

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE 66 NEWS

Visit our website at www.il66assoc.org

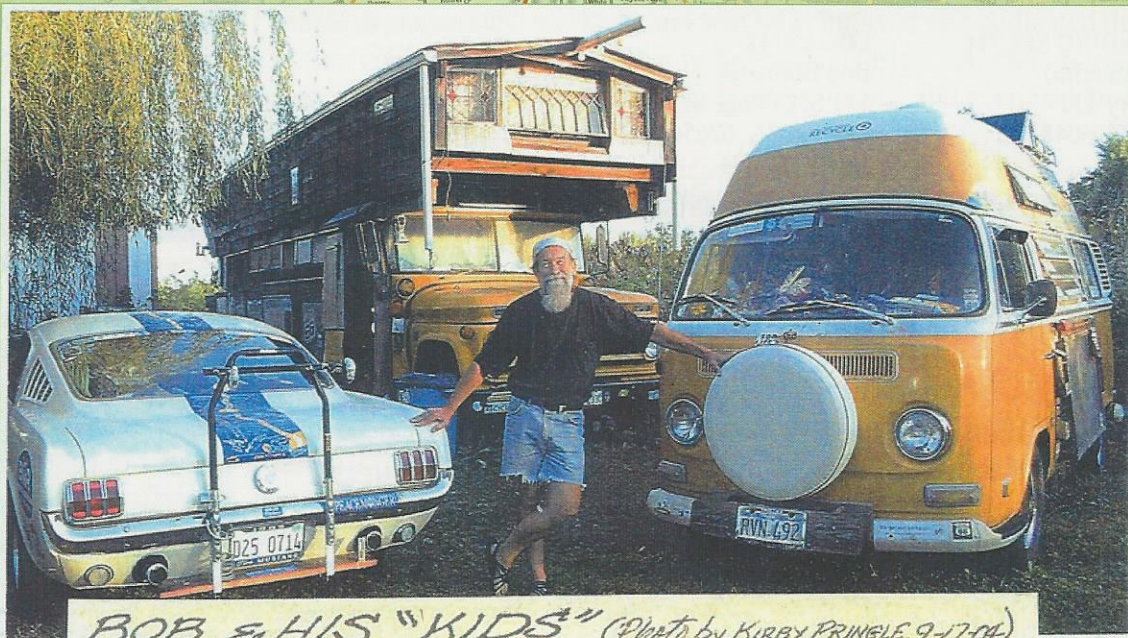


One of only two remaining Meramec Cavern Barns in Illinois collapsed in a windstorm. The barn was located in Hamel, IL.

Spring 2011
\$3.95

Red Carpet
Corridor

The 5th Annual Illinois Rt. 66 Red Carpet Corridor Festival May 7-8, 2011. Visit the website at www.il66redcarpetcorridor.org/



BOB & HIS "KIDS" (Photo by Kirby Pringle, 9-17-04)

1965 Mustang (Purchased 4-98, El Reno, Okla.)
1966 Chevrolet (Purchased 9-87, Grants, N.M.)
1972 Volkswagen (Purchased 5-85, Phoenix, Arizona)



ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

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

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THE 66 NEWS

Spring
2011

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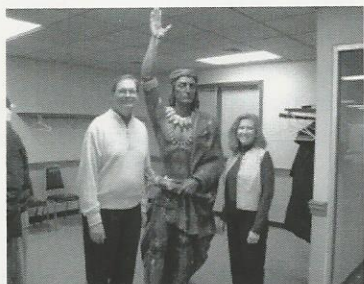
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Emmy Bates and Bob
Killackey preserving the
BIG M - Page 5



Tim & Penny Dye – Page 7



New Park on Route 66 in
Chicago – Page 8

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Well it's still winter, we had snow, snow, and thunder & lightening and snow, and now a few days of pure spring (read rain, rain, rain). Winter is not over. I want snow now, not in May or June. I like real seasons.

Winter brought many changes along Illinois Route 66. There are new businesses and a couple of new museums! Berwyn is building a Route 66 museum utilizing some of the

displays that used to be at Anderson Ford. Pontiac is adding the Pontiac Oakland Automobile Museum about a block from our museum. Godley is going to build, with our Preservation Committee's assistance, a mining museum!

The Preservation Committee met at Maria's Route 66 Restaurant in Dwight. Over 50 people came and offered their help at upcoming Preservation Work Days! There will be a clean-up day at the museum in Pontiac on Saturday, March 19th! March 26th will be the first clean up day in Godley at the new museum. April 9th will be the clean-up day at Odell Station! If you've never come out for a preservation work day then come out and work (play) with us! A work day in Lincoln at the Mill is waiting to be confirmed! The Preservation Committee's motto is "we work for food" so lunch will be provided at all clean-up sites! Watch our Facebook page and our website for more info and how to RSVP that you'll be there. Preservation involves maintenance – so whether you can give 2 hours or 6 hours your help is always appreciated!

The Red Carpet Corridor - the annual 90 miles of fun – will be using a passport this year to record your trip. Activities will be listed in the passport for the entire weekend! Put May 7th and 8th on your calendar now! This year promises more activities than ever before including the painting (by everyone) of Bob Waldmire's last artwork. The 66 foot long mural will be painted by the public over the RCC weekend and will be completed and dedicated during our Motor Tour in June. From Joliet to Towanda its Elvis, car and motorcycle shows, tractor shows, auctions, flea markets, music, and even bed races in Lexington!

The combined efforts of the Missouri and Illinois Route 66 Associations are working on a grant to bring back real neon to the Luna Cafe. Our own Dorothy McMullen is hard at work looking at getting more Illinois buildings on the national historic register. It's exciting to see that in the midst of an economic "downturn" the enthusiasm that continues to exist for our part of the Mother Road and the communities along side it.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for this year's LOVE, PEACE, and the MOTHER ROAD Motor Tour! We will be honoring Bob Waldmire's legacy June 10th, 11th, and 12th. This year we go north to south, starting in Joliet and ending in Litchfield.

We look forward to a great Spring with you! I'll be looking for you during Sirup time at Funk's Grove, and at the quarterly meeting in Springfield in April. See you on the road!

Cathie

Cathie Stevanovich is the President of the Route 66 Association of Illinois

Planning a Summer Staycation? Visit Route 66 in Illinois

If you're looking for a place to Staycation, why not have it in your own backyard? Travel the most famous highway of all time, historic Route 66 also known as the "Mother Road". You can plan weekend or day trips right here in Illinois. The Route 66 communities have events planned all spring and summer! Take advantage of them, you and the family will see a side of Illinois you never knew existed. For complete information on Route 66 in Illinois visit the Route 66 Association of Illinois website. <http://www.il66assoc.org/>

THE 5th ANNUAL ILLINOIS RT. 66 RED CARPET CORRIDOR FESTIVAL MAY 7-8, 2011

Sponsored by the twelve communities which make up the 90-mile linear museum from Joliet to Towanda, the annual festival invites everyone to experience the good life in the slow lane. Each community will produce its own events. From full-blown festivals to antique and craft sales, art sales, car and motorcycle shows, live entertainments, and plenty of yard, garage, and sidewalk sales along the way, everyone is sure to discover something unique. New this year is the Red Carpet Corridor Passport. Inside the passport are listings with information about each individual town's weekend events. Travelers can pick up their passport at their first stop and then have their passport stamped in each of the towns they visit. <http://www.il66redcarpetcorridor.org/>

ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER EVENT – IKE WIDNER'S EXCELLENT BERGHOFF ADVENTURE SATURDAY, May 28, 2011

Join Ike and friends for this unique Route 66 adventure. On May 28, 2011 Ike Widner is hosting a trip to Chicago to the Berghoff's for a luncheon. All costs of this adventure are not covered by the association and are self paid. Ride the rails and enjoy the Metra-Rock Island Line train #210 from a station nearest your home. Meet downtown at the La Salle Station in Chicago (scheduled to arrive at 11:48am). From the train station, walk amid skyscrapers to Berghoff's for lunch. If you do not live near the Metra Rock-Island line and wish to join us, please meet Ike and the group at the restaurant. For the train information visit the Metra website at: www.metra.com. Lunch will be served at 12:30 PM in the Centurion Room on the first floor of the restaurant. **RSVP is required by April 28th, 2011**
Phone: 779-279-9100 or Email: wagontrail66@hotmail.com

THE CHAMPAGNE BRITISH CAR FESTIVAL JUNE 4-6

Celebrating its 20th anniversary on the tree-lined grounds of the beautiful David Davis Mansion in Bloomington, Illinois <http://www.il66assoc.org/event/british-cars-get-their-kicks-route-66>

THE ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS ANNUAL MOTOR TOUR 2011 "LOVE, PEACE AND THE MOTHER ROAD - THE BOB WALDMIRE TOUR" JUNE 10, 11 & 12, 2011


Our Motor Tour is an annual three-day event sponsored by the Route 66 Association of Illinois (that's us). Since 1989 the event has been scheduled for the second weekend of June. The Motor Tour provides an opportunity to drive and appreciate the attractions along our stretch of Route 66.

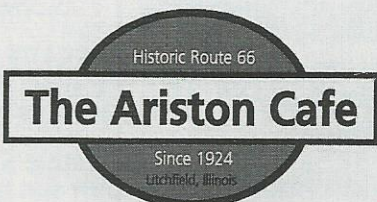
So each year we plan a trek down the road, inviting all to come along for the ride. Although we'd love you to join our Association, you need not be a member to join in on the Motor Tour
<http://www.il66assoc.com/content/motor-tour-2011>

PONTIAC-OAKLAND AUTO MUSEUM GRAND OPENING JULY 21 through JULY 24, 2011

Thursday Evening, July 21st - Tim Dye presents: The History of the Pontiac Automobile - 7:30 PM at the Chautauqua Park Pavilion. Free Admission. Join us for a BBQ Cookout before Tim's presentation. Thursday evening at the picnic pavilion in the park beginning at 6 PM. \$10 per person. <http://visitpontiac.org/>

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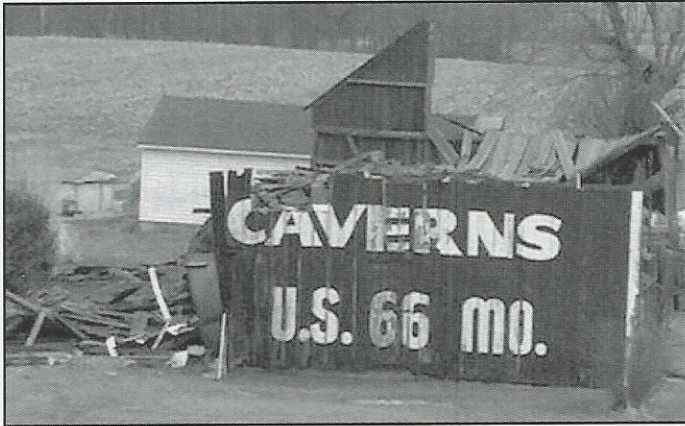
Meramec Cavern Barn Destroyed

In 1935 Lester B. Dill, owner of the Meramec Caverns in Stanton, MO came up with the idea to paint ads for the cavern on old weather beaten barns. Lester would approach the barn owners and offer to paint them for free if they would allow him to advertise on the roofs or sides. During the hey-day of Route 66 for hundreds of miles in Illinois and Missouri old barns were painted as huge signs advertising this underground wonder, providing a unique billboard for the Mother Road.

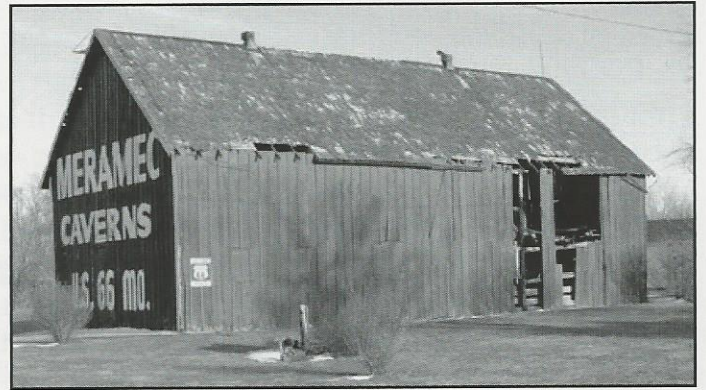
By the 1990's in Illinois there were only two of these barns remaining. Both barns were restored and saved by the Route 66 Association of Illinois Preservation Committee. In April 2001 the committee made the barn in Hamel, IL its spring project. Sadly ten years later in March 2011 the Hamel barn was destroyed by a winter wind storm. The barn in Cayuga is now the last restored Meramec Cavern Barn in Illinois.



The Hamel Meramec Cavern Barn after restoration in 2001



The barn now, a winter windstorm destroyed the barn in early March



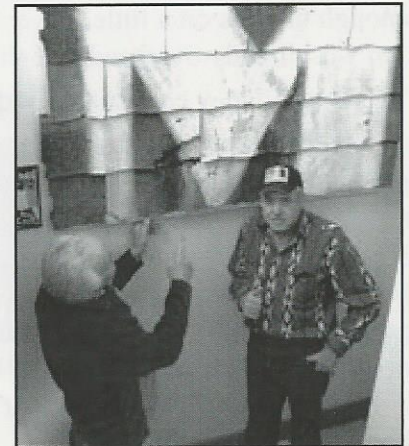
The barn after spring thunder storms swept through the Hamel area a few years after the restoration

The Big M

In 1998 the Cayuga Meramec Caverns painted barn sign was restored. The unique thing about this barn is that the barn was covered with asphalt shingle siding instead of just barn board. The old shingles had become dried out and brittle. They all needed to be replaced. At that time one section of siding that displayed the letter M was saved for some kind of future use.

After being in storage for 13 years the saved shingles have been re-assembled then mounted on plywood and placed on display at the Route 66 Museum in Pontiac. By doing so the public can now view this piece of history and get an idea of just how large these letters actually are.

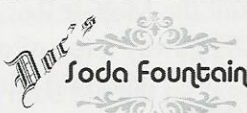
The project was completed by Emmy Bates, Bob Killackey, Dan Butler and John Weiss.



Dan Butler and John Weiss hang the big M at the Museum



Bob Killackey and Emmy Bates re-assemble the pieces as if it were a giant puzzle.




Dor's Soda Fountain

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Share the adventures of Vinney the VW Van a new feature of the Rt 66 Assoc of IL Junior Newsletter. Your children can read about Vinney, just sign them up as members of the Junior Association. It's FREE!

The Adventures of Vinney - the VW Van "Prairie Picken' Pals"

Hey! Can anybody see me in the back corner of this old red barn? I know there's a lot of dust and old rugs covering me up. But over the winter a new hole in the roof has appeared in this old barn and a sun light beam is shining right on me. It warms up my engine and really makes me want to run down Route 66 in Illinois again and see all my friends. Maybe if the sun shine gets real warm later my battery will be charged up enough to honk my horn so someone will pay attention to me over in this corner of the barn.

You see, I've been stored away a long, long, time - after my owner, Vincent Waldo, Jr. went away to college. He used to say to me, "Vinney, (short for Vinney Waldo, - others just call me VW), lets go get some kicks on Route 66." We had great times together seeing all the neat places and meeting such nice people along the Mother Road - Ah Yes, Good ol' Route 66 in Illinois. Nothing like it, Vinney began to idle to himself his favorite tune-up. I'm a traveling Van, I've made a lot of stops all over the Route...

Vinney stopped a moment to think. I wonder if any of my friends along the Mother Road are still around. I hope so. I do miss them after such a long time. There was my giant buddy, the "Giant Space Man" who landed on Illinois Route 66. Then there was the Big Covered Wagon with that thin man who wore a funny beard and stove pipe hat. What was his name? Able, Abrab, Abraham.. ABE LINCOLN visiting Lincoln, Illinois on Route 66. Wow! I remember what fun we had - like the time someone forgot to hitch his big wagon to the hitching post. It rolled all around town with old Abe hanging on to his stovepipe hat while trying to steer the darn thing. I recall telling him later he never would have fallen off if he just wore his seatbelt. Thank goodness no one got hurt. Wear your seatbelt guys. Very important for safety - especially if you're in a run-a-way giant wagon the size of a house.

What's that I hear? Someone is outside the barn talking. It sounds like who, what, where did they go? I can't see a darn thing cause my front windshield is so covered in barn dust. If only the sun would warm up my battery enough to click on a little power to work my windshield wipers - just one swipe is all I need. It wasn't for long the sun was directly overhead and shining bright on Vinney the VW Van.

This time Vinney could hear voices just outside the barn door. Something about Pickers. What the heck is a Picker?

Vinney knew he was at one time a sharp looking VW Van, but he never thought that he could be used for picking anything.. like fruit or vegetables. That was the work for old farm trucks and tractors. But he was willing to do anything to get back on the Mother Road again, even if it meant driving thru dusty fields to pick fruits and vegetables. He thought at least some good would come from such a job. He could drive historic Route 66 in Illinois and see his friends again. He would bring vegetables to the market so all the kids would eat them to become strong and healthy grown-ups. Heck, maybe since he was a Van, he could be used to sell vegetables right out of the side door while parked at a road side stand off good ol' Route 66. He wouldn't mind if a Kool-Aid stand was next to him. He liked having company. Not exactly his idea of Kicks on Route 66 with Vincent Jr. at the local drive-in, but it beat being buried in barn dust the past 40 years.

Vinney overheard the voices outside again say they would come back tomorrow to have a look see inside the Barn. He got so excited thinking about the Mother Road adventures again he energized the wiper switch control and suddenly one swipe of the wipers swept away a ton of old barn dust from his front windshield.

He now could peek thru a crack in the old barn siding. He saw a strange looking, rather tall, yellow Van. As the Yellow Van was heading back onto Route 66, a bright sunlight beam glistened on the side of the van. Now he could see the words, "Prairie Pickers, Pickin You Clean." Vinney was so excited they were coming back tomorrow he didn't care what they painted on the side of him, he wasn't picky. I mean, he would be picky, or be a picken, or, Oh my gosh! Vinney was so worked up he shorted himself out. Just too much energizement for one day. The springtime sun began to set on the old red barn just off Route 66 in Illinois. The tired VW Van named Vinney Waldo was now resting quietly. Tomorrow would be quite a big day. Vinney would show these Pickers he was up to the task of any picking of any kind and could keep up with that new tall looking, yellow "Picker Van".

The Pontiac Oakland Automobile Museum

Grand Opening Celebration July 21 – July 24

Join the City of Pontiac for the grand opening celebration of the Pontiac Oakland Automobile Museum, July 21 through July 24, 2011. This exciting new museum provides the history of the Pontiac Automobile from start to finish.

The history of the Pontiac dates back to 1893 when Edward Murphy started the Pontiac Buggy Company in Pontiac, Michigan. In 1907 Murphy and investors started the Oakland Motorcar Company, setting aside space in his buggy and carriage manufacturing plant to produce a new automobile. In 1909, the two companies were sold in part to General Motors. Oakland motor cars were produced through 1931.

Tim and Penny Dye have been avid Pontiac car fans for many, many, years. Their collection includes 18 historic automobiles, including a rare 19th century horse buggy, thousands of printed Pontiac car ads, posters, model car kits, awards, and dealer signs. This new Museum will showcase most of the Dye's collection during Phase One, and the complete collection by the completion of phase two.

Clint Conway and Dave Sullivan travelled from their homes in Pontiac to the home of Tim and Peggy Dye in Broken Arrow, OK last February. When they come back they had with them the first load of boxes filled with Pontiac memorabilia to fill the new addition to the museums in Pontiac. With the success of this first trip, more are being planned.

Pontiac is home to the Route 66 Association Hall of Fame Museum, the WWII War Museum, and the National Wall Dogs Museum. The newest museum added to Pontiac will be located at 205 North Mill Street, for information contact Pontiac Tourism at 815-844-5847 or email: tourism@pontiac.org



Tim and Penny Dye with Chief Pontiac whose massive collection will be exhibited at the new museum.

A WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

By John Weiss


In 1861, Abe Lincoln stood at a train station in Springfield, Illinois and gave a short speech. These words have become known as Lincoln's Farewell Address. He spoke these words as he prepared to depart for Washington D.C. to begin his term as President of the United States of America. He stated, "I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever, I may return."

February 11th, 2011 is the anniversary of this short impromptu speech. To commemorate this historic event an attempt to set a Guinness Book of World Records was conducted. World wide people were asked to gather at numerous selected sites at exactly 11am, Central Standard Time. Folks then read in unison the entire historic short speech. Currently the record for the most people reading simultaneously is 223,363.


The event I attended was held at the Gaylord building at the Lincoln Landing in the Route 66 community of Lockport, Illinois. A television screen with live media links was displayed that showed the train station platform in Springfield, Illinois. An Abe Lincoln impersonator appeared from the train station. Then, world wide, everyone in unison recited the Farewell Address.

Was the Guinness World Record broken? At this time I do not know. It will take some time for all locations to be tabulated.

The members of the Route 66 Association that were in attendance were, Fred & Judy Hirsch, Catherine Costello, Cathy Goodman and John Weiss.



CIVIL WAR



SESQUICENTENNIAL

1861-1865 2011-2015

Commencement Ceremony
The Gaylord Building
February 11, 2011

My friends - No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe every thing. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being, who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail. Trusting in Him, who can go with me and remain with you and be every where for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

Special Thanks to:
Dev Trivedi, Mayor of Lockport
Tim Schlenger, City Administrator
Tom Weeding as Father Michael Hakey
Tom Pearson, Stephenson Photography
Grant Spooner, Lockport Cable Television
William Swanson, The Gaylord Building
Mark Harmon, Master of Ceremony

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

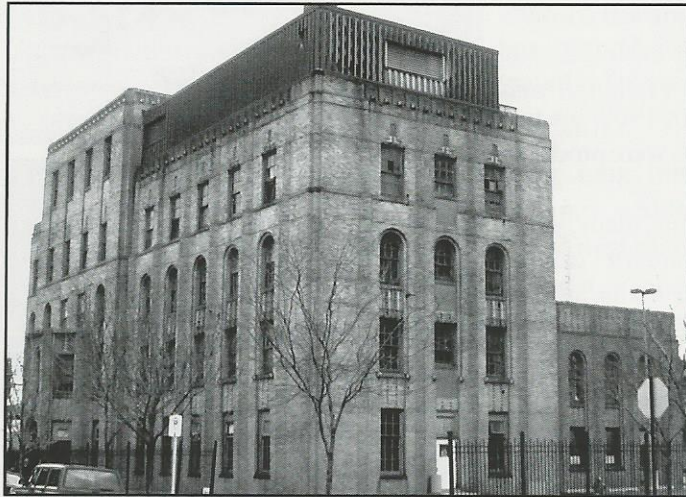
A copy of Abraham Lincoln's speech that was read in an attempt to break the world record.

SPRING  ISSUE 7

New Park on 66 in Chicago

by David G. Clark

Route 66 has a long, shared history with the Chicago Park system; the road begins in the lakefront Grant Park and passes through Douglas Park on the city's west side. Along the way on Jackson and Ogden, Route 66 uses the historic park boulevard system—the main



Construction of the park meant the demolition of the last remaining building from the Chicago Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary. The detailing of the structure included Mayan ornamentation and marks the only collaboration between two noted Prairie-Style architects: Charles Hammond and Edgar Martin.

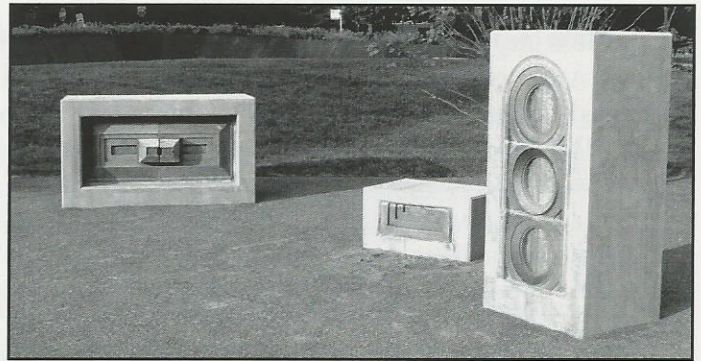
thoroughfares created by the state legislature way back in 1869 to connect the parks together. The boulevards were wider than typical city streets and they were unencumbered with commercial vehicles or streetcar tracks, thus giving the traveler motoring west the best possible roads for the highway that's the best.

As of August 2010, a new park opened on the north side of Adams Street (westbound Route 66) in the Greektown neighborhood. Formerly the site of two state-owned buildings and a parking lot, the block bounded by Adams, Sangamon, Monroe, and Peoria Streets is now Mary Bartelme Park. Features include diagonal walkways; hills that help park patrons separate themselves from street noise, a dog run, a playground, and a misting fountain. Plantings in the park include standard lawn grass and indigenous Illinois flora from the era when most of the northern part of the state was tall grass prairie.

In the last 15 years, the neighborhood around the park west of the Greek restaurant row on Halsted Street has transformed from



A prominent feature of Bartelme Park is this misting fountain – a great place to cool off on a hot summer day.

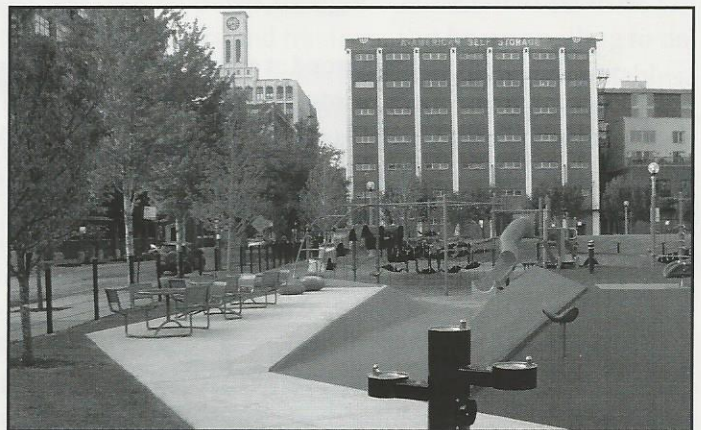


Vestiges of the Infirmary building's ornamentation salvaged from the demolition are now displayed in the park as decorative elements along the walkways. Unfortunately, there are no textual interpretative plaques explaining the history or importance of these fragments.

a decaying warehouse and light industrial district to one of the most densely populated residential areas in the city. The new neighborhood and its visitors desperately needed a new park. Unfortunately, the creation of the park meant the sacrifice of a historic building.

From 1874 to 1965, the block containing Bartelme Park was home to the Chicago Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, an institution that provided free care to city residents. One historic building remained standing until its 2009 demolition to make way for the park. It was a 1929 building designed by Prairie-school architects Charles Herrick Hammond and Edgar Martin. Hammond was a partner in the famous firm of Perkins, Chatton, and Hammond, working with the noted Prairie School designer Dwight Perkins. Martin was the third partner in the pioneering firm of Schmidt, Garden, and Martin.

Although the building is gone, vestiges of its ornamentation have been incorporated into the decorative elements located along the park's meandering walkways. The park is named for Mary Bartelme, the first woman judge in Illinois, who devoted her life to reforming the



The park features a playground for children along its east side.

treatment of children and women in the court system. She was born in 1866 and resided a few blocks north of the park location. After an early career as a public school teacher, she became a lawyer in 1894 and helped found Cook County's juvenile court system in 1899.

Here's a suggestion for your next visit to Route 66 in Chicago: stop over at Greektown at Jackson and Halsted and pick up some carry-out food at Mr. Greek, Greektown Gyros, Zeus Gyros, Taco Burrito King, or Chinese Yum Yum. Then take your lunch over to Bartelme Park for a relaxing picnic on the grass! See you this spring and summer on Route 66 in the Windy City!



2011 Route 66 Association of Illinois Motor Tour

LOVE, PEACE, and the MOTHER ROAD

The Bob Waldmire Tour - 22nd Annual Tour

June 10th, 11th & 12th

Romeoville - Joliet - Gardner - Dwight - Pontiac - Lexington - Normal

Atlanta - Lincoln - Springfield - Virden - Carlinville - Litchfield

Friday, June 10th

Friday Night Kickoff

White Fence Farm, Romeoville

Registration 5:00-8:00 PM

Saturday, June 11th

Route 66 Visitor's Center Joliet

Free Museum Admission!!!!

Registration 7:30-9:00 AM

Gardner Street Car Dedication

Dwight

Pontiac Lunch Stop/Bob Waldmire

Mural Dedication

Lexington Memory Lane

Normal

Atlanta

Lincoln-Hall of Fame Banquet

Sunday, June 12th

Lincoln - Heritage Inflight Museum

Springfield Fairgrounds Tour - Lunch

Virden

Carlinville - Sears Home Tour

Litchfield



For more info:

www.il66assoc.org

Jerry Law

Email:

thelaw1@sbcglobal.net

(618) 251-4892

Marty Blitstein

Email:

blitz66@earthlink.net

(708) 444-1312

HALL OF FAME BANQUET

Fabulous all-you-can eat buffet at the Lincoln Center (Lincoln College)

Roast Beef, Chicken Strips, Chili Bar, Cod Fish, Salad, Fruit, Shrimp, Salads, Jello, Desserts.
Ice tea, coffee and water included. \$20 a person, Children under 12 \$10, Children under 6 FREE.

CASH BAR AVAILABLE.

MOTOR TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

ALL WELCOME - ANY VEHICLE - ANY YEAR - ANY MODEL

You may join or leave the tour at any point or time. Sorry - no refunds. Rain or Shine we tour!

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

Mail Registration Form to: Motor Tour, 9280 Drummond Drive, Tinley Park, IL 60487

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Motor Tour Registration Fee \$35.00 _____

Hall of Fame Banquet \$20.00 a person _____

Children (Ages 6 to 12) \$10.00 _____

Total _____

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

2011 Route 66 Association of Illinois Motor Tour

LOVE, PEACE, and the MOTHER ROAD

The Bob Waldmire Tour

Motel List

When making reservations - please tell them you are with
"The Route 66 Motor Tour" to get your special room rate!!!

FRIDAY, JUNE 10th

Super 8

1301 Marquette Drive

Romeoville, IL 60446

Book by May 6th

1-630-759-8880

\$55.99 plus tax

25 Rooms Available

Comfort Inn

1235 Lake View Drive

Romeoville, IL 60446

Book by May 20th

1-630-226-1900

\$85.00 plus tax

25 Rooms Available

SATURDAY, JUNE 11th

Best Western

1750 5th Street

Lincoln, IL

Book until May 10th

1-217-732-9641

\$72.99 plus tax

No elevator - 40 rooms

Holiday Inn Express

130 Olson Drive

Lincoln, IL

Book by April 2nd

1-217-735-5800

\$74.00 plus tax

30 rooms available

Comfort Inn

2811 Woodlawn Road

Lincoln, IL

Book by May 20th

1-217-735-3960

\$71.99 plus tax

40 rooms available

Super 8

2809 Woodlawn Road

Lincoln, IL

Book until May 15th

1-217-732-8886

\$59.88 plus tax

No elevator - 35 rooms

Hampton Inn

1019 N. Heitmann Drive

Lincoln, IL

Book by May 20th

1-217-732-6729

\$79.00 plus tax

40 rooms available

Reticence of Ravens

A Route 66 Mystery

By M.M. Gornell

Time and events have turned Hubert James Champion III into a morose man trying for the last year to escape into California's Mojave Desert—*somewhere a little north of Route 66 on the way to Arizona*. No longer a practicing psychologist and FBI collaborator, Hugh now owns Joey's mini-mart, a half-defunct gas station with no gas, no supplies, and little food for customers. *Opening hours variable...*

Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, book and e-book
mmgornell@earthlink.net, <http://www.mmgornell.com>, &
<http://www.mmgornell.wordpress.com>

Pontiac, Illinois

May 7 & 8, 2011

Join us for a Lasting Memorial to
Rt. 66 Icon - Bob Waldmire!

5th Annual

**Red Carpet
Corridor**

Festival

Be a part of creating
Bob's last mural design
on the Bob Waldmire
Memorial Mural!

See Bob's famous
VW Van & Tour his
School Bus Home!

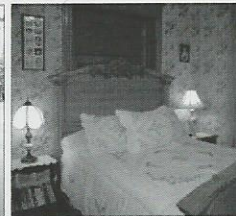
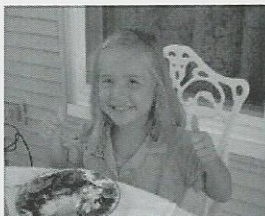
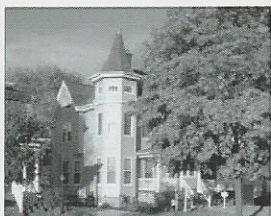
RCC Passport stop at the Route 66 Association of Illinois
Hall of Fame & Museum - 110 W. Howard Street

Opening in July! The Pontiac ~ Oakland Automobile
Museum and Resource Center

800-835-2055 • visitpontiac.org



SPRING  ISSUE 11



Why stay at Three Roses in Pontiac, IL?

- ◆ Just 100 miles south of Chicago—great location for 1st night stop
- ◆ Pontiac's only bed and breakfast
- ◆ Garage parking for your motorcycle or vintage car
- ◆ Located just 1 1/2 blocks from historic downtown and Old Route 66
- ◆ Full breakfast cooked to order at a time chosen by you (included in rates)
- ◆ Home of the Illinois Route 66 Museum & Hall of Fame
- ◆ Lots of photo opportunities with 20 historic murals throughout Pontiac
- ◆ Discounted rates for those traveling Route 66
- ◆ 4-5 star rating by our guests
- ◆ Special diets are easily accommodated—just let us know
- ◆ Huge 25% discount for guests staying more than one night + single rates

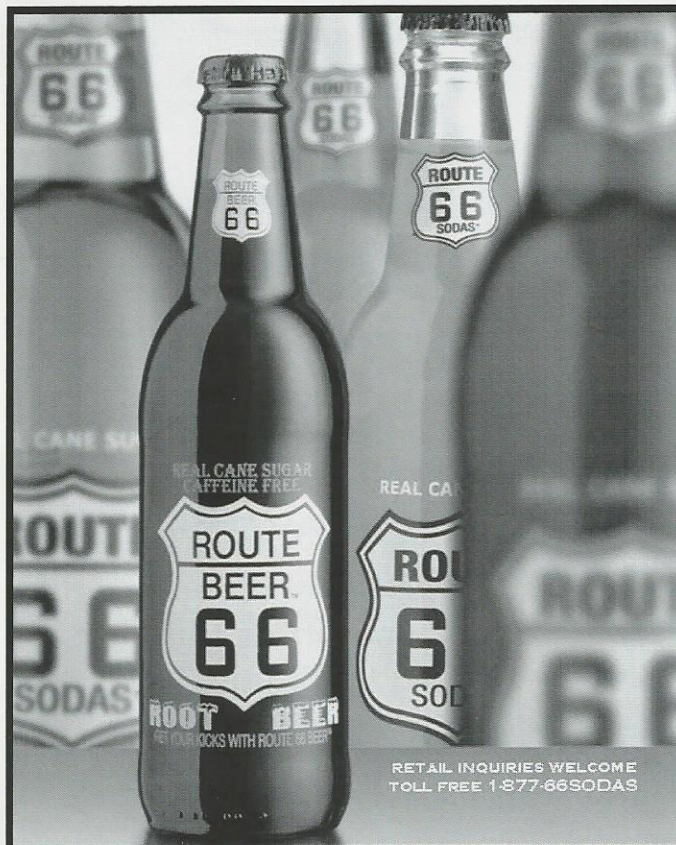


Three Roses Bed & Breakfast
209 E. Howard St.
Pontiac, IL 61764-1919
1-815-844-3404
www.threerosesbnb.com
"Where breakfast is an event!"



