

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE 66 NEWS

\$1000.00 To Aid Flood Victims

SPRING 2008

\$3.95



Photo of Bob Karls and Cathie Stevanovich presenting check on behalf of the Association for \$1,000.00 to aid the flood victims.

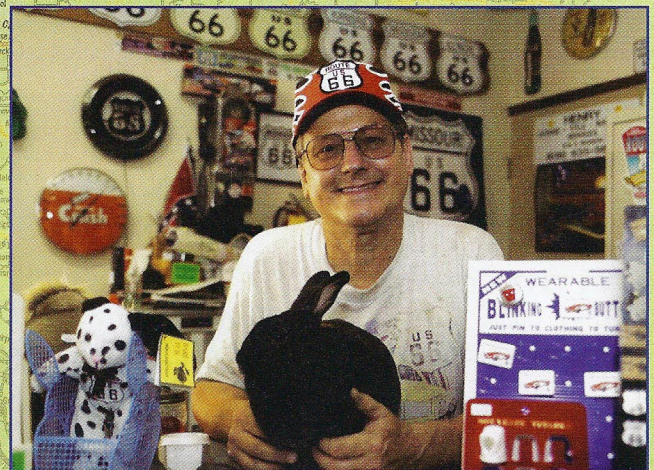


Atlanta's Country Market

Honey Creek Bridge



Honey Creek Bridge awaiting spring



Rich Henry and Montana looking forward to the 2008 Motor Tour.

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

The Route 66 Association is a non-for-profit organization. It's purpose is to preserve, protect, educate, and enjoy Route 66. The Board Members are available to answer questions at most reasonable times.

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The President's Report

March 2008

First of all I apologize for the delay in this newsletter's publication.

We were looking for volunteers to be editor for the newsletter, and although several members stepped forward to help, either personal or business prevented the original three volunteers from taking the position. I had talked with Randy Smith, former editor, however his position and work schedule would not permit Randy to return as editor but we look forward to his submitting stories.

Our new newsletter editor will be Donna Meisner of Piasa, Illinois. Donna is looking forward to working with other volunteers and Bob Borowiak from Lincoln Printers to continue our great magazine. Articles can be sent to Donna either at her home address: Donna Meisner, 1762 Schaefer Road, Piasa, Illinois 62079, or you can send her articles c/o the Route 66 Association Hall Of Fame and Museum, Attn: Donna Meisner, 110 W. Howard, Pontiac, IL 61764, or her email dmeisner66@gmail.com

What a start to 2008! Ice, snow, rain, snow, the city of Pontiac sustained severe water damage to many of its homes. The Red Cross moved into town, and so did a government agency. Those of us that attended a Saturday meeting in January drove down the streets of Pontiac that were piled high with clothing, furniture, and memories all water logged and set out on the curb for pickup. It was heart wrenching.

Our Board of Directors voted at the January meeting to donate a \$1,000 to the City of Pontiac's Flood Relief Fund to help those families that lost everything. There is something you can do to help this great community that has adopted our Association and given us a home. You will find an article from the Pontiac PROUD group headed by Lori Fairfield inside this newsletter. Please read it and if you can, make a donation to help the families affected by the 2008 floods.

Changes are starting to happen in and around the Hall of Fame and Museum. By summer an elevator will be shared by the War Museum and our building. This will enable us to expand the 2nd floor to add a place for research, more display space, and eventually

(hopefully) a small movie theatre.

The Motor Tour is coming – our 19th Annual Motor Tour runs South to North this year and the Board of Directors and many volunteers are working hard to make this year's tour a great time for all. This year's theme is "Rediscover Route 66." Our overnight will be in Lincoln, Illinois, with the Banquet at Lincoln College where "Elvis Himself" and his 5 piece band will be entertaining us!!

The Red Carpet Corridor rolls out the welcome mat May 3rd and 4th. From Joliet to Towanda there will be action, fun, deals, and activities galore. I urge all of you to check out their website at www.il66redcarpetcorridor.org! Don't miss the 2nd annual "Festival of Fun" on Route 66.

Our new website has been designed to keep our members (and guests) aware of the events up and down Route 66 as well as articles and photos along the way.

If you're traveling, check our maps! Eventually each town will have a page featuring the local Hall of Fame members and our business members as well. Please be aware this website is an ongoing process – the website will be constantly updated and changed to feature the Illinois Route 66 as best we can. Please let us know what you'd like to see on the site, and what you do like. Suggestions are always welcome!

Our next Board meeting will be in Hamel, Illinois at Scotty's on Sunday, April 20th, 2008. We hope to see you there. John and Lenore Weiss have volunteered to lead a mini-cruise in the Hamel/Staunton area and back north along Route 66 towards Chicago at the end of the meeting. Details regarding the meeting location and directions will be available on the website.

Remember this is your Association and we need your help to prosper and grow!

See you on the road!

Cathie Stevanovich

President, Route 66 Association of Illinois

MAKE A JOYFUL SOUND

By Marilyn Pritchard, Curator

We wish you all could have heard the sound of the 60 plus men voices of the "Purdue Varsity Glee Club" on Saturday afternoon, January 26th, at the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum in Pontiac accompanied by Director Gerritt VanderMeer and Jay Bailey as accompanist.

We thought the voices were going to raise the roof! It was awesome!!

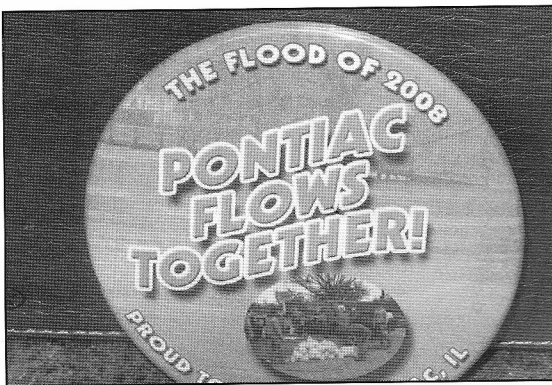
For more than 110 years, the Glee Club has made Purdue proud with their voices, charisma, and high standard of academics and performance. The Purdue Varsity Glee Club travels extensively. They had performed at the Pontiac Township High School and were traveling to Metamora on Sunday. It was a "must" to have a photo taken before leaving the Museum on a sunny cold afternoon in front of the Route 66 mural. A great time was had by all!!!



BUTTON, BUTTONS, WHO'S GOT THEIR BUTTONS

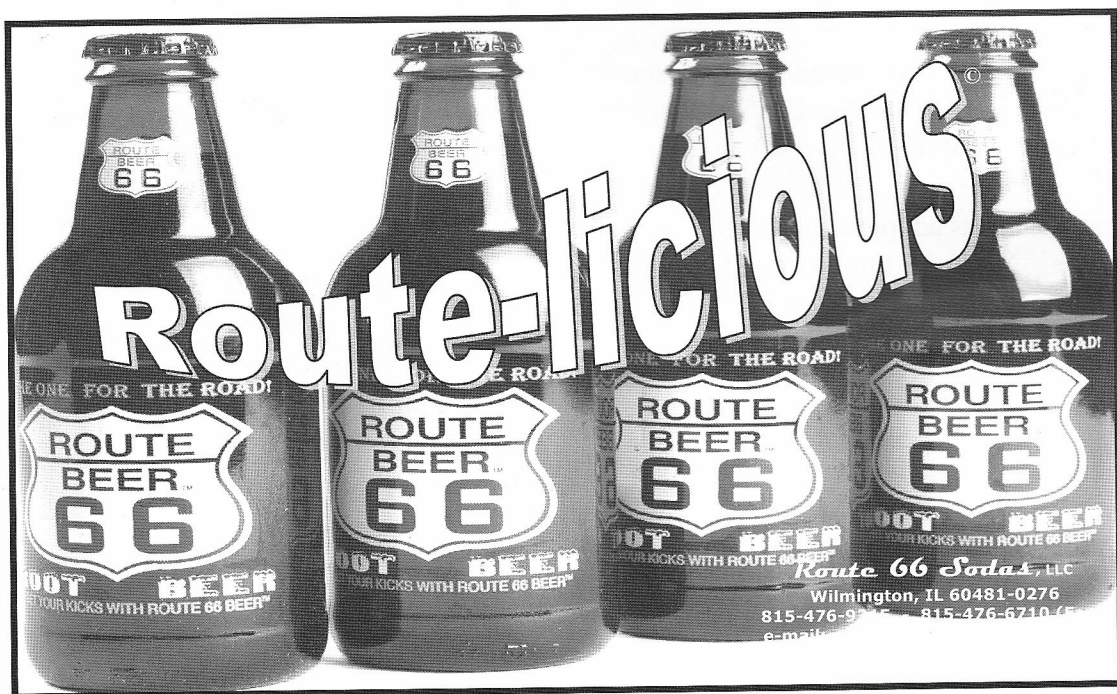
By Lori Fairfield

P.R.O.U.D. (Pontiac Redeveloping Our United Downtown) and local businesses are banding together to benefit those affected by the 2008 floor.



The P.R.O.U.D. Promotion Committee saw the need to support our community and began to brainstorm different ways to help. The committee felt the whole community flowed together in this very difficult time, as so many volunteers and agencies merged together with the City and County officials to become one.

We need your help! Purchase a \$5 Pontiac Flows Together! Button today at local Pontiac area businesses and organizations or from us. The proceeds go to benefit the Pontiac Flood Relief Fund. If you need more information about the relief efforts or you would like to volunteer contact the City of Pontiac at 815-844-3396. Contributions can be mailed to the Pontiac Flood Relief Fund, 115 W. Howard Street, Pontiac, Illinois 61764.



THE 2nd ANNUAL ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 RED CARPET CORRIDOR FESTIVAL

MAY 3rd and 4th, 2008

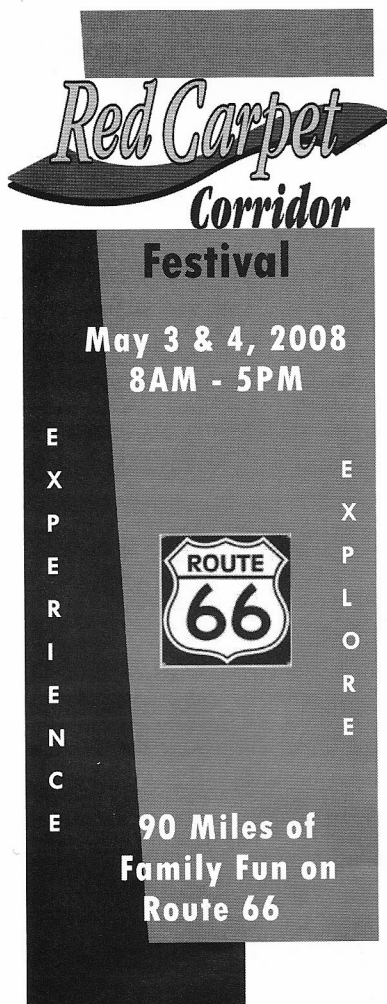
It's time for the 2nd Annual Red Carpet Corridor Festival! Experience and explore 90 miles of family fun, hospitality, and adventure on Route 66!

Plan to spend a day or an entire weekend on this self-guided driving tour. Enjoy entertainment, flea markets, antiques, crafts, historical sites, sidewalk sales, festivals, exciting vendors, food, dancing, classic car displays, drawings, and plenty of fun!

Each of the numerous towns within the corridor that extends from Joliet to Towanda will be offering its own event. Don't miss this opportunity to support these communities on the Mother Road.

Come out and see what all the fuss is about! Hours are Saturday and Sunday, 8 AM until 5 PM. For more information call 815-844-5847 or 800-835-2055.

Website: www.il66redcarpetcorridor.org



**Red Carpet
Corridor
Festival**

**May 3 & 4, 2008
8AM - 5PM**

EXPERIENCE

EXPLORE

**90 Miles of
Family Fun on
Route 66**

Experience and Explore the... Red Carpet Corridor! Route 66, Illinois



Downtown Joliet

Kick off the weekend at the Route 66 Experience Visitors Center [201 N. Ottawa Street, Downtown Joliet]. Enter to win great prizes, receive bonus coupons for Downtown Joliet. For more information on how to get your kicks in Joliet call 1-877-4-JOLIET or visit www.jolietkicks.com

Elwood

Visit the quaint downtown district. Home of the beautiful Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

Wilmington

Tour Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie; Picnic in "the Island City" River Park; Visit the Gemini Giant; plus shopping, music, fun, food & festivities. Contact Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, 815-476-5991.

Braidwood

Enjoy the 50's-60's Diner; Flea market and craft show, kids craft stop & moonwalk. Antique tractor and truck show, police & fire displays and demonstrations on Saturday only. Contact Bill Rulien, 815-723-9455.

Godley

All-town garage sale (info center and maps at the Village Hall) Open fishing (state requires a fishing license for a certain age on up) Petting zoo, food and lemonade stand!

Braceville

Community flea market, food vendors and scenic trails, 815-237-2953!

Gardner

Historic 2 cell jail! Antiques & crafts, car show, Rt. 66 5K run, food, karaoke, wine tasting, bingo, 60's music by the Silhouettes & more fun activities for all. Contact Tom Perkins, 815-237-8172

Dwight

Visit Historic Dwight, fun, food, sales - antiques, crafts, garage. Contact Kevin McNamara, 815-584-3083.

Odell

Garage Sales, Flea Markets, Horse & Carriage rides sponsored by Joan Bullard Realty. Outdoor inflatables for children, Historical Standard Oil Station and other historical facilities. Contact Hermie Fearman, 815-343-9875.

Pontiac

Experience Pontiac's Museums & Historic Sites. Courthouse square filled with antique, crafts & entertainment. City wide garage sales. Free photos (Sat. only) with Illinois' Largest Route 66 Mural! Meet the "Route 66 - A Photo Journey" exhibit Photographer, Michael Campanelli. Contact Ellie Alexander, 800-835-2055.

Chenoa

City-wide garage sales, antiques, crafts, food, informational booths and treasure hunt, Live entertainment all weekend long! Contact Joyce Nagel, 815-945-5163

Lexington

Pancake breakfast at St. Paul Church - (Sat. 8-11am); City-wide garage sales. Drive "Memory Lane" & visit "Shoppes on Main": The Filling Station; Shake Shack; Blacksmith Shoppe; Wooden Hare; Fudge & Stuff; Koch's Depot & The Red Barn: Today's Pleasure/Tomorrow's Treasure. Contact Mayor John Mohr, 309-365-3331.

Towanda

Garage Sales, Antiques, Crafts, Historic Route 66 landscaped trail! Band, "Velvet Groove" performing 11 - 2 in the park on Saturday. D.J and Car Show on Sunday. Schenk's Route 66 Garage. History of Towanda displays, 50/50 raffle. Contact Mayor Jim Arteman, 309-728-2169.

www.il66redcarpetcorridor.org

A REFLECTION ON ROUTE 66

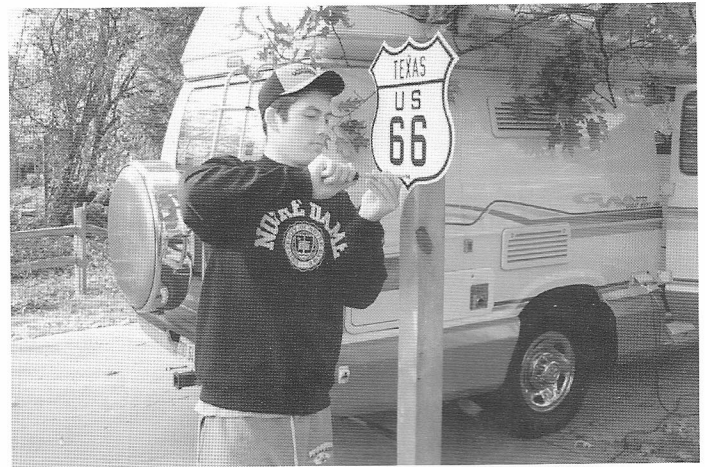
Written and submitted by Edward R. May, M.D.

From November 1951 to January 1955 I was stationed at Amarillo, Texas, in the United States Air Force. I did not like the Texas panhandle weather very much, it was very dry during the time I spent there. A few friends and I looked forward to getting away from Amarillo. Many of those trips involved going up to the Chicago area, and, of course, we drove all the way on Route 66. I became quite attached to the road since it involved going home on several of those trips. Almost all the trips were 3 day passes, and we took almost twenty-four hours to go each way. By the time we arrived to anywhere near home, we had to turn around and head back before we could do anything! So we decided to take a 3 day pass, and spend 2 of those days on Route 66.

I don't get to go on trips in the general direction of the old Route 66 anymore. I keep planning to do so, but never seem to get around to it. Therefore, in order to give myself some remembrance of Route 66, I put a Texas US 66 highway sign at the entrance to my driveway. The photo below

shows Ryan Maguire, a young high schooler who helps me out, installing the sign. I also installed an Illinois Route 66 sign at the end of the driveway sort of simulating the trip from the past. The drive is, of course, much shorter.

Thank you for letting me share my story.



THE ROUTE 66 HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

It wasn't that long ago that we opened the Hall of Fame and Museum for the first time for the 2004 Motor Tour. Volunteers worked just about nonstop the last week before the museum opened to fill the cases, hang pictures, and prepare for our "grand opening." The city of Pontiac had workers finishing odds and ends and painting up to the end. In fact, the Solar Car that we had on display arrived on Friday at the museum while most members were driving down to Edwardsville for the start of the Motor Tour weekend.

We have grown. Over the years we have become a well known stop on Route 66 in Illinois. We have added



February 2008, John Weiss with the museum committee.

to our collection by loans and donations from our members and friends from all across the country. We're the only free museum of its kind on all of Route 66!

We will soon be sharing an elevator with the City Hall Complex next door. The Livingston County War Museum / Dal Estes Education Center and our on 2nd floor will be elevator accessible which will enable us to utilize our 2nd floor space. Currently it is used as a meeting room and storage for our Association.

The Museum Committee has been meeting and working together to brainstorm plans to update and freshen the museum displays. Future plans include brochures in multiple languages, new signage, a reading and research area, and some refinement of the traffic pattern.

Rest assured our saucy waitresses and the Steak and Shake Booth display will not be going anywhere. Photos of visitors from all over the world sitting at the tables in our museum have graced websites, Christmas cards, and even a cover for a CD by a Swedish rock band!

Volunteers are always needed for Saturdays. If you have time you can donate, please contact Marilyn Pritchard (curator) at 815-844-5657 or via email at cyclone@verizon.net



Museum under construction, May 2004.

Disappearing Communication Poles On 66 In Illinois

By Marty and Geri Bilecki

Early last fall while doing a cruise down Route 66 we were surprised to observe a work crew cutting down the historic, old and reliable telegraph, railroad communications poles. With our interest alerted we stopped and inquired. We were directed to a crew foreman down the road and asked him the question "Why"? At this point we were just outside the City of Pontiac. The Foreman obliged that his company was contracted to remove forever any trace

communication obsolete. Yet, we were told that the poles, their hardware, and even wire and insulators (by the way the insulators are all glass with a few exceptions) were all



Cross beams waiting to be stacked and shipped out of Illinois to points unknown.



A modern Amtrak southbound passes a part of past history on Illinois 66.

of this previous mode of communication and that they had started in the Springfield, Illinois area with a destination of mile marker 172 in the Gardner area.



Workers cutting and removing T & T poles on Route 66.

This was to be done before winter weather would cause a halt until spring.

Now that our interest had been peaked we contacted several railroad fan clubs and got a better look at just how important these poles and the wires and insulators were to the railroads that were parallel to Route 66. The rails now are owned and operated by two major companies - they originally were the Chicago and Alton RR and a string of others. Our research told us that Samuel Morse invented the telegraph in 1835 and we now consider such a mode of

made - guess where? - in the U.S.A. Some of the poles will be resold, some donated, and some destroyed. We were fortunate enough to have a few artifacts donated to our museum in Pontiac.

So if you should be driving north from Springfield on Route 66 or south from Gardner you cannot but notice that something is missing. Very soon all traces of a mode of communication that carried millions of messages from station to station and train to train have been and are forever silenced as if they never existed.

We have enclosed a mystery photograph taken recently of a stretch of 66 with these poles before removal. It is a location passed often and is mentioned quite often. We hope our readers can solve the mystery and send us a post-



Mystery photo.

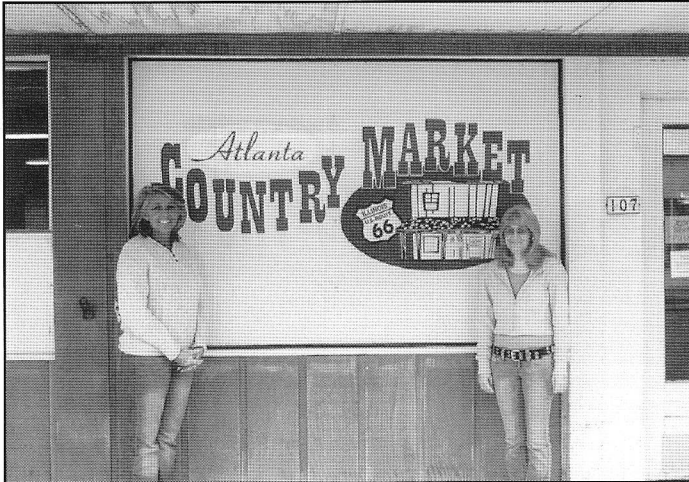
card or letter with the correct answer. The first five correct entries win an original 66 memento. Send your answer to: Marty and Geri Bilecki, 4200 Bargo Lane, Morris, IL 60450.

Til Then - Keep Kruzin 66 -

They Just Don't Make 'em Like This Anymore: The Atlanta Country Market in Atlanta, Illinois

By Bill Thomas

In the summer of 1896, Atlanta, Illinois resident, postmaster, and entrepreneur John W. Barr, built a new commercial



Liz and Patti

building in downtown Atlanta located at the intersection of Vine Street and what would eventually become Rt. 66. In its early days the building housed various establishments, including a dry goods store, restaurant, and even the Atlanta post office. But for almost anyone of any age now living in Atlanta, it has always been a grocery store.

The Barr building was constructed on a lot originally used



Meat counter.

by the Atlanta Croquet Club, where throughout the 1890s the residents of the town contested heated croquet matches. For a while it was even debated whether lights should be added to the field to produce an opportunity for evening matches to be held in the heart of this small, rural town. The need for commerce to grow in the ever-expanding community took precedence, however, and croquet was relegated to the back yards and fields of homes as Atlanta moved forward into a new century.

A grocery store since the mid 1920's, for a time in 2004, it looked like the store would not survive. The ever-increasing movement of mobile consumers had whittles away at sales. People picking up groceries in the larger towns where they worked was a big part of the problem. Bigger selection at bigger stores was another.



When Homer and Rosalie Hamblin, after a lifetime of owning and running the store decided it was time to retire, buyers for a small town grocery store in a hundred year old building were not exactly lining up to bid on the business. Arguably, the store would have closed save for the decision of Liz Hunter to buy the store and continue to offer neighborhood grocery service to the town she had been a part of since the third grade. Some Rt. 66 travelers may recall Liz from when she worked at another Mother Road icon, the Dixie Trucker's Home.

Hunter remembers working at Hamblin's grocery store when she was a sixteen-year-old. With the support of her husband Dan, Liz is now in her third year of operating the Atlanta Country Market, as she has named the store. Although she has four part-time workers, plus Larry Vannoy, the full time butcher at the store for thirty-three years, Liz is the office manager, clerk, cashier and stock boy in a store that immediately brings someone back to the 1950s when entering.

The fifteen foot ceilings carry a half dozen of the old two-bladed fans still spinning slowly as they work to push the warm air back down to the floor. Lanes between aisles are almost wide enough to drive a truck through. Everything in the store has a small price sticker affixed, so there is no wonder or confusion to a buyer. "There are no scanners in this store," Liz proudly notes.

It took some time to interview Liz, as customers coming in took precedence over chatting. Always there was a first name rapport between Hunter and her visitors. Always there was a moment to ask how everyone in the family was doing. In one case a young woman with a small son purchased a few items. Liz told the boy to make sure he told his two sisters she said

Continued on page 14

OUR ANNIVERSARY ROAD TRIP

BY Edward E. Johnson

My wife, Carol, has been a collector of Precious Moments figurines for quite a few years now.

For an even longer time, before I was even old enough to drive, I have been fascinated by thoughts of traveling Route 66. We also own a 1952 Ford pickup that I have restored to original

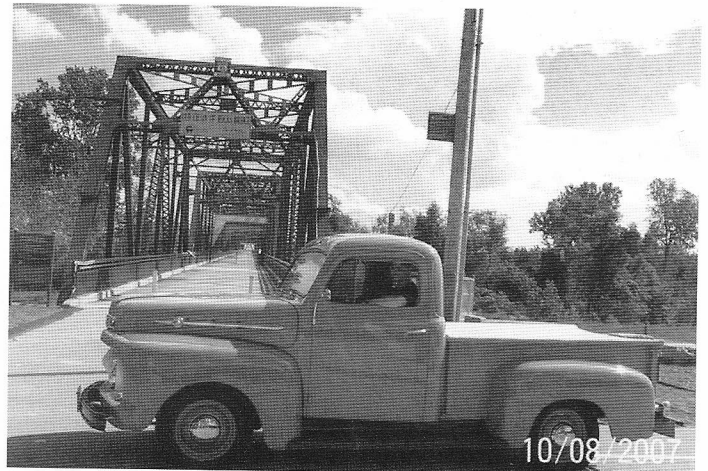
Sullivan, Missouri, and then finish the drive the next day.

The traffic was pretty good and no one seemed to mind terribly being held up by an old truck. Our top cruising speed is 50-55 miles per hour.

We had a wonderful weekend that was filled with all kinds



Ed Johnson and Gary Turner, owner of the Gay Parita. If you love to talk Rt. 66, Gary is the man to see.



Ed Johnson at the wheel on the Illinois side of the Chain of Rocks Bridge

condition with lots of help, time, and money. Since we live in Normal, just a few blocks from Route 66, we have made many short trips up and down the old road during the nearly 10 years we've owned Old Red.

The Precious Moments Park & Chapel are located just

of activities including an Elvis night, a dinner at the park, a 50's-60's sock hop, lots of games, giveaways, and shopping. We made a lot of new friends and our only disappointment was finding out that out of over 400 people in attendance we were the only ones who came in a classic vehicle.

On the night of the sock hop we had quite a few people taking our picture in front of the old truck with my wife Carol in her poodle shirt and I in my letterman's sweater.

I also offered Old Red as a backdrop for others to have their pictures taken and a good sized group lined up for a turn to get a photo with our old truck.

