-1991 to recognizing changes when they come and being ready to challenge and meet them.

When Interstate 55 was going in, he knew some changes were going to be needed if he intended to stay in business. He purchased a large neon sign from a Ramada Inn in Bloomington. It simply said "RESTAURANT" in bold red lettering. He placed this sign on top of the roof of his home, which was located in the rear of the restaurant. The sign could be seen from long distances on the interstate. He was, of course fortunate to have been located near an interstate entrance/exit ramp. During the building of the interstate, many of the workers discovered Ernie's famous sandwiches and, no doubt passed on the word. The sign was later removed after Ernie's closing.

PIG-HIP SANDWICH

Where did the Pig-Hip sandwich actually get its name? The name of the sandwich actually originated from a customer who came into the Broadwell Restaurant in its early days. When the customer sat down, Ernie came over to serve him. The customer asked what Ernie had to offer. Ernie gave him a menu, and after a short look, told Ernie, "Just give me a few slices of that pig hip over there." That "pig hip" was actually a fresh ham that Ernie had just baked. Ernie liked the name and began using it on the menu. The rest is history.

ENTERPRISING

Ernie of Pig-Hip fame was always the entrepreneur. He tells the story that as a young man around 1932, he developed a product. The product was sold at local county fairs as well as the Illinois State Fair. He called his product, Chick's French Fried Popcorn. Chick's, the covering was nothing more than yellow dandelion butter mixed with vegetable oil. His gave the popcorn a yellow coloring that was pleasing to the eye. It didn't add any flavor to the product, but it went over big with young people, and Ernie was always one to please the customer.

Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Illinois County (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Interests in Route 66: _____

How I can help: _____

Annual Dues

General: \$15

Family: \$25

Business: \$30

Foreign: \$35

Lifetime: \$200

U.S. funds only, please

\$10 fee for returned checks

Send to:

Membership

Route 66 Assn. of Illinois

2743 Veterans Pkwy., Room 166

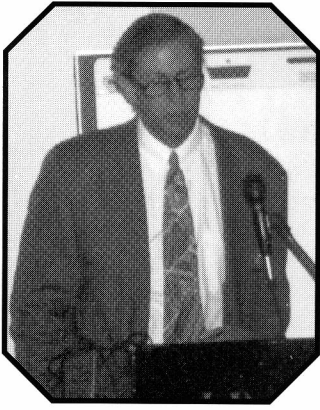
Springfield, IL 62704

Membership runs May 1 - April 30

Send address changes and questions to Membership at the address above or e-mail changes to blitz66@chicagonet.net

ROUTE 66 CORRIDOR ACT UPDATE

By Jeff LaFollette



Michael Taylor
National Park Service

On Saturday January 12 Annette & I flew out to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Part of the time was for fun but January 16 and 17 was the time for me to get informed and work with a group of 40 people on the future of the Route 66 Corridor Act. To review, the Act authorizes the appropriation of \$10,000,000 over a 10-year period, ending in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009.

Michael Taylor, Program Manager of the Corridor Act conducted the meeting, along with John Conoboy

and David Gaines from the Park Service office in Santa Fe. Historic Preservation officials, transportation officials, Route 66 Association leaders, and various others including David Knudsen of the National Route 66 Federation, Bob Moore from Route 66 Magazine, and Michael Wallis were in attendance.

Many things were discussed during the two-day session. The first day mainly consisted of goals for the meeting which were to agree on criteria and program guidance, discuss technical assistance from the Park Service to help preserve significant resources, explore ways to leverage funding to match federal dollars, and establish a committee to advise the Park Service on forming a permanent committee.

One thing that was first and foremost on everyone's mind was how much money there would be this year. After expenses, there will be only \$150,000 to be allocated for projects in FY 2002. Michael Taylor stressed that we all need to contact our congressional delegations to get more funding secured for 2003 and beyond. The Park Service cannot solicit for the funds...it is up to us to do that, mainly on the association level.

Most of you know that Illinois received \$7,500 for the Odell Station from a \$410,000 share from last year. Most of the money last year went for studies and surveys. But we agreed that it is time to start on projects and get a "success story". Because the only way to secure more possible government funding in the future is to get some of these "success stories" like the one we have here in Odell.

Besides the meetings, the group took a bus tour along Central Avenue in Albuquerque on Wednesday afternoon. This was the alignment of Route 66 from 1937 until I-40 came along in the 1970's. The group went to the historic Nob Hill District and walked through vintage motels

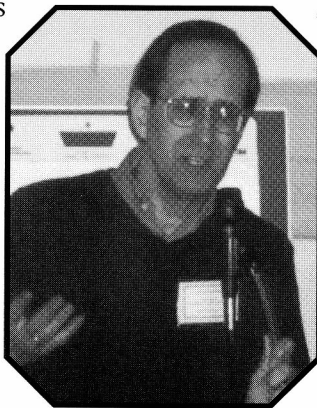
and also got a tour of the historic Ki-Mo Theatre. Later that evening, the group got together for a social event at the Route 66 Diner on Wednesday evening. A lot of friendships were renewed and a lot of good fellowship followed.

Before the meeting ended we had to elect an ad-hoc committee to advise the National Park Service upon appointing a permanent committee. I was honored to be selected by my peers in the room to serve on this committee, representing the eight associations. A total of five people were elected to serve. I will help with the task of appointing a permanent committee, of which I may have the chance to serve on for a three-year term. I thank them all for their confidence in me.

Now we have a large task on our hands. And the bulk of it falls on you, the Association member. In order for this Corridor Act to succeed, we need the help of all of you. Write your congressman. Tell him or her how you feel about Route 66. Tell him or her that you want to see Congress appropriate more funding for the Route 66 Corridor Act. My task will be trying to get our two senators, Peter Fitzgerald, and Richard Durbin on board. Senator Pete Domenici in New Mexico is a great ally to Route 66. We need that here in Illinois and all along the road. The Park Service is going to ask for \$1,250,000 this year. If they receive it, it will get us back on track for funding over the next seven years. The success of this act begins with the 40 people who met in Albuquerque in

January. It falls upon the shoulders of every Association member from Illinois to California for its ultimate success.

I thank you for taking the time to read this. My goal is to not only have "success stories" here in Illinois but all along Route 66. As we said before we left the meeting. We all are part of a team working together for the common thread that binds us all. That thread is a concrete and asphalt ribbon that stretches 2,448 miles from Lake Michigan to the Pacific shore. Come and be part of our "team".



David Gaines
National Park Service

SPEAKING IN PLATES

The first entry of 66 license plates comes from David Ingles from Waukesha, Wisconsin. David stated in his letter he wrote me, that the photo depicts the “changing of the guard” of their plates, taking off the HWY 66 and replacing them with KIX ON 66.

This makes the third documented set of KIX ON 66 Plates since this column resumed.

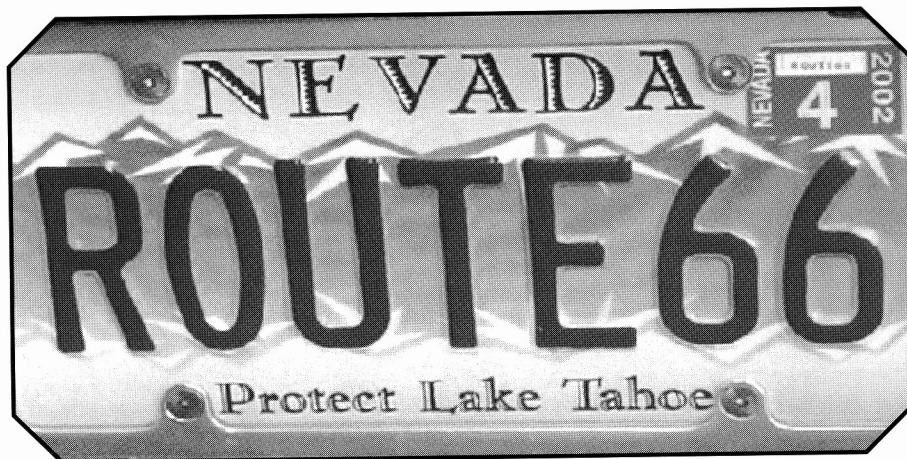
David and his wife Carol, who are members of the Illinois Association, informed me that their interest in Route 66 dates to when he attended college in Jacksonville, Illinois commuting to the Chicago area. He met his wife while working for the Illinois State Journal in Springfield in 1968. Carol was originally from Belvidere so the two made many trips on Route 66. They moved to Wisconsin in 1971 and have been there since.

David also informs me that Carol and his daughter Susan met Tom Teague at the Cozy Dog in Springfield in 1996, and somewhere he has a picture of their two KIX ON 66 plates. He says he'll send it sometime in the future. Thank you, David for your submission.



Susan & Carol Ingles with KIXON66

The second entry comes from Mike Potokar from Henderson, Nevada. He sends a picture of his Nevada plate “ROUTE 66” which he proudly displays on his 1970 Chevrolet El Camino. Mike is a member of the Illinois Association and has purchased Illinois special event plates for the past four years. Thank you, Mike for your support of Route 66 in Illinois from out in Nevada, and your picture submission. So come on all you road warriors out there. Springtime means car cruising time. Let's try to spot some more plates with the Route 66 theme for future issues.



Mike Potokar's Plate

PRESERVATION NEWS

A PLEA TO ALL OUR FELLOW MEMBERS!

by John Weiss

This past summer, the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico held a fantastic festival celebrating the 75th anniversary of Route 66. One of the feature programs was the John Steinbeck Award Banquet conducted by the National Historic Route 66 Federation.

At this event, the Route 66 Association of Illinois Preservation Committee was presented with the first ever Cyrus Avery Award. This honor was bestowed upon us as a result of various preservation projects, but mainly for our work to save the 1932 Standard Oil Gasoline Station in Odell, Illinois.

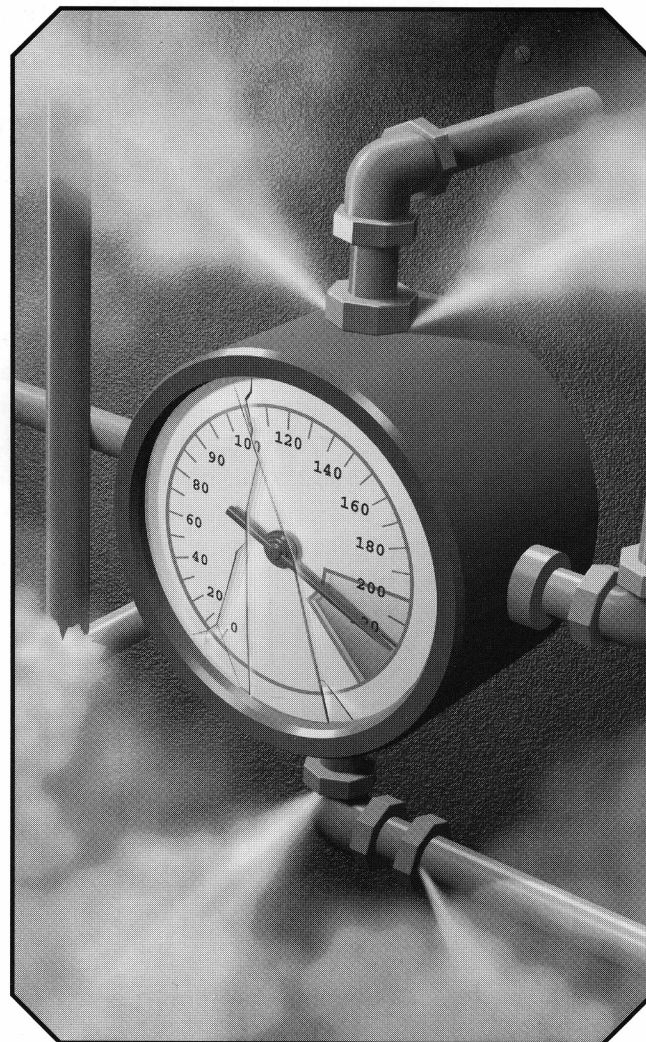
It is hard to describe the pride and admiration I feel as preservation chairman. The honor received was well deserved by the committee volunteers. They devoted countless hours to projects that for years have sat dormant and forgotten.

But one subject was not mentioned. A subject that requires the immediate attention of us all.

The word preservation is often associated with brick and mortar, and wood and nails. It is thought of as a tangible item, one you can see, touch and feel. But friends, that's only a small part of the whole picture. What we must also do is save the memories, the stories, the bits and pieces that lay buried in the hearts and minds of the people who lived, worked or on traveled Route 66. We can restore a structure, but we can never know its significance unless we save the memories associated with it.

Since time is our enemy, it is imperative that we all begin to interview people who can tell us what we need to know. The stories of day-to-day existence that happened so many years ago cannot ever be restored or replaced. But they can be saved.

The memories of life on the road will be gone forever if we do not act now! You do not need to be a writer or author, or possess any special talent. Just sit and talk to these remarkable people. Use a tape recorder or pencil and paper. Here in Illinois, we have preservation volunteers who are gathering some wonderful and surprising stories. We constantly hear peo-



ple reply they haven't any interesting things to say. Believe me, they do—they just don't know it. We need to harvest and preserve this information.

It is important that we all work on this significant project together. If not, a piece of American history will be gone forever. It is crucial that we save this very valuable and irreplaceable resource. Please begin now, tomorrow is too late.

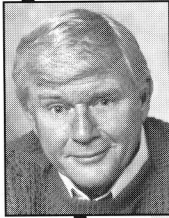
You will soon realize ***THIS IS THE ULTIMATE PRESERVATION PROJECT!***

Didn't you always want to race Tod Stiles from "route 66"?

Now's your chance at the International Route 66 Mother Road Festival –
September 27-29, 2002.

Meet your heroes and get your kicks at the **International Route 66 Mother Road Festival, September 27-29, 2002 in Springfield, Illinois.** This premiere annual event will be attended by thousands of people from around the world and feature hundreds of classic vehicles, live entertainment and celebrities, dozens of food and drink booths, one-of-a-kind exhibits, the world's largest sock hop, and more. This event is the largest festival of it's kind in the world – a Route 66 Mecca. We invite you to come celebrate the love of the open road, the dream of a simpler time and the vitality of a bygone era. Oh yeah, and the chance to blow the doors off Tod's Corvette!

International Route 66 Mother Road Festival highlights:



- Join the National Route 66 Federation for their annual **John Steinbeck Awards Banquet** in downtown Springfield. **Martin Milner** of "route 66" television fame is scheduled to be the keynote speaker, and **Michael Wallis** famed author of "Route 66 The Mother Road" will also attend.
- National Route 66 Chili Cook-off
- Route 66 Artists & Authors Expo
- **Paul Revere & The Raiders**, **Bill Pinkney And The Original Drifters**, and **1964: The Tribute**
- Antique roadshow featuring rare collectibles from Route 66



For more information on the International Route 66 Mother Road Festival visit **route66fest.com**. If you're planning to make the trip with your car or motorcycle club, contact the Springfield Illinois Convention and Visitors Bureau at **1-800-545-7300** for special festival hotel packages, and premier club parking.



ILLINOIS
RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW.

IN OTHER NEWS

On May 11, 2002 Staunton will be hosting their **3rd Annual Heritage Days** on Staunton's Main Street. Each year it continues to grow. In the past it has hosted blacksmithing, soap making, wood carvers, barbershop quartets, square dancing and the list goes on. If you need more info on this event, you can contact Bev Sweatman, who is Staunton's Main Street Program Manager at 618-635-2418.

In conjunction with the event noted above, also on **May 11, 2002**, Rich & Linda Henry will be hosting their **1st Annual Route 66 Rabbit Ranch Swap Meet/Flea Market** at their location off Old Route 66 (1107 Historic Old Route 66 Staunton, Illinois 62088). Admission is free to spectators and buyers. Vendors will be charged a space fee. Vendors must also provide their own tables, chairs, etc, or sell their merchandise off a tailgate. The Henry's are not responsible for accidents or loss. For anyone needing more information, contact Rich or Linda Henry at 618-635-5655 or by e-mail at route66@midwest.net

In Staunton, Illinois another little Route 66 Rabbit has appeared on the scene. Where at?? You guessed it At **Henry's Route 66 Rabbit Ranch aka Henry's Old Route 66 Emporium**. It joins Henry's existing fifteen rabbits that at almost any time of the year, when they are open, are out romping around, giving enjoyment to the weary 66 traveler.

The new rabbit is one of 500 produced for the Henry's by Chuck & Kim Taylor of Crista Bears in Springfield, Illinois. The rabbit's name is Spot, who is Dalmatian Route 66 color in appearance. No two are identical though. On its little ear tag, Spot tells a very interesting story, which says...well you will have to see one and read it for yourself. They are irresistible and available at Rich & Linda Henry's Route 66 Staunton Rabbit Ranch (route66@midwest.net) Happy Hoppin' on Route 66.

Michael Taylor with the National Park Service was in Springfield, Illinois on December 12 at a meeting hosted by Tom Teague from the Illinois State Historical Society. Participants included, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Teague, as well as Ted Hild from the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office, Patty Kuhn, project manager of the Illinois Route 66 Heritage Corridor Project, Association President Jeff LaFollette and Preservation Committee Chairman John Weiss. The meeting was to discuss important preservation projects in Illinois and to share ideas for the National Route 66 Corridor Act funding. After the meeting Jeff & John took Mr. Taylor on a mini-tour along Route 66. Stops

included Bill Shea's Museum in Springfield, Carpenter Park to view an abandoned segment of the original Route 66 pavement, the Pig-Hip in Broadwell to meet with Ernie Edwards, and the village of Atlanta to visit the clock tower, library, and other historic buildings. The trip concluded with a meal at the Dixie in McLean. Mr. Taylor enjoyed his visit and was impressed with what he saw while he was here. He also used the time to gather information for the Corridor Act Meeting that was conducted in Albuquerque in January.

The Illinois giants have a cousin in Albuquerque. At the corner of Louisiana and Central Ave. (Old Rt. 66 through the city) there is a giant holding an ax at a place that is currently known as May's Vietnamese Cuisine. This was formerly home to Shoffner's Lumber Company in Albuquerque from the 1950's to the mid 1970's. This brings the total of giants I know of to five, three in Illinois, one in Missouri, and now one in New Mexico. (Ed. note: I took a picture of the giant to print in this newsletter. Unfortunately, the glare behind the giant was too bright and it turned out dark. I'll see if I can get one of my New Mexico counterparts to get a photo to me for a future issue).

Jot these dates down on your calendar. June 15 and 16, 2002 will be the weekend for **"Explore Logan County Heritage & Treasures"**. All of the towns and villages in Logan County including the Route 66 towns of Atlanta, Lawndale, Lincoln, Broadwell, and Elkhart will host an event. Stops will consist of displays of antiques, collectibles, crafts, flea markets, and tours of cities once visited by Abraham Lincoln. For vendor or other information contact Paul Adams in Atlanta at 217-648-2087. Julie Landers in Lawndale at 217-732-1726, Don Ritchhart in Lincoln at 217-732-6071, Paul Muchow in Broadwell at 217-732-9872 or Charles Matthews in Elkhart at 217-947-2296.

In July of 2002, a group of 44 French families will land on the west coast of the United States for a coast to coast journey from Los Angeles to New York, to pay tribute to the American people for their help in during World War II in 1944. These French families will be driving in classic Citroen cars that American veterans discovered when they landed in France in 1944. When they arrive in California to begin their trip, they plan to drive Route 66 all the way to Chicago. More information on this journey will be forthcoming in the summer edition of *The 66 News*!

SPECIAL EVENTS LICENSE PLATE 2002

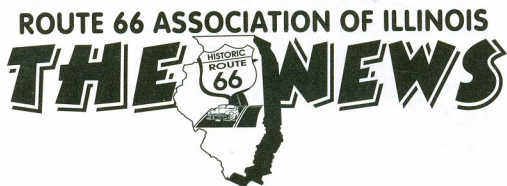


It's getting down to crunch time for the 2002 Motor Tour License Plates. We're not sold out yet, but it's getting close. At this writing, only 39 sets remain. So if you've waited, don't delay any longer. Contact Jeff LaFollette at his address, phone or e-mail address on page 2 to get your plates today. By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, we will have most likely sold a few more. So call Jeff and check on availability. Don't be left out. *Get yours now!*

PLATE 66 RAFFLE

There's still time to get involved with the raffle for plate number 66. Not too many people have taken advantage of this yet, so your chances of winning are still pretty good. The cost is 1 chance for \$1, 6 chances for \$5, and 30 chances for \$20. Your name will be written on the back of raffle tickets, for example, if you buy 30 chances, your name will be written on 30 tickets. Send a check or money order payable to the "Route 66 Association of Illinois" to Route 66 Association of Illinois, Plate Raffle, 2743 S. Veterans Parkway # 166, Springfield, IL 62704. Entries must be received no later than April 15, 2002. The winner will be drawn at the April 21, 2002 board meeting and contacted by mail or phone.

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS



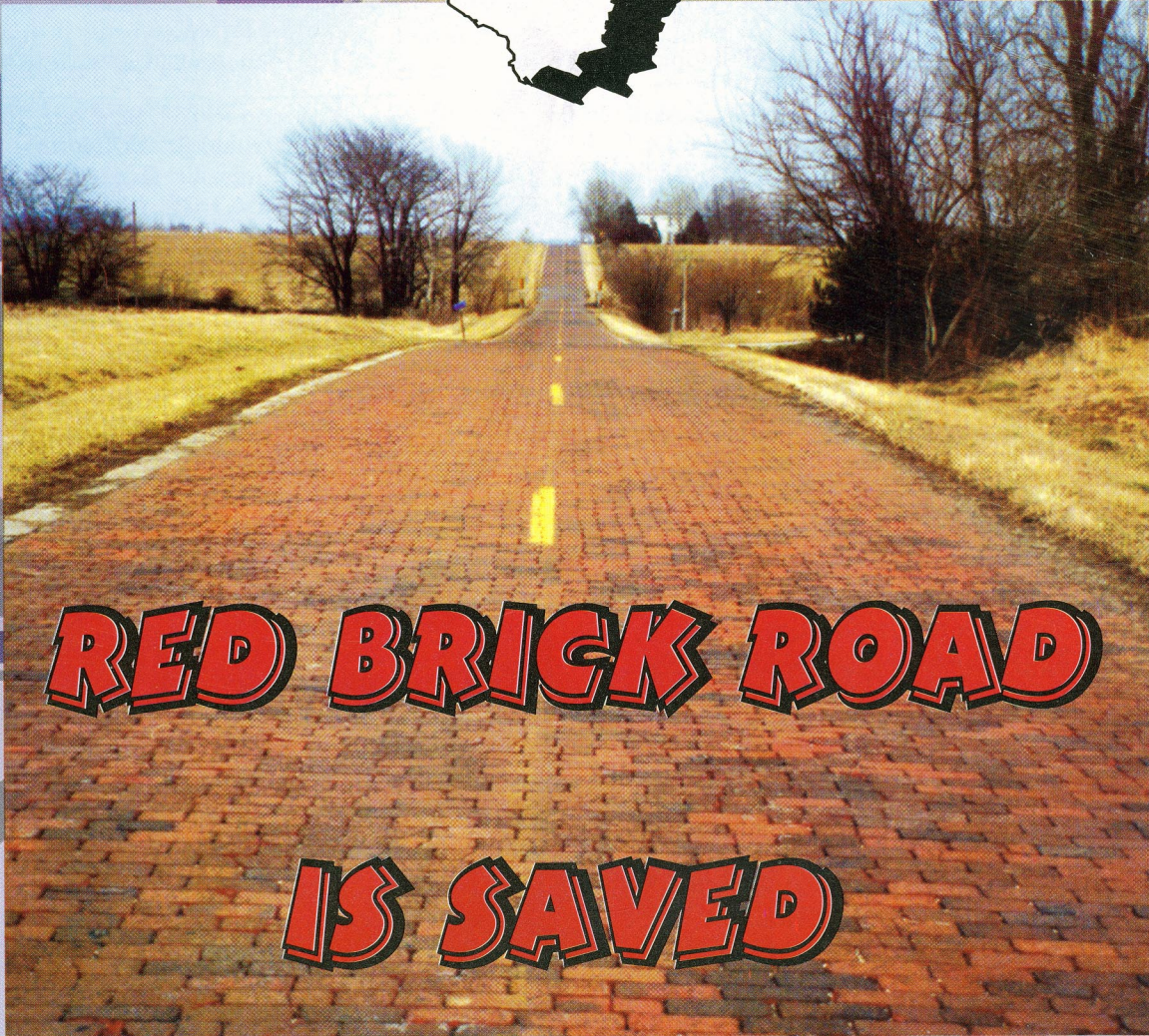
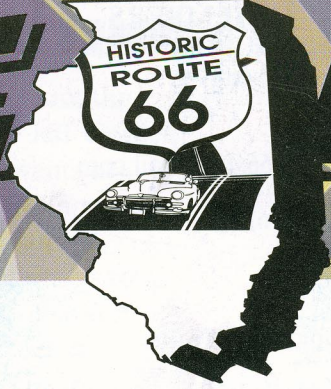
2743 Veterans Parkway, #166
Springfield, IL 62704

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lincoln, IL
Permit No. 66

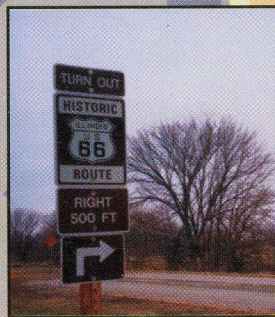
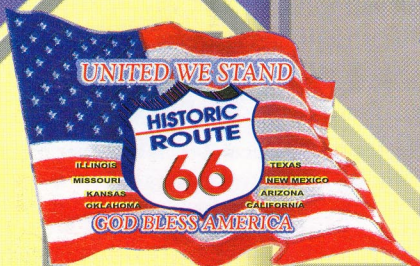
ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE NEWS

SUMMER 2002

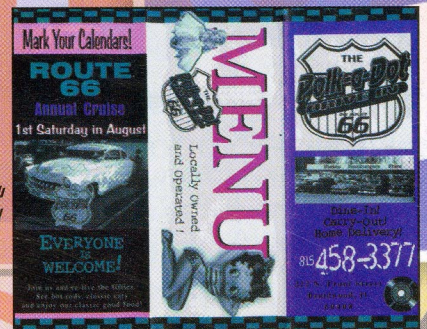


RED BRICK ROAD IS SAVED



**CLASS
OF 2002
HALL
OF FAME**

**TURN OUT
A REALITY**



ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The Route 66 Association of Illinois is a not-for-profit organization. Its purpose is to preserve, promote and help people enjoy the road in this state. Officers and board members are available at most reasonable times to answer questions and hear comments about Route 66. Please feel free to contact them when you need to. The date to the right of each person's name is when his or her term expires.

PRESIDENT

Jeff LaFollette, 10-03
2351 Highway 130
New Liberty, IA 52765
563-893-6653
E-Mail: AJon66@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Przybylski, 10-02
24156 S. Kings Rd.
Crete, IL 60417
708-672-7937

TREASURER

Martin Blitstein, 10-02
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-444-1312
E-Mail: blitz66@chicagonet.net

SECRETARY

Cathie Stevanovich, 10-03
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-444-1312
E-Mail: cathiesb@earthlink.net

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Kathy Miller, 10-03
14828 San Francisco Ave.
Posen, IL 60469
708-389-3823
E-Mail: Kathleen708@hotmail.com

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

John Weiss, Chairman
22550 W. Rt. 113
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-458-6616
E-Mail: KAYO66@aol.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jeff LaFollette
2351 Highway 130
New Liberty, IA 52765
563-893-6653
E-Mail: AJon66@aol.com

Photo Credits this issue:

John Weiss, James & Judy Otis, Annette LaFollette
Jeff Meyer, Marty Bilecki, Tom Teague
John Miller, Ollie Schwallenstecker

Magazine designed by
Creative Images Center, Geneseo, IL

BOARD MEMBERS

John Miller, **Cook**, 10-03
14828 San Francisco Ave.
Posen, IL 60469
708-389-3823
E-Mail: kixonrte66@hotmail.com

Lynn Bagdon, **DuPage**, 10-02
P.O. Box 313
Aurora, IL 60507
630-531-4577
E-Mail: lulupic66@aol.com

Larry Boyd, **Will**, 10-03
733 Fairlane Dr.
Joliet, IL 60435-5155
815-725-2457
E-Mail: Boydgrt@aol.com

Marty Bilecki, **Grundy**, 10-03
4200 Bargo Lane
Morris, IL 60450
815-941-3312

Margaret Hettwer, **Livingston**, 10-02
318 E. Elk St.
Odell, IL 60460
815-998-2219

C.J. Beeler, **McLean**, 10-02
2 Canterbury Court
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-874-2832

Ernie Edwards, **Logan**, 10-03
101 W. Oak St.
Broadwell, IL 62623
217-732-2337

John Murphy, **Sangamon**, 10-02
P.O. Box 500
Pawnee, IL 62558
217-625-7183

Tonya Flannery, **Montgomery**, 10-03
120 E. Ryder St.
Litchfield, IL 62056
217-324-5253
E-Mail: flannery94@hotmail.com

MACOUPIN

Oliver Schwallenstecker, 10-02
620 E. Warren St., Box 477
Bunker Hill, IL 62014
618-585-3081
E-Mail: mt_ollie@madisontelco.com

Linda Henry, **Madison**, 10-02
1107 Historic Route 66
Staunton, IL 62088
618-635-5655
E-Mail: route66@midwest.net

Wilton Rinkel, **St. Clair**, 10-02
5539 State Rt. 157 North
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-1625

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Louis Vargo, 10-03
14911 Richmond Ave
Posen, IL 60469
708-339-3640

Duke Cartwright, 10-02
407 Pasadena Ave.
Crest Hill, IL 60435
815-726-3574
E-Mail: dukecartwright@Mediaone.net

Robert Gehl, 10-03
1667 Timber Ridge Estates Dr.
Wildwood, MO 63011-1971
636-458-2244
E-Mail: rgehl66@earthlink.net

Marie Jibben, 10-02
215 Lawnridge Dr.
Creve Coeur, IL 61610
309-694-4142
E-Mail: MAJ66@earthlink.net

Jeff Geisler, 10-03
814 W. 61st St.
LaGrange Highlands, IL 60525
708-354-8746
E-Mail: Route66Railfan@msn.com

Executive Committee:

The officers, plus Linda Henry
and Jeff Geisler

Association Website: <http://www.il66assoc.org>

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Association publishes *The 66 News* in March, June, September & December as a service to its members, other people and related organizations. Contributions are welcome, but we do not pay. However, authors retain all copyright privileges. Submit all stories, photos and ads at least six weeks prior to publication. Address contributions and inquiries to Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, IL 62704.
Advertising Rates: \$100 for a whole page, \$60 for a half page, \$40 for a quarter page and \$25 for a business card ad. Send camera ready copy only.

▼ ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING

It's not too soon to start thinking about the annual election meeting in October. Jeff Geisler, Nominating Committee Chairman wants to remind any of you who are interested in running for an officer or board member position, to contact him as soon as you can. Jeff wants to have ballots printed up for the meeting and it helps him to have a slate of candidates to announce at the meeting. This year the terms expire for the following officers positions: Vice-President and Treasurer. The following county board seats are up for election this year. DuPage, Livingston, McLean, Sangamon, Macoupin, Madison and St. Clair as well as two at-large positions. If you are interested in running for any of these board or officer positions, please contact Jeff at (708) 354-8746.

▼ UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting of the Route 66 Association of Illinois will be conducted on July 21, 2002 at Pour Richards in Odell, Illinois. Pour Richard's is located at 210 Tremont Street in downtown Odell and is a Business member of the Route 66 Association of Illinois. The board meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. and we will break for lunch at 12:00 noon. There will be a buffet style dinner featuring chicken, beef and all the fixin's for \$8.00 tax and tip included. The General meeting will convene at 1:00 p.m.. Updates on the International Route 66 Festival in Springfield will be on the agenda, as well as many other plans and projects for the rest of the year. Plan to attend and enjoy a day of fellowship and sharing of ideas. We look forward to seeing you there. For more information contact John Weiss at 815-458-6616 or Richard at Pour Richard's at 815-998-2556

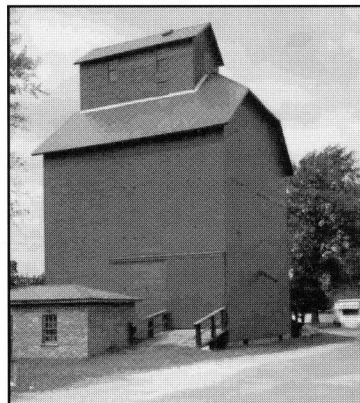


◀ 66 PLATE RAFFLE

During the General Meeting of the Route 66 Association of Illinois on April 21, 2002, a drawing was conducted for special event license plate number 66. The raffle raised \$600 and the lucky winner of the plate was Loran Kovaly from DeCamp Junction Inc. near Staunton. Congratulations to Loran. I'm sure when he is done displaying the plate on his car; it will hang proudly for all to see inside DeCamp Junction. A total of 45 people participated in the raffle. A big thank you to all of you for your support!

ASSOCIATION PICNIC NEWS

This year, the Route 66 Association of Illinois picnic will be held in Atlanta on Sunday September 15, beginning at noon. This is a fun time for all who attend. The picnic will be held in the park like setting behind Atlanta's Clock Tower and Library. The Association will furnish the meat and drinks, all you need to bring is a dish to pass, lawn chairs, games and plan to have a day of fun and fellowship. Tours of the



**J.H. Hawes Grain Elevator
Atlanta, Illinois**

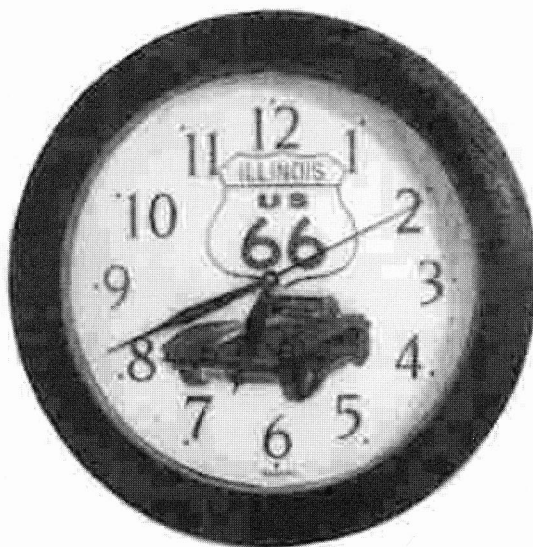


J.H. Hawes Grain Elevator and the historic library may be available as well. Atlanta is located about 7 miles north of Lincoln or 5 miles south of McLean along Historic Route 66. Or from I-55, just take the Atlanta exit and follow the signs. For more information, contact Jeff LaFollette at (563) 893-6653 or John Weiss at (815) 458-6616.