From one of our guests:

"Our golf game was rained out but we certainly were not at a loss for activities. We spent a goodly amount of time at the Route 66 Museum. As the skies cleared, we took a long walk around the square, town park, library and courthouse. Our room was well equipped and quiet. Our skillet breakfast was stick-to-the ribs-all-day delicious. We highly recommend Three Roses to anyone staying a night or more in Pontiac."



Taste the Route!

Enjoy the Road!

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24200 E. ROUTE 66
LEBANON, MISSOURI
417-588-4466

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WESTBOUND EXIT 135 OFF I-44 EASTBOUND EXIT 130

PLANNING ON MOVING?

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE OF
THE ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MAGAZINE
THE 66 NEWS!

Send your change of address to:
The Route 66 Association of Illinois
Hall of Fame & Museum
Attn: Marty Blitstein
110 West Howard
Pontiac, IL 61764

Or you can reach Marty....
Phone: 708-444-1312
Fax: 708-444-1315
Email: blitz66@earthlink.net

Please note: The 66 News is not returned to the association if your address isn't current!

Welcome New Members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois

November 20, 2010 thru February 24, 2011

Jonathan Levine, Christine & Rich Dinkela, George Higgins, Berwyn Route 66 Museum - Joe Fey, John S. Kominoski, Tim Panfil, Marshall Neumann, Cathy & Jordan Goodman, Dock's Soda Fountain - Bob Ernst, Kathleen A. & Robert J. Swieton, Gary Roe, Pam & Brad Meszaros, Natalie & Joseph Santucci, Glenda & Charles Williams, Amanda & Andrew Collins, Midwest Truckers Association - Don Schaefer, Vivian & Ted Terbeek, Vic's Pizza - Joseph Rupnick, Damon Sholtey, Leon Bornder, and the Village of Godley.

BRITISH CARS TO GET THEIR KICKS ON ROUTE 66

By Terri Ryburn

The Champagne British Car Festival is celebrating its' 20th anniversary on the tree-lined grounds of the beautiful David Davis Mansion in Bloomington, Illinois, on June 4-5.

The featured cars this year are the classic Mini and the newer MINI. The Mini was conceived in the mid-1950s by the Austin Motor Company and introduced in 1959 as an economical "Everyman's" car. It was an enduring favorite for more than 40 years before being recast by BMW in its modern incarnation.

On Saturday morning, June 4, British cars will travel north and south on Route 66, taking part in a treasure hunt, while getting their British kicks. That evening, the cars will be featured in a pre-game mini-show outside the Cornbelter Stadium on Raab Road in Normal. (To reserve tickets for the Normal Cornbelters vs. the Washington, PA, Wild Things game, visit www.normalbaseball.com.) The car show is on Sunday, June 5, from 10:00am to 2:30pm at the Davis Mansion, which suggests a donation of \$4/adult; \$3/child.

The Mansion is open for free tours during the festival. The elegant 1872 Victorian mansion is filled with



period pieces that tell the story of Judge David Davis, who influenced Abraham Lincoln's legal and political career. (For information about the mansion, visit www.daviddavismansion.org.)

For further information about the car festival, visit www.champagnecarfestival.com.

SPRING  ISSUE 13

Dangers of the Highway

By Brian L. Alexander

Being from Illinois where the ground is relatively flat is totally different than the landscape in the State of Missouri, especially through the Ozark Area. In the



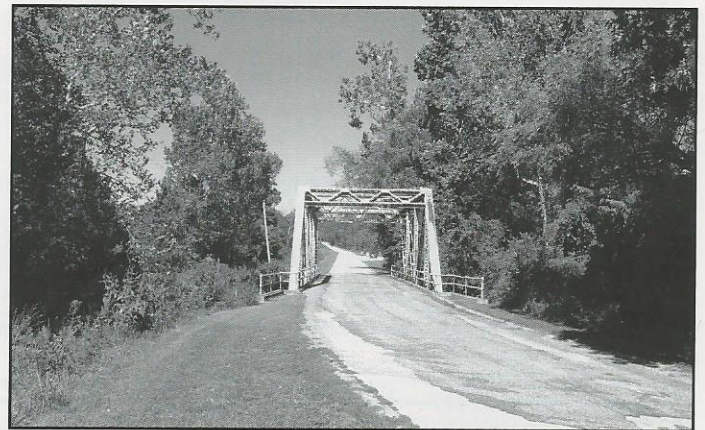
Hooker's Cut in Missouri

late fifties, both Route 66 and the other roads were built directly on the hills and valleys; there were no cuts through rocky hills as there is today. Riding on those old roads, your stomach felt like being on a roller coaster ride. The only thing different than an amusement park ride, was that driver did not know whether he or she were going to steer to the left, right or straight ahead when you went over the summit. If there was a vehicle with a mechanical malfunction, which was more common back then, it gave you little time to react. Some areas, especially bridges had no shoulder for the stalled vehicle. If the driver was unfamiliar with the roads he or she soon became fatigued because of the tension.

I remember crossing the Mississippi River into Missouri and soon afterward seeing Fort Leonard Wood on the mileage signs along Route 66. As a kid, I never rode that portion of the highway that went past the fort. Although, I do remember seeing the olive drab busses and the army trucks on Route 66 from time to time. I can't forget the Diamond Restaurant in Gray's Summit. We occasionally went in there for our evening dinner or just a bathroom stop. There would always be military personnel in there, especially soldiers at the Diamonds Restaurant. Some may have arrived there by US Army Bus, others by Greyhound Bus or maybe some in their own private vehicles. The restaurant was an hour away from our final destination and for the army soldiers; they had at least another two hours travel to the fort, maybe more.

Anyway, Route 66 was one lane in each direction when they started building that U.S. Army Fort, in December

1940. This put a tremendous strain on the highway, the amount of vehicles on Route 66 had almost more than tripled since the previous years. The new traffic count could have been as high as 7,000 cars a day passing the fort, creating one big traffic jam on Route 66. This made the Mother Road more dangerous. The more traffic there is, the more likely there are to be accidents. In the vicinity of the fort there were over 50 people killed and over 450 injured on Route 66, in 1941. Not only did you have construction workers and construction trucks on the road, you also had engineers, soldiers and local workers, not to mention the people who had previously been using the highway.



Old Route 66 in Missouri

They immediately tried to make the road safer between Rolla and Springfield, Missouri. The stretch of highway between Devil's Elbow and Hooker was extremely dangerous. To improve the safety of the road and alleviate traffic congestion, work was soon started on by-passing the fort, increasing the pavement to four lanes and putting a huge cut, 75 feet deep, through one of the hills was soon started. In the process of building the road through the cut, large angled curbs were installed to assist in the drainage of rainwater. The large curb has a negative effect; they could, in some instances cause a vehicle to overturn.

I think about the condition of the roads, in all the states, when Route 66 was commissioned, in 1926. Illinois was the first state to have the road, Route 66, in concrete or other hard permanent surface. Illinois played connect the dots; it used existing pavement and joined the segments together. The lanes were only 8 feet wide in 1926. Trucks that used the highway were smaller then, than the ones used today, but they were still big. I remember as a truck approached us, my mother getting very nervous

Continued from Page 14 - Dangers of the Highway

and uncomfortable when we were on the Chain of Rocks Bridge in the late 1950s. (I felt calm driving my car over the Chain of Rocks Bridge, last Illinois Motor Tour, last June but I did not have to worry about on coming traffic, on the narrow bridge.)

I believe the first highway improvement after the road



Imagine a truck like this on the old two lane?

was paved, was widening the lanes; first to ten feet wide and then finally to twelve feet wide. The additional road surface was just poured right next to the existing roadbed. I consider the next improvement striping the center lane and then finally striping the passing/non-passing lanes would be later on.

Controlling traffic in the big cites was done with signs and stop lights. According to my father, in the 1930's, some roads were not even marked with speed limit signs.

Improvement after improvement over the years has made our highways safer. We still have some of the same problems that we had back then, human error: alcohol consumption, drugs, tired drivers, reckless driving and speeding. Now we have new problems, such as cell phone usage, text messaging and iPhones. (I am from the Muscle Car Era, so I am not preaching, I'm just stating the facts.) As we make our highways safer, we take some of the dangers away from the driver, this in turn gives the driver a false sense of security making him or her more dangerous. I can not image that a driver, traveling at a high rate of speed, on a Missouri Road in the late 1920s through the early 1960s would be reaching for a iPhone as they approached the summit of a hill. Put your electronic device in your purse, your pocket or your glove compartment. You will be safer, live longer so you can tell your descendents how pretty the landscape is along Route 66. Then they will look up at you, after they have been staring at their electronic device and say, "What???"

Ghost Hunters of Route 66

By John Weiss

With over 400 miles of historic highway in Illinois, could it be that a few of the sites along the way are haunted. Could it be that the spirit of those who passed this way before us still remains?

Oh, I know some of you are skeptics, but others are believers. I fall somewhere in between. I want to believe, but I cannot grasp how this can be.

There is a special group of three ladies. Each have a special gift that allows them at times to see, feel and sense things that are blind to the average person. With special cameras and sound equipment they are visiting sites along Route 66 in Illinois.

Recently I spoke with one of them. She is a member of the Route 66 Association of Illinois. Her name is Catherine. She made the comment to me that, "I see ghosts everywhere I go. I have as long as I can remember. My grandmothers did too."

A statement like that prompted me to ask her to relate some sort of recent experience that she had encountered. The following story is told here in her own words. It occurred at a business on Route 66 in Braidwood, Illinois known as Garden Gate.

"This property is one I frequent as a customer. One I never gave a second thought to being "haunted". What drew me to its paranormal possibilities was a brief yet, sweet encounter with the other side. I was there to visit with the owner and pick up some oven fresh treats for my family. I had forgotten my wallet in my truck. As I walked out to retrieve it, on my left, I noticed an elderly gentleman sitting on the bench right outside the bakery's kitchen window. He held a cigarette in one hand and steamy cup of brew in the other. I collected my wallet and headed back across the parking lot. Halfway across I slowed my pace. I looked directly at this man. He had no jacket, which was odd since it was Fall and the mornings had become quite chilly. I noticed the steam rising gently from his cup. The slow upward curl of the cigarette smoke, unaffected by the breeze. His pants had a thick, wide cuff reminiscent of a by gone era. His face was tilted up toward the morning sun, basking in its warmth. Suddenly, as if just then realizing my attention, he met my gaze. His eyes beamed with pride. His smile filled me with the sense of great peace and happiness. Then he dissolved in front of me. I couldn't help but feel happy for the rest of the day.

When I went back in to the bakery, I inquired about the elderly gentleman perched upon the bench. The owner shot me a sideways glare then asked me to describe him. Her face softened. She smiled and said it sounded just like her father. She had always thought he might be there."

This group will soon do an investigation here. So at this time the story is....to be continued.

A Portrait Along the Road

By Stephen J. Cribari

"You have an Uncle Cecil?" Over the course of our marriage I have met many of my wife's paternal relatives but none of her maternal ones. References to them were mostly in the past tense. From snatches of overheard conversations, I had concluded that all of her aunts and uncles must have passed away before I ever met her, and what maternal cousins she did have must be significantly older or too distanced to be considered "family." Thus my surprise when I finally identified someone as Cousin John. He was older but not significantly so and he suggested a visit to someone called Uncle Cecil.

"You have an Uncle Cecil?" I asked my wife. "Yes." "How old is he?" "Oh, he must be in his nineties." "Ninety-seven," said Cousin John. "How come you never told me? I want to meet him," I said to my wife. "How long since you've seen him?" "Maybe forty years." Arranged by Cousin John, the meeting with Cecil took place at the end of last August.

Cecil lives in Taylor Springs, in southern Illinois, which is near Hillsboro, which is near Litchfield, home of the Ariston Cafe. Heading north from St. Louis, we abandoned the interstate and drove up Rt. 66 toward what would be a small family reunion, as my wife's brother Bill (Indianapolis) and Cousin Joe (Cousin John's brother, Mason City) were included in the visit.

I knew Cecil lived on the farm on which he grew up. What I did not know is that, at ninety-seven, he still works that farm.

We drove up the dirt road into the farm and into a slower time. Across the yard from where we parked, slouched in a chair, long legs stretched in front of him (Cecil must stand over six feet tall), trim body tanned and poised more than relaxed, long neck bottle in hand, came the welcome: "Well dang! Come have a beer!"

A week before, my wife's ninety-six year old father had passed away and I did not know we were six weeks from my ninety-five year old father passing as well. That is to say, I am familiar with how age can diminish us. I was not familiar with how we can obliterate age, for Cecil looks, acts, and moves as one who is sixty-seven. We drank beer and he showed us the farm. "Those hills over there, I once cut all the trees down when we had the sawmill. That wasn't such a good idea." No, it wasn't, I thought, looking at where Cecil's thumb should have been and imagining the erosion problem when it rained on those once-denuded hills.

Noticing my wife was not drinking beer, Cecil walked up to her and stood next to her, towering over her. "There's sodee pop in the fridge, Janie," he said. I wondered how many times this scene had repeated itself throughout my



Uncle Cecil

wife's childhood, the little girl with her lanky and handsome uncle.

When the occasional squirrel darted by, the two Jack Russell terriers snapped to attention. "There were a lot of squirrels this year," Cecil explained. "They're trouble on a farm and I hate to do it but when the dogs tree one I shoot it. They eat it." Nothing wasted, I thought. Heartland economy.

I asked the Route 66 question: "Do you remember it 'from back when?'" "I rode my motorcycle to California," Cecil said. "It was all dirt road west of Kansas. Must have been 1930 or '32. When I had the Indian (bike). Did it a couple more times. Hitched a ride on a freight once, too."

Uncle Cecil took us all to lunch at the Hillsboro Moose Lodge, where my wife says she ate some of the best fried chicken she's ever had. He showed us the sights, where he went to school as a child, where the National Guard encamped and where the howitzer was aimed at John L. Lewis when he led the coal strike in southern Illinois. We drove back to the farm among the rolling hills that form this part of southern Illinois and Cecil told who lived where and who lives there now. Pointing to a distant roof in a fold of land, he said: "There's my place."

And the sound of his voice conveyed so much more than just "over there's where I live." If you are predisposed to hear it, you would have heard echoes of the Roman poet Horace in Cecil's voice: *Condit quisque diem collibus in suis.* This is difficult to translate, but "a man draws together his days among his own hills" gets close.

I have met few people like Cecil, who find their place and know it always. And there's his place, over there – and it belongs to him as much as he to it, and as it has been that way for a long time. From back when Route 66 was mostly dirt road.

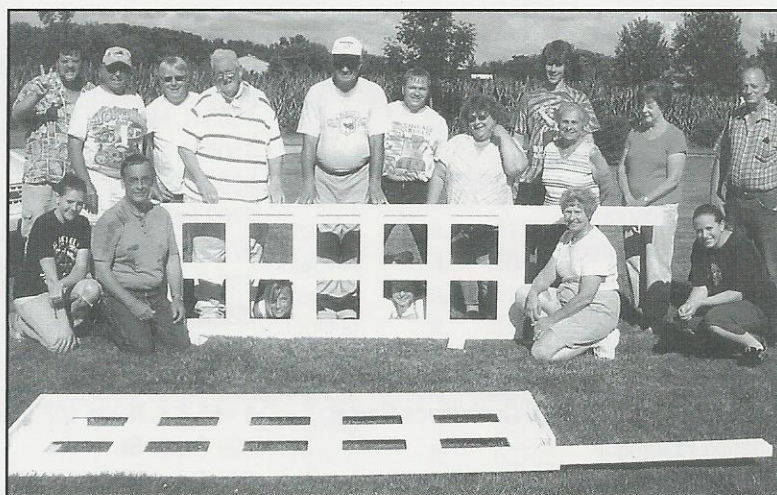
The Sails of the Mill

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Preservation Committee members rebuilt the sails in July 2008 and installed them in 2009 along with local volunteers.

Pictured below is one of two original sails left, this one will be displayed in the Route 66 Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac, IL. The Mill was inducted into the Route 66 Association of Illinois hall of fame in 2009.



L-R: John Weiss - Route 66 Association of Illinois Preservation Committee and Geoff Ladd - Route 66 Heritage Foundation of Logan County.



In July 2008 members of the Route 66 Assoc of Illinois rebuilt sails

Route 66 License Plates

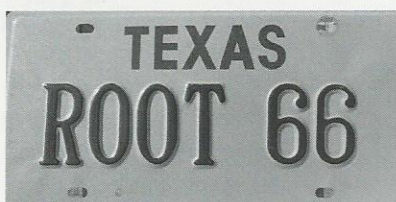
It's not just Illinois residents who show their love of the Mother Road by showing customized license plates. Shown below are license plates that are displayed by our members, friends, and neighbors who share our enthusiasm for Route 66!



Top left: "Iowa Hawkeye fans love Route 66 too!" Says member Gregory M. Redfern of Romeoville, IL about the frame on his plates.



Top right: Photo taken by member Brian Alexander while he joined the Missouri Assoc on their annual motor tour last year.



Bottom left: Member Gary Roe said, "These are the plates I had on my '67 Chevy Impala while I lived in Fort Worth, Tx."



Bottom right: Plates owned and displayed by member Tim Masten of Knoxville, TN

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Business Members

Please support our members!

VFN Fiberglass	330 W. Factory Road	Addison	IL	60101	630-543-0232
Gunnar Mast Trading Post	Box 66	Atlanta	IL	61723	217-735-3177
Atlanta 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 Route 66 Museum	7003 Ogden	Berwyn	IL	60402	708-484-9349
Bloomington Public Library	205 E. Olive St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-557-8912
Brown's Wrecker Service	302 Brown St.	Bloomington	IL	61704	309-828-3753
Casey's Garden Shop	1505 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309828-7529
Casey's Garden Shop, Inc.	1505 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-828-1424
McLean County Museum of History	200 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-827-0428
State Farm Insurance	2702 Ireland Grove Road	Bloomington	IL	61709	309-622-6588
Village of Bolingbrook	375 W. Briacliff Road	Bolingbrook	IL	60440	630-226-8412
Village of Godley	150 S. Kankakee St., P.O. Box 89	Braceville	IL	60407	815-458-2222
Polk-A-Dot Drive In	222 N. Front St.	Braidwood	IL	60408	815-458-3377
Midwest Digital Mapping	P.O. Box 105	Cantrall	IL	62625	217-494-4057
Carlin Villa Motel	18891 Route 4 South	Carlinville	IL	62626	217-854-3201
Magnuson Grand Hotel & Conference Center	1 - 55 & IL Route 108., P.O. Box 377	Carlinville	IL	62626	217-324-2100
Chenoa Pharmacy	209 Green St.	Chenoa	IL	61726	309-747-3002
City of Chenoa	P.O. Box 167	Chenoa	IL	61726	815-945-7619
Matthew T. Scott House Foundation	227 N. First Ave.	Chenoa	IL	61726	815-945-4555
Berghoff Restaurant	17 West Adams St.	Chicago	IL	60603	312-427-3170
Chicago Historic Route 66 Classic Car Show	1909 S. Avers Ave.	Chicago	IL	60623	773-592-4718
Lou Mitchell's Restaurant	565 W. Jackson Blvd.	Chicago	IL	60661	312-939-3111
First National Bank of Dwight	122 W. Main St., P.O. Box 10	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-1212
Old Route 66 Family Restaurant	105 S. Old Route 66	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-2920
Village of Dwight	209 S. Prairie Ave.	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-3077
Cassens Transport Co.	145 N. Kansas St.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-3006
Comfort Inn	3080 S. SR 157	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-4900
Edwardsville Preservation Comm.	118 Hillsboro Ave.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	
Springer's Creek Winery	817 Hillsboro Ave	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-307-5110
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	
Dock's Soda Fountain	133 S. Second St.	Girard	IL	62640	217-627-3491
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	
Route 66 Ridez	230 N. Old Route 66	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2339
Rt. 66 Beauty & Tanning	11 Old U.S. Rt. 66., P.O. Box 306	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2166
Village of Hamel	111 S. Old Route 66., P.O. Box 345	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2484
Weezy,s Route 66	108 S. Hwy 157	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2228
City of Joliet Tourism	150 W. Jefferson St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-724-9045
Gji's Sweet Shoppe	81 N. Chicago St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-727-1500
Joliet Area Historical Museum	204 N. Ottawa St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-723-5201
Rialto Theater	15 E. Van Buren St.	Joliet	IL	60432	
Abraham Lincoln Tourism	1555 - 5th St.	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-8687
Lincoln Printers, Inc.	711 Broadway St.	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-3121
Ariston Cafe	413 N. Old Route 66., P.O. Box 453	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-2023
City of Litchfield	120 East Ryder	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-8147
Hampton Inn of Litchfield & Lincoln	11 Thunderbird Circle	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-4441
Jubelt's Bakery & Restaurant	303 N. Old Route 66	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-5314
Pink Elephant Antique Mall Corp.	908 Vetrans Memorial Drive	Livingston	IL	62058	618-637-2366
Snuffy's Grill	8408 Joliet Road	McCook	IL	60525	
Dixie Travel Plaza	501 S. Main St.	McLean	IL	61754	309-874-2323
Luna Cafe	201 E. Chain of Rocks Road	Mitchell	IL	62040	618-931-3152

The Crossroads Diner	995 Lakeview Drive	Mount Olive	IL	62069	
City of Mt. Olive	200 E. Main St.	Mt. Olive	IL	62069	217-999-4261
Bob Green Auto Service	1847 New Salam Church Road	New Berlin	IL	62670	217-546-5846
Route 66 World	P.O. Box 413	Northbrook	IL	60065	847-757-2246
Pour Richards 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	314 E. George St., P.O. Box 175	Odell	IL	60460	
City of Pontiac	115 W. Howard	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-5847
Livingston County Historical Society	115 W. Howard St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-2744
Lydia's Loft	107 1/2 W. Madison St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	309-824-2490
McSherry Agency	209 W. Madison St	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-3183
Old Log Cabin Inn	18700 N. Aurora	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-2908
Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce	210 N. Plum St., P.O. Box 534	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-5131
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	630-739-1720
Funk's Grove Pure Maple Sirup	5257 Old Route 66	Shirley	IL	61772	307-874-3220
Amoco Fence Co.	2919 S. MacArthur Blvd.	Springfield	IL	62704	217-787-2921
Branham's Paint & Body	4125 N. Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	217-528-9654
Burris & Son Trucking	2831 S. Whittier Ave.	Springfield	IL	62704	217-528-7741
C & A Custom Kitchens	3500 E. Clear Lake Ave.	Springfield	IL	62702	217-523-0170
Champion Garage, Inc.	820 Black Ave.	Springfield	IL	62702	217-522-4114
Cozy Dog Drive In	2935 S. Sixth St.	Springfield	IL	62703	217-525-1992
Crowne Plaza	3000 S. Dirksen Parkway	Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-7777
Curve Inn, Inc.	3219 S. 6th St. Road	Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-5806
Holiday Inn Express	3050 S. Dirksen Parkway	Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-7771
Illini Bank	2120 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	217-544-0139
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
Lindsey Electric, Inc.	3260 Terminal Ave.	Springfield	IL	62707	217-544-6789
Maverick Steak House	1104 W. Reynolds	Springfield	IL	62702	217-732-7169
Mid Illinois Caliper	2803 N. Dirksen	Springfield	IL	62702	
Midwest Truckers Association	2727 N. Dirksen Pkwy	Springfield	IL	62702	217-525-0310
Moscardelli Moving & Storage	709 N. Lincoln	Springfield	IL	62702	217-787-4043
Oldhan Graphic Supply	2056 Republic	Springfield	IL	62702	217-528-4649
Shea's Finest Truck Covers	2075 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	217-522-0475
Springfield Overhead Doors, Inc.	421 N. Lincoln	Springfield	IL	62702	217-787-2602
IL State Police Heritage Foundation	4000 N. Peoria Road	Springfiels	IL	62702	217-528-0764
Vic's Pizza	2520 Peoria Road	Springfoeld	IL	62702	217-522-2464
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	618-637-2951
Henry's Ra66it Ranch	1107 Historic Old Route 66	Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-5655
Patterson Bros. Oil & Gas, Inc.	P.O. Box 139	Williamsville	IL	62693	217-566-3328
Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket	645 Joliet Road	Willowbrook	IL	60521	630-325-0780
Angelo's Ben Franklin	706 W. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-9091
Gorman Vegetables	30643 S. Route 53	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-7514
Launching Pad Drive In	810 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-6535
Lickety Split Ice Gream Shoppe	501 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-1980
Milltown Market	508 N. Kankakee St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-0386
Original Route 66 Accessories	15700 W. Huntley Court	Surprise	AZ	85374	708-246-1543
Gionanni Tours	626 Westchester Lane	Newbury Park	CA	91320	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 Root Beer & Soda	P.O.Box 776	Lebanon	MO	65536	417-588-4466
Cheques in the Mail, Inc.	1421 N. Jones Blvd., # 117	Las Vegas	NV	89108	702-877-0460
Claremore Convention & Visitors Bureau	419 W. Will Rogers Blvd.	Claremore	OK	74017	918-341-8688
Miami Ok Convention & Visitors Bureau	101 N. Main St.	Miami	OK	74355	918-542-4435

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Route 66 Association of Illinois

Spring Quarterly Meeting - Sunday – April 17, 2011

Meeting Location: Vic's Pizza - 2520 Peoria Road - Springfield, IL.

- ❖ Board Meeting 10:00 AM
- ❖ Lunch Break Noon –
 - Vic's Pizza offers a Sunday Buffet Special or choose to order off the menu
 - Sunday Buffet includes pasta in red sauce, chili with meat and beans, a variety of homemade pizza and salads
 - The Sunday buffet is \$5.99 per person plus tax and gratuity - beverage is not included
 - Menu prices vary
- ❖ General Meeting 1:00 PM
 - 2011 Meeting Schedules (all meetings are held on Sunday)
 - Quarterly Summer Meeting, July 17th in McCook
 - Annual Fall Meeting, October 16th in Pontiac

(Meeting locations subject to change due to availability)

Route 66 Association of Illinois presents: the 2011 Motor Tour “LOVE, PEACE and the MOTHER ROAD - The Bob Waldmire Tour”



LICENSE PLATES AVAILABLE SOON!

- ❖ Street legal for 60 days, expiring the day after our 2011 Motor Tour, June 13, 2011
- ❖ A license and registration which is current thru the expiration date are required

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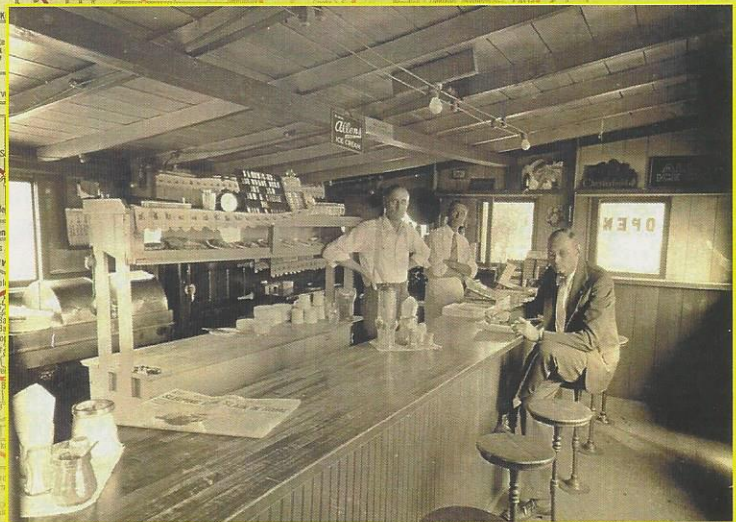
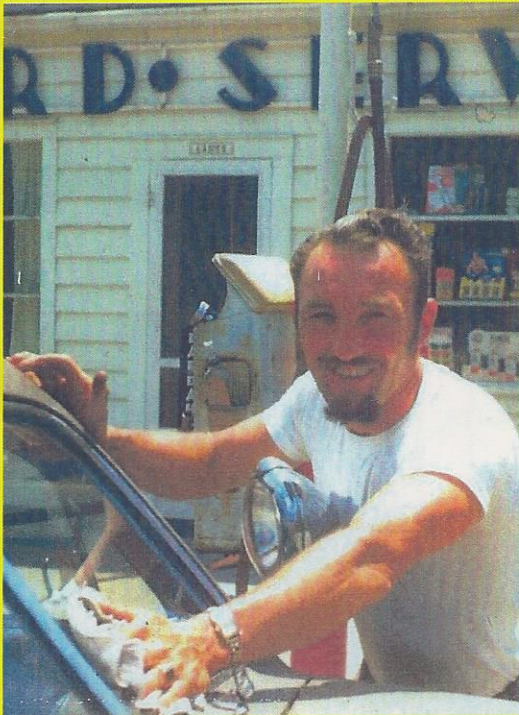
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Summer 2011
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Hall of Fame Recipient Boyd's Place which was in Odell.

Hall of Fame Recipient the late Leo Bornder who was a life-long resident of Lexington.



ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS

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

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THE 66 NEWS

Summer
2011

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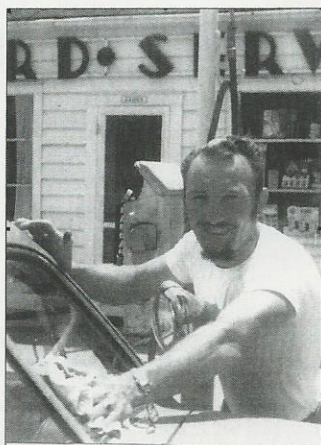
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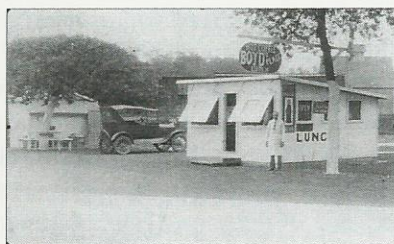
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Hall of Fame Inductee
Leo Bornder - Page 4



Hall of Fame Inductee
Boyd's Place - Page 5



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It's definitely Spring – its rain, rain, dark and gloomy followed by a day of blue skies and sunshine and that amazing feeling of hope that returns when the grass starts to green. Tulips and daffodils appear, and it's a new day. Spring brings out the best in us.

Spring is the time of Preservation work days (maintenance) – and a great turnout was had for work days in Godley (there were several of them), and at Odell Station. Spring is tourism time, and time for our museum to shine! The last 2 weeks of April we had 567 visitors that signed into our museum guestbook – representing over 14 states and 18 countries. There was a film crew from Spain and Billy Connolly, a Scottish actor and comic, filmed a new documentary on Route 66 spending time in Pontiac touring our museum, Bob Waldmire's bus, and painting on the mural that will debut for everyone to paint on during the Red Carpet Corridor.

Our Motor Tour is fast approaching – come join us as we go down the road this year from north to south. Stories are told time after time that our beloved Bob Waldmire didn't drive much over 45 MPH so when you saw his van on the horizon, you may not see him for quite a while as he was a "Go Slow" kind of guy. We have a special license plate for this year's tour featuring Bob and you can check our website for which numbers are still available. You do not have to go on the tour to purchase these license plates. You do, however, have to have a car registered in Illinois with current plates! Buz Waldmire is handling plate sales his email is buzwaldmire@gmail.com.

Our Hall of Fame committee, under the direction of John Miller with great assistance by Kathy Miller, did an amazing job with our Hall of Fame nominees. We had many submissions, most of them new, and the response to our asking for nominations indicates that people are still very aware of the many people whose hard work and sacrifice gave Route 66 its character in Illinois. We look forward to honoring our new Hall of Fame members at the Hall of Fame dinner Saturday, June 11th in Lincoln.

Every spring I wonder why I can't get 17 more hours of accomplishment in each 24 hour day. This time of year the obvious need for volunteer help –whether writing a story for the newsletter or the Association website or volunteering a few hours at the Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac – these activities are all vital to our Association's existence. It's time to give a few hours to the Mother Road – so come spend a Saturday greeting visitors at our museum, or write that article about your own personal memories along 66. Share a little of your "spring" with us.

Visit Rich Henry and "Big Red" at the Ra66it Ranch, stop by Horse Feathers in Elkhart to browse, wander the aisles at Koch's Depot in Lexington looking for that one item missing from your collection. Be safe, stay healthy, and I look forward to seeing you on the road!

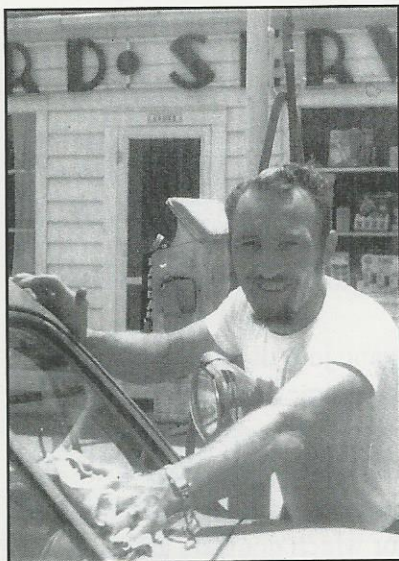
Cathie Stevanovich is the President of the Route 66 Association of Illinois

Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame
Inducted on June 12, 2011

Leo Bornder

Nomination submitted by Leon Bornder

Leo Bornder a lifelong resident of Lexington, IL had a life changing opportunity come his way in 1948. He was operating a small Standard Oil station on Main Street in Lexington. It had one set of pumps and a couple of service bays. Two local business partners, Austman and Finks, offered Leo the lease on a Standard Station on two-lane Route 66. It was located at the southwest corner of Main and Route 66. There is a Freedom Station currently located there.



