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See and Enjoy
America...

Oklahoma Route 66 Association

TRAVEL



IN
THIS
ISSUE

tulsa's route 66 diner

"roadhouse 66"
a movie review

statewide membership
meeting

spring 1990

To Rt 66 Fans every
Where
Get your kicks

Ray Brown

GREETINGS FROM...
ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL

OKLAHOMA ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION TULSA CHAPTER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

S P R I N G *preserve promote enjoy* 1 9 9 0

OKLAHOMA ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION
TULSA CHAPTER
PO BOX 4782 TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74104

A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT
MIKE HIGGS

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NEWSLETTER
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LETTERS

This is a letter from your chapter president to Joseph Carter, director of the Will Rogers Memorial in Claremore, Oklahoma.

Dear Mr. Carter:

As you may know by now, I have discussed the possibility of promoting Highway 66 (The Will Rogers Highway) with Elwyn Isaacs, and Greg Malak. I think all would agree it's an idea whose time has come.

As the Oklahoma Route 66 Association is taking part in HOMECOMING 90 and the probability that Governor Bellmon will proclaim June 1990 "Route 66 Month" in Oklahoma, we feel that a Will Rogers Highway And Route 66 Display would be appropriate.

What I am proposing is that we work together on this display, pool our resources, and include as much original material as possible.

With the tourist season just opening for 1990, we feel that the time is right for everyone to see the display, and be aware of our efforts to preserve our heritage.

The Oklahoma Route 66 Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to Preserving, Promoting, and Developing historic Highway 66.

In addition to Oklahoma, there are other Route 66 Associations in Illinois, Missouri, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

In closing please take this proposal into consideration.

If you need any further information, please call me at (918) 272 6790. I am looking forward to meeting you and discussing this important endeavor further. Thank you. Mike Higgs.

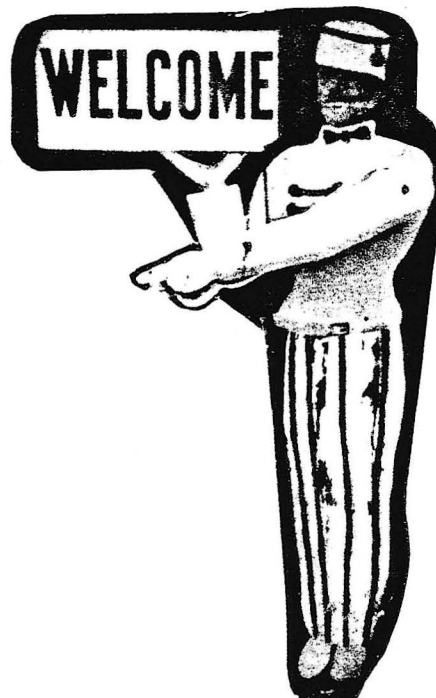
Mr. Carter's response:

Dear Mike:

Congratulations on your hard work to revive the historic U. S. 66 " Will Rogers Highway". You can be sure that the commission supports your efforts.

I hope you will stay in touch with Greg Malak on the displays. Greg and I have discussed it at length as well as the Will Rogers Memorial Commission in its' meeting last Saturday. We like the Poker Run idea, too!

Please call me when you can come this way and I will be happy and pleased to meet with you. Sincerely, Joseph Carter.



From Alsip, Illinois:

Ok. Route 66 Association, Tulsa:

I am a recent member of the Illinois 66 Association, and I am interested in joining your 66 association. Can you please send information on membership fees? Also, would it be possible to purchase any back issues of your newsletters, if any, and/or other merchandise, such as maps, books, etc.

I am planning a trip on 66 this summer, and any information would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Brian Jurgensen.

***Thanks for writing, Brian!
Hope you've received our
information package by now.
We look forward to seeing you
this summer on your way
through Oklahoma. Mike.***

From LaVerne, Calif.

Hello!

I have been a member of the Arizona Route 66 Association for about three years and have learned so much about 66 in Arizona, one of my favorite states.

