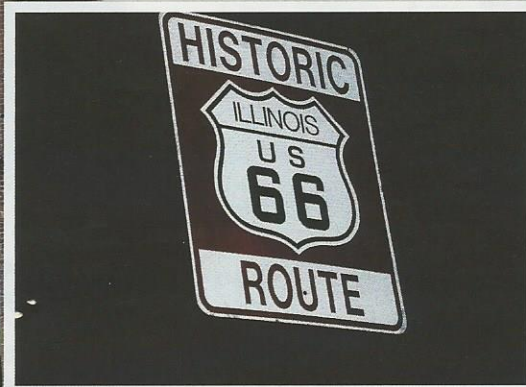
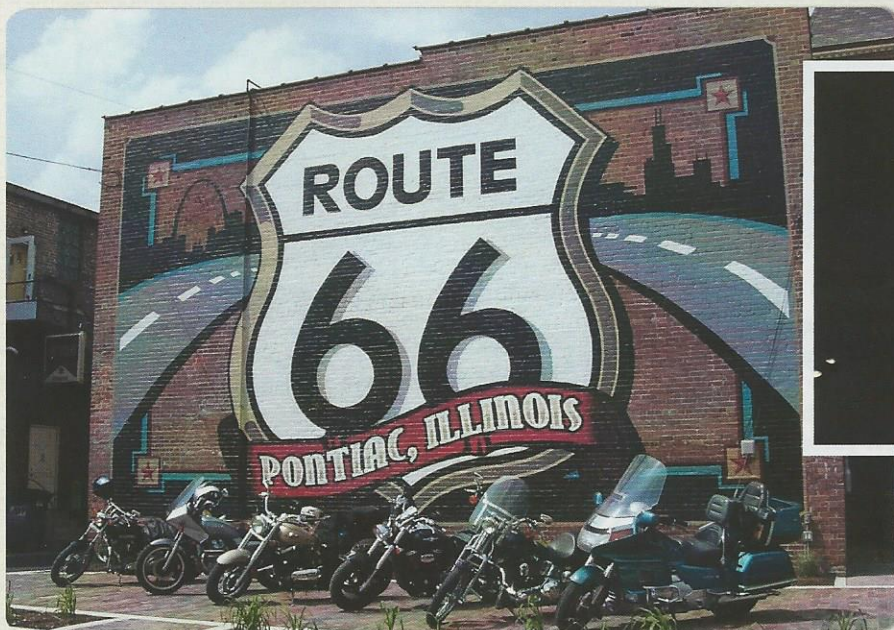


SPRING

2012

THE 66 NEWS



TO PRESERVE, EDUCATE,
PROMOTE AND ENJOY
ROUTE 66 IN ILLINOIS!

Illinois - Where the Road Begins!

Here comes Spring along the Mother Road! We're looking forward to an exciting 2012 travel season, beginning with the Red Carpet Corridor in May and our 23rd Annual Motor Tour in June! All throughout the year there will be preservation and fun galore!

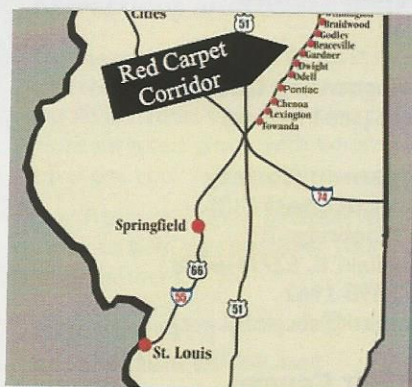
Get ready to discover books, food, events and attractions that will make you want to hit the open road this Spring and Summer for a real slice of Americana.

Read about our Association's continuing efforts to keep the Spirit of Route 66 as young as she makes her travelers feel!

In this issue of The 66 News, you'll notice a new look and feel as it continues to celebrate the people, places and events that make Route 66 a destination for reliving memories and making new ones. We hope you'll enjoy every story and photo!



MOTOR TOUR 2012



RED CARPET CORRIDOR

Growing Up on Rt. 66

Farm Life outside Ocoya, Illinois



MEMORIES OF 66

The Route 66 Association of Illinois

Our Association is governed by an elected group of officers and board members who are responsible for administering our mission and representing the numerous communities through which Route 66 passes in Illinois. They serve to facilitate your involvement with our Association.

Officers

President

Cathie Stevanovich ('13)
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Comprised of all above officers plus:

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Vacant

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(see contact information above)

Publicity

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(see contact information above)

Jerry Law ('13)

(see contact information above)

Kathy Miller ('12)

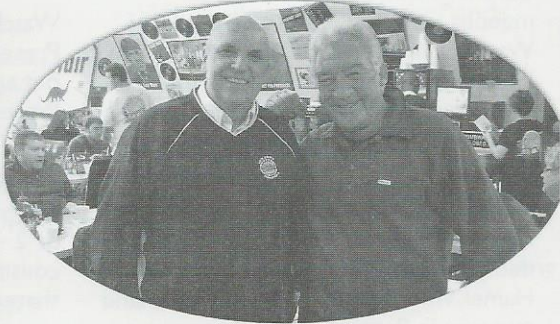
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Gina Blitstein

Website Administrator
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The 66 News Editor
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gina@wryteytidy.com

THE 66 NEWS

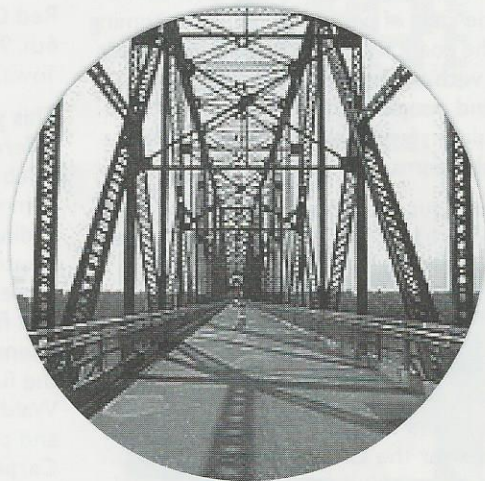
This publication is distributed to members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois as a membership premium. Its mission is to inform our membership about our Association and its activities, as well as to demonstrate our passion for preservation and to celebrate the Mother Road.



Submit Content to The 66 News

We here at the Route 66 Association of Illinois welcome your stories from the road, Route 66 news and events. Here's how to submit your content to us for publication in this, our Quarterly Newsletter, or on our website:

Route 66 Association of Illinois
Attention: Newsletter Editor Gina Blitstein
P.O. Box 1940
Matteson, IL 60443
gina@writeytidy.com
(708) 374-8439



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Advertise in *The 66 News*

Attention, Route 66 Businesses, Attractions and Communities!

This newsletter, *The 66 News*, is mailed quarterly to each and every member of our Association. Can you think of a more targeted group with whom to advertise your business or community?

Our Treasurer, Marty Blitstein will be happy to help you purchase your advertisement.

708-444-1312
blitz66@earthlink.net
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60487

We offer several affordable advertising options in our Newsletter.

Single Issue Pricing for Advertising in the 66 News:

Whole Page - \$125.00

Half Page - \$75.00

Business Card size - \$25.00

Special Offer - for 1 year of Whole Page or Half Page ads (all 4 issues)

Buy 3 ads, get the 4th FREE

All ads need not contain the same content.

Ads are in black and white only.

A Message from Association President, Cathie Stevanovich



What a strange Winter this year! Snow has been here and there – and some days so nice it was hard to remember it's still Winter! I would rather do Winter in February and March than snow in April, May or June. Whenever it's too nice, I think 1967 and the snowstorm that landlocked many of us.

It's going to be a HUGE year for travelers on the road! I have emails and phone calls of people planning on coming on the road, and wanting to line up their visit with festivals and events! I have to remind people not every town has a parade or festival when they're visiting – it only seems that way!

Motor Tour is on track – Jerry Law is working hard with Board Members and volunteers, planning a tour with new places and faces as well as some of our tried and trues.

We will be returning to the Edwardsville Mother Road Festival for our Friday night kick-off and Saturday morning we will cross over the Chain of Rocks Bridge. New stops include the Wooden Nickel

Winery in Litchfield, Curve Inn in Springfield, our overnight is at Lincoln with the Hall of Fame banquet at Lincoln College where we've had some really fabulous food and programs.

Kudos to Marty Blitstein, Duke Cartwright, and Debbie Bates for meeting up with Geoff Ladd and Chef Warren Wendlandt and his staff in Lincoln and working on the room setup, menu and pricing. A lot of time is spent behind the scenes by volunteers so that the tour is "seamless" as much as a tour of several hundred can be!

Along the way we're doing a tree dedication for the late Jim Allen in Hamel, visiting the new Pontiac-Oakland museum in Pontiac and ending our tour with great music and food in Lloyd Erickson Park in Elwood. (If you can't make the tour, make sure you join us that Sunday for our end-of-tour festivities in Elwood!)

Red Carpet Festival is set – May 5th and 6th, 90 miles of fun from Joliet to Towanda!

This year each community will have a different key – so make your plans to celebrate and collect all 13 keys. The community of Elwood joins in this year adding another stop to your fun! The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum is lending out their 2nd floor for a special exhibit, "Remembering the 1940s" so come for the fun, stay for the nostalgia. Bob Waldmire's bus will be open for tours and photo opportunities starting Red Carpet weekend!

Workdays are planned – there is a workday at the Hall of Fame and Museum on Sunday, March 25th, our annual Spring clean up and Annual Dorothy Seratt McMullen and Cathie Stevanovich birthday/workday bash in April.

Watch the website for upcoming Preservation projects workdays. Come out and get your hands dirty! Preservation is fun!

Have you sent in your recipe yet for our 3rd cookbook? We're looking for recipes that you hadn't sent in for cookbook 1 or 2 – I just know you've got an aunt's or cousin's star recipe that you haven't shared with anyone yet! Lori Killackey is anxious to get our new cookbook underway! Help make Lori's job easier. Email is cookylady1215@yahoo.com. Recipes can also be sent to the Hall of Fame and Museum at 110 W. Howard, Pontiac, IL 61724.

When the first buds are on the trees you'll see us on the road! Lucca Grill, Bloomington, celebrating 75 years of great food on the Mother Road, driving to Funks Grove for the fresh maple sirup.

The economy is still tough, politics is even tougher, but simple pleasures along the road are still the best medicine in the world for whatever ails you.

See you on the road!
Cathie

Welcome New Members!

Association President Cathie Stevanovich, Membership Chairman, Marty Blitstein, and the entire Route 66 Association would like to extend a sincere welcome to our new members who've joined us between November 15, 2011 and February 11, 2012.

We hope your experience as a member of our association brings you great satisfaction and a deeper appreciation of Route 66!

- Mark Rush
- Cafe Fontana, Pontiac, IL
- Wooden Nickel Winery & Saloon (Jared Wirth)
- Loren G. Peterson
- Fading Nostalgia (Katie Nelson & Chris Robleski)
- Route 66 Cruisers Car Club (Jeff Whitehead)
- H.V.E. Vending Machine Specialists (Russ A. Kottke, Sr.)
- Nancy De Fiesta
- Leon Harris
- Steve Glaab & Caroline Malloy



Trivia Time!

Answer the following Route 66 trivia question correctly and be entered into a drawing to win a copy of our cookbook, **Recipes Along 66!**

Name the oldest hotel on Route 66.

Send your answers to Route 66 Association of Illinois c/o Editor Gina, P.O. Box 1940, Matteson, IL 60443 or gina@writetidy.com. Those who answer correctly and the prize winner will be announced in our next issue.

What's Happening?

Thanks to all there is to see and do along the Road, we can't fit it all into a quarterly publication.

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE STORIES WE'VE INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE OF THE 66 NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AT

WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG/THE66NEWS

Also, follow these stories that we've provided on our website. We strive to keep you informed about events and Route 66 events as they happen.

Here are some of the recent stories on our website:

- Willem Bor of the Netherlands, talented Route 66 artist and photographer has an amazing photo collection and he creates detailed models of Route 66 attractions.
- The Route 66 Tin Can Caravan musical show will be traveling along Route 66 in September.
- Up-to-date details about events, stories and attractions along Route 66 and informational resources to enhance your travels along the Mother Road.

Upcoming Association Meetings

Spring Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, April 15, 2012

Vic's Pizza
2025 Peoria Rd
Springfield, IL

Meeting times for all Quarterly Meetings are the same:

Board Meeting - 10:00 AM
Lunch - 12:00 PM (on your own)
General Meeting - 1:00 PM

Summer Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, July 15, 2012

Silver Dollar
422 Mississippi Ave
Elwood, IL

Fall Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, October 14, 2012

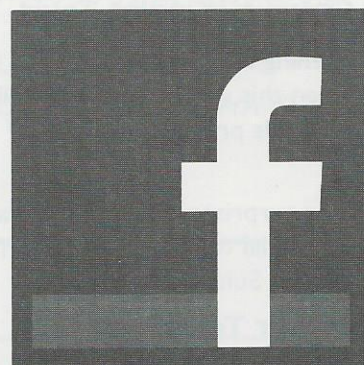
Pontiac, IL (location to be announced)
This meeting will include our annual Association election.

KEEP UP
WITH US ON
THE WEB

WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG



VISIT OUR WEBSITE!



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/IL66ASSOC



WWW.TWITTER.COM/ILRT66

News Desk

Red Carpet Corridor

Kick off the 2012 travel season by participating in the annual Red Carpet Corridor festivities! Enjoy fun events in the 13 communities along the 90 mile stretch of Route 66 from Joliet to Towanda!

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING EXCITING GOING ON ALONG ROUTE 66 - ESPECIALLY BEGINNING IN THE SPRING!

2012 Motor Tour

Our **big event** of the year is a trek along our portion of the Mother Road over a very special weekend in June! It's what we call a Motor Tour and this is our 23rd annual one! Come explore Route 66 from Chain of Rocks Bridge to Elwood and everything in between!

Please join us this year for the

Funk's Grove Mid-point Tour!

Saturday evening is our Hall of Fame Banquet when this year's nominees will be inducted into this prestigious group of roadies.

There will be surprises all along the way as well as a special tour finale you won't want to miss on Sunday afternoon!

Special Motor Tour Finale!

According to Will County Representative, Dorothy McMullen, this year's Motor Tour will conclude with a gala celebration at the final Passport stop in Elwood.

Entertainment featuring Jim Hannah and the Country Boys with Ron Gonsoulin will be provided, in addition to food, drinks and raffles. It all takes place in beautiful Lloyd Erickson Park, adjacent to the famous Children's Garden.

Please refer to pages 11 and 12 for our official Motor Tour flyer and registration form, which contains complete Motor Tour details - or download it from our website! Please Motor Tour with us!



RED CARPET CORRIDOR

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2012

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2012

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

WWW.IL66REDCARPETCORRIDOR.ORG

(815) 844-5847

Route 66 Association of Illinois Presents Funk's Grove - Mid Point June 8-9-10, 2012

off
tival Route 66
12-8:00

9th
cks Bridge 7:00 - 8:15 a.m.
.00 charge to cross
Café
goodie bag

den Nickel - Lunch
rve Inn
if Fame Banquet

10th
Museum - free admission
Mid Point dedication 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.
ge Award - D. K. Garage
inch
threw Scott House
Hac Oakland Museum Tour
www.ill66.org

Route 66 Dinner Buffet
June 9th Lincoln College
(small gym)
only 250 tickets available
All-You-Can-Eat-Bufferet
Carved Steamship Round
Of Beef
Lemon Pepper Baked Cod
Golden Fried Chicken Strip
Creamy Smashed Red Pot
Buttered Sweet Corn
Dinner Rolls
Peel & Eat Shrimp
Pasta Salad
Assorted Cheese Cube Tr
Vegetable & Fruit Jell-O
Bread Pudding
Desert Chef Choice

MOTOR TOUR

JUNE 8 - 10, 2012

SEE PAGES 11 AND 12 FOR
COMPLETE DETAILS AND
REGISTRATION FORM!

WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG

JERRY LAW

(618) 251-4892

The 66 News Editor, Gina Blitstein

I'd like to introduce myself; I am Gina Blitstein. I have recently taken the helm as the Editor of **The 66 News**. I am also proud to serve the association as website administrator and Junior Newsletter editor.

I'd like to take this opportunity to share my vision for the Newsletter. First and foremost, I want to make this Newsletter a reflection of the Association it represents. I have great respect for Route 66 and this organization. My overriding goal is to honor both while presenting their story with passion - as a living, thriving entity who continues to inspire.

In this age of electronic media, print newsletters may seem to be losing their appeal and relevance. I believe that **The 66 News** can continue to represent our organization and the spirit of Route 66 by closely coordinating with the Internet and newer technologies which represent the ways our members will interact into the future.

I look forward to creating a newsletter that educates, celebrates and reflects the spirit of Route 66 - and this Association's heart and dedication.

I welcome your comments and ideas toward making these goals a reality.

Annual Association Picnic

All are invited to join us for our annual Association picnic.

Bring the family! Get together with fellow roadies while enjoying free food and beverages in a lovely park!

Water and soft drinks will be provided.

Please bring a dish to share - and the recipe - for inclusion in our Association cookbook!

WE KEEP THE ROUTE 66 FUN GOING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR! CHECK OUT HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF IT ALL!

Association Cookbook

Our Association is proud to offer a cookbook, comprised of recipes from the best cooks along Route 66.

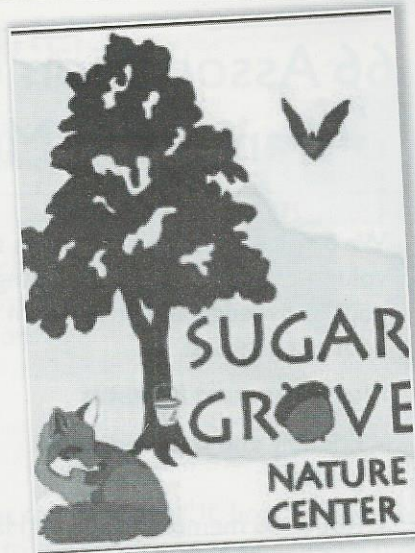
What's that you're cooking? It smells delicious! We'd love to include your favorite recipes in the new edition of our cookbook - there's a page waiting for your signature dish! Submit it today and be included in some tasty company!

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE, AT EVERY AGE!

Junior Memberships and Newsletter

You're never too young to be a Roadie! Junior Memberships are absolutely FREE and include a membership card, decal and access to the **Adventure Journal**, our newsletter for the younger set!

Parents - sign up your child and give us the opportunity to pass along the spirit of Route 66 to new generations!

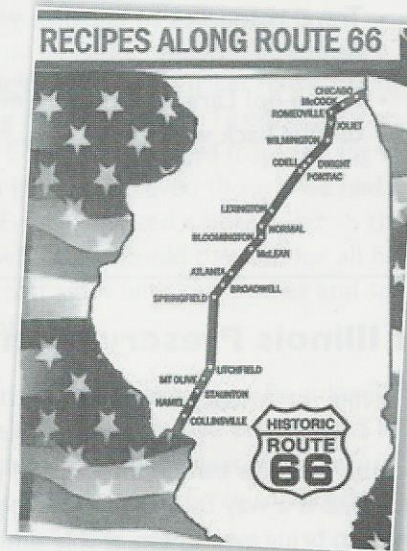


ASSOCIATION PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2012
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

SUGAR CREEK NATURE CENTER
PICNIC GROUNDS, NEAR FUNK'S GROVE, IL

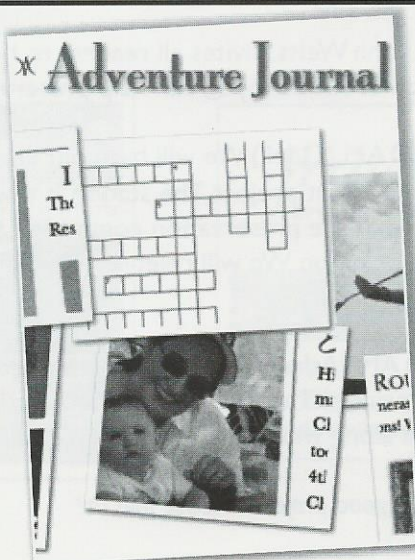
MARTY BLITSTEIN
(708) 444-1312



RECIPES ALONG 66

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPES FOR THE NEW EDITION OF OUR ASSOCIATION COOKBOOK!

LORI KILLACKY
COOKYLADY1215@YAHOO.COM



JUNIOR NEWSLETTER

JUNIOR MEMBERS HAVE THEIR OWN ONLINE NEWSLETTER TO ENJOY! VIEW OR DOWNLOAD FROM:

WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG/CONTENT/JUNIOR-NEWSLETTER

Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum

Begin your Route 66 adventure here!



The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum features thousands of artifacts and a delightful assortment of unique memorabilia, all related to Route 66 - The Mother Road.

We invite Association members to volunteer at the museum, sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm with our visitors!

Our Museum boasts:

- Friendly and knowledgeable guides
- Route 66 memorabilia from Hall of Fame members
- Route 66 Artist and Icon, Bob Waldmire's bus and van
- Travel resources to enhance your Route 66 journey
- Photo op! Largest Route 66 mural on our back wall

From April to October, check out the new exhibit on the Second Floor, "Remembering the '40s!"

Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum

110 W Howard St
Pontiac, IL

Open 7 days a week
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Dec - Mar)
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM (April - Nov)

Admission is FREE!

Route 66 Association of Illinois Preservation Projects

Our Association is dedicated to preserving the history of Route 66.

To quote from our website, "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."

Preservation Committee Chairman, John Weiss, invites all readers to help out on two projects. Call John at (815) 458-6616 for more information about how you can help preserve these icons of the Mother Road.

Saturday, April 14, 2012 – 9:00 AM (Odell) We will have our spring cleanup and freshen up event at the Odell gas station. This is always an important project. The station is one of the most photographed structures on Route 66. It virtually represents what the preservation committee stands for. Not only is it extremely important to do this, but it is also a lot of fun. We will celebrate two birthdays along with lunch provided by the Route 66 Association.

Thursday, May 17, 2012 – 9:30 AM (Atlanta) In 2004 we restored and installed Tall Paul the Bunyan Giant in Atlanta. Well, Paul needs to be re-painted. This should be an interesting project. Come paint the big guy with us. Lunch will be provided by Atlanta along with the Palms Café. (I will try to talk them into some pie).

Let's get the year started with these feel good projects. Please join us!

Portrait of a Hall of Famer

What makes Route 66 as much a feeling as a road? I think I have the answer, thanks to a recent conversation with Marty Blitstein.

Marty's the Treasurer of the Route 66 Association of Illinois who happens to be my father-in-law but most importantly, he's a lover of Route 66 and all she stands for.



By Gina Blitstein as recounted by Marty Blitstein

In 2001 at the Route 66 Festival in Springfield, IL at the Broadwell, IL booth, I overheard a conversation. A man approached the booth and asked if I was Ernie Edwards. I pointed to the gentleman sitting beside me, who was, indeed, Ernie. The man stepped up and shook Ernie's hand, and extended to him a hearty, "I want to thank you, Sir."

Ernie was taken aback, as he didn't know for what he was being thanked. The man went on to tell the following story:

Thirty years ago, he said, my parents lost their home in Texas. Neighbors took up a collection to fund our family's move to Chicago. On our way, we encountered many setbacks. One day, our car had a flat tire in Illinois, in a tiny little town called Broadwell. We happened to stop in front of the Pig Hip Restaurant. Tired, hungry and now stranded, our family was in a real fix. As my father tried to figure out what to do, Ernie Edwards emerged from the Pig Hip and came to our rescue. Ernie offered our family the use of his facilities and a hot meal at his restaurant, even though we had no money to pay him. He also saw that our tire was repaired and that the gas tank was filled. Ernie operated a hotel next to the Pig Hip and he treated our family to a room for the night. When my father expressed how he wished he could pay him for all he'd done, Ernie replied that it wasn't necessary. The next morning, we took off on the road again with our bodies and spirits refreshed. For thirty years, I've remembered Ernie's kindness in my family's time of need.

When the man whose family Ernie had helped learned that there was a Broadwell, IL booth at the festival in 2001, he specifically sought him out. Upon finding him at the booth, he attempted to give Ernie four \$100 bills, as compensation for his time and trouble all those years ago - along with sincere thanks for his kindness. Ernie refused the money, saying it had been his pleasure to help. When the man insisted, Ernie's wife, Frances, encouraged Ernie to accept it and donate it to the church.

It's really no surprise that Ernie is one of our proud Hall of Famers. They are the ones who personify Route 66 and what she stands for: The living spirit of the brotherhood of man. Who wouldn't yearn for that?

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

Gina Blitstein
Writer Extraordinaire

Rabbit at the Ra66it Ranch

Route 66 icon and artist, Bob Waldmire had a rather famous bus and van which are currently on display at our Museum and Hall of Fame in Pontiac, IL. There's another vehicle of Bob's, however, that you may not have seen before. Bob's 1967 VW Rabbit which now resides at Henry's Ra66it Ranch in Staunton, IL.

VISIT BOB WALDMIRE'S VW RABBIT AT HENRY'S RA66IT RANCH!

The Rabbit had been in storage for many years on the Waldmire family property, which is where Cardinal Hill Candle Shop in Rochester, IL, stands today.

Recently, thanks to Roger and Kevin Gray's generosity and their trusty tow truck, the Rabbit was placed upon Rich Henry's vehicle and transported to Staunton.

Considering the vehicle had been sitting out in the elements, with mud half way up its tires, it was in remarkably good shape.

Take a look how Bob's decals have survived the years in mint condition!

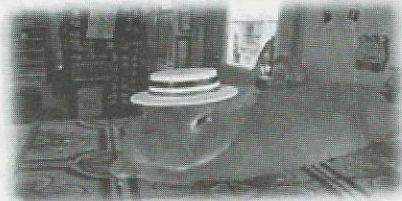


THE RABBIT WITH RICH HENRY



THE RABBIT PREPARING TO BE TOWED

Visit Big Red at Henry's Rabbit Ranch
Where the legacy of Montana continues...



Email: route66@midwest.net
1107 Historic Old Route 66
Staunton, IL 620288-4361
(618) 635-5655

Carillon Lakes

just west of Rt. 66 in Crest Hill, Illinois

**We're a gated community for active adults
55 & over. Come live with us for fun
and friendship! Call your local realtor or
visit us at [www.55places.com/illinois/
communities/carillon-lakes](http://www.55places.com/illinois/communities/carillon-lakes)**

We remember & still cherish the "old Road"



PRISTINE STICKERS!

View full size color photos on our
website: <http://il66assoc.org/the66news>

Route 66 Association of Illinois
Presents
***Funks Grove – Mid Point Tour**
June 8-9-10. 2012

Friday June 8th

Friday Night Kickoff
Edwardsville Festival Route 66
Registration 5:00- 8:00

Saturday, June 9th

Old Chain of Rocks Bridge 7:00 – 8:15 a.m.
MO side - \$5.00 charge to cross
Mitchell - Luna Café
Hamel- **pick up goodie bag**
Mt. Olive
Litchfield – Wooden Nickel – Lunch
Springfield – Curve Inn
Lincoln – Hall of Fame Banquet

Sunday, June 10th

Lincoln College Museum – free admission
Funks Grove – Mid Point dedication 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
Towanda Garage Award – D. K. Garage
Kicks on 66 Lunch
Chenoa – Matthew Scott House
Pontiac – Pontiac Oakland Museum Tour
Park on town square
Elwood end of tour – Village party with music at Lloyd Erickson Park

Route 66 Dinner Buffet
June 9th Lincoln College
(small gym)

only 250 tickets available

All-You-Can-Eat-Buffer
Carved Steamship Round
Of Beef
Lemon Pepper Baked Cod
Golden Fried Chicken Strips
Creamy Smashed Red Potatoes
Buttered Sweet Corn
Dinner Rolls
Peel & Eat Shrimp
Pasta Salad
Assorted Cheese Cube Tray
Vegetable & Fruit Jell-O Molds
Bread Pudding
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For more info:

www.il66assoc.org

Jerry Law
Email:
thelaw1@sbcglobal.net
(618)251-4892

Marty Blitstein
Email:
blitz66@earthlink.net
(708)444-1312

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You may join or leave the tour at any point or time. Sorry – no refunds. Rain or Shine we tour!!!
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MAIL TO: MOTOR TOUR, 9280 Drummond Drive, Tinley Park, IL 60487

Name _____

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City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Motor Tour Registration Fee \$35.00 per car Total \$ _____

Hall of Fame Banquet \$20.00 per person _____ Total \$ _____

Children (Ages 6 to 12) \$10.00 _____ Total \$ _____

Children under 6 free _____ Total _____ N/C

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please do not combine Motor Tour & Membership on same check
Please note: Hall of Fame Dinner tickets will be passed out at the Hall of Fame dinner only!
No tickets will be mailed out.

Route 66 Association of Illinois Motor Tour

Funks Grove – Mid Point Tour

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

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Book by May 26th
50 Rooms Available
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3080 S. SR 157
Edwardsville, IL 62025
Book by May 11th
45 Rooms Available
\$55.00 plus tax
618-656-4900

Saturday, June 9th

Best Western
1750 – 5th St.
Lincoln, IL 62656
Book by May 26th
20 Rooms Available
\$69.00 plus tax
217-732-9641
No elevator

Hampton Inn
1019 Heitmann Drive
Lincoln, IL 62656
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20 Rooms Available
\$79.00 plus tax
217-732-6729

Holiday Inn Express
130 Olson Road
Lincoln, IL 62656
Book by May 26th.
20 Rooms Available
\$74.00 plus tax
217-735-5800

Super 8
2809 Woodlawn Road
Lincoln, IL 62656
Book by May 26th
35 Rooms Available
\$53.99 single
\$59.00 double plus tax
217-732-8886
No elevator

Comfort Inn
2811 Woodlawn Road
Lincoln, IL 62656
Book by May 26th.
30 Rooms Available
\$64.00 plus tax
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For more info:
www.il66assoc.org

"ILLINOIS — WHERE THE ROAD BEGAN."

The Horseshoe Sandwich

By John Weiss

It seems that many tourists from around the world do their homework before coming to Route 66 in Illinois. As a result, before they hit the highway, they want to have a real Chicago-style hot dog and a Chicago-style deep dish pizza.

Travelers also are seeking out two other taste treats that are only available in Illinois. One is the Cozy Dog. These travelers all seem to know that you can only get an authentic Cozy at the place that invented the hot dog on a stick. That, of course, is the Cozy Dog Drive In on Route 66 in Springfield, Illinois.

However, travelers are often bewildered about where they can get a Horseshoe Sandwich. There may even be some of you who are not familiar with this Illinois specialty. So I had better provide a little background information on what has become known as, "a heart attack on a plate."

The Horseshoe sandwich was created in Springfield, Illinois in 1928. It is a very large open-faced sandwich. So large that most restaurants also offer a smaller version called a Pony Shoe. The name is derived from the first meat that was used - ham. When the meat was cut off from around the bone in one piece it will be in a U shape, somewhat like a horseshoe. The bread that the meat is placed on is considered the hoof. Then it is covered with French fries. The fries are considered the nails.

So you end up with bread, usually Texas Toast (the hoof) with any kind of meat, fish or vegetable (the Horseshoe). This is covered with the French fries (the nails). But here comes the most important part - cheese. This whole concoction is covered in cheese sauce. The cheese sauce from each restaurant is usually a location creation. The ingredients are often a very guarded secret.

Of course I have had to experience some Horse and Pony Shoe sandwiches at various locations. I won't make any recommendations. At all locations they offer various meats, fish or vegetables to choose from. One place claimed to have over 50 varieties. Many claimed to sell hundreds of Shoe sandwiches per week. I will mention that the worst Shoe I had was from a vendor at a fairgrounds. At one place it was so good that half way through I was already looking forward to returning for more.

I found Horseshoe Sandwiches in many restaurants located on Route 66 and almost everywhere in Springfield. I also learned that some establishments never heard of them. Some restaurants have gotten creative. They have invented their own breakfast version. Lots of liberties are taken, but the results of the breakfast shoe I tried was wonderful. This one used gravy instead of cheese and a choice of potatoes such as hash browns instead of french fries. They fixed me up with a 50/50 combo so I could try it both ways.

This project of finding the best places for a Horseshoe sandwich cannot be accomplished by me alone. If I did, then my next book would have to be on how to lose weight. So I need your help. I want all who are reading this to go have a Horseshoe or Pony Shoe sandwich somewhere. Then send me your comments (and photo) to Moxie66@sbcglobal.net or to P.O. Box 66, Wilmington, IL 60481. I will then add my collection of locations to those that I receive from all of you. We will then print this list.

At the end of the year I will award a bathroom style scale to the person who provides me with the most Horseshoe sandwich locations.

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Memories of Travels Along Route 66

The following story was submitted in handwritten form by Mr Eugene Pincsak, of Rensselaer, IN, on behalf of himself and his wife Deanne.

I was 18 and got my drivers license and my first car in early 1960. That Summer came my first experience driving Route 66 which was the newer 4 lane. I drove down to visit my grandparents and aunt and uncle who lived in a small town called Panama about 18 miles southeast of Litchfield.

That was the first of many trips. I drove it by myself until 1963 when I got married. My wife Deanne and I drove 66 on our honeymoon. We had to stop at Stuckey's for souvenirs, of course and Dixie Truckers Home. Then it was on to Springfield. We stayed at what was then the Holiday Inn at Stevenson Drive and 6th Street which was Route 66.