Leo Bornder with his goatee

The station offered multiple pump islands, a large service bay, large enough to handle trucks and a large attic area for

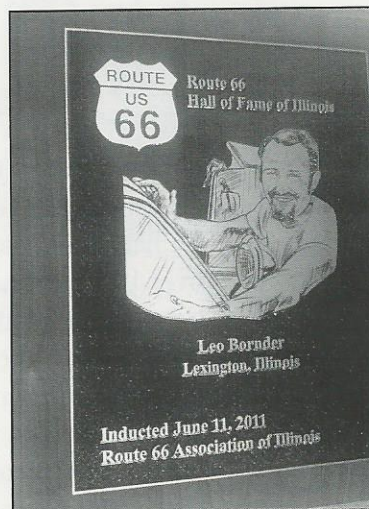
lots of tire storage. There was also an attached restaurant leased by another family.

Leo found operating this full service station on a major highway quite different from having a station on the main street in town. Also the additional shop work, from the route 66 travelers kept him quite busy.

The construction on the four-lane Route 66 began about the same time and Leo was able to keep the station open, 66 was completed in 1955. This was also the same year as Lexington's 100th birthday celebration, July 10th - July 17th, 1955. All men had to grow a beard at this time or pay a \$50 fine. Leo participated by growing his "required" beard and buying a \$100 Model T to drive for the festivities. He shaved his beard to a goatee after the festivities but his wife did not approve.

During the early morning on Thanksgiving Day 1960 the station was destroyed by fire. The station and the restaurant were rebuilt in the spring but Leo operated the station that winter with a temporary office and restrooms in the front of the existing pumps. It was amazing to watch customers attempt to enter the remains of the old building to look for the restrooms.

With the new station in place, Leo was able to resume his full service double island business. He also provided complete oil, filters and grease service. Residents could simply call for a service job. We would pick up the vehicle at their home, service and return their vehicle and send them a bill by mail. Any daily customer charges were simply written on the credit sheet on the desk in the office.



Hall of Fame plaque presented to the Bornder family at the 2011 Hall of Fame banquet

Leo enjoyed going to the car, spotting the sheet, point North and announce "East Bay - One block up and turn left to Lake Bloomington". He mused that his arthritic index finger came from pointing the way to the camp. The other common question was "how much further to I-80?" They had already driven South 80 miles past I-80.

As an employer, Leo was quite popular. If you were a young man in Lexington you either worked for Leo Bornder or owed him money, usually both.

During the winter Leo provided keys to the station for the city, township, county and state snow plow drivers to rest, get coffee and gas during the night. Full service meant air powered 'bell hose' across the driveway. If Leo happened to roll up the hose at closing, one of the plows might clear the driveway. Times have changed.

Time moved on, 32.9 for regular gas moved on, as did Route 66. Interstate 55 opened on a Saturday in 1977. I was carrying mail in Lexington that day. Leo Bornder was my Father. As I carried the west side of town on the 'original' two-lane Route 66, I looked across the, "four-lane" to see my father's truck as the only vehicle at the station, no cars on route 66. I got goose bumps. How was Dad going to make it? He soon found regular local customers driving by to get self-serve in Bloomington. He solved this by going 'self serve'. But then he let steady customers know they could get full serve at self serve price at the inside set of pumps. This along with oil change and tire service allowed Leo to stay in business until 1989. 1948 to 1989 - Forty-one years on Route 66, 2 lanes to 4 lanes, full service to self service and the change in fuel prices. Just think of all this and the many people whose lives he crossed in those 41 years on Route 66.

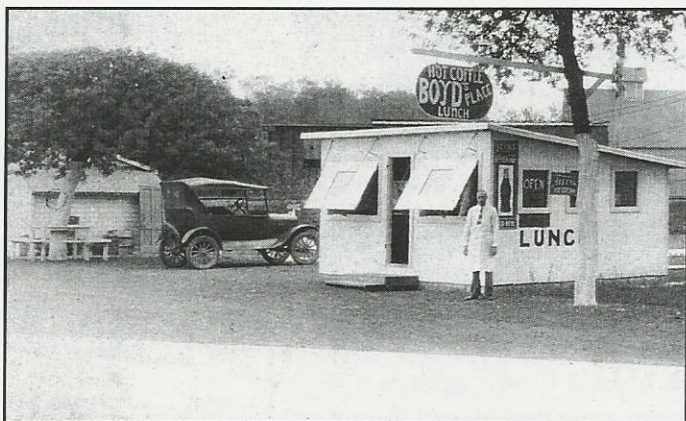
Small town life proved itself at Leo's station. Older 'loafers' would sit on old school bus seats in front of the 'lube' bay on warm summer days to 'people' watch. Two of the most famous customers that I can remember coming into the station were Ernie Banks and the Route 66 TV show crew.

Summertime also brought the Chicago area East Bay Camp attendees asking for directions. They would pull to a gas pump (full service) with the direction sheet on the front

**Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame
Inducted on June 12, 2011**

Boyd's Place
Nomination submitted by Joseph Schmitz

Boyd's Place was nestled along Route 66 in Odell Illinois from 1925 until the late 1930's. Open seven days a week, it was a cozy, family-owned and operated lunch stand known for its hot sandwiches and fresh, homemade fruit pies.



Boyd's Place outside



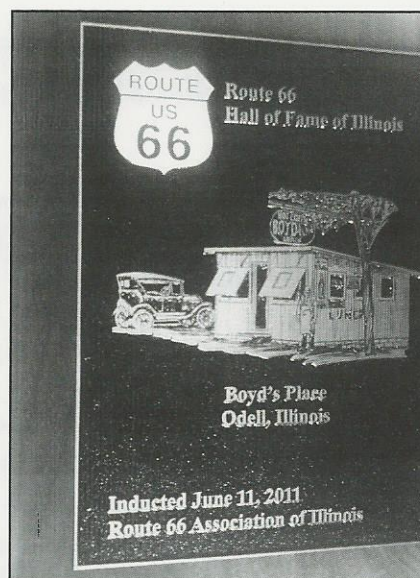
Inside the sandwich shop.

Not only did Boyd operate a busy lunch stand, he was a Good Samaritan, too. He saved John Stonecipher, who owned a gas station across the highway from Boyd's Place, from being robbed one night in the late '30s. Boyd was serving two men some sandwiches and overheard them discussing a plan to hold up John's gas station after they finished eating. Boyd snuck out the back door, quickly explained the situation to John and told him to close up early. Of course, John followed Boyd's advice and avoided the robbery.

In 1905, Boyd Seth Fairchild moved to Odell with his wife, Catherine Trecker Fairchild and their two children, Eugene and La Rue. They purchased a home at the corner of Route 4 and Wolf Street, where they remained until 1948. Boyd was a plasterer and painter by trade, but by the mid-1920's, he found it difficult to provide for his family, which had grown to include seven children.

In 1925, Boyd and his brother, Roy, decided to take their meager savings and build a small lunch stand, called "Boyd's Place." They offered a simple lunch menu- hot beef sandwiches, barbeque sandwiches (which were especially popular among the locals), ham and cheese sandwiches, hot dogs, fresh fruit pies, milk and coffee. The hot sandwiches were made daily by Catherine and her four daughters. They also baked the fresh pies at home and topped them with Allen's Ice Cream, which was made nearby in Pontiac, Illinois. There was ample room at the small lunch stand- 10 seats at the counter, plus picnic style seating outside.

When U.S. Route 4 became U.S. Route 66 in 1926, Boyd's Place was a convenient and popular lunch stop for buses traveling between Chicago and St. Louis, even those not originally scheduled to stop there. The lunch stand brought comfort to its patrons with its cozy ambience and homemade food, all prepared in the kitchen of the Fairchild home. Boyd's Place provided a comfortable location for Route 66 travelers and locals and a living for the Fairchild family through The Great Depression and into the late 1930's.



Hall of Fame plaque presented to the Boyd family at the 2011 Hall of Fame Banquet.

Complete List of Hall of Fame Recipients

June 12, 2010

817 Hillsboro, Edwardsville & the Deck Brothers, Gerard
Lewis (Zoo) Barrick, Lincoln & Snuffy's Grill, McCook

June 13, 2009

Crossroads Diner, Mt. Olive & the Mill, Lincoln
Sprague's Super Service, Normal & Stateville Prison, Crest Hill

June 7, 2008

Brook's Catsup Bottle Collinsville
Frank T. Sheets, Illinois Chief Engineer from 1920-1932
&
Leroy and Pauline Curtiss, Pontiac

June 9, 2007

Brown's Wrecker Service, Bloomington & Joy Henderson, Pontiac
Roger "Sodie" and Shirley Soderstrom, Bloomington & the Curve Inn, Springfield

June 10, 2006

Berghoff Restaurant, Chicago & Leland Storm, Hamel
Scotty's Restaurant, Hamel & Willie Anderson Trucking, Lexington

June 11, 2005

Aggelopoulous Family, Wilmington & Ambler Becker Families Texaco, Dwight
Atlanta Public Library, Atlanta & Chenoa Pharmacy, Chenoa

June 5, 2004

Gray Family, Braceville & Luna Café, Mitchell
Rita Erikson, Odell & Streetcar Diner, Gardner

June 7, 2003

Andy Granatelli, Montecito & Fassero Family, Benld
Union Miners Cemetery, Mount Olive & Wishing Well Motel, LaGrange

June 8, 2002

Gordon Gunderson, Gardner & John and Lenore Weiss, Wilmington
Lou Mitchell's Restaurant, Chicago & Polk-a-Dot Drive In Restaurant, Braidwood
Schlechte Family Service Station/Worden Y Club Restaurant, Worden
Shea Family, Springfield

June 9, 2001

Coliseum Ballroom, Benld & DeCamp Junction Tavern, Staunton
Standard Oil Gasoline Station, Odell & Watt Brothers Pharmacy, Springfield

June 10, 2000

Augusta "Gussie" Keller, Pontiac & District 6 Illinois State Police Headquarters, Pontiac
Joe Edwards, Lincoln & The Launching Pad Drive-In, Wilmington

and Ambassador Award Winners

June 12, 1999

Casey's Garden Shop, Bloomington & FitzHenry Oil Company, Joliet
Rialto Square Theater, Joliet & Robert D. (Bob) Johnson and Brandtville Restaurant, Bloomington

June 13, 1998

Arline and Elmo Winterland and the Oasis Drive-In, Lexington & Sky View Drive-In, Litchfield
The Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, Mitchell & White Fence Farm and the Hastert Family, Romeoville

June 7, 1997

Albert Cassens Family and the Cassens Transport Co., Edwardsville
Dick Jones Garage - J. Richard Jones, Odell
Hay Brothers Garage - Ralph M. Hay and Frank Hay, Divernon
Rev. Dean "Shug" Benton, Bloomington

June 8, 1996

Eddie's Pure Truck Stop/Eddie's Union 76 Truck Stop, Towanda & Irvin Brothers, Inc., Bloomington
The Old Log Cabin Restaurant, Pontiac & Wilton C. Rinkel, Edwardsville

June 10, 1995

State Farm Insurance, Bloomington & Art's Restaurant, Farmersville
H. Burt Parkinson, Gardner & the Benedict Family, McLean

June 11, 1994

Hubert Henry, St. Louis & Rodino Square and the Carmen Rodino Family, Pontiac
The Riviera Roadhouse and Restaurant, Gardner

June 12, 1993

Bill Shea, Springfield & Chester D. Henry, Pontiac
Effie Marx, Dwight & Ervin Kolarik, Willowbrook

June 13, 1992

Ariston Cafe and the Adams Family, Litchfield & Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket, Willowbrook
John Stonecipher, Odell & Steve and Glaida Funk, Funk's Grove

June 8, 1991

The Cozy Dog Drive-In - Ed Waldmire Family, Springfield & M.F. "Cotton" McNabney, Bloomington
Mertha Paulsen Jensen, Dwight

June 9, 1990

Pig Hip Restaurant - Ernie Edwards, Broadwell & Frances Marten, Raymond
Francis Mowery, Pontiac & John Geske and J.P. Walters, McLean
Russel Soulsby, Mt. Olive

Tom Teague Ambassador Award Recipients

June 11, 2005 - Tom Teague, Springfield & June 10, 2006 - Durelle and Marilyn Pritchard, Pontiac
June 13, 2009 - John and Lenore Weiss, Wilmington & June 12, 2010 - Bob Waldmire, Rochester

Preservation Reminisces

By Dorothy McMullen

Recently I've found myself reminiscing about the people I've met and the friends I've made while a member of the IL Rt. 66 Association. Starting with Major Duke Cartwright, who first got me interested in the association



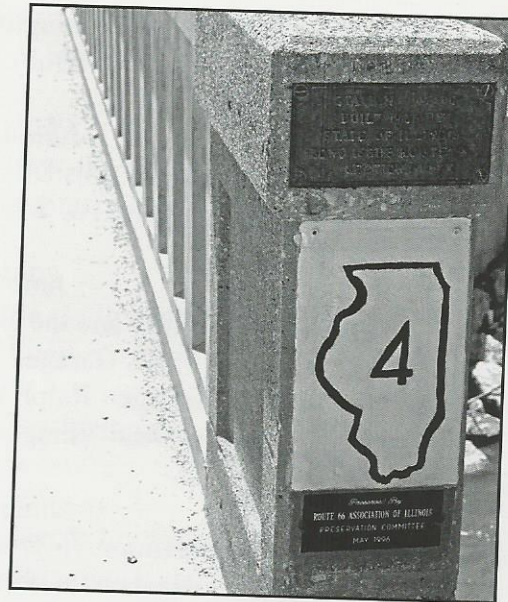
The Odell Station as it stood originally



The station after preservation

and signed me up as a member, to Frank and Roxanne Lozich, a few years later, who recognized in me a kindred spirit with need for something more than a car club to keep me interested in 66. From that conversation, Frank wrote an article for the newsletter asking for all those who were interested to attend a meeting with the purpose of forming a preservation committee. Everyone knew things were disappearing along the "Mother Road". If we didn't save them, who would?

At that first meeting held at the Riviera in 1995, twenty like minded people came together and formed the IL Rt. 66 Association Preservation Committee. What a night! Frank Lozich was appointed our first chairman and together we spent months learning what we could and couldn't



The first preservation project, the Route 4 bridge in Pontiac

do. None of us had a clue how to proceed, but we stuck with it and soon learned. Every negative experience was seen as a learning opportunity and we persevered. Our members were focused on our mission.

After a period of time Frank decided to run for president

of the association and knew he would have to devote all his energies to that position. He decided to step down as preservation chairman and appoint a new chairman. He sought my opinion and I didn't hesitate. I was very aware of a couple of people who were always a positive influence and showed that they were able to get the job done. I named John Weiss and I knew that he and Lenore were a dynamite team. The rest is preservation history.

John led and we followed. Project after project was taken on and successfully completed. Only those who ever worked at Odell could know the total satisfaction we all feel today when we have our spring cleaning/family reunion at the Odell station. There are many more projects and we are proud of all of them: the Rt. 4 sign and bridge in Pontiac; the Merrimac Caverns barn sign in Cayuga, and the one in Hamel; the successful relocation and restoration of the Bunyan Giant from Berwyn to Atlanta; the "subway" in Odell; the Mill in Lincoln; and on and on.

It's easy to join our Preservation group, just let John Weiss know that you want to be part of this wonderful committee at 815-458-6616. It's easier to donate. Just send your donation to The IL Rt. 66 Assoc. earmarked for preservation. Today we strive to help maintain all of these projects and to find new Rt. 66 icons to save. The latest is the restoration of an old building in Godley to create an Rt.66 mining museum. Saving our history for the future is one of the better things this association has ever done and is still doing. I'm proud to number these dedicated volunteers as my friends. Our ranks are many and loyal and we still persevere.

**Preservation is the link that joins the past
to the present for the future!**

WHAT IS PRESERVATION?

By John Weiss

Preservation takes many forms. The size, scope and historical significance is virtually unlimited. Essentially, preservation is the link that joins the past to the present for the future. Preservation should always emit a sense of time and place.

Preservation projects can be a source of pride for a community. They can also be the source of tourism dollars. But mostly, it is a way to provide future generations a glimpse of daily life from the not so distant past. Written words can bring awareness of this time. However, when a structure or place is combined with the words, the people's imaginations will come alive. For a brief moment folks can be transported back to a place they had only heard about. Preservation puts you there. To stand, see, feel and be where others were before you.

All of us in the Illinois Route 66 Preservation Committee are very proud of our accomplishments. Do we succeed in every attempt? NO! The most important part is that we try. Creative thinking combined with a "can do" attitude will succeed more often than fail. Our committee can list at least 30 projects we have been directly or indirectly associated with.

It is extremely important for everyone to realize that **'WHAT WE ARE ENJOYING TODAY IS THE HISTORY OF YESTERDAY. WHAT WE DO TODAY, WILL BECOME THE HISTORY OF TOMORROW.'**

Join and support the Preservation Committee. You will be glad you did!



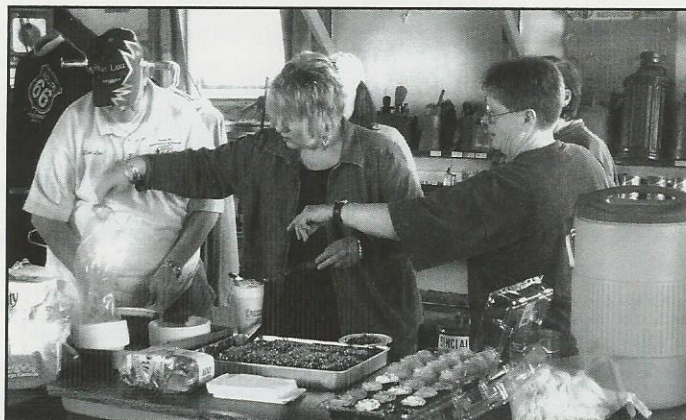
Volunteers working to clean up at the Odell Station is a traditional passage to spring.



The grounds are also part of the clean up for spring.



There is more to clean in Odell than the station, Dorothy McMullen works on the pedestrian subway in Odell.



Remember we work for food!!

Checker Car Club of America National Convention

Thursday, June 16th through Saturday, June 18, 2011

The Checker Car Club of America was organized in April of 1982 for the preservation, enjoyment and information on Checker automobiles manufactured from 1922-1982 (year production ceased). In 2000 the club was incorporated under the name Checker Car Club of America, Inc.

The club will hold the 2011 National Convention in Springfield. The convention is a three day event starting on Thursday, June 16 and ending on Saturday, June 18.

There will be two opportunities for public viewing of the Checker Cabs on Saturday. They will be on display from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Springfield Travelodge located at 3751 South Sixth Street (Sixth St & I-55). You can also enjoy the cars from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Rock and Roll Hardees. Hardees address is 2501 Adlai Stevenson Dr.

Visit the car clubs website at <http://www.checkertaxistand.com/> Want more information? Phone: (217) 494-2986



A checker cab at the Hall of Fame Coliseum

A new Mining Museum in Godley, Illinois

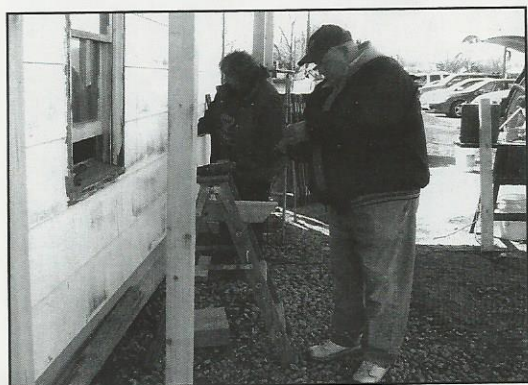
by John Weiss

As Chairman of the Preservation Committee, I made a promise and commitment to the Village Board and Mayor of Godley, Illinois. At this meeting were three Route 66 Board members. They were Dorothy McMullen, Ike Widner and Larry Libersher.

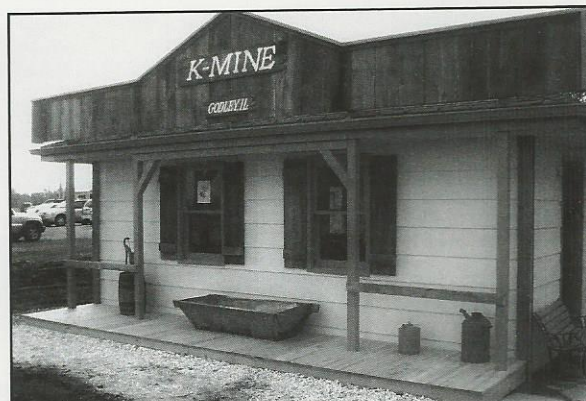
The plan was to help convert the original Godley Village Hall building that had been vacant for 12 years, into a useable structure. This building would then be utilized as the Illinois Route 66 Mining Museum. I arranged for two major work days, March 26th and April 2nd. My offer was to give the exterior a complete facelift and give it an 1890's appearance. We replaced rotted exterior siding and painted the entire structure. We designed a new front and added a porch. We also restored a storage building that was next to the building. Inside we gutted the lower half of the building in order to repair and replace rotted wall timbers. We cleaned out the entire structure, removed trim, repaired doors, framed in an office, replaced plasterboard, and did electrical work and lots more.

Remember our motto is, "We work for food". Local residents and the Route 66 Association provided a feast on the March 26th work day. Lunch was provided on the other four work days by Mr. John Ruh.

The entire cost for this was a little over \$1,000.00. The funds came from, the Route 66 Association (\$500.00), Mr. John Ruh (\$400.00) and Terri Ryburn (\$100.00). Others such as Tom Perkins have donated not only time but many valuable materials. I would estimate that the value of the work preformed, if hired out, would be between six and seven thousand dollars.



Volunteers working to help start the new Mining Museum



New Mining Museum in progress in Godley

This facility has a lot more work to do before it is a full fledged Mining Museum. The operation of this project will be run in Godley by a group they call the GR3C (Godley Red Carpet Corridor Committee).

We have completed all that was promised and lots more. However we need to stand ready to support and assist them in their fund raising endeavors and continued remodeling efforts. Like so many preservation projects on Route 66 it will take time and money.

At this time a total of 28 people have provide their time and talents to this worthwhile project. They are; Catherine Costello, Dorothy McMullen, Tami Branum, Monica Mack, Jackson Branum, Jamie Anderson, Jordan & Cathy Goodman, Jeff Geisler, Tom Perkins, John & Kathy Miller, Lou Vargo, Michelle Waldoch, Victor Zezelic, Emmy Bates, Loretta & Bob Killackey, Dee DeGroh, Nick Unger, Jenny Uhling, Bob Tovey, Randy Wierzgac, Marty Blitstein, R.A. Willis, Dan Butler, Steve Perkins, John Weiss.

Come to Godley and see for yourself how things are progressing. While in the area be sure to visit the K Mine Park. Enjoy the grounds, the statues, the farm animals and the dog park. You will be glad that you did.

For more information contact, John Weiss, Preservation Chairman at 815-458-6616.

British Comedian Billy Connolly In a New Route 66 Documentary

by John Weiss

Billy Connolly is a popular stand-up comic and is considered one of England's leading entertainers. On April 19th, Mr. Connolly and a large production crew embarked on a seven week tour of Route 66. The plan is



Billy Connolly prepares to leave from Chicago

to produce four one hour television specials. After the program airs on T.V. in England, it will become available for sale on DVD to the public.

This production should be unique. Mr. Connolly, for the most part, intends to do impromptu skits and adlib at locations that appeal to him. There will be very little scripted material.

It all began in early March. I was

retained to lead an advance group through Illinois to show what we had to offer on Route 66. We spent a couple of days on the road scouting out sights that might appeal to Mr. Connolly.

The production crew arrived in Chicago on April 18th. On April 19th Mr. Connolly arrived. Even though this was a heavy rain week, they were able to accomplish most of the shots and sights that were planned. They did some from a helicopter, from a tour boat, the Willis Tower and a whole lot more.

I was again retained to guide the production out of Chicago and down Route 66. We met at Hotel 71 to get ready for this adventure. Billy Connolly will be traveling on a custom made three wheel motor-cycle. The camera crew will be in front of him and filming his ride. He was wired for sound so he could give some commentary and talk to the production crew. My job was simply to guide the convoy so they did not get lost.

After an upscale Easter lunch at the hotel we hit the road. My assistant was Dorothy McMullen. Her job was to pass on my information on up-coming sights to the crew by way of a short wave radio. We left at 2:30 PM on a cool but dry day.

I do not have any idea of what verbal commentary was used by Mr. Connolly as we drove out of the Chicagoland area. I was instructed not to exceed 45 miles an hour at any time. Billy Connolly did not direct us to stop for filming until we arrived in Wilmington at the Gemini Giant. 45 minutes were spent at this site. Being Easter they were closed. Moving on, Billy again directed us to stop at the Polk A Dot Drive In which is in Braidwood. Another 30 minutes was spent at this location. We did not stop at Godley but he planned to tell a unique story I told him about as we drove by. We cruised all the towns on our way to Pontiac for the overnight stop. With typical Pontiac hospitality, Ellie Alexander greeted everyone and took all out to dinner. It was a long day.

The next morning the crew went into Pontiac. I later drove Mr. Connolly and a staff assistant to the Route 66 Museum site. Several hours were spent as they walked the streets of Pontiac looking at all its attractions. The Diaz family was working on the Bob Waldmire mural. Buzz Waldmire was there too. Mr. Connolly and Mr. Waldmire both left their hand prints on the mural. The public will be invited to do the same during the Red Carpet Corridor event on May 7th and 8th.

Around noon the group had to leave and get back on the road. The next scheduled stop was Atlanta with an overnight stop in Springfield. Of course Cozy Dogs and Abe Lincoln were on the agenda. The final scheduled attraction in Illinois was a drive over the Chain of Rocks Bridge into Missouri.

I look forward to hearing what impromptu commentary Billy Connolly will have used on his Illinois segment. After I view a copy of the documentary that I have coming, I will give a final report in the Fall or Winter addition of the 66 News.

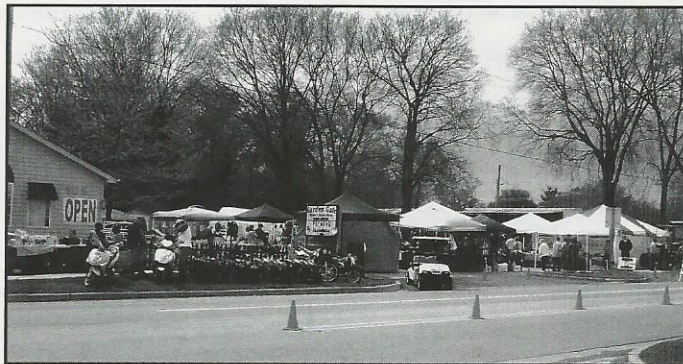
Enjoy and Explore the Red Carpet Corridor

By John Weiss

The concept of the Red Carpet Corridor is simple. Here is how it works.

In 2005, Lenore and I realized that many of the towns in our area, at that time, did not possess a big enough attraction to draw in vacationers. The stand alone mentality had to be adjusted. We also noticed that each community did have something unique to offer as an attraction but not significant enough to cause people to make it a vacation destination.

For example, we realized that people around the world were probably

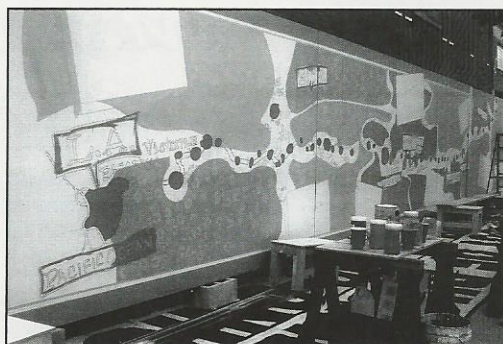


Red Carpet Corridor celebrated in Braidwood

not sitting at their kitchen table planning a vacation to Odell, Wilmington or etc. These towns may be a stop but not a destination. Another problem is that many of these small towns had very limited funds for advertising. Also most did not have a tourism director. The solution was to clump a batch of towns together that would then become a destination. Funding and promotion could be combined resulting in much more bang for the buck. The concept was to break down Route 66 in Illinois into several individual group destinations.

In 2006 after two meetings sponsored by the city of Dwight at the Country Mansion, the Red Carpet Corridor was born. Most towns in our chosen section sent a representative. Only two directors have been at the helm. The first was Betty Estes. She had to step aside do to health reasons. She was replaced by Ellie Alexander. Both of these dynamos are from Pontiac. The rest is history.

In the beginning we agreed that it would take time to promote this area and concept. We gave it ten years. Now, after only four years and five festival events we can see that this is a very successful program.



A mural designed by the late Route 66 artist Bob Waldmire was painted during the Red Carpet Corridor in Pontiac

Don't be mistaken, the RCC is being promoted as a year round destination, not just a week end event. Now many people from around the world make plans to visit and spend time in the Illinois Red Carpet Corridor. This means tourism dollars for the communities and our businesses.

The week end event held on the first full weekend in May provides the opportunity for increased awareness and promotion. This 5th year of the festival was the best yet. The enthusiasm is strong and the leadership is superb. The future looks very promising.

For more information go to the website www.il66redcarpetcorridor.org or call 800-835-2055.

SUMMER  ISSUE 11

PLANNING ON MOVING?

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE OF
THE ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS MAGAZINE
THE 66 NEWS!

Send your change of address to:
The Route 66 Association of Illinois
Hall of Fame & Museum
Attn: Marty Blitstein
110 West Howard
Pontiac, IL 61764

Or you can reach Marty....
Phone: 708-444-1312
Fax: 708-444-1315
Email: blitz66@earthlink.net

Please note: The 66 News is not returned to the association if your address isn't current!

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS NEW MEMBERS FEBRUARY 25, 2011 THROUGH MARCH 22, 2011

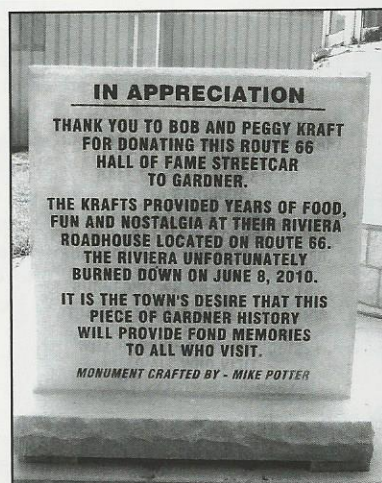
Elenore E. & John F. Mack, Deborah Bates, Joe Sonderman, BS Bar & Grill on Rt. 66 - Rene & Robert Bohan, Kurt's Auto Body, Inc., Lincoln Truck & Auto, Big Fella's Eatery, Inc. - Melvin Mack, Quinn's Shell Station - Elmo C.J. Quinn, Grosso's Garage, Inc., Chucks Harley Davidson, Inc. - Winifred Lee Feken, Clay Doley Tire & Auto, Michaela Hanusova & Radan Bem, Jon Sall, Afton Station & Route 66 Packards - Laurel Kane, and Ricky Kluge

Gardner Streetcar

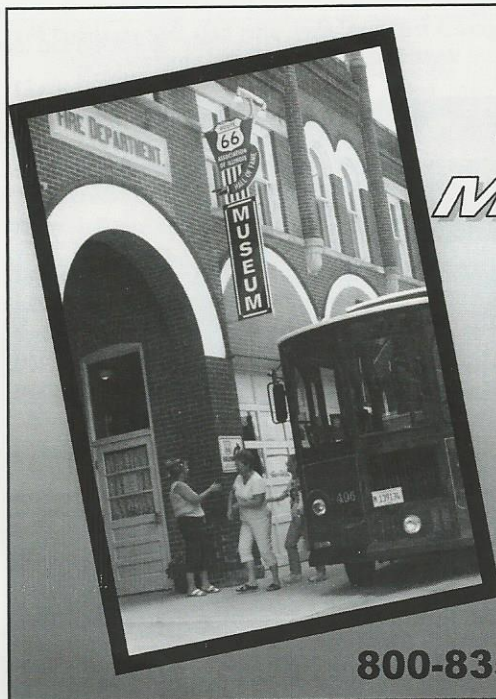
Work has begun on the Streetcar, which is a member of the Route 66 Association Hall of Fame, at its new location. The streetcar was previously own by Bob & Peggy Kraft and was located at the Riviera Roadhouse, also a Hall of Fame member.

Fire destroyed the Riviera and the streetcar is now located on the grounds of the two cell jail in Gardner, Illinois. With the generosity of the Kraft's the streetcar is now owned by the Village of Gardner and will be restored and maintained by the Village.

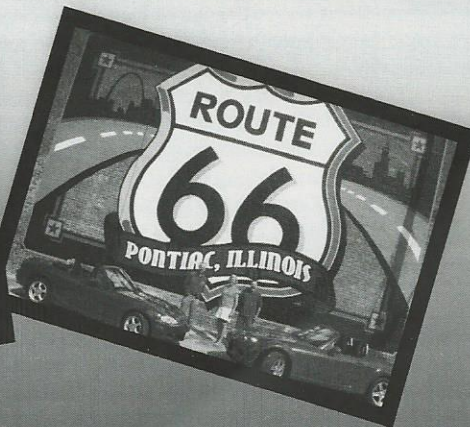
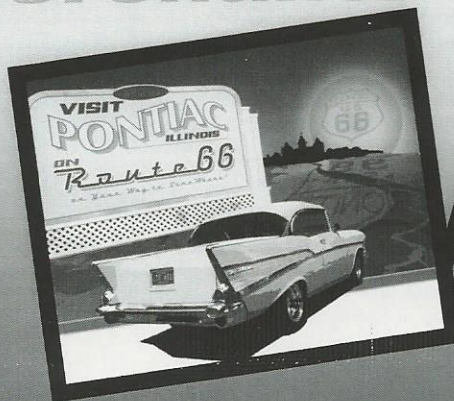
The Preservation Committee has offered their assistance if the folks in Gardner need it.



The monument
thanking the
Kraft's for
their donation
of the Street
Car Diner to
Gardner



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



800-835-2055 • www.visitpontiac.org

Route 66 Association of Illinois Business Members

Please support our business members!

