

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

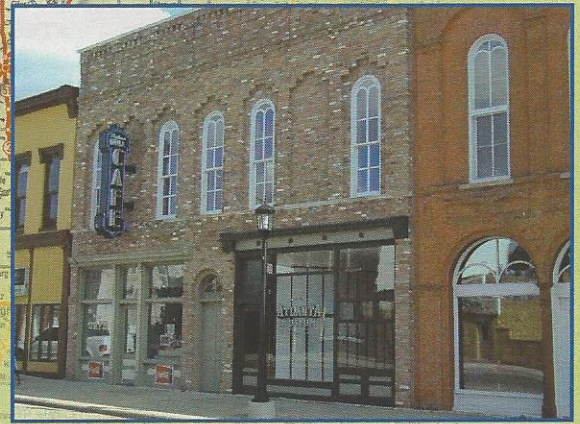
THE 66 NEWS

WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG

SPRING 2009
\$3.95



The Wishing Well from Countryside is relocated to the Route 66 Association Hall of Fame Museum.



The Palms Grill Preservation Project, Atlanta, IL.



RT. 66 Assoc of IL Hall of Fame Members, Lenore & John Weiss raise the Route 66 Flag at the dedication of the new Gazebo in Gardner, IL



Tom Perkins Rt. 66 of IL Preservation Committee member presents framed Boy Scout memorabilia of Bob Kraft retired owner and Boy Scout for life! The items were found in the attic of the Riviera Roadhouse.

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.

Publication Information: *The 66 News* is published on/or near the 15th of Mar., June, Sept, and Dec. Contributions are accepted without compensation. Authors retain all copyright privileges. Submit all stories, photos and ads at least 8 weeks prior publication.
Email to: Kathleen708@hotmail.com or US Mail to: Jim Jones, Newsletter c/o The Route 66 Assoc of IL Hall of Fame & Museum—110 West Howard—Pontiac, IL 61764

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Cathie Stevanovich '09
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60487
708-444-1312
cathiesb@earthlink.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Killackey '10
304 Hillside Rd
New Lenox, IL 60451
708-707-1569
bk394477@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Martin Blitstein '10
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60487
708-444-1312 FAX: 708-444-1315
blitz66@earthlink.net

RECORDING SECRETARY

Barb Gwodz '09
8448 Main St.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-910-3422
BBGX2@aol.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Linda Zima '09
10813 W. Third
Mokena, IL 60448
708-479-9317
zbbookwoman@hotmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers plus
Joe Gniadek & Ike Widner

BOARD MEMBERS

COOK
John Miller '09
14828 San Francisco Ave.
Posen, IL 60469
C. 708-528-7866
kixonrte66@hotmail.com

DU PAGE

Bill Gwodz '10
8448 Main St.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-910-3422
BBGX2@aol.com

CONTINUED WILL

Lori Dwyer '09
304 Hillside Rd
New Lenox, IL 60451
708-707-1569
cookie lady1215@yahoo.com

GRUNDY

Ike Widner '09
948 E. Jackson Street
Morris, IL 60450
Cell: 815-530-5100
Wagontrail66@hotmail.com

LIVINGSTON

Tom Dunham '10
415 W. Moulton
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-7219
tdunham@mchsi.com

MCLEAN

Jerry Law '09 (see St. Clair)

LOGAN Ernie Edwards '10

101 W. Oak St.
Broadwell, IL 62634
217-732-2337

MONTGOMERY

Peter Stork '10
223 East Fourth St. Apt 1
Sparta, IL 62286
618-578-8483
pstork@gmail.com

MACOUPIN

Vacant

MADISON

Jerry Law '10
434 N. 5th Street
Wood River, IL 62096
618-251-4892
thelaw1@sbcglobal.net

SANGAMON

Mike Hersh '09
6011 S. 6th Road, #109
Springfield, IL 62712
217-341-6602

Webmaster -Scott Blitstein
eSeMBe Technical Services
708-231-8794

Mail to: web@il66assoc.org

www.il66assoc.org

CONTINUED

ST. CLAIR

Jerry Law '09
(See Madison County)

AT-LARGE

BOARD MEMBERS

Jaime Anderson '09
327 Sumac Street
Wilmington, IL 60841
847-721-6743
elite197642@yahoo.com

Joe Gniadek '10
1109 Cedar, #3B
Glendale Heights, IL 60139
630-690-4057
USROUTE66IL@gmail.com

Larry Libersher '10
PO Box 51
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-475-2295

Marty Schleder '09
9245 S. Mozart
Chicago, IL 60642

Lou Vargo '09
14911 Richmond Ave
Posen, IL 60469
708-339-3640

TOURS/GROUP VISITS, SPECIAL NEEDS

Jim Jones
815-844-5657
ng9e@veriozon.net

Your 66 News Team is Publisher / Co-editor Kathy Miller,
Co-editor Jim Jones and Layout Bob Borowiak

Visit our website at **Www.il66assoc.org**

THE 66 NEWS

Spring
2009

Advertising Rates
Single Issue Prices:
B/W Print:
Whole Page \$125.00
Half Page \$75.00
Bus. Card Size \$40.00
Annual - 4 issues: B/W Print
Pay for 3 get 1 free
May change ad content

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Joe Gniadek
630-690-4057
US-
ROUTE66IL@gmail.com
or
Marty Bilecki
815-941-3312
Coral57@aol.com

PRESERVATION

Joe Gniadek
630-690-4057
US-
ROUTE66IL@gmail.com

HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

815-844-IL66 (4566)
Curator: Marilyn Pritchard
815-844-6937
cyclone@verizon.net

PROMOTIONS

Jamie Anderson
847-721-6743
or
Jerry Law
618-251-4892

Visit our website at
www.il66assoc.org

IN THIS ISSUE:

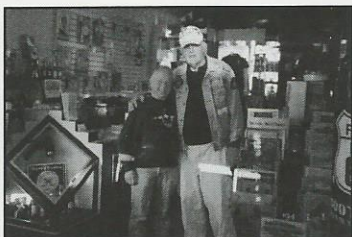
Remembering the Riviera
20th Anniversary Motor Tour
Palms Café
Winery on 66
The Lincoln's on 66
A little bit of history on 66

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS

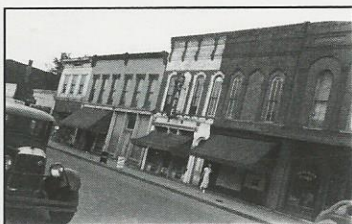
Marty & Geri Bilecki
David Clark
Glauda Funk
Jim Jones
Kathy Miller
Peter Stork
Bill Thomas
John & Lenore Weiss



Remembering the Riviera!
Page 3

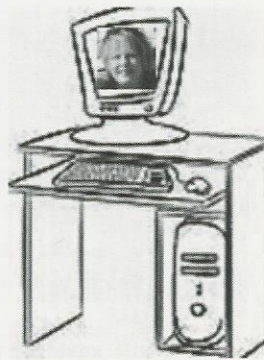


Businessman of the Year,
Scott "Cam" Cameron
pictured with Marty Bilecki!
Page 7



Palm's Café Update
Page 16

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK!



Change is in the air – we have a new President, a new Governor, and the Route 66 Preservation Corridor Act has been renewed. We have much to be grateful for.

The reality is we all are facing tough economic times. Job layoffs, staff reductions, plant closings – all our towns, cities, and villages along Route 66 are being affected every day by our current economic challenges. Every member of this Association is “feeling the pinch” and then some.

Route 66 was built during tough times like these. People looked to this “new” highway connecting Illinois to California much like the original settlers in the wagon train days looked forward to new opportunities and a better life. As members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois we need to be aware that the communities and people along Route 66 need our help to stay viable, to at least maintain, if not prosper. The upcoming Red Carpet Corridor weekend May 2nd and 3rd is the perfect time to gather your friends and family and get out on the Mother Road for the weekend – and to enjoy what the communities from Joliet to Towanda are planning for their 2nd Annual 0 miles of fun on Route 66. We pride ourselves on the fact that Illinois has so much to see and almost all of it is free...and on this special weekend each community shows off its best!

The 20th Annual Motor Tour will be going from North to South this year. After 20 years the road has become familiar and it is harder and harder to add exciting elements to our annual cruise down the Mother Road however our able Board of Directors has come up with several new surprises for this year's tour! Our theme this year is “Cruising the Land of Lincoln.”

Let's go back this year and revisit those values and traditions that made families strong and the 67 communities on Route 66 work together so well. Look how far we've come together! “Born” in the 1920's, expanded thru the depression in the 1930's continued thru the war years in the 1940's. Route 66 saw growth and prosperity in the 1950's, handled change and upheaval in the 1960's and even survived the groovy 1970's. Even the disco 1980's with big hair (or any hair!). The Mother Road stands testament to the fact that even in changing times when no one thought it was worth keeping Route 66 remained providing people and places a connection no matter what name it was given.

Like comfort food, Route 66 is there for us. So “come home and visit often”. See you on the road –

Cathie

RIVIERA

By John & Lenore Weiss

The year is 1927, the first talking movie was released, and the flapper era and speak easies were the norm. During this time, Route 66 was a heavily used paved road in Illinois. It was during this time that the Riviera opened its doors for business. In the next eighty years the Riviera was visited by movie stars, gangsters, politicians, foreign tourists, film crews, and families from everywhere.

These were the days of innovation. Mom and Pop busi-



One of the many transitions in the life of the Riviera Roadhouse.

nesses supplied the wants and needs of each community. It was a time of opportunity!

Jim and Rose Girot were one of these early entrepreneurs. Jim noticed that there wasn't a substantial location between Joliet and Pontiac to fill the needs of the ever increasing number of travelers on the hard road known as Route 66.

Mr. Girot saw an attractive two acre piece of property alongside the Mazon River just north of Gardner, Illinois. He bought the land and then purchased two large buildings. One was a Methodist church and school in Braidwood. The other was a payroll mining office from the community of South



Owners Bob & Peggy Kraft circa 1973.

Wilmington. Both of these communities were about ten miles from the property he now owned.

With hired local residents, he moved both two story structures along portions of Route 66. Both buildings arrived and were placed side by side on prepared foundations. They were then attached together. Try to comprehend what an awesome, complex, and gutsy project this was. Remember, this was 1927. The plan was to have one building as living quarters and one as a restaurant.

In 1928, the Riviera opened for business. Rose Girot named it the Riviera because of its location alongside of the Mazon River.

Some gasoline pumps were installed out front. In the 1940s, a fuel pump was actually located right next to the entrance of the restaurant.

As the need arose, several room additions were added to the complex. The Riviera survived prohibition. A speak easy was located in the basement, entered by a secret set of stairs in a closet. Not surprising, Al Capone and his brother, Ralph were



Yes, at one time the Riviera even sold gasoline!

seen regularly at the Riv.

The basement tap room was built to resemble entering a cool cave. Fake stalactites hung from the ceiling. Remember, this was the era of no air conditioning in the upstairs restaurant or in the patrons' automobiles. This cool below ground bar was very cave like and popular.

In the 1960s, a devastating flood engulfed the entire complex. The ingenuity and determination that created the Riviera was needed again to rebuild. By this time the road out front was called Route 66 A. Another alignment on the other side of the rail road tracks was now Route 66.

In 1972, Bob and Peggy Kraft purchased the Riviera. Bob wondered where the customers would come from. This whole complex was in the middle of farm fields and woods. By now the Riviera was very well known and popular. Locals and travelers all flocked to the famous Riviera Roadhouse.



Recent photo of Bob & Peggy taken in December 2008.

By this time the restaurant was located in the basement along with the bar. The original upstairs restaurant was now the greatly expanded kitchen.

Two dumbwaiters had been installed; one to lower the food down from the kitchen, and another to bring dirty dishes up to the washer. The dumbwaiter used to deliver meals is counter balanced by a World War One artillery shell. A small hole was cut into the upstairs floor. A pulley system allowed the downstairs waitresses to place the food order on a clothes pin and pull it up to the kitchen. A door bell system alerted the cook that an order was coming up. This downstairs restaurant and bar seated 159 people. On weekends patrons would have to wait in line for a seat.

This seemingly antiquated system worked extremely well. Extra steps and wasted time were eliminated. A waitress could service many more tables than current restaurants can handle.

Bob & Peggy continued to provide folks with good food and a friendly environment. Peggy arranged special events like palm readers, guest bands and other fun. Bob started collecting battery operated toys to entertain children, travelers and kids at heart.



The Riviera as it looks now.

Bob always had a story to tell and some famous one liners like "Have some mints, they're real good." Or "Happy-happy!" At times folks referred to Bob as "Bow Tie Bob" or "Rapid Robert". Your request for a beer or other drink was al-

ways followed with "Right now!" Yes, Bob Kraft is a bartender extraordinaire! With the exception of being a Boy Scout when he was young, Bob spent a lifetime behind the bar; first in the suburbs of Chicago, then in Gardner, Illinois. He never had a driver's license. If you asked why, he would tell you, "Drinking and driving don't mix. So I would rather drink!"

Peggy is the cook extraordinaire! Her trademark spaghetti sauce, cheese spread, salad dressings and soups all make you think you entered home cooking heaven. The secret of the Riviera was to order one of the specials. Often they were new creations. They also came with a specialty whipped up vegetable and a creative dessert. You never knew what you would be getting. What you did know is that it would be outstanding.

But time moves on. In 2008 Bob & Peggy, now in their mid 80s, were admitting it was time to retire. They tried to sell the place, but could not find anyone who was willing to work as hard as they had. They decided to close the doors for good on January 2, 2009. However, we all still hope that some very special person will come along and purchase it, then take over where Bob and Peggy left off.

Local and Chicago newspapers were notified in early December. When the news came out something wonderful happened. Folks from everywhere came to the Riviera for one last time. Daily the Riviera was filled to capacity. Folks waited patiently in line. Cameras flashed, tears were shed, and Bob said "Happy-happy" a few thousand more times.

The weather these last few weeks in December was some of the worst in recent history. We experienced fog, snow, ice, blizzards and below zero temperatures. But none of that stopped folks from experiencing one last dose of the Riviera.

What a tribute it was. Bob and Peggy never knew how loved they were. For 80 years the Riviera was an oasis along side Route 66. Tens of thousands of people have passed through its doors.

Peggy and her daughter-in-law, Laurie, are planning on creating a Riviera cook book. That would be awesome! Now the lights are off, the door is closed and sad silence has replaced this cheerful location.

Thank you Riviera! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Speaking for folks virtually around the world, we wish Bob and Peggy Kraft a pleasant retirement and some well deserved R & R. Good night and good-bye.



One of the many floodings of the Mazon River over the years.

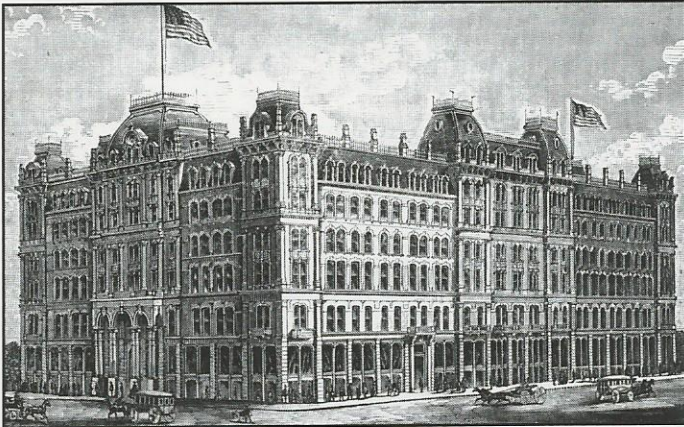
The Lincolns in Chicago

by David Clark

The year 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Many readers of this journal are likely aware of the many Lincoln-related historic sites that can be seen on or near the Route 66 corridor in such towns as Bloomington, Lincoln, and Springfield, Illinois. However, there are a few connections to the Lincoln family in my hometown of Chicago as well.

After the death of Lincoln and his burial in Springfield, his surviving family moved to Chicago. Mary Todd Lincoln and her sons Robert and Tad lived in various places in the city, including a home Mary briefly owned on Washington Boulevard near Racine Street. Robert became a lawyer, married, and started a family. Mary and Tad traveled to Europe, and then returned to live at the downtown Clifton House hotel. It was there that Tad died of pleurisy on July 15, 1871. Mary spent several years traveling, then returned to Chicago in 1875 due to unsupported concerns that Robert was dying.

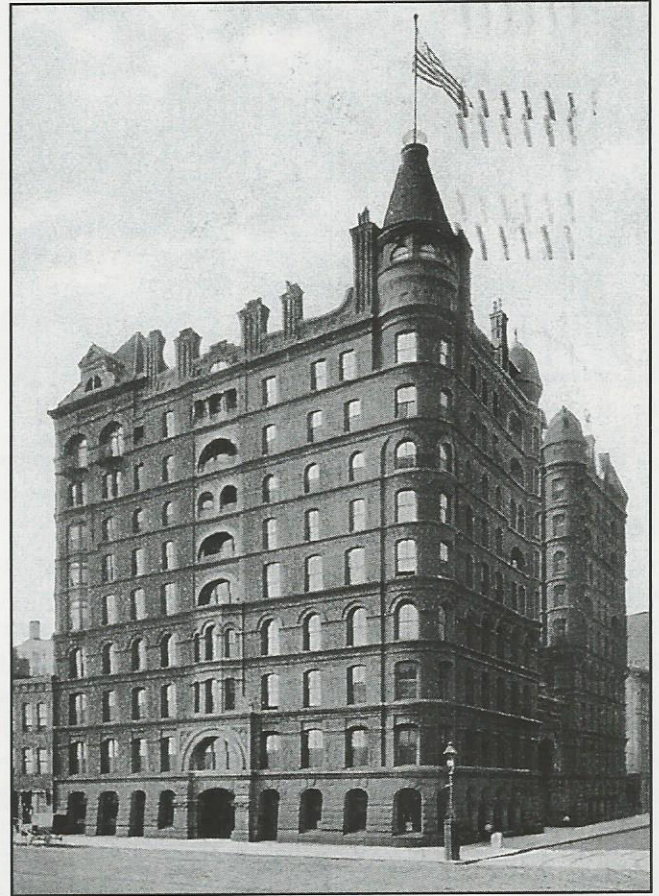
Mary never got along with her daughter-in-law, so she took a room at the Grand Pacific Hotel on Jackson Boulevard between LaSalle and Clark Streets. Of course, 50 years later, Jackson Boulevard would become Route 66. Mary was behaving erratically, spending money on clothing and furniture buying sprees—far in excess of any needs since she was living in residential hotels. She suffered from hallucinations and complained of severe pain. Robert was concerned about her mental condition and her ability to manage her own financial affairs.



The Grand Pacific Hotel, where Mary Lincoln lived and nearly died in 1875, was the largest hotel in the country at the time. It was designed by W. W. Boyington, the same architect as for the Chicago Water Tower and the old Joliet Penitentiary.

A jury trial at the Chicago Court House resulted in the verdict of insanity, and Mary was to be committed to a sanitarium with Robert as her conservator.

The evening after the trial, Mary went to a druggist on the ground floor of the Grand Pacific Hotel and asked for a mixture of laudanum and camphor, needed, she said, to help with pain she was suffering in her arm. The pharmacist was aware of the jury verdict of insanity, so instead he gave Mary a mixture of caramelized sugar and water labeled as laudanum. Upon



The Pullman office building stood on the southwest corner of Adams Street and Michigan Avenue from 1884 until 1956, and thus was part of the Route 66 corridor when Adams was designated westbound 66 in 1953. It was designed by S. S. Beman, who also designed all of the buildings at the Pullman factory and town south of Chicago. Robert Lincoln worked in this building from 1893.

leaving the pharmacy, she drank the entire bottle, assuredly under the assumption that it was enough poison to kill her. Robert watched over her all night, and the next morning she was taken to Bellevue Place sanitarium in Batavia, Illinois.

In 1893, Robert became general counsel for the Pullman Palace Car Company and took over as President of the company when George Pullman died in 1897. He later served as chairman of the board. During his tenure, the office of the company was in the aptly named Pullman Building at the southwest corner of Michigan Avenue and Adams Street. When Adams Street became westbound Route 66 in 1953, the building was still standing.

My newly published book, *The Roads that Lead to Lincoln*, details many of the connections between Abraham Lincoln and his family to sites along the corridors of Route 66, the Great River Road, and the Lincoln Highway in Illinois. If you would like an autographed copy, contact me at 312-432-1284 or dave@windycityroadwarrior.com. Have fun looking for Honest Abe on the historic highways of the Land of Lincoln this year!

KRUZIN' WITH THE BILECKIS

By Marty and Geri Bilecki



The Riviera's Betty Boop sign is not lit - but - the memories will remain for many.

Zdenek Jurasek, the group's President, is a very enthusiastic supporter of the Mother Road and has encouraged many Czechs to travel and enjoy the Mother Road as we do. They love our country and Route 66 so much that they recently purchased a Jeep Commander - had it shipped to Europe and it will be their official Route 66 Association vehicle. We have made an international connection with them escorting them on the Illinois portion for two trips in 2008. We will do so in the near future also.

Waiting the cruising season, we will be doing what is now our own "Annual 66 trek West" to Santa Monica and all stops in between on the agenda. We plan to re-visit old friends on the road and stop at historic places that we missed on our other journeys.

The Riviera, in Gardner, also has been the highlight of much local news and also many stories this past winter. We made several stops to cover the filming of a movie in November and December (see story in this issue) We also joined a group of many fans of the Riviera and fellow route 66 Association members at the Riviera's last night in business - New Year's Eve. It



The last New Year's Eve at the Riviera Roadhouse.

"Wow" 2009 is marching forward. Our calendar is rapidly filling in dates of '66' future events. Our own Illinois Association and sister state Missouri both will celebrate 20 year anniversaries. There is a lot planned for this special year, including our Motor Tour on June 12th, 13th and 14th, with the Hall of Fame Banquet on the 13th at the impressive Crowne Plaza in Springfield.

We started the year with an invitation to attend the 2nd annual Czech Route 66 Association Convention in the Czech Republic which was held in late January. After much sincere deliberation, we unfortunately had to decline their gracious gesture.

was a great sendoff for Peggy and Bob. Their dedication to so many years in business is to be commended.

Also, in Gardner, IL, is the beautiful gazebo which is now



Scott "Cam" Cameron - Marty Bilecki - Camz Retro Shop - Wilmington, IL.

completed. This was accomplished by the efforts of volunteers and the village administration. This is another reason to visit the town which has contributed so much to the history of the Mother Road in Illinois. The Route 66 Assoc. of Illinois was represented by many members at the dedication.

Another Route 66 stalwart of our Association was acknowledged for his incentive in Wilmington, IL by the



The Gazebo in Gardner, IL.

Wilmington Chamber of Commerce. Scott "Cam" Cameron owner of "Camz Retro" was named 2008 Businessman of the year. This is for his diligence in the restoration of "Water Street" in that City. His contributions to the town and Route 66 products are known nationwide on Route 66.

We continue to communicate with 66 travelers we have met world wide by correspondence and e-mail and the comments are always positive about our Route 66 community. Our motto is and will always be "If You Don't Go - You Won't Know." Start your engines, bikes, carts, feet and even wheel-chairs (it has been done) - the Mother Road awaits your arrival. Keep Kruzin!

The Lights Burn Bright to Honor Fallen Soldiers

The war against terrorism is being fought in Iraq but support for our troops and a shrine that honoring and showing respect for our fallen heroes are right here at home, just ask Mr. Floyd Jordan Jr. of Mitchell, IL.

This summer, as you are on your way to the Chain of Rocks Bridge take a detour. Just 1 mile off of Old Route 66 as you drive through Mitchell, IL you will find a shrine made of colored holiday lights that hang proudly on a wooden picket fence. At this printing the display has 46 white lights amid the colored ones to honor the more than 4,600 soldiers have lost their lives during the Iraq War. Each white light represents 100 fallen soldiers.

This shrine was started after Christmas in 2003 when Mr. Jordan Jr., 72 a retired steel worker decided to replace six colored lights with white bulbs to represent the then 600 lives lost in our fight against terrorism. Since that time the number of white lights has grown and Mr. Jordan's support has never waived. In the five years the lights have been on display they have only been off four times due to power outages and storms. The lights will remain on, and Mr. Jordan will continue to honor the heroes that have given their lives for our country.

Chain of Rocks Bridge Upcoming Events!

Old Chain of Rocks Bridge

10950 Riverview Drive • St. Louis, MO 63137 • 314/436-1324

www.confluencegreenway.org

Confluence Clean Up - March 28, Saturday, 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Help bring back the splendor of the river at this clean-up event. You can help by volunteering! Lend a hand by participating in this clean up event based at the Missouri entrance to the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. Missouri River Relief, one of the program partners, will take volunteers to pre-determined sites along the Mississippi River to pick up trash and debris. Opportunities for habitat restoration are all part of this effort too. Some of the trash collected will be recycled into art during the event by trash artists.

To volunteer contact: Marc Clemens at marc@trailnet.org or call 314/416-9930 extension 104.

Bridge Birthday Bash & Bicycle Ride - June 28, Sunday, Registration: 8:30 – 10:00 AM

Start: Old Chain of Rocks Bridge

10950 Riverview Drive, St. Louis, MO 63137

Routes: 17, 34 or 50 miles - Terrain: Flat to rolling, no big hills

Features: Celebrate the 80th birthday of the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge with a scenic ride in Madison County, IL. Return to the Bridge for the Birthday Bash featuring brews, Blues, cake and ice cream too (while supplies last)!

Directions: Exit I-270 at Riverview Drive and go south 100 yards. The Bridge entrance is on your left. Additional parking is available at North Riverfront Park 1-mile south on Riverview.

Bike Ride Fees: \$8 Member, \$12 Non-member, \$3 Child - The Festival is FREE!

In Partnership with: The Confluence Partnership, KWMU, the Saint Louis Brewery and Schlafly Beer

Bike Shop Sponsor: REI

St. Louis Route 66 Festival - October 3, Sunday

Save the date for this event featuring classic cars, music and road food! The festival recently received the Spirit of St. Louis Award presented by the St. Louis Attractions Association. The award recognizes a program that contributed to the St. Louis region by raising public awareness, increased visitorship and had a positive impact on the tourism and hospitality industry. The Festival is produced by The Confluence Partnership.

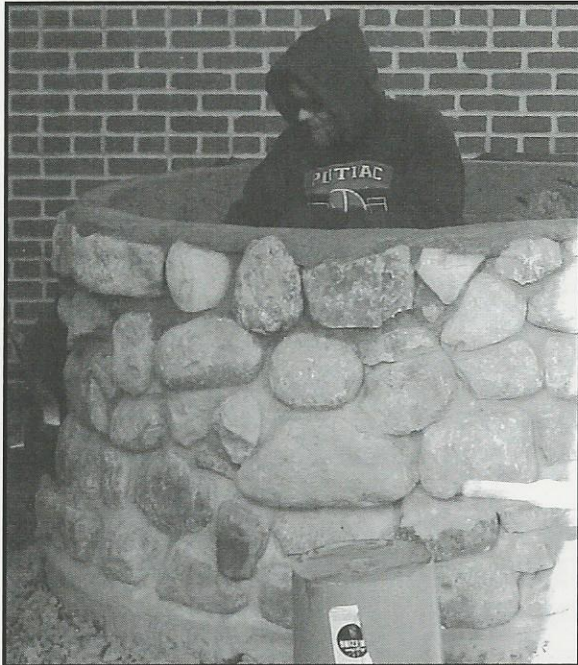
THE WELL FROM COUNTRYSIDE

The Wishing Well Motel was razed in 2007. The original well and the highway sign were donated to the Route 66 Hall of Fame & Museum in Pontiac. The Wishing Well Motel was inducted into the Hall of Fame on June 7, 2003.

After preservation members carefully removed the signage, the City of Pontiac employees traveled to Countryside to remove both the well and the sign frame. The objective is to restore and install both onto the museum complex grounds. These two historic artifacts will be part of a complete outdoor experience for the south area of the



The Wishing Well at its original location in Countryside after the Wishing Well Motel was torn down.



A city worker reconstructs the Wishing Well.

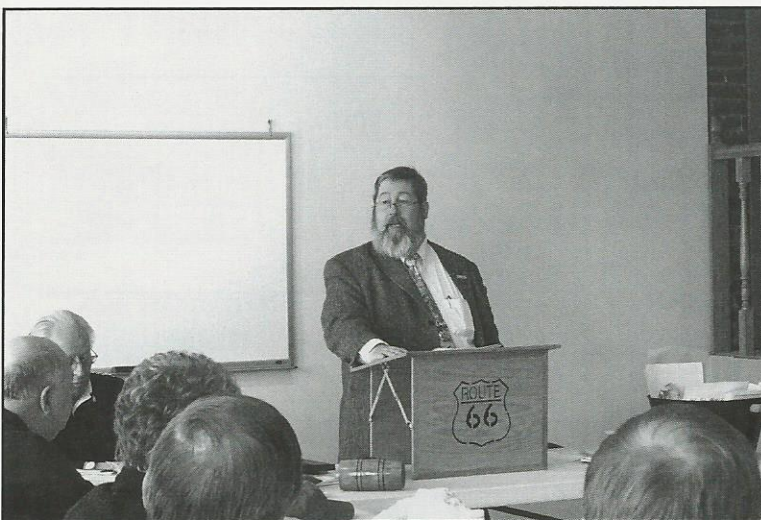
Route 66 museum complex.

Reconstruction of the original well began during a break in the January winter weather. Milt Hanson, a City of Pontiac employee, has been put in charge of this important project. Each original stone has been installed as close as possible to the way it was on the original site at the motel. Later this summer the refurbished sign will also be installed.

Our thanks go out to the City of Pontiac for sponsoring this important Route 66 icon restoration.



Progress is made on the wishing well in its new location at the Route 66 Assoc. of IL Hall of Fame Museum.



Quarterly Meeting hosts Guest Speaker

Guest speaker Dr. Edward Carroll, Vice-Chair of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission addresses the attendees for the winter 2009 Quarterly Association Meeting in Pontiac at the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum.

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS



20th Anniversary Motor Tour "Cruising the Land of Lincoln"

JUNE 2009
Friday the 12th
Saturday the 13th and
Sunday the 14th

Hall of Fame Dinner - Unlimited Buffet
Coffee – Ice Tea – Water included
Crowne Plaza, Springfield
7:00pm to 11:00pm
Adults \$30.00
Special children prices \$13.00
Cash Bar!

For further information please call...

Marty Blitstein (708) 444-1312

Durelle or Marilyn Pritchard (815) 844-6937

Jerry Law (618) 251-4892

Jim Jones (815) 844-5657

ANY VEHICLE * ANY MODEL * ANY MAKE

Tour goes on rain or shine – no refunds. Join or leave the tour at any time!

Mail in entries must be received no later than May 29th

The Route 66 Association is not responsible for any accidents, injuries, or Misconduct!

Mail to: MOTOR TOUR 9280 Drummond DR. – Tinley Park, IL 60487

Friday Night Registration

Salerno Restaurante Vincente
HODGKINS

Saturday Morning Official Start
BERWYN - Line up on Route 66

Saturday Morning Registration
White Fence Farm
ROMEDEVILLE

WILMINGTON - Launching Pad

GARDNER - Gazebo

DWIGHT - Lunch

NORMAL – 305 Pine St

LINCOLN – Courthouse

SPRINGFIELD – Overnight

SUNDAY

RAYMOND

50th Anniversary of the
Our Lady of the Highways Shrine

EDWARDSVILLE – Winery
End of Tour

Name: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Motor Tour Registration Fee \$35.00: _____

We plan to attend the Hall of Fame Banquet at the Crowne Plaza \$30.00 per person: _____

Children under 12 only \$13.00 _____

TOTAL _____

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

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MOTEL LIST - 2009 MOTOR TOUR

BE SURE TO MENTION "ROUTE 66 MOTOR TOUR"

FRIDAY NIGHT RESERVATIONS – JUNE 12

BEST WESTERN COUNTRYSIDE
6532 JOLIET ROAD
COUNTRYSIDE, IL 60525
(708)354-5200
\$92.00 plus tax
Reservation Cut Off Day May 29
Smoking Rooms Available

MARRIOTT – BURR RIDGE
1200 BURR RIDGE PARKWAY
BURR RIDGE, IL 60527
(630)986-4100
\$89.00 plus tax
Reservation Cut Off Day May 22
Smoke-free Hotel

SATURDAY NIGHT RESERVATIONS – JUNE 13

CROWNE PLAZA
3000 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 529-7777
\$106.00 plus tax

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
3050 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 529-7771
\$89.00 plus tax

Reservation Cut Off Day is May 23 for the Crowne Plaza & Holiday Inn

Note: The Crowne Plaza & Holiday Inn are connected by a walkway!
The Hall of Fame Dinner will be at the Crowne Plaza.
Both are Smoke-free facilities.

Please note: Hall of Fame Dinner ticket pickup is at the Hall of Fame dinner only!

SUNDAY NIGHT RESERVATIONS – JUNE 14

COMFORT INN
3080 South State Route 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
(618) 656-4900
\$76.00 plus tax
Reservation Cut Off Day May 14, 2009

All welcome * Any vehicle * Any make * Any year * Rain or shine we tour!
Registration Friday night in Hodgkins, Saturday morning at White Fence Farm

Come cruise the Land of Lincoln – tour with us this June!!!

Gardner, Illinois

The Route 66 Memory Gazebo!

The Beautification Committee and the Village of Gardner are bursting with pride! On November 29, 2008 they cut the ribbon to dedicate their newest community project. This first class concrete gazebo was funded by many elements of the village and the sale of memory bricks. The main feature is the in-memory bricks that lead up to and circle around the beautiful structure.

Two flag poles frame the walkway. One is the American flag. The other is a Route 66 flag. The honor to raise the Route 66 flag was bestowed on John & Lenore Weiss.



Hall of Fame members Lenore and Jon Weiss raise the Route 66 flag during the Gazebo dedication in Gardner.

The American flag was raised by community veterans. The gazebo was blessed by Pastor Jan Chandler. Then the very large gathering of local residents and visitors together sang God Bless America.

Shortly after the dedication they lit the wonderfully decorated and festive Christmas tree. Then Santa appeared with some of his elves. In 2007, the Beautification Committee planted the huge live evergreen tree that will annually be used to light up the holidays.

Folks, this is small town America and spirit at its best! Gardner residents are obviously proud of their community and it shows. Directly across the street (original Route 66) you can visit one of several restaurants in town. Or stroll



Lenore Weiss, Santa Clause, Kathy Miller and Elf pose for photos.

through the wonderful old hardware store. Down the street and across the tracks are several outstanding antique shops. Remember that Gardner is also home to the historic 2-cell jail. While at the 1906 jail, be sure to see the monument dedicated to the Reverend Chris Christiansen. He is the man who saved the world from nuclear destruction. The residents of Gardner are justifiably proud of his contribution to history.

Gardner is in the Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor. For more information, check out the website at www.il66redcarpetcorridor.org. Spend some time in Gardner. You will be glad you did!



LINCOLN
PRINTERS

711 Broadway St. • Lincoln, IL 62656

Phone: 732-3121 • Fax: 732-3122

e-mail: lincolnprinters@abelink.com

Bob Borowiak, Owner

*"For All Your Printing Needs" -- Pick-up & Delivery
Serving Lincoln and Logan County Since 1970*

Springer Creek Winery on old Route 66 in Edwardsville

by Jerry Law

Did you know we have a Winery on Route 66 here in Illinois? It started as a Cash and Carry Mon and Pop Market. Some say it was built in 1914, but the first records that were found shows 1921. Way back in the 1800s the house next to the market was built.

As you may know most historic buildings are known by the person who built it, but this one is different, it was Halley's for so many years that most people know it as Halley's.

When built the address was 317 Hillsboro, then somewhere around 1930 the city changed the numbering system in Edwardsville and it became 817 Hillsboro which is still the current address. The earliest records show the store as Barns Cash Market from 1921 to 1924. Then Joseph Barns sold it to Costa Coroniotis who operated it as the Superior Cash & Carry Grocery from 1924 to 1927, then sold the building to Thomas and Mayme Halley, who owned and operated the market as Halley's Cash and Carry Market for 43 years along side Route 66. This old Market also came with the house next door at 815 Hillsboro, which has stayed together and still is as one property. The store was built very close to the house, and the Halley's rented the house to Mayme's brother, John Mockler. The store had one small round table near the back of the store where people could set down to eat what they bought; this was a great idea for a store on Route 66. By 1929 the Halley's owned this and resided at 813 Hillsboro just two doors down from their market. That was their last home. Before their death the Halley's sold their store in 1970.