We spent a week there seeing all the historic sites and museum, Capitol, New Salem and a deer park some ways out of town where you could feed the deer. Deanne loves animals. Then we drove to the Litchfield area to visit relatives.

This became an annual event.

In 1965 we decided to drive 66 down thru Missouri to Lebanon then up to Lake of the Ozarks. I remember a road I took from Lebanon to Camdenton I had to drive thru a creek.

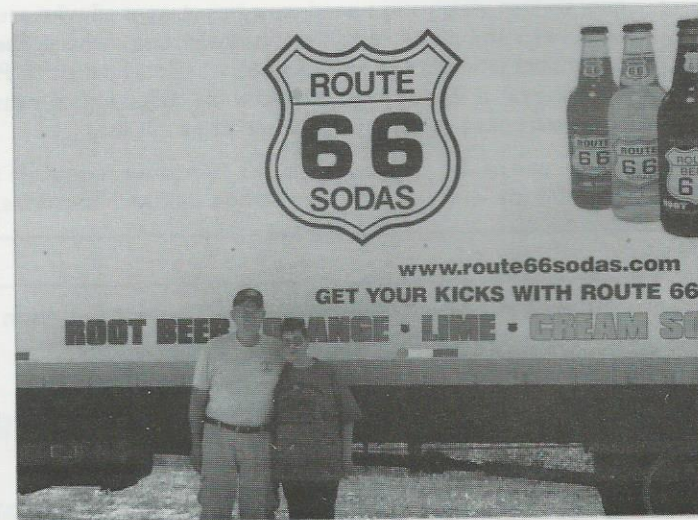
In 1966 baby came in June. No trip that year. In 1967 was a return to 66 only there were 3 of us. More stops of course. The 3 of us did many trips on 66. In the ensuing years there were more 66 gems to stop: Funks Grove for Sirup, Ernie's Pig Hip, the Cozy Dog, the Ariston, Henry's Rabbit Ranch and I have a picture of Russell Soulsby at his Shell station.

In the 80s sometime we made this a May and October thing. Daughter hasn't been doing the trip with us the last few years. Now her husband do the road on his Honda Goldwing motorcycle. The Henry's Rabbit Ranch and the Ariston are still 2 of her favorites. We make it a point to stop at the Ariston everytime. Demi and Nick are such nice people.

1977 saw the 66 signs coming down, sadly but the road wasn't gone and eventually the Historic 66 signs went up and gave us the opportunity to experience the old alignment. We've been to Lou Mitchells, White Fence Farm, Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket, Launching Pad drive in and the ever cool Polka Dot drive in.

We still stop to say hello to the "Old Coot" Ernie. Stuckey's is long gone but we have the Palms Grill and Lumi's great pies in Atlanta. We still stop for Sirup at Funk's Grove every May.

2 Years ago we retired and moved from Chicago to Rensselaer, IN and suddenly I'm 70 years old or young depending on how you look at it and we still do the Road.



Traveler down is Mr. C's out-
post, all kinds of collectables
and any flavor Route 66 soda
you want.

Our final stop was in
Lebanon MO. at the Munger-
Moss motel for 2 nites. We
had the Route 66 room. Walk
in and you're in the 40s and
50s, memorabilia on the walls
just a great experience and
wonderful people. Walk into

This past October we decided to drive 66 down thru
Missouri after so many years. A lot has changed but
66 is still there and the scenery is just beautiful in the
fall. A nice ride but must pay attention to the signs.

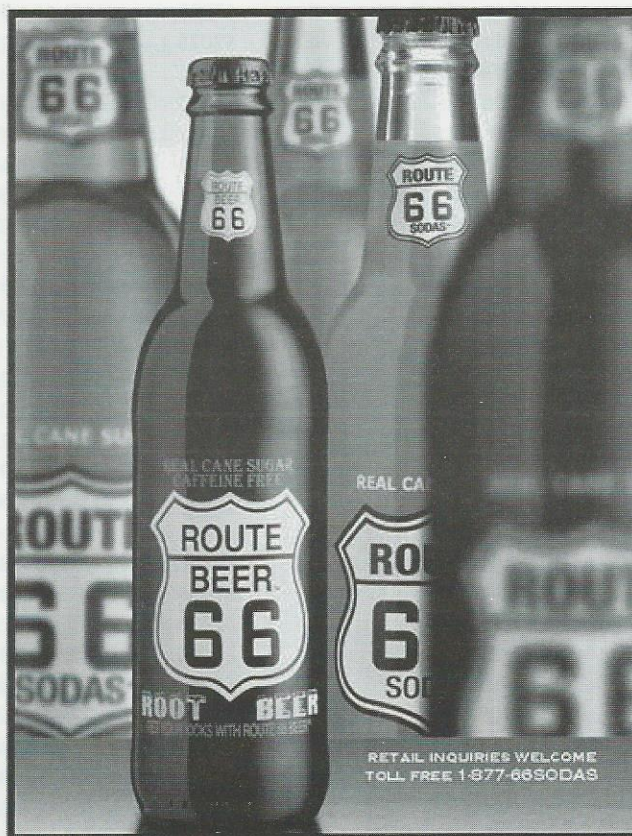
Always can find something interesting, the Route 66
outpost and the world's largest rocking chair and The
Diamonds Motel and restaurant is still there. Farther
down is Mr. C's Outpost, all kinds of collectables and
any flavor Route 66 soda you want.

Our final stop was in Lebanon, MO at the Munger-
Moss Motel for 2 nites. We had the Route 66 room.
Walk in and you're in the 40s and 50s, memorabilia
on the walls just a great experience and wonderful
people. Walk into the office/gift shop and meet
Ramona a Route 66 encyclopedia.

Also there's a great Route 66 museum in the library in town. Don't miss it.

Now its time for our return trip home thru the beautiful Ozarks. It was a great fall trip. See you on the road.

We thank Mr Pincsak for sharing his personal stories and photos from the road!



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Route 66 Association of Illinois Business Member Directory

These businesses and organizations have joined our Association. Their membership demonstrates their dedication to Route 66.
Please demonstrate your appreciation to them by patronizing their businesses whenever you can.

VFN Fiberglass	330 W Factory Rd	Addison	IL	60101	(630) 543-0232
Atlanta Public Library	100 NW Race St	Atlanta	IL	61723	(217) 648-2112
Berwyn Development Corp.	322 S Oak Park Ave, 2nd FL	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
Brown's Wrecker Service	302 Brown St	Bloomington	IL	61701	(309) 828-3753
Casey's Garden Shop	1505 N Main St	Bloomington	IL	61701	(309) 828-7529
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	1805 W. Oakland Ave	Bloomington	IL	61701	(309) 828-9812
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 Rt 108, P.O. Box 377	Carlinville	IL	62626	(630) 543-0232
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	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	
Doc'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, P.O. Box 410	Hamel	IL	62046	(618) 633-2339
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, P.O. Box 128	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
Wooden Nickel Winery & Saloon	3225 Honey Bend Ave	Litchfield	IL	62056	(217) 324-4446
H.V.E. Vending Machine Specialists	153 Eisenhower Lane	N Lombard	IL	60148	(630) 792-0033
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
City of Mt. Olive	200 E. Main St	Mt. Olive	IL	62069	(217) 999-4261
The Crossroads Diner	995 Lakeview Drive	Mt. Olive	IL	62069	

Bob Green Auto Service	1847 New Salam Church Road	New Berlin	IL	62670	(217) 546-5846
Vertical Geosolutions, Inc.	130 Sawgrass Lane	O'Fallon	IL	62269	(618) 670-4259
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	
Bernardi's II, Inc.	123 N Mill St	Pontiac	IL	61764	(815) 842-1198
Café Fontana	1024 W. Reynolds St	Pontiac	IL	61764	(815) 419-2011
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 Pkwy	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
IL State Police Heritage Foundation	4000 N. Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	(217) 525-1922
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 Pkwy	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
Route 66 Cruisers	2148 Cincinnati Ave	Springfield	IL	62702	(217) 836-4105
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
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
Fading Nostalgia	3119 S Lenox St	Milwaukee	WI	53207	(262) 909-9540

Join our Association as a business member to be listed among these fine businesses and organizations.

Route 66 Author Spotlight: Theresa M. Ripley

*The history of Route 66 can best be told by those who've lived it. The perfect example of this fact is found in this work by a woman who grew up literally along the Mother Road. It was my pleasure to interview author of, **Growing Up on Route 66**, Theresa M Ripley.*

📍 Where did you live?

Our family lived on a 200-acre farm near the 100 mile post of Rt. 66 in Illinois. Our driveway lead out to the Rt. 66, and we were directly across from the Ocoya elevator. Pontiac was about five miles north and Chenoa was a little over four miles south.

📍 When did you live there?

I lived on Rt. 66 from 1944, when I was born, until I left for college in 1962. My brother lived there from his birth in 1935 until his death in 1986.

📍 What was your connection to Route 66?

The first connection was Rt. 66 was the way to get to town and off the farm to where I considered there was more action. My mother's connection was she sold eggs on the road. She devised a sign with a rooster on plywood and put it on our property right at the road. The sign said Ripley's Eggs Believe It Or Not. We rarely had to sell any eggs in town. We also had billboards and signage on our property to advertise seed corn or the next stop down the road. We had many road visitors, not only for eggs, but car breakdowns as well.

📍 At the time, did you realize that there was something special about living along Route 66?

Since Rt. 66 was always 'there' when I was a kid, I grew up knowing I lived beside something that made me different from the other farm kids and town kids who were a bit more removed from the road. We had the action of the road with the juxtaposition of the relative quiet of farm life. The road for my mother was too noisy, but me it brought the action that farm life did not bring in my young opinion.

📍 What made you ultimately realize that you had a unique and interesting story to tell?

I believe what makes this story unique is we were not traveling the road as much as watching it out our window. Thus our role was observer, and then in my mother's case, an opportunity to be a business person and make her own 'egg money' which was very important to her and allowed us to take trips she planned, of course all starting on Rt. 66.

📍 Why was writing this book important to you personally?

As the last person left in my nuclear family at a relatively young age, I used writing as a way to honor the people and the stories associated with them.

📍 How do you think living along Route 66 affected the person you are today?

This is harder to say. I've always felt a sense of place and secure in my roots, and my roots included Rt. 66 day in and day out for years. I've lived much of my adult life in the Willamette Valley which is the garden of eden at the end of the Oregon Trail. Thus, I've had the opportunity to be a part of two great U.S. highways, one a dirt wagon trail and the other concrete. I'm proud of the heritage of both of them.

📍 What is the first memory that pops into your mind when you think about Route 66 today?

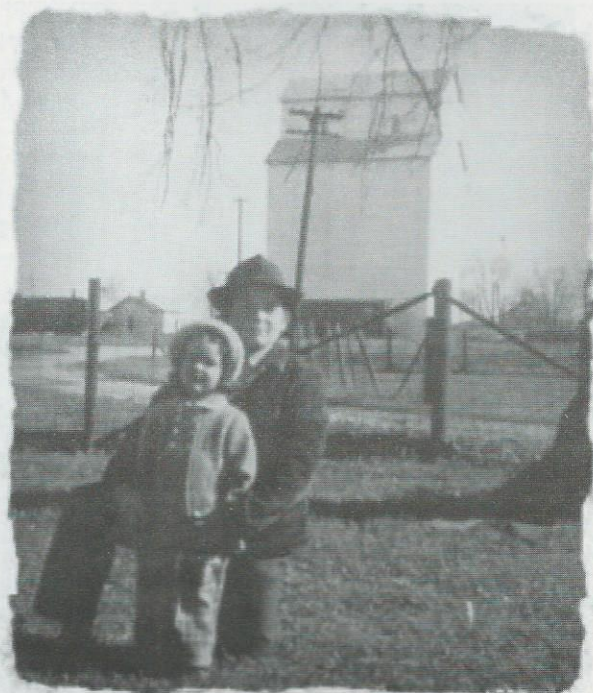
I see a 12-year-old old sitting on the front porch facing the highway for many hours and naming every car by year, make, and model as they pass by on the road. My mother often told me to wave them in to sell some eggs.

📍 What do you think readers will take away from reading your book?

I would like the reader to get a sense what farm life and growing up by Rt. 66 was like. My last major farm stay was in the summer of 1964 as I worked at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in Pontiac, going back and forth daily on Rt. 66. Since then I have traveled a great deal, lived in several locations, and met a wide variety of people. For me that has been a relatively easy thing to do. The reason I think this is so is because I have always been able to look back to a time when I lived with people who moved with the ebb and flow of the seasons. A time when neighbors seldom moved; and grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins lived close by. A time when the work was hard, but the rewards were sweet. A time when all had to be interdependent. It is a time that sometimes seems it has passed, but memory keeps it alive. I hope the reader will get a sense of these times as my brother and I remember them.

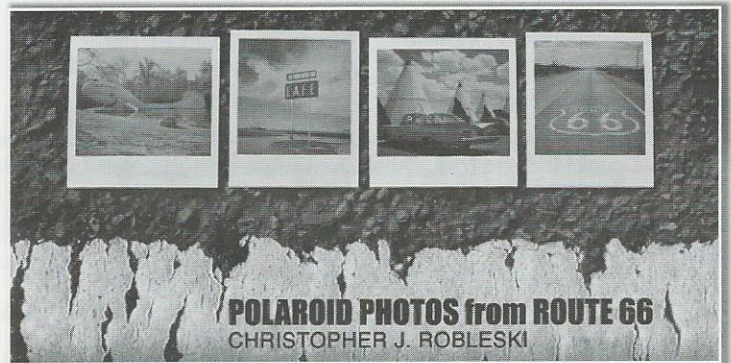
Theresa's book, *Growing Up on Rt. 66*, is available as a free download on the Apple platform (iPad, iTouch, iPhone), and for \$.99 on nook and kindle.

Photo: The author and her brother with the Ocoya Elevator in the background.



Route 66 Author Spotlight: Christopher Robleski

Words can express the rich history of Route 66 and photographs preserve its memory. Photographer and author of, **Polaroid Photos from Route 66**, Christopher Robleski has traveled the Mother Road, chronicling his travels with a Polaroid camera. His affection for Route 66 is obvious in every shot. It was my pleasure to ask Christopher about his experiences and reflections.



🕒 When and how did your interest in photography begin?

My interest in photography began when I was 6 or 7. My Dad handed me a Kodak Instamatic and let me finish up a roll of film. The images were not unlike those I take today.

🕒 When and how did your interest in Polaroid as a medium in particular begin?

My interest in Polaroid was there from the beginning, but it wasn't until 2005 that I started taking shots with old expired film I picked up at a pharmacy and a camera I bought at a rummage sale. While digital photography is great, how many of us ever print the images from our digital cameras? I solved that dilemma by having Polaroid cameras on my road trips. It helps me remember stories at the end of the night, while having a cup of coffee at a diner.

🕒 How did you become aware of Route 66?

I like to think I was aware of it from the beginning, but it was not until 2006 it really hit home! I speak to this specific story in my book. Essentially, it all started in Berwyn, Illinois, at the Cermak Shopping Plaza while I was staring at the now removed "Cars on a Spike" installation. From there I have taken to the Mother Road annually!

🕒 What about Route 66 sparked your interest and imagination?

I am in love with all the small businesses, personalities and creative ways the business owners entice weary travelers to veer off the Interstate, not to mention the glowing neon & vibrant colors! While some places on Route 66 are clearly gone, I still stop, tour the ruins and remains and take a photo or two, pondering what exactly once took place there.

🕒 What makes Route 66 an apt subject for your photographs?

It's the sun-drenched, rusty, glowing pieces of Americana to which I truly feel connected. This, along with the hours of stories from owners filling in the blanks of the years gone by: A time when small business and customer service was more important than high volume-sales! This plays in my mind when I look through the lens of my camera. It's a true connection to the road I cannot explain well enough in words.

🕒 What special or unique qualities do your photographs bring to the sights along Route 66?

Taking images with such a low-tech device (by today's standards), the film often produces anomalies and a sense of age. Even new film created for my Polaroid cameras creates a seemingly vintage photograph. This particular quality (or some might say, lack-there-of) instills a sense of intimacy into the subject matter, and encourages a great sense of nostalgia for the lost age of Americana.

🕒 What do you think attracts folks to your photographs of Route 66?

A pure sense of nostalgia. While the Polaroid photos in my book are relatively new, I think the images themselves transport the viewer to a time when it was more common to take and see Polaroid photographs. To me there is nothing more iconic in photography than that of Polaroid photo. Something about that simple white border takes me back to my childhood, back to that simpler time. My hope is that viewers feel the same.

🕒 In your own words, describe what Route 66 is.

Tough one! Route 66 to me is an escape to a time when things were far more simple and far more creative in a sense of tourism! That goes for the stories, the motels, the diners, the museums, the owners and the people traveling the Route. Those who love, and even own their small piece of Route 66 come from all corners of the globe and can often be found sitting right next to you at small town diner. If that's the case, you're usually in store for a night of rich memories and amazing tales!

🕒 What influence will your photos have on those who haven't experienced her?

My hope is it will inspire not only those looking for a nostalgic experience--a slice of the past--but also those seeking out a completely new and unique experience all together. All too often people ask me, "is there anything left?" Now, with my personal stories and images in-hand, I hope they decide to make the trek across Route 66 to uncover their own personal stories and capture their own images. There is more life on Route 66 than the average person realizes. New memories await those who wish to travel the old fashioned way...on the road!

Christopher's book, *Polaroid Photos from Route 66*, is for sale from his website, www.fadingnostalgia.com and from Joyce at Home Again Antiques at the Old City Hall Shoppes, 321 North Main Street, Pontiac, IL (next to the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum).

Reader Opinion:

Route 66 Should be Designated a National Historic Trail

By Ron Warnick, Route 66 News.com

I've become convinced in recent months that the Route 66 community should concentrate on lobbying Congress to to designate Route 66 a National Historic Trail, under the auspices of the National Park Service.

Of the eight states where the old highway goes, six have attained Byways or All-American Road status for Route 66, including Illinois. A seventh — California — soon will gain that status as well.

The idea of a National Historic Trail came to me in the Summer, when a French tourist asked me what I saw in Route 66's future. I abruptly replied that I saw the Mother Road eventually becoming a National Park, much like Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon.

I think the idea had been percolating in my head for some time. But, the more I thought about it, making Route 66 a National Historic Trail seemed a logical next step. And it's a goal we can -- and should -- accomplish before the Mother Road's 100th anniversary, in 2026. The benefits of National Historic Trail designation for Route 66 are:

- **Better signs.** Signage directing travelers to Route 66 are scattershot or nonexistent in several areas, much like America's road system was before highway federalization in 1926. The lack of signage remains travelers' Number 1 complaint about Route 66, according to the recently released Route 66 Economic Impact Report. Attaining Historic Trail status would require better signs throughout the route and solve that persistent problem.
- **Boosting local economies.** With National Historic Trail designation, the greater number of Route 66 travelers that would result would give an economic shot in the arm for many communities along the route. The Economic Impact Report says Route 66 generates \$127 million annually to the economy. As a Historic Trail, that figure could rise to \$200 million and up.
- **More preservation of historic properties.** Because of the increased economic activity with Route 66 being a National Historic Trail, it would give more incentive to maintain historic properties.

As you can see, these benefits of a National Historic Trail are what we've been seeking for Route 66 for quite some time.

Nearly 20 trails exist under the National Historic Trail Act. Nearly all are deemed relevant only in the horse-and-buggy days. Route 66 would become one of the few trails in the National Park Service system that's relevant to the automobile age. And it instantly would become the most famous of all the trails.

Property rights would continue to be respected even if Route 66 became a Historic Trail. "There is a clause in the Trail Act where the federal government can purchase land, but only from willing suitors," a National Park Service official told me. "There is absolutely no threat to land owners from the federal government."

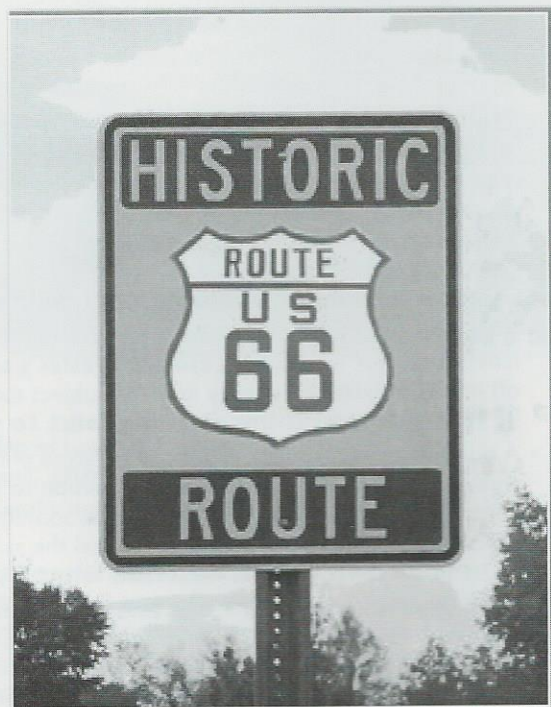
Generally, a feasibility study is required before a National Historic Trail is designated. However, John Conoboy, a retired National Park Service manager who helped draft the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program legislation, said such a study is not needed. Without that step, all that would be required an act of Congress, designating Route 66 a National Historic Trail.

What's needed now from the Route 66 community is to discuss the National Historic Trail idea at meetings and at roadie gatherings. The National Historic Trail idea has drawn support from the Route 66 Alliance, National Historic Route 66 Federation, and Oklahoma Route 66 Association.

Most importantly, Route 66 fans should bring up the idea to local congressmen, especially in states where Route 66 exists. Write lawmakers a letter, or talk to them at constituent meetings. You might be surprised how much they might like the idea.

It would be ideal if a majority of Route 66's states landed sponsors in Congress for Route 66 Historic Trail legislation. However, it's not absolutely critical. The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program bill was shepherded into law by just one lawmaker from New Mexico. Even with just a few legislators, it can still be done.

If you have any questions about the National Historic Trail, don't hesitate to email me at route66news@yahoo.com.



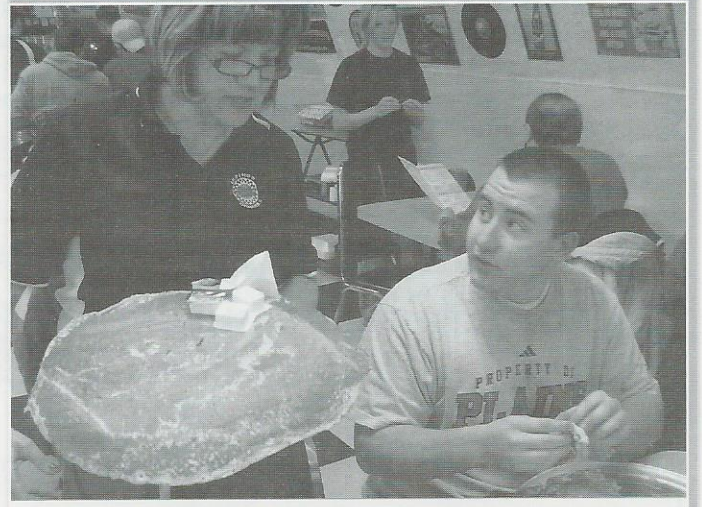
The Pancake Challenge

By John Weiss

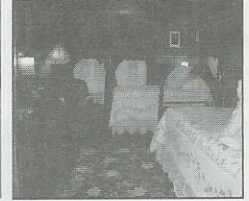
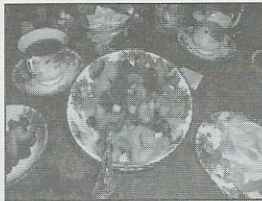
While on my quest to discover the Horseshoe Sandwiches, I went into a restaurant called Charlie Parker's in the Route 66 community of Springfield, IL. This small quonset hut structure is about 1/2 mile off of Route 66 at 700 North St. On the Saturday morning that I visited folks were waiting in line to get in. I met the owner Mike Murphy. Even though they were busy, he graciously took the time to talk. This place is open for breakfast and lunch only and has a 50s rock n roll decor.

While there I noticed three young men at a nearby table. One of them was about to take the pancake challenge. All he would have to do is eat four pancakes by himself. However, each pancake is served on a 16" pizza pan. There is no time limit except he was reminded that they close at 2 pm. If he was successful there would be no charge. So far only two men have accomplished this feat. Mike's wife, Cindy Murphy was the server. The challenger, Jarred Allen of Pleasant Plains, IL, had a strategy to eat it by

hand and dunk the pancakes in the syrup. Mike mentioned that the two men who were successful did it with out using syrup. When I left Jarred still had three more pancakes to go and was noticeably fading fast. It was apparent he wasn't going to make it.



Cindy Murphy, Jarred Allen and a BIG pancake!



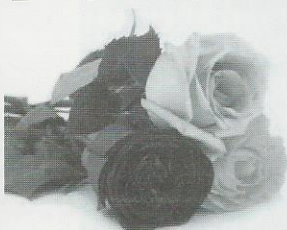
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Cracked Highways, Forgotten Country

a poem by Prof. Stephen Cribari
University of Minnesota Law School
(Driving Rt. 66 in southern Illinois)

The going matters, and the time you take
Changes everything. The choice you make
To turn this way or that, go slow or fast

Makes or breaks the connection to a past
Familiar, once, when you had the time
To wander in your life, to cruise, or climb

That hill slowly to get from there to here.
But time is disvalued in an atmosphere
That breathes speed, that does not trust distractions.

Thus the demise of childhood, of roadside attractions
Of which the Interstate is intolerant.
No wasting of time on things irrelevant

To speed! Stop for a look-see? An ice cream? A malt?
The fault's not in the road but our own default
In letting the magic go without complaint,

Profligate with time and no restraint
And not by any choice we pay a price
For what we might not want. Whose fuzzy dice

Dangle from the windshield mirror? Just
When did the Drive-In sign begin to rust -
The sign of a place and time no longer there?

And those who would have gone - no longer there.
'But I would go,' you say. 'It would be good!
Everyone would love it.' Understood,

But dreams do not self-actuate, and love
Is not enough. That lettering above
The abandoned cafe's door says 'disused; spurned.'

And the Coliseum Ball Room last month burned.
And Soulsby's Service Station corner hosts
A ghost place on a highway full of ghosts.

Love is not enough for The Road to survive.
You have to go. You have to want to drive
Cracked highways through forgotten countryside,

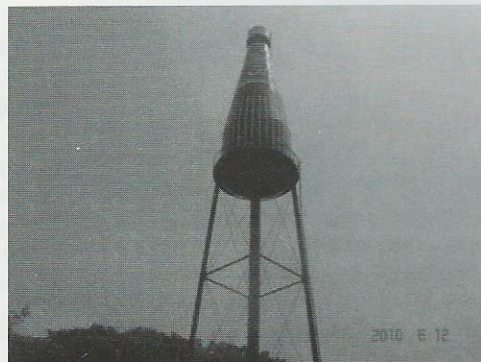
Disused roads round clapboard farms beside
A symphony of prairie wind in corn
Where lifetimes ago The Mother Road was born.

Here Our America Began
With a sedan, a roadster, a station wagon, bike
And a journey taken for journey's sake star-like

In new beginnings, brash, impetuous:
A Giant Catsup Bottle! 'I climbed it just
Last week I swear to God!' a young man said

And proud behind the wheel of his white and red
Chevy, tires squealing, music, friends
Heading off together, toward what ends

Before the pavement splits and the weeds begin to grow?
The road signs rust, the neon dims, the glow
Of roadside attractions fades ... and yet we love it so!



In Memorium

We are sad to report the death of one of our Hall of Fame recipients, Illinois State Police Captain, **Francis Mowrey**, aged 99, at Fairview Haven Nursing Home in Fairbury, IL.

Among his many prestigious honors earned in the military and with the Illinois State Police, he was a life member of the State Police Heritage Foundation, International Association of Chiefs of Police, FBI National Academy Associates, Illinois Police Association, Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, Retired State Police Association and American Legion.

Captain Mowrey was inducted into the Hall of Fame on June 9, 1990.

We sadly note the passing of **Marty Bilecki, Jr.** Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his parents, Geri and Marty Bilecki, longtime members and avid Route 66ers.

Marty passed away while working at the Holiday Star Theatre during an Oldies' Performance. Marty was the consummate sound, lighting engineer, and producer; he owned Performance Sound since 1991. Evidenced by the hundreds who attended his wake February 9th in Orland Park, this is a man whom the music industry will miss. Members of the groups Paul Revere and the Raiders, the Buckingham, and other musical groups were in attendance. Marty, Jr., had even won a grammy.

Photo Credits

All photos in this issue are Route 66 Association of Illinois archive photos except:

- Funk's Grove sign, cover, courtesy Steve Conro
- Mike Murphy and John Weiss, page 3, Horseshoe Sandwiches, page 13, pancake, page 21 and Charlie Parker's Restaurant, back cover, courtesy John Weiss
- Blues Brothers, page 3, Ernie Edwards, page 9, Pig Hip and Route 66 Soda, page 14 and Pig Hip (2), back cover, courtesy Eugene and Deanne Pincsak
- Historic Route 66, page 20, courtesy Ron Warnick
- VW Rabbit, page 3 and Waldmire Rabbit (3), page 10, courtesy Marty Blitstein

Correction

Please note this correction from the Winter, 2012 issue of The 66 News: Photos used in the story entitled, "Slovenian Row: Reminiscences of an Ethnic Community," should have been captioned with the following: Photos 1 & 3 - "Photo ©2011 by Maria R. Traska; all rights reserved." Photo 4 - "Photo ©2011 by Joseph D. Kubal; all rights reserved." Also, the third paragraph, second sentence should have read, "Most immigrated through New York and moved to and were concentrated in the Chicago-Joliet region, around greater Cleveland, Ohio; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, northern Minnesota, Michigan and Colorado. Smaller pockets of Slovenes are scattered elsewhere throughout the U.S. including southern California, Arizona, and throughout Florida."

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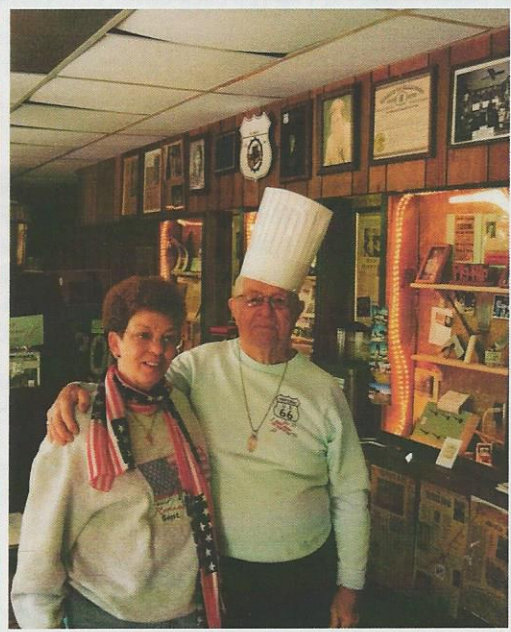
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SUMMER

2012

THE 66 NEWS



Quinn Service Station

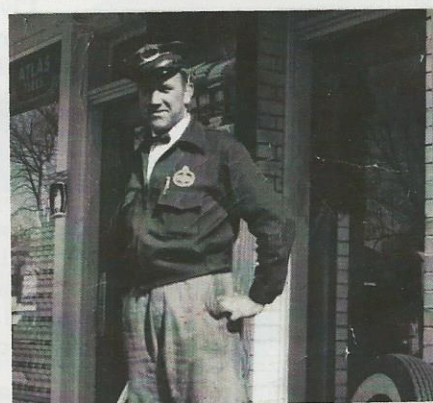


Roger Gray

Our 2012 Hall of Fame Issue



Henry's Ra66it Ranch



Samuel L Reichert, Sr

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Speaking of destinations, we know of many of them along the Route that will entice and delight fun-seekers of all ages. Check inside to discover the

places and people that create the nostalgic mosaic that is Route 66.

In this exciting issue of **The 66 News**, you'll learn about our Association's new inductees to our Hall of Fame who have worked for many years to contribute to the unique character of the Mother Road here in Illinois. In addition, we've got lots to share, including a report on our latest Preservation project, a

family's fun Route 66 adventure, ideas for Summer reading, a story about the birth of a new Route 66 museum, a reopening, a commemorative ceremony and a fond farewell to a loyal friend.

Read and enjoy, Roadies - then get out there and cruise! The Mother Road is calling!

The Route 66 Association of Illinois

Our Association is governed by an elected group of officers and board members who are responsible for administering our mission and representing the numerous communities through which Route 66 passes in Illinois. They serve to facilitate your involvement with our Association.

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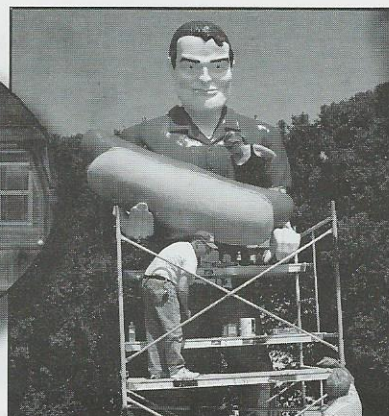
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The 66 News

This publication is distributed to members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois as a membership premium. Its mission is to inform our membership about our Association and its activities, as well as to demonstrate our passion for preservation and to celebrate the Mother Road.