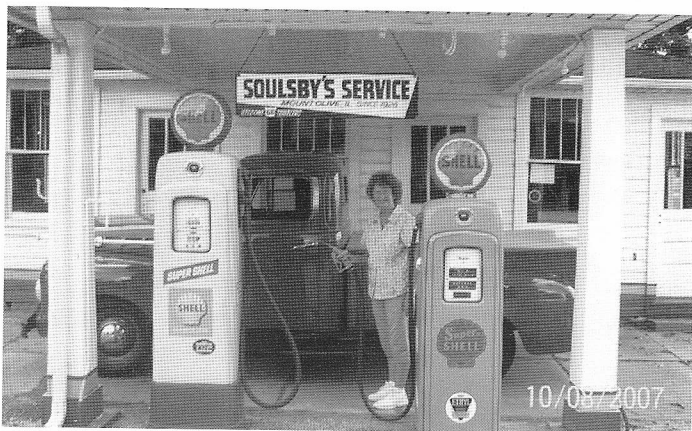
Our return trip started on Sunday morning and we followed Route 66 out of Joplin.

We made a stop at the 66 Drive-in Theatre in Carthage. It was closed for the season but we got some pictures of the old truck in front of the screen.

Our next stop was the Gay Parida in Paris Springs. This is a 1930's Texaco Service Station owned and operated by Gary Turner. Gary has nothing to sell, but he has a station and a garage full of memories that he loves to share. He is a true promoter of Route 66 in the best sense of the word. One caution though: don't stop unless you have time to spend and don't mind making another friend!

Our next stop was the Bell Restaurant in Lebanon, Missouri. Wonderful food. Just around the corner is the Munger Moss Motel.

On our way back we met other travelers headed west. We traded greetings, recommendations for stops, and stories.



Carol Johnson at the pumps at Soulsby's Shell. Too bad the pumps weren't working.

outside Carthage, Missouri, another Route 66 town. We've been there before while on vacation, but never while traveling Route 66 and never in the old truck. When we found out that there was going to be a Route 66 Family Reunion Weekend put on by Precious Moments, we thought it would be a perfect way to enjoy both our hobbies. Our kids decided it would make a perfect anniversary gift and they made our reservations for us for the weekend.

This was all taking place Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, October 4th, 5th, and 6th, 2007. Carthage is over 450 miles from our home in Normal so we knew we would need more than one day to drive there. Plans were made to leave on Wednesday afternoon after Carol got off work. We would drive as far as

Continued on page 14

Our Anniversary Road Trip

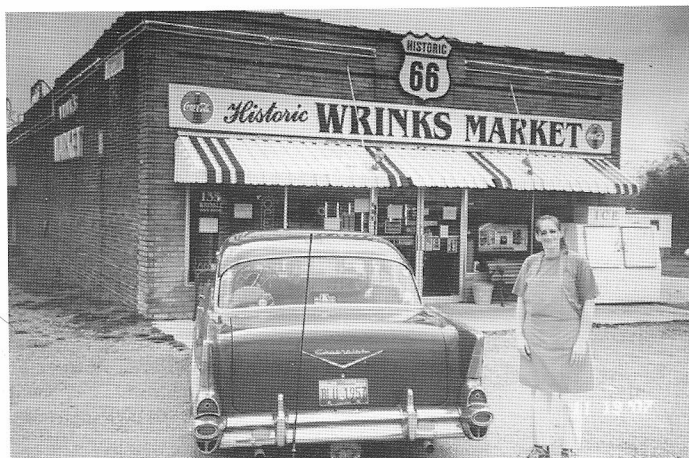
SPRING  ISSUE 9

KRUZIN WITH THE BILECKI'S

By Geri and Marty Bilecki

Well, you have heard us mention several times in the past "Kruzin With" articles

"If You Don't Go – You Won't Know." Being blessed



The newly reopened Wrinks. The Blue Angel & Wrinks' Deli manager Vicki Jansen.

with good health and being retired we decided – after we were touched by the chill of early November – again to step back in time and enjoy the relaxed, pressure free and pleasurable "Mother Road."



Our stop at the Gay Parida, Ash Grove, MO on Rt. 66. Owner Gary Turner on ladder.

We also realized what hundreds of thousands before us have experienced and enjoyed cruise down the Route 66 roadways of five states – Illinois to Texas. On this trip we took our "57" Chevy – the Blue Angel, but any other mode of travel – including your feet will do!

First stop on our journey, was our usual pancake breakfast at the Route 66 Family Restaurant in Dwight. We then motored south and observed three old Union Pacific diesels getting ready to also travel south from a siding in the Cayuga Township. What a great way to start our photographic record of this trip. We then met Bob Karls,

Pontiac City Manager, who provided us with a whole box full of brochures highlighting the icons in Illinois, maps, and also informational literature highlighting the Museum in Pontiac.



Left to right: Dean Walker, Kansas 66 Assn., Marty Bilecki, IL 66 Assn., "Tow Mater" original 1951 International boom truck & Melba Rigg, co-owner 4 Women on the Route Cafe, Galena, KS.

Continuing our journey we stopped at many locations that we had previously missed due to darkness or personnel were not available. We found that you have to stay on the original alignments and narrow two lane pavements to really appreciate the glory and even the hazards that early travelers experienced years ago on a first hand basis. Soon the Golden Arch of St. Louis was there for our camera's eye.



The every day functioning underground Rt. 66 walkway circa w.p.a. 1939. Rt. 66 and Elm St., Sayre, OK.

Our next full stop was the Merrimac River and Route 66 State Park Lodge. This location is on the site of the former Times Beach, Missouri town. The Lodge is the only building still standing.

We were delighted to meet Mr. And Mrs. Verzzio, visitors from Paris, France, who were heading east towards Illinois on a Route 66 adventure. We exchanged informa-

tion and wished them well on the last few days of their journey east.

We could not miss stopping at Cuba, Missouri, with all of the beautiful and interesting murals depicting some of the historical events which happened there over the years.

One of the most interesting was that Amelia Earhart once stopped there and also Betty Davis. The personnel at the Chamber of Commerce were eager for information from Route 66 in Illinois to pass out to people traveling on the road and heading east.



Left to right: Marty Bilecki, Rt. 66 IL, the Tulsa Rt 66 Penguin, Geri Bilecki, Ron Jones, 66 Tatoo Man and Laurel Kane, owner Afton Station on 66.

Imagine our surprise to see the newly restored and reopened Wrinks Market and Deli on Route 66 in Lebanon, Missouri. Terry Wrinkle, son of the founders, is the new proprietor.

We congratulated him on his appreciation of what his parents strived for for many years. Also, Faye's Diner and the museum in Lebanon are must sees!

Arriving in Springfield, Missouri, you will find that Glenstone Street has many good stops. Rail Haven Motel is one (a good photo opt), Steak and Shake (original). A little further down on Glenstone (but not on 66) is Aunt Martha's Pancake House where Willie Nelson once washed dishes and still stops at occasionally. That is why we love these interesting towns and locations because they all have a story to tell.

Time for a break – so we went south on 65 for a few days to the “Town that wishes it were on Route 66” Branson, Missouri. Took in several shows including the Andy Williams Christmas Show, and several shows at the Dick Clark Theater where we were joined by Paula and Dean Walker “Mater” from Kansas.

Back on 66 in Missouri we came upon the newly restored “Gay Parita” and Mr. Gary Turner. This station is a true tribute to the early gas, food, and car repair people who made 66 what it was. It was founded by Gay and Fred Mason back in 1931.

Rolling into Kansas we crossed over the large white strip that separates Missouri and Kansas. Historic signs continue to disappear from the state lines.

We again met Kansas 66 Ambassador Dean Walker at the newly remodeled “Four Women on Route 66” newly remodeled early vintage gas station now a prospering café and restaurant and tourist attraction in Galena. This location has the original 1951 GMC Boom Tow Truck used as the truck Mater in the movie “Cars.” Hats off to Melba Rigg and her co-workers on this gem.

Into Oklahoma on Route 66 – know also as Quapaw Indian territory – we ventured.

We could not pass up Wayman's “Ku-Ku” restaurant in Miami where we always have to stop for Buffalo burgers. Also the Seaba Station, circa 1930, stone garage in Warwick, undergoing restoration in 2008 to its original décor. We passed many steel bridges, drive-in theatres, and a new entity called “Pops” drive-in with a 66 foot tall soda bottle to greet visitors in Arcadia.

On Thanksgiving morning we entered Sayre and much to our surprise saw another underground WPA, circa 1939, walkway still in use similar to the one the Illinois Association Preservation Committee uncovered in Odell. We had TURKEY sandwiches for lunch at a Subway as we were saving our appetites for our goal of reaching “The Big Texan” in Amarillo. On our way we passed the Dew Drop Inn in Shamrock, the tallest cross in Groom, and the leaning tower in Hydro. All pretty eerie since everyone was at home eating their Thanksgiving dinner.

Finally we were at the Big Texan - only to find that their turkey buffet had just ended after serving 1300 people! Oh well, we just had to have STEAK! While there we watched trucker Tony Kalos down a 72 oz. steak with all of the trimmings in one hour's time. What a feat even for a big guy!!!

On the way back east we drove into snow and had to adjust our plans. Still, we saw the new and the original “Lucille's” in Weathersford and also the Air and Space Museum. At the Afton Station and Packard Museum we were able to meet with Laurel Kane and her visitor, Ron Jones (the Tattoo Man of 66). Another stop in Branson, Missouri, and onward to Illinois.

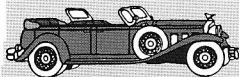
Of course we had to stop in Collinsville and visit the “Brooks Catup” bottle. In all we covered 2,346.7 miles round trip.

What can we say except please go out and enjoy the road as we do. People travel thousands of miles to come to our country and travel this road and it is right at our back door!

Remember – If You Don't Go-You Won't Know.” See you on the road! Keep Kruzin!!!

19TH ANNUAL
ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS
MOTOR TOUR

REDISCOVER ROUTE 66
CHAIN OF ROCKS BRIDGE TO
WILMINGTON



*Friday, Saturday, Sunday
June 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2008*

Friday night registration - Scotty's in Hamel * Saturday Chain of Rocks Bridge * Granite City
* Staunton * Girard * Springfield * Williamsville * Elkhart * Broadwell * Lincoln
* Atlanta * McLean * Lexington * Pontiac * Gardner * Wilmington

Join us for the Hall of Fame Dinner at Lincoln College-unlimited buffet and
Elvis Himself & His 5 Piece Band entertaining before the Hall of Fame Program
Dinner is an all you can eat buffet by Chef Warren Wendlandt
Featuring Meat Loaf, Chicken Fried Steak, and over 20 dishes!
Desserts included: Assorted Lemon Bars & Chocolate Frosted Brownies
Coffee, Ice Tea, Water, and Lemonade included.
Cash bar available from 6 PM until 9 PM, proceeds to benefit the College.

For more information please call:

Jaime Anderson 847-721-6743 Marty Bilecki 815-941-3312
Cathie Stevanovich 708 444-1312 Jerry Law 618-251-4892



Any vehicle * any model * any make *
Tour goes on rain or shine-no refunds
You may join the tour or leave it at any time!!

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

MAIL TO:

MOTOR TOUR 9280 DRUMMOND DRIVE TINLEY PARK, IL 60487

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode _____
Phone: _____ email: _____

Motor Tour Registration Fee: Members \$30.00 _____

Non-Member Fee (includes a 1 year Membership) \$50 _____

We plan to attend the Hall of Fame Banquet at Lincoln College Adults \$25 _____

Children under 12 \$12.50 _____

DO NOT MAIL AFTER MAY 15TH

TOTAL: _____

-Please do not combine Motor Tour & Membership Renewals on the same check

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MOTEL LIST FOR THE 2008 MOTOR TOUR

FRIDAY NIGHT RESERVATIONS - JUNE 6TH

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

RESERVE YOUR ROOMS BY MAY 15TH FOR THESE SPECIAL RATES!

COMFORT INN

3080 South State Route 157
Edwardsville, IL
618-656-4900
\$66.00 plus tax
50 rooms blocked

HAMPTON INN & SUITE

5723 Heritage Crossing Drive
Glen Carbon, IL
618-589-5000
\$79.00 plus tax
45 rooms blocked

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

14 Regency Parkway
Pontoon Beach, IL
618-797-1200
\$90 plus tax
30 rooms blocked

SATURDAY NIGHT RESERVATIONS - JUNE 7th

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

HAMPTON INN

Lincoln
Brand new hotel !!!
Reserve AFTER
April 14th please
217-732-6729 Ext 3
64 rooms blocked

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

130 Olson Road
Lincoln, IL
217-735-5800
\$79.00 plus tax
Call for availability

AMERICA'S BEST VALUE INN

103 Empire
Atlanta, IL
217-648-2322
\$45.00 plus tax
25 rooms blocked

HALL OF FAME BANQUET IS AT LINCOLN COLLEGE IN LINCOLN!!!

Maps and directions will be mailed upon receipt of Motor Tour Registration.

Maps and directions will also be available on the website

www.il66assoc.org as of May 15th, 2008

**PLEASE NOTE: Hall of Fame Dinner ticket pickup is at the
Hall of Fame dinner only!!!**

ELVIS HIMSELVIS and his 5 piece band will entertain starting at 6 PM

Cash bar starts at 6 PM

Hall of Fame Dinner starts at 7 PM

Hall of Fame Program begins at 8 PM

ALL WELCOME * ANY VEHICLE * ANY YEAR * ANY MAKE * RAIN OR SHINE
Registration Friday night in Hamel, Saturday morning at the Chain of Rocks Bridge

PONTIAC TO HOST PHOTO DISPLAY OF ROUTE 66

By Ellie Alexander

Route 66 is not the longest road in the USA, nor is it the oldest. But without a doubt it is the most famous and well known. Each of its 2,448 miles is like a history lesson for young and old alike. Route 66 encompasses skyscrapers to deserts. It blends old and new into a cornucopia of wonderment.

For those in the know, it is not a surprise that the travel organization, known as The Lonely Planet, declared in 2007 Route 66 as the best and only recommended road trip in the nation.

With this in mind, Pontiac, Illinois, will now be able to display through Michael Campanelli's 166, 20X30 framed photo exhibit, a glimpse of what the entire Mother Road still has to offer. Michael's eight day, eight state photo journey exhibit is finding a new home in the Old City Hall and Firehouse located in Downtown Pontiac. A Grand Opening was held with a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 7, 2008 at the museum complex. Present were Mayor Scott McCoy, Representatives

of the Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce, photographer Michael A. Campanelli, Patty Ambrose, executive director for the Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project, Marilyn Pritchard, Curator, and John Weiss, Chairman of the Museum Committee.

HALL OF FAME INFO

The nominations for the 2008 Hall of Fame are now closed.

This year there was 14 nominations forwarded to the Hall of Fame Committee!

Look to the next issue to see our new honorees!

Continued from page 8

Atlanta Country Market

hello. The customers at the Atlanta Country Market are more than just another face or another dollar.

One older man from nearby Chestnut, Illinois was there to buy cheese. His purpose in coming to Atlanta was simple. He really likes their cheese and Larry, the butcher, knows exactly how to cut it for cheese sticks.

There were more instances that showed this store as special. At one time when Liz mentioned the local pharmacy had closed, she noted how many Atlanta residents now used her store for basic medicinal products. A woman named Jackie, who Liz mentioned was an almost daily customer, blurted out, "Oh please don't close". Liz assured the woman our conversation was not about closing, but rather about how the store could grow.

Without a doubt the meat department keeps the store's doors open. "We only offer fresh meat products and Larry will cut them any way you want. I would rather run out of something than have frozen meat in the store." One Atlanta resident advised that the broasted chicken, along with the chicken livers and gizzards that Larry prepares daily, "are to die for".

The prices on some things are a little higher, on others reasonably close. That is to be expected in a small town grocery. "We don't have the volume to become part of a grocery distribution chain so we do as best we can with the prices we can get wholesale"

We aren't that much higher than the bigger city stores and when you add in your time and gasoline, we are a lot more competitive than most people think. It is perception that we have to fight as much as the actual difference in prices."

In an effort to better serve Rt. 66 visitors, Liz has remodeled and opened up a new gift shop within the Atlanta Country Market. It sells Rt. 66 t-shirts, including ones featuring the Bunyon Statue, the Atlanta Smiley Face water town, and the Palms Grill Café, along with Kit Kat Clocks, Atlanta Rt. 66 post cards, antiques, and collectables. If you want to experience things the way they used to be, Liz invites you to drop into the store for a real piece of Mother Road history. This article was written by Mike Fak and reprinted with permission of the Lincoln Daily News.

Continued from page 9

Our Anniversary Road Trip

Just before reaching St. Louis we stopped at the Missouri Route 66 State Park which is located at the site of the former community of Times Beach. A nice park for picnicking and a very nice Route 66 museum and gift shop are here to enjoy.

By the time we were passing through St. Louis the temperature was in the upper 90's. A perfect day to stop at Ted Drewes Frozen Custard! The "concretes" were very refreshing, though in an un-airconditioned vehicle, that refreshment didn't last long!

Winding our way through St. Louis we came to the Chain of Rocks Bridge and stopped for pictures on both the Missouri and Illinois sides.

Our next stop was Mount Olive. Soulsby's Station was closed for the day when we arrived, but we took the opportunity to get some pictures of the old Ford sitting at the gas pumps.

We had hoped to have dinner at the Ariston Café in Litchfield, but when we arrived we found out it was closed on Mondays! We settled for a stop at a Pizza Hut in Lincoln that had a Route 66 theme.

In all we traveled just under 1200 miles, over half of it on Route 66 and nearly all of it within sight of the old road. Along the way we got lots of waves, thumbs up, and honks from our fellow travelers. We made a number of memorable stops, as well as making new friends both on and off the road. Old Red made the trip without a problem and we averaged over 15.4 miles per gallon, not bad for an old farm truck! We got a real good taste of life on the Mother Road and a longing for even more in the future.

One of these days we plan to head for California along "The Road To Travel." Hope to meet you somewhere along the way!

Please "Thank" and Support Our Association's Business Members!!

Last Name	Street Address	City	Phone
4 Your Stuff Storage	3117 W. Chain of Rocks Road	Granite City, IL 62040	618-797-7900
Abraham Lincoln Tourism	1555 Fifth St.	Lincoln, IL 62656	217-732-8687
Ben Benson	150 W. Jefferson St.	Joliet, IL 60432	
Bernardi's II, Inc.	123 N. Mill St.	Pontiac, IL 61764	815-842-1198
Camz Retro, Inc.	203 N. Water St.	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-476-7009
Casey's Garden Shop, Inc.	1505 N. Main St.	Bloomington, IL 61701	309-828-1424
City of Carlinville	21480 B. Route 4	Carlinville, IL 62626	217-854-7727
City of Elk City	P.O. Box 1100	Elk City, OK 73644	580-225-6266
City of Morris	320 Wauponsee St.	Morris, IL 60450	815-942-0103
City of Mt.Olive	200 E. Main St.	Mt. Olive, IL 62069	217-999-4261
Claremore Convention & Visitors Bureau	419 W. Will Rogers Blvd.	Claremore, OK 74017	918-341-8688
Corner Bar	200 S. First St.	Divernon, IL 62530	217-628-3605
Country Classic Cars,L.L.C.	2149 E. Frontage Road	Staunton, IL 62088	618-635-7056
Crossroads Route 66 Diner	21535 Lake Ka-Ho Road	Mt. Olive, IL 62069	217-851-5123
Curve Inn, Inc.	3219 S. 6th. St. Road	Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-5806
De-Ja-Vu Rt 66	113 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-476-7774
Designs For Progress, Inc.	24601 Milfay Road # 5	Depew, OK 74028	918-324-5547
Dwight Historical Society	119 W. Main St.	Dwight, IL 60420	815-584-1652
Edwardsville-Glen Carbon	200 University Park Drive, # 260	Edwardsville, IL 62025	618-656-7600
eSeMBe Technical Services	324 Forest Blvd	Park Forest, IL 60466	708-231-8794
G & D Tire and Alignment	200 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-476-7744
History Construction Management, LLC.	300 W. Henry St.	Odell, IL 60460	815-998-2756
IL. State Police Museum	3936 N. Peoria Road	Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-1922
Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project, Inc.	700 E. Adams	Springfield, IL 62701	217-525-7980
Joliet Area Historical Museum, Inc.	204 N. Ottawa St.	Joliet, IL 60432	815-723-5201
Kicks Bar & Grill	19578 N. 1960 East Road	Towanda, IL 61776	309-728-2060
Lincoln Printers, Inc.	711 Broadway St.	Lincoln, IL 62656	217-732-3121
McLean County Historical Society	200 N. Main St.	Bloomington, IL 61701	309-827-3428
Midwest Digital Mapping	P.O. Box 105	Cantrall, IL 62625	217-494-4057
Mt. Greenwood Auto	10319 S. Kedzie Ave.	Chicago, IL 60655	773-779-3144
National Route 66 Federation	P.O. Box 1848	Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352	909-336-6131
Patti's Haircutting Cabin	819 E. Madison St.	Pontiac, IL 61764	815-842-3438
Pontiac Family Kitchen	904 W. Custer Ave.	Pontiac, IL 61764	815-844-3155
Proud	321 N. Main	Pontiac, IL 61764	815-844-6692
Redwood Motel	725 Hickox Drive	Lincoln, IL 62656	217-732-4113
Rentz's Tap & Dining	210 Waupansie	Odell, IL 60460	815-998-2383
Route 66 Choppers, Inc.	260 School St.	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-476-2477
Route 66 Heritage Foundation/ Logan County	1555 Fifth St.	Lincoln, IL 62656	217-732-8687
Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center	625 E. Saint Joseph St.	Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-6626
Route 66 Pulse	140 Main St.	Richfield Springs, NY 13088	315-858-5858
Route 66 Sodas, LLC	P.O. Box 276	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-458-2594
Scotty's Route 66 Bar & Grill	108 Old Route 66., P.O. Box 432	Hamel, IL 62046	618-633-2228
Serials Section, Illinois State Library	300 South 2nd St.	Springfield, IL 62701	217-785-4127
South of Chicago, Inc.	3430 W. Oak Hill Drive	Crete, IL 60417	
Three Roses Bed & Breakfast	209 E. Howard St.	Pontiac, IL 61764	815-844-3404
Wilmington Chamber of Chamber	111 S. Water St.	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-476-5991
Wolf Pack Car Club	1310 E. Union Ave.	Litchfield, IL 62056	217-324-5862

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

SPRING 2008 QUARTERLY MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2008

Breakfast available at Scotty's (regular menu)

Board Meeting 10:30 AM -- Lunch break Noon to 1 PM (food available)

General Meeting 1:00 PM.

SCOTTY'S BAR & GRILL

(Our own Hall of Fame Member/Board Member Jim Allen)

106 Old Route 66 -- Hamel, Illinois

Phone: 618-633-2228

(Directions and map available on website)

Note: John and Lenore Weiss will be leading a mini-cruise
on the way back north on Route 66 for anyone interested.

The tour will leave from Scotty's after the General Meeting.



Illinois plate displayed on the vehicle driven by
Association member David Oleary of Palos Heights,
Illinois.

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE 66 NEWS

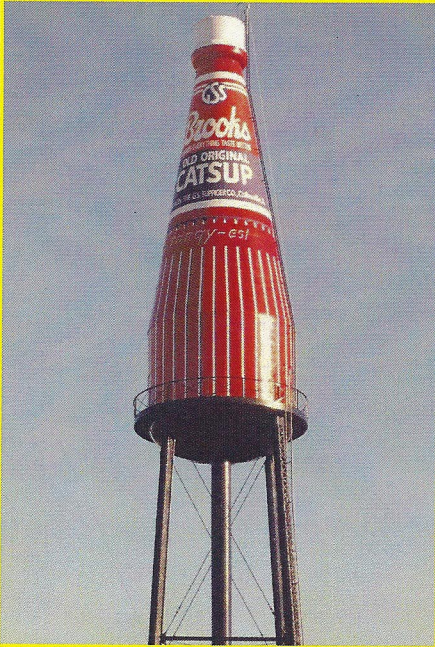
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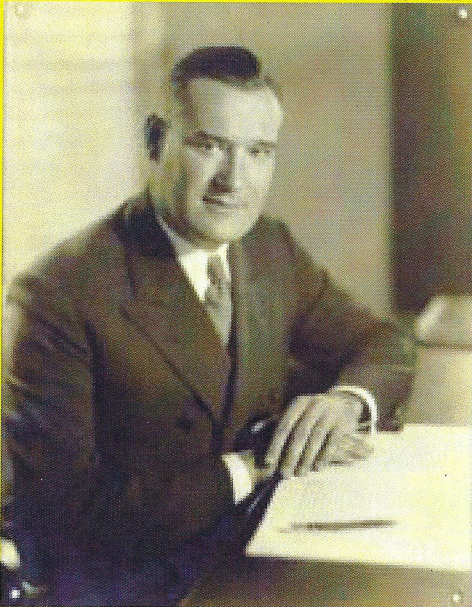
ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE NEWS

SUMMER 2008
\$3.95



Hall of Fame Inductee
World's Largest Brooks Catsup Bottle



Hall of Fame Inductee
Frank Sheets



Hall of Fame Inductee
Pauline and Leroy Curtiss

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

The Route 66 Association is a non-for-profit organization. It's purpose is to preserve, protect, educate, and enjoy Route 66. The Board Members are available to answer questions at most reasonable times.
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 Send to The Route 66 News, C/O The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame & Museum, 110 W. Howard, Pontiac, IL 62764 or email your stories to Donna Meisner at dmeisner66@gmail.com.

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Pay for 3 Ads and get one free,
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SPRING 2008

What a great start to this year! The meetings in January and April had great turnouts, and we've accomplished much in the way of straightening out some of the bylaws. Our organization will be 20 years old next year and its time we tweak the bylaws to reflect the times. Who knew 20 years ago the Internet would be used daily by so many people! Who knew we'd have a great permanent home?

We look forward to our 19th Annual Motor Tour. This year we'll be starting south, at the Chain of Rocks bridge. Trailnet has lost most of its funding, so this year we'll be one of the few cruises to be able to drive over the bridge, but there will be \$5 per car charge. If you don't want to spend the \$5, there will be a launching area on the Illinois side of the bridge. Money is tight for everyone this year so we have kept Motor Tour costs to a minimum. Our Hall of Fame dinner is being underwritten by Lincoln College, Logan County Tourism, and the Heritage Corridor group. It will be fantastic!!!

We all are being affected by the economy however we hope that the volunteer spirit that makes so many of our events memorable will continue. The Preservation Committee had 2 workdays, one in Odell and another in Normal. Other projects will be posted on the website so check back often.

It's summer time and that means summer festivals – all over and along Route 66. Step back in time and visit the Route 66 communities, help them stay viable. Catfish Days in Wilmington, Hang Loose Car Show in Pontiac, and on down the road to Litchfield's Route 66 festival – there is SO MUCH to do this summer. Come late summer is the Heritage Days in Dwight with its fabulous Bassett Waddle! This is like the "running of the bulls" with bassets so if you've never seen this parade, it is an absolute must! Thresherman's is always fun and educational.