The Memmerles purchased the store in 1970 and made a resell-it shop of the old store. They felt so connected to the Halley's they left the sign "Halley's" on the roof for most of the 19 years they owned the business. Men repairing the roof took the sign down and didn't replace it. Now the old sign that said "Halley's" is gone forever. In a 1989 article in the local news paper Hazel Hemmerle stated that she was very disappointed to find the sign missing. Since the Halley's sold the store no architectural features or store fixtures were changed and still remain the same today. In 1982 Sam Makler bought the property and Sam Makler and Colette Andre own the Springs Creek Winery. In 1989 the store went through a renovation, then in 2005 another renovation was needed because a truck hit the store and caused about \$35,000 damage. Now the store looks as good as ever and like it has for many years.

The current Owners now operate it as the Springer Creek Winery on old Route 66 in Edwardsville at 817 Hillsboro. They grow part of the grapes on their property outside Edwardsville on Rt. 143 and buy part of the grapes, and make their own wine on the property out of town. They use

Route 66 on the labels of all their wine, but only the blush has the shield on it, so next time your in town, why not stop in and check out this historic place, and visit Sam and Colette while you try some Route 66 wine.

50th Anniversary of the Our Lady of the Highways Shrine

Sunday, October 25th, 2009: Bishop George Lucas of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois will celebrate a Mass at the Our Lady of the Highways Shrine in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of its dedication. Our Lady of the Highway is located on the alignment of Route 66 that lies alongside I-55 just north of Raymond, IL.



The Lady of the Highways Shrine will celebrating her 50th anniversary. A Mass will be held Sunday, October 25, 50 years *to the day* of the statue's dedication. George Lucas, Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois plans to officiate at the anniversary mass.

Doc's Soda Fountain

Girard, IL

Luncheon

Fresh baked pie and bread

Step Back in Time -

Pharmacy Museum collection from 1884

Serving Hours: M-F 9-5 Sat. 9-2

West Side Square - Girard, IL

Group Reservations call 627-3491

WANTED

The Route 66 Hall of Fame & Museum in Pontiac can use your help. The museum committee feels that the story of coal mining along the alignments of Route 66 should be told.

Braidwood, Braceville, Godley and Mazonia were virtually raped by strip mining. It is an important sad story. Under the town of Gardner are numerous mining shafts.

Down south many areas exist because of mining such as Carlinville. The Standard Addition is a community of 156 Sears mail order houses. It was the fastest way that the Standard Oil Company could create much needed housing for its mine workers.

In Mt. Olive at the Union Burial Cemetery, there is the monument to Mother Mary Jones who organized and unionized the miners.

In Virden, on the town square, there is an awesome brass 3-D monument, erected in 2006, that depicts the mining "Battle of Virden."

We need mining items, objects, stories and more. We also need a volunteer that can work with us to help us



Old stripmines in Braidwood.

understand how to tell this story. If you can help, please contact me.

John Weiss, Chairman
Route 66 Museum Committee
815-458-6616
weissinfo@il66authority.com

Sad Farewells

Annabelle (Horrie) Parkinson of Braceville formerly of Gardner passed away on January 23, 2009. Mrs. Parkinson was 89 years of age. Annabelle (Horrie) was the widow of the late H. Burt Parkinson who was inducted into the Hall of Fame on June 10, 1995.

Our association extends their sympathy to her family, her daughter, Patricia (Robert) Swisher of Braceville; son, William (Amy) Parkinson of York Springs, PA; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

John Stonecipher, 88, of Odell, IL passed away January 1, 2009, at St. Mary's Hospital, Streator. Mr. Stonecipher was owner and operator of Stoney's Service Station on Route 66 in Odell for 41 years. He drove a school bus for Odell Schools for 15 years. He was a sergeant in the U.S. Marines Corps from August 1943 to July 1946. He was a member of the Route 66 Association and was inducted into the Route 66 Hall of Fame in 1992.

Our association extends their sympathy to his family, wife Loyce, daughter, Rita (John) Collura, East Long-

meadow, Mass.; three stepsons, David Tammen, Lexington, S.C., Duane (Diane) Tammen, Leesville, S.C., and Dale (Gina) Tammen, Mansfield; three step grandchildren, Theresa and Michael Collura, and Melissa (Paul) Gensic; two nephews; and four nieces.

Wilton C. Rinkel, 93, of Hamel, Illinois passed away December 8th, in Alhambra, Illinois. Wilton spent his entire life living and working on Route 66, and he loved to share his stories of the people and places along the road. Wilton used to attend the quarterly meetings and always stood up to share a thought or story at the end of the meeting. Wilton was inducted into the Hall of Fame on June 8, 1996.

Our association extends their sympathy to his family Glenn (Marlene) Rinkel of Blaine, Washington, Robert (Virginia) Rinkel of Leslie, Michigan, daughters Linda (Rich) Henry of New Douglas, Illinois, Judy Jenkins of Edwardsville, Jane Peraino of Lehigh Acres, Florida, 14 grandchildren, 25 Great Grandchildren, and 1 Great, Great Grandchild.

ILLINOIS 66 "A-BUZZ" WITH FILM MAKING

by Marty and Geri Bilecki

Yes, that's right, another film company is using the Mother Road and the cameras are churning. Rattlesnake Film Studio, a Chicago based TV and film company is cruisin' the Illinois Mother Road and filming a "shocker" called "The Nest". The film will be shown at upcoming national film fests – such as Sundance and the Chicago Film Fest. The company and its director, Tim Zwica, hope to have the film released in 2009. It will be available on DVD and also for TV programming



A threatening scene on grounds of the Riviera Road House filming thriller "The Nest" - note historic Route 66 street car diner circa 1900's in background.

We had an opportunity to visit filming sessions on three separate occasions. The first was on the grounds of the historic Riviera Road House in Gardner. This was complete with the Route 66 Streetcar Café and stage props being utilized as the story full of suspense unfolds. This is a story in the spirit of a 50's and 60's Hitchcock drama. A story of greed, selfishness and violence erupts almost instantly in the setting of a small Midwest community and family diner business. To say more would reveal the plot.

Another scene takes place in a vintage horse barn in rural Gardner, a short distance from 66, on the Kurt and Betty Mathes farm. Filming was in the barn complete with their two horses. One horse was neighing like "Mr. Ed" from the old TV show – showing his annoyance with the whole production!!! Several surrounding areas in and around Gardner were also used in the filming.

We had an opportunity to interview the Director and story writer, Tim Zwica, and several of the actors. Lead actress is Jamie Newell. We are told she has made appearances in the Chicago theater circuit and also has appeared on several TV dramas. Other cast members



Traditional clapboard used as they continue filming at the Riviera.

include – Adam Shalzi, Adam Di Giovanni, Scott Lynch, Jennifer Scott, and Molly Bina.

We were amazed to see how much detail goes into the filming and how long each scene takes. Very impressive!!! Judging from the activity that we observed and the context of the story it should be worth viewing. Look for the title – "The Nest" – no, not birds, but KILLER BEES!

The Palms Grill Café – A New Beginning in Atlanta, Café

by Bill Thomas

Blue plate specials, BINGO, and a bus stop – Welcome to the Palms Grill Café on Rt. 66 in downtown, Atlanta, Illinois. After five years of planning, fund raising, and construction work, the fully restored Palms Grill Café will once again open its doors to Rt. 66 travelers come Spring 2009. Anyone traveling Rt. 66 looking for a one-of-a-kind, “the way it used to be” experience is invited to the Palms Grill Café. Bus and group tours are welcome – just phone 217-648-5077 to make reservations.

The Palms Grill Café opened in August 1934, heralded by an ad in the Atlanta Argus that announced,



Advertisement for Palms Grille Café.

“The Palms Grill, East Side Square - On U.S. Route 66 - Atlanta, and Now Open for Business, Home Cooking, Quick Service, Courteous Treatment. Plate Lunch 25 cents, Regular Dinners and Short Orders Also Served. We Solicit Your Patronage.”

The Palms Grill was a social gathering spot, a place of employment for numerous Atlanta citizens and teenagers, and a Greyhound Bus Stop – Atlanta’s connection to the wider world.. From its grand opening in August of 1934 through the early 1940s, the Grill, as it was known locally, advertised dancing and BINGO either on selected evenings.

Entering the front door of the Grill in 1934, you would have seen a square table with four chairs to the right, then a counter top with 10 stools along the south side of the room. A cash register was located at the front of the counter. Behind the counter was workspace occupied by large coffee urns, a steam table, a grill, and shelves to hold dishes. Immediately to the left when entering the building was a 5-cent slot machine. Also on the left of the room was a row of several square tables, each with four chairs that were later replaced with

booths. From the front to the back of the café, half way up the north wall, ran a set of framed mirrored panels, approximately four feet square each.

Toward the rear of the café was another counter with 4 stools. In back of the rear counter was a partition approximately 8 feet tall that separated the kitchen from the café’s seating area. A “pass through” window in the partition allowed waitresses to place and pick up those blue plate specials. Two “Pepsi Cola” chalk boards above the rear counter were used to display menu items. There was also a 7Up menu board, a small placard advertising pies, and various other posters on the wall. The floor of the original Palms Grill was covered in linoleum featuring a square, geometric pattern. The ceiling was made of decorative tin panels.

In the rear half of the building, behind the kitchen area, was a small room, complete with a piano, where the Grill’s advertised dances were held and BINGO played.

An August 24, 1934 edition of the Atlanta Argus ran an advertisement that announced, “The Palms Grill - in the Center of Atlanta on U.S. Route 66. Dancing Every Night. Special Chicken and Steak Dinners. We Specialize in Club Parties”

Atlanta native, Robert Adams, opened the Palms Grill Café. He was born February 28, 1888 in Eminence Township west of Atlanta. After serving in World War I, he moved to Los Angeles where he worked as a realtor and also “engaged in music and dramatics”, according to his obituary. He frequently traveled back and forth between Los Angeles and his hometown. The Palms Grill was so named by Adams as a reference to his time spent in California. It was decorated to resemble an eatery near where Adams lived in Los Angeles. Due to the fact his primary residence was in California, Adams made arrangements with Mr. Ray Thompson of Atlanta to act on his behalf in hiring and overseeing the managers charged with running the Grill on a day-to-day basis. Robert Thompson, son of Ray, reported that it was not uncommon for his father to hire a manager for the café, but for Adams to return to Atlanta from California and find some small fault with the person. Adams would fire the manager and return to California, leaving Ray the task of finding a replacement. Each time, Thompson was required by Adams to go to the Grill and count spoons, forks, and the rest of the inventory to ensure the dismissed manager had not taken anything.

In its early years, businessmen, tourists, and

even celebrities frequented the Palms Grill Café. The first week it opened, Max Baer, Sr., the newly crowned heavy weight, boxing champion of the world stopped. According to the Atlanta Argus, on Sunday morning,



Palms Grille Café in the 30's.

August 12, 1934, Baer, his manager, and four companions parked in front of the Grill and all but the champion went in and ordered breakfast. Baer remained asleep in his car outside. After the others had eaten they took him a bottle of milk. With some difficulty they awakened Baer and he came into the cafe. Mrs. Tina Shifflet, cook at the Grill, had just taken several pies from the oven. Baer ordered a piece of coconut pie. After eating it with relish, he walked back to the kitchen and tipped each of the employees a dollar, remarking to Mrs. Shifflet, "My gosh, woman, that's the best pie I ever ate." The party then entered their cars and continued on their journey to St. Louis where Baer was to fulfill a theatrical engagement.

The Grill was the designated Greyhound bus stop in Atlanta for many years, beginning in January 1940. On the bottom of the large neon sign out front was a small light, that when turned on acted as a signal to Greyhound buses that a passenger wanted to board. In addition to travelers journeying long distances, local Atlanta residents would go to the Grill to use the Greyhound bus service for short, routine shopping trips and other errands. Some Atlanta children even regularly rode it to nearby Lincoln for their baton lessons.

In the latter 1940s and throughout the 1950s, the Grill continued to serve as a popular gathering spot. It was a favorite lunch destination for the students of Atlanta High School, who rushed there to get seats over

their lunch hour and then again for an after school treat.

A further reason for teenagers to dash to the Grill was the fact that it was the drop-off point for prom flowers, delivered by florists from the county seat 9 miles away in Lincoln. Many of those same teenagers gained their first work experience waiting tables and grilling short orders at the Palms Grill.

After the Grill closed in the late 1960s, the building remained empty for nearly 20 years. Tax records show that Mr. John Hawkins owned the building in 1982. Mr. Hawkins remodeled the interior of the building for use as living and working space. He created a small apartment in the front and turned the back portion of the building into a workshop where he repaired small engines. Following Mr. Hawkins's death in 2002, his family donated

the building to the Atlanta Public Library and Museum. In 2003, the Atlanta Library began the restoration project that has now culminated in the rebirth of the Palms



Palms Grille Café in 2008.

Grill Café.

Today, the Palms Grill Café has been returned to its original look, with the goal of helping visitors feel like they've stepped back into 1935-40 when they enter its front door. For additional information regarding Atlanta and its other historic and Rt. 66 related attractions visit www.atlantailinois.org.

Route 66 Association of Illinois Business Members through February 01, 2009

Illinois Members are listed first alphabetically by city.

VFN Fiberglass	330 W. Factory Road	Addison	IL	60101	
Atlantia Public Library	100 Race St.	Atlantia	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
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
Brown's Wrecker Service	13816 N. 900 East Road	Bloomington	IL	61704	
City of Bollingbrook	375 W. Briafcliff 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	312-939-3111
Corner Bar	200 S. First St.	Divernon	IL	62530	217-628-3605
Old Route 66 Family Restaurant	105 S. Old 66	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-2920
Rub,Olds, Chevrolet,Buick	200 S. Franklin St.	Dwight	IL	60420	
Village of Dwight	209 S. Prairie Ave.	Dwight	IL	60420	
First National Bank of Dwight	P.O. Box 10	Dwight	IL	60429	
Edwardsville Preservation Comm.	118 Hillsboro Ave.	Edeardsville	IL	62025	
Edwardsville- Glen Carbon	200 University Park Dr., Suite 260	Edwadsville	IL	62025	618-656-7600
Comfort Inn	3080 S. St. Route 15	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-4900
Sptingers Creek Winery	817 Hillsboro Ave.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-307-5110
City of Elk City	P.O. Box 1100	Elk City	IL	73648	580-225-6266
Gardner Chronicle Antiques & Gifts	214 Division St., P.O. Box 164	Gardner	IL	60424	815-237-2727
Village Of Gardner	302 N. Center St., P.O. Box 545	Gardner	IL	60424	
Luna Café	201 E. Chain of Rocks Road	Granite City	IL	62040	
T-T'S Bar & Grill/ Canal Motel	3317 W. Chain of Rocks Road	Granite City	IL	62040	618-797-2338
Historic Route 66 Flea Market	3117 W. Chain of Rocks Road	Granite City	IL	62240	618-797-7900
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 Café	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	309-874-3360
Illinois State Library/ Serials Section	300 S. 2nd St.	Springfield	IL	62701	217-785-4127
Branham Body & Paint	4125 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	
C & A Custom Kitchens	3500 Clear Lake Road	Springfield	IL	62702	
Champion Garage, Inc.	820 Black Ave.	Springfield	IL	62702	
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	
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	
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
Mans Energy System	3445 S. 6th St.	Springfield	IL	62703	
Amoco Fence Co.	2919 S. MacArthur	Springfield	IL	62704	
Burris & Son Trucking	2831 S. Whittier	Springfield	IL	62704	
Watt's Bros. Drug Store	9th & N. Grand Ave.	Springfield	IL	62704	
Finch & Esper	45 Lindon Lane	Springfield	IL	62707	
Lindsey Electric, Inc.	3260 Terminal Ave.	Springfield	IL	62707	
Northend Illini Bank	2120 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62791	
IL State Police Heritage Foundation	4000 N. Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	217-528-0764
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	PO 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
Miami Ok Convention & Visitors Bureau	111 N. Main St., P.O. Box 760	Miami	OK	74355	918-542-4435

Visit our website at: www.il66assoc.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Spring 2009 Quarterly Meeting

Sunday – April 19, 2009

Majestic Banquet Hall
121 West Ryder in Litchfield, IL
Phone - 217.324.4200

Board Meeting - 10:30 am
Lunch break - Noon
General Meeting - 1:00 pm

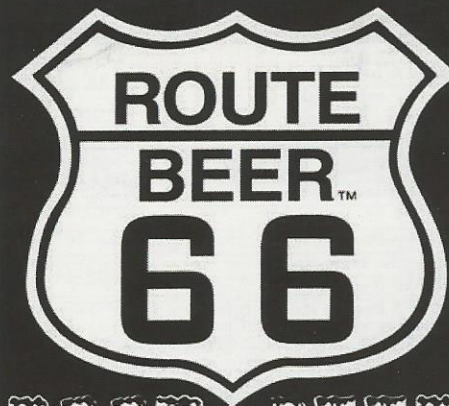
QUARTERLY MEETINGS

July 12, 2009 – Hodgkins

October 18, 2009 Bloomington

Dates and locations subject to change

Made with
Real Sugar



ROOT BEER
GET YOUR KICKS WITH ROUTE 66 BEER™

no artificial sweeteners
Caffeine Free

Route-Licious®

We always welcome inquiries from retail stores interested in selling our products
We are still seeking distribution in Central and Southern Illinois
Call today toll free 1-877-66SODAS - 1-877-667-6327

Route 66 Sodas, LLC - Wilmington, IL 60481-0276 - 815-476-9315 - sodajerk@route66sodas.com - www.route66sodas.com



License plate photo submitted by Glaida Funk. Plate of Thom & Helen West of Trafalgar, IN.

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE 66 NEWS

110 West Howard Street
Pontiac, IL 61764

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

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

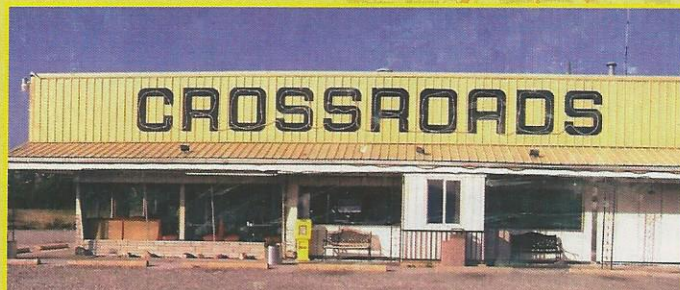
THE 66 NEWS

HALL OF FAME EDITION

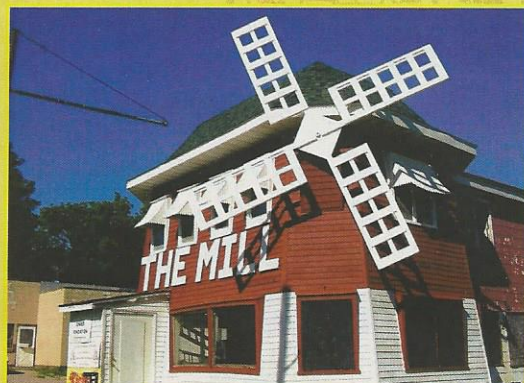
WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG

SUMMER 2009

\$3.95



The Crossroads Diner - Mt. Olive, IL



The Mill on Route 66 - Lincoln, IL



Sprague's Super Service - Normal, IL



Stateville Prison - Crest Hill, IL



Tom Teague Ambassador Award Recipients,
John & Lenore Weiss - Wilmington, IL

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.

Publication Information: *The 66 News* is published on/or near the 15th of Mar., May, Aug., and Nov. Contributions are accepted without compensation. Authors retain all copyright privileges. Submit all stories, photos and ads at least 8 weeks prior publication.
Email to: Kathleen708@hotmail.com or US Mail to: Jim Jones, Newsletter c/o The Route 66 Assoc of IL Hall of Fame & Museum—110 West Howard—Pontiac, IL 61764

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Cathie Stevanovich '09
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60487
708-444-1312
cathiesb@earthlink.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Killackey '10
304 Hillside Rd
New Lenox, IL 60451
708-707-1569
bk394477@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Martin Blitstein '10
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60487
708-444-1312 FAX: 708-444-1315
blitz66@earthlink.net

RECORDING SECRETARY

Barb Gwodz '09
8448 Main St.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-910-3422
BBGX2@aol.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY '10

Lenore Weiss
22550 W. Rte 113
Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 458-6616
weissinfo@il66authority.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers plus
Joe Gniadek & Ike Widner

BOARD MEMBERS

COOK

John Miller '09
14828 San Francisco Ave.
Posen, IL 60469
C. 708-528-7866
kixonrte66@hotmail.com

DU PAGE

Bill Gwodz '10
8448 Main St.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-910-3422
BBGX2@aol.com

CONTINUED WILL

Lori Killackey '09
304 Hillside Rd
New Lenox, IL 60451
708-707-1569
cookielady1215@yahoo.com

GRUNDY

Ike Widner '09
948 E. Jackson Street
Morris, IL 60450
Cell: 815-530-5100
Wagontrail66@hotmail.com

LIVINGSTON

Tom Dunham '10
415 W. Moulton
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-7219
tdunham@mchsi.com

MCLEAN

Jerry Law '09
(see St. Clair)

LOGAN

Bob Borowiak
131 S. College St.
Lincoln, IL 62656
217-735-3094
lincolnprinters@abelink.com

MONTGOMERY

Peter Stork '10
223 East Fourth St. Apt 1
Sparta, IL 62286
618-578-8483
pstork@gmail.com

MACOUPIN

Jerry Law '10
(see St. Clair)

MADISON

Jerry Law '10
434 N. 5th Street
Wood River, IL 62096
618-251-4892
thelaw1@sbcglobal.net

SANGAMON

Mike Hersh '09
6011 S. 6th Road, #109
Springfield, IL 62712
217-341-6602

Webmaster -Scott Blitstein
eSeMBe Technical Services
708-231-8794

Mail to: web@il66assoc.org

www.il66assoc.org

CONTINUED

ST. CLAIR

Jerry Law '09
(See Madison County)

AT-LARGE

BOARD MEMBERS

Jaime Anderson '09
327 Sumac Street
Wilmington, IL 60841
847-721-6743
elite197642@yahoo.com

Joe Gniadek '10

1109 Cedar, #3B
Glendale Heights, IL 60139
USROUTE66IL@gmail.com

Larry Libersher '10

PO Box 51
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-475-2295

Marty Schleder '09

9245 S. Mozart
Chicago, IL 60642

Lou Vargo '09

14911 Richmond Ave
Posen, IL 60469
708-339-3640

TOURS/GROUP VISITS, SPECIAL NEEDS

Jim Jones
815-844-5657
ng9e@veriozon.net

THE 66 NEWS

Summer
2009

Advertising Rates
Single Issue Prices:
Whole Page \$125.00
Half Page \$75.00
Bus. Card Size \$40.00
Annual - 4 issues:
Pay for 3 get 1 free
May change ad content
All prices are for Black/
White ads. Please inquire
for color prices.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Peter Stork '10
223 East Fourth St. Apt 1
Sparta, IL 62286
618-578-8483
pstork@gmail.com
and
Joe Gniadek
US-
ROUTE66IL@gmail.com

PRESERVATION

Joe Gniadek
630-690-4057
US-
ROUTE66IL@gmail.com

HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

815-844-IL66 (4566)
Curator: Marilyn Pritchard
815-844-6937
cyclone@verizon.net

PROMOTIONS

Jamie Anderson
847-721-6743
or
Jerry Law
618-251-4892

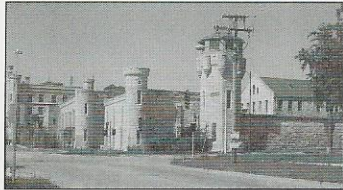
Your 66 News Team is Publisher / Co-editor Kathy Miller,
Co-editor Jim Jones and Layout Bob Borowiak

Visit our website at **www.il66assoc.org**

Visit our website at
www.il66assoc.org

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS

Brian Alexander
David Clark
Jim Jones
Kathy Miller
John & Lenore Weiss
(Unknown)



Joliet Prison!
Page 9



Museum Clean Up!
Page 12



Hall of Fame Member Rita
Erickson 90th Birthday!
Page 15



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK!

Every Association's membership is made up of different member types.

Some just like to read their magazine and know they are helping to keep the Association going strong with their dues. Some like their magazine, go online occasionally, and will send an email or two for information. Others come "home" to the Hall of Fame banquet once a year to see old friends and reminisce.

Some volunteer their time, show up to help out, come to meetings when they can. Everyone has their own style of being a member, and every member of our Association is valued. The spirit of the road connects us all. We look forward with "fresh eyes" toward this year's 20th anniversary Motor Tour. After 20 years together there are few surprises, but sometimes parts of the road get more attention, get rediscovered, new efforts are made by the communities along the Mother Road to welcome tourists and visitors to stop and remember what the heart of America is all about. A 2 lane highway is a 2 lane highway but when you add people and businesses and towns, cities, and villages and the road now has a life of its own. Route 66 still represents to the world the road to self-reliance, to knowledge, to learning from the past to go forward into the future. It showed if you try, you can.

Coming home from the museum workday my grandson stopped the car and asked If he could walk the old road in Dwight. He walked for a while and came back to the car wondering out loud how could 2 cars, or a car and a truck, make it safely down that road? Lots of whys and how. A 16 year old finds wonder in the concrete lanes abandoned by the side of the road. And so do I!

Spring is here. It's time to renew our tired winter selves. It's time to wander, to stop in the historical exhibits along the way and learn something new. It's time to stop and have coffee and homemade pie "just because."

We look forward to seeing you on the tour. Come cruise the land of Lincoln with us. Meet and greet Abe Lincoln at the Hall of Fame dinner. Sing and dance with your fellow roadies! Caravan with us on Sunday as we head south to Edwardsville! Celebrate 50 years of Our Lady of the Highway!

Your Board of Directors and County Representatives look forward to seeing all of you on 66! After 20 years it's still a thrill to be on the road with you!

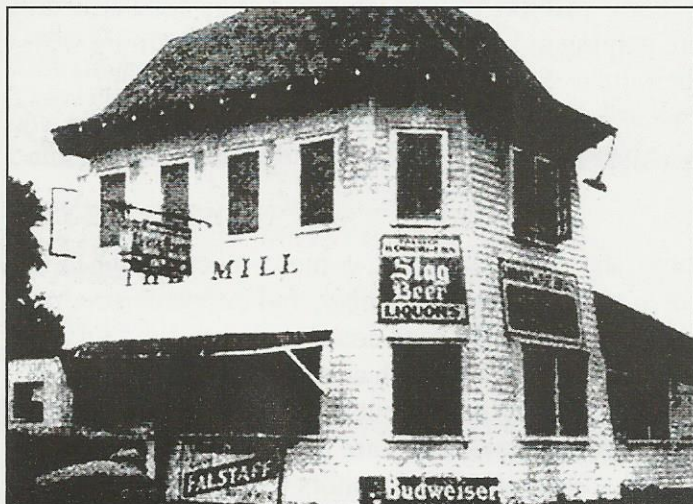
Cathie

We invite you to enjoy Route 66 in Illinois this summer. Participate in one or more of the many events available on the Mother Road in Illinois. Whether near or far each turn of the road is an adventure!

Kathy & Jim
Co/Editors

The Mill on Route 66 - Lincoln, IL

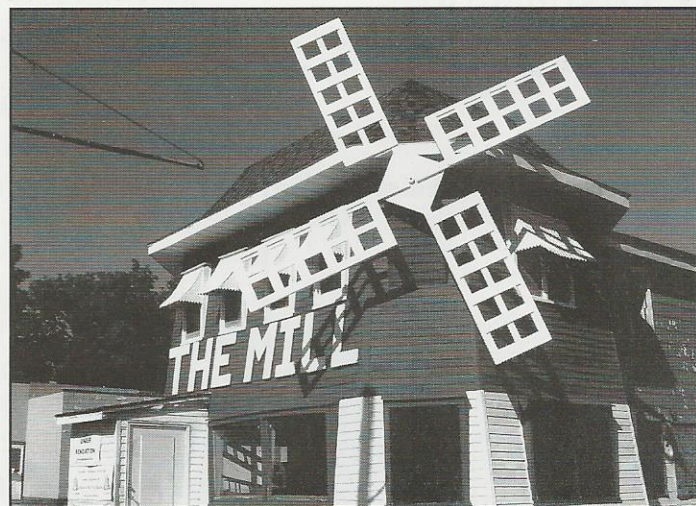
The Mill is a historic structure on Route 66 in Lincoln. It has been officially saved from demolition, and is on the way to complete restoration. The Mill, which is designed like a Dutch Mill, originally opened as The Blue Mill in 1929. It was a



The Mill years ago.

sandwich stand on a bustling section of the 1930-1940 section of Route 4/Route 66 where many gas stations and businesses were located. Later in the post-WWII era, the Mill became a restaurant/bar and was famous for Schnitzel sandwiches. Additions were added on to the back of the original building. Jump to 2005, and we have a building that was left to deteriorate to the point where demolition seemed like the only option. The city battled with the property as well, finally clearing up several liens against it so that it could be sold at a tax auction. But the auction didn't provide a solution either. The winning bidder didn't have the resources to tear the structure down due to an asbestos problem. About a year later, the owner was in court receiving

a \$32,200 fine and a contempt of court ruling against him that could land him in jail! Against all odds a campaign was mounted to save The Mill from more legal entanglements and to finally



The Mill on Route 66 - as it looks today!

solve this problem to everyone's satisfaction.

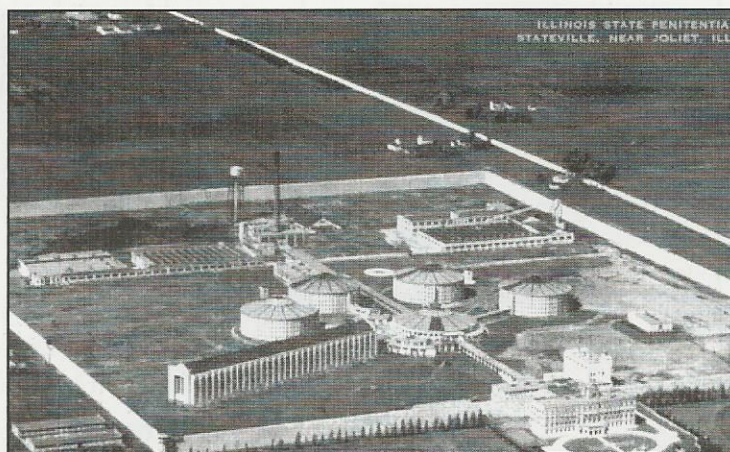
Because of the many legal problems the current owner is prepared to turn over the property to our newly formed Route 66 Heritage Foundation of Logan County. In exchange for giving us The Mill, the city dropped all fines and charges against the owner. The restoration process is being done in phases, with the first being to make the structure safe and photogenic on the outside (drawing visitors as a photo attraction), and then later to fully restore the building as a museum.

The Route 66 Association of Illinois wishes to congratulate and welcomes the "The Mill" into the Hall of Fame Museum as one of four 2009 inductees.

Stateville Prison - Crest Hill, IL

Stateville Prison has been in operation longer than Route 66. Stateville and Route 66 still remain in the operation even though, the "old" road is no longer using the name. Both, Route 66 and the Stateville Prison started in 1926, and both were in real need for their purpose at the time.

In the days of operation, Stateville was 70% self supporting, raising feed for the cattle and hogs that were used to feed the prisoners, as well as the vegetables to feed the inmate population. In 1974, the Canning Plant at Stateville canned 240,000 gallons of vegetables, grown on the farm and harvested by the inmates to feed the inmates, not only at Stateville, but any of the other tax supported Institutions in Illinois. The old Route "66" was a very necessary road way to support the prison and its operation. Stateville Prison and Route 66 needed each other for many years. The Route 66 Association of Illinois wishes to congratulate and welcomes "Stateville Prison" into the Hall of Fame Museum as one of four 2009 inductees.



Stateville Prison - Crest Hill

Sprague's Super Service - Normal, IL

Sprague's Super Service was built at 305 E. Pine Street in Normal ca. 1930-1931 by William W. Sprague, a Bloomington contractor. The brick first story housed a restaurant, gas station, and garage. The second story, finished in a decorative swirl of stucco and half timbering, contained a large owner's apartment with plenty of natural light, and an attendant's apartment. Sprague's superior carpentry skill is evident in a building that is intact and structurally sound after more than 75 years. With many remaining original architectural features, two additions to the structure in 1948 and 1967, have visually altered, but not obliterated, the original appearance of the building.



Sprague's Super Service - Normal

According to Michael Taylor, Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Manager for the National Park Service, the property "is unique along the entire route" as one of only three combination gas station/living quarters along Route 66 in the United States. Sprague's, however, is the largest and the only one that has a garage bay and café associated with it. Taylor declares that this property "has much historic integrity and significance."

After many owners over the decades by 1973, Beverly Hodge was utilizing 305 E. Pine Street for a bridal store, cake gallery, and catering operation. She rented the garages

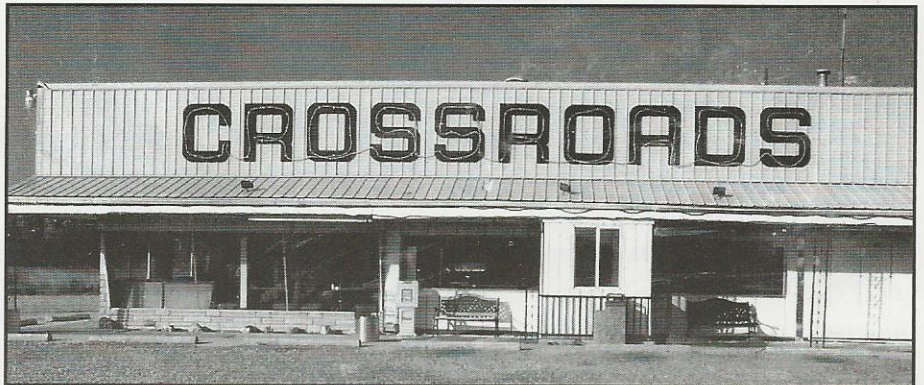
and storage areas to various people and rented the upstairs as both meeting space and apartments. Today Hodge professes to a great love of the building and has fond memories of her years there. When asked if she had any photographs of the building, she said that she was "too busy making a living to take pictures of the place."

The current owner's plan is to open the historic location as a Route 66 visitor and education center and gift shop. The Route 66 Association of Illinois wishes to congratulate and welcome "Sprague's Super Service" into the Hall of Fame Museum as one of four 2009 inductees.

The Crossroads Diner - Mt. Olive, IL

As many of you already know the old Route 66 diner the Crossroads, is a very nice place to stop and eat as you travel Route 66 in Illinois. The Crossroads Diner was placed on the west side of Route 66 and south side of Route 138 in Mt. Olive in late 1953. It officially opened for business in early 1954. They opened as the Crossroads Diner and have kept the name ever since. It was and still is on the 1940 to 1977 alignment of Route 66. The Crossroads belongs to the original owners, the Oltman Family although most of the time it has been leased out. The managers have really kept the business going good. The last managers were Alan and Linda Cooper, who brought the Route 66 theme to the diner. The new managers, Tiffany Johnson and Shane Tooley took over January 1, 2009 and plan to get the style of uniforms as worn in the 50's for the staff.

The diner has been on Old Route 66 for about 55 years now. It is different than most diners because it has two horse-shoe counters, which was the original diner. Then in the mid 60's an additional dinning area and larger kitchen were added on. Back in the 50's the Crossroads also had a gas station on the



The Crossroads Diner - Mt. Olive

lot that eventually was closed.

This old diner is still a favorite place with truck drivers, because of the easy access off I-55 at exit 44. There is a large parking lot where truckers can park for the night and get some great food.

The Route 66 Association of Illinois wishes to congratulate and welcomes the "Crossroads Diner" into the Hall of Fame Museum as one of four 2009 inductees.