Submit Content to The 66 News

We here at the Route 66 Association of Illinois welcome your stories from the road, Route 66 news and events. Here's how to submit your content to us for publication in this, our Quarterly Newsletter, or on our website:

Route 66 Association of Illinois

Attention: Newsletter Editor, Gina Blitstein

**P.O. Box 1940
Matteson, IL 60443
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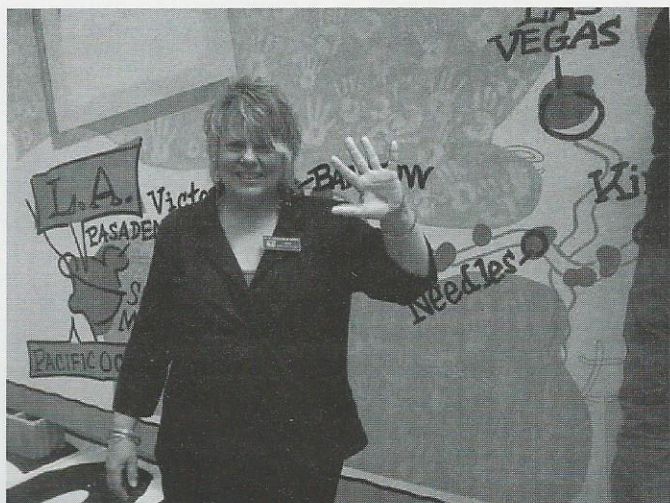
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A Message from Association President, Cathie Stevanovich



As I write this letter, it's almost tour time and the mad rush to the end is on with finishing touches of letters, passports, getting all the details worked out so the tour is seamless!

I'm excited about some great new stops this year and a few dedications along the way. Nick Adam is joining us as the Grand Marshall as we cross over the Chain of Rocks bridge on Saturday morning, June 9th at 8:30 AM. We're thrilled for this rare and limited opportunity to drive across this historic bridge!

There is also an end-of-tour party in Elwood at Lloyd Erickson park on Sunday, June 10th! Jim Hannah and the Country Boys with Ron Gonsoulin will provide the music.

Red Carpet was a wonderful success again this year. The weather was perfect on Saturday. Sunday was mixed but still well attended. There was a grand opening ceremony for the 1940s exhibit on the second floor of the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum. This is an amazing exhibit that really brings you into the 1940s the minute you step off the elevator. We are pleased to share our second floor space with such a wonderful collection.

There's a lot going on this year along Route 66. Communities will start having their local events so make sure you check our website if you are looking for fun! Remember Catfish Days in Wilmington is July 26th - 29th and don't forget the Taste of Joliet June 29 - July 1st. Pontiac will be celebrating their 175th birthday with a "Pre-War Festival" featuring 1940s music, car shows and more June 29th - 30th. Hopefully gas prices will continue to stay level and we can all get out on the road for a little R and R.

Preservation has been busy. There was the annual clean-up day in Odell, followed by a couple of days of painting on Tall

Paul in Atlanta. The Pantagraph Newspaper had a nice article about the fact that people joined in to paint Atlanta's giant from Michigan and Iowa. Come out and get your hands dirty and have fun at the same time. Remember we work for food!

Volunteers. Every Association needs some helping hands and some people to help us spread the word. If you are interested in being a Board Member or Officer, positions will be up for election in October.

John Lucchesi and Jerry Law went to Springfield with the Scenic Byway's Bill Kelly to ask for more Route 66 signage in Springfield. The gentlemen fought the good fight however Springfield is hesitant to mark all the routes citing it could cause confusion. I know if its possible these three will get it done. We are grateful for the support IDOT has shown us all these years and we remain, according to our Route 66 visitors, the best marked state.

We've had an unusual Winter and Spring and the tourists are out in mass early. On one recent Saturday there were already 3 buses with over 150 visitors to Pontiac and our museum. These were International visitors and one thing that was commented on repeatedly was how "green" Illinois is. Sometimes we forget.

The Association is throwing their support behind an ambitious initiative that the North Litchfield Township and the Montgomery County Natural Areas Guardians are working on. The initiative seeks to get a grant to develop parking and signage and a year-round nature trail thru a natural grassland between I-55 and Route 66. This area is full of natural vegetation and flowers and grasses and it is important to save our native landscape as well as the adjoining concrete road.

Litchfield had a groundbreaking ceremony for their new Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center. The Route 66 Associations of Missouri and Illinois will once again join together to pursue National Parks funding to redo the Vic Suhling Gas for Less sign that came with the property.

Our last mutual project, the Luna, will hold a Grand Relighting Ceremony on Friday, June 8th. There will be a caravan from the Mother Road Festival in Edwardsville at 8:15 PM down to the Luna where the owner and Association Member, Larry Wolfford, will hold a second relighting for all the tour goers and friends of Route 66. Both the Illinois and Missouri Associations will be participating.

So much to do, so much to see. Check the website for details on all this and more. We're always glad to have new friends on our Facebook page.

Looking forward to a wonderful tour and summer on the Mother Road with you!

Our facebook fans say:

"Route 66 is the best road...period." - Bryan Weinhoft

What's Happening?

Thanks to all there is to see and do along the Road, we can't fit it all into a quarterly publication.

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE STORIES WE'VE INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE OF THE 66 NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AT

WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG/THE66NEWS

Also, follow these stories that we've provided on our website. We strive to keep you informed about events and Route 66 events as they happen.

Here are some of the recent stories on our website:

- A history of the proposed Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center.
- A 2011 Motor Tour wrap up in words and photos!
- Up-to-date details about events, stories and attractions along Route 66!
- Informational resources to enhance your travels along the Mother Road.

Upcoming Association Meetings

Summer Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, July 15, 2012

Silver Dollar
422 Mississippi Ave
Elwood, IL

Fall Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, October 21, 2012

Pontiac City Hall Annex
115 W Howard St
Pontiac, IL

This meeting will include our annual Association election.

Winter Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, January 20, 2013

Location To Be Announced

Meeting times for all Quarterly Meetings are the same:

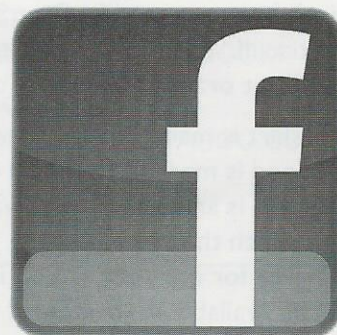
Board Meeting - 10:00 AM
Lunch - 12:00 PM (on your own)
General Meeting - 1:00 PM

KEEP UP
WITH US ON
THE WEB

www.il66assoc.org



VISIT OUR WEBSITE!



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/IL66ASSOC



WWW.TWITTER.COM/ILRT66

News Desk

New Route 66 Items for Sale!

We're excited to announce that two new Route 66 items are available: A Funk's Grove commemorative pin and a T-shirt featuring a Bob Waldmire original design.

DEMONSTRATE YOUR SUPPORT OF ROUTE 66 WITH YOUR PURCHASE OF THESE NEWLY-AVAILABLE ITEMS!

Support Preservation and Bob Waldmire's Bus

These items not only show the world that you're a fan of the Mother Road but all profits from their sale go to support our ongoing preservation efforts.

The Funk's Grove Midpoint pin is an original design created by Diaz Sign Art in Pontiac, IL. It features a cutout design and brilliant orange and brown tones.

The T-shirt is made of American-grown cotton and is made in the good old USA. The design is an original Bob Waldmire design which the artist created specifically for our Association in 1989. It will be available in sizes Small through 4X.

All profits from the sale of the Bob Waldmire art T-shirt are earmarked for the addition of solar power and air conditioning to the Waldmire "Road Yacht" which can be toured at our Association Hall of Fame and Museum, 110 W Howard St in Pontiac, IL.

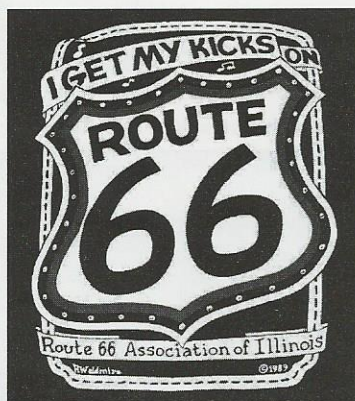
Both items will be available at our Museum and Hall of Fame and soon on our website Gift Shop.

View full size color photos
on our website:
<http://il66assoc.org/the66news>



FUNK'S GROVE MIDPOINT PIN

ALL PROFITS FROM THE SALE OF THIS COMMEMORATIVE PIN WILL GO TO SUPPORT OUR ASSOCIATION'S PRESERVATION EFFORTS.



BOB WALDMIRE T-SHIRT

ALL PROFITS FROM THE SALE OF THIS T-SHIRT GO TO PRESERVATION OF BOB WALDMIRE'S BUS WHICH CAN BE TOURED AT OUR MUSEUM IN PONTIAC, IL.

The 66 News Editor, Gina Blitstein

As the newly-appointed editor of **The 66 News**, I want to extend an enormous, "Thank You," to recipients of the newsletter for all your kind and complimentary comments on its new look and feel. Most of all however I want to express my appreciation for the enthusiasm you've shown in providing interesting and informative content for me to choose among for publication herein.

The Spring, 2012 issue was the first for which I was responsible. I'm glad the changes I made were considered to be an improvement - or at least some steps in a more dynamic direction.

Since this issue will be mailed out after our big annual event, the Motor Tour, I'd like to invite attendees of that event to share stories and photos so we can provide a fun, complete and diverse Motor Tour Recap in our Fall issue of **The 66 News**.

I strive to create a newsletter that educates, celebrates and reflects the spirit of Route 66 - and this Association's heart and dedication.

As always, I welcome your comments and ideas toward making these goals a reality.

Annual Association Picnic

All are invited to join us for our annual Association picnic.

Bring the family! Get together with fellow roadies while enjoying free food and beverages in a lovely park!

Water and soft drinks will be provided.

Please bring a dish to share - and the recipe - for inclusion in our Association cookbook!

WE KEEP THE ROUTE 66 FUN
GOING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!
CHECK OUT HOW YOU CAN BE A
PART OF IT ALL!

Association Cookbook

Our Association is proud to offer a cookbook, comprised of recipes from the best cooks along Route 66.

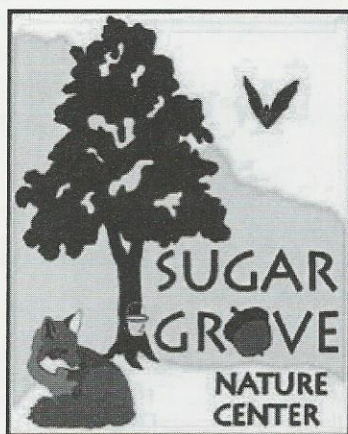
What's that you're cooking? It smells delicious! We'd love to include your favorite recipes in the new edition of our cookbook - there's a page waiting for your signature dish! Submit it today and be included in some tasty company!

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR
EVERYONE, AT EVERY AGE!

Junior Memberships and Newsletter

You're never too young to be a Roadie! Junior Memberships are absolutely FREE and include a membership card, decal and access to the **Adventure Journal**, our newsletter for the younger set!

Parents - sign up your child and give us the opportunity to pass along the spirit of Route 66 to new generations!

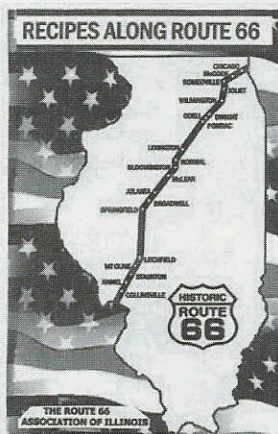


ASSOCIATION PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2012
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

SUGAR CREEK NATURE CENTER
PICNIC GROUNDS, NEAR FUNK'S
GROVE, IL

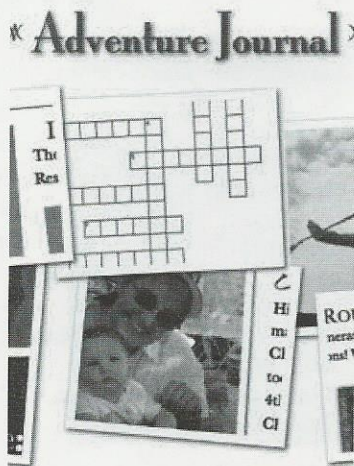
MARTY BLITSTEIN
(708) 444-1312



RECIPES ALONG ROUTE 66

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPES FOR THE
NEW EDITION OF OUR
ASSOCIATION COOKBOOK!

LORI KILLACKY
COOKYLADY1215@YAHOO.COM



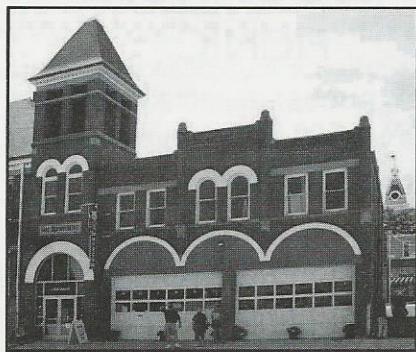
JUNIOR NEWSLETTER

JUNIOR MEMBERS HAVE THEIR
OWN ONLINE NEWSLETTER TO
ENJOY! VIEW OR DOWNLOAD
FROM:

[WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG/CONTENT/
JUNIOR-NEWSLETTER](http://WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG/CONTENT/JUNIOR-NEWSLETTER)

Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum

Begin your Route 66 adventure here!



The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum features thousands of artifacts and a delightful assortment of unique memorabilia, all related to Route 66 - The "Mother Road."

We invite all of our Association members to volunteer at the museum, sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm with our visitors.

Our Museum boasts:

- Friendly and knowledgeable guides
- Route 66 memorabilia from Hall of Fame members
- Route 66 Artist and Icon, Bob Waldmire's bus and van
- Travel resources to enhance your Route 66 journey
- Photo op! Largest Route 66 mural on our back wall

Until October, 2012, we are proud to play host to the Selle-Agner "Remembering the '40s" exhibit on the second floor of our Hall of Fame and Museum!

(An elevator is available for the convenience of our visitors.)

Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum

110 W Howard St
Pontiac, IL 61764

Open 7 days a week!

December - March
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Daily

April - November
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Weekdays)
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Weekends)

Admission is FREE!

Welcome New Members!

Association President Cathie Stevanovich, Membership Chairman, Marty Blitstein, and the entire Route 66 Association would like to extend a sincere welcome to our new members who've joined us between February 12 - May 16, 2012.

We hope your experience as a member of our association brings you great satisfaction and a deeper appreciation of Route 66!

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| ➤ Pamela L. Biesen | ➤ Kathy & Anthony Melone |
| ➤ Paula M. & Doug P. Bronowski | ➤ Gay Parita - Gary Turner |
| ➤ WRLR 98.3 - Bish Krywko, Pres. | ➤ Norm Coyle |
| ➤ Heather & Eric Clements | ➤ Stan Kotecki |
| ➤ Michelle Johnson | ➤ Judi Bauth |
| ➤ Patricia A. Muller | ➤ Bob Mundo, Jr. |
| ➤ Craig Donfrio | ➤ Jim Hannah - Heating & Air Conditioning |
| ➤ Paula R. & Bill L. Hart | ➤ Marcy & Frank Jackowiak |
| ➤ Jodi Wharton | ➤ Vics Pizza & Pub |
| ➤ Mary Ann Morse | ➤ Blue Swallow Motel - Nancy J. Mueller |
| ➤ Kicks Bar & Grill | ➤ Niehaus Cycle Sales, Inc. - Scott & Brad Niehaus |
| ➤ Lee Morris | |
| ➤ Michelle & Joe Termini | |

Be certain to sign up to receive our Association e-Newsletter, *The Day Tripper!* Route 66 news and events delivered to your inbox!

Sign up at <http://eepurl.com/dlzp>



Route 66 Association of Illinois

To Preserve, Educate, Promote, and Enjoy Route 66 in Illinois

Route 66 Association of Illinois DayTripper e-Announcement

Red Carpet Corridor 2012 Edition

Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6, 2012

ick off "Route 66 Season" with this annual event
sted by 13 Illinois communities along a 90-mile
retch of the Mother Road, from Joliet to
wanda. We offer this special edition of our e-
nnouncement as your guide to Red Carpet
orridor Festivities. Enjoy this first opportunity to
st some 2012 kicks on Route 66!

learn all about the Red Carpet Corridor, Illinois
oute 66 Red Carpet Corridor is Calling!



Preservation Report: Tall Paul's 2012 Facelift

We extend our appreciation to Association member and Preservation volunteer, Josh Friedrich, for the following first-hand report from the Preservation Workday on May 15, 2012 in Atlanta, IL where Tall Paul, the Bunyan Giant got a well-deserved Spring spruce-up.

The Facelift: Phase I

I met John Weiss this morning to begin preparations for repainting the hot dog holding Muffler Man. We borrowed a cherry picker from the city so we could wash up Paul's face and paint it. It was a beautiful, sunny, cloudless day on Route 66. We both went up to wash up the face and part of the hot dog. Overall, he looked much better after getting a layer of dirt and grime off of him. Next John tackled the task of painting Paul's face and touching up his blue eyes.

VISIT TALL PAUL IN FRIENDLY, HISTORIC ATLANTA, IL, ON ARCH STREET BETWEEN RACE STREET AND VINE STREET!

Since we work for food, we were kindly treated to a delicious meal at The Palms Grill Cafe. During the day we greeted travelers from Germany, France, and a few others traveling via RV, motorcycles and car. It was a wonderful day on the hard road and it seemed like the world was coming to us. After that I checked out the Arch Street Artisan Shop and pickup a cool, steel Route 66 shield. I ended the day by cruising America's Main Street back home to Springfield.

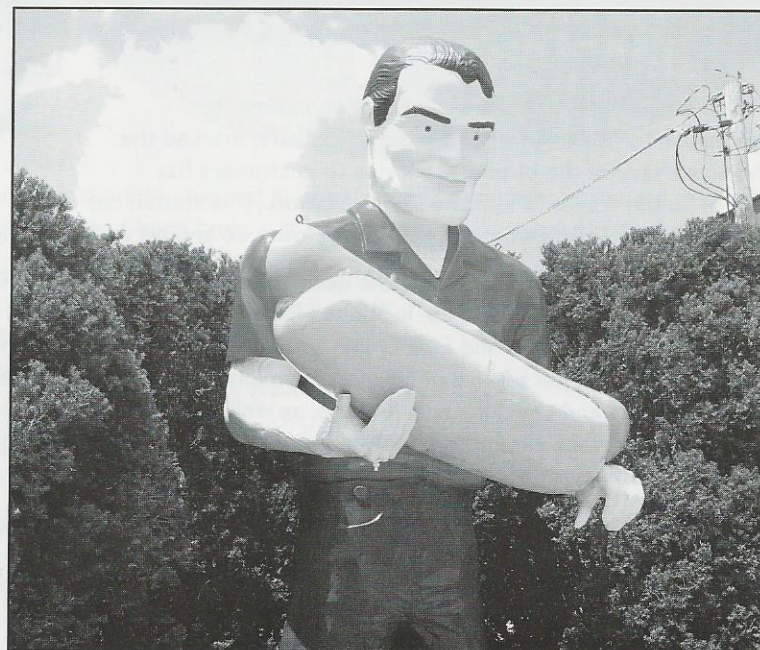
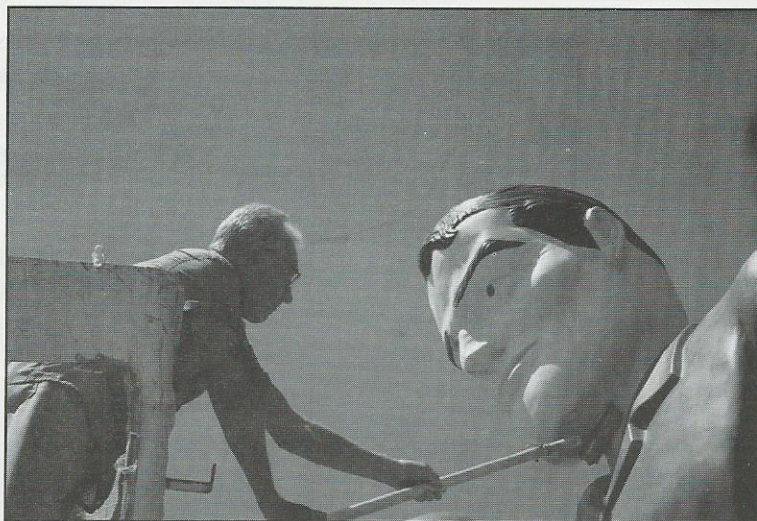
The Facelift: Phase II

We thank another dedicated Preservationist, Damon Sholtey, from Oswego, IL for the following account from workday #2 on May 18, 2012.

The workday to repaint "Tall Paul" was my first restoration project on Route 66. It was well worth the trip! I was glad to have been a part of a group representing three different states to preserve some great history. Everybody worked very well together through the heat to put a nice, clean shine on our tall friend.

Aside from the project, it was incredible to witness the small town America I thought had been lost with the end of the Andy Griffith Show. Locals congregating on benches in front of the local eatery, farm activity apparent in the distance and the consistent procession of local traffic keeping check on their tallest resident's latest makeover.

I shared this experience with friends and family by posting the local newspaper's article on Facebook. The positive responses lead me to believe we may see some new visitors on the old road someday soon!



We are saddened to report that Art Stephens, the owner and founder of the Bunyan Hot Dog Restaurant passed away on June 2, 2012 at the age of 89. Art, along with his family, have Tall Paul on loan in Atlanta, IL.

2012 Hall of Fame Inductees

The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame recognizes "those people and places along Route 66 whose blend of hardy individualism and grassroots community spirit gave the road such special character."

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

We are proud to introduce you to our 2012 Hall of Famers who were formally inducted into our Hall of Fame at a Banquet held at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois on June 9, 2012.

Samuel L. Reichert, Sr., Plainfield, Illinois
U. S. Route 66 Service Station Operator
1950-1970

Nominated by Michael A. Lambert and Sam Reichert, Jr.

For nearly 25 years, Sam Reichert, Sr., relied on U. S. Route 66 as much as its travelers relied on him. First, Sam Reichert, Sr. worked as a Greyhound Lines bus driver along the historic route between Chicago and St. Louis, Missouri. Secondly, he operated service stations along the legendary route for 20+ years.

No other individual service station operator maintained a service station presence along Route 66 in the vicinity of Plainfield, Illinois, longer than Sam Reichert, Sr. Sam was "the face of Plainfield" to thousands of motorists during the heyday of the historic route.

Although many individuals contributed to the friendly character and aid found along the Illinois stretch of U. S. Route 66, the most enduring personalities along the route were those of the operators of local service stations.

In addition to pumping gas, changing oil, repairing tires, and attaching new wiper blades, gasoline station operators along U.S. Route 66 dispensed "full service." In that era, "service" included more than "checking the oil" or washing windows and headlights. "Service" meant greeting customers with a friendly smile, giving directions, and providing travel tips along the route, all while wearing a tidy uniform. Sam also provided towing service, aiding disabled travelers along Route 66 and other roadways in the vicinity of Plainfield.

Quinn Service Station / Quinn Family
Elmo A., Eldon A., Elmo C., and Eula Quinn,
Bloomington, Illinois

Nominated by Larry and Sheryl Brown, Fran Turgeon, Dave Sullivan and Melodee Bielfeldt

The Quinn family has operated a gas station in downtown Bloomington for over 70 years. October 15, 2011, marked the 70th anniversary of the business. Service to customers has always been the trademark of the Quinn Station. This station has been on the original alignment of SBI 4 and Route 66 and served the traveling public for parts of eight decades.

Historic Route 66 has always passed the door of this service station. When the station was first opened it was operated as a Texaco station from 1941 to 1985. It opened for business run by brothers Elmo A. Quinn and Eldon A. Quinn. In 1976 Elmo C. and Eldon A. retired, and Elmo and Eula Quinn took it over. In 1985 it became a Shell Station as it continues today with Elmo and Eula Quinn still providing full service pumps for the many loyal customers of this family business. The "full service" continues today with washing windows and checking engine fluids, as well as stories and directions for travelers and locals alike. Their business was so strong that this establishment even survived being closed for several months in the late 1980s for State required fuel tank replacements and pump upgrades that caused many other service stations to close permanently.

The Quinn's customer base continues steady as many children who grew up going to the gas station with their parents continue to patronize Quinn's station as adults. Time has passed and Elmo no longer operates the two mechanic bays but still spends 80 hours a week greeting his customers, washing windshields, catching up on customer's families and news, and taking care of business. Elmo works a 6 day workweek, at least 13 hours a day.

His wife, Eula, assists him with his business. Eula and Elmo have known each other since 5th grade but didn't start dating until after high school. Elmo lovingly calls her his "meals on wheels." They have been married 48 years.



Roger Gray, Gray's Garage, Inc., Pontiac

Nominated by Kathleen Ann (Gray) Schumacher, Anthony Arrigo and Marty Blitstein and Cathie Stevanovich

Roger Gray was born just steps off Route 66 in Pontiac. He grew up in Pontiac and quit high school and went into the service with his brother. With their mother's permission they went into the Air Force. While being tested in the service, Roger's talent for mechanics was noted and encouraged. Roger ended up teaching engine repair and air plane engine skills at Chanute Air Force base. While in the service, he married Betty Thompson, a Pontiac girl, and they started a family.

In 1963 Roger opened Gray's Garage for business at the junction of Route 66 and 116. His business became an icon along the Route 66 corridor between Chicago and Springfield due to his excellent reputation. When Roger Gray opened his business he had a 24 hour wrecker service, an auto body repair and he would repair anything and everything from a VW Beetle to an 18 wheeled semi. With the impending arrival of I-55, Roger moved his garage out to I-55 and Route 23 but continued to assist the State Troopers with wrecking service on Route 66.



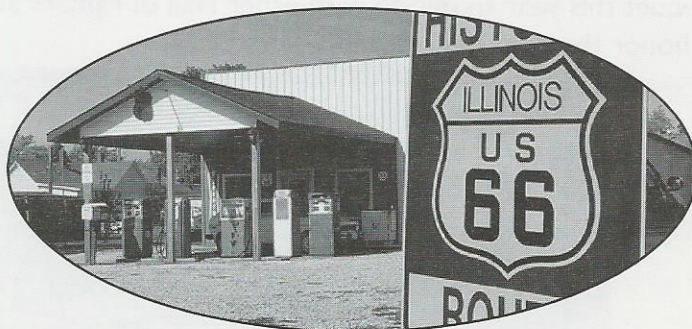
This was a time before cell phones, pagers, and GPS when tow truck drivers were first responders and many times when Roger got a call to go out on a tow he wasn't sure what he would find, or when he'd get home again. His wife, Betty, would pack up food, supplies and water and blankets because Roger wouldn't know what he would find on a call. Roger would not only be the tow truck driver, but a repairman, and also he was the only witness to many scenes of horrible destruction, and he had to wait at the scene until the coroner got there. Back then there were no ambulances or paramedics. There were state policemen and the tow truck drivers. Weather would often play havoc with the road – especially in winter. When ambulance services and EMT's came into being Roger was relieved that that part of his work day would be over. There would still be enough to do with jackknifed semi's and car rollovers along Route 66.

Gray's Garage is still in business, just celebrating 49 years. Their major work is now truck repair and customization, but he still has a few wreckers. Although Roger's semi-retired, he keeps his business strong with family members working side by side maintaining the business that Roger and his wife Betty built.

The Ra66it Ranch, Staunton

Nominated by Josh Friedrich and Jerry Law

The Ra66it Ranch was the brainchild of Rich and Linda Henry. Both Rich and Linda are children of Hall of Fame members (Hubert Henry, Truck Drive, St. Louis, and Wilton Rinkel, Farmer & Businessman) and grew up with a close attachment to Route 66.



The Ra66it Ranch was built in 1992 to look like a 1930's or 1940's gas station. Rich and Linda Henry built this to be a visitor's center and a gift shop when there was not much of either one along old Route 66. The station looks so genuinely old that the EPA stopped in one day to find out where the old gas tanks were buried. Rich had a tough time convincing them there never had been tanks – it had never been a real gas station at all!

Rich added a collection of the Campbell's Tractor Trailers (The Humpin' To Please on Route 66) who's mascot was "Snortin Norton" the camel with the big "66" on its side. Campbell's Trucking was such a big part of Route 66 that a lot of travelers would watch for them as they made their way down old Route 66.

Rich added to his whimsical collection the "Rabbit Ranch" a series of cars (VW Rabbits of course) set into the ground much the Cadillac Ranch out west in Texas. There is something for everyone: a hospitable host, great conversation, quirky roadside attractions, historic memorabilia, cold drinks, cool merchandise, fuzzy friends (real rabbits), and cars.

The Ra66it Ranch is also the resting place for the Stanley Cour-Tel sign as well as Bob Waldmire's 1967 VW Hatchback. There is a giant Jack Rabbit next to the Tale of Ears Memorial Park. Speaking of photo opps there is a "Radiator Springs" display not to be missed. Also there are real rabbits! Some are outside, and currently Big Red greets visitors in Rich's Old Route 66 Emporium and if you're lucky will give you an autograph!

Since 1995, thousands have visited Henry's Ra66it Ranch and gone on to spread the word about this unique attraction. This is truly one of those businesses that illustrate the one-of-a-kind entrepreneurs that give Route 66 its distinctive flavor.

President's Award

The President's Award is awarded at the discretion of the sitting Association President, honoring a person demonstrating outstanding dedication to Route 66, its spirit and preservation. This year, the President's Award was presented to Dawn K Patterson, of DK Garage in Towanda, IL at the Hall of Fame Banquet held at Lincoln College in Lincoln, IL on June 9, 2012.

Dawn has converted her garage into a veritable Route 66 shrine. Visitors from the world over stop to see her vast collection of all things Route 66. As fellow Route 66 devotees, we salute Dawn and her dedication to celebrating the Mother Road.

Check our website soon for further information about Dawn and photos of her Route 66-themed DK Garage.

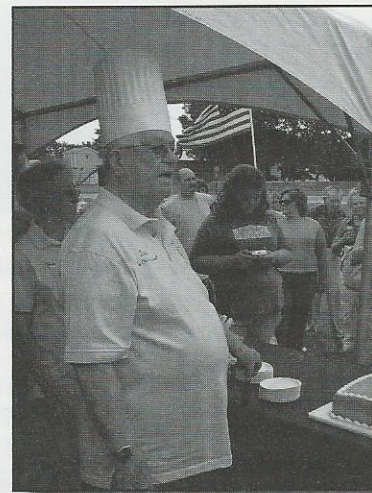
A Sad Farewell to Ernie Edwards

It is with a heavy heart and many tears that we say goodbye to a dear friend of our Association and of Route 66, Ernie Edwards.

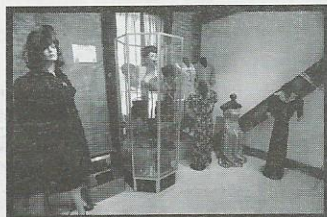
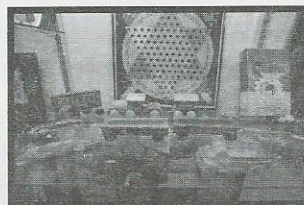
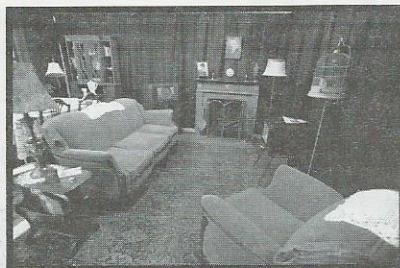
Ernie was owner of the Pig Hip in Broadwell and was inducted into our Hall of Fame in 1990 for the lifetime of memories he created as a fixture along the Mother Road. Ernie was known as a man of uncommon kindness. He will be missed greatly by many.

Ernie passed away on April 11, 2012 at the age of 94.

We hear that Ernie was looking forward to attending the Hall of Fame banquet this year to mingle with other Hall of Famers and those who gathered to honor them. We saved you a seat, Ernie!



Remembering the 1940's
Exhibit now open at the Route 66 Association of
Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum -
Second Floor
Downtown Pontiac



815-844-5847 • visitpontiac.org • tourism@pontiac.org

Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center

*The following is excerpted from an article written and submitted by Al Lopinot.
Read the complete article on our website.*

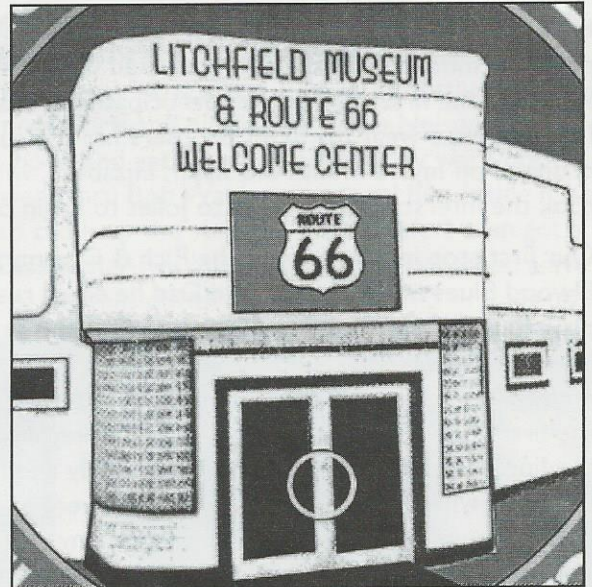
Anne Jackson inherited a postcard collection from her father, David Jackson, editor of the Litchfield News Herald and a collector of artifacts related to the history of Litchfield, Illinois.