This fall, on October 4th, Trailnet is having a Route 66 Festival with a 1st time ever car show on the bridge, outdoor food and entertainment, a sock hop, and a movie at sunset. We are looking at this festival as a way to mix and mingle with our fellow Route 66 Association in Missouri. Information will be posted on the website as it becomes available.

This is YOUR association so we need your input! Articles and photos can be submitted to the newsletter editor, Donna Meisner, at dmeisner66@gmail.com or can be mailed directly to her at 1762 Schaefer Road, Piasa, Illinois 62079.

You can contact your board member directly – a listing of each board member is on the inside front cover. SUPPORT OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS using the Business member pages! And, of course, enjoy your time on the Mother Road.

Looking forward to seeing you on the road!

Cathie Stevanovich
President, Route 66 Association of Illinois

Notes From The Editor...

Hello to all of you Route 66 fans. As all of you know Kathy Miller and Jim Jones have retired from their positions of Newsletter Editor. I would like to introduce myself to you, I am Donna Meisner of Piasa, IL. I am a mother of three kids and work outside of the home also. My vision for the newsletter at this time is not to change a whole lot of the Newsletter, except for perhaps selling a few more ads to make the Newsletter a bit more profitable for the Association. I want to thank Cathie Stevanovich for all her help in getting this edition published. I would also like to thank all the contributors for their fantastic stories, make sure to read them for all the interesting adventures and information they have to share.

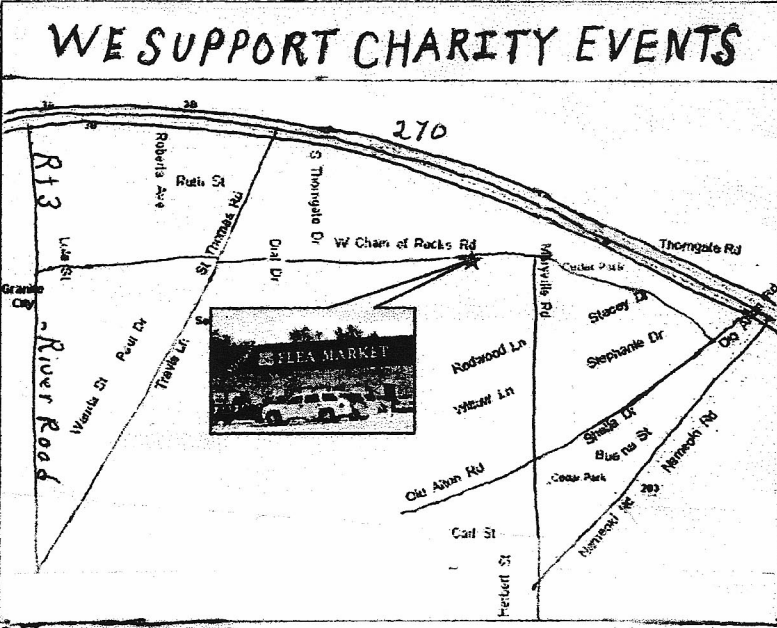
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ROUTE
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Granite City, IL 62040
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9:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.**

Everything Old, New, Borrowed & Blue

I would like to set up a few guidelines at this time. As I grow in my experience with the Newsletter, I would like to keep all stories to one page so that more people will be able to share their stories with all of us. If you have a story or some interesting news you would like to share, or an ad for the newsletter please feel free to e-mail it to me at dmeisnerrte66@gmail.com. If you don't have access to e-mail, you can snail mail it to me at Donna Meisner, 1762 Schaefer Road, Piasa, IL 62079. All ads must be paid for when sending them to me. I want to keep the stories very positive and upbeat. If I can't get a story in one issue, don't worry; I will save it for the next issue. Stories will be published on a first come, first serve basis.

I have met several wonderful people and look forward to meeting several more. I thank all of you for the warm welcome that you have given me. If you have any questions on the Newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Official Route 66 Festival in Litchfield, IL

Elvis is alive and well on Route 66 in Litchfield, Illinois???? The Beatles have reunited and are on stage Saturday June 20th?? A Rabbit is running for President?? To find out you will have to visit Litchfield, June 20-22 2008.

Thanks to great support and involvement of John & Lenore Weiss of Wilmington, and Rich Henry of Staunton we are starting the Litchfield festival out with 2 great tours. John & Lenore will lead the one from the north beginning at Joliet and Jerry Law will be leading the tour from the south beginning at the Chain of Rocks Bridge. We are so fortunate to have such knowledgeable Route 66ers to lead to the fun. When you arrive in Litchfield Friday evening you can enjoy the sounds of the Chicago Beatle Tribute band "The Cavern Beat". This band was recommended by whispering Joe, who we hope also gets on stage to show off his great voice. The four lanes of route 66 will be closed on Friday night to line up your classic cars.

Saturday, sleep in then bring your car out to Route 66 for the car show from 10-4. Big Foot 4 x 4 will be on site to roll over and crush 4 cars and we end the day with KAVAN American's #1 Elvis rocking out on the car show stage. John & Lenore have another fun filled informative cruise planned at 4 pm to Mt. Olive and Staunton. Rich Henry will then cool you down with an ice cream social at his rabbit ranch. If you are lucky, you can shake the paw of Montana, this year's presidential hopeful. Montana has become so famous that a Commemorative postmark for the Litchfield event has been designed in his honor. The USPS will be on the car show site on Saturday to with the post mark.



What a better way to end the night then at the Sky View Drive In, the last remaining original operating drive-in theatre on Route 66 in Illinois. KAVAN as Elvis will be on site before the drive in to do some fun contests while he serenades the ladies. Start practicing your hula hoop now. Then it is time to snuggle up in your cars to watch "CARS", the movie.

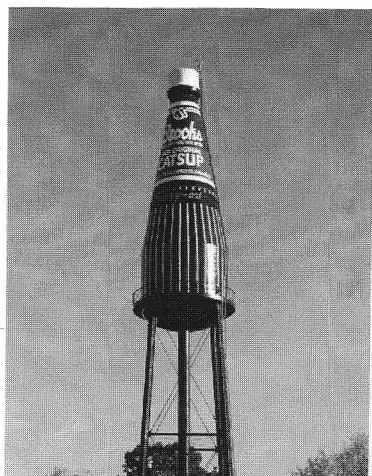
Litchfield is honored to be the host City for the Official Route 66 Festival and the Will Rogers Award Event. The summit will start June 18 at Lincoln Land Community College during the day and a reception at the Ariston Café at night. The summit continues on Friday and ends on Saturday with the Will Rogers Award Banquet at the Litchfield Community Center. Please contact Tom Wanko at 314-267-1810 for more information. Reservations for the banquet may be placed through the Litchfield website at cityoflitchfieldil.com

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Litchfield June 18-22. Forget the long driving vacations this year with the price of gas and make the short trip to Litchfield for the 5th Annual Cruisin Route 66 Classic Car Show. For more information, entry forms and a more detailed scheduled, please visit our website at cityoflitchfieldil.com or contact Denise in Litchfield at 217-324-8147.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES 2008

The World's Largest Brooks Catsup Bottle – Since 1949

Businessmen raised \$5,000 and created the Collinsville Canning and packing Co. The plant struggled and went through a few different owners/operators until 1908 when the Brooks brothers took over. They operated under the name of Triumph Catsup and Pickle Company. In 1920, the brothers sold out to American Cone and Pretzel Company, and in 1933 the G.S. Suppiger Company purchased the plant. The catsup factory had great success in those years, surviving the Great Depression and growing by leaps and bounds through the 1940's. They retained the Brooks label because it had acquired such an excellent reputation. After World War 2, a fire protection sprinkler system needed to be installed throughout the plant. Since the plant already put a strain on the City of Collinsville's water pressure, it was decided to build a new water tower for plant operations. The president of the company decided the water tower should be built in the distinctive tapered shape of one of their catsup bottles. This amused everyone.



In 1947 W.E. Caldwell Tank Company of Louisville, KY, entered a contract to build this unique water tower. Final drawings for a 70-foot tall bottle atop 100-foot steel legs were approved. In October 1949, the tower was in place, holding 100,000 gallons of water. By the early 1960's the plant was closed, the water tower was empty and the plant was used as a warehouse. After years of neglect, the rusted, timeworn tower seemed destined for demolition and the parent company decided to sell the property.

Larry and Jim Eckert of Bethel Eckert Enterprises purchased the factory site along with the Catsup bottle in June of 1994. A 14-member Preservation Group was formed to do what needed to be done to preserve the landmark. An engineering study to repair and repaint the structure was reviewed. The group began fund-raising events and raised over \$100,000 for the project. By 1995 the completely restored red, white and blue landmark was unveiled to the public. In 1999, the 50th anniversary of the catsup bottle, a new logo was produced for memorabilia to be sold. In 2002 the World's Largest Brooks Catsup Bottle was named to the National Register of Historic Places.

Leroy and Pauline Curtiss

Back in the 1940's Leroy worked at Martin Oil Company, 401 Ladd St. (corner of Rt. 116 and Ladd St. or Rt. 66) where you would receive premium gifts, various pieces of glassware, which drew customers to this location from near and far. There were a total of 7 pumps in 2 rows supplying regular ethyl white gas (10 cents a gallon). They pumped their motor oil into glass tubes and supplied kerosene. You could purchase a pack of cigarettes for 10 cents with a gasoline purchase.

Leroy was drafted into the U.S. Navy but didn't complete his term because the war ended. When he returned he went back to lease and operate a Sinclair Gas Station at 1005 Ladd St. directly across the street from the first "District 6 State Police Headquarters" in Pontiac. He serviced many vehicles with the traffic heavy at the intersection of Route 66 and 23. Gasoline sold for 15 cents a gallon.

In 1949 Leroy and Pauline were ready to start a new venture, "Curtiss Drive-In" at 826 Ladd St. just a block away. Pauline started work at 5:00 a.m. and worked until 1:00 p.m. and then reported to a 2nd job and worked to 1:00 a.m. in the morning.

This was their first drive-in. They had 3 carhops and served hamburgers at 25 cents, foot long hot dogs at 25 cents coffee at 5 cents and sodas at 25 cents. They made homemade root beer in 2 large wooden barrels that



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES 2008

stood in the center of the restaurant with a choice of 5 cent or 10 cent frosted mug root beer. Pauline was very dedicated working the six hours before delivering her first daughter. They sold the business in 1955. In September 1958, they advanced to bigger and better things. They purchased Fred's Drive-In, 301 Ladd St. This was only a summer time business because of no heating system. They made improvements by building a 16-car steel frame and aluminum roof canopy, which was ready the following summer. Leroy and Pauline's motto was "Come as you are and eat in the car". Pauline worked as noontime carhop when young carhop girls were in school.

The root beer was homemade and the onion rings would melt in your mouth. Tubs of hamburger was purchased daily from the local Buehler's Meat Market and patties were scooped out with ice cream dippers. They made cole slaw, peeled potatoes, cleaned shrimp and chicken daily. Everything was served on adjustable trays to fit your car door/window and was top-quality food. The Dagwood Burger was renowned. Jack Vietti would take his noon break at Leroy's Drive-In by answering the telephone on busy days. They sold out in 1963 and Leroy went to work for the State Highway department for a period of time.

In 1969, the Curtiss' purchased property and built "Pauline's Chicken Villa", right across the street from their previous drive-in. This was a 17 member operation as both mothers, 2 daughters, a sister, 5 cousins and of course Leroy and Pauline worked as the crew. They were very well known for chicken and Italian beef. They sold out in 1975.

In 1986 during the opening night of "Hang Loose, Let the Good Times Roll" weekend in Pontiac, Leroy was crowned as King of Drive-Ins with a fake onion ring and Pauline received her crown as Queen of Drive-Ins presented by Jack Vietti.

Both continue to reminisce the old stories of the highway. They have been married for 69 wonderful years.

Frank Thomas Sheets



Mr. Sheets was born in Ohio on October 5, 1890, but his family moved to Springfield, Illinois, so that his father, Edgar could take a job as Superintendent in the Illinois State Highway Department. Frank Sheets also joined the Highway Department at the age of 17 as a clerk. He started his studies in highway engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1911, and then returned to the Highway Department upon his graduation in 1914. By 1916 he was the Assistant Maintenance Engineer of the Highway Bureau of Maintenance. His boss at the time was B. H. Piepmeier, who would move on to head the Missouri Highway Department during the formative years of the U.S. Highway system. Mr. Sheets headed the Illinois Division of Highways from 1920-1932. During his tenure the state came from "out of the mud" to break the record four times for miles paved in a year by any state. The Division's work under his command included the completion of hard surface pavement on all of Illinois State Bond Issue Route 4

between Chicago and the McKinley Bridge by the end of 1926. When U.S. 66 was commissioned and routed on SBI 4, Illinois could boast of being the only state with hard roads along the entire length of its share of the highway.

Mr. Sheets also served as President of the American Association of State Highway Officials and a member of its Committee of Five that created the original U.S. Highway map and numbering system. He fought against the regional interests that wanted the highway connecting Los Angeles and St. Louis to continue east through Kentucky and Virginia. He and his fellow committee members won the battle for a single numbered highway connecting Chicago to Los Angeles, and thus they created the highway we now "preserve and promote." From 1927-1932, The Division of Highways under Mr. Sheets continued to improve Route 66 with wider pavements, grade separations, and the change in routing that brought such beloved towns as Litchfield and Hamel into the Route 66 community.

SMILE AND A TEAR

With a smile and a tear sounds fascinating to many. To us, it recalls a television public service announcement. We remember the proud "Native American" Indian Chief as he smiled and frowned - with a tear in his eye at the sight of debris and trash on the highways of our country. We, as "66" Roadies, or Kruzers, which ever you prefer, recently escaped the cold Midwest winter to break our own record and take 41 days on the Mother Road from Illinois to California. We did this not only to escape the harsh winter but, also to finish our journey, which ended in Amarillo last fall, and to see for ourselves if we, as Americans, are keeping our roadways and Route 66 as pristine as possible. Our smiles and jubilation came almost instantly as we departed our home to head south and hit the open road. First stop was, our usual, pancakes at Route 66 Family Restaurant in Dwight and to check up on the progress at the Ambler/Becker Station. On to Odell, the Standard Station, the bell tower of St. Paul's and underpass subway - our chariot, this trip, our "99" Ford. Literature pick-up in Pontiac at the Museum so we can continue to spread the info out to our seven sister states. Towns along the way always eagerly anticipate this and gratefully receive it so that tourists can have as much information as possible as they make the journey on Route 66.

Pulling into Missouri we made many courtesy stops to visit old friends and check on the progress of ongoing restoration projects, which we visited last fall. Of course, in Kansas, met up with Road Ambassador, Dean Walker and wife Paula. More buffalo burgers at the Ku-Ku in Miami, OK. Traveling in winter had its drawbacks as we encountered snow in Oklahoma City, but thankfully drove out of it. In Erick, OK - home of Roger Miller (King of the Road) -we were delighted to see Harley and Anna Belles. Onto Texas with hundreds of wind turbines turning and saving energy for all Americans. To our disappointment the Mid-Point Café in Adrian had not opened yet for the season but was still a good photo opportunity.

In Tucumcari, NM, we had to check out 'Dels' an original 66 restaurant. We encountered many "snow-birds" on their way to sunnier climes that still make Tucumcari (with their 2,000 rooms) a stopping point. At the Quarles, Gallery III, and bed and breakfast, Sharon and Doug are two winners who, with many others, are really working hard to keep the town and road alive. We just can't help but love this town and state - the people, native and transplants, are just very nice. In Grants, NM - the Visitor Center across the "big road" has so much to offer - check it out.

Flagstaff, AZ was another place Mother Nature showed us who is boss in the winter months but, thankfully, we again drove out of the "white stuff" and eagerly looked forward to Angel's in Seligman with his smiling face. He jumped on his bicycle to greet us at the barbershop even in inclement weather. He is another "Ambassador" on the road. A breathtaking ride is always part of the trip to Kingman as we checked out the Hackberry General Store and drove the old road on the outskirts of Kingman. In Kingman, the sight of the existing rail station and powerhouse, which houses the Museum and Arizona Route 66 Association, were powerful reminders of the past glory.

Our first detour off the road was to Bullhead City, AZ and Laughlin, NV (where we dropped a little money in the casinos) on the beautiful shores of the Colorado River. These towns also wish they were on the Mother Road, although both are just north of Needles, CA. Highlight of this side trip was to climb a section of the Newberry Mountain Range to view the Petrography (carved into rock) symbols left by ancient Yuma tribes. We were also privileged to attend an Indian Pow-Wow on the Mohave Reservation while there. Another worthwhile side trip took us south to Lake Hauasu, AZ to see the London Bridge

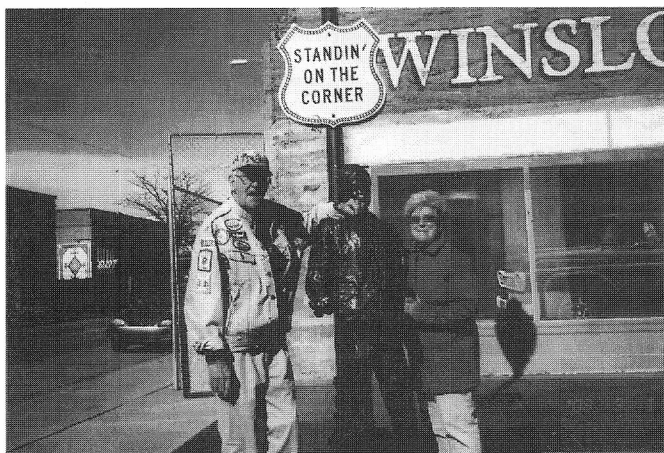
Back on the Mother Road we visited the area of Oatman, Cool Springs, Golden Shores then onward to California!!! Passing through Essex we saw the "Public Art" along "66" and observed from a distance the 29 Palms Marine Training Center where our brave soldiers learn to defend us so that we can be safe in our everyday lives. Amboy is a perfect example of what one man can do to bring an area back to its former glory. The gas station is now open and Roy's Café will be opening again soon thanks to Albert Okura and dedicated employee Joanne Fuentes. After overnight in Barstow onto to San Bernadino and the original McDonalds, now a museum, where we met Mr. Okura himself and his father. Could not miss sleeping in a "wigwam" in Rialto and were delighted to meet the new proprietors who are trying very hard to maintain a standard of excellence. Dinner at another Roadside Attraction "Mitka's"!!!

Like all trips there must be turnaround and ours was in Glendora. We had decided not to venture into L.A. since we had accomplished this part of the trip three years ago. A must for us was dinner at a 50's diner called "Legends". Next morning was the beginning of our return trip home with the same excitement as we stopped in Victorville and saw the "Hula Girl" exhibit and many others at the Museum. Just missed Jim Conkle!!!

Just north of Barstow we had breakfast at "Peggy Sue's" (named after Buddy Holly's famous song and owner Peggy Sue) A bit off the road but well worth the side trip. A last minute decision had us driving west again to Bakersfield where yours truly (Marty) spent much of his time in the 50's with Army buddies. Quite a change in the area including 100's of wind turbines in the mountains, Edwards AFB and Blue Star Highway 58.

Revisited Daggett, CA and saw first hand the wonderful ongoing restoration of The El Garces Hotel in Needles – to open in late 2008.

Coming back from a trip always seems faster but we took our time enjoying the beautiful sky and red mountains in Arizona.



"Stood on the Corner" in Winslow with a group of 25 bikers from CA on their way to the east coast. Coming east we did great until Mother Nature again intervened in Amarillo forcing us to have another Big Texan steak and check out "The Triangle Motel" currently awaiting restoration yet standing tall on Amarillo Blvd. (66). This delay was meant to be since we were able to hook up with Bob "Crocodile" Lyle at the Blessed Mary's Restaurant in Groom, TX where we were all blessed by Sister Jane and Jim Moraniec. Onward to OK - another highlight was throwing size 14 shoes up in the shoe tree outside of Stroud - someone might be wearing them as you read this article. Touching base with the many friends we have made in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri on the way back made our trip complete. The state organizations and museums are all functioning well and invite everyone to partake in this great opportunity of traveling the road. There were spots where some debris was visible and towns that are truly "dust towns" which did bring a tear to our eye but we returned home with so many pleasant memories again that we had smiles on our faces!!!!

"Remember- If you don't go you won't know!"
Marty and Geri Bilecki

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: FALL ELECTIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Date: Sunday, October 19, 2008

Location: To Be Announced, Bloomington, IL

Board meeting will be at 10:30 AM

Lunch break (on your own) from Noon to 1:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING/ELECTIONS at 1:00 PM

Up for election are the positions of:

Officers:

Vice President and Treasurer

Board Members:

DuPage County—Livingston County—Montgomery County—Macoupin County and 1 At-Large Board positions

If interested come to the July Board meeting and let your intentions be known! More information will be posted after July 1, 2008 on the website.

"The New Concrete Road" or Old Route 66

Stories From the Road!

By Eugene Lyons, Odell, Illinois

After doing chores and going to church, we used to go from Cornell to Odell in our old 1930 Buick to see my old maid aunt and my bachelor uncle. Then we would take the "New Concrete Road" to Pontiac, not knowing that one-day this two-lane highway would be the famous Route 66. We came into Pontiac on the north side past the Old State Police Station, which is still standing on the corner of Ladd and Lincoln. Then on through the west side of Pontiac, over the river, past Rodino's Square to Chenoa, all on the "new road". There we would visit Grandpa, and Grandma, and her sister Aunt Ellen. Aunt Ellen was very rich and could afford to eat at Steve's Café once in a great while. She got paid room and board plus twenty dollars (\$20.00) a month as a one-room school teacher (all 8 grades) at Ocoya. After visiting an hour or so we went back to the farm at Cornell to milk cows, and feed the pigs and chickens. So went our Sunday!

Once a week, usually on Saturday, we went to town for groceries. I got to go with Mom since I was big enough to help carry the groceries. We stopped at Bob Duffy's where a bottle of Coke was a nickel; a candy bar a penny! Mom would usually buy 100 lbs. of flour, 100 lbs. of potatoes, and 50 pounds of sugar to keep our family of eleven relatives. We traded for eggs and cream from our farm that helped. Between the grocery store on Ladd Street and Duffy's was a gas station called City Service because they pumped your gas and washed your windshield. When I started driving, we used to play cards there – that is, after the shift change at the police station and the cops left! The "drive in" Root Beer stand was down from where the cleaners are now. When I was seventeen a frosted mug full of delicious root beer cost 5 cents, a quarter bought root beer and a hamburger. My friends and I went to the drive-in to see who was in town on Saturday night. Capes Beer Hall was also on Ladd Street. It was a rowdy place. Across the street was Martin's gas station where gas was 11 cents a gallon. We didn't buy it there because we had our own gas on the farm for 9 cents a gallon!

The Riverside tavern was on the west side of the street. This place was a little rough and tough. Anyone who got out of hand was thrown in the river. Many a guy learned to swim there. He also got sober in a hurry!

Rodino Square was the garden spot of the south edge of Pontiac. Rodino's vegetable gardens were located a half-mile along "The New Concrete Highway." He grew produce for his old farm truck, which he drove through Pontiac selling its contents. Farmland took up the west side of the highway. On the east side of old Route 66 was a railroad track known as the BP and J. The tracks led from Bloomington to Pontiac and on to Joliet. The train was called the Bump, Push, and Jerk!

April 29, 1940

When I was twelve years old Mom and I went to town to Bob Duffy's in our old Buick. We got our week's supply of groceries and started home. I was in the front seat with my mother and I turned around to get something to eat out of the sack in the back seat! Then I spied my first tornado blowing away the north side of Pontiac. I turned to my mother and said "Mom, the town is being blown away!" She said, "Don't lie!" I said "But it is blowing away!" And my mother said "DON'T LIE!" She did not believe me until she read about it in the paper the next day. Everything – farm buildings, homes, all were wiped out on the north end of the New Concrete Highway except the old police station.

A mother was taking care of her children in one of the homes blown away by the tornado. She put the children under the table and crawled under herself. The house was blown away off the foundation and the woman and her children were still sitting under the table (so the story goes).

I lived and worked in Elgin three times. Once before I went to the Army, then when I got home from the Army the first time, next after I was out of the army the second time. All 3 times I raced the "Abe Lincoln" every weekend while coming home for Saturday and Sunday. The Abraham Lincoln train, when it was on time, was in Plainfield at 9 PM. From Plainfield to Joliet was forty miles of good concrete Route 66 Road with a speed limit of "safe and sane" or at least 100 MPH. I needed this speed limit to keep up with the Abraham Lincoln. From Joliet there was nothing but a few small towns to slow me down and therefore I could catch the "Abe" again. At Pontiac "Abe" got away from me because I turned there to go home to the farm.

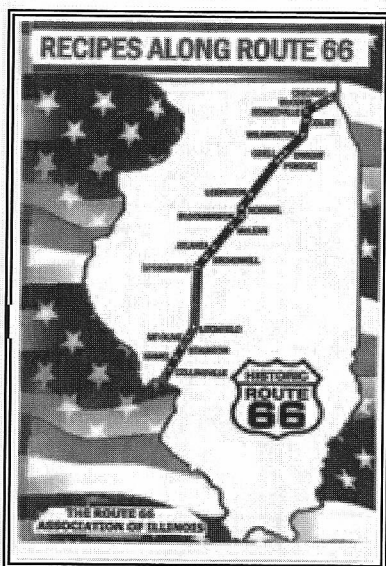
My next adventure on old Route 66 was when I moved back from Elgin to the farm. I drove the load down to visit my sisters at Illinois State/Normal University and go to the original Steak and Shake and have a nice, long visit.

Before I knew it I was running back and forth on old 66 every week to visit my new girlfriend at Illinois Wesleyan University. Time passed and we were married. We made many trips before and after marriage to hauling cattle and hogs to Chicago on Route 66 in our 46 Chevy 1 1/2 ton truck to earn a little extra cash. The trip was always made at night so farmers wouldn't have to pay a days rent on the pen, also we would be there in time for the auction in the morning. We were always loaded and en route by 8 PM because it was an all night trip.

Some of our more memorable trips were taking the kids down old Route 66 to the State Fair in Springfield. We'd get up early and pack plenty of food, and sometimes a 4 H entry. It was a 3-hour trip and the tired, but happy kids would sleep all the way home.

My wife got involved with a bunch of books that Lucille Goodrich, Superintendent of Livingston County Schools, was going to dispose of. She made arrangements to transport the books to Mc Curdy Indian School in Arizona by way of our old Dodge Motor Home. We packed the whole thing full of books except for the two front seats. The first night we tried to sleep in the front seats. It didn't work so we uncovered a path to the bed and piled the books high on the front seats! Then we slept! It took 3 days to get there because at that time you still drove most of the western end of the trip on Old Route 66. We blew both inside duals as we entered Arizona, which created a slight problem, finding tires and and someone to put them on. We finally were relieved and finally were relieved of our burden of books so we could go home.

