

Oklahoma Route 66 Association, Inc

901 Manvel Ave., Chandler, Oklahoma 74834

(405)258-0008

Volume 6, No. 1 NEWSLETTER January 1994



THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

BY

RON BURDEN

From your Route 66 Association, "Welcome to 1994". We are making plans for many activities this year that everyone can participate in and with your help, promote the Association to be a prominent voice in Oklahoma's future.

The first function the Association will be a part of is the KRUSE INTERNATIONAL CAR AUCTION on February 19 and 20, 1994. The Association will man a booth at the auction where we will sell souvenirs and promote the Association with information on upcoming events and memberships. The auction will be in the International Building at the State Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City. If anyone would like to help man the booth, contact Bill at the State Office and we will get back to you

At this time we are planning a cruise for June 11th. There is much planning and work to be done. I would like to ask all our Chamber of Commerce Members to keep this date in mind. We hope all communities will plan activities during the cruise. We are planning to work with the communities to coordinate the function for everyones benefit. We will report more as plans materialize!

We are continuing to work with the Department of Tourism to provide materials and information about Route 66. They will take these items to the International Trade Show in Berlin, Germany in Mar. As we reported earlier, Route 66 will be part of the theme of the Oklahoma booth, and the Department requested our Association's assistance. This will be a big boost for our cause at the International level.

If you have news items or suggestions for our newsletter, please contact the office at (405)258-0008. We listen to our members and are looking forward to hearing from you.

Special Thanks to Caddo County Commissioner

by

Carol Duncan

We would like to give a special thank you to Mr. Constien, Caddo County Commissioner, for all of the bridge and road repairs on Route 66 in his part of the State. The people who originally paved Route 66 did an outstanding job for the road lasted so long with just a regular minimum maintenance program. Compare this to the interstate's condition nowadays with its constant and never ending repair work.

A special thanks, also, to all the people who gave and voiced their support to keep Route 66 alive and well. You are doing a good service to your community, county and state.

Help save Oklahoma Route 66 for all to use and enjoy, including the generations to come.

Route 66 Loses Friend in December

On December 11, 1993 the route 66 communities lost a friend, with the passing of Governor Raymond Gary. He was Oklahoma's Governor in the 1950's.

In 1954, President Eisenhower formed a President's Advisory Committee for a National Highway Program. The committee's main purpose was to compile data about the problems with the nation's highway system. The data showed areas of congestion, civil defense needs, safety problems and roadway maintenance. As a result of the Advisory Committee's findings the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 was created. This act designated a 41,000 mile interstate highway system. An Additional Act was passed by Congress and it was called the Highway Revenue Act of 1956. This started a highway trust fund to help finance the new highway system. The Federal Government agreed to pay 90% of the costs and each state was to put up 10% matching funds.

The interstate system started slowly and was built piecemeal here and there. It took 12 years to pave Route 66 the first time but it took about 30 years to replace it with a paved highway

Governor Gary was from the small town of Madill, Oklahoma. He understood the business and development problems of small town America. The U.S. 66 Highway Association worked with the governor to get Rout 66 to meet the needs of traveling public.

Interstate 40 was originally planned to be miles away from the Route 66 towns and there was to be no business loops. But Mr. Gary used his influence to get that changed.

The U.S. Highway 66 Association fought for access to the interstates too. The Association represented the feelings of the many small business owners along the highway. In September of 1962, at Shamrock, Texas in the 66 Association Annual Meeting, the group passed a resolution urging and requesting the identity of U.S. Highway 66 be retained.

The officials in the American Association of State Highways were urged to not un-number the nation's interstate highways but keep the number, identity and historical significance of the name "U.S. Highway 66". The 66 Association members worked hard to gain support for their resolution thru the Chambers of Commerce, state highway directors and the media. The Association lost this battle and the Federal Government won. The people who lived, worked and traveled Route 66 were very disappointed.

In the next annual (1963-Barstow, California), the Route 66 Association passed a resolution in protest of a bill that was to be voted in the House of Representatives which would

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only allow certain service facilities to be located on the interstate. This bill would ruin the existing highway businesses and be destructive to the general economic welfare of towns along the way.

Governor Gary stood up for the Oklahoma Route 66 communities and used his power ~~to office~~ and political influence to insist that I-40 run close to old Route 66 and that each town would have a well built and easily accessible business loop. Mr. Gary worked with businessmen committees from each town. He and Dr. Walter S. Mason, Jr., member and director of the State Board of Public Affairs made a special trip to Washington to fight the U.S. Bureau of Roads over the routing of interstate 40.

As a result of Governor Gary and the Route 66 Association, the business people's efforts, I-40 does pass close to Route 66 and there are easy access business loops.

Despite its physical displacement, Highway 66 did not fade away. Route 66 still means adventure and "Going Somewhere".