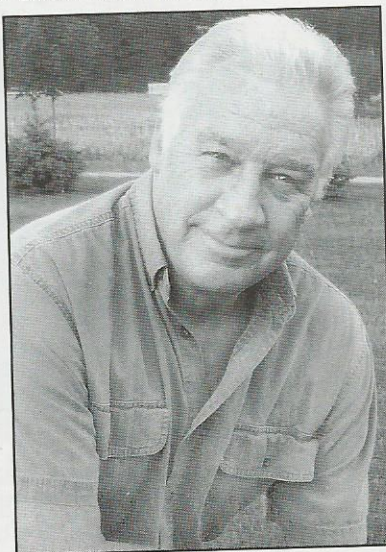
2009 Tom Teague Ambassador Award Recipients

John & Lenore Weiss

John and Lenore have worked unselfishly giving of their time and money to further the ideals of the Rt. 66 Association Preservation Committee through the entire state of Illinois.



Lenore Weiss



John Weiss

They have worked nationally to promote Illinois and all the Rt. 66 adventures to be found here. They have appeared in many documentaries promoting Route 66 in Illinois. They've facilitated television and movie crews introducing them to important contacts within the cities, villages, towns and even with the

state, allowing many projects to be filmed on Route 66.

They jointly organized the Preservation Committee through a multitude of preservation projects including the Cyrus Avery Award winning Standard Oil Station in Odell, the Auburn Brick Road, and the Road Segment-South of Springfield; all of which are now on the National Register of Historic Places. There have been involved in many more projects that saved other Rt. 66 sites, such as the underground tunnel in Odell, two Meramec Caverns signs on barns, one in Cayuga and the other in Hamel, the original Rt. 4 Bridge in Pontiac and many others. I feel that I can confidently say that their contributions of hard work, promotion, and management of these projects preserved what was left of Rt. 66 Icons in Illinois.

Their many lectures and bus tours introduce the wonder and awe of Route 66 to people from all walks of life. Young and old have enjoyed their lectures and slide show series along with their bus trips whether they be short or long. They serve on the Hall of Fame Museum Committee, where they work endlessly with other members to make sure the museum is all it can be and look long and hard into the future, their dedication is unending. Today, they are still out there working to save the road through hard work, education and promotion of our Illinois Route 66 heritage.

It is easy to see why this Route 66 couple has been awarded the 2009 Tom Teague Ambassador Award.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Route 66 Association of Illinois

Summer Quarterly Meeting - Sunday - July 12, 2009

Salerno Ristorante Pincente
Route 66 and LaGrange Road (Rte 45)
(Located in the parking lot by the Quarry Theatre)
Hodgkins, IL

- ❖ Board Meeting 10:30 AM Coffee will be provided
- ❖ Lunch Break Noon - Unlimited Pizza and Salad, all you can eat!!! \$10.95 per person
If you will be coming for lunch please call 708-389-3823 or email Johnny Miller at kixonrte66@hotmail.com (put "Route 66 Lunch" in the subject line)
- ❖ General Meeting 1:00 PM
- ❖ Historical Speaker at 2:45 PM

Fall Annual Meeting - October 18, 2009 Bloomington, IL

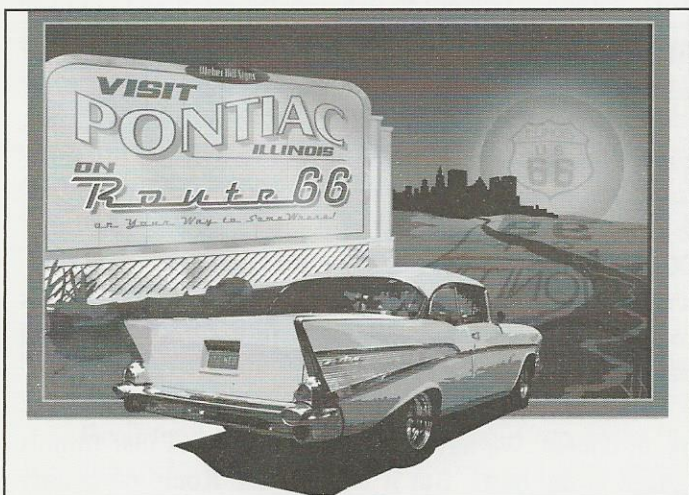
Date subject to change - Location (to be determined)

- Along the Road**
- Wall Dogs Festival - Pontiac - June 25-28, 2009
 - Cruisin Route 66 to Litchfield - June 26-28, 2009
 - Catfish Day - Wilmington - July 23-23, 2009
 - Route 66 the Musical - Pontiac - August 6-9, 2009
 - Berwyn Route 66 Car Show - Berwyn - September 19, 2009
 - Chain of Rocks Bridge Route 66 Festival - October 3, 2009
 - Route 66 Festival - Edwardsville - October 9-10, 2009

Pontiac Plans Four Big Events-Four Day Festival

The city of Pontiac, IL will be one of the liveliest places in the nation on June 25, 26, 27, and 28. Over the course of this long weekend, the city will host four major events, the Walldogs will be in town to paint 17 large outdoor murals on the sides of downtown buildings, Pontiac

moved from its traditional late summer time to June 27, 28 & 29th to coincide with the Walldogs event. According to Lori Fairfield, Director of Pontiac P.R.O.U.D., "Being able to link up with the Walldogs' visit should make the

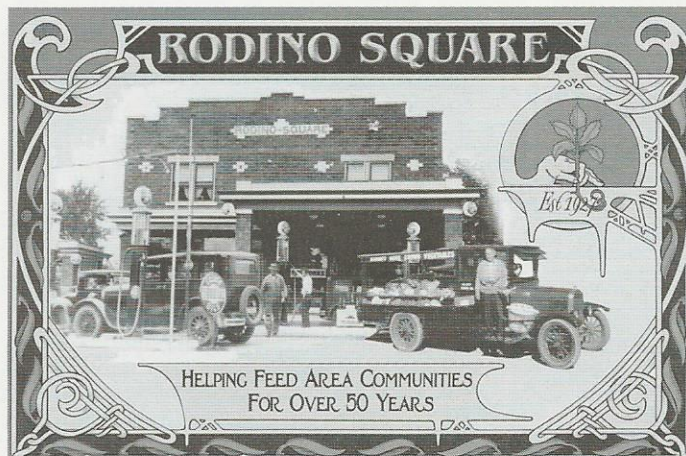


Route 66 Mural by Tom & Kathy Durham, this mural will be sponsored by The Route 66 Association of Illinois and The Rustic Auto Club of Pontiac.

P.R.O.U.D will hold its annual Heritage Days Festival, the Rustic Auto Club will host its annual "Hang Loose" Car Show, and a Cruise Night will grace the courthouse square on Saturday night. Associated with these events will be live entertainment on the square, the Mighty Vermilion Duck Race, a Bean Bag Tournament sponsored by the Boys & Girls Club of Pontiac, and much, much more.

The Walldogs, a group made up of professional sign painters and artists, are expected to arrive in town on Wednesday, June 25th to begin the work on the outdoor murals. Each mural has a theme which focuses on a particular aspect of Pontiac's history. A few of the subjects to be depicted include: Historic Route 66, the Old Mill on the Vermilion River, Abraham Lincoln, and the Inter-urban Railroad. Over 100 artists are expected to work on the murals, and plans call for all the murals, some of which will be over 24 feet wide, to be totally completed by Sunday, June 28th. The public will be able to visit of the mural sites throughout the whole process and watch the artists as they work.

The annual P.R.O.U.D. Heritage Days Festival, which will be located on the Livingston County Courthouse square is dedicated this year to the history of Abraham Lincoln's connections to Pontiac. Live music, art and craft demonstrations, antiques, and special events for the kids are planned. The Heritage Days Festival was



Rodino Square Mural by Dale Manor, this mural depicts activity at the Rodino Square. The Rodino Square and the Carmen Rodino Family were inducted into the Route 66 Hall of Fame in 1994.

downtown shopping area one of the most exciting venues in Pontiac's history."

The Rustic Auto Club's Car show is an annual event which draws contestants from all across the Midwest. Over 90 trophies are awarded for antique and classic original and modified cars. The Car Show will feature entertainment, give-a-ways, and a raffle. The event will be staged at Humiston-Riverside Park on Saturday and the public is invited to come to see the cars and talk to the owners.

Cruise Nights are regularly scheduled summer events in Pontiac, and one is planned for the evening of Saturday, June 27th. Car enthusiasts from the local area will park their "rides" on the downtown square for all to view. There will be entertainment, food vendors, and more.

The Pontiac office of Tourism and Pontiac P.R.O.U.D, the local Main Street organization, are coordinating all four events. City Administrator, Robert Karls, has deemed the Four Event-Four Day Festival one of the largest summer programs ever put together by the city. He expects that people from across the state will be in Pontiac to enjoy some or all of the programs being offered.

For more information, please contact:
Ellie Alexander, Director of Tourism
Phone: (815) 844-5847
Email: tourism@pontiac.org

CONFUSION CORRECTED

It took a little time, effort and a state senator, but now it is fixed. The story began years ago. People traveling south on Route 66 from Chicago were usually following some tour guide or a map.

Every one of these guides directed tourists and travel-



The signage now points you in the right direction!

ers to follow Joliet Road through Countryside and Indian Head Park. These tourists and travelers were to get onto I-55 and exit at #269.

Then in 2007, the new toll road I-355 opened. The folks at Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) called this new exit #269 and changed Joliet Road to exit #268. This created many tourist problems especially with foreign

travelers. Because of the new I-355 construction, all new signs were installed except for historic Route 66 signs. So we had no signs and a completely new exit number. Because all state maps and tour guides were now wrong, a clear signage program was desperately needed. Bill Gwodz and John Weiss made numerous phone calls. Senator A. J. Wilhelmi was asked to help; he sent a letter to IDOT. Lo and behold a couple of signs went up saying to exit at #268 if you were traveling historic Route 66. However, the main sign we needed and promised by IDOT was not installed. It turns out its location is in another IDOT district and senate district. A phone call was all it took. Once this other IDOT department heard our story, they acted. So now travelers entering I-55 from Joliet Road heading south, see this great new sign directing folks to exit at #268 if traveling Historic Route 66.

This new signage should do the trick of keeping tourists on course. We have heard from travelers that Illinois signage is the best. But it is up to the Route 66 county board members to keep it that way. At least once a year every board member is required to travel their district and work with IDOT to replace missing signage. Just one board member not doing their job can cause so much trouble for travelers.

Note: Board members at large are the back ups. They should watch the entire route when traveling.

Enjoy the summer!

Vermillion Players To "Get Their Kicks" With Route 66

The Vermillion Players, in cooperation with the City of Pontiac's Office of Tourism, has selected their final production for the 2009 summer season. Keeping with the city's central focus on building Route 66 tourist trade, the musical selected for performance on August 6 through August 9, 2009 will be: *Route 66: A New Musical Revue* by Roger Bean.

The production will be directed by Vermillion Players veteran, Bob McKenzie, and features a cast of four performers. The show is written in two acts and is a light-hearted tribute to the places, people, and music which has become part of the history of this most famous American byway. This same production will be previewed by the Vermillion Players downtown on the square during the upcoming June Pontiac Summer Bash. The musical extravaganza will also be available for tour groups coming to Pontiac to see the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum and who plan an overnight stay here.

8 SUMMER  ISSUE

This production has been successfully produced by groups all across the country, from New York to California. The August production here will be particularly appropriate given the city's historic connections to Route 66. Performances will be staged at the Chautauqua Park Pavilion and will begin at 7:30 PM.

JOIN ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH FOR THIS INFORMAL OUTING.

The Route 66 Association of Illinois is not responsible for reservations or ticket purchase.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Chain of Rocks Bridge

St. Louis Route 66 Festival Date Announced

Get your kicks on Route 66 during the St. Louis Route 66 Festival to be held Saturday, October 3, at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, 10950 Riverview Drive, St. Louis, MO, 63137. The event offers a day of fun and activities, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., on both sides of the bridge, in Missouri and Illinois.

“For many decades the Bridge served as a key link for the beloved Route 66, said Laura Cohen, Confluence Project Director, “it is only fitting that we use the Bridge as the site for a full day of programs and activities themed around historic Route 66.”

Visitors will be able to kick up their heels and literally get their kicks on Route 66, at the second annual event. The festival activities will focus on music, road food and vintage vehicles during the car show spanning the bridge.

Road food reminiscent of Route 66, Cozy Dogs (hot dog on a stick), bar-be-que and Ted Drewes frozen custard will be available for purchase. Ted Drewes is another Route 66 institution, the Ted Drewes family has been serving up scrumptious frozen custard since 1929.

For many decades the Bridge was a key link in the

beloved Route 66. Today, the Bridge is a significant connection in the bi-state trail system and is part of The Confluence, a network of conservation, heritage and recreation attractions along America's Great Rivers in the heart of the bi-state St. Louis community. Trailnet, a not-for-profit organization that promotes Active Living through bicycling and pedestrian activities and Confluence partnering organization, in partnership with the city of Madison, Illinois renovated the Bridge as a bicycle/pedestrian bridge.

In 2006 the Bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places as part of a Route 66 application designating significant structures along the historic route from Chicago, IL to Los Angeles, CA. The Old Chain of Rocks Bridge is one of thirty-five other properties added to the national register through the efforts of the National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation program.

For more information on events along America's Great Rivers visit www.confluencegreenway.org. For additional information on the St. Louis Route 66 Festival visit www.confluencegreenway.org/route66festival.php.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

By John & Lenore Weiss

Opening in June or July, there will be a fascinating new tourist attraction in Joliet. The 1858 Collins Street Prison will have an impressive display at this now closed historic jail. Movies, such as the Blues Brothers, and the current Johnny Depp, Dillinger production was filmed here. It was also the location used in many segments for the Fox television show, Prison Break, and many more.

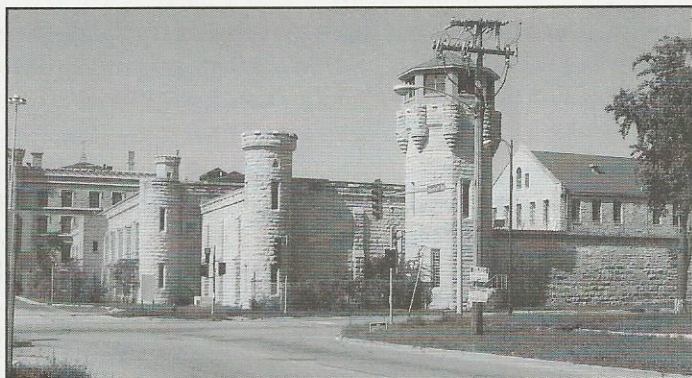
Now closed, this awesome structure has always been a curiosity. You will now be able to see and learn more about this Joliet Prison.

It is interesting to note that at least twice in the past that Route 66 was diverted onto Collins Street and directly passed the prison while the official alignment of Route 66 was under

construction. That information makes this an official Route 66 curiosity.

To locate this attraction: Travel on Route 30 (historic Lincoln Highway). Collins Street is located just east of downtown Joliet. Travel north on Collins Street about one mile. It cannot be missed on the left (west) side.

For an impressive view of the entire prison, a lookout is designed at the Route 66 Park located on Broadway Street (Route 66) where the Rich & Creamy Drive In and other Route 66 attractions are located.



Joliet Prison once housed Jake Blues (John Belushi) and John Dillinger (Johnny Depp)!

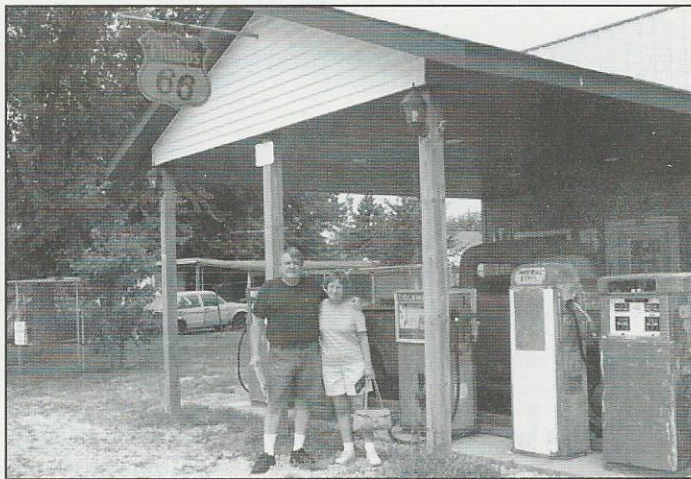


Closeup of Joliet Prison with Barbed Wire Fencing.

Rediscovering Old Route 66

by *Brian L. Alexander*

Two years ago, Fran, my wife for the past 30 some odd years and I were vacationing locally in Missouri and Illinois. We spent one night at a motel in Litchfield, Illinois. When we checked out from the motel in the morning and we asked the clerk where we could get a good breakfast. The clerk said, "The Route 66 Café" and she gave us directions to the restaurant. On our way over there I noticed that some of the streets had been marked with Historic Route 66 signs, these signs had the years when Route 66 had used that particular stretch of pavement. As we turned onto the



Brian and Fran Alexander

street where the Route 66 Café was, I saw an old familiar site, the "Ariston Café." I said to Fran, that I would like to stop there for dinner some evening and that I had eaten there with my family when I was a kid. Eating there would bring back some pleasant memories for me. We continued on down the road to The Route 66 Café.

As we were eating our breakfast, we also enjoyed the décor of the café. I was wondering if the local residents, which there were many eating breakfast with us, enjoyed the scenery as much as we did. There were maps, pictures of older cars and other memorabilia covering the walls. The experience was not only satisfying but it was quite entertaining.

As we were finishing our coffee and waited for the waitress to return with our change, my wife asked me almost apologetically, "What is Route 66?" At first I thought she was kidding but I then realized that her family had lived in the City of Chicago and she had ridden the bus everywhere before we became married.

The café, my wife's curiosity and the Route 66 Historic Signs encouraged me to make a decision to drive southwest towards St. Louis on "Old Route 66" instead of going back to Interstate 55.

As I drove down the road my childhood memories of Route 66 came back to me. I was astonished that many sites were just as I remembered 40 years ago. These memories were not as the driver but that of a passenger; a passenger from the back seat. Back then we did not have DVD players or other electronic baby sitting devices that are available today. We had to look out our car window for entertainment. My family had made this summer pilgrimage many times during my youth because we had relatives who lived on farms in the Sullivan, Missouri area and we still keep in touch with them.

As we drove away from Litchfield we came upon Mt. Olive, Illinois. We followed the older Route 66 into the town of Mt. Olive. We visited and took some pictures of the Russell Soulsby Shell Station that has been restored.

We then continued on to Henry's Rabbit Ranch and Route 66 Emporium in Staunton, Illinois. We saw vintage trucks on his property, trucks similar to those that I had seen on Route 66 when I was younger. We also marveled at the old gas station with its antique gas pumps. Inside the gas station was filled with all kinds of memorabilia and gifts.

We enjoyed talking with Henry, about "Old Route 66," the road, the times and its people. We met one of his rabbits that personally signed, as Henry called it, (nibbled the corner) a Route 66 Brochure. We also bought some memorabilia that day, one of which was my first Route 66 (Illinois) sign.

As we traveled on I was shocked that the road was still there. I did not realize that I-55 was not built over the top of Route 66. I thought that during the construction of I-55 the old concrete had either been removed or had become a frontage road. I was learning how to drive a car on that road when we visited our relatives, in Missouri, in 1967. Later on I returned to Sullivan Missouri in 1973 with my new bride, we followed Interstate 55 signs not Route 66 signs.

The ride down Old Route 66 that day kindled a new passion inside of me. I have an obsession inside of me to go back in time when things were simpler; a quest to again experience the "Mother Road!" I also wanted to rediscover the towns and its people. I met a great person that day, Rich Henry and we have been back to see him two more times since our first visit.

I plan to find the road that I had lost in my youth. I have been doing some research and taking pictures. Route 66 is still on a lot of Illinois maps, but it is not marked. I still travel to Sullivan Missouri but a lot of the traveling is now on Route 66, not Interstate 55. I plan on going to the road trip the second week of June sponsored by the Route 66 Association. I am looking forward to rediscovering Route 66 and its people. See you in June!

Motor Tour Cruisers invited To Take a Walk in Chicago

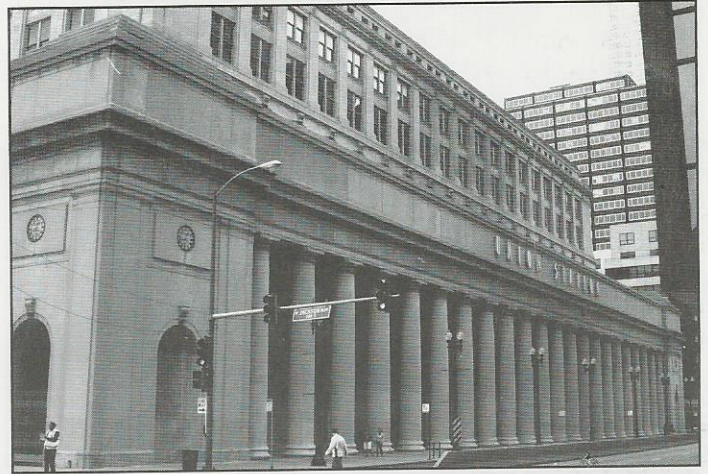
On Friday, June 12th, participants in this year's Illinois Motor Tour are invited to take a walking tour in Chicago at a discount price. In keeping with the theme of the 20th anniversary Motor Tour, Cruising the Land of Lincoln, the walking tours will emphasize the historic places visited by Abraham Lincoln or his family along the Route 66 corridor in Chicago's Loop. Two tours will be offered:

10 a.m. June 12th—East Loop Tour. We will start



A popular stop on the East Loop Chicago Walking Tour is the sign that proclaims "Begin Historic Route 66."

at LaSalle Street and Jackson Boulevard and walk east to Michigan Avenue, the original place where Route 66 began. We will walk north along Michigan to Adams Street (westbound Route 66 after 1953) and walk back to LaSalle Street. Lincoln locations along the way include the site of the hotel where Mary Todd Lincoln lived at the time of her alleged suicide attempt; where Robert Todd Lincoln worked when he was President of the Pullman Palace Railcar Company; where Tad Lincoln attended school; and where Lincoln's funeral train arrived in Chicago in May 1865. Other highlights include the world's tallest building with weight-bearing walls and the Tiffany mosaics of the



On the West Loop Tour we explore Union Station, former home to the railroad that blazed the rail for Route 66 from Chicago to Springfield.

Marquette Building. Of course, we will also discuss Route 66! The tour will last approximately two hours and covers about one leisurely mile (no stairs).

1 p.m. June 12th—West Loop Tour. We will start at LaSalle and Adams Streets and walk south to Jackson, then west to Clinton Street. After a visit to Union Station, we will walk back east on Adams to LaSalle. Lincoln locations along the way that we will discuss will be the old Chicago & Alton depot, where Lincoln's Pullman funeral car departed for Springfield in May 1865; the place where Lincoln was nominated as President; where Lincoln worked as a commissioner for the Illinois & Michigan Canal; and where Lincoln argued in Federal Court on behalf of the Rock Island Railroad in the Effie Afton case. Other highlights of the tour include Sears Tower, the movable bridges over the Chicago River, and a look at Lou Mitchell's Restaurant. And yes, we will talk about Route 66 all along the way. The tour will last approximately two hours and covers about one leisurely mile (some optional stair climbing).

Tours normally cost \$15 per person, but Motor Tour participants and members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois will receive a discount for these June 12th tours. Participants taking either one of the tours will receive a 33% discount--\$10 per person. Anyone interested in taking both tours will receive a 50% discount—only \$15 per person for both tours—like getting two tours for the price of one!

Reservations are required: Call Dave Clark at 312-432-1284, or email dave@windycityroadwarrior.com. So come to Chicago on June 12th to follow in Lincoln's footsteps as we get our Kicks on Chicago's Route 66!

Route 66 Museum Work Day

April 4th was a very productive and busy day thanks to the efforts of nineteen (19) volunteers.

The purpose was to clean, clean, clean and do a little painting too. Everything on the Need to Do list was accomplished along with much more.



Pictured are but a handful of the people that volunteered on lunchbreak!

The tradition of Route 66 volunteers is "We work for food." Naturally all of the workers did an excellent job at eating as well.

This day also happened to be President Cathie Stevanovich's birthday. A delicious decorated cake was baked by Kathy Miller for this special occasion.

Our furthest volunteer was Bill Kelley. He traveled from the north Detroit, Michigan area. The others who so unselfishly gave of their time and talents are Barb & Bill Gwodz, John & Lenore Weiss, Johnny & Kathy Miller, Du-

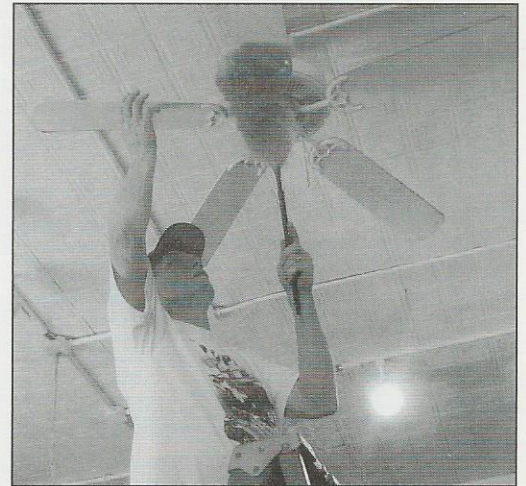


Livingston County board member, Tom Dunham one of many volunteers.

relle & Marilyn Pritchard, Jamie Anderson, Cathie Stevanovich, Marty Blitstein, Jim Jones, Kent Weiland, Tom Dunham, Dave Sullivan, Ryan Blitstein &

Cyle Blitstein. Bob Karls, city manager, was also in attendance.

It appeared that outside work at the rear of the museum was also taking place. This museum complex and downtown Pontiac will be virtually eye-popping and impressive inside and out this summer!



Dave Sullivan of Pontiac helps reach the tall places.

Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Illinois County (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Interests in Route 66: _____

How I can help: _____

Annual Dues

General: \$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

110 W. Howard St.

Pontiac, IL 61764

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

Preservation Display

A new attraction has been added to the upstairs of the Route 66 Museum in Pontiac. John and Lenore Weiss have provided their preservation photo display. Added to this



Visitors from England and Michigan tour the preservation display located on the 2nd floor of the Route 66 Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac.

are additional displays of preservation efforts along Route 66 in Illinois.

The purpose is to bring more awareness of all the efforts to save and revitalize Route 66 in Illinois. A sign declaring, "ROUTE 66 PRESERVATION – THE ASSOCIATION, INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES, ALL



Lenore Weiss and Kathy & Johnny Miller put the finishing touches on the preservation display.

WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE."

This display honors those who give so much. If it wasn't for preservation projects, there would soon be little left of Route 66. As a result of these efforts tourists now come to Illinois by the tens of thousands to experience Americana. The Route 66 Association vows to continue with its promise to PRESERVE, PROMOTE, EDUCATE and ENJOY.

This display was furnished by the Weiss' along with the financial assistance of Mr. John Ruh and the Route 66 Association of Illinois.

Bits & Pieces Of Useless But Interesting Information

The Chicago Union Stock Yards closed at midnight July 30, 1971. They relocated onto Route 66. It was on the east side of current I-55 between Arsenal Road, exit #245 and Blodgett Road. Nothing remains.

Birds, Illinois - In our Route 66 display located at the Funk Grove Rest Area on I-55, we have a decorative plate from Birds, IL. This town no longer exists. It was located on Route 66 on the east side of current I-55 between the railroad tracks and the old historic I & M Canal Trail north of Route 6. This area is just south of where I-80 crosses I-55. The current grain elevators alongside the railroad tracks are basically where the Birds Train Depot was located.

Carlinville, Illinois – Did you know there is a boulder with a plaque on it just off the town square round about? It points out that Abraham Lincoln once

spoke at that spot. (We put this in because 2009 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.)



**LINCOLN
PRINTERS**

711 Broadway St. • Lincoln, IL 62656

Phone: 732-3121 • Fax: 732-3122

e-mail: lincolnprinters@abelink.com

Bob Borowiak, Owner

*"For All Your Printing Needs" -- Pick-up & Delivery
Serving Lincoln and Logan County Since 1970*

Remembering WWII Crash near Litchfield

by Al Lopinot

Terry Birkenkamp and Marge (Birkenkamp) Allen have vivid memories of two Air Force planes crash landing near their home during World War II. Both were youngsters at the time with Terry being 6-years-old. They recalled the event with photographs and documents. Here is their story:

In the early afternoon on Feb. 15, 1945, two U.S. Air Force Douglas A-20 Havoc light bombers crash landed on a farm operated by Frank Birkenkamp two miles south of Litchfield. The A-20 Havoc was a fam-



A Douglas A-20G Havoc.

ily of American attack, light bomber and night fighter aircraft of World War II, serving with several Allied air forces principally those of the Soviet Union, United Kingdom, and the United States. The bomber could carry up to a 4,000 pound bomb load at a flight speed of over 300 miles per hour.

Birkenkamp gave this statement about the landing "I was standing along the side of an open field about 1:30 p.m. and saw the two planes, one with its wheels up, land adjacent to my home. Both planes were flying low, circling various fields before coming down into my field. Engines on both planes seemed to be functioning smoothly before landing and they circled approximately six to eight times before finally coming into the field to land. Snow was falling and visibility was restricted badly. No damage was done to the open field."

The two bombers originated their flight from Kellogg Field at Battle Creek, MI, to be delivered to Scott

Field east of Belleville, with final delivery to California. When the planes left Michigan the weather was satisfactory, but further south they ran into a snow storm and found Scott Field was closed due to the snow showers. The pilots thought about going to Chanute, St. Louis, Chesterfield, and Springfield airports to land but the visibility was just too bad and the fields were closed. Their gas was low and radio communications poor, and they didn't trust the gas gauges, one engine stopped running, so one pilot made an emergency belly landing about 50 yards from the Birkenkamp farm home. The other plane landed in an adjacent field.

The first plane was heavily damaged with major damage to the underside, bent propeller blades and buckled inside bulkheads. The second plane had very little damage as it landed with its wheels down. The planes cut a 30 inch deep "V" into the plowed field where they landed.

Scott Field Air Force base sent guards to watch over the planes and a crew to dismantle the planes so they could transport them to the Air Force base as they found the planes repairable. This entire operation took about a week. The Birkenkamp farm home was located near what are now Ninth Avenue and Kruse Road, not too far from the present Kruse Auto Salvage on South Old Route 66. Terry recalls the dismantling crew offering his dad oil from the plane engines. His dad obtained around 20 gallons which he stored in eight gallon milk cans and used in his tractor for the next 15 to 20 years. Terry also reported that two guards stayed at his family home over night while the planes were being dismantled and noted that each was wearing a 45 caliber gun. Marge Allen said that they had a heavy snow that day, receiving a total of seven to nine inches.



POSTVILLE
COURTHOUSE
STATE HISTORIC SITE



914 - Fifth St., P.O. Box 355, Lincoln, IL 62656

PH: (217) 735-4977
(217) 737-0979

SHIRLEY A. BARTELMAY
Coordinator

Hall of Fame Member Rita Erickson Celebrates 90 Years

On March 22, 2009 the family of Hall of Fame Member Rita Erickson hosted a birthday celebration for Rita. Her family and many friends joined together at Evenglow Lodge in Pontiac to honor Rita. Rita was born on March 25, 1919. Route 66 Association of Illinois members and officers attended the birthday bash. Association President, Cathie Stevanovich, Treasurer, Marty Blitstein, Hall of Fame Committee Chair, Marilyn Pritchard and Museum Committee member Durelle Pritchard joined the party to wish Rita a very happy birthday on behalf of the association.



Pictured; Rita Erickson, Marilyn & Durelle Pritchard, Cathie Stevanovich and Marty Blitstein.

DO YOU HAVE PERSONALIZED ROUTE "66" LICENSE PLATE? THE "66" NEWS WANTS YOUR PLATE!

Send a photo of your plate to!

Attn. Jim Jones "The 66 News"

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum

110 West Howard

Pontiac, IL 61764

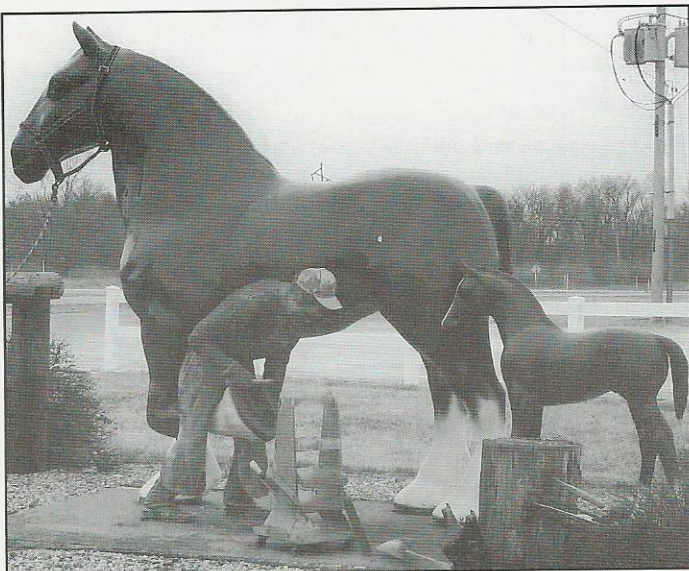
or by Email to: Kathleen708@hotmail.com or ng9e@verizon.net



ANVIL BRAND SHOE CO.

By John & Lenore Weiss

DID YOU KNOW that there is a horse shoe manufacturer on Route 66? They also have a small indoor viewing display that is open to the public. Look for the wonderful outside horse & colt statues on the west side of Route 66 in Lexington, Illinois.



Inside the Anvil Brand Shoe Co.

Anvil Brand Shoe Co. - Lexington, IL.

SUMMER  ISSUE 15

**Route 66 Association of Illinois Business Members
Through April 15, 2009**

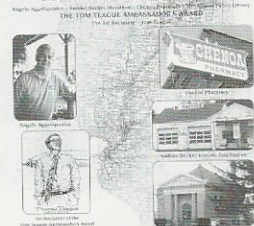
VFN Fiberglass	330 W. Factory Road	Addison	IL	60101	
Atlanta Public Library	100 Race St.	Atlanta	IL	61723	217-648-2112
Coliseum Ballroom Antique Mall	520 S. Hardroad Rt. 4	Benld	IL	62009	217-835-7788
Berwyn Development Corp.	3322 S. Oak Park Ave., 2nd Floor	Berwyn	IL	60402	708-788-8100
Bloomington Puplic Library	205 E. Olive St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-828-6091
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. Briafcliff Road	Bolingbrook	IL	60440	
J.K. Harrison, Inc.	103 S. Route 53., P.O. Box 98	Braceville	IL	60407	815-237-2953
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
Matthew T. Scott House	227 N. First Ave.	Chenoa	IL	61726	815-945-4555
Berghoff Restaurant	17 West Adams St.	Chicago	IL	60603	
Lou Mitchell's Restaurant	565 W. Jackson Blvd.	Chicago	IL	60661	312-939-3111
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 S. Old 66	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-2920
Village of Dwight	209 S. Prairie Ave.	Dwight	IL	60420	
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	618-656-4900
Edwardsville Preservation Comm.	118 Hillsboro Ave.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	
Neumann's Bar	461 E. Vandalia	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-6688
Springer's Creek Winery	817 Hillsboro Ave.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-307-5110
Stagger Inn Again	104 East Vandalia	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-4221
City of Elk City	P.O. Box 1100	Elk City	IL	73648	580-225-6266
Gardner Chronicle Antiques & Gifts	214 Division St., P.O. Box 164	Gardner	IL	60424	815-237-2727
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-T'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
Hampton Inn	1019 N. Heitmann Drive	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-6729
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
Hampton Inn	11 Thunderbird Circle	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-4441
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
Mt. Olive Crossroads	995 Lakeview Drive	Mt. Olive	IL	62069	Toll Free 866-443-7981
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	P.O. Box 801	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	309-874-3360
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	
IL State Police Heritage Foundation	4000 N. Peoria Road	Springfiels	IL	62702	217-528-0764
City of Staunton	304 W. Main St.	Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-2233
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	
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
Original Route 66 Accessories	15700 W. Huntley Court	Surprise	AZ	85374	708-246-1543
Gionanni Tours	P.O. Box 365	Newbury Park	CA	91319	805-375-1324
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
Miami Ok Convention & Visitors Bureau	111 N. Main St., P.O. Box 760	Miami	OK	74355	918-542-4435

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE '66 NEWS

Half Of Fame Members 2005



ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL, HISTORY TO SHARE?