That is my story of the "New Concrete Highway" better known as old Route 66. Thank you for letting me share my stories.



The Route 66 Association of Illinois Presents

"Recipes Along Route 66!"

An Exciting New Cookbook!

**Now Available at
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Illinois Hall of Fame Museum
110 W. Howard St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-IL66 (4566)**

or

**Visit our Website at
<http://www.il66assoc.org/>**

**\$10.00 each
plus shipping
\$4.00**

English Visitors Enjoy American Road Trip, Route 66 hospitality

By Terri Ryburn

Members of the Canterbury (England), Sister Cities Association were recently in Bloomington-Normal. The group had their very first road trip—along Route 66. Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress Cyril and Leslie Windsor, William Pettit, Civic and International Manager of the Canterbury City Council, and delegation members Gabrielle Lockley and John Kemp toured the Odell Standard Oil Station, then stopped for photos at the Cayuga Meramec Caverns barn. They spent time at the Route 66 Museum/War Museum in Pontiac, where they viewed the recently installed exhibit of 166 Mike Campanelli photographs documenting the entire length of Route 66 and met with war veterans. Mayor Scott McCoy and his wife, Jennifer, Bob Karls, Ellie Alexander, Jim Jones, Marilyn and Durrelle Pritchard, and many others extended their hospitality to the group. They paused for a photo with Abraham Lincoln, then enjoyed an authentic road meal at the Old Log Cabin restaurant before driving along "Memory Lane" in Lexington, on their way back to Normal.



Canterbury delegation at the Courthouse square in Pontiac, Lincoln, Leslie Windsor, Cyril Windsor and John Kemp.

PRESERVATION INFORMATION LIBRARY

By John Weiss

The mission statement of the Route 66 Association of Illinois is to PRESERVE, PROMOTE, EDUCATE and ENJOY historic Route 66 in Illinois.

Without preservation the other three become useless. Since the early 1990s, the preservation committee has enjoyed great success in many ways. It must not be forgotten that preservation is not only saving and restoring structures and places, but also the oral histories and the memorabilia found in our Route 66 Museum & Hall of Fame. Our outstanding volunteers have given many, many hours of dedicated service. Without volunteers the Route 66 Association would not exist.

The important aspect of a successful preservation committee is not only the active volunteers, but also knowledge on how to get the job done. There is so much to learn. In order to continue with our past successes, we need to educate our current and future chairman and volunteers.

During the many years that I served as preservation chairman, I learned so many things, more than I could possibly pass on. (Continued on page 13.)

Route 66 Association of Illinois Preservation Committee Volunteers "...work for food" in Normal

By Terri Ryburn

On April 5 twenty-two volunteers from the Preservation Committee of the Route 66 Association of Illinois showed up to remove non-original materials from 305 E. Pine Street in Normal. Built in 1931 as a restaurant, gas station, and garage along the original alignment of Route 66, it will soon be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The volunteers came from all over Illinois, as well as Eastpointe, Michigan, and Schererville, Indiana. Signing in to work were Jerry Law, Jan and Dean Kelley, Bill Kelley, Mike Cummings, John and Lenore Weiss, Kathy and John Miller, Lou Vargo, Tami, Paul, Alyssa and Andrew Panczuk, Joe Gniadek, Bill Gwodz, Jamie Anderson, Michael Hersh, Rebecca Dwyer, Robert Killackey, Loretta Dwyer, and Bill Sanders.

The Preservation Committee motto is: "Will work for food," although it was difficult to get them to stop work long enough for a cup of coffee or a lunch break. Thanks to their hard work removing lowered ceilings, paneling, shelving, and carpeting, and in clearing out the building, it is closer to the goal of restoration to its 1931 condition.

Late-breaking news: Thanks to a grant from the Town of Normal, the building will soon have a new roof.



Exhausted, exuberant work crew on gas station island at the end of a long day at 305 E. Pine Street, Normal, IL.



Workers throw 1970's-era refrigerator off flat roof behind the station.

PRESERVATION INFORMATION LIBRARY CONTINUED

This Preservation Library will contain numerous "How To" publications. There will also be research books that I have accumulated. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency was offering for sale a package of their most commonly requested books and booklets. In order to afford this useful collection, a financial sponsor was needed. The City of Pontiac stepped forward and completely paid for the entire package. **Thank you!**

This collection will be available to any Route 66 member or Route 66 community. However, none of the materials can be removed from the museum. A research study area will be provided. This collection will continue to grow. To my knowledge, there is nothing like this anywhere on Route 66.

If you have any research items or highway blue prints, bridge or road building information, past or present, please consider adding it to our library. We sure can use it. The Preservation Information Library will be located on the upper level of the Route 66 Museum in Pontiac.

SUCCESS!

By John Weiss, Preservationist

On last year's motor tour, most of you enjoyed driving on, for the first time, the very original piece of Route 66 south of Lake Springfield. This section of road dates back to around 1920. It is constructed of Portland cement and is 16 feet wide. This road is part of Route 66 before they created the man made Lake Springfield in the early 1930s. A good portion of this original road is now located under water. However, the southern piece of Route 66 was not affected and has continued on for over 80 years as a usable road.

In 2007, I learned that this piece of nostalgia was scheduled for destruction. In order to save it I discussed the options with a number of helpful people. We decided that the best course of action was to try and have one mile of this road placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

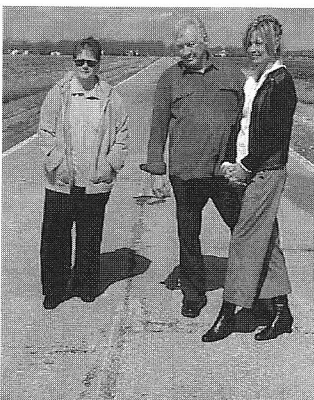
This is a very time consuming paperwork project. I asked Dorothy Seratt/McMullen to help. She agreed even though she now lives in Georgia. Between numerous acts of correspondence, Dorothy was able to complete the application. It was accepted for presentation to the National Register Advisory Board in Springfield.

On March 14, 2008, Dorothy drove in from Georgia to assist me in the presentation. The advisory board consists of numerous experts in the historic preservation field from all over the state. We made our presentation, answered some questions, and then the board voted unanimously to recommend our piece of road for inclusion onto the National Register of Historic Places. This report then goes to another committee for final evaluation. If this final committee concurs (and they usually do when it is unanimous), then it will be accepted.

Will this save the road? NO! This merely provides a historical tool that must be considered before any destruction would take place.

A large group was in the audience to lend support to our presentation. They were Lenore Weiss, Joe Gniadek, Bill & Barb Gwodz, Patty Ambrose and Holly Shafer. Also assisting us was Anne Haaker of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Funding was provided by John Ruh and the Route 66 Association of Illinois. The story was extensively covered by Tim Landis of the Springfield State Journal Register who was also in attendance.

FOOT NOTE: This section of road is one of the most historic and fascinating sections of Route 66 in the state. Mr. Carl Johnson has researched this extensively and has written two (2) excellent articles about it. They appear in the *Route 66 Federation News*. To purchase copies of both stories contact David Knudson of the National Historic Route 66 Federation at national66@national66.org, or phone 909-336-6131. Website www.national66.org. This preservation magazine is highly recommended reading. I suggest that any of you who are interested in preserving Route 66 sign up for membership.



Dorothy, John and Lenore on Route 66



Henry's Ra66it Ranch

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Route 66 Staunton, IL 62088 USA

Route66@midwest.net

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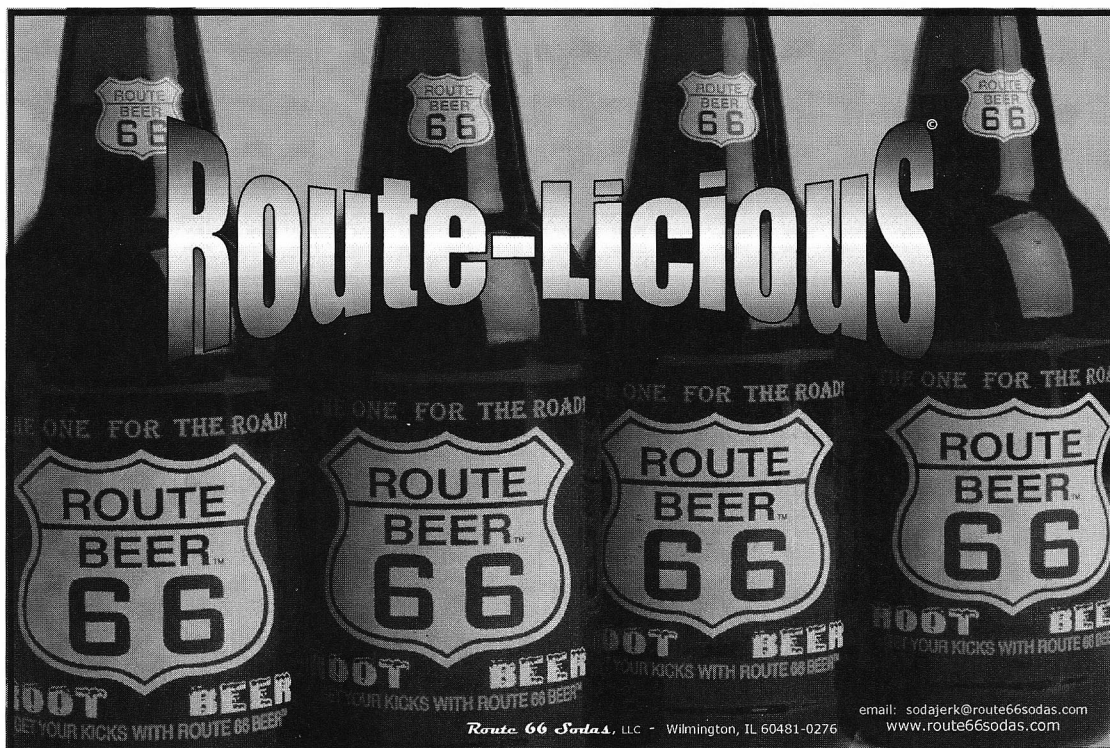
PICNIC TIME!!!

The Annual Route 66 Association of Illinois Annual Picnic!

The Route 66 Association of Illinois will be holding their Annual picnic on Sunday, September 21, 2008 at Island Park in Wilmington. The picnic will start at 11 AM, lunch to be served around Noon. The Association will provide the meat, buns, condiments, plates, napkins, eating utensils, and beverages. Please bring a dish to pass (share). Please RSVP so we will have enough food for everyone! Simply email your responses to either blitz66@earthlink.net or fill out the form below and mail it no later than September 1st, 2008.

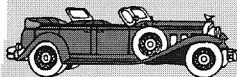
MAIL TO: PICNIC
The Route 66 Association of Illinois
110 W. Howard Street
Pontiac, IL 61764
NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER _____
NUMBER OF ADULTS _____ CHILDREN UNDER 12 _____



19TH ANNUAL
ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS
MOTOR TOUR

REDISCOVER ROUTE 66
CHAIN OF ROCKS BRIDGE TO
WILMINGTON



Friday, Saturday, Sunday
June 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2008

Friday night registration - Scotty's in Hamel * Saturday Chain of Rocks Bridge * Granite City
* Staunton * Girard * Springfield * Williamsville * Elkhart * Broadwell * Lincoln
* Atlanta * McLean * Lexington * Pontiac * Gardner * Wilmington

Join us for the Hall of Fame Dinner at Lincoln College-unlimited buffet and
Elvis Himself & His 5 Piece Band entertaining before the Hall of Fame Program
Dinner is an all you can eat buffet by Chef Warren Wendlandt
Featuring Meat Loaf, Chicken Fried Steak, and over 20 dishes!
Desserts included: Assorted Lemon Bars & Chocolate Frosted Brownies
Coffee, Ice Tea, Water, and Lemonade included.
Cash bar available from 6 PM until 9 PM, proceeds to benefit the College.

For more information please call:

Jaime Anderson 847-721-6743 Marty Bilecki 815-941-3312
Cathie Stevanovich 708 444-1312 Jerry Law 618-251-4892



Any vehicle * any model * any make *
Tour goes on rain or shine-no refunds
You may join the tour or leave it at any time!!

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

-----MAIL TO:-----

MOTOR TOUR 9280 DRUMMOND DRIVE TINLEY PARK, IL 60487

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Motor Tour Registration Fee: Members \$30.00 _____

Non-Member Fee (includes a 1 year Membership) \$50 _____

We plan to attend the Hall of Fame Banquet at Lincoln College Adults \$25 _____

Children under 12 \$12.50 _____

DO NOT MAIL AFTER MAY 15TH

TOTAL: _____

-Please do not combine Motor Tour & Membership Renewals on the same check

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MOTEL LIST FOR THE 2008 MOTOR TOUR

FRIDAY NIGHT RESERVATIONS - JUNE 6TH

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

RESERVE YOUR ROOMS BY MAY 15TH FOR THESE SPECIAL RATES!

COMFORT INN	HAMPTON INN & SUITE	HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
3080 South State Route 157 Edwardsville, IL 618-656-4900 \$66.00 plus tax 50 rooms blocked	5723 Heritage Crossing Drive Glen Carbon, IL 618-589-5000 \$79.00 plus tax 45 rooms blocked	14 Regency Parkway Pontoon Beach, IL 618-797-1200 \$90 plus tax 30 rooms blocked

SATURDAY NIGHT RESERVATIONS - JUNE 7th

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

HAMPTON INN	HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS	AMERICA'S BEST VALUE INN
Lincoln Brand new hotel !!! Reserve AFTER April 14th please 217-732-6729 Ext 3 64 rooms blocked	130 Olson Road Lincoln, IL 217-735-5800 \$79.00 plus tax Call for availability	103 Empire Atlanta, IL 217-648-2322 \$45.00 plus tax 25 rooms blocked

HALL OF FAME BANQUET IS AT LINCOLN COLLEGE IN LINCOLN!!!

Maps and directions will be mailed upon receipt of Motor Tour Registration.

Maps and directions will also be available on the website

www.il66assoc.org as of May 15th, 2008

PLEASE NOTE: Hall of Fame Dinner ticket pickup is at the
Hall of Fame dinner only!!!

ELVIS HIMSELVIS and his 5 piece band will entertain starting at 6 PM

Cash bar starts at 6 PM

Hall of Fame Dinner starts at 7 PM

Hall of Fame Program begins at 8 PM

ALL WELCOME * ANY VEHICLE * ANY YEAR * ANY MAKE * RAIN OR SHINE
Registration Friday night in Hamel, Saturday morning at the Chain of Rocks Bridge

Last Name	Street Address	City	Phone
Atlanta Public Library	100 Race St.	Atlanta, IL 61723	217-648-2112
Brown's Wrecker Service	13816 N. 900 East Road	Bloomington, IL 61701	309-828-3753
Casey's Garden Shop, Inc.	1505 N. Main St.	Bloomington, IL 61701	309-828-1424
McLean County Historical Society	200 N. Main St.	Bloomington, IL 61701	309-827-3428
City of Bolingbrook	375 W. Briarcliff	Bolingbrook, IL 60440	
Polk-A-Dot Drive-In	222 N. Front St.	Braidwood, IL 60408	815-458-3377
Midwest Digital Mapping	P.O. Box 105	Cantrall, IL 62625	217-494-4057
City of Carlinville	21480 B. Route 4	Carlinville, IL 62626	217-854-7727
Berghoff Restaurant	17 West Adams St.	Chicago, IL 60603	312-427-3170
Lou Mitchell's Restaurant	565 W. Jackson Blvd.	Chicago, IL 60661	
Mt. Greenwood Auto	10319 S. Kedzie Ave.	Chicago, IL 60655	773-779-3144
Chenoa Pharmacy	209 Green St.	Chenoa, IL 61726	
City of Chenoa	PO Box 167	Chenoa, IL 61726	
South of Chicago, Inc.	3430 W. Oak Hill Drive	Crete, IL 60417	
Corner Bar	200 S. First St.	Divernon, IL 62530	217-628-3605
Dwight Historical Society	119 W. Main St.	Dwight, IL 60420	815-584-1652
First National Bank of Dwight	122 W. Main St.	Dwight, IL 60420	815-584-1212
Rub, Old, Chevrolet, Buick	200 S. Franklin St.	Dwight, IL 60420	815-584-2336
The 50's Place	405 W. Mazon Ave.	Dwight, IL 60420	815-584-1065
Village of Dwight	209 S. Prairie	Dwight, IL 60420	815-584-3077
Comfort Inn	3080 S. State Route 157	Edwardsville, IL 62025	618-656-4900
Edwardsville-Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce	200 University Park Drive, # 260	Edwardsville, IL 62025	618-656-7600
Edwardsville Perservation Commerce	118 Hillsboro Ave	Edwardsville, IL 62025	618-692-7530
Riviera Restaurant	PO Box 514	Gardner, IL 60424	815-237-2344
Village of Gardner	302 N. Center St	Gardner, IL 60424	815-237-2592
4 Your Stuff Storage	3117 W. Chain of Rocks Road	Granite City, IL 62040	618-797-7900
Canal Motel/TT's Bar and Grill	3317 W. Chain of Rocks Road	Granite City, IL 62040	618-797-2338
Route 66 Auto Body	PO Box 385	Hamel, IL 62046	618-633-2694
Scotty's Route 66 Bar & Grill	108 Old Route 66., P.O. Box 432	Hamel, IL 62046	618-633-2228
Village of Hamel	PO Box 345	Hamel, IL 62046	
Calhoun County Ford	PO Box 388	Hardin, IL 62047	618-576-2227
Ben Benson	150 W. Jefferson St.	Joliet, IL 60432	
Joliet Area Historical Museum, Inc.	204 N. Ottawa St.	Joliet, IL 60432	815-723-5201
Rialto Theater	15 E. Van Buren St.	Joliet, IL 60432	815-726-7171
Abraham Lincoln Tourism	1555 Fifth St.	Lincoln, IL 62656	217-732-8687
Lincoln Printers, Inc.	711 Broadway St.	Lincoln, IL 62656	217-732-3121
Redwood Motel	725 Hickox Drive	Lincoln, IL 62656	217-732-4113
Route 66 Heritage Foundation/ Logan County	1555 Fifth St.	Lincoln, IL 62656	217-732-8687
Ariston Cafe	413 N. Old Route 66	Litchfield, IL 62056	217-324-2023
Wolf Pack Car Club	1310 E. Union Ave.	Litchfield, IL 62056	217-324-5862
Lockport Dental Group	230 E. 8th St., Suite #5	Lockport, IL 60441	815-858-6102
Luna Cafe	201 E. Chain of Rocks Road	Mitchell, IL 62040	618-931-3152
City of Morris	320 Wauponsee St.	Morris, IL 60450	815-942-0103
City of Mt.Olive	200 E. Main St.	Mt. Olive, IL 62069	217-999-4261
Crossroads Route 66 Diner	21535 Lake Ka-Ho Road	Mt. Olive, IL 62069	217-851-5123
Bob Green Auto Service	1847 New Salem Church	New Berlin, IL 62670	
History Construction Management, LLC.	300 W. Henry St.	Odell, IL 60460	815-998-2756
Old Route 66 Family Restaurant	PO Box 22	Odell, IL 60460	815-584-2920
Rentz's Tap & Dining	210 Waupansie	Odell, IL 60460	815-998-2383

Standard Station of Odell	408 E. Howard	Odell, IL 60460	
eSeMBe Technical Services	324 Forest Blvd	Park Forest, IL 60466	708-231-8794
Bernardi's II, Inc.	123 N. Mill St.	Pontiac, IL 61764	815-842-1198
City of Pontiac	115 W. Howard	Pontiac, IL 61764	
Livingston County History Society	115 W. Howard	Pontiac, IL 61764	
Old Log Cabin Inn	18700 N. Aurora	Pontiac, IL 61764	815-842-2908
Patti's Haircutting Cabin	819 E. Madison St.	Pontiac, IL 61764	815-842-3438
Pontiac Family Kitchen	904 W. Custer Ave.	Pontiac, IL 61764	815-844-3155
Proud Pontiac	120 W. Howard St.	Pontiac, IL 61764	815-844-6692
Three Roses Bed & Breakfast	209 E. Howard St.	Pontiac, IL 61764	815-844-3404
White Fence Farm	1376 Joliet Road	Romeoville, IL 60446	630-739-1720
Amco Fence Co.	2919 S. Macarthur	Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-2921
Branham Body & Paint	4125 Peoria Road	Springfield, IL 62702	217-528-9654
Burris & Son Trucking	2831 S. Whither	Springfield, IL 62704	
C & A Custom Kitchens	3500 Clear Lake Road	Springfield, IL 62702	217-523-0170
Champion Garage, Inc.	820 Black Ave.	Springfield, IL 62702	217-522-4114
Cozy Dog Drive In	2935 S. Sixth St.	Springfield, IL 62703	217-525-1992
Curve Inn, Inc.	3219 S. 6th St. Road	Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-5803
Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project, Inc.	700 E. Adams	Springfield, IL 62701	217-525-7980
IL. State Police Museum	3936 N. Peoria Road	Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-1922
Lindsey Electric, Inc.	3260 Terminal Ave.	Springfield, IL 62707	217-544-6789
Maverick Steak House	1104 W. Reynolds	Springfield, IL 62702	217-787-4660
Mid Illinois Caliper	2803 N. Dirksen	Springfield, IL 62702	217-528-9365
Moscardelli Moving & Storage	709 N. Lincoln	Springfield, IL 62702	217-787-4043
Northend Illini Bank	2120 Peoria Road	Springfield, IL 62707	217-544-0139
Oldham Graphic Supply	2056 Republic	Springfield, IL 62702	217-528-4649
Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center	625 E. Saint Joseph St.	Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-6626
Serials Section, Illinois State Library	300 South 2nd St.	Springfield, IL 62701	217-785-4127
Springfield Overhead Doors	421 N. Lincoln	Springfield, IL 62702	217-787-2602
Watt's Bros. Drug Store	830 N. Grand	Springfield, IL 62704	217-522-3331
City of Staunton	303 W. Main	Staunton, IL 62088	
Country Classic Cars, L.L.C.	2149 E. Frontage Road	Staunton, IL 62088	618-635-7056
DeCamp Junction	8767 State Route 4 South	Staunton, IL 62088	618-637-2951
Henry's Ra66it Ranch	1107 Historic Old Route 66	Staunton, IL 62088	618-635-5655
Kicks Bar & Grill	19578 N. 1960 East Road	Towanda, IL 61776	309-728-2060
Patterson Bros. Oil	141 S. Pine	Williamsville, IL 62693	217-566-3328
Angelo's Ben Franklin	706 W. Baltimore St.	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-746-9091
Camz Retro, Inc.	203 N. Water St.	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-476-7009
De-Ja-Vu Rt 66	113 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-476-7774
G & D Tire and Alignment	200 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-476-7744
Launching Pad Drive In	810 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-476-6535
Route 66 Choppers, Inc.	260 School St.	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-476-2477
Route 66 Sodas, LLC	P.O. Box 276	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-458-2594
Wilmington Chamber of Chamber	111 S. Water St.	Wilmington, IL 60481	815-476-5991
Del Rhea's Chicken Basket	645 Joliet Road	Willowbrook, IL 60521	630-325-0780

**Please “Thank” and Support
Our Association’s Business Members!!!**

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SUMMER 2008 QUARTERLY MEETING SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2008

Hall of Fame member: DELL RHEA'S CHICKEN BASKET
645 Joliet Road, Willowbrook

Board Meeting 10:30 AM

Noon to 1 PM Lunch break

Special luncheon available – 1/2 fried chicken, French fries, coleslaw, rolls and unlimited soft drinks for \$15. Reservations for the dinner must be made by Wednesday, July 16, 2008 by contacting Bill Gwodz at BBGX2@aol.com or 630-910-3422.

General Meeting 1:00 PM

Guest Speaker at 2:30 PM



License Plate on Jerry Law's 1974 Ford LTD



License Plate on Jerry Law's 2006 Grand Marquis

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE 66 NEWS

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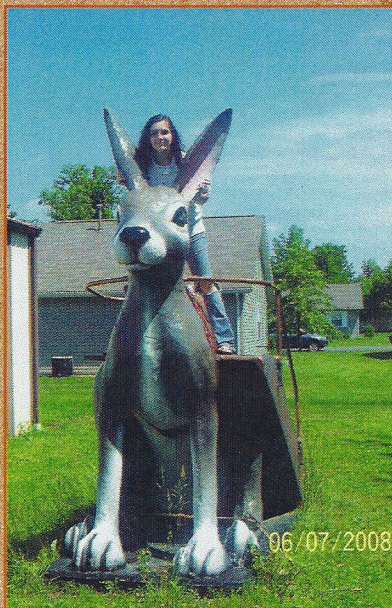
THE 66 NEWS



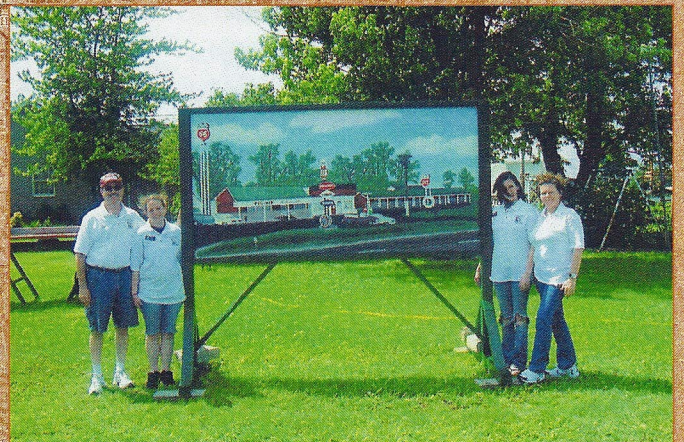
"Hard at work at the Mill" Preservation - August 08



Thresherman's Parade - September 08.



Motor Tour - June 08.
"Ride, Em Rabbit"



Ernie Edward's Pig Hip Memorial - June 08.

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

The Route 66 Association is a non-for-profit organization. Its purpose is to preserve, protect, educate, and enjoy Route 66. The Board Members are available to answer questions at most reasonable times. Publication Information: The 66 news is published on/near the 15th of March, June, September, and December. Contributions are accepted without compensation. Authors retain all copyright privileges. Submit all stories, photos and ads at least 8 weeks prior to publication.

Send to The Route 66 News, C/O The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame & Museum, 110 W. Howard, Pontiac, IL 61764.

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Website:

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FALL 2008 - From The Desk of Our President

The days are flying by – so enjoy the last few warm weekends before Old Man Winter gets here!!! There are so many events on Route 66 in the Fall – and the calendars of the towns along the road promise great events next spring and summer!! The current economic times are tough – but times like these brought out the best in those that lived and worked along the Mother Road.

