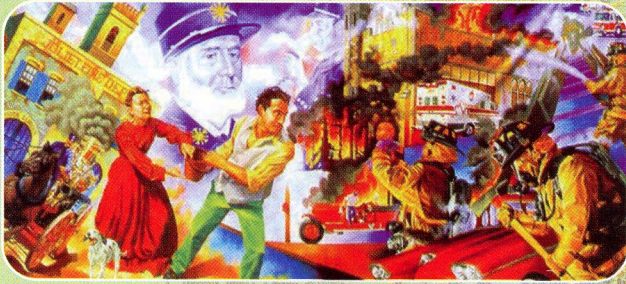


ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

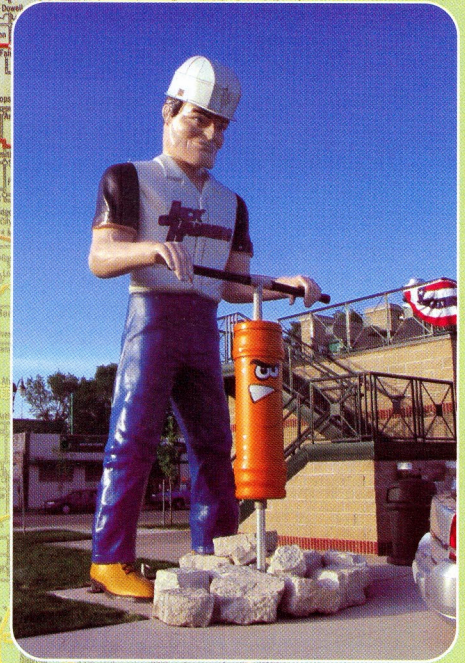
THE 66 NEWS

Spring 2005

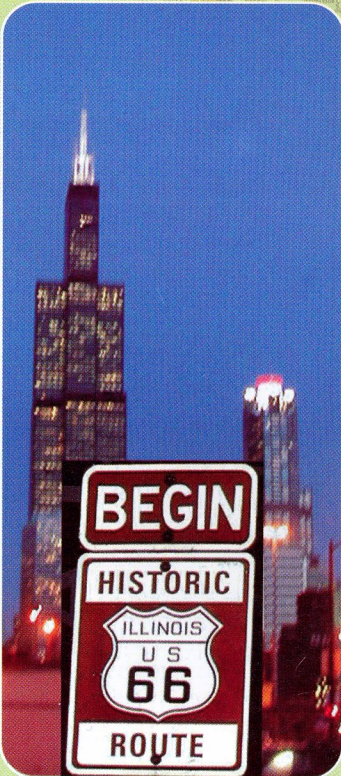
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Mural in Joliet, Illinois



The Muffler Man



The Sign Speaks
for Itself

Funk Prairie Home & Gem
and Mineral Museum



ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The Route 66 Association is a not-for-profit organization. Its purpose is to preserve, promote, educate and help others enjoy the road in this state. The Board Members are available to answer questions at most reasonable times.

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Publication Information: The Association publishes *The 66 News* in March, June, September, and 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 publication.

THE 66 NEWS

Spring 2005

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Pontiac, IL 61764

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Black and White Print:

Whole Page \$100.00

Half Page \$60.00

Quarter Page Ad \$40.00

Business Card Ad \$25.00

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www.il66assoc.org
Webmaster
Tom Flasch
Email: tjflasch@att.net

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Museum
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Curator
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Lincoln Printers -Lincoln, IL

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Fender Skirts
Preservation News
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Giants & Muffler Men

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John & Lenore Weiss
Bill Thomas
John Quirk
Jim Jones
Jonathon Maxwell
Jeffrey Geisler



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President's Report

October 2004 through January 2005

Greetings Fellow '66ers;

It's been almost six months since I've taken office. Much of my time has been spent as chairman of the annual motor tour working to bring to you, a different format this year. This year we hope to allow you the leisurely drive down '66 that you've been asking for. We'll have fewer designated stops, which means less time restraints on you. You can spend an hour in Wilmington or 2 hours at the Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac, as long as you're at the Hall of Fame Banquet in Normal by 7 pm. We'll tell the towns you're coming. We'll make arrangements for locations to be open especially for you, giving the owners a broader time frame. This allows us to follow this year's theme, "Adventure Drive Route 66!" We hope you find this year's motor tour the most enjoyable yet!

The association would like to thank the monthly event organizers. We want to thank Barb Gwodz who led us to Dwight last December for the first of our "monthly outings". We look forward to all future outings that are planned. We want to thank all monthly organizers for their hard work and forethought in planning these outings and John Weiss for coming up with this idea.

We must work and plan for the future. We need to decide what to put in the Dixie Truckers Home. We must keep a presence there. Replica or duplicate items would be great. They are more than willing to work with us. It's been three months and we need to act. We need to allow travelers a sample of what Illinois has to offer and lead them to the places that can provide them the history of the road.

The Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac continues to prosper under the management of Marilyn Pritchard and hard work of the museum committee. I want to thank Marilyn, Cathie, Durelle, Marty and Jim for their hard work making sure the vision of the association for this Hall of Fame and Museum is realized. GOOD JOB!

I want to thank Marty Bilecki and his committee for the great job they are doing getting out the word of events on Route 66. This committee has become a most integral part of the association. Please get your events of your counties to Marty in a timely fashion. He and his committee supplies this information to newspapers up and down the road, he also furnishes them to the newsletter editors for publication every quarter. Please provide him with the most accurate, complete and timely data possible. Help Marty do a good job for us!

I can't compliment my board and fellow officers enough for their support. I offer all of you kudos for a job well done over the past three months. I feel we are unified and can provide a united front in all our efforts. Thank you, and keep up the good work!

Over the next three months I will continue to work on the motor tour, the Hall of Fame Museum at Pontiac and the display at the Dixie! We also will be working with John Weiss on an event in August, and Cathie Stevanovich on the Poker Run on April 30th. Watch for information on these items in future newsletters. I ask that you continue to support Route 66 and the Association by driving the road and supporting the businesses along the way.

Remember, Get your kicks on □66□!

John Miller
President, The Route 66 Association of Illinois

This isn't about Funk's Grove.

It is about the Funk Prairie Home & Gem and Mineral Museum

By Jim Jones

Bill Case is the pleasant curator of this delightful home and museum. LaFayette Funk built the home in 1863-64. LaFayette Funk was the son of Isaac Funk, the founder of the Funk dynasty in central Illinois. Isaac Funk settled in the maple grove now known as Funk's Grove in 1824 and over his lifetime amassed 25,000 acres of farmland in the



The Funk Prairie Home viewed from the north. The stepping stone at the lower right has the Funk name engraved in it.

area. His first home in the area was at the site of the current Funk Grove Rest Area on Interstate 55. LaFayette Funk was also one of the founders of the Chicago Stockyards.

LaFayette Funk II, who passed away in 1993 at the age of 95, is the person that amassed the large collection of gems and minerals in the museum that he built in 1973. He started his rock collecting at the age of 53 and just seemed always to be able to find more interesting artifacts to add to his collection.

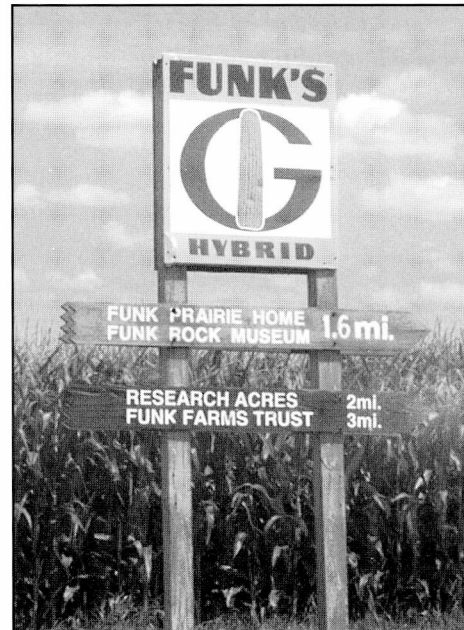
Entering the Prairie Home is like taking a step back in time; a hundred and forty-five-year step back. There are more innovations in this home than one would expect to find in several homes. The family was always on the leading edge of new and useful things to make a home more comfortable. The members of the Funk family have strived to preserve the heritage of their forbears. The Paul A. Funk Heritage Trust maintains the Funk Prairie Home and the Gem and Mineral Museums for the public.

You enter the home through a side door into the living room. On your left is the Italian marble fireplace, which is functional as well as beautiful. As you pass through the Prairie Home notice there are no chimney openings in the walls for space heaters. The house is heated by central hot water heat, a feature almost unheard of in a farm home of this era.

To your right is the golden wooden arch that leads to the parlor. In the living room is a beautiful painting of ears of corn with a shovel by Alfred Montgomery. Bill Case will have a story to tell you about this.

At the far end of the living room is the library, a small

room that is dominated by a massive desk-bookcase. This was the office where LaFayette Funk managed his large scale farming activities. On the south wall of the library is a door that leads to, of all things, a bathroom. Yes, this home built at the end of the Civil War has real indoor plumbing. There is a shower in the basement where Mr. Funk cleaned up and changed clothes, after a hard



Look for this sign east of I-55 interchange at Shirley.

day in the fields, before going upstairs to his family.

Beyond the golden arch is the parlor with an imposing portrait of LaFayette Funk hanging over the fireplace. On your left as you enter look at the massive Chickering piano. This is a square grand piano and very rare, although there is another one in the Scott House in Chenoa. Much of the furniture in the home is original. Look at it, it is some of the finest furniture you will ever see.



The chandelier in the dining room. Take note of the clock on the back wall.

Next, you go into the grand hall with its magnificent stairway to the second floor. To your right is the main entrance to the home through two sets of double doors.

You will now go up the stairway to the second floor where you will find five bedrooms, a child's bedroom, a sewing room, a bath (which was added in the 1940s) and a large hall. Also at the back of the house is the room for the cook, with its own stairway to the east porch. While in the family bedrooms notice the abundance of closets, which are seldom seen in homes of this period. A feature one would not expect today are sinks in the bedrooms. At one time there was a sink in each of the bedrooms, but a plumbing problem prompted the family to remove some of them. Also

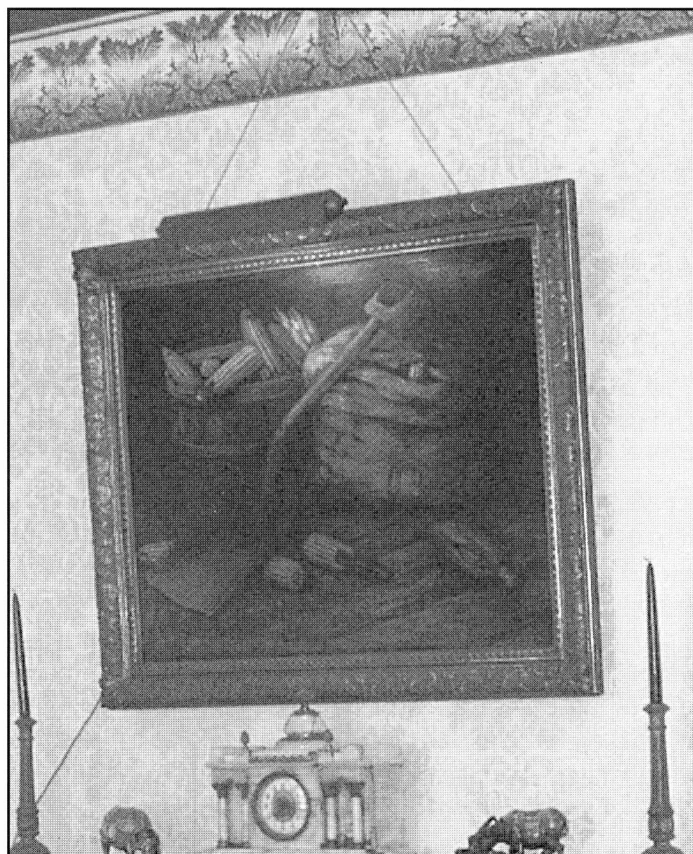


The main entrance to the grand hallway. Notice the two sets of double doors.

notice that there is no closet in the cook's room, but there is a large wardrobe.

After returning to the downstairs hall you will enter the dining room. Being the home of a large family, the dining room would seat sixteen quite comfortably for dinner. Bill will have stories to tell of this room, as he does for every room of this large home.

You enter the kitchen from the dining room, which is very much as it was in the early days of the Funk family. But don't expect to see the kitchen that our great-grandmothers lived with, this kitchen has running water at the sink and a proper drain. No throwing the dirty dishwater



The Alfred Montgomery painting hanging in the living room.

out the back door here. The cookstove is beyond a worktable in the center of the room. To the right of the table on the wall next to the pantry door is a large drawing of an enormous cow. There is an intriguing story that goes with this picture. Be sure to ask Bill to tell you of it.

This, I hope will tweak your interest enough to visit the Funk Prairie Home. Next time we will venture out back to the Gem and Mineral Museum with its thousands of mineral samples, in addition to Chinese soapstone carving, seashells, saddles, buggies and sleighs the Funk family used over the years.

The Funk Prairie Home & Gem and Mineral Museum is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, March through December. Visits to the museums can range in size from individuals to groups of 50. Tours are free, but you must phone the museum staff in advance to make reservations. Call 309-827-6792. To get to the Prairie Home take I-55 to exit 154 and go east on the Shirley Road. Just beyond the overpass is a black top road going south marked with a Funk's G sign, in addition there is an arrow pointing to the Prairie Home, which is 1.6 miles south. The home and museum will be on your left.

Join the Route 66 Association of Illinois on May 21st when they make The Funk Prairie Home & Gem and Mineral Museum the Monthly Event. Contact Rose Vargo for information. You can reach Rose by phone at 708-339-3640

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MONTHLY OUTINGS!

Join association volunteers who will be your guide each month.
They have selected an event to attend and you're invited to join them.
Bring your friends!

April through June 2005

If you too want to volunteer to be a guide for an event, please contact Marty Bilecki, Public Relations, at 815-941-3312 or email at coral57@aol.com with the details. Please allow 3 months advance notice.

April 9th John Ruh's Train Museum in Chicago, Illinois

Visit John Ruh's Route 66 Train Museum from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. John Ruh is an association member/Illinois Route 66 Preservation supporter who has opened his home to us. His train museum includes a five Train Layout fully landscaped with Route 66 landmarks state by state. Call for address/directions and RSVP John Ruh at 773-775-0632

April 30th The Route 66 Association of Illinois Preservation Committee Presents Spring Fling!

Join us at the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac (Center Point and Home Base) for the first annual poker run/walk. See the ad in this issue! Sign up now! Contact Cathie Stevanovich for information at 630-910-3422 or by email at: cathies@earthlink.com

May 21st Visit the Funk Prairie Home & Gem and Mineral Museum!

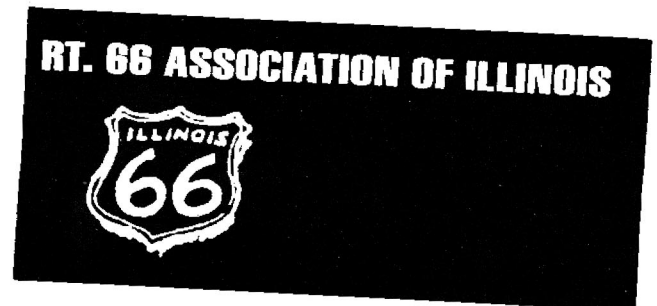
On Saturday May 21st meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Casey General Store in Gardner, IL. Caravan with us down Route 66 to Shirley, IL and tour the Funk Prairie Home & Gem and Mineral Museum. We will exit the tour approximately at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be optional. After our visit, we will than caravan to Country-Aire Restaurant in Atlanta for lunch. A brief trip to visit the Bunyan Giant makes a marvelous side trip! For more information, contact Rose Vargo at 708-339-3640.

June 10th through 12th – The Route 66 Association of Illinois Annual Motor Tour and Hall of Fame Banquet

"Adventure Drive Route 66!" Is the theme of this year's motor tour. Join the Association as they travel Illinois from Romeoville to Hamel. Help them celebrate the induction of new Hall of Fame members at the Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, June 11th at the Holiday Inn in Normal, IL. See our ad in this newsletter for details. For more information, contact John Miller at 708-389-3823 or by email at kixonrte66@hotmail.com

Congratulations on Joining -- **New Business Members**

Bloomington-Normal Convention and Visitors Bureau -
Bloomington, IL
Camz Retro, INC - Wilmington, IL
Edwardsville-Glen Carbon Chamber Commerce -
Edwardsville, IL



Do You Have Personalized Route "66" License Plate? The "66" News Wants Your Plate!

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The "66" News

c/o The Route 66 Association of Illinois
2743 Veterans Parkway, #166
Springfield, IL 32704

or by Email to:

Kathleen708@hotmail.com or ng9e@route24.net

They're back

Now you can get an official Route 66 Association of Illinois name badge. Association members can order them for \$8.00 each, which includes shipping. The badge will be engraved with your name on it. You can wear it proudly to Association events, car shows or wherever you go and want to show that you are a proud member of the Route 66 Association of Illinois. To order your badge, send a check or money order for \$8.00 payable to the Route 66 Association of Illinois to Marty Blitstein (see Contact Information). Please include with your check exactly how you want your name on the badge.

KRUZIN WITH THE BILECKIS

By: Marty and Geri Bilecki

In the immortal words of the still performing Bill Haley's original comets – "are you ready, get set, let's go." We welcome you to 2005 and the "Mother Road" of the U.S. A. If our early information and our Calendar of Events contributions are any indication, we can look forward to a great spring, summer and fall, and yes, even winter, involving the back bone of America, to wit. We are looking forward to touring and enjoying the towns, villages, townships and cities of our great state of Illinois and it's main streets or main thoroughfares on Route 66.

To those of you who came out to Dwight for the tree lighting and parade on December 3rd, you know what a great time we all had, and topping the evening off with dinner at the Country Mansion. The Castle Eden tour and trip on January 22nd (in a raging snowstorm) brought out 36 members (including 6 children). Then dinner at Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket, these were all enjoyable breaks from winter's grip. Our newly set-up monthly outings along Rt. 66 seem to be off to a great start. New members were met by the always reliable attendees!

Our meetings in Pontiac, at the Museum, and also, at the North and South locations bring out the true spirit of the membership who contribute so much of the needed support that our elected officers and our volunteers so much deserve. We are all primed and hope you are too for all that awaits us in the coming months. Our response to activity information has been fantastic from Chicago to Madison, IL and all in between and very encouraging. We know that the membership will be overwhelmed with the festivals, shows, cruises and events that are planned along the Route 66.

We wish to inform the membership of the fine "thank you" and complimentary letters that we have received from our European visitors, from Poland and France. They send their sincerest thanks to all of the 66 people who welcomed and greeted them in May of 2004 as they mountain biked from Chicago to L.A.

Soon our Motor Tour will be upon us and again John Miller and Company (committee) has a great itinerary planned with a new format of cruising. This year we will be joined by members of the International Police Association, District 4, and from members from other countries. We look forward to meeting and welcoming their members.

It has been mentioned and brought to the attention of your authors that this article and the 66 news does not dwell enough on the topic of Route 66. We believe the "Mother Road" to be an international road of the world and we will continue to promote her in all of our travels and writings. We hope this message is received and appreciated.

We had a great interview on CNN T.V., local news in Bloomington/Normal in January and talked about the Route 66 Association of IL and its aims with Ken Behrens. We will continue to do interviews throughout the year to keep them informed of the events along the road. The man upstairs has given us a great icon to promote, protect and restore. Stay tuned to your local newspapers and radio stations as Paul Harvey says "For the rest of the story" on 66 of Illinois. Keep Kruzin!

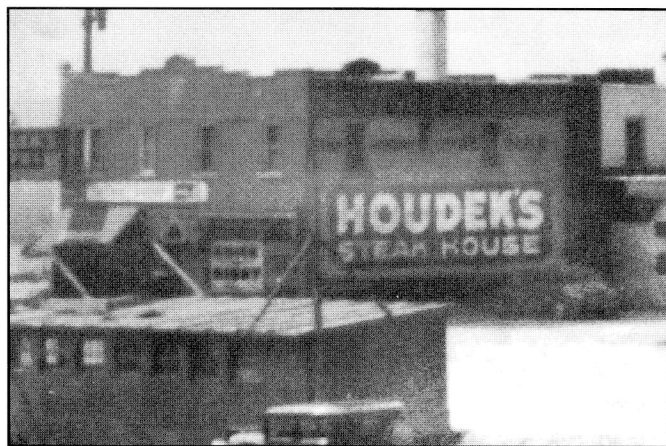
Remember our motto "IF YOU DON'T GO – YOU WON'T KNOW!"



Marty Bilecki on local CNN TV, with Ken Behrens

Mystery Photo Where is this?

(Answer on back cover)



COMMUNITY FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

March through June, 2005

MARCH

20th – Bloomington – Miller Park Zoo's Bunny's B.D. Party – Contact Suzie Hinthorn – 800-433-8226 or suzie@visitbn.org

Cahokia Mounds – Spring Equinox Sunrise Observance – 5.45 a.m. Contact 618 346-5160 or cahokiamounds@ezl.com

26th – Plainfield – Egg'straordinary Downtown Plainfield – Contact Art Curtis – 815-436-5510 or msplainfield@sbcglobal.net

27th – Litchfield – Amvets Easter Spring Parade - Contact Kris Skinner – 217-324-2533 or tourism@litchfieldil.com

APRIL

2nd & 3rd – Litchfield – Nine Fingers Rendezvous – Re-enactment of life pre 1840 – Lake Lou Yaeger – Contact 217-324-3416 or tourism@litchfieldil.com

2nd - Joliet – Museum -10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Collector's Showcase and Appraisal Fair – Contact Kim Shehorn – 815-723-5201, Ext. 235 or k.shehorn@jolietmuseum.org

3rd – Atlanta – J.H. Hawes Grain Elevator Museum Spaghetti Dinner – Contact Bill Thomas at 217-648-5077 or wthomas@teleologic.net

9th – Chenoa – Community Sale - Contact Nancy Wenger – 815-945-7619

16th – Cahokia Mounds – Raptor Awareness Day – 2:30 p.m. – Contact 618-346-5160 or cahokiamounds@ezl.com

16th – Bloomington – Central II model RR show – Interstate Center – Contact – Suzie Hinthorn – 800-433-8226 or suzie@visitbn.org

16th – Bloomington – Miller Park Zoo Halloween in April – Contact Suzie Hinthorn – 800-433-8226 or suzie@visitbn.org

22nd – Normal – Relay for Life – IL State Campus – Contact Suzie Hinthorn – 800-433-8226 or suzie@visitbn.org

May

3rd – through August 23 – Madison – Trail Rides from the Arch to old Chain of Rocks Bridge – Contact Kathi Weilbacker – 314-416-9930 or kathi@thailnet.org

6th & 7th – Chenoa – City Wide Garage Sale – Contact Nancy Wenger – 815-945-7619

7th – Atlanta – Townwide Garage Sales – 8 a.m. till 2 p.m. – Contact Bill Thomas 217-648-5077

7th – Benld – Coliseum Mall Spring Cruise-in and Flea Market – 10 a.m. til 5 p.m. – Contact George @217-839-3953 or Dave 217-835-7788

13th through 15th – Litchfield – Niehaus Cycle – 3 day Motorcycle Show – Contact 217-324-6565 or 217-324-5253, ext. 147

15th – Joliet – 9 a.m. – 8K run and 1 mile walk – Contact – Cam 815-744-6066 or Jim 815-724-4046

15th – Bloomington – Downtown Merchant Assoc. Home Tour – Contact Suzie Hinthorn – 800-433-8226 or suzie@visitbn.org

15th – Bloomington - Farmers Market Season Opens – Downtown – Contact Suzie Hinthorn – 800-433-8226 or suzie@visitbn.org

19th through 22nd – Heyworth – Heyworth Days Celebration

21st – Hamel – Townwide yard Sale – 8 til Dark – Contact – Jenny Ashauer – 618-5366

21st – Community Wide Yard Sale (Benld, Dorchester, Eagerville, East Gillespie, Gillespie, Mt.Clare, Sawyerville and Wilsonville) – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Contact 217-839-4888

21st – Cahokia Mounds – Nature/Culture Hike 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Contact 618-346-5160 or cahokiamounds@ezl.com

- 21st – Plainfield – Spring Fest – Contact Art Curtis – 815-436-5510 or msplainfield@sbcglobal.net
 27th & 30th – Benld – Annual Italian American Days – City Park – Contact Mickey Robinson – 217-835-2953
 28th & 29 – Carlinville – Spring Festival – Macoupin County Historical Society –
 Contact – Josephine Remling – 217-854-8916
 29th – Atlanta – 101st Birthday Celebration for J.H. Hawes Grain Elevator Museum - 1 to 3 p.m. –
 Contact 217-648-2056
 30th – Atlanta – Memorial Day Observance and festivities – Contact 217-648-5077

JUNE

- 7th – Every Tuesday through Aug 30th – Plainfield – Cruise Night – Downtown –
 Contact – Art Curtis – 815-436-5510 – or msplainfield@sbcglobal.net
 11th & 12th – Collinsville – Horseradish Festival – Contact – Erin Jones – 618-344-2884 or
chamber@htchtech.net
 11th – Bloomington – Air Fare – Prairie Aviation Museum – Contact Suzie Hinthorn 800-433-8226 or
suzie@visitbn.org
 11th – Atlanta – Rt. 66 Photo Exhibit –Contact – Bill Thomas 217-648-5077 or wthomas@teleologic.net
 11th – Dwight – Fine Arts and Antique Festival –
 Contact – Janice Lauritzen – 815-584-1830 or mainstreet@fyidwight.net
 11th and Saturdays through September – Dwight – Main Street Markets –
 Contact Janice Lauritzen – 815-584-1830 or mainstreet@fyidwight.net
 11th – Edwardsville – Route 66 Bicycle Ride –
 Contact – Kathi Weilbacher – 314-416-9930 Ext. 111 or kathi@trailnet.org
 12th – Hamel – Historical Festival – Contact – Craig Potthast – 618-633-1996
 17th – Lockport – Lockport Old Canal Days Parade – Contact – 815-838-3357 or
lockportchamber@sbcglobal.net
 17th – Bloomington – Corvette Classic – Bloomington/Normal Factory Stores –
 Contact Suzie Hinthorn 800-433-8226 or suzie@visitbn.org
 17th – Bloomington – David Davis Mansion – Garden Walk –
 Contact Suzie Hinthorn 800-433-8226 or suzie@visitbn.org
 17th & 18th – Edwardsville – Route 66 Festival – Contact – Carol Foreman – 618-656-7600 or
cforeman@edglenchamber.com
 18th & 19th – Lockport – Old Canal Days Festival – Carnival – Contact 815-838-3357 or
lockportchamber@sbcglobal.net
 18th – Pontiac – Hang Loose 50's and 60's Festival & car show – Contact –
 Chris @ 815-844-5783 or Tom @ 815-844-7219 or tourism@fcg.net
 18th & 19th – Collinsville – National Road Festival – Contact Judy DeMosey @ 618-345-5598 or
downtowncollinsville.com
 19th – Cahokia Mounds – Summer Solstice Sunrise Observance – 5:20 a.m. – Contact 618-346-5160 or
cahokiamounds@ezl.com
 24th through 26 – Mt. Olive – 175th Anniversary of Mother Jones –
 Contact Becky Dorco – 217-999-4261 or 6213
 24th through 26th – Litchfield – Classic Car Festival – Including showing of American Graffiti at the
 Sky View Drive-IN – Contact 217-324-5253, Ext 147, 866-733-5833 or
tourism@litchfieldil.com
 26th – Bolingbrook – Village Picnic – Contact – Teri Wintermute at 630-226-8400
 26th – Bolingbrook – 5K – 10K Run – Run in the Brook – Contact – Teri Wintermute at 630-226-8400
 26th – Madison – Old Chain of Rocks Bridge Birthday Bash and Bicycle Ride –
 Contact – Kathi Weilbacher – 314-416-9930 #111 or kathi@thailnet.org

If you would like your community event on Route 66 of Illinois listed in the newsletter please submit information to: Marty Bilecki, 4200 Bargo Lane, Morris, IL 60450 at least three months in advance.

Remember – if you don't know, you can't go!

Chef Jimbo Returns!

By Chef Jimbo (with permission from John Weiss)

Editors note: One of the featured recipes in the Route 66 Association of Illinois Cookbook “We Work For Food” was submitted by the world famous Chef, Chef Jimbo. Chef Jimbo brought you the delectable recipe for Elephant Stew! Always in search of tastier recipes for you, Chef Jimbo is embarking on a journey to the Dominican Republic in search of a new and better recipe! **To purchase a copy of “We Work for Food” which includes Chef Jimbo’s tasty Elephant Stew send a check or money order for \$14.00 (shipping and handling included) made out to “the Route 66 Association of Illinois” mail to: Kathy Miller – 14828 San Francisco – Posen, IL 60469.** Please, include your name and shipping address.

Below is a sample of what Chef Jimbo has planned!
Bon Appetite!

Over 200 Taste Tempting Recipes!

I noticed you sent me a promo letter regarding the cookbook “We Work for Food” that featured Chef Jimbo’s Elephant Stew recipe that is the talk of the nation. You know, I did not want to say anything, but I will tell you a secret if you promise not to tell anyone. Here it is...(be sure no one is looking over your shoulder) this swim with the whale stuff is only a Chef Jimbo decoy. The Chef feels that the public is getting a bit tired of elephant stew so this trip is really about... you guessed it! Are you ready? It is about whale burgers! Yes, you heard right! Whale Burgers! The Chef figures one 50-ton whale should net about 400,000 1/4 lb. Whale burgers. Some examples of food functions the Chef could do. How about a family reunion of let’s say 100 people. I would think just one 50 lb. Whale burger should suffice, or, maybe a community picnic of 2000 people. We could do it with just one 2000 LB. burger. Can you see the possibilities? Pretty impressive, isn’t it? Speaking now as Chef Jimbo, I know it’s hard for inexperienced food people like yourself to comprehend all this so I thought I would give you

a glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes. Much figuring must be done. For example, I like to use a slow cooker when I cook so I must calculate cooking time. Figuring a minimum of 2 hours cooking time per lb., a 50 ton whale would take 200,000 hours to cook. That would be around 8,000 days and rounding it off, would take 22 years. So you can see some of the behind the scenes problems Chef Jimbo faces. At that rate, company parties, reunions, wedding receptions and the like would have to place their orders 22 years before the event. I think I am going to have to give this some more thought. The problem is not only the time frame it’s also the size of the pot. One more thing, I do hope I’m not telling too much of what the future holds but, just to tease your taste buds I’m going to just give you 4 words that I know will make your mouth water “Whale Blubber Salad Dressing”! That’s enough excitement for now. Just wanted you to know that Chef Jimbo is still around and is always on the lookout for new and exciting recipes. Look out McDonalds!

WE WORK FOR FOOD!

Disclaimer: the Route 66 Association of Illinois in no way supports eating whales. This is Chef Jimbo’s idea!

**ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION
OF ILLINOIS PRESENTS
(Rain or Shine)**



**“A SPRING FLING”
Saturday, April 30th, 2005**

A walk, run, bike, or cruise POKER RUN to raise money for historic Preservation projects!!!
7 card draw, best 5 played!

- Registration:** Pre-register by mail or at the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum 9 a.m. April 30th, 2005
110 W. Howard Street, Pontiac
- Where:** 7 communities along Route 66 – Dwight, Gardner, Odell, Pontiac, Chenoa, Lexington, and Towanda
- Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., turn in cards for awards at 2:30 at the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame
And Museum in Pontiac—cash prizes for best, 2nd, 3rd, and worst poker hand!
- Raffle Prizes:** A FREE ticket with every poker hand purchased!
- Awards:** Winners must be present to win at 2:30 p.m. unless participating by proxy!
- Tour Route:** A map will be furnished with all locations of card dealers!
- Best hand \$500 - 2nd Place \$300 - 3rd Place \$200 - Worst Hand \$100**

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____

Waiver: (Must be read, understood, and signed) in consideration of my participation in the “Spring Fling” to be held on Saturday, April 30th, 2005, I hereby, upon my signature, agree to hold free from any and all liability the Route 66 Association of Illinois, their Preservation Committee, and the organizers and volunteers, and do hereby for myself, my heirs, and executors and administrators waive, release, and forever discharge any and all rights and claims for illness, injury, and damages, which I may have or which may hereafter accrue to me arising out of or connected with my participation. I do hereby declare the vehicle I will be riding in (or on) to be sound and in good condition to participate in this event. The vehicle I will be riding in (on) is covered by liability insurance.