THE "66" NEWS May be the place for you!

Send your submissions by Email to: Kathleen708@hotmail.com

or by US Mail to:

Jim Jones, Newsletter

c/o The Route 66 Association of Illinois

110 W. Howard Street Pontiac, IL 61764

SUMMER  ISSUE 17

Pontiac, Illinois'

Vermillion Players Present:



A New Musical Review
Created by Roger Bean!

August 6 - 9, 2009 ~ 7:30 PM Daily

*At the beautiful Chautauqua Park Pavilion - Pontiac, IL. for more
information contact Pontiac Tourism at 800-835-2055!*

Route-Licious[®]

We always welcome inquiries from retail stores interested in selling our products

We are still seeking distribution in Southern Illinois
Call us today toll free 1-877-66SODAS

Made with **Real Sugar**

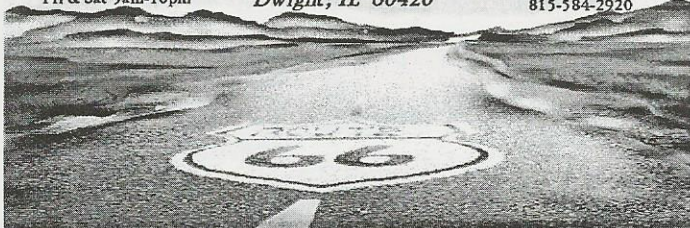
No Artificial Sweeteners - Caffeine Free

Route 66 Soda, LLC, Wilmington, IL 60481-0276, 815-476-9315, sodajerk@route66sodas.com
www.route66sodas.com

Daily Specials
 Homemade Soups
 Open Everyday
 Sun-Thurs 5am-9pm
 Fri & Sat 5am-10pm

OLD ROUTE 66
 Family Restaurant
 105 S. OLD 66
 Dwight, IL 60420

Follow the Mother Road To
 Great Food & Service!
 Call us for your catering needs
 Dine-in, Carry-out or Delivery
 815-584-2920



HARE
 IT IS
Henry's Rabbit Ranch



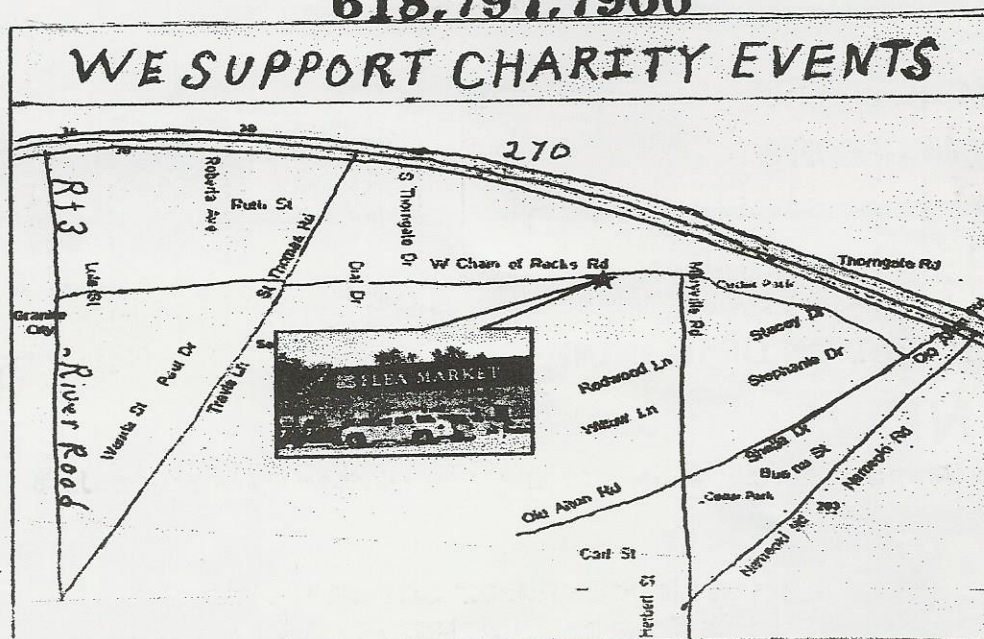
(618) 635-5655 1107 Historic Old Route 66
 Route66@midwest.net Staunton, Illinois 62088 USA
 www.henrysrout66.com

Outdoor
 "Weather"
 Permitting

HISTORIC
ROUTE 66
 FLEA MARKET

Indoor
 Open
 All Year
 Round

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

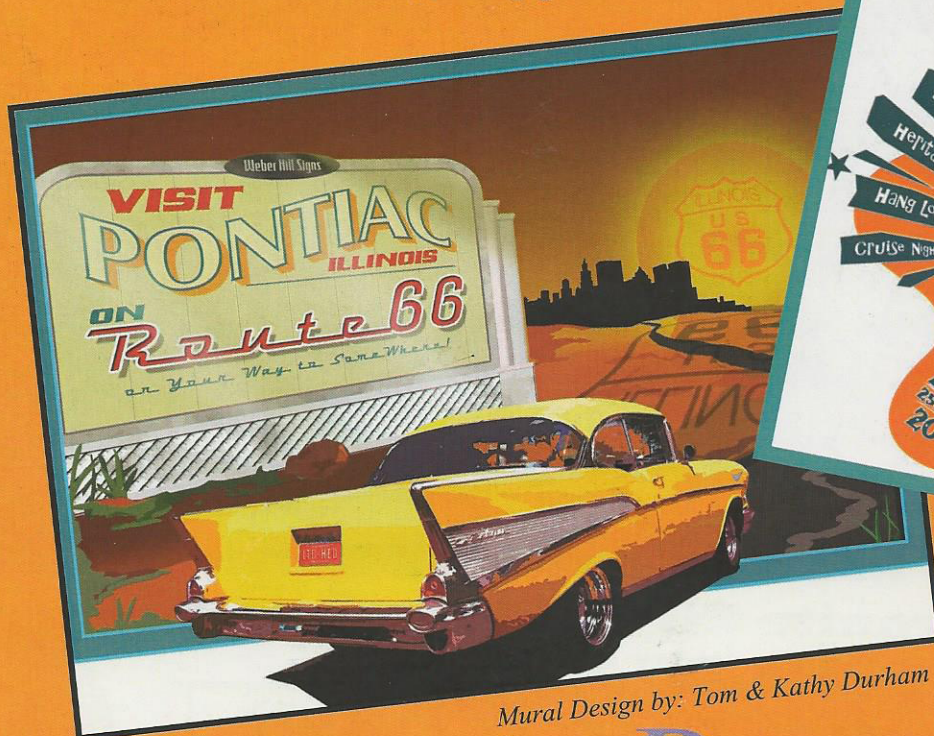


"VENDORS"
 100 PLUS

Saturday & Sunday
9:00 A.M. To 5:00 P.M.
Everything Old, New, Borrowed & Blue

Join Us ~ June 25 - 28, 2009!

The Walldogs are Coming!
17 Murals in 4 Days
Watch History Happen!



Mural Design by: Tom & Kathy Durham

800-835-2055
www.pontiac.org

in Pontiac, IL.

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE 66 NEWS

110 West Howard Street
Pontiac, IL 61764

www.il66assoc.org

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

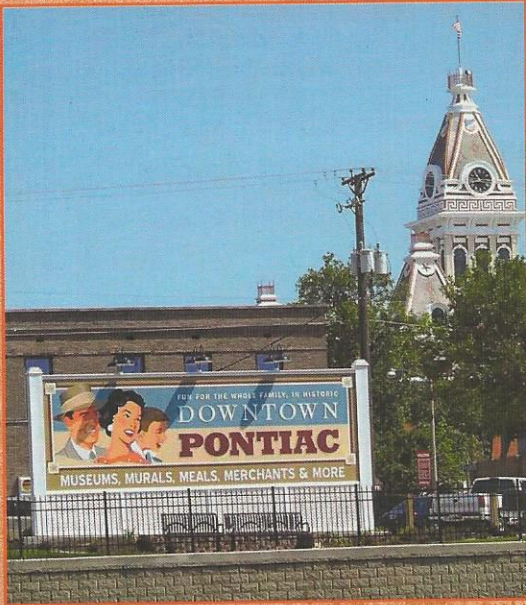
ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE NEWS

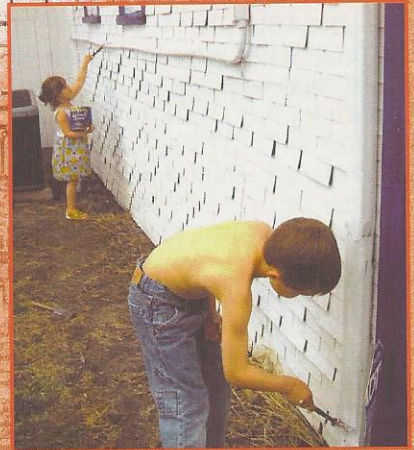
WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG

FALL 2009

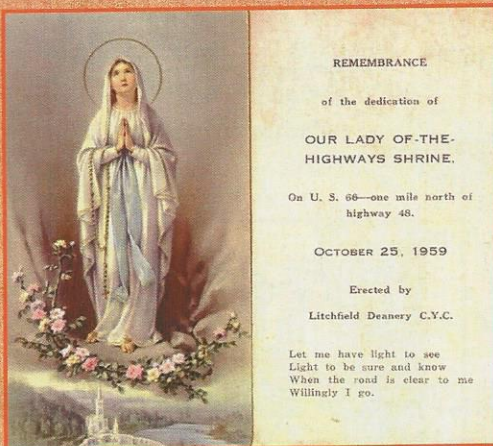
\$3.95



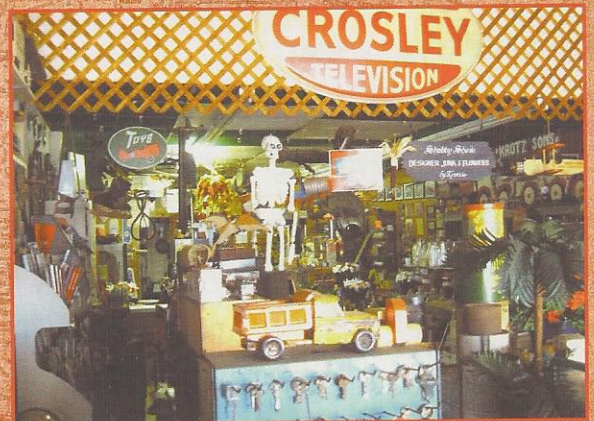
This mural welcomes visitors to downtown Pontiac as they cross the Mill Street Bridge.



Workday at Odell Station! Pictured above are two of our youngest preservationists, Teagan and Zachery Wendt.



Remembrance card used for the dedication of the Our Lady of the Highway Shrine on October 25, 1959.



Located in Lincoln is the antique and gift shop "DESIGNER JUNK BY KROTZIE."

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.

Publication Information: *The 66 News* is published on/or near the 15th of Mar., June, Sept, and Dec. Contributions are accepted without compensation. Authors retain all copyright privileges. Submit all stories, photos and ads at least 8 weeks prior publication.
Email to: Kathleen708@hotmail.com or US Mail to: Jim Jones, Newsletter c/o The Route 66 Assoc of IL Hall of Fame & Museum—110 West Howard—Pontiac, IL 61764

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Cathie Stevanovich '09
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60487
708-444-1312
cathiesb@earthlink.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Killackey '10
304 Hillside Rd
New Lenox, IL 60451
708-707-1569
bk394477@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Martin Blitstein '10
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60487
708-444-1312 FAX: 708-444-1315
blitz66@earthlink.net

RECORDING SECRETARY

Barb Gwodz '09
8448 Main St.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-910-3422
BBGX2@aol.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Lenore Weiss '10
22550 W. Rte 113
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-458-6616
weissinfo@il66authority.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers plus
Joe Gniadek & Ike Widner

BOARD MEMBERS

COOK
John Miller '09
14828 San Francisco Ave.
Posen, IL 60469
C. 708-528-7866
kixonrte66@hotmail.com

DU PAGE

Bill Gwodz '10
8448 Main St.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-910-3422
BBGX2@aol.com

CONTINUED WILL

Lori Dwyer '09
304 Hillside Rd
New Lenox, IL 60451
708-707-1569
cookie1215@yahoo.com

GRUNDY

Ike Widner '09
948 E. Jackson Street
Morris, IL 60450
Cell: 815-530-5100
Wagontrail66@hotmail.com

LIVINGSTON

Tom Dunham '10
415 W. Moulton
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-7219
tdunham@mchsi.com

MCLEAN

Jerry Law '09 (see Madison)

LOGAN

Bob Borowiak '10
131 S. College St.
Lincoln, IL 62656
217-735-3094
lincolnprinters@abelink.com

MONTGOMERY

Peter Stork '10
223 East Fourth St. Apt 1
Sparta, IL 62286
618-578-8483
pstork@gmail.com

MACOUPIN

Jerry Law '10 (see Madison)

MADISON

Jerry Law '10
434 N. 5th Street
Wood River, IL 62096
618-251-4892
thelaw1@sbcglobal.net

SANGAMON

Mike Hersh '09
6011 S. 6th Road, #109
Springfield, IL 62712
217-341-6602

Webmaster -Scott Blitstein
eSeMBe Technical Services
708-231-8794

Mail to:web@il66assoc.org

www.il66assoc.org

CONTINUED ST. CLAIR

Jerry Law '09
(see Madison)

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Jaime Anderson '09
327 Sumac Street
Wilmington, IL 60841
847-721-6743
elite197642@yahoo.com

Joe Gniadek '10
1109 Cedar, #3B
Glendale Heights, IL 60139
USROUTE66IL@gmail.com

Larry Libersher '10
PO Box 51
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-475-2295

Marty Schleder '09
9245 S. Mozart
Chicago, IL 60642

Lou Vargo '09
14911 Richmond Ave
Posen, IL 60469
708-339-3640

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Joe Gniadek
630-690-4057
USROUTE66IL@gmail.com
or
Peter Stork '10
223 East Fourth St. Apt 1
Sparta, IL 62286
618-578-8483
pstork@gmail.com

Your 66 News Team is Publisher / Co-editor Kathy Miller,
Co-editor Jim Jones and Layout Bob Borowiak

Visit our website at **Www.il66assoc.org**

THE 66 NEWS

Fall
2009

Advertising Rates
Single Issue Prices:
B/W Print:
Whole Page \$125.00
Half Page \$75.00
Bus. Card Size \$40.00
Annual - 4 issues: B/W Print
Pay for 3 get 1 free
May change ad content

PRESERVATION

Joe Gniadek
630-690-4057
US-
ROUTE66IL@gmail.com

HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

815-844-IL66 (4566)
Curator: Marilyn Pritchard
815-844-6937
cyclone@verizon.net

PROMOTIONS

Jamie Anderson
847-721-6743
or
Jerry Law
618-251-4892

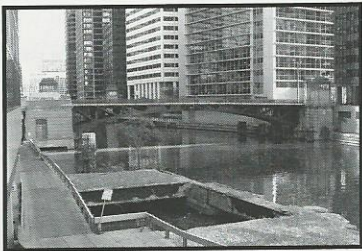
TOURS/GROUP VISITS, SPECIAL NEEDS

Jim Jones
815-844-5657
ng9e@veriozon.ne

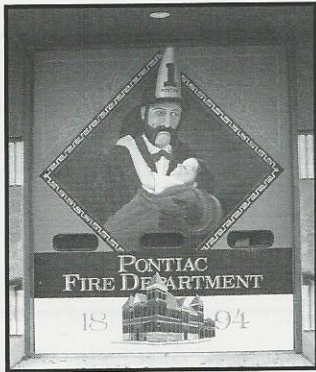
Visit our website at
www.il66assoc.org

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS

Paul Buck
Duke Cartwright
David Clark
Gordy Durocher
Jim Jones
Kathy Miller
Elaine Stonich
Peter Stork
John & Lenore Weiss



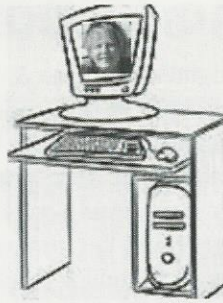
A view from a (Route 66)
Bridge.
Page 9



Color Layout of the Pontiac
Murals
Pages 12-13



Touring the Tourguides!
Page 15



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK!

Greetings from the road!

Our 20th Anniversary Motor Tour started out in the rain but by our first passport stop it was sun, sun, sun. Huge thanks to all our officers and board members who made this year's tour so special. Each board member was responsible for activities in their county and worked hard to make their county shine. The Hall of Fame dinner at the Crowne Plaza had a record number of Hall of Fame member responses, and we welcomed the Crossroads Diner, Stateville Prison, The Mill in Lincoln, and Sprague's Super Service into our Hall of Fame.

The food was good, the company fabulous, and we thoroughly enjoyed the visit of Abe Lincoln. A special thanks to John & Kathy Miller and Lou & Rosie Vargo, who donated our Route 66 raffle grand prize (DVD player & Route 66 DVDs), thank you.

Next year's tour planning is already in process – if you'd like to be involved please email Jerry Law at thelaw1@sbcglobal.net or he can be reached at (618)251-4892. We start south next year and the plans are to start in Missouri and come back into Illinois crossing 3 historic bridges! Next year's dates are June 11, 12th and 13th!

Preservation is our "business" – we need to continue to get the word out on how great Illinois is and how much of the original road we have. We had a tremendous turnout during the Wall Dog/Summer Bash weekend in June in Pontiac. Over 160 sign painters traveled to Pontiac to paint 18 murals and raise money for local charities and also to leave a fund behind to pay for mural maintenance. The museum had over 400 visitors that weekend. When I'm volunteering at the Museum my favorite words to hear are "Wow" "I never knew this was here" and "Years ago, your father and I" all the phrases that start an interaction between families, friends, and the sharing of stories by complete strangers.

The website calendar is full of places to go and people to see on the road. Get out, take a day and hit the road. Support the communities along the road so they can stay viable.

Many of our members are struggling with job loss, health issues, and stress. We, the entire family of Route 66, need to look out for one another. I had a teacher years ago who said if you ask for something – make sure you ask BIG. So before your head hits the pillow tonight, or you get into your car and hit the road – talk a little gratitude...and then ask for mercy for those facing tough times physically, financially, and mentally. Together we can make it. Route 66 stood for a new day, a new chance, a new beginning. Let's believe for each other only the best!

See you on the road –

Cathie

We invite you to enjoy Route 66 in Illinois! Visit the Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac. Participate in one or more of the many events available on the Mother Road in Illinois. Whether near or far each turn of the road is an adventure!

Kathy & Jim
Co/Editors

Letters To The Editor

May 27, 2009

Firstly, my sincere compliments to you for continuing to shed new light on the '66 News' which, by the way, sparkles more brilliantly in each edition! I can attest to the quality of the publication as we are privileged to possess several early editions, courtesy of our beloved Tom Teague. AND a toast to Route 66 Ambassadors Lenore & John Weiss for achieving the highest honors of Route 66 stewardship in their on going allegiance to promote The Mother Road as a worldwide destination. Through a shared passion of the Route 66 revival beyond borders, we are beckoned to share the road on an international scale transcending boundaries.

In reference to the honorable Tom Teague (A Father of the Illinois Association) it remains fresh in my mind our first meeting with Tom, back in June, 1996. Allow me to

enlighten you, Bob & I traveled by air to the "Lincoln State" to embark on a historic journey in conjunction with the 25th Annual Bloomington Gold Corvette Show. At the time, the event was held in Springfield and as the weekend unfolded, I held in my hand a copy of "Searching for 66" authored by Tom Teague and felt compelled to attempt my luck at contacting Tom to introduce myself as a person of interest in forming a Canadian Contingent of Route 66. Likewise, I acquired a copy of the 66 News that noted Tom's contact number, hence my introduction and voice connection subsequently turned into a meeting. Immediately after introducing myself, Tom offered to meet Bob & me at Jan & Dean's Restaurant on N. Dirksen Pkwy near the Illinois State Fairgrounds. What a meeting it was, Tom couldn't be missed pulling into the parking lot sporting personalized license plates inscribed "KIXON66" and toting a handful of back issues of the 'Route 66News' (of which I treasure to this day). Tom's words of wisdom stuck with me like the cast of a spell and I credit his foresight as the catalyst that cultivated the Canadian Association. A lasting symbol of our first encounter with Tom is etched on the inside cover of 'Searching for 66' that reads, "Lorrie & Bob - 66 lives even in Canada. I wish you great success in promoting & building a Route 66 Association in Canada - Tom Teague at Jan & Dean's June 30, 1996". Tom, you live forever in our hearts.

Postscript: The Canadian Route 66 Association was incorporated on October 23, 1996 registered in Victoria, British Columbia Canada as non profit society #S36022. The milestone of the past 13 years is living proof of the inseparable fellowship between the USA and Canada - 'United We Stand'

Submitted on May 27, 2009 by Lorrie Fleming,
Founder

CANADIAN ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 67 • 70 MILE HOUSE, B.C.
E-Mail: route66@telus.net
<http://www.route66.caCANADA>.



(Non-Profit Society NO. S 36022)

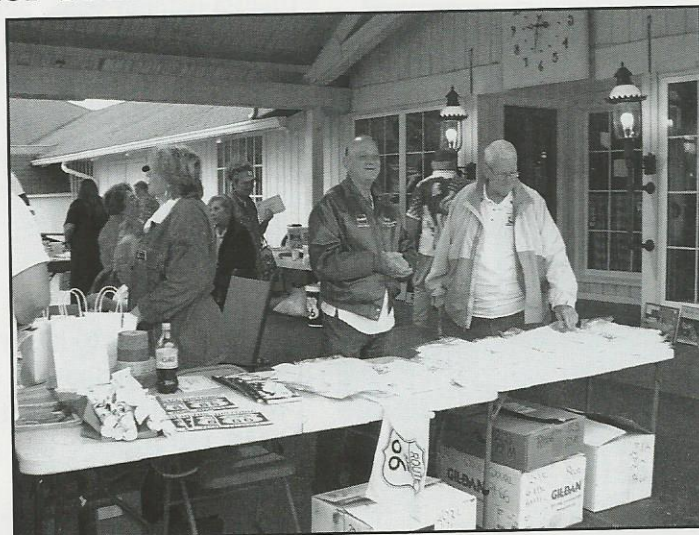


Canadian Route 66 Logo.

"2009 Motor Tour"



Friday night registration at Salerno Ristorante 'Pincente' in Hodgkins.



Saturday morning registration in Lemont.

Welcome New Members

Through June 30, 2009

(Alphabetical order)

David Arensdorf - Jane Arensdorf - Michelle Condon - Catherine Costello - Stephen Cribari - Michael Erzen - Michael Feldhans & Family - Kevin Gordon - Ira Green - Ben Gulley - Cheryl Hampton - Tim Hampton - Arthur Horino - Tiffany Johnson - Alan Krok - Stephanie Kurth - Lee Ann McCaslin - Mark Medjesky - Major Dan Miller - Donna Miller - Donna Myer - Rosemary Neumann - Randy Peterson - Darren Raichart - David Raske - Jenny Selle - Rick Selle - Warren Sims - Greg Smith - Alan Trapp - Bill Warnock - Mike Warnock - Christy Wells - Donald J. Widrick - Stephanie Wonderlin - Clara Yunker - Les Yunker.

Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Illinois County (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

How I can help: _____

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:

Rte 66 Hall of Fame Museum

Attn: Marty Blitstein

110 W. Howard St.

Pontiac, IL 61764

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

Get Fit on Route 66!

Visit AARP's Get Fit on Route 66 website. <http://aarp.getfitonroute66.com/>

Get moving, exercise, walk, jog, run or any form of exercise will get you traveling Route 66 on this website and registration is free! Enjoy this virtual adventure. You will embark on a nostalgic journey on the Mother Road — The Main Street of America — made famous in books, movies, and on TV.

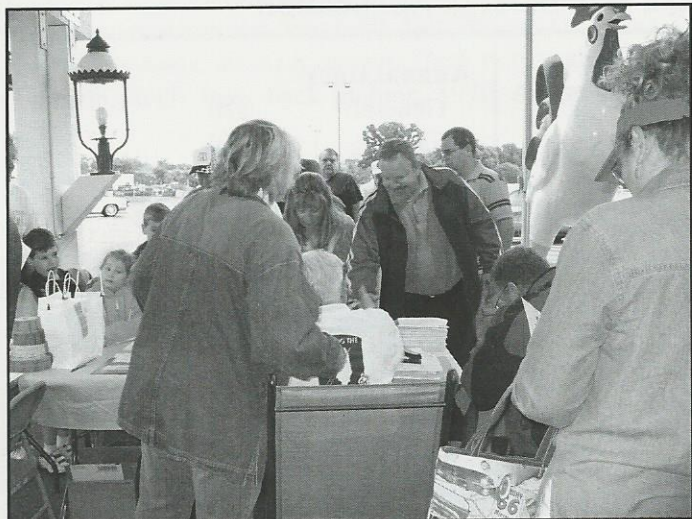
AARP hopes to inspire you to be more active, you'll travel from Chicago to Santa Monica (2,448 miles) by recording exercise minutes. One minute of activity equals one mile on the route.

The Annual Motor Tour

by Kaylie Coscino

My name is Kaylie Coscino. I am eleven years old and about to start junior high school. My family and I were lucky enough to participate in a very fun summer adventure during the second weekend of June. On our trip, I got to see some interesting sites that use to be an everyday experience to traveling people, but to us, are just some historical things that not everybody gets to see every day now.

We started our adventure at White Fence Farm on Saturday morning. It was cold and rainy, which was a little disappointing. We paraded out of the parking lot onto Route



The Coscino Family at Saturday morning registration.

66 and headed for Joliet. Our first stop took us to the old Statesville Prison, where we drove down the long drive that leads to the prison. From there, we cruised to downtown Joliet and stopped at the Visitor's Center. We always enjoy looking around the gift shop, and we snapped some photos inside of a pretend "old car." Then we left and went to a drive-in diner in Wilmington, where we ate some fried dough and milkshakes. Yummy! Our next stop was in Dwight, where we were treated to box lunches at the train depot. There was also a street sale going on downtown. We made a few more stops before getting through Bloomington. Then we got to go to Funk's Grove, where we snacked on maple sugar candies and stocked up on maple sirup. By now, my brothers and sister were getting antsy, so we drove to our hotel in Springfield, checked in, and went for a quick swim before the banquet.

At the banquet, we got to eat dinner with a very famous president, Abe Lincoln! The food was good, and we met some new faces. We snuck out after dessert and went to the Route 66 Drive In to see the movie "Up."

The next morning, we ate breakfast at the hotel, and then we went to downtown Springfield and toured Abe Lincoln's home. It was an interesting tour. Then we left



Adults and kids enjoy a break at DeCamp's Junction.

Springfield and headed further south along old route 66. We stopped at the Our Lady of the Highways monument. The people who live on the farm there were very nice and even gave us free popcorn. My brothers and I had fun capturing tiny frogs in the field, but my parents wouldn't let us bring any of them in the car. Then we drove to Litchfield for lunch. We were supposed to eat at the Maverick Steak House, but they were really crowded. We ended up eating at Ruby Tuesday's. Then we went shopping at Rural King, a hardware store that a lot of farmers shop at so it had a lot of farming equipment there. After that, we went to DeCamp Junction Road House. We had some root beer and my dad had regular beer! Then we decided to go to Edwardsville to find the hotel, because we didn't have reservations. Luckily, they had a room for us. We met up with Steve and Cheri Holz and made friends with a man named Don Spadoni and his 2 daughters, Kaitlyn and Moira. We all decided to go to Ted Drewes in St. Louis for some ice cream, and along the way, we stopped on the Illinois side of the Chain of Rocks bridge. We ended up walking over the whole bridge and then had to walk back. We were all very hot and tired! When we finally got to Ted Drewes, I was amazed to see the crowds of people standing in front of the place. It was definitely worth the wait! Then we went back to the hotel and swam until the pool closed.

When we left Edwardsville on Monday morning, it was raining again. We stopped at Cozy Dog for lunch and enjoyed the corn dogs and cheese fries. We stopped at a couple of antique stores on the way home, including the one with the ginormous pink elephant in front of it.

The whole weekend was such a great experience that I will never forget. Anyone would have a blast!

Editors Note: Kaylie is the youngest author to date that we have published. She is the oldest child of Association and Preservation Committee members, Joe & Andrea Coscino.

The 2009 Annual Motor Tour and Stateville Penitentiary

by Duke Cartwright

In 2008 James Paterson submitted a nomination to the Hall of Fame for Stateville Penitentiary, but it was turned down by the committee. James did not accept that decision, so he talked to several of grandpa Duke's old co-workers from the correctional facility for information. He then resubmitted a new nomination for Stateville Penitentiary to the 2009 Hall of Fame Committee and it was chosen to be included into the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame.

James has been a member of the Route 66 Association of Illinois for the past four years now. He has driven the annual motor tour for the past two years with this grandparents Duke and Vada. This year he turned 17 years old with his own car and was able to drive his mother on the motor tour this year. If you had participated on the 2009 motor tour you would have seen James. He was the young man at the entrance gate of Stateville passing out the stickers in the rain, and he enjoyed every minute of it.

James tells me that he would rather drive old Route 66 than the new "super slabs," up and down the state. He has been driving grandpa Duke to the all of the association

meetings while grandpa was having trouble getting around. Now grandpa Duke has a new knee, but James is still involved.

We need more young people like James who are interested in the Association to take over the road after us older folks are gone.



Duke & Vada Cartwright pictured with their daughter and grandson on the annual motor tour.



The Route 66 Experience and Welcome Center in Joliet.



Alyssa (9) & Andrew (7) Panczuk in the two cell jail in Gardner.



Doughboys in Wilmington.



Lunch at the Railroad Station in Dwight. A special thank you to Dwight who provided a free lunch for all.

HELPING HISTORY

By John & Lenore Weiss

We sent out word that help was needed to spruce up our number one preservation project. That, of course, is the Odell, Illinois gas station. Painting, scraping and polishing was on the agenda.

What a fantastic turn out we had. Twenty-one people came to volunteer, from small children, one infant to mature adults. What a great, great sight it was!

We had the couple who were married at the station last summer, Tom & Jennifer Kowaczek with new baby, Dilana. We had Gretchen Wendt, one of our very original preservation committee members. Assisting Gretchen were her future preservationists Zachary and Teagan. (Gretchen is teaching them well!) Tami and Paul Panczuk of Indiana are also very original Odell station volunteers. They also brought their two young preservationists, Alyssa and Andrew. They are learning the importance of volunteering. This family can always be counted on to help. Matt Alban was also there with his two girls, Emerson and Vivienne. Emerson was celebrating her 10th birthday by working hard. She was proud that we gave her and Vivienne paint brushes "With actual real paint on them!"

Folks, these families are an inspiration. Adults and children working together not because they had to, but because they want to!

We also had some new volunteers come to help. These three pitched in and fit in. We are proud to include them in our list of friends. Along with those already mentioned, we also had a nice batch of our regular volunteers. We must point

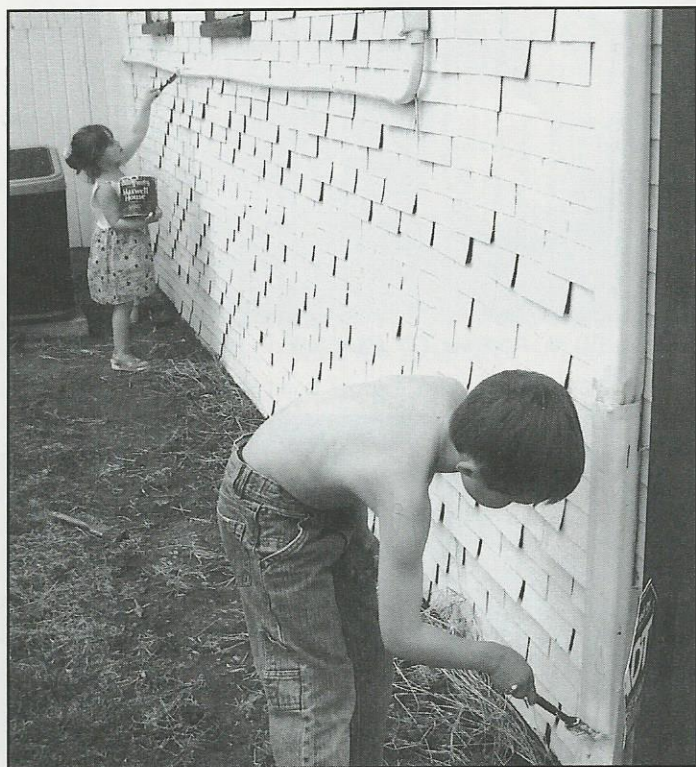
out that many people called to give regrets for not being able to help out. The reason was because the next morning there was a Route 66 Association meeting over 200 miles south. Many were driving down on Saturday, our workday, to be at the Sunday meeting.

Lunch was furnished by Pour Richard's restaurant and the Odell Tourism Board. The birthday cake for Emerson Alban was a nice surprise.

We are very proud to list here our friends and additional volunteers who joined us: Mike Cummings, Dan Butler, Kent Heiland, Larry Scinto, Lou Vargo, Brian Burke, and Eileen from the station.



Painting and scraping seems to be an annual project at the station.



Even the kids get involved.



The Standard Oil sign gets rehung after a fresh coat of paint.

A View from a (Route 66) Bridge

by David Clark

In June 2009, the Chicago Department of Transportation announced the closure of Jackson Boulevard (eastbound Route 66) west of the Loop between the Chicago River and Canal Street. The road will be closed for this one block stretch until April 2010 for total reconstruction. It is a complicated project since Jackson is actually a viaduct above Union Station's south passenger platform and railroad tracks used by Metra commuter rail and Amtrak trains. While this closure is a small inconvenience for Route 66 travelers heading to the eastern terminus of the highway at Lake Shore Drive, a well-marked detour helps guide the way.

The good news is the road closure creates a rare opportunity to explore a small section of Route 66 on foot without fear of



Looking north at the Jackson Boulevard Bridge, currently closed to traffic due to construction on the approach viaduct to the west. In the left foreground is the remnant of the Jack Knife Bridge pier.

speeding traffic. Since a pedestrian walkway still allows access to Union Station, we can get our kicks while standing in the middle of Route 66 on the Jackson Boulevard Bridge. The historic bridge was built in 1916, and thus it has been the only span across the Chicago River to carry Mother Road travelers eastward into Chicago's Loop. From the bridge, we have great views of pleasure craft and tour boats on the river below, the passenger trains on the rails below the bridge to the west, and the towers above that create Chicago's incredible skyline.

Another structure visible from the bridge lies to the south near the west river bank—a concrete pier with a square hole in the middle that is a vestige of Chicago's transportation past. In 1895, this abutment was built as the west pier for the Jack Knife Bridge that carried trains across the river for the Metropolitan West Side Elevated Railroad. The "Met" was Chicago's third 'L' line; it would grow to have four branches serving Logan Square, Humboldt Park, Garfield Park, and Douglas Park. In 1902, it connected at 52nd Avenue (now Laramie) on the Garfield Park branch with the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin (CA&E) electric interurban trains. In 1905, CA&E trains began running on the Met Garfield branch all the way into the Loop on the east, and west to Aurora. At its peak, the interurban service stretched to Elgin, Batavia, Geneva, Wheaton, and St. Charles. The Met would be absorbed into the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) in 1947.

