

# Oklahoma Route 66 Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 21382 Oklahoma City, Ok. 73156-1382



PHONE 405-258-0008

<http://www.nowka.com/ok66b.html>

*Volume 11, No. 1 NEWSLETTER March, 1999*

## OPEN HOUSE

### MARCH 27, 1999

We hope that everyone has made plans to come to our new office space in Arcadia. We have a great party planned and hope that everyone will come and participate. There will be an open car show, live music, fun for all ages and a chili cook-off. What a great way to start out in our new office. With the cruises that we have lined-up for 1999 this will be a great way to start out the new cruise season and get your car dusted off and blow-out the cobwebs.

## THE 1999 CRUISES

PRESIDENT  
John Ackenhausen  
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Tulsa, Ok. 74105

EASTERN  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
Don Gray  
Route 2 Box 22  
Vinita, Ok. 74301

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Donnie Gray  
Route 2 Box 2  
Vinita, Ok. 74301

**April 23-25, Eastern Cruise** will start out with a Friday night party at the Bobby Sox Club in Tulsa. On Saturday we will all get together at the Route 66 Diner at 19th and South Sheridan. Registration will start at 8am and we will head out down the mother road at 9am. For more information, motels and pre-registration turn to page 11.

**June 4-6, Sapulpa** As an association we will not be participating in this event. For those of you who would like to attend, you can contact John Ackenhausen 918-742-4898 in Tulsa or the Sapulpa Main Street Association at 919-224-5709 for further information. John should have complete details about the event by early May of this year.

**June 4-6, El Reno.** The El Reno Cruisers are putting on quite a show including a legal burnout sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police, a nostalgic cruise for '79 and older cars on a closed stretch of Route 66 (the fee is \$10 and insurance is required), an open car show, and more. The Association will have a Route 66 **Open Car Show** at Redlands College and a **Route 66 Scavenger Hunt** all day on Saturday. Other Small Town Weekend Events include a 50s/60s concert at Fort Reno on Friday night (admission 5.00, bring your own chair). There will also be 50s music, a photo exhibit, games and food. An antique tractor pull will be held that day. Many area merchants will be offering a Small Town Weekend discount - but only if you ask. The Association will be set up at Redlands college Friday afternoon and all day Saturday so make sure to stop by for a visit and get your information on all the events that are planned for the big weekend.

**September 18-19, Western Cruise.** Yes, this is a change to coincide with the Elk City Roadrunners 4th Annual Car Show. Plans are still being made for a cruise on Saturday and still arrive in Elk City in time for the car show and other events. We will have more information in the next news letter.

## REMEMBER ALL ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THIS YEARS TRIP GUIDE MUST BE IN THE OFFICE BY MARCH 31.

## President's Corner

Hello, out there. How are all of you Route 66 Roady types doing? I am fine and I hope all of you are too. Is everybody starting to get their favorite highway cruiser dusted off, tuned up, waxed up and gassed up? I sure hope you are, because the cruising season is getting close. Our first cruise of the year is coming up on the weekend of April 24-25. We are going to go from Tulsa to Carthage, Missouri and spend the evening at the Route 66 Drive-in, like we did last year. So, mark your calendar and make your plans to attend.

Let me digress a little, back to last fall. I was in Oklahoma City, when Quest, the band that was touring Route 66, was there. For all of you who don't know, Sharon Burden has a new old classic car. She kept telling us it was a 57 T-Bird, but since it was parked in between two beautiful classic Oldsmobiles, we decided it must be a sporty little Oldsmobile. Why else would she have parked it in Olds territory? Anyway, it's a pretty little red one. And poor old Ron had to sell his pride and joy, the 67 El Camino. Ron we all feel for you!

Now I have some bad news and some good news. If you haven't heard by now, Ollies Station Restaurant, a landmark on Route 66, in west Tulsa, caught on fire in the early morning hours of Feb. 20, this year. I went by the next Tuesday to see for myself, the damage, and it was considerable. I talked with John Grey, the owner, and he told me that he is going to rebuild it, and that it should be open by June of this year. The fire did considerable damage to all the model trains, so if any of you know of any for sale, or if you know of any that someone wants to find a good home for, I'm sure John would be interested. John and Ollies have been members and great supporters of the Association for many years. John, we all wish you the very best in getting the restaurant opened again.

I have talked with Willie Spears, who had the Route 66 Diner at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Elgin in Tulsa that burned up last year. He will not be going back in the same place, as he originally thought last year, but he will have the new Route 66 Diner at a new location. It will be at 19<sup>th</sup> and south Sheridan, in Tulsa, and Willie thinks he should have it open sometime this March or April.

Well, folks, that's about all the news I can think of, for now. I will close this edition by telling you all, **"SEE YOU ALL OUT ON THE SPRING CRUISE."**

The Prez.....John Ackenhausen



### **Jane Jayroe appointed Secretary of Tourism**

You know her as the co-host of the "Discover Oklahoma" television program produced by the Department of Tourism. Now, Governor Frank Keating has named Jane Jayroe as the new Secretary of Tourism. She replaces Ed Cook, who is resigning to assist developmental efforts for several long range projects including the Oklahoma Centennial Commission, the Oklahoma Historical Society, and Friends of the Mansion.

"Jane Jayroe is an Oklahoma treasure," said Governor Keating. "As a former Miss Oklahoma and Miss America, Jane has represented not only the best and the brightest of Oklahoma, but she has also represented the United States as one of America's leading citizens. I know she will represent Oklahoma and the Department of Tourism with the same enthusiasm, vision, and ability which have made her such an outstanding professional and civic leader in our state."