Fred's SportTime Clocks

A small business that loves Route 66 presents the most unique product for the old car and truck enthusiast. If your ride sits in the garage with everything done and ready to drive, how about a clock with your ride's picture on it.

Clock size 10 1/2"
case colors
red, white,
blue, black
1 year guarantee
comes gift boxed
with AA battery



All 8 Rt 66 state
symbols available
or
your car club logo
be sure to enclose a
copy

Look for my
booth at the big
Rt 66 Cruise in
Springfield Il
Sept. 27 -29

Send a quality photo of your
ride (photo will be returned)
with a check or money order
for \$30 + \$6 for shipping and
handling or two identical
orders \$55 + \$7 to
Fred's Sportime Clocks
3990 Virginia Ln
Spaulding IL 62561
Please allow 3-5 weeks for delivery



THE AUBURN BRICK ROAD IS SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION

By John Weiss

**I'm about to tell you a wonderful story.
It is about the little road that wouldn't give up.**

Our story begins before there was a Route 66. A 1 1/2 mile piece of Portland cement road, 16 feet wide, was then known as Route 4. Then from 1926 to 1930, this little piece of hard road became a link of the new highway called Route 66. This original alignment twisted and turned but folks found it great because all of it was hard (paved) road.

In 1931, the more direct routing was ready and Route 66 moved farther east. Our little road had proudly served its purpose; it now went back to being a country road.

During the depression, in the 1930s, work projects were created to provide income for desperate people. It was an opportunity to earn a much needed pay check. For some unknown reason, that is now lost in time, this section of old Route 66 was scheduled for repaving. This was unique because there were only 3 farm houses on it - one located at each end of the road, and one on the curve. The project was to also widen this little piece of road.

Even though this 1 1/2 mile section had no real importance, it meant work and a pay check. The plan was to cover the original Portland cement pavement with brick. In the process it would also be widened to a width of 20 feet. A sharp curve would also be rerouted with a new, gentler alignment. The two bridges over Panther Creek that were erected in 1920 were left alone.

Some time after the work was completed, our little horseshoe shaped road became known as Curran Road and Snell Road. Route 4 had been straightened out.

For years the road was lightly used by locals and farmers. The only problem encountered was by farmer's machinery being too wide to pass through the old bridges side rails.

In 1997, IDOT began a paving project on Route 18. It would more effectively carry traffic, especially trucks carrying grain,

from west of Springfield to State Route 4, south of Springfield. The only problem with IDOT's plan is that it included paving half of our historic brick road. Their plan was to tear it up and modernize it. After all, they surmised, it was only an old, useless, piece of brick road. History meant nothing to the designing engineers. They operated with the idea of "The shortest distance between two points is a straight line." Our brick road was in the way.

We, the 3 musketeers, John & Lenore Weiss, and Dorothy Seratt, had to save this treasure. But how? It was like David versus Goliath. What could we do?

The 1.4 miles of hand laid brick was in fantastic condition. The 16 foot wide Portland cement curve was still there along with the two 1920 bridges.

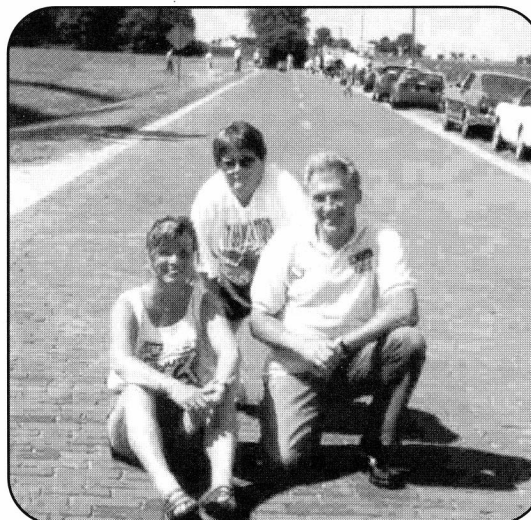
We needed time. How do you stop progress for the sake of history?

On June 4, 1998, IDOT had a preview of their plans. The public as well as we were invited. We were outnumbered 10 to one by what we referred to as "the suits." Their displays were elaborate. Comment sheets were encouraged from locals. Everything looked doomed. We were given copies of all the proposals and comments. It is an impressive stack. 97% of the 115 comment sheets favored IDOT's plans.

In 1998, we applied to have the two bridges declared

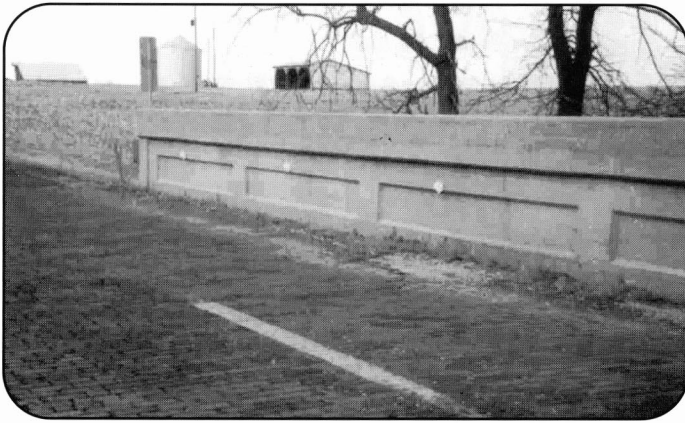
historically significant with inclusion onto the Historic Bridge Survey. We succeeded. Then we prepared the paper work to have the entire road bed included into the National Register of Historic Places. On August 6, 1998, Dorothy Seratt gave the formal presentation to the Historic Sites Advisory Council. They unanimously voted for the inclusion. This was significant, but it does not guarantee protection. But it did create a problem for IDOT.

Our only ally was the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, headed by Anne Hacker. Because



Lenore Weiss, Dorothy Seratt and John Weiss

Continued on page 6



1920's Bridge on the Red Brick Road

of the National Register status of the road, they became the official voice.

Lots more talk and paper work followed. The new highway paving project was stopped and put on hold. My stack of paperwork is over 3 inches thick. The formal IDOT folder is titled, "Documentation of Adverse Effect (Old Route 4)."

One official said to me, "Okay, we will put all this off for 2 or 3 years. By then the road will be in such bad shape, we can proceed due to safety concerns."

Well folks, the little road did not give up. It is still in the same condition today as it was then. Time and trucks could not harm her.

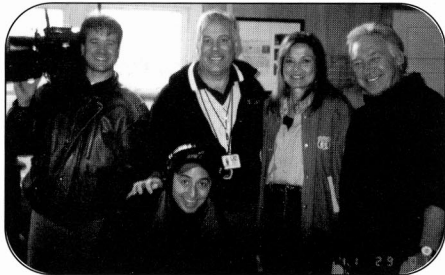
I have recently been informed that IDOT has canceled its plans to extend its original paving project. They are working directly with the IHPA (Illinois Historic Preservation Agency) to completely restore the brick surface. They will not harm the original Portland cement curve. The only change, and it is sensible, is that both bridges will be rebuilt. This is a safety concern. Remember, they are over 80 years old. But, they will be rebuilt in the 1920s style.

The basic message here is, target your projects and act on it. Don't expect someone else to do it. And never give up. In this case, it only took three of us to save our little treasure.

Please visit when you are in the area. She is a lovely lady who will now be with us forever!

CBS & AMERICAN AIR LINES

By John Weiss



Left to right: Dale, camera; Anthony, sound; Ged Young, producer; Lenore and John Weiss

Last December John & Lenore Weiss were contacted by CBS from New York to assist in an exciting project.

A travel documentary was being produced about Route 66. When completed, it would be shown on all American Air Lines flights of two hours or more for at least a month. It would cover the entire 2,448 miles of Route 66, beginning in Chicago and travel all the way to California.

John & Lenore agreed to assist and travel with the producer, Ged Young, and his crew. For three days they visited people and places along Route 66 in Illinois.

Route 66 is airborne.

Tens of thousands of people will soon be enticed to drive and travel the Mother Road, Route 66.

At the time of this writing, we have not seen the final edited version. Illinois will hopefully have approximately 12 to 15 minutes coverage in the one hour tape. We do not know who or what will be seen.

The first day of filming was clear and bright, but then it turned rainy and overcast.

The most important thing is that people from virtually around the world are going to be exposed to the Route 66 experience. This publicity should generate an even larger increase in local tourism.

When these travelers visit our sites and attractions, we want them to say that Illinois Route 66 is the best. It is important that we

continue to develop the Route 66 concept and image, such as our Roadside Attraction project.

We were informed that the projected release date on American Air Lines will be either late May or early June. But, this could change.

So, for a while, people will be getting their kicks above Route 66!



CBS Crew filming Lenore Weiss in Cayuga, Illinois

WELCOME THE CLASS OF 2002 HALL OF FAME NOMINEES

by Tom Teague, Hall of Fame Director

The Route 66 Hall of Fame of Illinois honors those people, places, businesses and events that helped give the road such special character in the Prairie State.

Hosted since its 1990 beginning by the Dixie Truckers Home in McLean, the Hall has become the most visited Route 66 attraction in the country. If the number of nominations is a sign, interest in the Hall is at an all-time high. This year there were 26 nominees-double the usual amount. Because of this, six new members were elected instead of the usual four. They are Lou Mitchell's Restaurant in Chicago, John and Lenore Weiss of Wilmington, the Polk-A-Dot Drive In in Braidwood, Gordon Gunderson of Gardner, the Shea Family of Springfield and the Schlechte Family Service Station in Worden. Together they have 325 years of experience on Route 66. Their induction banquet is June 8 at the Renaissance Hotel in Springfield.



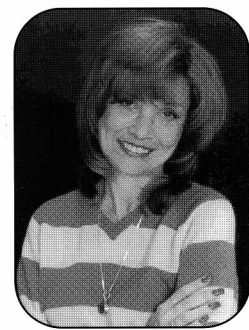
LOU MITCHELL'S,

Chicago, Illinois

Nominated by John Miller and Kathy Miller

Mitchell's Restaurant began serving customers on Jackson Boulevard in 1923. The business became a family affair in 1929 when owner William Mitchell called in his children to help. Lou, Polly and Demi waited on customers while William managed the kitchen and the books. When Lou took over the restaurant, he changed the name to Lou Mitchell's.

Comfort food may be a trend at other restaurants. At Lou Mitchell's, though, it is a 79-year tradition. Everything is fresh, not frozen. A neon sign out front advertises the "World's Finest Cup of Coffee." Breakfast patrons get complimentary doughnut holes. Lunchers get free Milk Duds. With Lou Mitchell's induction, the Hall of Fame gets its first Chicago member. It's about time.



JOHN AND LENORE WEISS

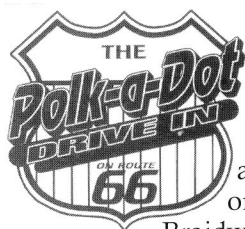
Wilmington, Illinois

Nominated by Marty Blitstein and Cathy Stevanovich

John and Lenore Weiss are one of Route 66's most active working couples in Illinois. Although both have lived on or near 66 for many years, we are recognizing John and Lenore, first and foremost for their impressive accomplishments since joining the Route 66 Association 11 years ago. And no two people together are more deserving of the honor. They give many talks about 66. They lead tours. John's book "Traveling the New, Historic Route 66 in Illinois," is the best state guidebook about the highway.

The Weisses' most enduring contribution to 66, however, will likely be what they've done with preservation. John has been chairman of the Rt. 66 Association's Preservation Committee since 1997. Lenore has been its secretary. They have led the award-winning restoration of the Standard Station in Odell. They have coordinated the restoration and painting of Meramec Caverns barn signs in Cayuga and Hamel. They are currently leading restoration of the Streetcar diner behind the Riviera Restaurant near Gardner. They've also cleaned bridges and roadways-whatever it takes to get the preservation job done.

Continued on page 8



POLK-A-DOT DRIVE IN

Braidwood, Illinois
Nominated by Marty Bilecki

In 1956, a man named Chet parked a white bus with polka dots painted on it by the side of Route 66 in Braidwood. He put a kitchen in it, served food from the side windows and Braidwood had its first drive-in restaurant. As time and profit allowed, Chet erected a small building with walk-up windows, then a dining room. Couples John & Cathy Dixon and Dan & Judy Chinski bought the business in 1972, sold it in 1978, and then bought it again in 1987. They have remodeled it extensively with neon and '50s décor from other area businesses. But the walk-up windows are still in use. The restaurant's original Hamilton Beach mixer is on display. Cruise nights are an annual tradition. Green River floats and chili-cheese French fries remain as menu favorites. You can even order a Black Cow. But you have to know the secret because the words "Black Cow" do not appear on the menu.

The Dixons and Chinskis work side by side with their staff. They take pride that many of their young workers have made the honor roll, made valedictorian, and gone on to college. Everyday this team shows that a family-owned and operated business can still thrive in the day of franchises.

THE SHEA FAMILY

Springfield, Illinois
Nominated by Mark McBride

This is actually an "amendment" to Bill Shea's original induction in 1993. Bill's own contributions to the character and history of Route 66 are legendary. He landed on D-Day, came home in 1945, and landed in the gas station business on 66. When progress ran his pumps dry, he turned to boat sales, then truck tops. Over the past several years, he's assembled a museum-quality collection of gas station memorabilia. The amendment recognizes that Bill couldn't (and wouldn't) have done all this without his family. Bill's son, also named Bill, has helped out at the family service station for half a century. Still today, if any painting or repair work needs to be done, someone named Shea wields the broom or brush—usually grandchildren Bill Shea III, John Shea or Tiffany Shea Dre. It's a family policy.

When heart surgery slowed the senior Bill three years ago, wife Helen and Bill II and John kept the business on its feet until Bill returned. Two years ago when Bill bought an old steel-sided gas station in Middletown, the whole family helped him tow it 20 miles to Springfield. Then they helped him restore it. Even great-granddaughter Gillian Shea's footprints can be found in the concrete of the "new" station's gas pump island. Thanks to Bill, each and every member of his family is also a sustaining member of the Association. This even includes his newest great-grandchild Jordan (son of Tiffany). If you want to know what family means to Route 66, just drop by Bill's station on a Saturday morning. You may well find four generations there.



SCHLECHTE FAMILY SERVICE STATION AT THE WORDEN Y

Nominated by Marilan Weber, Granddaughter of Fred Schlechte

In 1939, farmer and coal miner Fred Schlechte built a service station on 66 at the Worden Y. The intersection got the name "Y" because that's the shape 66 made when it intersected with local roads there. A year later, Fred's son Harry built a nightclub next door. Hall of Famer Russell Soulsby is said to have played clarinet there. When the Illinois highway department claimed part of the property in 1954 so it could widen 66, Fred retired. But not Harry. He just moved both buildings a bit to the north where the new 66 intersected Illinois 4. With his wife Dora and children Marilan, Carol, Darla, Lynda, Harry Jr., Arvel and Richard, he worked there until 1973.

Arvel has run the station for some four decades now. Over the years, he's added wrecker service and tire sales. In 1983, Arvel's son Todd joined him, making the station a four-generation business. A few years ago, Arvel's oil company tried to force him out of the gas pumping business because he wasn't selling enough. But Arvel resisted and today you can still buy gas there.

GORDON GUNDERSON, GARDNER

Nominated by Marilyn and Ted Giovanazzi

Gordon "Gundy" Gunderson is probably one of the few people still living who helped build a section of the original road-a-railroad overpass near Gardner. He remembers the actual cement mixture they used and talks of the horse-drawn equipment.

Later Gundy and a small crew moved an old wood-and-steel streetcar from Kankakee to Route 66 in Gardner. There it became a diner. When the diner closed in 1939, Gundy helped move it to a lot on Grundy Street. There it functioned as a summer home, then later as a playhouse. Gundy bought the property and eventually moved the streetcar a third time. Now it stands behind the Riviera Restaurant, which his father-in-law, Jim Girot, originally ran. Today it is being restored by the Association's Preservation Committee.

Gundy owns several buildings and lots along Old 66 in Gardner. They're easy to spot because of all the 66-era relics he has on display. But the real character on display is Gundy himself. Outspoken but friendly, famously thrifty but generous and hospitable, he is a longtime buddy of another Gardner Hall of Famer, Burt Parkinson.

HALL OF FAME NEWS

By Marilyn Pritchard

Metha Jensen of Dwight, Illinois, our 100 year old Hall of fame member was the Grand Marshal at the Harvest Days Parade in Dwight in September 2001. The Route 66 attendees cheered her on.

Metha also sent a word of "thanks" for her Thanksgiving bouquet from the Association. She takes one day at a time and is doing well, except for vision problems.

The Association sent a check in memory of Ray Schroeder to the Dwight Historical Society for their microfilm project. This is a major concern, as a total of \$5,000 is needed for this project. Ray, who passed away earlier this year, was an original founding member and an original board member. Ray was also an excellent Route 66 historical resource. If you would like to make a contribution, you may send it to Dwight Historical Society, 119 West Main St., Dwight, Illinois, 60420.

Ray Starks of Morris, an original Grundy County Board Member passed away in February 2002. Ray served on every committee when the Association was first formed. He walked through his county on Route 66 with Margie McCauley in May 1996. Ray had much Route 66 enthusiasm.

Ginny Waldmire, the wife of Ed Waldmire of the Cozy Dog Drive-In in Springfield passed away on February 3, 2002. The Waldmire's started Cozy Dog Drive-In and Supply Company in 1946 in Springfield. Ginny is survived by five sons.

Elizabeth M. Mowery, the wife of Captain Frances Mowery who was inducted into the Hall of Fame on June 9, 1990, passed away on March 16, 2002 at the age of 88. Frances and Elizabeth recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in February in Fairbury, Illinois.

The Route 66 Association sends its condolences to the families of the Starks', Waldmire's and the Mowery's during their time of sorrow and loss.

Ed. note: My apologies to Marilyn Pritchard, for not getting these items into the Spring 2002 Edition. Part of the reason was a lack of space, but the main reason was due to the fact that I set these notes aside, and they were mixed in with articles for the summer 2002 issue. Your editor apologizes to Marilyn and the readers for the delay in reporting this news.

FREE ROUTE 66 SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS



Bill Shea

The Illinois State Historical Society will hold a free Route 66 seminar for teachers September 27 in Springfield.

"Route 66 is a perfect metaphor of American life and culture in the Twentieth Century," said Tom Teague, the Society's executive director. "With this gathering we will help teachers make it come alive in the classroom. Our partners and co-sponsors include the State Farm Insurance Foundation, the Route 66 Association of Illinois and several private donors."

Michael Wallis, author of the landmark book *Route 66: The Mother Road*, will keynote the seminar. Teachers from throughout the country who have pioneered Route 66 in the classroom will then lead a panel discussion. They include Don Cavallini of Illinois, Becky Ransom of Texas and Elaine Mariolle of Arizona. A demonstration of Route 66 audio visual and Internet resources will follow. The day will end with a field trip to 66-related historic sites. In addition, the Society will create a lending library of Route 66 videos and other resources for teachers.

The seminar is open to middle and senior high school teachers of history or social studies. They need not live or work on Route 66 to attend. To apply, they must submit request letters from their principals on school district letterhead to the Illinois State Historical Society, 210 1/2 S. 6th St., Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701. A letter should tell what subject and grade an applicant teaches and what he or she hopes to gain by attending the event. Illinois teachers who participate will be eligible for Continuing Professional Development Units toward recertification.

For more information, call the Illinois State Historical Society at 217-525-2781 or send e-mail to ishs@eosinc.com.

September 27-29, 2002

INTERNATIONAL

ROUTE 66

ILLINOIS

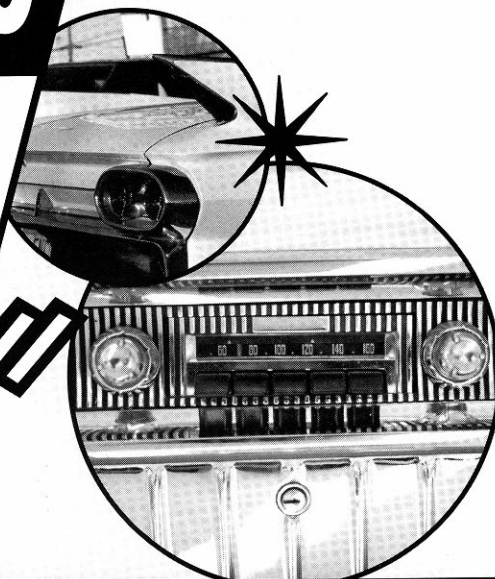
U.S. ROUTE

66

MOTHER ROAD

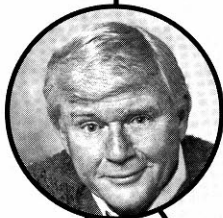
FESTIVALSM

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



World's Largest Street Festival. (Well almost.)

Join thousands of festival-goers for an entire weekend of cars, food, fun...and non-stop entertainment! Celebrate the romance of the road in 20 blocks of historic downtown Springfield. Get your "kicks on 66" with **Martin Milner**, star of TV's "Route 66" and best-selling author and Route 66 expert, **Michael Wallis**...all FREE.



Non-stop FREE entertainment all weekend long.

- **1964: The Tribute** ("1964" is not affiliated with or endorsed by Apple Corps Ltd.)
- **Neon Parade**
- **The Blues Brothers Tribute with Snake & Dogwood**
- **Rare cars, trucks, campers & motorcycles**
- **Hardly Angels Motorcycle Trick Riding Team**

Bring your poodle skirts and bobby socks.

The World's Largest Sock Hop...
featuring Paul Revere & The Raiders,
Herman's Hermits starring
Peter Noone, and Bill Pinkney's
Original Drifters!
Admission.

Find out how to register your car, bike, or camper,
or your entire club. Get the skinny on some great
festival hotel packages. Call **1-217-422-3733**

or toll free **1-866-RTE-66IL**

or visit our web site at **www.route66fest.com.**



ILLINOIS
RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW.

ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 MOTOR TOUR SCHEDULED FOR WEEKEND OF JUNE 7-9

The theme for this years Motor Tour is "Cruisin the Mother Road". Festivities will begin on Friday afternoon, June 7th at the Edwardsville & Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce "Festival 66" celebration.

The "Festival 66" party will start at 4:00 p.m. at the Edwardsville city park on Historic 66. The Route 66 Motor Tour registration table will be open from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. At the same time food, entertainment, and Historic Route 66 memorabilia will be on display.

Antique, Classic and maybe your favorite older car will cruise through the city on the "Mother Road" Saturday at 6:00 p.m. Information for the city cruise will be at the city park. Come and be a part of this years celebration.

Saturday morning festivities will begin at the Wood River Refinery History Museum in Roxana on State Route 111. Motor Tour participants will be served a "Chuck wagon breakfast" to start the cruise. The Phillips 66 company is welcoming registered Motor Tour cruisers by sponsoring the breakfast. The Route 66 Motor Tour registration table will be open from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. at the museum.

The Motor Tour will leave the museum after breakfast and drive to the Missouri side of the old historic "Chain of Rocks Bridge". Motor Tour participants will be able to stop on the bridge to sight see, take pictures, walk and drive over this historic structure. Trailnet and Phillips 66 company is sponsoring the drive across. This is the first time in the history of

the Illinois Motor Tour that the entire caravan will drive the bridge from Missouri to Illinois. The Route 66 Motor Tour registration table will be open at the bridge from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

After crossing the bridge the caravan will follow the brown Illinois Historic Route 66 signs north, ending Saturday evening at the "Hall of Fame" banquet and induction ceremony at the Renaissance Hotel in Springfield. Intermediate stops will be at Hamel, Staunton (lunch), Carlinville, Nilwood turkey tracks, Virden and Auburn. The Route 66 Motor Tour registration table will be open at lunch in Staunton from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. and before dinner at the Renaissance Hotel.

Sunday morning will begin at Bill Shea's gas station museum in Springfield. The caravan will continue north ending Sunday afternoon at the Wilmington Historic Antique district. Intermediate stops will be at Williamsville, Broadwell, McLean, Lexington, Chenoa (lunch), Odell, and Gardner.

For information on the Motor Tour go to the Route 66 Association of Illinois web site: www.il66assoc.org/ or call Ollie at (618) 585-3081 or Marilyn at (815) 844-6937.

2002 MOTOR TOUR SCHEDULE

SATURDAY • PASSPORT STOP

- 1 Wood River Refinery History Museum • *Chuck Wagon Breakfast* 7:00 - 8:30 AM
- 2 Chain of Rocks Bridge • *Drive across and Picture taking* 9:00 - 10:00 AM
- 3 Hamel • *Hall of Fame member Wilton Rinkel and Ernie's Restaurant*
Route 66, I-55 Rest Stops • *Meramec Caverns Barn* 10:45 - 11:15 AM
- 4 Staunton Main Street Association • *Lunch, Depression era mural* 11:45 - 1:15 AM
- 5 Carlinville • *County Fairgrounds • Antique Tractors & 4-H Groups* 1:45 - 2:15 PM
- 6 Nilwood • *See the Historic Turkey Tracks. • Quick Stop & Go* 2:30 - 2:45 PM
- 7 Virden 150 year Celebration • *Abraham Lincoln at the City Square* 3:00 - 3:45 PM
- 8 Auburn • *Auburn historic square and bandstand* 4:15 - 4:30 PM
- 9 Springfield Renaissance • *Hall of Fame Induction Banquet* 7:00 - 10:00 PM

SUNDAY • Passport Stop # • *Springfield.....Breakfast on your own*

- 1 Bill Shea's Gas Station • *Gas & Oil memorabilia • Historic station* 7:00 - 8:15 AM
- 2 Williamsville • *Train Museum* 8:30 - 9:15 AM
- 3 Broadwell • *Ernie Edwards Pig Hip Restaurant* 9:30 - 10:15 AM
- 4 McLean • *Dixie • Route 66 Hall of Fame* 10:45 - 11:15 AM
- 5 Lexington • *Hot & Cold Drinks* 12:15 - 12:45 PM
- 6 Chenoa • *Lunch • Entertainment by the Grateful Dads* 1:00 - 2:30 PM
- 7 Odell • *Restored Standard Oil Station* 2:45 - 3:15 PM
- 8 Gardner • *Old Jail & Printing press museum* 3:30 - 4:00 PM
- 9 Wilmington • *Antique Shops & Historic District • End of Tour* 4:30 - 6:00 PM

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

MOTEL LIST FOR THE 2002 MOTOR TOUR

ALL MOTELS HAVE ROOMS BLOCKED FOR THE ASSOCIATION

BE SURE TO MENTION THAT YOU ARE WITH THE ROUTE 66 MOTOR TOUR

FRIDAY RESERVATIONS NEED TO BE MADE BY MAY 7, 2002 TO RECEIVE SPECIAL RATES

COMFORT INN

3080 S. State Route 157
Old Route 66
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-4900
\$66.00 plus tax
45 Rooms Blocked

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

14 Regency Parkway
Pontoon Beach, IL 62040
618-797-1207
\$66.00 Plus tax
20 Rooms Blocked

RAMADA LIMITED

5105 Highway 111
Pontoon Beach, IL 62040
618-797-2727
\$66.00 Plus Tax
15 Rooms Blocked

**NOTICE!!! THIS IS NASCAR RACE WEEKEND
BOOK EARLY AS POSSIBLE FOR FRIDAY NITE**

SUPER 8

4141 Timberlake Drive
Pontoon Beach, IL 62040
618-931-8808
\$65.00 Plus Tax
20 Rooms Blocked

BEST WESTERN CAMELOT INN

1240 East Chain of Rocks Road (Old 66)
Pontoon Beach, IL 62040
\$53.95 - \$56.95 Plus Tax
618-931-2262
20 Rooms Blocked

**SATURDAY JUNE 8,
HALL OF FAME BANQUET at RENAISSANCE HOTEL
SPRINGFIELD RENAISSANCE HOTEL**

701 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701
217-544-8800

This is the Host Hotel

**\$66.00 Plus Tax • Parking \$5.00
175 Rooms Blocked • Reserve by May 17**

HAMPTON INN

3185 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62703
217-529-1100
\$76.00 Plus Tax
50 Rooms Blocked

SUNDAY NIGHT JUNE 9, 2002

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

1823 W. Reynolds St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-4444
\$66.00 + tax
30 Rooms Blocked

SUPER 8

601 S. Deerfield Rd.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-6888
\$47.70 + tax
30 Rooms Blocked

COMFORT INN

1821 W. Reynolds St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-842-2777
58.50 + tax
40 Rooms Blocked

BOOK SUNDAY NIGHT ROOMS BY MAY 9

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS JOLIET

411 S. Larkin St. • Joliet, IL 60436
815-729-2000 • \$82.00 + tax
40 Rooms Blocked

COMFORT INN JOLIET

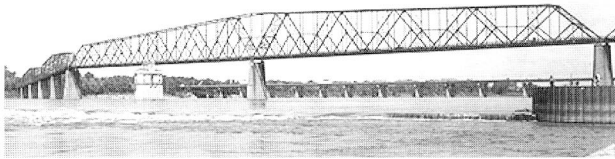
135 S. Larkin St. • Joliet, IL 60436
815-744-1770 • \$65.00 + tax
20 Rooms Blocked

"ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS"

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE NEWS  **SUMMER 2002**

**JUNE 7 - 9, 2002 ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 MOTOR TOUR
AND HALL OF FAME BANQUET**



CRUISIN THE MOTHER ROAD

CHAIN OF ROCKS TO WILMINGTON

Visit Festival 66 in Edwardsville

**Chuck Wagon Breakfast at the
Wood River Refinery History Museum**

Drive the Chain-of-Rocks Bridge

Drive Dead Mans Curves near Edwardsville

**See the World Famous Turkey Tracks
near Nilwood**

**Dine with New Hall of Fame Members
at the Springfield Banquet**

Snacks at Ernie Edwards Pig Hip Restaurant

**Visit the Illinois Route 66 Hall of Fame
at the "Dixie"**

**See the Restored Standard Oil Station
at Odell**

WITH STOPS AT:

Chain of Rocks Bridge

Hamel

Staunton

Carlinville

Virden

Auburn

Springfield

Williamsville

Broadwell

McLean

Chenoa

Odell

Gardner

Wilmington

← SPONSORED BY THE ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS →

Please Print or Type

REGISTRATION FORM

ANY VEHICLE * ANY MODEL * ANY MAKE

Registration Fee: \$25.00 for members per Vehicle

\$40.00 for non-members per vehicle (includes one year individual membership for non-members only)

You may join or leave the tour at any point or at anytime

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ **SORRY, NO REFUNDS. RAIN OR SHINE**

We plan to attend the Hall of Fame Banquet # _____ @ \$17.00 per person, tax & tip included TOTAL _____

**Mail To:
MOTOR TOUR**

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

More Tour Information:

OLLIE SCHWALLENSTECKER . . . Tour CoChair . . . 618-585-3081

BILL PRZBYLSKI Tour CoChair . . . 708-672-7937

MARILYN PRITCHARD 815-844-6937

JOHN MILLER 708-389-3823

CHESTER HENRY 309-962-5361

The Route 66 Association of Illinois is not responsible for any injury or misconduct.

ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL

HOTEL ROOMS BLOCKED

The Route 66 Association of Illinois has blocked 100 rooms at the Hilton Hotel in Downtown Springfield for its members who want to attend the International Route 66 Festival on September 27-29, 2002. Copy this form and fill it out, then send it to the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau, and they will take care of reserving your accommodations for the event. If you have any questions, call the Springfield CVB at 800-545-7300 or Jeff LaFollette at 563-893-6653.

INTERNATIONAL ROUTE 66 MOTHER ROAD FESTIVAL

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27 - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2002

CAR CLUB MEMBER HOUSING APPLICATION

Any forms incorrectly filled out will not be processed and will be returned to sender.

A separate form must be filled out for each room requested. One form per room not per person.

Do not request a 2-Bed room unless there are two of more people. 2-Bed rooms are a premium.

Hotel room assignments are on a first-come, first serve basis. If hotels/motels of your choice are not available, the Housing Bureau will secure reservations for you at another hotel.

An Acknowledgment from the Housing Bureau will be sent to you upon receiving your housing form. Confirmation will be sent from your hotel/motel. Once a confirmation is received, please make all changes directly with the hotel/motel.

All individuals making reservations with a Car Club are required to return this housing form to the Housing Bureau no later than July 15, 2002, to guarantee reservations at the hotel with your car club.

No rooms will be held with out a credit card. If the hotel/motel does not receive an advance deposit check by August 26, 2002 the credit card will be charged the advance deposit of one night room and tax. All deposits are non-refundable. Any cancellation or arrival and/or departure changes must be made by August 26, 2002 to receive a refund.

CAR CLUB: ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION

Hotel Reserved: HILTON

Hotel Rate: \$69.00 plus 10% tax

Type of Credit Card: _____ # _____

Expiration Date: _____

(must be valid through 9/02)

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-Mail _____

Room type is needed: 1 Bed 2 Bed

If 2-Bed rooms are full, will a 1-Bed be acceptable? Yes No

List all room occupants including yourself:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

MAIL FORM DIRECTLY TO:

SCVB/Route 66 Housing
109 North 7th Street
Springfield, IL 62701

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE GALA

JOHN STEINBECK AWARDS EVENING AT THE

INTERNATIONAL ROUTE 66 MOTHER ROAD FESTIVAL

By David Knudsen, National Route 66 Federation

The annual John Steinbeck Awards Evening will be held this year at the International Route 66 Mother Road Festival in Springfield, Illinois. The gala Evening will take place Friday, September 27 from 7:00 pm through 11:00 pm at the Renaissance Springfield Hotel.

