

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. 2 NEWSLETTER JUNE, 1999

A SMALL TOWN WEEKEND IN EL RENO, OKLAHOMA

JUNE 4, 5 & 6, 1999

The Association will sponsor an all day scavenger hunt in El Reno on Saturday. Entry fee is \$5.00 and the winner will receive half of the proceeds. This will give us a great opportunity to see El Reno inside and out. If you haven't been there in a while, you'll be surprised how much it has changed.

Association's New Headquarters in Arcadia

That's right, we are in our new home and would love to have you drop by. We had a nice rainy day for our open house, but we did not let that interfere with the activities that we had planned. The car show turnout was not as good as we had hoped but the twenty-five cars that did turn out put on a great show for those of us who were there. The chili cook-off was a great success and the winner walked away with \$165.00. The best part was that there was plenty of chili for everyone and boy was it good. A rainy day makes a great day for a chili cook-off. The hard part was picking one to vote for. Like I said they were all great but it seemed that the word for the day was, the hotter the better. It was disappointing that we had a rainy day for the open house though, because we had sent out invitations to all of the postal patrons in the Arcadia area, in the hopes that we would all have an opportunity to get to know one another better. We were also hoping that more people would sign-up to volunteer to spend time at the office as a greeter to the public passing through. If you would like to spend a few hours a week talking to travelers along Route 66 just give us a call and let us know when you would like to spend time at the office talking about the Mother Road and handing out information.

For more information about spending time at the office call Joe Kisicki @ 405-348-3589.

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President's Corner

A big Oklahoma Howdy to all my fellow Route 66 Road Warriors. I hope that everyone is doing well. First, I want to give a big THANKS to all the people who helped round up all the advertising for the '99 edition of the Trip Guide. I know it's a lot of work and, most of the time, it seems to go unnoticed, but this year it won't. Again, let me say how much your work is appreciated.

Second, I have sent pictures of the March open house to Cheryl Nowka, to put on the association's web page. You can view them by going to:

<http://stats.webring.com/cgi-bin/wrstats?ring=oldroute66>

I have also sent some pictures from the April cruise to Carthage to Cheryl, but I don't know if she has had time to put them on yet.

For those of you who don't know who Cheryl Nowka is, she is Lucille Hamons' daughter. She lives in Las Vegas and is in the real estate business. And, as she tells everyone, she was born 1 mile west of Hydro on Route 66. And for all you who haven't heard yet, Lucille is going to live with Cheryl, out in Las Vegas during the fall, winter and spring and try to be back at her place in Hydro during the summer.

Speaking of the April cruise. I think it was a big success, even though we didn't have a big big turnout. I think the threat of bad weather kept some from coming. However we ended up with close to 30 cars and over 50 people on the cruise. The bad weather did hold off for the cruise, but it made up for it on Sunday, the day that most of us came back. I've been meaning to ask Sharon Burden, if her pretty little red T-Bird has dried out yet.

I have talked with Willie Spears and he is planning on opening The Diner, 1905 South Sheridan, Tulsa, Okla. around the middle to the end of June. He will let me know as soon as he knows for sure. I have also talked to John Grey at Ollie's Station Restaurant, Southwest Blvd, west Tulsa. He is also planning on reopening in June. He will let me know exactly when.

I met a couple from Sugar Hill Georgia, David and Chris Williams. They have a web page devoted to Route 66 - www.route66.com - and they were out cruising the route and promoting their web site. They joined our association, the day we met, so let's all give them a big Oklahoma Route 66 welcome.

On Monday, May 3rd, several tornadoes hit throughout the state causing severe damage. Several

of our Route 66 communities suffered some damage. I would have never thought of a tornado cruising Route 66 but at least one did, from over in the Oklahoma City area to the west Tulsa area. We want to wish all the communities that suffered damage that day, a speedy recovery.

Well all you road warriors, I want to see all of you in El Reno on the fifth of June and out on the western cruise in September. Until then keep on GETTING YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66!!!

The Prez.....John Ackenhausen

1999 Oklahoma Association Trip Guide Now Available

The latest edition of our Association's annual Trip Guide is now ready for distribution. The Guide itself is thoroughly updated, 100 pages long including advertisers in Kansas, and is our best ever!