Minors must have parent or guardian sign: _____

signature of participant _____

ADVANCE BONUS REGISTRATION:

All mail entries will receive \$5.00 in additional raffle tickets FREE!!!

_____ One (1) poker hand \$7	_____ Seven (7) poker hands \$35.00
_____ Three (3) poker hands \$18.00	_____ Ten (10) poker hands \$45.00

*Preregistration must be in by April 15th. You can play and help even if you cannot attend. If Poker Hands are not picked up by 1 p.m. they will be played by proxy. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and worst hand cash awards only will be mailed if won by proxy.

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

MAIL TO: CATHIE STEVANOVICH “SPRING FLING”

9280 DRUMMOND DRIVE, TINLEY PARK, IL 60477

FURTHER INFO: cathiesb@earthlink.net

**Route 66 Association of Illinois
Presents
Adventure Drive Route 66**

**June 2005
10th, 11th & 12th**

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

John Miller - Chairman

Email: kixonrte66@hotmail.com

Home: 708-389-3823

Work: 773-239-2606

Marty Bilecki

Email: coral57@aol.com

Phone: 815-941-3312

Marilyn Pritchard

Email: cyclone@verizon.net

Phone: 815-844-6937

Jim Jones

Email: ng9e@route24.net

Phone: 815-844-5657

Travis Shadwell

Email: shadwell@effingham.net

Phone: 217-868-2771

EARLY REGISTRATION

MAIL TO: MOTOR TOUR

Route 66 Association of Illinois

2743 Veterans Parkway #166

Springfield, IL. 62704

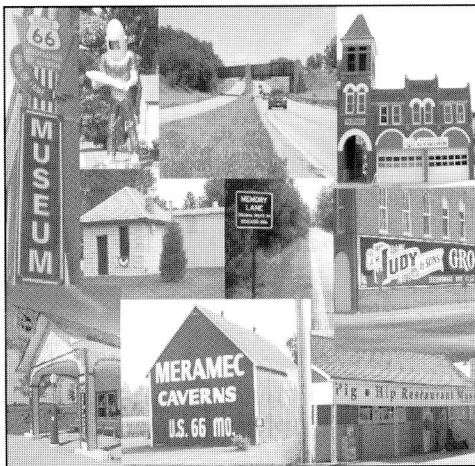
Mail in entries must be

postmarked before MAY 15, 2005

Registration also available:

June 10th McCook –

June 11th Romeoville & Odell



**June 10th
Friday Night Kickoff**

J.C. Pub

8650 Joliet Road

Mc Cook, IL

708-387-0030

(Dinner Reservations Suggested)

Registration 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Saturday June 11th

ROMEIOVILLE

ELWOOD

ODELL

PONTIAC

NORMAL

Sunday June 12th

LINCOLN

DIVERNON

HAMEL

HALL OF FAME BANQUET MENU

***Southern Buffet* (limited seating available)**

Assorted Salads - Corn on the Cob – Corn Bread

BBQ Spareribs - Southern Fried Chicken – Peach Cobbler

Coffee or Ice Tea *Cash Bar Available*

*** MOTOR TOUR REGISTRATION FORM ***

ALL WELCOME * ANY VEHICLE * ANY YEAR * ANY MAKE

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

Please print or type:

Illinois Member Motor Tour Fee: \$25.00 _____

Non-Member Motor Tour Fee: \$40.00 _____

(Registration includes \$15.00 single membership)

**Hall of Fame Banquet Tickets (Max 2) @ \$20.00 _____
(Must be registered on the tour – price includes gratuity – limited seating available)**

Children 12 & Under @ \$12.50 _____

Extra Hall of Fame banquet tickets @ \$25.00 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Route 66 Association of Illinois is not responsible for any accidents, injuries, or misconduct!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ADDRESS 2: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

SORRY, NO REFUNDS! RAIN OR SHINE

Route 66 Association of Illinois

Motel list for the 2005 Motor Tour

Be sure to mention you are with the Route 66 Association of Illinois Motor Tour

**All Rooms for all dates must be booked by May 13th **

Friday June 10th

Hampton Inn
6251 Joliet Road
Countryside, IL
708-354-5200

\$85.00 per night plus tax
Includes complimentary
Breakfast buffet

Ramada
300 South Frontage Road
Burr Ridge, IL
630-325-2900

\$72.00 per night plus tax
Use confirmation # G00007-26

Super 8
820 W. 79th Street
Willowbrook, IL
630-789-6300

\$63.00 per night plus tax

Red Roof Inn
735 Kingery Highway
Willowbrook, IL
1-800-733-7663

\$68.99 per night plus tax
Use confirmation #B167000649

**For more information visit the
Route 66 Association of Illinois
Website at:
www.il66assoc.org**

Baymont Inn
855 W. 79th Street
Willowbrook, IL
630-654-0077
\$59.99 per night plus tax

Saturday June 11th

Holiday Inn Bloomington/Normal
8 Traders Circle
Normal, IL 61761
309-452-8300

\$70.00 per night plus tax
Includes complimentary Breakfast buffet

Best Western
University Inn
6 Traders Circle
Normal, IL 61761
309-454-4070

\$62.50 per night p'l'e. tax

Sunday June 12th

Baymont Inn
1405 West Hudson Drive
Litchfield, IL 62056
217-324-45556

\$66.00 per night plus tax
***Must book by May 1st**

Comfort Inn
1010 East Columbian Blvd.
Litchfield, IL 62056
217-324-9260

\$59.95 per night plus tax

Super 8 Motel
211 Ohren Drive
Litchfield, IL 62056
217-324-7788
\$49.99 per night plus tax

Holiday Inn
P.O. Box 377
I-55 & Route 108
Carlinville, IL 62626
217-324-2100
\$68.50 per night plus tax

**ALL WELCOME * ANY VEHICLE
ANY YEAR * ANY MAKE**

The Giants of the Road the Muffler Men!

By Kathleen Miller

There are still many muffler men around so many it's simpler to type the states that do not have them. "States devoid of Muffler Man infestation: Delaware, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont." As quoted from the website "Muffler Men, Roadside America" you can reach their website at <http://roadsideamerica.com/muffler> I would like to thank Roadside America for their generosity in allowing me the use of their data in this article.

Steve Dashew's company, International Fiberglass, was the originator of these giants. His company turned out thousands of commercial statues in the 1960s and 70s. International Fiberglass took a single statue mold created for a cafe and parlayed it into a roadside industry.

In Illinois we have 3 located directly on Route 66 in Wilmington, Atlanta, Springfield, and in Joliet there is one located 1/2 city block from "66".

You can find the muffler men in Illinois in the following cities:

*Atlanta (formerly Cicero) - Bunyan Giant - Located on Historic Route 66

Bartlett - Reported missing 9/17/2000, still gone 10/26/2002. "Big Ben," a Texaco Service Man. Stood in front of Big Ben's Tire Barn, then a lawn mower repair shop.

Bridgeview - Frankenmuffler, green skin, neck bolts, yellow tie, pointy shoulders, weak chin. A nouveau mutant.

Chicago - "Mr. Bendo." Atop Ced's Auto Body, bending an iron bar.

Chicago - Indian, Tests the eyesight of passing drivers; has "Eye Care Center" sign bolted to chest.

Evergreen Park - Atop Guardian Auto Rebuilders. Back up an in service. Had a low level Tornado/bad storm in late summer 1998 and was knocked down. He was repaired and has fresh Du Pont Chroma base auto paint on him, including candy apple red shirt.

Joliet - Left Field Louie" is the mascot of the Joliet Jackhammers baseball team. Once stood in Ham Lake, MN.

Libertyville - In the Miniature golf course at Lamb's Farm. Accompanied by a fiberglass cow and milk bottle.

Melrose Park - Formerly in front of a lumber store, now indoors at Wolff's Flea Market, at the former receiving dock of a dept. store.

Mount Vernon - Uniroyal Girl

Nauvoo - Viking, In front of the Nauvoo-Colusa High School since 1986.

Palantine - Indian - Ozzi Waterpark and Go Cart Park. No feet. Highly detailed "beefcake" rendering of bare chest and pants.

Palantine - Bunyan - Ozzi Waterpark and Go Cart Park. No feet. Painted black suspenders.

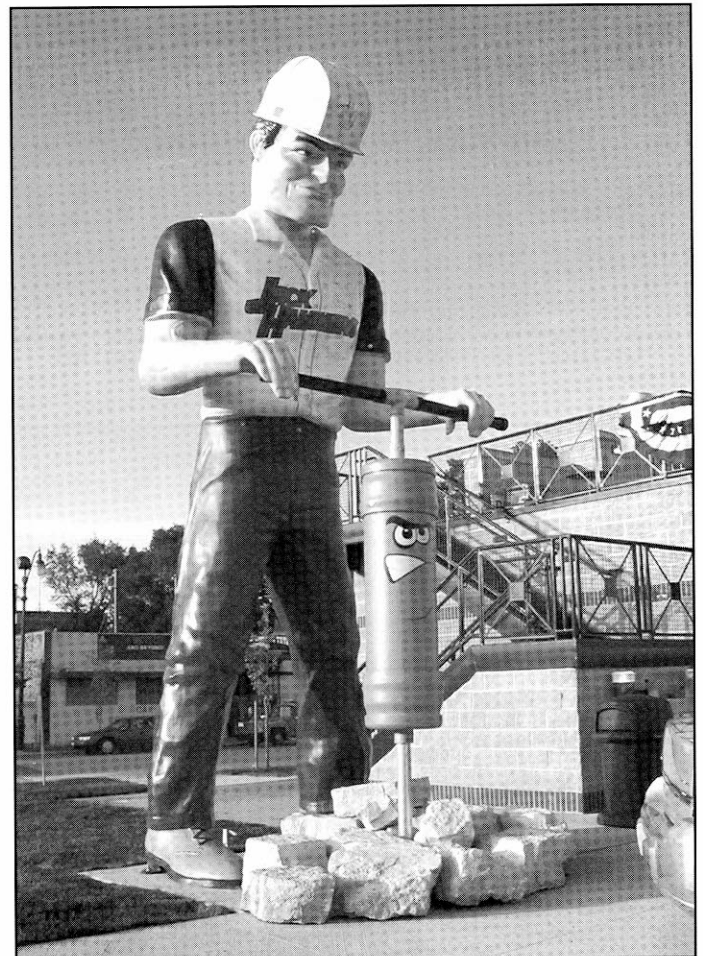
Peoria - Uniroyal Girl

Roseville - Missing - Last seen in 1991.

Salem - AKA "Stan the Tireman"

*Springfield - AKA the "Lauterbach Tire Man" wears a blue cap and shirt, black pants with Lauterbach written down the legs. Located on Historic Route 66.

*Wilmington - AKA "Gemini Giant," named in a contest in the mid-1960s, stands outside the Launching Pad Drive-in. Some say he is a tribute to local ammunition plant workers. Located on Historic Route 66.



The Muffler Man

How to Identify a Muffler Man: Avoid the social embarrass-

ment of incorrectly categorizing a muffler man sighting by studying his simple features and variations: Note: Muffler Men are **NOT** the 4-6 ft. tall welded sculptures made of discarded car parts at repair shops!

Physical Characteristics

- Material: Fiberglass. Knock on his leg to see if he's hollow.
- Height: From bottom of shoe to top of head or hat, between 18-25 ft. tall
- Head: Well-chiseled facial bones, prominent brow and squarish "lantern" jaw. Crack a beer bottle over this guy's noggin and he wouldn't be phased. Eyes may appear to stare blankly into the middle distance, or may be painted to leer down at visitors.
- *Exceptions:* Halfwits and Indians – The Halfwits have a face resembling Howdy Doody and are clustered in Texas and New Jersey, for some reason.
- Torso: Broad-shoulders, and familiar design of fake shirt folds. Pockets, suspenders, shirt patterns sometimes painted on. *Exceptions:* Indian models often barechested.
- Arms: Short-sleeved shirt, well-articulated veins bulge on forearms. Bent at elbow, left palm faces down, right palm faces up — with an open grasp to hold an ax, muffler, golf club, etc.
- Shoes and legs: Big, blocky shoes measure about 4-ft. from heel to toe. Pants exhibit familiar pattern of folds and creases.

* Muffler men on Illinois Route 66

ROUTE 66 PAVILION at ROCK 'N RODS

Attention all towns on Route 66 and tourist - traveler related businesses.

On August 6 & 7, in Pontiac, there is going to be festival called Rock 'n Rods on Route 66. The outstanding format virtually guarantees visitors and participants in the thousands.

At this extraordinary event, there will be a pavilion titled "ALL ABOUT ROUTE 66". We offer you, at no charge, to come and promote your community, your restaurant, motel, museum, or any attraction that relates to Route 66. It will be an exciting Route 66 Expo showcasing all there is in Illinois to see and do on Route 66!

This is an excellent promotional opportunity for you. But space will be limited, so please call or email immediately. This will be in a shaded large building in a very prominent location that includes electric. Tables will also be provided.

The pavilion will be hosted and offered by John & Lenore Weiss. This is their way to thank you for all that you do to help keep Illinois 66 a dynamic travel destination.

To participate, at no charge, or for any information, contact John or Lenore at 815-458-6616, or email moxie66@sbcglobal.net, Subject: Rt. 66 Expo.

For information on the entire exciting event, visit their website at www.rocknrodson66.com.

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

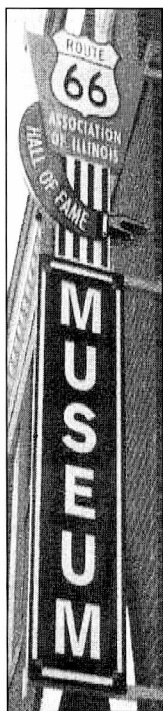
2743 Veterans Pkwy., Room 166

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

Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame & Museum



Now that we are in the winter season, the City of Pontiac maintenance crew is busy working on the next phase of the Route 66 Museum. With the completion of the first floor and starting on the second floor, replacing doors and final touches on the bathroom. Also securing areas where the cold air can sneak in.

The architect will review the plans of the second floor for the meeting room, theatre room, artifact (storage) room, and office space. A proof of future "way finding" signs was shown to the committee, which will match the sign on the front of the museum. The Hall of Fame Museum sign on the building was installed on November 6, 2004 by City of Pontiac.

At the end of January, we received six

lighted showcases. This will complete a project of 20 lighted and secured cases, plus five glass counters. This gives many Route 66 memorabilia to look at and reminisce.

I hope it was your 2005 New Years Resolution to travel to Pontiac and see "The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum." We have many special events in the near future lined up. Join us for the State Farm Appreciation Day on February 26, 2005 from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.! Compliments of the City of Pontiac, refreshments will be served at the new City Hall, 115 W. Howard St. across the street from the Museum. In August, enjoy the Rock n Rods event at the 4-H Campground with tours to our Hall of Fame Museum provided by the Jolly Trolley.

The Museum needs volunteers to help on Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact us by email at cyclone@verizon.net or by phone (815) 844-6937

Museum Curator, Marilyn Pritchard

Note: Since the Museum opened: there have been visitors from 18 Foreign Countries, 43 States and 275 different Cities/Towns in Illinois recorded.

Preservation News!

The preservation committee continues meeting under the leadership of Larry Scinto and Lou Vargo. The duo held a meeting on February 5, 2005 at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight, IL with guest speaker John Weiss. "The meeting was well attended, it was great to see so many new faces present and see this committee grow!" said chairman Larry Scinto. The meeting was a sea of faces. Some faces familiar, some were strangers that soon became friends. The meeting was a mixture of adults, young people, and children, all wanting the same thing, to preserve Route 66. Co-chairman Lou Vargo had this to say, "Remember, if you have projects you think we may be able to work on, or want to volunteer you too work, give us a call."

Working hand in hand with the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum Committee the two groups are committed too work together now and in the future.

The First Annual Poker Run sponsored by the Route 66 Association of Illinois Preservation Committee has been scheduled to take place on April 30, 2005; look for the ad in this newsletter.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, April 2, 2005 at Feddersen's Pizza Garage in Dwight, IL on Historic Route



**Preservation meeting fills
Feddersen's banquet room in Dwight last February.**

66. Join us for the fabulous Feddersen's Buffet at 5:00 pm the cost is \$8.00 per person followed by the meeting at 6:00 pm.

You can reach the committee chairs by phone at: Larry Scinto 708-425-2937 or Lou Vargo 708-389-3823

The Walls of Joliet

By John & Lenore Weiss

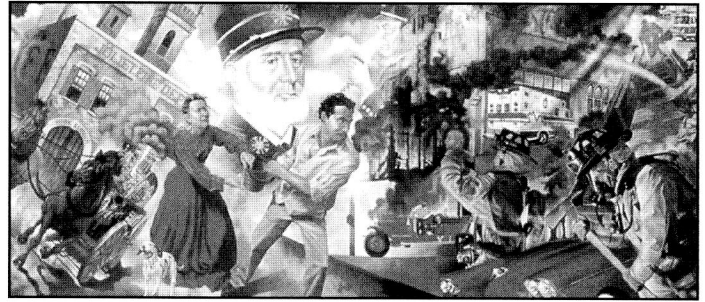
Courtesy of Route 66 Magazine, Fall 2004 issue

Yes, Joliet, Illinois, the town that has always been known as the City of Steel & Stone, is a place of extraordinary art projects, and architecture.

This community has a rich history in transportation. Much of the steel needed for the rails that carried the trains to open the west came from Joliet. After the Chicago and Lockport fires, rebuilding was accomplished with abundant Joliet limestone. The Illinois and Michigan (I&M) Canal, the river access, and the railroads played important roles in the development of this city. Fortunes were made. Jobs were in abundance. Mansions were everywhere. This area was becoming a dominant transportation hub.

Then came the Lincoln Highway. This coast-to-coast link, soon followed by Route 66, traveled directly through Joliet. These two roads created another historic transportation link. Where they meet each other is truly a significant crossroads of Midwest America.

Joliet is also known for its prison and many famous sports and entertainment stars. The Rialto Square Theatre is considered one of the ten most beautiful theatres in the



Mural in Joliet.

nation. It sits proudly on Route 66!

With this vast amount of legitimate history, a way to publicly tell this story was long past due. But how? How does this remarkable community shout out and display their justified pride? A way was needed that would be of interest to all age groups, nationalities, strangers, and local residents.

One of the most dominant ways is with larger than life murals. These pieces of art are not your ordinary community murals. They are an outstanding display of talent. The principal funding for this project is provided by the city of Joliet. Of course, numerous other grants, donors, and other community sponsors actively support this program.

The official title is, "FRIENDS OF COMMUNITY PUBLIC ART." (FCPA) This remarkable display has branched out to other forms of first class artwork.

These include sculptures, mosaics, metal designs, original paintings, jewelry, and much, much more. Each one of these pieces help tell the tale of the historical people and places within Joliet and along the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor. Wonderfully descriptive brochures tell the story and explain the location and theme of each piece.

The acceptance of this program has been terrific. So much so, that the FCPA now has their own location directly on Route 66. They have converted an old steelworkers' union hall into offices and studios. The neon sign out front reads "ART AT THE STEELWORKERS." How appropriate is that!

What a treat to visit here. You can look into the various studios as these talented people work. A small gift shop with many one of a kind pieces are available. Also, in this complex, is the Marsha Lega Studio &

The Walls of Joliet.



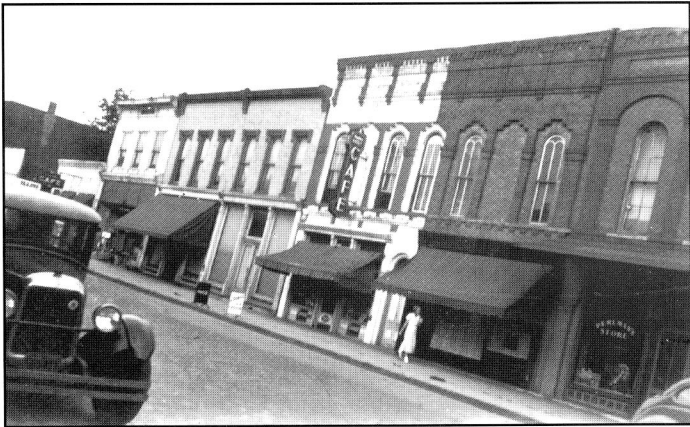
Continued on Page 18

"Lost and Found" Rt. 66 Photo Exhibit to Benefit Atlanta's Palms Grill Cafe Restoration Project

By William Thomas

Rt. 66 images, both past and present, will take center stage in Atlanta, Illinois during this year's Motor Tour. In what's being billed as a "Must See Stop", the Central Illinois community of Atlanta will host an exhibit of renowned Rt. 66 photographer, Russell Olsen. To produce his photos, Olsen revisited the mid-century roadside cafes, motels and service stations that once thrived along Old Route 66. He then took his collection of images and paired them with vintage postcards or archival photos of each building in its

neon sign. As shown in early photos of the Grill, the sign hung on the front of the building and was a prominent feature of its facade. The entire restoration project is expected to take several years. Everyone is invited to stop in downtown Atlanta during the Motor Tour. Russell Olsen will be on hand to sign his photographs and answer questions. The Atlanta Library and J. H. Hawes Grain Elevator Museum will be open for tours, and the Bunyon Statue will be ready to pose with you for a unique photo opportunity.



Palms Grill Café Exterior.



Palms Grill Café Interior.

heyday. In the process he produced "Rt. 66: Lost and Found", a book and travelling photography exhibit featuring an illustrated history of some 75 buildings in various states of renovation, expansion, or decay. Teleologic Learning Company will host Olsen's exhibit during the Motor Tour at its offices located on Rt. 66 in downtown Atlanta. Photographs in the Lost and Found Exhibit will be available for sale, with a percentage of each sale being donated towards Atlanta's ongoing efforts to restore the Palms Grill Cafe. The Grill project is the latest in a series of efforts by Atlanta to bring its downtown section of Rt. 66 back to life. In early 2003, the Atlanta Public Library and Museum was given the "Downey Building", home of the Palms Grill Cafe from 1934 until the late 1960s. One year later, efforts were successful in getting the Downey Building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Atlanta now boasts three properties on the Register, including its Library and the J. H. Hawes Grain Elevator. In 2004, the Grill project was the recipient of a National Parks Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program grant. Funding from this award is being used to produce architectural drawings and plans for the restoration effort. Additional grant applications have been submitted to help fund construction costs of this major renovation effort. A grant has also been written to fund reproduction of the original Palms Grill Cafe

Continued From Page 17 The Walls of Joliet

Gallery 28. This is an exquisite retail outlet of fine art and artistic crafts. All the folks here are proud of what they are contributing to Joliet.

Many geographic sites have been singled out. For example, you can receive information about the artwork that is exclusively on Route 66, or the Lincoln Highway, etc.

It would take at least half a day to travel around Joliet and just view all these artistic displays. But plan on a whole day and evening. While on the town, a stop at the new Route 66 Welcome Center and Joliet Historical Museum is highly recommended. Having a bite to eat at numerous restaurants that are located downtown in historic buildings is a real treat, then spend the evening at the Rialto Square Theatre. Words cannot describe the unbelievable experience it is to be in the Rialto. Many, including myself, have tried to describe it. But perhaps Liberace said it best - "At last, a theatre to match my wardrobe!"

For art program information and free brochures, contact;

Friends of Community Public Art (FCPA)

310 N. Ottawa St (Route 68)

Joliet IL 60432 815-722-4140

Website: WWW.FCPAONLINE.ORG

City of Joliet information 800-926-2262

Rialto Square Theatre 815-726-6600

Museum & Association Office

We opened the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum on June 6, 2004. Since that time we have had over 4,000 visitors. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., Saturday from 10-5 p.m. and Sunday by appointment.

The museum's first floor is full, with display cases of items donated or on loan from members and enthusiasts. The City of Pontiac has been very gracious to our Association with this opportunity to be located in a building that is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Pontiac has paid for the restoration to this historic building. They have supplied cabinets and other fixtures. As of January 7, 2005, they have started the work on the second floor of the Museum to allow for further expansion. The second floor was the former firemen's living quarters.

Our plan for this expansion is to have a meeting room/lecture hall and more displays. The expansion will provide a secure storage room where we can keep items not on display, association supplies and records.

While the city provides the labor & equipment for re-

furbishing we must rely on volunteers for day-to-day operation of the museum.

We are asking members to provide funds to purchase items needed for the museum. We are in need of many special items such as desks, tables, chairs, filing cabinets, storage bins and lockers, a fax machine, copy machine, visual aids (storage, recording media, tapes, DVD players, etc) screens, etc.

We need your help in setting up a permanent office in our new home in Pontiac. We need money for equipment for the museum's second floor.

We will have a donor wall to honor and acknowledge those who help us reach our goals. We will make an accounting available for all members to view at any time.

You can make a donation in your name or as a memorial of someone. The Memorials will be acknowledged with a beautiful certificate of appreciation for helping to make the stories of the Mother Road available to future generations.

Make your check or money order payable to: Route 66 Association of Illinois. Mail donations to: The Route 66 Association of Illinois - Attn: Martin Blitstein - 2743 Veterans Parkway #166 - Springfield, Illinois 62704. For more information contact Martin Blitstein after 7:00 p.m. at 708-444-1312 or by email at: blitz66@chicagonet.net. Thank you in advance. The Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum belongs to you, our members. Please stop by whether to visit, volunteer, or contribute your memorabilia, your tapes or written memories or make a donation.

Come home and visit soon!

Route 66 Association of Illinois ANNUAL MOTOR TOUR!

“ADVENTURE DRIVE 66”

June 2005, 10th, 11th, & 12th

PLACE YOUR AD IN THE PASSPORT!

Full Page \$100.00 - Half Page \$60.00 - 1/3rd Page \$40.00

THE PASSPORT IS PROVIDED TO ALL REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS!

NEW this year! Be part of the ROUTE 66 ROAD CREW AD!

Single Line Ads - \$5.00 Per Line (limited to 50 spaces per line)

(Sample One Line Route 66 Road Crew Ad: “Get your kicks on Route 66! John & Kathy Miller”)

Mail all ads with payment by April 15, 2005

Check or money order payable to “Route 66 Association of Illinois”

Mail to: Kathy Miller – 14828 San Francisco – Posen, IL 60469



**2nd Annual "Cruisin' Route 66" to Litchfield,
Illinois
June 24-26, 2005**

Show & Shine * Cruise
1979 & Older Cars.....Plus Trucks & Motorcycles
Live Entertainment* Vendors* Route 66 Dignitaries
Fun for the Entire Family

Playing at the Route 66 Hall of Fame
Sky View Drive-In Movie Theatre
"American Graffiti"

Show is Right on the Pavement of Route 66 in Historic Litchfield

Cruise starts in Downtown Joliet, Illinois on Thursday, June 23rd, 5-10pm
Leave Joliet, Illinois Friday 9am for a 200 mile Cruise to Litchfield, Illinois
Friday Night Show, Welcome Party 6pm to 9pm
Saturday Shine and Show on Route 66 10am to 4pm
Parade of Cars, "American Graffiti", Live Entertainment 6pm to ?
Sunday Shine and Show, Send Off 10am to 2pm

For Details and Registration Contact:
City of Litchfield www.litchfield.il.us Click on Car Show Icon
Call 1-866-733-5833

or

Show Promoter- Craig Parrish 517-394-7344
Quality Vendors Welcome, 20x20 space \$ 85.00

camz of wilmington



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203 NORTH WATER STREET - WILMINGTON, IL 60481

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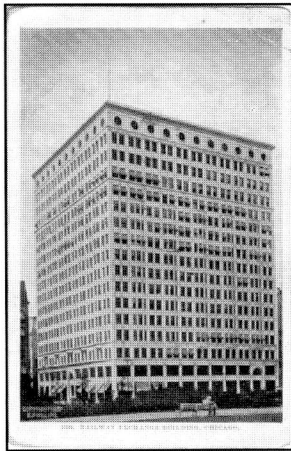
FREE Chicago Walking Tours on Friday of 2005 Motor Tour

The 2005 Illinois Route 66 Motor Tour begins in the Chicago area. Anyone who is interested should make plans to get into Chicago's Loop early on Friday, June 10th, to participate in FREE walking tours hosted by Windy City Road Warrior, Dave Clark.

The tours will start at 12:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. and will meet in front of the Chicago Board of Trade, 141 W. Jackson (eastbound 66), which is located at the intersection of LaSalle Street and Jackson Boulevard.

The 12:15 p.m. tour will cover the East Loop, running along Jackson from LaSalle to Michigan Avenue, then returning along Adams Street (westbound 66) back to LaSalle. Tour highlights:

The tallest building in the world with weight-bearing walls
 The site of the world's first skyscraper
 The site where Standard Time was adopted.
 The Art Institute
 The Santa Fe Railway Building



The 2:30 p.m. tour will cover the West Loop, setting out from LaSalle along Jackson to Clinton Street, then will travel along Adams back to LaSalle.

Highlights:

Union Station
 Lou Mitchell's

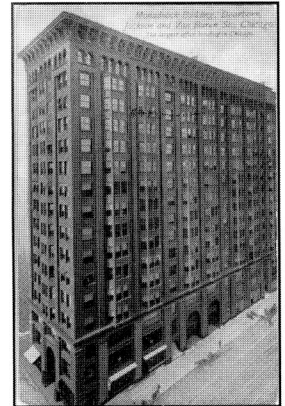
The site of the Bohemian Café, where patrons could dine on rattlesnake and bear steaks

The tallest building on Route 66

The tallest building that has no name

The Jackson and Adams Street Double-Bascule Bridges

The number of participants in the tours will be limited—
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED! Please contact Dave Clark directly to ensure your participation:



E-mail: dave@windycityroadwarrior.com
 Website: <http://www.windycityroadwarrior.com>
 Phone: 312-432-1284
 Address: 843 W. Adams Street #312
 Chicago, IL 60607-3017

TALES OF THE ROAD

By Ted Giovanazzi

(Editor's Note: This is the third of three installments of the late Burt Parkinson's columns which were printed in the Gardner Chronicle in 1939.)

THE WINDOW AND ITS PAIN ON WEDNESDAY -- By Burt Parkinson

APRIL 6, 1939

Well, well, here is the pest again with happenings of the hour thru the window. Surprise, the pains have scrubbed and polished, but darn it, the rain is messing them all up again. I went to Chicago yesterday. There a terrific din fills ones ears. The clamor of cars and the hum of crowds all blend together in one crazy hubbub. For me, I will take the village of Gardner above all your cities. Here, one can be contented and have peace and quiet. In the city, they call us country folks, "hicks". But let me tell you right here, I would rather be a "hick" than a city slicker any day. Well enough of that, but doggone, I mean just what I said.

There goes Jap Middleton after his morning visit to the PO (post office). Arden Gerrish is now trotting across the street, hoping to avoid the mud puddles that are on the sidewalks. Oh yes, I forgot to tell you that it is raining outside. A freight train just

Fender Skirts

What a great blast from the past! I haven't thought about "fender skirts" in years. When I was a kid, I considered it such a funny term. It made me think of a car in a dress. Thinking about "fender skirts" started me thinking about other words that quietly disappear from our language with hardly a notice.

Like "curb feelers" and "steering knobs." Since I'd been thinking of cars, my mind naturally went that direction first. Any kids will probably have to find some elderly person over 50 to explain some of these terms to you.

Remember "Continental kits?" They were rear bumper extenders and spare tire covers that were supposed to make any car as cool as a Lincoln Continental.

When did we quit calling them "emergency brakes?" At some point "parking brake" became the proper term. But, I miss the hint of drama that went with "emergency brake". I'm sad, too, that almost all the old folks are gone who would call the accelerator the "foot feed." Didn't you ever wait at the street for your daddy to come home, so you could ride the "running board" up to the house?

Here's a phrase I heard all the time in my youth but never anymore - "store-bought." Of course, just about everything is store-bought these days. But once it was bragging material to have a store-bought dress or a store-bought bag of candy.