For several years since his passing, Anne has been figuring out how she might make these available to others interested in Litchfield history. She came across a postcard book published by another community and this gave her an idea maybe she should do the same.

During the first week of April, 2011, Anne called for a meeting of several people to discuss the book idea. This meeting resulted in everyone in attendance being in favor of a Litchfield Museum Association and they proceeded to make plans to establish a set of by-laws and the need for an executive board and officers.

Due to the heritage of Route 66 in Litchfield, at the June 14, 2011 meeting, the group decided to include Route 66 as part of the Association and thus renamed the organization, the "Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center Association."

Read Al's story in its entirety on our website and learn how you can support this organization to make the **Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center** a reality.



**OUR MIX INCLUDES
ROUTE 66!**

ILLINOIS
U S
66

ARISTON CAFE
Midwestern

ARISTON

The Mother Road lives on in Litchfield, where visitors still enjoy our original Route 66 era restaurants and drive-in theatre. With 250+ modern hotel rooms, Litchfield is an ideal overnight choice for Route 66 travelers.

LITCHFIELD

City of
LITCHFIELD
TOURISM

...where land & water come into play!

www.VisitLitchfield.com 866-733-5833

The Friedrich Family's Red Carpet Corridor Adventure

By Charlie Friedrich (with a little help from Mom and Dad)

Hi! I'm Charlie, 5 years old, and in Kindergarten. We live in Springfield. My mom and dad took me along for the Route 66 Red Carpet event on Saturday, May 5, 2012. This would be the first time we had participated in this event. I was very excited because I would get to wear my Blues Brothers hat and sunglasses. We got up early and dropped off my 18 month old sister, Elizabeth, with our Maw Maw in Sherman. Dad took the Interstate all the way to Joliet to begin our drive down Route 66.

Our first stop in Joliet was at the Rich & Creamy ice cream shop with Joliet Jake and Elwood Blues on top of it. I told Dad he could read the signs while I played at the playground. Mom took our picture next to the gas pump. While on our way to the Joliet Experience Museum, the bridge over the river had to go up to let a boat pass underneath it, which was really neat to watch. After that we went to the museum for the first key stop; I was given a racing flag key. My favorite part of the museum was sending a photo postcard email to my family and taking my picture with the Blues Brothers while dressed like them. There were a lot of neat things in the gift shop. I got a light-up Route 66 key chain to keep my Red Carpet keys that I was collecting. We then went in search of a giant; unfortunately the Joliet Jackhammer was no longer there.



We now were headed to Elwood for the second stop at the Watson Bar and an Elwood Blues lookalike contest. We found Watson Bar and got our key and then headed over to the park for the photo. However, we did not see anything or anyone setup to take the pictures and moved on to the next town, Wilmington.

We made a quick stop at the Launching Pad to take our picture with the Gemini Giant. We had to cross a bridge over a river by foot to kind the next key stop. While there my mom signed a car hood with a Route 66 shield on it and we walked around looked at all the different tables and tents set up along the road. Unfortunately, they ran out of keys by the time we found the right tent.

Continuing West, we made our way to Braidwood and the Polk A Dot Drive In. We picked up our key and went over to the drive where they were celebrating a quarter of a century in business. Needless to say, they were packed wall to wall with people inside and classic cars filling up the parking lot outside.

Further down the Mother Road was Godley and its newly-opened Mining Museum and the fifth key stop. I liked the museum and got a key that said "home" on it. Dad made up some time cruising to Braceville and quickly got the next key in Braceville.

We were now headed to Gardner and the Streetcar Diner were we got a new cookbook commemorating the Riviera, but no key as they were out. Disappointed we made our way to Dwight and the Texaco Welcome Center. I was tired so dad ran in and got the key and hopped back into our car.

Now it was onward to Odell and their gas station. I really liked the red, tall, glass gas pumps outside. Also, I liked the small travel trailer next to it. I was happy to get a key from the nice lady inside.

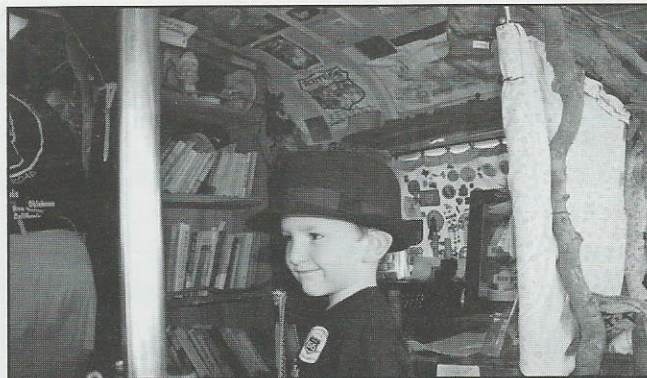




Now it was time to head to Pontiac. Dad was really looking forward to this stop because Christopher Robleski, the author/photographer of **Route 66 In Polaroids** was doing a book signing. We first went to the Pontiac car museum to get our key, then the Wall Dogs Museum where we got to see some dresses that had cool, black light paint on them, and we also saw the 3D Shark sidewalk mural being painted by a man named Tang. Now it was time to go thru the Hall of Fame museum and meet Chris and his partner Katie Nelson so dad could buy the photo book and get it autographed. They were both very nice. Next we went thru Bob Waldmires school bus, inside it was

my friend Marty. The bus was so cool, full of all kinds of things. I got to climb up the steps to see the loft. I even got a Mustang calendar and a postcard of the bus for myself and my sister Elizabeth. After leaving the bus we watched a live band play music from the 1940's. They were really good and I danced to the music with my mom.

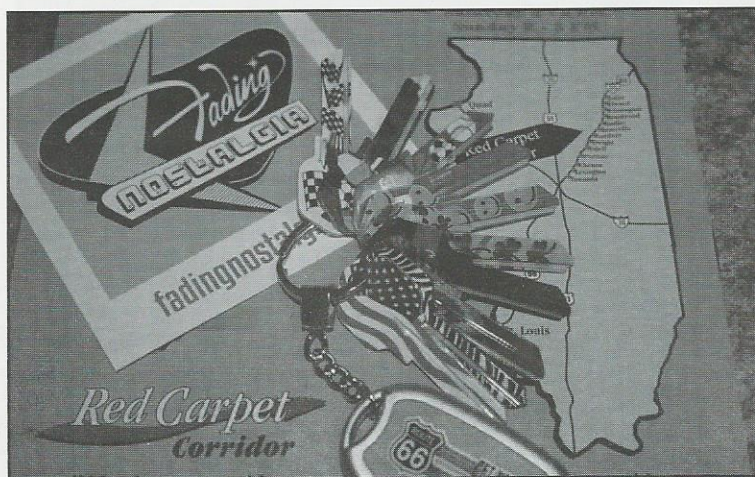
It was now mid afternoon and we zipped over to Chenoa to pick up our 9th key of the day. After that we headed to Lexington, but they were out of keys also. However, I did get to play on a few different bounce houses, which was my favorite part of the day. Dad drug me away from the bounce houses so we could go to the final stop in Towanda. I was excited to get our last key of the day, which made 10 altogether. I also got to play on the playground at the park. Dad asked about the special keychain but they were out of those. I was proud to have made it to all 13 stops and was looking forward to dinner at the Dixie Truck Stop in McLean.



On our way to the Dixie we stopped in Funks Grove at the Sirup Shop to say hello to Debbie Funk. Dad also looked

for an old alignment of route 66 that had been marked with a route 66 shield on the road by roadie Richard Dinkela. He found it! Now it was time for dinner, we all had root beer floats to drink. Mom and dad surprised me my going to the Arcade Museum in downtown McLean. The building had a neat neon sign outside and a ton of old video games and pinball machines inside. I got to play a motorcycle game, pinball, and a few others. Dad played Tron and Pacman. Mom played a couple games too. It was a lot of fun, I hope I get to go back again.

After our long day on the road we headed home on my favorite road, Route 66.



WriteyTidy

Turning Out Tidy Text

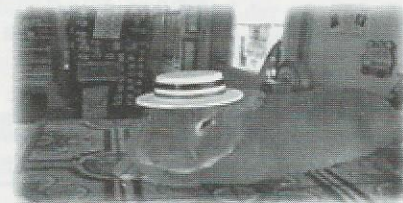
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Gina Blitstein
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Visit Big Red at Henry's Rabbit Ranch
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Hall of Famer Snuffy's Now a Steak 'n Egger

2010 Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame Inductee, Snuffy's Grill in McCook, IL re-opened in April, 2012, as a Steak 'n Egger Restaurant. Association member, Jeff Geisler went to check out the new place and was kind enough to share his thoughts and some photos.

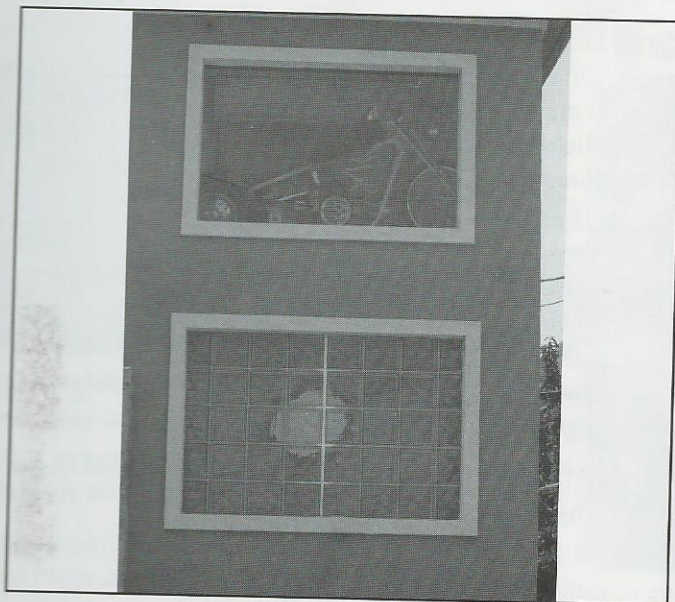
By Jeff Geisler

The new Steak 'n Egger has opened for business 24/7. The best way to describe it is to say that its the same, but different.

On the exterior the original stone work has been kept, but the corner doorway has been replaced by glass blocks. Awnings, lights, and a tower holding a chopper motorcycle have been added.

On the interior, a new counter with stools and grill are in the same area as the originals. The dark paneling is gone. It has been replaced with white and black tiles. Tables and chairs have replaced the booths. The only indication of the original Snuffy's is on a large screen monitor mounted at the end of the counter that has a slideshow of "before" pictures (no, I didn't see the Snuffy's Hall of Fame plaque). It also seems that some of the Snuffy's staff has been kept on.

The Steak 'n Egger on Route 66 is located at 8408 Joliet Road in McCook, IL.



OWNERS-ROBERT & RENEE ARIST
PHONE- 217-627-3491

Demi & Nick Adam
Your Hosts

Joy & Paul Adam
Your Hosts

HOURS-
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SAT 9-2

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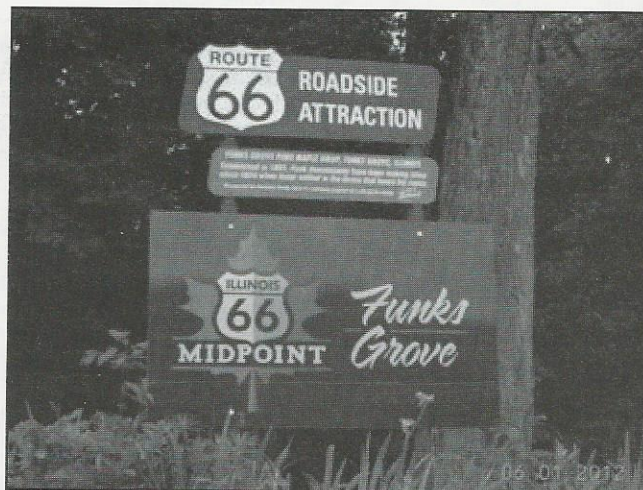
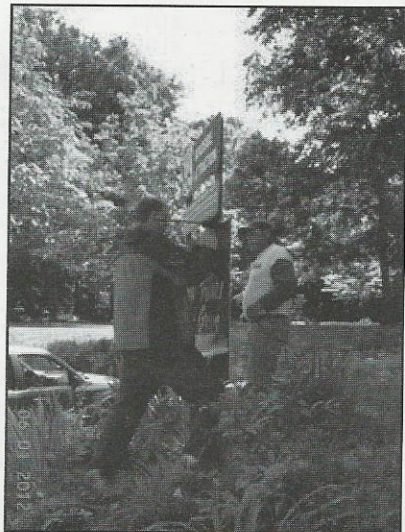
Phone: (217) 324-2023
Fax: (217) 324-7191

Funk's Grove Midpoint Tour: What's in the Name?

Our Motor Tour this year featured many exciting events, not the least of which was the ceremony commemorating Funk's Grove as the official Midpoint of Route 66 in the state of Illinois.

The determination of the official midpoint was a project undertaken by Sangamon County Representative, John Lucchesi and Madison County Representative, Jerry Law, who were commissioned by the Illinois Scenic Byway. Through the use of painstakingly precise tracking and GPS technology, the midpoint was determined to be located smack dab in the middle of the driveway at Funk's Grove!

A sign proudly announcing that fact has been installed by the Bates brothers, Dan and Eric. We thank them for their hard work! The sign was unveiled on Sunday, June 10, 2012.



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

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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1-815-844-3404
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"Where breakfast is an event!"



Route 66 Association of Illinois Business Member Directory

These businesses and organizations have joined our Association. Their membership demonstrates their dedication to Route 66. Please demonstrate your appreciation to them by patronizing their businesses whenever you can.

VFN Fiberglass	330 W. Factory Road	Addison	IL	60101	630-543-0232
Atlanta Public Library	100 SE Race St.	Atlanta	IL	61723	217-648-2112
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., P.O. Box 3308	Bloomington	IL	61702	309-828-6091
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
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	1805 W. Oakland Ave.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-828-9812
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
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
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	
Doc'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., P.O. Box 410	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., P.O. Box 128	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2228
City of Joliet Tourism	150 W. Jefferson St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-724-9045
Jim Hannah - Heating & Air Conditioning	208 Elm St.	Joliet	IL	60433	815-651-6556
Joliet Area Historical Museum	204 N. Ottawa St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-723-5201
Rialto Theater	15 E. Van Buren St.	Joliet	IL	60432	
Original Route 66 Accessories	1904 - 60th St.	LaGrange	IL	60525	708-246-1543
Abraham Lincoln Tourism	1555 - 5th St.	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-8687
Hampton Inn of Lincoln	1019 N. Heitmann Drive	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-6729
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	11 Thunderbird Circle	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-4441
Jubelt's Bakery & Restaurant	303 N. Old Route 66	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-5314
Niehaus Cycle Sales, Inc.	718 North Old Route 66	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-6565
Wooden Nickel Winery & Saloon	3225 Honey Bend Ave.	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-4446
Pink Elephant Antique Mall Corp.	908 Vetrans Memorial Drive	Livingston	IL	62058	618-637-2366
H.V.E. Vending Machine Specialists	153 Eisenhower Lane N.	Lombard	IL	60148	630-792-0033
Dixie Travel Plaza	501 S. Main St., P.O. Box 260	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	217-999-3688
City of Mt. Olive	200 E. Main St.	Mount Olive	IL	62069	217-999-4261
Bob Green Auto Service	1847 New Salam Church Road	New Berlin	IL	62670	217-546-5846
Vertical Geosolutions, Inc.	130 Sawgrass Lane	O'Fallon	IL	62269	618-670-4259
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	
Bernardi's II, Inc.	123 N. Mill St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-1198
Café Fontana	1024 W. Reynolds St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-419-2011
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 St	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
WRLR 98.3	P.O. Box 98	Round Lake IL	IL	60073	847-546-9757
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
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	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
Route 66 Cruisers	2148 Cincinnati Ave.	Springfield	IL	62702	217-836-4105
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	Springfield	IL	62702	217-525-9222
Vic's Pizza & Pub	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
Kicks Bar & Grill	19578 N. 1960 Easr Rd.	Towanda	IL	61776	309-728-2060
Patterson Bros. Oil & Gas, Inc.	P.O. Box 139	Williamsville	IL	62693	217-566-3328
Dell Rheas 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
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
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
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
GayParita	21118 Old 66	Ash Grove	MO	65604	417-234-4943
Route 66 Root Beer & Soda	P.O.Box 766	Lebanon	MO	65536	417-588-4466
Blue Swallow Motel	815 E. Route 66 Blvd.	Tucumcari	NM	77401	575-461-9849
Afton Station & Route 66 Packards	12 S.E. 1st St.	Afton	OK	74331	918-257-4044
Claremore Convention & Visitors Bureau	400 Veterans Pkwy	Claremore	OK	74017	918-341-8688
Miami Ok Convention & Visitors Bureau	101 N. Main St.	Miami	OK	74354	918-542-4435
Fading Nostalgia	3119 S. Lenox St.	Milwaukee	WI	53207	262-909-9540

Join our Association as a business member to be listed among these fine businesses and organizations.

Route 66: Summer Reading List

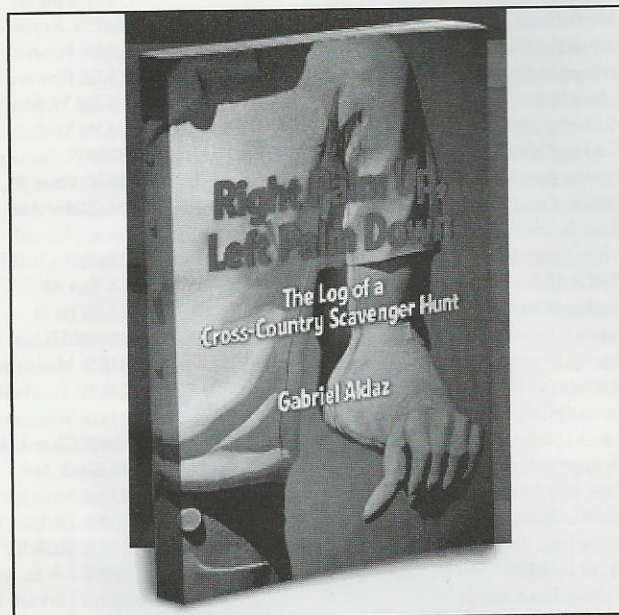
As Editor of The 66 News and the Route 66 Association of Illinois website, I become aware of many books that I think may be of interest to Route 66 enthusiasts. I'd like to take this opportunity to share some of them with you. I hope you'll find some good Summer reading here.

By Gina Blitstein

Right Palm Up, Left Palm Down, by Gabriel Aldaz

Available at rightpalmup.com \$19.95

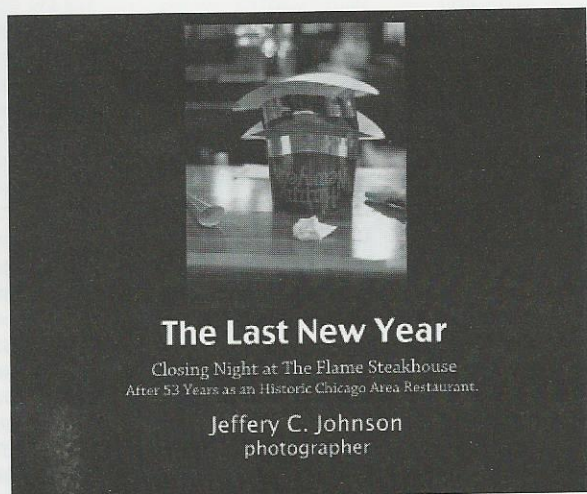
Described as, "The log of a cross-country scavenger hunt," this book chronicles one man's lifelong search to find all the Muffler Men, whose hands are situated, as the title states, right palm up, left palm down. From a chance encounter with his first giant - Louie, in Flagstaff, Arizona, the author has sought to share his adventures in locating the rest of them - his one rule is, no help from the Internet! He prefers to learn as he travels - and travel as he learns.



The Last New Year, by Jeffery C Johnson, photographer

Available at blurb.com at various price points

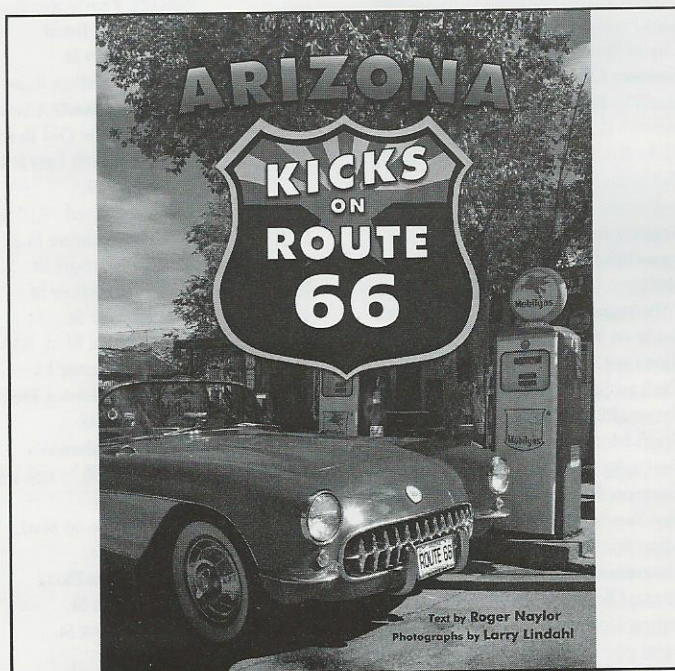
The Flame Restaurant was a Route 66 icon in Countryside, IL for 53 years. This book chronicles its closing night, New Year's Eve, 2011 in photographs.



Arizona Kicks on Route 66, by Roger Naylor

Available at amazon.com \$9.27

To quote their Facebook announcement upon the release of their book in April, 2012, "Just in time for road trip season comes a swinging road trip book. "Arizona Kicks on Route 66" by Roger Naylor makes a rollicking jaunt across the iconic highway. Over 200 miles of Mother Road are still found in AZ including the longest unbroken stretch in existence. It's a bewitching drive captured by the photography of Larry Lindahl. Plus, there's pie."



Between 10 and 5 With Dad, Keeping The Fifth Commandment, by Alan D. Busch

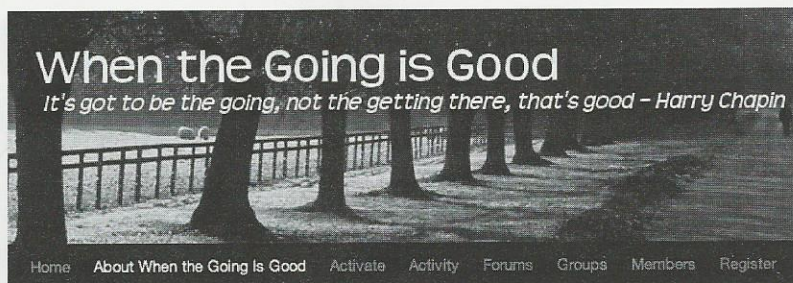
Available by contacting the author directly at authorden.com or via email at alandbusch@gmail.com \$14.95

Skokie, IL based author, Alan D Busch says, "Cruising Route 66 With Dad," the cover story of this book, is a fact-based, light-hearted nostalgia piece but with serious ageless lessons.

In case you prefer to do your reading online...

When the Going is Good, a blog which recounts a Route 66 story, chapter by chapter, by Cort Stevens

Available at whenthegoingisgood.com



To quote from the site, "What we're going to focus on is the going, the actual travel part of travel. The destination is almost immaterial relative to the route and mode of travel. We will be seeking out all sorts of unconventional travel, out of necessity much of it will be automotive, but the routes will be unusual, the stops along the way interesting, and usually the

vehicles we use will be out of today's mainstream beige front wheel drive crossover mediocrity."

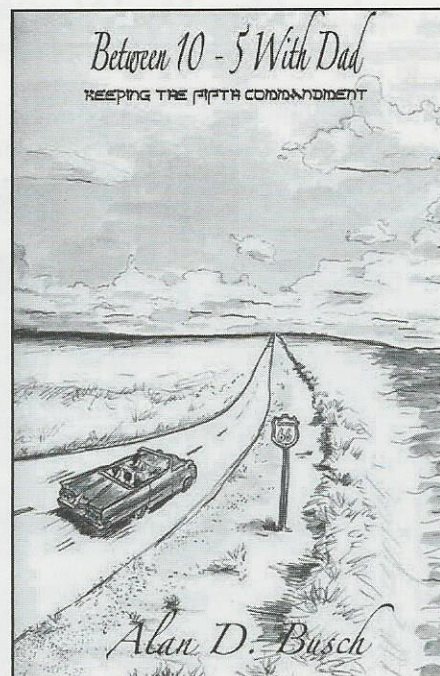
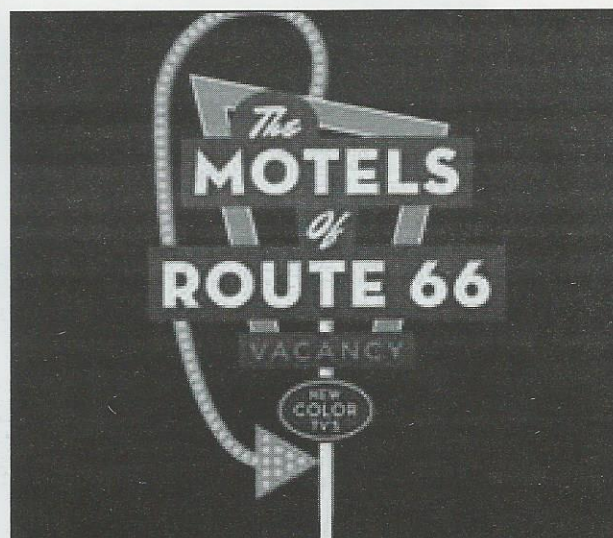
...And look for this book and documentary project that is still in production...

The Motels of Route 66, spearheaded by independent filmmaker and author, Simon Cantlon

This project is seeking funding. You can support their efforts by donating at:

<http://themotelsofroute66.com/page/donate-to-project>

According to their website, "The Motels of Route 66 project will capture the spirit of these motels, both the thriving and the forgotten, in film, photographs, and oral histories. We will document the motel owners stories, the iconic neon signs, the mid-century architecture and the travelers who stayed there then and now."



Scrapbooking My Way Across Route 66!

By Marcia Gascho

Two of my favorite hobbies are traveling and making scrapbooks. I've been taking trips since I was a little kid. I have written travel diaries and taken photos on trips many years. I discovered scrap booking over 10 years ago and the two hobbies seem to compliment each other very well.

My dad told me we often traveled the stretch of Illinois Route 66 between Bloomington/Normal and Carlerville on the way to visit my grandparents back in the 1960's. My husband and I became interested in Route 66 when we drove on sections of the highway on trips to Arizona in the 1990's. We discovered how much fun it was to get off the 'super slab' and drive through little towns. We visited Angel and Juan Delgadillo in Seligman, spent the night at the Wigwam Motel, toured Grand Canyon Caverns and saw many other places throughout the state. About this time I decided to make a Route 66 scrapbook to document our travels.

I took my Mom on a portion of Illinois Route 66 in 2001. On our way home we stopped off at Cardinal Hill Candles & Crafts and were able to visit with Bob Waldmire in his school bus. Meeting him is one of my favorite Route 66 memories. I'm so glad I took a photo of him in front of his bus that day because it has a place of honor in my scrapbook! In 2004 my husband I met Bob in Springfield at a Mustang show. After a lull in our Route 66 travels, we have taken several longer trips in the past few years. In 2010 we spent a lot of time in Missouri. In April of 2011 we drove to Amarillo, Texas. This year we drove over 2400 miles to Tucumcari, NM and back! We have also enjoyed doing the Red Carpet Corridor trips. I have added photos of all these trips to my scrapbook.

A few years ago I started making scrapbooks using digital software. It's quick and fun to create books of my Route 66 photos and memories using this format. I've also created Route 66 calendars using this same software.

I do not make overly decorative scrap books. To me, the photos and and journaling are the most important things to put on the page. It's easy to forget all the little details about our various trips and now I have a good record of them. I often get out my scrapbooks and reminisce about the places we have visited along "The Mother Road."

Marcia can help you make a scrapbook of your own memories. Visit her website at: <http://www.mycmsite.com/sites/mgascho>





Taste the Route!
Enjoy the Road!

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Preserving Route 66 is a Good Investment for the Future

The following is an excerpt from an economic impact study we received from the National Parks Association. As dedicated Route 66 Preservationists, we know you'll be delighted to hear its findings:

A recently completed economic impact study shows that \$132 million per year is spent in communities along historic Route 66. This information sheds new light on the importance of heritage tourism and historic preservation along Route 66 as a contributor to local, state, and national economies. Route 66, which runs from Chicago to Santa Monica and is known as the Mother Road, is America's most celebrated automobile highway, and a symbol of twentieth-century American culture and history.

The study demonstrates the tremendous influence tourists have on the economies of towns and cities along the route:

More than 85% of Route 66 travelers visit historic places and museums, and these tourists spend \$38 million dollars a year in these communities.

Heritage preservation, through Main Street revitalization programs and museums, add another \$94 million in annual investments.

The national impact is an annual gain of 2,400 jobs, \$90 million in income, \$262 million in overall output, \$127 million in gross domestic product and \$37 million in tax revenues.

At the local level, the restored Route 66-themed motel, restaurant, and gift shop anchor the downtown in many small communities and bring new life and revenue to towns once bypassed by the Interstate Highway System.

In other words, preserving Route 66 is a good investment with significant community and economic benefits.

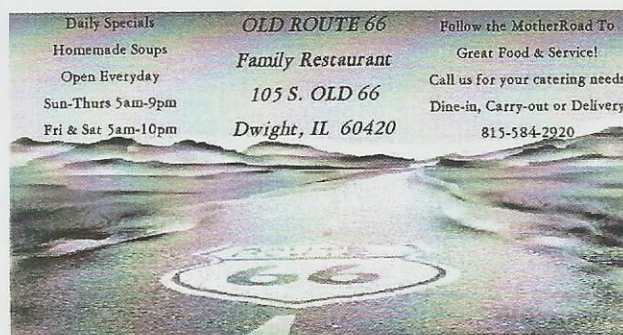
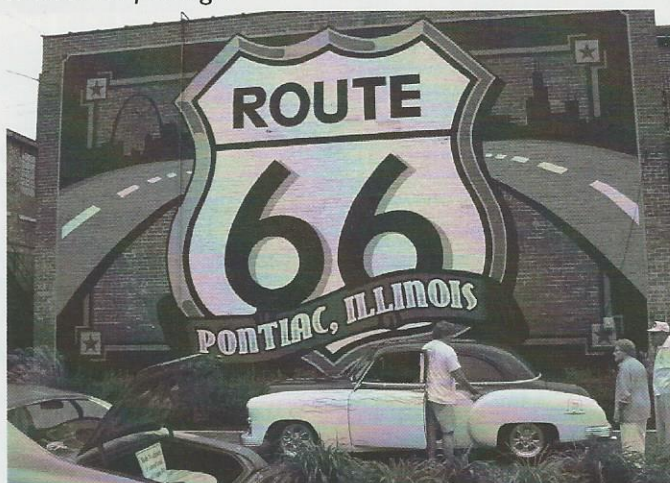
Read the report in its entirety on our website at

<http://www.il66assoc.com/content/preserving-route-66-good-investment-future-says-study>

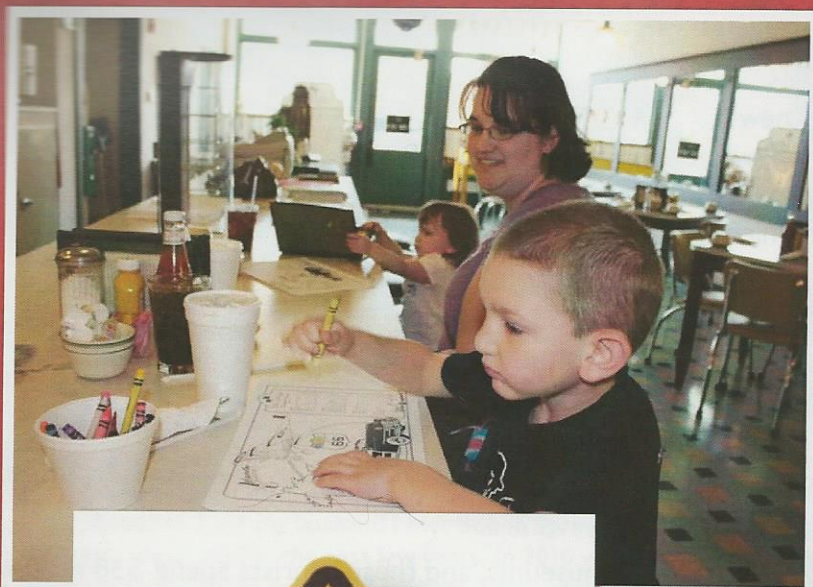
Photo Credits

All photos in this issue are Route 66 Association of Illinois archive photos except:

- Route 66 shield on road, page 3; Tall Paul (1 & 2), page 9; Shell pump, Blues Brothers (1 & 2) page 14; Christopher Robleski, Charlie & Red Carpet Corridor keys, page 15, courtesy Josh Friedrich
- Tall Paul with scaffolding, page 3 & Tall Paul (3), page 9, courtesy Damon Sholtey
- Pig Hip plaque, page 3 & Ernie Edwards, page 12, courtesy Geoff Ladd
- Steak 'n Egger exterior, sign & tower, page 16, courtesy Jeff Geisler
- Bates brothers at Funk's Grove & Funk's Grove Midpoint sign, page 17, courtesy Emmy Bates
- Scrapbooking, page 22, courtesy Marcia Gascho



MORE PHOTOS FROM THIS ISSUE

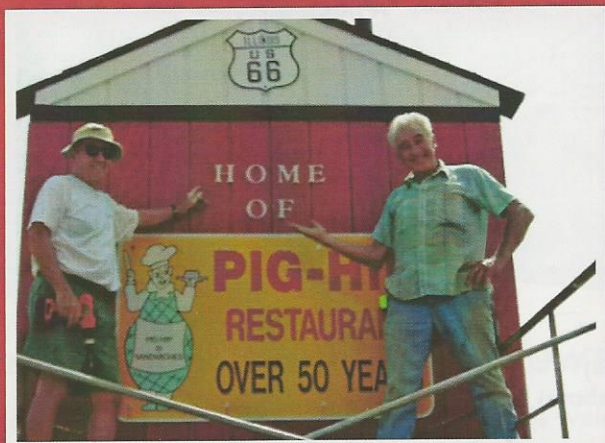


DON'T MISS AN ISSUE OF THE 66 NEWS!
 UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS TO:
 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, MARTY BLITSTEIN
 9280 DRUMMOND
 TINLEY PARK, IL 60487
 (708) 444-1312
 BLITZ66@EARTHLINK.NET

Fall

2012

THE 66 NEWS



TO PRESERVE, EDUCATE,
PROMOTE AND ENJOY
ROUTE 66 IN ILLINOIS!