Route 66 Receives Official Christmas Gift

In the Daily Oklahoman, December 26, 1993 edition, the Oklahoma Historic Society announced that it is now official that this state has been approved to receive money from federal and matching funds. The project is a cooperative effort of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, the Oklahoma Main Street Program, the Historical Society, the State Historic Preservation office, the Oklahoma State Department of Transportation and many others.

Some of the projects are satellite exhibits with route 66 artifacts, an overall map of Route 66, radio markers to provide information, teaching materials for schools, restoration of commercial signs and technical assistance to home and building owners eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Oklahoma Route 66 Association is going to be involved in helping to make these projects happen.

Bunion Derby in Fall

For a 1994 event, Kansas Historic Route 66 Association members want to sponsor a Bunion Derby from a point in Oklahoma through Kansas and into Missouri. The tentative date is sometime this Fall.

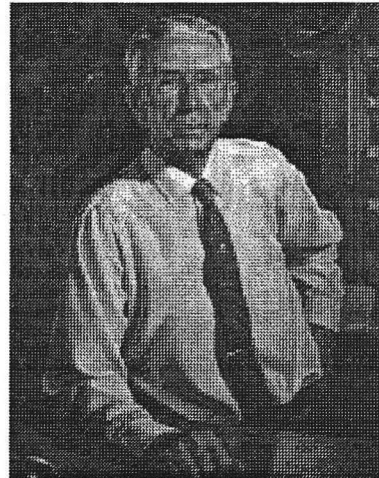
This past winter the Kansas Association had a fund raising raffle. The big prize was a Route 66 quilt. A man, who was cruising Route 66 with a Smithsonian Tour

through Kansas, won the quilt. They are also selling miniature Kansas Historic Route 66 signs.

Mr. Scott Nelson, President of the Kansas Historic Route 66 Association said that any interested persons are welcome at their next association meeting. It will be held February 8th. Anyone who wants to attend, please contact him at PO Box 169, Riverton, Kansas 66770 or call 1-316-848-3330.

J. M. Davis Gun Museum Claremore, Oklahoma

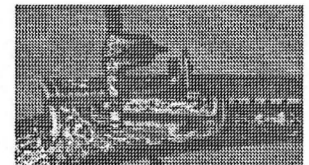
Article Submitted by
Lee T. Good, Director



In 1917, J. M. Davis opened his Mason Hotel on Route 66 in Claremore, Oklahoma. He'd been collecting guns since he was seven years old. His father had rewarded him with a muzzle loading shotgun that cost \$1.50 for taking his medicine like a good boy. Old Route 66 brought many people to the hotel and Davis ultimately amassed more

than 20,000 guns and gun-related items. He became internationally known as a gun expert and there was a constant stream of people who came to buy, sell, trade or ask his opinion. His collection became ^{one} of the best known in the country.

In 1965, Davis leased the collection to the State of Oklahoma at the cost of \$1.00 for 99 years with option to renew. The Museum opened to an enthusiastic public on Davis' 82 birthday in 1969. It houses over a mile of firearms that span more than six centuries, starting with a Chinese hand cannon dating to 1350. A gunsmith shop of the past has been constructed in the museum and contemporary craftsmen often show how early rifle-building tools were used. The



museum's gallery of outlaw guns fascinates visitors. These guns and artifacts were collected by Merle Gill, a ballistics expert with the Kansas City Police Department. He displayed them in the back of his truck at state and county fairs until J. M. Davis acquired them in the 1940's.

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steins and the large collection of John Rogers Statuary. Rogers was the "Norman Rockwell" of the 19th century and a family that didn't have one of his sculptures in the 1800's was not conforming to the times. Even Abraham Lincoln had one. A wide range of old saddles, pioneer cattle brands, antique music boxes and old war posters and buttons are also displayed. Along with the many Indian artifacts, there are tools and projectiles dating from 12,000 B.C.

The museum facilities include a gift shop and a research library. The museum is located on Route 66 at 33 North Lynn Riggs Blvd., Claremore, Oklahoma. Hours are 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Sundays. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas days. Admission is free.

Preservation News from Sally Ferrell Chair, Preservation Committee

Ideas Presented

A list of suggestions were presented by those attending the November 6 Preservation Committee meeting held just before the annual meeting in Oklahoma City. Here they are for you and the board to mull over.

- Publish brochure as concise guide to traveling Oklahoma Route 66 with Route 66 Association information.
- Redesignate NE Oklahoma State Highway 66.
- Highlight the road and history on state road map.
- Inventory historic sites in addition to National Register selections.
- More historic highway markers all across the state.
- Plan scenic/historic turnouts.
- List endangered historic sites.
- Publish guidelines to building restorations (materials available from Main Street Office and State Preservation Office).
- Establish annual Route 66 preservation awards.
- Revive Mr. and Mrs. Route 66 contest to draw forth oral histories.
- Contest for "Best Route 66 Food"
- Restoration of Miami - Commerce roadside park & Coleman Theater.
- Exhibit of neon signs.
- Publish list of National Register of Historic Places sites along Route 66.