"Coast to coast" is a phrase that once held all sorts of excitement and now means almost nothing. Now we take the term "worldwide" for granted. This floors me. On a smaller scale, "wall-to-wall" was once a magical term in our homes. In the '50s, everyone covered his or her hardwood floors with, wow, wall-to-wall carpeting! Today, everyone replaces their wall-to-wall carpeting with hardwood floors. Go figure.

When's the last time you heard the quaint phrase "in a family way?" It's hard to imagine that the word "pregnant" was once considered a little too graphic, a little too clinical for use in polite company. So we had all that talk about stork visits and "being in a family way" or simply "expecting."

Apparently "brassiere" is a word no longer in usage. I said it the other day and my daughter cracked up. I guess it's just "bra" now. "Unmentionables" probably wouldn't be understood at all. It's hard to recall that this word was once said in a whisper - "divorce." And no one is called a "divorcee" anymore. Certainly not a "gay divorcee." Come to think of it, "confirmed bachelors" and "career girls" are long gone, too.

I always loved going to the "picture show," but I considered "movie" an affectation. Most of these words go back to the '50s, but here's a pure-'60s word I came across the other day - "rat fink." Ooh, what a nasty putdown!

Here's a word I miss - "percolator." That was just a fun word to say. And what was it replaced with? "Coffeemaker." How dull. Mr. Coffee, I blame you for this. I miss those made-up marketing words that were meant to sound so modern and now sound so retro. Words like "DynaFlow" and "ElectraLuxe." Introducing the 1963 Admiral TV, now with "Spectra Vision!" Food for thought - Was there a telethon that wiped out lumbago? Nobody complains of that anymore. Maybe that's what castor oil cured, because I never hear mothers threatening their kids with castor oil anymore.

Some words aren't gone, but are definitely on the endangered list. The one that grieves me most "supper." Now everybody says "dinner." Save a great word. Invite someone to supper. Discuss fender skirts.

Author Unkown -- Submitted by Betty McClellan

Continued from Page 22 - Tales of the Road

pulled thru a line of refrigeration card. Not much speed, he must have quite a load. The little birds are still whistling. Sherman Petit is going down the street in his coupe. Grade school kids are trooping past. There sure is a mess of them. Here comes Steve Boylan into the office. Arco Guizetti of Coal City has his car parked across the street. Butch Provance is now ankeling down the Avenue, his head bent against the rain. I see the section paddies are through for the day, as they are wheeling in the cart and tools, or maybe it is dinnertime. Phil Allison just wheeled by going somewhere in a hurry. Midge Holmes, wearing one of the new fangled hats just whizzed by with her car's windshield wiper working furiously. Well Miss Eloise, how is everything today, and our sister Adeline. Crouchy boy, we'll miss you when you move out of town. Baldy Sinclair says if we all were happy as he is, we would all be crazy in a year's time. Who broke the window on Spiller's store. Mr. Hooper is walking over near the elevator carrying a pail. Oh, he is putting water in a car radiator. Say, Clyde Dunn has a fancy new Oldsmobile. All is quiet at the present. Pardon me while I sneeze. Him Colstock just leaned around the corner in his Ford. Stanley Woodland is cycling home with an arm full of groceries. Here is a little thought many could follow: Jestin' lies bring serious sorrow; but then Hell is paved with good intentions. The Printer's Devil, Jesse Hannon just came in to do his daily tasks. I think I'll knock off for dinner and finish this later (Dinner Hour). Well here we are again; my typewriter and me. The rain has slowed up a little; and I feel better after a nice dish of hot bean soup. Booster Alderson of south Wilmington just went down the street. One sure sign of spring is when one rides along the highways and gets the full benefit of a freshly fertilized field. Here is a thought for the week. Let us put the three great generals back in power, General Peace, General Plenty, and General Satisfaction. So long!

Spring Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, April 17, 2005 -- Odell, Illinois

Pour Richards

210 Tremont St. - Odell, IL 60460 - (815) 998-2556

Board Meeting - 10:30 a.m. Lunch break - Noon General Meeting - 1:00 p.m.

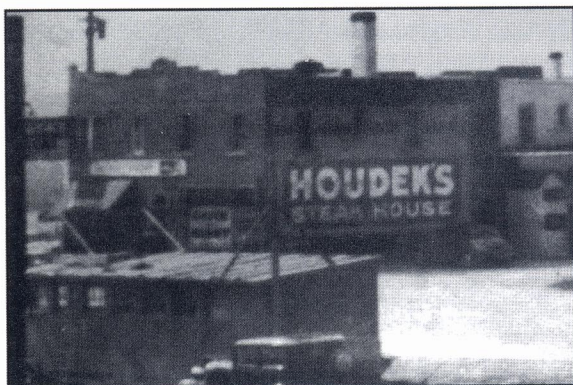
Lunch Buffet

Fried Chicken – Beef – Salad – Potatoes – Gravy – Vegetables – Dessert

Cost - \$10.00 per person – Tax and tip included

To reserve your lunch or for further information contact John Miller

Work phone: 773-239-2606 or Email at: kixonrte66@hotmail.com



Where is this?

The old Turn-n-Time Restaurant and Lounge
It was located on the corner of Joliet Road and Lawndale Ave.
McCook, Illinois
Circa mid to late '40s



License plates belonging to association member Jonathon Maxwell from Ohio who traveled Route 66 in Illinois for the first time last July. Jonathon looks forward to traveling Route 66 again in the future!

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE  **NEWS**

2743 Veterans Parkway, #166
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ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE 66 NEWS

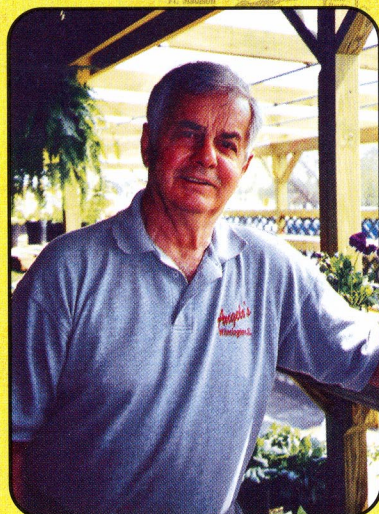
\$3.95 Summer 2005

Hall Of Fame Members 2005

Angelo Aggelopoulos – Ambler-Becker Marathon – Chenoa Pharmacy – The Atlanta Public Library

THE TOM TEAGUE AMBASSADOR'S AWARD

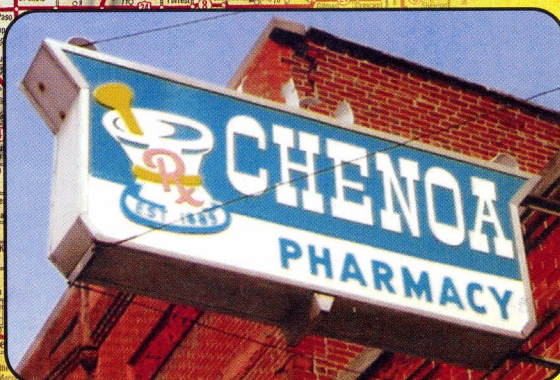
The 1st Recipient – Tom Teague



Angelo Aggelopoulos



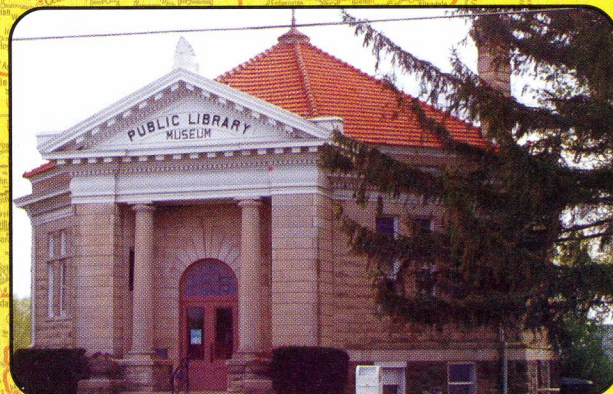
1st Recipient of the
Tom Teague Ambassador's Award



Chenoa Pharmacy



Ambler-Becker Historic Gas Station



Atlanta Public Library

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

The Route 66 Association is a not-for-profit organization. Its purpose is to preserve, promote, educate and help others enjoy the road in this state. The Board Members are available to answer questions at most reasonable times.

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Publication Information: The Association publishes *The 66 News* in March, June, September, and 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 publication.

**THE 66
NEWS**

Summer 2005

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Pontiac, IL 61764

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Black and White Print:

Whole Page \$100.00

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Quarter Page Ad \$40.00

Business Card Ad \$25.00

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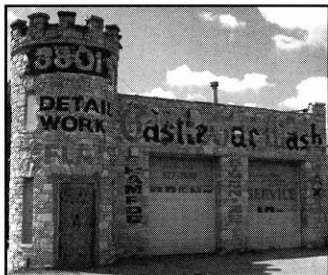
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IN THIS ISSUE:

Hall of Fame
Castle Carwash
Where is this?
Preservation
Kruzin' w/ Bileckis
Odds -n- Ends
Monthly Events

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS

John & Lenore Weiss
David Clark
Kathy Miller
Bob Waldmire
Rte 66 Assoc. of IL
Marty & Geri Bilecki
Mrs. Barret



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Chicago, IL
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Elkhorn, NE
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President's Report

January 2005 through April 2005

Greetings Everyone;

Since we've met last - work has continued on with planning the annual motor tour and poker run. Next on the agenda planning will begin for the annual picnic!

Once again I would thank the monthly event organizers. As always we look forward to all future outings that are planned. Special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. John Ruh who welcomed us to view their model train collection.

The Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac continues to grow because of the generosity of the city of Pontiac. The second floor is near completion, which will give us a meeting room, an office, and locked storage. This means nobody from the association will have to keep association items in their homes. We will now have a room that can be locked. All items will be cataloged and kept filed. We will have file cabinets which means all back copies of the newsletters can be kept in one location, all minutes of all meetings will be in one location. There will be no questions left for future board members and officers - all of the answers will be in one location. As soon as the storage facility is operational we ask that all association items currently being held by members be brought to the new storage space. This is so exciting, and it all is a gift from Pontiac. We will be eternally thankful to Pontiac for making this all possible.

I want to thank the board and fellow officers for their continued efforts. Working together we can support, preserve, educate, and promote Route 66 in Illinois!

In an effort to streamline the meetings and not be redundant I have moved all committee reports to the general meeting. The board meeting will be for detailed discussion and voting items. Also, we ask that if you wish to speak at the board meeting that you make a request to speak in advance.

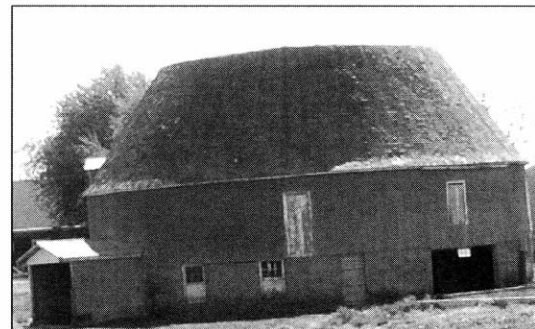
We will continue to work on current projects such as the motor tour, picnic, and the Hall of Fame Museum at Pontiac! We also will be working with Barb Gwodz to make our display at the Rock n Rods event being held in August in Pontiac. John & Lenore Weiss host the Illinois tent and have graciously offered the association the number two spot in that tent. We will have a table and be present in Litchfield at the end of June, and we can plan on being present at other events this summer. Watch for information on upcoming events in future newsletters and on the website. Once again I ask that you continue to support Route 66 and the Association by driving the road and supporting the businesses along the way.

Remember, Get your kicks on "66"!

John Miller
President,
The Route 66 association of Illinois

**Mystery Photo
Where is this?**

(Answer on back cover)



The Aggelopoulos family

Nominated by Lenore Weiss

In the early 1920s, the Aggelopoulos family opened the Hickory Creek Market on the heavily traveled road that became Route 66, (Chicago St.) in Joliet. Parents George and Paraskve (Patricia, in English) bought a larger home 2 blocks north on Route 66 to accommodate a growing family. This parcel included 5 acres as their large back yard.

As the family maintained the original Market, they also put their 6 children to work planting, cultivating and harvesting the abundance of vegetables and fruits grown in their back yard garden. Neighbor children were also hired to help in the garden to earn pocket money. Mom and pop, at the same time, converted the living room into a small store to also accommodate their growing number of customers.

Many other food items were sold at both Markets on Route 66 on a barter and exchange system with local farmers. This would include eggs, milk, and more. The going price for the produce tilled in the garden by the entire Aggelopoulos family was \$1.00 a bushel.

As George's son, Angelo, grew old enough, he took over the business of selling and delivering groceries all over Joliet in the family's truck.

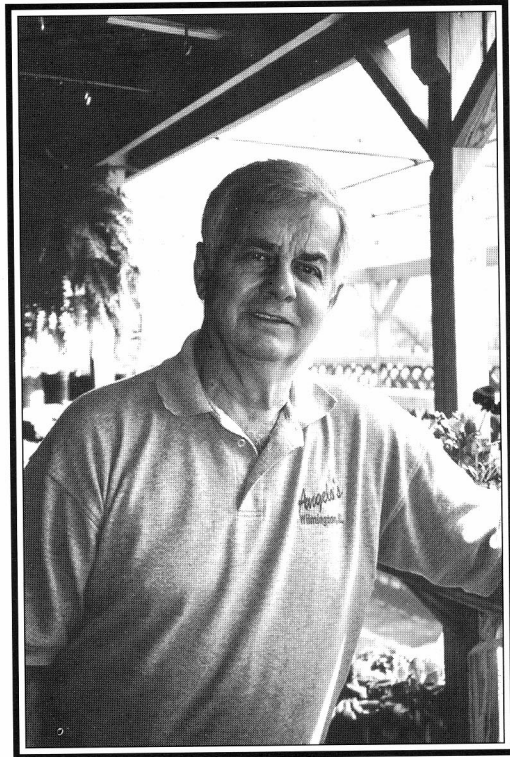
In 1959, when construction of I-80 began, the family's successful business was forced to move. The original Hickory Creek Market was located on the property where the southbound exit ramp onto Route 66, Chicago Street south, now exists.

Within the year, the new Hickory Creek Market opened on Route 66 in Wilmington. This ambitious, hardworking family continued to serve their loyal customers by also opening 2 liquor stores, one on Route 66 in Crest Hill, the other on Route 66 in Wilmington. The Wilmington location progressed by adding a cozy lounge with entertainment. This remodeling was physically accomplished through the efforts of Angelo. As the parents grew older, Angelo took over the Wilmington locations. The liquor store in Crest Hill was sold and eventually the Hickory Creek Market in Wilmington. (The building now houses the Super Value grocery store on historic Route 66.)

The lounge at the Wilmington location was dismantled to increase the size of the successful liquor store. In 1975, in order to continue to serve customers

in this peaceful Wilmington community, a bait shop was opened for the anglers who needed supplies to catch the big ones in the Kankakee River.

Noticing a need for hardware in the area, Angelo then progressed on the same Route 66 property to open a True Value. Many customers on and around Route 66 were searching for more. The result of that need was filled when Angelo



Angelo Aggelopoulos

opened the Ben Franklin store that also houses True Value Hardware.

Yes, Route 66 has benefited from the Aggelopoulos family since its beginning in the early 1920s to the present Angelo continues to this day to actively employ 27 people. He can be found at one of the three connecting businesses especially on weekends and holidays when extra help may be needed. His pride and joy is the Ben Franklin store. It opened in 1980 and is still growing to accommodate the increasing market for home decor.

Asked what he remembers most about his childhood, he remarked, "We worked from morning to night, probably 100 hours a week, and I feel that I am still working long hours. I want to continue to keep my customers happy. By the way, did you see our new line of Route 66 items yet?" He is always the congenial businessman.

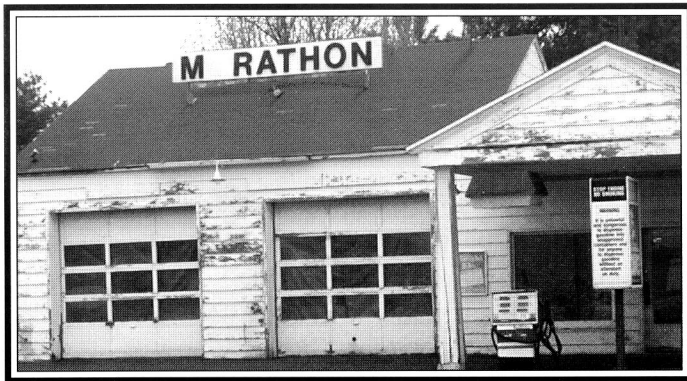
Yes, this family has given much to the Route 66 community continuously for over 79 years. Very few families have such a long and distinguished career on Route 66.

Ambler - Becker Texaco - Marathon Historic Gas Station, Basil "Tubby" Ambler And The Phil & Debbie Becker Family

Nominated by David Sullivan

One of the great "Route 66" gas stations in the country is located in Dwight, Illinois and the story of that station and people who operated it is one of the enchanting "Mom & Pop" success stories along this great motorway. The gas station building and it's great history are a reflection of the wonderful past that this area of Dwight has enjoyed during the highway's heyday as well as during the "Route 66" resurgence. The Ambler-Becker-Strufe families owned and/or operated this station for 70 plus years and now the station belongs to the people of Dwight and the many travelers along this great "Mother Road".

The historic station was placed in the National Register of Historical Places on November 29, 2001. It



Ambler-Becker Historic Gas Station

was nominated by Larry Boyd of the Route "66" Association of Illinois. The station has been the subject of the mother roads most famous artist Robert Waldmire. Larry K. Owen also drew the building from California during its early years as a Texaco Station. The station was recently presented with the Hampton Hotels Save-A- Landmark program. In the "Roadside Attraction" designation by Guy Randall and Jim Conkle it was identified as the longest operating Route "66" station with over 60 years of selling gasoline along the highway. This soon to be "Route 66" visitors center was donated by Phil & Debbie Becker to the Village of Dwight as a gift on September 1, 2004.

Basil "Tubby" Ambler was married to Lorraine Strufe and ran the station for the Strufe family for many years. Tubby was a World War II veteran who was injured during the war. He was a great storyteller and would give a young Phil Becker much insight and experiences of his years during the war and when he

had been a professional wrestler. Tubby helped Phil Becker and his young family in many ways and Phil purchased the business in 1970 and later the gas station building from the Strufe family.

Phil Becker worked his entire life in the automobile business along "Route 66". Phil started hanging out at the Basil "Tubby" Ambler Texaco Station in 1963 when he was 13 years old. Phil first worked at the station washing cars and cleaning windows and helping pump gas. Phil lived just down the street and loved hanging out at the station. When Tubby was busy or needed another set of hands Phil jumped in wanting to make an impression, so he could get a job working at the station. Phil worked at the station during and after his high school years and became a great mechanic. Phil continued to work at the station and owned the station during the period when "Route 66" was choked with traffic. As the business grew and expanded many family members joined in the operation. As Interstate 55 was being constructed one-half mile from the station, Phil and his family nurtured and attracted a growing local customer base that would sustain the station for years. Phil changed the station from Texaco to Marathon and towed cars off of the super highway to the little station for needed repairs. Phil's wife Debbie became more involved in the station as the family grew. Leo "Red" and Polly (Phil's parents) lived across the street and helped at the station for many years. Red worked the pumps and kept thing going when Phil towed-in and worked on cars. Phil also was a fireman and became the Dwight Fire Chief in 1981. Phil's sons Tim and Todd both worked at the station and Debbie's father Harold Zebell had worked at the station for "Tubby". Phil's sister Pam married one of the guys who worked at the station. The linier connection between the Strufe-Ambler-Becker family is very strong and many others contributed to the success of this wonderful little station and great family. The AMBLER-BECKER TEXACO-MARATHON HISTORIC STATION will become a "Visitors Center" along this great highway thanks to Phil and Debbie Becker and the extended family that has turned this station into a "Route 66" icon.

Chenoa Pharmacy

Nominated by Beverly Beauford

Chenoa Pharmacy located at 209 Green Street in Chenoa has been in existence, as we know it since 1888. The pharmacy originated from the work of two men Mr. Tido Schuirmann and Mr. Henry Hops. Mr. Hops was associated with the store until 1909 when he sold his share to Mr. Schuirmann, then becoming Schuirmann Drug Store. Besides being a pharmacist, we know Mr. Schuirmann was very interested in art and music organizing the first church orchestra in the community.

Mr. Schuinnann passed away in 1930 at the age of 70. Schuirmann Drug Store was then owned and operated by daughter Emma and son-in-law Herman Folts.

In 1961 Schuirmann Drug Store was purchased by Wes and Beverly Harris of Indianapolis, Indiana. The name of the store was then changed to Chenoa Pharmacy. Wes ran the store from 1961 until 1978 with the help of Herman Folts, pharmacist, Dan Boian, pharmacist and Lorenz Winterland, assistant pharmacist. Wes added Fannie May candy, guns, ammunition, and jewelry.

In 1978 Dan and Susie Boian purchased Chenoa Pharmacy from Wes and Beverly Harris. Even though the store was computerized and modernized, Dan and Susie retained the original wooden floor, tin ceiling, and the original fixtures built by Bloomington Store Fixture Company in 1902. Dan now runs the pharmacy with the help of Beverly Beauford, pharmacist, Ted Hodge, pharmacist and seven pharmacy technicians.

Although Chenoa Pharmacy was never directly on Route 66, it lies one block to the east of SBI Route 4. The proximity proved to be of paramount importance. Without SBI Route 4 and later Route 66, travel into town for supplies was a difficult and treacherous process. The development of oiled roads by Mr. John Streid of Chenoa in the early 1900's certainly improved travel conditions. However it was the change to cement highways such as Route 66, begun during the administration of Governor Frank O. Lowden, that allowed people to travel to Chenoa Pharmacy safely. Chenoa Pharmacy supplied not only prescription medications, patent medicines, health and beauty aids as well as veterinary supplies but because of the soda fountain provided a place for people to gather and share

the news of the day.

Chenoa Pharmacy continued to prosper because SBI Route 4 and Route 66 made travel much easier for the outlying areas and life in the outlying areas was certainly made easier by traveling Route 66 safely and by not having to travel further than Chenoa. We would like to believe that Route 66 is a significant factor in keeping Chenoa Pharmacy in continuous operation at this location since 1898.

As you walk through the front door of Chenoa Pharmacy, looking to your left, on the north wall you will see pictures of the store as it appeared in the early 1900's. Mr. Henry Hops and Mr. Tido Schuirmann are pictured behind the counters of the south wall. The wooden floor, fixtures, lattice work and the tin ceiling pictured from the early 1900's have been retained for over a century. There is a lighted cabinet on the north wall containing store memorabilia. Original cabinets standing on a marble slab line both the north and south walls. Cabinets on the south wall still retain the original porcelain drawer pulls.

I hope you have enjoyed your tour of Chenoa Pharmacy.



Chenoa Pharmacy Sign



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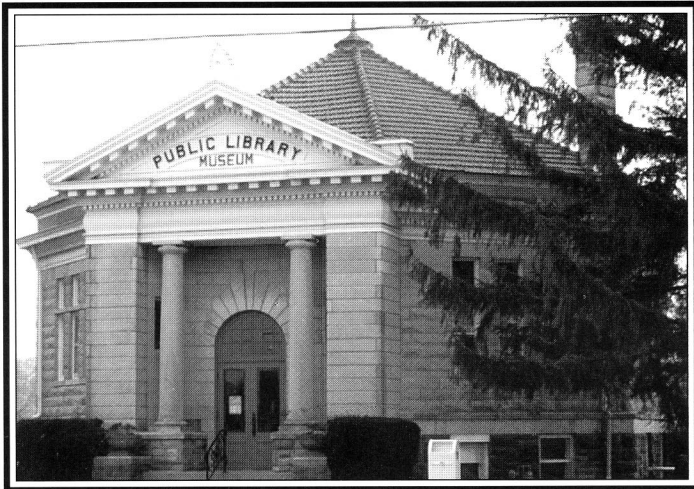
*"For All Your Printing Needs" -- Pick-up & Delivery
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Atlanta Public Library

Nominated by Kathy Miller & Bill Thomas

The Atlanta Public Library is located in Logan County, in the city of Atlanta, Illinois on Race and Arch Streets. The library is still serving the city of Atlanta and the surrounding community. It is also host to the Museum of Local History.

The Atlanta Public Library has a rich history. It was originally organized in March 1873, but it did not



Atlanta Library 1900's

have its own building. When first organized the Library's collections were housed at various sites including City Council Chambers and the office of "The Argus", Atlanta's weekly newspaper. In 1906, S. H. Fields of Atlanta donated land to the City as a site for a building. Shortly thereafter, the Atlanta Women Club began an effort to raise donations for the construction of a building. A major gift of \$4,000 from Atlanta resident, Mrs. M. J. Harness Tuttle along with private donations and \$2,500 in surplus railroad tax funds provided by the Atlanta Township Board resulted in the funds necessary to design and erect the current library building.

From its founding in 1873 until 1994, the Library was operated by the City of Atlanta. In 1994, the Library Board and City jointly petitioned the 11 th Circuit Court, requesting the formation of an autonomous, self-taxing governing body for the Library. Judge Gerald Dehner signed a judicial order in July 1994 granting this request. Since then, the Library has been a separate taxing body. The Atlanta Public Library built in 1908 long before the start of Route 66. It has served thousands upon thousands of people since the doors opened nearly 100 years ago. The style of

architecture is the Neo-Classic design of the 1840s with high ceilings and a domed rotunda. In 1973, the library added the Museum of Local History. The historical museum helps preserve the life of Route 66, educating us in the history of the area and the mother road.

On December 12, 1979, this glorious library was included to the National Register of Historic Places. It is officially Building #79000852. The architect/builders were Paul A. Moratz and Joseph A. Reichel. The library, admitted into the National Register of Historic Places because of the architecture significance for the period of 1900-1924.

Withstanding the test of time, the Library is still in operation. Atlanta Public Library is currently serving an area of 2,300 residents, has a collection of 13,200 books and periodicals; in addition, there are 84 CDs, records, cassettes and other audio materials, as well as 147 video items, such as DVDs and VHS tapes. Internet terminals are available for use by the public.

Staffing consists of one employee, including one fully accredited librarian, plus volunteers. Patrons make 4,600 visits annually, and check out materials 3,600 times. Forty-eight percent of all checkouts are children's materials.

The clock tower on the Library lawn was constructed in 1982, and was officially dedicated in May of 1983. The tower houses the 1909 Seth Thomas clock that was originally located in the Atlanta High School building. When the High School was torn down in 1980, the community banded together to save the clock. Donations were raised to construct the clock tower so the community could continue, as it had for 71 years, to listen to its bell toll every hour. The clock mechanism is currently maintained by a group of six community members who belong to an organization known as "Keepers of the Clock". Each member of the group assumes responsibility once every six weeks to wind the clock mechanism by hand every other day.

The Atlanta Public Library is the official welcome area and information center for Rt. 66 tourists and visitors to Atlanta. It annually greets thousands of travelers from all over the United States and foreign nations. Open to the public and with notice for special tours, the library is a wonderful place to see when visiting the city of Atlanta.

A New Association Award **The Tom Teague Ambassador's Award**

By Jim Jones

A new award has been created to honor and commemorate the exceptional individuals who have excelled in the education, promotion and restoration of Route 66 in Illinois since it was decommissioned in 1977. Nominations for this award are accepted by the Hall of Fame Committee for consideration from the Route 66 Association of Illinois Board of Directors and/or the Hall of Fame Committee itself.

Tom Teague has been nominated for the Hall of Fame in previous years and again this year. Tom had declined the nomination because he had not been active on the Mother Road while it was an official U.S. Highway. Tom personified, with his efforts to educate, promote and restore Route 66 in Illinois, the very things this award was created for.

This award is not anticipated to be an annual award. It is reserved for the truly exceptional individual who has provided outstanding benefits to the Route 66 Association of Illinois for an extended period of years.

It gives us great pleasure to name this new award for Tom Teague in memory of his many years of service to this historic highway.

Tom Teague Ambassador's Award

By Marilyn Pritchard

The first Tom Teague Ambassador's Award will be presented, in memory of Tom Teague, to his family at the 2005 Route 66 Hall of Fame Banquet on June 11, 2005 at the Holiday Inn in Normal, Illinois.

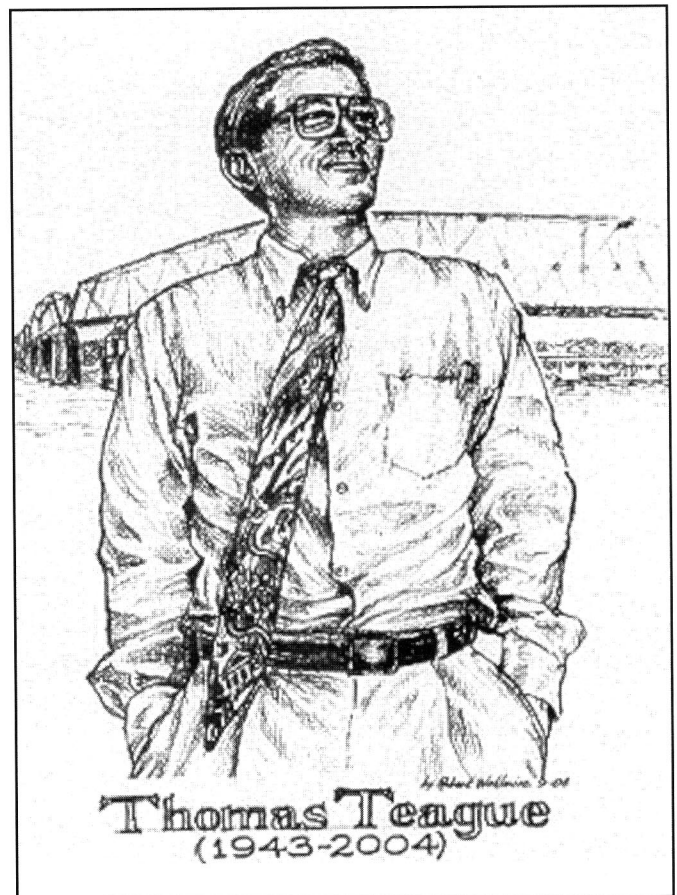
Tom Teague had a major part in bringing the Mother Road back to life after it was decommissioned in 1977. He traveled four months on the road, spending hours interviewing people up and down the highway. He was an exceptional and prolific writer of Route 66 stories in magazines and newspapers, including the Illinois Times.

Tom was the author of the book *Searching for 66*. For several years he was the editor of the Route 66 News, the Route 66 Association of Illinois Newsletter that is published four times a year.

The Association was formally established on October 8, 1989 in Dwight, Illinois. Tom Teague was elected the first President of the Route 66 Association of Illinois. He formed the first Hall of Fame induction ceremony at McLean Park and established and managed the Route 66 Hall of Fame at the Dixie Trucker Home in McLean and the Funk's Grove Rest Area on I-55 in Illinois.

He conducted the Elder Hostel Events in Springfield. He also featured Hall of Fame recipients as guest speakers. He spoke on many bus tours. Tom also presented the history and examined the future of Route 66 in digital slide presentation lectures in over 12 States.

Tom was the founder of the Friends of the Soulsby Shell Station, working hard to save this historic station in Mount Olive, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He was the first Illinois recipient of the John Steinbeck Award.



First recipient of the Tom Teague Ambassador Award

A Very Special Thank You

The Route 66 Association of Illinois, The Poker Run Committee, the Preservation Committee and all their members would like to thank the following locations for allowing us to deal poker hands from these sights during our 1st Annual Poker Run on Saturday, April 30, 2005.