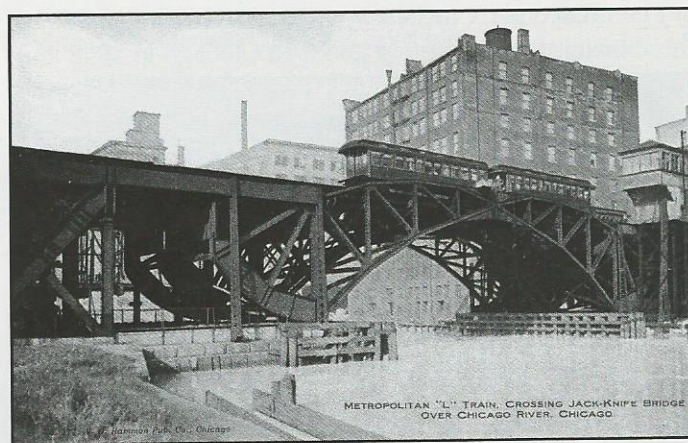
Both the CTA and CA&E trains crossed the river on the Jack Knife Bridge until the 1950s, when construction began on



Like all Chicago River bridges, the Jack Knife Bridge had to be movable to get out of the way of passing water traffic. Large vessels were a common sight until most commercial shipping was transferred to Calumet Harbor on Chicago's south side. This postcard view shows the bridge looking north from Van Buren Street.

the Congress (now Eisenhower) Expressway. The new highway would be built on the right of way of the Garfield Park L line. After construction, the world's first median strip rapid transit line in the middle of the expressway would continue to provide electric train service west to Forest Park. Now known as the CTA Blue Line, the trains use a tunnel under the river, meaning that the old Jack Knife Bridge was no longer needed. The CA&E ceased using the Garfield Park line in 1953 and ended service entirely in 1957.

For the first 30 years of the existence of Route 66, travelers on the Jackson Boulevard Bridge would see the Jack Knife Bridge as they crossed the Chicago River. Today, the crumbling concrete pier is a visible reminder of a bygone era.



This postcard view shows a "Met" electric L train crossing the Chicago River on the Jack Knife Bridge. Out of view just to the north is the location of the Jackson Boulevard Bridge carrying Route 66 traffic. Met, CTA, and electric interurban trains bound for Aurora on the bridge would be common sights for highway travelers until the Jack Knife was removed in the late 1950's.

Rediscovering Route 66

Past, Present and Future ~ *by Brian L. Alexander*

When I first rediscovered Route 66 in Litchfield a few years ago I was amazed at how many different paved roads there had been at different times throughout the years. I was now as curious about the reason for the different routes as I was about rediscovering Old Route 66. When we visited one of the historical sites along Route 66, I was given a road map, which says "Illinois Historical Route 66" across the top. The map had Route 66 for the entire State of Illinois and the years in which its historic pavements were used.

I have found many reasons for the placement of Route 66's location and some were from before the automobile or the road existed. Three different reasons for the route's location; one was water travel, another train travel and the Pontiac Trail. Water travel had been the biggest influence in the early settling of our young nation. The boats of that era were powered by the wind and were very successful on large lakes, seas and oceans but were inappropriate for travel on rivers and streams.

The external combustion engine or commonly referred to as the Steam Engine, in 1807, now made the navigation of rivers like the Mississippi River possible. Early on this invention had made St. Louis a seaport. Most all the major cities like Chicago and St. Louis are on major waterways.

Chicago became an international seaport also, in 1848 with the completion and opening of the Illinois Michigan Canal. The canal was started in 1832 and its cost was over 6 million dollars to build. Passengers and freight traveled from Louisiana up the Mississippi River to Grafton, Illinois. From there to La Salle Peru via the Illinois River, from there they continued into Chicago by the Illinois Michigan Canal. These boats started carrying goods to Chicago in 1848 and were pulled by mules on footpaths along the canal. Towns were planned out along the path of the canal, spaced at intervals corresponding to the distance that the mules could haul the barges. The canal was very profitable, it helped the local economies and it was instrumental in increasing the population of the City of Chicago. The success of the canal would soon be over. The external combustion engine again had now been adapted for rail travel. Railroads quickly made the canal obsolete. From the canals inception until 1852 the canal was a popular passenger route but this ended with the opening of the "Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad" in 1853 that ran parallel to the canal. Railroads were making travel faster, more reliable and safer. Railroads began to connect cities and towns together and the tracks generally ran through the center of the smaller towns. Such is the case with some of the railroad tracks that were laid between Chicago and St. Louis. The rails were more versatile than

water navigation and were considerably less expensive to build.

As the automobile improved in the early part of the century it became more dependable, travel between cities by car now became more feasible. The first alignment between 1926 and 1930 basically ran next to the railroad tracks. It even went into the center of most towns much like the railroads did. The federal government commissioned Route 66 in 1926 but the signs would not be put up until the following year. It was a race to connect all the paved roads into a Federal Highway between Chicago and Los Angeles. Illinois was proud to be the first to accomplish an all paved roadway. The original alignment of Route 66 between Springfield to St. Louis included Route 4 because it had already had brick pavement. Most of the roads at that time were only 8 feet or 9 feet wide.

As the highway became more popular and automobile traffic increased to a point in which "The Road" became a nuisance to the local people. The underground crosswalk in Odell Illinois is proof of that. It became necessary, in some locations, to route the highway just outside of town. This would be done in the second alignment. In this next alignment, from 1930 to 1940, made two major changes to the highway; the first change in the routing of the pavement was that the road continued on past Bolingbrook to Plainfield and then through Shorewood. It bypassed Romeoville, Joliet and Wilmington completely and it reunited with the original route at Gardner.

The second routing change in the pavement, made the route more direct. It replaced the stretch of highway, Illinois Route 4, from Springfield to about Hamel. The new pavement was 11 feet wide instead of the 8 or 9 foot pavements and by 1940 all newly paved lanes in Illinois would be 12 feet across.

The third alignment became necessary with the possibility of war in 1940. The government realized the importance of having a four lane freeway for military and commercial purposes.

The automotive technology after World War II made traveling by car more dependable and comfortable. The automobile would dramatically reduce passenger travel on the railroads and it became necessary for the Federal Government to take over railroad passenger service by Amtrak in the early 1970s. Trucks were doing to railroad's freight business what the automobile was doing to passenger rail travel. As automobile and truck traffic increased it made the road I love so much become obsolete. It would be necessary to have traffic move more efficiently and that stopping at a stop sign or a stop light would be eliminated. Stopping at a railroad crossing would also be a thing of the

past and the new freeways would bypass towns.

The Interstate Road I-55 would eventually replace Route 66 in Illinois. The Southwest Expressway as it was first called would be opened on September 1, 1964 and its name would be changed the following year to the Adlai Stevenson Expressway. The Illinois Michigan Canal had been filled in and this stretch of road would actually be built on top of it, between Bridgeport on the east and Harlem Avenue on the west. The Stevenson Expressway would be the beginning of I-55 in Illinois.

One thing that I have learned, "Past, Present and Future," when it comes to technology, things change. The

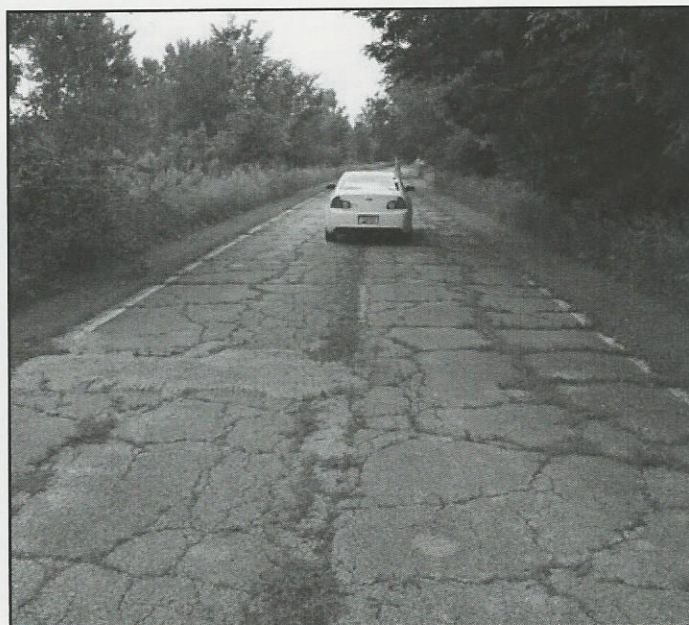
more we change; the more things stay seem to stay the same. I was vacationing with my wife, Fran this month and we saw windmill farm around the Kentland, Indiana area. These windmills were enormous; they can make electricity without burning fossil fuel and there is no pollution.

When the Pilgrims came from Europe to America, their boat was not propelled by fossil fuels but by the wind. In the future, will people travel between St. Louis and Chicago in Electric Cars? Will they have batteries that were charged at home by windmills as their source of energy? Only time will tell.

Photos From the 2009 Motor Tour



Sprague's Super Service in Normal.



Driving down Memory Lane in Lexington.



The Wishing Well preservation project, the association collaborated with the city of Pontiac to preserve some of the history of the Hall of Fame icon.



Current and Past Presidents Cathie Stevanovich and Johnny Miller pictured with Marty Blitstein and Kathy Miller at the Palms Cafe in Atlanta.

Color M



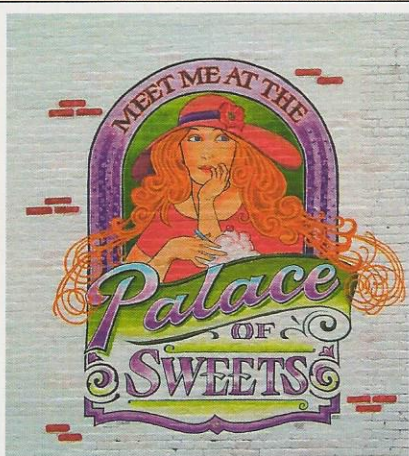
Jesse Fell founded the City of Pontiac in 1837. Fell Park in Pontiac is named in his honor.



Mural by Stephan Connor, illustrates a rescuing fireman and the 1900 City Hall and Fire Department. The Fire Department building is now the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum.



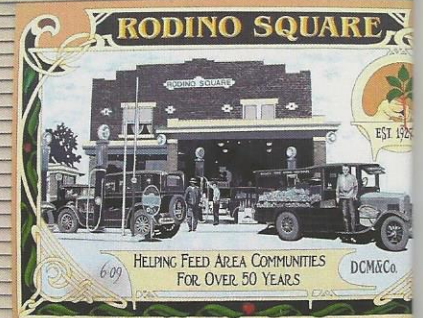
Mural by Francisco Vargas, depicts the Williams Mill and the Swinging Bridge over the Vermilion River in Pontiac.



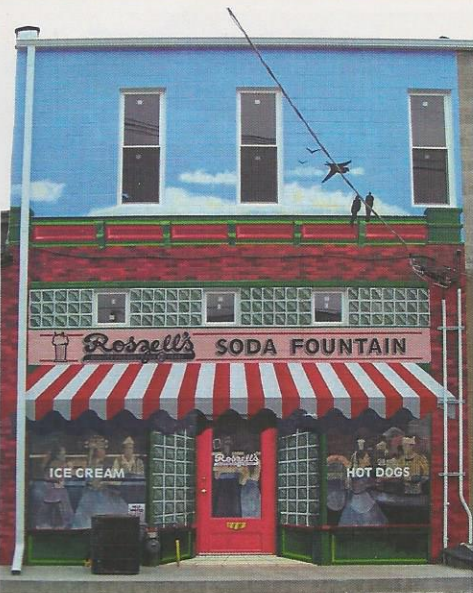
Mural by Cam Bortz, in the 1920s and 1930s, The Palace of Sweets was THE place to get that sweet tooth satisfied.



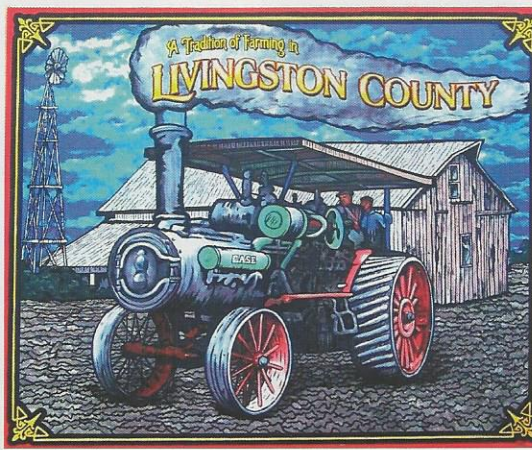
Mural by David & Susie Butler and Dan Sawatzky, The Chautauqua brought entertainment and culture for the whole community of Pontiac for over 30 years starting in 1898.



Mural by Dale Manor, Rodino Square was the one place that almost every need for the traveler. There was a gas station, service station, garage, restaurant, bar and hotel.



Mural by Joe Diaz, depicts the imaginary Roszell's Soda Fountain. Roszell's Ice Cream was a popular brand manufactured in Peoria.



Mural by Michael Clark, The Tradition of Farming in Livingston County, illustrates a Case steam traction engine.



Mural by Mike Myer and Adam May, Abe Lincoln in Pontiac before he became President.

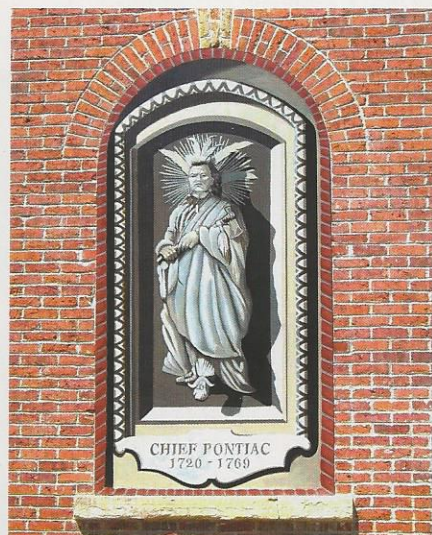


Mural by Gary Anderson and Bennett Hummel, depicts a scene in Pontiac.

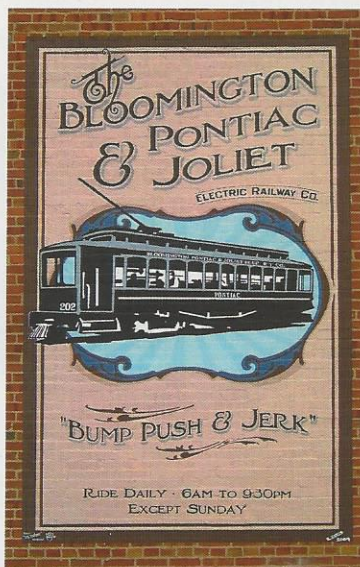
Murals of Pontiac



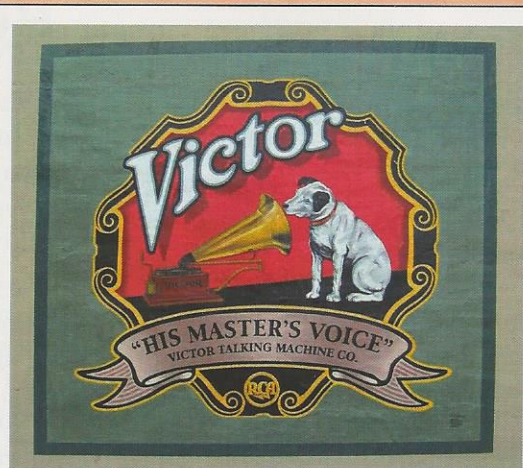
Mural by Jay Allan, The Allen Candy Company building was built in the 1890s. The highest quality candies and ice cream were created here.



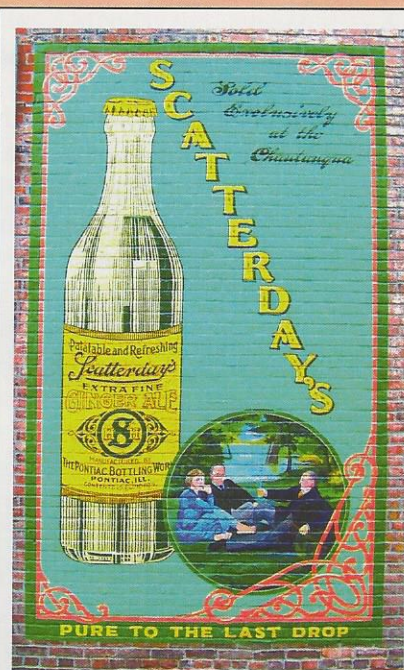
Jesse Fell named the town of Pontiac after this Legendary Ottawa Indian chief. No authentic images of Chief Pontiac remain so this mural is based upon a composite of other Native Americans from the Ottawa tribe.



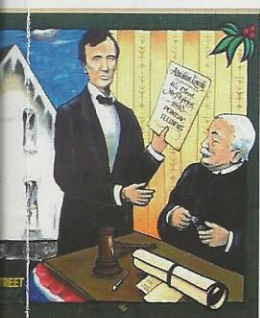
Mural by Rob Estes, Remembers the Interurban Streetcar that connected Pontiac, Odell and Dwight from 1905 to 1925.



Mural by the Triple Bernie, three artist named Bernie. The RCA Victor mural is a classic design showing Nipper listening to his master's voice.



H. H. Scatterday was the owner of Scatterday, Inc. located in the 1880s, on East Water Street in Pontiac. They produced carbonated beverages until the early 20th century.



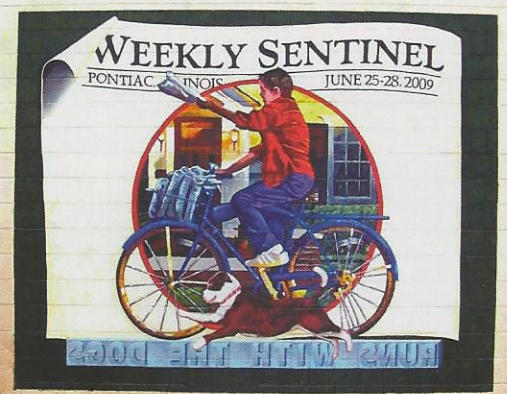
Strevell House, is a story of



Mural by Sonny Franks, Many years ago a Coca-Cola ad was once located on this exact location. The Corsair planes featured are similar to the ones the artist's father flew in WWII.



Humiston Heritage, commemorates The Humiston Heritage in Pontiac. The Apollos Camp Trust was established in 1920 at the death of Harriet Humiston and has descendants in many ways.



Mural by Nancy Bennett, The hard working newspaper boy delivers his papers with his faithful dog. The Pontiac Sentinel was published from 1857 until after 1900.

Heartfelt Thanks

Time does fly when you are having fun we've been told and the past years have flown since Steve and I joined The Rt. 66 Association 20 years ago at Lexington. Tom Teague always said that we were the first paying members.

We feel so blessed to have met so many travelers on Rt. 66 from all over the United States as well as all over the world. For this I thank each and every one of you. I have had the fun part, meeting YOU, sometimes sharing laughter, occasionally sharing heartaches and tears as I listen to your stories, and oftentimes praying for your needs. It has been exciting talking with you as you start out on your adventure along 66. In addition, for the ones who have completed their

trip west to east I always quiz as to whether they have found it as exciting as they imagined and the answer is a resounding "Yes". Then I ask which part they enjoyed most-hoping they will say Funks Grove (my little attempt at humor).

To all you volunteers and fellow travelers Steve and I extend our thanks. I am reminded of the poem "Let me live in a house by the side of the side of the road and be a friend to man." I think the author S.W. Foss must have envisioned Route 66!

*Affectionately,
Glaida & Steve Funk*

Museum Visitors

By Jim Jones

One of the more enjoyable things for me at the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum is the opportunity to meet and greet the many visitors we have. We have visitors traveling by bicycle, motorcycle, walking and automobile (contemporary and antique.) In addition we have many tour buses that stop at the museum. So far this summer we have had several groups of motorcycles, including about 30 members of a Deaf Harley Club on their way to Santa Monica. A few weeks ago a Harley Club stopped in on their way to Springfield to see the Lincoln sites. One of the members told me the 30 bikes they had cost over \$600,000.

The week of July 19 we had a mystery bus tour from Wisconsin that included 25 people.

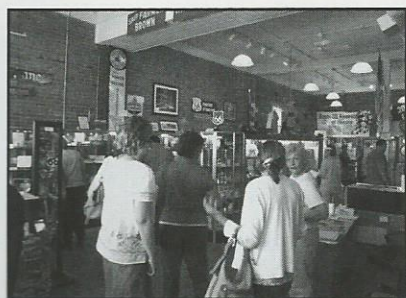
These folks pay to take a trip on the bus and have no idea where they are going. They had been to the covered bridge area of Indiana and were on the way back to Portage, WS. The tour guide had called Ellie Alexander for information about Pontiac. Ellie had arranged for them to have lunch at the Old Log Cabin Inn, then visit the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum. She then took them for a tour of Pontiac in the Jolly Trolley to take a walk on one of the famous Swinging Bridges and to see the 18 new mural in

the downtown area.

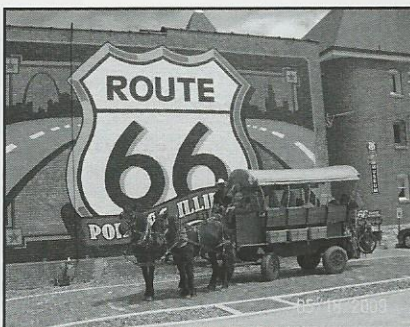
I encourage all member of the association to volunteer to be guides at the museum. I would be pleased to teach each of you the stories of the many artifact we have at the museum so you also may relate them to our visitors. This is one of the most rewarding things I have done on Route 66. The interest in Route 66 just seems to be growing. Please join in the fun.



A group of Harley Davidson owners, one of many different groups that came in for a visit.



Visitors flooded the Hall of Fame during the 2009 Annual Motor Tour.



The family from Peotone stopped at the museum for a photo. The gentleman built the cover wagon



The 2009 Hall of Fame Banquet at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield.

Discovering fun people, places and interesting locations is what traveling on Route 66 is all about.

One of the least known, and yet one of the best, is the SHABBY SHEIK in Lincoln, Illinois. This site is directly on Route 66.

2009 is the 90th anniversary of this Route 66 icon. It opened in 1919 as a grocery and deli store. It remained a grocery until 1974. In 1971 they added lawn and garden supplies. Slowly the garden supplies were replaced with CROSLEY items and additional collectibles.

This family run business, known as KROTZ & SONS, is now operated by the third generation son, Carl. This 70

still exist, Carl's and Eisenhower's at the Gettysburg farm.

Carl also has a gift of locating off-beat and unusual items. So much so that he calls his shop "DESIGNER JUNK BY KROTZIE."

This location is packed indoors and out with the fascinating, unusual, and different. From bullet riddled Crosley cars to flowers to collectibles such as Stetson china. The china plant and outlet store used to be across the street.

Carl is like most original proprietors on Route 66; very street smart, and always has a friendly smile and a good story to tell.

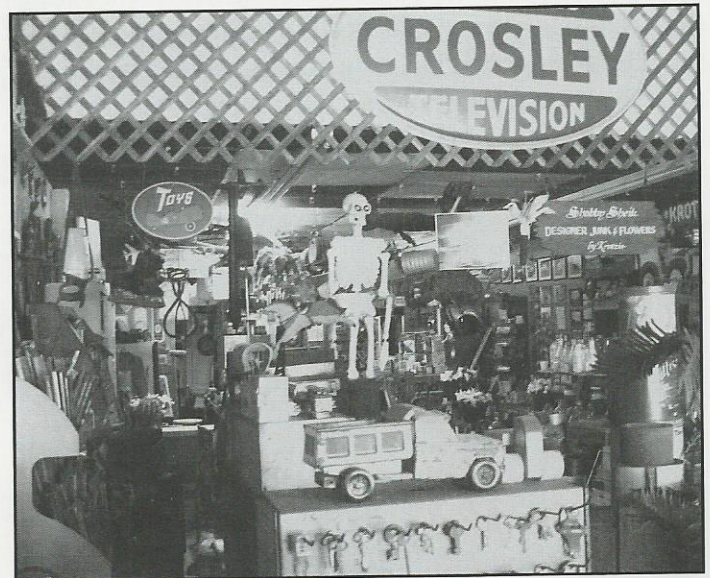
Krotz & Sons is located at 1010 N. Kickapoo Street in Lincoln, Illinois. He is open Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Spend some time with Carl at the Shabby Sheik. You will be glad that you did.



Carl Krotz

year old veteran can tell tales you have never heard on Route 66. He still dabbles in flowers and plantings when they are in season, but his love is for anything labeled CROSLEY. One of his collection cars is a 1952 Estate car. The first one made was provided to Dwight D. Eisenhower. Only a few



Inside the Shabby Sheik.



These Route 66 Illinois plates were purchased off the rack at a retail store, not issued by the state. "It's only for show not go," said owner Paul Buck.



This is a picture of the plate on Gordy & Linda Durocher of Milwaukee, WI on their Chevrolet HHR.

Shrine of Our Lady of the Highways

by Peter Stork

It's called the "Mother Road," so dubbed by John Steinbeck as he watched countless downtrodden Oklahomans follow its blessed pavement westward in search of a better life. It's called "Bloody 66," a far less desired moniker but no less deserved thanks to the skinny pavement and tight curves that led to a countless number of accidents over the decades.

So Route 66 was the perfect place to dedicate a shrine to the Mother of all Mothers, a plea to her to watch over this historic and dangerous road. Thus born was one of Illinois' – and the highway's – most unique landmarks, the Shrine of Our Lady of the Highways between Farmersville and Raymond.

1959 marked the one-hundredth anniversary of Mary's appearance at Lourdes, France, and the Catholic Youth Council (CYC) of the Litchfield Deanery of the Springfield Diocese set out to create a monument honoring that milestone. The chapter, made up of high school grads from the several counties surrounding Litchfield (including other Route 66 communities such as Staunton, Mount Olive and Farmersville), decided to erect a shrine to Mary. After importing a cararra marble statue of the Blessed Mother

just north of its intersection with Illinois 48 and 127. As throughout most of the state, Route 66 was the heaviest traveled road in this area, giving the shrine the optimum visibility. It was also a unique stretch of the Mother Road, as the original two-lane alignment from 1930 remained for several miles as a rest area and four new lanes had been built to the east as part of Illinois' efforts to turn the highway into an expressway across the state. Francis and



A snapshot of the Shrine from May 1961.

LITCHFIELD DEANERY C.Y.C.

REQUESTS YOUR PRESENCE AT THE DEDICATION OF

OUR LADY OF THE HIGHWAYS' SHRINE

LOCATED ON U.S. 66, ONE MILE NORTH OF U.S. 48

OCTOBER 25, 1959 AT 4:00 P.M.

Invitation from the original dedication in 1959.

from Italy at a cost of \$400, just one issue remained: where to erect the monument.

One of the members of the CYC group was Loretta Marten, the eldest child of Francis and Ruth Marten of rural Raymond. Their grain and livestock farm was in the perfect spot for such a project: along US Highway 66,

Ruth happily donated a stretch of their land just southeast of the Marten home for the project, and the Shrine of Our Lady of the Highways was born.

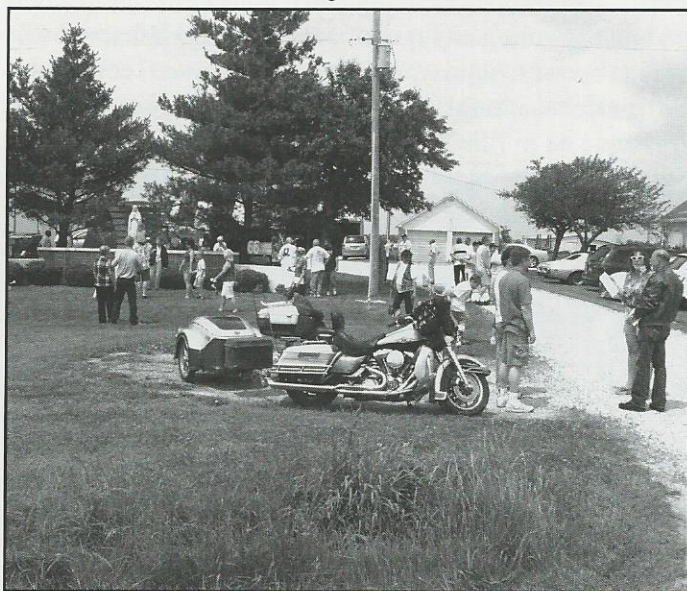
Groundbreaking took place on February 11, 1959 on the eastern edge of the property along the original two-lane alignment of the highway with Father Robert Leo Heintz of St. Mary's in Taylorville presiding over the ceremony. Before the statue could be installed, a base had to be constructed, and the CYC kids worked on building a platform with two wings stretching out to each side. A stone walkway led from the driveway to the middle of the shrine, and a wooden alcove rose from behind Mary, its dark background contrasting with the glistening white of the statue. The Blessed Mother would face the east, not only welcoming the rising sun but watching over the traffic streaming by between Springfield and Saint Louis – and most likely parts even further. Total cost for the shrine: \$900, including the cost of the imported statue.

On October 25, 1959, over three hundred people gathered for the dedication of the shrine. It immediately became a popular attraction, with numerous groups making pilgrimages to the monument starting shortly after its completion. With the makeshift rest area running north from the shrine, it was also an excellent place for travelers to pull off and say a little prayer as they sped

down "Bloody 66."

Over time, the CYC members who worked so hard to honor their Mother Mary grew up and moved on, with Loretta marrying and eventually moving to Indiana. The shrine, though, would not be neglected. Francis and Ruth had seven other children and a successful farm to take care of, and added to their duties was the monument. Lights were added to the shrine, illuminating the statue at night and in the darkness of storms, and the words of the Hail Mary were added along the power poles on the edge of the cornfield, giving southbound travelers a Burma Shave-style prayer.

Ruth passed away in 1985, leaving the responsibilities to Francis the very year Route 66 disappeared from road atlases. The shrine's fame was only beginning, though, as the effort to preserve the Mother Road began in Illinois and across the nation. Tom Teague, one of the founders of the



2009 Motor Tour participants at the Shrine.

Route 66 Association of Illinois, wrote about Francis and the shrine in his book Searching for 66 and in 1990 the elder Marten was one of the five initial inductees into the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame. More interest followed, and video crews traveling the road interviewed Francis for their documentaries and famed author Michael Wallis wrote about the shrine in his book Route 66: The Mother Road. Francis, even as his farm work slowed down in his old age, remained an enthusiastic supporter of the shrine, running out to greet travelers as they stopped at the landmark and having them sign the guestbook started all the way back in 1959 at the monument's dedication.

After Francis passed in 2002, the caretaking duties fell upon two of his sons: Lee, who with his wife Mary and three children Ellen, Emily and Thomas lived two doors north at the end of the old two lane rest area alignment;

and Carl, his youngest son who, with his wife Marlene and children Melinda, Sara and Tim, reside in the old Marten house next to the shrine. Together the Martens maintain the property, keeping the grass clipped, the lights shining and the marble polished. Route 66 road trippers, who frequently stop for pictures and blog about their encounter with Mary, often leave change at the feet of the statue, though the Marten family happily foots the bill to keep this historic and holy landmark in tip-top shape.

Recently the shrine served as a passport stop on the 20th Route 66 Association of Illinois Motor Tour and an informational kiosk will soon be installed on the south side of the monument to tell travelers the history of the monument and feature a permanent guestbook enclosed in a weather-proof drawer.

Most exciting, though, is the ability for Route 66 enthusiasts to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the shrine's dedication exactly fifty years to the day it became a Route 66 landmark. A celebratory Mass will be held on October 25, 2009 at 2:00 PM, with refreshments after the service. The Marten family hopes all who have shared in five wonderful decades of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Highways can attend this celebration.

Daily Specials Homemade Soups Open Everyday Sun-Thurs 5am-9pm Fri & Sat 5am-10pm	OLD ROUTE 66 Family Restaurant 105 S. OLD 66 Dwight, IL 60420	Follow the Mother Road To Great Food & Service! Call us for your catering needs Dine-in, Carry-out or Delivery 815-584-2920
--	---	---

Soda Fountain	OWNERS-ROBERT & RENAE ERNST PHONE- 217-627-3491
HOURS- MTWTF 9-5 SAT 9-2	LUNCH <input type="checkbox"/> FRESH BREAD <input type="checkbox"/> SANDWICHES FRESH PIES <input type="checkbox"/> GIFTS <input type="checkbox"/> PHARMACY MUSEUM
133 S. SECOND, GIRARD, 94 62640	

Touring the Tour Guides

by Kathleen J. Miller

Since joining this association in 1995 I've been introduced to more people than I can count, from more countries than I can name. But last spring association president Cathie Stevanovich called to ask if my husband Johnny and I would accompany Jim Jones co-editor of the 66 News and Bob Karls the City Administrator of Pontiac to meet a group of tour directors from Sweden and give our guests a whirlwind tour from Chicago to Pontiac, on Route 66? This sounded like fun to me so even before asking Johnny, I promised we would.

Early one Sunday morning Johnny and I met Bob and



At the Route 66 Experience in Joliet. Sitting with Elwood is Veronica Morris-Blomgren and in the row behind her standing is Johnny & Kathy Miller, Lena Palsson, Karl von Schoultz, Anna Berlin, Bob Karls, Jari Heinonen, Karolina Landal, and Jim Jones.

Jim outside of Lou Mitchell's on Route 66 in Chicago. No sooner did we enter the Hall of Fame eatery and group of people with name tags entered and our visitors had arrived. Bob Karls introduced himself to the group, then he introduced Jim, Johnny and I to our guests Anna Berlin of Malmo, Karolina Landal of Nacka, Jari Heinonen of Norrkoping, and from Stockholm Veronica Morris-Blomgren, Lena Palsson, and Karl von Schoultz. They were all professional tour guides from different tourist agencies in Sweden.

We ate breakfast which was huge by Swedish standards, told them as much about Route 66 as we could in one sitting. After breakfast we headed towards the cars. Johnny drove the lead car and was accompanied by Anna. Jim and I each rode in cars driven by our guests and Bob Karls pulled up the rear so nobody would be left behind and our caravan headed out.

We made our way south, pointing out our Hall of Fame members and other icons of the Mother Road. We talked about the preservation efforts of Route 66 in Illinois and stopped several times along the way so they could experience what we are lucky enough to have in our own back yard. We reached our destination of The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac and we were warmly greeted by Mayor Bob Russell and his wife Susan and Pontiac Tourism Director Ellie Alexander. Jim Jones and museum guide Rose Gerald led them through the museum complex which includes the War Museum and the antique mall and gift shops. Bob Karls and Mayor Russell took us all on a walking tour of downtown Pontiac and we finished with a long relaxing lunch sharing stories of Route 66 and answering any questions remaining. What a lovely way to spend a Sunday, as I thought to myself, could there be a more wonderful job than earning a living leading tours on Route 66 in Illinois?



Left to right, Karolina, Anna, Jari, Karl, Lena and Veronica.



LINCOLN PRINTERS

711 Broadway St. • Lincoln, IL 62656

Phone: 732-3121 • Fax: 732-3122

e-mail: lincolnprinters@abelink.com

Bob Borowiak, Owner

*"For All Your Printing Needs" -- Pick-up & Delivery
Serving Lincoln and Logan County Since 1970*

New Route 66 Blue Prints

By Jim Jones

About a year after we opened the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum I received a phone call at home from the Livingston County Highway Department. They had been cleaning out their vault and found a set of blue prints, dated 1940, of New Route 66 in the Pontiac area. I was at their office in less than 5 minutes and thanked them for this great gift to the association. The blue print covers from 2 miles north of Pontiac to about 2 miles north of Cayuga.

The blue prints include all the details of the highway as it was in 1940 and was overlaid with the path of the New Four Lane Route 66. It went into such detail that the trees and culverts were shown, even the little red brick school house west of Bungy Elevator. An interesting feature is Memorial Park Cemetery just south of Cayuga. Old 66 was closer to the railroad than the 66 of today. The cemetery had a very nice fence and gates at its entrance off 66. Many graves had to be moved in order to allow the new highway to pass. The fence was taken down along with the gates, but the gates were rebuilt as we see them today.

Blue prints are very fragile things, not only is the paper over 60 years old, the image on the many pages is



Association members view the blueprints with the guidance of Jim Jones, Hall of Fame Museum Tour Director.

sensitive to light and will fade if exposed to light for very long. This is the reason the blue prints are not on display in the museum.

Face Lift at the Dixie

by John Weiss

The Dixie Truckers Home in McLean, Illinois has a new look. The exterior has attractive awnings all around. Route 66, Stuckey's, the Café and General Store are all predominant.

The Dixie was the original home of the Illinois Association's Route 66 Hall of Fame. When the much larger facility at Pontiac became available, the Hall of Fame was relocated. This original space is still providing tourists the Route 66 experience in Illinois. The museum committee maintains this location as well as another at the Funk Grove Rest Area on I-55.