Illinois - Where the Road Begins!

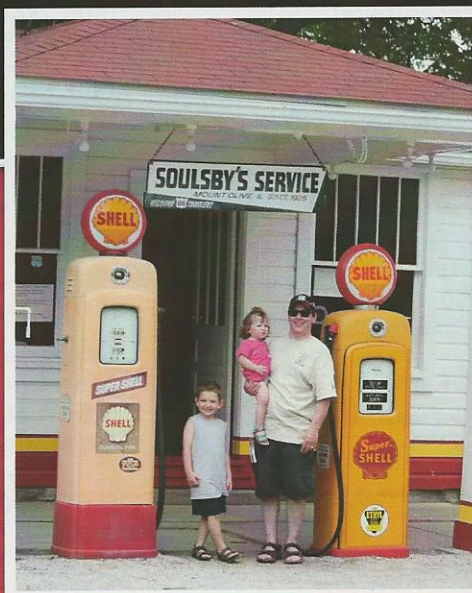
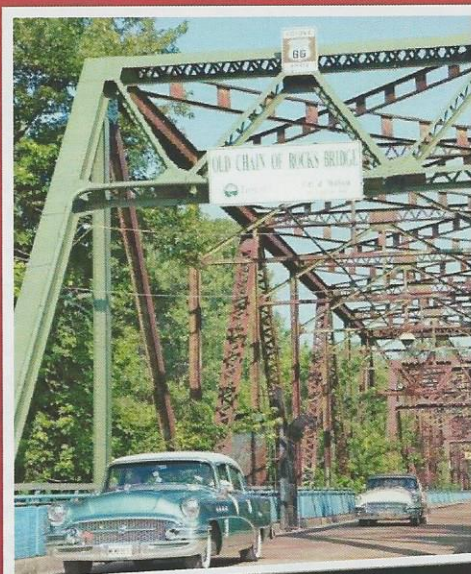
It's been an amazing Summer along the Mother Road! Before we see Summer 2012 in the rear view mirror, we want to show and tell you the story of Route 66 in Illinois this eventful travel and preservation season.

Inside this jam-packed issue of **The 66 News**, you'll discover just what we're so excited about! Enthusiastic Roadies and Preservationists making the most of the American treasure that is Route 66! Fun, food and fabulous folks along every mile!

Although the weather's turning cooler here, our passion for Route 66 remains hot! Autumn brings a beautiful opportunity to appreciate the road in a new color palette and to continue the many projects that keep the Mother Road alive and well for future generations to enjoy.

This exciting issue of **The 66 News** recaps our signature annual event, the Motor Tour, as well as some travel and preservation stories from those who experienced them. Enjoy our stories from along an eventful Route 66!

A Summer to Remember an Autumn to Enjoy!



The Route 66 Association of Illinois

Our Association is governed by an elected group of officers and board members who are responsible for administering our mission and representing the numerous communities through which Route 66 passes in Illinois. They serve to facilitate your involvement with our Association.

Officers

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Jerry Law ('13)
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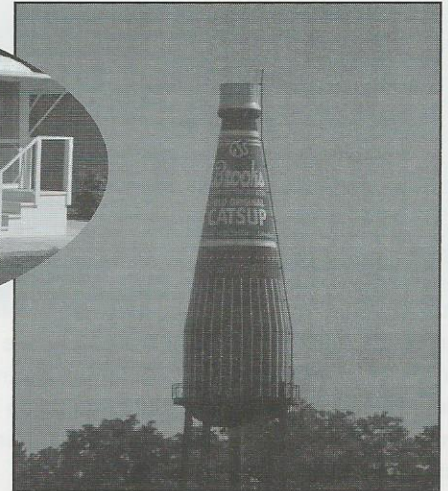
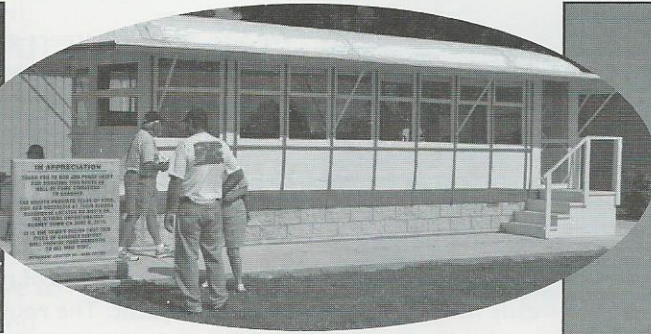
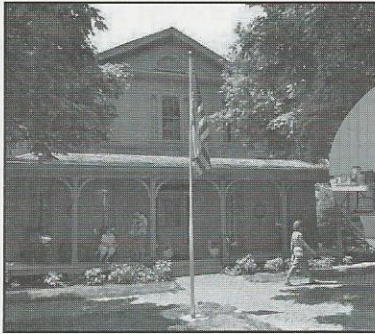
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The 66 News

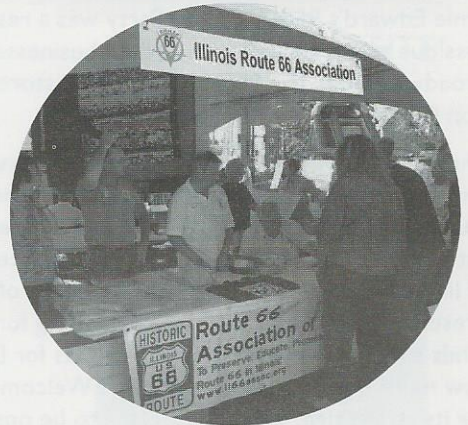
This publication is distributed to members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois as a membership premium. Its mission is to inform our membership about our Association and its activities, as well as to demonstrate our passion for preservation and to celebrate the Mother Road.



Submit Content to **The 66 News**

We here at the Route 66 Association of Illinois welcome your stories from the road, Route 66 news and events. Here's how to submit your content to us for publication in this, our Quarterly Newsletter, or on our website:

Route 66 Association of Illinois
Attention: Newsletter Editor, Gina Blitstein
P.O. Box 1940
Matteson, IL 60443
gina@writeytidy.com
(708) 374-8439



IN THIS ISSUE

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- 15 - Ernie & Fran Edwards Day
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- 17 - From St. Louis to Chicago with Atlanta Cruise-In
- 20 - Weitz Cafe
- 21 - St. Mary Carmelite Church

Advertise in **The 66 News**

Attention, Route 66 Businesses, Attractions and Communities!

This newsletter, **The 66 News**, is mailed quarterly to each and every member of our Association. Can you think of a more targeted group with whom to advertise your business or community?

Our Treasurer, Marty Blitstein, will be happy to help you purchase your advertisement.

708-444-1312
blitz66@earthlink.net
9280 Drummond
Tinley Park, IL 60487

We offer several affordable advertising options in our Newsletter.

Single Issue Pricing for Advertising in **The 66 News**:

Whole Page - \$125.00

Half Page - \$75.00

Business Card - \$25.00

Special Offer - for 1 year of Whole Page or Half Page ads (all 4 issues)

Buy 3 ads, get the 4th FREE

All ads need not contain the same content.

Ads are in black and white only.

A Message from Association President, Cathie Stevanovich



Autumn....warm days and cool nights. I'm already noticing it gets dark earlier than before and colors are starting to change along the route. The farmers tell me a Summer like this is followed by a tough Winter. So much to do before the leaves complete their change, what a busy Summer it was along the road.

Ernie Edward's 95th Birthday Party was a resounding success due to the help of many of the businesses in the Lincoln/Broadwell area! The Pig Hip sign was restored by the Preservation Committee and rededicated.

The Litchfield museum project is well underway and on target for a late Fall completion. Martha Jackson and the Litchfield museum board has worked tirelessly to raise funds and interest to complete this new building. The Route 66 Associations of Illinois and Missouri under the guidance of Jim Thole (Neon Preservation Committee) will be applying for National Parks funds to redo the neon 'Vic Suhling Gas for Less' sign that the new multi-use Route 66 Visitor and Welcome Center will have for its street sign. The center plans to be open 7 days a week and will provide a new home for 5 different historical groups from the Litchfield area in addition to its Route 66 heritage.

The Dixie has been sold and was reopened September 6th after an extensive remodeling. The new "Dixie" will have a Route 66 theme, and the new owners are featuring Michael Campanelli's photos, two big screen TVs; John Weiss and Emmy Bates set up a display featuring the communities along the road. This is another "new" information center which will help direct tourists both up and down the road 24 hours a day. This is a one of a kind Road Ranger station – another first along Route 66 in Illinois.

Tremendous efforts by the Preservation Committee this year resulted in Odell Station being spruced up for the Tourist season and the 2nd Relighting at the Luna Café with its seven neon-colored sign. Many articles were written about the Giant being repainted in Atlanta which cited how far people drove to come and help. Fall brings cleanups along the road, but remember, "We work for food" so come out and get dirty and play with your Preservation friends.

The new Illiana Toll Road will be crossing over some Illinois communities and the Mother Road herself. We have members who are going to these meetings as volunteers to remind the committee that Route 66 is on the national historic register and cannot be changed or destroyed.

We also have volunteers going to the High Speed train meetings to insure unnecessary changes are not made to Route 66. The Federal Government is eyeing the original 66 pavement in Illinois to use again because the railroad will need more room to make their gates and train intersections safer and more compliant. Remember this is a single train track for now as there is not enough money to build two tracks at this time.

We are in the process of raising funds to work on Bob Waldmire's land yacht. The roof needs to be secured and water-proofed. Volunteers are looking into either an epoxy water-proofing of the roof, or a cover of some sort.

Bob's van will be going to the Springfield Mother Road Festival in Springfield on September 21-23, and then will be returning to the museum in Pontiac.

The Preservation Committee will be building a new display in the front entrance hall to the City's museum complex. This will feature information about becoming a volunteer Preservationist and show some of the things we do. The only skills needed to become a Preservation Committee member are a sense of humor and the ability to move – not even fast or slow – just move!

Association elections are coming up in October. Come out and vote (or run) for Office. Several positions are up for renewal.

This year we've lost Frances Mowery (Pontiac Hall of Fame member), Ernie Edwards (Broadwell Hall of Fame member), Betty Estes (Unofficial Godmother of Route 66 in Illinois and former Pontiac Tourism Director), Rita Erickson (Hall of Fame member & former owner/operator of The Odell Shelter) and Jack Barrick (Barrick Transport in Lincoln, Illinois). These people were strong individuals whose dedication and hard work helped the road prosper. If you know of anyone who impacted your life or your community, remember that nominations for the 2013 Class of the Hall of Fame will be accepted January 1 through February 28.

Check your calendar! Pumpkin Chucking in Girard, The Mother Road Festival in Springfield, the Dwight Basset Waddle, the Blue Grass Festival in Pontiac! Think of the colors, the smell of burning leaves, the fresh hot apple pie at cafes and diners along the road. Take a ride – stop and wander. Make some new 66 memories to keep you warm during the coming cold Winter nights!

See you on the road!

What's Happening?

Thanks to all there is to see and do along the Road, we can't fit it all into a quarterly publication.

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE STORIES WE'VE INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE OF THE 66 NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AT

WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG/THE66NEWS

Also, follow these stories that we've provided on our website. We strive to keep you informed about events and Route 66 events as they happen.

Here are some of the recent stories on our website:

- Experience our 2012 Motor Tour Wrap-up with photos galore!
- The Bates sisters share their Route 66 Adventure
- Route 66 Sodas introduces a new bottle cap
- The rise and fall of Berwyn's "Automobile Row"
- The Boots Motel Renovation Plans

Upcoming Association Meetings

Fall Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, October 21, 2012

Pontiac City Hall Annex
115 W Howard St
Pontiac, IL

This meeting will include our annual Association election.

Winter Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, January 20, 2013

Pontiac City Hall Annex
115 W Howard St
Pontiac, IL

Spring Quarterly Meeting

Sunday April 21, 2013

Location to be announced

Meeting times for all Quarterly Meetings are the same:

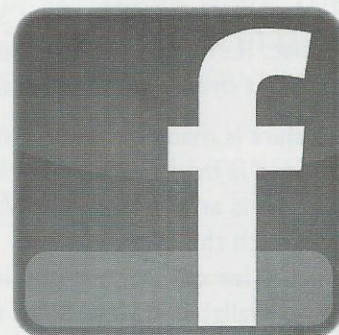
Board Meeting - 10:00 AM
Lunch - 12:00 PM (on your own)
General Meeting - 1:00 PM

KEEP UP
WITH US ON
THE WEB

www.il66assoc.org



VISIT OUR WEBSITE!



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/IL66ASSOC



WWW.TWITTER.COM/ILRT66

News Desk

New Route 66 Items for Sale!

We're excited to announce that two new Route 66 items are available: A Funk's Grove commemorative pin and a T-shirt featuring a Bob Waldmire original design.

DEMONSTRATE YOUR SUPPORT OF ROUTE 66 WITH YOUR PURCHASE OF THESE NEWLY-AVAILABLE ITEMS!

Support Preservation and Bob Waldmire's Bus

These items not only show the world that you're a fan of the Mother Road but all profits from their sale go to support our ongoing preservation efforts.

The Funk's Grove Midpoint pin is an original design created by Diaz Sign Art in Pontiac, IL. It features a cutout design and brilliant orange and brown tones.

The T-shirt is made of American-grown cotton and is made in the good old USA. The design is an original Bob Waldmire design which the artist created specifically for our Association in 1989. It will be available in sizes Small through 4X.

All profits from the sale of the Bob Waldmire art T-shirt are earmarked for the addition of solar power and air conditioning to the Waldmire "Road Yacht" which can be toured at our Association Hall of Fame and Museum, 110 W Howard St in Pontiac, IL.

View full size color photos
on our website:
<http://il66assoc.org/the66news>



FUNK'S GROVE MIDPOINT PIN

ALL PROFITS FROM THE SALE OF THIS COMMEMORATIVE PIN WILL GO TO SUPPORT OUR ASSOCIATION'S PRESERVATION EFFORTS.

\$5.00

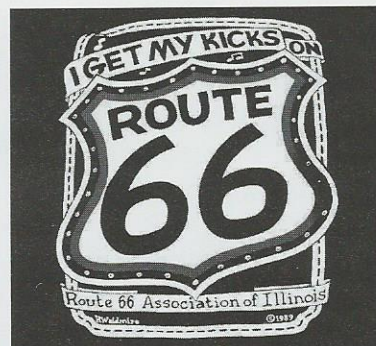
Get yours at any of these locations or by mail.

In person on Saturdays only or mail check and request for pins to:
Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum
110 W Howard St, Pontiac, IL
Mail orders add \$2.00 shipping for 1-9 pins

In person (Tuesdays through Sundays)
City Hall Shoppes
321 North Main St, Pontiac, IL

BOB WALDMIRE T-SHIRT

ALL PROFITS FROM THE SALE OF THIS T-SHIRT GO TO PRESERVATION OF BOB WALDMIRE'S BUS WHICH CAN BE TOURED AT OUR MUSEUM IN PONTIAC, IL.



In person on Saturdays only or mail check and request for pins to:
Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum
110 W Howard St, Pontiac, IL
Mail orders add \$4.00 Shipping Charge per T-shirt
Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.

In person (Tuesdays through Sundays)
City Hall Shoppes
321 North Main St, Pontiac, IL

Log Cabin Restaurant
18700 Old Route 66, Pontiac, IL

Get yours at one of these locations or by mail.

Sizes S-XL - \$15.00
Sizes 2XL - \$16.00
Sizes 3XL - \$17.00
Sizes 4XL - \$18.00

Association Cookbook

Our Association is proud to offer a cookbook, comprised of recipes from the best cooks along Route 66.

We'd love to include your favorite recipes in the new edition of our cookbook - there's a page waiting for your signature dish! Submit it today and be included in some tasty company!

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR
EVERYONE, AT EVERY AGE!

Junior Memberships and Newsletter

You're never too young to be a Roadie! Junior Memberships are absolutely FREE and include a membership card, decal and access to the **Adventure Journal**, our newsletter for the younger set!

Parents - sign up your child and give us the opportunity to pass along the spirit of Route 66 to new generations!

LOTS OF WORK AND LOTS OF
FUN ALONG ROUTE 66!

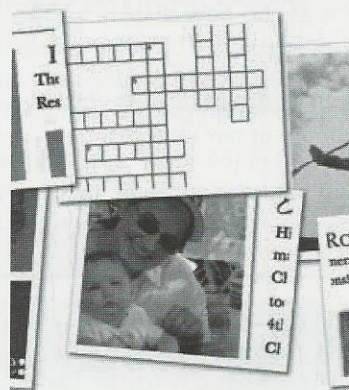


RECIPES ALONG ROUTE 66

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPES FOR THE
NEW EDITION OF OUR
ASSOCIATION COOKBOOK!

LORI KILLACKY
COOKYLADY1215@YAHOO.COM

Adventure Journal



JUNIOR NEWSLETTER

JUNIOR MEMBERS HAVE THEIR
OWN ONLINE NEWSLETTER TO
ENJOY! VIEW OR DOWNLOAD
FROM:

[WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG/CONTENT/
JUNIOR-NEWSLETTER](http://WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG/CONTENT/JUNIOR-NEWSLETTER)

From Our Corresponding Secretary:



The Funk's Grove Midpoint sign was installed by Dan, Emmy and Eric Bates prior to the Midpoint ceremony held on June 10, 2012. The siblings enjoyed the day volunteering their time and effort.

Emmy Bates, our Association Corresponding Secretary says, "This is how it got done - volunteers, a little work, and lots of fun. This was a special moment my brothers and me."

We'd love for you to call association president, Cathie Stevanovich, and give her your name to volunteer. We'd love to see you at the Pontiac museum, at any event or at a general meeting. Enjoy the association by taking an active part in it.

Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum

Begin your Route 66
adventure here!



The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum features thousands of artifacts and a delightful assortment of unique memorabilia, all related to Route 66 - The "Mother Road."

We invite all of our Association members to volunteer at the museum, sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm with our visitors.

Our Museum boasts:

- Friendly and knowledgeable guides
- Route 66 memorabilia from Hall of Fame members
- Route 66 Artist and Icon, Bob Waldmire's bus and van
- Travel resources to enhance your Route 66 journey
- Photo op! Largest Route 66 mural on our back wall

Coming soon - your opportunity to become a Route 66 Association preservation volunteer. Learn all about it at the new display in our museum lobby.

(An elevator is available for the convenience of our visitors.)

Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum

110 W Howard St
Pontiac, IL 61764

Open 7 days a week!

December - March
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Daily

April- November
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Weekdays)
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Weekends)

Admission is FREE!

Welcome New Members!

Association President Cathie Stevanovich, Membership Chairman, Marty Blitstein, and the entire Route 66 Association would like to extend a sincere welcome to our new members who have joined us between May 17 - August 20, 2012.

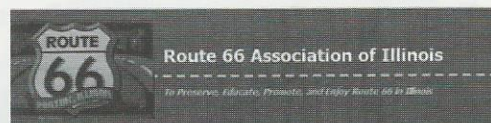
We hope your experience as a member of our association brings you great satisfaction and a deeper appreciation of Route 66!

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ➤ Michael Brown | ➤ Dee & Joe Meyer |
| ➤ Bill Minges | ➤ Helen L. Aquina |
| ➤ Jay Edmiston | ➤ Jim Rook |
| ➤ Marilyn & Scott Mueth | ➤ John E. Burke |
| ➤ Noel Kindelan | ➤ Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center - Springfield, IL Melissa Stewart |
| ➤ Gerald S. Campbell | ➤ Joliet Route 66 Diner |
| ➤ Dennis J. Halik | ➤ Linda & Bob Nachtrieb |
| ➤ Marge & Don Johnsen | ➤ John Mc Ginley |
| ➤ Al Lopinot | ➤ Chris Gillham |
| ➤ Rebecca & Stan Salabura | ➤ Judy & Bob Niziolek |
| ➤ Marilyn K., Terry L. Clark | |
| ➤ Steak N Egger - Terry M. Carr | |
| ➤ Merry & Kenneth Schaapveld | |
| ➤ Joan Whitlock | |

Be certain to sign up to receive our Association e-Newsletter, *The Day Tripper!*

Route 66 news and events
delivered to your inbox!

Sign up at <http://eepurl.com/dlzp>



**Route 66 Association of Illinois
DayTripper e-Announcement**

Red Carpet Corridor 2012 Edition

Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6, 2012

Kick off "Route 66 Season" with this annual event hosted by 13 Illinois communities along a 90-mile stretch of the Mother Road, from Joliet to Swanda. We offer this special edition of our e-announcement as your guide to Red Carpet Corridor Festivities. Enjoy this first opportunity to get some 2012 kicks on Route 66!

Learn all about the Red Carpet Corridor. Illinois Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor is Calling!



Motor Tour Begins with Dazzling Neon Show

Story & Photos by Jim Thole

The 23rd annual Motor Tour began with a bonus event on Friday night, June 8, with a re-enactment of the Luna Café neon sign relighting celebration that originally occurred back on October 22, 2011. Since most Motor Tour participants were unable to attend the original ceremony, this was an opportune time to re-enact this fun event for them to experience as well.

Led by Jerry Law, co-chairman of the 2012 Motor Tour, our Association members cruised to the Luna Café in Mitchell just before dusk from the Edwardsville festival registration site. The big draw was the stunning new neon displayed on the Luna's historic, vintage sign, as well as the "man-in-the-moon" and associated neon on the front façade of the building.

It was a festive event that began about 8:55 pm with a stirring rendition of our national anthem by Lisa Doss, the same singer who performed it so well last October. Over 100 Illinois Route 66 motor tour participants, and others, gathered to see all the neon flash on about 9:00 pm – to an applauding and appreciative audience, which included all the Association officers and most of its board members.

Association President Cathie Stevanovich and Luna owner Larry Wofford offered their comments to the audience. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Larry provided free food for everyone, and had the beautiful neon relighting commemorative T-shirts available for sale to all of those who were unable to get one last October.

What a great way to start the Motor Tour - and to celebrate the 2011 restoration of this historic sentinel, which was a concerted achievement of the Illinois and Missouri Route 66 Associations and the Friends of the Mother Road, and greatly facilitated by a National Park Service grant – the first ever applied for jointly by two Route 66 state associations.

The Luna Café is located at 201 East Chain of Rocks Road (aka Route 66) in Mitchell, Illinois. From I-270 take the "IL 203 Granite City" Exit 4 and turn north into the town of Mitchell. About 40 of the commemorative T-shirts were still available at the time of this writing, but only at the Luna Café.



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Preservation Report

Contributed by John Weiss, Preservation Committee Chairman

Odell Gas Station

The pride of the Route 66 Association of Illinois Preservation Committee is the Odell Gas Station. We originally began the restoration in 1996. Throughout the years we continued to work on this 1932 structure.

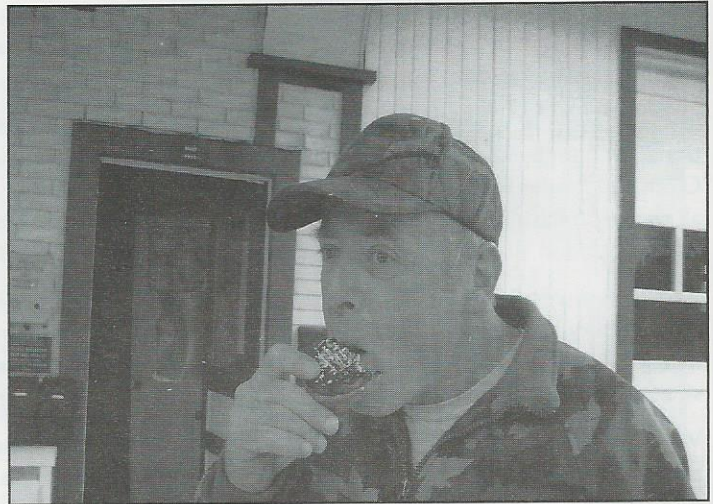
I can say with pride that virtually hundreds of thousands of photographs have been taken of this little station. So many memories have been returned to nearly every country in the world. You haven't experienced Route 66 properly unless you have come to the small community of Odell and visited the station.

However, it is extremely important to realize that we must maintain this structure or it will deteriorate back to its sad original condition.

With this in mind, every spring we come to the station to spruce it up and get it ready for the huge crowds of tourists we know will be visiting. We respect that and we want all visitors to have a memorable experience. We even have a message repeater for folks to listen to when an attendant isn't available.

This year a hearty group of 17 people came to do the Spring cleaning. I proudly list them here. Jamie Anderson, Debbie Bates, Emmy Bates, Dan Butler, Mike Cummings, Kim Keizer, Bill Kelley, Lori Killackey, Bob Killackey, Dorothy McMullen, Paul Panczuk, Phil Scully, Marty Schleder, John Weiss, Cathie Stevanovich, and Marty Blitstein.

Yes, we still work for food. This outstanding meal was provided by the Route 66 Family Restaurant (Dwight). Funding for this was from Mr. John Ruh, Cathie Stevanovich & Marty Blitstein.



The Bench

(Little things mean a lot)

Originally the long bench located at the front of the Odell gas station was located at the 1890s Railroad Station in Odell. When that structure was torn down the bench was moved to Rentz's restaurant in Odell. When we started restoring the gas station the bench was offered to us. We eagerly accepted it. Since then this historic bench has been used by thousands of people from around the world.



The bench has received minor maintenance and paint during the past 15 years. However, the 120 year old wood in the seat area was beginning to weaken. Odell officials were worried that someone would sit on it and it would break. The plan was to remove it from service. I informed them that we could effectively restore it to a safe, reusable condition. (I have a tendency to believe we can do anything.)

On July 20, myself along with Emmy Bates and her brother Dan completely restored the bench without removing any of its historic visual appearance. You can now sit safely and securely on the famous bench and greet the world as they come to visit the little gas station in Odell.

Materials were furnished by the Route 66 Association. Lunch was furnished by Preservation supporter, Mr. John Ruh.

The Dixie

The Dixie truck stop in McLean, IL. was the original location of the Route 66 Hall of Fame. This was a high profile location but limited in space. Eventually an offer was made by Betty Estes, representing the city of Pontiac, to relocate the Route 66 Hall of Fame to Pontiac, IL. The rest is extraordinary history.

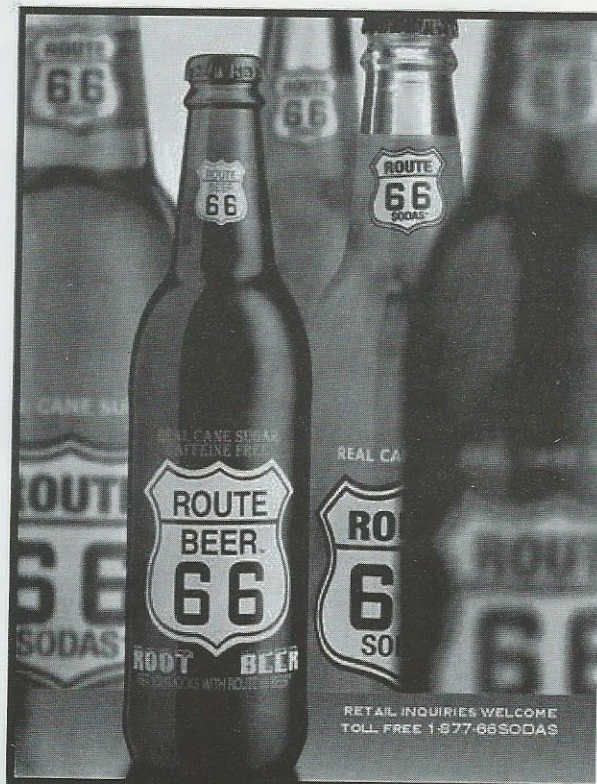
However, in the early days of promoting Route 66, the Dixie was mentioned in every book and video as a must-visit location. Those publications could not be modified. So after moving the Hall of Fame out of the Dixie to Pontiac, it was decided to keep a presence at that location since virtually thousands of people armed with old guide books would visit there. So the Dixie became a tourist information center for the Route 66 Association of Illinois.

One of the very early items installed at the Dixie was an original 20 foot long Bob Waldmire drawing. It was appropriate to leave it on display since it promoted all of Route 66.

Recently the Dixie was purchased by the Road Ranger organization. They are completely gutting out the inside of the Dixie except for the restaurant. Everything will be new. As a result of this, I was informed that the Route 66 display would have to be completely removed. They intend to provide a new updated display area for us. I went to remove all items including the Bob Waldmire art work. I had underestimated its size. Removing it by myself was impossible. Along came Jeff Gallian. Jeff was basically a tourist interested in learning about Route 66. As we talked I also asked him for his help. He willingly agreed. Between us, we were able to successfully remove the valuable Waldmire artwork. The next problem was how to transport a 20 foot piece of art in my mini van 100 miles to my home. This also was impossible! So I called up the city of Atlanta, IL. They were only eight miles away. Just weeks earlier a group of us had been there to renovate the Bunyon giant. The mayor reacted quickly and sent some village employees to the Dixie to pick up the artwork and a 15 foot long plaque rack display piece. These items are now in storage in Atlanta.

The story does not end here. The Route 66 Association has decided to donate, on loan, the historic Bob Waldmire artwork to the new Route 66 museum that is being constructed in Litchfield, IL.

All of this is a good example of numerous people, businesses, communities and organizations all working together toward a common goal.



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Motor Tour Wrap-Up

Josh, Wendy, Charlie, and Elizabeth Friedrich invite you along on their 2012 Motor Tour adventure. The following is an excerpt from an article submitted by Association member Josh Friedrich. Read Josh's full article on our website's newsletter companion page along with many more full-sized, color photos and additional content related to this issue of **The 66 News** at <http://www.il66assoc.com/the66news/fall-2012>.

It was a gorgeous Friday and we began our three day journey along the Main Street of America. We loaded everyone and everything into the van and hit the road. Our first destination was Collinsville and to see the World's Largest Cat-sup Bottle, a first for us. It was an impressive sight to say the least. We also made a quick stop at Ashman's Pharmacy to pick up a few Brooks Bottle souvenirs.

After that it was time to go to Wendy's favorite stop in St. Louis: Ted Drewes Frozen Custard on 66. We got ours to go and made a beeline to Edwardsville and the Motor Tour kickoff party at the Mother Road Festival. The festival seemed to have a great turnout with good music, mouth-watering food, and roadie friends. We picked up our tour packet from Marty and caught up with author Cheryl Eichar Jett. Charlie signed the Scenic Byway car hood and then we let him loose on the multiple inflatable bounce houses.

I was excited and raring to go Saturday morning because we would be crossing the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge by car, which would be another first for us. Previously, we had only walked it during two of the St Louis Route 66 Festivals. The Missouri side of the bridge was packed full of cars of all types ready to begin cruising. It took quite awhile for everyone to cross since nearly everyone stopped to take a picture at the famous bend in the bridge, including us. I captured the moment with a Polaroid Instant Camera, a new-found hobby that was sparked by the book Polaroids from Route 66 by Christopher Robleski. After crossing I took the path to the right to get a nice side view from the river side of the bridge.

We zipped along to Hamel to Weezy's Bar & Grill and then over to Route 66 Ridez. I was quite impressed with the selection and interior of Route 66 Ridez plus the tour goodie bag!



After that we went on safari at the Pink Elephant Antique Mall searching out various oversized roadside attractions. Treasure was found a used with original box Polaroid One Step 600 Instant Camera for a good price, so the stop was well worth it. Since we were so close we had a mandatory stop at Henry's Ra66it Ranch to visit with Rich and his furry friends. As always it was a warm reception and he was looking forward to driving 66 later that afternoon and evening. Plus, he was honored by being inducted into the Hall of Fame this year, it couldn't go to a more deserving person.

We continued on along the ribbon of road to Mount Olive and Soulsby's Station, a must stop for gas station enthusiasts. Now it was nearly time for lunch so we headed over to the Wooden Nickel Winery & Saloon just past Litchfield. However, we decided to hightail it over to Springfield and the Cozy Dog Drive In for a bite to eat and a brief stop at The Curve Inn.