Pontiac - Hall of Fame – City Hall Shops – War Museum – Pickles, Peppers, Pots & Pans – Square West – Lucky 7 – General Store – Bob & Ringo's Bar

Odell - Odell Station – Rentz's Tap

Dwight - Feddersen's Pizza Garage – Main Street Company

Gardner - Riviera Restaurant – The Street Car Diner

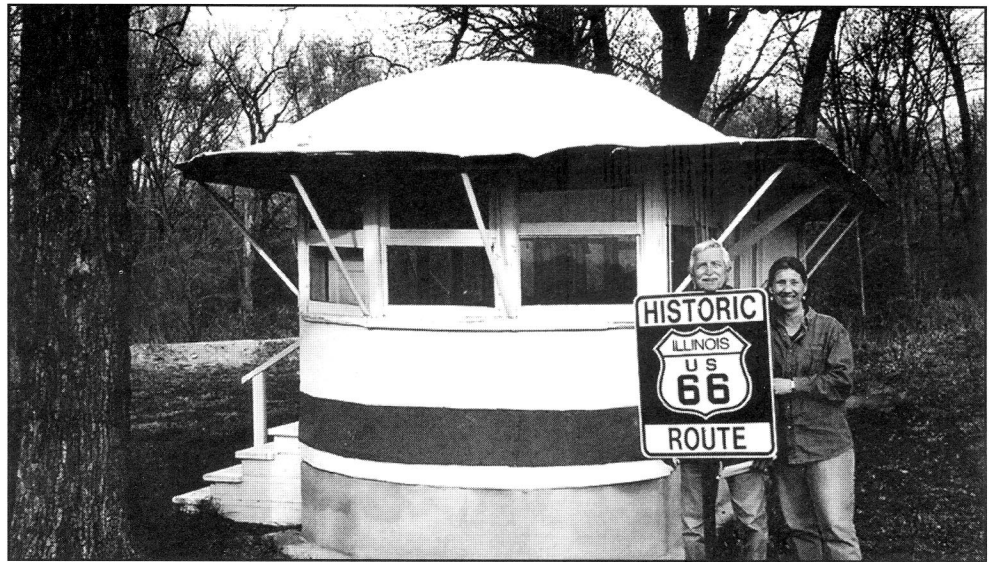
Chenoa - Minnie Marie's – The Brown Jug – Redbird Antique Mall

Lexington - The Filling Station – Koch's Depot – Martha's Vinyard

Towanda - Kicks on 66 Bar

Photos of Interest

Paul & Sandi Taylor, publishers of the nationwide *ROUTE 66 MAGAZINE*, enjoyed a visit to the streetcar/diner and dinner at the famous Riviera Roadhouse Restaurant in Gardner.



Association members pose for photo at the Odell Station after the April meeting



Mar Theater in Wilmington, IL

Odds – N – Ends

New Star Films Production

An independent film company from Connecticut was in Illinois recently. Mr. Jim Roche was shooting footage for several markets. His plan, like so many others, was to spend only two days in Illinois. However, he ended up spending six days. He has kept in contact with several folks he met. Some of his responses are, "There is so much to see and do in Illinois." And, "I love the town of Pontiac! They actually rolled out a red carpet for me, really!"

He now plans to video even more of Illinois on his return trip. You can visit his daily ledger website at www.newstarfilms.com

Corrections

John Weiss wants to clarify on an item from the last issue of The 66 News! He is NOT the famous Chef Jimbo! John simply passed onto the staff a letter he received from the Chef.

We would like to apologize to David Clark for the omission of his name in the photo credits. David submitted the photo used on the front cover with the Chicago background and the Route 66 "Begins" sign.

American Graffiti

Stars from the movie classic, American Graffiti, will be in Illinois. Paul Lemat and Cindy Williams (also from Laverne & Shirley) will be in Litchfield on June 24, 25 & 26. You can meet them at the Second Annual "Cruisin Route 66" Classic Car Festival. After meeting them, go see them in the original American Graffiti film at the Sky-View Drive-In theatre.

Many Route 66 dignitaries will be there. A free cruise from Joliet and Missouri will guide guests from other states along Route 66 to this fun 2 day car show event. For more information, visit the website at www.litchfield.il.us.

Route 66 April Outing

A large crowd of people took advantage of the April outing in Chicago. It was an Open House at the home of John & Darlene Ruh, Route 66 association members. John has a magnificent Route 66 train display that covers his entire basement. Even the drive in movie was playing! Some folks even came from Wisconsin and Indiana.

These monthly outings are providing our members with a variety of fun things to do. Come join the fun and experience found on Route 66!

Rock 'N Rods on Route 66!

This event is gearing up to be a show of shows! To slightly touch on some of the fun, a limited car show entry will be judged by World of Wheels notables. A rare showing of an original Tucker is scheduled to be on display in the Route 66 Pavilion. And, for the first time ever, at least seven of "Big Daddy" Ed Roth's Kustom Vehicles will be together. The world's largest, wildest motorcycle, Roadog will be there. Add to all of this, numerous other vendors and a variety of entertainment sites including a Polynesian Revue, Panel Jam, a Show & Shine Corral and the Stars & Stripes Cigar Bar. Free trolley bus rides will continue throughout each day to and from the Route 66 Association's Hall of Fame & Museum.

Then comes the musical entertainment! On Saturday, the fabulous Fireballs, #1 hit, "Sugar Shack" with special guest, Johnny Star and the Meteors as well as the Blue Dots. And on Sunday the wild fun includes The Commander Cody Band along with The Rockin' Fenderskirts and Sleepy LaBeef! These Rock 'N Roll legends will provide a lot of foot stomping music.

The Route 66 Expo Pavilion, hosted by John & Lenore Weiss, will host other authors, artists and showcase Illinois and all that our historic Mother Road offers. For more information, visit the website at www.rocknrodson66.com. Plan on a fantastic time, rain or shine!

State Farm Appreciation Held at the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and museum!

State Farm Appreciation Day was held on February 26, 2005. Former Pontiac Mayor Mike Ingles was a guest speaker. Marilyn Pritchard, curator of the museum and Johnny Miller, president of the association welcomed representatives of State Farm Insurance home office in Bloomington and agents from the area. A plaque was awarded in thanks for the years of support the association. Refreshments were served at the new City Hall, 115 W. Howard St. across the street from the Museum compliments of the City of Pontiac.

MONTHLY OUTINGS!

June through September 2005

If you too want to volunteer to be a guide for an event, please contact Marty Bilecki, Public Relations, at 815-941-3312 or email at coral57@aol.com with the details. Please allow 3 months advance notice.

JUNE – Saturday - June 24th

Join in as we cruise Route 66 to Litchfield. We leave the Route 66 Welcome Center, 210 N. Ottawa St., Joliet, around 9 a.m. Many out of state folks will participate. In Litchfield, numerous vendors, celebrities, a car show and drive-in movie, AMERICAN GRAFFITI, is just part of the scheduled exciting weekend. For more information call John & Lenore Weiss, 815-458-6616, or the website in Litchfield tourism@litchfieldil.com

JULY – Saturday - July 16th

Do you have a hankering for sweet corn, what to toss a few cow chips? This celebration in Chatam is sure to be fun, fun, fun! Meet at the Route 66 Family Restaurant at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast on Old Route 66 in Dwight. Order off the menu at your own expense. Leaving at 9:00 a.m. heading south to Chatam, IL. Americana at it's best with a good old fashioned small town festival! For information call Barb at 630-624-0762

AUGUST – Sunday - August 14th

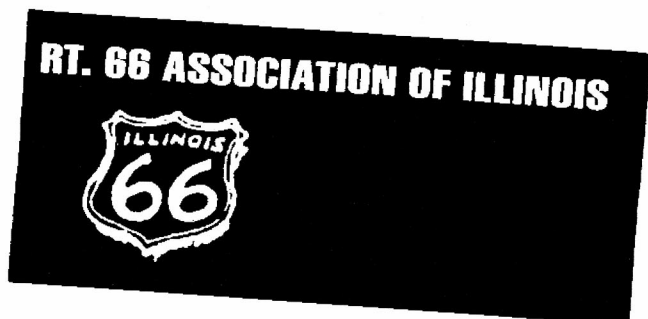
Join Cathie Stevanovich and Marty Blitstein for the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival. Breakfast on your own – but as we will be leaving from “R Place” the restaurant/truck stop on I-80 and Route 47 at 10:30 AM we suggest you have breakfast there – it's fantastic! We will caravan up to Mendota. The parade starts at 1 PM, and the free fresh hot buttered sweet corn – all you can eat - is served up starting at 2 PM. The South Shore Drill Team entertains at 3 PM in front of the Elks Lodge. Lots of vendors, food, and a car show too. More info Cathie or Marty (708) 444-1312.

SEPTEMBER – Sunday - September 11th

Cruise to the Route 66 Taste of Country Fair and Reunion in Lexington. We will all gather in Gardner at the abandoned gas station next to Casey's (I-55, Exit #227). Come early and enjoy a good breakfast at the Gardner Family Restaurant, across the street. We will leave promptly at 9:15 A.M. We will arrive in time for those with classic cars to sign up for the big, free parade. This is the greatest craft, food, antique, and fun fair on Route 66! Join us for a great time. Everyone is welcome.

For information call John & Lenore at 815-458-6616, or email at moxie66@sbcbglobal.net.

They're back



Now you can get an official Route 66 Association of Illinois name badge. Association members can order them for \$8.00 each, which includes shipping. The badge will be engraved with your name on it. You can wear it proudly to Association events, car shows or wherever you go and want to show that you are a proud member of the Route 66 Association of Illinois. To order your badge, send a check or money order for \$8.00 payable to the Route 66 Association of Illinois to Marty Blitstein (see Contact Information). Please include with your check exactly how you want your name on the badge.

NOW AVAILABLE! The Official Patch of the Route 66 Association of Illinois *Hand Embroidered*

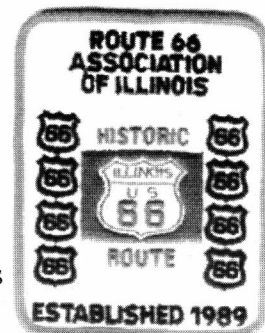
How to Order!

\$5.00 each plus \$1.00 S/H
Each additional patch \$5.00 and
.50 cents S/H

Send Check or

Money Order Payable to:

The Route 66 Association of Illinois
C/O Marty Bilecki
4200 Bargo Lane
Morris, IL 60450



For information call Marty at: 815-941-3312



Route 66 Association of Missouri

16TH ANNUAL MOTOR TOUR

" FESTIVAL 66 ! "

SPRINGFIELD, MO TO VILLA RIDGE, MO
SEPTEMBER 09 -- 11, 2005

- ◆ OPEN TO EVERYONE
- ◆ ANY TYPE VEHICLE
- ◆ 3 FUN-FILLED DAYS ON MISSOURI'S HISTORIC ROUTE 66

FRIDAY, 09/09: REGISTRATION AT THE BEST WESTERN ROUTE 66 RAIL HAVEN, SPRINGFIELD, MO
EVENING CRUISE TO STEAK 'n SHAKE

SATURDAY, 09/10: POKER RUN AND FESTIVAL STOPS CRUSIN' 66--EVENING BAR-B-Q BY MISSOURI HICK
BAR-B-Q AT CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, CUBA, MO. OVERNIGHT AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, CUBA.

SUNDAY, 09/11: BOB'S GASOLINE ALLEY, CRAWFORD COUNTY MUSEUM, CITY MURALS, CUBA, MO.
LUNCH AT 12:30 PM & TOUR CONCLUSION AT TRI-COUNTY RESTAURANT, VILLA RIDGE MO.
(NOTE! LUNCH & TOUR CONCLUSION ARE DIFFERENT THAN FIRST ANNOUNCED!)

DASH PLAQUES & WINDOW DECALS FOR ALL REGISTERED VEHICLES

T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

INFORMATION: Kip Welborn, (314) 776-7385, rudkip@sbcglobal.net
Jane Dippel, (314) 843-7132, vestaon66@cs.com

------(tear off)-----

REGISTRATION FORM (Please print or type & mail by August 24, 2005)

Name(s): _____
Address: Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: (9 Digit) _____
Email: _____ Phone: () _____

Motor tour registration fee(s) enclosed..... Number ____ @ \$25.00 per vehicle \$ _____

I / We will attend the Saturday Evening Bar-B-Q.. Yes ____ No ____ Number ____ @ \$10.00 each \$ _____

Grand Total amount enclosed for meals and tour registration fees.....\$ _____

SORRY, NO REFUNDS!--RAIN OR SHINE Cash ____ Check ____ Check Number _____

Note: The Sunday Tour Conclusion (12:30 PM) will be held at the Tri-County Restaurant, Villa Ridge, MO. You may purchase lunch there at your own expense, ordering from the menu or enjoying their famous buffet.

I / We will purchase lunch at Tri-County Restaurant: Yes ____ No ____ Number _____

Make check payable to: ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

Mail To: **Route 66 Association of Missouri - P.O. Box 8117 - St. Louis, MO 63156-8117**

LIABILITY WAIVER (Must Be Signed by All Registrants)

The undersigned by signing below hereby agree(s) that the Route 66 Association of Missouri and/or its officers, directors, and representatives shall in no way be responsible or assume any liability, in whole or in part, for any loss, damage, injury to person or property, or any negligent act or omission resulting from, arising out of, or occurring at or during any activities, programs, tours, meetings, transportation, meals or other services and facilities furnished or supplied during and/or in conjunction with the 2005 Annual Motor Tour.

Signed: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

The Main Street of America

ADDITIONAL MISSOURI MOTOR TOUR INFORMATION - 2005

Friday, 09/09 - You can enjoy a gathering of Route 66 friends and early tour **registration** at the BEST WESTERN ROUTE 66 RAIL HAVEN, Springfield, Missouri, from 4:00 PM until 10:00 PM, where a block of rooms has been reserved at a discounted rate of \$49.00 plus tax. A light breakfast is included. The Route 66 Rail Haven is located at 203 South Glenstone (corner of Glenstone & St. Louis which is business Route 66 through Springfield). Phone for reservation at (417) 866-1963 or 1-800-304-0021 and be sure to mention that you will be with the Route 66 Association of Missouri Motor Tour. Rooms will be held until August 19, 2005-- so make reservations prior to that date. A cruise to Steak 'n Shake is planned for 7:00 PM where you may enjoy dinner on your own. You may dine in or experience curbside service. STEAK'N SHAKE, located at 1158 East St. Louis, was designated a Roadside Attraction by Hampton Inn in 2003. Other restaurants and attractions are also nearby and information will be available at registration.

Saturday, 09/10 - Tour registration will resume at 7:00 AM and the motor tour will depart promptly at 8:00 AM from the Route 66 Rail Haven. There will be a Poker Run cruise from west-to-east. Poker cards will cost \$5 and be available at registration, NOTE: Please feel free to make the cruise at your own pace and select your own stops. Strafford, Conway, and Lebanon will be holding annual Route 66 festivals and St. James will be celebrating their annual Grape and Fall Festival. You may stop as you wish in these communities and enjoy the activities on your way to Cuba, MO. Additional information on all these festivals will be available at registration. Arrangements for a block of rooms have been made at the HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, 97 Ozark Drive - Cuba, MO Cost will be \$55.00 - \$65.00 plus tax. Please call (573) 885-0100 for reservations as soon as possible. Again, mention that you will be with the Route 66 Association of Missouri Motor Tour for the special rate Saturday night's outdoor Bar-B-Q will be an informal event catered by MISSOURI HICK BAR-B-Q, Cuba, MO, and will be held at the Crawford County Fairgrounds located on Route 66 just east of Cuba.

Sunday, 09/11 - A 7:30 AM a nondenominational worship service will be held. We will then have the opportunity to tour BOB'S GASOLINE ALLEY, the CRAWFORD COUNTY MUSEUM and enjoy the many MURALS to be found in downtown Cuba. From Cuba, the Motor Tour will proceed to its final destination, the TRI-COUNTY RESTAURANT, Villa Ridge, MO. Lunch and Motor Tour Conclusion will be held at 12:30 PM at the Tri-County Restaurant. You may purchase lunch there at your own expense, ordering from the menu or enjoying their famous buffet (NOTE! LUNCH & TOUR CONCLUSION ARE DIFFERENT THAN FIRST ANNOUNCED.) PLEASE refer to the Motor Tour Agenda Folder given at registration check in for additional details of times, planned activities and directions. The above information - subject to change.

Showcasing Route 66

The Route 66 Welcome Center and Joliet Area Historical Museum was host on April 2nd to the 2nd Annual Collectibles and Appraisal Show. With the Welcome Center already full of Route 66 memorabilia from the collection of John & Lenore Weiss, they also shared their personal treasures, including an original *Burma Shave* sign, as well as many photo displays of our Preservation Volunteers in action.

They were also promoting the many upcoming events on historic Route 66 including the Poker Run, 16th annual Motor Tour, Cruisin' to Litchfield and the Rock 'N Rods on 66 Festival in Pontiac. Kathy Miller and Lynn Bagdon assisted while John & Lenore were in the gift shop signing autographed copies of their 5th edition of *Traveling the "NEW, HISTORIC ROUTE 66 OF ILLINOIS"*. Kathy also brought along much needed association brochures and applications for folks that are hungry to learn more and experience a nostalgic trip on historic 66.

John Weiss Collectibles



& Signing



Kruzin with the Bileckis

By: Marty and Geri Bilecki

We left off on the last "Kruzin With" report looking forward to our Annual Motor Tour – June 10th thru 12th and all the events in the forecast for summer 2005. We took an early tour on our "Mother Road" from March 30th to April 15th. Yes, we finally drove the Route in our '57 Chevy 210, from Illinois to Santa Monica and onto the pier. On all the alignments that still remain we say "WOW". The people we met, the icons we visited, the pleasures we enjoyed would take many pages to repeat. But, we will say to all who read this "thank you" for all the courtesy that was extended. In each state we witnessed people dedicated to restoring, repairing and re-educating travelers world-wide as to the history of Route 66 and it's treasures to be found. We were welcomed with open arms everywhere.

We realize that this trip can be costly but we tried to be very economical. It was a once in a life time trip. Yes, we did 4,792 miles in a 48 year old car but then we remember as youngsters the condition of some of our earlier owned vehicles.

The astounding views and the presence of so many active Route 66 Associations and Community and businesses still in operation in support of the history and preservation of our "Mother Road" was overwhelming. One of which was the Will Rogers Highway in Claremore, Oklahoma. One thing that we realized vividly was that if the preservation movement does not continue – there will be no "icons" left for the world to visit. For this we thank The Hampton Inns and their dedication to preservation for the "Hampton Save a Landmark Program".

A visit to Seligman, Arizona will be a delight to view what was and still is a major attraction, Angel Delgadillo, in his barber shop and the store will overwhelm you. It's history, nostalgia and the great humor of Angel as the local ambassador for his home town's 66 history was wonderful. It was a great honor to visit him and his family.

On two separate occasions "Old Route 66" saved our day. First, a sand-storm stopped Interstate 40 traffic for 35 miles in each direction at New Mexico's Continental Divide. We were able to cruise on Route 66 adjacent to the interstate

and see all of the frustrated drivers at a standstill. Again, in Oklahoma, we and others were on 66 to go around a major accident which tied up traffic for hours. Thank you 66!!!

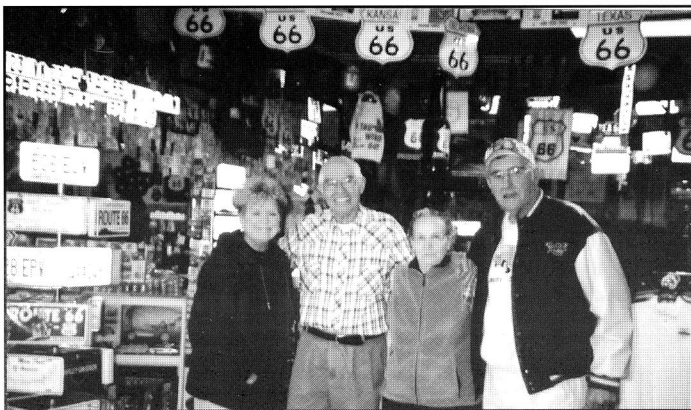
On our return trip from Santa Monica we visited many notable locations, like the Coleman Theater – Circa 1929, in Miami, Oklahoma, where 66 is also the main business street. In all, we visited over 100 locations and represented the Route



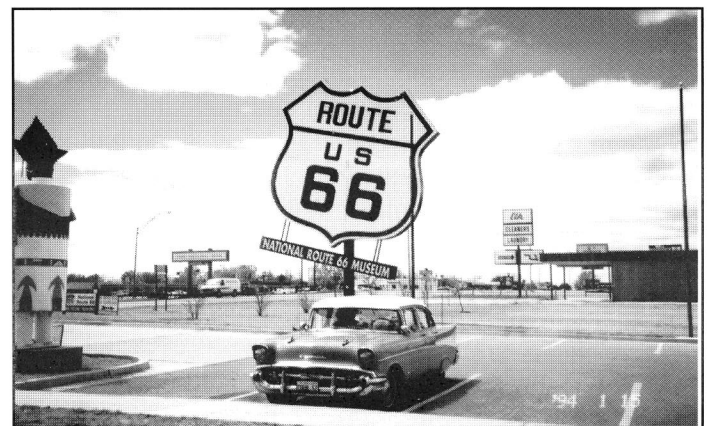
At the Continental Divide in New Mexico

66 Association of IL. In several, we met fellow travelers from foreign countries doing the same trip. We feel so blessed to have accomplished this trip with only 2 or 3 bad turns. We must also state what we have heard often from visitors to our State, that Illinois has the most prominent and accurate signage. We encourage any of our members or readers to plan and take a Route 66 trip as we did and to enjoy the friendship and yes, the Mom and Pop type attitude that still exists on the road. We know you will enjoy the highway and the beautiful views. We certainly did. We hope you enjoy the 2005 summer season and please join us in all of the interesting upcoming events in our communities on 66 in Illinois, as published in the Events Calendar. To paraphrase the words of a past President of our great country "Ask not what your Association can do for you—ask what you can do for your Association" Please help support and attend as many Route 66 functions you can and Keep Kruzin with us.

Remember our motto "IF YOU DON'T GO – YOU WON'T KNOW"! P.S. WE DIDN'T FORGET WINONA!



With the Delgadillo's in their Barber Shop/Curio Store, Seligman, AZ

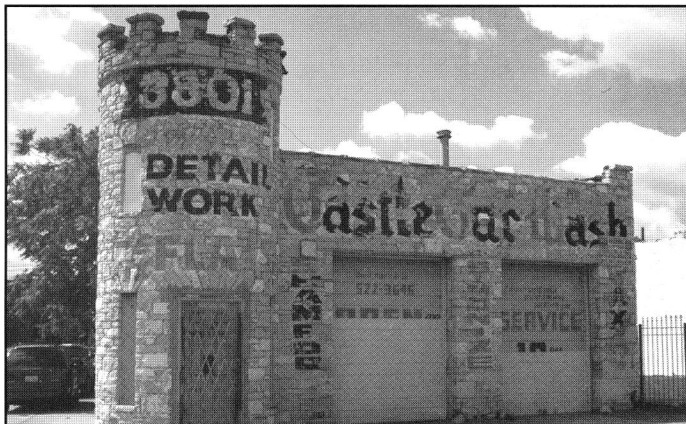


"Geraldine" our '57 Chevy at the National Museum - Elk City, OK

Plans Begun to Save the Castle Car Wash

Story and photo by Dave Clark

The automobile age was just beginning in 1925, when the Castle Car Wash was built at 3801 W. Ogden Avenue on Chicago's West Side. Already a major highway into and out of Chicago, Ogden carried the designation of State Bond Issue routes 4 and 18. One year later, Ogden became US 66 and 32 as well, and by 1927, over 20 filling stations and countless other automobile-oriented businesses called Ogden home—a retail engine that pumped vitality into the surrounding North Lawndale community area.



"Geraldine" our '57 Chevy at the National Museum - Elk City, OK

The 1920s also saw the movement of Eastern European Jewish families from the tenements of the Maxwell Street ghetto to the spacious Victorian gray stone apartment buildings that dominate the North Lawndale landscape. The area grew from 46,000 people in 1910 to 112,000 in 1930, and over half were of Jewish decent. The population diversified in the 1940s and 1950s, as more affluent families moved to Rogers Park, Albany Park, and suburban communities. The "Great Migration" brought in African-Americans from southern states, attracted to North Lawndale by the availability of housing and jobs at nearby major industrial plants: Sears, International Harvester, Western Electric, Zenith, and Sunbeam. The period was remarkable for peaceful co-existence amongst the varied ethnic groups.

Economic decline in North Lawndale in the early 1960s came from many factors. Huge among them was the opening of the Eisenhower and Stevenson Expressways, which moved a significant portion of transient traffic off Ogden and forced the closing of most of the automobile service businesses in the corridor. The passage of time has removed almost all trace of this history—but the Castle Car Wash is one of a few survivors of this bygone era. The importance of this building to the understanding and interpretation of the history of US highway 66 through Chicago and the community of North Lawndale cannot be overstated.

Enhancing this value is the building's unique architecture, utilizing rusticated concrete blocks to

evoke a memorable experience with customers. Amongst all the competitors for car business along Ogden in its early years, the Castle surely stood out as one-of-a-kind. It is now nearly all that is left. Based on

its intrinsic historic and architectural value, the building deserves acceptance onto the National Register of Historic Places.

Recently, the first steps towards the goal of preserving the Castle Car Wash began. In October 2004, representatives of groups with a common interest in the revitalization of the North Lawndale community area held a meeting at the offices of the

Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago; the usefulness of the Castle to overall planning was recognized. Many community leaders were present at the meeting, as well as Michael Taylor and Kaisa Barthuli of the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, and Lynn Bagdon and I, of the Route 66 Association of Illinois.

In April 2005, the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program conducted fieldwork in preparation for a nomination of the Castle Car Wash to the National Register of Historic Places. The current owners of the Castle were contacted to determine their plans for the property and their willingness to participate in the nomination. Future research is needed to document the timeline of former ownership of the property, to learn the names of prior business operators, and to assess the potential for contacting surviving family members of the people who owned or operated the Castle.

Any **66 News** readers who may have any knowledge of the history of the Castle Car Wash, or who would be interested in participating in the research and planning of the preservation and historical documentation should contact:

Dave Clark

843 W. Adams Street #312

Chicago, IL 60607

312-432-1284

dave@windycityroadwarrior.com

PICNIC TIME!

Time is nearing for the Annual Route 66 Association of Illinois Picnic!

The Route 66 Association of Illinois will be holding the Annual picnic on August 28th 2005 in the Pavilion at the K Mine Park in Godley! The picnic will start at 11:00 a.m. lunch served around noon. The association will provide the meat, buns, condiments, plates, napkins, eating utensils, and beverage. Please bring a plate to pass.

Please **RSVP** so we will have enough food to fee everyone!

Simply fill out the form below and mail it no later then August 5, 2005.

Mail to: Johnny Miller c/o the Route 66 Association of Illinois

2743 Veterans Parkway, #166

Springfield, IL 62704

or send the information by email at kixonrte66@hotmail.com

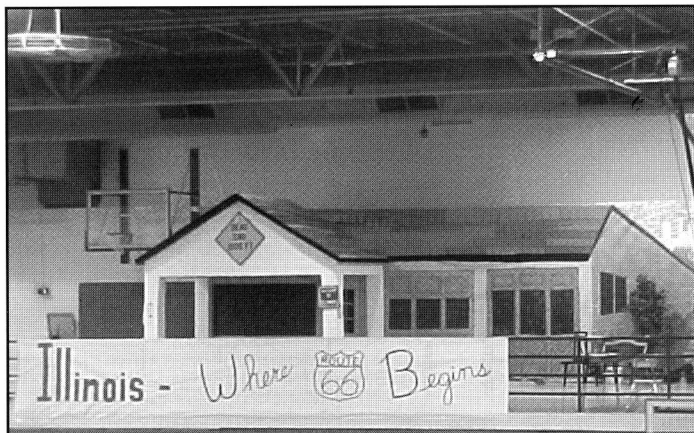
Name: _____

Attending: Adults _____ under 12 years of age: _____

Post Prom Party at Odell Station, but in Nebraska?

by Kathleen Miller

Even as far away as Elkhorn, Nebraska they can dance the night away at the Odell Station. On April 2, 2005 the teenagers of Elkhorn High School held their prom. Following the dance the school sponsored a post prom party in the high school gymnasium - the theme

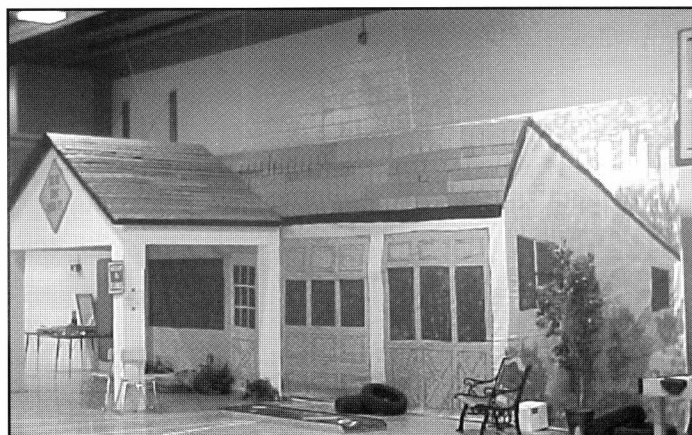


was "Route 66". A post prom party is a safe chaperoned environment where teenagers can continue on with the festivities of the night.

Each committee had a different state along the route. "Ours just happened to be Illinois," said Mrs. Barret of Elkhorn. Mrs. Barret a post prom committee member contacted the association for ideas. The committee picked the award winning Odell Station from photos, brochures and informational fliers sent to Mrs. Barret by the association.



Mrs. Barret and her committee recreated the Odell Station right there in the gym. As you can see by the results – it was well worth the effort.



ELECTIONS – ELECTIONS - ELECTIONS!

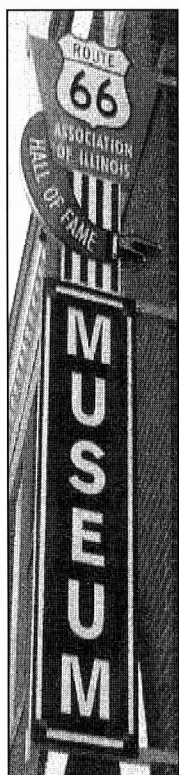
The Route 66 Association of Illinois will be holding elections at the Annual Fall Meeting in October!

If you have a desire to promote, educate, preserve, and enjoy Route 66 in Illinois - now is your chance to toss your hat into the ring. To be included on the ballot and run for an office and you must declare your candidacy at the Summer 2005 Meeting on July 17th at the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac.

If you would like to submit your candidacy by email it must be received no later than July 17th email:

Kathy Miller at Kathleen708@hotmail.com please put "Election" on the subject line.

The Association is also looking to fill the remaining term for the board members of Madison and Macoupin counties. Each of these terms expires in 2006. If interested please contact Johnny Miller at 708-389-3823 after 7:00 p.m. or by email at kixonrte66@hotmail.com



Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame & Museum

By Marilyn Pritchard – Museum Curator

Remodeling at Route 66 Museum has really been progressing. There has been black and white tile installed in both bathrooms, which gives the 50's look.

We received a Stop and Go Portable Traffic Light that was used on Saturday evenings during the 50's in down town Pontiac to control the traffic around Court House. Annie, our smallest mannequin keeps a 24-hour watch on the traffic light. We have 8 mannequins which is our 24-hour security including one being a State trooper.

There have been some directional signs installed at the edge of Pontiac to help people find the museum. Seven foreign countries and 18 states have visit in 2005.

The second floor remodeling is almost ready for carpeting and tile. We recently received a state of the art display case from Bloomington, IL it is awesome! The display case will be available for 2005 Hall of Fame memorabilia.

The Museum needs volunteers to help on Saturdays and Sundays. Please contact us by email at cyclone@verizon.net or by phone (815) 844-6937.

Below is our continuous list of individuals who have donated or loaned items this year. The enthusiasm grows each week. A heartfelt thanks to all!