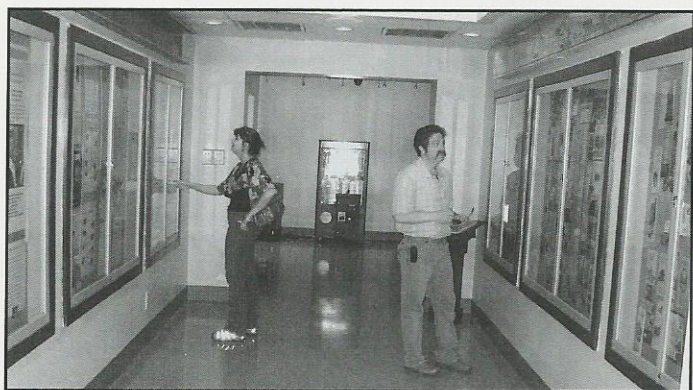
The Dixie manager, Tina Kletz encourages everyone to stop in and see their many accomplishments of remodeling

to entice the traveling roadie to stop in for all of their needs, and enjoy some Route 66 history while they are there.

One-half million dollars have been invested in the complete restoration. Premium gasoline is now also being provided. Many additional services that were lost throughout the years are now back for the truckers.

We congratulate the new owners. We also thank them for the continued free use of space provided for our Route 66 display.

Stop in and look around; you will be glad you did!



Cathy & Jordan Goodman enjoy the Route 66 information center inside of the Dixie.



New awnings show part of the facelift the Dixie is undergoing.

FILMING THE FAMOUS THREE

John and Lenore hosted Paul and Sandi Taylor of the ROUTE 66 MAGAZINE. They are filming for a national network with affiliates in over 30 states reaching over 40 million homes partially sponsored by Suzuki. They approached the Weiss' with the idea of filming Rt. 66 and two of the original blue highways based on their popular book, *Traveling the Historic Three*. This is a 110 mile triangular journey that covers the Lincoln Hwy, the Dixie Hwy into Chicago and Route 66 south to Joliet. Numerous stops were

made along the way. An array of interviews showed that true hospitality in the small towns along these blue highways is alive and well.

Historic downtown Frankfort, the town with the 1890s charm, the Arche Fountain, world's largest pizzeria, a doll house and Rainbow Cone were just a few of many places visited along the way. The Buckingham Fountain was beautiful, as Lake Michigan served as a beautiful backdrop. The food at Del Rhea's Chicken Basket was roadie fare at its best. Castle Eden couldn't be missed, nor the charm of the eclectic museum and outdoor petting zoo located at White Fence Farm where seating is available for 1100 folks. The Lincoln Landing, recently dedicated, showcases a unique sculpture of Abe. The Route 66 Visitors Center inside the Joliet Area Historical Museum was fun and memorable for all!

The show should air in 45 to 60 days and an article about our adventure will be published in the next edition of ROUTE 66 MAGAZINE.

Editor's note: Paul and Sandi Taylor are the publisher/editors of "Route 66 Magazine." John & Lenore Weiss are award winning Route 66 lecturers, preservationists and authors.



The intersection of Lincoln and Dixie Highways in Chicago Heights, IL.

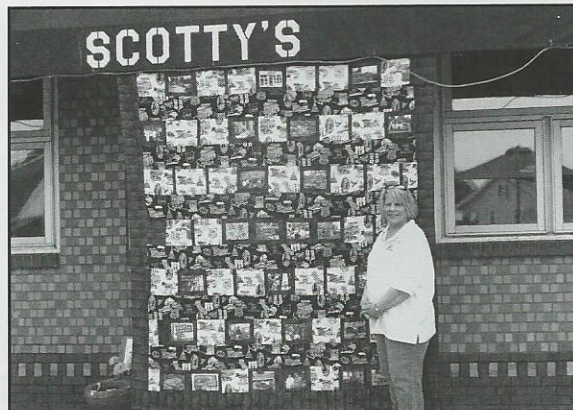


Noted author and historian John Weiss interviewing David Clark in Chicago on Route 66.



Left: Alyssa & Andrew Panczuk and Kaitlyn & Mora Spadoni being introduced to Rich Henry's bunny at his Rabbit Ranch in Staunton.

Right: Association President, Cathie Stevanovich pictured with the quilt she made and donated for the quilt raffle. The quilt is proudly displayed by the raffle winners Jim & Pat Allen in front of their bar Scotty's, in Hamel on the last day of business



WE WERE SIX ON ROUTE 66

by Leone Castell Anderson

The Great Depression began for our family before the stock market crash of 1929. Our father's business of building houses in California began to fail. Banks-on-the west coast began to close. In March of 1928 Dad felt it would be wise to return to Chicago, where Mom's relatives lived, and where my three older sisters had been born and raised. Dad was enthused about making the trip in our tall black Hudson. He'd learned about the new Route 66 which would take you clear across the country from Los Angeles to Chicago in less than ten days. The faster the trip, the less money we'd need to spend, he figured.

He made and installed a wooden shelf on the dashboard on which Mom could make us sandwiches as we traveled. We called it "eating on the fly." He had hooks added on either side of the car near the roof. A large piece of canvas with metal eyelets along its length that were slipped over those hooks created a hammock which rested just above the car seats at night, because the Hudson was so tall. That provided sleeping space for both he and my mother. During the day the canvas was rolled to one side and strapped in place. Blanket-draped seats and floor served as beds for us girls. We often stopped overnight at camping grounds and slept in the car. We'd open the doors on one side and drape a large drop cloth over the top of the car, across the doors and down to the ground. It gave us privacy. We did use the camp ground privies. Sometimes the smell was a bit strong. Sometimes the gas stations had outhouses, rather than indoor bathrooms. But camp grounds often had community washrooms with sinks where you could wash up. There might be shower stalls, or sometimes washtubs where you could rinse out your clothes.

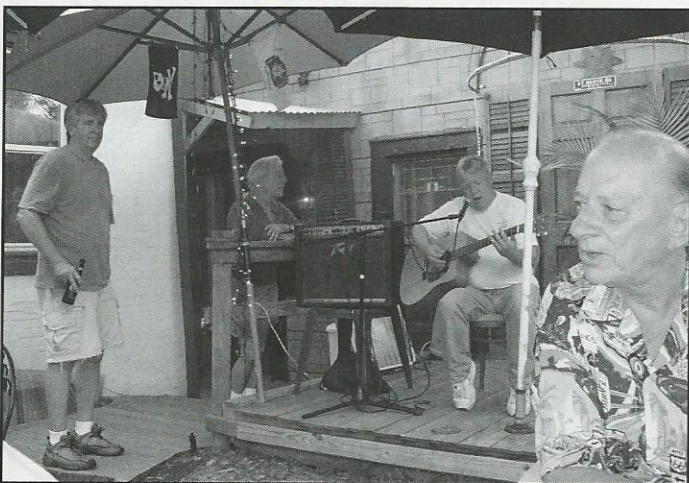
There were places called auto courts or tourist courts. We stayed at one with a car port right next to the room. We

could get our clothes and food from the car without going outside. Another one didn't furnish bedding or towels, and it was heated with a coal stove. We had to fetch water from a community pump. But the \$3.50 for the night included the fuel for the stove.

Did we have car trouble? Of course, flat tires happened. This meant having to pull off onto the roadside, "Everybody out!" - and Dad would remove the offending tire. He'd check the inner tube for hole or leak, patch it with the rubber patch and glue from his patch kit, inflate the tube with the hand pump and then replace the tube and tire onto the car. But sometimes it would happen near a gas station, where they would do the job for free when you filled up with gas.

In the heat of the Mojave Desert crossing one day, hot steam suddenly rose from the front of the car. A burbling sound came from under the hood. Dad stopped the car, leaped out, and with a rag around his hand he gave a quick twist to the radiator cap. Overheated, he explained. He had to give it time to cool off until he could add water from the big crockery jug strapped inside the spare tire at the back of the car. It wasn't wise to travel those days without a water supply.

My sisters remember they may have had a few squabbles, for traveling in 1928 meant no air conditioning, no fast-food rest stops, and few amenities along the way. But mostly they read books and colored pictures and sang. Dad, who'd studied voice, sometimes sang operatic arias. My sisters sang songs they'd learned in school. I was too young to know the words but I'd make them up. Mom would chuckle and hum along. And we did make it to Chicago in ten days.



Association At-Large Board Member Joe Gniadek entertains on the outside stage at Springers Creek Winery in Edwardsville as the 2009 Motor Tour comes to an end.



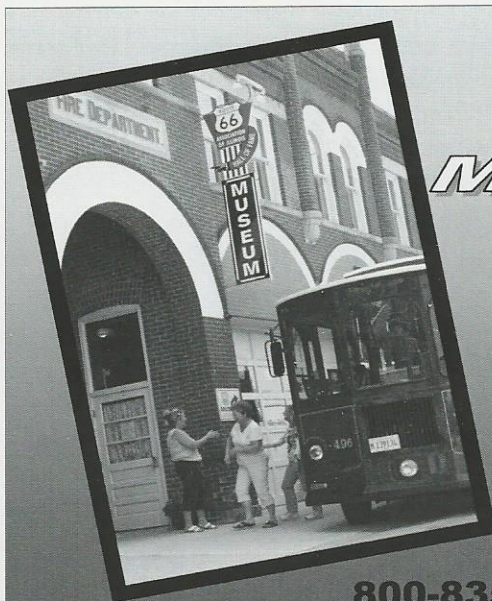
2009 Motor Tour participants enjoying the car show in Lincoln.

VFN Fiberglass
Atlanta Public Library
Coliseum Ballroom Antique Mall
Berwyn Development Corp.
Bloomington Public Library
Brown's Wrecker Service
Casey's Garden Shop
Casey's Garden Shop, Inc.
McLean County Historical Society
City of Bolingbrook
J.K. Harrison, Inc.
Polk-A-Dot Drive In

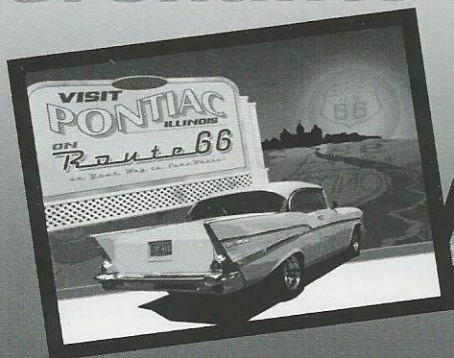
330 W. Factory Road
100 Race St.
520 S. Hardroad Rt. 4
3322 S. Oak Park Ave., 2nd Floor
205 E. Olive St.
13816 N. 900 East Road
411 N. Linden
1505 N. Main St.
200 N. Main St.
375 W. Briarcliff Road
103 S. Route 53., P.O. Box 98
222 N. Front St.

Addison
Atlanta
Benld
Berwyn
Bloomington
Bloomington
Bloomington
Bloomington
Bolingbrook
Braceville
Braidwood

IL	60101	
IL	61723	217-648-2112
IL	62009	217-835-7788
IL	60402	708-788-8100
IL	61701	309-828-6091
IL	61704	
IL	61701	
IL	61701	309-828-1424
IL	61701	309-827-0428
IL	60440	
IL	60407	815-237-2953
IL	60408	

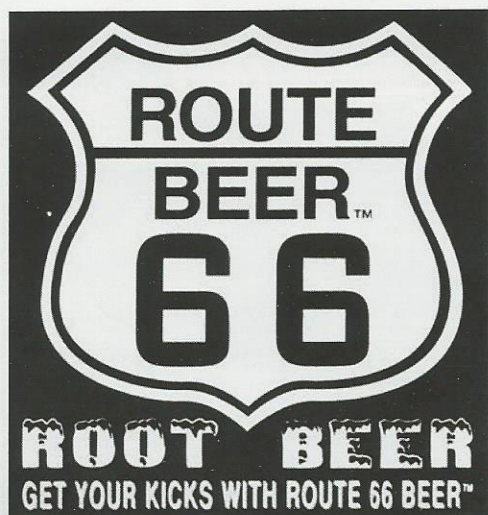


*Visit Pontiac, IL.
Museums, Murals,
Merchants and More!*



800-835-2055 • www.visitpontiac.org

*changing Soft Drink choices
one 12oz glass bottle at a time*



Made with
Real Cane Sugar
No Artificial Sweeteners
Caffeine Free



ORANGE - LIME
CREAM SODA - BLACK CHERRY

Route 66 Sodas, LLC - Wilmington, IL 60481-0276 - 815-476-9315 - sodajerk@route66sodas.com - www.route66sodas.com

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
Matthew T. Scott House	227 N. First Ave.	Chenoa	IL	61726	815-945-4555
Berghoff Restaurant	17 West Adams St.	Chicago	IL	60603	
Lou Mitchell's Restaurant	565 W. Jackson Blvd.	Chicago	IL	60661	312-939-3111
Corner Bar	200 S. First St.	Divernon	IL	62530	217-628-3605
First National Bank of Dwight	P.O. Box 10	Dwight	IL	60429	
Village of Dwight	209 S. Prairie Ave.	Dwight	IL	60420	
Comfort Inn	3080 S. St. Route 15	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-4900
Edwardsville- Glen Carbon	200 University Park Dr., Suite 260	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-7600
Edwardsville Preservation Comm.	118 Hillsboro Ave.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	
Neumann's Bar	461 E. Vandalia	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-6688
Springer's Creek Winery	817 Hillsboro Ave.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-307-5110
Stagger Inn Again	104 East Vandalia	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-4221
Gardner Chronicle Antiques & Gifts	214 Division St., P.O. Box 164	Gardner	IL	60424	815-237-2727
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	
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
Hampton Inn	1019 N. Heitmann Drive	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-6729
Lincoln Printers, Inc.	711 Broadway St.	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-3121
Ariston Café	P.O. Box 453	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-2023
City of Litchfield	120 East Ryder	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-8147
Hampton Inn	11 Thunderbird Circle	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-4441
International Police Association, Region 57	P.O. Box 7	Mascoutah	IL	62258	618-566-8844
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
Mt. Olive Crossroads	995 Lakeview Drive	Mt. Olive	IL	62069	217-999-368
Bob Green Auto Service	1847 New Salam Church	New Berlin	IL	62670	
Ryburn Enterprises	305 Pine St.	Normal	IL	61761	309-750-1348
Old Route 66 Family Restaurant	P.O. Box 22	Odell	IL	60420	815-584-2920
Pour Richard's Tap & Dining	210 Tremont	Odell	IL	60460	815-998-2556
Rentz's Tap & Dining	210 Waupansie	Odell	IL	60460	815-998-2383
Standard Station of Odell	408 E. Howard St.	Odell	IL	60460	
eSeMBe Technical Services	P.O. Box 801	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	
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	
IL State Police Heritage Foundation	4000 N. Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	217-528-0764
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 Pharmacy, Inc.	9th & N. Grand Ave.	Springfield	IL	62704	
City of Staunton	304 W. Main St.	Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-2233
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	
Triple H. Treats	24409 W. Frontage Road	Waggoner	IL	62572	217-227-3664
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
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
National Route 66 Federation	P.O. Box 1848	Lake Arrowhead	CA	92352	909-336-6131
Gionanni Tours	P.O. Box 365	Newbury Park	CA	91319	805-375-1324
Greg's Motor Sales	1021 W. Mishawaka	Mishawaka	IN	46545	574-255-0771
Claremore Convention & Visitors Bureau	419 W. Will Rogers Blvd.	Claremore	OK	74017	918-341-8688
City of Elk City (Route 66 Museum)	P.O. Box 5	Elk City	OK	73648	580-225-6266
Miami Ok Convention & Visitors Bureau	111 N. Main St., P.O. Box 760	Miami	OK	74355	918-542-4435

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Route 66 Association of Illinois

Fall Quarterly Meeting and Annual Elections

Sunday – October 18, 2009

Pontiac City Hall Council Chambers
115 West Howard Pontiac, IL 61764

- ◆ Board Meeting 10:30 AM - Coffee will be provided
- ◆ Lunch Break Noon - On your own ◆ General Meeting 1:00 PM

PICNIC TIME!!

The Annual Route 66 Association of Illinois Picnic!

The Route 66 Association of Illinois will be holding the Annual picnic on Sunday, September 13, 2009 at Chautauqua Park in Pontiac! The picnic will start at 11:00 a.m. lunch served around noon. The association will provide the meat, buns, condiments, plates, napkins, eating utensils, and beverage. Please bring a plate to pass.

Our Association has reserved the Pavilion. There are picnic tables available - however you may want to bring an extra chair or two! Come meet and mingle with your fellow members and enjoy a quiet Sunday afternoon in a beautiful park! There is no charge for the picnic.

RSVP by September 6, 2009 so we will have enough food for everyone to Marty Blitstein
Phone: (708) 444-1312 or
Or by email at blitz66@chicago.net
Please include your name and the number attending!

Make sure you plan to see the Swinging Bridges and to all of the Wall Dog murals before going home!

DIRECTIONS: From the front door of the Hall of Fame Museum to Chautauqua Park

On Main St, (stop light)-turn right (south)
Go 3 blocks to Water St-turn left (east)
Go 5 blocks to Riverview Rd-turn right
(look for brown sign, "Chautauqua Park")

Follow Riverview Rd directly into the park. The pavilion will be on the left do not park on the grass!

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE 66 NEWS

110 West Howard Street
Pontiac, IL 61764

www.il66assoc.org

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

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE 66 NEWS

WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG

We Are Family
20 ILLINOIS 10 6/13/10 Expires
2010 000 SIP
LAND OF LINCOLN

"We Are Family" Motor Tour
Order your Motor Tour License Plates!
Information inside . . .

WINTER 2009-10
\$3.95



FREE! FREE! FREE!
This winter you can still get your '66 Kicks!

The Route 66 Association of Illinois
Hall of Fame Museum
110 West Howard
Pontiac, IL 61764

For hours of operation call:
815-844-IL66 (4566)



Bob Waldmire and Sue Waldmire at
the Cozy Dog in Springfield, IL



The Route 66 Association of Illinois
2009-10 Officers and Board Members

ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

OFFICERS

most reasonable times.

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

PRESIDENT '11
Cathie Stevanovich
9280 Drummmond
Tinley Park, IL 60487
708-444-1312
cathiesb@earthlink.net

VICE PRESIDENT '10
Bob Killackey
304 Hillside Rd
New Lenox, IL 60451
708-707-1569
bk394477@yahoo.com

TREASURER '10
Martin Blitstein
9280 Drummmond
Tinley Park, IL 60487
708-444-1312 FAX: 708-444-1315
blitz66@earthlink.net

RECORDING SEC '11
Barb Gwodz
8448 Main St.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-910-3422
BBGX2@aol.com

CORRESPONDING SEC '11
Lenore Weiss
22550 W. Rte 113
Williamington, IL 60481
815-458-6616
weissinfo@il66authority.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE '11
The officers plus Joe Gniadek & Ike Widner

BOARD MEMBERS

COOK '11
John Miller
14828 San Francisco Ave.
Posen, IL 60469
708-528-7866
kixonte66@hotmail.com

DU PAGE '10

Bill Gwodz
8448 Main St.
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-910-3422
BBGX2@aol.com

CONTINUED

WILL '11
Lori Killackey
304 Hillside Rd
New Lenox, IL 60451
708-707-1569
cookie1215@yahoo.com

GRUNDY '11
Ike Widner
948 E. Jackson Street
Morris, IL 60450
Cell: 815-530-5100
Wagontrail66@hotmail.com

LIVINGSTON '10
Tom Dunham
415 W. Moulton
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-7219
tdunham@mchsi.com

MCLEAN '11

(Vacant)
LOGAN '10
Bob Borowiak
131 S. College St.
Lincoln, IL 62656
217-735-3094
lincolnpinters@abellink.com

MONTGOMERY '10

Peter Stork
223 East Fourth St. Apt 1
Sparta, IL 62286
618-578-8483
pstork@gmail.com

MACOUPIN '10

(see Madison)

MADISON '11

Jerry Law
434 N. 5th Street
Wood River, IL 62096
618-251-4892
thelaw1@sbcglobal.net

www.il66assoc.org

Webmaster - Scott Blitstein
eSeMBe Technical Services
708-231-8794
Mail to: web@il66assoc.org

CONTINUED

SANGAMON '10
Mike Callaghan
1400 N. Motorola Dr.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-3015
mcc92@mchsi.com

ST. CLAIR '11

Jerry Law
(see Madison)

AT-LARGE

BOARD MEMBERS

Jaimie Anderson '11
327 Sumac Street
Williamington, IL 60841
847-721-6743
elite197642@yahoo.com

Joe Gniadek '10

1109 Cedar, #3B

Glendale Heights, IL 60139
USROUTEB66IL@gmail.com

Larry Libersher '10

PO Box 51
Williamington, IL 60481
815-475-2295

Kathy Miller '11

14828 San Francisco Ave
Posen, IL 60469
708-860-5515
Kathleen708@hotmail.com

Kathleen708@hotmail.com

Lou Vargo '11

14911 Richmond Ave
Posen, IL 60469
708-339-3640

Visit our website at www.il66assoc.org

Your 66 News Team is Publisher / Co-editor Kathy Miller,
Co-editor Jim Jones and Layout Bob Borowiak

TOURS/GRUP VISITS,
SPECIAL NEEDS
Jim Jones
815-844-5657
ng9e@veriozon.ne

Gina Blitstein 708-231-8794
web@il66assoc.org
Kathy Miller 708-860-5515
kathleen7081@hotmail.com

Peter Stork 618-578-8483
pstork@gmail.com

Jaimie Anderson 847-721-6743
elite197642@yahoo.com

Jerry Law 618-251-4892
thelaw1@sbcglobal.net

PUBLICITY/PROMOTIONS
Co-Chairmen
815-458-6616
weissinfo@il66authority.com

PRESERVATION

May change ad content

Advertising Rates
Single Issue Prices:
B/W Print:
Whole Page \$125.00
Half Page \$75.00
Bus. Card Size \$40.00
Annual - 4 issues: B/W Print
Pay for 3 get 1 free

THE 66 NEWS

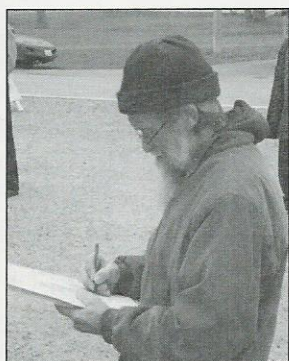
Winter
2009-10

Publication Information: The 66 News is published on or near the 15th of Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. Contributions are accepted without compensation. Authors retain all copyright privileges. Submit all stories, photos and ads at least 8 weeks prior publication.
Email to: Kathleen708@hotmail.com or US Mail to: Jim Jones, Newsletter c/o The Route 66 Assoc of IL Hall of Fame & Museum—110 West Howard—Pontiac, IL 61764

Visit our website at
www.il66assoc.org

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS

David Clark
Jim Jones
Marty Lathrop
Jerry Law
Jonathan Maxwell
Kathy Miller
Sue Waldmire
John Weiss



A Tribute to Bob Waldmire
Page 12-13



Rededication of Our Lady of
the Highways - Page 15



Rte 66 Assoc of IL Officers
& Board Members – Page 18

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK! Season's change, It's part of life.

Our Association is changing too – our Junior Newsletter is launched! The website has a strong presence online and the “DAYTRIPPER” email flyer is a fantastic success. We're on Facebook, Twitter, doing email and text messages. OMG it's all change, change, change...

Thanks to everyone who showed up to our elections in Pontiac in October. We had new people come forward to run for office, and we've already had a special Board meeting to go over committees and changes in appointments.

The 2010 Motor Tour will be a huge change for us – we are taking our Tour on the road into the sister state of Missouri. We're going to make the tour a more in depth look at our southern counties and instead of racing the entire state, we're going to do quality time and less mileage. Our theme is “We Are Family” and this year we will be selling Illinois license plates for the tour. The color theme will be red and black – and red tour shirts this year in response to all our loyal tour goers who have asked for a moratorium on white tees.

The next year will be a heavy tour season as many families are changing to daytrips and weekends instead of traditional vacations. We will be posting everything we get from Chicago to St. Louis on our calendar. Info on Museums, historical societies, events, festivals, and car shows will be available online. Our 66 communities are never charged to post on our website “happenings” or info on their part of the road.

Our museum was 5 years old in June and in January we'll be making some changes to freshen up our displays and set up our Preservation Research Library. We're excited to be able to provide an area for research on preservation. Books and pamphlets will be able to be reviewed onsite in the museum only.

My thanks to the members who have served the Association for the past 21 years – for their countless hours and dedication to making our grassroots group into an “effective association”. I look forward to the next 2 years as we expand the museum adding the preservation library, a film library, and eventually being able to broadcast from the 2nd floor radio station at the museum complex.

With our county reps keeping an eye on their section of the road, and the continued maintenance of our already existing preservation projects, we can keep our part of the Mother Road in good shape. As noted by Editor Gina on the recent “Daytripper” – the Mother Road is 83 this year and doesn't look a day over 66.

Our beloved authentic hippie and legend Bob Waldmire has come home to Illinois to spend his final days with his family and friends. Bob has been interviewed far and wide and in every instance, in every video he is as he always was – a gentle, gracious man who lived his life with honor and respect following his heart. Never known to be loud or violent or to try to impose his opinions and views on anyone, he spent the last 10 years taking care of business although he knew he was sick. Bob lived his life taking care of the Mother Road, his art, and his huge extended family of choice. Our prayers are with him. Bob's VW van will eventually be parked in a museum to give others a glimpse of a life well lived and a tribute to a man who touched the life of everyone he met.

In Waldmire's own words, “Come as you are, leave different!”

Cathie

The Route 66 Association of Illinois

www.il66assoc.org

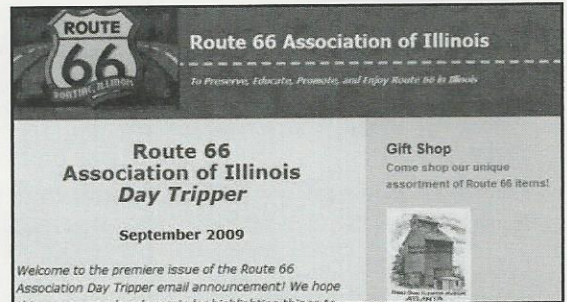
Day Tripper

by Gina Blitstein, Editor, Route 66 Association of Illinois Web Site

The Route 66 Association of Illinois web site team is proud to make available The **Day Tripper**, a monthly email announcement from the Association. The **Day Tripper** brings events, news and information about the Mother Road directly to your inbox, pointing you to features and stories appearing on our web site.

The first e-Announcement was sent out on September 10, 2009 to all the email addresses we've collected from our members. If you're a member and you didn't receive one, please make sure the web site team has your correct email address so you can be added to the mailing list.

Of course, the email announcement is for **everyone** interested in Route 66 in Illinois! All you need to do is subscribe by supplying your email address. You can easily sign up on our web site by clicking the e-Announcements link at the top of the page at <http://www.il66assoc.org>. Then each month you'll receive the **Day Tripper** email announcement, highlighting various Route 66 events and stories on our web site. We take your online security very seriously so we assure you that your email address will be used only by the Association for the purpose of sending these emails and will never be used, sold or distributed for any other reason.



A Thank You for Years of Service

Marilyn Pritchard has served this Association in many capacities since the Association was first formed in 1989. She worked on various committees and has held elected positions in the organization including recording secretary. Marilyn worked on the Motor Tour committee yearly working with Pontiac and other communities to set up stops for the annual Motor Tour. (Pontiac earned a Governor's Hometown Award for one year's passport stop.) Marilyn also worked on the Hall of Fame Committee with Tom Teague first as secretary and then as Chairman succeeding Tom Teague in September 2004 until October 2009.

Marilyn Pritchard served as our first official Curator of the Hall of Fame and Museum from our grand opening June 2004 until October 2009. Working with the museum committee the 2nd floor was developed into additional displays of Pontiac as well as the Preservation Committee exhibit "We Work for Food."

Besides her years of work for the Association, Marilyn has been an active participant in the Thresherman's Reunion held every fall, organizing the musical events and working with the other board members and committees on the flyers and advance promotions.

In 2006 Marilyn Pritchard was recognized by the Pontiac Rotary as its Citizen of the Year as well as receiving an award from the professional organization she belongs to in her job as an activity assistant at Evenglow Lodge where she's worked for the last 21 years.

In 2007 Marilyn and her husband Durelle received the Tom Teague Ambassador Award for their years of service to the Association and the Mother Road.

When you see Marilyn on the road, thank her for her years of service and volunteering.

Better yet, follow her example and get involved!!!



人物: Joyce 和 Marilyn

Marilyn是博物馆的馆长。她见到我们非常兴奋，带我们参观每个展览都讲解了一遍。博物馆是在2004年建立的。现在博物馆里一共放置了75位对保护、维修66号公路作出贡献的知名人士的介绍资料。博物馆建筑的前身是小镇消防局的部分。楼上还保持着消防局当年的布局。博物馆另外一面是二战战争博物馆。两个在二楼连接。Marilyn带着我们从二楼连接的地方上到三楼。此时我们眼前一光——定

房? Marilyn也自豪地笑着。说:“对, 这里就是当年小镇的消防了。好多年了, 是在11月的时候正式改造成了66号公路纪念馆。现在一个展览室, 展示着从伊利诺伊州到加利福尼亚州所有66号公路的照片。”要走了, Marilyn还嘱咐说在路上要买些“Steak & Shake”, 因为那里才有好的汉堡快餐店。用上等的牛肉做的肉饼, 比麦当劳了。我们连连点头, 一副向往的样子。

A picture of Marilyn Pritchard and "Saturday Volunteer" of the Rte 66 Hall of Fame Museum taken by Chinese tourists - This photo was used in a weekly magazine in mainland China.

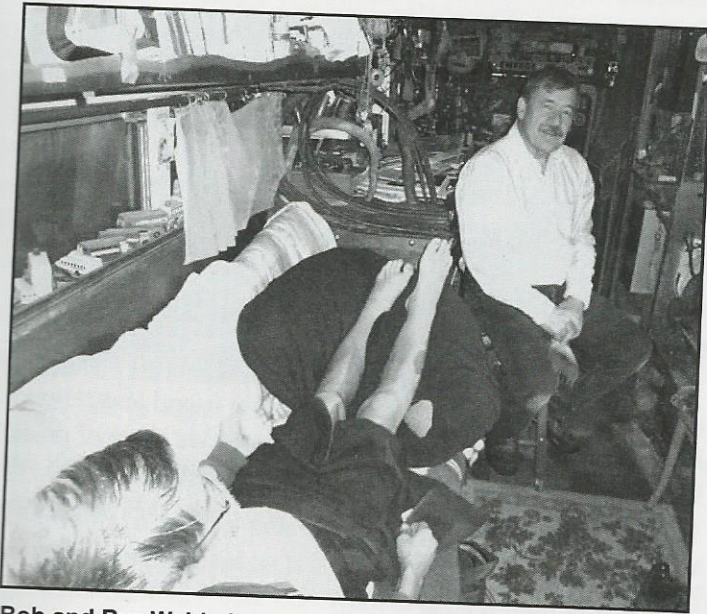
Night on the Bus

by Martin Lathrop

On October 26th, 2009 I had the honor and privilege to spend the night with Bob Waldmire in his 1966 Chevrolet sixty passenger school bus. Bob bought the bus in Grants, New Mexico in 1987 and converted it to living quarters by 1989. The bus has a nine-foot ceiling and all the comforts of home on wheels. These comforts include a woodstove, gas range, sink, couch, eco-friendly toilet, and a sleeping

66 Pulse.

By late evening I was ready to retire to the loft on the bus. This is a large eight by eleven foot loft in the bus.



Bob and Buz Waldmire.

loft. It was of course decorated in the unique taste of Bob Waldmire, which includes Route 66 memorabilia, pictures, books and other unique items.

When I arrived, Dave Bakke from the *Springfield Journal Register* was there interviewing Bob for an upcoming article for the paper. Bob told us his final plans in regards to his wishes. Those plans include where his beloved 1972 Volkswagen is going to end up at the 66 Alliance Museum in Tulsa. His beloved 1966 school bus will end up at his brother's place across the field on a permanent display. His plans for his 1965 Mustang are incomplete at this time. Bob was in great spirits and taking his cancer in stride.

All evening, Bob had a steady stream of visitors, to include: Buz, Jim, Mia, Parker, and myself. Bob also had visitors before I arrived that include Ron Jones, (tattoo man), Roger Fox, John and Leon Weiss. Bob and I enjoyed the evening talking about his Route 66 adventures and feasting on potato leek soup.

One of Bob's last projects that he hopes to complete is an eleven by sixteen watercolor rough draft of a mural of Route 66 for the city of Pontiac. He also hopes to complete an "open letter to all friends" to be published in the *Route*



Bob Waldmire and Marty Lathrop

The only way to get up there is by climbing a set of stairs made out of a unique antique filing cabinet. The ceiling is only about four foot tall, but it makes for a great unique sleeping experience. Since it is over the front of the bus, I felt like I was floating on air when the wind blew.

I was about to fall asleep when I heard the sound of a flute. Bob, I found out loves to play the flute. He has three flutes made by Armstrong Flute Company. He enjoyed playing while I enjoyed hearing the soft tone of the flute. He often tunes his AM radio late at night to listen to the old classic songs, and then repeats the classics on his flute. I found the music to be quite relaxing and enjoyable. Hearing Bob play was a treat and a very relaxing experience. I drifted off to sleep thinking what an honor and blessing to have known Bob Waldmire.

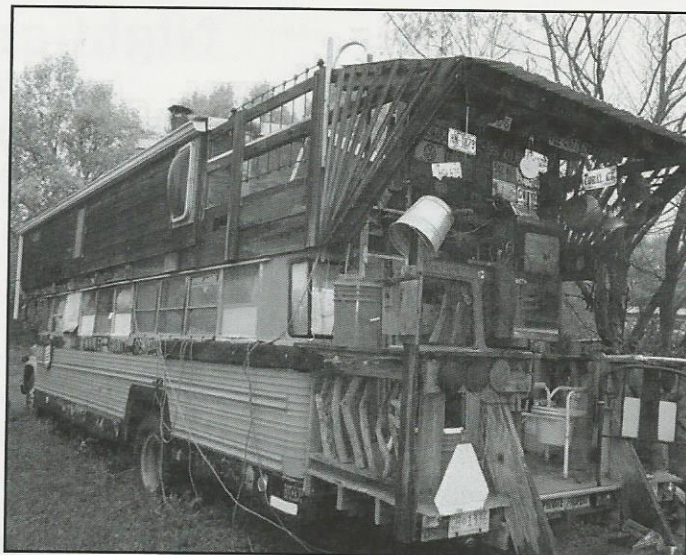
In the morning, Bob insisted on making pancakes. I found it fascinating watching him cook on his small gas

stove. Bob explained that the stove wasn't level so he knew how to turn the skillet around to cook the pancakes evenly. The pancakes were made from his special blend of all natural pancake mix. We feasted on hot pancakes and syrup with hot tea.

As the morning progressed, Bob felt good enough to be taken into Springfield to the Shop and Save to do some shopping. He wanted to eat some real food, since he has been a vegetarian all his life. A trip to Springfield would not be complete without a trip to the Cozy Dog. Bob and I met Sue at the Cozy Dog, where he insisted on buying my lunch. Bob ate some beans while I feasted on Cozy Dog fries. After lunch, Bob and I made a couple of stops to see his friends on the way back to Cardinal Hill.

After returning to his beloved bus, I helped Bob put his groceries away. We went out to his shop to see his latest artwork and postcard shipping operation. It was quite an impressive operation filling and shipping his artwork to his beloved customers along Route 66. Bob explained that he would like to see his artwork business continue after he is gone. I quickly volunteered to help. He wants the proceeds to help support his trust. His trust will construct a building to house his beloved bus, his unique collection of Route 66 artwork, as well as his collection of father, Ed Waldmire's, books and documents.