We hope to schedule another committee meeting and still solicit members from each town that we can share concerns and projects. Let's keep each other posted about endangered historic sites for they are a large part of what tourists come to see and what we want to keep as our history.

National Register Nominations Are On The Way

Twenty Route 66-related Oklahoma properties received approval and recommendation for the National Register of Historic Places from the Oklahoma Review Board which met Thursday, January 13 at the Oklahoma Historical Society. This is a first multiple properties nomination in a state and has been "in the works" since the first state survey in 1984.

All owners received notifications and a good number attended the meeting, from Rep. Larry Roberts at Miami to Rep. David Thompson, Bristow, and Lucille Hammons, Hydro.

Yes, Lucille's station was heartily endorsed by the board which explained the Register's custom of using first owner or builder's name of the property; hence it's called the "Provine Service Station" although Lucille has owned and operated it for 50 years.

As Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Melvena Heisch explained, other properties may be added in the future. Several more are waiting notification procedures and will be on the Spring agenda. Then the whole works will be submitted to the Keeper of the Register.

"Listing does not mean you can't tear it down, but does mean you can qualify for technical preservation assistance, tax credits and other aids," Heisch said.

In addition to Lucille Hammon's station the list approved last week includes:

- Miami Marathon Oil Co.
- Claremore Auto Dealership
- Bridge 18, Rock Creek near Sapulpa
- Magnolia Service Station, Texola
- Randall Tire Co., Vinita
- Bristow Motor Co
- Bristow Tire Shop
- Texaco Service Station, Bristow
- Hotel Vinita
- Casa Grande Hotel, Elk City
- Horse Creek Bridge, Afton vicinity
- Cities Service Station, Afton
- Chandler Phillips 66 Service Station
- St. Cloud Hotel, Chandler
- Crane Motor Co., Chandler
- Spraker Service Station, Vinita
- Canute Service Station
- Threatt Filling Station, near Luther
- Seaba's Filling Station (machine shop), near Warwick

If you would like to know more about this meeting, call us (405-258-1891) and we'll share our video. Also plan to attend the next Review Board meeting to learn a lot about the National Register process.

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Maybe one day all Route 66 properties listed can have markers denoting their place in our history.

Will Rogers Hotel 'Lassoed'

Hats off to the Rogers County Historical Society for rescuing the Will Rogers Hotel at Claremore, and to George Kaiser for selling it to them for \$1. Title transfer took place January 13, 1994.

Built in 1929 and National Register eligible, the six-floor, 70 room stately structure was considered for demolition. But that was estimated to cost \$200,000 and the local society headed by president Wanda Moore, offered to take on the project of saving it.

This hardy band of preservationists has now contacted the National Trust for Historic Preservation about a Preservation Services Fund matching grant to get consulting and fund raising on the way for the abandoned hostelry. The Rogers Co. Historical Society has a great track record, now completing restoration of the Belvidere Mansion and aiding Foyil Totem Pole Park.

Tulsa Fire Alarm Building Sets Off Alarm

Next time you're in Tulsa, note the 1931 Fire Alarm Building at 1010 E. 8 where fire-breathing dragons decorate the brick and granite facade. The structure is being offered for sale by owner City of Tulsa.

Tulsa Preservation Commission member, Norma Turnbo, tells us a facade easement is being prepared which will require preservation and approval plans by new owner. Former Mayor Rodger Randle saw the building's value and promoted stabilizing and saving it in past years. Eligible for National Register listing, it is one reason Tulsa is noted for the world's second largest collection of fine Art Deco buildings. (Check your library for the great book about them published by Tulsa Junior League.)

Phillips 66 Historic Station For Sale

Jeanine Westfall has closed her Chandler original Phillips 66 "cottage style" filling station and plans to sell it.

It is considered the best preserved of these early stations along the whole national highway and last week received the state review board's nod for National Register listing.

Restoration Project Gets High School Helpers

We reported in our October 93 newsletter that the Route 66 Meremac Cavern sign/building was near collapse and Luke Robison, Jack Sims, along with local Lincoln County Route 66 Chapter members had arrived to prop it up. They were aided by donations from the property owner, the cavern owner and The Oklahoma Route 66 Association.

More help came from Chandler High School Technical Education teacher Kent Barton and five of his master carpenter students. The job is nearly finished and we all owe them many thanks for saving this long-familiar landmark, a favorite of tourists and photographers.