A lavish banquet, entertainment, dignitaries and other surprises in the Renaissance Ballroom will frame the presentation of the prestigious John Steinbeck Award and the Cyrus Avery Award.

The Steinbeck Award is presented annually to an individual who has contributed significantly to the preservation of Route 66. Previous winners have been Michael Wallis, Tom Teague, Angel Delgadillo and Jim Ross. The Cyrus Avery Award is presented to an organization for the most outstanding preservation project. The Illinois Route 66 Association for its work on the Odell filling station won it last year. Keynote speaker for the Evening will be Martin Milner, star of the 1960s television hit, "Route 66".

The Evening is \$39 per person which includes tax, gratuity and all entertainment. You can choose from Eastern Prime Rib or Western Baked Salmon entrées with all the trimmings. (A vegetarian entrée is available upon request.) entrées must be selected in advance. All reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance (by September 14). No one will be admitted at the door without

reservations. Reservations may be made by calling toll free (888) 339-0794. You may use your Visa, Discover or Master Card or send a check to: National Route 66, P. O. Box 423, Tujunga, CA 91043.

Other Federation sponsored events at the Festival will include the Route 66 Authors & Artists Expo and the Antique Mother Road Show.

The Route 66 Authors & Artists Expo will take place downtown on old Route 66, along with numerous other activities on Saturday afternoon, September 28. Here you will find the most famous Route 66 authors, artists and photographers displaying, signing and selling their work.

The Antique Mother Road Show will be similar to the Antique Road Show. However, all of the items to be appraised will be Route 66 related. It will take place Saturday morning at the hotel.

The host hotel for the National Historic Route 66 Federation is the Renaissance Springfield. To make room reservations, call (217) 544-8800.

Our special rate is only \$69 plus tax. (The regular charge for a single

room is \$140.) Our rate will be honored only if you give the code: "National Route 66 Federation" at the time you make your reservations. The special rate will apply from Thursday, September 26 through Sunday, September 29 and reservations must be made before September 7.

The Illinois Route 66 Mother Road Festival promises to be the largest Route 66 related event ever held. The city of Springfield, Illinois is pulling out all the stops for their 3 day celebration which runs from September 27 - 29. Just a few of the attractions include: street festivals throughout the city, Harley Davidson raffles, film festivals, motorcycle shows, the world's largest sock hop featuring the Drifters, Paul Revere & the Raiders, Herman's Hermits and others, the Illinois Route 66 cruise, "Rockin' the Neighborhood" featuring the Beatles Tribute, custom cars, classic cars and hot rods on display throughout the city, and the Federation events mentioned earlier.

For further information, contact David Knudson (818) 352-7232

THE JOHN STEINBECK AWARDS EVENING IS PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL HISTORIC ROUTE 66 FEDERATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE JOHN STEINBECK FOUNDATION. THE ROUTE 66 AUTHORS & ARTISTS EXPO AND THE ANTIQUE MOTHER ROAD SHOW ARE PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL HISTORIC ROUTE 66 FEDERATION AND THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS. THE INTERNATIONAL ROUTE 66 MOTHER ROAD FESTIVAL IS PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

NEW MOTOR TOUR EVENTS FOR 2002

Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery and the Wood River Refinery History Museum will sponsor a free Chuck Wagon breakfast and Motor Tour Round-up to all registered Motor Tour participants the first thing Saturday morning.

Although the Chain of Rocks Bridge has been open on the Friday before and the Monday after our annual Route 66 Motor Tour, this year will be the first time the entire Route 66 Association of Illinois Motor Tour will drive the bridge on a regular Motor Tour day. Trailnet, the organization responsible for the care and usage of the bridge, and the City of Madison, are continually making additions and improvements to the bridge and its approaches. It will be quite an event having the bridge covered with autos of all descriptions.

Staunton's Main Street Association will serve lunch on their Municipal Square with entertainment and remembering historical town events.

Staunton was a stop on the Bunion Derby of 1928.

The Macoupin County Fair is celebrating their Sesquicentennial year with antique tractor and 4-H club displays at their Fairgrounds located on 66 North of the city limits.

Nilwood World Famous Turkey Tracks in the original pavement about four miles north of the Fair grounds on the 1926-30 alignment. Look for the Turkey signs for direction.

Viriden celebrates City Sesquicentennial on the Square on 66. The theme is "From Civil War to 66" which will celebrate the first 75 years of Viriden history. Events scheduled during our stop will be Abraham Lincoln impersonator, Randy Duncan, reciting the Gettysburg Address, a Civil War hospital with nurses, entertainment by the 97th Regimental String Band from Largo, Florida and our Route 66 Motor Tour.

Because of the restoration of the Red Brick section of 66, Auburn will welcome the Motor Tour to

their city square which will feature the rebuilt bandstand built originally in the early 1900's. Also be sure to visit their historic hardware and clothing stores. Auburn is also very proud of their new Library.

Ernie Edwards, Route 66 Hall of Fame member, of the "Pig Hip" restaurant will greet roadies with a smile and a tale or two from the road

Chenoa this year will serve lunch downtown and will feature their new bandstand at the "Y". The group "The Grateful Dads," which is a Grateful Dead era group will perform. It's been reported that they are quite good. Passport stickers will be available at the mural.

Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses will have road food and refreshments available for the hungry and parched roadies when they arrive. Refreshments will be at the will of the traveler as will be motel accommodations at the conclusion of the tour.



SELDOM MENTIONED PLACES

By John Weiss

UNFORTUNATELY, most Route 66 travelers do not visit all of our extremely exciting attractions. Mainly because you and others are not aware of most of them.

In Illinois, we are fortunate to have numerous fun, unique and interesting destinations. There are so many sites to see and things to do either on or slightly off of Route 66.

I have selected from my book only a small sample of the many free attractions that await you.

If you have not yet explored all on this list, be sure to do so soon. You will be amazed.

Remember, this is only a very small sample of the less known attractions. You haven't enjoyed and explored Route 66 in Illinois until you have seen and done it all.

Enjoy the ride!

Isle a La Cache	Romeoville
Pioneer Village	Lockport
1869 Iron Works Site	Joliet
Braidwood Dunes	Braidwood
Metal Art by Jack	Essex
Frank Lloyd Wright designed bank	
(brochure available)	Dwight
Tunnel location	Odell
Swing bridges (Walk over all 3.)	Pontiac
Drug Store	Chenoa
Scrogin Cemetery Site	Lexington
Geographic Journey	
(Drive dead man's curve)	Towanda
Miller Park	
(and 1891 Zoo - fee charged) ...	Bloomington

Gem & Mineral Museum	Shirley
Ghost Bridge	Lincoln
Old 66 into Lake Springfield	Springfield
Sugar Creek Covered Bridge	Glenarm
Lake Lou Yaeger	Litchfield
Mother Mary Jones Monument	Mt. Olive
Deck's Drug Store	Girard
Anderson Mansion Museum	Carlinville
Yanda Log Cabin & Miners Park ..	Glen Carbon
Mustang Corral	Edwardsville
World's Largest Ketchup Bottle	Collinsville
Cahokia Mounds	

State Historic Site

CRUSIN WITH OLLIE

By Ollie Schwallenstecker

STORIES from MACOUPIN COUNTY ON THE "MOTHER ROAD"

"66" ICONS to look for in Macoupin county while cruising the Mother Road during the 2002 Route 66 Motor Tour.

During the lunch stop, go inside the U.S. Postal Office at Staunton and enjoy the W.P.A. mural painted during the "Great Depression".

Immediately on leaving the city square look for the signs directing you to the where the Sinclair Oil gas station was during the 1930's.



"Going To Work"
Staunton Illinois Post Office
Ralph Henricksen 1941

STAR-TIMES

Staunton, Illinois, Thursday, August 7, 1930

LEAVE PRETTY BABY GIRL AT OIL STATION

Patrolman Volentine found infant, Saturday morning at Sinclair station.

State Highway Patrolman W. C. Volentine on Saturday morning at about 4:30 o'clock found a pretty little baby girl, left in a basket in the driveway at the Sinclair filling station on Route 4 at the corner of West Main and Hibbard streets. Patrolman Volentine was on his way home at the time having been in the vicinity of Litchfield all night checking up on the weight of loads carried by trucks on the highways.

At about 4 o'clock, night patrolman Herbert Herbeck and Walter Stiff passed the station on one of their rounds and did not see the basket containing the child, which was out in plain view, so it is surmised that the basket was left there between 4 and 4:30 o'clock, presumably by persons driving through town on the hard road. The baby, a very pretty little girl five or six weeks old, was neatly dressed in plain but clean clothes. In the basket was a supply of clothing, an empty milk bottle, another receptacle containing food and also an empty milk of magnesia bottle, bearing the label of an Oklahoma City, Okla. drug firm.

The police crew, equal to most any situation, felt just a bit helpless with a sweet little baby girl on their hands and called Mayor Luker for instructions. Mr. Luker suggested that Patrolman Volentine's wife probably would know how to handle the situation and accordingly the infant was taken to the Volentine home, where she was fed and then taken to the Macoupin hospital. Dr. J. R. Liston, county health officer, pronounced the little lady as physically perfect. On Sunday she was taken to the Lutheran orphanage at Peoria while an effort is being made to locate the parents.

From the time the little girl was found in front of the filling station until she was received at the hospital, she was happy and content, never making so much as a whimper. Her big blue eyes were wide open and the poor little waif appeared entirely at peace with the world. How any mother could desert a baby like that is just another one of those things that are not understandable.



World Famous Turkey Tracks, Nilwood, Illinois

WORLD FAMOUS TURKEY TRACKS NEAR NILWOOD

Nearly halfway between Carlinville and Nilwood on the original alignment watch for the Turkeys directing you to the Turkey tracks in the concrete. When the road was poured during the early 20's it is surmised that a flock of turkeys, (tame or wild?) must have walked in the soft concrete shortly after it was poured. This section of pavement has never been replaced or repaved. Look for the Turkeys directing you to the north bound lane and this phenomenon.



TALES FROM THE ROAD

By Ted & Marilyn Giovanazzi and Larry Scinto

More tales from Route 66 as told to our oral historians Ted & Marilyn Giovanazzi and Larry Scinto.
This edition's story is about Honest Abe Lincoln's ties to Route 66.

We know of course that "Old Abe" never actually traveled Route 66; however we also know that many of the trails he did travel as a circuit riding attorney later became state routes and later yet became part of the original Route 66. We realize much substantiated evidence is required before historians will certify any Lincoln tale, but we offer here several stories related to Larry Scinto and me by our Illinois Hall of Famers Burt Parkinson and Ernie Edwards.

When the funeral train of the deceased President Lincoln carried his coffin as well as the coffin of his deceased son from Washington D.C. to Springfield, Illinois it made a stop in each state it passed through. In each state, the honor guard which accompanied the coffin was changed. The officer in charge of the guard detail that took over in Chicago on the Chicago and Alton Railroad was a resident of Gardner, Illinois. His name was Colonel Louis Germaine. The Parkinson family was later to become a neighbor of the Germaines. The home of the colonel is still located at the corner of Monroe and Mazon Streets.

Although the train was not scheduled to make any stops between Chicago and Springfield, the colonel made an exception to stop in Gardner and have its residents pay their last respects. The train arrived at 2:00 a.m. in a driving rain. The entire townsfolk turned out ignoring the weather. A Gardner resident, Mrs. Bull who was a young child at the time related her recollection to Burt of her mother picking her up and holding her high above the deceased President's coffin where she was able to view him. The people of Gardner were always

proud that their town was chosen to be the only stop between destinations.

Years later, a traveling preacher came to Gardner and claimed he was the son of the original caretaker of the cemetery where Lincoln was laid to rest. He told Burt that Lincoln was actually interred three times. The first was a regular grave on the hillside where his monument now stands. The second was a heavy gated vault in the back and bottom of the hill. That site is still marked as the President's grave site until his monument was completed. This vault was kept guarded and secured while construction took place. The preacher claimed the body of Lincoln was actually stolen from the original grave by robbers not long after internment. In those times, grave robbing was not uncommon and often the stolen bodies were displayed at carnivals. The stolen body of the President was quickly recovered, found in a nearby ditch. Eyewitness accounts were told of his face being covered with a green moss and red colored from the copper sulfate used in embalming at that time. It was after this grisly episode that his body was held in the guarded vault until interred under his monument.

Ernie Edwards of "Pig Hip" fame tells us that there is an original water well on his property that the locals have long claimed "Old Abe" and his horse used many times on his circuit travels. That area between Springfield and Lincoln, including Broadwell, Elkhart and Williamsville was a regular trail used by the young Lincoln as an attorney. Stop by sometime and Ernie will be happy to show it to you and entertain you with a yarn or two.

Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Illinois County (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Interests in Route 66: _____

How I can help: _____

Annual Dues

General:	\$15
Family:	\$25
Business:	\$30
Foreign:	\$35
Lifetime:	\$200

U.S. funds only, please
\$10 fee for returned checks

Send to:

Membership
Route 66 Assn. of Illinois
2743 Veterans Pkwy., Room 166
Springfield, IL 62704
Membership runs May 1 - April 30

Send address changes and questions to Membership at the address above or e-mail changes to blitz66@chicagonet.net

AMERICAN GIRLS TRAVEL BOOKS

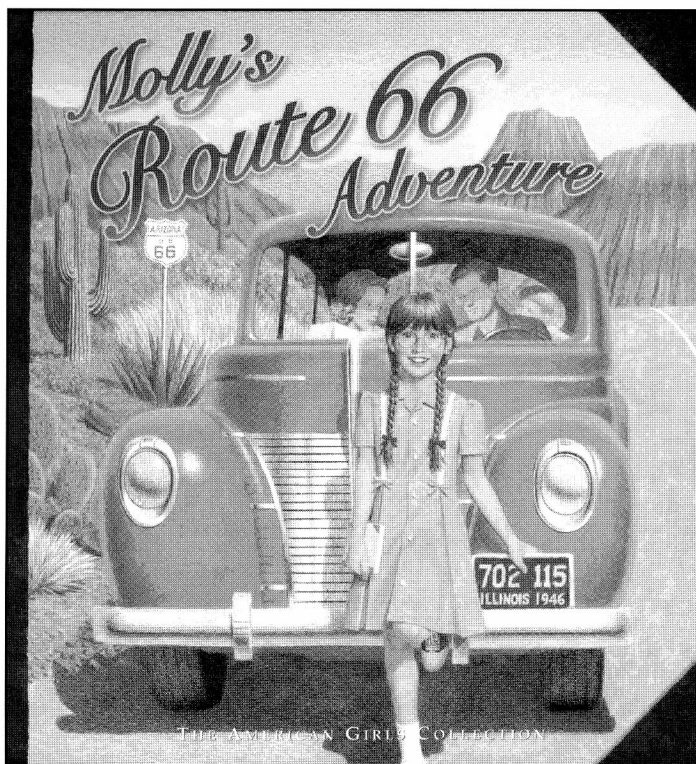
TAKE GIRLS ON A WHOLE NEW ADVENTURE!

Among many cherished American traditions, none is more celebrated than the family trip. This spring, girls can join two of their favorite characters from The American Girls Collection-Molly McIntire and Samantha Parkington as they depart on two exciting family adventures: a 1940's road trip on Route 66 and a trans-Atlantic Cruise aboard and elegant ocean liner in the early 1900's.

To bring these adventures to life, each hardcover, journal style book features historical photographs, and eight pull out souvenirs for girls to keep. The interactive format encourages girls' imaginations and gives them a fresh new way to explore worlds of their favorite American Girls characters.

In Molly's Route 66 Adventure, girls ride along with Molly and her family as they make their way from Chicago to Los Angeles on the now legendary Route 66. Through Molly's first person account of the trip, readers imagine having a double ice cream soda at a quirky roadside diner, staying up late for a drive in movie, and riding a burro to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. The book's interactive souvenirs include items like a Route 66 map, a diner menu, accordion postcards, a bandit mask and a secret decoder that lets girls unscramble clues to help Molly win a prize in Royal Oil's famous Hollywood Mystery Code Contest.

In Samantha's Ocean Liner Adventure, girls set sail with Samantha aboard the glorious S.S. Londonia as it journeys across the Atlantic Ocean to England. Readers will imagine the grandness of the mighty steamer ship as they read about Samantha having a high tea in an elegant garden, eating fancy food, and dancing at the Captain's Ball. Samantha's trip below the decks to the steerage cabins however opens reader's eyes to the realities of a very different world. Girls can



American Girls Travel Book - Route 66 Story

play with the book's eight pullout souvenirs, including a map of the ship, a telegram, a mask from the Captain's Ball, and a Morse code card to decode secret messages from Samantha.

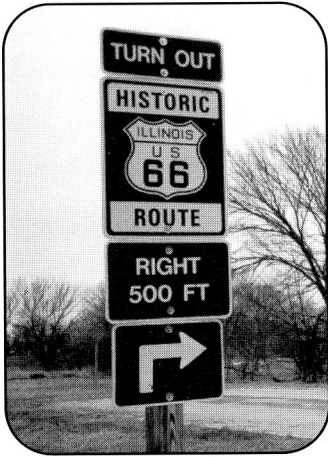
To further bring Molly and Samantha's travel adventures to life this spring, American Girl will introduce new historically accurate travel outfits and accessories for the 18-inch Molly and Samantha dolls. Molly's blue linen dress with eyelet trim and flower-shaped buttons is cool and comfortable for her trip down Route 66, and Samantha's ivory duster and scarf keep her warm on the ocean liner's deck.

Beginning March 11, girls can also participate in Molly and Samantha's travel-related web activities at www.americangirl.com. Games like Count the Miles and Backseat Bingo tie in to Molly's Route 66 theme. And Samantha's activity, Morse Code Messages, lets girls send family and friends coded messages just like ocean liner passengers would have done in the early 1900's.

The travel journals and other books from American Girl are available nationally in bookstores, at American Girl Place in Chicago, through the American Girl catalogue, and at www.americangirl.com. To place an order or request a free American Girl catalogue, call 1-800-845-0005. For more information you may also contact Julie Parks at 608-836-4848, or by e-mail at julie.parks@pleasantco.com.

ILLINOIS' FIRST ROUTE 66 TURN OUT IS NOW A REALITY

It took a few years and numerous phone calls, but it all paid off.



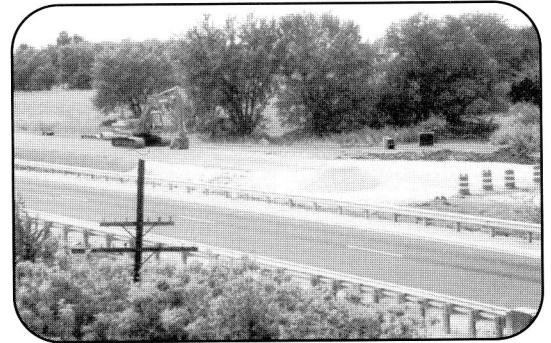
**The Newest
Route 66 Signage**

John Weiss, Chairman of the Illinois Preservation Committee, reports that just because the preservation volunteers completed restoration of the historic barn at Cayuga in 1998, our work was only half done. Next came successful negotiations with IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) for a safe turn out for Route 66 travelers. This fabulous parking area and circle turn around was completed in 2001. Next, a campaign by John was to have brown historic signs installed that alerted travelers of this Roadside Attraction. On March 27, 2002, the signs were permanently erected by IDOT.

Is this site complete now? No, says John. At this location, virtually every Route 66 tourist will pass the historic barn site. 99% will probably pull in to see what this is all about.

What we need to do next is develop this high profile location. As it is now, it is a photo opportunity and tourists are able to safely stroll an abandoned section of original Route 66. John says he will try to have an Illinois Route 66 Association Welcome billboard created along with other amenities such as a picnic table or two. We would be foolish to not take full advantage of what this site offers.

Be sure to stop at Illinois' newest creation. It is located midway between Pontiac and Odell. Just look for the Historic 66 turn out signs.



Construction of the Turnout

MERAMEC CAVERNS BARN ROUTE 66, CAYUGA

By John Weiss

Just north of Pontiac, directly on Route 66, is one of our first completed preservation efforts. This was an extremely difficult project because it was a shingle sided barn. Each shingle was replaced one at a time.

The end result was worth it. Here, too, is where we installed our first Route 66 Roadside Attraction sign.

This project has been so well received that IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) has built a paved turn out for tourists to safely pull off the road for sightseeing. It also provides a nice photo opportunity.

Soon historic signs will be installed along Route 66 that will alert travelers to the attraction ahead. The turn out can safely accommodate many cars at once and even tour buses.

Grass seed has been planted and a stone walkway prepared. We will look it over for additional landscaping. Come, revisit this attraction. We are extremely proud of it.

4TH ANNUAL DOWNTOWN COLLINSVILLE WORLD'S LARGEST CATSUP BOTTLE SUMMERFEST BIRTHDAY PARTY & CUSTOM 'N' CLASSIC CAR 'N' TRUCK SHOW BASH!

This big event, with an even bigger name, is scheduled for Sunday, July 7, 2002. All day long there's music, crafts, food, fun, and games. Something for everyone. Bring the family to celebrate the 53rd birthday of Collinsville's world famous roadside landmark!

From very humble beginnings, this event has grown to be a huge kid-friendly, family-oriented, non-alcohol day of enjoyment. Mark your calendars now to attend! Nearly 300 hundred vehicles parked along the streets of historic downtown Collinsville make this the biggest and best show in southern Illinois.

Car and truck owners wanting info about the show should contact Phil or Marilyn at 618-344-6768 or write to royal-showing@aol.com Other inquiries can be sent to bigtoma-to@catsupbottle.com or call the Downtown Collinsville, Inc. office at (618) 345-5598.

ROUTE 66 FIRECRACKER WALLD OG JAM

By John Weiss

**From July 3rd through July 7th,
an exciting event will take place in
Atlanta, Illinois. That is when the
LETTERHEADS come to town.**

No, this is not a rock band; it is a group of talented, fun loving artists.

I don't believe a festival like this has ever been held on Route 66 in Illinois.

First, here is the story: The dedicated people of Atlanta are always on the lookout for ways to enhance their town's image. They have completed numerous preservation projects already. Recently on Route 66 they completed a nice downtown park. The main problem was a huge, two story brick wall in very poor visual condition.

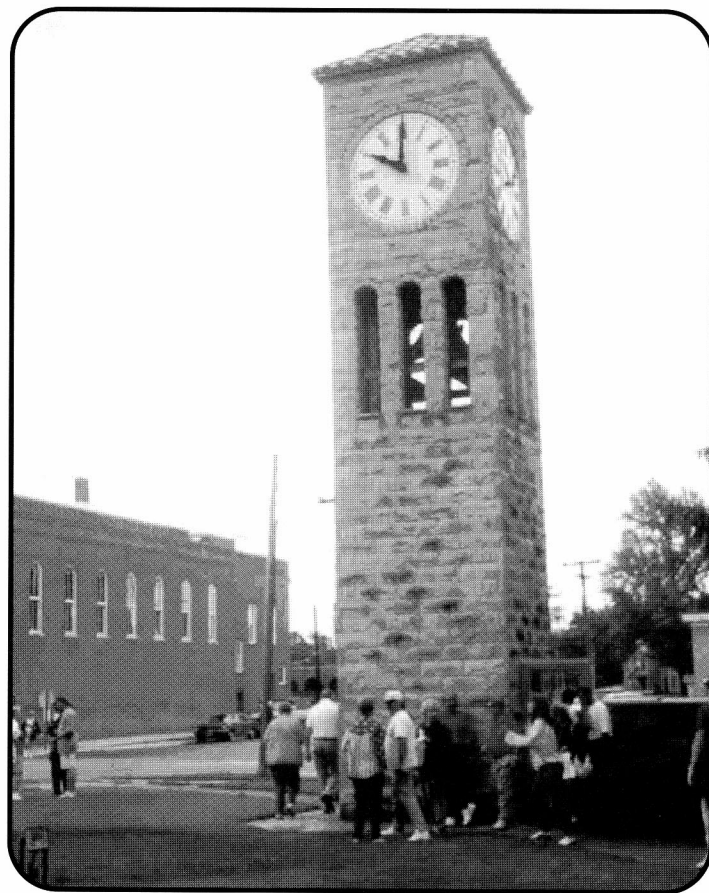
Bill Thomas, the motivating force in Atlanta heard of a possible solution. The LETTERHEADS! Upon investigation, he learned that these talented people will come to the aid of a worthy town at no cost to the community. What they will do is use their talents to design, then paint first class wall murals.

Bill Thomas, Lucille Peck and Betty McLellan (Betty is one of the 15 original founders of the Route 66 Association of Illinois) contacted the group and together an agreement was reached.

The first plan is to spruce up the wall in the new park. A design was agreed upon for a 40 foot by 60 foot mural. The wall is in such poor condition that the mural will be painted in pieces on aluminum and then installed on the wall. A second mural is also on the drawing board for a wall across the street.

More than 20 artists will take part in this wonderful art project. Only one more problem still faced the committee from Atlanta. They had to furnish the paints and materials that would be required for the artists. This represents a lot of money.

In early January I was in Atlanta to discuss some unrelated preservation projects. Bill Thomas mentioned the Walldog plan and the problem, paint. Bill nearly fell off his chair when I said I thought I could help. As it turns out, Mr. Dale Johnson was recently on one of my Route 66 bus tours. He works for the Ace Hardware Corporation Paint Department. He volunteered to supply the paints needed for our streetcar restoration. He said, "Let me know if I can help with other Route 66 projects." I contacted Dale Johnson and he immediately got together with Bill Thomas. The end result is, Ace will furnish most of the necessary paints and other items to make this wall mural project a reality.



Clock Tower, Atlanta, Illinois

The WALLD OG JAM ART FESTIVAL will take place during the 4th of July weekend. The fantastic fireworks display that Atlanta is known for will be postponed from Thursday the 4th to Saturday, July 6th.

The town will be jumping with activity. Entertainment and food will be in abundance. The highlight of all this is watching the artists at work.

There should be some great photo opportunities. All of Atlanta's historical attractions will also be open.

This is an event that should not be missed. It is Route 66, small town, grass roots America at its best.

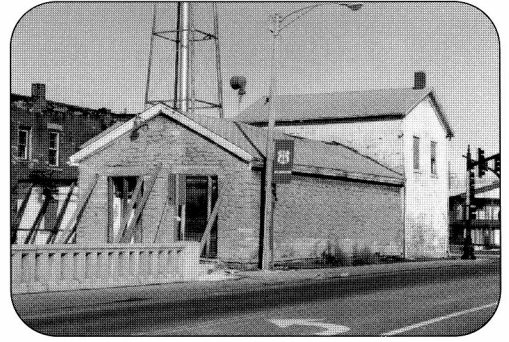
This could not be a reality without the generosity of the artists who will donate their time and the Ace Hardware Corporation for furnishing the necessary paint. This is another example that Route 66 is alive and well in Illinois.

For information call Bill Thomas, days, (217) 648-5077, evenings, (217) 648-2773 or by fax at (217) 648-2479. You may also contact Bill by mail at his address at 400 SW 4th St. Atlanta P.O. Box 166 Atlanta, IL 61723 or also by e-mail at wthomas@teleogic.net

REBIRTH OF THE EAGLE HOTEL

By John Weiss

It opened in 1836. A structure to serve the needs of weary travelers. Food was cooked in the cellar hearth and in a stone oven. The cellar floor was dirt, the walls were limestone.



**Side View of Eagle Hotel
Wilmington, Illinois**

By today's standards, this would be considered much less than regal. But, back then, it provided a roof over your head and a hot meal.

This is the oldest commercial structure in Will County and probably the oldest on all of Route 66 in Illinois. It is located on Route 66 in Wilmington at the northwest corner of Water Street. This is the old part of town, well known for all the great antique shops.

At the age of 166, this historic building is about to be completely restored.

In its early days, this stone structure served a vital role. It's also reported to have been part of the Underground Railroad. Sitting at the edge of the Kankakee River, it was vital to commerce. And during the days of Route 66 (1926 through 1976) in Illinois, all travelers passed by. Just think of how the world has changed since these walls were constructed.

Its last occupant was the Wilmington Historical Society. But, unfortunately, a fire drove them out. Then for years, it sat deteriorating, waiting for someone to find the funds and desire to bring life back to this piece of history.

Well, it looks like it just may happen. Mr. Bill Scales has purchased the building and has some wonderful plans.

Mr. Scales and his partner, Rob Saunders, from Oregon, took Lenore and me on a tour. His plans were obviously deeply ingrained. Since we are involved in preservation, we could also clearly see his vision.

Others would probably say it cannot be done. We like Bill Scales and Rob, because they are convinced this can be saved. I agree with him.

It will be known as The Historic Eagle Inn & Restaurant. It is already on the National Register of Historic Places. As a result, certain guidelines must be followed. When restored, it will contain 10 cozy, upscale tourist rooms. The main floor will be a dining room with views of Route 66, or the elaborate gardens, overlooking the Old Mill Race waterway, in the rear. The limestone walls will remain exposed. The Inn will have a European flair to it. A chef has already been hired and architectural and structural studies completed. Many hundreds of details are already finished.

Bill Scales said he has looked for many years for just the right preservation project. As soon as he accidentally saw the old Eagle Inn, he knew he had finally found it. His search was over.

We are happy to have Bill on Route 66. He is a hard working classy guy. We wish him well!

Be sure to visit this site during the Route 66 Motor Tour. It ends in Wilmington this year.

NEW ROUTE 66 VIDEOS AVAILABLE

DMC Distribution through its subsidiary [Route66Products.com](http://www.Route66Products.com) (<http://www.Route66Products.com>) is proud to announce a new addition to our unique line of Route 66 merchandise. We are now stocking Route 66 videos and DVD's from Paccom Films (<http://www.66Films.com>) personally autographed by Martin Milner. These new products include "Route 66: Return to the Road with Martin Milner" and the "Route 66: 75th Anniversary Collectors Set", both available on VHS and DVD. The autographed editions of these items are currently available exclusively through [Route66Products.com](http://www.Route66Products.com).

The "Route 66: 75th Anniversary Collector's Set" contains "Route 66: Return to the Road", "Route 66: An American Odyssey", "Drive 66", and "Greetings from Route 66: A Video Postcard". The 75th Anniversary boxed set takes you on a state-by-state tour, as well as including sections on history, scenery, and planning your own trip down Route 66. Everything's here...beautiful music, breathtaking scenery, wacky roadside America, and all of the people that make Route 66 live on today. Packaged in a colorful 75th Anniversary Collector's Edition case with a FREE commemorative full-color poster, this is the most comprehensive Route 66 video library available.

For a limited time, we will be including a FREE autographed "Return to the Road" VHS or DVD with the purchase of a complete set of our Martin Milner Autographed Route 66 75th Anniversary License Plates. This, plus our free shipping and other discounts, comes to a \$70.00 savings over purchasing our license plates individually.

All brand and product names are trademarks and registered trademarks of their respective holders.

CONTACT: DMC Distribution • Don Berizko, 909-475-8314 • Info@route66products.com • <http://www.route66products.com>

IN OTHER NEWS

Mark W. Curran 44, a Los Angeles based Elvis Presley impersonator, author and film maker will embark on an unusual sojourn starting on Friday June 28, 2002 in Chicago, Illinois. He is stopping in each town every 100 miles along Route 66.

Saturday June 29, 2002 Curran will arrive in Pontiac, Illinois. Pontiac Tourism and committee are planning a Cruise in the Park with a look-a-like contest, plus an Elvis memorabilia show, with food & music, including an excellent performance with Curran as Elvis.

The 2,448 mile, 30 day journey will take him through the eight Route 66 states doing newspaper interviews and performing free shows along the route, featuring the music of Elvis. Curran is also scheduled to do a show in Springfield on June 30, and from there will take his show into Missouri.

Mark your calendar now, and plan to come to Pontiac on June 29!

The new OSF Saint James-John W. Albrecht Medical

Center held an open house on March 9, 2002. The new hospital is a 42 bed facility that cost \$34 million and is located in Pontiac, Illinois.

Jim Sokolik from Los Angeles, California placed a display of large photographs of the image of Livingston County on the second floor level in the hall of the hospital. The fourteen framed images include the Dwight Train Depot, Dwight Historical Windmill, the Ballard Grain Elevator, and the Standard Gasoline Station in Odell.

Jim and his wife Cindy had an enjoyable time driving in Livingston County last June to select the best photos for the new hospital. Spellman, Brady and Company, located in St. Louis provided interior design and art. They are consultants for health care facilities.

If any of you out there are basketball fans, you may have noticed that Route 66 was very well represented at this years NCAA basketball tournament. Of the eight states Route 66 traveled through, six of the state universities were represented. These included the Universities of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Arizona. And if you want to add California to the list, UCLA in Los Angeles was represented too. When it came down to the Final Four, Kansas and Oklahoma were left. Guess it shows that basketball is king on "The Mother Road".

John Weiss sends this tidbit of information from the Preservation Committee. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly *thank Mr. Ted Bachman* for his generous monetary donation to our preservation efforts. If we all pitch in, we can accomplish great things.
Thank you Ted!

In mid-January, Wilmington posted Route 66 banners all along Route 66. They are intermixed with patriotic banners. Be sure to compliment all the business owners as you visit this flashy Route 66 town.

DO YOU REMEMBER THESE?

By Duke Cartwright

Before Interstates, when everyone drove the old 2-lane roads cross country, Burma Shave signs would be posted all over the countryside in farmers' fields. They were small red signs with white letters. Five signs, about 100 feet apart, each containing 1 line of a 4 line couplet and the obligatory 5th sign identifying Burma Shave.

DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD
TO GAIN A MINUTE
YOU NEED YOUR HEAD
YOUR BRAINS ARE IN IT
Burma-Shave

DROVE TOO LONG
DRIVER SNOOZING
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT
IS NOT AMUSING
Burma-Shave

BROTHER SPEEDERS
LET'S REHEARSE
ALL TOGETHER
GOOD MORNING NURSE
Burma-Shave

CAUTIOUS RIDER
TO HER RECKLESS DEAR
LET'S HAVE LESS BULL
AND LOTS MORE STEER
Burma-Shave

THE MIDNIGHT RIDE
OF PAUL FOR BEER
LED TO A
WARMER HEMISPHERE
Burma-Shave

SPEED WAS HIGH
WEATHER WAS NOT
TIRES WERE THIN
X MARKS THE SPOT
Burma-Shave

AROUND THE CURVE
LICKETY-SPLIT
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL CAR
WASN'T IT?
Burma-Shave

PASSING CARS
WHEN YOU CAN'T SEE
MAY GET YOU A GLIMPSE
OF ETERNITY
Burma-Shave

NO MATTER THE PRICE
NO MATTER HOW NEW
THE BEST SAFETY DEVICE
IN THE CAR IS YOU
Burma-Shave

A GUY WHO DRIVES
A CAR WIDE OPEN
IS NOT THINKIN'
HE'S JUST HOPIN'
Burma-Shave

AT INTERSECTIONS
LOOK EACH WAY
A HARP SOUNDS NICE
BUT ITS HARD TO PLAY
Burma-Shave

BOTH HANDS ON THE WHEEL
EYES ON THE ROAD
THAT'S THE SKILLFUL
DRIVER'S CODE
Burma-Shave

THE ONE WHO DRIVES WHEN
HE'S BEEN DRINKING
DEPENDS ON YOU
TO DO HIS THINKING
Burma-Shave

PASSING SCHOOL ZONE
TAKE IT SLOW
LET OUR LITTLE
SHAVERS GROW
Burma-Shave

Do these
bring back memories?



READERS TO THE RESCUE



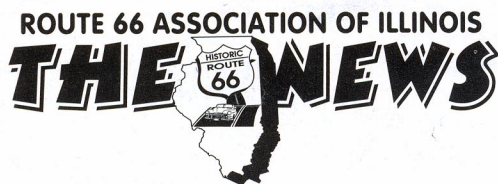
▲ Giant Cowboy
John's Used Cars, Inc.
Gallup, New Mexico

In the last issue of *The 66 News!* I had written a little story line stating "The Illinois giants have a cousin in Albuquerque". But the photo I had taken did not turn out very well. From Jim & Judy Otis in Arlington Heights came a letter with photos of not only the giant in Albuquerque, but of another one in Gallup, New Mexico. The photo of the giant holding an ax is from May's Café at the corner of Louisiana and Central Avenues in Albuquerque. The other one, a giant cowboy is located at John's Used Cars Inc., on Coal Ave and 5th Street just west of the El Morro Theatre in Gallup. Thank you Jim & Judy for coming to the "rescue" so to speak. And I hope you will contribute more photos of your Route 66 experiences to share in the future



▲ Giant holding an ax
May's Café
Albuquerque, New Mexico

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS



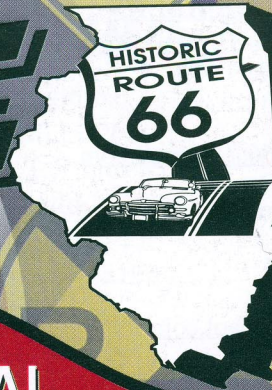
2743 Veterans Parkway, #166
Springfield, IL 62704

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lincoln, IL
Permit No. 66

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE NEWS

FALL 2002



INTERNATIONAL

ROUTE 66

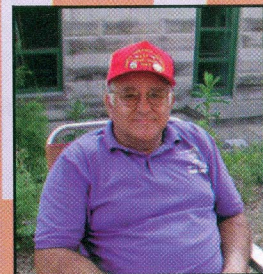
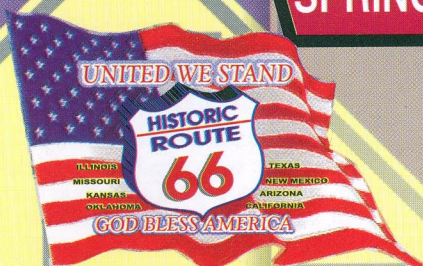


MOTHER ROAD

FESTIVALSM

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS
RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW.SM



▲ **CRUISIN'
WITH
OLLIE**

◀ **66
ROADSIDE**

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The Route 66 Association of Illinois is a not-for-profit organization. Its purpose is to preserve, promote and help people enjoy the road in this state. Officers and board members are available at most reasonable times to answer questions and hear comments about Route 66. Please feel free to contact them when you need to. The date to the right of each person's name is when his or her term expires.

PRESIDENT

Jeff LaFollette, 10-03
2351 Highway 130
New Liberty, IA 52765
563-893-6653
E-Mail: AJon66@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Przybylski, 10-02
24156 S. Kings Rd.
Crete, IL 60417
708-672-7937

TREASURER

Martin Blitstein, 10-02
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-444-1312
E-Mail: blitz66@chicagonet.net

SECRETARY

Cathie Stevanovich, 10-03
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-444-1312
E-Mail: cathiesb@earthlink.net

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Kathy Miller, 10-03
14828 San Francisco Ave.
Posen, IL 60469
708-389-3823
E-Mail: Kathleen708@hotmail.com

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

John Weiss, Chairman
22550 W. Rt. 113
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-458-6616
E-Mail: KAYO66@aol.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jeff LaFollette
2351 Highway 130
New Liberty, IA 52765
563-893-6653
E-Mail: AJon66@aol.com

Photo Credits this issue:

John Weiss, Annette LaFollette, Howard Hay
Jeff Meyer, David Knudsen, Rich Henry
John & Kathy Miller, Ollie Schwallenstecker

Magazine designed by

Creative Images Center, Geneseo, IL

BOARD MEMBERS

John Miller, **Cook**, 10-03
14828 San Francisco Ave.
Posen, IL 60469
708-389-3823
E-Mail: kixonrte66@hotmail.com

Lynn Bagdon, **DuPage**, 10-02
P.O. Box 313
Aurora, IL 60507
630-531-4577
E-Mail: lulupic66@aol.com

Larry Boyd, **Will**, 10-03
733 Fairlane Dr.
Joliet, IL 60435-5155
815-725-2457
E-Mail: Boydgrt@aol.com

Marty Bilecki, **Grundy**, 10-03
4200 Bargo Lane
Morris, IL 60450
815-941-3312

Margaret Hettwer, **Livingston**, 10-02
318 E. Elk St.
Odell, IL 60460
815-998-2219

C.J. Beeler, **McLean**, 10-02
2 Canterbury Court
Bloomington, IL 61701
309-874-2832

Ernie Edwards, **Logan**, 10-03
101 W. Oak St.
Broadwell, IL 62623
217-732-2337

John Murphy, **Sangamon**, 10-02
P.O. Box 500
Pawnee, IL 62558
217-625-7183

Tonya Flannery, **Montgomery**, 10-03
120 E. Ryder St.
Litchfield, IL 62056
217-324-5253
E-Mail: flannery94@hotmail.com

MACOUPIN

Oliver Schwallenstecker, 10-02
620 E. Warren St., Box 477
Bunker Hill, IL 62014
618-585-3081
E-Mail: mt_ollie@madisontelco.com

Linda Henry, **Madison**, 10-02
1107 Historic Route 66
Staunton, IL 62088
618-635-5655
E-Mail: route66@midwest.net

Wilton Rinkel, **St. Clair**, 10-02
5539 State Rt. 157 North
Edwardsville, IL 62025
618-656-1625

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Louis Vargo, 10-03
14911 Richmond Ave
Posen, IL 60469
708-339-3640

Duke Cartwright, 10-02
407 Pasadena Ave.
Crest Hill, IL 60435
815-726-3574
E-Mail: dukecartwright@Mediaone.net

Robert Gehl, 10-03
1667 Timber Ridge Estates Dr.
Wildwood, MO 63011-1971
636-458-2244
E-Mail: rgehl66@earthlink.net

Marie Jibben, 10-02
215 Lawnridge Dr.
Creve Coeur, IL 61610
309-694-4142
E-Mail: MAJ66@earthlink.net

Jeff Geisler, 10-03
814 W. 61st St.
LaGrange Highlands, IL 60525
708-354-8746
E-Mail: Route66Railfan@msn.com

Executive Committee:

The officers, plus Linda Henry
and Jeff Geisler

Association Website: <http://www.il66assoc.org>

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Association publishes *The 66 News* in March, June, September & December as a service to its members, other people and related organizations. Contributions are welcome, but we do not pay. However, authors retain all copyright privileges. Submit all stories, photos and ads at least six weeks prior to publication. Address contributions and inquiries to Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, IL 62704.
Advertising Rates: \$100 for a whole page, \$60 for a half page, \$40 for a quarter page and \$25 for a business card ad. Send camera ready copy only.

ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING

The election meeting will be soon upon us, as the Fall Board/General meeting will be conducted on Sunday October 20, 2002. Jeff Geisler, Nominating Committee Chairman would like to remind you, if you are interested in running for an officer or board member position, now is the time to contact him. Jeff would like to have ballots printed for the elections if possible. A reminder that the terms expire for the following officer positions: Vice-President and Treasurer, and also these county board seats are up for grabs, DuPage, Livingston, McLean, Sangamon, Macoupin, Madison and St. Clair. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting and either run for an office or board position or exercise your right to vote. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact Jeff at 708-354-8746

IT'S TIME FOR A PICNIC

Don't forget that this year's picnic will be held on **Sunday September 15 in Atlanta** beginning at noon. The picnic will be in the park adjacent to Atlanta's Clock Tower and Library. The Association will furnish the meat and drinks and table service. We ask that you bring a dish or two to pass, plus lawn chairs, games and plan to have a day of fun and fellowship. Plus, there may be a surprise or two. Tours of the J.H. Hawes Grain Elevator and the historic library may be available as well. Atlanta is located about seven miles north of Lincoln or five miles south of McLean along Historic Route 66. Or, from I-55 just take the Atlanta exit and follow the signs.

For more information, contact Jeff LaFollette at 563-893-6653 or John Weiss at 815-458-6616.



BOARD MEETING INFORMATION

The next meeting of the Route 66 Association of Illinois will be conducted on Sunday, October 20, 2002 beginning at 10:30 a.m. and it will be at a different location in the Bloomington-Normal area than has been in past years. This time we will be meeting at **The Chateau**, which was the former Jumer's right off of Veterans Parkway, the four lane alignment of Route 66 through Bloomington-Normal. The correct address is 1609 Jumer Drive. From the north, take I-55 to the Business 55 exit which is marked Veterans Parkway. Follow the parkway in, and look to the left for The Chateau. From the south, take I-55 to Business 55, (Veterans Parkway) and follow it in. Look to the right until you see The Chateau. The Board meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. and we will break for lunch at 12:00. The General session will convene at 1:00 p.m.

The Chateau has requested that we give them an accurate count of how many people will be there for the lunch buffet. The cost of the buffet is \$12.00 which includes tax and tip. Please copy the form below, enclose a check for the meal, and mail it to the address on the form by **NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 10**, so that we may provide them an accurate count.

This is the annual meeting where we will be conducting elections. So please exercise your right as an Association member and come and vote. And you are always welcome to attend any of the meetings we conduct. Remember, if you plan to have lunch, please fill out the form below and mail it in. For more information contact C.J. Beeler at (309) 874-2832 or Jeff LaFollette at (563) 893-6653.

DINNER RESERVATION FORM

MENU: Baked Virginia Ham, Beef Stroganoff,
Fresh Vegetables, Potato du jour, Country Salads,
Fresh Fruit, Beverages - \$12.00 per person

VEGETARIAN PLATES WILL BE AVAILABLE

NAME _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____ **@ \$12.00 PER PERSON**

AMOUNT OF CHECK \$ _____
(PAYABLE TO ROUTE 66 ASSN. OF ILLINOIS)

MAIL CHECK AND COMPLETED FORM TO
JEFF LAFOLLETTE
2351 HIGHWAY 130 • NEW LIBERTY, IOWA 52765

Fred's SportTime Clocks

A small business that loves Route 66 presents the most unique product for the old car and truck enthusiast. If your ride sits in the garage with everything done and ready to drive, how about a clock with your ride's picture on it.

Clock size 10 1/2"
case colors
red, white,
blue, black
1 year guarantee
comes gift boxed
with AA battery



All 8 Rt 66 state
symbols available
or
your car club logo
be sure to enclose a
copy

Look for my
booth at the big
Rt 66 Cruise in
Springfield Il
Sept. 27 -29

Send a quality photo of your
ride (photo will be returned)
with a check or money order
for \$30 + \$6 for shipping and
handling or two identical
orders \$55 + \$7 to
Fred's Sportime Clocks
3990 Virginia Ln
Spaulding IL 62561
Please allow 3-5 weeks for delivery

HAMPTON INN'S SIGNAGE PROJECT KICKOFF

By Dave Clark

On May 21st, Lou Mitchell's Restaurant in Chicago was the site of the kick-off media event for Hampton Inn's Route 66 "Point of Interest/Roadside Attraction" sign campaign.



Jeff LaFollette presents plaque to Judy Christa-Cathey

As members of the Illinois Association know, Hampton Inn was instrumental in helping with the restoration of the Odell Standard Station. Now they are expanding their involvement in Route 66 promotion and preservation nationwide, and Lou Mitchell's was chosen as the first of 66 Point of Interest sites to receive "Roadside Attraction" signs. These signs are based upon the design of the sign that the Illinois Association erected at the Meramec Caverns barn near Pontiac some time ago. Also, Hampton has donated 100 "Historic Route 66" road signs to the eight state associations to help replace signs that have been damaged or stolen.

The Illinois Association was well represented at the Lou Mitchell's event. Members present included Jeff and Annette LaFollette, John and Lenore Weiss, Lynn Bagdon, Jeff Meyer, Barb and Bill Gwodz, Marty Blitstein, John and Judy Herder, John Miller, and Dave Clark. The event was covered by all three Chicago network television affiliates, as well as the Chicago Tribune and Sun-Times.

The morning began with coffee and an informal get-together inside the restaurant, followed by the ceremonies and speeches in front. John Herder drove up in his vintage Okie Dust Bowl truck and delivered the Route 66 signs as the cameras captured the scene.

Next, Judy Christa-Cathey, Vice President of Hampton brand marketing, stepped up to the microphone to begin the presentation. She informed the crowd that the Hampton Inn "Explore the Highway/Save-A-Landmark" campaign began in April 2000. It is a nation-wide effort to restore historical, fun and cultural landmarks residing along America's highways. She pointed to the successful collaboration of Hampton and the Route 66 Association of Illinois in the Odell Standard Station preservation in May of 2001 as a catalyst in their decision to move forward with more Route 66 projects. "During the restoration of our first Route 66 landmark last spring—a 70-year-old Standard Oil Gas Station—we fell in love with the culture and nostalgia surrounding Route 66 and realized there was much more we could do to help

these associations preserve one of America's most important historical treasures." In addition to the sign programs, she announced that Hampton was sponsoring a letter-writing campaign to make the entire length of Route 66 a national landmark.

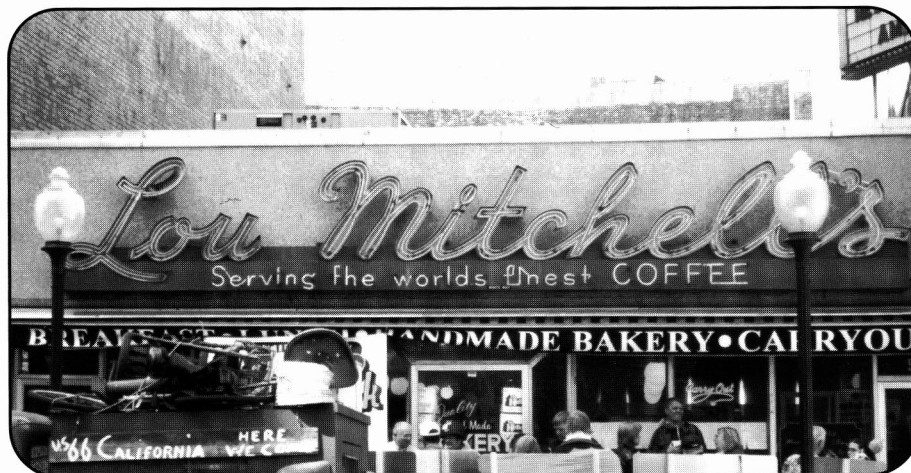
Ms. Christa-Cathey next introduced two dignitaries from the City of Chicago: Director of Tourism Dorothy Coyle and the City Commissioner of Transportation, Miguel d'Escoto. Both spoke briefly, acknowledging the importance of the Mother Road as a valuable historic asset to the city and state. Then to the podium came Jim Conkle, media spokesperson for Hampton Inns and Executive Director of the California Route 66 Preservation Foundation, introduced by Ms. Christa-Cathey as "a modern day Will Rogers of the Mother Road." Mr. Conkle has served on the Board of Directors of the California Route 66 Museum in Victorville for the last five years, and he founded the California Route 66 Preservation Foundation in 2001. Recently retired from

the Automobile Club of Southern California, he now dedicates himself full-time to assisting various Route 66 groups in preservation, marketing, and organizational efforts. Jim said, "Having these signs placed along Route 66 is an important step in its preservation. Many young travelers today may not even know they are on Route 66, so identification markers help make exploring the Route even more fun—for the young and old."



Jeff LaFollette receives check from Judy Christa-Cathey

Continued on page 6



Lou Mitchell's Restaurant, Chicago, Illinois

Judy Christa-Cathey returned to the podium for the formal unveiling of the Lou Mitchell's "Roadside Attraction" sign. She noted that the restaurant is considered one of the first stops on the Route 66 road trip heading from East to West, and for the entire history of Route 66, Lou Mitchell's has been serving Mother Road travelers. She introduced Heleen Thanas, General Manager of Lou Mitchell's, as she read the sign's message: "Lou Mitchell's Restaurant and Bakery, Chicago, Illinois. The start of Route 66. A Chicago Institution since 1923, their fine food and friendly hospitality is known the world over."

Next, Jeff LaFollette stepped up to present Judy Christa-Cathey with an award to Hampton Inn from the Illinois Association in appreciation for

all they have done to help with preservation and promotion in the state "where the road begins!"

In addition to the "roadside attraction" sign that was presented to Lou Mitchell's, other Illinois 66 icons that have received signs include the Pig Hip restaurant in Broadwell, and the Riviera in Gardner. The next Hampton Inn media event was at the Cadillac Ranch near Amarillo, Texas on May 29th, when the Roadside Attraction sign for that icon was placed, and volunteers gave the artwork a new coat of paint. On August 15th, another ceremony was held at the Blue Whale in Catoosa, Oklahoma when the sign

was unveiled there.

Ironically, and unfortunately, bureaucratic red-tape has delayed the display of the Lou Mitchell's sign. Although unveiled on May 21st, as of late August when this newsletter went to press, Heleen Thanas had not gotten governmental permission to post the Roadside Attraction sign on the city street.

For more information about the Hampton Inn's programs, including the letter-writing campaign to make Route 66 a national landmark, you may visit their website, <http://www.hamptoninn.com>. Also, this author has posted additional information and photos of the May 21st events at the following website: <http://www.windycityroadwarrior.com>

SEE US AT OUR BOOTH IN SPRINGFIELD AT THE FESTIVAL!

AN EXCITING NEW GAME!!!

CRUISING HISTORIC RT. 66

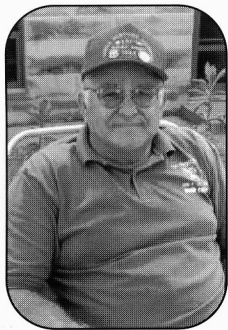
NOW YOU CAN TRAVEL HISTORIC RT. 66 WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR HOME

A BOARD GAME FOR ALL AGES TO PLAY TOGETHER ON YOUR FAMILY ACTIVITY NIGHT. THIS GAME IS ONE YOU DO NOT WANT TO PASS UP. IT IS EDUCATIONAL AND FUN AT THE SAME TIME AND IS DESIGNED FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES. FOLLOW ROUTE 66 FROM ILLINOIS TO CALIFORNIA, ROLL THE DIE, READ YOUR CARD, AND PROCEED ON YOUR CRUISE THROUGH THIS GAME. FIND OUT WHAT THE MOTHER ROAD HAS TO OFFER.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER

TO ORDER "CRUISING HISTORIC RT. 66"
SEND CASHIERS CHECK OR MONEY
ORDER FOR \$24.95 + \$4.00 S/H (\$28.95
TOTAL) TO:
SISBRO 66, Inc.
P.O. Box 1394, Frankfort, IL 60423

TO ORDER ON-LINE
WWW.SISBRO66.COM
ALLOW 2-3 WEEKS FOR
DELIVERY. RUSH ORDERS (7
WORKING DAYS) ADD \$2.00.



CRUISIN' WITH OLLIE

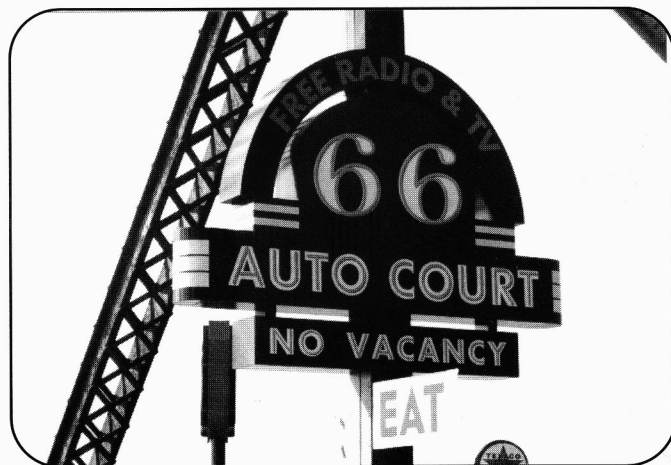
2002 MOTOR TOUR PART 1

Good News for the Route 66 Association of Illinois! Good News for the Mother Road! Good News for touring this summer. Last years Motor Tour saw a wonderful celebration of the Diamond anniversary of Illinois Route 66. This year we tried to keep up the tradition by finding new and special ways to celebrate traveling the "Main Street of America". Photos on the Web at www.cruisinwithollie.org

Edwardsville's Chamber of Commerce held their Annual "Festival 66" in conjunction with our Motor Tour again this year. Cathy Luttrell and her staff provided entertainment and goodies to roadies on Friday evening. Kathy Miller, Marty Blitstein and Judy Schwallenstecker busied themselves registering this years roadies. Cathy Stevanovich and Jeff and Annette LaFollette were handling Tee shirt sales. Lynn Bagdon and John Miller assisted where needed. Other officers and board members were visiting and enjoying the beautiful weather. Mother Nature on Friday provided the first of what proved to be a weekend of near perfect cruising weather. No liquid sunshine would darken the blue skies of this year's tour. Area motels reported that they were booked full on Friday evening. The anticipation of something special was everywhere.

Early Saturday morning dawned with clear blue skies and a light breeze. Phillips 66 Petroleum's" Wood River Refinery had one crew handling parking and another serving a free Chuck Wagon breakfast. Inside the Refinery museum roadies checked out the eighty some odd years of Refinery history. Gasoline pumps from the teens to the fifties were ogled, as stories were spun of how the attendants of those days would not allow any customer to touch them and pump their own gas. My how the times have changed!

The jewel of the museum is a specially modified 1924 Chevrolet roadster. It sits in the center of the museum and was certainly a center of attention Saturday morning. This roadster is not built for speed, although it looks like it could have been a racing car. Painted Shell yellow, with a large number red #24 on each side it immediately attracts your attention. This little jewel's claim to fame is that approximately 50 years ago it broke the Shell Mileage Marathon record with over 168 miles per gallon. This record



Motor Court Sign On Chain of Rocks Bridge

stood until 1966. The first thing everyone wanted to see was the engine. After much prodding museum volunteer Bill Carr removed the bonnet so everyone could check out the engine. The museum is open on Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Special tours may be scheduled by calling 618-255-3718 during regular museum hours.

At 8:30 a.m., Motor Tour wagon master Jeff Geisler led several hundred roadies out of the Refinery parking lot. Local police blocked traffic to allow all the cruisers to caravan to the Missouri side of the Mississippi River and into the Trailnet parking area of the historic Chain of Rocks Bridge. Parking was at a premium as the lot filled to capacity. There, we were part of a Trailnet (www.trailnet.org) ceremony to celebrate the reopening of the bridge to every day use. It appeared there may have been more than 500 people present. The blue ribbon was cut and Madison, Illinois Mayor John Hamm led the Motor Tour into Illinois. This marked the first time our entire entourage has driven the bridge as part of our Motor Tour. Motor

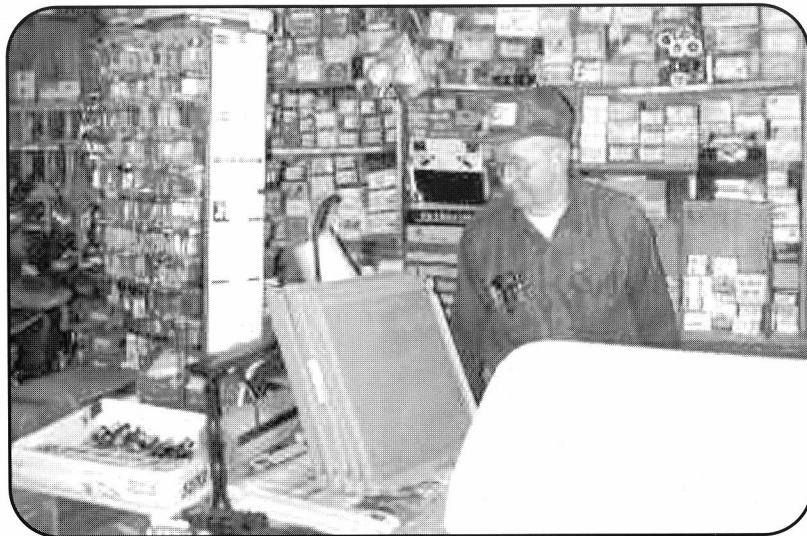
Continued on page 8

Tour roadies placed quite a test on the old structure as the motorized magic carpets gave the appearance of an over one mile long train crossing the mighty muddy Mississippi River.

Although crossing over the bridge brought much pleasure, it caused some grief. We didn't get spread out as much as in past tours and it took a while to clear the traffic. Wagon Master Jeff Geisler did his part to spread the tour by taking some on a detour through the countryside. Most followed the brown historic "Route 66" signs and made the next stop at Hamel. Hamel is a small town with a great Route 66 heritage. They had Route 66 banners posted, a series of Burma-Shave signs, and two Route 66 Hall of Fame members and several more who have been nominated for membership. Inside their municipal building are displayed many historic pictures of life on the Mother Road. Even in years when they are not a designated passport stop, they manage to stop our roadies and give them a trinket or some refreshment. We love Hamel!!

Just North of Hamel we passed the historic Hamel Lutheran church and immediately looked across the double nickel for the restored Meramec Caverns barn sign. Next we passed by the Schlechte family business at the Worden 'Y'. In years past this was a popular night spot for dancing and numbing your tonsils. Later in the evening the Schlechte's were inducted into the Route 66 Hall of Fame.

Another couple of miles north, we stopped for a cold one and visited with Pat and Jim Moultrie of



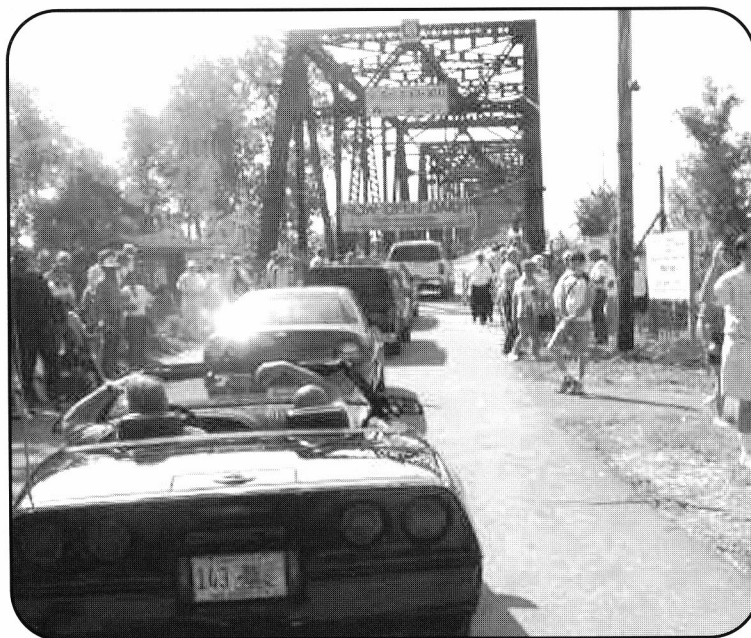
Auburn Hardware Store • Auburn, Illinois

DeCamp Junction. They along with Loren Kovaly were inducted into the Route 66 Hall of Fame last year. Loren was at the Staunton lunch stop visiting with his new made friends.

Star-Times Editor Walt Haase, Bev Sweatman, Cindy Leonard and others of Staunton's Main Street committee organized lunch and provided our roadies with a country picnic type atmosphere. A light breeze blew over white picnic tables placed under a canopy of large shade trees and invited the hungry travelers to sit a spell and enjoy the break. Staunton set up a display of Route 66 and other period history. Many roadies crossed the street to gaze at the depression era painting of coal miners going to work. Some managed a detour to the Henry's Route 66 museum and Rabbit patch. That's what our tour is about, going off the designated path and on to short side trips. Some visited the old car 'heaven' across town, "Country Classic Cars". Like many small communities on the Mother Road, Staunton offers roadies many different experiences.

IDOT blessed us with several repaving projects on the Mother Road this year. One was between Staunton and Gillespie. It was a pleasure to travel on the newly paved roads. We breezed past the Hall of Fame old Coliseum ballroom, now an Antique mall. Benld, Gillespie and Carlinville disappeared from our rear view mirror. It has been learned that the old barn south of Carlinville with the Mail Pouch sign has completely disappeared. The sign was uncovered for just a short time as the barn was being raised during last year's tour. The sign was saved and has been sold to a collector in New York.

Carolyn Carrillo of the Carlinville Chamber of Commerce and the Macoupin County Fair board sponsored the passport stop with a tractor display at



Chain of Rocks Bridge caravan departing.

CRUISIN' WITH OLLIE



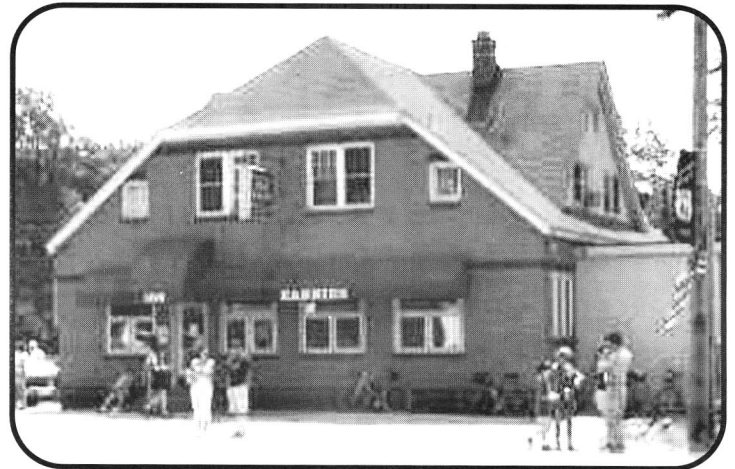
Registration in Edwardsville



Mileage Marathon Car at Shell Oil Museum



97th Infantry Regimental Band in Virden



Earnies Road house in Hamel.



Lunch Stop in Staunton, Illinois



The World Famous Nilwood Turkey Tracks

the fair grounds. The fair group is celebrating their 150th anniversary. The local 4-H group was celebrating their 100th anniversary and providing lemonade shake-ups for our refreshment. We were happy to see Mustang friends participating in a 4-H dog show there. Their young daughter won a blue ribbon as we visited.

A few miles (about 5) further on virgin pavement everyone was astounded to observe Nilwood's World Famous Turkey tracks. Will wonders ever cease?

Virден is celebrating their 150th anniversary this year. This year's Motor Tour helped with the celebration. John Alexander, Wayne Joplin, Russ Boehl and others of Virден set up an afternoon of celebrating the 75-year span in time from the Civil War to Route 66. Abe Lincoln was on hand to again give his famous Gettysburg address. Nurses scurried about the Civil war hospital set up onsite. A Civil War string band from Largo, Florida entertained with song and humorous wit and banter. Local historians displayed rifles and other military memorabilia.

I tried to find a Henry rifle that was for sale, but was unable to find one. They are rare and expensive. Several Illinois regiments from Chicago carried the Henry and were greatly feared by the Rebels, because the Henry was the first lever action carbine with a magazine of multiple cartridges, while most other soldiers used a single shot muzzleloader. The Rebels complained that the Chicago Regiments could fire all week long with out reloading.

Virден obtained special event Illinois license plates for their celebration. John and Wayne as reps for their community donated the #66 license plate for our auction held annually at the Route 66 Hall of Fame Banquet. It was sold for \$66.00 to new Hall of Fame inductees, Lou Mitchell's. Look for it at the restaurant.

Next stop was at the Auburn city square. While we normally drive the Red Brick road, this year the closing of the Red Brick road (only days before our tour) for restoration and the revising of the two antique bridges to allow humongous farm equipment to go to and from the fields, we planned for an alternate stop. Auburn has rebuilt its historic two story bandstand, built a new library and is graced with two historic businesses on the square. Small towns are becoming the only places to find old country stores. Auburn is blessed with two, a hardware and a clothing store. For a trip back in time visit these wonderful establishments. Again we enjoyed some newly repaved highway, but were inconvenienced by the one-way traffic at a couple of bridge replacement projects. I traveled the planned Motor Tour route several times to be sure the directions were



Zack Bickett getting his face paint kicks.

right. But sure enough Ole "Murphy" (not John Murphy of Pawnee) of "Murphy's Law" got me. I misread a sign or two and made a detour that was unnecessary. Oh well!, you know the best laid plans. . .