VFN Fiberglass	330 W. Factory Road	Addison	IL	60101	Du Page	630-543-0232
Gunnar Mast Trading Post	Box 66	Atlanta	IL	61723	Logan	217-735-3177
Atlanta Public Library	100 Race St.	Atlanta	IL	61723	Logan	217-648-2112
Coliseum Ballroom Antique Mall	520 S. Hardroad Rt. 4	Benld	IL	62009	Macoupin	217-835-7788
Berwyn Development Corp.	3322 S. Oak Park Ave., 2nd Floor	Berwyn	IL	60402	Cook	708-788-8100
Berwyn Route 66 Museum	7003 Ogden	Berwyn	IL	60402	Cook	708-484-9349
Bloomington Public Library	205 E. Olive St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	Mc Lean	309-557-8912
Brown's Wrecker Service	302 Brown St.	Bloomington	IL	61704	Mc Lean	309-828-3753
Casey's Garden Shop	1505 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	Mc Lean	309-828-7529
Casey's Garden Shop, Inc.	1505 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	Mc Lean	309-828-1424
Chuck's Harley-Davidson, Inc.	2027 Ireland Grove Road	Bloomington	IL	61704	Mc Lean	309-662-1648
Clay Dooley Tire & Auto	307 E. Grove St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	Mc Lean	309-828-5037
Grosso's Garage, Inc.	1301 S. Morris Ave.	Bloomington	IL	61701	Mc Lean	309-828-3615
Kurt's Auto Body, Inc.	2025 Ireland Grove Road	Bloomington	IL	61704	Mc Lean	309-662-5823
Lincoln Truck & Auto	1800 W. Oakland Ave.	Bloomington	IL	61701	Mc Lean	309-828-9812
McLean County Museum of History	200 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	Mc Lean	309-827-0428
Quinn's Shell Station	802 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	Mc Lean	309-827-9188
State Farm Insurance	2702 Ireland Grove Road	Bloomington	IL	61709	Mc Lean	309-622-6588
Village of Bolingbrook	375 W. Briarcliff Road	Bolingbrook	IL	60440	Will	630-226-8412
Village of Godley	150 S. Kankakee St., P.O. Box 89	Braceville	IL	60407	Grundy	815-458-2222
Polk-A-Dot Drive In	222 N. Front St.	Braidwood	IL	60408	Will	815-458-3377
Jett	2012 Florence Place	Cahokia	IL	62206	St. Clair	618-567-6895
Midwest Digital Mapping	P.O. Box 105	Cantrall	IL	62625	Sangamon	217-494-4057
Carlin Villa Motel	18891 Route 4 South	Carlinville	IL	62626	Macoupin	217-854-3201
Magnuson Grand Hotel & Conference Center	1-55 & IL Route 108., P.O. Box 377	Carlinville	IL	62626	Montgomery	217-324-2100
Chenoa Pharmacy	209 Green St.	Chenoa	IL	61726	McLean	309-747-3002
City of Chenoa	P.O. Box 167	Chenoa	IL	61726	McLean	815-945-7619
Matthew T. Scott House Foundation	227 N. First Ave.	Chenoa	IL	61726	McLean	815-945-4555
Berghoff Restaurant	17 West Adams St.	Chicago	IL	60603	Cook	312-427-3170
Chicago Historic Route 66 Classic Car Show	1909 S. Avers Ave.	Chicago	IL	60623	Cook	773-592-4718
Lou Mitchell's Restaurant	565 W. Jackson Blvd.	Chicago	IL	60661	Cook	312-939-3111
First National Bank of Dwight	122 W. Main St., P.O. Box 10	Dwight	IL	60420	Livingston	815-584-1212
Old Route 66 Family Restaurant	105 S. Old Route 66	Dwight	IL	60420	Livingston	815-584-2920
Village of Dwight	209 S. Prairie Ave.	Dwight	IL	60420	Livingston	815-584-3077
Cassens Transport Co.	145 N. Kansas St.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	Madison	618-656-3006
Comfort Inn	3080 S. SR 157	Edwardsville	IL	62025	Madison	618-656-4900
Edwardsville Preservation Comm.	118 Hillsboro Ave.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	Madison	618-307-5110
Springer's Creek Winery	817 Hillsboro Ave	Edwardsville	IL	62025	Madison	618-307-5110
Mr. B's Bar & Grill on Rt. 66	23956 Hwy. 53 S.	Elwood	IL	60421	Will	815-727-7070
Big Fella's Eatery, Inc.	116 Depot St., P.O. Box 385	Gardner	IL	60424	Grundy	815-237-8335
Village Of Gardner	302 N. Center St., P.O. Box 545	Gardner	IL	60424	Grundy	815-237-8335
Dock's Soda Fountain	133 S. Second St.	Girard	IL	62640	Macoupin	217-627-3491
Historic Route 66 Flea Market	3117 W. Chain of Rocks Road	Granite City	IL	62240	Madison	618-797-7900
Route 66 Auto Body	P.O. Box 385	Hamel	IL	62046	Madison	618-633-2339
Route 66 Ridez	230 N. Old Route 66	Hamel	IL	62046	Madison	618-633-2166
Rt. 66 Beauty & Tanning	11 Old U.S. Rt. 66., P.O. Box 306	Hamel	IL	62046	Madison	618-633-2484
Village of Hamel	111 S. Old Route 66., P.O. Box 345	Hamel	IL	62046	Madison	618-633-2228
Weezy's Route 66	108 S. Hwy 157	Hamel	IL	62046	Madison	618-633-2228
City of Joliet Tourism	150 W. Jefferson St.	Joliet	IL	60432	Will	815-724-9045
Gji's Sweet Shoppe	81 N. Chicago St.	Joliet	IL	60432	Will	815-727-1500
Joliet Area Historical Museum	204 N. Ottawa St.	Joliet	IL	60432	Will	815-723-5201
Rialto Theater	15 E. Van Buren St.	Joliet	IL	60432	Will	815-723-5201
Abraham Lincoln Tourism	1555 - 5th St.	Lincoln	IL	62656	Logan	217-732-8687
Lincoln Printers, Inc.	711 Broadway St.	Lincoln	IL	62656	Logan	217-732-3121
Ariston Caf'e	413 N. Old Route 66., P.O. Box 453	Litchfield	IL	62056	Montgomery	217-324-2023
City of Litchfield	120 East Ryder	Litchfield	IL	62056	Montgomery	217-324-8147
Hampton Inn of Litchfield	11 Thunderbird Circle	Litchfield	IL	62056	Montgomery	217-324-4441
Jubelt's Bakery & Restaurant	303 N. Old Route 66	Litchfield	IL	62056	Macoupin	217-324-5314
Pink Elephant Antique Mall Corp.	908 Vetrans Memorial Drive	Livingston	IL	62058	Madison	618-637-2366
Snuffy's Grill	8408 Joliet Road	McCook	IL	60525	Cook	618-637-2366
Dixie Travel Plaza	501 S. Main St., P.O. Box 260	McLean	IL	61754	McLean	309-874-2323
Luna Café	201 E. Chain of Rocks Road	Mitchell	IL	62040	Madison	618-931-3152
City of Morris	320 Waupousee St.	Morris	IL	60450	Grundy	815-942-0103
The Crossroads Diner	995 Lakeview Drive	Mount Olive	IL	62069	Macoupin	217-999-4261
City of Mt. Olive	200 E. Main St.	Mt. Olive	IL	62069	Macoupin	217-999-4261
Bob Green Auto Service	1847 New Salam Church Road	New Berlin	IL	62670	Sangamon	217-546-5846
Route 66 World	P.O. Box 413	Northbrook	IL	60065	Cook	847-757-2246

Pour Richards Tap & Dining
 Rentz's Tap & Dining
 Standard Station of Odell
 Bernardi's II, Inc.
 City of Pontiac
 Livingston County Historical Society
 Lydia's Loft
 McSherry Agency
 Old Log Cabin Inn
 Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce
 Pontiac Family Kitchen
 Three Roses Bed & Breakfast
 White Fence Farm
 Funk's Grove Pure Maple Sirup
 Amoco Fence Co.
 Branham's Paint & Body
 Burris & Son Trucking
 C & A Custom Kitchens
 Champion Garage, Inc.
 Cozy Dog Drive In
 Crowne Plaza
 Curve Inn, Inc.
 Holiday Inn Express
 Illini Bank
 Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway
 Illinois State Library/ Serials Section
 Lindsey Electric, Inc.
 Maverick Steak House
 Mid Illinois Caliper
 Midwest Truckers Association
 Moscardelli Moving & Storage
 Oldhan Graphic Supply
 Shea's Finest Truck Covers
 Springfield Overhead Doors, Inc.
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 Afton Station & Route 66 Packards
 Claremore Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Miami Ok Convention & Visitors Bureau


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 210 Waupanise
 314 E. George St., P.O. Box 175
 123 N. Mill St.
 115 W. Howard
 115 W. Howard St.
 107 1/2 W. Madison St.
 209 W. Madison St
 18700 N. Aurora
 210 N. Plum St., P.O. Box 534
 904 Custer Ave.
 209 E. Howard
 1376 Joliet Road
 5257 Old Route 66
 2919 S. MacArthur Blvd.
 4125 N. Peoria Road
 2831 S. Whittier Ave.
 3500 E. Clear Lake Ave.
 820 Black Ave.
 2935 S. Sixth St.
 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway
 3219 S. 6th St. Road
 3050 S. Dirksen Parkway
 2120 Peoria Road
 700 E. Adams St.
 300 S. 2nd St.
 3260 Terminal Ave.
 1104 W. Reynolds
 2803 N. Dirksen
 2727 N. Dirksen Pkwy
 709 N. Lincoln
 2056 Republic
 2075 Peoria Road
 421 N. Lincoln
 4000 N. Peoria Road
 2025 Peoria Road
 304 W. Main St.
 2149 E. Frontage Road
 8767 State Route 4 South
 1107 Historic Old Route 66
 P.O. Box 139
 645 Joliet Road
 706 W. Baltimore St.
 30643 S. Route 53
 810 E. Baltimore St.
 501 E. Baltimore St.
 508 N. Kankakee St.
 15700 W. Huntley Court
 P.O. Box 1848
 626 Westchester Lane
 1021 W. Mishawaka
 P.O.Box 766
 12 S.E. 1st. St.
 419 W. Will Rogers Blvd.
 101 N. Main St.

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Odell	IL	60460	Livingston	815-998-2383
Odell	IL	60460	Livingston	
Pontiac	IL	61764	Livingston	815-842-1198
Pontiac	IL	61764	Livingston	815-844-5847
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Pontiac	IL	61764	Livingston	815-844-5131
Pontiac	IL	61764	Livingston	815-844-3155
Pontiac	IL	61764	Livingston	815-844-3404
Romeoville	IL	60446	Will	630-739-1720
Shirley	IL	61772	McLean	307-874-3220
Springfield	IL	62704	Sangamon	217-787-2921
Springfield	IL	62702	Sangamon	217-528-9654
Springfield	IL	62704	Sangamon	217-528-7741
Springfield	IL	62702	Sangamon	217-523-0170
Springfield	IL	62702	Sangamon	217-522-4114
Springfield	IL	62703	Sangamon	217-525-1992
Springfield	IL	62703	Sangamon	217-529-7777
Springfield	IL	62703	Sangamon	217-529-5806
Springfield	IL	62703	Sangamon	217-529-7771
Springfield	IL	62702	Sangamon	217-544-0139
Springfield	IL	62701	Sangamon	217-525-9308
Springfield	IL	62701	Sangamon	217-785-4127
Springfield	IL	62707	Sangamon	217-544-6789
Springfield	IL	62702	Sangamon	217-732-7169
Springfield	IL	62702	Sangamon	
Springfield	IL	62702	Sangamon	217-525-0310
Springfield	IL	62702	Sangamon	217-787-4043
Springfield	IL	62702	Sangamon	217-528-4649
Springfield	IL	62702	Sangamon	217-522-0475
Springfield	IL	62702	Sangamon	217-787-2602
Springfields	IL	62702	Sangamon	217-528-0764
Springfoeld	IL	62702	Sangamon	217-522-2464
Staunton	IL	62088	Macoupin	618-635-2233
Staunton	IL	62088	Macoupin	618-635-7056
Staunton	IL	62088	Macoupin	618-637-2951
Staunton	IL	62088	Macoupin	618-635-5655
Williamsville	IL	62693	Sangamon	217-566-3328
Willowbrook	IL	60521	Du Page	630-325-0780
Wilmington	IL	60481	Will	815-476-9091
Wilmington	IL	60481	Will	815-476-7514
Wilmington	IL	60481	Will	815-476-6535
Wilmington	IL	60481	Will	815-476-1980
Wilmington	IL	60481	Will	815-476-0386
Surprise	AZ	85374		708-246-1543
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Newbury Park	CA	91320		805-375-1324
Mishawaka	IN	46545	St.Joe	574-255-0771
Lebanon	MO	65536		417-588-4466
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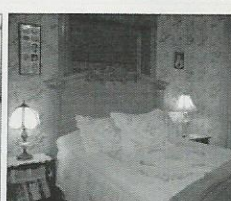
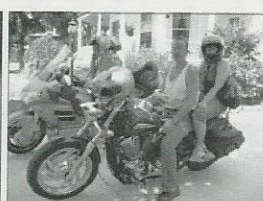
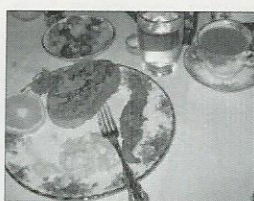
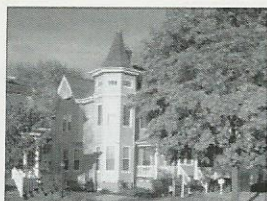
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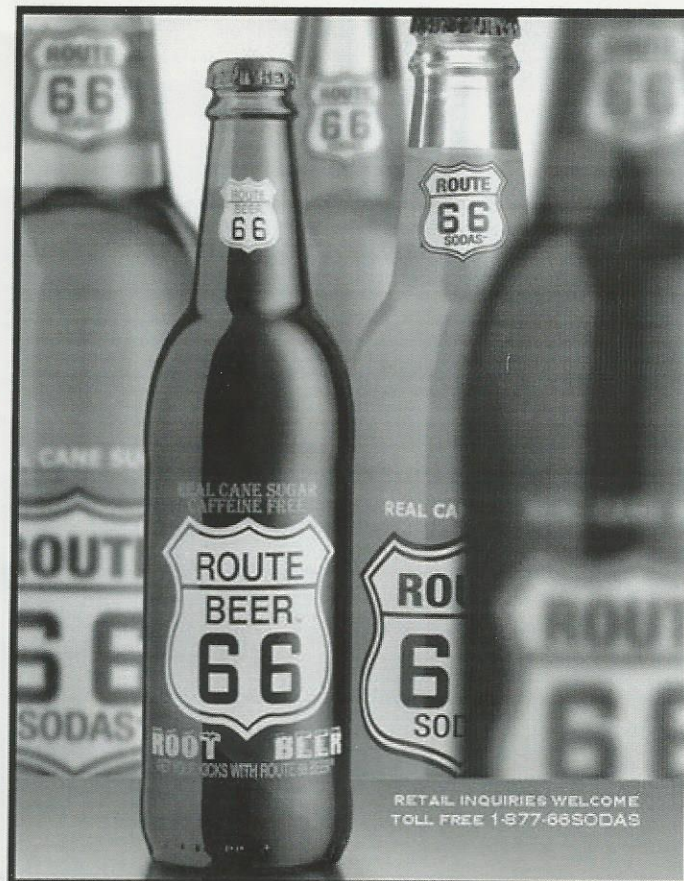


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From one of our guests:

"Our golf game was rained out but we certainly were not at a loss for activities. We spent a goodly amount of time at the Route 66 Museum. As the skies cleared, we took a long walk around the square, town park, library and courthouse. Our room was well equipped and quiet. Our skillet breakfast was stick-to-the ribs-all-day delicious. We highly recommend Three Roses to anyone staying a night or more in Pontiac."



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Route 66 Association of Illinois

Fall Annual Meeting - Sunday, October 16, 2011

Meeting Location: Route 66 Museum, 2nd Floor, Pontiac, IL
Board Meeting 10:00 am – Lunch Break Noon - On Your Own

General Meeting 1:00 pm


Annual Officers and Board Elections

Meeting dates to be set

Watch for meeting information on the website or facebook!



Plate displayed on the vehicle
of board member Dorothy McMullen




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Route 66 Association Picnic - Sunday, October 2nd
11:00 to 5:00 PM

Sugar Grove Nature Center - Picnic Shelter
4532 N 725 East Road, McLean, IL 61754
(Just off Route 66)

www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org

Join us for an Octoberfest Picnic!

The Association will supply the meat and drinks, please bring a dish to pass or your favorite dessert!
RSVP Email blitz66@earthlink.net if you and your family will be joining us!

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE 66 NEWS

110 West Howard Street
Pontiac, IL 61764

www.il66assoc.org

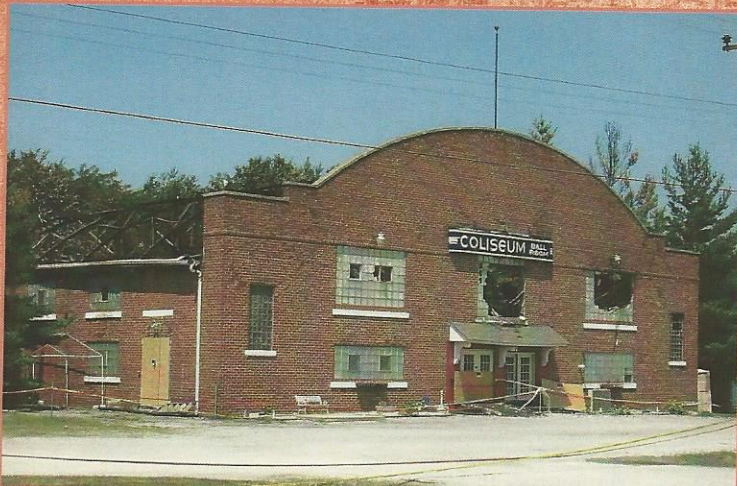
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Sadly another icon lost . . . The Coliseum Ballroom in Bensenville, IL, a Route 66 Association Hall of Fame member was destroyed by fire last July



As another icon celebrated . . . Last August, friends gathered to wish our "Old Coot" Ernie Edwards a very happy 94th birthday!



Joliet Historic Preservation Commission gave the original Dairy Queen site Landmark status last May as over 1,000 people attended to watch the celebration!



Families on '66!
Join Josh & Wendy Friedrich and their kids as they travel the Mother Road!



ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS!

THE ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

All Officers and Board Members are available to answer questions at most reasonable times.

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Rich Henry

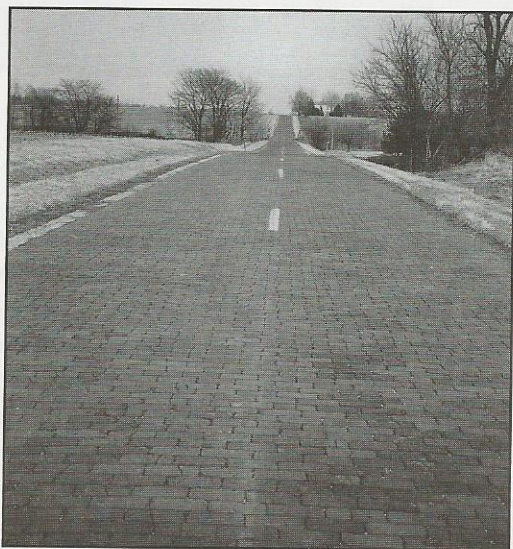
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Jeff Ladd

John Weiss

Ike Widner



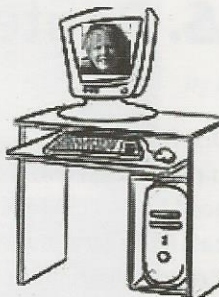
Auburn Brick Road – Page 5



All Aboard! – Page 7



Chain of Rocks Festival – Page 12



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It's been a fast year – we're settling in now for the coming fall and winter. The summer was rich with community festivals, the 2011 Motor Tour was fantastic, and Motor Tour Chairmen Jerry Law and John Miller provided us with a great weekend and a wonderful dinner in Lincoln to welcome our new Hall of Fame members. The tour weather was perfect and we had many new members join us for our 22nd annual cruise down 66.

In July we helped welcome another museum, the Pontiac-Oakland Museum, open in Pontiac. Despite the 100 degree (plus) weather, an amazing array of cars and people showed up from all over the country for this collector's paradise of machines and all things Pontiac automotive. The free museums "campus" in Pontiac includes our Museum, the Livingston County War Museum, the Wall Dog (Sign Painters) Museum, and now the Oakland-Pontiac Museum. Add to that the 20 outside wall murals and wow! Isn't it time you came home to visit?

This year the National Parks gave out financial grants to 10 projects. Illinois received 4 grants. Our joint project with Missouri, the Luna Café, received a grant for relighting its neon. The Sprague Super Service Center, the Ariston Café, and the Chicken Basket received funding for building repairs and structural work.

The lifeblood of the Association is its members and its members connect thru meetings, volunteering, Preservation projects, Facebook, the website, and its main vehicle, The Route 66 News. We are looking for a new newsletter editor, someone to coordinate our newsletter for the membership. This is a volunteer position. Life today is busy and "spare time" is at a premium, but if you'd like to help our Association and exercise some of your literary talent – please contact me at cathiesb@earthlink.net.

Current editors Kathy Miller and Jim Jones, after years of service, would like to step down but will be available for consultation. If you've ever thought about writing, or working on a publication, here's your chance!

As fall rolls in I'm looking forward to Preservation Workdays, the Thresherman's Reunion, and our annual picnic this year in the Sugar Grove Nature Preserve in McLean (Funks Grove), Pumpkin Chunkin' in Girard, and just cruising down 66 as the green turns to gold. Its broasted chicken at Maria's Route 66 Family Restaurant in Dwight, and Schnitzel sandwiches at Hallie's Lunch Box in Lincoln.

Route 66 was built on the dream of a better day. Take inspiration from all who have gone before us and the hard work and service they provided. We will survive this economy.

On the 2 lane I am always amazed at the deep green of the soy beans, the gold and green corn stalks rustling in the wind, and how gas is always 20 cents a gallon cheaper when I get an hour away from home.

Hoping you find something amazing on the Mother Road this fall –

Cathie Stevanovich
President, Route 66 Association of Illinois

Sites and Sounds on U.S. Route 66

by Brian L. Alexander

I have changed over the years, but my passion for U.S. Route 66 has not. I think I need to clarify that statement. Did you ever take something for granted and when it was gone, you really missed it. I did not have an infatuation with U.S. Route 66 when I was younger, it was just there. It was taken away, replaced by I-55 in Illinois and I truly believed it was gone. I am not sure, early on, what the Mother Road meant to me. To me America's Main Street; meant vacation, family, travel and adventure. Every time I went to Missouri we would encounter some kind of road construction. (Some things don't change!) Until recently I believed that I-55 had totally replaced U.S. Route 66.

Later on in life I would take my wife and sons; we would vacation in Missouri in the 1980's and 1990's just as my parents had, when we were kids. On the way back to our Illinois Residence, we would drive by the Bloomington to Gardner Corridor and I would point to my wife, Fran and my sons, how we went through each town back then when traveling Route 66, in my youth. I would point to the railroad right of way and talk about the passenger trains that flew by, in times past and their beloved diesel locomotive horn blaring. I would also explain life along the highway to my sons. As my sons became older I would see them rolling their eyes, when I looked in the rear view mirror.

I also remember Burma Shave Signs. Usually there were six dark red signs with white letters. The first five signs were a humorous prophesy or quote and the last sign had the Burma Shave Logo. There were barns painted as billboards along the highway also; such as Old Dutch Cleanser, Mail Pouch Tobacco, the Meramec and the Onondaga Caverns.

The big billboards back then were about 10 to 12 feet high and 30 to 40 feet wide. The bottoms of those billboards were usually about 5 feet or so higher than the Route 66 pavement. If they were illuminated, they usually had 3 incandescent bulbs with reflectors shining dimly on the billboard. At night in the summer there would be a great number of bugs circling each bulb. Later on the incandescent bulbs were replaced by flood lights. Those billboards were a far cry from the internally illuminated billboards that we have today.

Today we have generic interstate signs that replaced some of these billboards, letting the travelers know what kind of accommodations are available at the next exit. Lodging is usually the first sign/s stating what is offered, the second grouping, a list of existing restaurants and fuel stations offered is the last sign. Most of the restaurants back then were privately owned, but many of them have been eventually replaced by franchises, along the Interstate Highways.

The Illinois farm buildings along Route 66 seemed to be a little closer to the road. Houses and farms were even closer to the highway in the State of Missouri. As time went on the buildings were built farther away from the road, for more seclusion and safety. It seemed as though we went through more pig farms in our trips back then. You knew you were going through them when you smelled that unforgettable aroma. My dad's standard joke was, "Who did that?" That old joke received laughs every time, but only one per trip.

The tires on the semi-trucks sang very loud back then; much louder than the tires on the big rigs today. Just before the time that Route 66 was decommissioned the manufacturers of truck tires were trying to reduce noise levels. So tires don't sing as much today as they did back then. People that drove the road in the summer back then had, their windows down, so not only did they have to contend with the hot humid summer weather of Illinois and Missouri but they had to listen to the tires of other vehicles, not to mention the pig farm aroma. So the improvement in tires and automotive air conditioning have made travel more enjoyable for today's traveler..

I remember in the early '60s, it was late at night and we were buying some gasoline in St. Louis. The gas station was really illuminated for that era. It was like an island of light, in a sea of darkness. I was outside the car listening to my transistor radio and receiving WLS Radio all the way from Chicago. Dick Biondi was the Disk Jockey that night and his jokes were as corny then as they are today. Some things do not change, I still listen to him and the only thing that changed is we are both a lot older.

Coming home from Missouri, my father pointed out the smog over the City of Chicago as we approached it. You could see the haze. At that time the government had not passed the "Clean Air Act," most of the pollution came from factories and automobiles.

As you approached the city, on Ogden Avenue, you could see downtown through the haze, although the city was very majestic looking. There was no Sear's Tower back then. The tower came in the early 70's.

I was in Countryside this weekend, as I drove down Old US Route 66 approaching La Grange Road, we could see the Sear's Tower or as it has been renamed the "Willis Tower".

Not only has the road changed over the years and the cars and trucks that travel the highways have changed. The signs along the road have changed but even the air that we breathe has changed for the better.



Ike & Cathy Widner hosted a group of Route 66 enthusiasts on an excursion into the city by train

All Aboard!!

by Ike Widner

ALL ABOARD! Last spring on Saturday, May 28 in an association sponsored event 15 of us hopped a train to Chicago where we gathered for lunch at Berghoff's Restaurant. Berghoff's located on the famous Rt 66 certainly proved with their fine cuisine why they are a Hall of fame restaurant.

Here is a little bit of Berghoff's history, *THE EARLY YEARS (1887-1930)*

The restaurant's founder, Herman Joseph Berghoff, an immigrant to America in 1870 from Dortmund, Germany, began brewing Berghoff Beer in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1887. This was a family enterprise that Herman and his three brothers, Henry, Hubert and Gustav operated. Herman a promoter by nature known for his sparkling blue

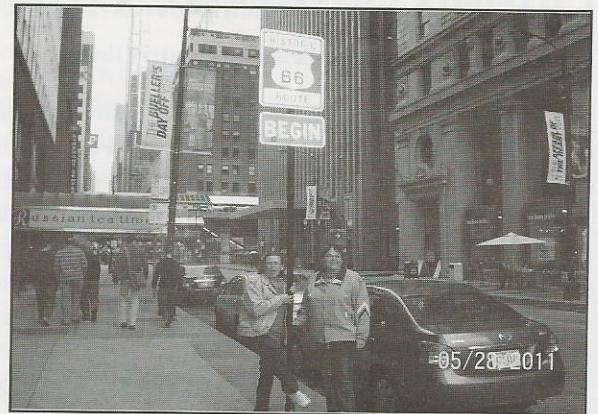
eyes and determination, He dreamed of expanding the market for his beer beyond Indiana.

The Chicago World's Fair of 1893 proved to be a perfect introduction when he sold the beer to fair-goers on the now-famous "Midway". Inspired by the wide public acclaim the beer received at the fair, Herman opened the Berghoff Cafe in 1898 to showcase his celebrated Dortmunder-style beer.

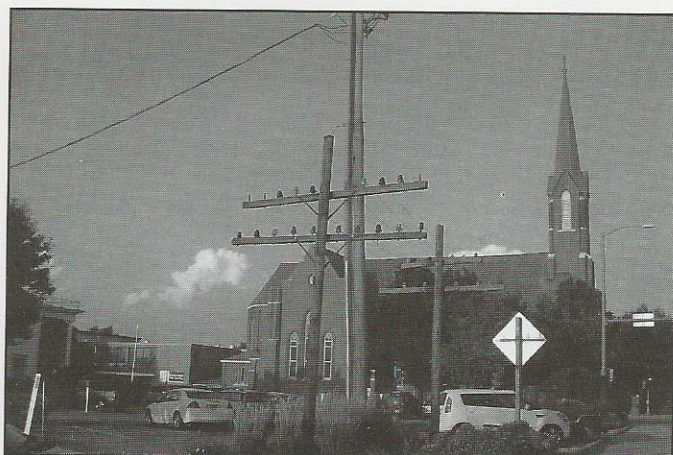
Originally located at the corner of State and Adams streets, one door down from its present location, the bar sold beer for a nickel and offered sandwiches for free. "We'll give the Dutchman six months," said Herman's critics. He proved them wrong, and the bar prospered even during Prohibition (1918-1933) when it served near beer and Berghoff Soda Pop. Unable to rely on beer sales alone, the bar expanded into a full-service restaurant, which earned its own strong reputation by Prohibition's end.

At Berghoff's we each had our favorite lunch from the mostly German menu. Afterward we all walked to Millennium Park stopping first to watch some of the Memorial Day Parade. Millennium Park is where the artistic wading fountain and the magnificent bean is located. The light drizzle we had been experiencing then turned into a full out rain storm. Wanting a dry place to visit at the suggestion of John Weiss, we all walked across the street to the Chicago Cultural Art Center.

Those attending the trip were Kathy & John Miller, Rose & Lou Vargo, Larry Libersher, Emmy Bates, Bob & Lori Killackey, John Weiss, John & Darlene Ruh, Dorothy Mc Mullen, Jamie Anderson and the host of the trip Ike & Kathie Widner. Ike said, "I want to thank all those who enjoyed the train ride and the view of the Chicago skyline."



Lori Killackey and Emmy Bates celebrate at the start of Route 66 in Chicago!



New Attraction in Pontiac

Directly across the street from the front of the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum is a little piece of nostalgia. Two original telegraph poles complete with wire and insulators have been permanently installed by the city of Pontiac. These items were saved by Marty Bilecki and John Weiss three years ago. They were originally used in Odell along the Railroad tracks.

Telegraph poles saved from Route 66 relocated in Pontiac, IL

The Flame Steakhouse

A bit of Route 66 History

by Jeffrey Johnson

The Flame Steakhouse on Rt. 66, the original, is now the only one remaining. The Flame has been the favorite dining spot of many a local and national politicians, sports stars and entertainers throughout the decades. Evel Knievel, Richard M. Daley, Nancy Lopez are a few celebrities who have visited and enjoyed great steak at "The Flame".

It's really a Chicago-style steakhouse of the old school variety. Not many places like this anymore and their history should be celebrated and publicized. It is still owned by the same family. Currently run by Nanci Makris- daughter of the original owner this was the first of four Flame restaurants that existed from the late 50's to late 80's throughout Chicagoland. The Flame that was located on the north side of Chicago was a favorite haunt of Frank Sinatra and The Flame in Palm Beach, FL. was favored by Bob Hope.

The Flame has been a fine dining destination for the Chicago area and those passing through on Route 66 journeys since 1958! The last existing Flame Steakhouse is located on Route 66 in Countryside at 803 Joliet Road. Call for reservations, 708-352-3442. The Flame is on facebook at www.facebook.com and on the web. You can view their website at www.theflame.com



The Flame Restaurant on '66 in Countryside, IL

Big Red Officially Becomes Queen Montana's Successor

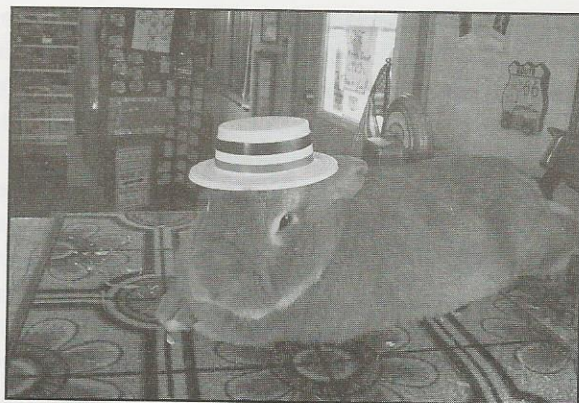
Submitted by Montana's Legacy at Henrys Ra66it Ranch

News from Henry Ra66it Ranch! Many of you knew and had met Montana over the seven years she reigned on her throne greeting people here at Henrys Ra66it Ranch in Staunton, Illinois. She was one of a kind!

Surprisingly her Successor "Big Red" is one of a kind too. On the other hand he is the total opposite of Montana. With her you never knew what she was going to do next, like a 2008 run for a Presidential campaign with the list going on and on like the Energizer Bunny. She was a rambunctious, controlling little greeter.

Big Red, well, if you ever been to Missouri Ozarks and saw the easy going, do it tomorrow, and lackadaisical attitude of the area, that is his personality. He enjoys lying on the counter and occasionally sitting up and yawning. Anyone can pet him without any threat of having your hand taken off.

Don't want to say much more, as you will have to hop in and personally meet him. He might even autograph a postcard for you, like Montana used to do.



Big Red the successor to Montana at Rich Henry's Rabbit Ranch

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Auburn Brick Road

by John Weiss

Most of you have traveled on this 1 1/2 mile section of historic highway. However many folks are confused as to the facts about why this road is historic.

Let's first explain that part of the story. In 1925 this piece of road was known as Route 4. In 1926 it became Route 66. At that time it was a 16 foot wide road constructed of Portland cement, not brick. In 1930 Route 66 was moved to the east along what is now the alignment of I-55.

Times were tough in the 1930s, so our government created a program known as the Works Progress Administration (WPA). At that time there was no public aid. If you wanted money you had to work for it, so many jobs were created to help out the suffering population. One of those projects in 1932 was widening this section of road with curbs and hand laid bricks on top of the original Portland cement. It is interesting to point out at that time this road did not really serve any practical purpose. It went past a couple of farm houses and it was no longer considered Route 66. There was a sharp curve that needed to be made gentler and two small bridges needed some repairs. The work was completed and a new curve section was created.