## Early Days of Route 66 in Arcadia, OK

By Toodie Teuscher

Ray Rogers, a life-long resident of Arcadia, has told this story. I have also included part of the following information from the book "Remember Arcadia" as recorded by Marjorie Dunn Baker, Secretary of the Arcadia Reminiscence Association.

Ray has told his story many times about the times he had to help pull cars out of a big mud hole that was located in front of his home (on Danforth).

It seems the highway department detoured traffic past Ray's house while construction work on US Highway 66 was in progress.

Someone who Ray had pushed or pulled out of this mud hole commented, "You must make pretty good money helping so many autos out of that mud hole." "Yes, yes, I really do," said Ray. The traveler then asked, "Just what do you do when you're not helping out the travelers?" Ray replied, "Well, you see I have to haul water and pour it in this hole to keep it muddy!"

The Oklahoma State Highway Department of Information verifies some dates and information for the following section.

It seems that information of the construction of the new and first federal Highway 66 was on the drawing board as early as 1917. *Editor's note: Since the official board to draw up the first federal highway system wasn't formed until 1924, a date of 1917 seems a bit early. However, in Oklahoma, much of early 66 followed the Ozark Trail, a pathway that existed earlier than 1917. The Federal Aid Road Act was passed in 1916 to make funds available to states to create highways, then modified in 1921 to actually call for the construction of a system of interconnected interstate highways. The 66 designation, of course, didn't happen until 1926.*

As far as I have been able to determine, US Highway 66 was designed to follow most of the MKT Railroad line. The "Katy" began laying their track in Oklahoma City during March 1903. May 18, 1903 these tracks were laid through Arcadia just south of the Round Barn. News soon spread that the first federally funded and the first highway from coast to coast would likely follow the MKT railroad.

This was good news to the town of Arcadia. The MKT Railroad and US Highway 66 would keep Arcadia, OK on all the maps. Finally, rumors became fact.

The section of Highway 66 east of Edmond to Douglas Street was built in part by convict labor. The convict camp was located in the area where Metro

Church is today. The convicts laid brick. From Douglas Street through Arcadia the Highway was paved in 1929.

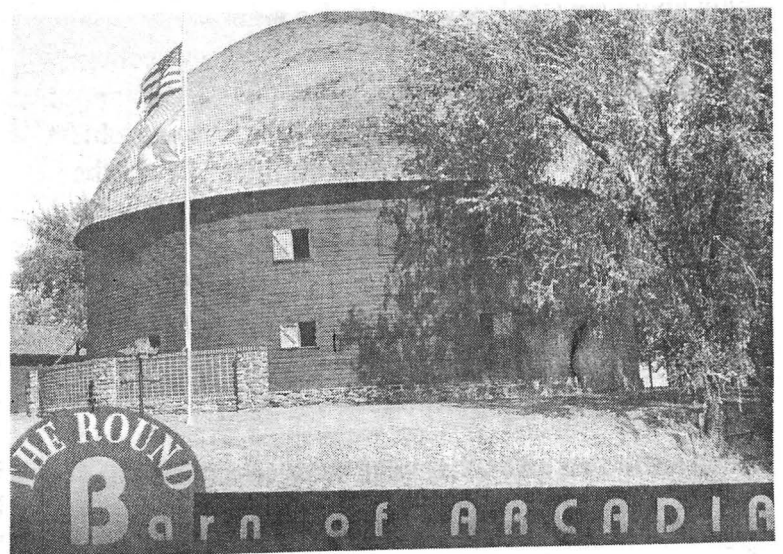
Russell Sweat of Arcadia was one of three locals who also worked on the highway. He had a 1927 one and a half ton truck. He received \$7.20 a day for himself and his truck. He furnished his own fuel and upkeep for the truck. He also furnished tools for maintenance purposes.

Frank Baker also worked on the new Highway 66. He started work in May 1930. He received 40 cents an hour for common work, 10 hours a day, 6 days a week. Baker furnished his own hoe, rake, pick, shovels, axe and week hook. Baker worked with laborer Walter Humphrey of Arcadia. These men were hired to keep dirt up to the edge of the pavement, cut weeds from the right of way, clean out and trim culverts and keep all drainage ditches open and all trash hauled off. They had a total of about 16-17 miles to keep up.

Highway funds diminished and these three men were cut to five days a week and paid 10 cents less an hour. In March 1933, they were laid off work.

Some weeks later Sweat, Baker and Humphrey were hired to count the traffic using US 66. Each man took an eight-hour shift and counted the number of cars and trucks separately, both east and west bound to keep a tally to turn in to the State Highway Department in Oklahoma City. Their check point was east/south by the Arcadia Round Barn.

Today, in 1999, Route 66 and the Round Barn still depend on each other.





## Fourth Grade Ideasnatchers

### Official Route 66 Lovers

Editor's note: Teacher Rebecca Harris and her fourth grade students love Route 66. We're excited that a new generation is discovering Route 66 – especially her food! Marian Clark – watch out!

#### RESTAURANT REVIEW

Our names are Carlos Martinez, Leah Morris, Samantha Casselman and Nicole Peterson. We are from the Fourth Grade Gifted and Talented class from Kendall-Whittier Elementary in Tulsa, OK. Our new building is a few blocks off the Route. We study and do activities on the Route. One of our activities is reviewing restaurants on the Mother Road.