As the afternoon wore on, it was time for me to bid farewell to my friend Bob. It was difficult to do not knowing



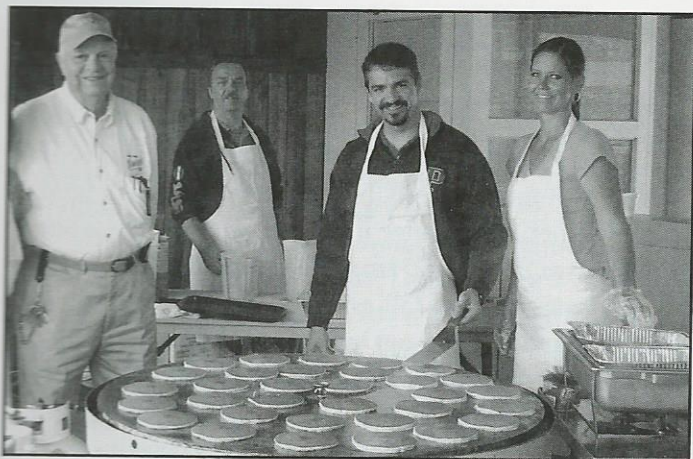
The bus that Bob calls home!

whether I would see him again, but I came away with a better understanding of his simple lifestyle, which is very rewarding and simple. He didn't need all the fancy modern things in life; he simply lives off what is already here.

Bob, I truly enjoyed my stay with you. It has been an honor and privilege to know you as a friend and fellow Route 66 traveler. You have given twenty-five years of your life to preserve, protect, and educate all of us on Route 66. I will not say goodbye, but rather see you down the road until we meet again in heaven.

Pancakes on the Roof

By John & Lenore Weiss



The Houlbolt Family with the pancake cooker they designed.

On September 20, 2009 there was a fund raiser for the Joliet Area Historical Museum. An all you can eat pancake breakfast was served on the roof top of the Route 66 Experience location of the facility. This event was well attended by many of our Route 66 Association members.

The spotlight was on the rotating unit that cooks 33

pancakes every 3 minutes invented by Mr. Houlbolt. The Houlbolt family enjoyed cooking and serving pancakes all morning.

Guests were also invited to explore the recently completed Houlbolt Lunar Orbit rendezvous two story display as well as the entire museum.



Association members enjoy the breakfast on the roof.

On the Road Again with the Mother Road Widow!

by Kathleen J. Miller aka *The Mother Road Widow*

Near the end of October, with the fall colors so breathtakingly beautiful I and a small group of my fellow employees from Governors State University (GSU) traveled to Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville (SIUE). Yes, I



From left to right: Cindy Woodard, Eric Nicholson, Kathy Miller, Lynne Clayton and Pat Smith in front of the mural at the Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac.

know, DH (darling or damned husband given the day) wasn't with me, and as hard as it is to believe I do have a life that does not include Route 66. Well, at least it didn't until that



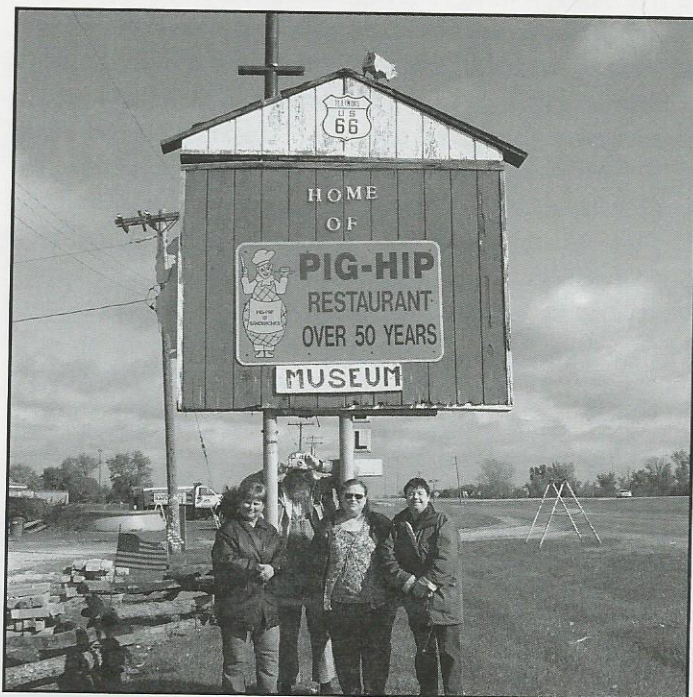
Kathy Miller with two of her favorite Route 66 people, Fran and Ernie (the Old Coot) Edwards.

weekend in October. Now Route 66 is all encompassing in my life.

GSU is located 35 miles south of Chicago in University Park, IL. My title at the university is Institutional Research Data Coordinator. In short, it's a long title for a short woman who crunches numbers. Oddly though, I really do love my job! I'm a civil servant and am the current

president of the Civil Service Senate, which, is why I went to SIUE. Once a year there is a one day conference called "The Council of Councils", all of the council and/or senate members of the 12 state universities are invited to attend and are given the opportunity to network, gaining a wealth of information that will help us to represent our co-workers and guide us in anything from union negotiations to university governance. It's very enlightening and thought provoking. So, on a very rainy dismal Thursday afternoon, five senators from GSU departed and headed south on I-57 to eventually end up in Edwardsville at SIUE.

I was driving (letting me drive was my co-travelers first mistake), and being a Route 66 roadie, I was suffocated by the corn fields along I-57 they are not half as beautiful as the corn fields on the "Mother Road". Even before I left the university with my captives, oops, I mean my guests I began measuring miles. I was figuring out in my head which is the shortest and fastest way to Route 66 from I-57. I could go back north to I-80 but Route 66 is around 35 miles west. I can go down to route 17 (notice I'm only capitalizing Route 66 (smile)) but that is even farther, it's almost 40 miles. And then it hit me, I KNOW! I KNOW! I can take Peotone Road that is only 17 miles across.



No Rte 66 road trip is complete without a visit to the former Pig Hip site.

It was raining so hard outside the wipers on the rented van had to work overtime for clear vision. And so my friends Route 66 experience began with a drive past the Gemini Giant, a drive past the Riviera, the 2 cell jail in

Gardner, Odell Station, and a drive past every icon on Route 66 until we hit Pontiac. But not too worry they did hear the history of each location and every preservation project between Peotone and Pontiac. Pontiac brought a welcome relief from the bounds of the car. I arrived in Pontiac in record time, what usually takes up to a five hour drive only took us an hour and a half. I guess rain is good for more than growing.

Once at Pontiac my friends thoroughly took in all of the artifacts at the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum, the Livingston County War Museum, and city hall shops. I think a purchase or two or four were even made. We chose to eat lunch at a small café in town and of course no visit is complete without a stop at one of the resale shops in town. Word of advise, NEVER let friends loose in a resale shop when you have be someplace at a specific time. Resale shops are not conducive to expedite your time. What we had gained in driving time, we lost in Pontiac. After a few hours and a tour of the "murals" we were on the road again. Now behind schedule we drove on I-55 (forgive me, please forgive me for this sin) to Edwardsville.

We spent the rest of the day and all of the next day doing official conference things, blah, blah, blah, enough elaboration on that subject.

YES, Saturday morning time to hit the road. We don't need to be back at GSU until 4:00pm. This is doable! We'll miss a few things but I can talk as I drive, I'm good at talking! When my friends asked how long the actual drive is and I told them around 8 hours if we hurry, they all looked at me like I was crazy. "8 hours? How can it take that long?" I was asked. I just smiled and said, "Trust me."

We checked out of the hotel and all loaded and in the van by 8:00am. "Ah" I smiled, thinking, sunshine, beautiful sunshine. What a lovely day for ride on Route 66. I drove up Route 66 out of Edwardsville heading north. As my friends chatted I would loudly say, "History!" my personal code word for "quiet, be still, hush up and listen to me tell you about this." I had to pick our stops carefully, we only had 8 hours and I wanted to time it so we could have lunch at the Palms Café in Atlanta.

We passed the Hamel Barn and the Neon Church. The first short stop was in Elkhart with a visit to the antique shop. Leaving with a few dollars less, we loaded up and headed north. I knew I had to have my friends meet Ernie and Fran Edwards at the Pig Hip site. Luckily when I was taking the group photo in front of the Pig Hip sign Fran came to the door waving me in. What a wonderful visit, how happy I was for my friends to meet Ernie and Fran. We visited for quite a long while (there is no short visit with Ernie, thank God) taking photos as the small group intently listened to Ernie's wonderful stories of the Pig Hip.

We drove through all of the towns on "66". In Lincoln I showed them the telephone on the rooftop, the

murals and the court house. There is so much to see in each wonderful town. I wish I had three days to show this group Route 66, one day is not enough in Illinois. Next stop, Atlanta and lunch!

While at the Palms Café saw Bill Thomas who is largely responsible for Atlanta's embracement of Route 66.



A visit to Atlanta included lunch at the Palm's Café and a picture with Paul!

Bill and I co-wrote the nomination of the historic Atlanta Library and Clock Tower which is a member of the Route 66 Association Hall of Fame. I took the time to explain the history of this café and of the story of the Bunyon Giant which stands so proud and tall directly across the street. I also explained about the murals and that this town was the first of the three towns on "66" in Illinois to host the "Wall Dogs", the group of artists from around the world that replicate advertisements on buildings in a weekend long event. Lunch was delicious and we had to have pie before we started to finish our journey.

As we traveled north I yelled, I mean said the word "HISTORY!" quite a few more times explaining and showing the wonderful icons on the Mother Road in Illinois. With time passing we chose to make our last stop in Wilmington. Knowing this was our last stop, and that Peotone Road was only a mile outside of town we bid Route 66 farewell. I believe my friends had a wonderful time on Route 66, well actually, I know they did, because we stopped at "Cam's Retro" to pick up "66" items. And I know they bought Illinois guidebooks. Upon reflection of my relationship with Route 66, and how I've grown to love the old gal. I think I need to change my moniker, because I can hardly call myself "The Mother Road Widow" any longer. Maybe DHI can be called "The Mother Road Widower?"

Gasoline & Early Gas Stations

By Brian L. Alexander

Fran, my wife, and I really loved the Route 66 Motor Tour this past June. We can not wait until we do it again next year. I can say for both of us that we loved the people; our fellow roadies and also the local people that we met, as we toured Route 66. We both said that we really felt relaxed on the tour and we had a great time. I especially liked stopping at the gas stations along the road, since I worked in a few service stations when I was in high school and Junior College. Later I was an owner/operator of three different gas station locations; two with service bays and one gas & snack.

One hundred years ago the people that built automobiles were looking at three major forms of propulsion for their vehicles; steam, electric and petroleum. (Diesel Engines were originally designed to run on peanut oil, but since petroleum was cheaper and more abundant at that time, it became the fuel of choice.) Petroleum oil was a substitute for the scarce whale oil that was burned in oil lamps, for lighting. Initially gasoline was considered to be a waste by-product of the refining process and it was either dumped on the ground or discarded into waterways by the oil companies.

Anyway, where did people get fuel from before there were gas stations? (Pretty much the same dilemma they had then, as Hydrogen Cars will be facing in the near future, as they begin to appear on our roads.) Later on, the oil companies found that gasoline had value and started selling this as a fuel. Initially gasoline could only be bought at the apothecary, as it was called back then or drug store as it is called today. It sold in one gallon containers, square tin cans with caps on top, much like some of the solvents and thinners that can be purchased today at the hardware store.

As the demand for gasoline increased, selling gasoline in one gallon containers would quickly become a thing of the past. Gasoline would then be sold along the side of the road in bulk; creating more profit for the oil companies. The first gasoline pumps were literally pumps. The attendant would manually pump a handle and the gasoline would enter the glass graduated container. Depending upon the customer's request, the attendant would either fill the glass container or pump whatever amount of gasoline the customer had requested, into the reservoir. After the amount was verified by the customer, the nozzle would be put into the vehicle's fuel tank filler and was dispensed by gravity to the automobile.

Today some people still refer to the gasoline dispenser as a pump; it is actually called just that, a dispenser. What pumps the fuel today is an electric pump motor in the underground storage tank; this literally pushes the fuel into your vehicle via the dispenser.

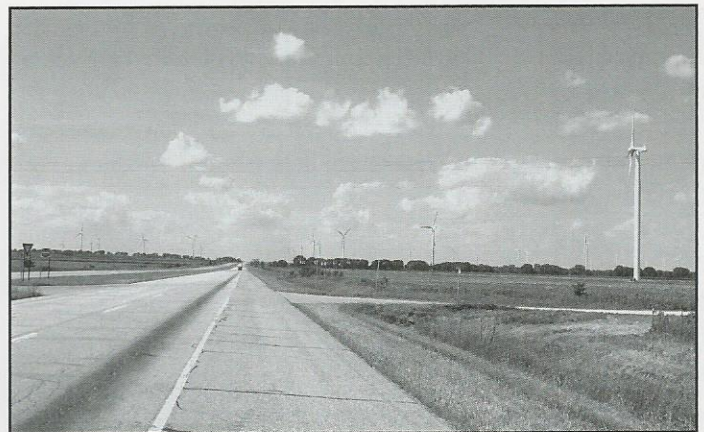
Most retail facilities that sold gasoline back then and especially today need an alternate profit center because there is not enough money, to operate and make a profit from just the sale of gasoline.

Gas stations have changed more over the years than the Route 66 itself has changed. Storage of gasoline was originally above ground tanks. With the advent of war and the threat of a gasoline explosion, fuel would be stored in underground storage tanks.

When I was young in 1965, I took a trip on Route 66 from Chicago to central Missouri. I stayed on a farm there with relatives that lived just outside of Sullivan, Missouri. There was a general store, in Japan, Missouri, about 10 miles west of Sullivan that I visited during that trip. The store's owner said that the store had been there since the early 1930's. The general store sold milk, cigarettes, coffee, soda pop and had other everyday items to purchase. The Farmers would pump their own gasoline into their trucks and tractors from the one gas pump outside. After pumping their gas themselves they would come in and pay for their gas, and maybe pick up an item or two from the general store.

In 1985, twenty years later, they opened a 711 Convenient Store by my house. The newspaper ran an article about the new store. The article stated that this was a new concept for future convenient stores; convenient stores with self serve gas pumps. (The more things change the more things stay the same.)

As I stated previously, the gasoline retailer needs to have something more than the meager profit from the sale of gasoline to stay in business and make a living. (I am not talking about the oil company's exorbitant profits!) These alternate profit centers, which accompanied the gas station, were influenced by; the era which they were built, technology at that time, their location, and the competition.



What's new along Route 66? Between Dwight and Odell these giant windmills create quite a back drop.

Luxembourg Films on Route 66

by John Weiss



Crew sets up to film at the station in Odell, IL.

Seeing travelers from around the world is not an unusual sight on Route 66. Tourists with cameras, and independent film and news crews are also a common sight on this famous highway.

However, this group was different. They were here to film segments of a feature film for a movie studio in Luxembourg. First it is important to note that Luxembourg is a small European country near Germany. They speak a distinctive language of their own. As a result, distribution of a feature film from Luxembourg is limited to mainly their country.

Andy Bausch is a well known movie director in Luxembourg. In 1988 he directed the film *Troublemaker*. The lead character was about an inept criminal known as Johnny Chicago. This film was well received. Ten years later, director Bausch worked on a sequel entitled *Back In Trouble*. Again a hit! The character, Johnny Chicago, was played by Thierry Van Werveke in both films. Unfortunately, the star actually died early this year. So a third and final episode was written. In the plot of this film titled, *Trouble No More*, the character, Johnny Chicago has died. So a friend he knew from jail, Chuck Moreno, decides to come to Chicago and travel with Johnny Chicago's ashes to places he once visited and reminisced about.

Good old Johnny Chicago's ashes traveled on Route 66. The beat up 1957 Chevy stopped at the old gas station in

Odell. Here, according to the script, the unthinkable happened. Johnny's ashes spilled out of the urn. The harmonica playing attendant, played by actor Mario Andre, shows mild curiosity as actor, Ender Frings, as Chuck Moreno, tries to vacuum up poor Johnny's ashes.

The crew also filmed a short segment at the grain elevator in Cayuga. Here an old blues guitarist, played by Richard Porter, is strolling down the country road as the car and ashes travel past the old elevator structure. Many town folks came out to witness this short, but unique experience. Everyone seemed to enjoy Cayuga's part in a European feature film. The final travel segments were filmed in Gardner on the dead end section of old Route 66 known locally as Route 129 where the bridge was removed.

Some sound effects were also created and recorded at Gardner's two cell jail.



Technicians tie a camera to the hood of a car to film the drive in Gardner.

Mr. Bill Douglas was the Chicago area coordinator. Location assistance was provided by local Route 66 author and historian, John Weiss.

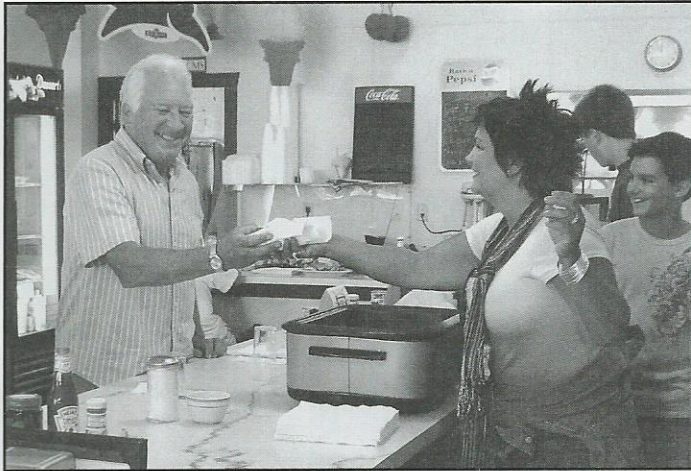
The *Troublemaker* trilogy series will now come to a close in Luxembourg. However, some areas of Livingston and Grundy counties will always remember when they were visited by the fictional character, Johnny Chicago.

Bunyon Giant

by John & Lenore Weiss

On August 22nd, in Atlanta, Illinois, the famous Bunyon Giant celebrated its fifth year with a rededication. Tall Paul, as he is affectionately known, was originally on Route 66 in Berwyn, Illinois. His home was the Bunyon Drive In operated by the Stephens family.

When the restaurant closed, the giant was moved to



John Weiss being served a hotdog in the Palms Café by Elsie and son Joey.

its new home in Atlanta. The Illinois Route 66 Preservation Committee moved, restored and painted him. A big party welcomed the hot dog man into town in 2004.

Now, 5 years later, a rededication was conducted. The generous owners, 88 year old Art Stephens and his daughter, Elise, were in attendance as well as grandson, Joey and other family members. They were appropriately thanked for their generosity. The impact to tourism in Atlanta



Bill Thomas, Art Stephens and his daughter Elsie.

skyrocketed as a result of this Route 66 icon.

Bill Thomas of Atlanta related the story of the day he received a strange phone call from John & Lenore Weiss. The question was simply, "Would you like a 19' tall fiberglass giant who holds a hot dog as a downtown attraction?" A quick phone call to the mayor, a few minutes of thought, and the rest is history.

Elise Stephens related how John & Lenore convinced the family to turn down a substantial offer to purchase the



The Rededication, Bill Thomas of Atlanta and Art Stephens.

big guy and donate him to Atlanta instead. Elise said they never regretted their decision. She and her father love what the giant has become. The restaurant may be gone, but the legacy and the whimsical imagination of Art Stephens continues on.

Afterwards, free hot dogs were provided for everyone across the street at the famous, recently restored and opened Palms Grill Café. Free jars of the famous Bunyon jardinière sauce mix were also provided as a souvenir to all who attended.

It was pointed out that projects like this help create a sense of family. Photos and memories of the giant are now found world wide. But it is the efforts of many who donate their time, efforts, finances and love of the road that make such a lasting impact. Just looking around, you saw foreign tourists that were mingling with local residents and other travelers and tourists.

This is the perfect example of "What we do today becomes the history and memories of tomorrow."

Dear Bob,

Thanks for the memories. You truly are a most treasured "Artifact" of this wonderful piece of Americana we call The Mother Road. We send you our warmest regards and deepest respect.

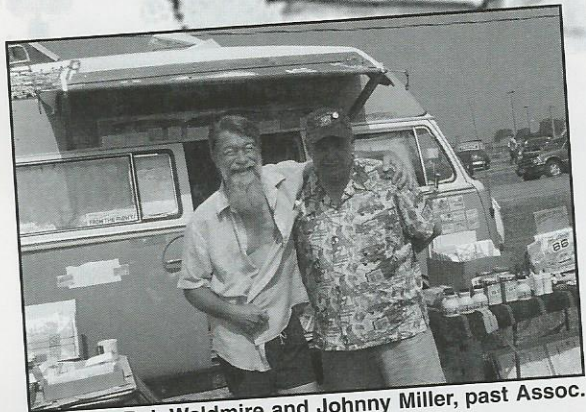
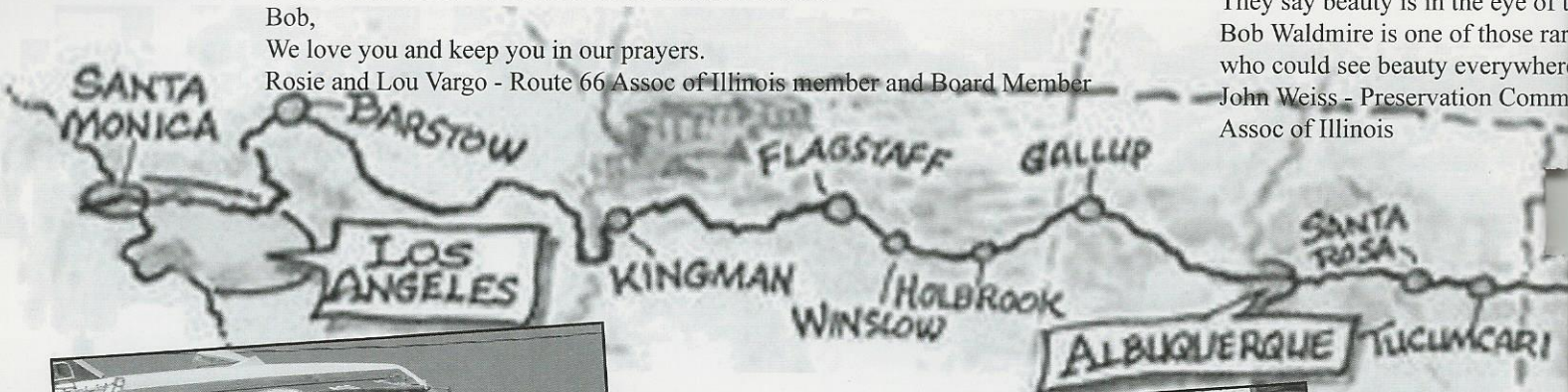
Bill & Barb Gwodz - Board Member and Officer, Route 66 Assoc of Illinois
Bob,

We love you and keep you in our prayers.

Rosie and Lou Vargo - Route 66 Assoc of Illinois member and Board Member

Bob Waldmire

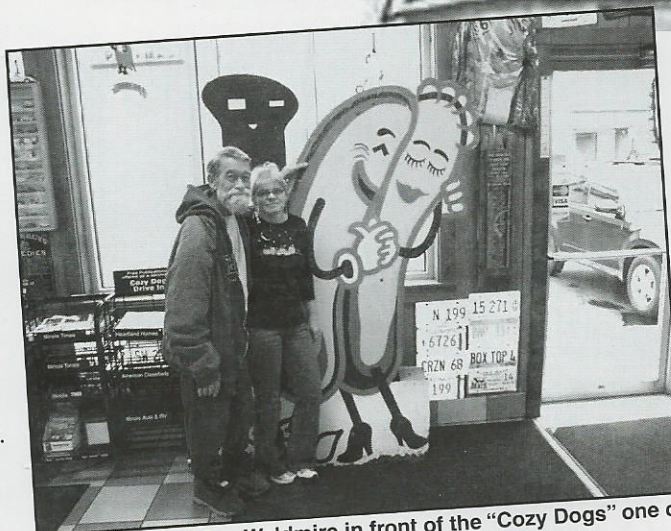
They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Bob Waldmire is one of those rare people who could see beauty everywhere. John Weiss - Preservation Comm Assoc of Illinois



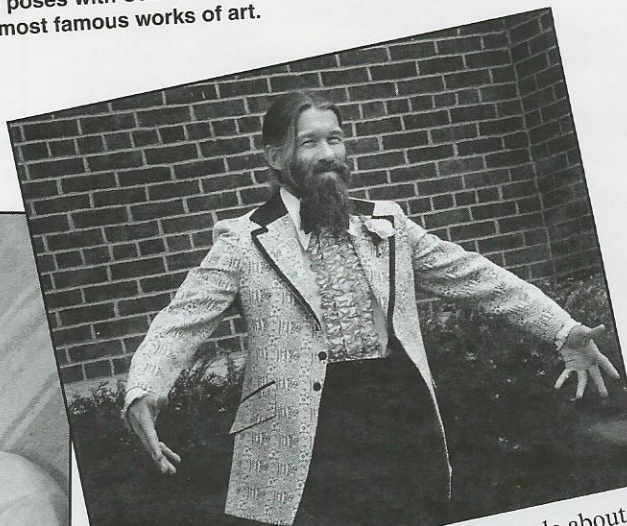
Buddies, Bob Waldmire and Johnny Miller, past Assoc. President.

Bob, the memories of you are many, and always enjoyable. In particular, my favorite memory will always be in Hamel, IL at the end of a motor tour. After the crowd had left, a few of us sat under the umbrellas that shaded the tables in front of Scotty's. You sketched for me a picture of my "66 Chevy Malibu" which hangs framed on my wall in our family room. You are my friend and I was happy to visit you last November in your home. Thank you Bob, for being "Bob"!

Johnny Miller - Board Member, Route 66 Assoc of Illinois



Bob poses with Sue Waldmire in front of the "Cozy Dogs" one of his most famous works of art.



I greatly admire Bob's free spirit attitude about life. Too many of us aren't willing or able to do what he does. Some say he's a child of the sixties, but I believe he's a child of his own dreams.
Dorothy McMullen- Route 66 Assoc of IL

Bob in tuxedo in 1975 for Buz and Sue's wedding.

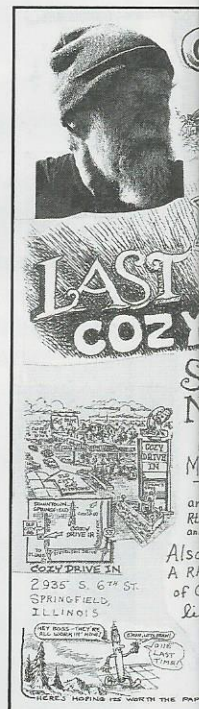


Best of friends, Bob Waldmire and Lenore Weiss.

The twinkle of the stars shining bright along our journey of Route 66, will assure you are lighting the trail for all of us. Bob, you're a bright, shining star!

Lenore Weiss - Officer, Route 66 Assoc of Illinois

Bob, thanks for answers. Thanks also for putting BIG TIME! It was an all time classic song. Joe Gniadek - Board



The flyer designed by Cozy Dog on November 1991

At the Joe Gniadek dinner as meat was served, however, our table was set by Mary Lou, the recipient of the award that spotlight her more and more. It is a very humbling announced peers. I'm Mike &

re, a Tribute

holder.
viduals

Route 66

ULLO

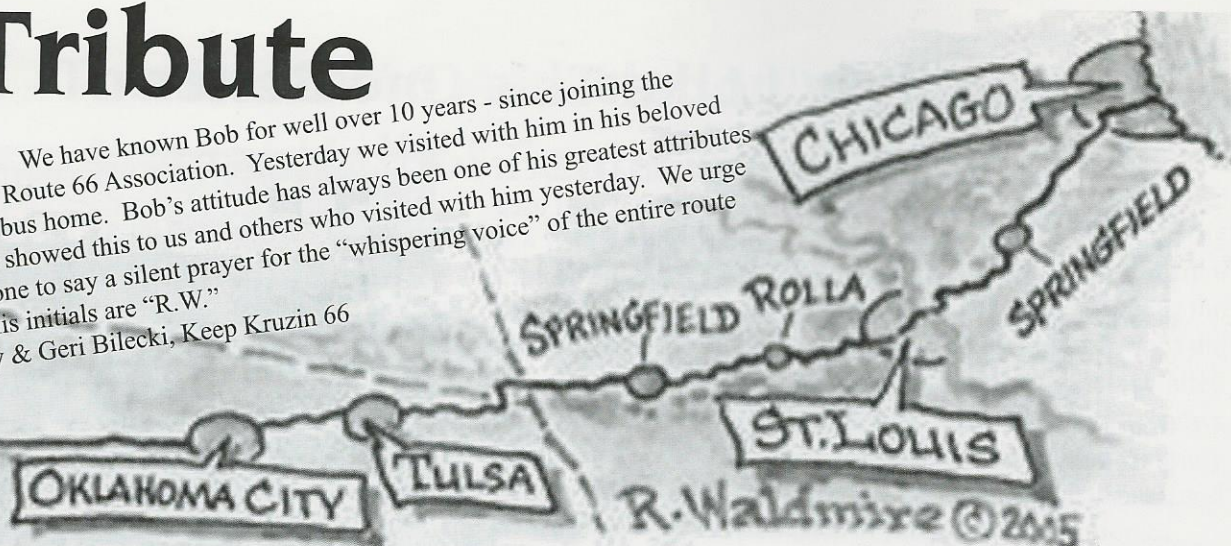
SHAMROCK

your door in Hackberry.

ackberry, Arizona on the map –
e fun jamming together on the
ks”.

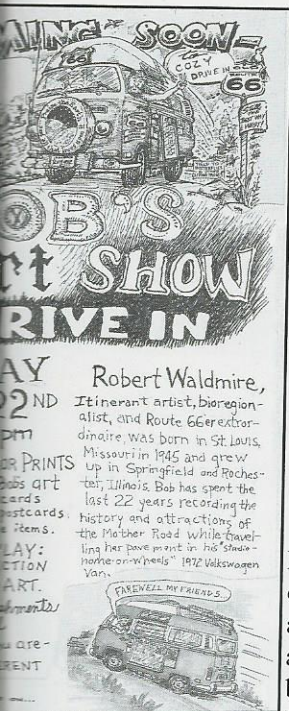
ber, Route 66 Assoc of Illinois

We have known Bob for well over 10 years - since joining the Illinois Route 66 Association. Yesterday we visited with him in his beloved school bus home. Bob's attitude has always been one of his greatest attributes and he showed this to us and others who visited with him yesterday. We urge everyone to say a silent prayer for the “whispering voice” of the entire route 66. His initials are “R.W.”
Marty & Geri Bilecki, Keep Kruzin 66



My path has crossed with Bob on Route 66 for a number of years, and always he is a joy to be with. I've been able to spend time with Bob without the confusion of crowds. I feel so incredibly lucky to be one of those that could call Bob a friend! I thank you Bob, for having the ability of bringing “Route 66” to life for so many people around the world through your art. Your legacy will live on forever!

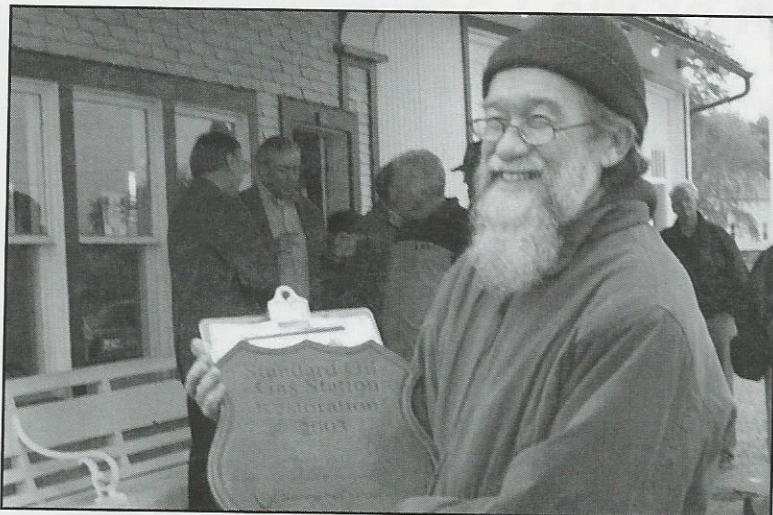
Kathy Miller - “The 66 News” Publisher/co-editor, Board Member, Route 66 Assoc of Illinois



BOB'S ART SHOW
COMING SOON
COZY DRIVE IN

Robert Waldmire,
Itinerant artist, bioregionalist, and Route 66 extraordinaire, was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1945 and grew up in Springfield and Rochester, Illinois. Bob has spent the last 22 years recording the history and attractions of the Mother Road while traveling her pavement in his “Shoe-home-on-wheels” 1972 Volkswagen Van.

for the Art Show held at the
2009.



In 2004 the Odell Station received a plaque from the National Park Services.

Mary Sue and I first met Bob in '96, I believe, at his Hackberry General Store on our initial 66 cruise west. Nobody was there but us, so we had Bob's complete attention and he was a very gracious host, explaining his love of the countryside and Route 66. He even showed us around the property and we received a tour of his bus and saw his solar oven in operation. Thanks for the great memories, Bob.

Kent & Mary Sue Sanderson - Manchester, MO, just off the 1926 Mother Road alignment

So many thoughts of Bob, it's hard to think of a specific one, but I thought I would share these unique photos of Bob. They were taken outside the church that Buz & I were married in (Bob was the BEST MAN) June 1975, doesn't he look great! He was one of our biggest concerns in preparing for this day, because we didn't know if he would agree to wear the tux! When we arrived at the reception the first thing he did was shed that tux and took a jog. I love you Bob!
Sue Waldmire
Cozy Dog - Springfield, IL

inbeck Awards Dinner in June 2004 in Tulsa, Bob didn't attend the actual g served and he was being true to his vegetarian or vegan tenets. He did the speeches and awards presentations. Since we had an open chair at Bob to sit with us. As the final award of the evening was being announced n most everyone in the room started to make their guesses as to who e. The more she spoke the more everyone knew who was to receive ing - Bob. Having come to know that Bob was not one to seek out the d to slump more and more down in his chair as the outcome became vious and as most everyone in the room turned to look toward him. Bob man and it was very gratifying to be sitting with him as his name was at year's winner and as he received the well-deserved applause from his ad to call Bob Waldmire a friend.

n Ward - Arizona



Bob's famous VW.

"I Like This One Better"

License plate displayed on the 2001 Ford Escape of association member Jonathan Maxwell. Mr. Maxwell used to have a plate that read DRIVE66, from Ohio, which was featured in the 66 News a few years back. But, he decided that it was time to retire that one, and he replaced it with this one. He said, "I must admit--I think I like this one better!"

Jim and I wish to apologize to Nelson Cummings from Madison, WI. We inadvertently credited the wrong person as owner of his Wisconsin plate "US66" in the last issue.

If you would like to see your Route 66 license plate in "The 66 News" you can email a photo to Kathleen708@hotmail.com (please put "66 News" on the subject line or



send a photo of your plate to:

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum
Attn: Jim Jones

110 West Howard, Pontiac, IL 61764

Rededication of the Lady of the Highway Shrine

by John & Lenore Weiss

On Sunday, October 26, 2009, there was a 50 year rededication of the famous Lady of the Highway Shrine in southern Illinois on the Mother Road.



The guests at the rededication of "Our Lady of the Highway Shrine"

This very impressive event was orchestrated by many church volunteers, community members and the Marten family.

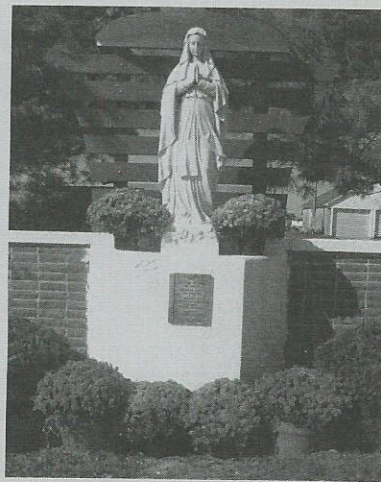
Even though the historic site is on old Route 66, it wasn't an official Route 66 event. Instead it was a celebration of all who created and dedicated the shrine back in 1959; and to those who currently maintain it.

The well-run dedication began with a group rosary session. Then a full Mass with 5 priests officiating. A barn had been lovingly transformed into a church in the country complete with altar and all necessary components including a keyboard and singing. Every detail was well thought out. Seating for 300 was arranged and was almost filled.