Ariston Café

Alan Arnolts

Don & Ruth Beck

Dean Benton

Harold & Alice Bressner

Mark Corrigan

Berley Dodson

Ernie & Francis Edwards

Philip Edwards

Elaine Egdorf

Dan Erickson

Bill Fairfield

Lori Fairfield

Tom Flash

Roland & Bertha Franks

Jeff Geisler

Ed Gregory

Suan Guess-Hanson

Willis Harms

Marge Hettwer

Harvey & Adella Hodges

Carl Johnson

Livingston County Historical Society

Alan Meng

Bill Przybylski

Ray Rueck

Travis Shadwell

Terry Stanton

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Studley

Dave Sullivan

Dick Thompson

Eloise Weeks

Eloise Weeks

Hurvel Williams

Dave Woodward

Community Festivals and Events

June Through September - 2005

June

- 17th – Lockport – Lockport Old Canal Days Parade – Contact – 815-838-3357 or lockportchamber@sbcglobal.net
- 17th – Bloomington – Corvette Classic – Bloomington/Normal Factory Stores – Contact Suzie Hinthorn 800-433-8226 or suzie@visitbn.org
- 17th – Bloomington – David Davis Mansion – Garden Walk – Contact Suzie Hinthorn 800-433-8226 or suzie@visitbn.org
- 17th & 18th – Edwardsville – Route 66 Festival – Contact – Carol Foreman – 618-656-7600 or cforeman@edglenchamber.com
- 18th & 19th – Lockport – Old Canal Days Festival – Carnival – Contact 815-838-3357 or lockportchamber@sbcglobal.net
- 18th – Pontiac – Hang Loose 50's and 60's Festival & car show – Contact – Chris @ 815-844-5783 or Tom @ 815-844-7219 or tourism@fcg.net
- 18th & 19th – Collinsville – National Road Festival – Contact Judy DeMosey @ 618-345-5598 or downtowncollinsville.com
- 19th – Cahokia Mounds – Summer Solstice Sunrise Observance – 5:20 a.m. – Contact 618-346-5160 or cahokiamounds@ezl.com
- 24th through 26 – Mt. Olive – 175th Anniversary of Mother Jones – Contact Becky Dorco – 217-999-4261 or 6213
- 24th through 26th – Litchfield – Classic Car Festival – Including showing of American Graffiti at the Sky View Drive-IN – Contact 217-324-5253, Ext 147, 866-733-5833 or tourism@litchfieldil.com
- 26th – Bolingbrook – Village Picnic – Contact – Teri Wintermute at 630-226-8400
- 26th – Bolingbrook – 5K – 10K Run – Run in the Brook – Contact – Teri Wintermute at 630-226-8400
- 26th – Madison – Old Chain of Rocks Bridge Birthday Bash and Bicycle Ride – Contact – Kathi Weilbacher – 314-416-9930 #111 or kathi@thailnet.org

JULY

- 1st, 2 and 3rd – Staunton – Bingo at the Park – Contact – Ray Duda – 618-635-8356
- 2nd – Litchfield – 3rd Annual Freedom Run Run/Walk – Lake Lou Yaeger – Contact Lisa – tourism@litchfieldil.com
- 3rd – Atlanta – Independence Day Celebration – Contact 217-648-5077
- 4th – Staunton – 4th of July Celebration – Contact Ray Duda – 618-635-8356
- Litchfield – Gigantic Fireworks Display – Lake Lou Yaeger – Contact tourism@litchfieldil.com
- 9th – Lemont – Heritage Fest – Noon til 10 – Contact-630-243-2700
- Staunton – Tour De Donute – Bicycle Race – Contact Ray Duda – 618-635-8356
- 9th and 10th – Cahokia Mounds – Contemporary Indian Art Show – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Contact cahokiamounds@ezl.com
- 10th – Collinsville – Catsup Bottle Birthday Celebration – Contact – Judy De Mosey – 618-345-5598
- 13th thru 17th – Braidwood – Festival – Contact – 815-458-2333
- 15th thru 17th – Lexington – Sesquicentennial Celebration – Contact Margaret Quinley – 309-365-3331
- 17th – Pontiac - Rt 66 Association of IL Summer Quarterly Meeting – Contact – John Miller – 708-389-3823
- 21st thru 24th - Countryside – Countryfest – Contact Mark Muenzer-708-354-7270
- Wilmington Catfish Days – Contact Marty Orr-815-476-7597
- Elkhart – Sesquicentennial – Time Capsule Burial – Sunday July 24th – Contact Joe Ginter – 217-947-2349 or ginter@ccaoline.com
- 27th-31st – Girard – Sesquicentennial – Contact-Bill Prose-217-720-4932

AUGUST

5th & 6th – Staunton – City Wide Yard Sales – Ray Duda -618-635-8356
6th – Atlanta – Bicycle Tour – Contact 217-648-2825
Braidwood – Polk-a-dot Cruise Nite – 815-458-3377
6th & 7th – Pontiac – Rock ‘n Rods on Rt.66 - info@rocknrodson66.com
12 thru 14th – Shorewood – CrossroadsFest – Contact Sharon Eck – 815-725-2900
18th thru 21st – Bolingbrook – 40th Anniversary Jubilee – 630-226-6715
19th – Countryside – Car Show – Contact Cathy-708-354-7102
20th – Dwight – 2005 Cruise Nite – Contact – mainstreet@fyidwight.net
26 thru 28th – Lincoln – Lincoln Art & Balloon Festival – 217-735-2385
27th – Cahokia Mounds – Archaeology Day-cahokiamounds@ezl.com
28th – Godley – Rt. 66 Association of Il Annual Picnic – Contact – John Miller @ 708-389-3823

SEPTEMBER

8th thru 11th – Odell – Odell Days – Contact Herme -815-343-9875
9th thru 11th – McLean – Sesquicentennial –
9th & 10th – Elwood – Community Days – Vic Lopez -815-423-6757
10th & 11th – Lexington – Country Fair Festival- 309-365-7200
10th – Hodgkins – Flea Market – Contact 708-579-6700
Berwyn – Route 66 Car Show – Patrick Keenan – 708-788-8100
Virden – Fall Arts & Crafts Day – Contact 217-965-3322
16th thru 18th – Dwight – Harvest Days – 815-252-1543
17th & 18th – Plainfield – Harvest Fest – Art Curtis-815-326-5510
Carlinville – Fall Festival – Jo Remling-217-854-8916
18th – Cahokia Mounds-Fall Equinox Sunrise Observance – cahokiamounds@ezl.com
30th thru Oct. 2 – Springfield – 4th Annual International Rt. 66 Mother Road Festival –
If you would like your community event on Route 66 of Illinois listed in the newsletter please submit information to:
Marty Bilecki, 4200 Bargo Lane, Morris, Il 60450 or e-mail to Coral57@aol.com with ROUTE 66 COMMUNITY
EVENT in the title at least three months in advance.

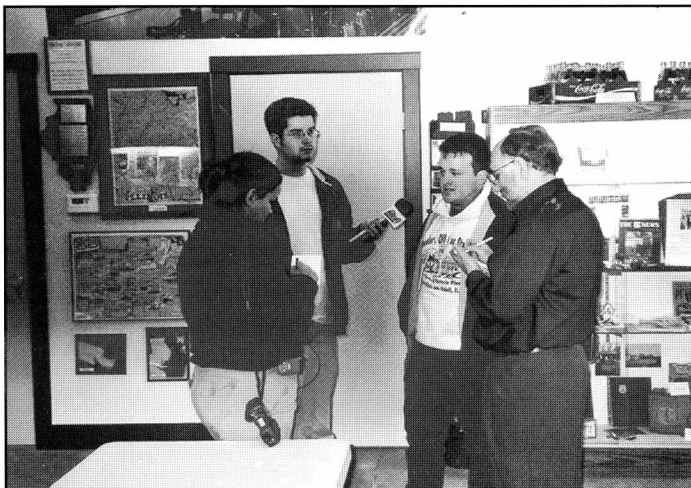
History Channel

On April 12, a crew from Actuality Productions was in Illinois. They were on assignment for the History Channel's program, MODERN MARVELS. The theme was basically technology found while traveling on Route 66 from Chicago to California.

Originally, they planned to shoot only three

locations in Illinois: Chicago, the Cozy Dog in Springfield and the Chain of Rocks Bridge. Through some pre-tour arrangements, John & Lenore Weiss were able to secure a few more Illinois sites. The crew took footage of the Gemini Giant in Wilmington and the Bunyan Giant and historic buildings in Atlanta. They also covered the Odell Standard Filling Station and Memory Lane in Lexington. Most importantly, they visited and shot footage of the Route 66 Association Hall of Fame & Museum in Pontiac. Local newspapers did some excellent coverage.

Two unfortunate things happened that could adversely affect what actually airs on the program. First, it rained - all day. The clarity of the video could be compromised. Second, they had an equipment failure. They were not able to record any audio. So they plan on inserting what is known as a "voice over" in the studio. This could determine if the piece is used or not. The bottom line is, we have a possibility for nationwide coverage on July 6, 2005, History Channel, MODERN MARVELS. Mark your calendars and cross your fingers that we are all in for a pleasant surprise!



Tables Turned - Producer being interviewed

PRESERVATION VOLUNTEERS ARE AT IT AGAIN!

By John & Lenore Weiss

Twenty-three volunteers returned to the famous Pig Hip Restaurant Museum on Saturday, April 23, 2005. Most reported to duty before the scheduled 10 a.m. arrival time. Their goal was to complete the work agreed to when the Route 66 Association received a grant from the National Park Service.

This restoration was completed in three parts. In the past we had completely refurbished the structure inside and out. The old building had been closed for over ten years. So we scraped, painted and cleaned. We built a divider wall and knocked a hole in a different wall for a new doorway. The ceiling was refurbished, and a display area was built for showcasing a segment of the original restaurant. We also replaced a window and repaired others.

Phase two consisted of more of the same work plus a new furnace, roof patching and plumbing work. A little electrical work, carpeting and floor patching was also completed.

Phase three is what we accomplished on April 23rd. This hardy group installed two new air conditioning units into the walls. They fixed necessary electric and modified a door. Others worked on the drop ceiling and repairing walls. We also cleaned and cleaned some more. Outside new carpentry work was needed to replace some rotted boards while stone was spread to fill the holes in the driveway. These volunteers continued, going from one project to the next. You get the idea. By four o'clock we were all finished. And, much to our surprise, the "Old Coot" once again prepared his famous Pig Hip sandwiches for lunch.

Now some information on our volunteers! Nineteen of them traveled over 130 miles one way to help. One was not even a member of the Route 66 Association of Illinois. He just wanted to help. Two had some major medical problems that would have kept others at home. But not them; they made a promise to help and they did! The ages were from the 30s to the 80s. The point here is to say we are so very proud of these folks. It is an honor to work alongside them and to

be their friends. They don't just talk. they act! Oh, did we say how proud we are of them? Well, we are!

So, who also benefits by these labors? Certainly the Route 66 Association of Illinois does. They continue to be the example for others to follow. The tourists who



Work Day at the Pig Hip

travel Route 66 also benefit. Saving pieces of nostalgia is what gives our historic road a heart and soul. The preservation volunteers have successfully saved sites that emit a sense of time and place. The communities also benefit. The more we do, the more tourists we attract. The more sites to see, the longer travelers remain in Illinois. As a result, this also benefits the restaurants, antique, specialty and craft shops, the gas stations and motels, and, and, and so much more. In other words, it is good for the economy of our Route 66 towns. Oh, did we mention how proud we are of our volunteers? Well, we are!

Here is a list of those who gave their time and talents to complete phase three of the Pig Hip Restaurant/Museum: Bob Killackey, Jr., Loretta Dwyer, Ed Seal, Larry Seal, Bob Olson, Sandy Cook, Barb Nicholson, Larry Boyd, Dave Zima, Dorothy McMullen, Rose Vargo, Larry Scinto, Lou Vargo, Marilyn Giovanazzi, Ted Giovanazzi, Ed Remus, Marty Blitstein, Geri Bilecki, Marty Bilecki, Bob Borowiak, Ernie Edwards, Frances Edwards, and John & Lenore Weiss. *A very proud thank you to one and all!*



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE GALA JOHN STEINBECK AWARDS LUNCHEON

Here is your chance to meet virtually all of the Route 66 celebrities and notables, and enjoy one of the largest car shows in the country, Over 2,000 cars!

This year's John Steinbeck Awards program will be a change of pace. It will feature a luncheon buffet instead of a dinner, although it will be every bit as complete as the dinners in the past. The Luncheon will take place during the famous Route 66 Rendezvous in San Bernardino, California.

The program will include the presentation of the prestigious John Steinbeck Award and the Cyrus Avery Award.

The Steinbeck is presented annually to an individual who has contributed significantly to the preservation of Route 66. The Avery is presented to a group or an individual for the most outstanding preservation project. In addition, there will be entertainment and many surprises.

**Festivities will run from 11 am through 2 pm Friday, September 16, 2005
at the San Bernardino Hilton Hotel, 285 E. Hospitality Lane
San Bernardino, 909-889-0133.
\$31.50 per person**

We chose the luncheon format this year for two reasons. There are so many Rendezvous activities going on in the evenings that we didn't want guests to miss out. And, secondly, the authors and artists participating in the Authors & Artists Expo, the vendors and the state association representatives won't have to leave their booths during these very busy times.

All reservations for the Luncheon must be made before September 6th, 2005 and no cancellations can be accepted after this date.

No one will be admitted without reservations. No walk-ins can be accepted.

You can call our toll free number **1-888-339-0794** and make reservations with a credit card. Or fill out this form and return it to us at the address below. Or you can make reservations online at our secure website **www.national66.org**.

Hotel Reservations

Our host hotel is the San Bernardino Hilton. To make room reservations at our special rate (\$89) you must give them this group code when you reserve "NHR". For reservations call 909-889-0133. Reservations must be made by August 16th.



NATIONAL HISTORIC ROUTE 66 FEDERATION
P. O. Box 1848 / Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352-1848

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

PIANO HILL

By John & Lenore Weiss

Every once in a while some small piece of Route 66 trivia comes along. It seems a visitor to the Route 66 Association's Hall of Fame & Museum asked Jim Jones if he ever heard of the piano on the hill. He said he had not. He then contacted us to see what we knew. We, too, had not heard about this old advertising stunt. So, with information from Jim, we went in search of a 60 year old piano on a hill somewhere near us on Route 66.

The location was at the four way stop on Route 66 and Coal City Road (NW corner). This is the second set of stop signs after leaving I-55 on Route 129, exit #238. (NOTE: The Polly, Jolly and Johnny statues are at the first four way stop.) It was early spring, so the trees were still without leaves. We looked up and saw something, so off we went, up the steep hill. It is an old slag heap from the strip mining days. And, there it was! The remnants of a grand piano frame.

This was not an actual grand piano, but a model of one. It is full size and was very obviously quality constructed in its day. The metal arm that would have held up the top is still attached. Remnants of a second structure were also evident.

We have learned that this eye catching roadside attraction was used to advertise a piano service. We have a couple of stories of who and what it promoted. Several old timers clearly remember them and refer to this spot as PIANO HILL. They say it was built in the late 40s or early 50s.

The fact that any remnants still remain is quite remarkable. Restoration is impossible. But we would like to locate a newspaper ad or photograph perhaps from the original builder's family. If anyone would like to do some investigative research, we would be very grateful. Please contact us if you are interested. Our website is www.il66authority.com and that will lead you to us!



Can you see the piano frame?

We know that some of you will go and investigate this whimsical piece of Route 66 history. Be advised, it is a steep high hill. Also, please take only photos and leave only foot prints.



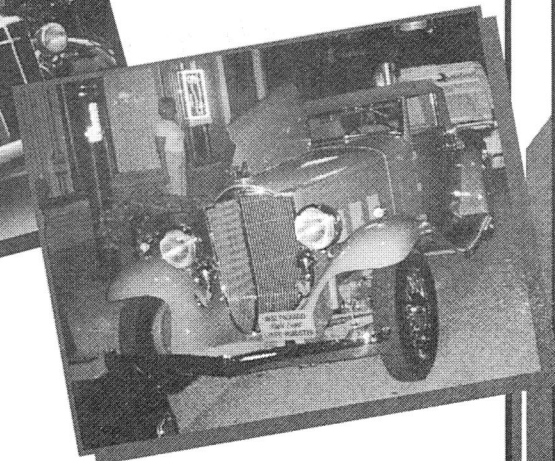
**LAN-OAK PARK
FOUNDATION**

presents

Cruise Night & Car Show

On Ridge Road

Lansing, IL



**Dust It Off . . .
Start It Up . . .
Rev It Up . . .**

Bring It Out !

Mark Your Calendars !



Event Schedule

May 14th*

July 30th*

June 11th

Sept 10th

* No car show on these dates just the cruise night

Car Shows On June 11th & September 10th Are Sponsored By Lan Oak Park Foundation.
For More Information About This Event Feel Free To Call The Park Foundation At (708) 474-5020.

Announcing the Summer Quarterly Meeting

SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2005

PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

at the

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

110 W. HOWARD ST.

PONTIAC, IL 61764

Board Meeting - 10:30 a.m.

Lunch break - Noon

General Meeting - 1:00 p.m.

To reserve your lunch or for further
information contact John Miller

Work phone: 773-239-2606 or

Email at: kixonrte66@hotmail.com

Lunch provided by
The Old Log Cabin Restaurant

Buffet Lunch including dessert

Cost - \$8.00 per person

Tax and tip included

Red '66 License Plates

In 1995 before Illinois had red letters on their license plate the editor of The 66 News was in search of the owner of the 66 plates with red numbers on them that had been spotted by Tom Jaguszewski of Chicago. Nelson Cummings of Wisconsin had that plate. Nelson said, "I was born in Springfield and lived there until I went to college!"

At right, are the same plates as they look today on his 1990 Mazda!

Gone is the red lettering but the '66 is still there!



Where is this?

Once hidden behind a building standing on the north side, this barn was partially hidden and seen only from the front. Now that the building is gone this barn is fully visible from I-55 as well as Route 66. One can clearly see that Illinois too has a round barn on '66. It is located on Route 66 just south of Glenarm.

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE  **NEWS**

2743 Veterans Parkway, #166
Springfield, IL 62704

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Lincoln, IL
Permit No. 66

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE NEWS

Farewell & Goodbye



Betty Estes, Director of Tourism in Pontiac retired on July 31st - Congratulations Betty!



Dorothy McMullen, one of the founders of the Preservation Committee retires - Farewell Dorothy!



Group photo in Pontiac in front of the Historic Livingston County Courthouse - Motor Tour 2005



Group photo in Hamel in front of Scotty's Bar & Grill at the end of the tour and Hamel's 50th Birthday

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

\$3.95

Fall 2005

The Route 66 Association is a not-for-profit organization. Its purpose is to preserve, promote, educate and enjoy Rte 66. The Board Members are available to answer questions at most reasonable times.

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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The officers plus
Duke Cartwright & Jim Jones

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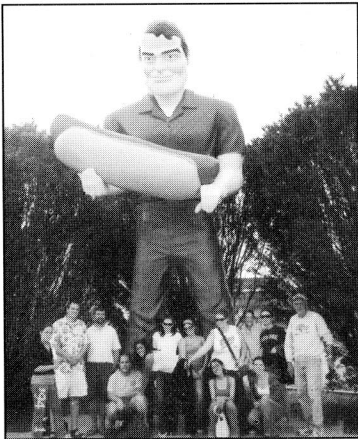
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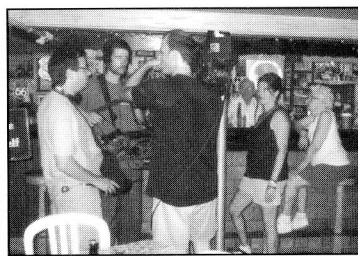
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John & Lenore Weiss
Bill Thomas
Jim Jones
Dave Clark
Rosie Vargo



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The President's Views

Fall 2005

Greetings Members;

It has been one year since I became president. So much has happened in that time. We have grown in membership, we have grown at the Hall of Fame & Museum and we have also grown back into the Dixie.

Since the last newsletter we had the annual motor tour & Hall of Fame Banquet. I want to thank all members who helped and supported this event. During the Hall of Fame Banquet the President's Award was given to the City of Pontiac for their support with the Hall of Fame & Museum. Again, I would like to personally thank the City of Pontiac for their continued support and generosity in making the Hall of Fame & Museum what it is today, and what it will be in the future.

Our friend Betty Estes of Pontiac has retired as the Director of Pontiac Tourism. The association would like to thank Betty for her years of continued support of the association. She played a major role in the evolution of the Hall of Fame & Museum in Pontiac. Along with the news of Betty's retirement we learned that one of our hardest working and one of our founding members of the preservation committee Dorothy McMullen is retiring and relocating to Georgia. Dorothy was responsible for having the Odell Station listed on the national register of historic places along with portions of the Mother Road in Illinois. We will miss Dorothy more than words can express. Our most heartfelt wishes go out to these two dynamic lovely women.

The Dixie Information Center is now open and was debuted during the motor tour. The reaction by participants was outstanding. It is everything the association wanted and more.

The association was well represented at Litchfield's "66" festival. I want to thank the City of Litchfield especially Kris Skinner and Craig Parrish for their hospitality to the association. This event will continue to grow in years to come and will become one of the major events on "66". Another event we were represented at was Rock n Rods in Pontiac. Again, we want to thank Root Beer Larry and our hosts John & Lenore Weiss for an event that was outstanding. Congratulations!

Cable TV is doing more than their share to highlight Route 66. How lucky we are to be "Where the Road Begins." In the History Channel series "Road Trips" our museum (inside and out), the Odell Station, and the Cozy Dog were all very visible. We, also taped a segment of the Food Network show "BBQ with Bobby Flay" will be doing its part to promote the road and support preservation. The show was filmed at the Odell Station. We had a workday with over 50 preservationists in attendance. And of course "We Work(ed) for Food." And on public television we were filmed for the PBS show "The Lonely Planet."

We must continue to be united and work together as one, for our common goal, Route 66. And, once again, please support our businesses on Route 66 in Illinois.

John Miller, President
The Route 66 Association of Illinois

Remember, Get your kicks on "66"!

Adventure Drive Route 66!

June 10th – 11th 12th, 2005

The Annual Motor Tour!

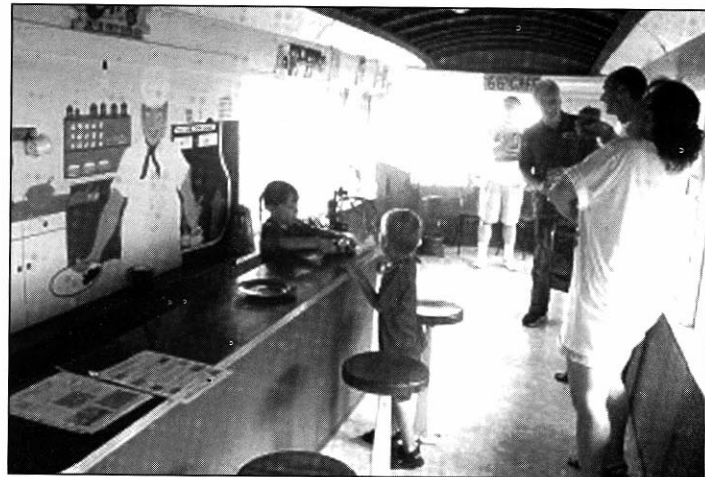
By Kathleen J. Miller

It started in January, maybe even earlier. I know it was the day after the tour last year! All of the meetings, the planning, and more meetings and more planning it was constant, days and times became a blur. The motor tour committee met monthly throughout winter and spring, phone

Hamel! The Hall of Fame Banquet would be in Normal, IL with one of the highlights being the Atlanta Public Library & Museum being the first library inducted into the Hall of Fame and sadly our last invocation by Hall of Fame Member, Rev. Dean L. Benton who passed away shortly after the motor tour. A new association award would be given, the "Tom Teague Ambassador's Award". This was looking



Kathy Miller, Cathie Stevanovich, Bill Pryzbylski, Marty Blitstein and Johnny Miller



People visit inside the Hall of Fame Trolley Car

calls and emails flew among committee members to assure a successful and the most exciting motor tour to date. A new format for you, the president (aka DH) as a lone chairperson, what else was in store for a Mother Road Widow?



Lined up at White Fence Farm

The new format, a more leisurely ride down our Mother Road, with only a few scheduled stops but many highlighted and recommended stops along the way. There would be two group photos scheduled in Pontiac on Saturday and at the ending on Sunday in Hamel where we would share in their 50th birthday celebration. Happy Birthday

to be an exciting night to say the least not to mention the President's Award to be given to the city of Pontiac for their continued generosity to the association.

On Friday night June 10th the registration celebration was held once again at J.C. Pub in McCook, IL. With the remodeling complete we were able to set up adjacent to the bocce ball court and patio. So many people came to pick up their goody bags and register. We did have a brief rainstorm – shoving everything in the tent, t-shirts, cookbooks, goody bags, raffle items not to mention people! It was extremely hot and muggy - thank goodness everyone had good grooming habits! Our youngest volunteer little Ms. Gniadek danced in the rain, barefoot, not a care in the world! Afterward we shared dinner in the restaurant with all the remaining volunteers, officers, and board members. Even though we worked, (and I do mean worked) registration, it was a good time. I can vouch for that!

Saturday morning, rise and shine! Let's hit the road! Arriving at White Fence Farm in Romeoville with DH, Travis Shadwell, and Lou & Rose Vargo who had Connie Miller in tow we set up to sell our wares. Cathie Stevanovich & Marty Blitstein beat us there and was setting up registration. Bill Pryzbylski had already arrived with all of the supplies he had hauled in his truck. It was hot and humid but this didn't stop the motor tour participants. Barb & Bill Gwodz directed traffic along with Bonnie & Frank

Kalemba. The Romeoville Chamber of Commerce sold donuts and the local Starbucks provided free coffee. The Scinto Family set up to sell their Route 66 Game and Buz Kerkel sold souvenirs. Tummies full and cars loaded with purchases, the Romeoville Police arrived to stop traffic and let the cars that had lined up exit to drive down Old Historic Route 66 to the suggested city of Joliet.

Joliet was flooded with visitors working their way south to see the sights and hear the sounds of Route 66. We visited the plaza owned by new Hall of Fame member Angelo Aggelopoulos in Wilmington and also the Am-



Lunch Gathering at Pour Richards in Odell

bler-Becker Historic Gas Station in Dwight before arriving for lunch in Odell. Pour Richard's was our host for lunch and the Odell Station was the star! Onward cruising to the Museum in Pontiac where the first glance of the items on display for the new Hall of Fame recipients. A great group photo in front of the Historic Courthouse with photographers lifted above the crowd in the hook and ladder of the Pontiac Fire Department.

Stopping along the way to see the fourth of this years Hall of Fame inductees the Chenoa Pharmacy in Chenoa, before driving down Memory Lane in Lexington and stopping for the night and enjoying the Hall of Fame Banquet in Normal, Illinois. The Hall of Fame Banquet was very well attended, close to 300 people enjoyed the festivities. The late Rev. Dean L. Benton led the attendees with the invoca-



Bob Karls and Scott McCoy receive the President's Award from Johnny Miller and Bill Przybylski

tion and the boy scouts presented the colors. The Mayor of Normal welcomed us before Jim Jones and John Miller took stage. Jim introduced each Hall of Fame Inductees while John congratulated and welcomed them into the Hall of Fame. This year the Atlanta Public Library, Ambler-Becker Historic Gas Station, Chenoa Pharmacy, and Angelo Aggelopoulos were welcomed into the Hall of Fame. A new award this year was the Tom Teague Ambassador's Award, with the first recipient being the late Tom Teague. John Miller thanked the City of Pontiac for all they have done in the creation of the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum by awarding the "President's Award" to the city. Accepting the award were Mayor Scott McCoy and city manager Bob Karls.

Sunday morning the first stop was in Atlanta to view the Bunyon Giant. Route 66 photographer Russell Olsen's



Helping Hamel Celebrate their 50th Birthday at the end of the tour

display was in the offices of Bill Thomas. Bill had the upper level open so you could see the marvelous murals before walking across the street to the Hall of Fame Library and Museum. Then onward to visit Lincoln, Illinois and the Postville Courthouse where refreshments were served. Everyone stopped by Ernie and Frances Edwards Pig Hip for hugs and welcomes from the old coot and his lovely bride. Driving a leisurely cruise through Springfield and to Divernon for lunch. The cruise was delightful, slow and leisurely stopping to view the sights. People trickled in and out of businesses and historic landmarks along the road.

When I think about all the work that goes into planning this event, I can't help but give praise and a tremendous amount of thanks to the officers, board members and other volunteers who worked so hard on this motor tour.

The last stop of the tour was Hamel to help them celebrate their 50th Birthday. The second group photo was taken by Tom Flasch with the motor tour participants and the people of Hamel all together to celebrate life on the Mother Road! I didn't want this motor tour to end; this new format was calm and relaxing, truly enjoyable. Next year the motor tour will be once again, the second weekend in June. Come and join us!

BBQ With Bobby Flay & The Preservation Committee



Crew films volunteers at the Odell Station

On July 31, a film crew from the Food Channel Network came to the restored Standard Oil Filling Station in Odell. The crew, from Weller Grossman Productions, was there to document why we have a cookbook titled *WE WORK FOR FOOD*. The Bobby Flay television organization figured there must be a story here.

When they inquired, we explained that the volunteer preservation committee members have accomplished a lot of historical work. However, work does bring on hunger. Members jokingly would say, "We work for food!"

The Bobby Flay organization saw this as a great opportunity for a segment of their TV show. We agreed to have it filmed just as we always do---*WE WORK HARD AND EAT WELL!* As a result, Bobby Flay will start at Odell and then travel down Route 66 to discover the best BBQ on the Mother Road.

The preservation volunteers were planning on a work-day at the Odell station. Lots of repairs and sprucing up were in order. John & Lenore Weiss would organize the event. Kathy & John Miller would organize and star in the cooking segment using Kathy's recipe for the BBQ sauce.

At 11 a.m., on a hot and sunny Sunday, over 30 preservation volunteers arrived to work at the station. With cameras rolling, they began with a cheer of "We work for food!"

Soon it was BBQ time. The chicken and pork chops were smothered with Illinois' own BBQ sauce. Many other side dishes were available; some from our cookbook including microwave pickles from the Riviera Restaurant. Water and Route 66 Root Beer would wash it all down. The film crew went from person to person to capture this feast being consumed. Finally, they too joined in with a full plate of their own. They earned it by also working hard.

After lunch, work reluctantly resumed. The temperature now was near 100 degrees with high humidity. Yes it is

true; the preservation volunteers have all the fun!

The crew also filmed many parts in and around the town of Odell as well as their famous Burma Shave style welcome signs.

The show will not air on television until January or February 2006. We will inform all of you when we learn the exact date. We do know it is Episode #22, "Route 66 BBQ."

Whenever we can get national and international exposure, we have accomplished a lot. A reminder - the goal of our organization is to Preserve, Promote, Educate & Enjoy. This TV show accomplished all of the above.

A hearty thank you to all the volunteers and future Hollywood personalities who helped with this project they are: John & Kathy Miller, co-stars, Lou & Rosie Vargo, Bill & Barb Gwodz, Larry Boyd, Larry Scinto, Bob Killackey, Jr., Loretta Dwyer, Randy Wierzgac, Larry Libersher, Paul & Gretchen Wendt, Marty Blitstein, Cathy Stevanovich, Hermie Fearman, Dorothy McMullen, Ike Widner, John & Loyce Stonecipher, Marty & Geri Bilecki, Jeff Meyer, Jim



John Weiss, Kathy Miller, Johnny Miller with crew from BBQ with Bobby Flay

Jones, Doug Wierzgac, Dave Zima, John & Lenore Weiss, the entire TV crew, and an additional cast of future preservation members ranging in age from 6 months to 66 + years old!



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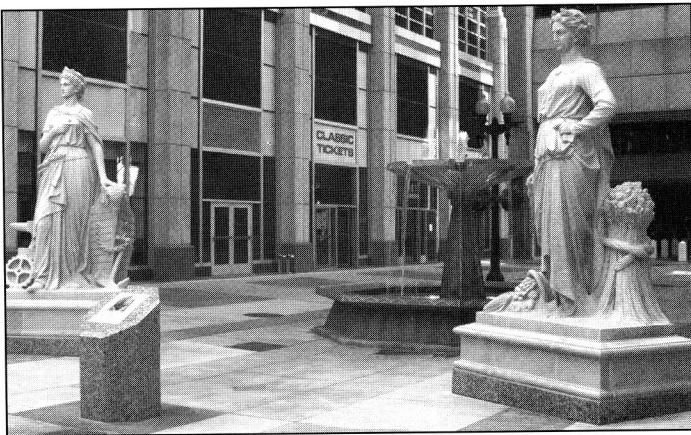
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June 10th Chicago Walking Tours a Success

Story and photo by Dave Clark

The forecast said it would reach 95 degrees on June 10th, with high humidity that would push the heat index well over 100. Nineteen people braved the uncomfortable weather to join me in Chicago's Loop for walking tours of the sights and history along the downtown portion of US 66. Fifteen of these hearty souls endured the heat for BOTH tours!