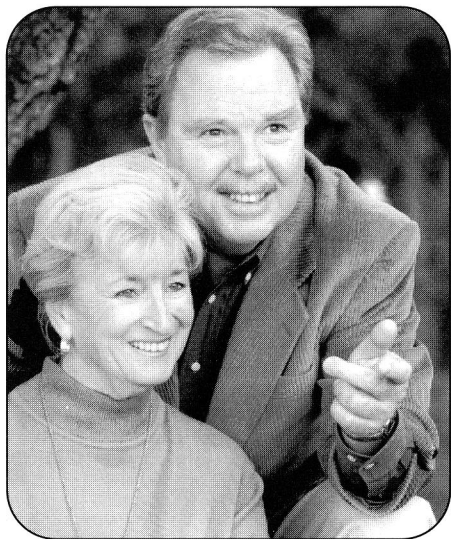
It's always a pleasure to overnight at the Renaissance Hotel in Springfield. The parking garage is handy, with dry shelter and good security. When staying in Downtown Springfield consider the Renaissance.

Tom Teague and Marilyn Pritchard provided a warm and friendly atmosphere for our new Hall of Fame nominees and present Hall of Fame Members. Cathy and Kathy received guests, dispensed tickets and stamped passports. President Jeff LaFollette welcomed all and introduced our Founder, Tom Teague. This year the Hall of Fame committee received twenty-six nominations for normally only four inductees. With such a large group of nominees, the committee opted to increase the annual induction to six. Five were completely new inductees and one was an extension to include the entire family.

New 2002 members are: Gordon Gunderson, Lou Mitchell's restaurant, Polk-A Dot Drive-In restaurant, Schlechte Family Gas Station, John & Lenore Weiss, Roadologists and Preservationists, and the extended family of Bill Shea's Gas Station museum. Congratulations and welcome to all from the Route 66 Association of Illinois.

MEET DAVID & MARY LOU KNUDSEN OF THE NATIONAL ROUTE 66 FEDERATION

By Jeff LaFollette



Since the International Route 66 Festival in Springfield, Illinois is going on this year, I thought it would be appropriate to introduce to you David & Mary Lou Knudsen of the National Route 66 Federation. They will conduct the John Steinbeck Award Ceremony on Friday September 27. This is the first in an eight part series about our sister associations and the National Federation.

- 1) *When was the National Route 66 Federation founded?*
1994
- 2) *How many members does the Federation have currently?*
Depending on renewals each month and new members, approximately 2,100. All told, we grow by around 100 members each quarter.
- 3) *What is the purpose of the National Route 66 Federation?*
In April of 1994, Mary Lou and I had a chance to drive from Chicago to LA. We had hoped to recapture some of memories of the route. Mine, when I drove out here to LA from Detroit to get a job in 1961, and Mary Lou's when she and her family drove back and forth during WWII. Her dad was in the Air Force.

Well, we couldn't find 66 on our maps so we stopped at Dixie Trucker's Home and they had a set of Jim Ross' maps. Our planned 3-4 day trip turned into nearly a month. We were immediately dismayed how much of the old road, and businesses along it had disappeared. It had been all but forgotten. We knew something had to be done to try to save it. So, when we got home, I sold the shares in my business and we went to work trying to do just that.

We immediately became embroiled in all kinds of preservation battles up and down the road, and I must admit, ruffled some feathers on account of it. But, we have become less and less involved in individual preservation projects, lately. We simply ran out of time. We are trying to take the role of

supporting state associations in these local problems, now.

We see our major role now as working at the global level, publicizing the route, working with cities to bring people in for their international festivals, responding to hundreds of e-mails with questions about the road, encouraging people to explore it and working with the Federal government in a growing capacity. But always for the purpose of saving the Mother Road for today's and future generations.

- 4) *We are honored that you have decided to hold the John Steinbeck Award Ceremony in Illinois for the first time. Was it the newly created International Route 66 Festival that made you decide to hold the event here or was there something else that attracted you to Springfield?*

In Albuquerque, the city built their 3 day festival, last year, around the Steinbeck Award Evening. We were invited there two years before it took place to help them put it together because they knew that the evening would bring in people from all over and it would add an air of prestige to the their event. Depending on who you talk to at their CVB, they estimate anywhere between 80,000-100,000 people came to town for the festivities. The evening sold out a month in advance with very little local publicity. This translates into major business. To use a tourism industry phrase, it means "heads in beds".

Several months before the Albuquerque event

Continued on page 14



Cozy Dog Drive In

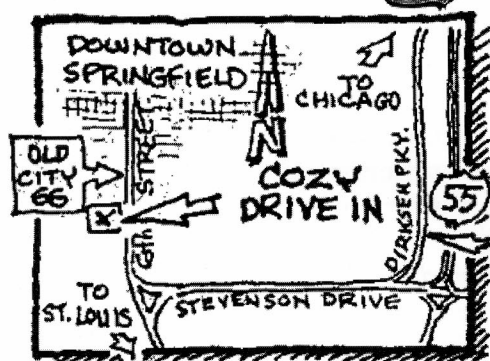
Homemade Donuts, Soup, and Chilli

Fresh-cut French Fries

"WORLD FAMOUS HOT DOG ON A STICK!"

Serving Breakfast anytime!

Located on  since 1946!



Open Monday
through Saturday
8 am to 8 pm
Closed Sundays



2935 S. 6th St., Springfield, Ill. 62703 Phone (217) 525-1992

COZY DOG WILL BE OPEN SUNDAY SEPT. 29th 2002

For the International Route 66 Festival 7 am ~ 8 pm

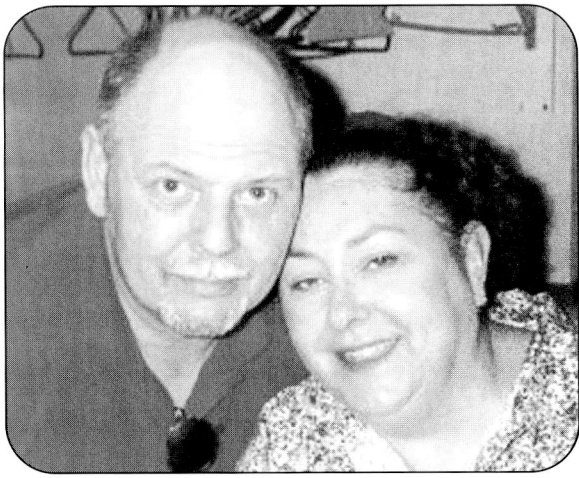
Serving a Limited Breakfast from 7 am ~ 11 am

Featuring: Choice of Ham, Bacon, Sausage,

Scrambled Eggs, Toast for \$2.89

Biscuits & Gravy for \$1.99

Homemade Donuts \$0.49



"The Addict" and the "Widow"

THE MOTHER ROAD WIDOW

A humorous autobiographical exaggeration of life with a roadie!

By Kathleen J. Miller, the wife of a Route 66 ADDICT!

Let me begin by explaining a little bit about what "The Mother Road" means to me. I know the basic history of "The Mother Road" also known as the famous Historical Route 66.

I know it runs from Chicago to L.A., etc. etc. The real meaning to me is this, unless I use the words Route 66 in any given conversation with my husband, no matter what it is about, he does not hear me. For instance, to get his attention in and emergency I must say something like "Honey, while driving on Route 66 today, your brother severed his limb, we need to go to the emergency room to be with him!" He'd say, "Oh my goodness, let's get going, what are you waiting for!" If I had said, "Honey, your brother is seriously hurt, his limb is severed, we need to go now!" he would have shrugged and nodded, and then I would have to scream, "Honey!" Because without the words Route 66 in a conversation, he would not have heard me at all!

With that in mind, here is my story of how I became "The Mother Road Widow"

It was June 1996 when DH (dear husband or damned husband depending on the day) turned and said to me, "Honey, let's go for a ride. I read in the newspaper about some kind of motor tour on Route 66 and the celebration will be in Lincoln, Illinois. It will be so cool! They drive through an arch and everything!" Mistake #1 Being a sucker for togetherness I responded, 'Sure sounds fun!' It was that easy for my life as "The Mother Road Widow" to begin.

We phoned my sister and her beloved hubby to invite them along on our little jaunt. We live five miles south of Chicago. To give you an idea of how far my DH is willing to drive for "The Mother Road" the town of Lincoln, Illinois is approximately 155 miles even still further south of us, so it is approximately 160 miles south of Chicago. We traveled along I-55 (not yet being familiar with the Old Route 66 we chose to take the most direct road which was the interstate.) While traveling along I-55, we would see small caravans of cars driving along the road that ran

next to us, Route 66. Every once in a while, we would notice a stray lone car scattered here and there. We assumed they were with the motor tour. We reckoned they must have lost the group and were driving solo. We later found out this was not the case. It seems the people participating on the motor tour get very side tracked. They stop at every possible place there is to see along the route. They stop to see what it is, what it was, and make plans for what it could become. This is what people with the "Mother Road" addiction do. If only I had known then how contagious this addiction is.

We arrived in Lincoln, Illinois before the motor tour participants. The celebration was already taking place on the streets that surround the courthouse, which forms a traditional town square. This is small town America at its best. Vendors were set up selling food, mostly pork. Pork is very popular in central Illinois. You can buy pork burgers, pork chop sandwiches, sliced pork, barbequed pork, pineapple pork, and along with all that pork they had beverages. No alcohol was sold, not even a cold beer was to be found, and I also noticed there was no pubs or local bars. Things up north are very different. Where I live there is one bar for every 10 adults. This town had several antique stores. I always wondered why you do not find antique stores up north. There must be old things up north, or maybe it's like everything else, you go south when you retire.

Within an hour, a pick-up truck arrived with an arch in the back bed. The arch was silver and sparkly and in the center of it was a sign that read "Historic Route 66". I should have known immediately to grab my DH and flee. The look in his eyes was that of an addict when they first sample whatever addiction they imbibe in. DH's eyes became transfixed upon that arch, they turned

Continued on page 14

took place, John Weiss said Springfield was interested in talking with us about coming to their city. We got on a plane, flew out and had an extremely productive meeting with them. Then, they sent some people to the Albuquerque event, looked it over and confirmed their idea to do it there.

The moment we met the Springfield folks, we knew they were very bright, dedicated people. It is an ideal location. I call Springfield the quintessential Hometown America. I am not sure whether they would have had a festival if we had not decided to get involved.

5) *When & where did the idea of the John Steinbeck and Cyrus Avery Awards originate?*

The idea for the John Steinbeck Award originated almost immediately after we founded the Federation. It just seemed to be essential for a preservation organization to recognize those who had contributed to the route's preservation.

But we also knew that to get serious attention paid to Route 66 and to the award, we would have to hold a major event somewhere. We chose Oklahoma City. We called the event, "The Nationwide Route 66 Celebration" and invited all the notables - Michael Wallis, Marian Clark, Bobby Troup, Martin Milner, etc. We had a wonderful program planned with the first award presentation, authentic dancers from the Cherokee Nation and a lot of other things. But it was only one evening. Then 3 weeks before it was to take place, Oklahoma City's Murrah Building was bombed. Well, we just couldn't follow that with a celebration so we cancelled it.

The cancellation actually picked up enough news coverage to get seen by the John Steinbeck Foundation. They contacted us and asked to be part of the award, as well as requesting that we change the award name to the "John Steinbeck" rather than just the 'Steinbeck' Award. They play an integral part in the decision to select the honoree.

The Cyrus Avery Award originated as preservation projects were undertaken. Both awards are recognition for a preservation job well done and will likely be the only two we will present. With the Avery, many people have a chance to be part of winning it. Our hope is that the Avery will help encourage more projects like the Odell Station. Based on the nominations this year, it has done just that.

6) *David, you were one of the main proponents of the Route 66 Corridor Act of 1999, authorizing the federal government to allocate \$10,000,000 to Route 66 projects over a ten year period. What is your assessment of the act to date?*

It is fair to say that the Federation helped create and spearhead the act but many others really went to work to get it passed. It was an exhausting, gruesome job.

It has had its high and low points. Mike Taylor is as good as it gets when it comes to directing the Corridor Act Preservation Program. But, we weren't aware after it passed that it wasn't THE LAW. It requires badgering politicians every year to get them to vote to allocate dollars for it. So, although, as you said, \$10 million was appropriated over a period of 10 years, that does not mean we will get it. Sad but true. We could get a portion of our appropriated \$1 million each year or none at all. So, we have to badger the politicians every year. In fact, a lot of our grass roots support has, naturally waned, out of frustration. We just hope we can keep it afloat because we have quite a few very deserving properties. Lately, we're starting to turn our attention to corporate America.

7) *Do you see the Route 66 Corridor Act being renewed after the year 2009, when the program sunsets?*

If it is alive and well then, its administration is supposed to be turned over to a private organization.

8) *Are you satisfied with preservation efforts along Route 66 as a whole?*

Not at all. It might just be the nature of a preservationist not to be satisfied but the problems are major.

When we formed the Federation, we were shocked to receive letters from people outraged at what we were trying to do. They called us all sorts of names, they thrashed us for trying to involve the government, a major magazine printed a searing editorial telling us to keep our hands off the road - it does not need preserving. Most of this has subsided but not all of it. This line of thinking has its followers and it has made sincere preservation efforts needlessly difficult.

There are still landmarks being torn down and roadbed being torn up. A good part of preservation is education, and I wish we could do a better job of educating everyone to the fact that Route 66 is an important part of our heritage. And, once a stretch

Continued on page 16

ALBUQUERQUE'S KIMO THEATRE



Postcard view of Central Avenue with Kimo sign on left.

A BRIEF HISTORY

This is a history about the KiMo Theatre in downtown Albuquerque, New Mexico. The KiMo is located at 423 Central Avenue NW, which is located on the 1937 alignment of Route 66 through the city.

The KiMo Theatre opened as a motion picture/vaudeville palace on September 19, 1927, one year after Route 66 was born, but 10 years before Central Avenue became the alignment of Route 66 through the city. 1927 was the year of the first talkie "The Jazz Singer" starring Al Jolson. Picture palaces were all the rage and any town that was any town boasted one of these architectural marvels. The KiMo's particular style came to be known as pueblo deco, a fusion of popular art deco elements and Indian motifs of the Southwest. At a time when movie palaces were being constructed with exotic themes, the KiMo was from its name "king of its kind".

Oreste Bachechi came to the United States in 1885 and established a bar in a tent located near the railroad tracks in Albuquerque. As his fortunes expanded along with the city's growth he became a liquor dealer and proprietor of grocery store while his wife Maria operated a dry goods store in the Elms Hotel. Bachechi's involvement with movies happened around 1919 when his Bachechi Amusement Association operated the Pastime theatre with partner Joe Barnett. By 1925

however, he decided to achieve "an ambition, a dream" to build his own theatre — a theatre that would surpass the Greek temple/Chinese pavilion examples of contemporary movie mania.

Bachechi's vision for a unique Southwestern theatre was commissioned to designer Carl Boller of the Los Angeles Boller Brothers architectural firm. The Bollers had designed the wild-west-rococo style theatre in San Antonio, Texas and a Spanish cathedral cum Greco-Babylonian interior in St. Joseph, Missouri. Carl Boller traveled extensively throughout the Southwest, visiting the pueblos of Acoma and Isleta, and the Navajo nation. After months of research, he submitted a watercolor rendering of the theatre's interior that pleased Oreste Bachechi. The interior included plaster ceiling beams textured to look like logs painted with Indian symbols, air vents camouflaged as Navajo rugs, panoramic murals depicting the Seven Cities of Cibola, chandeliers shaped like war drums and funerary canoes, wrought iron birds descending the stairs, and square column capitols adorned with bearded (rope garland) steer skulls with eerie, glowing amber eyes.

Each chosen design has a historical significance — rain clouds, birds, even the Navajo swastikas which are symbols for life, freedom, and the happiness and loosely interpreted as the four winds or the four elements, earth, wind, fire, and water. Choosing colors was equally time consuming. The Indian vocabularies meant red as the life giving sun, white the approaching morning, yellow the West's setting sun, and black the forbidding clouds in the north sky. Superlative compliments to the various motifs throughout the theatre are the seven mezzanine murals painted by Carl Von Hassler, who spent months on platforms and scaffolding painstakingly executing his vision of the "Seven Cities of Cibola" — cities of gold and wealth that the Spanish conquistadors believed existed in New Mexico. In reality, the murals depict various Indian pueblos within and around the state. Unfortunately, one mural was lost in the numerous years the theatre has undergone changes and renovations. An artist's small rendering of what it may have looked like hangs on the barren wall.

The balcony which spans the entire east-west width of the

Continued on page 22

of it or a vintage motel or diner along it is gone, it's gone forever. You can't clone it in a theme park. It is heartbreaking for us to see this continue.

- 9) *What do you see as the biggest challenge, or the project that desperately needs to be saved, along the Route 66 Corridor today?*

One of the first projects we took on was Arizona's Crozier Canyon and we are still closely involved with it. Recently, we were able to get the Hualapi tribe involved. This is arguably, the most scenic stretch of the route. This canyon was captured in paintings used by the Santa Fe in their ads in the early 20's to bring people west

on their trains. They felt the canyon best depicted the beauty of the west.

Much of the land is owned privately and is now being stripped of its rocks leaving just ugly dirt. The owners sell the rocks for ornamental use primarily in Las Vegas and Phoenix. It is becoming an awful sight. But Arizona citizens, including its politicians, believe a man can do what he wants with his land. The newspaper in nearby Kingman has a hands-off policy. So the day will come that this beautiful canyon will be a huge eyesore. This could never be done in California because we have learned from our forefathers.

Another is the McCook gravel pit problem. An absolute disgrace. We are still working on that, too. In fact, McCook's Mayor Gorski is scheduled to say a few words about it at the John Steinbeck Award Evening.

- 10) *How can people get information about, or get involved with the preservation efforts of the National Route 66 Federation?*

We are very easy to find. They can find out all about us at our website www.national66.org, they can call or fax us at 818-352-7232 or write us at P. O. Box 423, Tujunga, CA 91043.

glassy and I swear I saw drool streaming from his smiling lips. He was so awestruck I think a Vegas girlie show could have taken place in front of him and he would not have noticed. I watched him in amazement. Then, "Oh My Goodness!" the parade of cars started. One by one they passed under that arch. People were waving and clapping as they drove slowly around the town square. A parade of cars, antiques, classics, sports cars, family sedans, even mini-vans passed by for viewing. There was no special requirement to be in the parade. Just the love of the "Mother Road" was enough. I knew in an instant by the look on my DH's face this too was my future!

Returning home, for nearly three weeks, no more was said about that day. Little did I know my wonderful, funny, loving, caring, handsome, computer illiterate, DH had

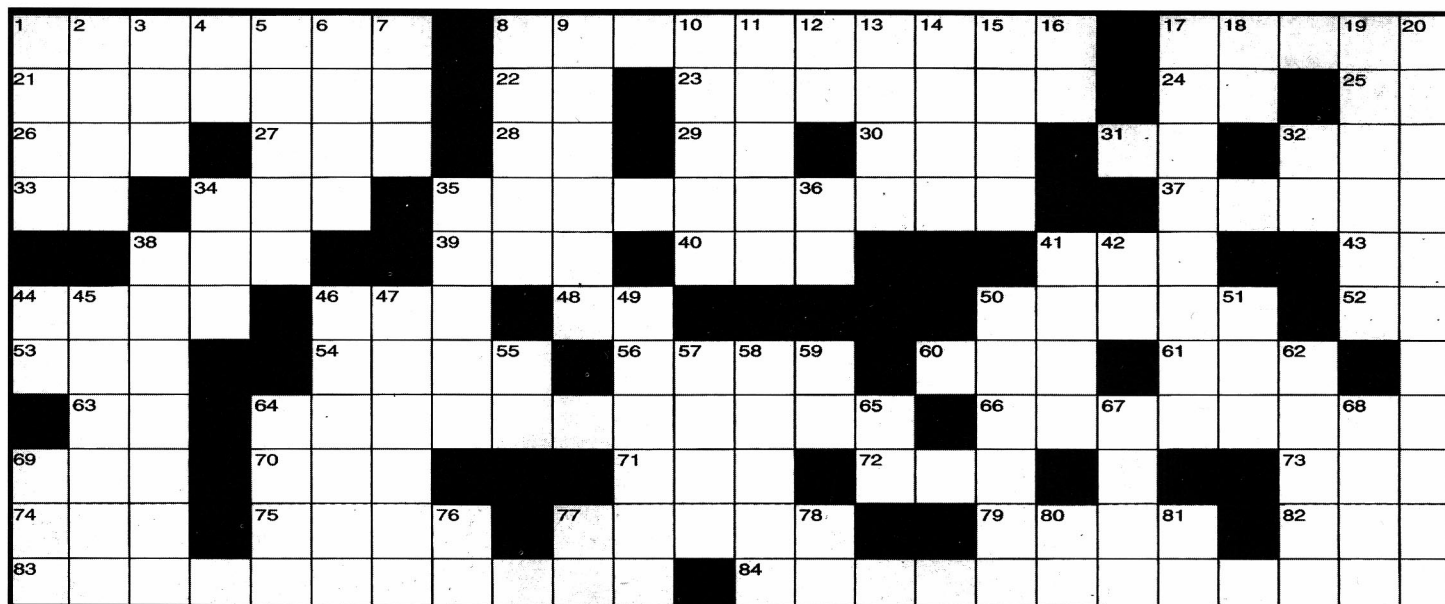
been on the Internet consuming everything he could detect on Route 66. After we went to sleep for the night, or at least I thought it was "we", he would rise from his sleep much like a zombie from a grave and make his way to the computer. He would log on half in a daze and search the World Wide Web for any and all information he could find on the subject of Route 66. Alas, he found "The page." The website for the Route 66 Association of Illinois. I will never forget this day. This is also the day I found out he was not the computer illiterate that I thought he was. I found out not only did he make his way surfing the World Wide Web, he also learned about printers, which is another subject altogether. He thinks printing out everything he downloads is fun! This is the same man who nearly has a seizure because we turn on the air conditioner when it's

merely in the 90's outside. DH now finds that replacing an ink cartridge at the cost of \$6,000,000.00 a pop isn't expensive at all. Oh all right I exaggerated, but you get my point!

His obsession continued into the fall of the year. As he browsed the Route 66 Association of Illinois website he found an application for membership. Mistake #2, my first instinct when he suggested "we" should join this association was NO! I however did not follow my instincts. Instead, being the loving, supportive wife that I am, I said, 'Sure, sounds like fun!' With a flash, I heard the printer churning and grinding away, dot after dot this application was printing. Voila! Through the magic of the Internet, he produced a clear crisp clean paper copy of the application. He filled it out, whipped out the check-book, wrote out the check,

GET YOUR KICKS ON THIS ROUTE 66 CROSSWORD PUZZLE

I received this puzzle in the mail from Randy & Carol Wierzgac and they asked to see if this puzzle could be inserted in our newsletter. This was printed in Reminisce magazine in the fall of 1994. I contacted the magazine to get permission to reprint it, and they instructed me to contact Gregory McNamee from Tuscon, Arizona who submitted the puzzle to Reminisce magazine originally. Gregory was very pleased to allow us to print this puzzle. I wish to thank Gregory for allowing our readers to get their kicks with this Route 66 crossword puzzle. The answers are on page (22)



ACROSS:

1. Where Route 66 begins
2. Where Route 66 ends
17. Oklahoma midway stop along Route 66
21. Delta or Continental, e.g
22. Right ____ way
23. Gable's Route 66 companion
24. Word Perfect (abbr.)
25. "Et ____ Brute"
26. B&O, AT&SF, etc. (abbr.)
27. Unpaved road plus rain equals ____
28. Fantastic literary genre (abbr.)
29. New Haven's state to the P.O.
30. Semi-common sight on Route 66
31. "____ and behold"
32. Wrestler's need
33. Lawrence Seaway
34. Affirmative
35. Prenatal periods
37. The plain along Route 66, to a New Mexican
38. Not good
39. Clementine's pa looked for this
40. Fisherman's requisite
41. College transcript bottom line
43. German monetary unit
44. Not at home
46. Knight's title
48. So long to Nigel
50. Dimes, pennies, etc
52. "And ____ it goes."
53. Thousand
54. Once more
56. GI's ham
60. "A little ____ 'll do ya."

61. Tree found along much of Route 66's course
63. National League (abbr.)
64. Crossed in St. Louis
66. The Show Me State
69. 1950 Edmond O' Brien thriller
70. "____ Pogo!"
71. News organization
72. Mode of travel at Aspen
73. Roman god of the sun
74. What a senior at Annapolis becomes (abbr.)
75. Forbidden thing, to a child
77. Change
79. Orderly
82. Seasonal danger on Route 66
83. He sang 1949 hit Route 66
84. What to do on Route 66, according to 83 across

DOWN:

1. What Route 66 carries
2. Trumpeter Al ____
3. The subject of curses on 4/15
4. 150 to Caesar
5. Pointed toward
6. African antelopes
7. Famous dictionary (abbr.)
8. Visitor to Vegas, all too often
9. Make up for, as in a loss
10. Route 66's far north counterpart
11. Night to Luigi
12. One of the Big Three
13. Spanish River
14. Set down
15. Units of work
16. Where to find Mount Rushmore

17. What Route 66 has most of the way (two words)
18. "Which way is ____?"
19. Lemonade and band for two
20. Longer word for 1 Down
32. Barker or Kettle
34. A football cheer (var.)
35. Al, Tipper and the kids
36. Common pronoun
38. What a dirigible requires
41. Inner Asian desert
42. Greek letter
44. The morning hours
45. A city not to forget, according to 83 Across
46. Miss ____ (war-inspired musical)
47. "Say it ____"
49. Guess
50. Route, to Esteban
51. Road sign along Route 66 (var.)
55. State north of 66's start (abbr.)
57. One Old King Cole request
58. Imitating
59. AWOL's nemesis
62. Car radio offering, usually
64. Maxi's opposite
65. Exists
67. Something to hitch your wagon to
68. ____ Island Line
69. A ____ of thieves
76. Officer candidate
77. Jolson or Capone
78. Spanish preposition
80. Greek prefix meaning I well"
81. Typesetter's abbreviation for "material to come"

TALES FROM THE ROAD

By Ted & Marilyn Giovanazzi

If we had a Route 66 "Someone You Should Know" column, Dorothy Seratt would be the first person we would honor. She is not only an educator professionally, but also has been an educator to everyone on the Preservation Committee. Hard working, dedicated, persistent, loyal and inspiring are all words that come to mind when we think of Dorothy. It was she who was instrumental in starting the Preservation Committee, along with Frank Lozich in 1995. and her insight led John & Lenore Weiss to lead the group since 1997. **PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK DOROTHY!** We're proud to work beside you. Now, here's one of the many stories Dorothy has to tell. We look forward to many more.

GAS PUMP MYSTERIES

Bob Close started operating the Odell service station in 1952. When he took it over it was a Sinclair Oil Station, and it remained Sinclair until he stopped selling gasoline in 1967. The pumps back then in the 1950's were mostly white on the side with the logo on the front and back. This station was very much a part of Route 66, located on the original route that went through the heart of Odell, but with the advent of the

four lane bypass in 1946, did not do as much business as it had once had. A good part of the customers were local people who came out to fill up change the oil, fix a tire, or maybe get a little work done on the car. A lot of the husbands would sit around and visit while the wives were shopping and visiting in town. The station was a community gathering place, that part of Americana that we have lost over the years.

There would be times when Bob would have to leave the station unattended to go to town to get lunch, run to the bank or some other chore. If a local customer pulled in while he was gone, no problem. Just get out of the car and help yourself. Bob probably was one of the first people with self-service and didn't even know it. So you wonder how these people would pay for their gas if Bob wasn't there. Simple! They would just jot down their name and how many gallons they drew on the side of the gas pump with a pen left out there for that purpose. Later in the week when they had the time, they would stop in and pay Bob what they owed him, and he would wipe their name off the pump. This was a friendly and accurate way of keeping track of business and there was never a problem with it. Bob didn't believe that he had ever not been paid

One day while Bob was uptown having lunch, a representative from the Sinclair Oil Company stopped by to visit and check on the station as they did from time to time. This gentleman was new to the route, so he was a little surprised to find the station unmanned in the middle of the day. He then saw the "Gone to Lunch" sign in the window, and decided to stick around and wait for Bob to get back. Well, he got tired of just sitting around and he noticed the dirt, or so he thought all over the side of one of the gas pumps. He decided to make himself useful, and got a wet rag and cleaned that gas pump to a sparkly shine, not knowing that he had just erased about a week's worth of lunchtime sales. When Bob got back, he was a little upset, to say the least. Knowing Bob now, 40 years or so after the incident and maybe a little mellowed, I wouldn't have wanted to hear what he had to say that day.

I'm happy to say that as far as anyone can figure, he was paid for all the gasoline that was sold. When people came in, they knew what they had taken, and paid their bill, even though Bob had no way of knowing who bought gas, or how much they bought

Dorothy Seratt, Odell, Illinois

Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Illinois County (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Interests in Route 66: _____

How I can help: _____

Annual Dues

General:	\$15
Family:	\$25
Business:	\$30
Foreign:	\$35
Lifetime:	\$200

U.S. funds only, please
\$10 fee for returned checks

Send to:

Membership
Route 66 Assn. of Illinois
2743 Veterans Pkwy., Room 166
Springfield, IL 62704
Membership runs May 1 - April 30

Send address changes and questions to Membership at the address above or e-mail changes to blitz66@chicagonet.net

ROUTE 66 ELVIS ACROSS AMERICA ROADATHON 2002 OR HUNKA HUNKA BURNING LOVE!

By Kathy Miller the Mother Road Widow - Self-Proclaimed, Entertainment Reporter

Friday night June 28th Mark W. Curran kicked off his "Route 66 Elvis Across America Roadathon 2002"



Front row left to right - Kathy, Barb, Bob
Back row left to right - Mark and John

Mark W. Curran will drive across Route 66 West from Chicago on a 30-day whirlwind tour as an Elvis impersonator, performing at stops along the way to celebrate the Mother Road. Mark's goal is to bring about an awareness of Route 66 from the unique perspective of an Elvis Presley impersonator. Mark has venues lined up along Route 66 where he will donate proceeds to the State Associations of which he is performing. For information visit Mark's website at www.bookelvis.com

His entrance was performed with grandeur. The lights dimmed, and then the soft low hum of the familiar Elvis theme music started. The crowd sat with anticipation.

Behold! Out of the darkness with his glittered jacket sparkling in the lights, entered Elvis! The crowd roared!

Just moments before at the Chicken Basket in Willowbrook, Illinois who was host to this kickoff event on stage performing live, was Mark W. Curran. Mark played original songs from his newly released CD entitled "From the Heart", hoping to raise money and bring about an awareness of the Mother Road, Route 66, Mark played his songs with heart and soul. Mark's original music ranged from soft ballads to a rocking new theme song he wrote for Route 66 called "Route 66 Rock". His performance on stage is personal and vibrant. The crowd listened, applauded and then swarmed the stage to purchase his CD. I had the luxury of buying the first CD he sold. Of course I had to trample over unsuspecting fans to

make my way to the front of the line, but it was worth it.

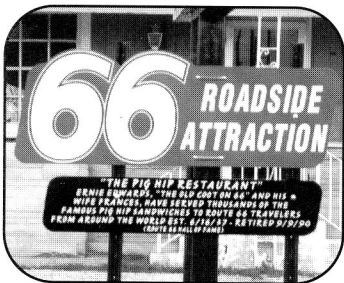
I also had the honor of being his road crew technical person and started his theme music for him. Mark is a one-man show and needed a little assistance. Luckily for Mark I only briefly mixed up which button to push.

Elvis aka Mark swiveled his hips and sang with a throaty sound that filled the room. The crowd sat transfixed at Elvis on stage that was brought back to life for 40 minutes. Two lovely ladies were lucky enough to be donned with the trademark silk scarf as they swooned at Elvis' feet.

A fun night for all who witnessed Mark transform into Elvis! Mark's second stop in Illinois was on Saturday the 29th of June with a free concert at the courthouse square at 8 p.m. in downtown Pontiac.

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE WORK CONTINUES

By John Weiss



Roadside Attraction sign at Pig-Hip in Broadwell

On April 13, a group of 14 members had a work session at the Odell station. (It seems we never run out of things to do.) We accomplished a lot of important projects.

We also ate very well with food and drinks donated by Bev Seal, Casey's General Store and Pour Richard's Restaurant. Our new motto should be "Will work for food!" We are fortunate to have so many donations of food and drinks for our deserving volunteers.

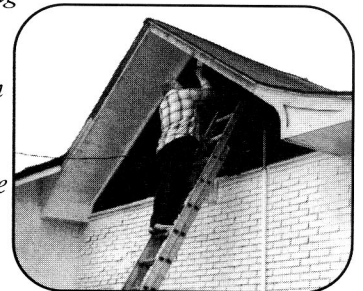
The Odell crew consisted of Bev & Ed Seal, Dorothy Seratt, Frank Kalembe, Bill Gwodz, Greg Andersen, Lenny & Delores Scinto, Ted Giovanazzi, Bob Newberry, Larry Boyd, Nate Seratt, and John & Lenore Weiss.

On April 27 and May 18 work continued on the Riviera Street Car. Little by little, this historic structure is taking shape. At both of these work days, Peggy Kraft of the Riviera prepared a huge feast for all of us. I'm beginning to wonder if everyone

volunteers to preserve history or for the great food we receive!

Our volunteers on April 27 were Larry Scinto, Ted Giovanazzi, Lou Vargo, and John Weiss. On May 18 our helpers were Ted Giovanazzi, Larry Scinto, Dorothy Seratt, Larry Boyd, Jack & Marge Hettwer and John Weiss. Local resident Tom Perkins is still helping us. Remember, he is the fellow who along with his sons raised the streetcar and put it on a solid foundation. Since then, Tom has been making custom windows to replace those missing or rotted out. Without his help, we would not be able to work on this project. We all owe Tom a hearty thank you!