66 Years Later

On August 6, 1998 this section of road was placed onto the National Register of Historic Places. Not because of its past association to Route 66, but because of it being a unique example of a WPA project. The two bridges also were recognized and placed on the Historic Bridge survey. John & Lenore Weiss, Dorothy (Seratt) McMullen and Anne Haaker of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency were the successful applicants.

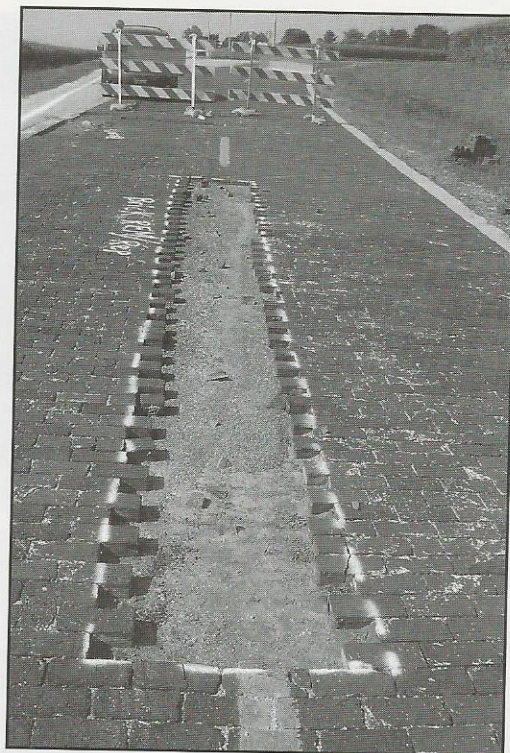
Before this occurred we had learned that IDOT was planning on creating a truck route that would bypass Springfield. Part of their plan was to remove one half of the brick road section and replace it with the truck routing. This is what motivated us to get involved. By the time IDOT got to this section we had already received the historical designation we had hoped to use to save the brick road. This entire process had many, many dramatic moments. Various meetings produced very thick files of proposals and reports. This all dragged on over several years. We had successfully stalled the road building project. However, we were not very popular with the local farmers. Their legitimate complaints were that the road was too rough and that their farm equipment would not fit through the narrow bridges.

Finally an agreement was reached. Anne Haaker led the way to formalize this agreement with IDOT. Our concern was for future protection and maintenance of the road. Some concessions had to be agreed on. Simplified, the agreement went like this: the two older deteriorating bridges could be removed as long as they were rebuilt to resemble the original structures. The main thing different was that they would be substantially wider. New bricks resembling the originals were obtained to pave the road over the bridges. It was also understood that the entire road would be maintained appropriately based on its historical status.

Here is an ironic twist to this story. In 1932 the bricks were laid directly on top of the original Portland cement road bed in order to create jobs. No one is sure of when the cement itself was originally poured. Now 80 plus years later our government is again using this alignment of road to create jobs.

Our historic piece of road was showing much wear after all these years. Many sections were sagging and as a result some bricks were coming loose. So the order was given to repair and preserve this piece of history. Because the road is on the National Register of Historic Places it had to be repaired and restored according to historic specifications. Once again our preservation friend Anne Haaker took over. All work orders will have to be okayed by her. We are certain that she will see that this is all completed correctly.

Where needed the bricks are being picked up and saved. Then fresh concrete is poured as a base to level the area. Then the bricks are being replaced where they were originally located.



Replacing the center bricks



You can see the depth of the repair of the brick road

Cont'd. on page 8

Auburn Brick Road Cont'd.

None of this would be occurring if not for the efforts of our Preservation Committee. The road would surely be gone by now. At the time we started all of this we were told we could not succeed. That just made us more determined. We feel that the only ones who are failures are those that never try!!!

Additional Notes

- A - The original concrete curve was placed on the National Register. However, apparently no one told the farmer. The concrete was interfering with his field work so he tore it out. Once it was gone it was too late to do anything about it.
- B - All the reports and extensive paper work concerning this project have been placed in the Associations archives library. They can be examined by appointment.
- C - To view more about this and other projects you can also visit the Preservation display area on the second floor of the Route 66 Museum in Pontiac. No appointment is necessary to view this display.

Become a member of and support the Route 66 Association Preservation Committee.



The Auburn Brick Road

Preservation Committee Helps Out

On Saturday, August 20, 17 members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois Preservation Committee came to Sprague's Super Service in Normal to help the owner with ongoing projects. Among other things they painted the two-bay garage, removed old air conditioners and a light stanchion, attached table tops to bases, and began framing the room that will be a coffee shop.



Volunteers left standing at the end of the day!

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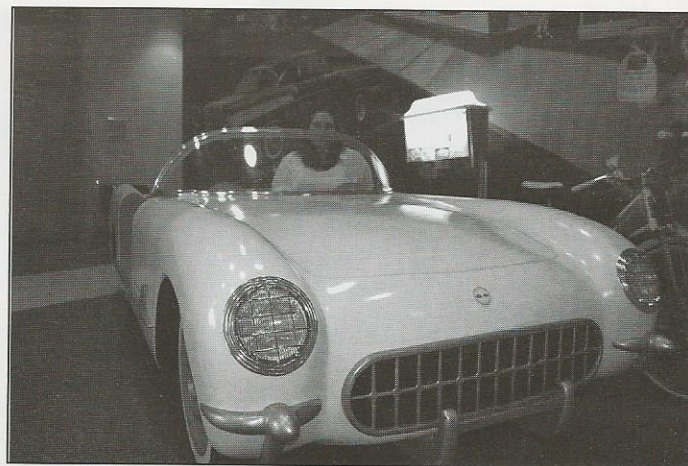
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Josh, Wendy, and Charlie Friedrich's Weekend on Route 66

by Josh Friedrich



Wendy takes a ride at Route 66 Museum Experience in Joliet, IL

My wife, Wendy and I started out our weekend excursion on Friday from Springfield. Our itinerary for the day included 15 scheduled stops at post offices along Route 66 between Towanda and Romeoville and three more if time allowed. The reason is I have a personal goal to acquire each of the remaining 66 communities postmark on an Illinois map. As we were meandering our way along the double six we stopped in Braidwood at the Polka Dot Drive In for lunch and then in Wilmington at The Launching Pad for dessert. I assisted three ladies from Louisiana by taking their picture in front of the Gemini Giant and told them to enjoy their trip as they headed towards Springfield. We even had the opportunity to drive a portion of the Lincoln Highway in Joliet and Plainfield. After getting the 15th postmark I decided it was time to check in at the hotel and get refreshed before our dinner at the White Fence Farm in Romeoville. We were greeted warmly by Marty Blitstein manning the motor tour's registration table. After checking in and purchasing a few t-shirts we headed inside to walk thru the restaurant's museum. There were a lot of vintage, antique, and interesting items in the display cases and enclosed rooms. Now it was time to eat, we enjoyed the house specialty a fried chicken dinner with relishes (sides) served family style. It was mouth watering and delicious. Our evening ended with good food, good conversation, and anticipation for the motor tour to begin in the morning.

We awoke, got ready, and cruised towards our first passport stop in Joliet. Along the way we cautiously pulled into the Stateville Prison to snap a picture and then went to the Rich & Creamy Ice Cream stand to walk to the overlook to see the Joliet Prison featured in several movies and television shows. Unfortunately, it was a bit overcast and all we could make out was the top of the prison, next time I'm going to get a much closer view. The passport stop was the Route 66 Experience Museum my favorite part was the original Lincoln Highway concrete directional marker and Wendy liked the space exploration exhibit. As we made our way to the next stop we liked seeing all the classic cars, hot rods, and route 66 themed & motor tour license plates sweeping down the mother road. We stopped in Gardner at the Two Cell Jail and newly placed Streetcar Diner to have our passport stamped by the town's Mayor. Next up was Dwight at the Ambler Texaco Station and then forward to Odell's Standard Oil Station. The next town south was Pontiac and the Hall of Fame Museum. We had lunch on the courthouse lawn within view of the recently completed mural of the entire route 66 and a portrait of Bob Waldmire. I was really looking forward to walking thru Bob's home on wheels a converted 1966 Chevrolet School Bus that included a loft, shower, and kitchen. I had only been inside it once before and that was on November 11, 2009 just weeks after Bob's last art show at the Cozy Dog and less than a month before he passed in December. I will never forget that afternoon on his family's property in Rochester and those memories flooded back when I walked up the stairs into the bus. After that we zipped over to Sprague's Super Service in Normal to see how preservation and renovation



The Lauterbach Giant in Springfield, IL

work was coming along and a passport stamp. Then it was onward to Funk's Grove Sirup Shop and a quick pause at the historic McLean Train Depot. Now it was time to hit the midpoint of Illinois Route 66, Atlanta and the next passport stop. This small town has a lot to see: murals, the Bunyon Giant, a smiley face water tower, octagonal library & clock tower, J. Hawes Grain Elevator, a historic museum, and the Palms Grill. We had an afternoon dessert of cherry pie a la mode at the Palms, which was delicious. Our final stop of the day was in Lincoln for the Hall of Fame Banquet and Award dinner at Lincoln College. There was plenty of room, good conversation, and generous portions of good food. Unfortunately, we did not win anything from the various raffles and drawings. After that we

Cont'd. on page 10

Josh, Wendy, and Charlie Friedrich's Weekend on Route 66 Cont'd.

headed home for the night.

Last day of the tour and we backtracked to Sherman to pickup our son, Charlie from my parents. He had decided to not attend the tour Friday and Saturday so that he could go to soccer on Saturday, which is located on Route 66 in Springfield at Goals, formally Skateland North. First up was the Illinois State Police Museum in Springfield, we had never been there and were quite impressed with the displays. There were a few squad cars from various years, a motorcycle, weapons, badges, uniforms. We went over to the State Fairgrounds entrance, too bad that the rides were not running. Now it was time for lunch at Vic's Pizza, their chili was great. Wendy wasn't feeling well, so we took her home. She decided not to continue the tour and insisted upon Charlie and me finishing the next few stops. Onward we pressed to the Old State Capital, they were breaking down a Civil War camp reenactment on the grounds. Once inside we joined another tour in progress on the first floor. It was hard for Charlie to pay attention and stay still and to be honest I was a bit bored myself so we made our exit. We then followed the 2nd street alignment of 66 past the current State Capital building, paused for a picture of the Sunrise Café's neon sign, and then a photo op at the Lauterbach Man on Wabash Avenue. We continued to the next passport stop at Virden on the square. Our next photo stop was at Buffalo Bills Ranger's Ranch outside of Carlinville. There is a sign and 3 or 4 wooly Buffalo in a pen. At the second to last passport stop we toured a Sears Roebuck & Company home where there was a tiny room upstairs that Charlie could just fit thru the doorway. Also, a gentleman on the tour gave Charlie a Lightning McQueen toothbrush. We jumped back in the car and headed to the final passport stop of the day in Litchfield at the Ariston Café. We got our book stamped and left to return home. While walking out to the car I noticed some initials in the concrete, they were from the Adams's in 1977 the final year that route 66 was in commission in Illinois. Well another motor tour is over and I can't wait until next years! Now it is time to sort the hundreds of photo's, mementos, and memories.



Josh cruises at the Polka Dot in Braidwood, IL

One! Two! Three strikes we're out to the old ball game!!!

by Bob & Lori Killackey

It was a beautiful day for a ballgame and a group of Route 66 friends took advantage of the sunshine to cheer on the Joliet Slammers.

Sunday, August 14th was Military Appreciation Day at the Park and the Slammers won! The Route 66 friends were lucky enough to celebrate the win and to salute the



Route 66 friends cheer on the Joliet Slammers on a glorious summer day

armed forces. Everyone at the park thanked the veterans and troops for their wonderful service to our great country, the United States of America. We all had a great time!

One of our own, Veteran Lou Vargo got to put on a helmet and flash back to a time when he too served our country.

They all had great fun watching the game and cheering on the Slammers. After the game the Slammers invited all the kids at the game go on the field and meet the players.

If you want to spend the day at a ball game, for a great time, go and see a game at the Slammers Ballpark in Joliet Illinois.



Hosts and organizers Lori & Bob Killackey pose with mascots

Gardner

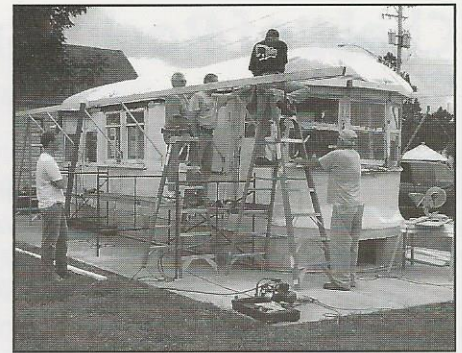
Work is progressing on the Hall of Fame Streetcar Diner. It has been placed on an impressive new foundation. A completely new surround awning had to be built. This difficult job was added by using photographs of the original construction. A new entrance porch has also been built.

At this writing we are waiting for the new rubber roofing material to arrive so it can be installed. The plans are to re-paint it inside and out. Other repairs to the windows and floor still need to be performed.

There is something magical about this little structure. It goes beyond its impressive historical history. As the old saying goes, "if these walls could talk". Many artifacts of the streetcar are on display at the Route 66 museum in Pontiac. As you walk in the front door look to your left to see the original Hat Rack. Next to it are original old photos. Of course there are also a number of pieces in the display case honoring this Hall of Fame attraction.

A number of people have contributed time, talent and funds to this reconstruction project. Funding has been supplied by the Village of Gardner and Mr. John Ruh. The main workers are Tom Perkins and his sons and other relatives. They are Steve Perkins, Tim Perkins, Thomas Perkins and Nick Unger. Additional assistance has been provided by, Theresa Docks, Monica Mack, Dorothy McMullen and John Weiss.

Do you want to be part of the elite team known as the Preservation Committee? If so contact John Weiss at 815-458-6616. No special talent is required. All you need is a desire to save pieces of American history on Route 66.



Restoration on the Hall of Fame Member - Streetcar Diner



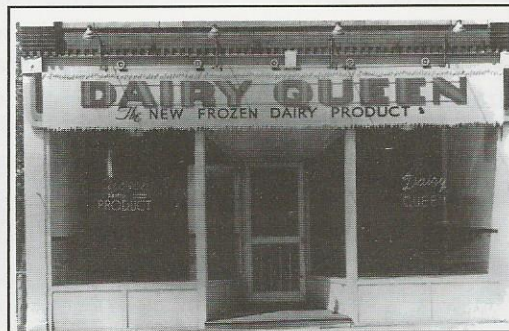
Visible is the stone thanking Peggy & Bob Kraft for the donation of the Historic Street Car

Dairy Queen

by John Weiss

The first Dairy Queen was located on Route 66 at 501 N. Chicago St., Joliet, Illinois. It opened on June 22, 1940. This building, built in the 1890's still stands and is currently being used as a store front church. No one is sure, but it is believed that Dairy Queen moved out of this location sometime in the 1950s.

On May 20th this site received the recognition it so justly deserves. Mr. John Gainor, president and CEO along with other officials from the Dairy Queen corporate offices came to Joliet for this celebration. Approximately 140 people were in attendance at a ceremony in the Route 66 Visitor Center at the Joliet Historical Museum. Then everyone walked to the location to finalize the event.



Dairy Queen as it looked on June 22, 1940



Ceremony honoring the original location of Dairy Queen giving it "Landmark" status

The Joliet Historic Preservation Commission has given this site Landmark status. Two plaques will be installed at this location. One on the building and one imbedded into the sidewalk.

What made this dairy product so special in 1940 was the fact that it was a soft serve product. It was the first of its kind. Today Dairy Queen has over 5,900 stores. The founder, Sherb Noble gave Dairy Queen its name because he felt that this treat was the queen of dairy products.

Happy Birthday you Old Coot!

The Route 66 Association of Illinois family wishes Ernie Edwards and very happy 94th year! Ernie celebrated his 94th birthday with a party on Friday, August 5th at St. Clara's Manor in Lincoln, IL

Ernie was surrounded by family and friends who gathered to celebrate with him and wish him the happiest birthday ever!

We salute you Ernie! We are so happy you are one of our own, there is nobody else like you on the mother road!



Fran Edwards and friends wish Ernie a Happy 94th Birthday

Chain of Rocks Bridge Route 66 Festival, St. Louis

by Josh Friedrich

On June 8th I loaded everyone into the van and we set our course to St. Louis. We were heading there for the Route 66 Festival held on the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge. It was a miserably hot day, but we were determined to enjoy it. This trip would be our 6 month old daughter Elizabeth's first big 66 journey.

We started out on the Peoria Road/Route 4 alignment on the north side of Springfield. I decided to take an unplanned stop at the Sugar Creek Bridge since we had never been there before. It is a neat, wooden covered bridge that is only accessible for foot traffic now. The cicadas were buzzing around as we walked to the bridge and then over the creek. I couldn't help but envision a horse drawn buggy crossing it a hundred years ago along the prairie.

Our next destination was the red, brick section outside of Auburn and Becky's Barn. When we got there Rick invited us to look around. Becky was out delivering a purchase. It was really hot and we didn't stay long in the barn and headed over to the air conditioned building with the diner setup to chat.

After Carlinville I commented to Wendy, my wife, at how loud the cicadas were considering we could hear them over the radio, kids, and with the windows rolled up. She had thought that the sound we were hearing was our air conditioning, so I turned off the music and rolled down the window. Needless to say they seemed much louder at that point.

Next it was onwards to Staunton and Henry's Rabbit Ranch, one of our son Charlie's favorite places. We were warmly welcomed by Rich, as usual. I took a look at Bob Waldmire's 1967 Volkswagen Hatchback and was pleased to see the 2011 Illinois Motor Tour license plate number 67 on the car. Charlie headed over to the giant rabbit to get his required picture. Rich took our picture on the giant rabbit so that all of us would be on it, he is such a great guy. We followed Rich inside to see the bunnies keeping cool in the air conditioned shop. It was way too hot for them to be outside in their pens. We signed the guest book and purchased a plush, bunny named Spot for Elizabeth. She was instantly drawn to his pink nose and soft ears. We talked with Rich for a bit and then hopped back on the road. Time had gotten away from us and we high tailed it to the festival with no stops between.

We arrived at the Illinois entrance at 3:30 just in time to miss all the cars parading off the bridge on the Missouri side. The kids rode in their stroller with a blanket on top to help shade them and we armed ourselves with bottles of water to tackle the mile long bridge. I pointed out to Charlie the water intake buildings in the Mississippi River and the bend in the bridge. When we made it to the MO side we immediately saw authors Joe Sonderman and Cheryl Eichar Jett manning their table in the welcoming shade. Wendy and Elizabeth sat down to rest while Charlie and I wandered around the various booths and decided to purchase the official festival t-shirt. I said hello to Natalie Welborn at the MO 66 Association table. We circled back around and talked to

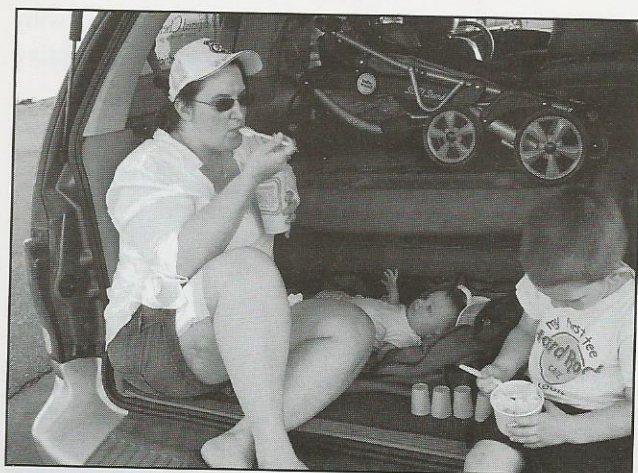
Cheryl and Joe about how things were going. I picked up Joe's newest postcard book about Route 66 that was in full color and getting rave reviews.

Charlie asked to go over for a closer look at the great band playing onstage to take a picture. He decided they were too loud and we should go back to listen with his mom and sister. After that it was time to make the long trek back to the car and our final destination, Ted Drewes Frozen Custard. We took 66 the whole way there and boy were they busy. There was even a police officer directing traffic. Wendy got the kids setup in the back of the van and I went to get our order filled. The concretes really hit the spot. Elizabeth even got a taste of some vanilla custard. I surprised her with a yellow, short sleeved onesie with the Ted Drewes logo on the front.

Now with a full day behind us on the road it was time to head home. We had a great time on our road trip and we couldn't wait until the next week's Illinois Motor Tour. "Thanks for joining us on our trip!"



Family fun at Rich Henry's
Rabbit Ranch



In St. Louis, you're never too young for a
Ted Drewes' concrete

Comedian Billy Connolly Update

As a follow-up to the article in the summer newsletter about British comedian Billy Connolly we felt we needed to report that he had an accident while riding a motorcycle on Route 66.

The 68-year-old Billy laughed off the incident when his trike skidded and rolled on top of the star. The comedian escaped with two broken ribs but those who



Billy Connolly on his trike when he was in Illinois

witnessed the event said it was serious accident.

It was said that there is a button on the vehicle to boost its power, and that Billy thought his glove might have accidentally triggered it.

As a result of the accident Billy only lost two days off while he recovered for the scheduled taping for the show "Billy Connolly's Route 66" which will be aired on ITV in England later this year.

James H. Allen

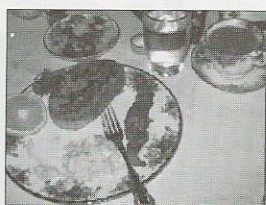
March 16, 1943 – June 19, 2011

The Route 66 Association of Illinois is saddened at the passing of Jim Allen former owner of Hall of Fame member Scotties in Hamel, Illinois. Jim was 68 when he passed away on Sunday, June 19, 2011, at Missouri Baptist Medical Center in Saint Louis, MO.

Jim is survived by his wife Pat who resides in Hamel and his children, sons Eric, Christopher, Scott, Shawn, daughters Ann and Carrie, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

He was a VFW Life Member; and a member of the Worden American Legion; Air Stream Club. Jim and Pat owned and operated the former Scotty's Tavern, now known as Weezy's in Hamel until their retirement.

The Route 66 Association of Illinois offers Pat and Jim's family our deepest sympathy and support.



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From one of our guests:

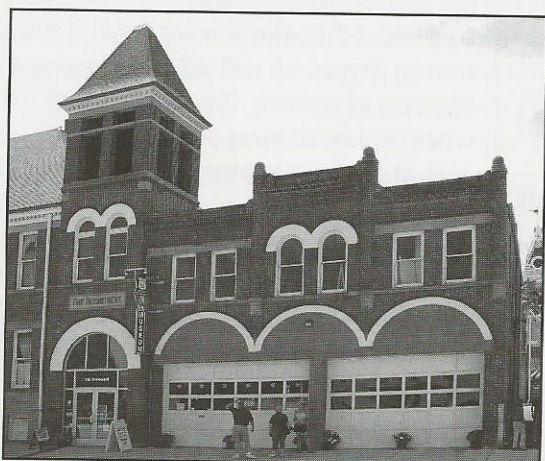
"Our golf game was rained out but we certainly were not at a loss for activities. We spent a goodly amount of time at the Route 66 Museum. As the skies cleared, we took a long walk around the square, town park, library and courthouse. Our room was well equipped and quiet. Our skillet breakfast was stick-to-the ribs-all-day delicious. We highly recommend Three Roses to anyone staying a night or more in Pontiac."



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The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac



The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac, IL

Visit the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum and see what all the excitement is about. Over 8,000 visitors this past summer can't be wrong!

According to our guest book, in June we welcomed 691 people from Illinois, 607 from other states, 416 International visitors and we hosted 764 groups. In July from Illinois we hosted 738, from other states 1,455, the international visitors were 546 and the groups totaled 322. As of this writing for August we are topping 2,493 total.

Come see us and sign our guest book! For tours/ group visits, or special needs information contact Jim Jones at 815-844-5657 or by email at ng9e@frontier.com

You will find us in beautiful Pontiac, Illinois!

The Route 66 Hall of Fame Museum

110 West Howard Street

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We recently received this distinct honor from RoadsideAmerica.com:

Congratulations!

The Illinois Route 66 Association Hall of Fame and Museum has been chosen as the Sight of the Week by RoadsideAmerica.com, the travel guide to America's unique and most original attractions.

The Illinois Route 66 Association Hall of Fame and Museum is featured as the lead attraction on the RoadsideAmerica.com home page during the week of August 14-20, 2011: <http://www.roadsideamerica.com>

Afterward it will have a permanent place on the RoadsideAmerica.com site here: <http://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/14537>

Again, congratulations on having one of America's top attractions. Only 52 a year are chosen. You are one of the best of the best.

Ken Smith

Senior editor, RoadsideAmerica.com Team



**The Roadside America website featuring
The Route 66 Association
Hall of Fame Museum**

Coliseum Ballroom in Benld Destroyed by Fire



The Hall of Fame Member Coliseum Ballroom in Benld, IL after fire destroyed it last July

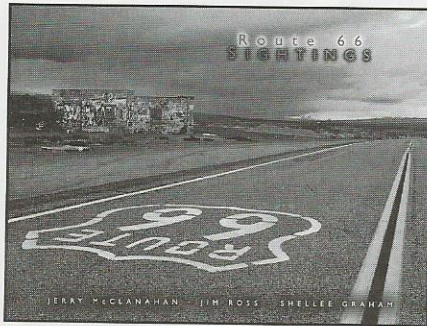
The Coliseum Ballroom in Benld was gutted by fire Saturday, July 30, 2011 while a band performed. Nearly 150 firefighters from 16 area departments fought the blaze that started around 9 p.m. The hard fought battle lasted nearly eight hours.

Fire officials had not yet determined what caused the fire, but it was reported that it may have been electrical. There were no serious injuries, though a member of the band performing at the ballroom burned his hand while attempting to stop the fire from spreading, said a spokesman for the Benld Volunteer Fire Department.

The Coliseum Ballroom was built in 1923 or 1924 and is located on an old alignment of Route 66. During its heyday, the Ballroom hosted many famous musical acts of the 1920s through the 1950s. On June 9, 2001 the Coliseum Ballroom was inducted into the Route 66 Association Hall of Fame.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

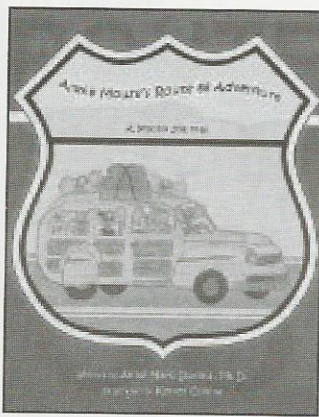
The Route 66 Association of Illinois thanks these authors for their generous donation!
Have you won one of these fabulous Route 66 books at a Route 66 Association of Illinois event?
Both fiction and non-fiction, children and adults we recommend you purchase one for you and your family!



A new book to be released in October, "Route 66 SIGHTINGS"
By Jerry McClanahan, Jim Ross, and Shelley Graham

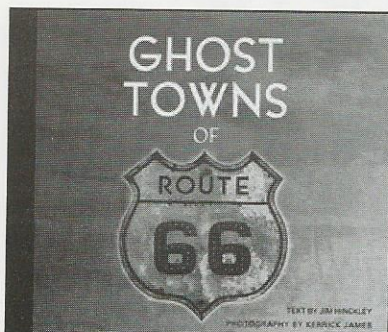
The authors are donating this book to the association so you can have a chance to win your own copy at the winter 2012 association meeting in January!

For pre-orders email Jim Ross directly at: pathfinder66@earthlink.net
Books are due in October, orders can be made at the products page of Ghost Town Press: <http://www.66maps.com/products.html> or at Amazon.com.



The Adventures of Annie Mouse picture book series. If you have children and are planning a road trip, leave the electronics behind, grab a copy of this book and let the children go on a "scavenger hunt" as they try to find the various landmarks. "I hope you, too, have the time of your life and that you can get your kicks on Route 66!" Says Anne M. Slanina, Ph.D., author of The Adventures of Annie Mouse Series

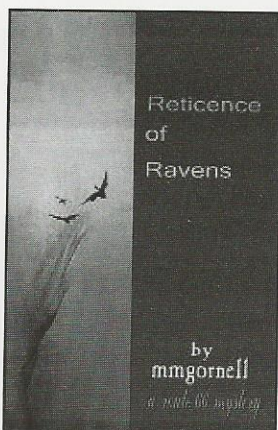
Anne M. Slanina - P.O. Box 142 - Harrisville, PA 16038
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Ghost Towns of Route 66 - Ghost towns lay all along the Mother Road. Join Route 66 expert Jim Hinckley as he tours more than 25 ghost towns, rich in stories and history, complemented by photography by Kerrick James. Also includes directions and travel tips for your ghost-town explorations along Route 66.

Explore the beauty and nostalgia of these abandoned communities along America's favorite highway!

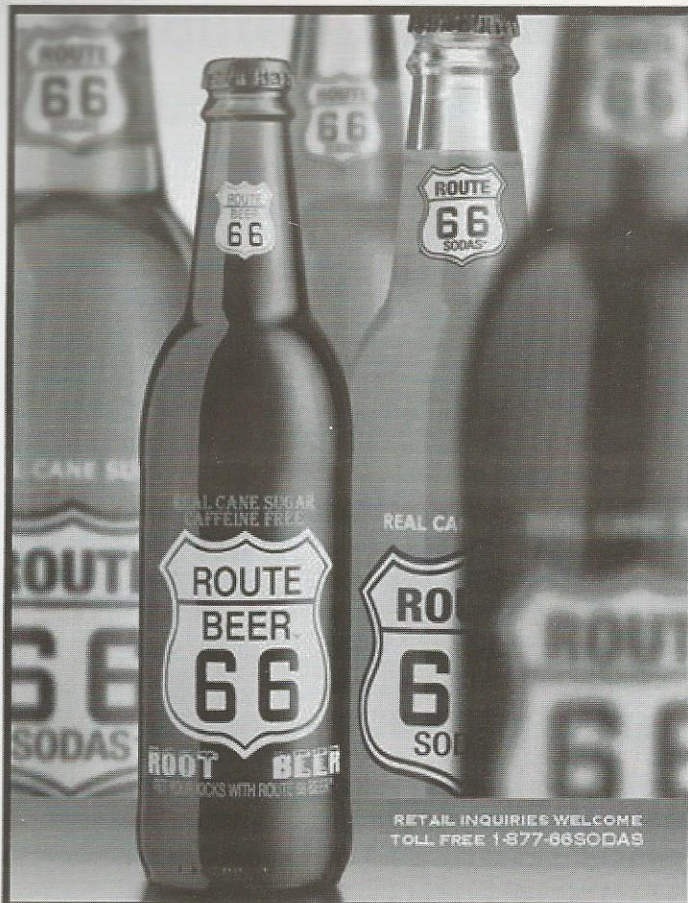
<http://route66chronicles.blogspot.com/p/jim-hinckley-photographs.html>



A Route 66 mystery novel by author MM Gornell
Available, paper, Kindle, Nook, Smashwords....

The days of leisurely "cruising" Route 66 in a convertible have certainly evolved. But for all Route 66 devotees and location knowledge fans—California's San Bernardino County and the cities and areas of Baker, Barstow, Newberry Springs, San Bernardino, and Victorville—do exist. And yes, averages of up to 250,000 cars, motor-homes, and trucks—with real people in them—are reported to use I-15 daily.

However, reader beware. Many liberties were taken with all locations, official positions, government facilities, and organizations in this story—including the "tombs." Reticence of Ravens is a fanciful tale, constructed in author's imagination, and intended as an escape from reality. Mojave County is a fictional government entity and place, occupied by fictional people. <http://www.mmgornell.com/>



Taste the Route!

Enjoy the Road!