The 2008 International Mother Road Festival was **September 26th thru the 28th** on the streets of downtown Springfield. Our Association was there promoting the Association, selling patches, cookbooks, and tshirts on the south side of the Old State Capital Plaza. The weather was beautiful and the turnout of show cars was impressive.

October 4th our Association was at the Route 66 Festival on the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. We had a table on the Illinois side. There was a classic car show on the entire bridge, and vendors on the Illinois and Missouri sides. There was a band, a “sock hop”, and a “walk-in” movie (American Graffiti). On the Missouri side, there were vendors and art work. The Missouri Association had a great booth! Trailnet has lost funding due to government and state grant cutbacks, so Illinois made a great turnout to help show support for Trailnet. Next year the city of Madison and Trailnet promise to make the day even better.

October 11th is The Pumpkin Festival in Girard, Illinois. This wonderful 66 community hosted our Motor Tour lunch this year. We had talked about participating in the pumpkin chunking contest but were unable to get a crew together in time. Check their website Girardilusa.com for festival details.

Sunday, October 12, 2008, at 10:00 A.M. Preservation Workday. Touch-up paint work at the Meramec Cavern advertising on the Barn in Cayuga, Illinois (just north of Pontiac). Ladders and scaffolding may be needed. If you’ve never volunteered to help out on a Preservation project, you are missing a lot of fun. For this project we’ll need help with the horses that live on the farm, so if you’re good with either a brush or a horse, we need you! Joe’s email is USROUTE66IL@gmail.com

2009 Will be the 20th Anniversary Motor Tour. We are asking if you’ll share your favorite Motor Tour memory photo with us. We will be putting together 2 quilts for one for the museum, one to be raffled away. We will be copying your favorite photo onto fabric and making the 20th Anniversary quilt a special way to highlight our past. Photos can be emailed to cathiesb@earthlink.net or mailed to QUILT C/O Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame & Museum, 110 W. Howard Street, Pontiac, IL 61764. All photos will be returned.

Our Association’s elections will be held at the Route 66 Association Hall of Fame and Museum on **Sunday, October 19th**. It will be wonderful to show off our museum and **ride the new elevator to the 2nd floor**. The Board meeting will be from 10:30 to Noon, then a lunch break (on your own) from Noon to 1 PM. The General Meeting and Election will be at 1 PM.

We have so much to be thankful for – we’ve had another great year of tourism including Sir Paul McCartney’s visit – which goes to show that even he knew to celebrate his 66th on Route 66. Is there anything better?

Looking forward to seeing you on the road!

Cathie Stevanovich
President, Route 66 Association of Illinois

KRUZIN WITH THE BILECKI'S

By

Marty and Geri Bilecki

Late April brought us our first foreign visitors from the Czech Republic to Chicago and our meeting in Joliet. This group of Czech citizens, led by Zdenek Jurasek, has their own Route 66 Association and traveled the route in three rental vans and three Harleys. President Cathy Stevanovich met up with the group and us for dinner in Joliet. The next day we were honored to escort them from Joliet to Towanda. Stops along the way were - the Joliet Museum, Launching Pad in Wilmington, Polk-a-Dot in Braidwood, two-cell jail in Gardner. Pictures were taken and enthusiasm shared with John

Weiss. Of course, the Hall of Fame museum in Pontiac was also a must stop where we were met by Jim Jones. What a great way to start a spring and summer of cruising "66".

The Kiwanis Club of Morris, IL extended an invitation to us to speak at their May breakfast meeting to spread the word to their members about Route 66 and our Association. We were happy to accept their invitation and enjoyed meeting with the movers and shakers of this community and extended the invitation to all to fall in love with the road and travel it as many others and we have.

Forty-one days in February and March still did not satisfy our appetite for route 66 travel so on May 15th we chose again to travel the road in Illinois and headed for the Gay Parita in Ash Grove, MO. on 66. We delivered a 1948 Coca Cola refrigerator box to Gary Turner to refinish and display in his 1930 circa Sinclair station. Dean "crazy legs" Walker and Paula met us there to help unload the cooler. While there we were all surprised and delighted to have a tour bus pull up and out comes Emily Priddy - tour guide - and recent Will Rogers 2008 award recipient in Litchfield, IL.. We always seem to meet up with her on the road somewhere!!! Could not leave the area without spending a night at the famous Rail Haven Motel in Springfield, MO.

Off the road a little to Branson (the city who wishes it was on route 66) to attend the Freedom Ride kick off celebration for the 2008 "Ride to the Wall" in Washington, D.C.

The kick off took place at the Dick Clark Theater (member of the Route 66 Association of MO) and culminated for the 2,000 plus bikers on Memorial Day in D.C. We were proud to attend these patriotic events since Marty is a U.S. Army veteran.

Leaving Branson we headed back to "66" to, of course, stop at Wrinkes Market in Lebanon and the new Cuba icon "The Tallest Rocking Chair" - just west of Cuba in Fanning. Cuba also has a new mural in the Viva Cuba Garden with a train replica.

Overnight was in St.Clair with dinner at the 70 year Lewis restaurant in an almost deserted



downtown. A tear formed in our eyes just like Indian Chief Iron Eyes Cody!!!

June started with a bang with the Illinois Motor Tour (Re-Discover Route 66) and Hall of Fame Banquet. Good turnout for both despite gas prices and economic times. Hats off to everyone who worked so hard to make these events the success that they were. The work involved in putting this together is monumental. Also, congratulations to all of the Hall of Fame winners selected for 2008. We were especially delighted that our nominee "The Catsup Bottle" from Collinsville was chosen this year. The excitement was intensified when Judy Demosey's daughter, co-incidentally named Brook, was presented with an engagement ring right before the dinner.

On to Litchfield from the 18th to the 22nd of June to take part in the city festival and car show (with 160 other cars). This city also hosted, for the week-end, the National Route 66 Summit for 2008 and the Will Roger Awards Event with Jim Conkle as Master of Ceremonies and Michael Wallis as the



key-note speaker. The entire weekend was learning experience - including meeting representatives from other state associations. Also in attendance were representatives from the Canadian Route 66 Association, President Bonnie and George Game, Swa Frantzen from Belgium Section 66 (another Will Rogers 2008 Award winner) and other dignitaries. Roger Fox broadcasted all of the events daily on www.ridefortherelay.com. Our state association was represented for the weekend with approximately 20 members volunteering at the association's booth and in

other capacities. John and Lenore Weiss – along with Jamie Anderson – led a group of cars down from Joliet to Litchfield. Jerry Law and Joe Gniadek were leaders from the Chain of Rocks Bridge to Litchfield all giving new roadies a taste of the Mother Road

An unexpected treat was the arrival of "Tow Tater" from Galena, KS. It was a rough trip there and another rough trip home with an unfortunate accident (no one hurt badly). Think that "Tow Tater" was trying to say leave me on my corner in Galena with the "Four Women on the Route". These women also received the Will Rogers award for the New Business of the Year. Many meals and desserts were enjoyed at the Ariston Restaurant (a 2008 award winner also).

What can we say except thanks to all who, again, worked so hard to make all of the events such a success. Denise, Tonya and all of the gang from Litchfield you outdid yourselves this year. Chief B. J. Wilkinson and his fine department managed our safety and security. We salute you and wish you safety. Until 2009 let's take the time to enjoy, promote and travel the greatest road in the world!!! So many visitors from worldwide locations as you pass through the real Americana, as have repeated Wave "hello" to us. You have heard our motto – over and over again – IF YOU DON'T GO – YOU WON'T KNOW. Enjoy the rest of the year with all the road has to offer.

KEEP KRUZIN

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Joe Gniadek

Route 66 Association of Illinois' volunteers from the Preservation Committee traveled far and wide to help continue preserving the road. A nice turnout helped an icon, Ernie Edwards, along with his lovely wife Fran, do some tight landscaping work on the property of the former all time famous "Pig Hip Restaurant." Someone said they kept hearing a voice saying, "Give me one off that ole' Pig Hip, and make sure it's the left hip, 'cause its more tender!" Honestly, that may have been a ghost heard from the distant cornfield.

Work included gardening and planting some newly bought flowers into a triangle corner of the hallowed ground where the legendary Pig Hip once stood. Also, some white fencing was moved and a historic wagon was rolled in. The main work I was involved with was repainting the roadside sign red and white. This was done by removing signage currently in place, painting, the replacing the tin shields back onto the sign. Geoff Ladd stopped by in the later afternoon to help provide some taller ladders that were needed.

The "We work for food" motto went on well as Fran provided the afternoon meal consisting of sloppy joe's, baked beans, barbeque chips and soda pop. Also dessert of home-made brownies were awesome. Speaking of Fran, an interesting story unfolded. Megan Gniadek had not been to the Pig Hip since it unraveled in March 2007. As she and Fran ate lunch together, they shared some stories. Megan asked Fran, "What happened to the building?" Fran told her that as she and Ernie were walking through the charred rubble days after it had long cooled down, she saw a dead squirrel with black charred wires/wiring hanging out of its mouth. She suspected this had something to do with it. Did this squirrel contribute to the situation? Only the Shadow knows-but is sure makes for interesting folklore.

More than 6 or 7 people traveling the route stopped by throughout the day to share support and enjoy fellowship, including two guys from England. All parties had a nice chat. Projects do remain for the remainder of the year, including paint touch-up at the Cayuga barn advertising the Meremac Caverns south of Pontiac.

The host of volunteers who worked on the project included:

- Marty Schleder - Evergreen Park, IL
- Mike Hersh - Springfield, IL
- Robert Pintozzi - Downers Grove IL
- Megan Gniadek - Joliet, IL
- Cathie Stevanovich - Tinley Park, IL
- Marty Blitstein - Tinley Park, IL
- Joe Gniadek - Glendale Heights, IL
- Bobby Olson - Lincoln, IL

Some of Ernie's family members and local folks from the Lincoln/Broadwell area also helped out. Much deserved thanks go out to everyone involved. Thank You!

LITCHFIELD, ILLINOIS – A 66 TYPE OF TOWN

By:

Marty and Geri Bilecki

Want to cover all of the bases – so to speak. It was all there in historic Litchfield, IL where they recently hosted the fifth annual “Cruisin Route 66 Festival” and the Will Rogers Awards Banquet and Summit of state 66 associations. All that you had to do was go there and the following awaited you. - Informative meetings, association information booths and displays, two-day car show (160 classic cars) parked on route 66. Beautiful, is just one word to describe this city that has so much to offer to a 66 roadie. This is a city that maintains it’s own character and preserves its heritage and history even as modern, commercial activities encroach.

The weather was very co-operative – the smiles and hellos were abundant and in our humble opinion the entire weekend was a success. New friendships were made, old friends met again and newcomers got to see a community alive with Route 66 gusto. The original 1951 GMC Boom Truck “Tow Tater” and “Lightning McQueen” were there in person to the delight of the children who got to see the real truck courtesy of the “Four Women on the Route”, who have this icon on display at their café in Galena, KS. The appearance of Michael Wallis “voice of the Sheriff” in the movie “Cars” added to the excitement.

Surprise guest included noted Route 66 artist Bob Waldmire, Other Route 66 authors were highly received also and the photo opts with Tow Tater and the Lightning McQueen car were well received.

Our hats are off to a young lady, Denise Lueker and her crew in Litchfield who battled high gas prices and a slow economy that threatened the success of these events. They turned around some unavoidable circumstances to produce another great combined show. We also congratulate Mr. James Conkle, editor of the Route 66 Pulse, and his crew who contributed so much and made awards to well deserving recipients who have given their all in many different ways to keep the nostalgia, the history, and education about the Mother Road so alive. Attendees of the seminar traveled many miles and came from several foreign countries, including our Canadian neighbors, to represent their states/associations/and personally and to support these events. Attendees of the seminar discussed many positive goals of a Route 66 Alliance and if such an entity could be beneficial to all interested groups and associations. Much work is needed on this proposal. To the Litchfield Police, Fire Dept., city services and those who volunteered, especially the business community that welcomed us – **THANK YOU.**



Winners of Will Rogers Award for Newest Business on Route 66, 4 Women on the Route, Galena, KS. Left to Right: Shelby Rigg, Judy Courtney, Michael Wallis, Renee Charles, Melba Rigg and John Simon with Tow Tater in Background.

Skyview Drive-In

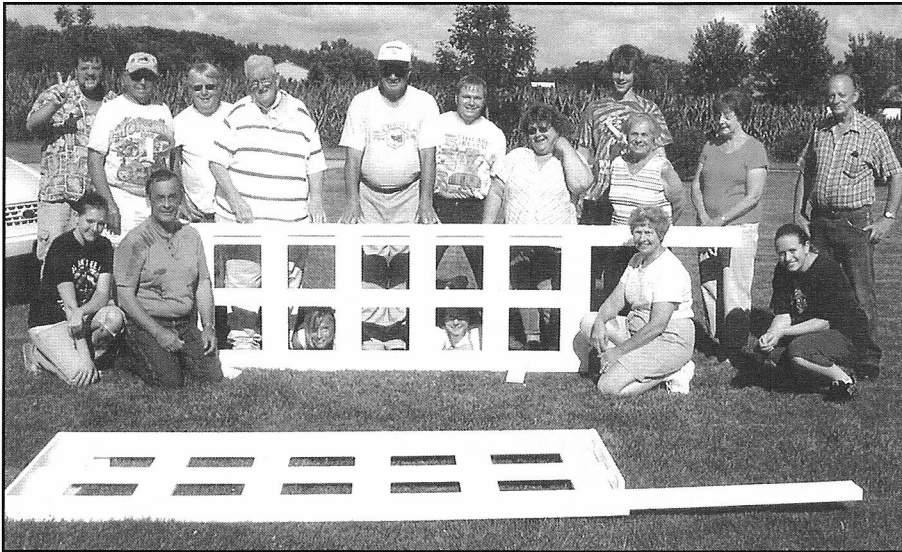


Admit One

THE MILL, 8-30-08, PART TWO

INSTALLING THE SAILS

By John Weiss



The Historical Landmarks list can remove The Mill from the most endangered list. Thanks to many volunteers, the old structure in Lincoln, Illinois, is now ready to greet Route 66 travelers.

On August 30th, seventeen volunteers returned to The Mill to do some more painting and carpentry work. The most anticipated part of this work day was the installation of the four new sails we built on July 19th.

The temperature was near 90 ° with clear skies. This work day was dirty and dangerous. The lower parts were mostly completed at the last work

session. Now the upper sections had to be finished. The installation of the sails was a challenge all by themselves.

Our crew leader of the sails was Mr. Tom Perkins from Gardner. His extensive experience with building and construction was very helpful. The sails were constructed as exact replicas and installed the same as the originals.

The Route 66 of Illinois Preservation Committee's motto is, "WE WORK FOR FOOD!" This day was no exception. The Mill restaurant, when in operation, billed itself as "The home of the Schnitzel". So it was only fitting that schnitzel sandwiches were provided by the grandson from his restaurant, Hallies on the Square. We also were treated to a surprise visit by a local resident with a batch of homemade ice cream!

Seven hours later, the project was complete. The new windows still need to be installed. The rear of the building and interior will be worked on in the future. But, for now, The Mill is ready to greet Route 66 travelers from around the world.

Our dedicated volunteers for this project included John Weiss, Tom Perkins, Larry Libersher, Ike Widner, Mike Cummings, Jan Keeley, Dean Kelley, Bob Killackey, Lori Dwyer, Nicole Zygadlo, Jamie Anderson, Jerry Law and Geoff Ladd from Logan County Tourism. We also thank John Ruh for his continued financial contributions as well as Lincoln area residents who lent us their support, Orville "Buzz" Busby, Shirley Bartelmay, and Gwen Tibbs.



INTERESTING NEWS FOR ALL ROUTE 66 ROADIES

By John Weiss

This is not a new story or a new desire. Others have dreamed this dream and did all they could to pursue the exciting outcome. Possibly this news has been already released, but I have not heard about it until now. What is this information? According to Ike Widner, "The postal service will be releasing a Route 66 stamp in three (3) to five (5) years!"

It seems I have gotten ahead of myself.

Ike Widner is the Grundy County board member for the Route 66 Association of Illinois. He takes his position very seriously and does the best job he can for the Mother Road.

In December of 2007 Ike asked me if anyone had ever tried to get the Postal Service to issue a Route 66 stamp. I told him that throughout the years several had worked toward that goal. However, I was not familiar with their results.

Ike said he would like to make an attempt. I believe that the only people who fail are those who never try. So I encouraged him to proceed.

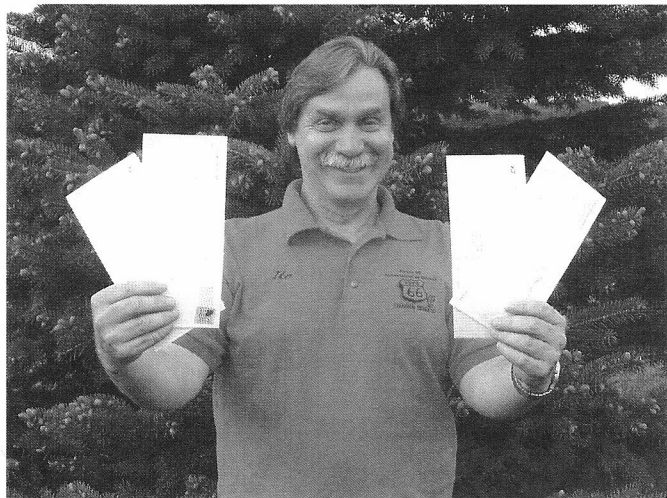
Within a week he showed me a copy of his main letter. His honest, sincere desire to use Route 66 as a way to honor America was clear. He also attempted to communicate the connection of military veterans both alive and dead to Route 66. He used the Illinois Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery as his example since it is on Route 66. His was a letter from the heart of Ike Widner, an average guy with a dream.

He sent copies to the state senators, President Bush, the Postmaster General, county executives and more. Response letters began to arrive. Some were form letters; some modified form letters thanking him for his suggestion.

But the phone call he received from Washington, D.C is where this story goes. A postal government official called to interview Ike and to ask an important question. *Why?* Why is he so sure there should be a commemorative stamp? What would the benefits be? They talked for approximately ten minutes.

During the phone interview, he was verbally informed that, "A Route 66 stamp is in the works," and that, "It would be released in 3 to 5 years."

Since that time, he has received two (2) letters; one from Washington, D.C, the other from



Arlington, Virginia. These letters state in their own words that a Route 66 stamp is currently under consideration. This in itself is tremendous news. The Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee receives over 40,000 requests every year.

Mr. Widner has received a personal call and several letters that state or imply that a Route 66 stamp is destined for the future.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Ike Widner and any others who took on this challenge in the past.

Renovation of the South Town Theater Marquee

I recently attended Litchfield's 5th Annual "Cruisin' Route 66" event in June 2008. Part of the event this year included the annual summit meeting and other festivities of the Route 66 Preservation Foundation, which presents the Will Rogers Award to a most worthy recipient each year. During the summit meeting I met Carol Dyson of the Illinois Historic Preservation Board, and as we began discussing neon restoration activities, she informed me of the recent neon restoration of the South Town Theater Marquee in Springfield in 2007. Frankly, I was rather surprised that I had not heard about this – even more surprised that none of my Route 66 magazine/newspaper sources had ever pictured, or even mentioned it – even though it was re-illuminated exactly one year ago as I write this on June 27, 2008.

So, needless to say, I had to go see it, and did so the next night. All I can say is WOW! This is really a dynamite neon restoration for the Mother Road. If you're ever in the Springfield, Illinois area at night, you have to go see this – it will knock your socks off!

It is located on South Grand Avenue about a block east of 9th Street (aka Route 66) – just go under the railroad tracks, and it will greet you in all its brilliance. The actual theater itself (interior) has not been restored as such. It is now occupied by the Walch Studio of Stained Glass, which is owned by Jim Walch. His business makes stained glass windows for churches and other commercial buildings. Jim purchased the building in 1981; it had



been used as a furniture store prior to that.

As for the history and significance of the South Town Theater itself, I cannot describe it any better than the presentation on the website of the Historic Sites Commission of Springfield, Illinois. The following historical summary and analysis is taken from, and is gratefully acknowledged.

The South Town Theater opened circa 1915 as the Empress Theater in the developing commercial center called South Town, near the intersection of 11th St and South Grand Avenue. Known as "The House of Better Pictures", the Empress was one of the first theaters to be built in a suburban area away from Springfield's central downtown district. In 1937, the Empress was purchased, remodeled and renamed South Town Theater.

The theater served as one of the social centers of the South Town commercial district and neighborhood. As such, it retains an architectural and social/humanitarian significance to the history of Springfield. The theater's façade and marquee are the best remaining examples of early motion picture theaters in the city. The South Town Marquee shows the art deco style of theater fronts, once used in the early 1900's with colorful tile and a large overhanging display encased with decorative metal sheeting, neon lights, and hundreds of flickering bulbs. The back-lit portion of the sign was covered with hanging letters announcing the movie and stars being featured. There were eight large panels with geometric and flowing designs above the sign.

The South Town name was centered on the Marquee and boasted the same lighting style. An arch support connected it to the roof and concrete panels. The box office, a glass booth with a decorative metal crown, was centered by six glass and wood doors, three in and three out. The doors were simply decorated with metal push plates and slender handles on opposing sides.

In 2007, the City of Springfield purchased and restored



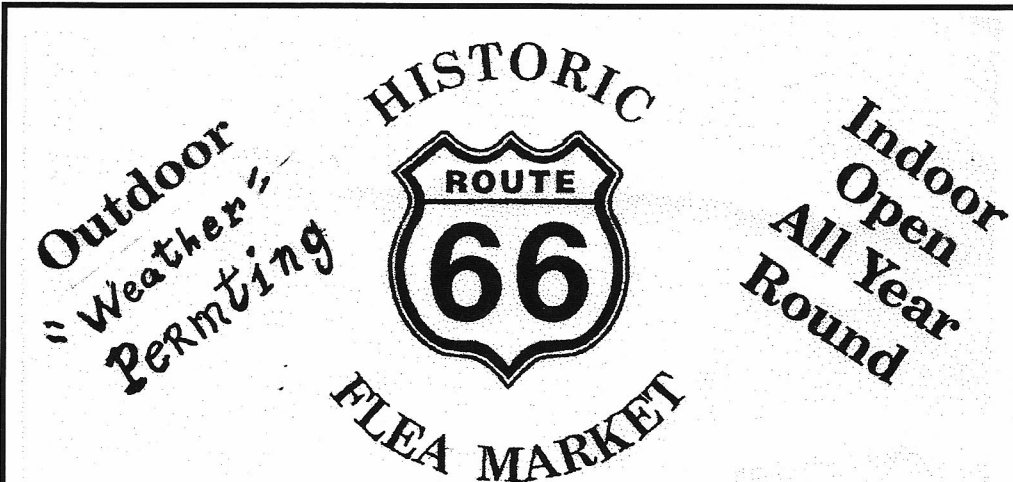
the theater façade and Marquee, reclaiming its original neon brilliance. Each evening, the lighted Marquee is now transformed to its early 1900's glamour (and reportedly stays lit until 1:00 AM in the morning).

Carol J. Dyson, Senior Preservation Architect at the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency says that the newly relit marquee is a wonderful historic and aesthetic asset to the neighborhood and the city as a whole. Carol believes that there are two significant components to the marquee preservation. First, although not using the building as a theatre, the current owner appreciated it and retained the marquee on the front of his stained glass restoration shop.

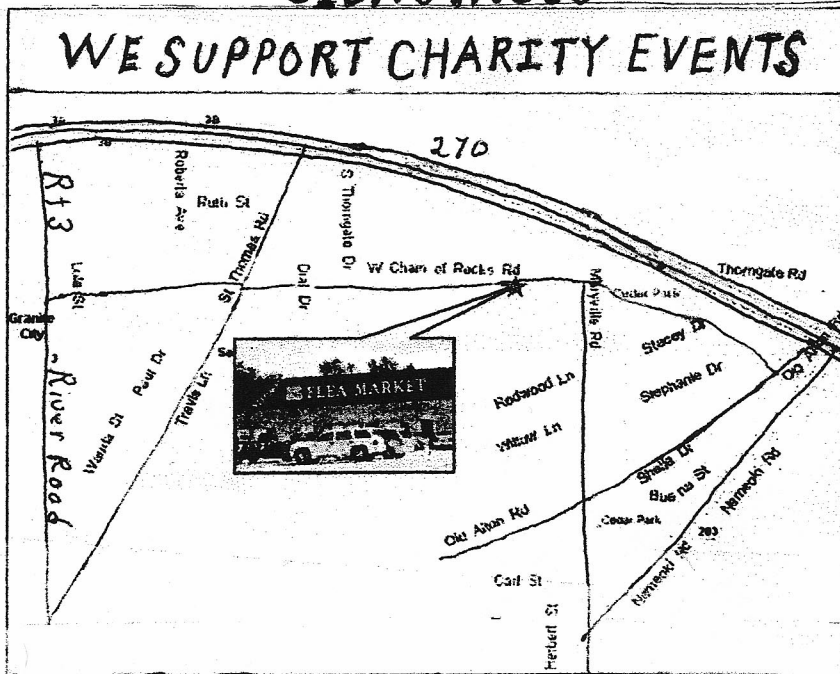
Second, the City of Springfield recognized the marquee's significance and fully funded the restoration and it's continued use and maintenance. According to Adele McFadden, Springfield's Deputy Director of Office of Planning and Economic Development, the Planning Department first analyzed the area as a gateway into town. They then defined a redevelopment

area (including a block and a half of residential surrounding it) and named it the Old Southtown neighborhood. The marquee was clearly "a cornerstone to the corridor." The city took ownership of the marquee (but not the building) and fully funded its restoration using CDBG funds. Now happily the city pays to have the marquee fully lit (chaser lights and all) every evening using city power."

To the City of Springfield, Illinoiswe thank you!