After the Mass, communion, prayers and a few announcements, the large crowd moved outdoors for a brief rededication of the shrine. The shrine was blessed again by Fr.

The Shrine of Our Lady of the Highways

50th Anniversary Mass
October 25, 1959 – October 25, 2009



The plaque at the base of the shrine reads "Protect Us On The Highway"

unforgettable.

As we drove away, on our right, were the spaced out signs that provide the words to travelers and others, of the Hail Mary prayer to the Blessed Virgin. We thought about the tens of thousands who, in the past, read these signs and asked for a safe journey.

Be sure to visit soon. A new pavilion has been added that helps tell the story. The site is ½ mile north of exit #63 on the Frontage road. Visit www.ourladyofthehighways.com for more information.

Mark Shulte from Springfield, who reminded us of the many journeys we travel, as it had been dedicated 50 years earlier.

An abundance of home-made food of treats and refreshments were provided to all.

This rededication was an honor to attend and experience. The dedication of so many volunteers created a moment of unity and caring that is

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Annual Hall of Fame Nominations

Nominations into the Route 66 Hall of Fame will be accepted for consideration between January 1 and February 28, 2010. Nominations post marked after the deadline date shall be held for consideration in the following year.

To qualify for election into the Route 66 Association Hall of Fame, nominees must have made significant contributions to the character or history of the Illinois

Rocks Bridge.

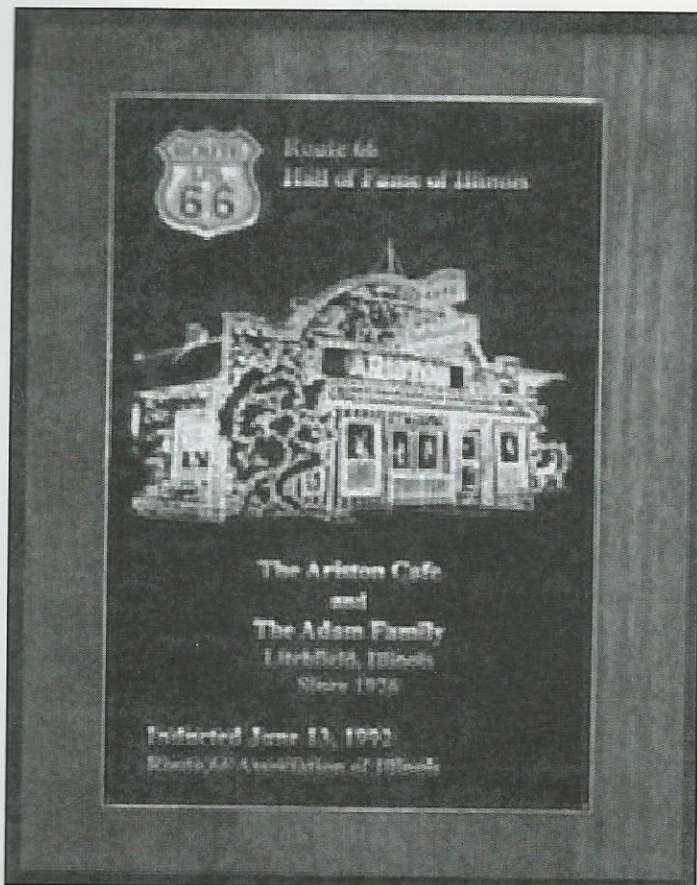
The committee invites anyone to submit a nomination. It must include a fact-based essay about the nominee's contributions to the character or history of the Illinois portion of Route 66 while it was an official United States highway in the State (1926/1977). Photos, news clips and other memorabilia are welcome to accompany the essay but are not required. A panel of historians and Hall of Fame members will judge all nominations.

Please submit nominations and all accompanying materials to:

The Route 66 Association of Illinois
Attn: Hall of Fame Committee
110 West Howard Street
Pontiac, IL 61724.

Nominations may be also sent by e-mail to Kathleen708@hotmail.com Please put Hall of Fame in the subject line of the e-mail. All photo attachments must be JPG files and all nomination submissions should be in Microsoft Word documents.

All nominations and accompanying materials submitted will become the property of the Route 66 Association of Illinois and will not be returned. They may be used in advertisements and/or publications and included into the Hall of Fame Museum. The Hall of Fame induction celebration honoring new and existing members will take place on June 12, 2010 in Carlinville, IL at the Annual Hall of Fame Banquet, as part of the Association's "We are Family" Annual Motor Tour.



Sample Plaque.

portion of Route 66 while it was an official United States highway in the State of Illinois. (1926/1977)

The Hall of Fame is located in Pontiac, IL at the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum. The Hall of Fame Museum is one the most visited attractions on all of Route 66 in Illinois with visitors from all over the world.

The Hall of Fame honors those people and businesses whose careers or experiences along the road helped give it such special flavor in this state. Its 80 plus members include truck drivers, waitresses, farmers, police officers, many mom-and-pop businesses, a ballroom, a movie palace, a drive in theater and the Old Chain of

SHARE THE EXCITEMENT OF ROUTE 66 WITH THE CHILDREN IN YOUR LIFE!

The Route 66 Association of Illinois is proud to announce the FREE Junior Membership. Junior members will receive a membership card, membership decal, and a junior newsletter published quarterly. Submit an application today!

- All Junior Member's applications must contain a valid parent/legal guardian's signature.
- The Junior Membership will expire on the 18th birthday of each member.
- Only residents of the Continental United States may apply at this time please.

Download your FREE Junior Membership Application at www.il66assoc.com

Lamplighter Residents Seeking Landmark Status

by Bruce Rushton

An oasis lies a few high-dives east of Interstate 55 on South Sixth Street. You can't see it from the highway. From the outside, the Lamplighter looks like what it is: a 17-unit residential development. But step inside what remains of the old Inn of the Lamplighter, and more than the roar of semis disappears.

Back in the day, this was the place to stay in Springfield, right on Route 66 and maybe the first motel on the mother road to have an indoor swimming pool. The 30-room motel also boasted a heated outdoor pool, a lagoon, a wedding chapel, a restaurant and a 55-foot-tall tower with an observatory on top. All but the indoor pool are gone. Lamplighter home owners are determined to save what remains, and so they are asking Sangamon County to declare the pool a historic landmark.

With mosaics of flowers in blue, white and gold on its bottom, surrounded by fake palm trees that hold up the roof, framed by a red brick deck and next to a wooden water wheel turned by an artificial stream that meanders about 15 feet, the pool is Rome, Polynesia and middle America rolled into one. Owners of homes at the Lamplighter say poolside units - which replaced the motel lobby, business office and gift shop -- are the most coveted, even if swimmers are rare. "It doesn't get much use - there are only 17 units," said Randy Schick, president of the Lamplighter Home Owner's Association and a member of the Sangamon County Historic Preservation Commission that Wednesday recommended the county board grant the pool landmark status.

Historic designation would mean that the pool area could not be demolished or significantly altered without commission approval. There are no government grants or tax credits at stake, Schick said. "We don't have any income to offset," Schick said.

"Kitsch" is not a four-letter word, noted commission chairman Chuck Pell at Wednesday's meeting. The pool recalls an era when families vacationed in station wagons without air conditioning, kids fussing with each other in back seats, until, at last, places like the Inn of the Lamplighter provided overnight respites filled with swimming and board games laid out on shag carpet, Pell said.

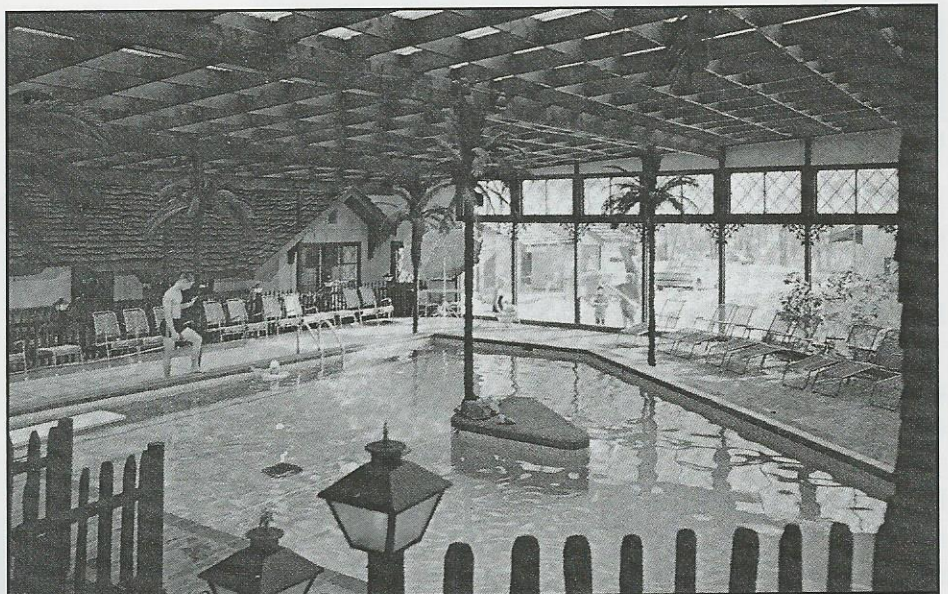
Sporting a fading shuffleboard court and a wooden picket fence around the perimeter, the pool is as much quaint as kitsch. A diving board has been removed and a hot tub added, but the pool otherwise is largely the same as on opening day in

1960, judging by photos on vintage postcards that underscore just how big a deal an indoor pool was when Kennedy was president. Keeping it this way hasn't been cheap.

Utility bills to heat and filter the 40,000-gallon pool average \$600 a month, Schick said, and pool expenses take up half the assessments Lamplighter residents pay to cover in-common costs. When cracks opened on the bottom of the pool a few years ago, residents got bids, swallowed hard, then fixed them themselves, replacing more than 1,000 one-inch-square tiles that had worked loose.

"That's the only time I've been in the pool, was when it was empty," said Butch Stone, a resident who can't swim but helps with repairs and maintenance. "I like it here. It's nice and peaceful and quiet." Stone, who has also helped patch a leaky roof and paint the interior, says he wants the prestige of living next to a landmark. "We used to have movie stars that stayed here," Stone said. "This was the high-class motel in Springfield before Holiday Inn and all those came in." Tower or no, the conversion of Route 66 to Interstate 55 in 1970 spelled doom for the Inn of the Lamplighter. In the new freeway age, close-to-the-overleaf meant everything, and the motel closed 10 years after the interstate opened. After sitting vacant for years, the restaurant, motel and tower, complete with stairs carpeted in orange shag, were demolished in 1998.

The pool, however, is here to stay, with a plaque in the offing. "We kind of look at it as a large craft project," Schick said. "We're happy to take care of it." This article first appeared in THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER, Posted Aug 05, 2009 @ 11:29 PM

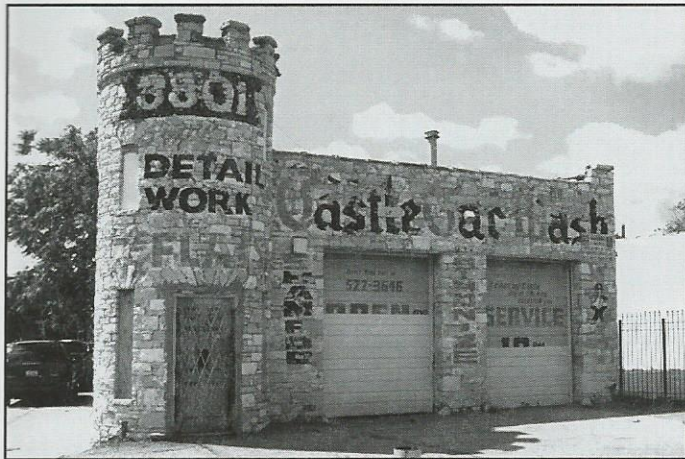


Original Lamplighter Pool Postcard

Route 66 Castle Reborn

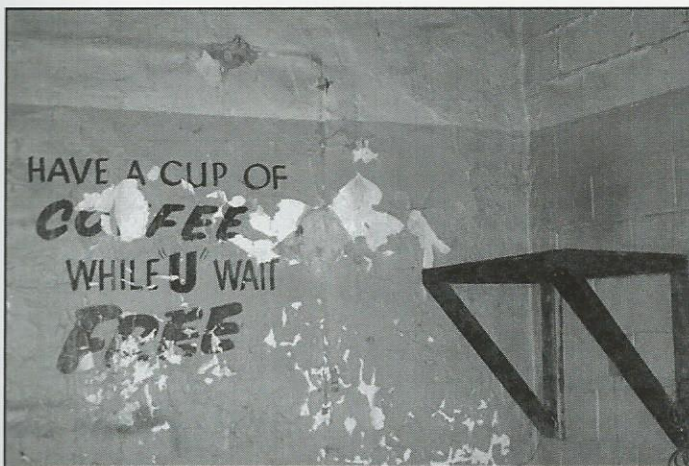
by David G. Clark

A long-neglected Mother Road treasure on Chicago's southwest side is finally receiving some tender loving care thanks to restaurateur and business person Peter Gritzanis. Located at 3801 W. Ogden Avenue, the 1925 filling station with an eye-catching stone-clad castle façade had stood vacant and deteriorating for



The Castle as it looked in 2004

decades. Finally, in the summer of 2009, Gritzanis leased the property and completed a stunning exterior renovation. Once interior renovation is complete, the Castle will be transformed into a carry-out/delivery eatery named Castle Chicken. Hungry patrons



Graphics inside the Castle date from its days as a car wash. The restaurant renovation will feature a modern, sleek look.

will be able to stop at the historic building to pick up certified organic Grecian-style food. This is welcome news for a building that was placed on the list of the top ten most endangered historic structures of the Chicago area only one year ago.

In 1925, Ogden Avenue was becoming the most important travel outlet southwest out of Chicago, and in 1926 it was designated Route 66 by the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHO). John J. Murphy started operating the filling station among dozens of other businesses catering to the motoring public. Like many other entrepreneurs in a competitive market, Murphy chose to make his building eye-catching and

distinctive. Along the highway there are many examples of gas stations using whimsical historic references in their architecture. However, nowhere else along the highway could you “fill-er-up” at a Gothic Revival style Castle. From Chicago to L.A., Murphy’s Castle was one of a kind.

Murphy operated the station until at least 1964, and it was operating under different owners as Gas Village in 1971. As nearby Interstate Highways siphoned through traffic away from Route 66, the gas pumps were removed and the building was repurposed as the Castle Car Wash. At some point that business failed and in 1995 Cook County seized the property for unpaid taxes. Matt Damion purchased it from the County in 1998. For ten more years the Castle stood empty, yet it continued to catch the eye of neighborhood residents, Route 66 travelers, and many associations and agencies interested in historic preservation.

The Castle received much-needed publicity in 2008 when



This graphic from the website castlechicken.com shows an early prototype of what the finished restaurant may look like. As of October 2009, Peter Gritzanis said he is still revising the final graphic design details.

the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois placed it on their Chicagoland Watchlist of endangered historic places. When Peter Gritzanis, a restaurateur who had previously redeveloped vintage residential properties in Chicago’s west side, leased the Castle in early 2009, he hired architect Karl Geckler to make plans for the exterior restoration and interior renovation that would “respect this beautiful old building.” As of this writing, the roof has been replaced, the exterior has been cleaned and tuck pointed, and the boarded-up window openings have been filled with glass blocks.

Once the interior is completed, Castle Chicken will feature nothing but healthy certified organic food and beverages made with distilled and filtered water. The building’s old office space inside the round tower will be home to a memorabilia and souvenir shop. So, if your travels on Route 66 take you through Chicago when Castle Chicken is open for business, stop by for some Greek baked chicken. Until then, you can still stop by to admire a vintage icon saved and restored, once again providing kicks on 66.

Maid – Rite

by John Weiss

In Springfield, Illinois, there is a small wooden structure nestled among the tall concrete and brick office buildings. This is a seldom mentioned historic site that is



Maid-Rite

only a couple of blocks off of Route 66.

The Maid – Rite sandwich restaurant opened its first location in the 1920s. The Springfield site is considered one of the very first outlets for this chain. It opened here in August of 1924. Maid – Rite became a franchise in 1926.

The Springfield location also boasts of being “THE NATION’S FIRST DRIVE THRU” facility.

A Maid – Rite sandwich is a very special blend of ground beef and special spices. The combination creates a one of a kind experience.

On the day we visited, we met Tony Berg and Lisa Wilson. They were bicycling from Chicago, Illinois to New Orleans. Tony said they purposely stopped here for



Maid-Rite - John Miller, Tony Berg, Lisa Wilson enjoying a maid-rite and root beer.

sentimental reasons. It seems when he was a small child, his parents would always stop for a Maid- Rite. He was here to reminisce and expose Lisa to this taste treat.

Besides offering their famous sandwich, the Maid



Maid-Rite street sign, Springfield, IL.

– Rite restaurant also makes its own, homemade Root Beer. You should not have one without the other!

Little has changed inside or out with the original structure. An addition has been added, but it does not diminish the wonderful quaintness of this historic site.

The Maid – Rite restaurant is located at the left side corner of Jefferson Street at Pasfield Street. That is about three (3) blocks west of the Abraham Lincoln Museum complex.

Call for times and information. 217-523-0723

Our Deepest Sympathies...

Gertrude L. Irvin, 90 of Peoria formerly of Bloomington passed away on June 16, 2009. Mrs. Irvin was the wife of Maurice D. Irvin who was inducted into the Route 66 Assoc. of Illinois Hall of Fame on June 8, 1996. Mrs. Irvin is survived by daughters Susan and Sister Maureen, sons Daniel, James, and Thomas. Mrs. Irvin was a grandmother to 15 and great-grandmother to four. The Route 66 Association of Illinois offers their deepest sympathy to the Irvin family.

Mary C. Rodino, 84 of Pontiac passed away on August 26, 2009. Mrs. Rodino was the wife of James A. Rodino who was inducted into the Route 66 Assoc. of Illinois Hall of Fame on June 11, 1994. Mrs. Rodino is survived by sons Michael, Jeffrey and the late Robert. She is also survived by daughters Janet and Ann. Mrs. Rodino was a grandmother to seven and great-grandmother to four.

Winter Events on the Road

*November 27 to December 31, 2009 (Wed through Sun)

Victorian Christmas Tours- Bloomington, IL
David Davis Mansion
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Free public tours of the home, authentically decorated for a Victorian Christmas. Donations welcome.

*Thursday, December 31, 2009

21st Annual Pontiac First Night - Pontiac, IL
Downtown Pontiac, IL
The 21st Annual New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts, a family oriented, alcohol-free event, featuring entertainment and spectacular fireworks at midnight.
Email: pontiacproud@route24.net
Call (815)844-6692

*January 16, and 17, 2010

Eagle Days 2010 is at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
10950 Riverview Drive
St. Louis, MO 63137
Bi-state residents can view eagles "in their own backyard" at the fifteenth annual Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. Bundle up and bring the family to the bridge to view bald eagles that have returned to the area in search of their favorite food - fish caught in the open waters of our the great Mississippi river.

Pictured below. Association Officers and Board - 1st row: Ike Widner, Lori Killackey, Kathy Miller, Larry Libersher, Barb Gwodz, Jamie Anderson, Lenore Weiss, Cathie Stevanovich, Bill Gwodz, and Tom Dunham. 2nd row: Jerry Law, Bob Killackey, Johnny Miller, Bob Borowiak, Lou Vargo, Marty Blitstein, Mike Callaghan, and Peter Stork. Not pictured: Joe Gniadek.



Association Updates...

The Route 66 Association of Illinois
Annual Election Results

Officers: President Cathie Stevanovich of Tinley Park, Recording Secretary Barb Gwodz of Downers Grove, and Corresponding Secretary Lenore Weiss of Wilmington.

County Board Members: Cook - John Miller of Posen, Will - Lori Killackey of New Lenox, Grundy - Ike Widner of Morris, and Madison - Jerry Law of Wood River.

At Large Board Members: Jamie Anderson of Wilmington, Kathy Miller of Posen, and Lou Vargo of Posen.

Appointed County Board Members: Sangamon - Mike Callaghan of Pontiac.

Visit the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum and join the 13,000 visitors from 48 states and 42 countries that we welcomed in 2009!

For information call 815-844-IL66 (4566) or visit our website: www.il66assoc.org

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum
110 West Howard Street
Pontiac, Illinois 61764



The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum.



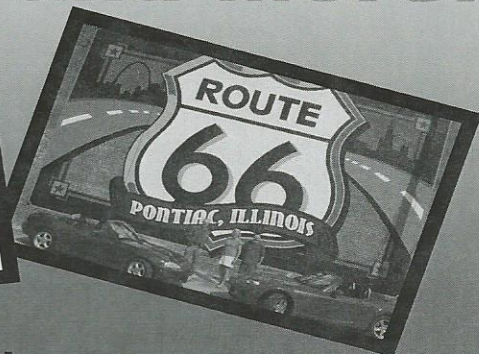
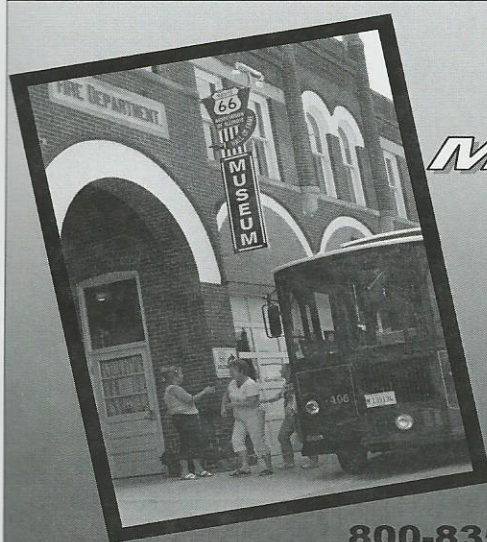
The Route 66 Association of Illinois Business Members

through November 15, 2009

Ariston/Cafe	P.O. Box 453	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-2023
Amara Foster Co.	2849 S. MacArthur	Springfield	IL	62704	
Angel's Ben Franklin	706 W. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	
Ariston/Cafe	P.O. Box 453	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-2023
Atlanta Public Library	100 Race St.	Atlanta	IL	61723	217-648-2112
Berghoff Restaurant	17 West Adams St.	Chicago	IL	60603	
Bernard's II, Inc.	125 N. Mill St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-1198
Best Western/Carlinville Inn	1 - 55 & IL Route 108., P.O. Box 78	Carlinville	IL	62626	217-324-2100
Bloomington Public Library	205 E. Olive St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-828-6091
Bob Green Auto Service	1847 New Salam Church	New Berlin	IL	62670	
Branham Body & Paint	4125 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	
Brown's Window Service	13816 N. 900 East Road	Bloomington	IL	61704	
Burris & Son Trading	2831 S. Whittier	Springfield	IL	62704	
C & A Custom Kitchens	3500 Clear Lake Road	Springfield	IL	62702	
Calhoun County Ford	P.O. Box 388	Hardin	IL	62047	
Cameo of Wilmington	203 North Water St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-7008
Carlin Villa West	18891 Route 4 South	Carlinville	IL	62626	217-854-3201
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
Champion Garage, Inc.	820 Black Ave.	Springfield	IL	62702	
Chenoweth Pharmacy	209 Green St.	Chenoweth	IL	61726	
Chicago Historic Route 66 Classic Car Show	1909 S. Avers Ave.	Chicago	IL	60623	773-592-4718
City of Bolingbrook	375 W. Briarcliff Road	Bolingbrook	IL	60440	
City of Chenoa	P.O. Box 167	Chenoa	IL	61726	815-945-7619
City of Joliet Tourism	150 W. Jefferson St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-724-4463
City of Litchfield	120 East Ryder	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-8147
City of Mt. Olive	200 E. Main St.	Mt. Olive	IL	62069	217-999-4261
City of Pontiac	115 W. Howard	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-5847
City of Staunton	304 W. Main St.	Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-2233
Coliseum Ballroom Antiques Mall	520 S. Hardroad Rt. 4	Benld	IL	62009	217-835-7788
Comfort Inn	3080 S. St. Route 15	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-4900
Country Classic Cars L.L.C.	2149 E. Frontage Road	Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-7056
Crazy Dog Drive In	2935 S. Sixth St.	Springfield	IL	62703	
Curve Inn, Inc.	3219 S. 6th St. Road	Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-5806
Decatur Junction	8767 State Route 4 South	Staunton	IL	62088	
De-la-Va-Rt 66	113 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-7774
Dell Rhee's Chicken	645 Joliet Road	Willowbrook	IL	60521	
Dixie Travel Plaza	501 S. Main St.	McLean	IL	61754	309-874-2323
Edwardsville Preservation Comm.	118 Hillsboro Ave.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	
eSMB Technical Services	P.O. Box 801	Park Forest	IL	60466	708-231-8794
Finch & Esper	45 Lindon Lane	Springfield	IL	62707	
First National Bank of Dwight	P.O. Box 10	Dwight	IL	60429	
Gardner Chronicle Antiques & Gifts	214 Division St., P.O. Box 164	Gardner	IL	60424	815-237-2727
Hampton Inn	11 Thunderbird Circle	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-4441
Hampton Inn	1019 N. Heitmann Drive	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-6729
Henry's Ra66it Ranch	1107 Historic Old Route 66	Staunton	IL	62088	
Historic Route 66 Flea Market	3117 W. Chain of Rocks Road	Granite City	IL	62240	618-797-7900
IL State Police Heritage Foundation	4000 N. Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	217-528-0764
Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway	700 E. Adams St.	Springfield	IL	62701	217-525-9308
Illinois State Library/ Serials Section	300 S. 2nd St.	Springfield	IL	62701	217-785-4127
International Police Association, Region 57	P.O. Box 7	Mascoutah	IL	62258	618-566-8844
J.K. Harrison, Inc.	103 S. Route 53., P.O. Box 98	Braceville	IL	60407	815-237-2953
Joliet Area Historical Museum	204 N. Ottawa St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-723-5201
Launching Pad Drive In	810 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	
Lincoln Printers, Inc.	711 Broadway St.	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-3121
Lindsey Electric, Inc.	3260 Terminal Ave.	Springfield	IL	62707	
Livingston History County Society	115 W. Howard St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	
Lou Mitchell's Restaurant	565 W. Jackson Blvd.	Chicago	IL	60661	312-939-3111
Luna Cafe	201 E. Chain of Rocks Road	Granite City	IL	62040	
Mans Energy System	3445 S. 6th St.	Springfield	IL	62703	

Matthew T. Scott House	227 N. First Ave.	Chenoa	IL	61726	815-945-4555
Maverick Steak House	1104 W. Reynolds	Springfield	IL	62702	
McLean County Historical Society	200 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-827-0428
Mid Illinois Caliper	2803 N. Dirksen	Springfield	IL	62702	
Midwest Digital Mapping	P.O. Box 105	Cantrall	IL	62625	217-494-4057
Moscardelli Moving & Storage	709 N. Lincoln	Springfield	IL	62702	
Mt. Olive Crossroads	995 Lakeview Drive	Mt. Olive	IL	62069	217-999-368
Neumann's Bar	461 E. Vandalia	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-6688
Northend Illini Bank	2120 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62791	
Old Log Cabin Inn	18700 N. Aurora	Pontiac	IL	61764	
Old Route 66 Family Restaurant	105 S. Old Route 66	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-2920
Oldhan Graphic Supply	2056 Republic	Springfield	IL	62702	
Original Route 66 Accessories	P.O. Box 145	Western Springs	IL	60558	708-246-1543
Patterson Bros. Oil	141 S. Pine	Williamsville	IL	62693	
Polk-A-Dot Drive In	222 N. Front St.	Braidwood	IL	60408	
Pontiac Family Kitchen	904 Custer Ave.	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-3155
Rentz's Tap & Dining	210 Waupanise	Odell	IL	60460	815-998-2383
Rialto Theater	15 E. Van Buren St.	Joliet	IL	60432	
Route 66 Auto Body	P.O. Box 385	Hamel	IL	62046	
Route 66 Root Beer	P.O. Box 276	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-9315
Rt. 66 Beauty & Tanning	11 Old U.S. Rt. 66., P.O. Box 306	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2166
Ryburn Enterprises	305 Pine St.	Normal	IL	61761	309-750-1348
Shady Land Farm	11739 Brock Road	Williamsville	IL	62693	
Shea's Truck Cover People	2075 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	
Springers Creek Winery	817 Hillsboro Ave.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-307-5110
Springfield Overhead Doors	421 N. Lincoln	Springfield	IL	62702	
Stagger Inn Again	104 East Vandalia	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-4221
Standard Station of Odell	408 E. Howard St.	Odell	IL	60460	
Three Roses Bed & Breakfast	209 E. Howard	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-3404
Triple H. Treats	24409 W. Frontage Road	Waggoner	IL	62572	217-227-3664
VFN Fiberglass	330 W. Factory Road	Addison	IL	60101	
Village of Dwight	209 S. Prairie Ave.	Dwight	IL	60420	
Village Of Gardner	302 N. Center St., P.O. Box 545	Gardner	IL	60424	
Village of Hamel	P.O. Box 345	Hamel	IL	62046	
Watt's Bros Pharmacy, Inc.	9th & N. Grand Ave.	Springfield	IL	62704	
Weezy,s Route 66	108 S. Hwy 157	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2228
White Fence Farm	1376 Joliet Road	Romeoville	IL	60446	
Gionanni Tours	P.O. Box 365	Newbury Park	CA	91319	805-375-1324
National Route 66 Federation	P.O. Box 1848	Lake Arrowhead	CA	92352	909-336-6131
Abraham Lincoln Tourism	1555 - 5th St.	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-8687
City of Elk City (Route 66 Museum)	P.O. Box 5	Elk City	OK	73648	580-225-6266
Claremore Convention & Visitors Bureau	419 W. Will Rogers Blvd.	Claremore	OK	74017	918-341-8688
Miami Ok Convention & Visitors Bureau	111 N. Main St., P.O. Box 760	Miami	OK	74355	918-542-4435
Cheques in the Mail, Inc.	1421 N. Jones Blvd., # 117	Las Vegas	NV	89108	702-877-0460
Greg's Motor Sales	1021 W. Mishawaka	Mishawaka	IN	46545	574-255-0771

Visit Pontiac, IL. Museums, Murals, Merchants and More!



800-835-2055 • www.visitpontiac.org

Litchfield 217-324-4441

Lincoln 217-732-6729

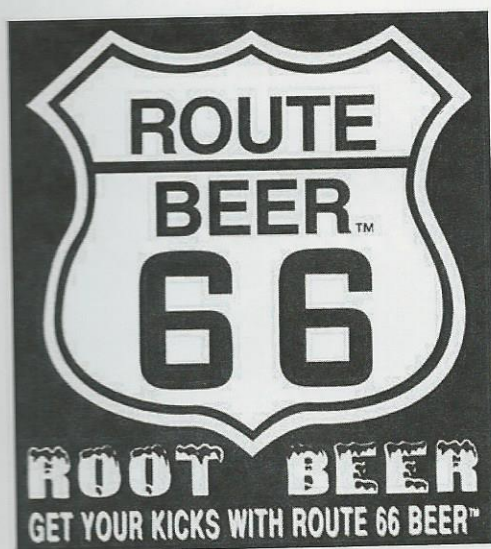


Welcomes all Route 66 Travelers!!

While visiting Route 66 attractions, come stay with us!

Complimentary Hot Breakfast • Free Wifi • Meeting Room • Indoor Pool

Coming to the Route!
Our New Decorated Soda Bottles
Spring 2010



Made with
Real Cane Sugar
No Artificial Sweeteners
Caffeine Free



Orange - Lime
Cream Soda - Black Cherry

Route 66 Sodas, LLC - Wilmington, IL 60481-0276 - 815-476-9315 - sodajerk@route66sodas.com - www.route66sodas.com

Route 66 Association of Illinois Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Illinois County (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

How I can help: _____

Annual Dues

General: \$20
 Family: \$30
 Business: \$50
 Business Lifetime: \$500
 Foreign: \$50
 Lifetime: \$250
 U.S. funds only, please
 \$35 fee for returned checks

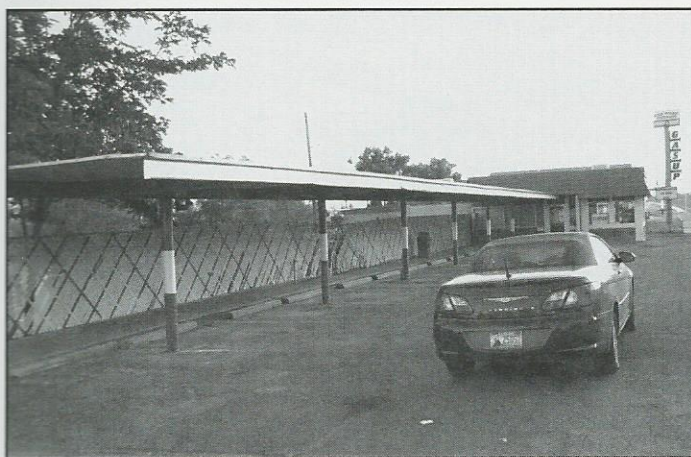
Send to:

Rte 66 Hall of Fame Museum
 Attn: Marty Blitstein
 110 W. Howard St.
 Pontiac, IL 61764

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

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Welcomes New Members through November 13, 2009

Alan Wienke, Best Western Carlinville Inn, Carol Pfolsgröf, Chad Briesacher, Cheques in the Mail, Inc., Cort Stevens, Cynthia & Michael Callaghan, Denise Hughes, Diane & Andy Bikulcs, Diane Tatkus, Drew Goldsmith (Chicago Historic Route 66 Classic Car Show), Gard Sexton, Gina Blitstein, Gus Hernandez & Family, Heather Breinling, Jeff Beal, Jim Dawson, Kara Lincoln, Kimberly McGee, Larry DeKay, Lizetta Poston, Mary & Bill Waterbury, Michael Lewis, Mike Frye, Pat & Brian Burke, Rebecca Owens, Rich Jovanovich, Rory Hammack, Jr., Sam Makler, Shelly Windett, Stan Vorgias, Sue & Fred Eben, Sue Minner, and Tom Sherwin



While on a recent vacation Route 66 Association of Illinois County Board Representative Jerry Law found a Route 66 Drive-In in Winnemucca, NV.

<p>Daily Specials Homemade Soups Open Everyday Sun-Thurs 5am-9pm Fri & Sat 5am-10pm</p>	<p>OLD ROUTE 66 Family Restaurant 105 S. OLD 66 Dwight, IL 60420</p>	<p>Follow the Mother Road To Great Food & Service! Call us for your catering needs Dine-in, Carry-out or Delivery 815-584-2920</p>
--	---	--

<p>Soda Fountain</p> <p>HOURS- MTWTF 9-5 SAT 9-2</p>	<p>OWNERS-ROBERT & RENAE ERNST PHONE- 217-627-3491</p>
<p> <input type="checkbox"/> LUNCH <input type="checkbox"/> FRESH BREAD <input type="checkbox"/> SANDWICHES <input type="checkbox"/> FRESH PIES <input type="checkbox"/> GIFTS <input type="checkbox"/> PHARMACY MUSEUM </p>	
<p>133 S. SECOND, GIRARD, 99 62640</p>	

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Route 66 Association of Illinois

Winter Quarterly Meeting - Sunday – January 17, 2010

Pontiac City Hall Council Chambers
115 West Howard -- Pontiac, IL 61764

- ❖ Board Meeting 10:30 AM ❖ Coffee will be provided
- ❖ Lunch Break Noon – On Your Own ❖ General Meeting 1:00 PM

Spring Meeting – April 18, 2010 – Carlinville, IL

Summer Meeting – July 18, 2010 – Wilmington, IL

Fall Annual Meeting - October 17, 2010 – Pontiac, IL

• *Dates/Locations subject to change* •

GET YOUR OFFICIAL 2010 MOTOR TOUR LICENSE PLATES!



\$25.00 plus shipping/handling
Order early, Supplies Limited!

For information contact:
Jaime Anderson
847-721-6743
Elite197642@yahoo.com

THIS SUMMER!

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Annual Motor Tour

“We Are Family!” from Missouri to Illinois

June 11, 12, & 13, 2010

Co-Chairmen Jerry Law - 618-251-4892 & Jamie Anderson - 847-721-6743

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE 66 NEWS

110 West Howard Street
Pontiac, IL 61764

www.il66assoc.org

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