Lincoln Heritage Museum, it was a pleasant and quaint museum that we had not visited before. We had to stop in Atlanta to see the recently repainted Tall Paul muffler man. Next up was the big event of the day the dedication of the Midpoint of Illinois Route 66 at Funk's Grove. It was a wonderful sign unveiling with Steve & Glaida Funk the guests of honor.

We got back on the hard road and meandered our way to Dawn Patterson's D.K.'s Garage in Towanda. If you haven't dropped in on her and seen it you must make the time to see this eye appealing display of Route 66 mementos. We especially liked all the Route 66 themed puzzles framed along the walls.

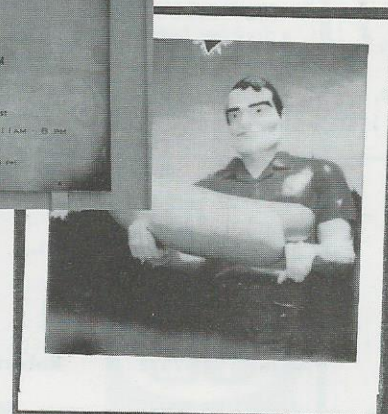
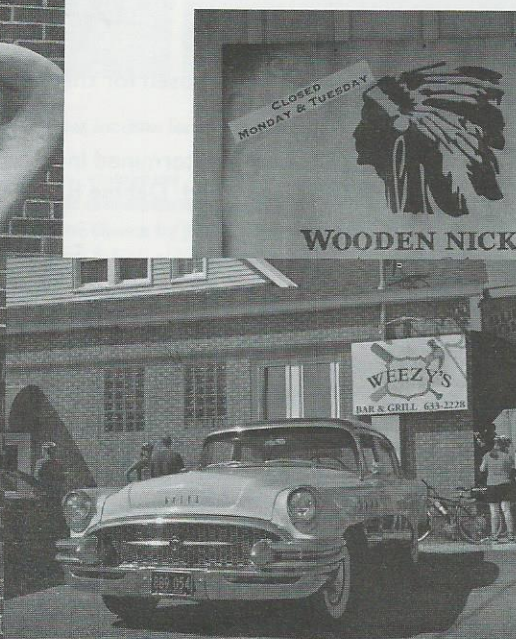
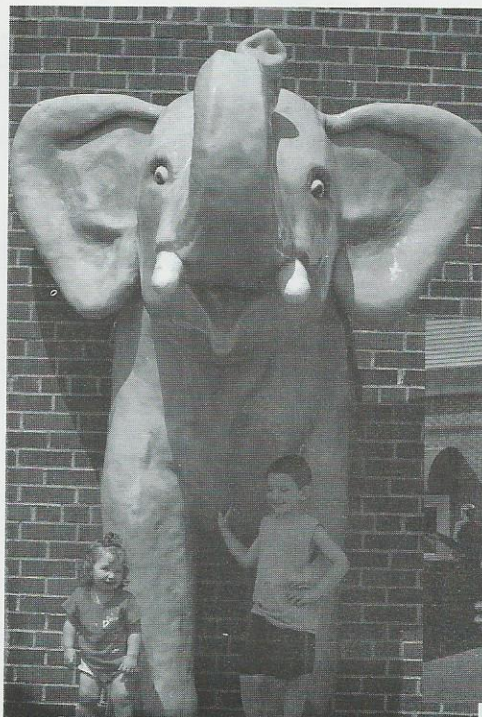
We then went around the bend for our lunch stop at Kicks on 66 Bar & Grill. Next up was one of the more historic stops of the tour in Chenoa at the Matthew Scott home.

We pressed on to the Pontiac Oakland Automobile Museum and looked at the impressive array of cars, advertising, and varied items of car culture. Walked to the Wall Dogs Museum and saw an awesome assortment of hand painted dresses with black light sensitive paint. We then went over to the Hall of Fame Museum and saw Bob Waldmire's Road Yacht.

Onward, to Gardner and the Two Cell Jail and Streetcar Diner, both of which provided great photo ops with the kids.

We then stopped at the Launching Pad for an afternoon snack and a picture with the Gemini Giant in Wilmington. We were now making our way to the final passport stop of the tour in Elwood at the Lloyd Erickson Park.

It was another great Motor Tour and we cannot wait for our next trip on the Mother Road. You never know where the road will take you and what is just around the next bend.



Thanks for coming along!

The Memorial

By John Weiss

First the Pig Hip Restaurant closed. Eventually it re-opened again as the Pig Hip Museum. The Route 66 Preservation Committee invested hundreds of work hours to transform the original building into a popular tourist attraction. However, after being open for a number of years it was destroyed by fire. The suspect was a squirrel who chewed on some old electrical wiring in the attic during the winter.

Ernie and Frances Edwards continued to meet and greet tourists in the porch of their home that still stood on the property. The original large sign on the road was the beacon that attracted travelers. It declared that, "yes", this was the location of the famous Pig Hip restaurant. Tourists took pictures of the aging sign.

Then earlier this year we lost Mr. Pig Hip himself. Sadly, Ernie Edwards passed away. All that was left now of this icon of Route 66 was the aging sign on the road. Then a storm came along and destroyed the entire lower section of the sign. All that stood then was the rotting top section with a broken small pig on the top.

The Preservation Committee along with the Logan County representative and some local residents all came to the same conclusion. We must have something to commemorate that the Pig Hip restaurant did exist and should be remembered.

With that in mind, on June 30th a hearty group of workers set out to completely rebuild the original sign. The metal sign parts were still usable. The four logo figurines needed to be completely restored. The lettering needed some work and the pig on top needed to be restored.

The temperature that day was 100 degrees; however we were determined to complete the task. With funding to purchase lumber and materials from the Route 66 Association of Illinois and custom mixed matching paint donated by the Ace Hardware paint division, we got started. Donated scaffolding needed to be assembled first. Then the new frame was constructed. While this was being done, others worked their magic with the painting of the sign boards, trim, letters and the refurbished pig.

Lunch is a requirement for all of us. Remember our motto is, "We work for food." Logan County furnished this from the popular Hallies on the Square. Most workers had the outrageous Schnitzel sandwich.

After lunch we assembled all the parts. The sign was once again declaring that this site was the home of the famous Pig Hip! The first tourists to stop and take photos were from Texas.

August 5 would have been Ernie Edwards's birthday. So that date was chosen for the dedication of this memorial site in Broadwell, Illinois.

A hearty and very sincere thank you has to go out to the eleven very determined individuals who would not give up in that heat until the job was finished. They are - Lou Vargo, Rosie Vargo, Geoff Ladd, Debbie Bates, Emmy Bates, Dan Bates, Michael Hersh, John Suttan, Leroy Ramthun, Bob Wilmert, John Weiss.

Also, a very special thank you to Heather Wilkins for arranging the restoration of the four logo pieces. Also a big thank you to Ace Hardware, Logan County Tourism and the Route 66 Association of Illinois for their contributions.



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Ernie and Fran Edwards Appreciation Day

Our thanks to Geoff Ladd, Executive Director, Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau of Logan County, for sending us an update from the Ernie and Fran Edwards Route 66 International Appreciation Day. This event took place on August 5, 2012, at the Pig Hip restaurant site in Broadwell, IL.

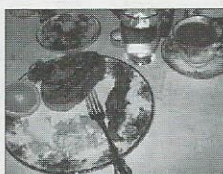
Geoff reports that about 100-150 people attended throughout the day, 25 of whom took the Mill tours.

He'd like to thank the following sponsors who helped make this celebration possible:

Kroger Foods of Lincoln
 5th St. Food Mart of Lincoln
 Route 66 Association of Illinois
 Rt. 66 Preservation Committee
 Route 66 Heritage Foundation of Logan County
 Village of Broadwell, IL
 Illinois Office of Tourism
 Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway
 Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau of Logan County
 Little Caesars Pizza of Lincoln
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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."



A Route 66 Day Trip From Chicago

By Ed Kozak, Chicago

On June 30, a group of 56 people from the Garfield Ridge Chamber of Commerce and residents of the Garfield Ridge neighborhood of Chicago embarked on a journey down the Mother Road. The outing was led by Chamber Vice President and Route 66 Association of Illinois member Ed Kozak.

Picking up the historic route near Wilmington, the travelers first stopped at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie visitors' center. There they were given a short lecture on the history of the area and told of exciting plans for its future. Not far ahead lay the friendly Gemini Giant at the Launching Pad Restaurant in town, beckoning tourists down 66 for many a year. As the coach bus rolled on, another photo op was made at the Polk-a-Dot Drive-In located in Braidwood. Down the road a piece was the quaint town of Gardner. There everyone got a charge out of being incarcerated, albeit for only a few moments, in the town's two-cell jail, and reminiscing at the foot of the streetcar diner.

We rolled on into the lush farmlands of north-central Illinois, and next visited the historic city of Dwight. We enjoyed touring the famous Ambler-Becker gas station, and its great displays. It was time to eat, so we dined nearby at That '50's Diner. After lunch, we cruised on over to the quiet little town of Odell. There we learned more history of the road, and its subway across West Street. Many photos were snapped at the picturesque Standard Oil filling station, and many came away with some great souvenirs and keepsakes as well.

The highlight of the trip had to be our time in Pontiac. We had the good fortune to visit while they were having their Pre-War Days Festival, and we were honored that Pontiac's mayor, Robert Russell, hopped on board the bus and narrated highlights of the city. As we disembarked by the Route 66 Hall of Fame Museum we were serenaded by an excellent barber-shop quartet. We were also fortunate to see the new Gilders Museum within the International Walldog Mural and Sign Art Museum (in just its second day being open). We were truly felt welcomed to a signature town on Route 66. Before moving on, everyone took a leisurely stroll on the main suspension bridge over the meandering Vermillion River.



After briefly visiting the towns of Chenoa and Lexington, the tour group headed for its final destination of the day, Towanda. The bus traveled on the infamous Dead Man's Curve in town, and survived – bus driver Carl expertly negotiated the dangerous and narrow turn at a comfortable 15 miles an hour. Everyone then took a walk on some old 66 pavement, trekking down the town's Route 66 – A Geographic Journey, and then ambling back to the coach for the trip home to Chitown.

Reviews were excellent, and a journey from Bloomington to Springfield on the old road is planned for early next summer for the group. It was interesting to note that none of the 54 guests had ever visited any of the dozen or so sites along the way, despite their very short distance from the Interstate highway. As we viewed good ole double-six at 65 miles an hour from Interstate 55, we all looked back with fondness on the trip, and we all realized that, truly, "The road was the journey."



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From St. Louis to Chicago with Atlanta Cruise-In

By Marcia Gascho

On August 10-12, 2012, my husband Bruce and I took a trip on Route 66 from St. Louis to Chicago. On Friday we drove the boring section of the trip from Indianapolis to St. Louis. We are always happy to get that part over with! Our first Route 66 stop was at Ted Drewes Frozen Custard on Chippewa. They always serve the concretes upside down. The place was quite crowded with families and there was a party atmosphere. I enjoyed my pineapple concrete and Bruce had yummy butterscotch with pecans. Next we toured the wonderful Missouri Botanical Gardens and saw the Chinese Lantern Festival. We were quite impressed with the vast gardens and would like to return again.

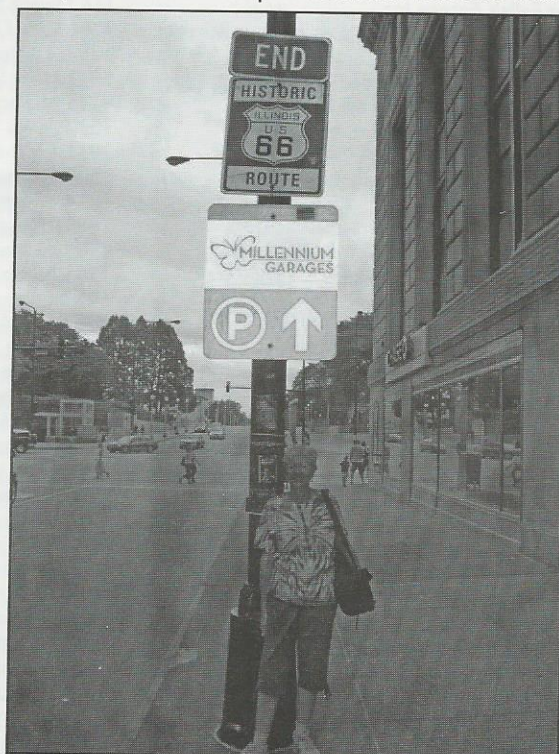
Saturday was spent driving up to Joliet, making many stops along the way. First, we went to Staunton to see Henry's Ra66it Ranch. Rich was taking care of his bunnies when we arrived. Big Red posed for some photos. Rich has had many visitors this summer, especially from foreign countries. At Mt. Olive, the Soulsby Station was open but no one was inside to talk to. We ate lunch at the Cozy in Springfield, and then walked around in the beautiful renovated train station downtown.

In Atlanta there were some interesting restored cars lined up on the main drag in town for the Cruise-In. We went inside the 1908 octagonal library (we always seem to be there on a Sunday when it is closed) and had a nice chat with the librarian, Mrs. Hieronymus. She had lived in a little town north of Indianapolis years ago. We ate a piece of pie in the Palm Grill and admired Tall Paul's new paint job. We have never had any luck seeing the Atlanta Museum. It was closed again! The Dixie Travel Plaza in McLean was undergoing major renovations and Bruce had to use a temporary restroom in the back. We were able to buy some maple sirup at the Funks Grove gift shop. Usually they have run out by this time of the year. They were worried about the effects of the drought on their trees. Illinois has been hit hard by it like most of the rest of the Midwest.

We visited our friends at the Route 66 Museum in Pontiac. I purchased the new Bob Waldmire t-shirt! We also shopped at the "Proud of Illinois Marketplace" across the street from the county courthouse and bought some odds and ends. Before we hit the road again, we decided to walk across one of the famous swinging bridges in town. The Vermillion River was very low. We stopped for a tasty shrimp dinner at the Polka-Dot in Braidwood. The weather was very pleasant so we sat outside and watched Route 66 traffic go by. We arrived in Joliet for the night and planned our Sunday morning adventure.

We have driven on Illinois Route 66 many times but there was one remaining part left for us to see—the road from Joliet, through the Chicago suburbs to the lake front! Sunday we got up early to tackle this last remaining section. As we had hoped, traffic was pretty light that time of the morning. We followed Jerry McClanahan's book and the road was well-marked with Route 66 signs. There were many turns, a stretch on I-55 and a detour on Jackson Street but we made it! We parked near Grant Park, took photos of the Route 66 sign and wandered around by Buckingham Fountain. Traffic was starting to get a little heavier as the morning wore on so we decided to head home. On our way home we stopped off in West Lafayette to eat at the Route 66 Diner. It's a little piece of the Mother Road in Indiana!

We were very excited to complete our latest Illinois Route 66 journey. We saw some old friends along the way and found some new ones. There are lots of memories for me to add to my Route 66 scrapbook.



Route 66 Association of Illinois Business Member Directory

These businesses and organizations have joined our Association. Their membership demonstrates their dedication to Route 66. Please demonstrate your appreciation to them by patronizing their businesses whenever you can.

Abe on 66 Inc.	608 W. Chestnut St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-846-4306
Abraham Lincoln Tourism	1555 - 5th St.	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-8687
Amoco Fence Co.	2919 S. MacArthur Blvd.	Springfield	IL	62704	217-787-2921
Angelo's Ben Franklin	706 W. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-9091
Ariston Caf'e	413 N. Old Route 66., P.O. Box 453	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-2023
Atlanta Public Library	100 SE Race St.	Atlanta	IL	61723	217-648-2112
Berghoff Restaurant	17 West Adams St.	Chicago	IL	60603	312-427-3170
Bernardi's II, Inc.	123 N. Mill St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-1198
Berwyn Development Corp.	3322 S. Oak Park Ave., 2nd Floor	Berwyn	IL	60402-3407	708-788-8100
Berwyn Route 66 Museum	7003 Ogden	Berwyn	IL	60402	708-484-9349
Big Fella's Eatery, Inc.	116 Depot St., P.O. Box 385	Gardner	IL	60424	815-237-8335
Bloomington - Normal Convention Bureau	3201 Cira Dr., Suite 201	Bloomington	IL	61704	309-665-0033
Bloomington Public Library	205 E. Olive St., P.O. Box 3308	Bloomington	IL	61702-3308	309-828-6091
Bob Green Auto Service	1847 New Salam Church Road	New Berlin	IL	62670	217-546-5846
Branham's Paint & Body	4125 N. Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	217-528-9654
Brown's Wrecker Service	302 Brown St.	Bloomington	IL	61704	309-828-3753
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
Caf'e Fontana	1024 W. Reynolds St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-419-2011
Carlin Villa Motel	18891 Route 4 South	Carlinville	IL	62626	217-854-3201
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
Cassens Transport Co.	145 N. Kansas St.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-3006
Champion Garage, Inc.	820 Black Ave.	Springfield	IL	62702	217-522-4114
Chenoa Pharmacy	209 Green St.	Chenoa	IL	61726	309-747-3002
Chicago Historic Route 66 Classic Car Show	1909 S. Avers Ave.	Chicago	IL	60623	773-592-4718
Chuck's Harley-Davidson, Inc.	2027 Ireland Grove Road	Bloomington	IL	61704-7103	309-662-1648
City of Chenoa	P.O. Box 167	Chenoa	IL	61726	815-945-7619
City of Joliet Tourism	150 W. Jefferson St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-724-9045
City of Litchfield	120 East Ryder	Litchfield	IL		217-324-5253
City of Mt. Olive	200 E. Main St.	Mt. Olive	IL	62069	217-999-4261
City of Pontiac	115 W. Howard	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-5847
City of Staunton	304 W. Main St.	Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-2233
Clay Dooley Tire & Auto	307 E. Grove St.	Bloomington	IL	61701-5231	309-828-5037
Comfort Inn	3080 S. SR 157	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-656-4900
Country Classic Cars L.L.C.	2149 E. Frontage Road	Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-7056
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
Curve Inn, Inc.	3219 S. 6th St. Road	Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-5806
Decamp Junction	8767 State Route 4 South	Staunton	IL	62088	618-637-2951
Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket	645 Joliet Road	Willowbrook	IL	60521	630-325-0780
Doc's Soda Fountain	133 S. Second St.	Girard	IL	62640	217-627-3491
Double H Bar	121 N. 1st St.	Sherman	IL	62634	217-496-3811
Edwardsville Preservation Comm.	118 Hillsboro Ave.	Edwardsville	IL	62025	
First National Bank of Dwight	122 W. Main St., P.O. Box 10	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-1212
Funk's Grove Pure Maple Sirup	5257 Old Route 66	Shirley	IL	61772	307-874-3220
Grosso's Garage, Inc.	1301 S. Morris Ave.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-828-3615
H.V.E. Vending Machine Specialists	153 Eisenhower Lane N.	Lombard	IL	60148	630-792-0033
Hampton Inn of Lincoln	1019 N. Heitmann Drive	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-6729
Hampton Inn of Litchfield	11 Thunderbird Circle	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-4441
Henry's Ra66it Ranch	1107 Historic Old Route 66	Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-5655
Henry's Ra66it Ranch	1107 Historic Old Route 66	Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-5655
Historic Route 66 Flea Market	3117 W. Chain of Rocks Road	Granite City	IL	62240	618-797-7900
Holiday Inn Express	3050 S. Dirksen Parkway	Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-7771
IL State Police Heritage Foundation	4000 N. Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702-1033	217-525-922
Initi 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
Im Hannah - Heating & Air Conditioning	208 Elm St.	Joliet	IL	60433	815-651-6556
Joliet Area Historical Museum	204 N. Ottawa St.	Joliet	IL	60432-4007	815-723-5201
Joliet Route 66 Diner	22 W. Clinton St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-723-3865
Jubelt's Bakery & Restaurant	303 N. Old Route 66	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-5314
Jicks Bar & Grill	19578 N. 1960 East Rd.	Towanda	IL	61776	309-728-2060
Launching Pad Drive In	810 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-6535
Landsey Electric, Inc.	3260 Terminal Ave.	Springfield	IL	62707	217-544-6789
Livingston County Historical Society	115 W. Howard St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-2744

Lou Mitchell's Restaurant	565 W. Jackson Blvd.	Chicago	IL	60661	312-939-3111
Luna Café	201 E. Chain of Rocks Road	Mitchell	IL	62040	618-931-3152
Lydia's Loft	107 1/2 W. Madison St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	309-824-2490
Magnuson Grand Hotel & Conference Center	I - 55 & IL Route 108., P.O. Box 377	Carlinville	IL	62626	217-324-2100
Maverick Steak House	1023 W. Dorlan Ave., Suite C	Springfield	IL	62702-2346	217-732-7169
McSherry Agency	209 W. Madison St	Pontiac	IL	61764-0738	815-844-3183
Mid Illinois Caliper	2803 N. Dirksen	Springfield	IL	62702	
Midwest Truckers Association	2727 N. Dirksen Pkwy	Springfield	IL	62702	217-525-0310
Milltown Market	508 N. Kankakee St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-0386
Moscardelli Moving & Storage	709 N. Lincoln	Springfield	IL	62702	217-787-4043
Mr. B's Bar & Grill on Rt. 66	23956 State Rt. 53	Elwood	IL	60421	815-727-7070
Niehaus Cycle Sales, Inc.	718 North Old Route 66	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-6565
Old Log Cabin Inn	18700 N. Aurora St	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-2908
Old Route 66 Family Restaurant	105 S. Old Route 66	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-2920
Oldhan Graphic Supply	2056 Republic	Springfield	IL	62702	217-528-4649
Original Route 66 Accessories	1904 - 60th St.	LaGrange	IL	60525	708-246-1543
Patterson Bros. Oil & Gas, Inc.	P.O. Box 139	Williamsville	IL	62693	217-566-3328
Pink Elephant Antique Mall Corp.	908 Vetrans Memorial Drive	Livingston	IL	62058	618-637-2366
Polk-A-Dot Drive In	222 N. Front St.	Braidwood	IL	60408	815-458-3377
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
Pour Richards Tap & Dining	210 Tremont	Odell	IL	60460	815-998-2556
Quinn's Shell Station	802 N. Main St.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-827-9188
Rialto Theater	15 E. Van Buren St.	Joliet	IL	60432	
Route 66 Auto Body	P.O. Box 385	Hamel	IL	62046	
Route 66 Cruisers	2148 Cincinnati Ave.	Springfield	IL	62702-4216	217-836-4105
Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center	625 E. Saint Joseph St.	Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-6626
Route 66 Ridez	230 N. Old Route 66., P.O. Box 410	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
Shea's Finest Truck Covers	2075 Peoria Road	Springfield	IL	62702	217-522-0475
Silver Dollar Restaurant	422 Mississippi Ave.	Elwood	IL	60421	815-423-6700
Springer's Creek Winery	817 Hillsboro Ave	Edwardsville	IL	62025	618-307-5110
Springfield Overhead Doors, Inc.	421 N. Lincoln	Springfield	IL	62702	217-787-2602
Standard Station of Odell	314 E. George St., P.O. Box 175	Odell	IL	60460	
State Farm Insurance	2702 Ireland Grove Road	Bloomington	IL	61709	309-622-6588
Steak N Egger	8408 Joliet Rd	McCook	IL	60525	708-853-9240
The Crossroads Diner	995 Lakeview Drive	Mount Olive	IL	62069	217-999-3688
Three Roses Bed & Breakfast	209 E. Howard	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-844-3404
Vertical Geosolutions, Inc.	130 Sawgrass Lane	O'Fallon	IL	62269	618-670-4259
VFN Fiberglass	330 W. Factory Road	Addison	IL	60101	630-543-0232
Vic's Pizza & Pub	2025 Peoria Road	Springfoeld	IL	62702	217-522-2464
Village of Bolingbrook	375 W. Briarcliff Road	Bolingbrook	IL	60440	630-226-8412
Village of Dwight	209 S. Prairie Ave.	Dwight	IL	60420	815-584-3077
Village of Elwood	401 E. Mississippi Ave, P.O.Box 435	Elwood	IL	60421	815-423-5011
Village Of Gardner	302 N. Center St., P.O. Box 545	Gardner	IL	60424	
Village of Godley	150 S. Kankakee St., P.O. Box 89	Braceville	IL	60407	815-458-2222
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., P.O. Box 128	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2228
White Fence Farm	1376 Joliet Road	Romeoville	IL	60446	630-739-1720
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce	111 S. Water St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-5991
Wooden Nickel Winery & Saloon	3225 Honey Bend Ave.	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-4446
WRLR 98.3	P.O. Box 98	Round Lake IL	IL	60073	847-546-9757
Route 66 World	8776 E. Shea Blvd. B3A-409	Scottsdale	AZ	85260	847-757-2246
Gionanni Tours	626 Westchester Lane	Newbury Park	CA	91320	805-375-1324
National Route 66 Federation	P.O. Box 1848	Lake Arrowhead	CA	92352-1848	909-336-6131
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
GayParita	21118 Old 66	Ash Grove	MO	65604	417-234-4943
Route 66 Root Beer & Soda	P.O.Box 766	Lebanon	MO	65536-0766	417-588-4466
Blue Swallow Motel	815 E. Route 66 Blvd.	Tucumcari	NM	77401	575-461-9849
Afton Station & Route 66 Packards	1513 S. Owasso Ave	Tulsa	OK	74120	918-257-4044
Claremore Convention & Visitors Bureau	400 Veterans Pkwy	Claremore	OK	74017	918-341-8688
Miami Ok Convention & Visitors Bureau	101 N. Main St.	Miami	OK	74354	918-542-4435
Fading Nostalgia	3119 S. Lenox St.	Milwaukee	WI	53207	262-909-9540

Join our Association as a business member to be listed among these fine businesses and organizations.

How Soon We Forget: Weitz Café Braidwood, IL

By Marty and Geri Bilecki

It was post-World War II America and the country was rebounding after four years of war. The Mother Road, Route 66, was a main artery which helped our country win the war. This re-awakening was to be the source of national economic growth in each of its thousands of cities, towns and villages. A small Illinois community then was Braidwood, Illinois. It was there that a family venture called Weitz Café was opened on a, then thriving Route 66, around 1947. It was a second venture for two brothers, Conrad and Frank whose original business was in nearby Morris, IL on it's historic Liberty Street.

Following is a copy of a hand-written letter we received from Rosemary D. Weitz dated August 8, 2011:

Thank you for the framed picture of the Weitz Café at Braidwood, on the old Route 66. Conrad Weitz (Paul's father – my husband) was one of the Weitz brothers (there were three – Herb, Frank and Conrad) – (Conrad was known as Connie). They are all dead now.

Route 66 was (as you know) the very highly traveled highway from Chicago west to California prior to the present highway system. Route 66 was almost bumper to bumper traffic (mostly two lane) west toward California.



After Conrad (Paul's Dad) returned from 3-1/2 years in the Army during World War II he and his brothers leased the empty Braidwood building from John and Patsy Rossi who literally owned everything in that little village, with the exception of the Catholic Church!!!

They furnished it with new restaurant equipment. Because of its limited size (as I recall) it only seated about 35. There was a long counter with stools and also tables for four. There was a kitchen in the basement, and a fry cook on the first floor. His name was John, and he was super efficient. Because Route 66 was almost bumper to bumper the business was "standing room only" and profitable. Much of the prepared food was done in the Morris Weitz

Café where they had a big staff, pastry cook, etc. It was transported every morning to the Braidwood restaurant in a little red truck which had been equipped with shelves, etc. for the prepared food.

When the road changed, Route 66 lost it's traffic to the present Route 55. Weitzes sold the Braidwood business. Frank Weitz moved to Peoria and opened another restaurant. Herb and Conrad remained in Morris. They sold the Morris place in 1971. Herb retired and Conrad went into the brokerage business in Joliet. However, they are all dead now.

I'm happy you found it interesting. Thank you for the picture. Sincerely, Rosemary Weitz

Route 66 lost another Route 66 icon family member when Rosemary D. Weitz passed from this earth on May 25, 2012 at the age of 92. We had the privilege last year to meet and interview Mrs. Weitz with her devoted son, Paul, and discuss the story and stories of the Weitz Café on Route 66 (Routes 129 and 113) in Braidwood. This building is now re-cycled to use as a Laundromat. Pictures tell a lot and these included circa – early 1950's and present – 2012 – tell the story in part. Mrs. Weitz's letter to us is printed with permission of her son, Paul. We are honored to tell this story and re-print her beautiful letter. These are the stories that help keep the road alive and they have to be captured in print for future generations.

St. Mary Carmelite Church Saved

by John Weiss

The St. Mary Carmelite Church has been on the corner of Ottawa St. (Route 66) and Clinton St. in downtown Joliet since the 1880s. This magnificent limestone structure has seen several generations of families, weddings, church services and so much more. But for the last 21 years it has sat vacant. Still standing beautiful and proud, but no longer serving the community. The city of Joliet and the Carmelites both tried to market the property. The condition of the structure would surely deteriorate if nothing was done to maintain it.

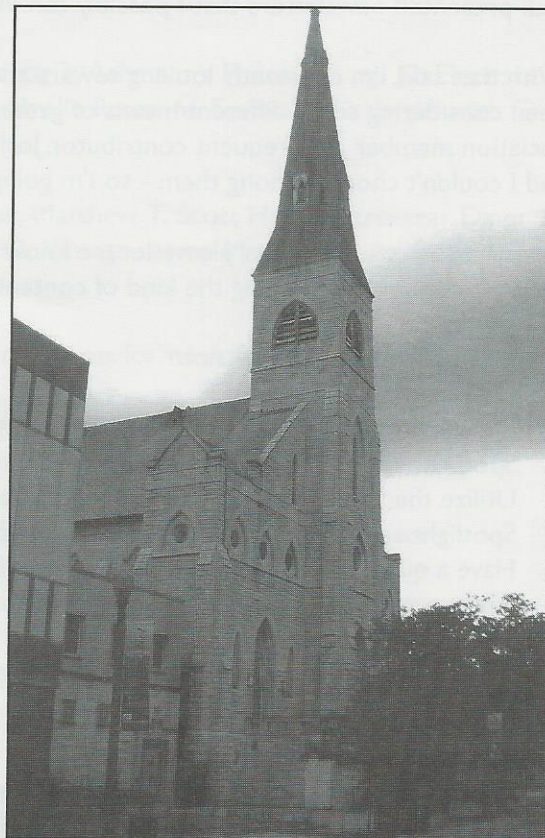
Along came a restoration developer who proposed a complete exterior preservation. The interior would be remodeled into 40 small apartments for senior housing. The zoning would need to be changed, but there would be no actual cost to the city of Joliet. On the surface this would appear to be a no brainer. However, there were those who opposed it saying the valuable property could be put to better use. The biggest opponent was a high powered law firm that is next door. In a nutshell, they argued that for the same amount of money that would be spent on saving and remodeling the church, that 200 apartment units could be constructed (somewhere else) instead of the 40 proposed units. They said to tear the church down and make the prime property available for modern development.

The City Council was equally split on what to do. As chairman of the Route 66 Preservation Committee, I was asked to be part of the group working to save this very historic structure. My own communication with several of the city council members was received and commented on favorably.

On July 16th, the Joliet City Council chamber was packed with people. The oldest law firm in Joliet against the little people who see things with out dollar signs attached. Finally both sides had presented their case. A council vote was called for. It was unanimous; the stately church would be saved.

Outwardly this beautiful structure represents the past and emits a strong sense of community. It is certainly more then just a brick and mortar building. It has a sense of time and place that needed to be preserved. This 10.5 million dollar project will also result in many local construction jobs becoming available.

The Joliet City Council is to be commended on this monumental decision.



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www.ariston-cafe.com

Phone: (217) 324-2023
Fax: (217) 324-7191

Editor Gina's Corner

Hi there, readers and roadies! I'm serving up a huge slice of "Thank You Pie" for all the submissions to **The 66 News!** I can hardly express how much it means to receive so many passionate, thoughtfully written articles and such great photos from your travels and experiences along the Mother Road. It's my mission to create the most interesting, informative and well-presented newsletters that I possibly can. With content like I've been receiving, my job couldn't be more inspiring!

With that said, I'm constantly looking toward the future. In an effort to encourage and support your contributions, I've been considering some different means of gathering information to present here. I recently received an email from Association member and frequent contributor, Josh Friedrich, with a list of suggestions. Frankly, they all sounded good to me and I couldn't choose among them - so I'm going to pawn the decision off on you.

Here are Josh's suggestions; please let me know which you prefer and I'll see about incorporating them into the newsletter so it continues providing the kind of content that you want.

- Letters to the editor section
- Question of the quarter
- Quarterly photo contest using a theme
- Spotlight on members.
- Utilize the website and/or facebook for questions/photos/polls to be shared in the newsletters
- Spotlight a town along the route with a map and pin/flag/star of its location.
- Have a questionnaire available at the Hall of Fame and Museum for visitors to complete about their visit.
- Feature something found in the museum and a who/what/where/when/why/how it pertains to route 66.

All my contact information can be found on page 3 so give me a call or fill up my mailboxes! It's always a pleasure to hear from Route 66 enthusiasts - so don't be shy!

OUR MIX INCLUDES ROUTE 66!