Our first restaurant we reviewed was Metro Diner on 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The address is 3001 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Tulsa. (In case you didn't know, Route 66 is 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Tulsa.) Metro Diner opened in 1983. We knew we were getting close to the Diner because the Route 66 cheeseburger special was advertised on their sign. We saw a big sign with neon lights saying Metro Diner. It had a clock on top.

When we walked in, we saw the back of a turquoise '57 Chevy that the host used for a front counter. The host greeted us and led us to our table. We noticed there was more than one room for seating—one for smoking and one for non-smoking.

Smoking seats 50. It was all booths. Pictures of Elvis hung on the wall. There was also a big Beatles' record that hung on the wall approximately one yard in diameter. We did not sit in smoking. We sat in non-smoking. On the way to our seat we saw a counter with about six stools you could also sit at.

We were then seated in the non-smoking section. There were tables and booths. It seated 60. Pictures of old cars were hung on the wall. Neon lights encompassed the room. Art deco lights lit up the booths. Each booth had a pole with hooks on it on which you could hang your coat. Route 66 signs were on the wall.

Our waitress' name was Mary. She was wonderful. She greeted us with a smile. She introduced herself when we got to the table and asked our names. She asked what we wanted to drink and took care of that really fast. She brought our food and after that she came back to check on us a lot. She was great!

Hi. My name is Carlos. I ordered from the Kid's Menu. I ordered a Buster Burger. All the kid's meals

come with soft drink or milk and your choice of mashed potatoes, french fries, cut corn, or green beans. I had some french fries on the side. I didn't care for my french fries because of the seasoning salt. My Buster Burger was good because it wasn't burned. I liked the toasted bun. I ordered a piece of chocolate pie for dessert. I didn't like the meringue but I liked the chocolate!

Hi. My name is Nicole. I ordered the Buster Burger from the Kid's Menu. It was good. The burger was moist and flavorful. The corn was kind of good but not that good. That's because I like cream corn better than kernel corn. The coke had great flavor. It had syrup in it unlike some restaurants.

Hi. My name is Leah. I went to Metro Diner with everyone. I ordered a grilled cheese sandwich. It was on bread and it had cheese in the middle where it's supposed to be. It had corn on the side. I also had a chocolate shake and a cherry Pepsi. I noticed that they let us have the leftovers from our drink. The leftovers were brought in a metal mixing glass just like they used to use at the old soda fountains. Everything that was supposed to be cold was cold, and everything that was supposed to be hot was hot except for the sandwich.

Hi. My name is Samantha. First I had a Pee Wee dinner with mashed potatoes on the side. Then I had two peanut butter and chocolate pies and a Pepsi. I have to say that I really liked the peanut butter on the peanut butter and chocolate pies. I guess that's why I had two of them! Yum! Yum!

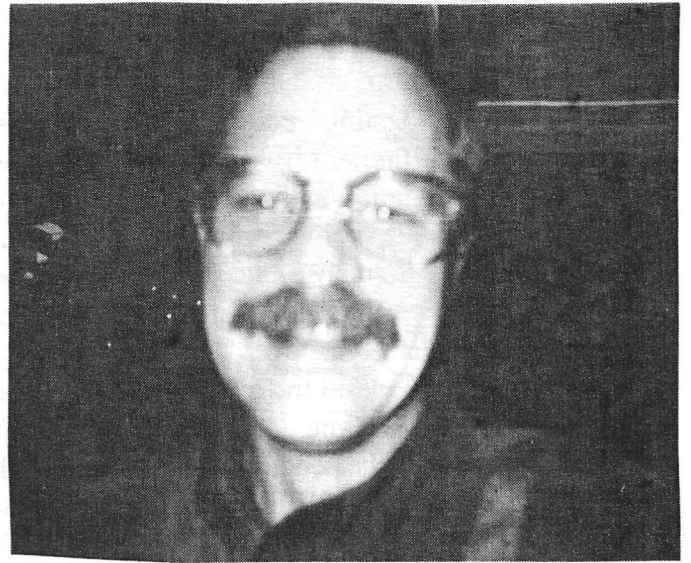
Hi. I'm Ms. Harris, the teacher. I HAD to order the Route 66 cheeseburger and see what it was all about. It was pretty much the same as a regular hamburger but it was on a long submarine sandwich type of bun. It was tasty. I had a hard time finishing it because I had indulged in a chocolate shake also. The shake was a Butterfinger and chocolate shake and it was so yummy! I also liked the way they brought it in the metal mixing glass. The food was good and the ambiance of the restaurant made everything taste just a little bit better!

As we were leaving we passed the manager and talked to him about the things they had on the counter like the homemade pies they bake at their restaurant. He also pointed out the huge things they had in the restaurant like the huge shoe and the huge coffee cup. He had a huge smile! His name is Tim. The other

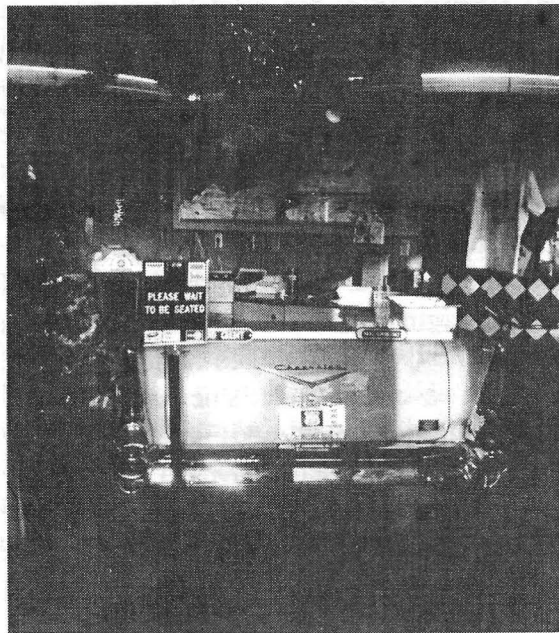


manager's name is Jim. You can call either one at 918-592-2616 if you have any questions or would like to book a party.