The 12:15 tour began with an unexpected treat in the plaza outside the Chicago Board of Trade building: just the day before, two statues had been installed, one symbolizing industry and the other agriculture. They had stood above the main entrance of the old Board of



These statues symbolizing Industry (left) and Agriculture (right) were installed in the plaza east of the Chicago Board of Trade on June 9, 2005

Trade building, which had been demolished in 1929 to make way for the current building. Just last year, they were found lying in a Forest Preserve in Downers Grove, Illinois. Now they are back—just in time to be a last-minute addition to our 66 tour.

From the Board of Trade, we walked east down Jackson Boulevard to Michigan Avenue, and then we came back to LaSalle Street by walking down Adams Street. Along the way we discussed why Jackson Boulevard was chosen as the alignment of 66 through the Loop, why there would be no route 66 without Chicago, and why Adams Street became westbound 66 during the 1950s. We took a look inside the Art-Deco lobbies of the Board of Trade and LaSalle Bank buildings, and we admired the Tiffany mosaics of frontier history in the Marquette building. The tour ended in the lobby of the Rookery building, which was remodeled in 1909 by Frank Lloyd Wright.

The second tour started west down Jackson from

LaSalle Street to Clinton Street, then returned on Adams. Highlights included the Palm Court winter garden at 311 S. Wacker, the double bascule bridges over the Chicago River, a look inside Union Station, and a discussion of Lou Mitchell's restaurant and its early competitors. We visited the site of Café Bohemia, which was famous for featuring wild game on its menu, and the building that once was the Florsheim Shoe Factory, renowned in its day as one of the most efficient and productive factories ever built. The final stop was the Quincy Street 'L' station, which has been restored to (nearly) its original 1897 appearance. As the second tour ended, I thanked the participants for

bearing with me on such an unbearably hot and humid day.

Besides the complimentary tours given in conjunction with the Motor Tour, I would be happy to give tours at other times to any 66 News readers for a nominal fee. Also, I have CDs for sale at my website which contain printable self-guided tours

covering the same areas, as well as a complete Chicagoland 66 driving guide. If you are planning a visit to the Windy City, please feel free to contact me:

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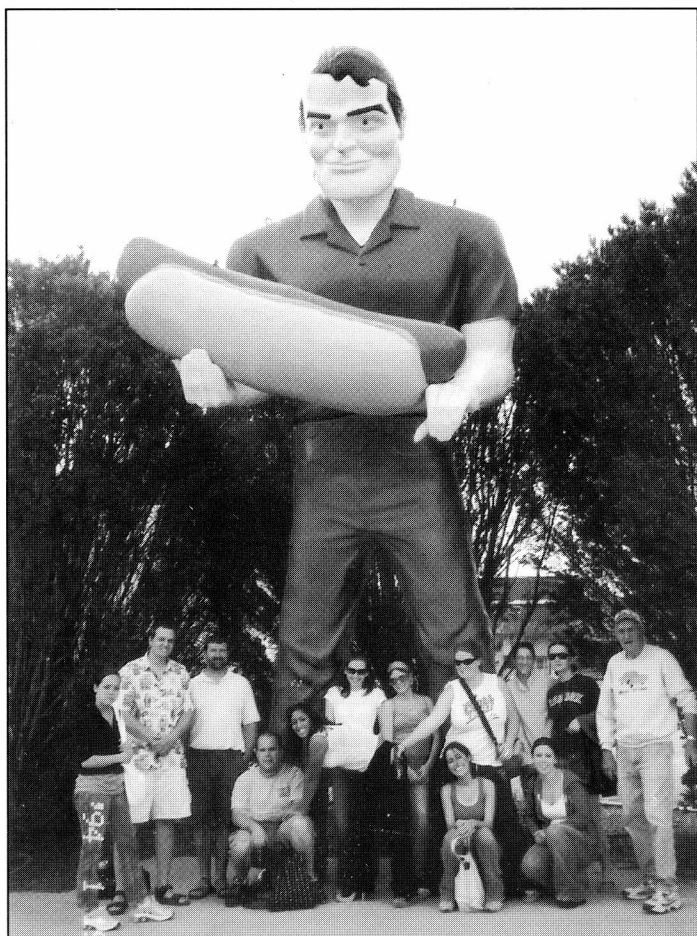
This bridge was undergoing maintenance the morning of our walking tour. It was reopened by the time the West Loop tour crossed. The bridge was built in 1915.

STUDENT'S TRIP OF LIFETIME

By Marty Bilecki

An excited group of ten college students and their professors made a once in a lifetime motor tour of historic route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica, CA. The group, who are, senior Arts and Sciences students from Central Connecticut State University, arrived in Chicago on Tuesday, May 24th.

Professors, Bruce P. Day and John Mitrano left Chicago on Wednesday morning and met Route 66 Assoc of IL representatives, Geri and Marty Bilecki in Wilmington, IL at the IL 66 Assoc Hall of Fame Member, Launching



Marty Bilecki with the Students Touring '66 in Illinois

Pad Drive-In. They visited many of the icons on the historic "Mother Road". Nostalgic stops for information and photos were made at the Polka-dot Drive-in, Braidwood - the Riviera, and historic streetcar, in Gardner - The Brilliant Bronze station (now restored) Big Al's Hot Dogs, Dwight and the Standard Station in Odell.

Most of these students have never left their small communities in Connecticut for such a large-scale trip. They were very enthused by the scenery in Illinois. They started in the large city of Chicago with its massive lake-

front to the rural areas of nostalgic towns and villages. These students had the opportunity to travel the road, which leads across our country - starting in Illinois.

Additional stops were made to the Log Cabin and the new 66 Association Museum and Hall of Fame in Pontiac. While in Pontiac, the students were treated to a Trolley ride and tour of Pontiac with Betty Estes, Tourism Director. They also visited the Funks Grove and Atlanta icons, in McLean County and the forever-nostalgic Pig Hip Restaurant Museum in Logan County with Fran and Ernie Edwards as their hosts. The students continued their trip onto Springfield after bidding farewell to Geri and Marty Bilecki and continued on day by day to the end of the road - the pier in Santa Monica, CA. This excursion was both academic and recreational. Professor Day has organized these trips for the past three years in an effort to continue the education to the public and to his students about the Route 66 history and it's future as part of Americana.

At the conclusion of this day's activities all of the participants exclaimed much delight and thanked all who contributed to their first day adventure and their thanks were warmly appreciated.

Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame & Museum

By Marilyn Pritchard, Curator



Up to July 2005 the Museum has had visitors from 32 different Countries and 48 States. This is remarkable for being just the middle of Summer.

We need Volunteers! The Museum belongs to all association members - please pitch in and help out by volunteering to host the museum on the weekends. The City of Pontiac would like us to be open on Sundays during the summer months and we need a Host or Hostess to keep the doors open and welcome visitors. We need your support! Let's do our part as association members and show Pontiac how very proud of the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame & Museum we are! (Contact Jim Jones at

815-844-5657 for further information on volunteering at the Museum.)

Atlanta's Palms Grill Café Project Receives National Parks Service Grant

By William Thomas

Efforts to restore the Palms Grill Café on Rt. 66 in downtown Atlanta, Illinois were recently given a boost when the community was notified it had received a grant from the Rt. 66 Corridor Preservation Project of the National Parks Service (NPS). The NPS matching grant, totaling \$30,000, was awarded to help fund Phase I of the project that involves restoration of the building's façade, and replacement of its roof and windows. A meeting is planned for October 2005, at which representatives from the National Parks Service, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and the City of Atlanta will determine how best to stabilize this 1867 building, which is one of three in Atlanta listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Palms Grill Café opened in 1934 and served Rt. 66 travelers and local residents for over 30 years. One of its most famous visitors stopped at the Grill during its first month of operation was Max Baer, Sr. Max was the heavyweight boxing champion of the world. While he was on his way to a theatrical engagement in St. Louis, stopped for breakfast at the Grill, just two weeks after he had won his title. The Palms Grill Café was the Greyhound Bus Stop in Atlanta for a number of years. A small light on the bottom of the Grill's large neon sign could be turned on to signal for the bus to stop. The Grill was also the site of weekly dances and BINGO games held in its back room.

Atlanta envisions the Palms Grill Café as a new and exciting attraction for Rt. 66 enthusiasts. Depending on resources available, the Grill will either be recreated as a museum and/or a functioning café. Either way, it will provide tourists and locals alike with an opportunity to see and experience a small town, Rt. 66 café circa 1935-40. Donations in support of the Palms Grill Café project are tax-deductible and may be made to the Atlanta Public Library and Museum, P. O. Box 166, Atlanta, Illinois 61723. All support is greatly appreciated.



The Palms Grill in the 1930's era

Congratulations Betty!

The Route 66 Association of Illinois extends our most heartfelt thanks to Betty Estes on her retirement. Betty recently retired as the Tourism Director of Pontiac.

Betty was an instrumental part in relocating the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and the development of the Museum in Pontiac. "We are indebted to Betty for her determination to help to make the association and the city of Pontiac merge two separate visions and make them one. We thank Betty and wish her the best of luck in the future. You will be missed!" said John Miller president of the association.



SHE'S A PEST!

By John Weiss

I heard it over and over again. "Here's what we should do!" Ring-ring, it's the phone again. "Hi, It's Dorothy. I have an idea!" "Dorothy," I would say, "We can't do that." "Why not?" would always be her answer. What a pest! But, dog gone it, she was always right! Gosh, I am so very glad we did everything the pest wanted.



Dorothy McMullen one of the founding fathers of the Preservation Committee at her best!

Without her, so much of Route 66 would have been lost forever.

Dorothy knows people. She understands the just do it attitude. She does not know how to hear the words "No" or "Can-not."

She also has an uncanny ability to tell someone, like me, that you are the selected one. You are the one I have

chosen. Now, do it while I think of more things for us to do. The pest is at it again. You do not say "NO" to Dorothy - she won't accept it.

Yes, Dorothy (Seratt) McMullen is the backbone of every preservation project. She unceremoniously worked at research for years to understand the complexity of the preservation of Route 66. Mind-boggling projects like the "MPDF-Multiple Property Documentation Form", means nothing to the average person, but is an enormous help to preservation of the road. No one has contributed the amount of research hours as Dorothy. It is so nice to know that with a single phone call, I could find out the answers to some very complex preservation problems. Exclusive places, such as the Auburn Brick Road, exist today because of her.

Tens of thousands of people from around the world visit our historic sites on Route 66 in Illinois.

New Atlanta Website Welcomes Rt. 66 Travelers

By William Thomas

A new website designed for use by Rt. 66 tourists and others has been launched by the City of Atlanta, Illinois. Check it out at: www.atlantailinois.org.

When you access the site, you'll find loads of tourist information, and even a virtual walking tour of this



The New Website for Atlanta, IL Highlights Route 66

friendly community. The Bunyon Giant is prominently featured on the site, along with the J. H. Hawes Grain Elevator Museum, the Atlanta Library/Museum, plus a helpful guide for things to do and see in Atlanta when you have 15 minutes, an hour, or a whole day to spend. Be sure to download and print off a Rt. 66 Discount Coupon, good for 10% off any purchase at participating merchants in Atlanta. The coupon is Atlanta's way of saying thanks for visiting and we hope to see you soon.

The new Atlanta website was designed and produced by Teleologic Learning Company, located in downtown Atlanta, just across from the Atlanta Rt. 66 Park

They are there as a result of the burning desire to preserve a piece of history, one project at a time, to successfully create a sense of time and place.

I have had many proud moments because of Dorothy. But undoubtedly my proudest was when she asked me to give her away at her wedding to Al. You bet I was happy to give her away. I told Al, "Now you keep her!"

Well, our newlyweds are retiring and moving out of Illinois. But she is only a phone call away. That means, from time to time, I can expect the phone to ring, and I will hear, "Hi, its Dorothy. I have an idea! Here's what we should do!"

FILM CREW VISITS THE AREA

Pilot Productions, from London, England, was seen filming in Illinois the week of July 24 to 30. This documentary is of Route 66 from Chicago to Springfield. Over 30 million people in more than forty countries will view the film. The PBS production will be aired in the USA on such channels as WTTW out of Chicago, the Discovery Channel, and more. Release date of the DVD is June of 2006. However, it will first air on Public Broadcasting Stations.

The star of this travel documentary is Justine Shapiro. She has a very impressive background of films. The co-stars in this production are local Route 66 authorities, John & Lenore Weiss.

The crew did extensive work at the historic Riviera Restaurant in Gardner. Filming took place in the Riviera and a comedy skit was performed in the restored street-car/diner, which is always open to the public, located behind this famous roadhouse.

This documentary is part of a series of worldwide releases from Globe Trekker, formerly known as Lonely Planet. Numerous international awards have been won for their travel series.

The Route 66 portion of this documentary began at the Launching Pad-Gemini Giant with a "road rally" of a dozen classic cars owned by members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois. Also covered are the Polk-A-Dot Drive In, Braidwood, and the Odell Standard Oil Filling Station along with the Welcome to Odell signs. A drive by shoot of the restored Meramac Caverns barn in Cayuga, the Burma Shave signs in Towanda as well as a segment in Atlanta was also filmed for this documentary.

For information on this and other Globe Trekker Productions, visit their website at www.globetrekcertv.com:globetrekkertravellers:justineshapiro.



The Film Crew of the PBS Show "The Lonely Planet" visits the Riviera

In Memory of Rev. Dean L. Benton

The Route 66 Association of Illinois wishes to extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the late Rev. Dean L. Benton. He was admitted into the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame in 1997 for his life and history on Route 66 as a truck driver and a minister. Rev. Benton passed away on Sunday June 26, 2006.

Glaida Funk said, "Before becoming a minister he drove trucks for various companies on Route 66, he had so many stories to tell. I think he was in his 30's before he became a minister. During WWII he helped to build the "Burma Road" and became ill with dysentery."

Marilyn Pritchard said, "Dean & Betty Benton and Steve & Glaida Funk visited the Museum on December 18, 2004. Rev. Benton was happy to share his memorabilia of 3 tin-prints of Funks Grove Church and 8 chauffeur trucker buttons of his past career, as a Minister and truck driver. He donated these to the Museum.

Last June, Marilyn had contacted the Rev. and asked him to be part of the Hall of Fame banquet in Bloomington. She asked the Rev. to give the invocation and read the past year deceased Hall of Fame Members. Rev. Benton told Marilyn, "I would be very proud to do my share."

We will miss Rev. Benton and he will always be in our hearts.

NOW AVAILABLE! The Official Patch of the Route 66 Association of Illinois

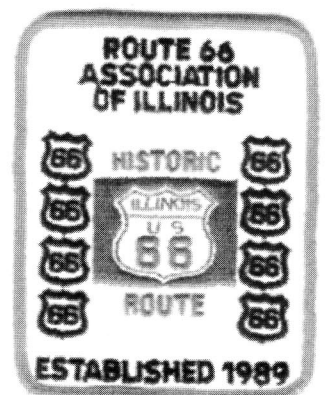
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How to Order!

\$5.00 each plus \$1.00 S/H

Each additional patch \$5.00 and
.50 cents S/H

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The Route 66 Association of Illinois
C/O Marty Bilecki
4200 Bargo Lane
Morris, IL 60450



For information call Marty at: 815-941-3312

KRUZIN WITH THE BILECKI'S

By: Marty and Geri Bilecki

Once again the greatest season of the year upon us, so much awaits us on the "Mother Road". Since our last writing many new friendships with first time travelers have come our way. A brief run-down follows.

APRIL – A fun filled workday was on the 23rd with the Preservation Committee to update and spruce up the Pig Hip for our good friends Ernie and Fran Edwards. On the 30th we joined many people who participated in the very successful Poker Run held in Pontiac and communities on 66 north and south of there. Thanks Marty and Cathie and all of the others who worked so hard to make this a success.

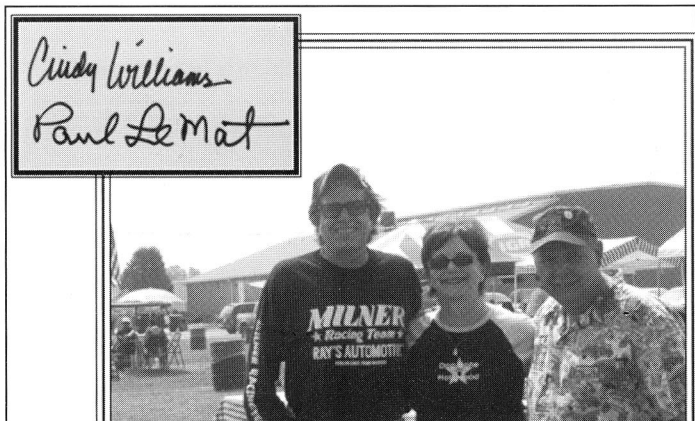
MAY – and we did an escort of 16 cars from the Tri-Chevy Association to the Hall of Fame and Mu-

be. Thanks Johnny M. and all who worked so hard. Also, in June was the Litchfield Festival where a fun time was held by all (it gets bigger every year). All the interest shown is in keeping the most historic road in the world alive and kicking. It's great to be part of the entire story.

Lest we forget to tell you that the Illinois Route 66 Association now has received **WORLD WIDE** notoriety courtesy of Danchuk Mfg. of Santa Ana, CA. They are manufacturers of Chevy restoration parts. They have re-told our March and April trip in their current Motorama News Letter adding that we are part of the Route 66 Association of Illinois. They also publicize the entire road and the web sites offered. Check them out at www.danchuk.com.

We look forward to attending many other events to be published in our newsletter this year. Our patches are still available to wear with pride and to support continuing projects of the association. See ad in this issue to order patches by mail or give us a call. They will also be available at meetings and Route 66 sponsored events. Keep Kruzin and enjoy the road with us!!! It awaits your presence.

Remember our motto 'IF YOU DON'T GO – YOU WON'T KNOW'

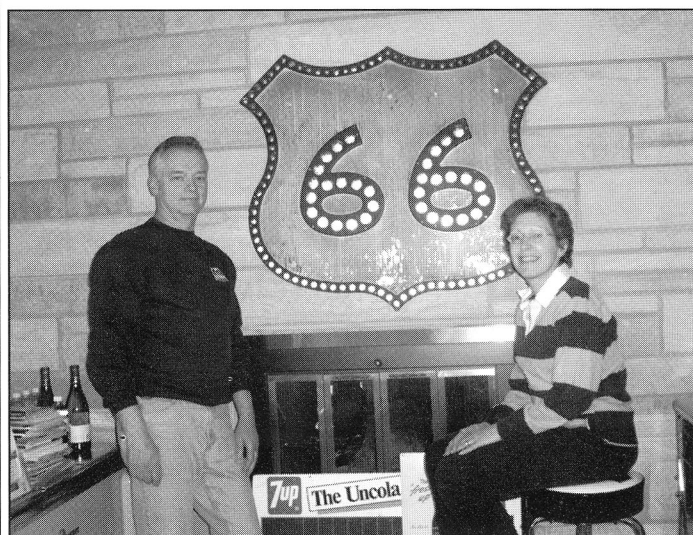


"Cruisin Route 66 to Litchfield" The Classic Car Festival in Litchfield - June 2005 Paul Le Mat & Cindy Williams pose with Johnny Miller, Paul and Cindy starred in the classic film "American Grafitti"

seum in Pontiac for a tour and cruise along "66". Also, in May was a visit by ten students and two professors from Central Connecticut State University. This group was on its way to Santa Monica via 66. A stop at the Museum in Pontiac with a trolley tour escorted by Betty Estes made for an extra fun time for all. Everyone had nothing but compliments for our Illinois hospitality and sights along the way.

JUNE brought many surprises including a two-radio station live interview in Morris on WCSJ-AM and FM on the Dick Steele Sunday Show. Our interview was about our Route 66 Spring trip to Santa Monica and also to publicize the Motor Tour, which was held June 10,11th and 12th. We hope this helped to make the Motor Tour the success it turned out to

Sign Survives Pop Hicks Fire



The Kinkel's pose in front of the original sign from Pop Hicks. This sign was the only thing that survived a fire that destroyed this Oklahoma Route 66 icon.

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

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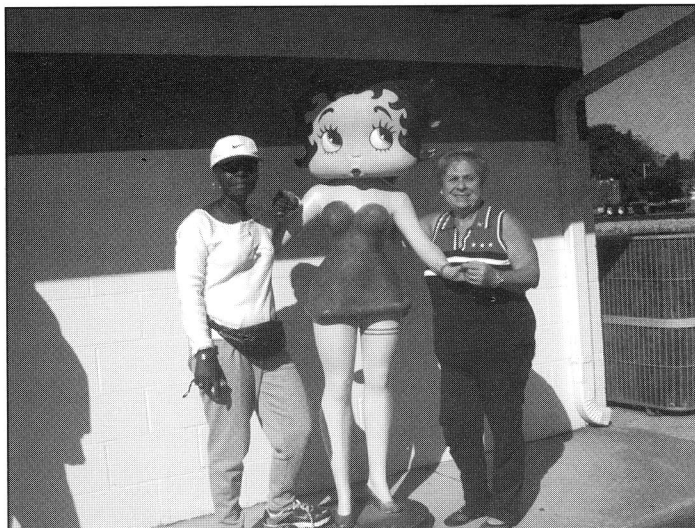
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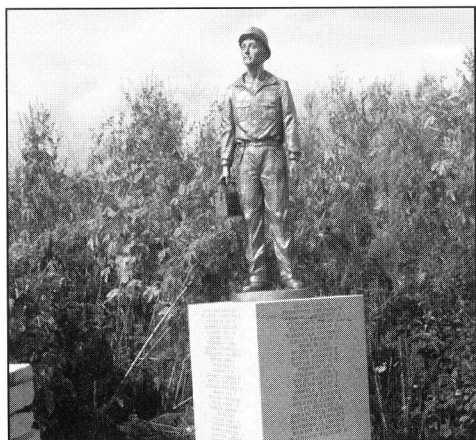
Assorted Photos of Route 66 Activities



The participants of the PBS show "The Lonely Planet" lined up at the Launching Pad.



Board member Rosie Vargo and friend Janice Allen pose with Betty Boop at the Hall of Fame Polka Dot Drive-In as they cruise on '66.



MISSING? Has anyone seen this statue? Sadly it was stolen from it's perch sitting across from the main entrance to the Lincoln National Cemetary.



The tall and the short of it - Everyone had a great time on the motor tour.



Route 66 resident artist Bob Waldmire poses with Johnny Miller in Litchfield.



Members show support in Joliet at the dedication of a new statue to honor the sister road Lincoln Highway.



The Hall of Fame/Museum curator Marilyn Pitchard & volunteer Marily Weber pose with one of thousands of items at the museum.

Where is This??



Answer on back cover.

They're Back

Now you can get an official Route 66 Association of Illinois name badge. Association members can order them for \$8.00 each, which includes shipping. The badge will be engraved with your name on it. You can wear it proudly to Association events, car shows or wherever you go and want to show that you are a proud member of the Route 66 Association of Illinois. To order your badge, send a check or money order for \$8.00 payable to the Route 66 Association of Illinois to Marty Blitstein (see Contact Information). Please include with your check exactly how you want your name on the badge.

RT. 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS



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COMMUNITY FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

September thru December 2005

SEPTEMBER

16th thru 18th – Dwight – Harvest Days – 815-252-1543

17th & 18th – Plainfield – Harvest Fest – Art Curtis-815-326-5510

Carlinville – Fall Festival – Jo Remling-217-854-8916

18th – Cahokia Mounds-Fall Equinox Sunrise Observance – cahokiamounds@ezl.com

30th thru Oct. 2 – Springfield – 4th Annual International Rt. 66 Mother Road Festival –

OCTOBER

1st and 2nd – Springfield – 4th Annual International Rt. 66 Mother Road Festival

8th – Litchfield – Octoberfest – Contact – 217-324-5253 Ext. 147

15th – Cruise to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum – Contact Kathy Miller 708-389-3823

16th – Rt 66 Assoc. Fall Meeting – Springfield - Contact John Miller – 708-389-3823

28th – 29th – Litchfield – Fall Festival – Mt. Zion Lutheran Church – 217-324-5253

29th – Litchfield - Harvest Fest – Parade, Antique Tractor Show – Contact 217-324-5253

28th – Plainfield – Ghoul's Night Out – Contact – 815-436-5510 - Art Curtis

31st - Edwardsville/Glen Carbon- Halloween Parade – Contact 618-656-7600 or cforeman@edglenchamber.org

NOVEMBER

6th – Cahokia Mounds – Raptor Awareness Day – Contact – 618-346-5160

18th – Litchfield – Holiday Walk – Contact 217-324-5253 ext. 147

18th-20th – Litchfield – Festival of Trees – Contact 217-324-5253 ext. 147

26th-27th – Cahokia Mounds – Indian Market Days – Contact 618-346-5160

26th – Route 66 Glitz & Glitter Holiday Shopping Tour – Contact Lenore Weiss 815-458-6616

27th thru Dec. 4 –Atlanta Aglow Christmas Kick off week – Contact 217-648-5077

DECEMBER

1st – Lincoln – Christmas Parade – Contact 217-736-2385

3rd – Lincoln – Postville Courthouse – Christmas Open House – Contact 217-732-8930

3rd – Litchfield – Christmas Parade – Contact 217-324-5253 ext 147

3rd – Plainfield – Holiday Open House – Contact Art Curtis 815-436-5510

3rd – Dwight – Christmas Parade – Contact – Barb Gwodz – 630-910-3422

3rd - Lexington – Christmas on the Prairie – Contact – 309-365-8583

18th – Cahokia Mounds – Winter Solstice Sunrise – Contact – 618-346-5160

Preservation Committee Meeting

Saturday – September 24th

Dinner 5:00 pm

Meeting 6:00 pm

New Location:

Old Route 66 Family Restaurant

105 S. Old Route 66 -- Dwight, IL 60420

Phone: (815) 584-2920

Buffet includes 2 meats - \$9.00 per person tax included

ASSOCIATION MONTHLY EVENTS

OCTOBER 15TH - THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Located at 112 North Sixth Street - Springfield, IL 62701 – for information call (217) 558-8844

Adult (16 - 61 years of age)	\$7.50
Senior (62 years of age and up)	\$5.50
Children (5 - 15 years of age)	\$3.50

Join Kathy Miller and Rosie Vargo as they travel from Dwight to Springfield. This cruise starts at 8:00 am with breakfast on your own at “The Route 66 Family Restaurant” in Dwight. This is one of the favorite restaurants of association members! Departing at 9:00 am we travel '66 through Odell stopping for photo of the station. Leaving the station we'll make our way to the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum in Pontiac for a short visit.

Then head out to I-55. While working your way to Springfield, stop at the I-55 Rest Area where you can take a brief break for refreshment/restroom! See the display managed by John & Lenore Weiss on behalf of the Association at this rest area.

Once in Springfield we reach our destination - the “NEW” Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Following the Museum visit the Famous Cozy Dog for lunch!

Contact Kathy Miller at 708-389-3823 after 6:00 pm or by email Kathleen708@hotmail.com (please put “Route 66” in the subject line) for further information or Rosie Vargo at 708-339-3420 after 4:00 pm.

NOVEMBER 26TH – ROUTE 66 GLITZ & GLITTER HOLIDAY SHOPPING TOUR!

Our Glitz & Glitter Holiday Shopping Fun begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. with donuts and coffee at Mill Town Market. We are invited to enjoy the many nooks and crannies of this most unique whimsical market. It is housed in wonderfully restored 100+-year-old lumberyard located in Wilmington at 508 N. Kankakee Street. From there we will all be welcomed at the very famous Angelo's Ben Franklin. (Hall of Fame inductee in 2005.) As you walk into this magical wonderland you will be greeted by everyone to enjoy the spirit and spirits of the holiday season. Glitz, glitter, beauty and holiday music fills the air along with refreshments offered exclusively to us. You may find a surprise waiting upon departure!!!

As long as we have a large enough number of participants, lunch will be at the famous Riviera Roadhouse Restaurant. We would eat around 12:30 p.m. From lunch we will walk off the extra calories by visiting downtown Wilmington home of the many antique shops as well as a variety of other stores including the famous Camz Retro that spills over with Route 66 paraphernalia and other retro and most unique items.

We will say good-bye to this lovely, quaint town and drive Route 66 to our final treat. No trip is complete until we officially end it around 3:30 p.m. with a turtle sundae at the Polk-A-Dot in Braidwood. At that point we can relax and share the many treasures we found throughout the day, fill up and say our farewells for our drive back home. This holiday shopping treat has always been a very successful, fun and fulfilling journey down Route 66 especially during the magic of the season. There is only one very important requirement: **PLEASE LET LENORE KNOW THAT YOU PLAN ON ENJOYING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, ON THIS MAGICAL TOUR NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH. PLEASE CALL HER AT 815-458-6616 OR EMAIL AT Moxie66@sbcglobalnet.com**

The total cost for this fun-filled exciting day should not exceed \$15.00 per person, payable in advance to Lenore. Now, as for the shopping - we will leave that up to you!

DECEMBER 2ND – CHRISTMAS IN DWIGHT

Join Barb Gwodz as she once again hosts the First Christmas Event of the season. On Friday December 2nd meet Barb in the Historic Train Station in Dwight at 5:30 pm. The parade starts at 6:00 pm. Enjoy the night as the winter festivities begin. The lighted streets and the stores decorated for the season will put you in a festive mood. After the parade Barb will once again make dinner reservations for a delightful gathering of friends as we order from the menu and pay for our own dinner at the marvelous Country Mansion Restaurant located at 101 South Water St. in Dwight. RSVP to Barb no later than Friday – November 26th 630-910-3422 for by email at BBGX2@aol.com

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Route 66 Facts and Trivia

- Route 66 is 2448 miles long. (about 4000 km)
- Route 66 was commissioned in 1926, picking up as many as possible bits and pieces of existing road.
- Route 66 crosses 8 states and 3 time zones.
- Route 66 starts in Chicago, and ends in L.A. (Santa Monica).
- In 1926 only 800 miles of Route 66 were paved. By 1937 Route 66 was paved end-to-end. Illinois was paved from start to finish making it the first state that was completely paved in 1926.
- You can only drive parts of Route 66 these days... it has been replaced by the interstate highways I-55, I-44, I-40, I-15 and I-10, but still a surprisingly high amount of old road is waiting to be found by the more adventurous traveler.
- Route 66 is also known as “The Mother Road”, “The Main Street of America” and “The Will Rogers Highway”.
- During all of its life, Route 66 continued to evolve, leaving many abandoned stretches of concrete, still waiting to be found by the more adventurous traveler.
- Route 66 was also the title of a TV series playing from 1960 until 1964
- Cyrus Stevens Avery from Tulsa, Oklahoma can be called the father of Route 66
- The last stretch of the road disappeared from “official” maps in 1984 was Williams, AZ.
- The Smithsonian’s National Museum in Washington, D.C., has an exhibit Entitled “America On the Move” that includes an actual piece of Route 66 pavement.
- In 1937 because of a change in alignment of Route 66, there is an intersection where Route 66 crosses itself at Central Avenue and 4th Street in downtown Albuquerque
- In Joliet, Illinois Route 66 crosses over Lincoln Highway (US 30) and in Plainfield, Illinois for two blocks Route 66 and Lincoln Highway are the same road.

PLANNING ON MOVING??

Don't Miss an Issue of The Route 66 Association of Illinois News!

Send your change of address to:

The Route 66 Association of Illinois
Hall of Fame & Museum
Attn: Martin Blitstein
110 West Howard
Pontiac, IL 61764

Or you can reach Marty....

Phone: 708-444-1312

Fax: 708-444-1315

Email: blitz66@chicagonet.net

Please note: The post office will NOT forward to you or return the newsletter to us if your address isn't current. (They throw it in the trash can)

THE ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS ANNUAL FALL 2005 MEETING AND ELECTIONS

Sunday - October 16, 2005

Board Meeting at 10:30 am

Lunch – Noon

General Meeting at 1:00 pm

The Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center
625 E. Saint Joseph St, Springfield, IL 62703

20 Rooms Blocked at a Discounted Rates!

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Dessert

RSVP to Kathy Miller at 708-389-3823 or by email at
Kathleen708@hotmail.com please put "Lunch RSVP"
in the subject line no late then October 7, 2006.