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Photo Credits

All photos in this issue are Route 66 Association of Illinois archive photos except for those contributed by these much-appreciated and generous shutterbugs:

Emmy Bates - Funk's Grove Midpoint sign installation, pg. 7

Marty & Geri Bilecki - Weitz Cafe, pg. 20

Josh Friedrich - Soulsby's Service pumps, cover; Brooks Catsup Bottle, pg. 3; Ashmann's Pharmacy, pg. 12; Elephant & kids at Antique Mall, Tall Paul Polaroid, pg. 13; Signing car hood at Edwardsville Route 66 Festival & Little girl with Giant's foot, back cover

Marcia Gasho - Route 66 End sign in Chicago, pg. 17

Don Johnsen - Chain of Rocks Bridge crossing & Luna Cafe neon, cover; Matthew T. Scott House, Streetcar Diner & Motor Tour Registration Table, pg. 3; Dawn Patterson's 66 Garage, pg. 12, Vintage car on Motor Tour at Weezy's, Wooden Nickel sign pg. 13

Ed Kozak - Suspension Bridge, pg. 16

Geoff Ladd - Ernie & Fran Edwards Appreciation Day, pg. 15; Whispering Joe performs at Ernie and Fran Edwards Appreciation Day, back cover

Jim Thole - Luna Cafe neon sign relighting w/ Jerry Law & Jim Thole, pg. 9, Chain of Rocks Bridge bend, pg. 12

John Weiss - Pig Hip sign restoration, cover; Hungry volunteer preservationist & Odell Gas Station Bench, pg. 10; Dixie renovation, pg. 11, Pig Hip sign restoration, pg. 14, St Mary Carmelite Church, pg. 21

Kathy Wester - 66 Teddy Bear @ Chain of Rocks Bridge, pg. 12, Ted Drewes Frozen Custard, back cover

Seth Wilda - Motor Tour Finale, Lloyd Erickson Park, Elwood, IL, back cover



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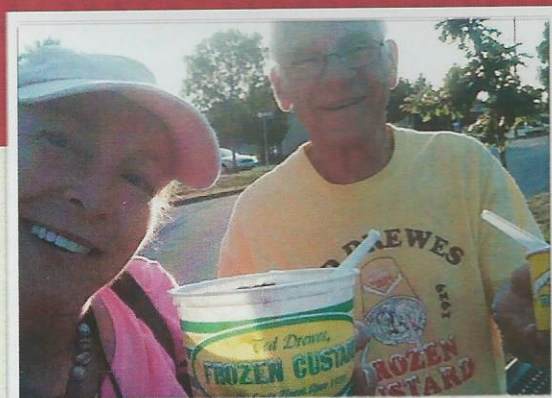
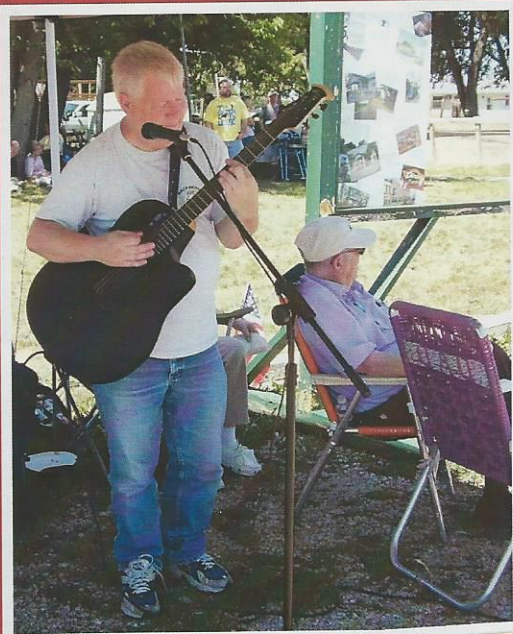
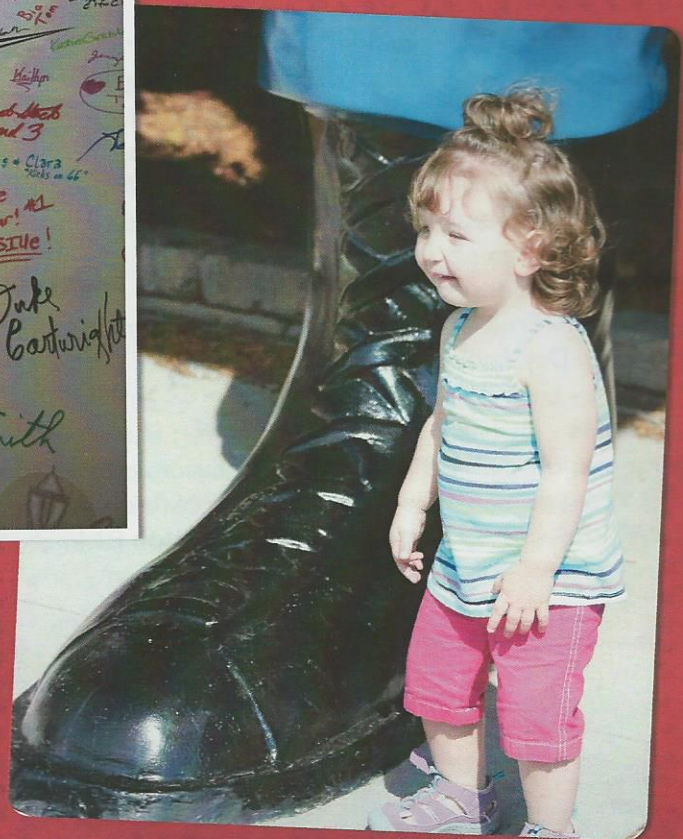
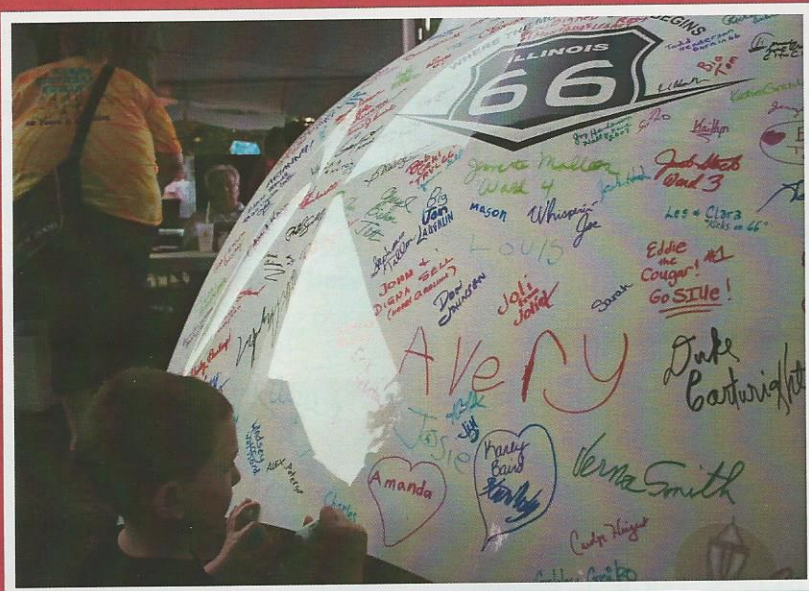
Based in Bloomington, Illinois, we're a band who loves the Mother Road! Let us put some shimmy and smiles into your next event. Songs like Hot Rod Lincoln, Little GTO, 409, Highway Patrol, and of course Route 66.

Modest Pricing/Rich Tone

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wagonloadatrouble@gmail.com

MORE PHOTOS FROM THIS ISSUE



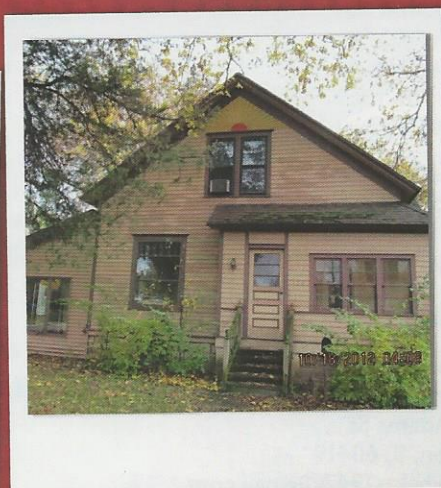
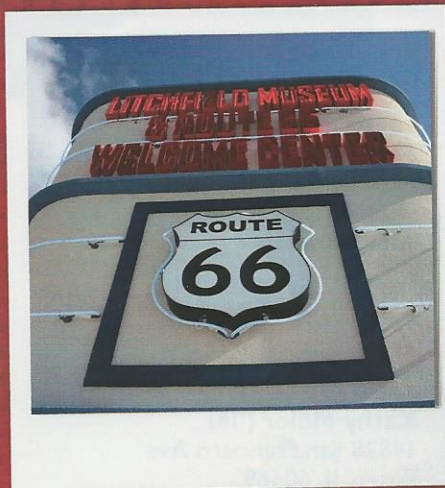
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 UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS TO:
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 TINLEY PARK, IL 60487
 (708) 444-1312
 BLITZ66@EARTHLINK.NET

Winter

2012

THE 66 NEWS

SEASONS GREETINGS!



Illinois - Where the Road Begins!

TO PRESERVE, EDUCATE,
PROMOTE AND ENJOY
ROUTE 66 IN ILLINOIS!

What an amazing year it's been along Route 66 here in Illinois and all along her historic miles! We're proud to have brought some of the highlights to your mailbox here in **The 66 News!**

In this issue, we feature two stories which explore the changing face of Route 66. As her landmarks are lost and progress marches on, they shine a spotlight on just how important our Preservation efforts are for keeping Route 66's heritage alive and vital.

And speaking of Preservation, volunteers have been busy with several projects throughout the state, continuing to prove just how much can be accomplished with some determination, passion, elbow grease and your much-appreciated membership dollars.

You'll also read three travelogues from those who've hit the pavement in search of fun and adventure along the Mother Road to keep you dreaming of your own Route 66 trip through the cold days of winter.

As the year comes to a close, we here at the Route 66 Association of Illinois would like to extend our warmest wishes for a bright and beautiful holiday and all the best in the new year.

So, sit back and enjoy reading about memories of a Route 66 icon, our Association's news and commitment to preserving the past for the future - and much more. And start planning those 2013 journeys for good times along Route 66!

HERE COMES 2013!

The Route 66 Association of Illinois

Our Association is governed by an elected group of officers and board members who are responsible for administering our mission and representing the numerous communities through which Route 66 passes in Illinois. They serve to facilitate your involvement with our Association.

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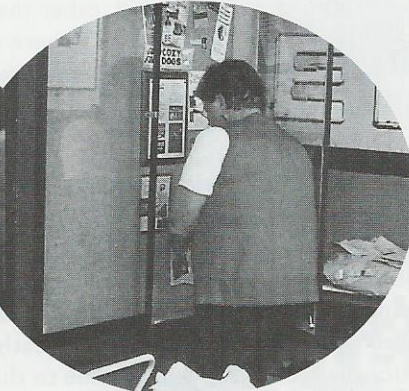
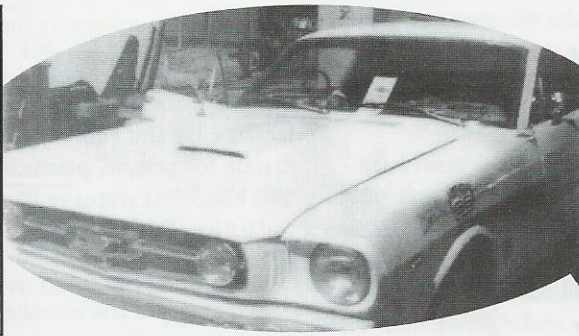
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The 66 News

This publication is distributed to members of the Route 66 Association of Illinois as a membership premium. Its mission is to inform our membership about our Association and its activities, as well as to demonstrate our passion for preservation and to celebrate the Mother Road.



Submit Content to **The 66 News**

We here at the Route 66 Association of Illinois welcome your stories from the road, Route 66 news and events. Here's how to submit your content to us for publication in this, our Quarterly Newsletter, or on our website:

Route 66 Association of Illinois
Attention: Newsletter Editor, Gina Blitstein
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Deadline for submissions to the Spring 2013 Issue: February 15, 2013

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- 20-21 - Chicago to Santa Monica
- 22 - Preservation Report

Advertise in **The 66 News**

Attention, Route 66 Businesses, Attractions and Communities!

This newsletter, **The 66 News**, is mailed quarterly to each and every member of our Association. Can you think of a more targeted group with whom to advertise your business or community?

Our Treasurer, Marty Blitstein, will be happy to help you purchase your advertisement.

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We offer several affordable advertising options in our Newsletter.

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Buy 3 ads, get the 4th FREE

All ads need not contain the same content.

Ads are in black and white only.

A Message from Association President, Cathie Stevanovich



It sounds so cliché but what a fast year! The days grow shorter, the wind is colder, and as one season blends into another there's still that refrain of, "Where did the time go?" "It seems like yesterday?" and my personal favorite, "Every day is one day closer to spring."

We've accomplished a lot this year. Preservation projects are always a cyclic event – maintenance is a never-ending part of taking care of our past. Cold winter nights will give way to new projects along the road as well as the projects that are still ongoing. People who love the Standard Oil station in Odell are amazed that the building once was greatly endangered, and it is a nationally recognized building due to the power of Preservation. The Mill in Lincoln has come a long way, and Geoff Ladd looks forward to even more work being accomplished in the coming year.

The High Speed Rail projects are looking to use parts of Illinois' Route 66 to help make railroad crossings safer. Anne Haaker, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency brought other members of the High Speed Rail staff to our October meeting to talk about how the Mother Road may be impacted, and what is being done to safeguard our historic highway. We are extremely blessed to have such a devoted public servant on our side – how many people give up a Sunday afternoon, bring members of the High Speed Rail Staff, and drive a hundred miles to share what is happening around the Mother Road, and ask about our concerns? Anne has always gone above and beyond and been an amazing asset to the Route 66 community. What a difficult position to balance construction advancements with historic pavement!

The Illiana Toll Road that is being built to connect Indiana I-65 and Illinois I-55 is another project Anne Haaker is involved in. The Toll Road will intersect Route 53/Historic 66 in the Wilmington area and again we are involved through the state and Anne Haaker again is our frontline defense regarding Historic 66.

Information on both these projects will continue to be posted on our webpage. These meetings are open to the public and will be held at various places in the state.

We're already hard at work for the 2013 Motor Tour aptly named "Back to Our Routes." We have been out finding entirely new places and new faces to add to the fun of our 24th Annual Motor Tour. Friday night's registration will be in Plainfield where our new Hall of Fame member Samuel Reichart Sr.'s son will open his private collection to our members to tour and enjoy. This is truly a Friday night registration you won't want to miss!

Saturday we will start with a lineup and tour the new Berwyn museum and see the progress of the famous "Spindle" as it is

recreated on Ogden Avenue. From there we have some amazing new stops that we've never done before – and after 24 years of road tripping that's not easy to do! Our Hall of Fame Dinner will be held at Lincoln College again this year, and the second day of the tour includes a visit to a lighthouse in Springfield, and we will end our tour at the new Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcoming Center.

Nominations for the Hall of Fame can be submitted between January 1st and February 28th, 2013. Hall of Fame nominations can be for people, places, or events that contribute to Route 66's historical status in Illinois. Refer to page 9 of this newsletter for complete details and be sure to check our website for updates.

We appreciate the members who continue to support us as times are tough and we're all being extremely careful how we spend the hard-earned dollars our Membership supports us with. We have been able to contribute to the new museum in Litchfield, to a high school program in Pontiac, to the new museum in Berwyn, and to the ongoing Mill preservation project in Lincoln. Sales of our Bob Waldmire original 1989 artwork American made T-shirts have been brisk and funds collected will go to the work required to maintain Bob's beloved Road Yacht. We have some roof issues and we're working to raise funds to maintain Bob's bus for the ages. Over 23,000 people have visited the bus.

So keep warm and toasty, dream about sunny days and future road trips and in the meantime, don't forget to get out and support the businesses along the Mother Road. Breakfast is good anytime at the Steak and Egger (former Hall of Fame member Snuffy's) in McCook, Pat Rhea is always happy to make you some Mac-n-cheese and chicken in Willowbrook and Hallie's in Lincoln still serves schnitzel sandwiches. Vic's Pizza in Springfield is the best pizza buffet around, and homemade pie beckons you to Doc's in Girard. Don't forget to stop and visit Rick Henry in Staunton for a cold pop and great conversation and Hall of Fame member Luna Café will leave the rainbow neon lights on for you. Take a day or two and remember to enjoy. Sometimes we forget to laugh and even breathe.

The Mother Road sends her best to you this Christmas, and may all your dreams come true. I saw an Edsel the other day that called my name, but I'll be fine if Santa can't fit it into my stocking this year. Health and happiness and continued employment will do just fine.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire Executive Committee of the Route 66 Association of Illinois, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. May we all experience peace and joy in our lives and remember to be grateful for the opportunities we have to share and volunteer.

Cathie

What's Happening?

Thanks to all there is to see and do along the Road, we can't fit it all into a quarterly publication.

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE STORIES WE'VE INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE OF THE 66 NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE AT

WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG/THE66NEWS

Also, follow these stories that we've provided on our website. We strive to keep you informed about events and Route 66 events as they happen.

Here are some of the recent stories on our website:

- Share your Bob Waldmire memories! His spirit lives on Route 66!
- An Excursion to the Bachelor's Grove Cemetery!
- Route 66 Reinterpreted Art Contest!
- What's doing along the Mother Road? Check our events calendar!
- Resources galore to help you plan your travels along Route 66!

Association Meeting Calendar

Winter Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, January 20, 2013

Pontiac City Hall Annex
115 W Howard St
Pontiac, IL

Spring Quarterly Meeting

Sunday April 21, 2013

Carlinville Magnuson Grand Hotel
I-55 & Illinois Route 108

Summer Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, July 21, 2013

The Silver Dollar Restaurant
422 Mississippi Ave
Elwood, IL

Fall Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, October 20, 2013

Bloomington, IL

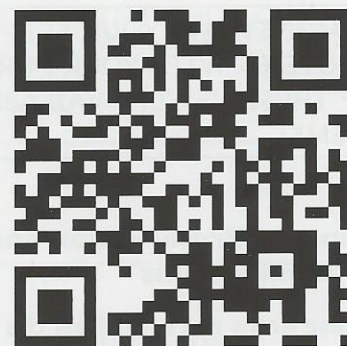
This meeting will include our annual Association election.

Meeting times for all Quarterly Meetings are the same:

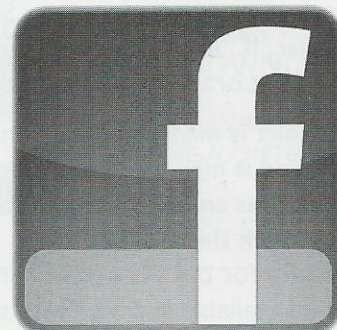
Board Meeting - 10:00 AM
Lunch - 12:00 PM (on your own)
General Meeting - 1:00 PM

KEEP UP
WITH US ON
THE WEB

www.il66assoc.org



VISIT OUR WEBSITE!



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/IL66ASSOC



WWW.TWITTER.COM/ILRT66

News Desk

New Route 66 Items for Sale!

We're excited to announce that two new Route 66 items are available: A Funk's Grove commemorative pin and a T-shirt featuring a Bob Waldmire original design.

DEMONSTRATE YOUR SUPPORT OF ROUTE 66 WITH YOUR PURCHASE OF THESE NEWLY-AVAILABLE ITEMS!

Support Preservation and Bob Waldmire's Bus

These items not only show the world that you're a fan of the Mother Road but all profits from their sale go to support our ongoing preservation efforts.

The Funk's Grove Midpoint pin is an original design created by Diaz Sign Art in Pontiac, IL. It features a cutout design and brilliant orange and brown tones.

The T-shirt is made of American-grown cotton and is made in the good old USA. The design is an original Bob Waldmire design which the artist created specifically for our Association in 1989. It will be available in sizes Small through 4X.

All profits from the sale of the Bob Waldmire art T-shirt are earmarked for the addition of solar power and air conditioning to the Waldmire "Road Yacht" which can be toured at our Association Hall of Fame and Museum, 110 W Howard St in Pontiac, IL.

View full size color photos
on our website:
<http://il66assoc.org/the66news>



FUNK'S GROVE MIDPOINT PIN

ALL PROFITS FROM THE SALE OF THIS COMMEMORATIVE PIN WILL GO TO SUPPORT OUR ASSOCIATION'S PRESERVATION EFFORTS.

\$5.00

Get yours at any of these locations or by mail.

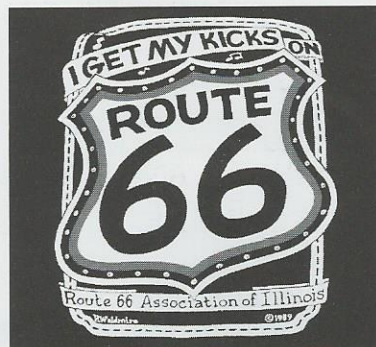
In person on Saturdays only or mail check and request for pins to:
Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum
110 W Howard St, Pontiac, IL

Mail orders add \$2.00 shipping for 1-9 pins

In person (Tuesdays through Sundays)
City Hall Shoppes
321 North Main St, Pontiac, IL

BOB WALDMIRE T-SHIRT

ALL PROFITS FROM THE SALE OF THIS T-SHIRT GO TO PRESERVATION OF BOB WALDMIRE'S BUS WHICH CAN BE TOURED AT OUR MUSEUM IN PONTIAC, IL.



In person on Saturdays only or mail check and request for pins to:
Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum
110 W Howard St, Pontiac, IL

Mail orders add \$4.00 Shipping Charge per T-shirt
Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.

In person (Tuesdays through Sundays)
City Hall Shoppes
321 North Main St, Pontiac, IL

Log Cabin Restaurant
18700 Old Route 66, Pontiac, IL

Get yours at one of these locations or by mail.

Sizes S-XL - \$15.00
Sizes 2XL - \$16.00
Sizes 3XL - \$17.00
Sizes 4XL - \$18.00

Association Cookbook

Our Association is proud to offer a cookbook, comprised of recipes from the best cooks along Route 66.

We'd love to include your favorite recipes in the new edition of our cookbook - there's a page waiting for your signature dish! Submit it today and be included in some tasty company!

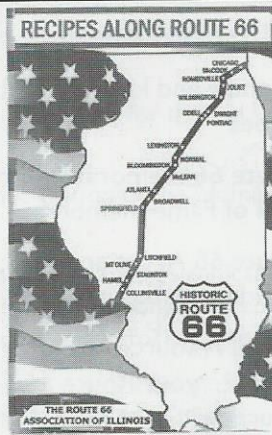
THERE'S SOMETHING FOR
EVERYONE, AT EVERY AGE!

Junior Memberships and Newsletter

You're never too young to be a Roadie! Junior Memberships are absolutely FREE and include a membership card, decal and access to the **Adventure Journal**, our newsletter for the younger set!

Parents - sign up your child and give us the opportunity to pass along the spirit of Route 66 to new generations!

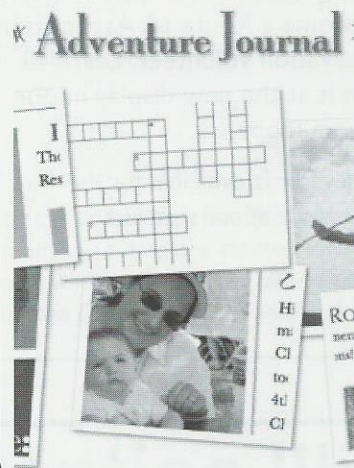
LOTS OF WORK AND LOTS OF
FUN ALONG ROUTE 66!



RECIPES ALONG ROUTE 66

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPES FOR THE
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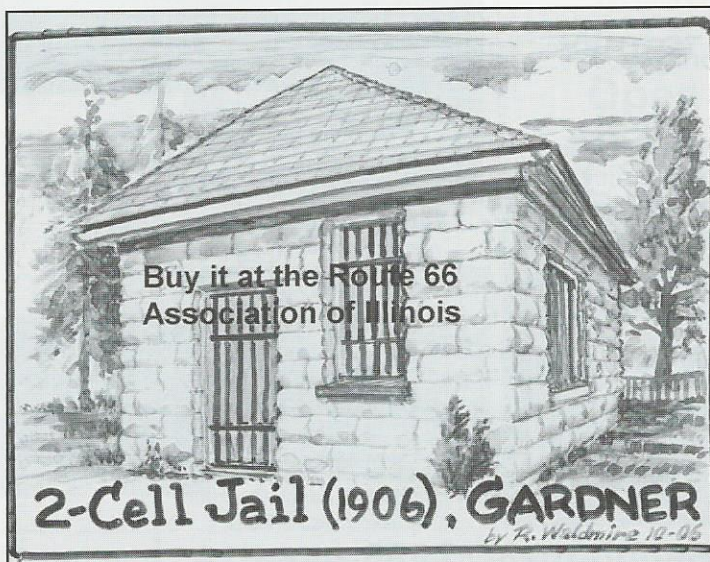
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JUNIOR-NEWSLETTER](http://WWW.IL66ASSOC.ORG/CONTENT/JUNIOR-NEWSLETTER)



Waldmire Art Prints Available

On Saturdays only, starting on December 15, 2012, twelve Bob Waldmire art prints will be available as a gift with donation at \$4.00 each or 3 for \$10.00 at our Hall of Fame and Museum, located at 110 W Howard St, Pontiac, IL.

The 8 1/2" x 11" prints depict iconic Route 66 locations, illustrated in Bob's distinctive style and each comes in its own envelope. These art prints will make wonderful gifts for the roadie in your life.

Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum

Begin your Route 66 adventure here!



The Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum features thousands of artifacts and a delightful assortment of unique memorabilia, all related to Route 66 - The "Mother Road."

We invite all of our Association members to volunteer at the museum, sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm with our visitors.

Our Museum boasts:

- Friendly and knowledgeable guides
- Route 66 memorabilia from Hall of Fame members
- Route 66 Artist and Icon, Bob Waldmire's bus and van
- Travel resources to enhance your Route 66 journey
- Photo op! Largest Route 66 mural on our back wall

Coming soon - your opportunity to become a Route 66 Association preservation volunteer. Learn all about it at the new display in our museum lobby.

(An elevator is available for the convenience of our visitors.)

Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum

110 W Howard St
Pontiac, IL 61764
815-844-4566

Open 7 days a week!

December - March
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Daily

April - November
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (Weekdays)
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Weekends)

Admission is FREE!

Welcome New Members!

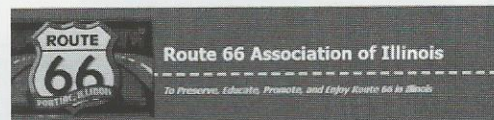
Association President Cathie Stevanovich, Membership Chairman, Marty Blitstein, and the entire Route 66 Association would like to extend a sincere welcome to our new members who have joined us between August 21, 2012 - November 19, 2012.

We hope your experience as a member of our association brings you great satisfaction and a deeper appreciation of Route 66!

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| ➤ Jack L. Miller | ➤ Hog Nuts Motorcycle Repair & Supply - Kimberly Earling |
| ➤ Linda & James Chorosevic | ➤ City of Wilmington / Tony Graff |
| ➤ Bill Maynard | ➤ Craig W. Miller |
| ➤ Cliff Johnson | ➤ John A. Heitz |
| ➤ Candiss & Thomas Ciavarella | ➤ Marcia Scrapbooking - Marcia Gascho |
| ➤ Janet Treece | ➤ Jim Bodbyl |
| ➤ Gayle Crompton | ➤ Boots Motel / Deborah Harvey |
| ➤ Cindy Reinhardt | |
| ➤ Marc J. Richter | |
| ➤ James Mick | |
| ➤ City of Edwardsville | |
| ➤ Gerry Rosen | |

Be certain to sign up to receive our Association e-Newsletter, *The Day Tripper!*
Route 66 news and events
delivered to your inbox!

Sign up at <http://eepurl.com/dlzp>



Route 66 Association of Illinois DayTripper e-Announcement

Red Carpet Corridor 2012 Edition

Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6, 2012

ick off "Route 66 Season" with this annual event
sted by 13 Illinois communities along a 90-mile
retch of the Mother Road, from Joliet to
wanda. We offer this special edition of our e-
nnouncement as your guide to Red Carpet
orridor Festivities. Enjoy this first opportunity to
it some 2012 kicks on Route 66!

earn all about the Red Carpet Corridor, Illinois
oute 66 Red Carpet Corridor is Calling!



2013 Hall of Fame Nominations

We are reprinting the following article written by Kathy Miller as it succinctly and accurately details what is needed for nomination as a candidate to our Association's Hall of Fame.

The Route 66 Association of Illinois will begin seeking nominations for the 2013 Hall of Fame. Nominations are accepted from January 1st, to February 28, 2013.

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, Illinois, at the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame and Museum. The Hall of Fame and Museum is one of the most visited attractions on all of Route 66 in Illinois with visitors from all over the state as well as 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 material to:

Route 66 Association of Illinois
ATTN: Hall of Fame Committee
110 West Howard Street
Pontiac, IL 61764

All nominations are kept for 3 years and presented to the committee for discussion. There is no limit on how many nominations can be submitted. The final decision regarding how many members are elected into the 2013 Class of the Hall of Fame is decided by the Hall of Fame committee. The Hall of Fame committee is comprised of 14 people who include current Hall of Fame members, Association historians, the Preservation Committee Chairman, and members who are appointed to the committee by the President based on their Route 66 knowledge.

Visit Pontiac Illinois! Four Great Museums in One Great City! Museums' Winter Hours Open Daily 10 AM - 4 PM



Route 66 Association of IL
Hall of Fame & Museum



Pontiac Oakland Auto Museum
and Resource Center



Walldog Mural Museum
Gilding Arts Exhibit

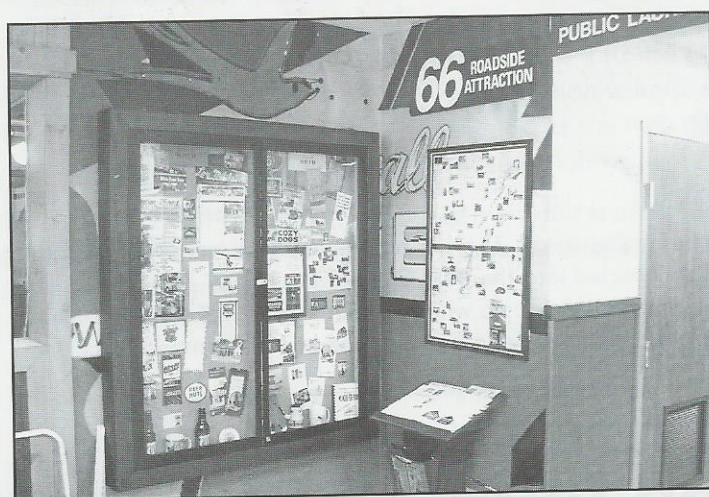


Livingston County
War Museum

815-844-5847 · visitpontiac.org · tourism@pontiac.org

Preservation Report

Contributed by John Weiss, Preservation Committee Chairman



The New Dixie

The Dixie was the original home of the Route 66 Association Hall of Fame. The H.O.F. is now located in Pontiac, Illinois.

The Road Ranger organization recently purchased the entire Dixie complex. The restaurant was not changed and remains the same and still serves good food. However, the remaining areas were completely gutted and rebuilt. This new interior is unlike any other Road Ranger facility. This is the only one with a Route 66 theme. Photographs by photographer Michael Campanelli were turned into wallpaper. The windows are also custom made with photo covers that allow you to see out but not in. Note: The photo display at the Route 66 Hall of Fame in Pontiac are all Campanelli photographs.

The new management asked if I would put in a display similar to the display we had in the original Dixie. Less space was available so I couldn't recreate what once was. So I enlisted the help of preservation member Emmy Bates to help figure out how to get the best display possible. I think we did an excellent and beneficial job. One display area gives travelers a sampling of attractions to visit when traveling either North or South from the Dixie. The other display contains many items of interest for the travelers. We also have a rack where we can provide membership applications to the tens of thousands of people who visit yearly.

Stop in and see the new Dixie, you will be impressed. This is a wonderful upgrade to the Illinois Route 66 experience.

See more photographs of our preservation efforts in
full color on our website at
<http://il66assoc.org>

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on...



Robert G. Boban, Sr.
Owner
Rene Boban
Manager

New Attraction on Route 66

Braidwood, Illinois has added a very unique visual attraction. It is located almost across the street (Rt. 66) from the Polk A Dot Drive In.

This past summer folk artist Jack Barker from Essex, IL passed away. Jack was a genius at seeing the artistic possibilities of what others considered junk. Even the Art Institute in Chicago would send wannabe folk art students to Jack to learn his trade. Over time, Jack's property became loaded with his creative works of art. After his passing, Jack's family decided to have an auction of these outdoor art pieces. The town of Wilmington was the first to respond to this opportunity. They purchased a giant metal buffalo. This will become a special photo opportunity in the future on Route 66.

The Mayor of Braidwood was also at the auction. He, too, saw the opportunity to bring a special awareness to his town by using the unique artwork creations of Jack Barker. The Mayor purchased several eye-catching pieces. Some are now on display at the new Route 66 Rest Area and Information Park in Braidwood. The display will be regularly changed to add increased attention.

As mentioned by me so many times, "Preservation takes many forms." Securing and preserving folk art pieces is one of the ways. Displaying these pieces for the enjoyment and entertainment of all Route 66 travelers is to be applauded. Stop by and visit soon.



Pictured here viewing the new site are preservation members Gretchen Wendt and Jamie Anderson.