We are always looking for volunteers. Don't be shy, feel the pride. Come help us save pieces of history for our generation and the many generations that will learn from what we preserve now. Call John at 815-458-6616 for information.



Frank Kalembe doing some painting

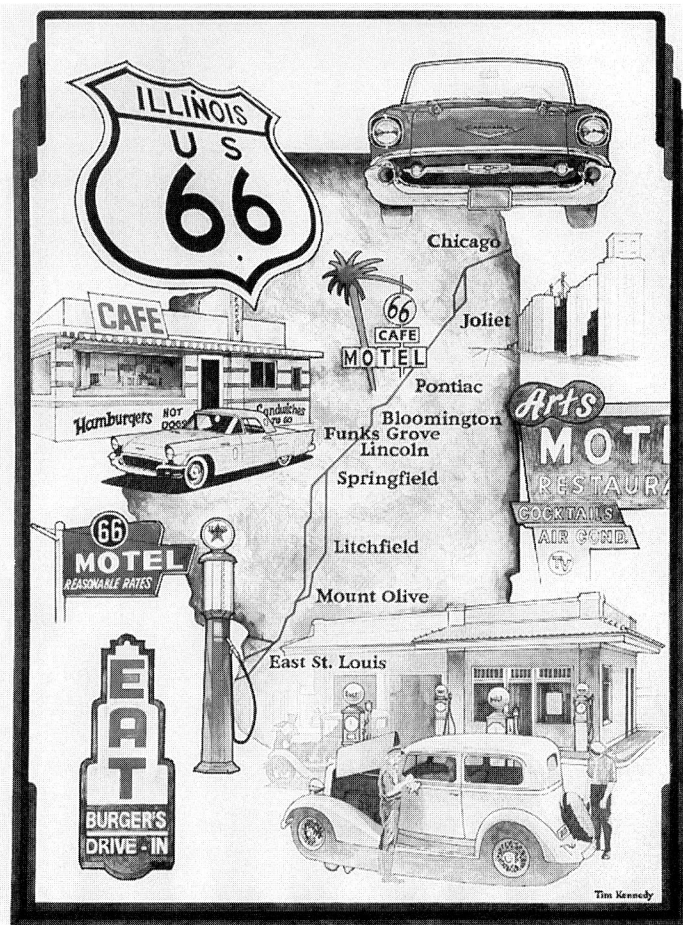
stuffed it all in an envelope, stamped it, and out the door he headed. It was as if he thought the sooner he brought it to the mailbox the sooner it would make it to Springfield, Illinois (where the association headquarters resides.) I watched in amazement as he ran out the door and jumped in his car and headed off. I wondered if he thought some magic post office genie would appear in the middle of the night and pick up the mail to hand deliver this application for him. Did I mention this was at 2 a.m. on a weeknight? He had awoken me from a sound sleep to ask me, "Honey? How do I print from the internet?" To which I had lovingly replied, "What are you goofy? It's 2 a.m. let me sleep!" But when he looked at me in with the light reflecting off of his head, looking like a halo, oh, did I mention he's bald? Anyway, when he looked at me with those great big puppy dog eyes, looking so lost and confused how could I refuse him the help he needed? So, once I opened my eyes, I slid out of my bed, put on my fuzzy ducky slippers and schlepped into the family room, propped myself up at the keyboard of our computer. DH looked at me again, this time the halo seemed more like devil horns to me, and with those same puppy dog eyes and an added grin from his salivating lips said to me, "But I want to do it!" So I pulled up a chair and sat beside him leaning on him every once in a while when I would nod off until he finished printing. The moment he ran out the door and I thought to myself, "this man has a problem!" I was so right!

Weeks went by and nothing, no mail from the association. He would walk in the door and no longer say to me, "Honey, I'm home." it would be, "Any mail for me? Anything from the association?" When I responded "No" to DH it would then set the tone for the evening. I am sure you have all dealt with a man that pouts. Ten fold this and you have DH. You would have thought that Ed McMahon had pulled in front of our house, headed up our walkway to award us the million dollars and at the last minute said, "Gotcha! Just kidding!" then goes off to the house next-door to award them your money. This is how disappointed this otherwise mentally healthy man was each and every day.

On the day the membership card finally arrived, I debated whether to tell him or hide it and prolong his agony. You have to understand, by this time I was sick of the Route 66 obsession he was showing evidence of having. I decided prolonging his agony would not be the wise thing to do and would even be an extremely cruel treatment to bestow upon the father of my children. So instead, I waited for him with the garage door open holding the envelope that contained his membership card. As I saw him approach, I stepped outside and waved it at him. He actually sped up the speed of the car, loose gravel shooting up from under the tires as he sped down our alley way. He would have made a funny car at a drag strip look like slow motion. I am sure he broke a new land speed record. Slamming on the breaks, as he missed me by a hair stopping inches from me, he jammed

the car in park, jumped out, ripped the envelope from my hand, and tore it open. I think I saw tears of joy trickling down his flushed cheek. Happy would not be adequate in describing his mood. Euphoria might come close. It was as if the man had died and gone to heaven arriving at the pearly gates with Saint Peter never asking him about the time he, well never mind that too is another story. He was waving the membership card high in the air; I believe I even heard him shout, "YAHOO" as he showed his name on the members name line. He pulled it back down from the air and put the card to his lips and kissed it! Can you believe it? He kissed that dang card. He then ran into our home and phoned his mother, both of his brothers, his best friend, my best friend, his boss, my boss, my bosses boss, all of our living relatives on both sides of the family, thirty members of "The Mormon Tabernacle Choir", and I think all of the neighbors within a 20 mile radius to tell them all he was now a registered, card carrying member of The Route 66 Association of Illinois. And then, the final blow, I watched in disbelief as I saw him open his wallet and place the picture of our children sitting on his car with our dog, all his most loved possessions in the world behind his new best friend "The Membership Card."

This is my friends, is a man obsessed! And I my friends am now officially "The Mother Road Widow!"



OWN THIS CLASSIC PIECE OF ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 ART

This one-of-a-kind piece of Mother Road art has been on exhibit in only one location - the Route 66 Tourist Information Center in Hamel, Illinois. Now you can have one for your very own!

This beautiful reproduction of a Tim Kennedy original watercolor has been carefully printed according to the artist's specifications on high-quality, acid-free poster stock and is suitable for framing.

The finished work is 22"x 28" and sells for \$10.00 each. Delivered to you in reinforced tubing, the print is available in quantities of up to 3 posters per tube. Shipping charge per tube is \$5.00. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

Illinois Route 66 Art - Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Route 66 Prints

_____ x \$10.00 = _____

Shipping & Handling

\$5.00 (per tube) = _____

Please Pay this Amount: _____

Make Checks or Money Orders payable to:

Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project, Inc.

C/o CITDO

700 E. Adams

Springfield, IL

Also available in our online store at www.illinoisroute66.com



**Route 66 Café Pub
Cortona, Italy**

Our readers are on the lookout for places off Route 66 where they encounter businesses with a Route 66 theme. From Howard Hay of Lake Bluff, Illinois comes the following letter and photo.

Howard writes: 'I have always enjoyed reading in "The 66 News" about the

many places and things associated with or named referring to Route 66. Enclosed is a picture others might also enjoy.

WHERE IN THE WORLD? - PART 2

Much to my surprise when my wife and I were vacationing in Italy last May we came across this Route 66 Café Pub Restaurant. As you can see, it was on Via Nazionale Street in Cortona, Italy. Unfortunately, they were closed and we were unable to get any information about the restaurant. A local resident told us it was the one day of the week they were closed but they had very good food."

Thank you Howard for your submission. This just also goes to show how popular Route 66 is in foreign countries as well. Keep looking for those Route 66 places off the beaten path so I can showcase "Where in the World? Part 3" in a future issue.

Answers for Puzzle on Page 17



**Award Winner
for best preservation
project at
Roadie Gathering
in Vega, Texas — more details
next issue.**



Continued from page 15. . . **ALBUQUERQUE KIMO**

theatre and has no underneath supports, was designed to give and sway to a capacity crowd — and it can drop four to eight inches in the process. For all its ornate detail, the theatre's construction was completed in less than one year.

In advance of opening night festivities, the New Mexico State Tribune reported that performers included "numerous prominent tribesmen of the Southwest who will perform for the audience mystic rites never before seen on a stage." And on that grand opening night, an overflow crowd watched dances by Native Americans from nearby pueblos. The Isleta Pueblo Governor Pablo Abeita won a \$50 prize, a considerable sum at the time, for naming the theatre KiMo, a combination of two words literally meaning "mountain lion", but more literally translated to mean "king of its kind!"

Over the years, hundreds of performers and actors have graced the KiMo stage and screen, some gaining superstar celebrity status, like Vivian Vance (Ethel Mertz from I Love Lucy!), exotic dancer Sally Rand, Gloria Swanson, cowboy Tom Mix, and Ginger Rogers, who did everything Fred Astaire did but backwards and in heels!, to name a few.

The KiMo fell into disrepair, when the great exodus from the American downtown was experienced in Albuquerque. Fortunately in 1977, the City of Albuquerque purchased the theatre, and saved it from further deterioration, and placed it on the National Register of historic Places. The latest renovation came in 1998 and cost approximately \$1.6 million dollars. Among the improvements came new seating, carpeting, adherence to tighter ADA standards, mural restorations, extensive cleaning, and a complete reconstruction of the ornate proscenium arch which was destroyed by a fire in 1963.

The theatre reopened in September 2000 and remains unique in the entire world a sparkling jewel on the enchanted cityscape. It is still used for its original purpose live stage performances and movies. Rumored to be haunted, it's the spirit of the lively arts that reside within its historic walls.

2002 marks the 75th anniversary of the KiMo Together with its close neighbor Route 66; they share the spotlight on Central Avenue in the heart of downtown Albuquerque. To find out more about the KiMo, you can call the theatre office at (505) 848-1370 or visit their website at www.cabq.gov/kimo.

IN OTHER NEWS

Good News for the Route 66 Association of Illinois! The association has set up a Route 66 memorabilia display in the newly refurbished Funks Grove rest area on Interstate 55 between the McLean and Shirley intersections. About the first of May, Ollie Schwallenstecker was contacted by Dave Washkowiak, IDOT District #3 Architectural Engineer, who inquired if the association would like to set up a display in one of two large display areas of the building. The other display is planned for information about Illinois' famous Civil War President, Abraham Lincoln. Ollie had no choice but to say "YES!!!" Dave had obtained Ollie's name and phone number from a 2002 Motor Tour flyer he had found. Association President Jeff LaFollette and association founder, Tom Teague, were immediately contacted to get approval and start the project.

The Odell Station now has a driveway like it originally had. This also provides a great photo opportunity with your car. Also, be sure the next time you are in Odell to visit Pour Richard's Restaurant and Tap. They now have a fabulous mural of the historic Standard Station in the dining room.

The French **THANK YOU AMERICA** tour kicked off in Los Angeles on July 18 and concluded on August 8 in New York City. In between the 44 Citroen cars traversed Route 66 from Los Angeles to Chicago. A stop was made by the group in Atlanta on August 2nd. I apologize for not having more information in this issue, because of the timing of this issue going to press, but we will have a full article on their travel through Illinois along Route 66 in the winter 2002 issue of "The 66 News".

This neat little story was submitted

by Bill & Barb Gwodz of Downers Grove, Illinois.

On a recent "spruce-up" trip to the gas station in Odell we were greeted by two tourists. One of them was **Robert Hoss, 80 years old** and a resident of Dwight since he was 16. He gave us Route 66 buttons which he makes at his own expense. He purchased the press for \$450 and drives to LaSalle for the parts. He said he has a lot of memories of Route 66, one of them being the Odell gas station where he gassed up on his way to the Old Hill Tavern. He is happy to see the renewed interest in the old road. Using a cane and being on dialysis may be slowing him down a bit, but it hasn't stopped him from wanting to do his part in preserving the road. Way to go Robert!!

The other tourist was **Jim, a bicyclist from California**, who was very impressed with our "Labor of Love" gas station. Jim is making a 13,000 to 15,000 mile, one year bicycle journey around the perimeter of the United States. One of his companions, Myron is 70 years old and upon his completion of the journey will be entered into the Guinness Book of World Records as being the oldest person to have ridden the perimeter of the United States. They left California in January and some of their stops have been in Texas, Key West, Florida, Bar Harbor, Maine, and of course, Odell, Illinois where they were spending the night in the city park, compliments of the village of Odell. Their journey can be followed at www.biketrip2002.com

They feel we live in the greatest country in the world and are enjoying meeting many wonderful people along the way. Exactly our feelings as we travel Route 66.

LATE BREAKING NEWS!!!! Governor George Ryan recently signed the permanent Illinois Route 66 license plate bill into law. There are still details to be worked out, and there will be more information forthcoming in a future issue

READERS TURN TO RESPOND

By Jeff LaFollette

This may be the first time ever that a poll question has appeared in "The 66 News". The subject of this poll is Route 66 license plates. Your responses will help us in future planning for special event license plates. All readers are encouraged to respond, and those of you who have purchased special event license plates in the past are especially encouraged to respond.

The State of Illinois is currently in the process of passing legislation creating a permanent Route 66 license plate. Would you purchase a permanent Route 66 license plate even with the added fees that a special plate incurs?

If you were to purchase a permanent Route 66 license plate, would you continue to purchase special event license plates for our annual motor tour event?

Please respond either yes, no, or not sure to these questions. Please respond by no later than October 15, 2002. Mail your responses to: Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 S. Veterans Parkway # 166 Springfield, IL 62704. Or you can e-mail your responses to AJon66@aol.com. Poll results will appear in the winter 2002 edition of the newsletter. Thank you in advance for your response.

MORE DONATIONS FOR PRESERVATION

By John Weiss

A big thank you to the most recent donors to Route 66 preservation projects. John Ruh of Chicago sent a very generous cash donation. Jennifer Brown of Romeoville provided two complete postage art prints. One was auctioned off and resulted in \$330.00. Lou & Bud Vandiver of Champaign have donated several Route 66 collectibles. Two were auctioned recently raising \$130.00.

We also received items from Andrea Woodside, Marge Hettwer, the Giovanazzi and Scinto families. These items were auctioned off at the last preservation meeting resulting in another \$80.00. The Odell station received a fully restored original hydraulic jack from Randy Wierzgac, and additional items were donated by Jeff & Annette LaFollette and Dorothy Seratt. Added to this list are Bill & Barb Gwodz. They donated a fabulous oil pump and numerous gas cans and containers. I am so very proud of these wonderful generous people. We cannot forget to acknowledge the generosity of those who bid on these auctioned items. These folks are terrific! And finally a tip of the hat to all of you who put a few dollars into our donation jugs. As long as we all keep working together, nothing can stop us. THANK YOU!

SPEAKING IN PLATES



Rich Henry of Staunton, Illinois has issued a unique challenge to our newsletter readers. He has sent in pictures of SIX, yes six Route 66 license plates he has displayed on the vehicles he owns. This may be tough to beat. Rich has thrown down the gauntlet. Anybody out there got SEVEN? Send me pictures, and we'll see if you can topple Rich as the king of Route 66 license plates.

And a late breaking plate sighting! While in St. Louis on July 27 for a Cardinals-Cubs game. Annette & I left our hotel and crossed the street close to Busch Stadium I spotted a Missouri plate that read KXON66. And to boot it was a Missouri St. Louis Cardinals plate. Ironically it was on a Chevy Monte Carlo, like one that is sporting an Iowa KIXON66 plate. Too bad we didn't have our camera, and the car was traveling down the street. Maybe next time.

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS



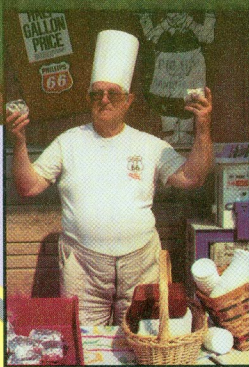
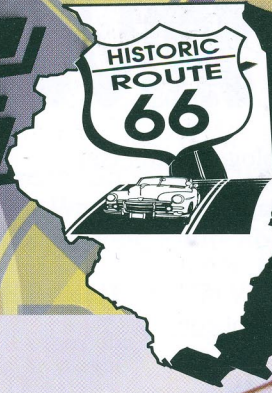
2743 Veterans Parkway, #166
Springfield, IL 62704

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lincoln, IL
Permit No. 66

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE NEWS

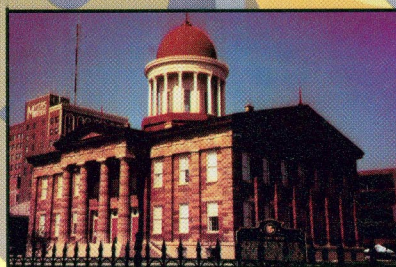
WINTER 2002



**CRUISIN' THE
MOTHER ROAD**



**AWESOME
DAY**



**RT 66 FEST
OLD STATE
CAPITOL**

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The Route 66 Association of Illinois is a not-for-profit organization. Its purpose is to preserve, promote, educate and help people enjoy the road in this state. Officers and board members are available at most reasonable times to answer questions and hear comments about Route 66. Please feel free to contact them when you need to. The date to the right of each person's name is when his or her term expires.

PRESIDENT

Jeff LaFollette, 10-03
2351 Highway 130
New Liberty, IA 52765
563-893-6653
E-Mail: AJon66@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

John Miller, 10-04
14828 San Francisco Ave.
Posen, IL 60469
708-389-3823
E-Mail: kixonrte66@hotmail.com

TREASURER

Martin Blitstein, 10-04
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-444-1312 • Fax 708-444-1315
E-Mail: blitz66@chicagonet.net

SECRETARY

Cathie Stevanovich, 10-03
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-444-1312
E-Mail: cathiesb@earthlink.net

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Kathy Miller, 10-03
14828 San Francisco Ave.
Posen, IL 60469
708-389-3823
E-Mail: Kathleen7081@home.com

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

John Weiss, Chairman
22550 W. Rt. 113
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-458-6616
E-Mail: KAYO66@aol.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jeff LaFollette
2351 Highway 130
New Liberty, IA 52765
563-893-6653
E-Mail: AJon66@aol.com

Photo Credits this issue:

John Weiss, Annette LaFollette, Marty Bilecki
Robert Gehl, Bill & Bonnie DeMaster
Jim Jones, Steve Slocum

Magazine designed by

Creative Images Center, Geneseo, IL

BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Meyer, **Cook**, 10-03
2802 Fremont St.
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008
847-392-0860
E-Mail: rt66roadologist@attbi.com

Bill Gwodz, **DuPage**, 10-04
9 S. 588 Main St
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-910-3422
E-Mail: BBGX2@aol.com

Larry Boyd, **Will**, 10-03
733 Fairlane Dr.
Joliet, IL 60435-5155
815-725-2457
E-Mail: Boydgrt@aol.com

Marty Bilecki, **Grundy**, 10-03
4200 Bargo Lane
Morris, IL 60450
815-941-3312

James R. Jones, **Livingston**, 10-04
842 S. Walnut St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-5657
E-Mail: ng9e@route24.net

Fran Turgeon, **McLean**, 10-04
111 Meadow Creek Court
Lexington, IL 61753
309-365-9006
E-Mail: fturgeon@mtco.com

Ernie Edwards, **Logan**, 10-03
101 W. Oak St.
Broadwell, IL 62634
217-732-2337

John Murphy, **Sangamon**, 10-04
P.O. Box 500
Pawnee, IL 62558
217-625-7183
E-Mail: jjmurphy@family-net.net

Tonya Flannery, **Montgomery**, 10-03
120 E. Ryder St.
Litchfield, IL 62056
217-324-5253
E-Mail: flannery94@hotmail.com

MACOUPIN

Oliver Schwallenstecker, 10-04
620 E. Warren St., Box 477
Bunker Hill, IL 62014
618-585-3081
E-Mail: mt_ollie@madisontelco.net

Judy Schwallenstecker, **Madison**, 10-04
620 E. Warren St. Box 477
Bunker Hill, IL 62014
618-585-3081
E-Mail: mt_ollie@madisontelco.net

Gary A. Adkins, **St. Clair**, 10-04
4938 Itaska St. Apt. A
St. Louis, MO 63109-2911
314-832-2536
E-Mail: papajoad66@mymailstation.com

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Louis Vargo, 10-03
14911 Richmond Ave
Posen, IL 60469
708-339-3640

Duke Cartwright, 10-04
407 Pasadena Ave.
Crest Hill, IL 60435
815-726-3574
E-Mail: dukecartwright@mediaone.net

Robert Gehl, 10-03
1667 Timber Ridge Estates Dr.
Wildwood, MO 63011-1971
636-458-2244
E-Mail: rgehl66@earthlink.net

Lynn Bagdon, 10-04
P.O. Box 313
Aurora, IL 60507
630-531-4577
E-Mail: lulupic66@aol.com

Jeff Geisler, 10-03
814 W. 61st St.
LaGrange Highlands, IL 60525
708-354-8746
E-Mail: Route66Railfan@msn.com

Executive Committee:

The officers, plus Jeff Geisler
and James R. Jones

Association Website: <http://www.il66assoc.org>

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

The Association publishes The 66 News in March, June September & December as a service to its members, other people and related organizations. Contributions are welcome, but we do not pay. However, authors retain all copyright privileges. Submit all stories, photos and ads at least six weeks prior to publication. Address contributions and inquiries to Newsletter Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2743 Veterans Parkway, Room 166, Springfield, IL 62704. **Advertising Rates:** \$100 for a whole page, \$60 for a half page, \$40 for a quarter page and \$25 for a business card ad. Send camera ready copy only.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Since our membership drive began in April we have added 114 new members to the Association membership rolls. We extend a warm welcome to the following individuals, families, and businesses to the growing Route 66 Association of Illinois family.

ILLINOIS INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY

Dean & June Ammon, Collinsville
James Angove, Hanover Park
Joe Baldin, Springfield
Peggy Barting, Springfield
Brad Beall, Lockport
Frederick Bell Jr., Downers Grove
Corrine Bolhouse, Monee
Charles Brenner, Macomb
Stu & Beverly Brown, Seneca
James & Betty Bunting, Dwight
Joe Burdi, Lemont
Wendell & Barb Campbell, Silvis
Ken Czerwinski, Northlake
Kirk Dongu, Charleston
Rick & Joyce Ebben, Joliet
Hugh Edfors, Naperville
Fred & Pat Etchill, Spaulding
Capt. Ira Feldman Family, Chicago
Tom Florian, Milan
Aldo Giannerini, Lockport
James & Elizabeth Giovannazzi, Oak Lawn
Dennis Guither, Princeton
Fred Haber, Lisle
Perry Hall, Springfield
Mary Belle Hart, Evanston
Donald Hatch Jr. Spring Grove
Frank Hellige, Breese
Patricia Herskind, Bolingbrook
Dale Johnson Family, New Lenox
Harold Kluckman, Springfield
Jim Kreiser, Springfield
Bill & Esther Kruser, Arlington Heights
Patty Kuhn, Springfield
Ann Layton, Springfield
Robert Lotito, Addison
Valerie McCaffery, Hinsdale
Rhoda Mae McMillen, South Jacksonville
Pat Mendicino, Burbank

Keith Miller, Dwight
John Montavon Jr., Sycamore
Virginia Mouton, Steger
Dale & Dorma Mueller, Bethalto
Tom Nichols, Springfield
John Nystrom, Frankfort
Nick Parisi, Orland Park
Albert Paulek Jr. Springfield
Jim & Barb Pawlikowski, Palatine
Lucille Pech, Atlanta
Joseph Pieronni, Woodstock
William & Sharon Porter, Plainfield
Glenn Preston, Jacksonville
Samuel Reichert Family, Plainfield
Bill Scales, Wilmington
Mary Ann Scinto, Chicago
Ed & Bev Seal, Odell
Milt Sees, Mount Vernon
Richard Sellon, Rock Island
Michael & Linda Shelton, Rochester
Chuck Sladek, Rock Island
Arnold Sommerfeldt, Edwardsville
Don Spires, Mundelein
Walt & Martha Stevens-Green, Virden
Carol Strader, Plainfield
Ed Suarez, Buffalo Grove
Chuck Sladek, Rock Island
Carroll Sutton, Springfield
Alice Tipton, Springfield
Ruthann Trinco, Villa Park
Fran Turgeon, Lexington
James & Sharon Waxweiler, Lockport
Willis & Marian Whitfield, Bunker Hill
Randy Wierzgac, Chicago Ridge
Rod & Sandy Wolter, Edwardsville
Jon Wullbrandt, Aurora
Michael & Patty Yates, Washington

BUSINESSES

Creative Images Center, Geneseo
De-Ja-Vu Route 66, Wilmington
Dwight Area C of C, Dwight
Midwest Digital Mapping, Cantrall
Tri-City Ramada Ltd, Pontoon Beach
Wilmington, C of C, Wilmington
Jim Kreiser, Springfield

OUT OF STATE

Fred Cain, Topeka, IN
Tony Davis, West Olive, MI
Stephen Gold, Williamston, MI
Sandra Grey, APOAE, 9112
Dianne Hunt, Redwood City, CA
Chris Lemm Sr., Genoa City, WI
Jonathan Maxwell, Cincinnati, OH
James & Susan Pack Jr., Philadelphia, PA
David Patterson, Rosholt, WI
Leonard J. Scinto, Coral Gables, FL
James & Nancy Springer, Dyer, IN
Jack Thomsen, St. Paul, MN

▼ **UPCOMING BOARD MEETING**

The next meeting of the Route 66 Association will be conducted on January 19, 2003 in Lincoln, Illinois at the Knights of Columbus Hall on 217 Limit Street. This was where the Hall of Fame Banquet was held during the 1999 Motor Tour. The board meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will conclude at noon for lunch. The General Meeting will convene at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will cost \$9.50 per person including tax. If you plan to attend please contact Jeff LaFollette and let him know how many will be attending so he can give the folks at the hall an accurate count. Contact Jeff at 563-893-6653. We will be discussing plans about preservation projects, events and many other things that we will be doing on Route 66 in 2003. Hope to see you there!

DIRECTIONS TO THE K of C HALL:

- *From the north coming in on 66, turn left at the Tropics Restaurant and follow Woodlawn St. east. The street will make a couple of curves and turn into Keokuk then Limit St. The K of C Hall is across from a large factory and the factory's parking lot is to the west of the Hall.*
- *From the south coming in on 66, turn right at the Tropics and follow the above directions.*

▼ **SEEKING HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS**

The Route 66 Association of Illinois is once again seeking Hall of Fame nominations. The winners will be inducted during our annual motor tour in June. With the new members elected for 2003, the membership count in the Hall of Fame will be approaching 60. The Hall is already the most visited Route 66 attraction in the country.

The nomination process is simple. Any person, place, business or event that helped give Route 66 such special character during the heyday of the road from 1926-1977 is eligible. Just write a short description of your nominee. Give as many details and dates as you can. Tell why you think they merit the honor. Old photos, newspaper clippings and other documentation are welcome but not necessary.

Please submit your nomination no later than February 28, 2003 to Tom Teague, Hall of Fame Director, 1208 W. Edwards Springfield, IL 62704. The Hall of Fame Committee will meet early in March to consider this year's nominees. Committee members include the Association's officers, several Hall of Famers and historians and Tom Teague who is the executive director of the Illinois State Historical Society. Winners and their nominators will be notified by mid-March.

If you have any questions, contact Tom at teague66@eosinc.com or 217-787-8839.

▼ **OCTOBER ELECTION REPORT**

Here are the results from the elections at the October 20, 2002 General Meeting, which was conducted at The Chateau in Normal. Your newly elected and re-elected officials are:

OFFICERS

Vice-President: John Miller - Posen
Treasurer: Marty Blitstein - Tinley Park

COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

DuPage: Bill Gwodz - Downers Grove
Livingston: Jim Jones - Pontiac
McLean: Fran Turgeon - Lexington
Sangamon: John Murphy - Pawnee
Macoupin: Ollie Schwallenstecker - Bunker Hill
Madison: Judy Schwallenstecker - Bunker Hill
St. Clair: Gary Adkins - St. Louis, Missouri

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Duke Cartwright - Crest Hill
Lynn Bagdon - Aurora

Jeff Meyer was appointed to fill the remainder of the term for Cook County to replace the vacancy created when John Miller was elected Vice-President. Also, Gary Adkins was elected as an at-large board member and Lynn Bagdon was appointed to fill the seat in St. Clair County. The Executive Committee convened afterward and decided that Gary should fill the position in St. Clair County since he lives in nearby St. Louis and Lynn is the at-large representative.

The Route 66 Association would like to thank the following people who have served the association well over the years. We thank them for their service and dedication to the Association.

Bill Przybylski: Bill served as Vice-President for two years from 2000-2002 and as an at-large member from 1996-2000. Bill was also co-chairman of the motor tour in 2002. We thank Bill for his time and dedication.

C.J. Beeler: C.J. was McLean County board member for six years from 1996 to 2002. C.J. is also very active with the motor tours, helping to organize the annual stop at the Dixie Truckers Home every year, and works with her husband Chuck to keep the Hall of Fame looking its best for our Route 66 guests. Thank you C.J. for your years of service.

Linda Henry: Linda served from 1996 to 2002 as the representative from Madison County. She was very instrumental in the planning of motor tour stops in Edwardsville, Staunton and Hamel. Linda also served as a member of the Executive Committee. Thank you Linda for your commitment.

Wilton Rinkel: Wilton is a Hall of Famer who has served the board admirably from St. Clair County since 1998. Wilton not only served as a board member, but also would serve up a classic Route 66 story during the General meetings when asked to. Thanks to Wilton for his time, and his stories of the road.

Marie Jibben: Marie served as an at-large board member from 2000 to 2002. Marie is a member of the Preservation Committee and also served on the By-Laws Committee. Thank you Marie for your service.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL IS A HUGE SUCCESS

One word could easily describe
the International Route 66 Festival
in Springfield on a warm weekend
in late September. **WOW!**

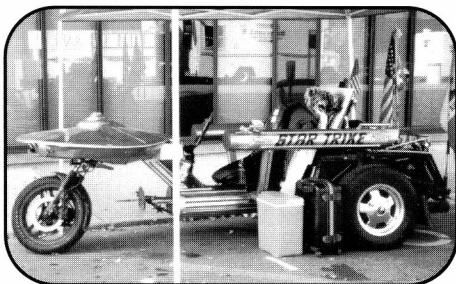


Route 66 Association Leaders and Representatives

What a fantastic event put on by the city of Springfield. Over 35,000 people attended the three day event. These numbers far exceeded projections.

Over 750 classic cars were parked in a ten square block area for the classic car show. Hampton Inn unveiled two more roadside attraction signs in Illinois, at Bill Shea's in Springfield and the Standard Gasoline Station in Odell, the latter being presented at John Steinbeck Awards.

Friday evening the cruisers participated in a cruise showing off their shiny paint and chrome machines. The John Steinbeck Award Dinner attracted 400 folks in the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Springfield. Saturday offered the first Route 66 Summit, a meeting between leaders of the eight Route 66 Associations, the Route 66 Federation, the National Park Service and Michael Wallis, and many things to see and do, like viewing the classic cars, meeting various Route 66 authors like Michael Wallis and Marian Clark and artists like



**One of the more unique ways of
arriving at the festival**



Hardly Angels Motorcycle Team



Presenting the Presidents' Award to our founders

Bob Waldmire and Ken Turmel, and the chance to meet and greet Martin Milner, the star of the classic 60's show "route 66." Route 66 cities and towns in Illinois had booths set up to promote the road in their areas. Route 66 Associations from Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico had booths set up to inform people about Route 66 in their respective

states. The Route 66 Association gave away an Illinois theme basket designed by Annette LaFollette, and the winner was Sunny Stone from Springfield. **MANY MANY** thanks to our Route 66 businesses in Illinois for their donations to the basket!

Saturday night, nearly 4,000 people attended the World's Biggest Sock Hop at the convention center to hear the sounds of Herman's Hermits, Paul Revere and the Raiders, and the Drifters. The music played on past midnight and those in attendance enjoyed it thoroughly. Sunday, the



**Jeff presents the Route 66
Theme Basket to Sunny
Stone of Springfield, Illinois**

Continued on page 23

▼ FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Jeff LaFollette

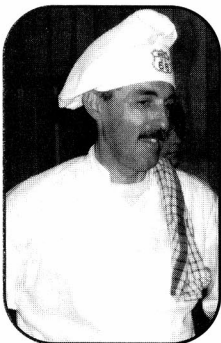
Another year is about to come to a close, but what a fantastic year it was here in Illinois. Beginning in April with more preservation work, in Odell at the Standard Station, and also at the streetcar diner behind the Riviera Restaurant. May brought us the Hampton Inn's with their "Explore the Highway" program and signage kickoff at Lou Mitchell's Restaurant in downtown Chicago, where the first of 66 Roadside Attraction signs donated by Hampton Inn's was placed. Hampton also donated 14 of the brown "Historic Route 66" signs which were placed at various sites along the road. June offered us great weather for another fantastic motor tour which had over 180 cars participating. In July, I received good news from the State of Illinois as they gave the go-ahead to print another 300,000 Route 66 maps, just in time for the big festival in September. In August, more good news came to light. First, Governor George Ryan, signed into law a bill authorizing a permanent Route 66 license plate. The Route 66 Heritage Corridor Project needs about 350 more people to sign up stating that they will purchase this plate so this project can get rolling in 2003. Also in August, the Route 66 Association of Illinois was awarded the first Route 66 Magazine "Best Preservation Award" for the Meramec Caverns Barn restoration north of Hamel. And to cap off the month, a group of French citizens, traveling in 1930's Citroen cars visited Illinois during their "Thank you America" tour and were truly impressed

with the "kindness, generosity and hospitality of the people of Illinois". Then September arrived, with a wet but still wonderful association picnic in Atlanta. And the icing on the cake was at month's end with a fantastic festival in Springfield. By all accounts, this fest was a huge success and many are looking forward to the event again in 2003. And Illinois' own John & Lenore Weiss were awarded the John Steinbeck Award during this event. Congratulations to the both of them. Then to top it all off in October, the Route 66 Welcome Center & Joliet Area Historical Museum had its grand opening.