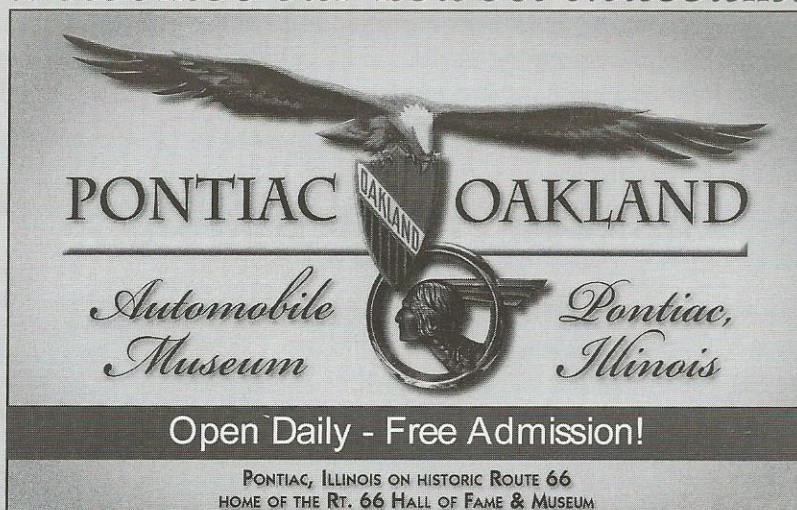
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Route 66 Association of Illinois

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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
Berwyn Route 66 Museum	7003 Ogden	Berwyn	IL	60402	708-484-9349
Bloomington Public Library	205 E. Olive St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-557-8912
Brown's Wrecker Service	302 Brown St.	Bloomington	IL	61704	309-828-3753
Casey's Garden Shop	1505 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-828-7529
Casey's Garden Shop, Inc.	1505 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-828-1424
Chuck's Harley-Davidson, Inc.	2027 Ireland Grove Road	Bloomington	IL	61704	309-662-1648
Clay Dooley Tire & Auto	307 E. Grove St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-828-5037
Grosso's Garage, Inc.	1301 S. Morris Ave.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-828-3615
Kurt's Auto Body, Inc.	2025 Ireland Grove Road	Bloomington	IL	61704	309-662-5823
Lincoln Truck & Auto	1800 W. Oakland Ave.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-828-9812
McLean County Museum of History	200 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-827-0428
Quinn's Shell Station	802 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-827-9188
State Farm Insurance	2702 Ireland Grove Road	Bloomington	IL	61709	309-622-6588
Village of Bolingbrook	375 W. Briarcliff Road	Bolingbrook	IL	60440	630-226-8412
Village of Godley	150 S. Kankakee St., P.O. Box 89	Braceville	IL	60407	815-458-2222
Polk-A-Dot Drive In	222 N. Front St.	Braidwood	IL	60408	815-458-3377
Jett	2012 Florence Place	Cahokia	IL	62206	618-567-6895
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
Magnuson Grand Hotel & Conference Center	1 - 55 & IL Route 108., P.O. Box 377	Carlinville	IL	62626	217-324-2100
Chenoa Pharmacy	209 Green St.	Chenoa	IL	61726	309-747-3002
City of Chenoa	P.O. Box 167	Chenoa	IL	61726	815-945-7619
Matthew T. Scott House Foundation	227 N. First Ave.	Chenoa	IL	61726	815-945-4555
Berghoff Restaurant	17 West Adams St.	Chicago	IL	60603	312-427-3170
Chicago Historic Route 66 Classic Car Show	1909 S. Avers Ave.	Chicago	IL	60623	773-592-4718
Lou Mitchell's Restaurant	565 W. Jackson Blvd.	Chicago	IL	60661	312-939-3111
First National Bank of Dwight	122 W. Main St., P.O. Box 10	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-1212
Old Route 66 Family Restaurant	105 S. Old Route 66	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-2920
Village of Dwight	209 S. Prairie Ave.	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-3077
Cassens Transport Co.	145 N. Kansas St.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-3006
Comfort Inn	3080 S. SR 157	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-4900
Edwardsville Preservation Comm.	118 Hillsboro Ave.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	
Springer's Creek Winery	817 Hillsboro Ave	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-307-5110
Mr. B's Bar & Grill on Rt. 66	23956 Hwy. 53 S.	Elwood	IL	60421	815-727-7070
Silver Dollar Restaurant	422 Mississippi Ave.	Elwood	IL	60421	815-423-6700
Big Fella's Eatery, Inc.	116 Depot St., P.O. Box 385	Gardner	IL	60424	815-237-8335
Village Of Gardner	302 N. Center St., P.O. Box 545	Gardner	IL	60424	
Dock's Soda Fountain	133 S. Second St.	Girard	IL	62640	217-627-3491
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	
Route 66 Ridez	230 N. Old Route 66	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2339
Rt. 66 Beauty & Tanning	11 Old U.S. Rt. 66., P.O. Box 306	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2166
Village of Hamel	111 S. Old Route 66., P.O. Box 345	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2484
Weezy's Route 66	108 S. Hwy 157	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2228
City of Joliet Tourism	150 W. Jefferson St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-724-9045
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	413 N. Old Route 66., P.O. Box 453	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-2023
City of Litchfield	120 East Ryder	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-8147
Hampton Inn of Litchfield	11 Thunderbird Circle	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-4441
Snuffy's Grill	8408 Joliet Road	McCook	IL	60525	
Dixie Travel Plaza	501 S. Main St., P.O. Box 260	McLean	IL	61754	309-874-2323
Luna Café	201 E. Chain of Rocks Road	Mitchell	IL	62040	618-931-3152
City of Morris	320 Waupousee St.	Morris	IL	60450	815-942-0103
The Crossroads Diner	995 Lakeview Drive	Mount Olive	IL	62069	
City of Mt. Olive	200 E. Main St.	Mt. Olive	IL	62069	217-999-4261
Bob Green Auto Service	1847 New Salam Church Road	New Berlin	IL	62670	217-546-5846
Pour Richards 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	314 E. George St., P.O. Box 175	Odell	IL	60460	

Bernardi's II, Inc.
 City of Pontiac
 Livingston County Historical Society
 Lydia's Loft
 McSherry Agency
 Old Log Cabin Inn
 Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce
 Pontiac Family Kitchen
 Three Roses Bed & Breakfast
 White Fence Farm
 Double H Bar
 Funk's Grove Pure Maple Sirup
 Amoco Fence Co.
 Branham's Paint & Body
 Burris & Son Trucking
 C & A Custom Kitchens
 Champion Garage, Inc.
 Cozy Dog Drive In
 Crowne Plaza
 Curve Inn
 Curve Inn, Inc.
 Holiday Inn Express
 Illini Bank
 Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway
 Illinois State Library/ Serials Section
 Lindsey Electric, Inc.
 Maverick Steak House
 Mid Illinois Caliper
 Midwest Truckers Association
 Moscardelli Moving & Storage
 Oldhan Graphic Supply
 Shea's Finest Truck Covers
 Springfield Overhead Doors, Inc.
 IL State Police Heritage Foundation
 Vic's Pizza
 City of Staunton
 Country Classic Cars L.L.C.
 Decamp Junction
 Henry's Ra66it Ranch
 Patterson Bros. Oil & Gas, Inc.
 Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket
 Angelo's Ben Franklin
 Gorman Vegetables
 Launching Pad Drive In
 Lickety Split Ice Cream Shoppe
 Milltown Market
 Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
 Route 66 World
 Original Route 66 Accessories
 National Route 66 Federation
 Gionanni Tours
 The Last Stop Shop
 Greg's Motor Sales
 Route 66 Root Beer & Soda
 Afton Station & Route 66 Packards
 Claremore Convention & Visitors Bureau
 Miami Ok Convention & Visitors Bureau

123 N. Mill St.
 115 W. Howard
 115 W. Howard St.
 107 1/2 W. Madison St.
 209 W. Madison St
 18700 N. Aurora
 210 N. Plum St., P.O. Box 534
 904 Custer Ave.
 209 E. Howard
 1376 Joliet Road
 121 N. 1st St.
 5257 Old Route 66
 2919 S. MacArthur Blvd.
 4125 N. Peoria Road
 2831 S. Whittier Ave.
 3500 E. Clear Lake Ave.
 820 Black Ave.
 2935 S. Sixth St.
 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway
 3219 S. Sixth St.
 3219 S. 6th St. Road
 3050 S. Dirksen Parkway
 2120 Peoria Road
 700 E. Adams St.
 300 S. 2nd St.
 3260 Terminal Ave.
 1104 W. Reynolds
 2803 N. Dirksen
 2727 N. Dirksen Pkwy
 709 N. Lincoln
 2056 Republic
 2075 Peoria Road
 421 N. Lincoln
 4000 N. Peoria Road
 2025 Peoria Road
 304 W. Main St.
 2149 E. Frontage Road
 8767 State Route 4 South
 1107 Historic Old Route 66
 P.O. Box 139
 645 Joliet Road
 706 W. Baltimore St.
 30643 S. Route 53
 810 E. Baltimore St.
 501 E. Baltimore St.
 508 N. Kankakee St.
 111 S. Water St.
 8778 E. Shea Blvd. B3A-409
 15700 W. Huntley Court
 P.O. Box 1848
 626 Westchester Lane
 404 Santa Monica Pier
 1021 W. Mishawaka
 P.O. Box 766
 12 S.E. 1st. St.
 419 W. Will Rogers Blvd.
 101 N. Main St.

Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-1198
Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-5847
Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-2744
Pontiac	IL	61764	309-824-2490
Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-3183
Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-2908
Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-5131
Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-3155
Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-3404
Romeoville	IL	60446	630-739-1720
Sherman	IL	62634	217-496-3811
Shirley	IL	61772	307-874-3220
Springfield	IL	62704	217-787-2921
Springfield	IL	62702	217-528-9654
Springfield	IL	62704	217-528-7741
Springfield	IL	62702	217-523-0170
Springfield	IL	62702	217-522-4114
Springfield	IL	62703	217-525-1992
Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-7777
Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-5806
Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-5806
Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-7771
Springfield	IL	62702	217-544-0139
Springfield	IL	62701	217-525-9308
Springfield	IL	62701	217-785-4127
Springfield	IL	62707	217-544-6789
Springfield	IL	62702	217-732-7169
Springfield	IL	62702	
Springfield	IL	62702	217-525-0310
Springfield	IL	62702	217-787-4043
Springfield	IL	62702	217-528-4649
Springfield	IL	62702	217-522-0475
Springfield	IL	62702	217-787-2602
Springfield	IL	62702	217-528-0764
Springfield	IL	62702	217-522-2464
Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-2233
Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-7056
Staunton	IL	62088	618-637-2951
Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-5655
Williamsville	IL	62693	217-566-3328
Willowbrook	IL	60521	630-325-0780
Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-9091
Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-7514
Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-6535
Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-1980
Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-0386
Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-5991
Scottsdale	AZ	85260	847-757-2246
Surprise	AZ	85374	708-246-1543
Lake Arrowhead	CA	92352	909-336-6131
Newbury Park	CA	91320	805-375-1324
Santa Monica	CA	90401	310-422-6347
Mishawaka	IN	46545	574-255-0771
Lebanon	MO	65536	417-588-4466
Afton	OK	74331	918-382-9465
Claremore	OK	74017	918-341-8688
Miami	OK	74355	918-542-4435

Route 66 Association of Illinois Welcomes New Members

April 23, 2011 thru August 15, 2011

Mr. B's Bar & Grill on Rt. 66,
 Rene & Robert Bohan
 Daniel Bulter
 Elizabeth Sees
 Carole S. Rubens
 Silver Dollar Restaurant, Tom Lijazi
 D. Chris Blankenship
 Double H. Bar, John Schmidt

Diane & Ed Quijano
 Ron Stellhorn
 Joe Spagnoli
 Van Svitok
 Carol J. & B. Don Liberacki
 Wayne Oldenburger
 Marilyn & Scott Mueth
 Jo Anne Miracle

The Last Stop Shop,
 Mannie Mendelson
 Denise "Birdie" Burd
 Patricia Herskind
 Jennifer L. & Ted C. Brock
 Barbara J. & Charles A. Barrett

THE 66 NEWS

FALL 2011

THE ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

The Route 66 Association is a not-for-profit organization. Our purpose is to preserve, promote, educate and enjoy Route 66.

Publisher/Co-Editor Kathy Miller

708-860-5515 - Email: Kathleen708@hotmail.com

Co-Editor Jim Jones

815-844-5657 - Email: ngge@frontier.com

Publication Questions & Information

Am I paid for my submission? All contributions are accepted without compensation.

Who owns the copyright of my submission? Authors retain all copyright privileges. The Route 66 Association reserves the right to use all submissions in future issues of "The 66 News", the Route 66 Association website, and any association advertisement with no compensation paid.

When is The 66 News published? The 66 News is published quarterly in the fall, winter, spring, and summer.

When are contributions due? For contributions to be considered for inclusion they must be received by the following dates: Fall, August 15th – Winter, November 15th – Spring, February 15th – Summer, May 15th

Are all submissions published? Submissions are published at the discretion of the editors.

What file format can I send my submission as? For articles and informational contributions the editors will accept text files or word documents. Only paid advertisements may be submitted in a PDF format. Photos are preferred to be submitted as a JPG file. However, the editors will accept photos as a GIF or a BMP file. You may include suggestions for photo captions.

How may I submit my contribution? Email is the preferred method of submission:

Email to Kathleen708@hotmail.com

Or by U.S.P.S.

Jim Jones, Newsletter

C/O The Route 66 Assoc of IL Hall of Fame & Museum

110 West Howard

Pontiac, IL 61764

Advertising Rates

Single issue prices B/W Print: Whole Page \$125.00 - Half Page \$75.00 - Business Card Size \$25.00

SPECIAL OFFER - Pay for a whole or half page ad annually and save! 4 issues: B/W Print, pay for 3 get 1 free
(You can change the ad content, does not include business card size)

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE

Please note: The 66 News is not returned to the association if your address isn't current! To change your address contact Marty Blitstein, Phone: 708-444-1312, Fax: 708-444-1315, Email: blitz66@earthlink.net

Or by U.S.P.S.

Marty Blitstein

C/O The Route 66 Assoc of IL Hall of Fame & Museum

110 West Howard

Pontiac, IL 61764

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

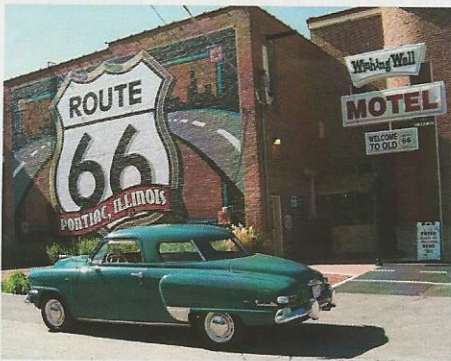
Route 66 Association of Illinois
Fall Annual Meeting - Sunday – October 16, 2011

Route 66 Assoc of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum (Second Floor)
110 W. Howard St.
Pontiac, IL 61764

- ❖ Board Meeting 10:00 AM
- ❖ Lunch Break Noon – On Your Own
- ❖ General Meeting 1:00 PM
 - Annual Officer and Board Elections
 - 2011 Meeting Schedules (all meetings are held on Sunday)
 - Meeting dates and locations to be set

If you would like to see your Route 66 license plate in “The 66 News”? Just email a photo to Kathleen708@hotmail.com (Please put “66 News” on the subject line)

Or you can mail 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



Pictured are the license plates of Route 66 Association of Illinois, Livingston County Board rep Jim Jones. The plates “QRZ 66” which using amateur radio coding means “Are you calling me 66?”

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

THE  NEWS

110 West Howard Street
Pontiac, IL 61764

www.il66assoc.org

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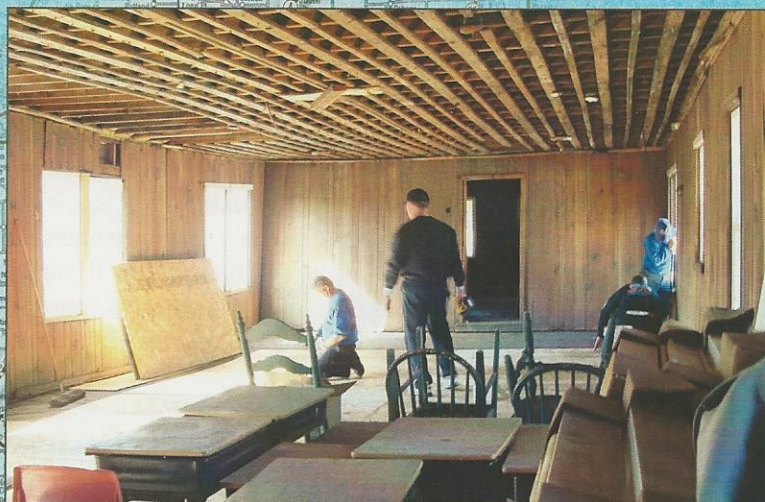
THE 66 NEWS

Visit our website at www.il66assoc.org

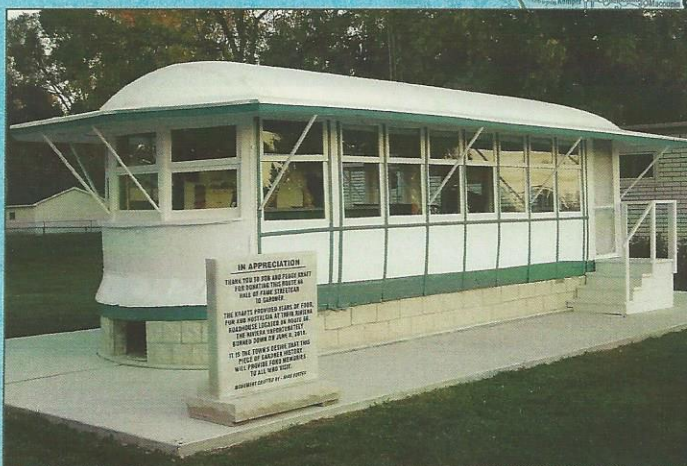
WINTER 2012 - \$3.95



Neon is aglow again at the
Hall of Fame Member Luna Cafe in Mitchell, Illinois



A look inside of the Hall of Fame Member The Mill
located in Lincoln, Illinois



The Hall of Fame Member Streetcar Diner
has been relocated to Gardner, Illinois



Pictured is the
Slovenian Women's Union
in Joliet's Slovenian
Row Area



ILLINOIS - WHERE THE ROAD BEGINS!

THE ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

All Officers and Board Members are available to answer questions at most reasonable times.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT, Cathie Stevanovich (2013)
9280 Drummond - Tinley Park, IL 60487
708-444-1312 Email: cathiesb@earthlink.net

VICE-PRESIDENT, Bob Killackey (2012)
304 Hillside Rd - New Lenox, IL 60451
708-707-1569 Email: bk394477@yahoo

TREASURER, Marty Blitstein (2012)
9280 Drummond - Tinley Park, IL 60487
Phone: 708-444-1312 Fax: 708-444-1315
Email: blitz66@earthlink.net

RECORDING SECRETARY, Emmy Bates (2013)
429 Adams St. - Dolton, IL 60419
emmybates1947@gmail.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, John Weiss (2013)
22550 W. Hwy 113 - Wilmington, IL 60481
815-458-6616 Email: weissinfo@il66authority.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - All officers plus
Jamie Anderson (2013) and Ike Widner (2013)

COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS

COOK (2013) John Miller
14828 San Francisco Ave. - Posen, IL 60469
708-528-7866 Email: kixonrte66@hotmail.com

DUPAGE (2012) Joe Gniadek
2525 Old Tavern Rd. #21, Lisle, IL 60532
Email: usroute66IL@gmail.com

WILL (2013) Dorothy McMullen
500 Joliet St. Apt B - Wilmington, IL 60481
815-674-0036 Email: rt.66andbeyond@me.com

GRUNDY (2013) Ike Widner
948 E. Jackson Street - Morris, IL 60450
815-530-5100 Email: Wagontrail66@hotmail.com

LIVINGSTON (2012) Jim Jones
842 S Walnut St - Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-5657 Email: ngge@frontier.com

LOGAN (2012) Bob Borowiak
131 S. College St. - Lincoln, IL 62656
217-735-3094 Email: lincolnprinters@abelink.com

MADISON (2013) Jerry Law
434 N. 5th Street - Wood River, IL 62096
618-251-4892 Email: thelaw1@sbcglobal.net

SANGAMON (2013) John Lucchesi
620 Woodbridge Road - Springfield, IL 62711-6088
217-698-1962 Email: j.lucchesi@sbcglobal.net

MONTGOMERY (2012) Vacant (see Madison)

MACOUPIN (2012) Vacant (see Madison)

ST. CLAIR (2011) Vacant (see Madison)

MCLEAN (2013) Vacant

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS (2 vacancies)

Jamie Anderson (2013)
327 Sumac Street - Wilmington, IL 60481
847-721-6743 Email: elite197642@yahoo.com

Lori Killackey (2012)
304 Hillside Road - New Lenox, IL 60451
708-308-7068 Email: cooklady1215@yahoo.com

Larry Libersher (2012)
PO Box 51 - Wilmington, IL 60481
815-476-2295

Kathy Miller (2012)
14828 San Francisco Ave - Posen, IL 60469
708-860-5515 Email: Kathleen708@hotmail.com

Lou Vargo (2013)
14911 Richmond Ave - Posen, IL 60469
708-339-3640

MUSEUM -- TOURS, GROUPS, SPECIAL NEEDS
Jim Jones - 815-844-5657 - ngge@frontier.com

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
Chairman, John Weiss
815-458-6616 - weissinfo@il66authority.com

PUBLICITY

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

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

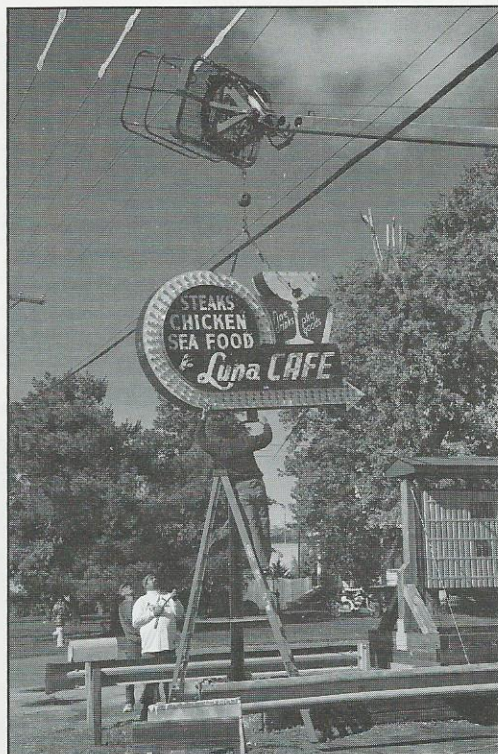
Kathy Miller - 708-860-5515 - Kathleen708@hotmail.com

Gina Blitstein - 708-231-8794 - web@il66assoc.org

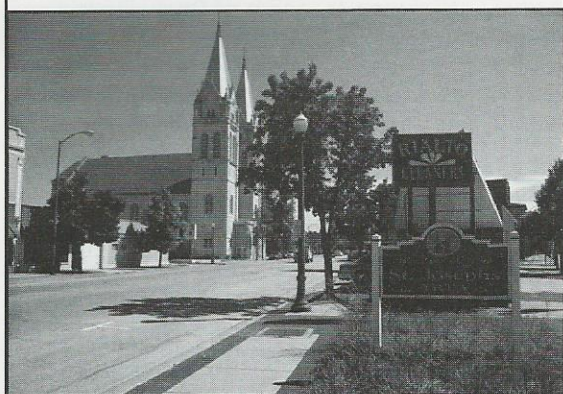
Visit our website at
www.il66assoc.org

PHOTO CONTRIBUTIONS

Brian Alexander
Gina Blitstein
John Faulhaber
Jeff Geisler
Glenn Hall
Lori Killackey
Joseph D. Kubal



Neon Preservation Luna Café - Page 9



*St. Joseph Church
Joliet Slovenian Row- Page 6*



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It's almost winter! Where did those wonderful autumn days go? So much to do and so little available daylight!

The Luna Café was relit and the entire Route 66 community has a new "star" on the road. On October 22nd the classic sign came alive! The eaves, the crescent moon, and the 7 color sign were a sight to behold! The neon is bright and beautiful once again in Mitchell!

The Museum Committee and Volunteers, headed by Bob Killackey, spent several days rearranging the Hall of Fame & Museum. Display space was added to feature more acquired collections. We are a work-in-process, so we're spending the winter months making changes. Big thanks to those who gave their time & energy. The Museum is now on winter hours – 10 to 4 PM daily. It's almost the end of the season for Bob Waldmire's bus. Once the snow flies access to the bus will be limited. It's hard to believe but its 2 years in December since Bob's passing, and 1 year since Bob's bus moved into residence at Pontiac.

We're working on next year's picnic – it will be in Funk's Grove at the Funks Grove Sugar Grove Nature Center Pavilion on August 26th, 2012. Mark your calendars now! We had such a fantastic time this year we booked it again!! It was a beautiful day and a great time was had by all! We have some pretty amazing cooks in this group so we dined well!! By the way, collection of recipes for our 3rd cookbook has begun! Have you sent your recipes in yet?

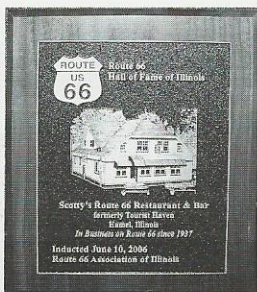
The 23rd Annual Motor Tour is in full planning! This year's tour will be south to north starting in Edwardsville on Friday night, and the Chain of Rocks bridge cross-over on Saturday morning! This year's theme is Illinois Route 66 Midpoint: Funks Grove. We're looking forward to honoring Funks Grove (the midpoint of Route 66 in Illinois is their driveway!) and wearing Sirup jugs on our sleeves. Sweet deal! Put June 8th, 9th, and 10th on your calendar now!

Hall of Fame member Snuffy's Grill has been sold and will soon reopen as a 24 hour Steak-N-Egger! We'll miss the staff and crew of Snuffy's but we're happy that the 24 hour grill tradition will continue. Work on the building includes adding a tower featuring a motorcycle and the new sign includes a Route 66 sign! Old Route 66 Family Restaurant celebrated 10 years of excellent food and service to the Dwight area! Congrats to Maria and her family for providing tasty food, a welcoming atmosphere, and great waitresses for all of us – tourists and locals alike.

Hall of Fame nomination time is just around the corner. How often do you think about some person or icon along the road that affected your life? Share the story with us and perhaps your favorite(s) could become Hall of Fame members! Check the website and Face Book for more information! Nominations are accepted January 1st thru February 28th, 2012.

The Board of Directors and Executive Officers of the Route 66 Association of Illinois wish each and every member and their extended families a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season. We look forward to a busy 2012 with you!!!

Cathie Stevanovich is the President of the Route 66 Association of Illinois



The Route 66 Association of Illinois Annual Hall of Fame Nominations

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Committee is actively seeking nominations. Nominations to the Hall of Fame will be accepted between January 1 and February 28, 2012. Nominations received at other times shall be considered the following year. Nominations must include accurate documentation or declaration of the Nominee's qualities, deeds and history on Route 66 that merit this honor.

To qualify for election to the Hall of Fame, nominees must have made significant contributions to the character or history of the Illinois portion of Route 66. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to honor and commemorate those people, businesses, attractions and events that helped give Route 66 such special character and historical status in Illinois.

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 of the most visited attractions on all of Route 66 in Illinois with visitors from all over the world.

The committee invites anyone to submit a nomination. It must include a strong fact-based essay. It must include details about the nominee's contributions to the character or history of the Illinois portion of Route 66. We encourage that photos, news clips and other memorabilia accompany the essay but they 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 Banquet induction celebration honoring new and existing members will take place as part of the 28th Annual Motor Tour "Illinois Route 66 Midpoint, Funks Grove, IL" on June 09, 2012 in Lincoln, Illinois.



Humpin to Please trailer sits at Henry's Rabbit Ranch

"The Good Old Days" on U.S. Route 66

by Brian L. Alexander

I suppose my idea of "The Good Old Days" would be the days from my youth. Our family vacation would be either going to one of our relative's farms in the Sullivan Missouri Area or to Turkey Run State Park off of U.S. Highway 41, north of Rockville Indiana. Now the "Good Old Days" for my grandson, Dylan, who just turned 7 years old might be "RIGHT NOW!" I took him to Turkey Run State Park in July; kind of a family tradition that I will continue. I have plans taking him to Missouri next year.

When we vacationed in the State of Missouri years ago, I remember hooking up with Route 66 in the Chicagoland Area, as a matter of fact, in Countryside Illinois. We would take US Route 45, or known to the people in that area as La Grange Road and then turned west on US Route 66. We did not always begin our journey to Missouri in the same location on US Route 66 and that may have been by necessity rather than choice. The fact that the U.S. Route 45/79th Street Interchange was being constructed in those days, may be do to the fact that in those years the Illinois Tollway was being built in the same proximity. A few years later, September 1st 1966, the Southwest Expressway (the beginning of I-55) was completed and it was renamed the Stevenson Expressway, exactly to the date of opening, a year later.

As we motored towards Missouri we soon left the Chicagoland Area, we were not in the suburbs, not like we know them today. We were in the rural Illinois. (This area is no longer rural by the way!) Along the road were billboards with their advertisements on them. The billboards back then were mostly hand painted, high maintenance and somewhat costly to the advertiser. The one that I remember the most was the one for the White Fence Farm. It let the motorists know that their

restaurant was a few miles up ahead. The White Fence Farm Restaurant was in the country area back then, but eventually the suburbs moved in around it years later.

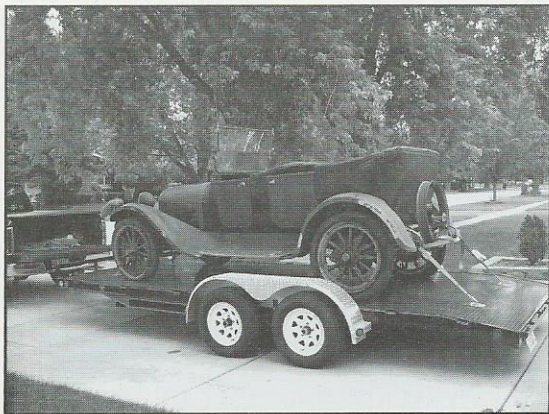
In 1965 I stayed on a farm about 13 miles west of the town of Sullivan. Returning home on Route 66, I rode on a Greyhound Bus from Sullivan Missouri to St. Louis and then continued on to Chicago. I sat upfront by the bus driver and we stopped several times for railroad tracks. (Illinois Law requires a bus to STOP at railroad crossings; also a bus must open its forward entry door while crossing the railroad right of way.) There are no railroad tracks to cross as you drive Interstate 55 today.

I traveled on the Bolingbrook to Wilmington alignment up until 1973, and we went past the White Fence Farm and on through to Joliet, Wilmington and finally Gardner. I suppose I had forgotten this stretch of highway between Bolingbrook to Gardner, because I-55 has taken a different route.

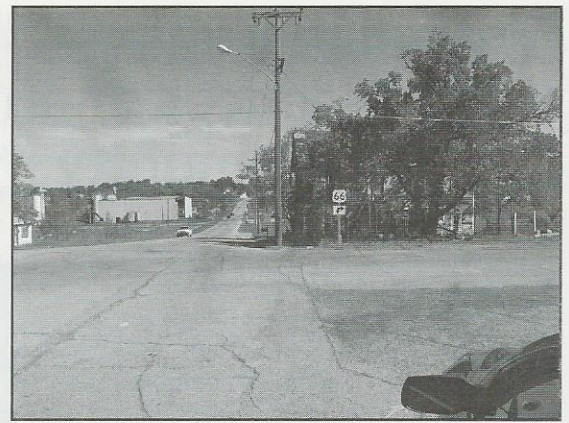
My dad had ordered and purchased a new two tone, 1955 Buick, it was white with a red roof, but it did not have a radio. (Radios back then had tubes in them; they had to warm up for a while before they emitted any sound.) Because of the lack of entertainment, I looked out of the windows most of the time as we traveled down Route 66 in that vehicle. The scenery was entertainment enough for me back then.

Mom would have contests or other things to do, to keep her kids busy, so that we would not become bored. It could be out of state license plates, counting different colored cars, identifying vehicles or who was the first one to see a city limit sign. Another thing we did as a family in the car was sing and if dad was singing we knew he was in a good mood.

In 1960 dad bought a used 1957 Pontiac Hardtop with an AM Radio. It had one speaker in front and two in the rear, pretty cool stuff for back then. Dad did not care for rock and roll music at all; he liked the big bands of the forties. Back then, he probably felt about Rock and Roll Music, how I feel today about Rap Music today. Dad had his music and I had mine. We listened to his music until mom, who was the only one who could get away it, changed the station to Country Music somewhere between Springfield Illinois and St. Louis Missouri. That may have been for two reasons. First we may have been out of reach of a Chicago Station and/or I think that she anticipated going to the Saturday Night Dance while we were in the rural Ozarks. Back then there was a dance locally every Saturday Night. Saturday you went into town to run your errands during the day and went to the dance that night. It was part of rural Missouri's culture in those days. I have always looked back on the "Good Old Days" when life was a little simpler, a little less stressful. I thought that life was better back then; I also miss the family members who have passed on, whom I shared the Good Old Days with. I miss the functioning Route 66; I knew it in its heyday.




Memories of "The Good Old Days"



A Route 66 sign that tells you to make a turn

Although, I suppose the "Good Old Days" is someone's point of view. I remember mentioning the "Good Old Days" to one of my relatives, who lives in Rural Missouri. She immediately corrected me, she said, "These are 'The Good Old Days!'" She went on to say "We have indoor plumbing and air conditioning now!" I guess I can't argue with her about that! Maybe these are the "Good Old Days." Enjoy your "Good Old Days" and enjoy the road ahead.



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Slovenian Row: Reminiscences of an Ethnic Community

by Joseph D. Kubal



St. Joseph's Catholic Church presides over what used to be Slovenian Row

As you travel down Historic Route 66 from Chicago to Joliet, you'll go through neighborhood after neighborhood that was settled – if not founded – by immigrants during the 19th and early 20th century. One such community is Slovenian Row, just off Chicago Street where Route 66 leads south toward downtown Joliet.

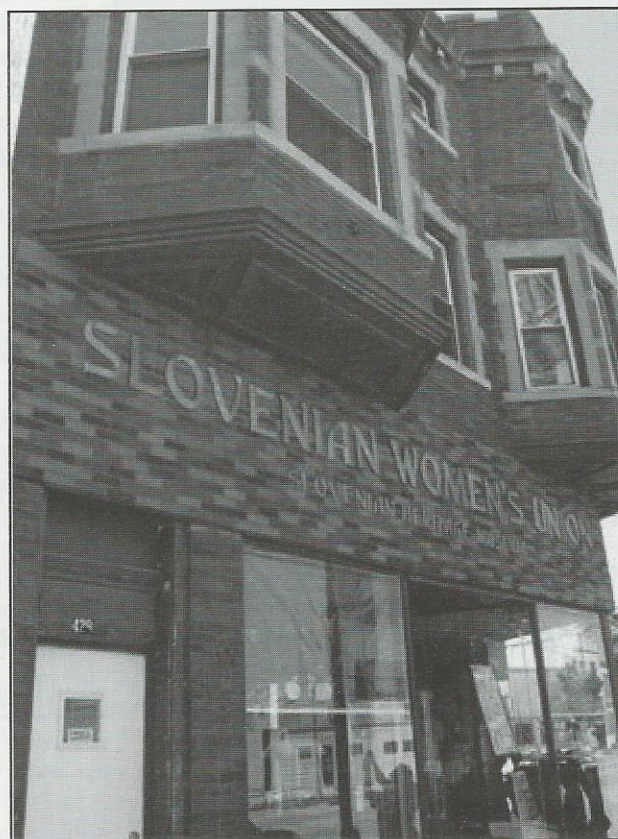
Between 1918-1929, Slovenia was part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Prior to World War I, the Slovene lands were under Austro-Hungarian rule. From 1929 -1991, Slovenia was part of the country of Yugoslavia. Today, Slovenia is an independent, parliamentary republic. It shares borders with Austria, Hungary, Croatia, and Italy and is inhabited by Slovenes, a Slavic people, many of whom are Catholic. The country is slightly smaller than the state of New Jersey.

The majority of Slovenians migrated to the U.S. between the 1880s and the post-WW II years. Most were concentrated in the Chicago-Joliet region, around greater Cleveland, Ohio, in southern California, northern Minnesota, Colorado, Arizona, and throughout Florida. Smaller pockets of Slovenes were scattered elsewhere throughout the U.S. The newcomers typically settled in areas where bellwether immigrants first homesteaded, creating ethnic communities and enclaves. As the Slovenes assimilated and moved away from Slovenian Row, they left few traces of the once larger community, assimilating into the city but keeping their institutions.