I am interested in Route 66 in Oklahoma. The main reason is that I am in Oklahoma often, because my son and some of his family live there.

I'd like to know what your dues are and if you put out a newsletter. Any and all information will be most appreciated.

Next time I'm in Oklahoma, I'll look some of you up. I travelled on Route 66 first in 1954. Thank you. Darlene Holt.

NEWS AND COMMENT

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BY MIKE HIGGS

Hello, members!

What a busy year, so far! There is a lot of activity going on this year. First of all, the Tulsa Chapter is hosting a statewide Route 66 membership meeting on Saturday, March 24 at the Park Plaza Hotel (formerly the Hilton) 5000 east Skelly Drive. Registration begins at 9:00a.m. There is a \$10.00 registration fee. Lunch is included. There will be a seminar featuring guest speakers from the State Departments of Tourism, Commerce, and Transportation; and the Oklahoma Historical Society. Mark Rodgers, the President of the State Route 66 Association will also address the seminar, as will Michael Wallis, the author of the forthcoming book "Route 66, The Mother Road".

Other activities include videos, vendors of Route 66 merchandise, and to top off the day's activities, we'll have a dance starting at 8:00 p.m., featuring the music of the '50's and '60's hosted by a live (very live) DeeJay!

Then June 5th Michael Wallis officially kicks off his book signing tour from Chicago to L. A. He will be in Tulsa from June 14 through June 20. I wish him all the success in the world and I know you all do, too.

On June 9 and 10, the first annual Oklahoma Route 66 Cruise and Poker Run from El Reno to Claremore and from Claremore to El Reno will be held. There will be many fun special events along the way for participants. The Grand Finale will be in Stroud on the 10th.

Also, for the month of June, the Tulsa Chapter will be co-sponsoring, with the Will Rogers Memorial in Claremore, a "Will Rogers Highway / Route 66 Display" at the memorial. Anyone interested in loaning items for the display please call me at (918) 272 6790.

As you can see, 1990 is shaping up into a very busy year. So join the fun and **get your kicks!**



LOCAL NEWS

We would like to welcome a new business to Tulsa's Route 66 Association. It's **Oklahoma U. S. 66 Antiques and Collectibles** at 4713 east Eleventh Street, (Route 66), Tulsa. Norma Blount is the owner. Stop by and see her.

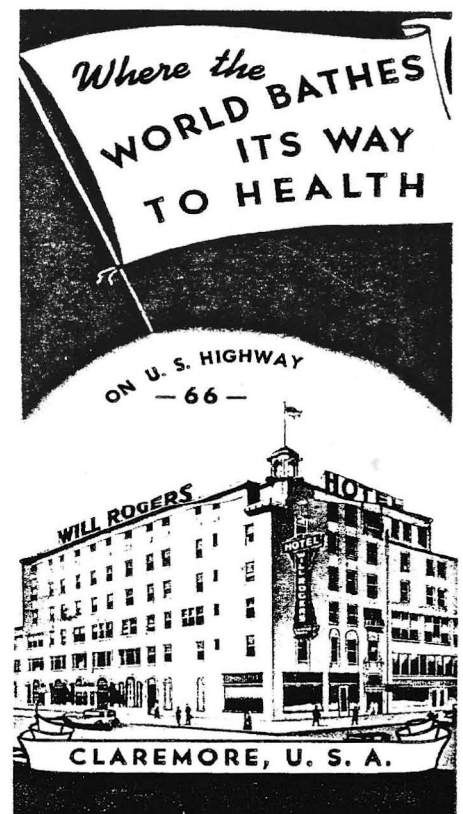
Word has it that the old Warehouse Market at the corner of old Route 66 and Eigin, in Tulsa, may soon be converted into a children's museum, by Tyke Inc., a non-profit organization. The art deco building was built in 1929 and was originally a farmer's market. It is considered to be one of the best surviving examples of art deco architecture in Tulsa.