As members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois you can be proud of the accomplishments and great events that have taken place along the road here in Illinois. People from Illinois to California have taken notice of the things we have done here and want to come to see our works for themselves. This is a tribute to everyone who is a member of the Illinois Association. It is because of all of you, our strong membership base, that we can continue to act upon our mission statement, "to preserve, promote, enjoy and educate the public about US Highway 66 in Illinois". As president, I thank you for your continued support of the Association and its activities, as we look forward to another year of preservation, events, and festivals along Route 66. I also look forward to seeing you on Route 66 and invite your comments and suggestions as well.

▼ ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION PICNIC

By Betty McLellan



Bill Thomas
Atlanta's
Master Chef

On September 15th, the Route 66 Association of Illinois held their annual picnic in Atlanta. This was the fourth time Atlanta had been honored to host this group for their picnic. In spite of the rainy Sunday morning, Bill Thomas, along with his daughter Rachel were set up with the large grill installed in the old ticket office from the Atlanta fair, waiting to begin grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. The meat, condiments, drinks and table service were furnished by the Route 66 Association of Illinois. The volunteer

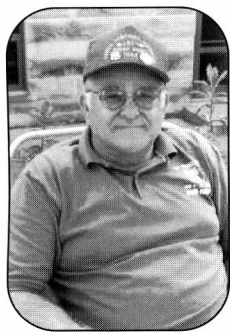
firemen had moved tables and chairs to the Atlanta Route 66 Park for use if the rain stopped in time for lunch. Billie Cheek, Lucille Pech and Betty McLellan were on hand to decorate tables in the Masonic Hall in case it didn't stop raining. As noon approached

approximately 75 people from Illinois and Iowa appeared with many good things to supplement the burgers and hot dogs. These goodies included eight kinds of homemade pies. Betty and Lucille, along with the help of Rachel Thomas and Cork Cheek wiped the rain from the tables in the park and about 10 people

Continued on page 14



Food and Fellowship at the picnic



CRUISIN' WITH OLLIE

2002 MOTOR TOUR PART 2

by Ollie Schwallenstecker

This was a Motor Tour for early risers and the early birds at Hall of Fame member Bill Shea's Gas Station Museum were treated to more beautiful Illinois June weather.

Bill greeted everyone with a big smile and his Shea family's hometown hospitality. Bill has supported the Odell Standard Gas Station restoration project while at the same time working tirelessly at improving his own family museum on Peoria Road. He's one of our strongest ambassadors, and spends a lot of time meeting and greeting the many travelers passing by on our "Mother Road". It's possible to gain a new appreciation and a new insight into the collecting of Route 66 and Gas Station memorabilia at Shea's.

Leaving Shea's, Harold and Wanda Kluckman of the Central Illinois Mustang Association escorted Judy and me to a section of the original road just south of the Sangamon River where he had lived as a small lad. He related how a little roadside restaurant with tourist cabins was located at the curve down the street from his boyhood home. It is apparent the Kluckman's have a lot of love for the "Mother Road".

Cruising across the Sangamon River and turning left at the first stop light in Sherman is located a 66 section listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Just a week before the Motor Tour, Tom Teague organized an early morning clean up session there. I rounded up two of my grandsons, rakes, shovels, a cooler of cold drinks and a weed eater. We joined up with Tom's clean-up crew and proceeded to clean off the slab, cut the weeds and remove the brush growing along both curbs. For the next two weeks the three of us, John Murphy and Dave Jostes were itching to find Tom. From now on I'll fondly remember that section of the Mother highway as "Tom Teague's Poison Ivy patch".

Williamsville "Route 66" Antiques hosted our passport stop with coffee and blueberry muffins. They even had a complete hemi-Chrysler engine from the 50's available for purchase. In the center of town, the Williamsville railroad museum and old Depot building were open for our viewing. There they have two box-cars connected side by side with displays of their town's history.

Hall of Fame member Ernie Edwards is another of our many ambassadors of good will. We never know what to expect next from Ernie. This year he had scale



Motor Tour Cars in Wilmington

copies of his famous Pig Hip restaurant made and proudly hawked them to everyone on the Motor Tour. We were pleasantly surprised to find that Ernie had also prepared a "Pig Hip" sandwich for each of the Tour participants. Yum! Yum!

When we arrived Bob Gehl was burning the Kodak film while Ernie was flexing his muscles holding up a "Pig Hip".

Chuck and C.J. Beeler of the "Dixie" greeted a parking lot full of roadies to the Association's unique Hall of Fame display. They treated us with donuts and coffee. Every one looked for the newly inducted Hall of Fame members displays just completed by Tom Teague on Friday.

After leaving the Dixie we cruised up the double nickel to visit the newly created display at the Funks Grove rest area. IDOT had just concluded a complete renovation of this historic rest area to meet the increased usage by tour busses and roadies. The association was contacted in late May and given the opportunity to design and organize a display there. We jumped at the chance and just a couple of days before this years Motor Tour, Tom was able to set it up. This rest area is one of the most used on the double nickel. When traveling up or down the state, take time to stop in and visit this newest display.

Continued on page 8



Corvette filling up at the Standard Station in Odell

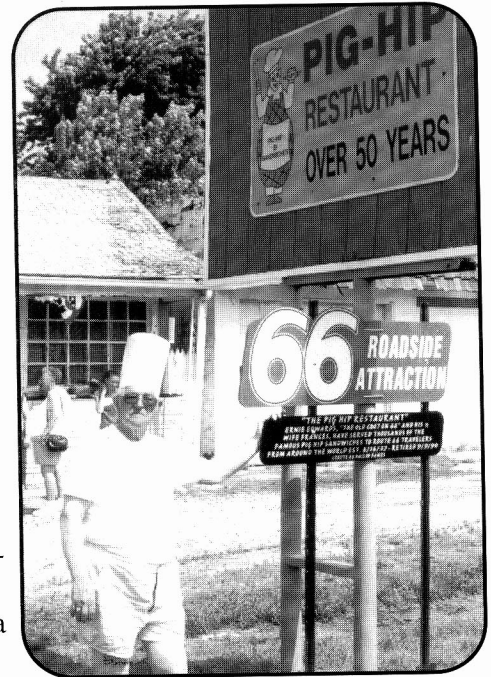
Because we stopped at the newly renovated Funks Grove rest area, we skipped going by the Funks Grove Syrup Store and the little county church located in the sugar maple grove. We did stop by the Funk mansion located east of I-55 just off the Shirley interchange. We had wanted to visit there for several years and sometime would like to come back to take a tour. It was quiet there and we were treated to deer feeding in the bean field next to the home.

We breezed through Bloomington this year. Two years ago it was raining when we got there on Sunday morning. We had battery problems with our 65 Mustang convertible the day before in Lincoln. In fact we had to hitch a ride with Marty and Geri Bilecki in their beautiful 57 Chevrolet to the Hall of Fame banquet there. On the way we stopped at a parts store to get a voltage regulator. Unfortunately that didn't fix the problem. The next morning we bought a new battery in Lincoln just in case the voltage regulator didn't solve the problem. And it didn't. In Bloomington we purchased a replacement alternator. We traveled on up the road till we found a car wash. With the rain pouring down, we found the car wash empty, so we pulled in and

changed the alternator. My GM and Mopar friends have told me that "FORD" stands for "Fix Or Repair Daily".

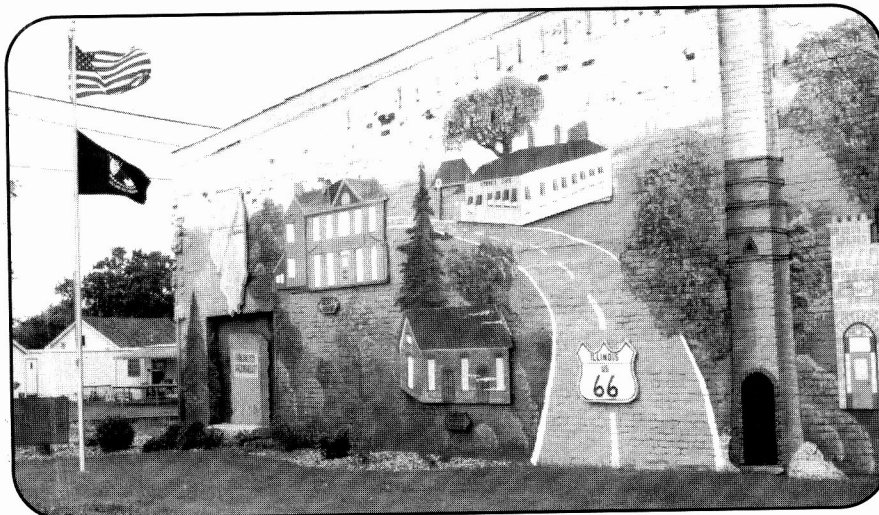
Lexington boosters arranged to have the historic "Memory Lane" section of our historic highway open. We enjoyed the Burma-Shave signs then stopped and snapped a pic of our van. At the exit of Memory Lane we were treated to a cold drink and invited to come back next year.

Chenoa's Mayor and chief butterfly pork chop chef greeted our Motley Crew. By now it had warmed up and some were in danger of wilting in the noon-day sun. Chenoa had several tents for shade and picnic tables to rest our bodies. We enjoyed some wonderful road food on this year's tour and the Chenoa chops were delightfully tender and juicy. Chenoa has worked at becoming a must see village on the "Mother Road". They have a historic mural painted near downtown. They are in the process of restoring



Ernie Edwards & The Pig Hip, two roadside attractions

a historic shoe store ad painted on the side of a historic building. Also there's a historic soda fountain in the Drug Store; unfortunately it was closed while we were there. In their Gazebo located in the "Y" a local musical combo called the "Grateful Dads" provided entertainment. Good job Chenoa!!!



Route 66 Mural, Chenoa, Illinois

IT WAS AN AWESOME DAY

By John & Lenore Weiss



Citroen Cars in Atlanta

We had met with the French tour leader Eric Massiet several months earlier in the year. After hearing how this event would honor our brave veterans, we immediately agreed to arrange the Illinois portion. The complete tour was from California to New York. On a tight schedule, Eric only had one day to travel on Route 66 from St. Louis, MO through Illinois and one day to visit Chicago. During their one day visit, we arranged the all important Veterans Award Ceremony in Atlanta, lunch, and sights to see before a dinner at the Dell Rhea Chicken Basket in Willowbrook.

What would seem difficult turned out to be extremely easy thanks to some wonderful people who took charge better than I ever expected. Tour leader Eric Massiet had made two test runs before the big event. He was mapping out detailed driving instructions for each of the 31 Citroen drivers.

On August 2nd they left St. Louis at 8:30 a.m. The first stop was to visit the hundreds of American classic cars for sale in Staunton at Country Classic Cars. From there they traveled to Springfield. We had made plans with Bill Shea for the group to visit his great attraction. Bill arranged parking for all the cars across the street and enthusiastically welcomed them. From there the group traveled to the lunch and ceremony location, to be held in Atlanta. This fantastic, well planned emotional event was the result of Mr. Bill Thomas of Atlanta. We don't know how this event could have been improved upon. Bill had thought of everything. Pride in Atlanta and of America was evident and in abundance.

Here in this small American town in Illinois we had two countries coming together to honor our World War II veterans. These brave men, years ago

They called it the "Thank you America Tour". A group of over 100 French citizens, traveling in their wonderful antique Citroen cars. The purpose was to thank all the World War II veterans for their sacrifices In the 1940's and help promote international tourism on Route 66. The thirty-one French Citroen car tour of Route 66 was a one time event. This fabulous parade of cars down Route 66 will probably never happen again.

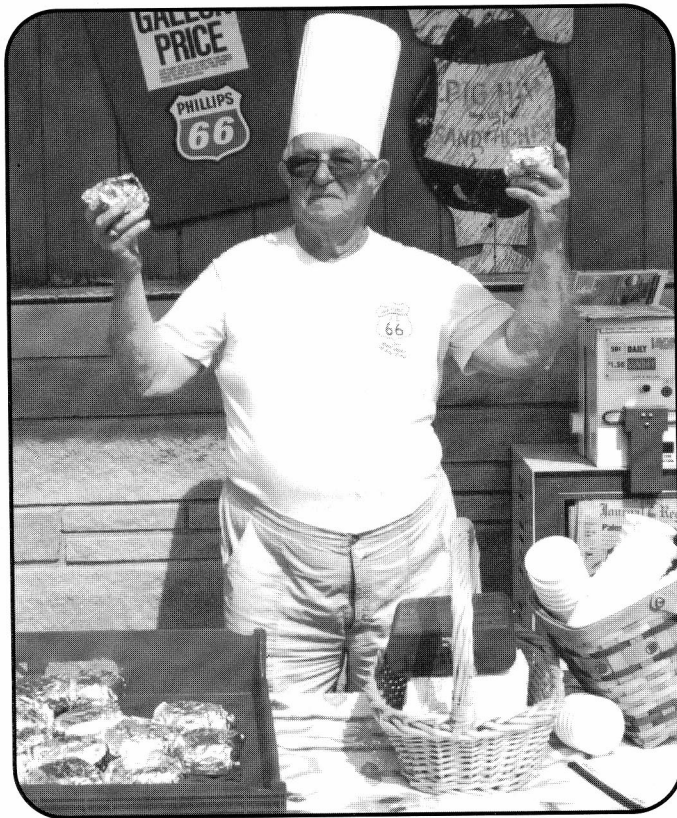
were willing to risk their lives for us. Now these heroes are all senior citizens, but for this moment they again stood proud. Many were wearing their uniforms and displaying their medals. The names of 100 veterans were announced over the PA system. We were also reminded to not forget the men who could no longer be with us. The crowd was large. A fantastic mix of our veterans, French families, residents of Atlanta, news media, spectators, Boy Scouts, and the proud families of the veterans.

The Vinegar Hill band played the American national anthem, and we all sang loudly. The French national anthem was played and the French flag was displayed, this time all of the French voices rang out. Some cried. Some smiled. We will never forget this beautiful moment. The French group fueled up on the excellent lunch outdoors at the park. They then reluctantly had to leave. Little did they know that they had only a

Continued on page 22



Eric Maisset addressing the crowd



Ernie Edwards with his Pig-Hip Sandwiches

Midway between Pontiac and Odell we visited the new tourist turnout site to view the other Meramec Caverns barn sign on 66. IDOT has utilized an unused section of the old west lane to make a turn around and parking site. This was the first of the new Route 66 "Roadside Attraction" sign we found on the Motor Tour. We snapped a pic.

Next was a stop at one of the roads most precious jewels, the Odell Standard Oil Gas Station. It also has one of the new Route 66 "Roadside Attraction" signs. Our Preservation group should be

"busting their buttons" with pride at the accomplishments there. Gardner welcomed us with cold drinks, a small car display and a chance to go to jail. Luckily, they had lost the key, so there was little chance of having to make more than a quick visit.

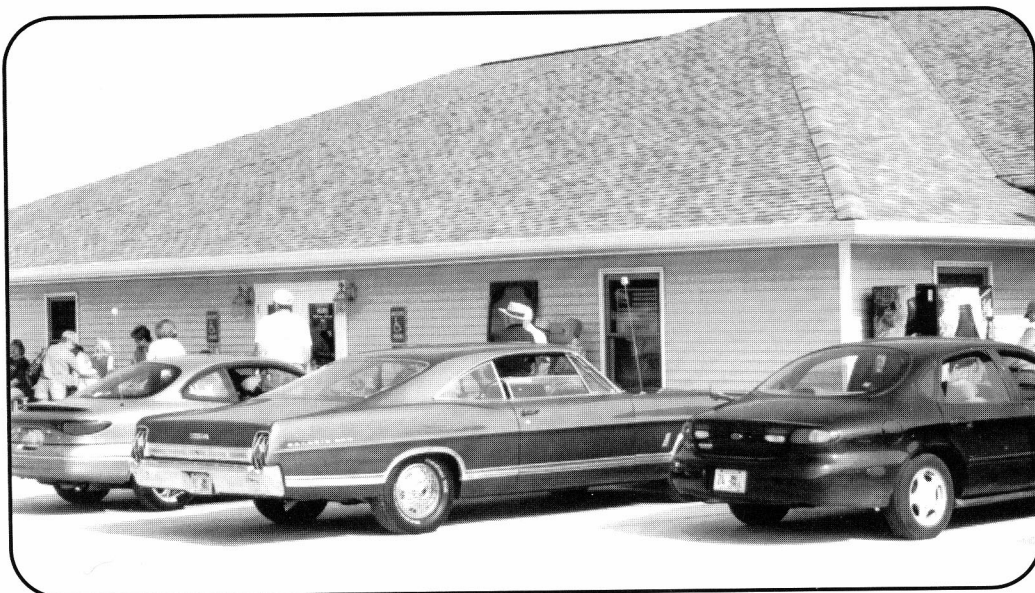
We took several flag pics on this years Motor Tour. We added Gardner's memorial site to our list.

Although the Riviera was not a passport stop, we had to stop and revisit the historic streetcar restoration project. It has also received a new "Roadside Attraction" sign. I believe there are ten of these signs planned for Route 66 in Illinois.

We arrived at the newly inducted Hall of Fame, Polk-A Dot Drive-In just as George Leone was pulling out. He paused long enough to get his picture taken. George has a beautiful red 61 Oldsmobile Starfire hardtop. Of course I had to go in and see MM again. We cooled off with a malt and soaked up the air conditioning.

Right on time we cruised into historic Wilmington. There we were greeted to a sidewalk antique fair. Wilmington is known for the Water Street Antique district. Around the corner the De-Ja-Vu Rt. 66 Pub was setting up cold drinks and rib-eye steaks for the weary road warriors. The Motor Tour ended with the Mayor presenting our President Jeff LaFollette with a key to the city.

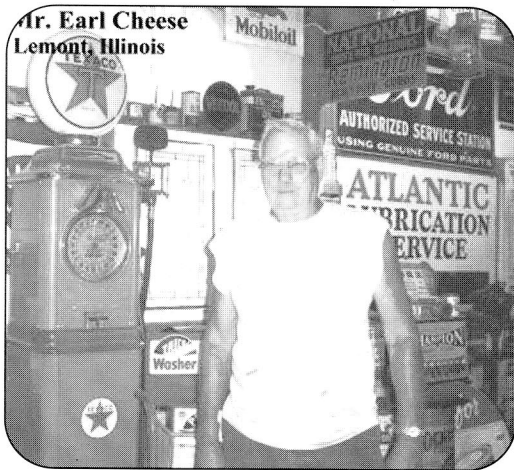
Bill Przybylski and I thank every one who helped with the planning, organizing and immense work involved with the 2002 Route 66 Association of Illinois Motor Tour. With kudos to Jack Buck, *"It's a Winner!!!!!"*



Cruisin' for antiques in Williamsville

HILLWOOD FARMS IN LEMONT, ILLINOIS

By The Mother Road Widow
Kathleen J. Miller



Mr. Earl Cheese has lived on this farm his entire life. Mr. Cheese worked at Reynolds Aluminum and has since retired to his farm where he raised his family.

Mr. Cheese's retirement has allowed him the time to amass a huge collection of gasoline memorabilia and road signs. Four barns worth of collectables from photographs to antique gas pumps is an amazing sight to see. Some of Mr. Cheese's collection includes, a variation of original historic road signs including Route 66 signs. Among the collection is a rare wooden Route 66 sign embossed on the back from Bloomington, Illinois. The sign was used in the 1950's.

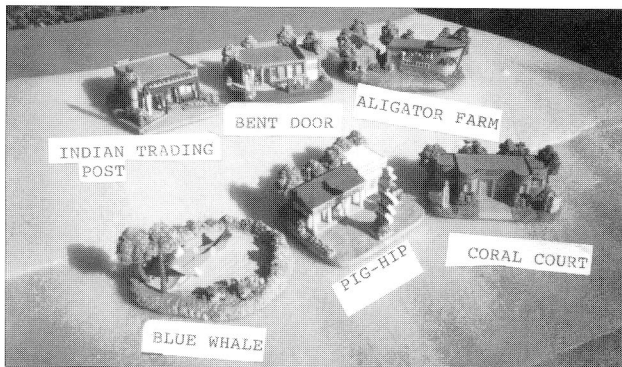
Along Lemont Road is Hillwood Farm
the family home of Mr. Earl Cheese.

The Cheese family established Hillwood Farm in 1894, in the town of Lemont, Illinois. Hillwood farm owned and operated by the Cheese family was a dairy farm until the mid 1950's.



Sitting in the corner of one of the barns is an original Miller Tire sign as replicated at the Route 66 Association Preservation Committee's Cyrus Avery Award winning Standard Oil Station in Odell, Illinois. The sign shows that the colors of black and yellow used on the Odell Miller Tire signs were a perfect match. Although worn with age when viewing the original sign you can still see remnants of yellow lettering now faded white with the years of exposure from the sunlight.

Mr. Cheese travels the United States to add to his massive collection. He is a most gracious host and is proud to show you his collection.



THESE PLACES ARE ON U.S. ROUTE 66

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THESE
ROUTE 66 SITE FIGURINES WILL GO TOWARD THE RENOVATION
OF THE PIG-HIP RESTAURANT MUSEUM
EST. JUNE 17, 1937 TO SEPTEMBER 7, 1991

These would look good under anyone's Christmas tree.
They are \$15.00 each plus \$4.00 postage and handling.
Send check or money order to:

Ernie Edwards • (217) 732-2337
101 West Oak St. • Broadwell, IL 62634
You may also pick up at the address above



Take a musical trip
down Route 66!

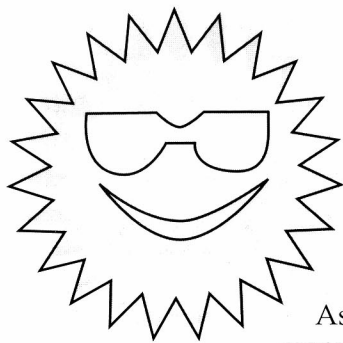
All new road music.

Call Ray at

815-268-4459

for your CD today!

Association member Ray Rueck has issued his second Route 66 musical venture. "Traveling US 66" is a ten song CD about the old highway. Take a musical trip through each of the eight states, plus two other new 66 tunes. The CD is available at Henry's Rabbit Ranch in Staunton, Becker's Hotrod BP in Dwight, Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup Camp, and The Old City Hall Shoppes in Pontiac. Or call Ray at 815-268-4459.



BIG DOINGS IN ATLANTA IN THE SUMMER OF 2002

By Betty McLellan

With the help of the A Team, the Tourism Committee, the Route 66 Association of Illinois and many others, the town of

Atlanta has been very busy this past summer. Starting with the Memorial Day weekend activities, the Alumni Banquet, parade of antique tractors and tours of the J.H. Hawes elevator, the volunteers have been very busy. On June 9th a celebration of the 98th birthday of the elevator was held complete with a team of horses and a box wagon to demonstrate the workings of the elevator. The Atlanta Band concert was enjoyed by all who attended and cookies and iced tea were served.

The second weekend of June, the Route 66 Motor tour passed through town and although no activities were scheduled this year, everyone enjoyed seeing the cars pass through on Sunday morning. This was the same day as the elevator birthday, and some of the Route 66 tour people stopped to see the elevator early that morning.

The Fourth of July celebration was a huge success, with a good crowd at the chicken dinner and band concert. In my opinion, the fireworks were the best I have ever seen as attested to by the huge crowd in attendance. Mark Sherman and his crew do an excellent job and thanks to them and all the individuals and organizations who donated to make this possible.

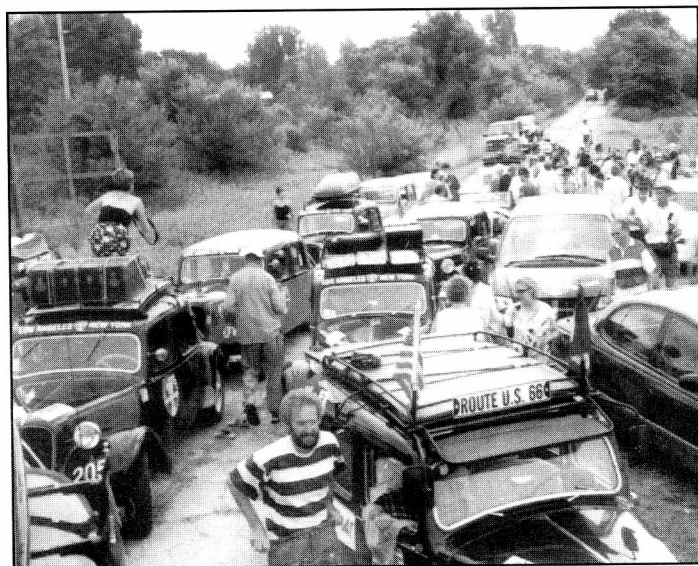
Wednesday evening July 10th the painters started arriving in town for the Route 66 Firecracker Walldog Jam. This is a group of professional sign painters who enjoy their work so much that they schedule get together to paint old advertising signs, murals. Etc. for places interested enough to provide them with their meals and the paint that is used. They do not charge for their work and they pay their own lodging and travel expense. There were about 30 painters registered from Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky, Alabama and Arkansas. They were in town through July 14th. In addition to painting the late 1890's advertising sign on the side of the Telelogic building they also donated the large flower containers on Arch Street and painted a new sign for Terry's Floral Design and the Eminence Christian Church office. This is a fun group and they plan to return next year to complete a mural on the side of Charles & Mac's Tavern. This is a wall facing the Atlanta 66 Park and will make a great addition to our town. I can hardly wait for next year to see this mural completed.

Friday August 2, a group of people driving cars from the 20's and 30's came to town. They were only

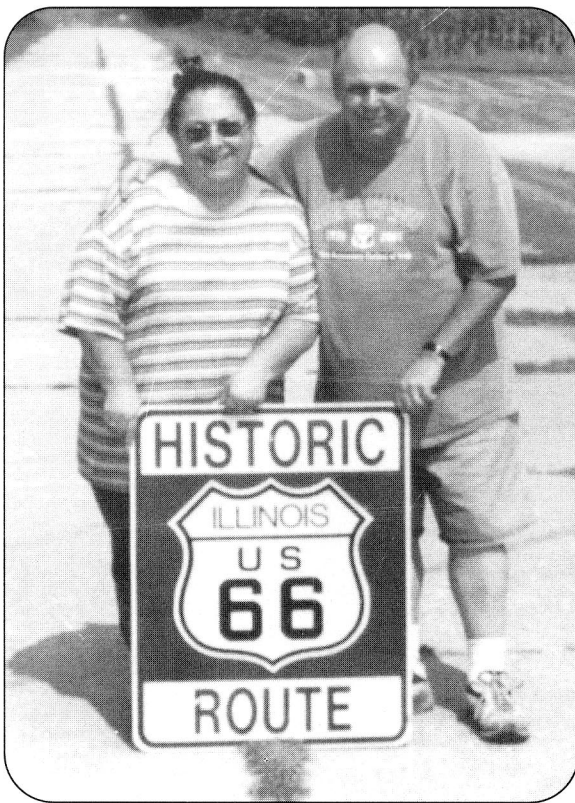
here for about two hours, but talk about excitement coming in small increments, this group provided it. The majority of the people were from France, but Switzerland, England and The Netherlands were also represented. They were served dinner in Route 66 park with a program held afterwards on the Library lawn. This group wanted to thank American World War II veterans for helping to free France from the German invasion. Approximately 100 veterans were present to hear M. Eric Maisset du Biest from France voice their appreciation. Mayor Bill Martin gave the opening and closing prayers and Bill Thomas was Master of Ceremonies. The Vinegar Hill Brass Band from Mt. Pulaski also played during the luncheon and performed the national anthems of the USA and France. Our own Atlanta Band was unable to attend. Channel 25 television from Peoria was here and several local people had their five minutes of fame on the six o'clock news.

September 12-14, the Atlanta Fall Festival was held in Atlanta Park with a carnival, concessions, food games and other activities. Thursday evening, the Atlanta Rotary Club served a pork chop supper. Friday evening the fire department served walleye and catfish dinners and Saturday, the Methodist men served their traditional barbeque chicken. Every evening there was music at the bandstand and prizes were given out. On Saturday the annual parade was held. It was one of the largest and best in years.

A busy summer in one small American town, but an answer to the enemies of America, and an indication that they will never break the American spirit.



Citroen Cars on Old 66 North of Atlanta



**Kathy and John Miller
on an old section north of Atlanta**

Your husband says to you, "Honey, I have the adventure of a lifetime to offer you! We're being offered the opportunity to spend a long weekend traveling Route 66 in Illinois! Not only travel the Mother Road, but also traveling the road and stopping to erect signs! Not just any sign, oh no siree, but those brown and white Historic Route 66 signs, with the PRESIDENT and his "wife." (Not President Bush but President LaFollette.) That sounds like work to me, I thought to myself. He went on exclaiming wildly, "Only three days to make it from Chicago to St. Louis and then back home again. I thought to myself, "Only!" knowing full well it's normally a drive of five hours. But then again this is from a man that said to me one Fourth of July, "Let's go for ice-cream!" and spent the next twelve hours driving me to St. Louis for frozen custard at Ted Drewes and back home again via Route 66.

Erecting signs, which is the opportunity that Jeff and Annette LaFollette along with John aka DH and Kathy Miller (me) had over this past HOT Labor Day Weekend! It was hot, very hot; it was so incredibly hot that my ice tea turned into hot tea.

The Hampton Inns Corporation current Save a Landmark Project has turned attention to Route 66.

TRAVEL ALONG WITH THE MOTHER ROAD WIDOW ON JEFF AND ANNETTE AND JOHN AND KATH'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE! OR HOW TO TURN A FIVE-HOUR TRIP INTO THREE DAYS!

By Kathleen J. Miller, aka The Mother Road Widow

Imagine this!



Sign and a piece of the old road in Williamsville

They have donated Historic Route 66 signs to all eight states. Illinois' received 14 of the Historic Route 66.

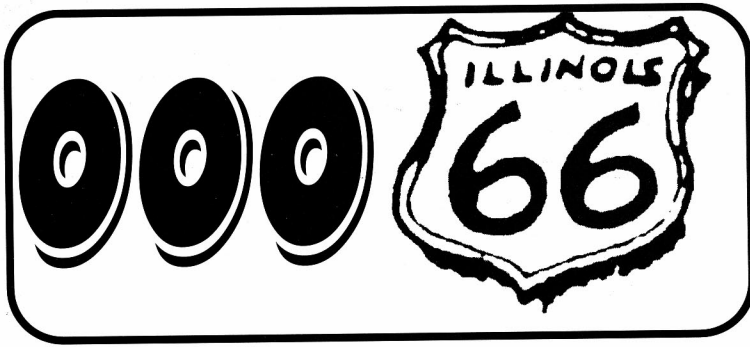
SATURDAY

The four of us agreed to meet at the home of John and Lenore Weiss in Wilmington, Illinois to pick up supplies at 7:45a.m. DH worked up a mighty appetite loading the equipment so off to McDonald's in Braidwood, Illinois for breakfast. We were lucky enough to be able to view the Route 66 mural painted in the play land inside of McDonald's.

Continued on page 16

66 LICENSE PLATE NEARS GOAL

By Patty Kuhn



**Illinois drivers are closer than ever
to being able to choose
a permanent Route 66 license plate
for their automobiles.**

The bill authorizing a commemorative specialty 66 license plate was signed into law by Governor George Ryan this past summer and is now in the hands of Secretary of State Jesse White.

The first question everyone asks is, "What will it look like?" The answer is we don't know yet. According to state officials, design and production of the plate will not proceed until a minimum of 850 requests have been recorded. Once the demand has been demonstrated, the Secretary of State's design team will go to work.

Petitions have been circulating throughout the past several months, including one that was signed by many Illinois Association members during the 2002 Motor Tour. Signatures have been collected at various sites and events throughout the state. Thanks primarily to the efforts of Rich Henry, about 525 requests have been filed to date. Although there is no deadline to meet, the goal of the Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project is to have the plates available by next year's travel season.

The specialty plates will cost \$40 at registration, in addition to the regular \$78 fee currently charged by the Secretary of State. At renewal, the additional fee drops to \$27. Each time a Route 66 plate is purchased or renewed; \$25 will be deposited in the Route 66

Heritage Project fund, which has been designated for the education, preservation and promotion of Route 66 in Illinois.

YOU can help and here's how. Tell everyone you know about the plate! Collect the name, address, phone number of anyone interested and be sure to request the vanity and personalized plate option, otherwise, the plates will be printed with sequential numbers starting at 101.

Any names you collect can be mailed, faxed, called or emailed to the Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project. Please contact us with any questions you may have about this worthwhile project and thank you for your support!