**3117 W. Chain of Rocks Rd.
Granite City, IL 62040
618.797.7900**

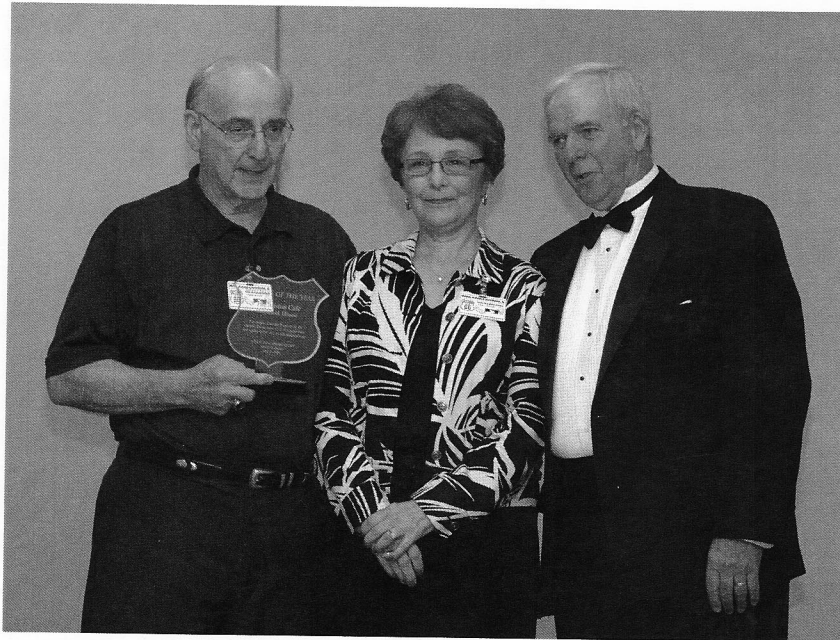


**"VENDORS"
100 PLUS Saturday & Sunday
9:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.
Everything Old, New, Borrowed & Blue**

Ariston Honored as "2008 Business of the Year"

By: Peter Stork

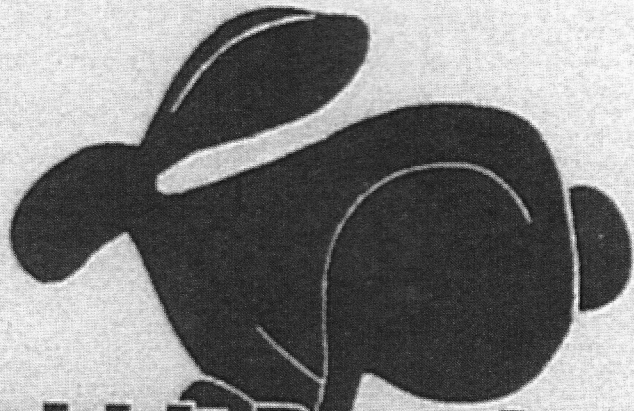
Litchfield's historic Ariston Cafe was honored as the 2008 "Business of the Year" at the Official Route 66 Festival in Litchfield on Saturday, July 21. Proprietors Nick and Demi Adam were on hand to receive the award from the Route 66 Preservation Foundation on behalf of their legendary roadside landmark. Owned and operated by the Adam Family since its opening in Carlinville in 1924, the business and its founding family were inducted into the Illinois Route 66 Hall of Fame in 1992.



Earlier in the week the Ariston hosted the welcoming dinner for the weekend's festivities, and during the evening a couple from the United Kingdom vacationing along the Mother Road wandered into the restaurant and asked "if anyone knew anything about Route 66." They were immediately shuffled into the back room where many of the world's most passionate roadies were gathered, including the famous Michael Wallis who was among the first to greet the couple enthusiastically.

Trailnet was also among the eight award winners at the ceremony Saturday evening, taking home the Cyrus Avery Preservation Award for their work on the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. The award was presented to them by Joy Avery, granddaughter of the "Father of Route 66" Cyrus Avery.

HARE
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CAR HOPS

By John Weiss

We promote historic highways because they are a link to the past; a time not so long ago, where a mom, pop and apple pie culture was in abundance. Radios would sing out, "See the USA in your Chevrolet, America is asking you to call!"

We refer to them as the good old days. However, nothing makes your mind drift back to those glory years then the two words, CAR HOP. Those words make you automatically think of *Happy Days*, *American Graffiti* and a car culture like no other.

How cool it was to pull into the drive-in, flash your lights, and a pretty young girl would come to your car. Watching her come back balancing a full tray of frosted root beer, burgers and fries was remarkable. "Please raise your window", she would say, then proceed to hook that mysterious tray onto your car door window.

Compare that with pulling up and talking to a machine. Then drive to a window to pay and pick up your order. Then you hear the mundane line, "Have a nice day." (This is not cool!)

Not many original drive-ins with real carhops still exist. But there is one in Joliet, Illinois. If you are looking for nostalgia and a slice of Americana, then you have to visit the ACE DRIVE-IN. The Ace has been here since 1949. This fantastic icon is located on historic Lincoln Highway (Route 30) in Joliet. For you Route 66ers, Ace is only a short distance west of Ottawa Street, Route 66.

Homemade frosty root beer by the glass or by the gallon is available. All those great food treats that you would expect, along with their famous carhops makes this a blast from the past.

This is not limited to classic cars. Family minivans and regular cars make up the majority of the customers. But all heads turn when the inevitable classic car pulls in with a Fonzy wannabe at the wheel. Even picnic tables under the trees are available with carhop service.

In spring, summer and fall this is the place to find good food, good prices and those remarkable vanishing symbols of nostalgia, car hops. Ace Drive-In, 1207 Plainfield Rd. (Rt. 30), Joliet, Illinois. Phone 815-726-7741

Mourning the Loss of a Route 66 Icon

On June 26, 2008, all Route 66 Roadies mourned the loss of Montana of Henry's Rabbit Ranch. Montana had been sick for a while and Rich Henry did all he could to make sure she was comfortable. Montana greeted all Route 66-er's as they came through the door of Rich Henry's popular stop. She even autographed her picture for them. She was definitely part of the attraction for stopping in and saying hi. Montana leaves a legacy behind that will be hard to fill. Sadly, now we will never know if she would have made President. Rest well little Montana.



Montana, looking most regal at Henry's Rabbit Ranch

HISTORIC ODELL GAS STATION HOSTS A ROUTE 66 WEDDING

By Lenore Weiss

The winds were gusting. The clouds were threatening, but through it all the only drops were happy tears. Surrounded by tornadoes the day before, the little historic gas station on Route 66 in Odell, Illinois, withstood it all. She served as a windbreaker as well as a chapel. The classic 1953 camper that has become an extension of the little station served as a dressing room for the men as well as the groom.

Along side of her stately gravity flow gas pump, a Route 66 decorated table defied the winds as the colored sand was soon to be mixed in a traditional ceremony that forever unites a man and a woman. A long red carpet extended out into the drive. It was adorned with pots of flowers and mini packs of Route 66 Root Beer. Nearly 80 guests, divided by the carpet, were eagerly awaiting the appearance of the bride and her attendants.



A journey that began a few years ago took this happy couple on an adventurous trip down Route 66. Somewhere along the way, Tom Kowaczek asked Jenny O'Dowd if she would like to travel through life forever together as his wife.

Romance, excitement and a glimpse into the future highlighted each day for both of them. One question, nagging at Jenny was where to get married. Perhaps a beautiful park, or near a lake at sunset, or the waterfall at Starved Rock State Park. Somewhere different to begin their life, and proclaim to the world, that Jenny and Tom wanted to share the uniqueness of their individuality in a non-traditional way.

Jenny, one day, popped the question to Tom hoping his choice would be Starved Rock in Utica. "You want to get married where?" asked Jenny as Tom had answered her with, "The Route 66 gas station in Odell." They both have a love affair with the Mother Road and planned their honeymoon exploring California, but... Once Jenny learned Tom was serious, they took a ride from their hometown of Schaumburg, Illinois and did a little investigating. On the door of the station was a list of phone numbers to contact for more information on the little station or to arrange tours. On that list were John & Lenore Weiss.

A little over a year ago, I received a call from Jenny telling us the beautiful story of their travels together, always on Route 66, engagement, and of having thoughts of a wedding at the little station. Needless to say, this took me by surprise. So much of a surprise that I could almost envision it! And for anyone who knows me, they know what an active mind I have. Less than an hour later, I had the rehearsal dinner, bachelor and bachelorette parties, wedding, reception and, if not the entire honeymoon, at least their honeymoon night all planned in my vivid imagination.

We made plans to meet in Odell and discuss the possibility. This get together and anticipation of a wedding at our historic station was exciting. And as our excitement grew, it also became contagious. So much so, that after touring the inside and outside of the station with plans A, (nice day), plan B (inclement weather) we decided to showcase some other "ideas" I had lurking in my mind. Finding out that Jenny and Tom not only shared our love of Route 66, but also the spirit of the open road in a classic car, I couldn't help but offer our 1964 ½ black Mustang convertible with a white interior. "It will match your wedding dress and Tom's tux," related me assuming they were going formal. (Thankfully, they did!) Following the offer of the Mustang, we took a ride to a possible fun site to further enhance their Route 66 wedding. The historic and almost famous 2-cell limestone jail built in 1906 in Gardner would be a perfect place for some fun!



The look I received as we were standing inside the jail door was a look I'll never forget. Even John wasn't too sure at this point. But, after explaining how much fun it would be to get locked up, with bridal party and parents watching inquisitively, the mayor could walk in, have them recite a different kind of vow and then release them. We talked some more and just before leaving for the Riviera Roadhouse, Jenny signed the guest book with a comment stating, "We may be back next year as part of our wedding!" (A Cheshire cat grin took over my face.) I guess the description of a bachelor's party in a private room at the Riviera, with Peggy, the 84 year old owner, serving as security, was a little over the top. Same for the bachelorette party too. After this mini Route 66 excursion, I called Ellie Alexander from Pontiac Tourism and asked if she wanted to help plan a Route 66 wedding. Without hesitation she offered her support as well as that from the city, and of course the Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Community.

Tom & Jenny became husband and wife at the historic Standard Oil Gas Station on Route 66 in Odell on Sunday afternoon, June 8, 2008 around 2 p.m. The Rev. Dale Brown from Bloomington/Normal officiated at the ceremony. Rev. Brown performs many outdoor weddings as well as one-of-a kind weddings, but this was his first at a historic gas station.

The Pontiac Jolly Trolley pulled up in front and the attendants, including the ring bearer walked off. The trolley then pulled up to the side of the station to block the strong winds gusting in from the southwest. A Ferrari styled golf cart, putting down Route 66, stopped at the station. Surprising her guests, Jenny hopped down from the back seat. Accompanied by her father and mother, she walked the red carpet that was dotted with rose petals to a very proud groom-to-be.

During the ceremony, a noticeable hush came over the crowd as the bride and groom stepped to the sand-art table and carefully united their green and purple sands into one beautiful abstract of color.

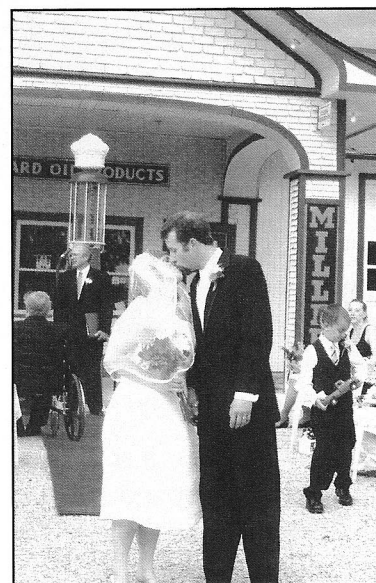
As the bride and groom kissed after being pronounced husband and wife, Tom & Jenny walked the red carpet to the waiting '64 ½ Mustang convertible. As they waved good-bye the Pontiac Trolley gathered up guests to follow the wedding procession on historic Route 66 to the Gardner jail.

Jenny & Tom had no idea that the Gardner Beautification committee had put together another original wedding! After walking the red carpet through a white netted arbor, the entire wedding party, along with Mayor Tom Wise, assisted by Rev. Brown, arrested Tom & Jenny and placed them in a jail cell. As the mayor read the new vows everyone began laughing. As Tom and Jenny were pronounced cellmates for life, the groom kissed the bride. The Kowaczeks were also presented with a key to the city of Gardner, and an original bottle of "Jail-Ale Wine". A brief reception followed on the jail grounds under blue skies and a hot sun.

Roadies also enjoying the Route 66 Association of Illinois' 19th Annual Motor Tour greeted Enroute down historic 66, the wedding party. Awaiting the couple and guests at the famous Country Mansion with the recently restored windmill on the beautiful grounds, were tables with flowers arranged with Route 66 Root Beer bottles serving as centerpieces. Their road to happiness traveling the Mother Road was definitely apparent as one viewed the unique Route 66 wedding cake that wound its way through all eight states.

Their wedding night was enjoyed at the Three Roses Bed & Breakfast in Pontiac where they were treated like royalty to enjoy another surprise of Route 66 gifts presented by the Rt. 66 Red Carpet Corridor communities dropped off earlier in the day.

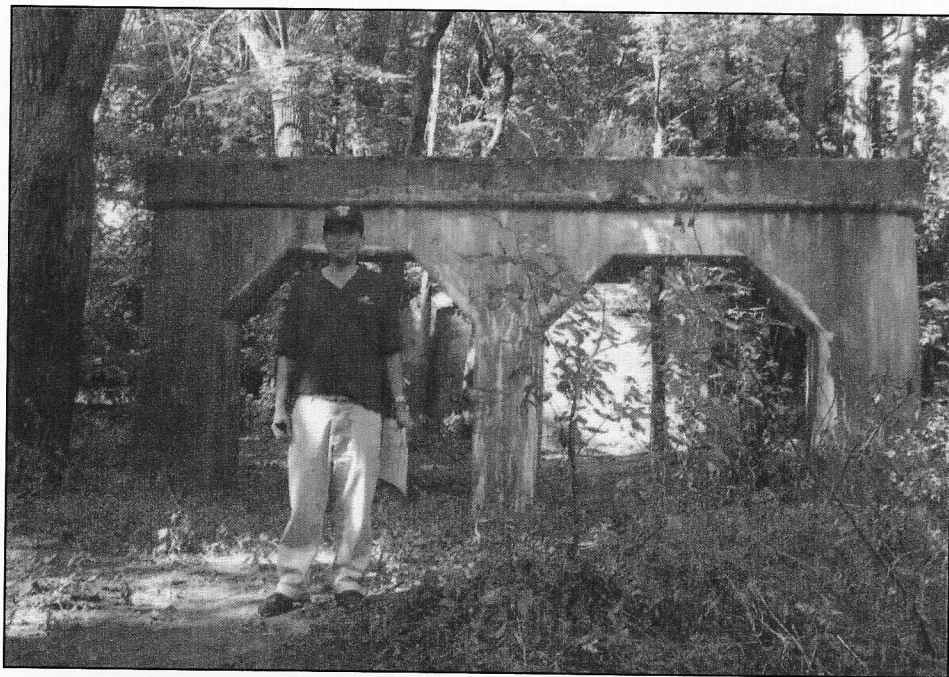
From tornadoes swirling, and sirens blowing all around them the day before, to wind gusts billowing through the bride's veil and dress, the stars and quiet of the night filled their hearts with love, joy, and beautiful memories. And now another chapter begins in the lives of Tom & Jenny Kowaczek as they travel west on historic Route 66.



AN OVERNIGHT TRIP DOWN ROUTE 66

By Ed Kozak

Doing my part to inform and educate friends and family on the Illinois section of Route 66, I recently so-journed down the Mother Road with my brother Tom, an elementary school teacher, and my nephew Paul, and my niece Krissy, both high school students.



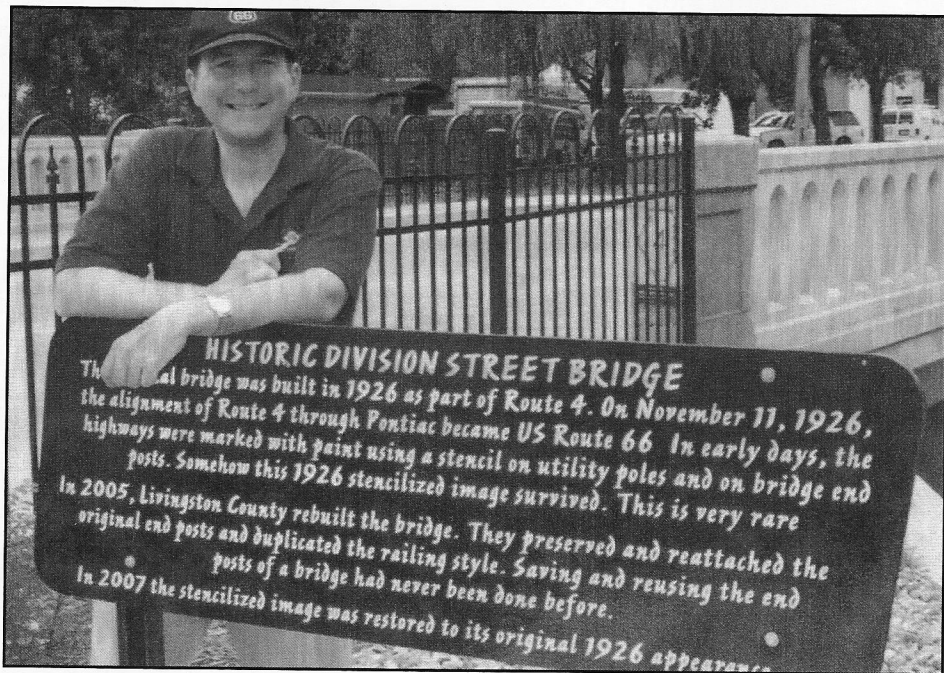
It was a beautiful, albeit somewhat cloudy, mid-July day when I picked them up for their trip at their Homer Glen Home. Less than an hour later we were ready to explore the Red Carpet Corridor and beyond. Our first stop was for breakfast was at the Route 66 Family Restaurant in Dwight. With a friendly atmosphere, and 66 memorabilia all around, it was the proper start to our educational excursion. Since it faces the Main Street of America, this was a great starting-off point, and was our first time driving on the old road. We followed old 66 and saw how it teams up with, then breaks away from its faster, busier child, Interstate 55.

The quaint town of Odell welcomed us, and we examined the tunnel remains near St. Paul Church. Within sight was the old renovated filling station, although it was closed, since we were there in mid-morning. The recorded narrative was informative, although my fellow travelers had a hard time imagining that the road in front of them was one of the busiest in the country in its heyday.

Pontiac was just a few miles down the highway and everyone liked the old refurbished SBI 4 bridge on the north side of town. The Hall of Fame Museum had never looked better, and it helped educate my family on the road's iconic place in transportation history. Riding a little around town, we just had to walk across one of the pedestrian swing bridges that cross the Vermillion River.

Near Ocoya we posed with the classic Meramec Cavern barn in the background and set out sights on Lexington. Memory Lane gave us a chance to exercise and use our feet as

we traversed an original section of Route 66. The next stop was Towanda, and its town's contribution to our



learning experience. This small community puts the entire length of the road on display and its mile long walk from Illinois to California through informative kiosks along the way. It is all done on the old pavements, too, which adds to its allure. We also observed Dead Man's curve, which, nowadays, didn't seem so dangerous.

We bypassed the Bloomington area, but did stop at the Beer Nuts Outlet store on the far south side of town to stock up on that delicious snack. We then continued cruisin' southwest and made Funks Grove our first afternoon stop. It was time to get some authentic "sirup" and other cool 66 stuff. Then it was on to the local Sugar Grove Nature Preserve, a wonderful respite on what had become a warm and sunny day. This hidden gem is just about three minutes from the sirip store, and well worth the side trip.

The Dixie Truck Stop gave us another great opportunity to purchase souvenirs of our special trip. We scurried back into the car to get to Atlanta, which is trying very hard to be a major player for Route 66 pilgrims. We, of course, posed by the Paul Bunyan statue, and went to the library and museum, and to the Route 66 Park. We were fortunate to be allowed inside the Palms Café building, which is currently being renovated back to the way it was in the thirties. We can't wait to come back next year to see the restaurant and new home of the Atlanta museum.

Lincoln, Illinois, is the place where different sections of history come together. In this charming town we saw a lot of Lincoln sites, and a great parts of the road, too. Entering town we used an early version of 66 to take us to the back of a Chevy Dealership and an original 10 foot wide concrete pavement of the route. It was forlorn for sure, and we went to the other side of town to explore the Ghost Bridge.

Once again hiking a long-abandoned stretch of original pavement referred to locally as Cemetery Hill, we battled the warm weather and the hungry mosquitoes to view the remnants of an old bridge that once carried motorists to Springfield and points southwest. While in town we had a wonderful tour of Postville Courthouse, where Lincoln practiced law, and saw the World's largest covered wagon.

We decided to stay the night back in Bloomington, and the next morning we visited the impressive David Davis Mansion near downtown. This state historic site is a real jewel, and shouldn't be missed by Route 66 trekkers. The rest of the day we made our way over to Peoria, and to visit one of the most beautiful parks in the state, Jubilee College. Because of time constraints, more exploration of Historic Route 66 would have to wait for another time.

(The author is a resident of Chicago, and lives about 2 miles off the Mother Road.)

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ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS
WINTER 2009 MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2009

Route 66 Association of Illinois
Hall of Fame & Museum
110 W. Howard Street, Pontiac

Board Meeting 10:30 AM
General Meeting 1 PM

“Free” elevator rides to our 2nd floor Meeting Room!
Guest Speaker at 2:45 PM

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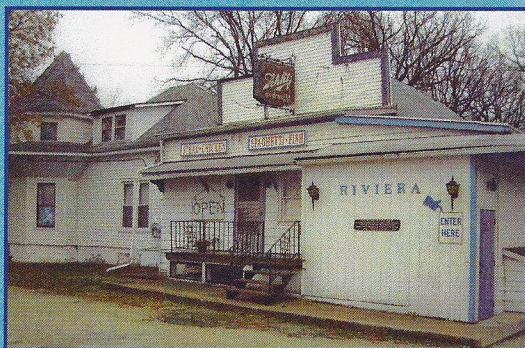
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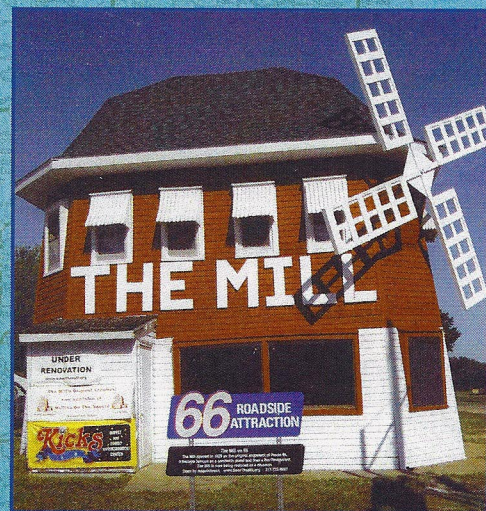
Who will be next?

Route 66 Association of Illinois

Nominations accepted
January 1 to February 28, 2009



After 80 years the Riviera will close her doors after New Years Eve! She will be missed!



Preservation efforts in the State of Illinois!

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

The Route 66 Association is a not-for-profit organization. It's 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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Kathy Miller, Jim Jones &

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Winter
2008*2009

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Hall of Fame Nominations
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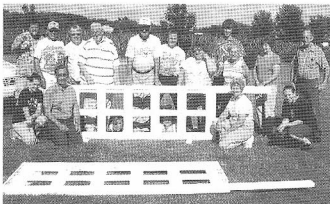
PHOTO

CONTRIBUTIONS

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Jim Jones
Don McCann
Kathy Miller
John & Lenore Weiss



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The President's View!

Happy Holidays!

As we round the end of the year into the Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Year's Season, let's pause to give thanks for all those who help! Volunteering is a huge part of any association, and we're not just talking about the people who are always out front of any project. I'm talking about the members who email items to us, who call with questions, to members who can't participate but faithfully renew their membership and look forward to their newsletter. An Association is made up of people who share a common goal (preservation of Route 66) yet have real lives with jobs, children, and extended family.

Route 66 is a living road – and we in Illinois have much to be proud of. More and more communities on the road are preserving their histories, realizing how valuable their Route 66 connections are not only to themselves, but to the world. The world truly stops by our Route 66 doors.

This year is our 20th Anniversary Motor Tour. We'll be going from North to South, with our overnight in Springfield. If you have a photo from a prior Motor Tour that holds a special memory, you can either mail the photo to MEMORY QUILT, Hall of Fame & Museum, 110 W. Howard Street, Pontiac, IL 61764 or email your photo to cathiesb@earthlink.net. This year's quilt will be a combination of Route 66 memories (photos) and fabric. All photos will be scanned and returned. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish you all a safe, healthy, happy Holiday season!

Looking forward to a dynamic 2009 with you!

Cathie Stevanovich

President, Route 66 Association of Illinois

Editors Notes

We're back! We tried to retire but missed the enjoyment of working together to bring you the 66 News. It has always been such a pleasure to publish this magazine for our readers. So, when the opportunity arose we had no choice but to accept the offer from the board to resume our positions as the 66 News Team along with Bob Borowiak our printer and layout genius.

For the most part, we will return to the same format we left you with, and plan to implement a few modifications, so few, we hope you won't even notice.

Submit all articles by emailing Kathy at Kathleen708@hotmail.com. Please submit the article as a word document or in a text format, submit photos as a jpg file. We will not accept an adobe PDF formatted file except as a paid advertisement. We reserve the right to select all articles for publication. If your article is chosen we reserve the right to edit before publishing. We suggest articles be no longer than two typed pages including photos.

If you wish to submit via U.S. mail, send your article to:
NEWSLETTER/JIM JONES - The Route 66 Hall of Fame Museum - 110 W Howard St - Pontiac, IL, 61764. All photos submitted will be returned; please allow 8 to 10 weeks after submission.

On behalf of the Association the editors extend apologies for omitting the name of author Jim Thole from the article, "Renovation of the South Town Theater Marquee." This article appeared in the fall 2008 issue.

See you on the road,

Kathy Miller and Jim Jones

Museum Complex Elevator Operational

The much anticipated elevator for the Pontiac Museum Complex is now completely operational. The elevator project began this spring and took most of the summer to complete. In conjunction with the elevator installation, a new entrance to the breeze way between the two buildings has been constructed. The new elevator makes three stops at the different levels of the buildings. From the ground floor entrance, it rises to the level of the Old City Hall Shops. The elevator then continues to the second floor meeting room of the Route 66 Hall and Fame Museum. The Route 66 Museum has plans to add additional exhibits on this level in the near future. The final stop is at the entrance to the Livingston County War Museum and the Michael Campanelli Route 66 Photo Journal Exhibit. We have had many visitors use the elevator to enjoy the Campanelli photo exhibit.



The entrance to the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum, before the addition of the elevator . . .

After, the entrance now includes and enclosed entryway and the elevator allowing you access to the entire Museum Complex.



Michael Campanelli's Route 66 Photo Journal Exhibit



Photo above. Part of the Campanelli photo exhibit.

Photo at left. Campanelli photo, "Looking down the Mother Road to the horizon." Doesn't that make you want to jump into the car and find what is at the end of that road?

Five rooms of the Old City Hall have been remodeled for display of Michael Campanelli's Route 66 Photo Journal Exhibit. This collection of 166 large photographs is the work of an Oregon man taken while on an eight day trip down Route 66 in 2002. Michael uses a Nikon 35 mm camera and a tripod for his photography. He took over 1,100 photos on his journey from Santa Monica, CA to Chicago, IL.



The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Nominations

Nominations into the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame will be accepted for consideration beginning January 1, 2009 and ending February 28, 2009 by the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Committee. Nominations received at other times shall be considered in the following year.

Nominations must include accurate documentation or declaration of the Nominee's qualities, deeds and history on Route 66 that merit this honor. All nominations considered, but not elected, will automatically be reconsidered the following year.