We'll catch you later on down the road!



**Hi, I'M Jim.**



### **Do you remember?**

**This picture was taken after an old wall was removed while remodeling a new business west of downtown Bethany in the 7100 block of NW 39th expressway.**

**We would like to know if anyone can tell us the name of this cafe and if they remember going there.**



## Wiley Post Memorial Dedicated

By Kathy Anderson

Many historians agree that Wiley Post has never really gotten the lasting recognition he deserves. Although world famous in his day, Wiley's contributions to aviation and space travel have been largely underplayed, probably owing to the rather embarrassing and extremely tragic fact that Wiley was at the controls when the plane that bore Oklahoma's even more famous son, Will Rogers, crashed in Alaska, killing both world travelers. Wiley Post was just 36 years old at the time.

Well, it's time for the pendulum to swing back. To celebrate the centennial of Wiley Post's birth, several events took place in late 1998 to help ensure that the next century can appreciate his accomplishments with a more balanced point of view. A biography was published by the Oklahoma Heritage Association called **From Oklahoma to Eternity: The Life of Wiley Post and the Winnie Mae**, by Bob Burke. A new monument was dedicated at Memorial Park Cemetery (on old Route 66 at Kelley Ave. and Memorial Road in Edmond/North Oklahoma City) and a new portrait unveiled on the Fourth floor of the State Capitol (also on 66 at 23<sup>rd</sup> and Lincoln in Oklahoma City).

The monument dedication and portrait unveiling was held November 22, 1998. The day was sunny and windy. Very windy – much to the dismay of everyone who had to play a musical instrument or talk into a microphone.

About 75 people were on hand for the ceremony, a disappointing number considering that a big flashing sign had been sitting out on the Broadway Extension for about a week to advertise the event. Most who came were either school children or the elderly. Some were Route 66ers while others were aviation or Oklahoma history buffs. And, of course, there were family members – Wiley's cousins, nieces and nephews.

The ceremony began at 1:30 in the afternoon. After the presentation of colors by the local VFW and ROTC, two songs were sung – the “Star Spangled Banner” and “God Bless the USA.” The singer was excellent, despite the obvious problems with the PA system and the tape player. The emcee for the event was Bob Burke, the author of the new Post biography. The opening invocation/prayer used passages of

scripture relating to wings of doves and winged creatures around the throne of God. Then a vintage USAF plane did a flyby. A trumpet solo of “Wild Blue Yonder” followed while the OK and US flags left the area. Family members were then introduced. A children's choir from Franklin Pierce Elementary school struggled through the song “Raising Oklahoma” their voices faint, and is often the case with children, forgetting the words altogether. “We Can Change the World” followed. Continuing problems with the wind, PA system and tape player didn't help matters. By this time, everyone, I think, had given up hope of this being a classy event and set out to enjoy the event for what it was – a dedicated group of young and old determined to honor Wiley Post no matter what it took.

Various groups were then presented plaques and citations, thanking them for their parts in creating the still veiled monument marker, the new shrubbery and landscaping, new pavement, etc. The spokesman for Memorial Park Cemetery was especially moved by the award, promising to “pledge their commitment to maintain the area from now to eternity.”

The keynote speaker was Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Marian Opala. Why this person was asked to speak was never made clear but he certainly had some interesting comments. Here are a few quotes from his remarks: “The gathering today is smaller than the original funeral but the enthusiasm is certainly higher.” “We are here to honor someone who today couldn't even get a pilot's license.” “Wiley Post has been shortchanged and undervalued by history. It is time to re-pledge ourselves to his memory and rehabilitate his contributions.” “He was not a role model by today's standards. He was a dropout, he lost his eye the first day on the job, and he was convicted of felony. But he was courageous and contributed generously to the advancement of aviation and aeronautics.”

The second speaker was Dr. James Logan, former chief of medical operations of NASA. Dr. Logan unabashedly admitted his admiration for Wiley. As a Wiley Post zealot, he is dismayed that Wiley has been reduced to an asterisk in history and that Wiley's beloved plane the Winnie Mae sits in crates at the Smithsonian. Logan observed that Post's fame as a pioneering visionary took second place to the fame of entertainers. It's Will Rogers that people remember



more, not Wiley.