And finally, a sad note: the Will Rogers Hotel in Claremore is no more. It closed its doors on February 1st. The Hotel was dedicated February 7, 1930. It was famous among Route 66 travellers for its mineral baths. Plans are to turn the building into a 60-unit retirement center. The dining room will re-open as soon as the renovation is complete. R.I.P.

Hwy 66
West Of
Sapulpa
224-6960

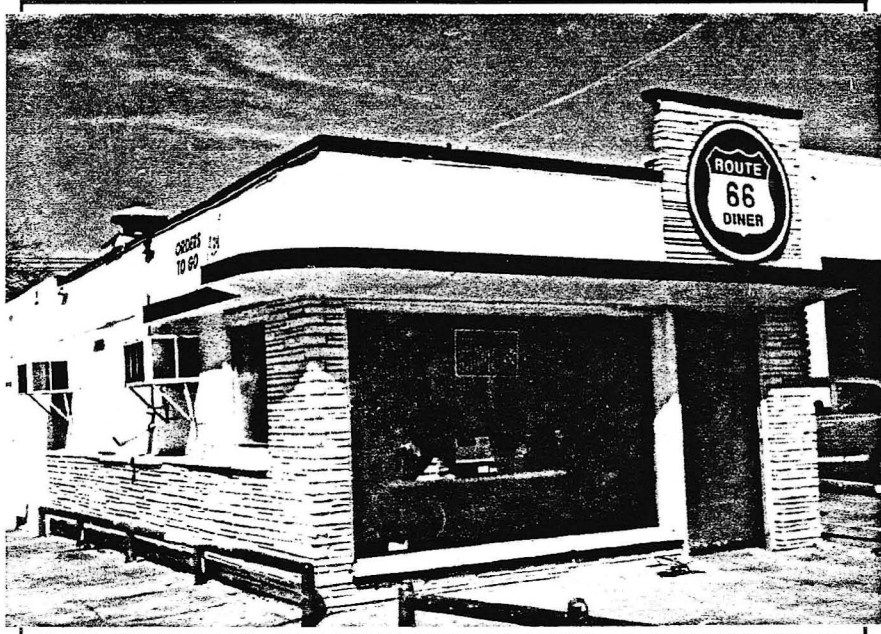
**Tee Pee
Drive-In
Theatre**

WATCH FOR OPENING MARCH 30!



FEATURE

by Mike Higgs



ROUTE 66 DINER, TULSA, OKLAHOMA

The Route 66 Diner, 2639 e. 11th Street, (Route 66), in Tulsa, offers a variety of great American dishes, such as meatloaf, chicken fried steak, and various delicious soups. They are famous from Chicago to L. A. for their generous portions and homemade bread, made fresh daily.

The Route 66 Diner was founded in February, 1988 by two sisters-in-law Debbie and Sherry Higgs. Since the fall of 1989 Debbie has assumed sole ownership.

The diner was originally a Silver Castle hamburger restaurant. Silver Castle was a Tulsa-based chain of restaurants built in the late Thirties. It is the only Silver Castle building known to be left standing in Tulsa.

The interior of the diner has an authentic feel to it. First of all, the ceiling is curved, and the ceiling and wall panels are porcelainized to give it a nice, clean feeling. There is

a nice countertop and four tables. It seats approximately 25 people. A very nice and very old cash register that dates from the late Twenties and an old Coca-Cola fountain drink dispenser also enhance the atmosphere.

The diner also served as the birthplace of the Tulsa Chapter of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association. It held our first organizational meetings in June, 1989, headed by then president Shirley Hoppes.

Michael Wallis, the author of "Route 66, The Mother Road", recently taped a promotional video for his book there as well. You can see and read about the diner in his new book, due out in late April, 1990.

The hours are Tuesday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For daily specials, call (918) 592 6666.