To qualify for election to the Hall of Fame, nominees must have made significant contributions to the character or history of the Illinois portion of Route 66 from 1926 to 1977 while it was an official United States highway in the State of Illinois.

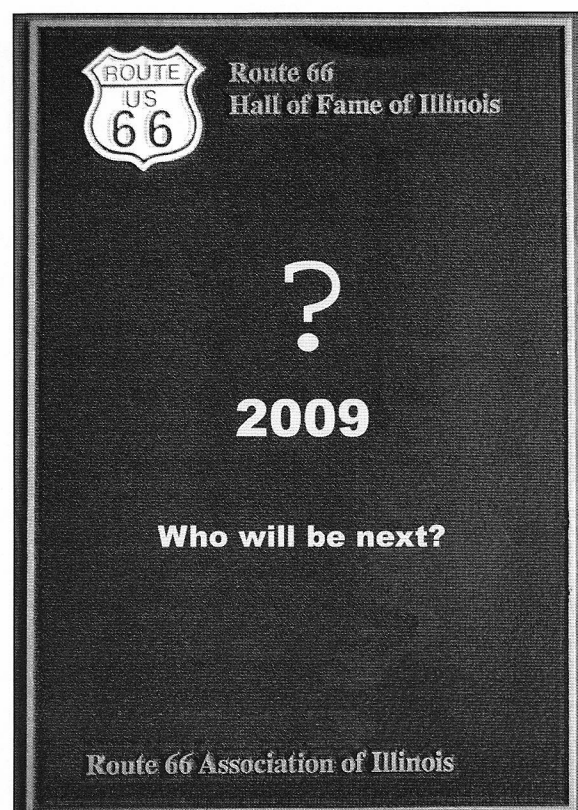
Submit all nominations and related materials to The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Committee at: The Rte 66 Assoc of IL Hall of Fame & Museum

Attn: Hall of Fame Committee

110 W. Howard Street

Pontiac, IL 61764

All documentation and materials submitted become the property of The Route 66 Association of Illinois.



Eagle Days Soars at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge

January 17 & 18, 2009

Bundle up and bring the family to the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge to celebrate the resurgence of the bald eagle. The 14th annual Eagle Days event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, January 17, and Sunday, January 18, 2009. Admission is free and there will be plenty of parking.

Bald eagle populations have recovered so well that, in June 2007, this majestic bird was removed from the federal list of endangered and threatened species. St. Louis-area residents can view our national symbol virtually in "their own backyards" this winter as scores of bald eagles flock to the open waters of our Great Rivers in search of fish.

Spotting scopes will be set up on the bridge to help visitors watch eagles diving for fish, riding on ice floes or roosting in trees. Watch a live eagle program, repeated every 20 minutes from 10:00 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

Free parking is available at the Missouri Welcome Center (Riverview Drive and I-270) and at North Riverfront Park (Riverview Drive south of the water

treatment plant). Free shuttles are available from both locations. 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 to the expanded, paved parking.

Eagle Days is made possible through a partnership of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Trailnet. The Confluence Partnership and MDC sponsor this year's program.

###

Trailnet leads in fostering healthy and active communities through innovative programs, planning, and policy that promote walking and bicycling throughout the St. Louis bi-state region.

BUILDING OF THE SAILS

Preservation volunteers had experienced a work day substantially different than any other. Last May, many volunteers donated their time and talents to working on The Mill restoration project in Lincoln, Illinois. One very important project still to be accomplished was to completely rebuild the four sails. These sails give the structure a windmill appearance. Rather than try and construct them on site, a new plan was formulated.

One of the original sails was still intact and could be used as a pattern. It was picked up and brought to the Weiss' house in Wilmington. John & Lenore have a large outbuilding where the sails could be constructed without regard to the weather. The plan was simple: All the volunteers were invited to their home for a Preservation Picnic, Swimming, and Building Party.

On July 19, the work to construct the sails proceeded like an assembly line. John Weiss and Tom Perkins had precut the pieces. The volunteers then joined them together to exactly reproduce new sails identical to the original. The sails then moved on to the painting crew. Soon all four were built and had one coat of paint. While they dried, the group feasted on a huge picnic buffet. It was then time to put on the second coat of paint. In no time the sails were completed.

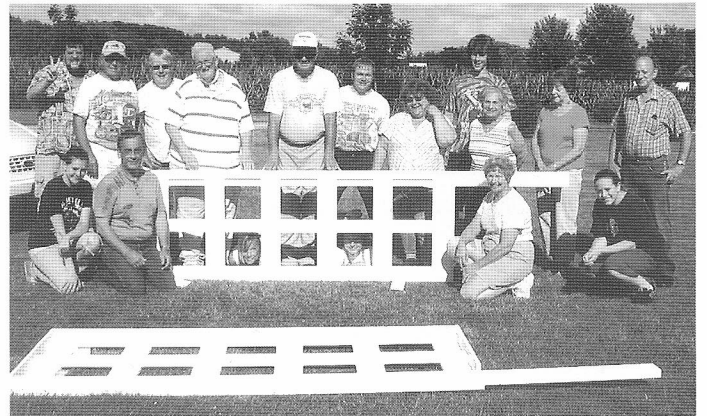
Some retired to the swimming pool. Others reached for a beer. But the biggest project was removing paint from the volunteers themselves!

The next phase is scheduled for August 30th. This will be the day that the sails are reinstalled and some additional work will be completed on the front façade. Everyone is invited to help!

All who participated signed their name and left a



Builders at work ...



Group photo – Becca Dwyer, Bill Gwodz, Jan Keeley and Cara Killackey. Back row – Goeff Ladd, Dean Keeley, Joe Gniadek, Lou Vargo, Lenore Weiss, on ground, Tom Perkins, Lori Dwyer, on ground, Jamie Anderson, Kathy Miller, Rose Vargo Bill Gwodz's nephew, Jim, Joyce Perkins and Jerry Law. Not pictured: John Weiss.

personal message on the sails. They can't be seen, but we know they are there!

The Mill has been placed on the Historical Landmarks list as one of the ten most endangered. However, thanks to so many caring folks this building will survive.

It will be a long time before the project is completed. But with a little imagination you will be able to envision the end result. Bring your camera. This one of a kind structure deserves a photo or two.

Thanks to these hearty volunteers, another Illinois Route 66 site will soon be visited by folks from around the world.

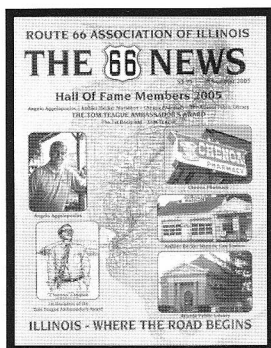
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THE MILL, 8-30-08, PART TWO INSTALLING THE SAILS

By John Weiss

The Historical Landmarks list can remove The Mill from the most endangered list. Thanks to many volunteers, the old structure in Lincoln, Illinois, is now ready to greet Route 66 travelers.

On August 30th, seventeen volunteers returned to The Mill to do some more painting and carpentry work. The most anticipated part of this work day was the installation of the four new sails we built on July 19th.

The temperature was near 90 ° with clear skies. This work day was dirty and dangerous. The lower parts were mostly completed at the last work session. Now the upper sections had to be finished. The installation of the sails was a challenge all by themselves.

Our crew leader of the sails was Mr. Tom Perkins from Gardner. His extensive experience with building and construction was very helpful. The sails were constructed as exact replicas and installed the same as the originals.

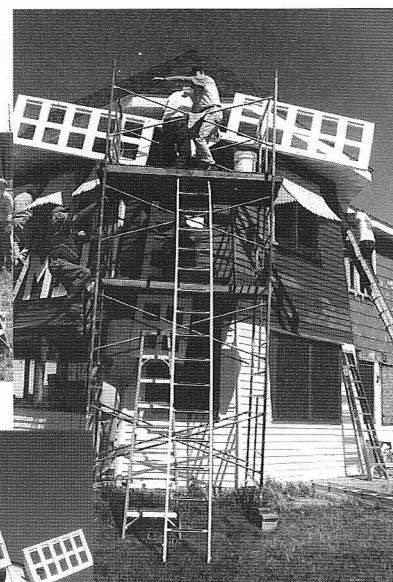
The Route 66 of Illinois Preservation Committee's motto is, "WE WORK FOR FOOD!" This day was no exception. The Mill restaurant, when in operation, billed itself as "The home of the Schnitzel". So it was only fitting that schnitzel sandwiches were provided by the grandson from his restaurant, Hallies on the Square. We also were treated to a surprise visit by a local resident with a batch of homemade ice cream!

Seven hours later, the project was complete. The new windows still need to be installed. The rear of the building and interior will be worked on in the future. But, for now, The Mill is ready to greet Route 66 travelers from around the world.

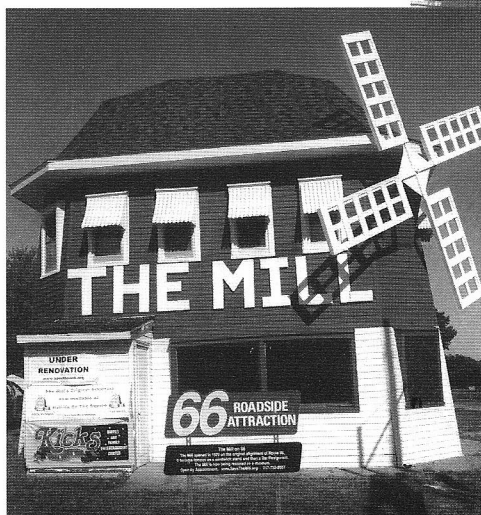
Our dedicated volunteers for this project included John Weiss, Tom Perkins, Larry Libersher, Ike Widner, Mike Cummings, Jan Keeley, Dean Kelley, Bob Kil-lackey, Lori Dwyer, Nicole Zygadlo, Jamie Anderson,



Work in progress . . .



Installing the sails . . .



Completed job.

Jerry Law and Geoff Ladd from Logan County Tourism. We also thank John Ruh for his continued financial contributions as well as four Lincoln area residents who lent us their support, Orville "Buzz" Busby, Shirley Bartelmay, and Gwen Tibbs.

KRUZIN' WITH THE BILECKI'S

By Marty and Geri Bilecki

Our last "Kruzin With" story started back in April and concluded with the 5th annual Litchfield 66 fest. Since then the miles have continued throughout the summer to the point that the leaves have all fallen from those beautiful "tree lined lanes" of our Mother Road once again. Odd as it may seem, we have taken advantage of the great start we had with our 41 day trip at the beginning of the year and were fortunate to add to the list of enjoyment and pleasure in recent months.

We met up with 39 Brazilians in Pontiac with other members of the Illinois 66 Association (arranged by John Weiss) and toured and lunched with them at the Log Cabin. Their short tour included a stop to the Odell Standard station and Marathon in Dwight. This group was on their way to the 105th Harley Davidson Fest in Milwaukee and wanted to do a short span of Illinois 66 on their way.

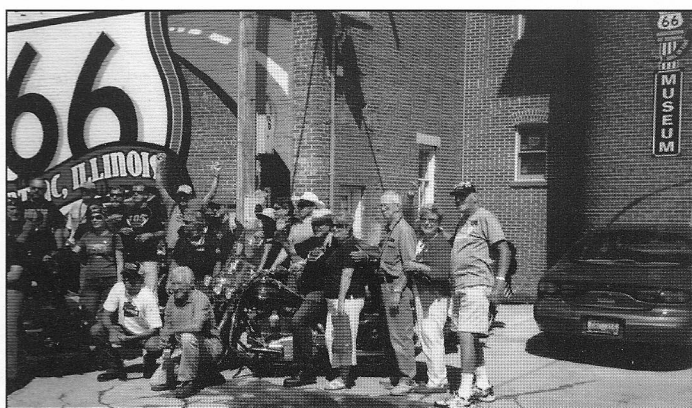
Shortly after – between cruise nights and car shows in various towns - our bi-annual visitors from the Route 66 Association of the Czech Republic returned. Jan and Dean Keeley joined us as we welcomed them to the U.S.A. and Route 66 in Joliet. We escorted their tour of 14 adults and 1 – 11 year old child, Nicola, as far as the Pig

the pleasure to tour and view. Just recently I have displayed these in a personal collection of original Indian and native artifacts in my home to take us back to the vast blue and purple skies which fascinated on our "66" trip of 41 days.

We, as usual, threw in several events that took us to other states like the "Cruisin 50's" in Marinette, WI. This event features top rock



Some of the 22 members of Illinois Route 66 Association attending banquet at Zenos on the Missouri 08 Tour.



Boys and girls from Brazil Brazil tour with Route 66 members at mural wall - Pontiac 66 Museum.

Hip in Broadwell. As usual, Ernie and Fran greeted all with open arms. This group will again visit with two tours in early spring 2009. A somber highlight of this tour was escorting them to the Lidice Memorial in Cresthill, IL which was dedicated to a WW II town in Czechoslovakia devastated by the Nazis in 1942.

The Missouri route 66 Motor Tour enticed us south and west again. Twenty Two members of the Illinois Association joined all on their 19th annual tour from Collinsville, IL to Lebanon, MO with an overnight in Collinsville (which gave us all a chance to visit the Hall of Fame winning "Catsup Bottle"). A grand buffet dinner was enjoyed at Zeno's Motel and Banquets in Rolla, MO where we all helped them to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Driving 66 to re-visit many of the Missouri locations was very informative and enjoyable. Our 57 Blue Angel was our vehicle of choice on this run and performed very well. We always, on these tours and cruises, continue to meet and greet visitors from foreign lands (who worry about traveling on the "wrong" side of the road). While at the Munger Moss Motel in Lebanon we met 18 Norwegian Route 66 Association bikers and 8 Finland Route 66 bikers. These groups were traveling to the west coast on the Mother Road. Photo opts, address exchanges and fond farewells are always part of our encounters. Our '09' calendar is already getting entries for future visits from those we have made friends with.

As I write this I must report that last spring I collected a few native rocks from the vast "no man lands" and deserts that we have had

n roll headliner shows and lots of cars to see for classic car buffs. For added excitement this summer and fall we were asked to assist and escort brides and grooms in three separate weddings – driving our Coral 57 (Geraldine). The weddings were beautiful and to top it off at the last wedding we escorted the newlyweds to their reception on Route 66 to the Joliet Train Station. There is a spectacular ballroom with chandeliers on the second floor of the station. A picture opt was at the Jackhammers Stadium before the reception!!!! It's true – you never know when you



Judy DeMosey and Geri Bilecki welcome Missouri Tour to Catsup Bottle (Collinsville, IL).

are going to end up on Route 66.

The fun and enjoyment is there for your taking on Route 66 in Illinois and throughout the country. As always – remember – "If You Don't Go – You Won't Know". The trip, however short or long, is well worth it!!! Til '09 – Keep Kruzin –

A Sunny Day in Cayuga, IL

By Joe Gniadek

A simple barn, with a lot of history received a bit of a facelift early in October. Volunteers from the Illinois Route 66 Association Preservation Committee touch up painting upon the barns southern exterior wall. Spiders and snakes couldn't have stopped these dedicated individuals from following up on work that



Left to Right: Dean Keeley, Emmy Bates, John Weiss and Joe Gniadek.



Next projected overhaul of the barn is scheduled for 2018.

began on the last weekend in August of 1998. The barn advertises an adventure park that sits a few miles westward down Route 66 in our neighboring state, Missouri. The Meramec Caverns are about 3½ to 4 miles off the route near Stanton, MO. The caverns are one of the many side adventures that greet Route 66 travelers annually. You do pass an interesting reptile park/exhibit on your way into the caverns.

Barns were painted in many states surrounding Missouri advertising and encouraging you to visit the 60 degree Meramac Caverns including ads in Arkansas. Some sat neglected over the years but some received semi regular repainting. The painting is now done by individuals who travel to the various sites using spray gun equipment to paint. But, there we were, the four of us, John Weiss of Wilmington, Emmy Bates of

Dolton, Dean Keeley of Plainfield, and myself. Four Illinois residents working all together with some time tested old painting methods to get the job done.

The upper doorway of the barn needed some black paint, and some white lettering on the façade was looking inadequate. Hats off to John and Dean, to John for painting the top left side, and to Dean for painting the top right. To finish off the upper portion required climbing a tall extension ladder with an even longer extension pole and a jimmy rigged extra length extension to reach the top. Also, thanks go out to Emmy Bates who travelled with much equipment to lend in. Thank you so much as well to the original crew who began this restoration. As John pointed out, with the original project, "the caverns management chipped in \$400.00, as preservation was just beginning to be established. Horses were moved to the opposite stable so we could work. One of our stamina's in working regarded the length we hope to see this signage to be in place."

Let's continue through 2019 and beyond to keep this signage looking spiffy. Five and ten year increments come by so quickly. John marked the wall with 10-12-08 next to the original 8-30-98. Well, that means at the least we should retain consistency maybe someday it can read, 8-30-98/10-12-08 /?-?-18. I do hope so, let's keep preserving!

The last of the work involved clearing some bush away from the "roadside attraction" sign. Dean and Emmy worked hard on this. Thanks also go out to the local Pontiac folks who donated the extension ladder that we used.

Maybe someday consider a turnout near Cayuga, IL or a visit to the Meramec Caverns, the place with a rich bumper sticker history. See a cavern where in 1874 after a train robbery in Gashill, 25 year old Jesse James and his four older brothers split up the loot. Alongside the mighty Meramec River is a hotel at the caverns with reasonable rates. Cavern tours are available, at reasonable rates. For more information about caverns visit the American Caves website at www.AmericasCaves.com or call the National Caves Association at 573.458.3166.

Run Phil Run

by Kathy Miller

On Sunday October 19th at the Annual Route 66 Association of Illinois meeting I had the pleasure of meeting Phil Rosenstein. For those of you who have not met Phil or even know who he is, Phil Rosenstein is a 39 year old ultrarunner. An ultrarunner is an athlete that participates in the sport of long distance running, also known as ultramarathoning. How far is "a long distance"? The standard definition is anything past the marathon, or 26.2 miles. However, the shortest standard distance that is considered an ultra is the 50 kilometer distance, or 31.07 miles. Other standard distances are the 50 mile, 100 mile, 100 km, and a series of events that last for specified time periods such as 6 hour, 12 hour, 24 hour, 48 hour, and 6 days.

Phil is running the entire Route 66 from Santa Monica, CA to Chicago, IL. After completing Route 66 he will continue to Atlantic City, NJ to complete a trans-continental run. Phil is doing this to raise awareness and funds for the Mario Lemieux Foundation. The Foundation is raising funds to help reach the ultimate goal: a cure for cancer.

Phil started on his journey along Route 66 on Tuesday, August 14th at noon with his feet in the Pacific Ocean at the Santa Monica Pier. He finished, with no fanfare, in Chicago at Buckingham Fountain on Wednesday, October 22nd at 4:00pm. On Friday, October 24th he left on Lincoln Highway to continue his run and planning to finish at the Atlantic Ocean in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Phil entered Illinois on October 13th and was warmly welcomed everywhere he went in Illinois by friends of Lynn (LuLu) Bagdon who had alerted association members that Phil was on his way. When he finally reached Pontiac and entered the meeting, he was greeted with a warm round of applause. President Cathie Stevanovich introduced Phil and he told us of his adventures. You can read about Phil's run on his website at www.runphilrun.com.

People in Illinois are very generous hosts. They often offered Phil a place to sleep for the night, giving him a roof over his head and a warm dry place to sleep. In Pontiac he was hosted by the Pontiac Fire Department. They took him in, allowing him to sleep in one of the empty beds that are reserved for the firefighters. Phil spent two more nights on the road before reaching the end of Route 66. He spent a night in Braidwood, and in Romeoville. In Romeoville LuLu treated him to dinner and made all the arrangements for his nights lodging.



Phil Rosenstein after finishing Route 66 and ready for the next leg of his journey on Lincoln Highway.



Run Phil Run!!

She contacted Carl Johnson who called Phil and gave him step by step directions from Romeoville to the final destination, Buckingham Fountain.

It was only fitting that when Phil arrived in Chicago, DH* (Johnny Miller, Cook County board rep.) and I offer him our home to stay at. DH picked him up and we went to dinner with Cathie Stevanovich and Marty Blitstein. The next day Phil was able to take a day of rest, doing laundry, updating his blog, charging his cell phone, doing all that fun stuff before embarking on the last leg of his journey.

We truly enjoyed our time with Phil and are in awe of his achievements. We wish him luck and know that his unselfish act of raising funds and awareness for The Mario LeMieux Foundation www.mariolemieux.org/ will benefit hundreds of cancer victims. RUN PHIL RUN!

Route 66 Master Plan Initiative

by Cathie Stevanovich

The Route 66 Heritage Corridor held a series of meetings to discuss the Route 66 Master Plan Initiative. This plan will have an impact on the future of Illinois Route 66. All interested community members were invited, including elected and tourism officials, and members of the press. The scheduled meetings were held from October 20th through October 23rd, from south to north along Route 66.

I went to the meeting on Thursday, October 23, 9:00 am in Joliet at the Joliet Area Historical Museum located at 204 N. Ottawa Street. The plans call for Becker's Station in Dwight to be the info center.

The city of Pontiac will go ahead with some of the proposed ideas that they already had planned on their own. The Walldogs will be in Pontiac next June for a week of work. Signage into and out of Pontiac has already been improved.

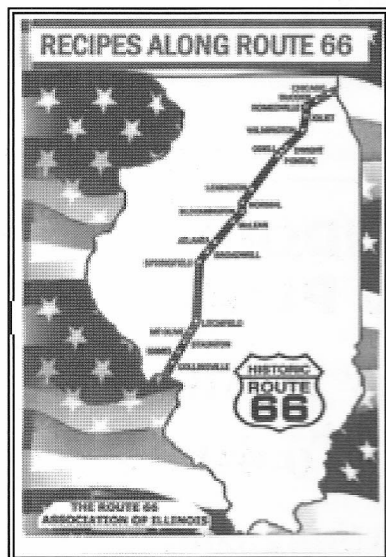
The Association will forge ahead with our own projects to do our part for the road. John Weiss has the original plan from 11 years ago and between that one and this one we can plan ahead for our future "Preservation Projects". We have the DVD presentation on our website www.il66assoc.org.

Springfield is planning to buy an old motel and convert it into an attraction with holographic visitors and possibly even a few rooms to rent plus a grave-

yard for old neon signs. Part of the plan is to put neon signs back on the road, at least into and out of towns along the wall. The Heritage Corridor applied for grants and hopes to be receiving the money. Their plan is to involve all the towns along the road in their Route 66 Heritage. The economy may be bad, but our very large numbers of foreign visitors want the experience of what it was, as much as what is.

What I understood is that the plan calls for new signage and putting tourism dollars into making the experience consistent from town to town. The hope is that even those places that don't want to be involved will come around because this plan is quite simple.

I understood that this would be a multi-year concept. Some of the proposed sites such as Becker's as an info station will have limited hours. So places like Odell Station, our Route 66 Hall of Fame Museum, and even Terri Ryburn Lamont's at 305 E. Pine in Normal, will be picking up the slack. There is consideration to create passport book. The book would be available and you would stop at the different markers and "imprint" a built-in stamp in your book to show where you've been, similar to the passport book we have used since the very first Illinois Association Motor Tour. For Illinois Route 66 Association information visit the association website at www.il66assoc.org



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On November 5, 2008 by far the most historic if not one of the largest events to ever occur took place on Route 66. This is the experience of one man who attended the event.

Yes We Did!

by Eric Matanyi

On the corner of Madison and Michigan Avenues in downtown Chicago hangs a small brown sign designating historic Route 66. Depending on whether you are traveling east or west, that point is either the beginning or end of a journey.

On the evening of Tuesday, November 4, that point was both for Senator Barack Obama. It was the end of a grueling two-year campaign and the beginning of his tenure as President of the United States. It seems fitting that he began his next journey at the endpoint of the road that connects America – as Obama himself noted, “The road ahead is long.”


Twenty-four hours earlier, I received an electronic ticket for the Democratic party’s Election Night Event in Grant Park. The City of Chicago had put together its largest riot response plan ever, not wanting to repeat the missteps of the 1968 Democratic National Convention in the same location.

Standing in line to vote on Election Day, my fiancée Jessica and I debated how the city and the nation would react to the results. We also decided that regardless of the potential for trouble, we wouldn’t miss what we felt was a once in a lifetime chance to be part of history. After all, we lived less than a mile from the rally site and had watched the preparations for weeks.

The gates to the rally were set to open at 8:30 p.m. so there was no rush to be first in line. But under the pressure of rapidly growing crowds, city officials began letting supporters in around seven. At the same time, east coast results were flooding the newsrooms and it appeared that Illinois’ junior senator was moving toward a win.

We grabbed our coats and headed into the night. With most streets closed to traffic, our neighborhood was eerily quiet. For the first four blocks of our walk, we were totally alone. But as we neared Grant Park, we began to hear the roar of the crowd. Michigan Avenue’s triple-wide sidewalks were jammed with supporters, shoulder to shoulder, in front of a backdrop of the city’s iconic skyscrapers draped in red, white, and blue lights. The crowd easily surpassed those gathered to gawk at the marathoners a few weeks earlier, with the electric mood resembling a New Year’s Eve in Times Square.

A shortcut through the south end of Grant Park landed us at the event entrance. Under different circumstances, a crowd that dense may have spelled disaster, but not this

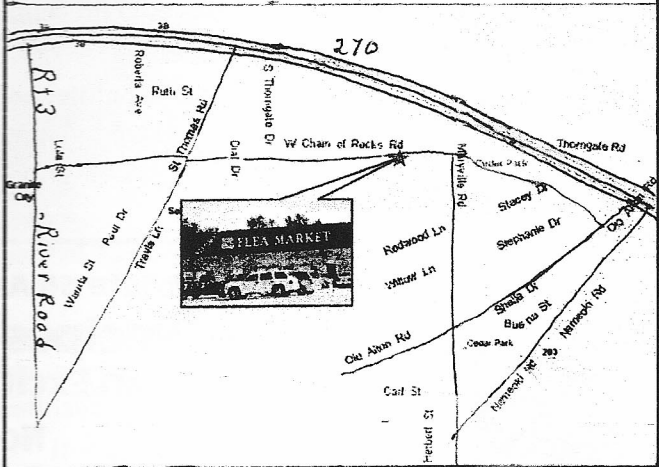


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night. Pressed up against one another like books on a shelf, the crowd calmly moved toward the entrance, taking an occasional opportunity to cheer on continuing election results reported from cell phones and Blackberries. Four security checks and 30 minutes later we entered Hutchinson Field, the center of worldwide political attention for the evening.

We chose seats on grassy rise a few feet above the crowd, affording us a unique view of the entire field and a clear sightline to the stage where we hoped our next President would soon appear.