(Preservation report continued on page 22.)

OUR MIX INCLUDES ROUTE 66!

ILLINOIS
U S
66

THE MOTHER ROAD lives on in Litchfield, where visitors still enjoy our original Route 66 era restaurants and drive-in theatre. With 250+ modern hotel rooms, Litchfield is an ideal overnight choice for Route 66 travelers.

ARISTON

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www.VisitLitchfield.com

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The Changing Face of Route 66

*Editor's note: A trend emerged in the submissions I received for this issue of **The 66 News**. That trend was that folks were reporting about landmarks along the Mother Road that were being demolished. I'm certain that communities have their reasons for making these changes to the landscape of Route 66; though we do all we can to preserve what we can, it's inevitable that demolitions will occur, permanently removing a bit of the character and history of Route 66. In those cases, the best we can do is chronicle the loss and vow to remember these landmarks, though they exist no more.*

Here are two stories of such demolitions that have recently taken place along Route 66 here in Illinois. I want to thank Ike Widner and Larry Libersher for telling the story of the historic homes in Wilmington and Keith Sculle for keeping us apprised of the razing of buildings along Route 66 in Springfield. Gentlemen, you are keeping these structures - and the memories they held - alive with your words and photographs.

Route 66 Wilmington Homes To Be Destroyed

By Ike Widner & Larry Libersher

Before the turn of the century, long before Route 66 was even thought of, a small town called Wilmington emerged with homes built with limestone foundations and arched windows with leaded glass portraits. Route 66 came into Wilmington in 1926 paving its way past these exquisite homes, giving it a view of long ago. Through her heyday, the Mother Road ran paralel to these historic and beautifully-landscaped homes.

These unique homes are located at 205, 201, 123, 117 and 115 Bridge Street in Wilmington, Illinois, which is also known as Route 66. The Brick home next to the river will remain on the National Historic Society. Sadly, the remaining homes are scheduled for demolition.

Each one of these homes has hardwood flooring; some in unique patterns and some common. Most of these homes are plaster and not drywall; plaster was an art back in the days of the pioneers who came to start new families and built homes with great pride.

Larry Libersher and I took a tour into each of these homes with the kindness of the Engineer of Wilmington, Colby Zemaitis, and John Persic, an Alderman of Wilmington, Illinois to see how each one came to be a piece of history in the making. Colby met with us at the homes so we could take pictures before they become nothing more than empty lots with views of a nearby park.

Each room is designed differently than those in a common home with unique walls and staircases featuring outstanding woodwork of the early 1900s. Homes crafted with this fine detail and artwork have faded into history. The pride of the past generations who built these quality homes can be seen in the workmanship displayed in the plaster work and hardwood floors. If you take a close look at the foundation you will notice that the limestone is a rough cut of a bigger stone that might have come from the quarry that lies east of Wilmington, Illinois.

Before the homes are removed off the land, take a moment to walk the sidewalk and look at each home and its design. Pay particular attention to the windows with the cut glass with the lead that holds the glass in place. In the future when these homes are leveled, only that glass will exist, being incorporated into a new entrance to the Wilmington Island City Park.



Five Down, One to Go

As reported on our website back in September by Keith Sculle, "Old Route 66 changed noticeably in Springfield in late-summer." In his submission, he wrote:

A few blocks south of the Illinois State Fairgrounds, where Route 66 in Springfield turns from a diagonal (Peoria Road) into a north-south street (N. 9th Street), progress made its way in late-August-early-September 2012. Five veteran buildings were readied for demolition so that the unsafe bend in the road could be converted into a curve. It will permit safer sight-lines. On the west side, a two-story building (most recently The Sazerac restaurant), a tiny motel (built c. 1960), and a two-story brick building were readied to be razed.

Keith has been kind enough to keep us informed of the progress of the demolition, providing an update and additional photos. He reports:

Between August 21 and September 21, five buildings lining the connection between Peoria Road and North Ninth Street were razed and removed for safety.

The following photos show a little before, between, and after the clearance.

Looking north, up Peoria Road with the Capitol City Motel on the right (February 2012)

The Sazerac and (left) adjacent motel, an apartment in its last life (February 2012)



Looking into the court at the Capitol City Motel (September 17, 2012)

Looking north over the cleared ground readied for safer redevelopment (October 4, 2012)



Friedrich Family Travels

Join Association member and frequent content contributor, Josh Friedrich, and his delightful family - wife Wendy, son Charlie and daughter Lizzy on their summer Route 66 adventures.

The following is just a taste of what they were up to along the Mother Road recently. Check out their complete travelogue on our website, including many additional photos of the sights they saw along '66!

By Josh Friedrich

It has been a whirlwind of travel on the ol' double sixes these past few months. When we last checked in we had just wrapped up a memorable Motor Tour in June. Next up on our calendar was a trip to Branson, MO with a detour or two on MO's 66.


We had a nice visit at Mr. C's Routepost in Lebanon and I had the awesome pleasure of purchasing a Route 66 Soda advertising mirror that lights up! Then it was further westward to The Munger Moss Motel and its fabulous neon sign.

I met Bob and picked up an autographed light bulb from him, Ramona was out, unfortunately. I snapped a few pics with my Polaroid 600 of the sign and office and we headed back on the Interstate.

On the way back from Branson we stopped again in Lebanon, but this time it was for lunch at Boyds Catfish and BBQ on our beloved historic highway. The food was great, the service was good, and the place was unique with a great neon sign out front. After that, we again zipped back on the interstate and made a quick exit at Cuba. We were wanting to visit with Marcia at the Route 66 Fudge Shop, however time was against us and she was closed when we arrived.

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon on August 5th I took the Charlie and Lizzy to the rededication of the Pig Hip sign in Broadwell. We enjoyed food, drink, and friends honoring what would have been Ernie Edwards' 95th birthday. Charlie received a very warm welcome from one of his greatest fans, Marty Blitstein. It was a very nice celebration and attended well. I once again brought out my Polaroid for a shot of the newly restored Pig Hip sign. After that we cruised back home on 66.






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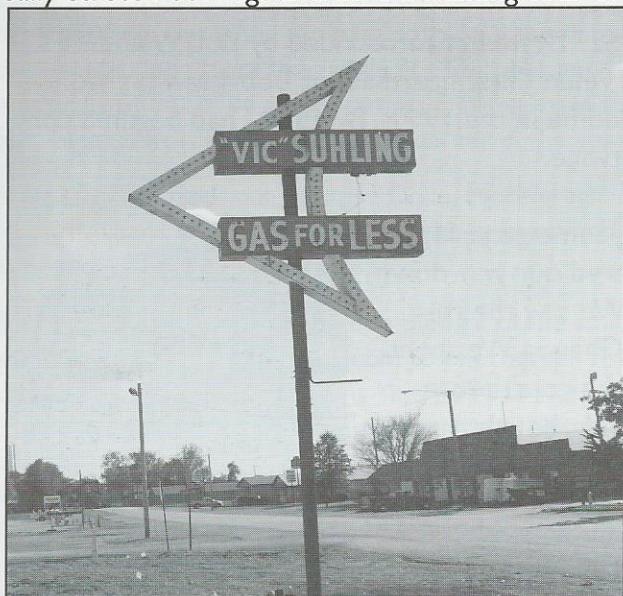


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Email: route66@midwest.net
1107 Historic Old Route 66
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September was full of route 66 adventures which began at the beginning of Route 66 in Chicago. I whisked Wendy away for a surprise overnight excursion to celebrate our 10 year wedding anniversary. Our first stop was at the Palms Grill Cafe in Atlanta for lunch, overlooked by the Bunyon Giant. The next day we would really stretch our legs and take a walking tour of the Loop with the Windy City Road Warrior, Dave Clark.



I highly suggest taking his tour if you ever get the chance - and if you don't, buy a few of his wonderful books about Chicago's 66.

We started off in front of the Art Institute and began our journey along 66, between 66, and in and out of buildings around 66. It was quite fascinating and enjoyable. We found out things we didn't know before and went into buildings we would have never thought to walk into and probably would not have been allowed in if Dave was not with us. Seeing Route 66 from a pedestrian viewpoint is much better than by car in Chicago. You get to really take in the city more leisurely and have a better view of the gorgeous architecture, skylines, people and bustling hub of transportation. We ended our tour at The Berghoff, where we enjoyed a late lunch at the German bar.

The following weekend we attended the annual International Mother Road Festival in Springfield. As always the Friday night cruise in is well worth it with a lot of the cars' neon, LED, and other lighting visible. Also, it was neat to see the multi-colored neon Sputnik lit up on the Bel Aire on South 6th Street/Route 66. On Saturday evening, we checked out the various cars, trucks, and motorcycles. I even spotted a Dodge truck that reminded me of the one Rusteze brothers have in the movie Cars. We decided to go back on Sunday to see the Route 66 vendors that we missed, like authors Joe Sonderman and Cheryl Jett, Becky from Becky's Barn, Buz Waldmire and Bob's VW Minibus and Ford Mustang as well as delegates from our association, including Marty, Kathy, Johnny, and all. I picked up Joe's newest Arcadia book, Route 66 Oklahoma, that he co-authored with Jim Ross. Once again I was armed with a couple of my Polaroids for a picture of Bob Waldmire's vehicles.

In our family it is a requirement to stop in and see Rich Henry if we are in the area and that was just what we did on a weekend when we were visiting St. Louis. Rich was letting a few of his rabbits get some exercise in the pens. Lizzy was very excited to see all the bunnies and Charlie even walked into the pen with Rich when he let Big Red out. It was cool to see Big Red hop around and really flex his muscles. Normally we just see him on the counter waiting for people to pet him and say, "Hi." I was also introduced to the founder of the Czech Republic Route 66 Association, Zdenek Jurasek. I took our mandatory picture on the Giant Jack Rabbit for posterity.



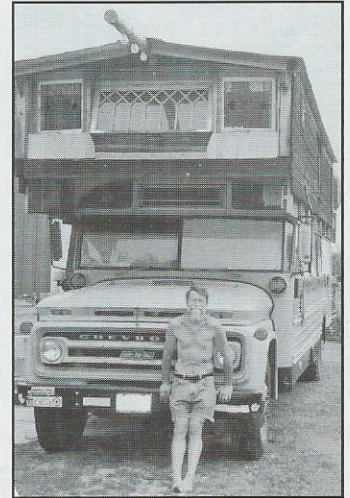
I always enjoy the view of Route 66 whether it be through the windshield ahead or via the rear view mirrors behind. Thanks for coming along on the last three months of Route 66 adventures with the Friedrichs.

I Remember Bob

By Marcia Gascho

On a recent Route 66 road trip, my husband and I sat in the Cozy Drive Inn surrounded by Bob Waldmire's artwork. While munching on a Cozy Dog, I tried to remember when I first heard about Bob. I saw his wonderful detailed drawings on one of our many trips to Arizona sometime in the 1990s. By 1999 I had begun a correspondence with him. I was fortunate to meet him in person twice.

In 2001 my Mom and I made a 3 day trip to Illinois. After doing some genealogy research, we picked up Route 66 in Dwight and slowly meandered our way down the road. I made frequent stops along the way to take photos. We saw the restored gas station in Odell and the dilapidated train station in Chenoa. We spent the night in Pontiac and enjoyed an outdoor band concert on the courthouse square. The next day we stopped at the Route 66 park in Towanda, bought sirup at Funks Grove and got gas at the Dixie Truck stop. We enjoyed visiting with the librarian in the octagonal library in Atlanta. We spent the night in Springfield, eating dinner at the Cozy. The highlight of the trip was on our final day before heading home. We stopped at Cardinal Hill Candles and Gifts in Rochester IL. Bob was in his land yacht working on some drawings and invited us in for a visit. He proudly showed us his new compost toilet. His VW bus and fast-back Mustang were all parked nearby. My Mom really enjoyed that trip and used to talk about Bob for years, even when her memory was being stolen by Alzheimers.



In 2004 I found out Bob was going to be at a Labor Day Mustang show in Springfield, IL. My husband and I decided to head down there for the weekend. It was a steamy, hot day and we found Bob sitting in the shade behind his VW bus. He was selling his artwork and other items. Bob insisted on giving me discounts on everything I bought despite my protests. Knowing he was a nature-lover, we talked about the wonderful birds we had seen in Arizona. My husband was really happy to meet this legend of the highway. Little did we know at that time that Bob had the cancer that would claim him in 5 years. He told us about his many plans for his homestead in Arizona so we had no idea his days were numbered.



I received a number of letters from Bob. I made a scrapbook for him of Illinois Route 66 and sent him some Mustang calendars. I was happy he was immortalized as Fillmore in the Pixar "Cars" movie and sent him some Fillmore stickers. I did not know his health had taken a major turn for the worse in 2009. The last letter I received from him made no mention of his health problems and instead was full of his big plans for the fall. I sent him a holiday card

and 2010 Mustang calendar and thought it was odd he did not respond. Early in 2010 I was terribly shocked to read about his death on the Internet.

On our Route 66 trips, many people enjoy telling me their stories about Bob. I've sent a number of Bob's postcards to myself from places along the highway. My home office has a Route 66 theme and his artwork covers the walls. He touched everyone he met on his journeys and we miss him!

Our Fall Trip Down 66

By Eugene Pincsak

Being from Indiana, Dee and I have to drive almost two hours to get to 66. Highways are highways and we've driven many of them but when we turn onto 66, I say, "Hello old friend!" It's a whole different feeling for us - this road and the people along it are like family. It's October and the trees are turning - golds, yellows, red and orange. Memory Lane is actually open so we go onward to Funk's Grove to take some more pictures of the half-way point. Sirup is all sold out. Not to worry; we stocked up earlier in the year.

A pit stop to check out the new Dixie. More great photos (Thank you John!) Pleasant management and employees to greet us.

A drive through Atlanta and get a picture of the smiling water tower; then on into Lincoln to photograph the Lincoln watermelon christening site, railroad station and courthouse. After lunch, a quick look at the Mill, then on down to Broadwell to get a picture of the redone Pig Hip sign and thinking about Ernie, bless his soul. Then we zipped around Springfield and this time, after a short stop at the Cozy Dog, on down to the Magnusen Grand Hotel at Route 66 and Route 108 where we stay a few nights while we visit some friends in the area. It's a beautiful place to stay, by the way.



In the fall we always go out to Broom Orchard at Carlinville for apples, cider and jellies. A couple days later we head down to Staunton to visit Rich Henry, the rabbit man, but we wait a while to go in because it so happens he has a tour bus load of people from St Louis. Always glad to see us, we talk a while about the road. I take more pictures and buy some more pins for my hat and visit his rabbit cemetery and get some postcards autographed by Big Red.

Dee wants to check out a garden shop on Route 4 (Route 66) so we head up to Benld, then over to 66 to Litchfield for lunch at, where else, the Ariston. The food is always great and we talk a while with Nick and Demi after which we check out the progress of the new museum across the road. Thank you, Martha, for doing this and did I hear correctly you are Montgomery County representative?

Well, I have a new load of pictures to add to my 3rd Route 66 album. A nice winter project while I reminisce about rolling along my old friend and waiting to do it again in spring. It can't come soon enough.

Also, I might add we proudly wore our new Waldmire shirts! Until next time, see you on the Road.

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Route 66 Association of Illinois Business Member Directory

These businesses and organizations have joined our Association. Their membership demonstrates their dedication to Route 66. Please demonstrate your appreciation to them by patronizing their businesses whenever you can.

VFN Fiberglass	330 W. Factory Road	Addison	IL	60101	630-543-0232
Atlanta Public Library	100 SE Race St.	Atlanta	IL	61723	217-648-2112
Berwyn Development Corp.	3322 S. Oak Park Ave., 2nd Floor	Berwyn	IL	60402-3407	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 - Normal Convention Bureau	3201 Cira Dr., Suite 201	Bloomington	IL	61704	309-665-0033
Bloomington Public Library	205 E. Olive St., P.O. Box 3308	Bloomington	IL	61702-3308	309-828-6091
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	61704-7103	309-662-1648
Clay Dooley Tire & Auto	307 E. Grove St.	Bloomington	IL	61701-5231	309-828-5037
Grosso's Garage, Inc.	1301 S. Morris Ave.	Bloomington	IL	61701	309-828-3615
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
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
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
City of Edwardsville	118 Hillsboro Ave	Edwardsville	IL	62025-0407	618-692-7531
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	
Doc'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., P.O. Box 410	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., P.O. Box 128	Hamel	IL	62046	618-633-2228
City of Joliet Tourism	150 W. Jefferson St.	Joliet	IL	60432	815-724-9045
Jim Hannah - Heating & Air Conditioning	208 Elm St.	Joliet	IL	60433	815-651-6556
Joliet Area Historical Museum	204 N. Ottawa St.	Joliet	IL	60432-4007	815-723-5201
Joliet Route 66 Diner	22 W. Clinton St	Joliet	IL	60432	815-723-3865
Rialto Theater	15 E. Van Buren St.	Joliet	IL	60432	
Abraham Lincoln Tourism	1555 - 5th St.	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-8687
Hampton Inn of Lincoln	1019 N. Heitmann Drive	Lincoln	IL	62656	217-732-6729
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		217-324-5253
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
Niehaus Cycle Sales, Inc.	718 North Old Route 66	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-6565
Wooden Nickel Winery & Saloon	3225 Honey Bend Ave.	Litchfield	IL	62056	217-324-4446
Pink Elephant Antique Mall Corp.	908 Veterans Memorial Drive	Livingston	IL	62058	618-637-2366
H.V.E. Vending Machine Specialists	153 Eisenhower Lane N.	Lombard	IL	60148	630-792-0033
Steak N Egger	8408 Joliet Rd	McCook	IL	60525	708-853-9240
Luna Cafe	201 E. Chain of Rocks Road	Mitchell	IL	62040	618-931-3152
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
Vertical Geosolutions, Inc.	130 Sawgrass Lane	O'Fallon	IL	62269	618-670-4259
Pour Richards Tap & Dining	210 Tremont	Odell	IL	60460	815-998-2556
Standard Station of Odell	314 E. George St., P.O. Box 175	Odell	IL	60460	

Bernardi's II, Inc.	123 N. Mill St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-842-1198
Café Fontana	1024 W. Reynolds St.	Pontiac	IL	61764	815-419-2011
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	61764-0738	815-844-3183
Old Log Cabin Inn	18700 N. Aurora St.	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
WRLR 98.3	P.O. Box 98	Round Lake IL	IL	60073	847-546-9757
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
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	1023 W. Dorlan Ave., Suite C	Springfield	IL	62702-2346	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
Route 66 Cruisers	2148 Cincinnati Ave.	Springfield	IL	62702-4216	217-836-4105
Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center	625 E. Saint Joseph St.	Springfield	IL	62703	217-529-6626
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	Springfield	IL	62702-1033	217-525-9222
Vic's Pizza & Pub	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
Henrys Ra66it Ranch	1107 Historic Old Route 66	Staunton	IL	62088	618-635-5655
Kicks Bar & Grill	19578 N. 1960 East Rd.	Towanda	IL	61776	309-728-2060
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
City of Wilmington	1165 S. Water St	Wilmington	IL	60481	
Hog Nuts Motorcycle Repair & Supply	205 N. First St	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-7600
Launching Pad Drive In	810 E. Baltimore St.	Wilmington	IL	60481	815-476-6535
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
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	92352-1848	909-336-6131
Gionanni Tours	626 Westchester Lane	Newbury Park	CA	91320	805-375-1324
Marcia Scrapbooking	9005 Deer Run	Indianapolis	IN	46256	317-842-1164
Greg's Motor Sales	1021 W. Mishawaka	Mishawaka	IN	46545	574-255-0771
GayParita	21118 Old 66	Ash Grove	MO	65604	417-234-4943
Boots Motel	107 S. Garrison Ave	Carthage	MO	64836	417-310-2989
Route 66 Root Beer & Soda	P.O. Box 766	Lebanon	MO	65536-0766	417-588-4466
Blue Swallow Motel	815 E. Route 66 Blvd.	Tucumcari	NM	77401	575-461-9849
Afton Station & Route 66 Packards	12 S.E. 1 St.	Afton	OK	74331	918-257-4044
Claremore Convention & Visitors Bureau	400 Veterans Pkwy	Claremore	OK	74017	918-341-8688
Miami Ok Convention & Visitors Bureau	101 N. Main St.	Miami	OK	74354	918-542-4435
Fading Nostalgia	3119 S. Lenox St.	Milwaukee	WI	53207	262-909-9540

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Chicago To Santa Monica: The Big Trip

The following is excerpted from an article submitted by Route 66 traveler, Jim Robinson, of Silvis, IL. Please see our website to read the story of Jim and Twila's Route 66 adventure in its entirety.

By Jim Robinson

On Christmas 1996 my wife Twila gave me the book "Route 66 Remembered." Inside the cover she wrote "... For help in planning our own journey over the Mother Road." We had done several Illinois Route 66 road trips and one Missouri Route 66 trip but we had never done the big trip until 2012.

On Saturday, April 21, Twila and I slid into our rented 2012 Camry and with our luggage and Tom Snyder's "The Route 66 Travelers Guide and Roadside Companion" we began our journey in front of the Art Institute in downtown Chicago. We stayed the night in Bloomington, IL and Sunday morning we headed toward St. Louis. We entered Missouri around noon and found our way to Ted Drewes for one of his famous concretes. We boarded down for the night at the remodeled Wagon Wheel in Cuba, MO. The exterior looked like roadie lodging but the inside was modern and sleek. We walked next door to the Missouri Hicks restaurant and had the best barbeque of any stop on the trip.

After getting lost so badly that even the Garmin was baffled, we took the Interstate to make up for lost time and found the roadie Rest Haven in Springfield, MO where we stayed for the night. We met fellow 66ers, a couple from England and two men from Virginia who were travelling in an older restored MG.

The following morning we headed west and close to lunchtime stopped at The Boots Motel in Carthage, MO to see the room Clark Gable used when he stayed there. To our surprise, a man popped out of one of the rooms and engaged us in conversation. He represented the local Route 66 Association and was there that day working on renovating the hotel for reopening in the near future.

After lunch we entered Kansas, saw the site in Baxter Springs that was used in the movie *Cars*, and entered Oklahoma. That evening we stayed at The Mayo, a luxury renovation of a historic downtown Tulsa hotel. Not your typical roadie digs.

The two days we spent in Oklahoma we stopped to see The Rock Café (another *Cars* landmark), the Round Barn (a structural miracle) and Pops in Arcadia where we each had a \$4.75 bottle of pop of the more than 500 flavors of pop the store sells. Commerce, OK was the boyhood home of Mickey Mantle, the Bronx Bomber. Elk City, OK is the home of The Country Dove Gifts and Tea Room. We each had a piece of their excellent French Silk pie and spent time talking to the owners and staff.

We entered the Interstate at Texola and drove an hour to Shamrock where we spent the night. We saw the Tower Station and U-Drop In. We took time in Amarillo to have a meal at the Big Texan Steak Ranch, the home of the 72-oz. steak. The Big Texan has a fleet of Cadillac limos with steer horns on the hood that they use to pick up and return their customers to nearby hotels. A unique service.

When we stopped at The Midpoint café in Adrian, Texas for a piece of their ugly crust pie, Twila mentioned to our server that the crust didn't look particularly ugly. The server said the owner had been doing this for 20 years so it shouldn't look ugly! The place was full of roadies as it is a must-do when travelling The Mother Road. On Saturday, April 28, one week into the trip, we checked into The Blue Swallow Motel in Tucumcari, New Mexico. This is one of the best renovations on all of Route 66. It was full the first night we requested. From my first introduction to Route 66, this was the number one place I wanted to see and we did it.

Arizona has lots of the old route that is still used. When you leave the interstate prior to Seligman, you don't see the interstate for at least 100 miles. Prior to going to Seligman, we entered Winslow so we could stand on the corner. Neat experience. Next, we stumbled upon the La Posada hotel, a renovated Harvey House, where we stayed for the night. The gardens, the artwork, the fabulously renovated Southwestern architecture — we were wowed by the whole package. We didn't want to leave the next day so we had a memorable breakfast, lingered awhile, and headed to Seligman, home of The Sno Cap and Angel Delgado's barber shop.

Oatman, Arizona was a town I had always wanted to see because of the wild burros that live there. I drove the mountain road and made it to Oatman late morning. Outside of town there were 5-6 burros blocking the highway. We stopped and two burros put their nose inside our car looking for food. No luck so the burros and we parted company.

Anticipation for the Mojave Desert and the Santa Monica pier gripped us as we approached the California state line. You hardly see any other cars, the small towns are far apart, and Santa Fe trains are miles from you, but visible.

On the morning of May 2, we awoke in Barstow, had breakfast and headed for the Santa Monica Pier. Our goal was to drive 66 all the way to the pier even though the guide book said that would be a challenge. We made the decision to get on the Santa Monica Freeway. Within minutes we were at the pier and it was 4:30 in the afternoon. We strolled along the pier, bought some ice cream, had a stranger take our picture standing under the pier, and smiled big. What an accomplishment. I was age 66 and I had driven 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica.

We stayed two days in LA, relaxed, turned our rental car in on Saturday May 6, boarded a Southwest flight to Chicago, and landed early evening. Glad to be home but wistful for more future adventures and memories on The Mother Road.



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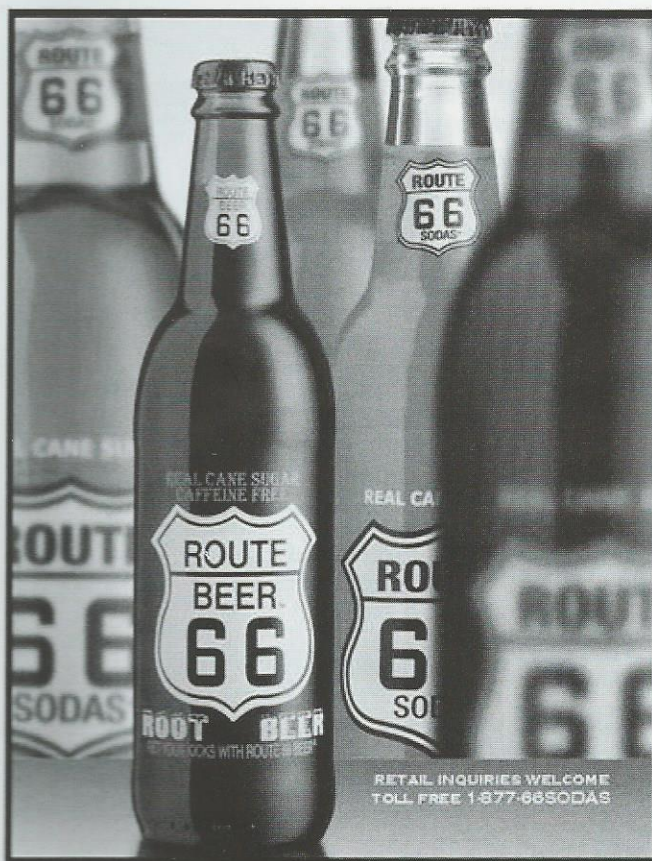
See us on Facebook

Preservation Report

Litchfield Museum

As mentioned in the last 66 News, the rare Bob Waldmire 20 foot art work that hung in the Dixie for 20 years was donated (on loan) to the new museum being developed in Litchfield, Illinois. The museum is located on Route 66 across the street from the Ariston restaurant.

I was fortunate to receive a tour of this new facility by Martha Jackson and Nick Adam. The plans are awesome. Nothing on the inside is ready for display yet. However, the Waldmire artwork has already been hung proudly as the first piece on display.



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Photo Credits:

Josh Friedrich - Litchfield Museum sign, cover; Waldmire Mustang, pg. 3; Pig Hip sign, pg. 14; Vic Suhling sign & Ra66it Ranch, pg. 15; Gas station, Palms Cafe & Fitz Soda taps, back cover

Marcia Gascho - Bob Waldmire with bus & Bob & Marcia, pg. 16

Eugene Pincsak - Ariston Cafe plaque, cover; The Pincsaks with Glaida Funk, pg. 17; Route 66 garage, back cover

Keith Sculle - Springfield demolition progress (4 photos) pg. 13

John Weiss - Dixie display, pg. 3; Dixie exterior and display, pg. 10; Braidwood metal sculptures, pg. 11; Litchfield Museum exterior, pg. 22; Dixie display case, back cover

Ike Widner - Wilmington historic home, cover; Wilmington historic home, pg. 3; Wilmington historic homes, exterior & interior, pg. 12

Editor Gina's Corner

As I take on this, the fourth issue of **The 66 News** for 2012, I realize that this means I've worked as editor for an entire year of newsletters for this Association. That fact makes me feel very honored for the trust you put in me and proud of the efforts I've put forth toward making each issue better than the last one. It's been a learning experience for me; with each issue I learn more about the people and places that make Route 66 such a beloved entity. It has also been a gratifying experience, as I've heard from numerous folks that they are pleased with the direction **The 66 News** is taking with me at the helm. It is my goal to serve the Association and her members, reflecting your interests and passion while striving to broaden Route 66's appeal to the future generations who will take on her preservation efforts in years to come.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the newsletter by submitting your articles and photographs. It's your input that makes **The 66 News** something that is highly anticipated by members. I would love to have even more submissions from which to choose, so I invite everyone who has a Route 66 story, dream or photo to send it on to me so I can do all I can to publish it here for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for supporting my work here as editor. I look forward to continuing to make this newsletter an enjoyable reading experience and a celebration of all things '66.

What would you like to see in **The 66 News** in 2013? I look forward to hearing your ideas! My contact information is on page 3 so don't hesitate call or write to tell me what you'd like to see and read in future issues!

Question of the Quarter (your responses will appear in the Spring, 2012 issue:

What's your favorite piece of memorabilia at our Hall of Fame and Museum in Pontiac, IL?



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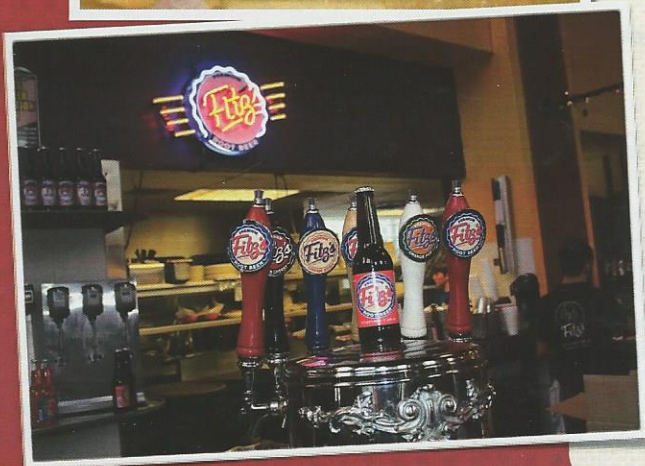
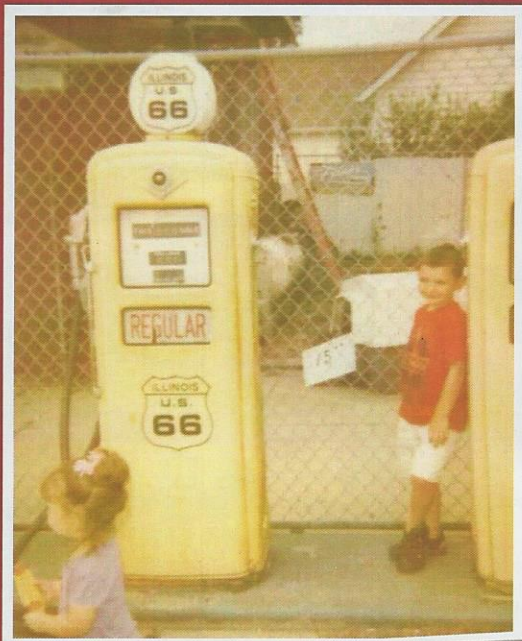
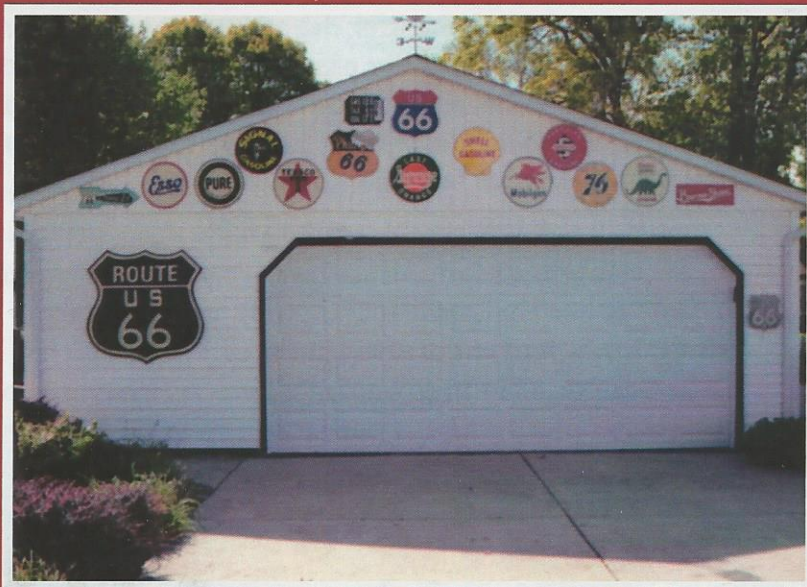
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From one of our guests:

"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."



MORE PHOTOS FROM THIS ISSUE



DON'T MISS AN ISSUE OF THE 66 NEWS!
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