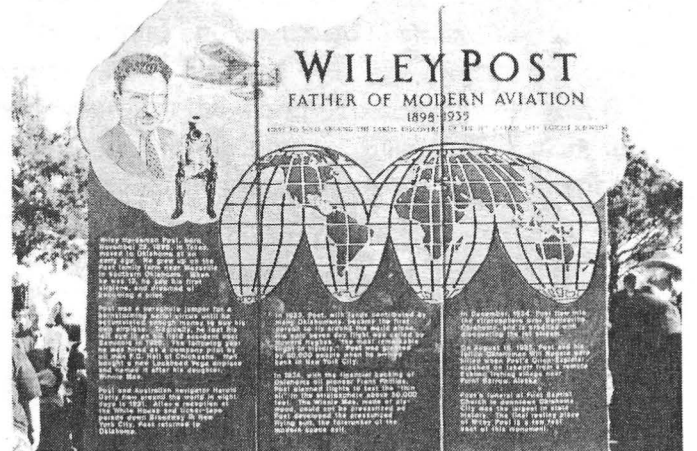
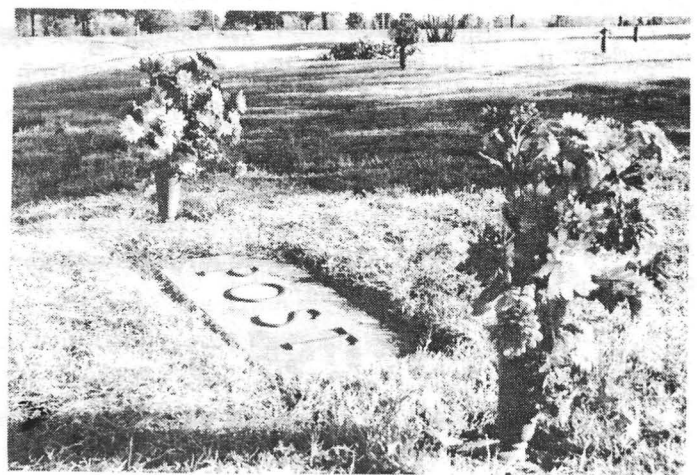
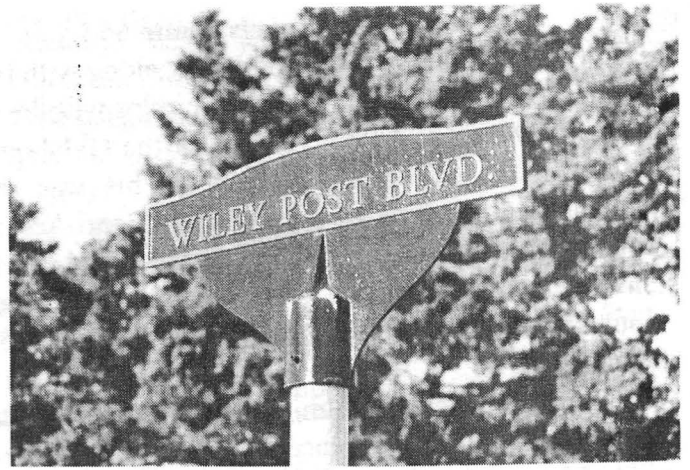
Dr. Logan felt that Wiley truly embodied the spirit of Oklahoma. His flaws were very real. He overcame inner demons and external circumstances. Yet he discovered the jetstream and circadian rhythms (jet lag) as well as creating the first pressurized high altitude flight suit. Simply put, Wiley was the greatest pilot of all time. He showed the inevitable triumph of the human spirit over adversity. Dr. Logan concluded by saying, "Wiley, we will never forget you."

All eyes then turned to the massive monument, still veiled from the public. Members of the Post family and others pulled away the covering. There was a collective gasp followed by a moment of shocked silence as everyone struggled to comprehend just how large and impressive the marker was. Then applause broke out. A quip was made, as the wind whipped the covering around, about how Wiley must have brought the jetstream to earth for the day's events.

A new song was sung by Dr. Dale Smith of Pierce Elementary which he called "High Flight", based on the famous sonnet written by a World War II pilot which ends with the words "...and touched the face of God." An elderly lady who was taught to fly by Wiley when she was just a young girl, placed a rose on his grave.

And so the event ended, less than an hour after it began.

I went back by the Memorial recently to see it. Wiley Post street markers now line the road leading off south from the Tower that goes past his grave. The landscaping is completed around the monument. Even a new marker covers the grave itself. Let's just hope the rehabilitation of Wiley's contributions finds a lasting place in history too.





### **Cat in the Hat Travels Route 66**

Over 300 children in stovepipe hats, along with the Cat in the Hat, gathered in reading circles with local heroes in the second floor rotunda of the Oklahoma State Capitol on March 2, 1999. This was the statewide culmination of the national "Read Across America" celebration designed to motivate and excite children about reading. It was timed to honor what would have been Dr. Seuss's (Theodor Geisel) 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Capitol event culminated a Cat in the Hat "Cat-avan" which took place March 1 and traveled along historic Route 66. Stops were made in nine Oklahoma communities including Elk City, Clinton, Weatherford, El Reno, Claremore, Catoosa, Bristow, Chandler, and Edmond. The Cat in the Hat arrived at most schools in a car provided by the Oklahoma Route 66 Association and given a siren escort by local firefighters, police officers, and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. At each stop, the Cat in the Hat enthusiastically told children how fun it is to read a book. In Bristow, the Cat participated in a special Dr. Seuss parade and in El Reno and Catoosa, students hosted a birthday party for the Cat.

In Oklahoma, the event was coordinated by the Oklahoma Education Association. Partnering sponsors included the Oklahoma Route 66 Association, Oklahoma State Firefighters Association, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, the Oklahoma State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police, and Borders book and music store. The Oklahoma Route 66 Association did not provide money for the event, but did arrange with car clubs to provide cars and drivers.

## **DR. SEUSS'S BIRTHDAY**



### **Michael Wallis Honored With Two Awards**

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Michael Wallis received a lifetime achievement award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book. The ceremony was held at the Oklahoma Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center. Wallis' works include "Route 66: The Mother Road," "Pretty Boy: The Life and Times of Charles Arthur Floyd," "Oil Man: The Story of Frank Phillips and the Birth of Phillips Petroleum," "Mankiller: A Chief and Her People" which was co-authored with former Cherokee Chief Wilma Mankiller, "Way Down Yonder in the Indian Nation," "Beyond the Hills: The Journey of Waite Phillips," "Oklahoma Crossroads" and "The Real Wild West: The 101 Ranch and the Creation of the American West." With his wife Suzanne, he co-authored "Songdog Diary: 66 Stories from the Road" and "Greetings from the Mother Road" Route 66 Postcard."