FROM THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION "ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY" 3-2-90

TRUCK STOP TOUR

On Memorial Day, Michael Wallis is hitting the road, to promote his new book, "Route 66, The Mother Road". The author will drive his 1964 red Corvette the entire 2400 miles of the old highway, from Chicago to Los Angeles. He'll stop in towns and sign books from St. Louis to Joplin, from Tulsa to Tucumcari. "Route 66 represents America, before we became generic", Wallis says. "On the interstates, we might as well be on a runway."



FROM CHICAGO TO L.A.--- news from the road

ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION 66 Motor Tour Schedule

Beginning at 9:00 a.m., June 9th, the Illinois Route 66 Association will begin their tour of historic 66 at the intersection of Columbus Drive on Chicago's lake front. The tour will end in St. Louis, Missouri, with numerous stops along the way. Highlights include a stop at the Dixie Trucker's Home - home of the Route 66 Hall of Fame - in McLean, Illinois, to induct members. The tour will end on Sunday, June 10, at Ted Drewes' Custard Stand in St. Louis on "City 66". Ted will make a special treat for the tour. For more info contact **ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS, 1208 W. EDWARDS, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62704.**

MISSOURI UPDATE

The Route 66 Association of Missouri is getting a lot of support this year. They have 60 members so far. Jim Powell, president of the Association, has written a three-part series of stories in **Corvette Fever** magazine's March, April, and May issues. The stories detail a trip that Jim and his brother Don took last summer from Chicago to L. A. in their restored '62 Corvette convertible on old 66. Nice story, guys! **ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI, P.O. BOX 8117, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63156**

OKLAHOMA

The address for the Oklahoma Route 66 Association is **P. O. Box 166, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102**

TEXAS OLD ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION?

Yes, it seems to be true! Texas is beginning a Route 66 Association, thanks to Delbert Trew. Interested parties may contact Delbert at **Texas Old Route 66 Association, P. O. Box 66, McLean, Texas, zip unknown.**

NEW MEXICO

The address for the New Mexico Route 66 Association is **561 Parker Ave., Santa Rosa, New Mexico 88435**

ARIZONA FUN RUN

The Arizona Route 66 Association is gearing up for their third annual Fun Run Weekend. Dates are April 27 through April 29. Events include a dance, a "Miss 66" pageant, a car show, and much more. Sounds like a lot of fun! Everyone is welcome. For more info contact Jerry Richards at 602 753 5001. The address is **Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona, P. O. Box 66, Kingman, Arizona 86402**

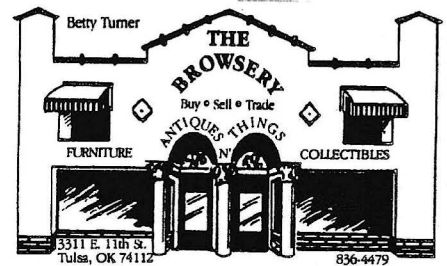
CALIFORNIA

San Bernadino County Tourism Development Council has taken California's Route 66 under wing. They hope to promote and preserve their segment of ol' 66. We lend you our support. For more info contact Bob Lundy at **128 E. Holt Blvd. Ontario, California 91761.**

Also in California, for other events on 66, you may contact Maggie Ivy at the **San Bernadino Chamber of Commerce, Convention and Visitors Bureau, P. O. Box 920, San Bernadino, California 92402**

KANSAS

Well... never mind.



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J U S T F O R K I C K S

...movie review.....movie review.....movie re

'ROADHOUSE 66'

REVIEW BY MIKE HIGGS

If you're into Route 66, then this is a must-see movie. It was filmed in 1984 in and around Kingman, Arizona. It stars William Dafoe and Judge Rienhold in their first starring roles. It's about a drifter named Johnny Hart (William Dafoe) and an entrepreneur named Beckman Hallsgood Jr. (Judge Rienhold). They meet by chance on Highway 66 in Arizona after Beckman got his radiator shot out by some local thugs led by Hoot (Alan Autry). They hobble into the town of Bowman where they find that the only car parts store is closed for the evening. The owner is down at the Sixty Six, a roadhouse not far away. The owner of the parts store is a woman named Jesse. She convinces the guys to spend the night and work on the car in the morning, which they do. The next day they are hassled by Hoot, again, and challenged to run in the Route 66 Classic. It's a road race from Bowman to Oatman on Old Route 66. They accept. Then there is plenty of action with Johnny racing against Hoot. I won't tell you the end, but good always wins. So, if you like hot rods, good times, and some of the best roadhouse music ever recorded, you're sure to like this movie.