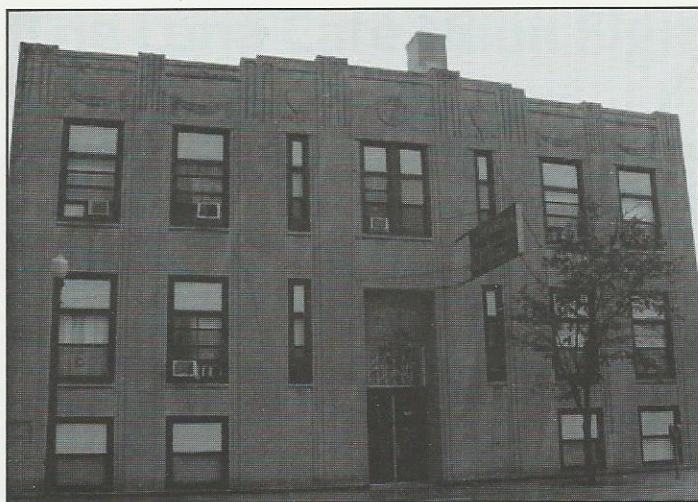
Driving toward Joliet's central business district, you can see a hint of the most prominent of these remnants, the magnificent twin 152-foot spires of St. Joseph Catholic Church at 416 N. Chicago St. Established in 1891, St. Joseph Parish was

founded to serve the burgeoning community of local Slovene Catholic immigrants. It thus became one of the many 'national' churches in the area, a phenomenon that exists within the Catholic church only in the greater Chicago metropolis. In time, the parish commissioned Chicago-based German-American architect William J. Brinkmann to design a church building, which was completed and dedicated in 1905. This grand 600-seat structure, built in the neo-Gothic style, is still in use today. The parish school next door educated Slovene youth, and classes were held in the Slovene language (a new school is now in use a block west of the church). The parish also founded and still operates St. Joseph Cemetery on Raynor Street, near the border of suburban Crest Hill, as well as the popular St. Joseph Park and picnic grove next to the cemetery. Once almost exclusively Slovenian, the cemetery now serves parishioners of various nationalities.

Across the street from the church at 431 N. Chicago St. is the Slovenian Women's Union of America (SWUA) national office and the Slovenian Heritage Museum. SWUA was founded as the Slovenska Ženska Zveza Amerike by Marie Prisland on December 19, 1926 in Chicago. Originally founded as an ethnic fraternal organization dedicated to promoting women's rights in America, SWUA now focuses on preserving Slovenian culture, customs, traditions, and folklore. Various cultural programs are also offered through the SWUA. The free museum has exhibits devoted to Slovene heritage and houses an excellent library, as well as a small gift shop that sells Slovenian cookbooks and other ethnic items. The museum is open Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.



*Slovenian Women's Union building Photo© 2011
by Keith Yearman*



**KSKJ (American Slovenian Catholic Union) Building,
circa 1909, Joliet, Illinois**

One block south at 351 N. Chicago St. is the former headquarters building of the present KSKJ Life. It was designed in 1938 by local architect and Joliet resident Charles L. Wallace and built by local contractor Adam Groh, who also built Joliet Union Station and other buildings of note in the area. It was the second such office for KSKJ on Chicago Street; the original head office, in a less impressive building, was two blocks up the street and one block north of the church. Founded as the Kranjsko Slovenska Katoliska Jednota or Carniolian Slovenian Catholic Union in 1894, KSKJ offered burial insurance to Slovenian immigrants. As the history on its website explains, "There were no unions, Social Security [payments], or welfare agencies for the needy. When sickness beset an immigrant he, and often his entire family, became the burden of friends and relatives. Public collections to pay for burials and to assist widows and orphans were commonplace." As a fraternal organization, KSKJ offered the Slovene community coverage to forestall these problems, in that manner operating similarly to other ethnic service organizations such as the Polish Roman Catholic Union in Chicago.

KSKJ headquarters remained on Chicago Street from 1909 until 1980, when the organization moved west to its current location across town. Today, the group is known as KSKJ Life – American Slovenian Catholic Union. It offers permanent and term insurance to the general public as well as annuities. Its former headquarters building is now occupied by Vilaseca, a Hispanic day care center operated by the Josephine Sisters, a Spanish Roman Catholic order.

A plaque on a chain-link fence near the original St. Joseph's School commemorates the old Slovenian Row, where once stood a plethora of Eastern European restaurants, food and meat markets, florists, funeral parlors and other businesses vital to the Slovenian community. Over the years, the neighborhood has been progressively swallowed up by a burgeoning business district, and few residential buildings remain. The Slovenes, meanwhile, have been replaced with new immigrants, and local restaurants now cater to a mostly Mexican-American clientele.

Sadly, there are no Slovenian restaurants left in Joliet. Merichka's ("Mary" in Slovene) was an ethnic eatery when it opened in 1933; the restaurant, at 604 Theodore St., now offers a more traditional American menu. However, if you have an urge to sample Slovenian pastry, you can call ahead to Elaine's Specialties in nearby Plainfield at (815) 436-7491 to order potica (poh-TEE-tsa), a traditional thin-layered honey-walnut cake roll. Elaine's version was voted the best in the U.S. by members of the SWUA. Besides, your local Slovenian experience would be incomplete without it. So try a sample, visit the neighborhood, and remember the Slovenes who helped to build Joliet.

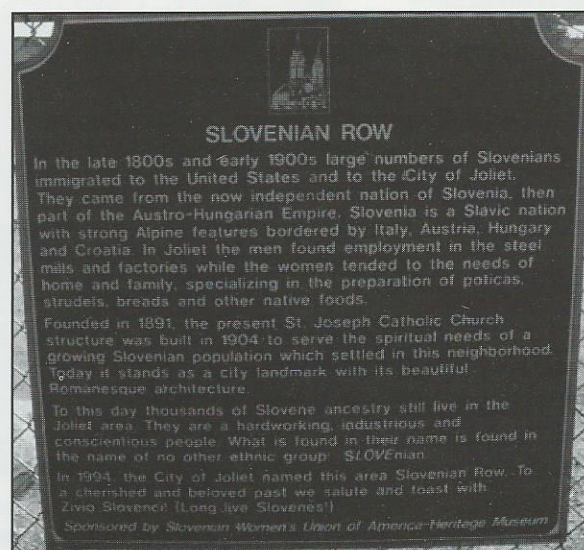
Joseph D. Kubal is a Naperville, IL-based geographer, data analyst, and amateur historian. The information in this article has been excerpted in part from the upcoming book, *The Curious Traveler's Guide: Route 66 in Metro Chicago*, by Maria R. Traska, Joseph D. Kubal and Keith Yearman.

¹ (The CIA World Fact Book, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/si.html>).

² See http://www.kskjlife.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=69&Itemid=43

Links:

- St. Joseph Catholic Church, 416 N. Chicago St., Joliet (815) 727-9378
<http://www.stjosephjoliet.org/church/index.html>
- Slovenian Women's Union of America, 431 N. Chicago St., Joliet (815) 727-1926
<http://www.swua.org/>
- KSKJ Life Building, 351 N. Chicago St., Joliet current business address: 2439 Glenwood Ave., Joliet (800) THE-KSKJ <http://www.kskjlife.com/>
- Merichka's Restaurant, 604 Theodore St., Crest Hill (815) 723-9371
<http://www.merichkas.com/>
- Elaine's Specialties - J. Elaine Bice, 2571 Golfview, Joliet (815) 436-7491



**The official sign commemorating the Slovenian Row
neighborhood in Joliet, Illinois**

We've Missed You!

by Recording Secretary, Emmy Bates

We missed you at the general meetings. We missed you on the Motor Tour. We missed you at the association picnic. We MISSED YOU!

It's not too late. There is always this coming year – 2012. We have things you can do to be active in the association. As you know it's always more fun to be involved than to be sitting on the sidelines and watching. Association meetings are only four times a year, so that doesn't take up much time. The meeting dates and places for 2012 are:

- January 14th at the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac
- April 15th in Springfield at Vic's Pizza
- July 15th in Elwood at the Silver Dollar Restaurant
- October 14th at the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum in Pontiac

Write these dates down NOW so you will remember to attend!

The Annual Motor Tour will again be the 2nd weekend in June, the 8th, 9th, and 10th. Plans are being made now. Meetings are monthly and everyone is welcome to join the motor tour committee and attend, come to one or all. We need your suggestions for places to visit. We want to make it FUN and memorable. Call Jerry Law for specifics. (Jerry's number is listed inside of the front cover.)

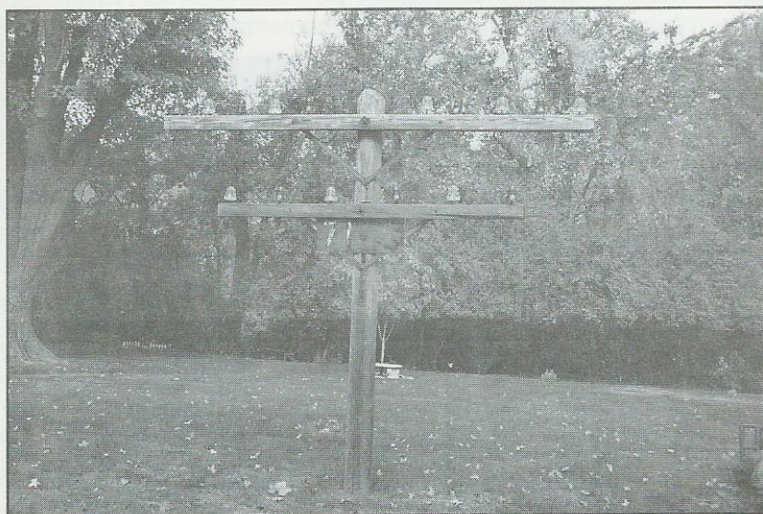
The picnic will again be at Funk's Grove Nature Center. What a wonderful place!!! We are lucky to get it again. There is a nature display area, a place to watch wildlife, trails, and play areas. I understand that at 2012 picnic there will be some extras to enjoy. There is covered pavilion with side walls that can be closed and electric. The pavilion was wonderful. Food cooked outside is always the best, and we have the best cooks. Meats and drinks are supplied by the association. We'd love to try your famous/favorite side dishes for the meal. We hope to see you there on Sunday, August 26th. Write the date down NOW so you can attend!

We have a WONDERFUL museum in Pontiac that is FREE. We have made some changes and would love for you to see them. Any time you would like to spend some time there and share with visitors please come. Our tireless President and treasurer work there every Saturday and would love to have your company and help.

Preservation works hard preserving landmarks. It may be work, but so rewarding. You can contact John Weiss for information about upcoming activities. (John's number is listed inside of the front cover.)

Have you had any adventures on the Mother Road? If you've driven anywhere (in any state) and have a story to tell, we'd love to hear about it. Just jot down your story and send it to Kathy Miller. Our newsletter is the most interesting when our members share with us. (Kathy's information is inside the back cover.) Pictures are great too!

PLEASE become an active member. Our association is better when you are involved. THANKS!



Pictured above is a utility pole that was saved from Missouri 66. It was installed in the backyard of Kent and Mary Sue Sanderson about 5 years ago.



A Kansas Route 66 sign is pictured above. The sign is from the collection of Glenn Hall of Mendota, IL

The Luna Café Neon Sign Joint Preservation Project

by Jim Thole

"We are Family" was the theme developed for the 2010 Illinois Motor Tour, which actually began across the Mississippi River in Eureka, Missouri. And that became the catalyst that inspired an unprecedented, cooperative effort amongst organizations from both states to resurrect and restore the entire neon scene at the Luna Café.

The Luna Café and its neon sign are legendary – anchoring the southern end of the original alignment of Route 66 in Illinois. With seven neon colors, the sign is renowned for the cocktail glass with a cherry in it. Located in Mitchell, Illinois just four miles from the east end of the Chain of Rocks Bridge, it is actually a part of the greater St. Louis metropolitan area.

So it was a natural candidate to become the first National Park Service grant project to be jointly submitted and supported by two Route 66 state associations – Missouri and Illinois. Missouri's Neon Heritage Preservation Committee ("NHPC") joined with the Illinois Association, the *Friends of the Mother Road* and the owner to bring to fruition a sign restoration project that had been on the drawing board for several years.

Historical Perspective

The Luna Café was built by Herman & Irma Raffaele in 1926, the same year that Route 66 was commissioned as a highway. That's the popularly accepted date, at least, although there are some sources that say 1924 or 1930. Nobody really knows for sure.

Although Herman died in 1937, and Irma remarried to George Dee Jones in 1941, she would be associated with the Luna for over 45 years, until August 1974. In fact, she owned or operated the business for the entire time that the Luna Café was actually located on an active alignment of Route 66 – until By-Pass 66 was eliminated by the new Interstate 270 through this area in 1965-66.

The Luna Café was located on Official Route 66 from 1926 to 1955. Then, from 1955-1965, what was formerly Official Route 66 across north St. Louis County became By-Pass 66, including the Illinois section on which the Luna Café is situated, as it approached the Chain of Rocks Bridge (with the famous bend in it). After 1965, the Luna was no longer on any Route 66 alignment through the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

About that same time, in the 1960's decade, the two-story wood clapboard building was re-covered with aluminum siding, after which the tall false front was utilized as a signboard carrying the restaurant's name over a crescent moon with a profile of the "man-in-the-moon". Additionally, a blue neon

accent stripe was placed across the top contour of the building's false front. Some say it was symbolic of the sky over the moon.

In August 1974, Irma Jones finally sold the business to Chester Whyers, who would become a very popular owner with his customers for almost 20 years, until 1992.

The 1990's would be a period of many changes in the life of the Luna. The business was sold to Ray Herrin in May 1992, and then again on April 1, 1997 to Anita Bowman, who quickly re-sold it on

October 2, 1998, to Larry Wofford and his partner, Al Young. The last ownership change occurred in 2006, when Al Young sold his half-interest to his partner, Larry Wofford, who owns and operates the business today.

It was also in the 1990's that the building was re-sided again (this time in vinyl) – and that led to the removal of the storm damaged neon signage on the tall false front, including the well-known, cherished "man-in-the-moon". About that same time, the equally famous neon sign in front of the building went dark, after shining in seven neon colors for over 40 years, since the late 1940's. The neon sign is famous for the cocktail glass with a cherry in it, for which a rare ruby glass was used to enhance its red glow. (Note: both ruby-red cherries were intact and were re-used in the restoration.)

Depending on whom you talk to, the Luna Café has been an upscale restaurant, a Route 66 café, a piano bar, a boarding house for railroad workers, a gambling joint, a brothel and a meeting spot for gangsters. In between this diverse, blended culture of the Luna lies 85 years of stories and rich, colorful history.

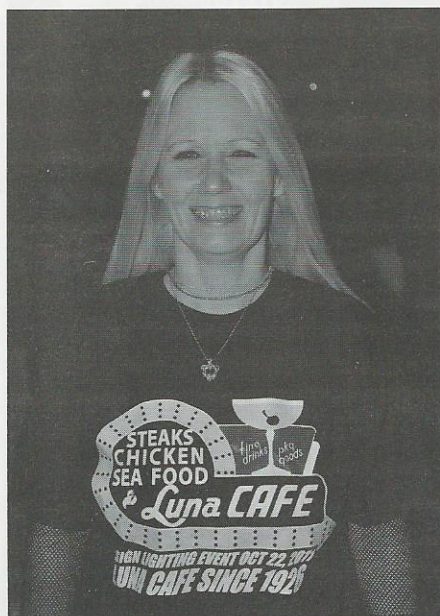
It is said that Chicago gangster Al Capone used the Luna for his mob meetings in this area because he didn't trust the boys in St. Louis. Even more prominent is the tawdry legend about the cherries on the neon sign. Supposedly, when they were lit up, the "ladies of the evening" were available. But Bud Eberhart, who served as Mitchell constable in 1947-1955,



Pictured above are Standing (L to R): Robert Gehl, David Hutson, Larry Wofford, Tommy Pike & Cathie Stevanovich. Kneeling are Kip Welborn and James Thole

Cont'd. on page 10

The Luna Café Neon Sign Joint Preservation Project Cont'd.



Lisa Doss is wearing one of the Luna Neon Sign T-shirts

insists this is a myth. (Note: during the restoration, it was determined that the cherry and the cocktail glass were on the same circuit, which would have made it impossible to turn the cherry on/off by itself.)

There is little disagreement about the famous visitors who stopped by the Luna. Ike & Tina Turner's band actually played here in the mid-1950's. Other visitors during that era included

Hank Williams Sr. and Elvis Presley, both of whom were in the area for performances at a large outdoor music venue nearby called "Hillbilly Park."

The Luna Café was recognized as an upscale restaurant during certain periods of its life, frequented by influential people who wanted to escape the St. Louis scene. This was especially true in the mid-1970's when Chester Whyers leased out the restaurant side of the building to Charley Hester, a well-known chef in the area.

But regardless of what's fact and what's fiction, there is one thing that everyone seems to agree upon. To quote a customer from a 2006 newspaper feature story that touted the Luna as a "Route 66 Landmark" "The Luna has always been here, and it's always looked the same. It's the heart of Mitchell." and now it's the heart of another Route 66 restoration success story.

The Restoration Story

While it was the *Friends of the Mother Road*, an organization dedicated to preservation along Route 66, that first identified the Luna Café sign several years ago as one that should be preserved and restored, the actual impetus and opportunity to get it done finally emerged when Jerry Law (a board member for both state associations) suggested that the 2010 Illinois Motor Tour begin in Eureka, MO with the "We are Family" theme.

The first activity of the motor tour was an evening cruise only 10 miles down the Mother Road to Villa Ridge to view the recently restored neon displayed on the Sunset Motel's sign and building gables. About 40 Illinois Route 66 roadies gathered just in time to see the neon flash on at dusk to an applauding and appreciative audience. And that set the stage

— all the pieces were now in place.

Back at the Holiday Inn/Six Flags, the registration hotel for the Motor Tour, I gathered together four leaders of the two state associations to discuss what seemed to me to be an obvious proposal. The Illinois Association would like to do a neon restoration and re-lighting event like they had just witnessed

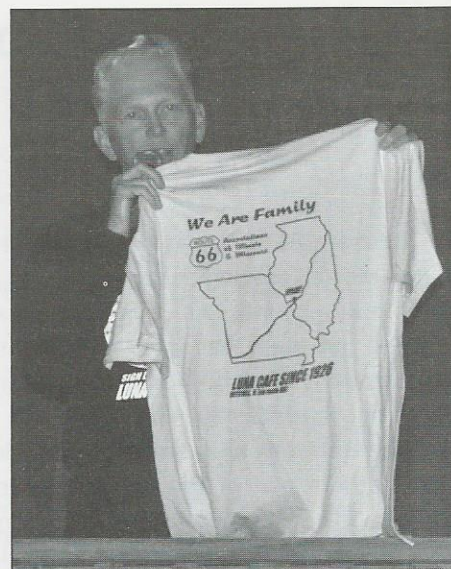
at the Sunset. We would all like to see the Luna Café sign restored. It's actually in Illinois, but at the same time, in the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

In keeping with the "We are Family" theme, then, a joint two-state project to restore the Luna Café sign seemed like a perfect fit. That idea met with instant approval; and soon thereafter, representatives from all three organizations met with the owner of the Luna Café, Larry Wofford, on July 17, 2010. He was delighted with the joint two-state proposal, and we were now underway!

The neon restoration team would consist of six members, four of them from Missouri's NHPC: David Hutson, the neon restoration consultant (owner of Neon Time, a neon sign specialist in St. Charles, Missouri); Esley Hamilton, historical consultant (Preservation Historian for St. Louis County); Bob Gehl, team advisor (Director of Membership Services for the Missouri Association); and myself as the team coordinator.

The other two team members for this joint organizational approach were: Jerry Law, a nearby resident in Wood River, Illinois, representing the Route 66 Association of Illinois; and Kip Welborn from the Friends of the Mother Road, whose recently published guide to sorting out the many Route 66 alignments through the St. Louis area was a valuable assist in the project.

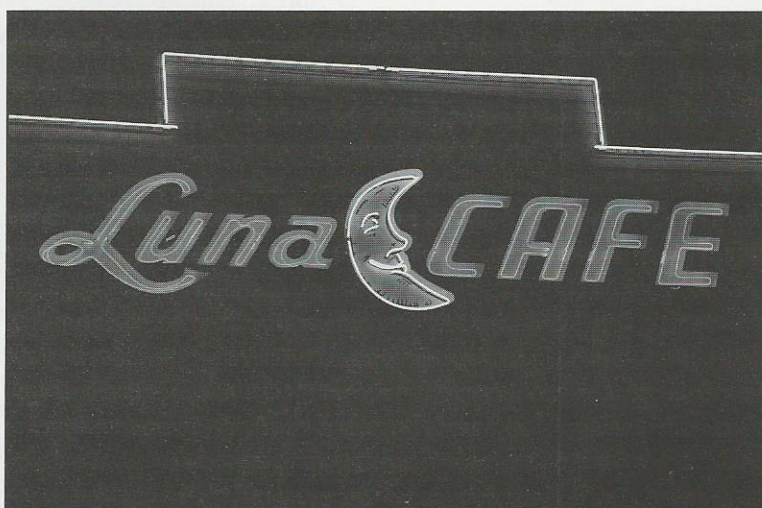
Together, this group lent all of their individual talents to provide all the necessary elements for a grant application to the National Park Service ("NPS") in the Spring of 2011. The application was approved in May, and after clearance from the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency in July, all attention was then focused on restoration of the neon not only on the vintage sign out by the road, but also all the neon features that had previously been on the front façade of the building!



Missouri Neon Preservation Committee Guru Jim Thole displays one of the Luna Neon Sign T-shirts

The NPS Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program matching grant paid for half of the cost to restore the vintage sign on the roadway. But owner Larry Wofford was so enthused about this project that he used his own funds to recreate the architectural outline and the famous “man-in-the-moon” profile on the front facade, and also add the words “Luna Café” spelled in the same exact style as the sign. All of which creates a dazzling neon scene.

With all preparatory steps in place, it did not take long for the restoration to be completed – less than 60 days from the date of sign removal, to installation of all the restored neon features on October 20, just two days before



The neon sign that hangs on the cafe

The Re-Lighting Celebration

Given all the history and dedication and restoration effort attached to this property and this sign, it is no surprise then that a big party (celebration, actually) would be planned for the sign's official re-lighting, which occurred on October 22, 2011. The beckoning glow of the Luna's neon sign returned at 6:44 pm as the sign's seven neon colors and clear chaser bulbs blazed back to life.

A crowd of over 200 people cheered, consisting of Route 66 fans from at least three states and a legion of Larry's loyal customers. Most of them were wearing a special commemorative T-shirt created for the event, on the back of which was the “We are Family” logo designed by Jerry Law. The “We are Family” embrace even extended beyond the Route 66 enthusiasts, as the grandson of former owner Chester Whyers (way back in 1974-1992) was also found in attendance – that being Monte Rapp, along with his wife Janine.

There were actually two relighting ceremonies combined into one. Just moments after the vintage sign was re-lit, the crowd responded with a second wave of energetic approval when the “man-in-the-moon” beamed down once again from his rightful place on the façade of the building.

The ceremony began with the national anthem, sung by local Granite City resident, Lisa Doss. Several speakers then followed.

Tommy Pike, President of the Route 66 Association of Missouri, highlighted what might be considered one of the most important aspects of this project, when he pointed out: “look what can be achieved when three organizations all work together toward the same end.”

Cathie Stevanovich, President of the Route 66 Association of Illinois, was also present; and her remarks struck a similar tone. “These are tough times, “ she said, “but despite that,

a united group of strangers have reached out to each other, all concentrating their efforts at making sure that the history and neon of this Mother Road icon can shine again calling out to those on the road to stop and visit. The warm

glow of seven neon colors will make people stop, look and remember.” She then warmed the heart of owner Larry Wofford with a \$500 donation from the Illinois Association.

Kip Welborn, whose book *Route 66 in St. Louis* raised most of the funds for a \$1000 donation by the *Friends of the Mother Road* to honor the occasion, proclaimed that “the Luna Café is now one of the greatest neon spectacles on the planet.”

We were honored to have a representative from the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency present at the gathering in the person of Carol Dyson, Senior Preservation Architect. After offering her own remarks, Carol also substituted for Kaisa Barthuli, who regrettably could not attend our re-lighting event this year. Kaisa is the Program Manager for the NPS Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, and on her behalf, Carol presented an NPS plaque of appreciation to owner Larry Wofford for his commitment to restore and maintain the Luna Café sign as a Route 66 legacy.

Carol also read the “words of congratulations” that Kaisa had provided in advance, which included the following comments:

- “If you have passed by the Luna Cafe sign at any point in the last twenty years, then you will know what a special day today is -- not just for the City of Mitchell -- but for the Route 66 corridor as well.
- Twenty years ago this sign went dark over the Luna Café. Today however, with the re-lighting of this sign, not only is a part of Mitchell's community history and identity revived, but it also shows the world that we are invested in caring for our nation's history and the American icon that is Route 66.
- The re-lighting of this sign represents the dedicated efforts of many individuals and organizations. Special recognition goes out to the project team, including Jim Thole, Bob Gehl, David Hutson and Esley Hamilton of the Missouri Association's Neon Heritage Preservation Committee, who forged a collaboration with the owner of the Luna Café, Larry Wofford; Jerry Law and the Illinois Route 66

Cont'd. on page 12

The Luna Café Neon Sign Joint Preservation Project Cont'd.

Association; Kip Welborn and the *Friends of the Mother Road*; and Carol Dyson and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency. I am pleased that our program, the National Park Service, Route 66 Corridor Preservation has been part of this collaboration through our grant program, and wish I could be with you all in person to celebrate the flipping of the switch."

The program concluded with an ovation for the final speaker, owner Larry Wofford, who was rather moved by the awesome event, and the large turnout for it. Larry offered his sincere thanks and appreciation to Kaisa Barthuli and the National Park Service, and all of those named in the foregoing paragraph, as well as to some of his loyal patrons and friends who did a general refurbishment of the property in anticipation of this event, and also all of those helping him to stage the party that evening.

If you're beginning to sense that you missed a pretty neat party – well, you did complete with fried chicken and accompaniments, music in the background, in perfect weather (about 66 degrees)! And all of it under the stunning glow of the newly restored neon throughout the night. Kip Welborn summed up this memorable evening the best when he said, "it is moments like this that we who travel Route 66 live for!"

The Luna Café is located at 201 East Chain of Rocks Road in Mitchell, Illinois. From I-270 take the "IL 203 Granite City" Exit 4 and turn north into the town of Mitchell. The commemorative T-shirts (in black, gray or yellow) may still be available when you read this, but only at the Luna Café.

Route 66 Education

The motto of The Route 66 Association is "Preserve, Promote, Educate, and Enjoy Route 66!" We do a grand job of preservation, we certainly enjoy the road, there is no doubt we promote it, and we do the very best that we can to educate people of all ages about the history of Route 66! In Manchester, Iowa Kevin Schuchmann a teacher at West Delaware High School has a project that he has been having a great deal of fun with. He is educating his high school students about business and Route 66 simultaneously.

Last year he began creating a new course called Personal Business that teaches students personal finance skills, technology skills, and other 21st Century Skill. To teach them the skills they need he has them travel down Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica, California by way of the internet, lectures, and other teaching skills he has developed.

Students keep track of a budget and expenses as they spend each night in a different city only traveling as far as they can as if they were driving during class. This means they average about 85 miles per day. Last quarter they extended their stay at the Grand Canyon and a few other locations so it took a little bit longer.

He feels this course is important to students as they also study how towns along Route 66 either survived by changing with the rerouting of traffic or died due to lack of economical resources or focus.

As they travel along the highway they contact businesses and attractions as they study business. You can look at their adventure at: <http://664me.wordpress.com/>

For information you can contact Mr. Schuchmann by email at: kevinschuchmann@w-delaware.k12.ia.us

Demi & Nick Adam Your Hosts	Joy & Paul Adam Your Hosts
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Historic Route 66

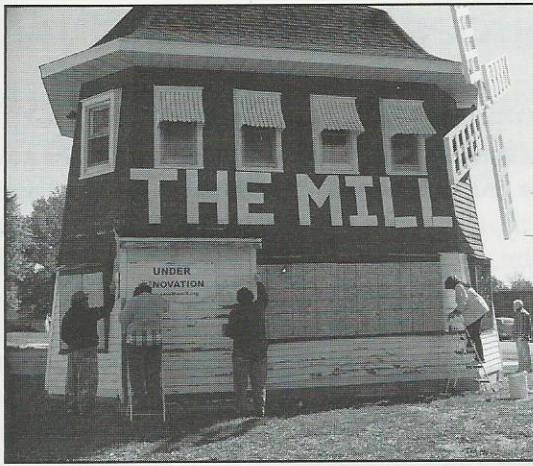
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A work in progress

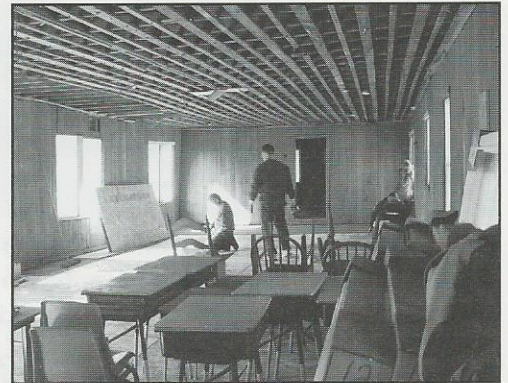
The Mill

Preservation members provided a return visit to the Mill in Lincoln, IL. on October 15th. They were joined by some local volunteers. All total we had twenty folks who pitched in to continue the restoration efforts. After much scrapping, a new coat of paint was applied to the entire outdoor lower section. Due to high winds we could not work safely on the upper section. Inside a new sub floor was installed on the second floor. For lunch everyone had a famous Schnitzel sandwich.

The paint and supplies were furnished by the Ace Hardware Paint division, Terri Ryburn, John Ruh and Logan County Tourism.

Those hearty individual

volunteers were; Bob Wilmert, John Weiss, Leroy Ramthun, Trenton Dominy, Bob Killackey, Debbie Bates, Emmy Bates, Jamie Anderson, John Sutton, Marty Schleder, Michelle Waldock, Vic Zezelic, Dorothy McMullen, Lori Killackey, Mike Fak, Josh Friedrich, Mike Commings, Nancy Vannay.



Renovations progress inside of the Mill

Streetcar in Gardner

The Hall of Fame Streetcar is once again ready to entertain and educate visitors. Many individuals, organizations and community leaders have contributed to the rebirth of this very historic structure.

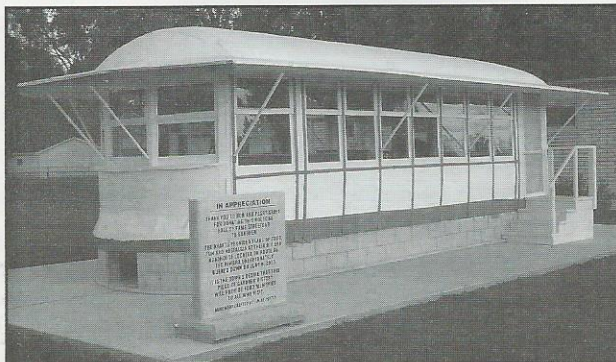
Top credit has to go to Mr. Tom Perkins, his sons and other relatives. This family stepped up to help over ten years ago and have stepped up again. They have continued to work when needed to keep this piece of Gardner history a source of pride for the community.

The closing and eventual destruction of the Riviera Roadhouse left the streetcar a target for vandals and souvenir hunters. It was decided to move it to a protected location and secure it. The village of Gardner then made arrangements for it to again be moved onto the grounds of the two cell jail. (This would be the fifth move in its lifetime) It took one year to accomplish the entire project but it was well worth it. It is a wonderful sight to see.

The official re-dedication took place on November 11th along with the ceremonies celebrating Veterans Day (Armistice Day) and the 85th birthday of Route 66. Bob & Peggy Kraft, the original owners of the Riviera and the streetcar were there along with many members of the Illinois Route 66 Association. How fitting it was to have refreshments once again being served in the little streetcar diner.

Come to Gardner soon to see the streetcar. The way it is currently situated you can see it clearly inside and out even on days when there is no attendant on duty. While here be sure to visit the 1906 jail, Rev. Christiansen memorial and the Route 66 Memorial Gazebo. Best of all it is all free!

Then stop and have some great food in one of the downtown eateries located right on original Route 66.



The Street Car Diner at it's new location next to the 2 cell jail in Gardner



A Veteran's Day Ceremony, Happy Birthday to Route 66, and dedication of the street car diner wall held on November 11, 2011 in Gardner, Illinois

The Waldmire Road Yacht!

by Marty Blitstein

A few years ago, when Bob Waldmire was in Pontiac painting the mural on the Museum wall, we became good friends. Bob was one of the most authentic characters I ever met. If Bob said it, he did it. Bob believed in being a vegan, and he would eat hemp seed and vegetable chips and when we went to the Chinese restaurant to eat, Bob always went into the kitchen and met the cook. Every time Bob would always reappear with a grin on his face and a heaping plate of fresh vegetables!

When Bob was sick, and a group of us went to visit him, he talked to me about the bus. Bob did not want his bus abandoned or sold off. He wanted to share it with the world. I took this wish very seriously and worked with his family to bring the bus to Pontiac.

Roger Gray, of Gray's Towing in Pontiac, was wonderful when I contacted him about bringing the bus to Pontiac. Roger was born on 66, and his business was located on 66 for many years. Roger and his grandson Kevin agreed to bring his big wrecker to Cardinal Hill in Rochester, Illinois, where Bob's bus was parked on his brother Bill's land.

Bob lived in his converted school bus whenever he was back in Illinois and when he came home to die, he moved back into the bus until 2 weeks before he passed, when he moved into his brother Bill and his wife Arlene's home.

After Bob died, the Waldmire brothers were amazing in getting the bus prepped for the big move to Pontiac. They went thru the bus securing items, carefully taking pictures of each section of the bus so that if anything got out of place, we could easily rearrange the books or photos or memorabilia of Bob's to get it back where it belonged.

The day of the big move, Gray's Towing showed up with a huge wrecker. The big move was to be the bus, but in the meantime, Bob's original square-back VW which had been sitting in the grass (mud) for 30 years had a new destination also! Rich Henry, of Henry's Ra66it Ranch, wanted the VW to add to his Ra66it Ranch! So Roger and Kevin spent over an hour manipulating and pulling the old squareback out of the mud. Once on Rich's flatbed, everyone there laughed as the inside of the trunk (which in this car is the front of the car) all of Bob's bumper stickers were in perfect condition. The tires were square but other than that, Rich was off to take the Square-back off to his property in Staunton.