Then, on April 29<sup>th</sup>, Michael will be inducted into the Missouri Writers Hall of Fame in Springfield. Other inductees to be honored include television producer Linda Bloodworth-Thomason. Wilma Mankiller will introduce Michael. Past inductees include Mark Twain, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and Langston Hughes.

Although Michael grew up in Missouri, he considers himself an adopted Okie and was the Association's first inductee into our Hall of Fame. Congratulations on the two new awards!



**MICHAEL WALLIS**

# Oklahoma Route 66 Association, Inc.



## A SMALL TOWN WEEKEND IN EL RENO, OKLAHOMA JUNE 4-5-6, 1999 EL RENO CRUISERS FIRST ANNUAL ROUTE 66 CRUISE

FRIDAY, JUNE 4

7:00 PM

HISTORIC FORT RENO, 50'S & 60'S  
MUSIC ON THE STAGE OF  
GRAZINGLAND RESEARCH STATION;  
TICKETS \$5.00

SPONSORED BY THE FORT RENO  
VISITORS CENTER

7:30 PM

A 50'S MOVIE AT THE TIFFANY'S  
CINEMA  
\$2.00

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

9:00 AM

REDLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ROUTE 66 PHOTOGRAPHS: B/W PHOTO  
HISTORY OF ROUTE 66 IN THE ART  
GALLERY, NO CHARGE

ROUTE 66 OPEN CAR SHOW  
ALSO FRIED ONION BURGERS  
AND 50'S MUSIC

10:00 AM

HOT WHEELS RACE CONTEST  
BRING YOUR FASTEST CAR  
\$1.00 ENTRY FEE  
SPONSORED BY THE EL RENO  
FIREFIGHTERS

SATURDAY, JUNE 5

9:00 AM

ALL DAY SCAVENGER HUNT ON OLD  
ROUTE 66 IN EL RENO  
ENTRY FEE \$5.00

SPONSORED BY THE OKLAHOMA  
ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION

1:00 PM

LEGAL BURN-OUT CONTEST  
REGISTRATION BEGINS AT NOON  
\$10.00 ENTRY FEE\*

7:00 PM TO 10:00 PM

NOSTALGIC CRUISE DOWN HISTORIC  
ROUTE 66 VEHICLES '79 AND OLDER  
\$10.00 ENTRY FEE\*

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

NOON

THE EL RENO CRUISERS  
OPEN CAR SHOW  
TOP 25 SPECIAL TROPHIES  
ADAMS PARK ENTRY FEE \$10.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
GABE DELGADO 405-262-8553  
LINDA WELLIVER 405-262-3876

\*PROOF OF INSURANCE REQUIRED



## AND MUCH, MUCH, MORE

## MOTEL INFORMATION IN THE EL RENO AREA

BEST WESTERN HENSLEY'S  
EXIT 123 ON I-40  
Phone: 800-263-3844  
405-2623630

DAYS INN EL RENO  
EXIT 123 I-40  
Phone: 405-2628720

RED CARPET INN EL RENO  
EXIT 123 I-40  
Phone: 405-262-1526

SUPER 8 EL RENO  
EXIT 125 I-40  
Phone 405-262-8240

RAMADA LIMITED EL RENO  
EXIT 125 I-40  
Phone 405-262-1022

WESTERN SANDS MOTEL  
EXIT 125 I-40  
Phone 405-262-9195

BUDGET INN  
ON SUNSET DRIVE (ROUTE 66)  
Phone: 405-262-0251

QUALITY INN  
SOUTH OF INTERSECTION  
ROUTE 66 & HIGHWAY 81  
Phone: 405-262-6991

RANGER MOTEL  
SOUTH OF INTERSECTION  
ROUTE 66 & HIGHWAY 81  
Phone: 405-262-0780

EL RENO INN  
SOUTH OF INTERSECTION  
ROUTE 66 & HIGHWAY 81  
Phone: 405-262-3340

THE VICTORIAN HOUSE  
203 SOUTH MACOMB  
5 rooms  
Phone: 405-262-8216

NELSON'S HOMESTEAD  
315 EAST WADE  
3 rooms  
Phone 405-262-9142



### **Days Inn in Claremore Honored**

The 58-room Claremore Days Inn on historic Route 66 has received a 5 Sunburst rating for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive quality assurance assessment and was named a Days Inn Chairman's Award property for its consistent delivery of quality and superior ratings over its past three quality assurance evaluations.

Chairman's Award-winning properties are identified with a blue shaded medal and a 5 Sunburst rating in the Days Inn Worldwide Directory. Days Inn's Sunburst rating system was the first quality assurance system published by any hotel chain in the lodging industry.

"At the Days Inn-Claremore, we take pride in maintaining superior standards of quality for the community and our guests. We have dedicated ourselves to quality and providing the best possible service to our guests," said General Manager Dean Williams. "This was a team effort and we all share in this special award."

The Days Inn-Claremore is owned and operated by Alan and Cherie Long and is located at 1720 S. Lynn Riggs Blvd. "We are honored to receive such recognition," said the Longs.

The Days Inn-Claremore is a business member of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association. We extend our congratulations on a job well done!