Advertising is now available in the Oklahoma Route 66 Association Newsletter

We have new Advertising rates. This newsletter reaches 900+ Association Members and numerous pass-along readers 6 times a year. Our mailings are now international.

The Advertising rates, **per issue**, are as follows:

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
Business card size.....	\$ 7.50	\$15.00
1/4 page.....	\$15.00	\$30.00
1/2 page.....	\$20.00	\$40.00
Full Page.....	\$25.00	\$50.00

Send a copy of your ad and remittance to:

Oklahoma Route 66 Association
901 Manvel Ave.
Chandler, Ok. 74834
Phone: (405)258-0008

Deadlines for articles and Advertising are as follows:

<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>PUBLISHING DATE</u>
January 1	January 15
March 1	March 15
May 1	May 15
July 1	July 15
September 1	September 15
November 1	November 15



If the deadline is missed then the article or advertisement would appear in the following newsletter. Prices subject to change without notice. (January 1994 bb)

Calendar of Events

- February 18-20 Starbird Car Show - Tulsa Fairgrounds
- February 19-20 Twister Car Club Autorama - Enid
(405)233-8160
- February 19-20 Kruse International Car Auction
State Fairgrounds - Oklahoma City
Rocky Santiago (405)843-6117
Entry & Bidding Details (800)968-4444
- April 22-24 Tulsa Swap Meet & Car Show - Tulsa
Swap Meet Information - Marisa Claybaugh
(918)838-8354 FAX (918)838-2757
Car Show Information (918)583-2909
(918)245-5151
- June 11 Oklahoma Route 66 Association's Fifth
Annual Cruise (405)258-0008

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OLD 66

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*This highway stood apart from all the rest
Became a victim of its' own success
Five interstates took its' place
They go the same places, but without its' face
Chicago loop will start you as you roam
Catch a hot meal at Dixie Trucker's Home
There's Lincoln's house and then Cahokia Mounds
It's a honeymoon road nostalgia bound
They called it main street U.S.A.
Let me hear somebody say,
My heart belongs to old 66*

*St. Louis river boats greet you there
Soon you'll be rolling through Checkerboard Square
Stop at Ted Drewes famous roadside stand
Still the best frozen custard in the land
The Coral Court is known far and well
A classic art deco no-tell motel
The 66 Park In's where I used to score
Don't let them replace it with a discount Store
Let me hear somebody say,
My heart belongs to old 66*

*They say Meramec Caverns is where Jesse James hid
And Onondaga Cave will surely flip your lid
In St. James try some Missouri wine
Keep you feeling good to the Oklahoma line
The Coleman Theater is Miamah's famous spot
The Will Rogers in Tulsa's now a parking lot
But the 66 Diner still lifts the torch
Mashed potatoes as real as your grandma's porch
You'll miss it all on the expressway
Let me hear somebody say
My heart belongs to old 66*

*Cadillac Ranch, Amarillo,
Nose diving classics use the ground for a pillow
Blue Swallow Inn, Tucumcari,
A friendly old spot on New Mexico's prairie
Through Santa Fe and Albuquerque,
See Indian arts of ancient times still working
Jack Rabbit Trading Post, Grand Canyon Cafe,
Across the Mojave beckons big L.A.*

*It's hot and sassy as a red corvette
At Santa Anita stop and place your bet*

*In Chinatown they're cooking something good
Turn on Sunset Boulevard to Hollywood
Beyond awaits the glamour and the frills
Santa Monica boulevard to Beverly Hills
The cool Pacific waiting at the end
Never be another route like this again
Don't let the legend fade away
People all along it say,
My heart belongs to old 66*

(C)1991 Geoffrey Willis

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About the Author of "OLD 66"

In 1990 Willis was inspired by an article about a movement to revitalize Route 66. Already having strong sentiments for saving landmarks no longer to be taken for granted, Willis wrote "Old 66" to carry that message. He and his wife, JoAnne have been an active part of the movement ever since.

Geoffrey Willis, also know as "Willie" is the president of the California Historic Route 66 Association.

This song is available on cassette for \$5.00 including postage and handling.

**A Brand New Song
For
"OLD 66"**

"A"

Side

Records

HOME OF "A" SIDE WILLIE

Geoffrey Willis

263 S. Cypress

Orange, CA 92666

(714)639-2911

**Available on Cassette for \$5.00 including
postage and handling.**

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Free Membership or Renewal!

That's right! Get three businesses or four families or seven individuals to join or renew and you will receive a free membership or renewal. You can mix the types of memberships as long as the revenue = \$100 or more.


Types of Membership
A = Affiliate \$35.00 B = Business \$35.00 F = Family \$25.00 I = Individual \$15.00 C = Contribution \$ ____.

Name: _____ Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone:() _____ - _____ Business Phone:() _____ - _____ Ext: _____



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Please make a copy if you need to and good luck!