Now the big move began. After carefully checking the drive shaft and inflating the bus' tires, Roger and his grandson set the big wrecker in motion to lift up the front end of the bus. Riding directly behind the bus my job was to see if anything fell off the bus and to be the first line of "defense". The big bus gave a little sway but smoothly moved out of Cardinal Hill out onto the parkway and was safely on its way to its new home in Pontiac. Getting on I-55, cars were honking and pointing to the bus and many people

took out their cameras and were taking pictures of it. We got off at the Dixie Truck stop in McLean to check the tires and grab a sandwich. Getting back on the interstate, Roger Gray told me we'd be getting off at Towanda, as Roger intended to bring Bob's bus to its new home travelling Route 66.

So Bob's bus came to its new home on old Route 66. The bus was carefully brought down Howard Street, and carefully guided back in place behind the City Hall shops where it sits today. The bus was officially opened for "business" after the Red Carpet Corridor bus dedication attended by the Waldmire Brothers and their families. The bus was introduced, and the Waldmire Family also went over to Bob's 2nd to last art project, the Route 66 mural, located on the side of the Rathburn Building opposite the parking lot where Bob's bus sits. The artwork on the building was Bob's last "all nighter" art project, one that he promised the City of Pontiac.

Bob's very last artwork was a sketch of where he wanted his ashes buried next to the graves of his mother and father. I have had the honor of sitting in the bus and talking with people from all over the world who either knew about the bus, had seen it, or knew Bob. People love the van inside the museum, but when they find out Bob used to pull the van with the big bus, they are always amazed.

I was lucky to meet Bob Waldmire and become his friend and I am proud that the City of Pontiac helped our organization keep Bob's dream alive by giving his school bus a home where it would be respected and preserved the same as how he lived in it. As the sign says over the driver's seat "This is my home. Respect it. Enjoy it. Dream." Bob, we all do.

**Visit Big Red at Henry's Rabbit Ranch
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**Email: route66@midwest.net
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Myths about Gasoline

by Brian L. Alexander

In the 19th Century petroleum oil was an inexpensive alternative for whale oil which was used in oil lanterns for indoor lighting. Early gasoline was an unused by-product of the refining process and it was for a time, discarded. Later on its significance was realized and gasoline was sold at the apothecary. Imagine owning or building a vehicle and having to go to the drug store to fuel it.

As a Route 66 Fanatic, I love to read articles about the Mother Road. I have an extensive library which is constantly growing. I have DVDs, books and magazines and they feature the road, the buildings and the people. Many of my fellow Route 66 enthusiasts love gas stations, as I do, but I wonder how much they know about the product that was sold there. I hope I can clear up some myths.

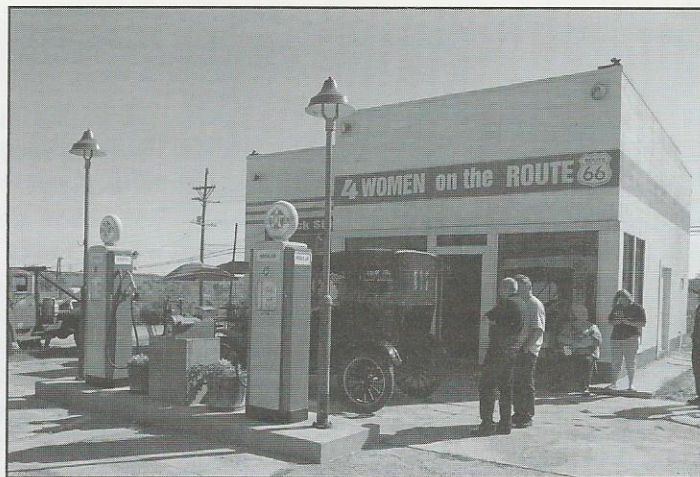
People say, "When it gets very cold, I buy premium gasoline so it will start my car in the cold weather." Nothing could be more counter-productive. In high compression vehicles, heat from the engine and the heat created by compressing air in a cylinder may be enough to ignite the fuel before the spark plug fires (Known as Dieseling, Knock or Ping). Higher octane fuel raises the flash point of the fuel to eliminate this problem. So when the temperature takes a dip, always buy the fuel that your vehicle was designed to run since premium fuel is harder to ignite.

Anyway, I often hear people say, "All gasoline is the same, gasoline is gasoline."

Gasoline in the Chicagoland Area comes from many different local refineries, some are; Mobil, west of Joliet on I-55, BP, Whiting Indiana, Citgo, Lockport/Romeoville and Clark that closed a few years ago, Blue Island, Illinois. In most cases the refineries received their raw petroleum by boat or barge and moved their finished product to their final destination by truck.

Gasoline that travels the pipeline is another story; this gasoline has no additives. So in that sense gasoline is gasoline. Before the tanker driver loads the product in the truck, at the terminal, he/she must swipe a card, much like swiping a credit card, to order the specific brand of gasoline (specific additive package). After the brand has been determined, gallons amounts are ordered of each product. Today, mid-grade gasoline is SPLASH BLENDED; which means that as they fill one of the compartments of the truck with it, they blend 40% Premium with 60% Regular Unleaded. As the truck's compartments are filling with gasoline, the additive is also is blended in at that time.

I have also heard, "I saw XYZ Cartage Company delivering gas to the cut-rate gas station and I saw the same cartage company deliver gas to the branded gas station. They must be delivering the same gasoline." Untrue! XYZ Cartage Company is just that, a cartage company. If you had dirt delivered to your home by a landscape nursery in a dump truck. You can



A place you must stop to see in Kansas

not expect that the next time you see that dump truck, that it has dirt in it; it may have stone, sand or landscape rock. The major oil companies have a truck hauling fleet and a staff to run them. They usually operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If they are too busy or their staff is unable to deliver fuel, they call a cartage company to deliver their petroleum products.

A paradigm shift in the gasoline business, which has changed from how gasoline is stored and has create "Old Wive's Tales," Back in Route 66 heyday oil companies did little maintenance to their fuel storage tanks. Unless they had a large leak, they pretty much ignored them. They were also vented to the atmosphere. So it was not uncommon for there to be dirt, rust and water (condensation) that settled to the bottom of the tank. So people say, "Don't buy gas when the truck is delivering gas." Back in those days if the tanks were low at the time the station was taking a delivery and driver was filling their vehicle, they would pick up the sediment and

cont'd on page 16



Sprague Super Service

On August 20th, 2011 – 18 & 1/2 Preservation members gathered at the Sprague Super Service historical site in Normal, IL. They were there to again provide some much needed assistance to the owner, Terri Ryburn.

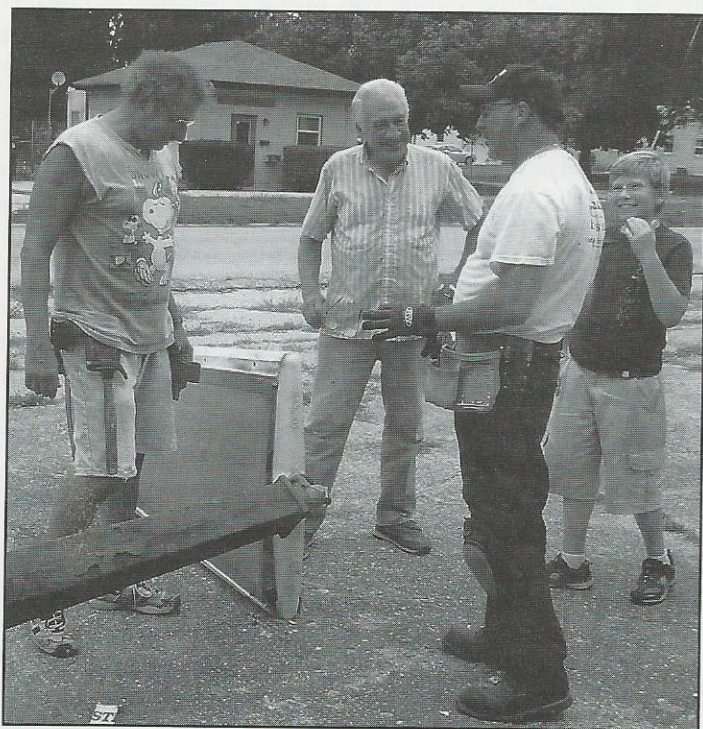
We were able to do most of the work that was on Terri's wish list. That included lots of painting, and the removal of an outside pole light. That light proved to be interesting when our rope broke. We also removed an air conditioner and built some tables for the dinning room. Inside some very specific carpentry work had to be done. It didn't all get built but a great deal did get accomplished. Some doors needed repair and some needed sealing along with cosmetic painting. All in all it was a very constructive day.

Projects like this one are only for those with great vision for the future. Terri Ryburn has that vision. We are happy to be able to help in some small ways in order to preserve this piece of Americana. I'm sure we will return again!

A couple of the volunteers that helped deserve some special recognition. First is our youngest helper, the 1/2 of the group. She is Jennifer Kowaczek. She is the two year old daughter of Tom & Jen. This is the couple who got married at the Odell gas station three years ago.

Also helping was 14 year old Trenton Dominy of Ladd, IL. This young man loves Route 66. He had his mother drive him over so he could lend a hand.

With great pride I also list here the others who worked; Lou Vargo, Dean Keely, Dorothy McMullen, Tom Perkins, Jamie Anderson, Jerry Law, Bob & Lori Killackey, Vic Zezelic, Michelle



Workers plan their strategy to remove a light pole

Waldoch, Geoff Ladd, Marty Schlader, Steve Nalefski, Terri Ryburn, John Weiss.

NOTE, If you would like to be a part of this very elite, paint covered, dirty, tired but smiling group, just contact John Weiss at 815-458-6616 or weissinfo@il66authority.com. Help us save and preserve pieces of Route 66 history. Thank you!



Eureka, success as the light pole tumbles to the ground

Myths about Gasoline cont'd.

water from the bottom of the tank. This would clog the fuel filter and create a drivability problem. With the advent of ethanol and new emission standards, which was after Route 66 was decommissioned, the fuel tanks were repaired or replaced. Tanks no longer vented to the atmosphere and were cleaned to remove water and dirt. Ethanol is alcohol made from primarily corn. Alcohol has cleansing properties and absorbs water, which is why the tanks were cleaned and water removed or the tank may have been replaced. I have heard an individual say, "They watered down their gasoline!" I will ask them if they meant literally or figuratively. Water does not mix with petroleum; gasoline is diluted today with ethanol. Pure ethanol is about 75% efficient when compared to pure gasoline.

Walk down the aisles of a store in cold weather. Do the end caps promote a gasoline additive that claims to prevent gas line freeze? The gasoline additive is just alcohol. Do you know of anyone who has had gas line freeze in the last twenty five years? Since gasoline sold in the State of Illinois is 10% alcohol, why would you want to put in more?

I always buy the Major Brand of gasoline for two reasons. Your car or truck has a sensor that detects engine knock. An inferior fuel will cause engine knock and the sensor will retard the engine timing and the vehicle will not only loose some power but will have poor mileage. The driver will not even notice the knock sensor doing its job. The other reason is that each gasoline dispenser has a final filter. Numerous independents remove the gasoline filter because it is an added expense; they do it to save money and you get unfiltered gasoline and dirt too. So "filler' up" and we will see you on "The Road."

Association Annual Picnic

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Annual Picnic was held last fall on Sunday, October 2, 2011 at the Sugar Grove Nature Center in Funk's Grove. Burgers, brats, and hot dogs including buns, condiments, beverages, paper products and eating utensils were supplied by the association. Members provided their favorite dish to pass and share.

Everyone had a great time exploring the wooded trails and sharing company of friends. The grove is a wonderful facility with a pavilion that can be used in rain or shine. There is an indoor nature display complete with a viewing area of the bird sanctuary. Everyone had such a wonderful time at this location members who were there have requested that we come back again. So, join us next summer when the picnic returns to this same great location on Sunday, August 26, 2012.



A few of the folks who attended the annual picnic

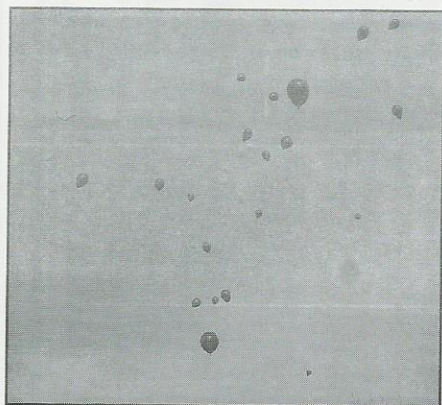
Friday in the Park with Friends November 11, 2011

Last November 11th I took a vacation day from work, and with family and friends I drove to Gardner, IL and participated in their celebration of three important events at one time. As I listened to the various speeches, heard the choirs sing, and watched balloons be set free in the sky I realized how lucky I am to be an American.

As the day's events unfolded I found myself becoming excited and remembering why I love the Mother Road so much. I once again felt a renewed sense of pride as an American as this small town celebrated Veteran's Day. And I felt the love and appreciation given towards the senior citizens of the town who worked with the younger residents to make this day successful. This day brought so many people all ages, all genders, all races together in remembrance and celebration. I wonder if the town itself even realized the importance of the day or how it impacted lives.

I'd like to share excerpts of the speech given by John Weiss as he wished Route 66 Happy Birthday and commented on the preservation of icons like the Streetcar Diner. "November 11, 1926 – That is the birth date of the most famous road in the world, Route 66! Yes, it was 85 years ago today that something magical occurred. Route 66 is called the Main street of America. John Steinbeck in his book "The Grapes of Wrath" called it "The Mother Road". It doesn't look any different than any other road, however, in the beginning it did possess one

very special element that no other road could claim. It was the longest piece of paved road in Illinois. Back then, to have a road through Illinois that was continuously paved for 300 miles was unheard of. It was big news back then that the road from Chicago to St. Louis was



Balloons released into the air soar above at the triple celebration



Teens, senior citizens, children and people of all ages gather to celebrate

all hard road. This remarkable accomplishment led to many sites and structures, like this streetcar, that we now look at with nostalgic eyes Gardner should be very proud of what you have here. Because of the streetcar and jail, people are coming from around the world to visit your community." He also commented, "it's important to realize that what Route 66 provides is the history of yesterday. What we do today, will become the history of tomorrow."

I've heard John speak many times, I've even assisted him in one of his presentations for the Thornton Historical Society, but there was something about that speech. A young soldier who had toured Iraq and Afghanistan also spoke. He brought tears to my eyes and he claimed he was no hero, but those who lost their lives for our freedom are the heroes. Was it the day, the event, I don't really know, but I do know that on that day, those speeches, the entire event touched my soul.

Thank you Gardner, thank you John, thank you soldier with no name for making me remember why I am grateful to be an American.

Junior Membership and Newsletter

by Gina Blitstein, editor of the Route 66 Association of Illinois website
(<http://www.il66assoc.com/>)

I personally think it's critical that we engage the younger set in our passion for Route 66. They are the key to carrying on all the hard work and dedication that has been put forth to preserve her history. To that end, I believe we need to communicate with them in the ways that this generation really communicates: on the Internet, with bright and bold words and images.

That's why I volunteered to create a Junior Newsletter for the younger fans of the Mother Road. The newsletter, Adventure Journal, is now available to view or download from the website. My hope is that it will help spark their interest in Route 66 at a young age which will lead to a lifelong love of the Mother Road and membership in our Association.

Attention Young Roadies! You're never too young to get excited about Route 66! That's why we here at the Route 66 Association of Illinois have a membership just for you. If you're under the age of 18, you're eligible for a FREE Junior Membership in our Association.

Junior Members Receive:

- Membership Card
- Decal
- An online newsletter, Adventure Journal, just for young roadies!

To learn more and become a Junior Member, visit our website at: <http://www.il66assoc.com/content/join-route-66-association-illinois>

The Adventure Journal is a Route 66 Newsletter just for you! Each issue will be packed with Route 66 fun, information and activities! The first issue has a crossword puzzle, a "Name this Attraction" contest, stories about some young Route 66 travelers and some suggestions for fun things to do along Old 66! You can also get your Route 66 photo or artwork published in our next issue - read how to submit your picture!

You can read (or download) the Adventure Journal online at: <http://www.il66assoc.com/content/junior-newsletter>

There's more fun for Young Roadies coming down the road soon in the next issue of Adventure Journal! Check it out today! We'd love to include your own Route 66 adventures - please send us your story!

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The Cookbook Committee is now collecting
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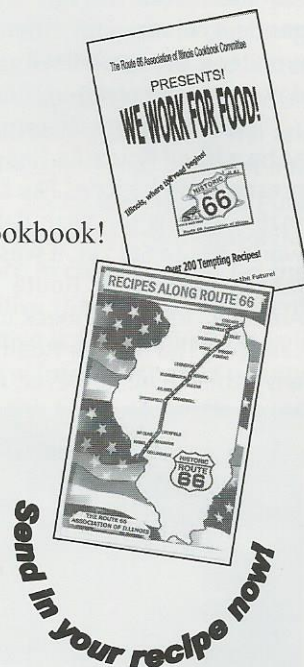
Lori Killackey

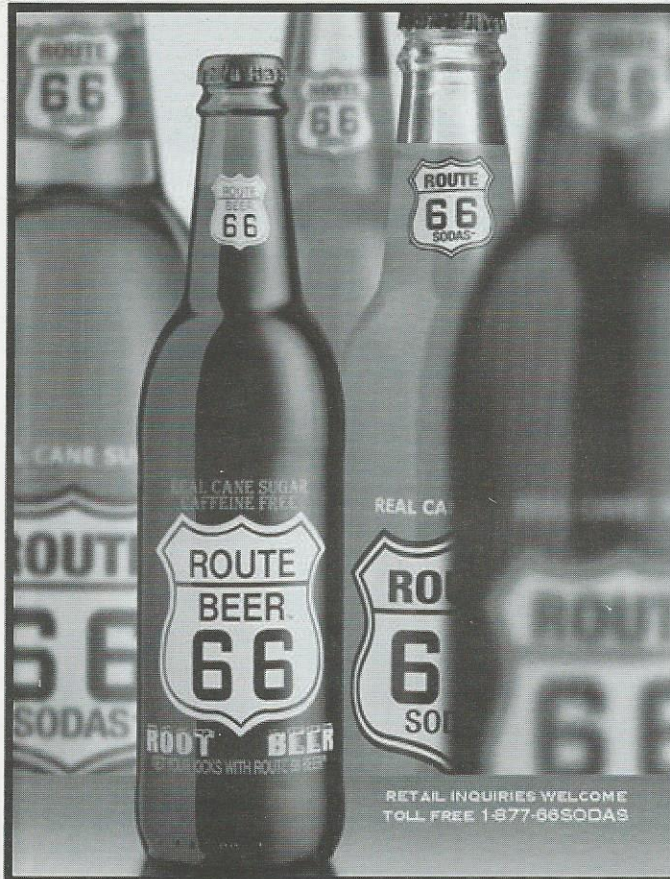
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Please note: EMAIL is preferred submission

Visit our website www.il66assoc.org for information...



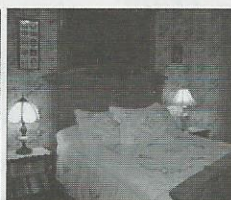
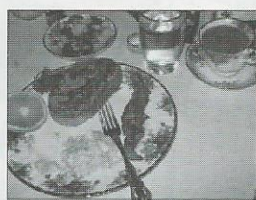


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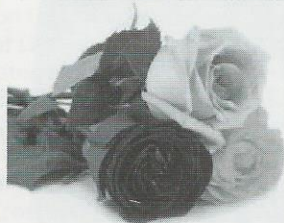
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From one of our guests:

"Our golf game was rained out but we certainly were not at a loss for activities. We spent a goodly amount of time at the Route 66 Museum. As the skies cleared, we took a long walk around the square, town park, library and courthouse. Our room was well equipped and quiet. Our skillet breakfast was stick-to-the ribs-all-day delicious. We highly recommend Three Roses to anyone staying a night or more in Pontiac."



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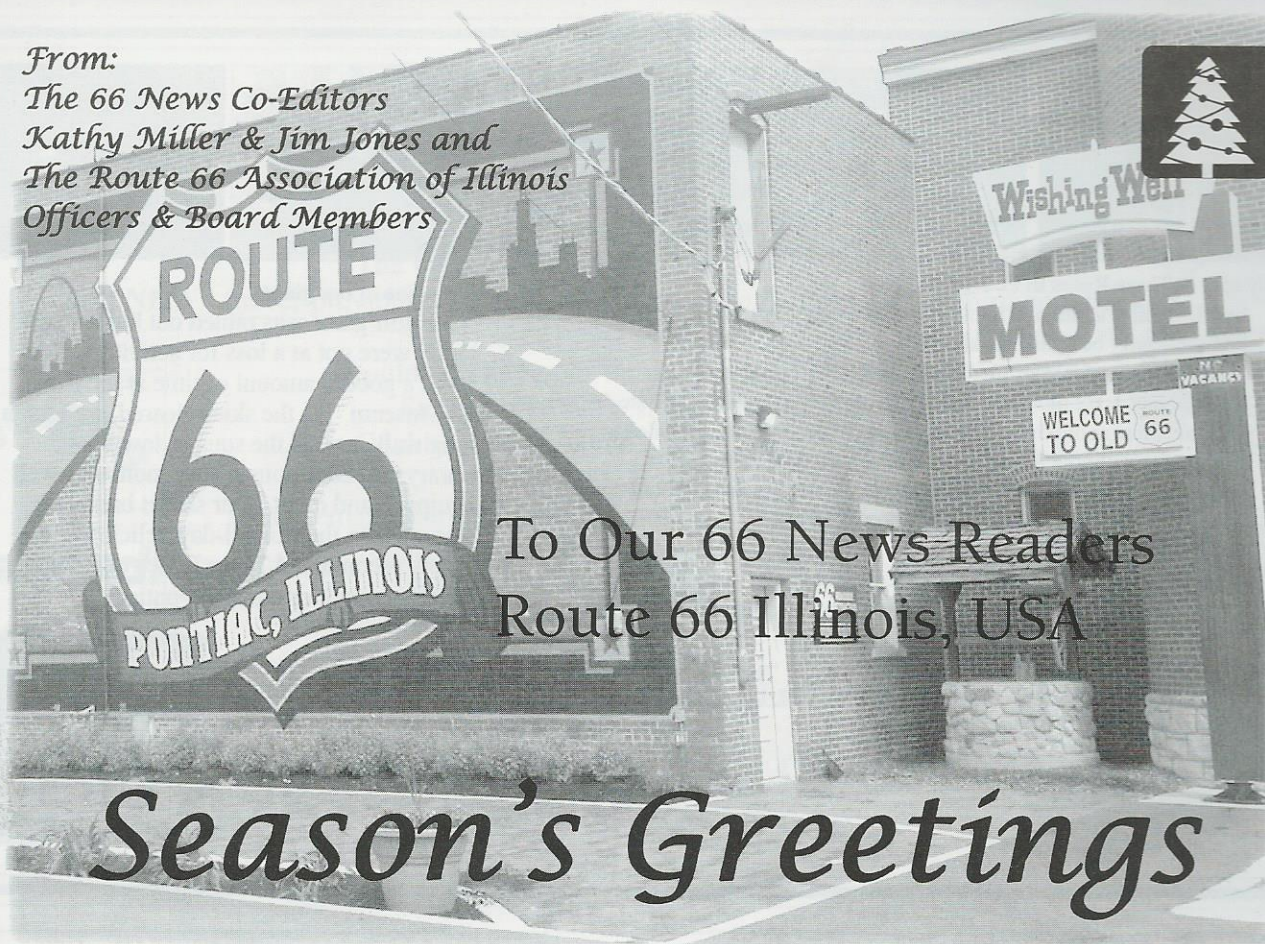
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From:

The 66 News Co-Editors

Kathy Miller & Jim Jones and

The Route 66 Association of Illinois
Officers & Board Members



To Our 66 News Readers
Route 66 Illinois, USA

Season's Greetings

Please support our Route 66 Association of Illinois Business Members

VFN Fiberglass	330 W. Factory Road	Addison	IL	60101	630-543-0232
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Berwyn Development Corp.	3322 S. Oak Park Ave., 2nd Floor	Berwyn	IL	60402	708-788-8100
Berwyn Route 66 Museum	7003 Ogden	Berwyn	IL	60402	708-484-9349
Abe on 66 Inc.	608 W. Chestnut St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-846-4306
Bloomington Public Library	205 E. Olive St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-557-8912
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Carlin Villa Motel	18891 Route 4 South	Carlinville	IL	62626	217-854-3201
Magnuson Grand Hotel & Conference Center	1 - 55 & IL Route 108., P.O. Box 377	Carlinville	IL	62626	217-324-2100
Chenoa Pharmacy	209 Green St.	Chenoa	IL	61726	309-747-3002
City of Chenoa	P.O. Box 167	Chenoa	IL	61726	815-945-7619
Matthew T. Scott House Foundation	227 N. First Ave.	Chenoa	IL	61726	815-945-4555
Berghoff Restaurant	17 West Adams St.	Chicago	IL	60603	312-427-3170
Chicago Historic Route 66 Classic Car Show	1909 S. Avers Ave.	Chicago	IL	60623	773-592-4718
Lou Mitchell's Restaurant	565 W. Jackson Blvd.	Chicago	IL	60661	312-939-3111
First National Bank of Dwight	122 W. Main St., P.O. Box 10	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-1212
Old Route 66 Family Restaurant	105 S. Old Route 66	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-2920
Village of Dwight	209 S. Prairie Ave.	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-3077
Cassens Transport Co.	145 N. Kansas St.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-3006
Comfort Inn	3080 S. SR 157	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-4900
Edwardsville Preservation Comm.	118 Hillsboro Ave.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	
Springer's Creek Winery	817 Hillsboro Ave	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-307-5110
Mr. B's Bar & Grill on Rt. 66	23956 State Rt. 53	Elwood	IL	60421	815-727-7070
Silver Dollar Restaurant	422 Mississippi Ave.	Elwood	IL	60421	815-423-6700
Village of Elwood	401 E. Mississippi Ave, P.O. Box 435	Elwood	IL	60421	815-423-5011
Big Fella's Eatery, Inc.	116 Depot St., P.O. Box 385	Gardner	IL	60424	815-237-8335
Village Of Gardner	302 N. Center St., P.O. Box 545	Gardner	IL	60424	
Dock's Soda Fountain	133 S. Second St.	Girard	IL	62640	217-627-3491
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	
Route 66 Ridez	230 N. Old Route 66	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2339
Rt. 66 Beauty & Tanning	11 Old U.S. Rt. 66., P.O. Box 306	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2166
Village of Hamel	111 S. Old Route 66., P.O. Box 345	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2484
Weezy's Route 66	108 S. Old Rt. 66	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2228
City of Joliet Tourism	150 W. Jefferson St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-724-9045
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	413 N. Old Route 66., P.O. Box 453	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-2023
City of Litchfield	120 East Ryder	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-8147
Hampton Inn of Litchfield	11 Thunderbird Circle	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-4441
Jubelt's Bakery & Restaurant	303 N. Old Route 66	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-5314
Dixie Travel Plaza	501 S. Main St., P.O. Box 260	McLean	IL	61754	309-874-2323
Luna Café	201 E. Chain of Rocks Road	Mitchell	IL	62040	618-931-3152
City of Morris	320 Waupousee St.	Morris	IL	60450	815-942-0103
The Crossroads Diner	995 Lakeview Drive	Mount Olive	IL	62069	
City of Mt. Olive	200 E. Main St.	Mt. Olive	IL	62069	217-999-4261
Bob Green Auto Service	1847 New Salam Church Road	New Berlin	IL	62670	217-546-5846
Pour Richards Tap & Dining	210 Tremont	Odell	IL	60460	815-998-2556

Rentz's Tap & Dining	210 S Waupansie St.	Odell	IL	60460	815-998-2383
Standard Station of Odell	314 E. George St., P.O. Box 175	Odell	IL	60460	
Vertical Geosolutions, Inc.	130 Sawgrass Lane	O'Fallon	IL	62269	618-670-4259
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 County Historical Society	115 W. Howard St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-2744
Lydia's Loft	107 1/2 W. Madison St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	309-824-2490
McSherry Agency	209 W. Madison St	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-3183
Old Log Cabin Inn	18700 N. Old Rt. 66	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-2908
Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce	210 N. Plum St., P.O. Box 534	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-5131
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	630-739-1720
Double H Bar	121 N. 1st St.	Sherman	IL	62634	217-496-3811
Funk's Grove Pure Maple Sirup	5257 Old Route 66	Shirley	IL	61772	307-874-3220
Amoco Fence Co.	2919 S. MacArthur Blvd.	Springfield	IL	62704	217-787-2921
Branham's Paint & Body	4125 N. Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	217-528-9654
Burris & Son Trucking	2831 S. Whittier Ave.	Springfield	IL	62704	217-528-7741
C & A Custom Kitchens	3500 E. Clear Lake Ave.	Springfield	IL	62702	217-523-0170
Champion Garage, Inc.	820 Black Ave.	Springfield	IL	62702	217-522-4114
Cozy Dog Drive In	2935 S. Sixth St.	Springfield	IL	62703	217-525-1992
Crowne Plaza	3000 S. Dirksen Parkway	Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-7777
Curve Inn	3219 S. Sixth St.	Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-5806
Holiday Inn Express	3050 S. Dirksen Parkway	Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-7771
IL State Police Heritage Foundation	4000 N. Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	217-528-0764
Illini Bank	2120 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	217-544-0139
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
Lindsey Electric, Inc.	3260 Terminal Ave.	Springfield	IL	62707	217-544-6789
Maverick Steak House	1023 W. Dorlan Ave., Suite C	Springfield	IL	62702	217-732-7169
Mid Illinois Caliper	2803 N. Dirksen	Springfield	IL	62702	
Midwest Truckers Association	2727 N. Dirksen Pkwy	Springfield	IL	62702	217-525-0310
Moscardelli Moving & Storage	709 N. Lincoln	Springfield	IL	62702	217-787-4043
Oldhan Graphic Supply	2056 Republic	Springfield	IL	62702	217-528-4649
Shea's Finest Truck Covers	2075 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	217-522-0475
Springfield Overhead Doors, Inc.	421 N. Lincoln	Springfield	IL	62702	217-787-2602
Vic's Pizza	2025 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	217-522-2464
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	618-637-2951
Henry's Ra66it Ranch	1107 Historic Old Route 66	Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-5655
Patterson Bros. Oil & Gas, Inc.	P.O. Box 139	Williamsville	IL	62693	217-566-3328
Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket	645 Joliet Road	Willowbrook	IL	60521	630-325-0780
Angelo's Ben Franklin	706 W. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-9091
Launching Pad Drive In	810 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-6535
Lickety Split Ice Cream Shoppe	507 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-1980
Milltown Market	508 N. Kankakee St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-0386
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce	111 S. Water St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-5991
Route 66 World	8776 E. Shea Blvd. B3A-409	Scottsdale	AZ	85260	847-757-2246
Original Route 66 Accessories	15700 W. Huntley Ct.	Surprise	AZ	85374	708-246-1543
National Route 66 Federation	P.O. Box 1848	Lake Arrowhead	CA	92352	909-336-6131
Gionanni Tours	626 Westchester Lane	Newbury Park	CA	91320	805-375-1324
The Last Stop Shop	404 Santa Monica Pier	Santa Monica	CA	90401	310-422-6347
Greg's Motor Sales	1021 W. Mishawaka	Mishawaka	IN	46545	574-255-0771
Route 66 Root Beer & Soda	P.O. Box 766	Lebanon	MO	65536	417-588-4466
Afton Station & Route 66 Packards	12 SE. 1st St.	Afton	OK	74331	918-382-9465
Claremore Convention & Visitors Bureau	419 W. Will Rogers Blvd.	Claremore	OK	74017	918-341-8688
Miami Ok Convention & Visitors Bureau	101 N. Main St.	Miami	OK	74354	918-542-4435

Route 66 Association of Illinois Welcomes New Members

Tina & Todd Dominy, Steve Guzzetta, Martha A. Jackson, Joseph D. Kubal, Sue Minner, Rose Ann & Phillip Scully, Abe on 66 Inc. - D. Senger, Sue Sewell, Jonathan Mark Slotter, Nelson Sprague, Heather & Luis Wilkins, Vertical Geosolutions, Inc. - Rick Marshall, Village of Elwood - Nick Narducci, Tiffany & Greg Whisler and John Wille

THE 66 NEWS WINTER 2012

THE ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

The Route 66 Association is a not-for-profit organization. Our purpose is to preserve, promote, educate and enjoy Route 66.

Publisher/Co-Editor Kathy Miller

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Co-Editor Jim Jones

815-844-5657 - Email: ngge@frontier.com

Publication Questions & Information

Am I paid for my submission? All contributions are accepted without compensation.

Who owns the copyright of my submission? Authors retain all copyright privileges. The Route 66 Association reserves the right to use all submissions in future issues of "The 66 News", the Route 66 Association website, and any association advertisement with no compensation paid.

When is The 66 News published? The 66 News is published quarterly in the fall, winter, spring, and summer.

When are contributions due? For contributions to be considered for inclusion they must be received by the following dates: Fall, August 15th – Winter, November 15th – Spring, February 15th – Summer, May 15th

Are all submissions published? Submissions are published at the discretion of the editors.

What file format can I send my submission as? For articles and informational contributions the editors will accept text files or word documents. Only paid advertisements may be submitted in a PDF format. Photos are preferred to be submitted as a JPG file. However, the editors will accept photos as a GIF or a BMP file. You may include suggestions for photo captions.

How may I submit my contribution? Email is the preferred method of submission:

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Email to Kathleen708@hotmail.com

or by U.S.P.S.

Jim Jones, Newsletter

C/O The Route 66 Assoc of IL Hall of Fame & Museum

110 West Howard

Pontiac, IL 61764

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Or by U.S.P.S.

Marty Blitstein

C/O The Route 66 Assoc of IL Hall of Fame & Museum

110 West Howard

Pontiac, IL 61764

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Route 66 Association of Illinois

Winter Quarterly Meeting - Sunday - January 15, 2012

Meeting Location:

Route 66 Assoc of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum

110 W. Howard St.

Pontiac, IL 61764

- ❖ Board Meeting 10:00 AM
- ❖ Lunch Break Noon - On Your Own
 - General Meeting 1:00 PM
 - Spring 2012 Quarterly Meeting
 - Summer 2012 Quarterly Meeting
 - Fall 2012 Annual Meeting - Pontiac

ANNUAL EVENTS

The Route 66 Association Annual Motor Tour
"Illinois Route 66 Midpoint, Funks Grove, IL"

June 8, 9, 10, 2012

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Annual Picnic

August 26, 2012

Funk's Grove Nature Preserve

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(Please put "66 News" on the subject line)

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The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Museum

110 West Howard

Pontiac, IL 61764



License plate displayed on the motorcycle of
association member John Faulhaber