Patty Kuhn

**Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project
c/o CITDO**

700 E. Adams

Springfield, IL 62701

Phone: 217-525-7980

866-378-7866

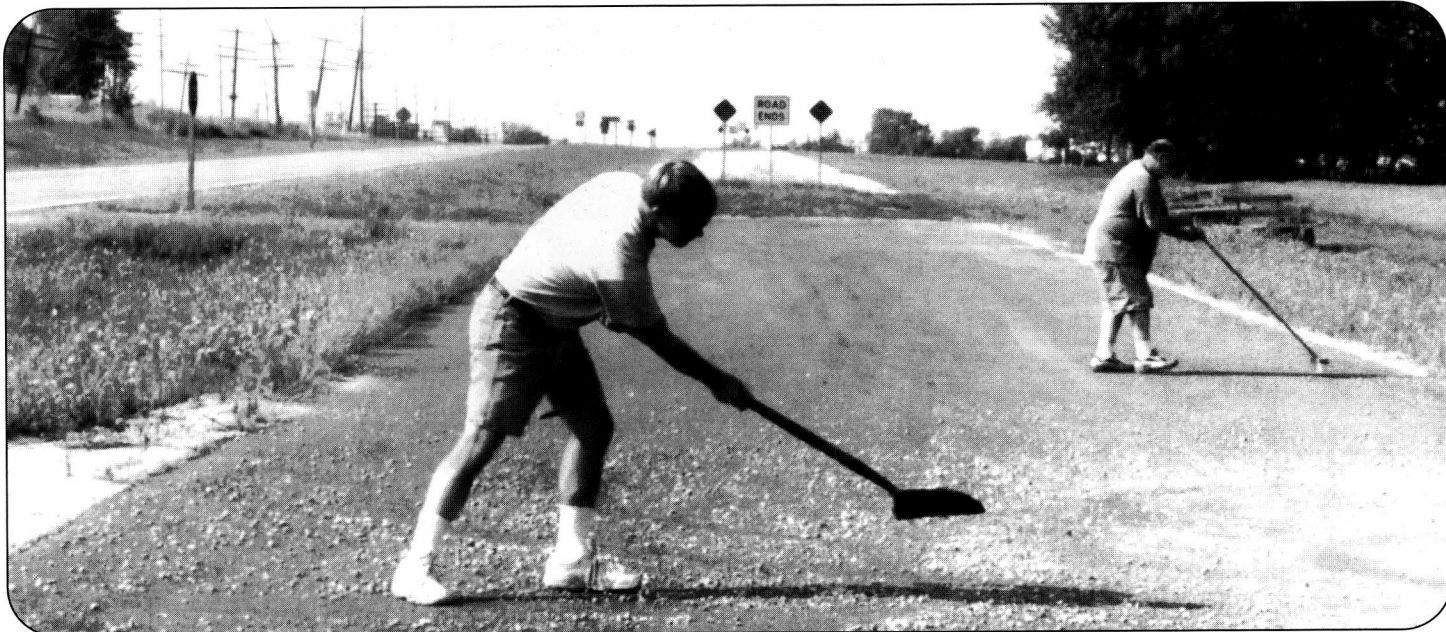
Fax: 217-525-8004

Email: pkuhn@illinoisroute66.com

Continued from page 4. . . **RT 66 ASSOCIATION PICNIC**

ate there while the others chose to remain in the dining room across Route 66 at the Lodge Hall. Following the meal and fellowship enjoyed by all, a drawing was held for two \$25 prizes and one \$50 prize. The rest of the afternoon was spent visiting the

J.H. Hawes elevator and Sherman's Antique Shop. A good time was had by all and Atlanta thanks the Route 66 Association of Illinois for again requesting our town to host their annual picnic.



John Miller and Jeff LaFollette cleaning the turnout near Cayuga

PRESERVATION HAPPENINGS

By John Weiss, Preservation Chairman

Volunteers make a difference all along Route 66

On August 24, 2002 a group of volunteers worked on the inside ceiling of the streetcar. The goal is to prepare this for painting. This appears to be the original paint. That makes it over 100 years old. It was a lousy job to do, but it was very necessary.

Peggy Kraft from the Riviera again provided a fabulous lunch for the workers; they were Ted Giovanazzi, Larry Scinto, Lou Vargo, Marge & Jack Hettwer. Another group of preservation members were on the road to do some Route 66 work. I suggested they also bring along shovels and brooms. The new turn out area in Cayuga, at the Meramec Caverns Barn needed some sprucing up. It seems that Jeff LaFollette and John Miller did a good job thanks to the crew of supervisors who made sure they did it right. They were Annette LaFollette and Kathy Miller.

If it were not for the generosity of all these folks, nothing would ever be accomplished on the road. We always can use more help. How about you? You will be very glad you did. Believe it or not, we are having a great time getting down and dirty. The personal pride that you feel is so enormous. Please volunteer to help. Thank you!

More news-On October 5th volunteers Paul and Gretchen Wendt, Paul and Tami Panczuk and Randy Wierzgac went to the restored barn in Cayuga to repair some loose pieces of siding and do basic maintenance upkeep work. What good is our work if we don't maintain it? It is great to see our members take so much pride in our beloved road.



Now available...

Highly detailed maps of
Route 66 from Chicago to
St. Louis...with additional
states on the way!




- ★ 48 Pages of maps & photos showing Route 66 Landmarks
- ★ Contours
- ★ Georeferenced Photos
- ★ Latitude/Longitude/GPS Grid
- ★ Great for use in your car, with your GPS receiver, or your armchair!
- ★ All photos and maps are in color.

\$15.00
on CD in Adobe Acrobat format (.pdf)
+\$2.00 Shipping & Handling

\$20.00
8-1/2 x 11 printed copy, spiral bound
+\$5.00 Shipping & Handling

Prices include Sales Tax.
Available exclusively from



P.O. Box 105
Cantrall, IL 62625
www.midwestmaps.com

Phone: 217.494.4057 Fax: 217.487.7214

The next stop was to view the Historic Route 66 sign, which was erected by John Weiss at an earlier time near the streetcar that sits on the property of the wonderful little restaurant/bar in Gardner, Illinois called The Riviera. This little gem is owned and operated by Bob and Peggy Kraft. The streetcar is a current Illinois Route 66 Association preservation project. It was early in the morning and we caught Bob outside feeding the cats and Peggy was hard at work starting to prepare food and beverage for the business day. She came out onto the porch with jugs of water to make sun-tea. We chatted with this wonderful couple for a little over a half hour and set about the task of our excellent adventure. Note: so far three stops and we have yet to erect one sign.

The next stop was at the Meramec Cavern Barn in Cayuga, Illinois for some clean up. We spent an hour or more sweeping and shoveling the stones spread upon the blacktop at the wonderful turn out constructed by IDOT to view this icon. Does this sound like work to you? It felt like work to me, but you know what? It was fun. Especially when Annette and I were able to do what we do best, say things like, "Honey, you missed a spot!"

The first REAL stop was to erect sign #1. The location? The piece of Route 66 called Memory Lane in Lexington. We posted (I use "we" with a lot of flexibility) the sign at the entrance of this historic road. Once DH and Jeff figured out which end of the post was up (I literally mean that) all went smooth. VOILA! Our first



Jeff & John posting the sign at Memory Lane

"official" brown and white Historic Route 66 sign was erected.

Annette took the opportunity of being on the road to take pictures of all the famous icons along the way. Which brings us to Odell, Illinois the hometown where the Cyrus Avery Award winning Standard Oil Station is located. One cannot travel Route 66 in Illinois without stopping at Odell. (30 minutes) Another picture opt was in Lexington, 30 minutes later we were once again on our way! Mind you it's near 11:00am and we have only erected one sign.

Funks Grove! This famous location is now the home of sign #2. Steve and Glaida Funk, owners and proprietors of this wonderful maple grove where they are famous for making Maple

Syrup, are the most welcoming hosts. They invited us into their home where we had a lovely visit. An hour and a half later or three hours, DH and Jeff erected the sign without event. Once again were off on our excellent adventure.

Ah, time for lunch! And where else can you eat but at the Dixie Truck Stop? I want to remind everyone of what wonderful places to eat there are along Route 66 in Illinois. And I think we hit everyone! Oh my goodness we ate our way to Springfield. We dined at McDonald's, the Dixie Truck Stop in Mc Lean, Ernie's Pig Hip where we ate pig hip sandwiches specially prepared by Ernie and his lovely wife Frances, the Cozy Dog in Springfield, and last but not least a wonderful Italian restaurant. This



ROUTE 66 MAGAZINE PRESENTS THE "READERS CHOICE AWARD"

By John Weiss, Preservation Committee Chairman

CONGRATULATIONS ILLINOIS PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

**Shellee Graham & Emily Priddy
accepting awards**

On August 17, 2002, Route 66 Magazine held the 1st annual International Route 66 Roadie gathering in Vega, Texas. An awards banquet was held that evening. One award was for the best new book of the year. The other award was for the best preservation project of the year 2001.

The winner is the Route 66 Association of Illinois Preservation Committee for the restoration of the Meramec Caverns Barn in Hamel. A prize of \$1,000 to our state association and a beautiful trophy was presented to us by Martin Milner, the star of the original television show "Route 66". You should all feel very proud and honored. I know my volunteers deserve a lot of credit, but when a prestigious magazine like Route 66 and its readers agree, that makes it even better.

I am proud to announce that the award winner for our preservation committee was Emily Priddy. I asked her to

accept if we won because she was one of the 27 volunteers who worked on this project. She also has worked in Odell and has donated financially toward our work.

Also in attendance was Shellee Graham. She was awarded the honor of the best new book "Tales from the Coral Court". Ironically, Shellee was also one of the volunteers who worked on this barn restoration. So she really was bursting with pride.

Emily and Shellee are shining examples of how we get things done. Neither one lives near where we have Illinois preservation meetings and gatherings. But they eagerly participate and help when the opportunities arise.

I sincerely thank Route 66 Magazine for this fabulous honor. Publisher Paul Taylor explained that "This project represents the grass roots volunteer spirit that is so necessary to preserving Route 66 and its many memories."



**John & Lenore Weiss
2002 Steinbeck Award Winners**

JOHN & LENORE WEISS RECEIVE 2002 JOHN STEINBECK AWARD

By Jeff LaFollette

Congratulations are in order to our Preservation Committee Chairman and his lovely wife, John & Lenore Weiss, as they are the recipients of the 2002 John Steinbeck Award.

This award is given by the National Historic Route 66 Federation to the person or persons who have contributed significantly to the preservation of Route 66. The award was given at the John Steinbeck Awards Dinner during the Route 66 Festival on September 27, 2002.

Past honorees of this award include Michael Wallis of Oklahoma, Illinois's own Tom Teague, Angel Delgadillo of Arizona, and Jim Ross of Oklahoma. This is the first time that two people have received the award in the same year. As it was stated during the ceremony, "the one goes with the other", and in the case of John and Lenore this is very true. As the Preservation Committee goes,

John and Lenore work equally hard for the road, they get the people to help out on the various projects they have taken on, and they continue to work together for the common good of Route 66. They are both very deserving of this prestigious award. Congratulations to the both of you, and thank you for your preservation work along Route 66 in Illinois.

TALES FROM THE ROAD

By Ted & Marilyn Giovanazzi

These are warm memories of Old Route 66 by a very young at heart 86 year old Louise Libersher. This lady is a true treasure. To Louise, these were good days with hard times. As she grew up, she watched a town grow and a road called Route 66 grow and come to life. She doesn't want to see it die.

With the recent grand opening of the Joliet Historical Museum, which features an excellent Route 66 display, we felt these stories from the mother of our own Lenore Weiss would be very appropriate.

As a youngster growing up in Joliet near Route 66, I used to be amazed at how the garbage pickup was handled. Quite differently than today. Garbage was picked up in your alley. The garbage was "raw". Plastic bags did not exist in those days. The workers would follow a horse drawn two-wheeled cart and dump the garbage into it. They would take the filled cart to McDonough and Chicago Street where there was a ramp with trap doors. Under the ramp there was a waiting truck, waiting to take it to the disposal dump. To children, this was quite an adventure and we

couldn't wait to go home and tell our parents. Of course, we were always warned of the consequences of falling into the TRAP DOOR.

One of my fondest and most fun memories is about "Ducker's Corner". This was located at 217-223 N. Chicago St. (Route 66). This was the corner that the song "Standing on the corner watching all the girls go by", by the Four Lads could have been written about. This was where the boys would gather to "check out" the girls. We were only 14 or 15 years old so we would do our own "checking out" too. What a good time we had on Ducker's Corner. It was named that because the department store owned by George Ducker took up such a big piece of property, and was a very big part of Joliet. Mr. Ducker had a unique way of handling your purchase which was quite special at the time. Each clerk had their own area along with a wire conveyor system that would convey the money and sales slip in a little box up to the main office on the second floor. Then she would wait for the box to be returned along with the customer's change and sales slip, then

the customer would receive the merchandise and the sale would be completed. It was almost as much fun to watch as watching the boys. NOT QUITE!

At 301 N. Chicago St (Route 66) and 329 E. Jefferson St in Joliet there was an ice cream parlor known as Blacey's. They served malts, shakes, and sundaes and had showcases full of tempting chocolates. After catechism classes at St. Anthony's Church we would walk there just to look and imagine how delicious it all was. It was depression time when I was growing up and times were hard. We could only look, but that in itself was fun. In season, the shop also displayed fresh produce outside. Sometimes, that was more tempting than the chocolates. There was also a Kresge's 25 cent and \$1.00 store located at 201 N. Chicago. After visiting Blacey's we would visit Kresge's. I'm sure everyone remembers some fun days at a Kresge's store. I sure do!

One block east of Chicago Street still stands Joliet's Union Station.

Continued on page 23

Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Illinois County (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Interests in Route 66: _____

How I can help: _____

Annual Dues

General: \$15
Family: \$25
Business: \$30
Foreign: \$35
Lifetime: \$200

U.S. funds only, please
\$15 fee for returned checks

Send to:

Membership
Route 66 Assn. of Illinois
2743 Veterans Pkwy., Room 166
Springfield, IL 62704
Membership runs May 1 - April 30

Send address changes and questions to Membership at the address above or e-mail changes to blitz66@chicagonet.net

IN OTHER NEWS

Route 66 Corridor Act 2003 Grant Cycle Announced

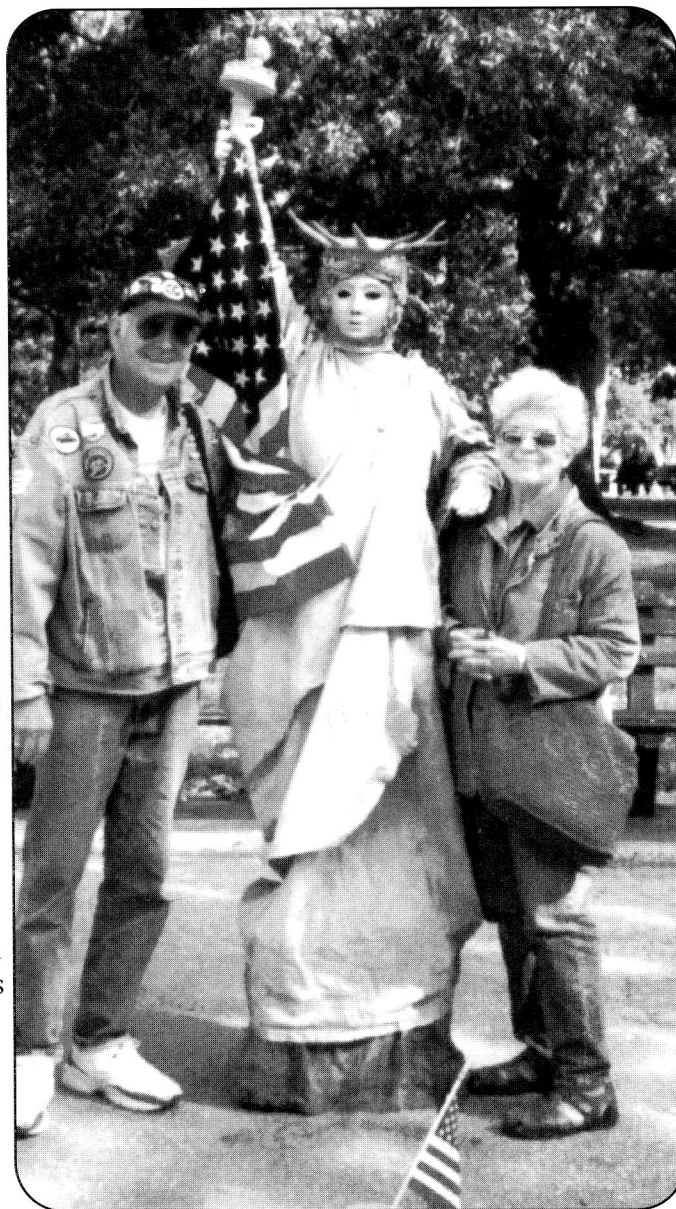
The Route 66 Corridor Preservation grant/cost share cycle will begin earlier in 2003 than in previous years. Application packages will be available in late January 2003. The application period will also be longer than in past years to allow more time to plan, prepare and submit proposals. Application packages may be requested from the program office by calling 505-988-6701. Applications will also be available online to print directly from the program website in late January. You may go to www.cr.nps.gov/rt66 to obtain a copy of the application.

Special Event License Plate Update

As of early November, nearly 100 sets of Special Event License Plates have been reserved. We will order 200 sets again for 2003. So we are halfway sold out of plates. Now is the time to reserve your set of plates. We have sold out of plates the previous four years, and we're on pace to do so again. If you'd like to be on the list for special event plates for 2003, contact Jeff LaFollette at the address, phone number, or e-mail listed on page 2. You will then receive a letter instructing you how much to send for the plates and what other items you need to send so you may properly display them on your vehicle. These plates can be displayed for 60 days and will be collector's items. Don't delay, order yours today!

Notes from the Traveling Bilecki's
Marty & Geri Bilecki send in this item from their recent trip to

New York City. Written by Geri, the letter says:
First we cruised along the "Mother Road" to Springfield, Illinois at the end of September to attend the great Route 66 Festival, Cruise and Sock Hop. Then my husband Marty and I cruised to New York City and the Catskills. We visited with several New York City police officers and their families who were survivors of the WTC disaster on 9-11-2001. Included in our east coast vacation and NYC visit was a trip to Battery Park to see the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The photo shows Marty & I with a human replica of our "great lady". We also marched on 5th Avenue in the Pulaski Day parade with NYC and Chicago Police Dept. officers. We fit in a Broadway show, Oktoberfest, a visit to West Point and plenty of shopping in NYC and on the road. Our trip was definitely more pleasant by our Hampton Inn stays. We wanted to support a corporation who gives its support to Route 66 groups and their many preservation projects. The only thing that would have made our trip more complete would have been for



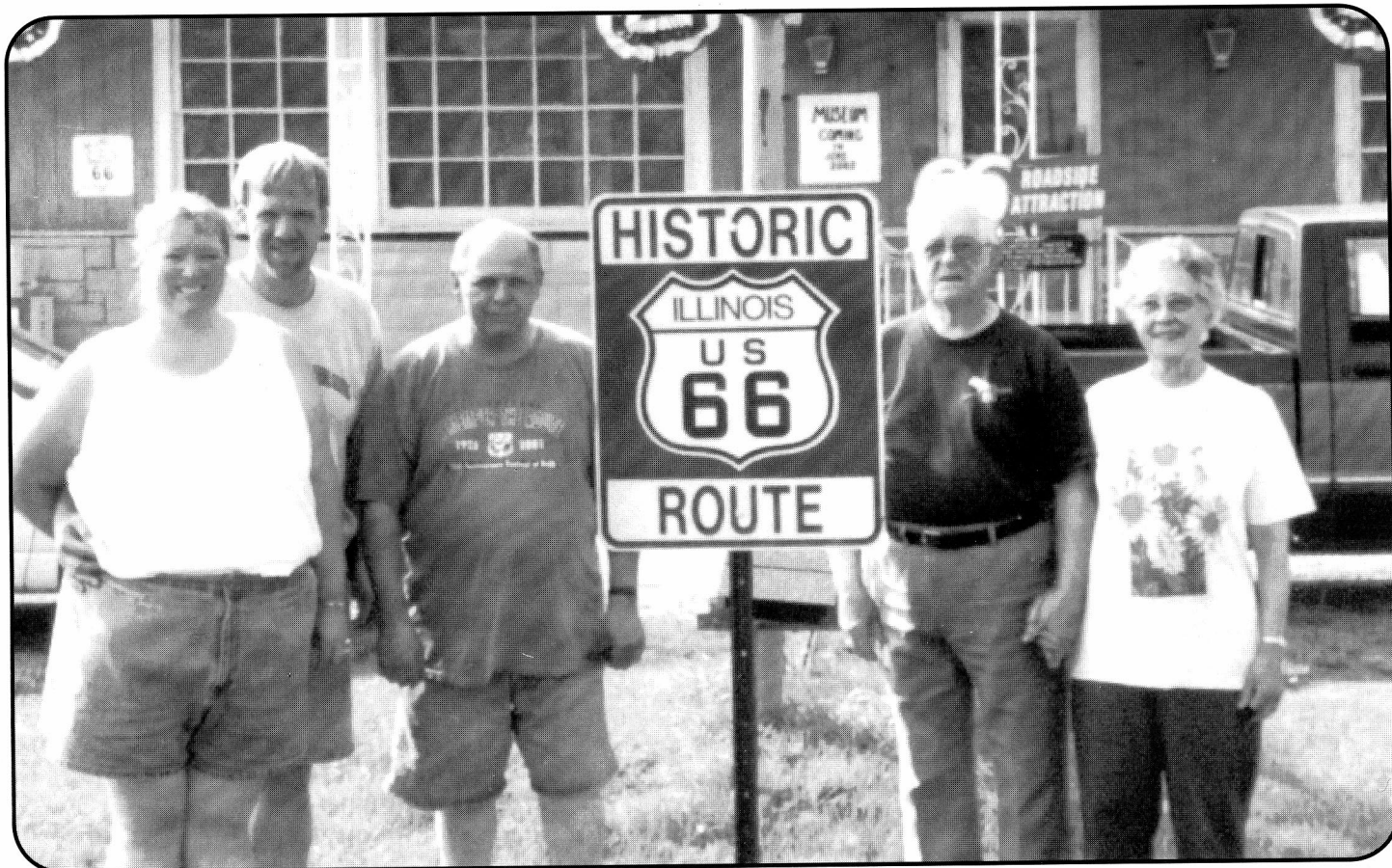
Traveling Bilecki's

the Statue of Liberty to be located on our Fabulous Route 66! Thanks Marty & Geri for sharing your thoughts and promoting Route 66 on your vacation as well!

From the Editor's Desk

In the last issue of The 66 News! I said that I was going to begin a series on our sister associations. The last issue featured the National Route 66 Federation.

Continued on page 23



The crew at the Pig Hip with the Edwards'

was just on Saturday. I don't even want to talk about Sunday!

Our next three stops were Atlanta, Broadwell, and Williamsville. In Atlanta they were unsure of where to erect the sign so it was put in the window of the Library Museum Annex building. We chatted about the upcoming plans for the picnic and after a brief 45 minutes we departed for Broadwell. Broadwell, Illinois, home of Ernie and Frances Edwards and the Pig Hip! YUMMMY! Now visit-

ing with Ernie and Frances is never a short visit. I could listen to Ernie's stories for hours, which we did. And, lucky for us Ernie and Frances treated us to Pig Hip sandwiches and iced tea. After an hour or two we all sauntered outside and erected the Historic Route 66 sign. Great photo op for all of us! Next stop Williamsville, Illinois. A small crowd of folks who had gathered together to witness this event greeted the four of us. The sign is now erected in front of the Williamsville Museum.

This two and a half hour drive from Wilmington to Springfield had turned into a mere eight hour long trek. Of course we had to have a cozy dog or two. After checking into the hotel, showering, and napping it was dinner! Oh my goodness, I'm full just remembering it.

TO BE CONTINUED
1 DH penned by Bernadette Henry and featured in the story "The Mother Road Widow"

FROM THE NORTH TO SPRINGFIELD

By John Weiss

**What a great day! Over 100 cars
fanned out while discovering
Route 66 in Illinois.**



Cruisers photo op with "Gemini Giant"

Everywhere you went, small groups could be found eating or exploring. Many towns and businesses were waiting with open arms.

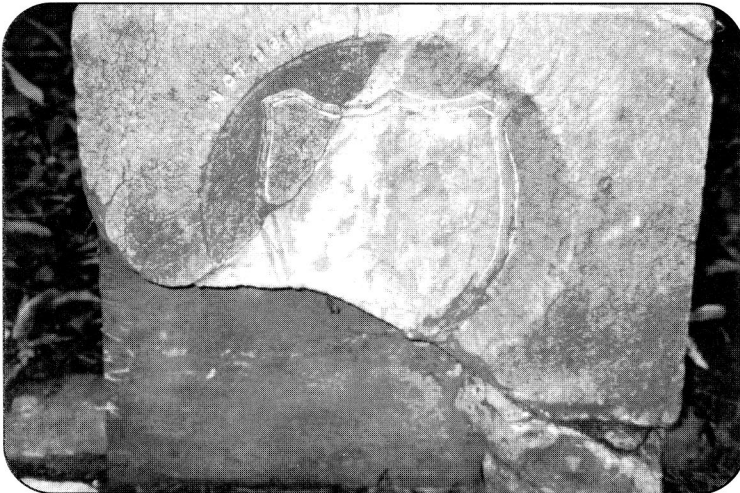
We strongly encouraged all participants to not convoy. They then had one and a half hours of opportunity to visit selected sites along the way. This idea worked wonderfully. I will use it again for future tours.

A hearty thanks to all those along the road who helped make this a memorable day. I hope many new friendships develop.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By John Weiss

**My world of preservation goes
beyond Route 66. One of my proudest
accomplishments is in discovering,
and saving a pre-Civil War cemetery
in Frankfort, Illinois.**



"NOT DEAD"

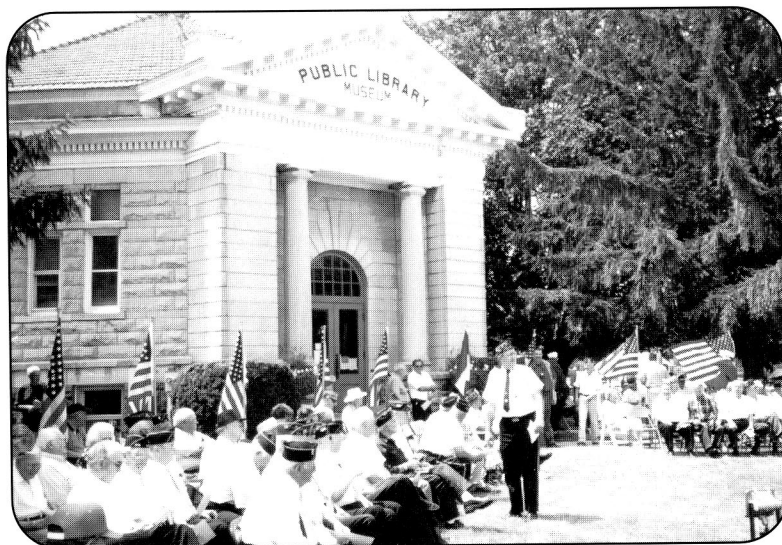
I cannot take credit for all the wonderful stages of restoration that have taken place. This honor goes to volunteer, Joe Srsnick. Joe is an amateur archeologist with a great vision and dedication.

One of Joe's projects is to plot out the one acre area into a grid. Then using a prod pole, he patiently inch by inch sticks the rod into the ground hoping to locate ancient head stones lying below the ground surface. To date, all the marker stones discovered are from 1836 to 1847.

Of special interest to you and me is one particular marker. We presume it to be from the same time era, making this headstone over 150 years old. This stone is like no other. It clearly shows a shield, identical to the style used for the original Route 66 signs with the distinctive cut off points on top of each upper side. There once was wording around this very old shield, but time has obliterated it. That is except for two words.

"NOT DEAD"

This head stone was installed approximately 90 years before there was a Route 66, and before there were even road signs. Maybe it's all in my mind, but I find this to be a little bit eerie. **PLEASANT DREAMS!**



Veterans at the Atlanta Library

sample of what was still to come. Down the road is Lexington, with their Route 66 Memory Lane. One phone call to Fran Turgeon was all it took.

Fran turned a simple cruise into a very memorable moment. Fran had also taken on the responsibility of advance publicity. What a fantastic job he did. They furnished free water, Popsicles, and root beer for everyone to enjoy. They were again treated to Illinois' generous hospitality. Nobody does it better.

Down the road is Pontiac. Again, one phone call to Dal and Betty Estes is all it took. Dal took care of notifying veterans. Betty had signs made in French and did her Betty thing. She proudly waved flags of both countries as the tour paraded through town. The Estes had been in Atlanta. Then they scooted ahead to again cheer them on. When the tour entered Odell, a welcoming group of citizens and veterans was ready at the restored Standard Filling Station. Again all it took was letting Mayor Ed Seal and his wife Bev know what was happening. What a welcome, what a sight. Free donuts, lemonade, water and Route 66 pins were eagerly accepted. An hour later they arrived at the Polka-Dot Drive Inn. Flags and veterans greeted them all. Owner Judy Chinski said "Whatever they want, it is on the house." The group had a ball posing with all the statues. At the Launching Pad, Jerry and Sharon had the welcome signs out. Not only did many visit, but the next day more were

again seen with the Gemini Giant, having a great time. One small group had stopped at the Riviera. A fanny pack containing a passport, money, etc. was accidentally left behind. Owner Peggy Kraft hustled down to catch up with the group and return it, and they were thrilled. Peggy's speed must be due to the fact she is married to Rapid Robert.

The final stop was for dinner at Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket in Willowbrook. Again, just one call to Pat Rhea was all it took. Pat eagerly got in contact with Eric to make the necessary plans. That evening the French visitors were treated with a welcome by members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois. Goody bags were presented and a shuttle service of American classic cars were used to bring folks from the hotel to the restaurant and back.

The next morning the group left for Chicago. The parade of 31 Citroen cars passed through downtown Chicago intersections, arriving at the Drake Hotel, where they were mobbed by the news media. Working at the floral shop in the Drake was a friend of ours, Cathy Goodman. She greeted Eric and his fiance with a yellow rose to welcome them. Eric had proposed at sunset on Route 66 to his fiance during their trip!

We look back at this memorable day with great pride. We saw people from two countries who could not speak the same language, but having no trouble communicating. The folks along the way who hosted and greeted this group deserve a standing ovation. They were all superb! On the French TracBar web site, group leader Eric Massiet wrote: "We will never forget the kindness, the generosity, and the hospitality of people from Illinois, definitely the most enjoyable state crossed so far in our expedition. Thanks to all of you." Eric Massiet du Biest. What a proud day for Illinois!



Citroen Cars at the Standard Gas Station in Odell, Illinois

IN OTHER NEWS

Due to a great quantity of quality articles that were sent to me for this issue, I have decided to postpone the Route 66 Association profiles until the Spring 2003 issue. Thank you to all who have submitted stories for this issue. This is your newsletter, and I will continue to print your stories as they come in and space allows.

More News from Atlanta

Summer has come and gone and the volunteers will perhaps get some rest after the soup supper sponsored by the A-Team on November 16, but we are looking forward to a big celebration occurring on Memorial Day weekend 2003. It will feature the usual celebration, Atlanta Alumni Banquet and a special Sesquicentennial Celebration with a street dance, pageant, food stands and all the excitement which will attend a 150th birthday paper for Atlanta, Illinois. We are also looking forward to many other activities next year, including the annual Route 66 Motor Tour, and another Wall Dog Paint Jam. No date has been set for this as of yet,

but they like Atlanta too, and are talking about bringing 300 painters. We hope they will get the Route 66 Park mural painted before the motor tour. Don't forget, ROUTE 66 TRAVELERS ARE ALWAYS INVITED TO VISIT ATLANTA!

New Magazine Hits the American Road

Introducing American Road, a new magazine designed to satisfy the world's growing thirst for discovering and exploring America's historic highways. Published by Mock Turtle Press, of Lynnwood, Washington, American Road's editorial team is headed by Thomas Repp and Jim Ross, veteran road writers whose excellence in writing promise to create maximum appeal. The pages of American Road will be packed with a variety of departments, including guest editorials, a calendar of events and news from highway related organizations. For more information about the magazine or subscription information you can call 1-877-285-5434, or e-mail them at american-road@mockturtlepress.com

TALES OF THE ROAD

It has been remodeled and is truly a beautiful terminal. The automobile reduced the use of the station, but it was once a very busy place. I remember new lift bridges being built to handle increasing traffic between the east and west sides of town. As children, we would walk down to watch the construction and be amazed at the large equipment being used. Before the lift bridges, in the early twenties, there was a towing path between the river and canal. Mules would draw the barges on the tow path, down the canal to the river. When I grew up, married and bought my own home around 1940 I didn't want to leave Joliet and all its good memories. We stayed in the community and raised our family there. We took in boarders, because there were so many men looking for rooms. If you had a room for rent, men would line up outside your house. Between Route 66 being expanded toward the Joliet Arsenal and the arsenal working all shifts, men were looking for employment and a place to live in droves. Route 66 was good to Joliet and Joliet still loves Route 66.

events continued, like the Hardly Angels Motorcycle Drill Team, who performed their shows and wowed the crowds with their riding prowess. Music played from stages set up in various areas downtown. Several of the authors in attendance reported selling out of their books and merchandise.

As things wound to a close, it seemed that people did not want to leave, they were having such a good time, and they did not want it to end. But to those who missed the event this year, and those who want to return in 2003, the festival will be held on September 26-28, 2003. More detailed information will be printed in future editions of *The 66 News*! Thanks to the City of Springfield, the Springfield Convention and Visitor's Bureau and all those who contributed to the success of this year's festival.

SPEAKING IN PLATES ▼



Jim Jones' plate from Pontiac, Illinois



Bill & Bonnie DeMaster's
1966 Corvette



Steve Slocum's plate from Minnesota

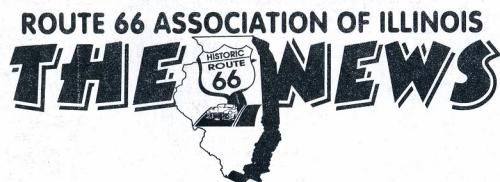
The Route 66 license plates just keep coming in. The first entry from Illinois is from our own Jim Jones from Pontiac. His plate CQRT66 is from ham radio terminology. CQ means "Let's talk" so Jim's plate is "Let's talk Route 66" Thanks for your plate submission, Jim. And keep talking Route 66.

Our second plate is from Bill and Bonnie DeMaster from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Their letter says, "We decided to replace the collector plate on our 1966 Corvette with 4 RT 66 to display our support for the historic preservation of the Mother Road." Many thanks for your support to our neighbors to the north!

And last but not least, the third plate hails from Minnesota. I spotted this one during the Route 66 Festival. The KICKS 66 plate belongs to Steve Slocum of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Thanks for the picture Steve, and thanks for attending the Route 66 Festival.

Many thanks to those of you who sent in your license plate pictures in 2002. Keep them coming in 2003, so we can keep this as a regular feature.

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS



2743 Veterans Parkway, #166
Springfield, IL 62704

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lincoln, IL
Permit No. 66