### **Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame Winners**

A number of names were submitted for consideration this year. Mary Sue Kendall and John Ackenhausen had a tough time deciding on the winners. But pick they did. The lucky two? **Lucille Hamons and Kent Ruth.**

Lucille and her husband Carl, purchased the Provine Station on Route 66 near Hydro in 1941. Now 58 years later you can still find her at the station. Recently the "Provine Station" was listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The "Hydro Review" newspaper carries a regular column each week written by Lucille, telling about the travelers who stop by to meet and visit with her. Her story has been published in numerous newspapers, books, and magazines in the United States and Europe. Mrs. Hamons also has her own book out called "Lucille, The Mother of the Mother Road" and thanks to her daughter she has her own Webpage on the Internet.

Lucille's health was been up and down since her recent stroke but Cheryl Nowka, Lucille's daughter and the patron saint/hostess of our Association's web site, tells us that her mom was absolutely thrilled with the award.

Kent Ruth was a journalist, author, and historian who wrote two columns for the Daily Oklahoman newspaper for many years. Kent traveled all over Oklahoma and did extensive historical research on people and events that happened in Oklahoma. His column "Travel" reflected Oklahoma's special places to visit and what the tourist could expect to see and do. In his column, "Window on the Past" Mr Ruth shared with his readers, the many characters and events in our state that make Route 66 unique. Kent was a past treasurer of our association and is listed in "Who's Who in Oklahoma".

Formal ceremonies will be held later this year at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton.

### **Another Will Rogers Statue for Claremore Underway**

The third in a series of six commemorative statues is in the planning stages. This statue, showing Will and Wiley Post standing on a pontoon in front of an aircraft propeller and engine cowling is entitled "...Just a Couple of Oklahoma Boys Tryin' to Get Along." Two statues would be cast, with the second one probably going somewhere in Oklahoma City.

### **Two Books to Showcase Totem Pole Park**

"Backyard Visionaries" includes grassroots art in our section of the United States. Authors Barbara Brackman and Cathy Dwigans are founding members of the Kansas Grassroots Art Association, the group largely responsible for restoring the totems in Foyil's Totem Pole Park to their original condition. So one whole section of the book covers the Totem Pole Park.

The second book is called "Fantasy Worlds" and features one hundred of the best sculptural environments in the world. To be published this fall, the book will be printed in English, German, and French. Deidi von Schaewen from Paris, one of the world's best architecture photographers, took photos of the park for the book.

## Hitchhikers –

### News From Other Route 66 States

The California Route 66 Museum will hold a comedy, wine and memorabilia auction to raise funds for their museum expansion. The date is April 10<sup>th</sup>. For more information call (760) 951-0436.

David Knudson of the National Historic Route 66 Federation reports that the preservation bills have been resurrected. The Senate Bill is S.292 and the House bill is HR.66. He asks everyone to drop a note to your Senator and Representative to make sure everyone is on board. It was sunk by the House last year with Democrats in Route 66 states voting against it. You can track the bills progress by going to the Congressional web site <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

David was also the first to let us know that Bobby Troup died of congestive heart failure in early February at the age of 80. For some reason, his death did not make the national news. Bobby is survived by his wife of 39 years Julie London and 6 children. Bobby Troup is best known for his "Route 66" song but wrote many other compositions. He was also an actor.

Another well-known Route 66 luminary who recently passed away is Lillian Redman. From 1958 until just a few years ago, Lillian ran the Blue Swallow Motel in Tucumcari, New Mexico.

The Arizona Association is gearing up for its 12<sup>th</sup> annual Fun Run April 30 through May 2. The Run starts in Seligman and concludes in Topock. For more information, call (520) 753-5001. Or write to the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona, P.O. Box 66, Kingman, AZ 86402.

*Editor's Note: The Arizona Association has recently been chastised by Route 66 Magazine for concentrating so much effort on promoting a cruise that covers just one section of its state, while other Associations try to promote cruises that cover their entire states. In defense of the Arizona Association, Angel Delgadillo, as President Emeritus, sent a response to the magazine with copies to all the various Route 66 associations. In it he mentions that Flagstaff has their own 66 celebration in June and that the Fun Run 3-day celebration has provided much publicity for the road and provides economic spill over into some surrounding communities. The Association itself works hard to promote and preserve the road in a variety of ways in addition to the 3-day Fun Run.*

*Here in Oklahoma, our communities get restless if they are bypassed by an official Association cruise for more than a year. Attempts to do statewide cruises, except for our inaugural cruise, have not been successful. Even our shorter cruises fail to turn out the numbers we once had. If the Oklahoma Association had a cruise as successful as Arizona's Fun Run we certainly wouldn't want to mess with success, either. But we do make it a priority to hit as many towns as we can during the course of a year – whether the mileage be split over one, two, or three cruises. We want to assure our membership we are truly dedicated not only to the preservation of the Road in Oklahoma but to the economic health of each community. It is one reason why we publish the Annual Trip Guide in addition to sponsoring cruises and helping groups like the OEA with their reading program. We are a 100% volunteer organization, with no paid staff, unlike the Arizona Association which has one person on payroll. Each state Association is different as is befitting the uniqueness of each state and its internal structures and support networks. But we must all share the same goal. If we don't preserve and promote the entire road, it is the future of Route 66 (buildings, pavement, people and communities) that will be hardest hit. Divide and conquer is what first did in Route 66. Fragmented, it will fall apart even more. We must stand united.*



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# Oklahoma Route 66 Association, Inc.