Sent in by Greg Anderson of Seneca, Illinois

Where Is It??

The Dixie in McLean, Illinois

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE  **NEWS**

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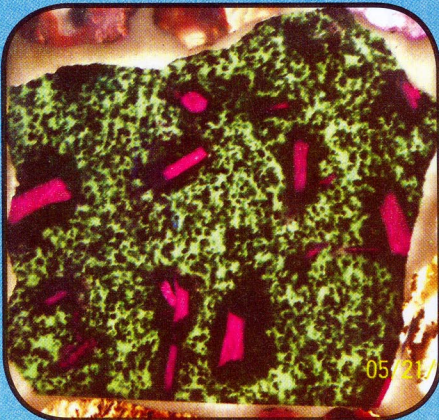
Winter 2005-06



Children from the "Christian Home Education Association" plant a tree at the Odell Station.



Plaque awarded to the Association and the City of Pontiac for the Governor's Home Town Award



One of the many minerals on display at the Funk Gem & Mineral Museum



Association and Pontiac Officials pose with the Governors Home Town Award Plaque

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

The Route 66 Association is a not-for-profit organization. Its purpose is to preserve, promote, educate and enjoy Rte 66. The Board Members are available to answer questions at most reasonable times.

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THE 66 NEWS

Winter
2005-2006

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Museum Tour Director
Jim Jones
Call 815-844-5657
To Schedule Museum Tours

IN THIS ISSUE:

Governors Home Town Award
Education First!
Gem and Mineral Museum
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Steinbeck Award
Eagle Days on COR Bridge
The First Dairy Queen
Mom, Pop, and Apple Pie
Kruzin' w/ Bileckis
Rte 66 in Cook County

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS

Marty & Geri Bilecki
David Clark
Jim Jones
Kathy Miller
Jim & Judy Otis
Marilyn & Durelle Prichard
John & Lenore Weiss
Bob Wilcox



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

July through October 2005

Greetings Fellow 66'ers;

On October 16th in Springfield we held our annual meeting. The elections and committee appointments should prove to be most beneficial to the association. I'd like to welcome first time board members Nick (Ike) Widner (Grundy), David Zima (Will) and Larry Scinto (At-Large). I'd also like to welcome newcomer Linda Zima as Officer Corresponding Secretary. I want to take a moment to welcome back the returning board members and recording secretary. Special thanks to the nominating committee (Larry Boyd, Barb Gwodz, and Bill Gwodz) for doing a great job! And, I would like to thank you for electing me as association president for the next two years.

I'm very proud to announce that the Rte 66 Assoc of IL Hall of Fame & Museum along with the City of Pontiac have been honored by receiving the Governors Home Town Award. On November 10th a mixed group of association members and Pontiac residents attended this event. All total there were 49 awards given and seven of them were on Route 66. The other six communities were Chicago, Romeoville, Braidwood, Gardner, Towanda, and Bloomington. The Home Town Award is given to a project for volunteerism. Congratulations to all!

Other items at the October meeting discussed:

1. The monthly outings will not be held May through August. Various volunteers have offered to be tour guides each month. They will select events to attend. This is an excellent way to support communities along Route 66 and enjoy the road! Thank you to the volunteers who lead these events for you! Take advantage of these wonderful association outings and ENJOY THE MOTHER ROAD!
2. The Route 66 Association of Missouri and the Route 66 Association of Illinois are working together to bring you a joint event again this summer. Watch for details in the Spring and Summer Newsletters.
3. Route 66 in Illinois has been approved as a National Scenic By-Way.
4. The Route 66 Heritage Corridor is under new leadership with Patty Ambrose who was hired to replace Patty Kuhn who left the office last summer. Congratulations to Patty Ambrose!

The Winter meeting will be in Pontiac at the Hall of Fame and Museum. Information on back cover.

Remember, Get your kicks on "66"!

John Miller, President
The Route 66 Association of Illinois

Correction: The editors of the '66 News wish to make a correction to the memorial of Rev. Dean L. Benton that was printed in the Fall 2005 issue. The correct date of Reverend Benton's passing was July 1, 2005.

MONTHLY OUTINGS 2006!

January through April

Please check with your host if inclement weather is forecasted the day of the event.

(There will be no monthly outings scheduled May through August)

LET'S GO ANTIQUING!

January – Saturday, January 21, 2006 hosted by Lenore & John Weiss - contact John & Lenore by email at weissinfo@il66authority.com or by phone at 815-458-6616. **Registration is required.**

January weather can be very unpredictable. So let's just do some indoor activities. We will meet at **R-Place Restaurant** in **Morris** located north of I-80 at exit #112. We will leave at 10:30 a.m. you may want to arrive early and have one of their great breakfasts, or a sweet treat! We will travel I-80 to the **Peru and Princeton Antique Malls**. They are huge! Afterwards we will return by way of I-80 back to Morris and have a bite to eat, and/or one of the famous ice cream specialties offered at **Culver's**. Of course this is all subject to weather conditions. Any questions, please call John and Lenore Weiss at 815-458-6616, or email at moxie66@sbcglobal.net.

SUNDAY IN PONTIAC!

February – Saturday, February 19th hosted by Marilyn and Durelle Pritchard - contact Marilyn & Durelle by email at or by phone at 815-844-6937 to make your reservation by February 1st. **Registration is required.**

See what's NEW in Pontiac! At 3:00 pm we will meet at the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum at 110 W. Howard St. in Pontiac, IL. We will caravan across town to the NEW state of art Livingston County Public Safety Complex (Jail, Sheriff's Department, Liv-Com & the county 911 emergency dispatch center) that cost \$18.7 million. As an added bonus we will tour the NEW District 6 Illinois State Police Headquarters. Following the tours we will dine at the NEW Bernardi II Restaurant located at 123 North Mill St. (lunch is on your own ordering off the menu).

IN SEARCH OF THE BEST APPLE PIE IN THE USA!

March – Saturday, March 25th hosted by Joe Gniadek - contact Joe by email at blackfrost04@netzero.net or by phone at 815-630-690-4057. **Registration is required.**

We will meet at the Launching Pad parking lot (home of the Gemini Giant) on '66 in Wilmington, IL 8:00 am (breakfast is on your own). Leaving at 8:30 am to make our way south to Elkhart, IL. This gives a 3-hour time period to get to our destination at approximately 11:30 am. We will kick off with lunch and Apple Pie between 12-1 pm at Bluestem Bakeshop. Adjoining Bluestem's is the Frontier archaeological museum the cost of admission is \$3.00. Then after lunch you have several choices. Either drive up the road to tour the Mansion (cost \$12.00 per person, the tour will be scheduled for 1:45 or 2:00 pm), you can antique shop at Horsefeathers Antiques, or cruise to the hill with the arch and look at the St. John Baptist Chapel 1890 from the outside. When our afternoon in Elkhart is completed you can drive down Route 66 to the antique shop in Williamsville open until 5 pm. The overnight accommodations are on your own. We suggest either the Springfield or Lincoln Metropolitan area (no arrangements have been made).

JOLIET ARSENAL GHOST TOUR!

April – Saturday, April 8th hosted by Ike Widner - contact Ike by email at whitedancingwolf66@sbcglobal.net or by phone 815-955-9824 to register. **Registration is required - participation in this event is limited.**

At 12:45 pm we will meet at the Midewin Tall Grass Prairie for a Ghost Tour of the Joliet Arsenal and cemeteries that are located on Route 66. The Tour will last 3 1/2 hours and the cost is \$3.00 per person. You MUST be there at 12:45 pm SHARP. We will be led in our cars – caravan style through the cemeteries and the Arsenal listening to Folk Lore of yesterday, stories and the history of the past. After the tour we will convoy to the Hall of Fame Rivera Roadhouse, which is located on Route 66 in Gardner, the Riviera is the home of the Hall of Fame Streetcar Diner. Dinner is on your own.

The Funk Gem and Mineral Museum

In the back yard of the Funk Prairie Home

By Jim Jones

We told you of the Funk Prairie Home in the Spring 2005 issue of The Route 66 News. This time we will tell you about the Gem and Mineral Museum created by Lafayette Funk II.

Lafayette Funk II was the grandson of Lafayette Funk, the builder of the Funk Prairie Home and the father of the creator of Funk Seeds, the first commercially successful hybrid seed corn. Lafayette was introduced to gem and mineral collecting in 1951 when he accompanied his son on a college field trip to Colorado. At that time, the construction engineer also became a rock hound.

Lafayette, as construction engineer for the Funk Seed Company, traveled all over the world building seed corn facilities. Working in impoverished countries he was allowed access to mineral locations not open to others, even those from large scientific organizations. Bill Case, the knowledgeable

guide of the Funk facility, will tell you of Lafayette's efforts in these poor countries garnering him some of the world's

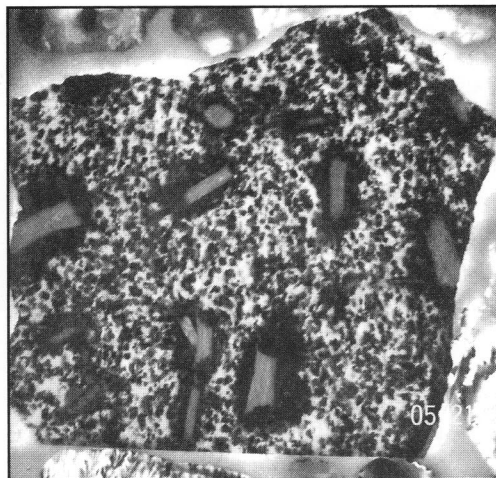
most sought after mineral samples. Funk was also able to add some specimens from out of this world: some of his family members served as advisors to presidents on agricultural matters and were rewarded with moon rocks for the museum.

The entrance to the museum has a display of minerals that have been thinly sliced and glued to glass and is backlit. This is a very brightly colored translucent display that gives one a hint of the beautiful sights to be seen inside the

museum. Among the minerals on display is a 100 pound quartz crystal, a Mesolite, a rock with what looks to be fur

or hair on it; Calcite, a crystal rock from the Joplin, MO area; blue amethyst geodes and many more amazing minerals. In all, the gem and mineral collection has about 10,000 items.

One of the rooms contains hundreds



Wait until you see these beauties.

of Native American artifacts: arrowheads, grinding tools and spearheads from Central Illinois. Another room contains a Saber Tooth Tiger skull that was retrieved from the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles, CA. In yet another room are minerals that fluoresce when exposed to black lights.

The above will give you an idea of the wonders that are to be viewed at the Funk Gem and Mineral Museum. We hope you will visit the museum to experience the many wonders on display.



Saber Tooth Tiger Skull from the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles, CA.

The Funk Prairie Home & Gem and Mineral Museum are open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, March through December. Visits to the museums can range in size from individuals to groups of 50. Tours are free, but you must phone the museum staff in advance to make reservations. Call 309/827-6792.

EDUCATION FIRST

By Lenore Weiss

They came from Chenoa, Dwight, Odell and other surrounding areas. Their gear included brooms, window cleaner, paper towels and more. Their primary purpose was education with a "hands on" history lesson hosted by the Odell Tourism Board. After learning about the workings of the famous Odell Standard Oil Filling station on historic Route 66, the children from the Christian Home Education Association (CHEA) and their parents wandered over to the corner across from St. Paul church. Posted on a brown sign is the explanation of the Odell tunnel, known locally as the subway. At one time this tunnel was needed to safely cross Route 66 to the other side of the street because traffic was so heavy. Fortunately, a newspaper article, complete with a photo, had been given to John Weiss, a member of the Odell Tourism Board, which helped the children to visualize the tunnel.

Arrangements had been made between home school parent Kay Eichler and the Odell Tourism Board. "This education of the 'old days' is so important for the children ranging in ages from 4 to 14," agreed John and Lenore Weiss.

Mrs. Eichler marveled at the interest and questions these kids had. The gravity flow glass top gas pump and the 1953 Winnebago camper were two favorites. The best part was a "hands on" project of planting a River Birch tree generously donated by Odell Tourism. A cool breeze, 3 shovels, a few sprinkles, lots of dirty hands and several large buckets of water were the ingredients used to complete this task. As



Home schooled children plant a tree as part of a field trip to the Odell Station.

the children and moms stepped back to watch their tree gently sway in the breeze, everyone applauded. It was a unanimous vote to call it the CHEA TREE.

After this adventure all of the children gave the station a sprucing up. The windows were washed, the floor vacuumed and swept, and the interior was dusted and cleaned.

After their tiring chores were complete, they all enjoyed lunch on the station's picnic tables. A final check of the CHEA tree was a must as the children and moms waved good-bye to the volunteers and their tree.

Margie McCauley Visited

By Marilyn & Durelle Pritchard

Margie McCauley of Landers, California departed California with her cart & dog "Lollie" on May 6th, 1995. She was determined to walk the length of the Route 66. It's interesting to note that her age 66 is the same as the Route she is traveling. Five months after leaving California, Lollie was involved in a fight with another dog. Her cart was knocked over & Margie sustained a broken ankle from the hit. So at St. Clair, Missouri she was forced to return with her dog Lollie to California to recuperate.

On April 16th, 1996 Margie was on her way again. She departed from Gray Summit, Missouri. She would average 10 to 15 miles per day. Margie finished the route in Chicago in 1996. After arriving in Chicago she felt strong enough to walk on to her Sister's Home in Pennsylvania.

This past September, Durelle & Marilyn Pritchard of Pontiac, IL visited with Margie. Margie is presently 77 years young and her dog Lollie is 14, both doing very well. While she was walking through the Illinois leg of her journey, Illinois Association Members & Officers would meet her for an evening meal each night. Margie told the Pritchard's she is slowing down a bit, but still walks 3 miles to church. She has many fond memories of Route 66 and would like to venture over the same path in her little red pickup truck someday.



Marilyn Pritchard, Margie McCauley, and Durelle Pritchard.

Happy 90th Birthday to Wilton Rinkel

October 26, 2005

By Rich Henry

From Rich's nomination of his father-in-law to the Hall of Fame in 1996.

Our thanks to the Pritchard's for reminding us of Wilton's birthday.

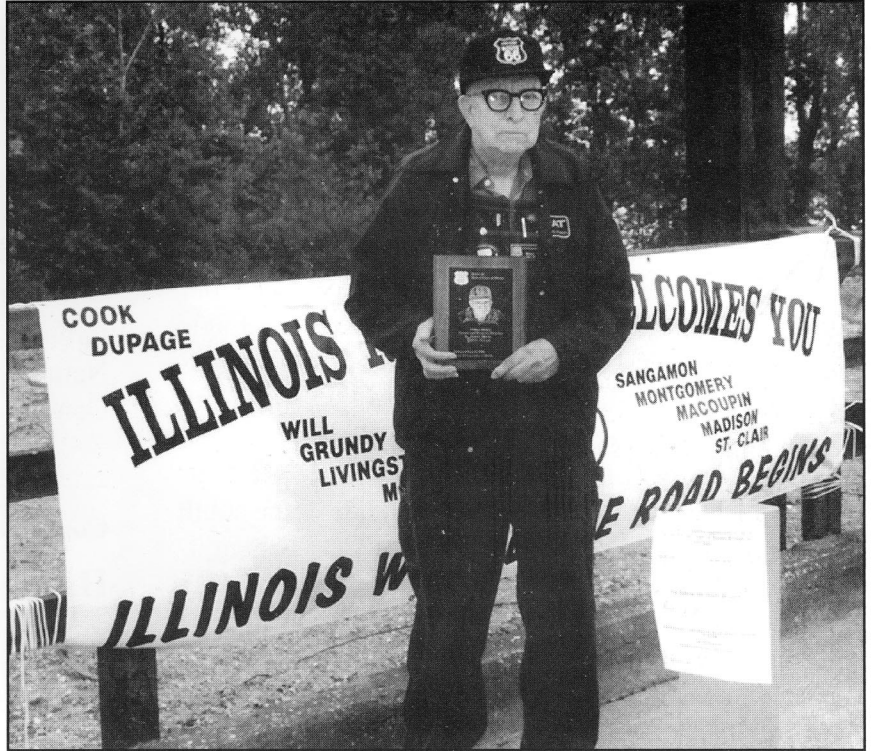
For the entire 90 years of his life, he has lived at the same location, 3 miles South of Hamel, Illinois on Illinois 157 or Route 66. He was there before, during and after it was Route 66.

Wilton was the only child of John M. Rinkel (04-01-1874 to 09-15-1927) and Anna C. Conrad-Rinkel (11-23-1878 to 11-20-1940). They were married February 14, 1900. Wilton was born October 26, 1915. He saw and remembers vividly Route 66 being built along their farm. At first, while inside, he had to stand on a pail so he could see over the windowsill to watch the workers. The contractor, which he believes was Joe Kesl, used their farm barns for storing construction equipment and materials.

At the time of his Dad's death, they were farming over 200 acres along Route 66. His Dad was killed about ~ mile South of their home as he was bringing in a team of six horses and two mules from the fields, he was struck by a drunk driver of a 1927 Chevrolet.

With his Dad gone, financial hard times hit the family and they were only able to keep the 15 acres, which he now lives on. A few years later, while still going to school, he started his first job working part-time at Cassen's Used Cars on Route 66 in Hamel. As Cassen's grew (now Cassen's Transportation), Wilton had finished school and worked full-time around the shop. He also took transport trucks to drivers that were broke down, bringing the disabled vehicle in. In the meantime, he continued to farm the 15 acres on Route 66 and helped travelers who had either broke down, needed directions or needed assistance with an accident along the curve by his property. There were many accidents, especially during rain slick roads. His stories are real and many.

He met his wife Evelyn and started dating on somewhat of a bet. Evelyn Schaefer of Prainetown worked as waitress at the Princess Cafe in Hamel. One day in 1936, his friend Bill Renken bet \$5.00 that Wilton would not ask Evelyn out. Wilton won the bet and Evelyn's hand in marriage. On January 13, 1940, they married, and have lived there on Rinkel's curve since. They raised five children



Wilton Rinkel

in all - Glenn, Robert, Linda, Judy and Jane, who were all born at home.

Living on the farm without the excitement of the city life, the kids would watch the countless travelers of Route 66. A big thrill to them, when it was raining was to go sit on the porch and wait for a vehicle to go off the road. Almost always, it did happen, sometimes fatally. Whenever Wilton was home during the accident, he was there to help, wanting nothing in return.

In 1940's he switched jobs, going to work at the Tannery in Hartford, Illinois till 1952, when he went to Shell Oil in Rosanna. He retired from Shell in 1985. All these years till recent, he personally farmed the 15 acres, which was part of his Dad's original farm along Route 66.

Now he has more time, promoting Route 66 with his set of eight State Route 66 signs in his front yard. Each year more & more Historic Route 66 travelers stop to take pictures of Wilton and his signs and to hear his tales of

Continued on Page 8

Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge

St. Louis, MO – The eleventh annual Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge will be held Saturday and Sunday, January 14 & 15, 2006. The hours are 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. An eagle education program, featuring a live eagle, is repeated every _ hour from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Viewing scopes on the bridge permit close-ups of eagles. The program also includes Lewis & Clark re-enactors who will have a camp set up reminiscent of the 1804 – 1806 Corps of Discovery Expedition and a dugout canoe and crew from the MO Department of Conservation. The re-enactors interact with the public and give visitors a glimpse of life during the explorer's time.

Each January, residents of St. Louis can view our national symbol "in their own backyard," at the Eagle Days event on the Old Chain Of Rocks Bridge. During the winter, the Mississippi River hosts one of North America's largest concentrations of bald eagles, who are drawn to areas of open water in search of fish, their preferred food. The Chain of Rocks rapids to the south of the Bridge are ideal fishing grounds. The Bridge itself – a former Route 66 crossing owned by the City of Madison, IL and renovated in 1999 by Trailnet as one of the country's longest pedestrian/bicycle bridges – makes an ideal viewing platform for both children and adults. From the Bridge, viewers can watch eagles fishing, riding ice floes, soaring overhead or roosting in nearby trees.

The Old Chain of Rocks Bridge is the centerpiece of the Confluence Greenway, a magnificent 200-square-mile urban riverside park and trail system being developed in the heart of bi-state St. Louis, from the St. Louis and East St. Louis riverfronts to St. Charles, Missouri and Grafton, Illinois. This unique project is being implemented by a partnership of five non-profit organizations – Grace Hill Settlement House, Greenway Network, Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development, Trailnet and The Trust for Public Land – in collaboration with local, state and federal public agencies. In the Confluence Greenway, millions of people each year will enjoy one of America's most unique resources for conservation, heritage and recreation.

In Missouri, free parking is available at the Missouri Tourist Information Center (Riverview Drive and I-270) and at North Riverfront Park (Riverview Drive south of the water treatment plant). Free shuttles are available from either location. For a fee of \$5, visitors

may park at the Missouri entrance to the Bridge; handicapped visitors may park in this lot free of charge.

In Illinois, expanded free parking is available at the Bridge entrance. From I-270 drive south on IL Route 3 to Chain of Rocks Road, turn right (west) on Chain of Rocks Road and cross the Chain of Rocks Canal. Follow the road and park near the Illinois bridge entrance. Visitors to this entrance will notice the improved and expanded parking. Rock paving has been installed to accommodate 40 cars. This improvement is the first step in a long-term project to create an Illinois visitor center for the bridge and Chouteau Island, led by Mayor John Hamm and the city of Madison, Ill.

The annual Eagle Days event is made possible through a partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Trailnet.

Continued from Page 7

Happy 90th Birthday

Route 66.

He has been the topic of different local newspaper articles, regarding Route 66 and the local area. Presently, he is probably the longest living Route 66 resident at the same location in Madison County, if not the entire route in the State.

The original barns at one time or another had the Mail Pouch and Meramec Caverns signs on them. Since the barns have been replaced by two turquoise Morton buildings, using some of the original concrete floor and foundation.

Wilton has and still continues to be a big asset to the Route 66 legacy. Even, if one has never met him, you would know him by his bib overalls, his Route 66 cap, his Route 66 jacket and his Route 66 sweatshirt or T-shirt.



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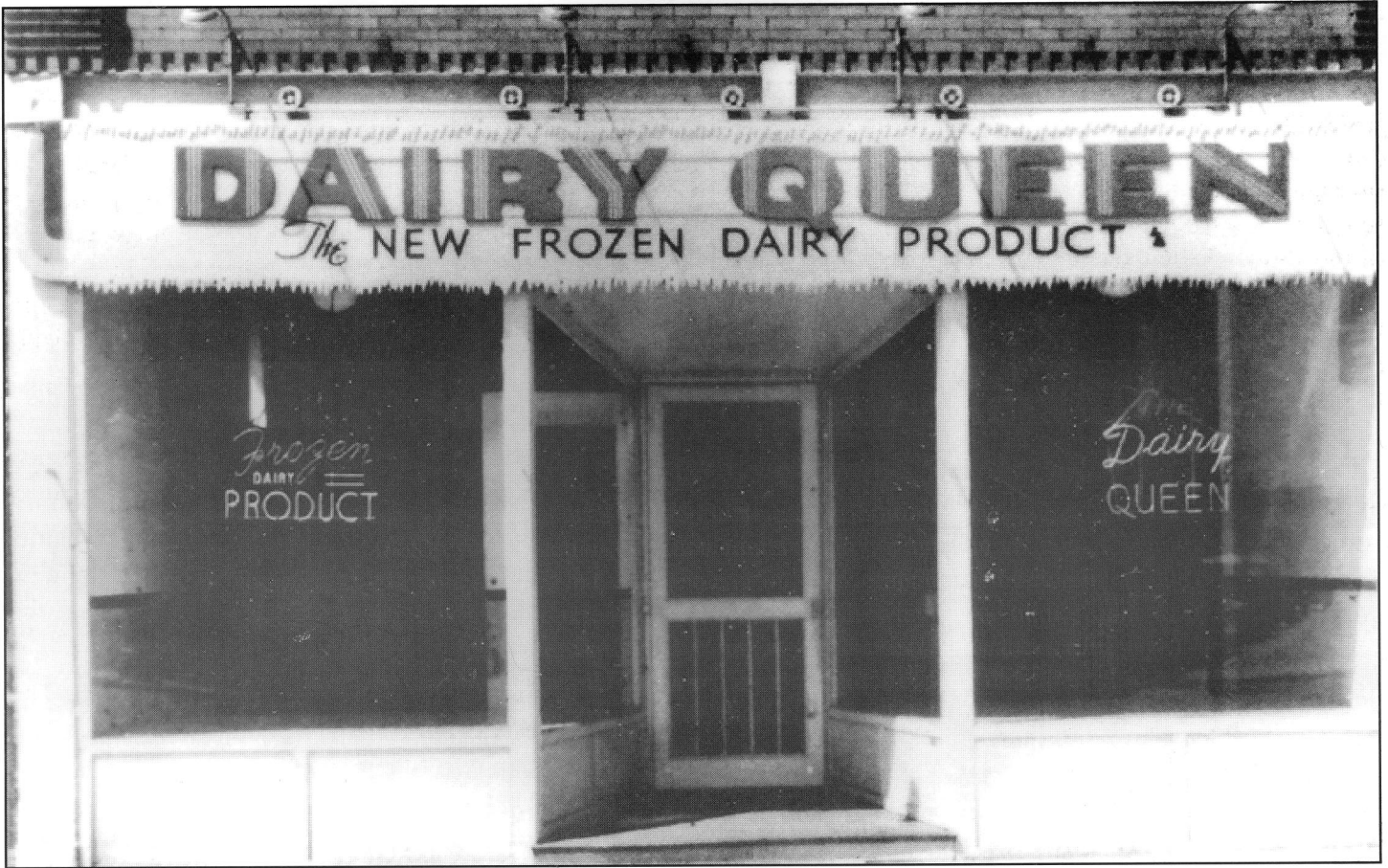
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THE FIRST DAIRY QUEEN

By John Weiss



The First Dairy Queen

In 1927 the McCullough family made ice cream. It was mixed then stored in three gallon tubs at a temperature of -10 F. It was then shipped to ice cream vendors where it was thawed to 5 F. One thing the founder, G. F. McCullough knew was that ice cream lost a lot of its flavor in this extreme freezing process. The best flavor was achieved just after the mixing at 23 F. He often wished there was a way to store and dispense the semi-frozen ice cream and also maintain an appealing look and texture.

In the 1930s, there was no type of machine that would dispense this kind of product. But the idea intrigued the McCullough family. One would have to be invented. But first they needed to explore the idea of the public being interested in a new kind of ice cream product.

G. F. McCullough, better known as Grampa, and his son, Alex, contacted one of their successful ice cream customers, Mr. Sherb Noble. He operated several ice cream stores. The plan was to test this idea

of serving a soft ice cream to the public. Mr. Noble agreed to help. One of Sherb Nobles stores was in Kankakee at 255 S. West Avenue. This would be the test location.

The plan was on one day only, the public could come in and purchase "ALL THE ICE CREAM YOU CAN EAT FOR ONLY 10 CENTS."

This soft serve product would be hand dipped out of five gallon containers into 16 ounce cups. On August 4, 1938, from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. they served over 1,600 cups of this new style ice cream. This convinced them that the soft ice cream product was a good idea. However, it would not be practical to produce it with the current freezer systems available at the time. A special freezer dispenser would have to be created specifically for this soft style ice cream.

The search was on to find a company that could design and develop a freezer for this product. They

Continued on Page 10

He found a good location for this experimental store. It was at 501 N. CHICAGO STREET, (ROUTE

GRAND OPENING
OF A
Dairy Queen Shop

The Home of a New Frozen Dairy Dessert. Something new, and something different than you have ever had in the form of a frozen product. We want every person in and around Joliet to try DAIRY QUEEN during our GRAND OPENING SALE. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 28th, 29th, 30th. 1940

2 FOR 1 CENT SALE ON CONES ONLY

CONES 5 & 10¢ SECOND CONE 1¢

PLAIN DISH OF DAIRY QUEEN 5c and 10c
A MOST DELICIOUS SUNDAE 8c and 12c
TAKE A QUART HOME Per Qt. 35c

Joliet,
Ill. **Dairy Queen Shop** 501 N. Chicago St.

10 WINTER ISSUE

ALL THE ICE CREAM YOU CAN EAT

For Only **10** Cents

Remember The Date
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4th

Remember The Date
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4th

—READ CAREFULLY—

Thursday night between the hours of 8:00 and 9:30 P. M. we will serve Ice Cream direct from the freezer in dishes only. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE NEVER SEEN ICE CREAM FROZEN IN A BIG WAY. Be sure and be present for the big ICE CREAM PARTY Thursday night, August 4, 1938.

—Come and See It Frozen—
—Eat It Just After IT IS Frozen—

All You Can Eat for Only 10c

"Ice Cream Is at its BEST Just As It Comes from the Freezer"

AT THE FACTORY ONLY
255 S. WEST AVENUE

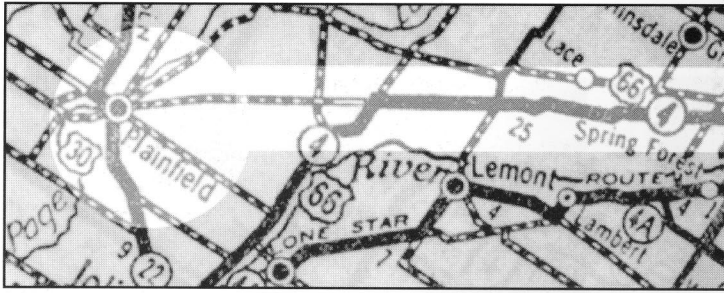
Sherb's Ice Cream Shop

AT THE FACTORY ONLY
255 S. WEST AVENUE

Lenore and I can be found at www.il66authority.com, our email is weissinfo@il66authority.com. We appreciate any help and/or letter writing you can offer.

66 in Cook County — Highway of History

By David Clark.



Map of Route 66 in Cook County

Most regular readers of the News have some knowledge of the historical significance of Route 66 in Illinois: this is the state where the road began, and it was the first of the eight 66 states to boast hard-road pavement along the entire length of its section of the highway. Recently, I had the opportunity to research the 66 corridor in Cook County in the years before the US Highway system was commissioned, and I discovered that the thoroughfare has a history that dates back hundreds of years.

Back in 1831, when the Illinois General Assembly created Cook County, its boundaries included what we now know as Cook, Will, and DuPage Counties. According to Milo M. Quaife, an historian who wrote a book called *Chicago's Highways Old and New*, in April 1831 the County Board of Commissioners “made provision for marking out the first two county highways... One of these roads ran on the line of Madison Street and Ogden Avenue to the house of Barney Lawton [or Laughton, in some histories] at Riverside, and from thence ‘to the house of James Walker, on the DuPage River, and so on to the west line of the County.’”

Quaife goes on to explain a little about Lawton and Walker, and the importance of this thoroughfare. “Lawton was a trader, who dealt particularly with the Potawatomi. As such, it behooved him to locate on a highway of Indian travel...at the point where an important Potawatomi trail from the southwest crossed the Des Plaines River. His location was twelve miles from Chicago on the site of modern Riverside. James Walker had located at Walker’s Grove in 1828, being perhaps the first actual settler in Will County. Walker’s Grove was near the settlement now known as Plainfield. “From Chicago to Ottawa...in almost a direct route ran the Potawatomi thoroughfare known to early settlers as the ‘High Prairie Trail,’ crossing the Des Plaines at Lawton’s and passing through Plainfield... The action taken by the Cook County Board in 1831, therefore was the first step in the transformation of the Indian Trail into a white man’s highway.”

Two factors combined to give this early Chicago Highway the importance in enjoyed. In the first place it was the avenue of local communication between Chicago and the



Near 66 in Lyons, this memorial marks where the Lawton (or Laughton) Trading Post was thought to have been located, on the Potawatomi path known to settlers as the High Plains Trail.

older-settled communities of Central and Southern Illinois. In addition to this, it was a great national thoroughfare, since from about 1840, with the increase of commerce and travel on the Great Lakes, it became a favorite highway between the Eastern States and the lower Mississippi Valley.”

Looking at the 1928 map, we can see that the highway Quaife describes includes the Ogden Avenue stretch of 66 from Chicago to Berwyn, as well as Joliet Road and what would become Illinois Route 129 between Lyons and Plainfield (This section between Joliet Road and Plainfield would become 66 in 1940). Thus, as you travel the Mother Road through Cook, DuPage, and Will County, keep in mind that you are traveling in the literal footsteps of Native Americans, and you are riding on pavement placed over the wagon wheel ruts of the pioneers!