There is brief nudity and adult language. I give it a 66 (our highest rating). Available on VHS.



ROUTE 66 COLLECTIBLES

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Always a friendly Welcome

"Nowhere is Route 66--"The Mother Road"-- more alive than in Oklahoma. The Sooner State is the cradle of the old road. *Oklahoma is the heart of the route.*" MW

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Reprinted from the Tulsa World 10-30-38

Eleventh May Be Tribute For Will Rogers

Chamber of Commerce Will Consider
Suggestion, Leaders Say

CHANGE THE NAME of Eleventh Street to Will Rogers Avenue?

Some favor the suggestion, others oppose it, but the majority apparently favor Tulsa honoring the name of Oklahoma's famous sage by naming one of its major thoroughfares after him.

The Board of The Chamber of Commerce will probably be requested to assume the lead in requesting the City Commission to designate Eleventh as Will Rogers Avenue, now that formidable opposition has developed to changing the name of

Tulsa's Main Street.

John Rogers, president of the Chamber of Commerce, heartily favors the Eleventh Street plan, because "It would indelibly link the Rogers name with that of Tulsa." The name is logical, he contends, because U.S. 66 is the Will Rogers Highway and Eleventh Street takes it through the city.

J. Burr Gibbons, another director, does not think so much of the idea because, he says, Rogers' name here could be perpetuated in more substantial fashion. He will not oppose the plan, however, unless something else of a more concrete nature is suggested.

Other board members were non-committal, preferring to wait until a proposition is formally presented before passing an opinion.

NEATSTUFF!

from the tulsa chapter

ROUTE 66
SOUVENIRS

T-SHIRTS \$10.00
MUGS \$5.00
HI-BALL GLASSES \$3.75
SHOT GLASSES \$2.50
MAGNETS \$1.00
BUTTONS \$1.00
POSTERS \$6.00



HISTORIC ROUTE 66 TULSA CHAPTER

Membership Form

ROUTE 66. Just the name is magic. It conjures up all kinds of images. A thread tying together the nation.

ROUTE 66. It inspired literature, music, drama, art, and a nation of dreamers. A highway fashioned from inspiration and ingenuity. An artery of concrete and asphalt.

U.S. Route 66 lives, like an obstinate maverick, in the minds and memories of countless nostalgia buffs, preservationists, historians, 66 die-hards, and just plain folks. The old road itself can be found in every one of the eight Route 66 states. It's still there. Route 66 is stronger than ever. The old road has new life.

ROUTE 66. The name is still magic.

ROUTE 66. It will always mean going somewhere.

*** **

Nowhere is Route 66 – "The Mother Road" – more alive than in Oklahoma. The Sooner State is the cradle of the old road.

Oklahoma is the heart of the route.

We invite you to join the Tulsa Chapter of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association. The primary mission of this growing organization is to work with established associations in the other seven Route 66 states to preserve, protect, and develop the historic route.

.....
Memberships

(Please check one and print information below)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$100 or more) | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (\$66.00) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$25.66) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15.66) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anyone over 66 years of age (\$10.66) | |

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

WORK PHONE _____

NUMBER OF YEARS IN
TULSA _____ OCCUPATION _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND INTEREST IN ROUTE 66! ENCLOSE THIS FORM WITH YOUR DUES AND MAIL TO:

Oklahoma Route 66 Association
P.O. Box 4782
Tulsa, OK 74104