## ATTENTION:

### Cruisers and Lovers of the "Mother Road."

Come join us on April 23 and 24, and cruise "The Mother Road," Route 66. So, dust off and gas-up your classic, antique, street rod/cruiser, or the family auto and join us on our Spring Cruise and Fun Run. This year's cruise will start at the Willie Spears' new Route 66 Diner at 19<sup>th</sup> and South Sheridan in Tulsa. Cruise day will be Saturday, April 24, 1999. The cruise will run from Tulsa to Carthage, Missouri, culminating with a movie at the Route 66 Drive-In Theater. Saturday, April 24, registration will be 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Diner. Cruise will start at 9 a.m. sharp.

### Along the way enjoy the following:

Antique and Classic Cars  
Antiques and Collectibles

Scenic Views  
Arts and Crafts

### Pre-party and cruise registration

Friday, April 23, 1999 from 8 p.m. until ????

Music from the 50s and 60s	Bobby Sox Club
	Ramada Inn
	8181 East Skelly Drive
	Tulsa, OK

**"Come on Everybody, Let's party!"**

### Cruise Entry Fees:

Car and Driver	\$10
Passengers	\$5

All paid entrants eligible for 50/50 pot and door prizes

### State Association Annual Memberships:

Individual	\$15	Family	\$25
Business	\$35	Supporter	\$50
Benefactor	\$100		

For Annual Membership dues and/or advance cruise registrations, send check or money order to:

Oklahoma Route 66 Association  
P.O. Box 21382  
Oklahoma City, OK 73158

For further information:

Oklahoma City area	(405) 258-0008
Tulsa area	(918) 742-4898
Vinita area	(918) 256-2218

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**Motel Information:**

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(918) 437-9200

Ramada Inn  
8181 East Skelly Drive  
(918) 663-4541

Days Inn / Travel Lodge  
8201 East Skelly Drive  
(918) 665-6800

Super 8 Motel  
31<sup>st</sup> Street and Memorial  
(918) 660-8080

**Carthage Area:**

Boots Motel  
107 S. Garrison  
(417) 358-9453

Best Western Precious Moments  
2701 Hazel  
(800) 511-7676

Days Inn  
2244 Grand Ave.  
(417) 358-2499

Econo Lodge  
1441 West Central  
(417) 358-3900

Budget Way  
I-44 and Alt Hwy 71  
(417) 623-4391

Best Budget Inn  
NE Hwy 96  
(417) 358-6911

**PRE-REGISTRATION  
TULSA TO CARTHAGE FUN RUN  
APRIL 24, 1999**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

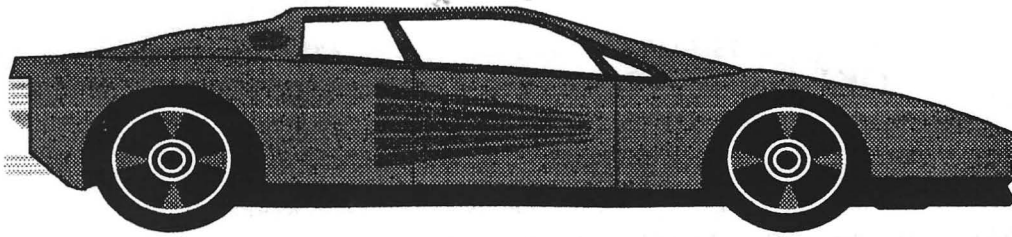
CAR AND DRIVER \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

PASSENGERS \$5 EACH \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE BY APRIL 22, 1999**

**OKLAHOMA ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION**

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**HILLBILLEE'S**

WHERE



**IN ARCADIA**

**MARCH 27, 1999**

WHEN

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ASSOCIATION**

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WE KNOW THAT YOU PATRONIZE THEM SO LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU ARE ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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918-540-2471

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918-542-8474

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915 N. MAIN  
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ROUTE 66  
AFTON OK 74331  
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918-257-4303

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918-256-7133

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VINITA OK 74301  
918-256-7811

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FM 96.1 AM 1470  
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VINITA OK 74301  
918-256-2255

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ROUTE 2 BOX 22  
ONE MILE EAST  
VINITA OK 74301  
918-256-2218

OKLAHOMA STATE BANK  
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VINITA OK 74301  
918-256-5585

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VINITA OK 74301  
918-256-6424

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918-256-5511

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CHELSEA, OK 74016  
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CHELSEA OK 74016  
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FOYIL OK 74031  
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TULSA OK 74104  
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580-663-2330

LUCILLE'S 66  
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HYDRO OK 73048  
580-663-2341

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HYDRO, OK 73048  
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580-772-3319

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580-323-2610

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580-323-5112

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CLINTON OK 73601  
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580-323-9000

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580-323-7866

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580-323-9053

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ELK CITY OK 73644  
580-225-9695

OLD TOWN MUSEUM  
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ELK CITY OK 73644  
580-225-2207

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ELK CITY, OK 73644  
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LAKE HAVASU CITY AZ 86403  
520-680-6677

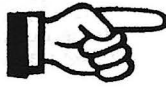
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LIST PLEASE LET  
US KNOW.



**OKLAHOMA ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. BOX 21382**  
**OKLAHOMA CITY, OK. 73156**

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**PERMIT # 66**

# MARCH, 1999



01-01-00 F  
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**74026**

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*Arcadia, Oklahoma*

**OKLAHOMA ROUTE 66 MUSEUM**  
**SATELLITE EXHIBIT**

**"1998" IS OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR**

**FROM OKLAHOMA CITY- take I-35 north to the Oklahoma Historic State Route 66 exit, (2nd STREET, EDMOND EXIT) go east 51/2 miles to ARCADIA.**