CNN continued to report election results over the next hour, with the crowd wildly cheering each Obama victory. Just after 10 p.m., CNN announced in rapid succession that Obama had taken the electoral vote in Virginia and California, making him the next President of the United States.

We knew we had made the right choice to attend. We shared the moment intimately with strangers who had travelled from around the country. Blue-collar men and women hugged the likes of Oprah Winfrey. Grandparents explained the social significance and shared high fives with their grandchildren. Whites, African-Americans, and every group in between shared in tears of joy at the prospect of a new hope for America.

We watched John McCain's concession speech intently on the jumbo-trons.

A faceless voice from backstage announced, "Final sound check for the next President of United States," and the elation started anew. And soon the crowd closely resembled a giant wedding as 75,000 people danced in unison to Stevie Wonder's Sign, Sealed, Delivered and Sweet Home Chicago.

President-Elect Obama and his family's entrance was met with a welcome for the ages, something Jessica compared to what the coming of the second Messiah might resemble.

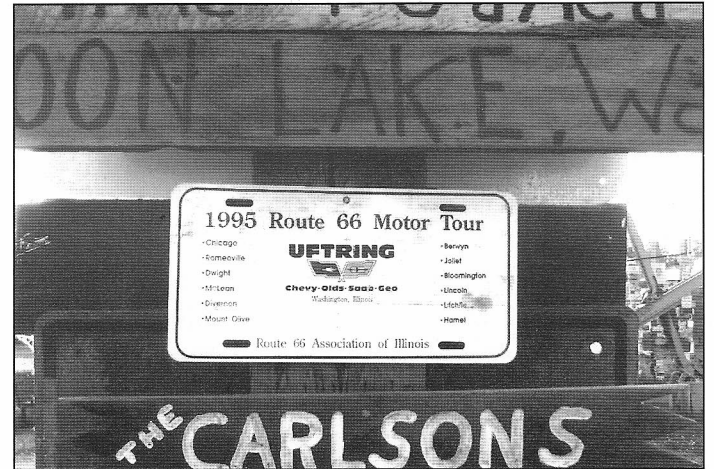
The crowd grew pin-drop silent as the next leader of the free world began his remarks – the droning of the government helicopters overhead was the only background noise. His choice of "Hello Chicago" instead of "Hello United States" made the moment even more personal. As Obama reached his now iconic "Yes We Can" portion of his remarks, the crowd echoed him, as if in prayer – perhaps one for a better America where all men really are created equal.

The walk home was the exact reverse experience of our trip to the park – the magic of the evening dying into the quiet streets of our nearby neighborhood. By the time we arrived on our block, we were once again alone. Having just been part of what is destined to be one of the country's most historic moments, the only reminder of our participation was the sound of the helicopters, still overhead, late, late into the night.

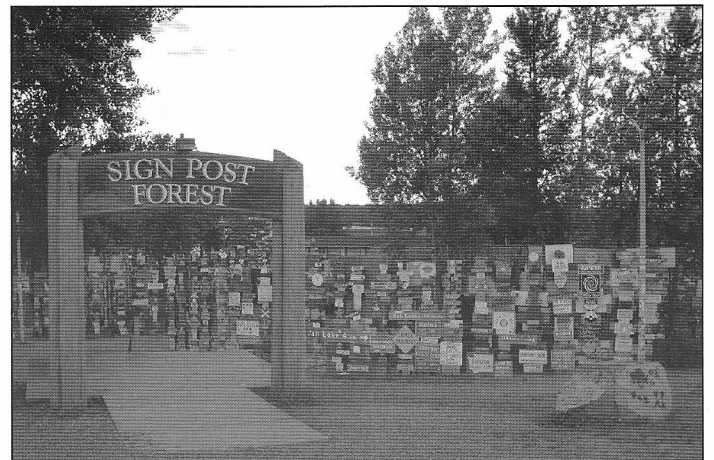
Route 66 Association of Illinois 1995 Motor Tour Plate Goes to the Yukon Territories

by Arnold M. Duran

On June 11, 2008 I departed Palos Hills, IL for my trip of a lifetime, Alaska on my Harley-Davidson motorcycle. I knew I would be traveling the Alaska Highway so I knew at some point I would arrive at the Sign Post Forest in Watson Lake, Yukon Territory. I searched my garage for old license



plates and I found one of the 1995 Route 66 Motor Tour that I took with me.



The World Famous Sign Post Forest was started in 1942 by a homesick U.S. Army G.I., Carl K. Lindley of Danville, Il Company D, 341st Engineers. While working on the Alaska Highway, he erected a sign here pointing the way and stating the mileage to his hometown. Others followed his lead and are still doing so to this day.

ROUTE 66 BITS & PIECES

JOLIET – On August 2, 2008, rock and roll legend Sir Paul McCartney and his girlfriend, Nancy Shevell visited the Route 66 Experience exhibit in Joliet. The two had planned this trip themselves to fulfill a wish of Paul McCartney's to travel all of Route 66 to celebrate his sixty-sixth birthday. They enjoyed the facility for about 30 minutes and personally thanked Elaine Stonich in the gift shop for a pleasant time.

On August 1, 2008, John & Lenore Weiss were interviewed by Andrew Benton regarding the many aspects of life and visitors along Route 66. He is the head of the Pepperdine University in California. This documentary will be edited for video and book form.

One of the biggest events in downtown Joliet is the Festival of Trees. This very impressive fundraiser is held at the Route 66 Hall of Fame Rialto Square Theatre. Fully decorated trees are displayed in the theatre, rotunda and grand walkway leading up to a silent auction at the end of the festival. This year, Joliet has financed a Route 66 tree. Tens of thousands of people take part in this explosion of holiday festivities. Food, fun, fireworks, films and a parade are all part of this awesome holiday extravaganza. The successful bidders of these one of a kind trees is determined on Sunday evening, November 30 at the close of the festival.

GARDNER – On November 10, 2008, a large film crew arrived at the Riviera Roadhouse to shoot some movie scenes. Originally they were scouting out the Streetcar/Diner to see if it would work for the script. When they experienced the Riviera the writers were told to rewrite the script. The streetcar is out, the Riviera is in. Filming took place from November 10 to November 20th.

The Riviera had a severe flood. Employees and relatives worked hard to get the bar and main dining room back to a usable condition. (The kitchen is upstairs.) A crew from the Route 66 Association Preservation Committee came in and completed the cleaning of the remainder of the lower level. This was done just in time for the filming. The crew consisted of Larry Libersher, Ike Widner, Tom Perkins, Joe Gniadek, Jan & Dean Keeley and John Weiss.

Ike Widner, the Grundy County board member, was shocked to find someone was living in and trash-

ing the streetcar. He immediately called the police. Ike then gave the entire streetcar a thorough cleaning. This is why it is important for all board members to keep an eye on their county section. Ike then helped out with the dining chairs cleaning and disinfecting a large number of them to make them usable again.

On Saturday, November 29, 2008, there was a dedication of a new attraction on Route 66. A memorial gazebo is now located downtown, on original Route 66, about two blocks from the famous two cell jail. John & Lenore Weiss were asked to raise the American and Route 66 flags during the dedication. Their holiday tree lighting, entertainment and refreshments followed. Be sure to visit this first class addition.

WILMINGTON – On Saturday, November 29, 2008 the downtown of Wilmington was sparkling for the parade and arrival of Santa Claus. Entertainment and a theme of blue and silver complimented the highlight of the holiday. Santa listened to many of the wishes of young children while all enjoyed complimentary hot dogs!

BRAIDWOOD – Recently announced receiving the Governor's Home Town Award for bringing awareness of the local Veterans Memorial.

DWIGHT – On Friday, December 5, 2008 the beautiful Christmas parade took place in the downtown district. This is a festive time well run by the city and community organizations. A tradition started by Barb & Bill Gwodz is that following the parade all Route 66 Association members and their guests are invited to the Country Mansion restaurant for dinner. This is always a great way for members to support a Route 66 community and have a great get together.

PONTIAC – On Friday, November 28, 2008, the downtown square was turned into a winter wonderland of festivities to usher in the holidays. Pontiac's annual holiday parade, Light Up the Holidays, was again appreciated and enjoyed by young and old alike.

This information is only a very minute sample of all that takes place on Route 66 in Illinois. Every town has so much to offer throughout the year. Please submit your town's information for publication. Members and all roadies be sure to take advantage of all the Mother Road has to offer.

MIATA'S ON ROUTE 66 IN ILLINOIS

by Marcy Hotz and Don & Linda McCann

Being a member of the Route 66 Association of Illinois and having participated in their 2006 and 2007 annual tours, Don McCann, who's also a member of the Badgerland Miata Club (BMC) of Wisconsin, was very impressed with the work of the Association! He knew Route 66 was a trip he wanted to share with his Miata Club friends, so he, Linda, his wife, and several other members of the club planned a trip of their own down the Mother Road (a Miata is a Mazda sports car). In July '08, the McCann's led a colorful parade of 22 Miatas, with Terry and Kathy Rieck bringing up the rear as sweep car, on a three day tour of Route 66 in Illinois, from Joliet to St. Louis, Missouri, and back to Springfield. Twenty cars were from Wisconsin, and two were from Illinois.

John and Lenore Weiss from the Association were contacted to order Historic Route 66 books for each car. Don programmed the entire route (all roads and sites) on



The Miata group in front of the Becker Station in Dwight, IL.

his Garmin GPS unit, so maps were not needed. All the Miata's had CB radios for communication, since keeping that many cars together, especially through all the towns, would prove challenging. The weather was hot and generally nice, so we had the tops down the majority of the time.

Hitting the Road. "Hello!" began Don over the CB, a greeting heard many times over the next few days, as we approached our gathering point in Joliet the morning of Thursday, July 10th. The "Jewel of Joliet," is one of the ten most magnificent theaters in the country. The pride of the Rialto is its original "golden voiced" Barton Grande Theatre Pipe Organ. Opening in 1926, it accompanied silent movies and vaudeville with its variety of sounds and sound effects. Today, it continues to be a popular attraction as well as a historic treasure.

The weather was near perfect as we left Joliet, heading south on Route 66, through Wilmington and past the 1950's Launch Pad Drive-In. We lunched at the Polk-a-Dot Drive-In (1956) in Braidwood famous for its chili cheese

fries. The highlight of Gardner is the two-cell jail, built in 1902 and still standing as a historic attraction. Several BMC members posed inside of the cells for photos.

"Hello!" announced Don on the CB. "Our next stop is the old Ambler/Becker Texaco Station in Dwight." A friendly car salesman from across the street took a group photo with various cameras, and the station tour guide called the local press, who took our photo for the weekly newspaper. As we drove through Odell, "A Small Town with a Big Heart Where Everybody Is Somebody," a priest coming out of St. Paul School shouted a hearty "Welcome to Odell!" Signs along the road as we departed the town encouraged us to stop at the Route 66 Hall of Fame in Pontiac, which we did. One couldn't help but think, "This IS America," as we drove into Pontiac. The neatly clipped green lawns, modest homes, gas stations, churches and taverns made us feel right at home. The Route 66 Hall of Fame was a welcome air-conditioned stop. The museum had photos, road and store signs, and all kinds of Route 66 memorabilia. Also housed in the building were an antique store and extensive veteran's museum. Down the road was "How Sweet It Is," a chocolate shop where a number of us got a cold drink and satisfied that sweet tooth. Our VIP (Visitor In Pontiac) badges received at the museum got us a



Traveling down Memory Lane in Lexington, IL.

10% discount there. Before leaving, each car had its photo taken in front of the world's largest Route 66 sign, a mural on the back outer wall of the building.

The last leg of our DAY ONE journey took us to the Super 8 Motel in Normal. "Hello! We will arrive at our destination at 5:07 PM," announced Don, reading his GPS. After a very quick and welcome shower, and a change of clothes, we broke into small groups to check out the various restaurants in Normal.

"Hello!" Don grabbed our attention, "we are not going to stop at Funks Grove Maple Sirup...they are out of sirup!"

On the way to the Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center (Springfield), a group of adventurous Miatans took

an unplanned side trip, but soon found their way to this day's lunch stop in the Diner. The hotel is filled with more memorabilia, road signs, gas pumps, miniature cars, and, of course, a gift shop.

Pink Elephant Antique Shop, Livingston, - A tip of the Miata cap to Linda McCann, who found the Pink Elephant Antique Mall in a pre-trip scouting expedition. While the majority of the group "sweated it out" at Classic Cars, a small but enthusiastic group of shoppers enjoyed the relative cool of the Pink Elephant.

The night was spent at the Holiday Inn Select in St. Louis, MO, located behind the convention center in the downtown area. Don's GPS led us through a route that not only avoided construction, but provided a great view of the famous Gateway Arch. Next morning after breakfast at the hotel, DAY THREE found us caravanning from downtown St. Louis to the west end of the Chain of Rocks Bridge. The Bridge was the route used by Route 66 to cross over the Mississippi. Its most notable feature is a 22-degree bend occurring at the middle of the crossing, necessary for navigation on the river.

We stopped in Carlinville at the Town Square, where

we had our choice of about eight different restaurants. Following lunch we walked around the square, visiting shops, meeting the locals, and chatting at the large gazebo in the center of the square.

Our next stop was Girard for dessert. Turns out Girard has a Route 66 drive-in that goes back to 1956 that offers 50 flavors of ice cream!. A young man with a shocked expression was at the back door of the small restaurant on his cell phone. "You gotta see this!" he exclaimed to the person on the other end, watching a rainbow parade of 22 Miatas winding their way down their driveway and into the parking lot!

Following a quick shower and welcome change of clothes, we met in the lobby of the afore-mentioned Route 66 Hotel & Convention Center (and museum). There we joined members of the Abe Lincoln Miata Club and the Windy City Miata Club. With their 15 cars added to our 22, we were an awesome parade to Mario's Italian Grill for dinner. A lively discussion followed with plans for another get together with the clubs in 2009. Everyone enjoyed the tour, and some are looking forward to driving the rest of old Route 66 to California. Long live The Mother Road!

GOOD BYE RIVIERA - WE SURE WILL MISS YOU

By John & Lenore Weiss

80 years of history will soon come to an end. The Riviera will be open until the end of the year. New Year's Eve will be your last opportunity to experience the mystique of the famous Riviera Roadhouse in Gardner. They will open one last time on New Year's Day with a BYOB (bring your own bottle) policy. Meals and munchies will be offered at a discount.

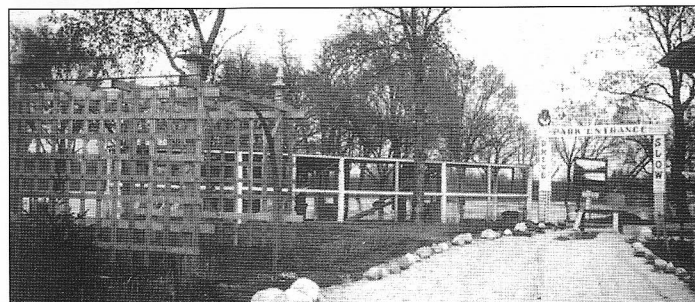
A New Year's Eve tradition is their famous barbecued spare-rib dinner. They too will be offered for the very last time. These scrumptious ribs will be served until they run out.

The Riviera opened for business in 1928. It was a showplace, complete with camping, fishing, a zoo, beach and more. Fashion shows and other theme parties were the norm.

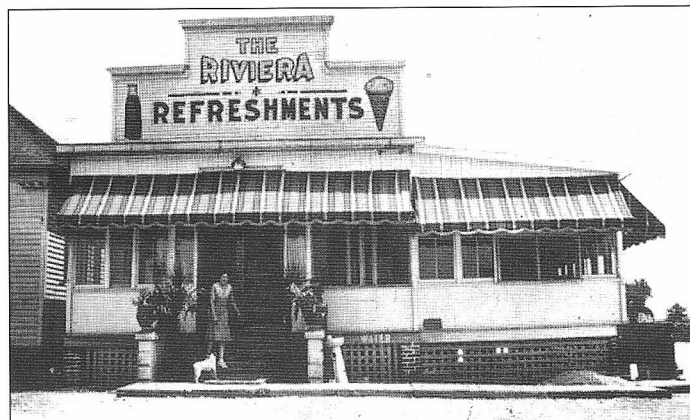
The first owners were the Girot family. Then, in 1972, Bob & Peggy Kraft purchased the Riviera. They kept up the many traditions including dances 3 - 4 nights a week! Originally the restaurant was upstairs and the bar downstairs. When Bob & Peggy took it over, the restaurant and bar had already been combined in the lower level.

Homemade food, cheese spread, spaghetti sauce, good affordable prices and friendly folks and staff made the Riviera a very special place.

Now Bob & Peggy are in their mid-80s. Both are experiencing health issues that won't go away. So the time has come to close the door to this sentimental Route 66 Hall of Fame icon.



The Riviera in the early days had a park and zoo.



As she stood in the 1930s.

A buyer could not be found that wanted to work as hard as these two have. It is time to say good-bye to Bob's stories and Peggy's fabulous food. We all wish the Krafts a pleasant retirement. We also thank them for all of the memories that so many thousands of us have received.

GOOD BYE RIVIERA! THANK YOU!

Route 66 Association of Illinois Business Membership through October 31, 2008

VFN Fiberglass	330 W. Factory Road	Addison	IL	60101	
Atlanta Public Library	100 Race St.	Atlanta	IL	61723	217-648-2112
Coliseum Ballroom Antique Mall	520 S. Hardroad Rt. 4	Benld	IL	62009	217-835-7788
Berwyn Development Corp.	3322 S. Oak Park Ave., 2nd Floor	Berwyn	IL	60402	708-788-8100
Brown's Wrecker Service	13816 N. 900 East Road	Bloomington	IL	61704	
Casey's Garden Shop	411 N. Linden	Bloomington	IL	61701	
Casey's Garden Shop, Inc.	1505 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-828-1424
McLean County Historical Society	200 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-827-0428
City of Bollingbrook	375 W. Briarcliff Road	Bolingbrook	IL	60440	
Polk-A-Dot Drive In - Cathie, John Dixon	222 N. Front St.	Braidwood	IL	60408	
Midwest Digital Mapping	P.O. Box 105	Cantrall	IL	62625	217-494-4057
Carlin Villa Motel	18891 Route 4 South	Carlinville	IL	62626	217-854-3201
City Of Carlinville	21480 B Rte. 4	Carlinville	IL	62626	217-854-7727
Chenoa Pharmacy	209 Green St.	Chenoa	IL	61726	
City of Chenoa	P.O. Box 167	Chenoa	IL	61726	815-945-7619
Berghoff Restaurant	17 West Adams St.	Chicago	IL	60603	
Lou Mitchell's Restaurant	565 W. Jackson Blvd.	Chicago	IL	60661	
Corner Bar	200 S. First St.	Divernon	IL	62530	217-628-3605
First National Bank of Dwight	P.O. Box 10	Dwight	IL	60429	
Old Route 66 Family Restaurant	105 South Old 66	Dwight	IL	60420	
Rub,Olds, Chevrolet,Buick	200 S. Franklin St.	Dwight	IL	60420	
Village of Dwight	209 S. Prairie Ave.	Dwight	IL	60420	
Edwardsville Preservation Comm.	118 Hillsboro Ave.	Edeardsville	IL	62025	
Edwardsville- Glen Carbon	200 University Park Dr., Suite 260	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-7600
Comfort Inn	3080 S. St. Route 15	Edwardsville	IL	62025	
City of Elk City	P.O. Box 1100	Elk City	IL	73648	580-225-6266
Riviera Restaurant	P.O. Box 514	Gardner	IL	60424	
Village Of Gardner	302 N. Center St., P.O. Box 545	Gardner	IL	60424	
Historic Route 66 Flea Market	3117 W. Chain of Rocks Road	Granite City	IL	62240	618-797-7900
Luna Café	201 E. Chain of Rocks Road	Granite City	IL	62040	
T-I'S Bar & Grill/ Canal Motel	3317 W. Chain of Rocks Road	Granite City	IL	62040	618-797-2338
Route 66 Auto Body	P.O. Box 385	Hamel	IL	62046	
Village of Hamel	P.O. Box 345	Hamel	IL	62046	
Calhoun County Ford	P.O. Box 388	Hardin	IL	62047	
City of Joliet Tourism	150 W. Jefferson St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-724-4463
Joliet Area Historical Museum	204 N. Ottawa St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-723-5201
Rialto Theater	15 E. Van Buren St.	Joliet	IL	60432	
Abraham Lincoln Tourism	1555 - 5th St.	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-8687
Lincoln Printers, Inc.	711 Broadway St.	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-3121
Ariston Cafe	P.O. Box 453	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-2023
City of Litchfield	120 East Ryder	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-8147
City of Morris	320 Waupousee St.	Morris	IL	60450	815-942-0103
City of Mt. Olive	200 E. Main St.	Mt. Olive	IL	62069	217-999-4261
Crossroads Route 66 Diner	21535 Lake Ka-Ho Road	Mt. Olive	IL	62069	217-851-5123
Bob Green Auto Service	1847 New Salam Church	New Berlin	IL	62670	
Ryburn Enterprises	305 Pine St.	Normal	IL	61761	309-750-1348
Pour Richard's Tap & Dining	210 Tremont	Odell	IL	60460	815-998-2556
Rentz's Tap & Dining	210 Waupanise	Odell	IL	60460	815-998-2383
Standard Station of Odell	408 E. Howard St.	Odell	IL	60460	
eSeMBe Technical Services	324 Forest Blvd.	Park Forest	IL	60466	708-231-8794
Bernardi's II, Inc.	123 N. Mill St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-1198
City of Pontiac	115 W. Howard	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-5847
Livingston History County Society	115 W. Howard St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	
Old Log Cabin Inn	18700 N. Aurora	Pontiac	IL	61764	
Pontiac Family Kitchen	904 Custer Ave.	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-3155
Three Roses Bed & Breakfast	209 E. Howard	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-3404
White Fence Farm	1376 Joliet Road	Romeoville	IL	60446	
Funk's Grove Pure Maple Sirup	5257 Old Route 66	Shirley	IL	61772	309-874-3220
Amoco Fence Co.	2919 S. MacArthur	Springfield	IL	62704	
Branham Body & Paint	4125 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	
Burris & Son Trucking	2831 S. Whittier	Springfield	IL	62704	
C & A Custom Kitchens	3500 Clear Lake Road	Springfield	IL	62702	

Champion Garage, Inc.	820 Black Ave.	Springfield	IL	62702	
Cozy Dog Drive In	2935 S. Sixth St.	Springfield	IL	62703	
Curve Inn, Inc.	3219 S. 6th St. Road	Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-5806
Finch & Esper	45 Lindon Lane	Springfield	IL	62707	
Illinois State Library/ Serials Section	300 S. 2nd St.	Springfield	IL	62701	217-785-4127
Lindsey Electric, Inc.	3260 Terminal Ave.	Springfield	IL	62707	
Mans Energy System	3445 S. 6th St.	Springfield	IL	62703	
Maverick Steak House	1104 W. Reynolds	Springfield	IL	62702	
Mid Illinois Caliper	2803 N. Dirksen	Springfield	IL	62702	
Moscardelli Moving & Storage	709 N. Lincoln	Springfield	IL	62702	
Northend Illini Bank	2120 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62791	
Oldhan Graphic Supply	2056 Republic	Springfield	IL	62702	
Shea's Truck Cover People	2075 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	
Springfield Overhead Doors	421 N. Lincoln	Springfield	IL	62702	
Watt's Bros. Drug Store	9th & N. Grand Ave.	Springfield	IL	62704	
City of Staunton	303 W. Main St.	Staunton	IL	62088	
Country Classic Cars L.L.C.	2149 E. Frontage Road	Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-7056
Decamp Junction	8767 State Route 4 South	Staunton	IL	62088	
Henry's Ra66it Ranch	1107 Historic Old Route 66	Staunton	IL	62088	
Original Route 66 Accessories	P.O. Box 145	Western Springs	IL	60558	708-246-1543
Patterson Bros. Oil	141 S. Pine	Williamsville	IL	62693	
Shady Land Farm	11739 Brock Road	Williamsville	IL	62693	
Dell Rhea's Chicken	645 Joliet Road	Willowbrook	IL	60521	
Angelo's Ben Franklin	706 W. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	
Camz of Wilmington	203 North Water St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-7008
Chester Manor	116 S. Kankakee St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-1055
De-Ja-Vu-Rt 66	113 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-7774
Dough Boys Drive In	600 Baltimore	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-7200
G & D Tire & Alignment	200 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-7744
Launching Pad Drive In	810 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	
Re/Max Results	315 W. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-7006
Route 66 Root Beer	P.O. Box 276	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-9315
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce	P.O. Box 724	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-5991
Gionanni Tours	5308 Derry Ave., Suite F	Auggoura Hilla	CA	91301	
National Route 66 Federation	P.O. Box 1848	Lake Arrowhead	CA	92352	909-336-6131
Greg's Motor Sales	1021 W. Mishawaka	Mishawaka	IN	46545	574-255-0771
Route 66 Pulse	140 Main St.	Richfield Springs	NY	13439	315-858-5858
Claremore Convention & Visitors Bureau	419 W. Will Rogers Blvd.	Claremore	OK	74017	918-341-8688



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Name: _____

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Illinois County (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Interests in Route 66: _____

How I can help: _____

Annual Dues

General: \$20

Family: \$30

Business: \$50

Foreign: \$50

Lifetime: \$250

U.S. funds only, please

\$35 fee for returned checks

Send to:

Membership

Route 66 Assn. of Illinois

Hall of Fame Museum

Attn: Marty Blitstein

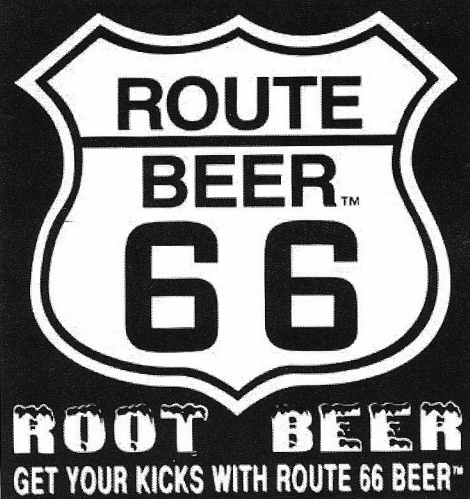
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Pontiac, IL 61764

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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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Winter 2009 Quarterly Meeting Sunday – January 18, 2009

Route 66 Association Hall of Fame & Museum - 110 W. Howard Street - Pontiac, Illinois 61764

Board Meeting - 10:30 am

Lunch break - Noon

General Meeting - 1:00 pm

Guest Speaker at 2:45pm

The Route 66 Association of Illinois
20TH Anniversary Motor Tour!

“CRUISING THE LAND OF
LINCOLN”
JUNE 12, 13, AND 14, 2009

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

April 19, 2008 – Litchfield

July 12, 2009 – Hodgkins

October 18, 2009 Bloomington

Dates and locations subject to change

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE 66 NEWS

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