The Cook County Forest Preserve located where 66 crosses the Des Plaines River is known still at Ottawa Trails Woods, commemorating one of the names that was used for the path of 66 in pioneer days.

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame "The Governors Home Town Award"



Sign posted at the banquet



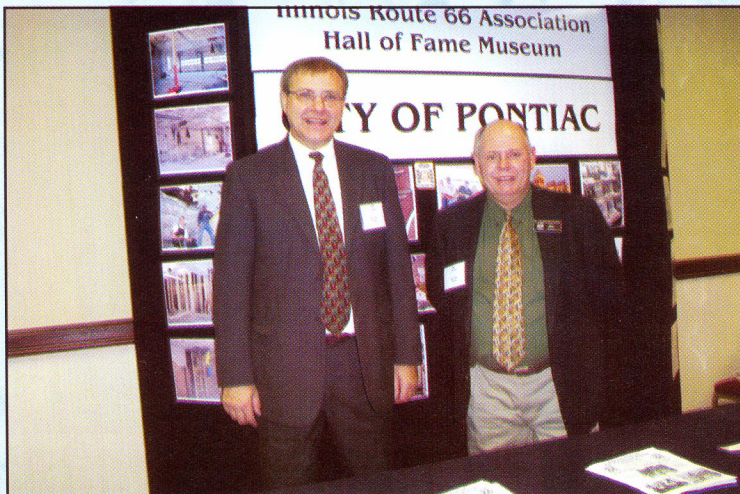
The plaques and top award as they were displayed prior to presentation.



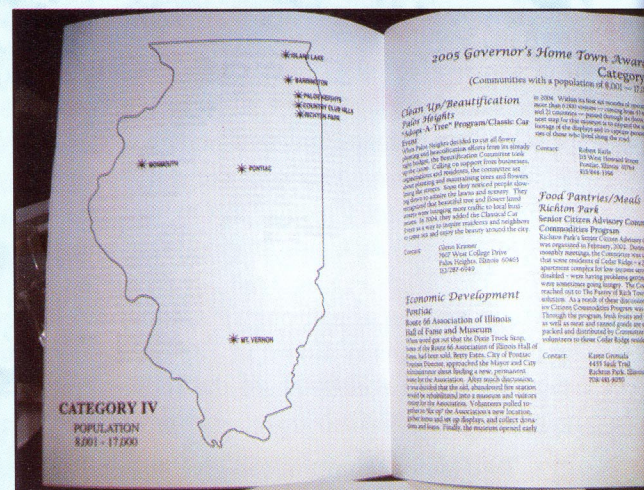
Part of the group receives the Governor's Home Town Award. A total of 36 people were on stage, jokingly winning the award as the "Largest Crew".



Photo that appeared in the Pontiac Leader when the award was announced. Printed with permission of the Pontiac Leader.



Bob Karls, Pontiac City Manager with Johnny Miller of the Route 66 Association of Illinois.



The Program for the afternoon

ame Museum & the City of Pontiac Receives rd" for Economic Development

The Route 66 Association of Illinois and the City of Pontiac, Illinois have been chosen as 2005 Governor's Home Town Awards Program winners.

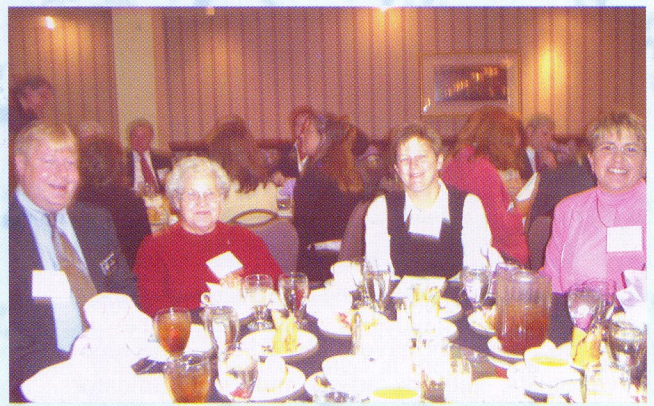
The award is annually given by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and is for the volunteerism of the association's members and the City of Pontiac.

In June of 2004 the City of Pontiac made available a City landmark to house the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum at 110 Howard Street. Great cooperation between the two entities have made the location in Pontiac and the partnership a success that has entertained and informed thousands of tourists who travel the "Mother Road."

The official presentation was held on November 10th in Springfield. 36 supporters attended the festivities representing the Route 66 Association of Illinois and the City of Pontiac. Here are some snapshots of the event.



The Governor's Home Town Award



The luncheon tables filled with guests of the city of Pontiac.

Graham And The Wigwam Motel Win Top Honors At The John Steinbeck Awards Luncheon

A sellout crowd attended the John Steinbeck Awards Luncheon September 15th at the San Bernardino Hilton in San Bernardino, California.

Shellee Graham of St. Louis, Missouri was the recipient of the 2005 John Steinbeck Award. Ms. Graham was unable to attend the presentation because of business commitments.

The John Steinbeck Award is presented to an individual who has contributed significantly to the preservation



Shelly Graham winner of the 2005 Steinbeck Award.

of Route 66. Winners have included roll-your-sleeves-up preservationists, authors, artists and communicators. In their unique way, each has played a major role in the pageant of Mother Road preservation.

Her photographic exhibitions, lectures, books and documentaries have contributed greatly to the country's recognition of the Mother Road for over 20 years.

She has published two books about the Route, "Return to Route 66" and "Tales of the Coral Court".

Ms. Graham's photographic archive covering the route's evolution, includes virtually every medium, and is considered to be unsurpassed in volume and quality. Her traveling photo exhibition continues to be displayed at ven-



Manoj Patel represented the Patel family in accepting the Cyrus Avery award for the restoration of the Wigwam Motel on Route 66 in Rialto, CA.

ues throughout the nation, introducing the route to tens of thousands. In 2002, she sought and acquired a grant to produce a one-hour documentary on the legendary Coral Court Motel. The project took two years to complete and was subsequently broadcast on PBS and at various public venues. A trailer for the film can be seen at her website www.coralcourt.com. In 2004, she and her Route 66 preservation work were profiled in the St. Louis Post Dispatch. She was selected as one of 8 "Crusaders" who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the city.

This year's presentation of the Cyrus Avery Award was made to the Patel family for their exceptional restoration of the long-dilapidated Wigwam Motel on Route 66 in Rialto, California. Manoj Patel accepted the award for the family.

The Cyrus Avery Award is presented to significant preservation projects. Winners are selected by John Steinbeck Award winners from nominations made by members, and have included individuals who spearheaded projects and groups who worked together to bring a project to fruition.

The restoration of the Wigwam was extensive and is even more incredible considering so much of that stretch of the route is being sold for large profits and converted to stores, apartments and condominiums.

The family purchased the Wigwam Motel in July of 2003 with the intent of restoring it to its original condition and drawing tourist business. The results, after only 3 years, are nothing short of astounding.

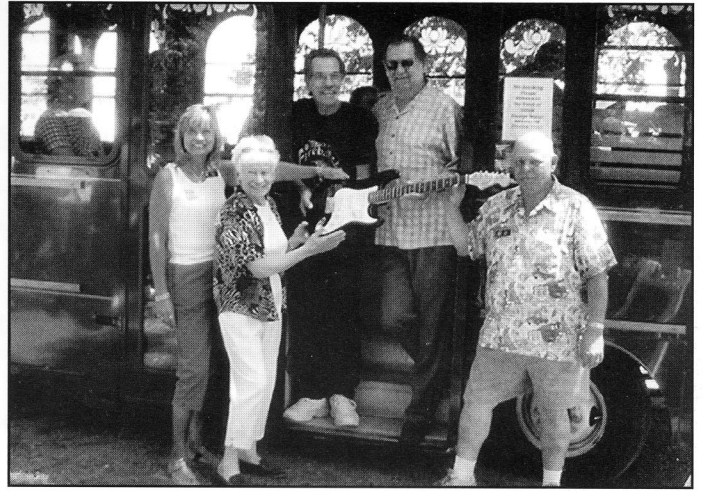
ROCK 'N RODS ON ROUTE 66

A first time event was held on August 6 & 7, 2005. It was known as Rock 'N Rods on Route 66. For a first time event, it was a great success! Over 380 classic cars and the largest collection ever of Ed "Big Daddy" Roth's RAT FINK & KUSTOM VEHICLES were on display.

The Route 66 Expo Pavilion, hosted by John & Lenore Weiss, was a big hit! All the spaces were occupied, 26 in all. Every Route 66 participant declared it "A SUCCESS!" Entertainment was provided by the Fireballs, Commando Cody Band, Johnny Star and the Meteors, and the Rockn' Fendershirts. On Sunday morning, the Fireballs generously donated their autographed guitar to the Route 66 Association of Illinois, and the City of Pontiac, to be displayed in the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum located in downtown Pontiac.

The Route 66 Soda Bottling Company was the promoter of this wonderful event. They were so pleased with the results that it will be held again next year. However, the dates will change to July 22 & 23, 2006. The site will

also be changed to Bloomington to celebrate Route 66's 80th Anniversary, and to accommodate more space for the Route 66 Expo Pavilion, orphan cars, the vendors, displays, plus much more. Most will be in air conditioned facilities. Save this date, it sounds like a winner!!!



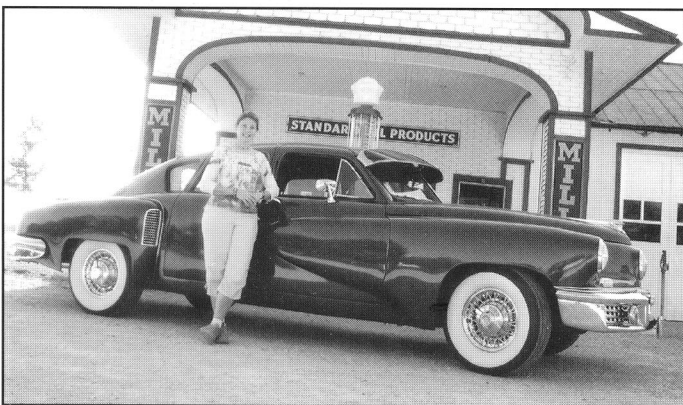
The Fireballs present their guitar to Lenore Weiss, Betty Estes, and Johnny Miller.

A TUCKER VISITS THE ODELL FILLING STATION

By John Weiss

In 1948 only 51 Tucker automobiles were built. The assembly plant was on Cicero Avenue near Chicago at what is now known as the Ford City Shopping Center.

Currently only 48 still exist and only 18 are still drivable. It is always a thrill to see one at an auto museum. Rarely is one ever seen on the road.



Cathy Goodman at Odell with the Tucker.

Remarkably, the Route 66 Expo Pavilion at the Rock 'N Rods on Route 66 Festival held this past August in Pontiac, Illinois, had Tucker #48 on display for viewing. Even more remarkable, is that the owners decided the Tucker needed a little road time. It currently had only 18,000 original miles on it. After the event ended Sunday, the Tucker left Pontiac with Lenore Weiss as the co-pilot to

travel Route 66 to Odell.

Along the way, they came upon Route 66 Association of Illinois' president, John Miller and his wife, Kathy. The beautiful green Tucker smoothly glided into the left lane and instantly passed the Millers in their classic Chevy super sport convertible. The Tucker has an original accessory mounted on the rear bumper that has movable lights. It reads "YOU HAVE JUST BEEN PASSED BY A TUCKER." Yes, the Millers are one of only a few that can lay claim to that occurrence!

Following close behind were John Weiss with passenger Cathy Goodman, and well-known artist, Jerry McClanahan, who had also exhibited at the festival. With cameras in hand, they took many, many photographs.

After the photo session, one of the Tucker owners graciously took several of us for a wonderful ride on Route 66 in the rare green Tucker. The other family members truly enjoyed relaxing with Lenore at the Odell station.

Not many people or places can brag about this fabulous opportunity. We all thank the Harder family for making all of these memories a reality.

The Tucker will again be on display in the Route 66 Expo Pavilion at next year's Rock 'N Rods on 66 scheduled for July! The family also plans on showcasing their Kaiser and possibly a few more gems!

THE RIVIERA STREETCAR

By John & Lenore Weiss

Several stories have already been written about the very historical streetcar/diner that is on Route 66 behind the Riviera restaurant, just north of Gardner, Illinois. However, its story is always changing.

Here is a quick recap: In the 1800s, it began as a horse drawn streetcar in Kankakee, Illinois. It was later electrified and continued service in Kankakee. In the early 1930s, it was purchased and moved approximately 30 miles onto Route 66 in Gardner, Illinois to be used as a highway diner. This location was near a Bluebird bus stop. It never had

and has been rung thousands of times.

Stop by and visit the historic streetcar/diner. Free brochures about its fascinating past are available at the guest book register. (Please sign it.) Then stop in and visit with Bob & Peggy Kraft, long time proprietors of the Riviera. If the time is right, be sure to also have dinner. The food is excellent, homemade, and priced right! Folks, this is Route 66 nostalgia at its best. Be sure to visit and enjoy both soon.



A featured stop on tours, the Streetcar Diner at the Riviera.

a name, it just said "FOOD". A small addition was added onto the rear to be used as a kitchen. The kitchen never had the luxury of running water.

A couple of months ago we were given an actual photograph of the diner from 1934. The picture is not real clear, but it is a true find!

Due to illness and other factors, the diner closed and was moved onto a residential lot in Gardner. It served as a children's playhouse and for housing of workers from the Joliet Arsenal. Eventually it was moved again to the rear property alongside the Mazon River, at the popular Riviera Roadhouse, to be used in the beer garden.

Times changed, and slowly, but surely, the little streetcar fell into disrepair. For over 50 years it sat vacant and forgotten, as a relic of the past.

Eventually the Illinois Route 66 Preservation Committee came to the rescue. With the help and donations of many volunteers, the little streetcar has been whimsically restored in its original Riviera location. It is now enjoying visits by people from around the world. Great photo opportunities exist both inside and out. The original foot operated 1890s streetcar bell is still in place, functional,

Mom, Pop & Apple Pie

By John Weiss

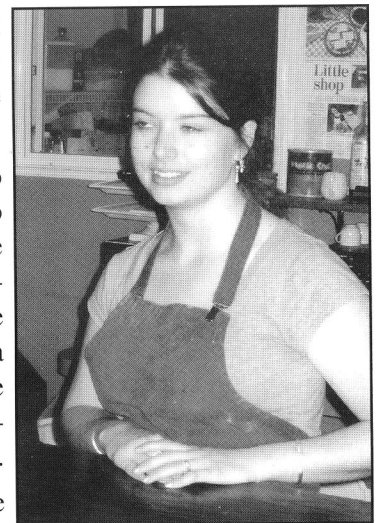
Recently I was at the Odell Filling Station when a motorcycle pulled in. The man and woman were from Brazil. They started in California and were traveling Route 66. Both wore the same kind of tee shirt. It showed a slice of apple pie! It seems that the couple was on a mission for the best apple pie on all of Route 66. As a matter of fact, they were searching every state in the USA to locate the best. At that time, they had covered 36 states and traveled over 130,000 miles. They intended to do every state except Hawaii.

Of course this led to the obvious question, "So far, where is the best apple pie in America?" They responded, "It is on Route 66 in Illinois. Without a doubt," they said, "it is the best!" They would be surprised if it could be beaten.

So - HERE IT IS, the undisputed, best apple pie on Route 66 and most of the United States, accord-

ing the unofficial Brazilian survey is - THE BLUESTEM BAKE SHOP in the tiny, town of Elkhart. (217-947-2222) If you decide to check for yourself, be sure to give them a call to see if apple pie is available that day. Note - everything they have is delicious including soup & sandwiches. They are open Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This is just another great stop along the Mother Road in Illinois. Enjoy it soon!



Cynthia from the Blue Stem Bake Shop in Elkhart, IL

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Kathy Miller & Jim Jones

c/o The Route 66 Association of Illinois

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Springfield, IL 32704

or by Email to: Kathleen708@hotmail.com or ng9e@verizon.net

Publication Information: The Association publishes The 66 News in March, June, September, and December as a service to it's 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 publication.

Visit the Route 66 Association of Illinois Association Website at

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Illinois Boy Scout Troop 1011 Honors Route 66 at the National Boy Scout Jamboree

Illinois Boy Scout Troop 1011 attended the National Boy Scout Jamboree in the state of Virginia last summer and used a Route 66 theme.

When they returned from Virginia their troop leader Bob Wilcox had this to say, "The troop wore shirts and hats made in a beautiful blue color highlighting Route 66. The back of the shirt had a corvette going into Chicago that matched the uniform shoulder patch. For patch traders the shoulder patches were very good traders and were highly sought after by all the scouts from all over the USA. Many people wanted the shirt and wished we had more to trade. Many of the people the troop met in Washington and at the Jamboree in Virginia would see our gateway and come in camp to talk to us. Some Western USA scouts did not realize Route 66 started in Chicago."

The troop constructed a gateway that looked like a paved road with Route 66 signs. The gateway was on the main pedestrian road to all the activities and thousands of people walked by. It was a great conversation piece. People came over to talk to them from all over the country. The troop leader Mr. Bob Wilcox of LaGrange, IL relayed more info about Route 66 by telling people about the many on-line Route 66 websites including the Route 66 Association



Boy Scout Troop 1011 under the Route 66 Gateway at the National Jamboree.

of Illinois.

"Route 66 was a great theme for our troop and proved to be a hook for us to meet and make many friends. I personally saved the hand painted license plate and had all the boys sign it as a memento. It was a great trip. We gave the 'Mother Road' a lot of publicity to a young generation of boys," said troop leader Bob Wilcox.

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Advisory Council Established

A Federal Advisory Council for the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program has been established to advise the Secretary of Interior on matters relating to the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. The Council will make recommendations on ways to best preserve the most representative and significant properties along Route 66, and on program activities such as cost-share grants and types/levels of technical assistance that the National Park Service should provide partners along the route. Fifteen members have been appointed by the Secretary of Interior for four-year terms to represent various agencies and organizations that have an established preservation interest in Route 66. Nominations were solicited from State Historic Preservation offices, Departments of Transportation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Federal Highway Administration, Route 66 Associations, the National Historic Route 66 Federation, and tribal governments. The first meeting of the Council is tentatively scheduled to take place in February, 2006.

Appointed members are: Mr. David P. Bricker,

California Department of Transportation; Mr. James M. Conkle, California Route 66 Preservation Foundation; Mr. David King Dunaway, University of New Mexico; Ms. Melvena Heisch, Oklahoma Historical Society; Mr. Michael Jackson, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; Mr. David Knudson, National Historic Route 66 Federation; Mr. John W. Murphey, New Mexico Historic Preservation Division; Ms. MaryAnn Naber, Federal Highway Administration; Ms. Carolyn Gallagher Pendleton, Kansas Historic Route 66 Association; Mr. Tommy Gene Pike, Missouri Route 66 Association; Mr. Jim Ross, Oklahoma Route 66 Association; Ms. Phyllis T. Seitts, Bureau of Land Management; Mr. Gregory William Smith, Texas Historical Commission; Mr. R. Scott Taylor, Missouri Department of Transportation; and Mr. Michael Wallis, Historian & Biographer of the American West.

For more information about the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, please visit www.cr.nps.gov/rt66. If you have a question about the Council, or about the Program in general, please email IM_Rt66@nps.gov.

Route 66 Association of Illinois

2006-2007 Elections

The annual elections were held at the October Board meeting in Springfield, IL at the Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center. The association wishes to thank The Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center for their generosity with the donation of the meeting room and lunch. We recommend and urge everyone to use this fine facility!

Not seeking reelection were county board members Marty Bilecki (Grundy), Larry Boyd (Will), and officer Kathy Miller - corresponding secretary. The association thanks each of them for their years of dedication and wishes them well in all future endeavors.

Resigning from office is Sangamon county board member Mark McBride 10-06 and vacant is Macoupin county 10-06. If you are an association member residing in Sangamon or Macoupin counties and are interested in becoming a board member to complete the current term of office, please contact Johnny Miller at 708-389-3823 or by email at kixonrte66@hotmail.com

Officers

President - Johnny Miller 10-07

Recording Secretary - Cathie Stevanovich 10-07

Corresponding Secretary - Linda Zima 10-07

County Board Members

Will County - Dave Zima 10-07

Grundy County - Nick (Ike) Widner 10-07

St. Clair County - Joe Gniadek (Appointed with membership approval) 10-07

At-Large Board Members:

Barb Nicholson 10-07

Larry Scinto 10-07

Rosie Vargo 10-07

THE LAST STEINBECK AWARDS PROGRAM FOR THE FEDERATION

By David Knudson

San Bernardino was the site of the National Historic Route 66 Federation's last John Steinbeck Awards event. Looking back, the first Federation event took place in the fall of '97. About 100 Route 66 fans packed into a tent in the tiny whistle stop of Landergin, Texas to see the award presented to author Michael Wallis and enjoy some Texas BBQ.

From there, we took the awards banquet to town after town with the intention of introducing mid-sized communities to Route 66 enthusiasts and to inform the communities of the importance of the route.

Then, we expanded the events to include the Authors & Artists Expos which gave Route 66 authors, artists, videographers and craftspeople a venue to sell their wares. Next, we introduced 66 Summit meetings to give representatives of the state associations a forum to discuss issues that concerned them.

Soon, host communities were building other activities around our events, and weekends grew into very large festivals. The largest attendance was recorded in Albuquerque, which was estimated to have been 80,000 people.

As interest and attendance grew, our events also grew in demand. More and more towns wanted us to visit them. Before long, we were planning 3 events simultaneously - the upcoming event, the following year's event and the one after that.

But, the work became overwhelming. And in August, we rushed Mary Lou to the hospital and almost lost her. The diagnosis was that a low-grade infection had taken hold of her and gotten into her blood stream. She was in the hospital for two weeks and is still recovering. She was simply working too hard.

It was time to stop producing the events. But, a very worthy team, consisting of Michael Wallis, Jim Conkle, and Helen Baker, are going to continue on with a large annual event.

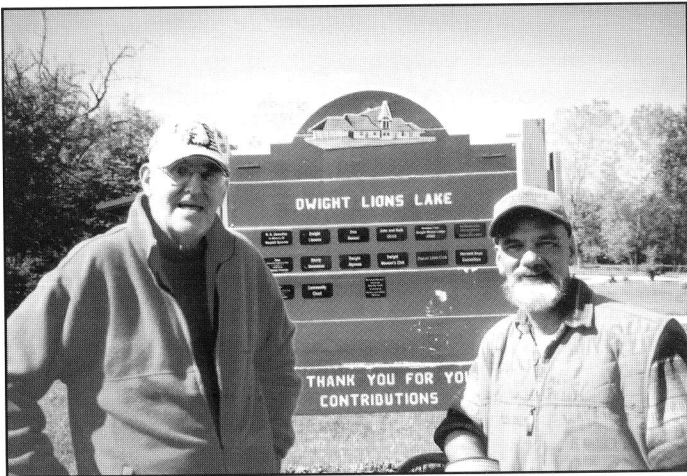
We had already made many arrangements to take our event to Albuquerque, so the group will go there first. None of this will affect the operation of the Federation or its preservation efforts, except for the better. We will be able to concentrate on it more.

Kruzin With The Bilecki's

By: Marty and Geri Bilecki

July – Where did we leave off in the last issue? Guess it was with the June events!! We KRUZED, as usual it was a great month full of activities. First was our annual trek (a little off of 66) but up to Menominee, MI and Marinette, WS for the Cruisin 50's festival. Three days of great 50-60's Rock and Roll stars and a 2-day car show. Bobby Vee – Tommy Roe, The Chiffons and DoWop Daddys. As usual, Route 66 flyers and membership forms were passed out to the crowd as part of the promotion and goals of our organization for the Mother Road.

The Kruze to Wilmington for filming of the PBS documentary on July 24th brought out many 66'ers even with the intense heat. Also, on July 31st, in Odell, at the Standard Station, was the filming for the Food Channel's Bobby Flay Show. Kathy and John Miller showed their



Marty Bilecki with Dennis Hinch

expertise with bar-be-qued pork chops and chicken. All members present from the Preservation Committee worked on the station and brought various dishes to serve with the barbeque. Our cookbook was featured. We look forward to viewing these programs when they appear on T.V. in the near future.

August – Another full month with extras included, the great Polka-Dot Drive-In Cruise night in Braidwood. This place is really a 66 icon. They will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary in 2006 the same weekend Rock n Rods in Pontiac. The Rt. 66 Association booth attracted many interested on-lookers. In between all of this we had our 1st Annual Fishing Derby at our house in "Goose Lake Prairie" (a little off of 66 – but still promoting the road) The Association picnic in Godley. There was lots of fun and good food for everyone. Thanks Marty Blitstein, Cathy Stevanovich, Bill Prysbylski and John and Kathy Miller for all of their above and beyond the call of duty work.

September brought more opportunities with the Preservation Meeting and dinner at the 66 Family Restaurant in Dwight. A good opportunity to get away from the TV and bad news papers and find out what the Preservation Committee is planning and help out in any way we can. On the 24th we participated in a Poker Run with the Manhattan and Tri-Chevy Car Clubs. Most of the Run was held on Route 53/66 from Elwood to Morris. There were stops through Route 66 towns until we headed west on 113. We searched out the cards in coffee cans – a fun way to cruise along with about 100 others. We encourage all Route 66 members to attend other club events so as to invite them to our tours and meetings.

We have another courageous person walking on Route 66 from the Windy City to Los Angeles. Dennis Hinch is walking to raise awareness of chronic pain. Marty and Dennis met on Route 66 at the Lions Lake in Dwight and lunched at the 66 Restaurant. His walk has been featured in 22 papers in this area alone. He is allowing 9 months to physically walk the entire route. Check out his daily progress at www.nationalpainfoundation.org (click on Where's Dennis). He is truly a dedicated person in our estimation. Please send him some support. We topped off our month by Kruzin to upstate New York and to Manhattan to attend and march in the annual Pulaski Day Parade on, yes, 5th Avenue. We passed out more '66 information to New Yorkers. It was our privilege to be a part of this event with Lech Walesa and Curtis Sliwa.

October found us at the Abraham Lincoln Museum in Springfield with fellow 66'ers again. Try to catch this wonderful place. The next day was our quarterly meeting, which was held at the Route 66 Motel in Springfield with elections held. October has come and gone with our final participation with the White Sox Victory rally and ticker tape parade which took place on Jackson Blvd. in downtown Chicago (not far from the original starting point of Route 66) after coming through the neighborhoods. The parade passed Adams St. (which is 66 there) Somehow Route 66 is always part of our life. We are still finding confetti all over the house as a reminder. Our car "Geraldine" also has 8,000 more miles on it.

Until next time – please support our association – its endeavors and aims and our main purposes. Also – lest we forget to congratulate the City of Pontiac and all of our people who worked so hard for the 2005 Governors Home Town Award for our fabulous Museum which became a reality in 2004. They – like the White Sox – BELIEVED. See you on the road in '06 – God Willing. Remember there is still Route 66 patches available from our first order also – "IF YOU DON'T GO – YOU WON'T KNOW!!!"

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Publication Information: The Association publishes The 66 News in March, June, September, and December as a service to it's 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 publication.

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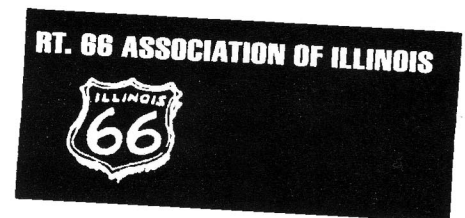
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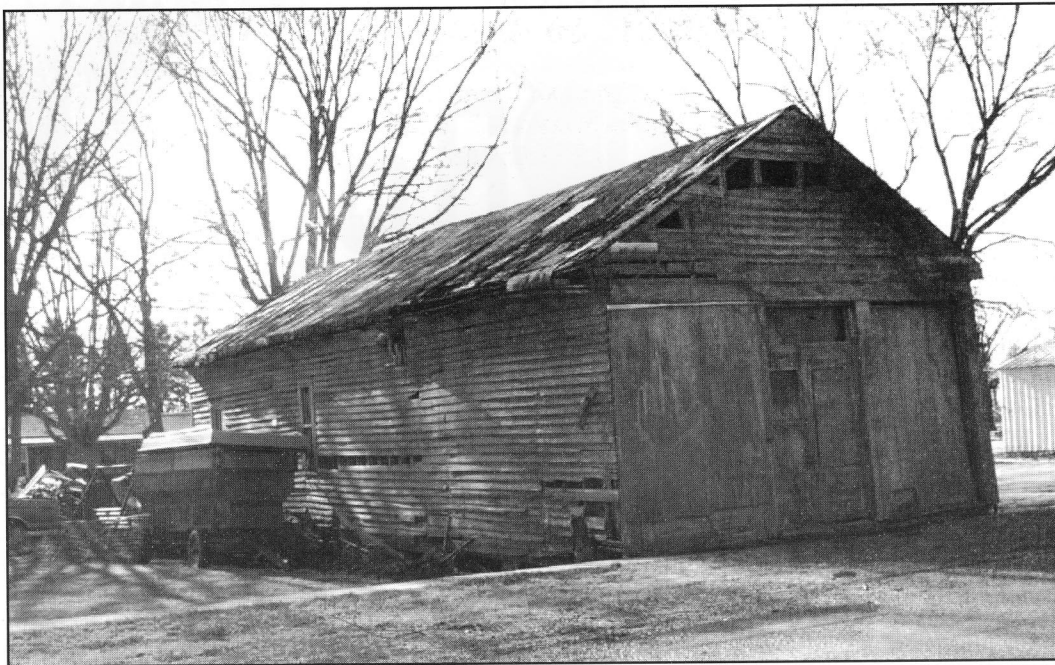
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They're back

Now you can get an official Route 66 Association of Illinois name badge. Association members can order them for \$8.00 each, which includes shipping. The badge will be engraved with your name on it. You can wear it proudly to Association events, car shows or wherever you go and want to show that you are a proud member of the Route 66 Association of Illinois. To order your badge, send a check or money order for \$8.00 payable to the Route 66 Association of Illinois to Marty Blitstein (see Contact Information). Please include with your check exactly how you want your name on the badge.



Where Is This?

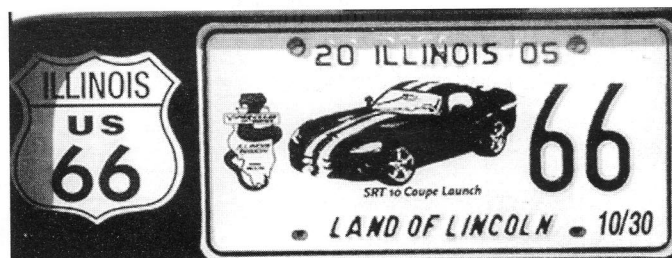


Answer on Page 24

Pictured At Right: A special event plate for the Illinois Dodge Viper Club.

Submitted by Jim & Judy Otis of Arlington Heights. Jim & Judy lead Route 66 tours for their Viper Club.

Judy said, "Thanks to the Route 66 Association of Illinois sponsored yearly road rallies, we have grown confident enough to lead others on "The Mother Road".



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: _____

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

Annual Dues

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Foreign: \$35

Lifetime: \$200

U.S. funds only, please

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Membership

Rte 66 Assoc. of IL

Hall of Fame Museum

Attn: Marty Blitstein

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Pontiac, IL 61764

Membership runs May 1 - April 30

Announcing the Winter Quarterly Meeting

Sunday - January 15, 2006

Pontiac, Illinois

at the

Route 66 Assoc of Illinois

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110 W. Howard St.

Pontiac, IL 61764

Board Meeting - 10:30 a.m.

Lunch break - Noon

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Future Meetings Dates and Locations

Spring 2006 - April 23, 2006 – Chicagoland Area

Summer 2006 - July 16, 2006 - Litchfield

Annual Fall Meeting - October 15, 2006 - Springfield

Where Is This? - Answer

Broadwell, Illinois

This old train depot in Broadwell, IL is barely standing. It serves as a reminder of what Route 66 once was. Stop by and visit the "Old Coot and his bride" Ernie and Fran Edwards of the Pig Hip. Visit with Ernie as he tells you stories of yesteryear reliving his fascinating past on Route 66. The Edwards have a museum celebrating their life on the Mother Road.

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