If you wish to order the Guide through the mail, write to the Oklahoma Route 66 Association, P.O. Box 21382, Oklahoma City, OK 73156 and include a check for 4.95 (OK residents multiply by .08375 for sales tax) plus 2.50 shipping. The Guide is also available from our advertisers and business members up and down the Route and at selected OK Welcome Centers.

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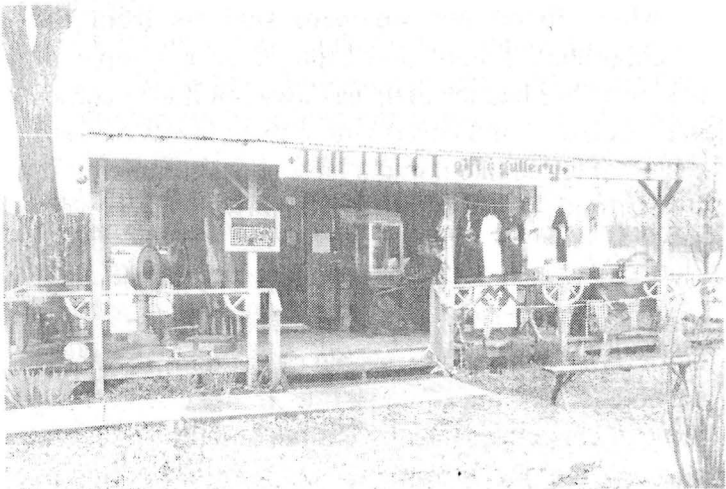
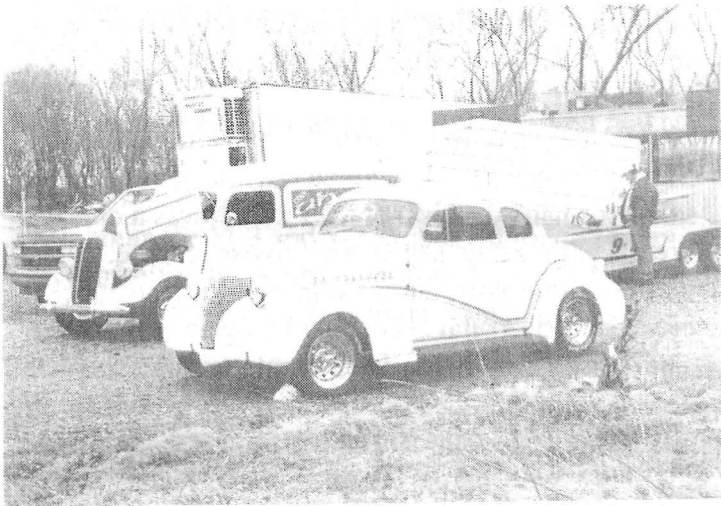
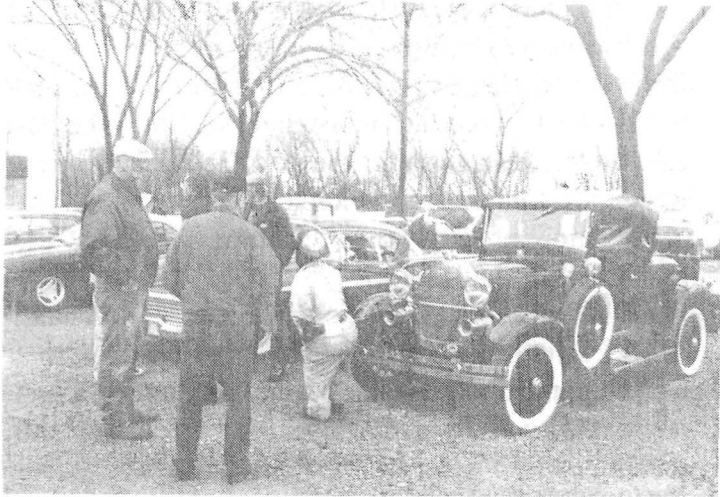
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THE BIRTH PLACE OF THRIFTY RENT-A-CAR 3-3-58

PICTURES FROM THE OPEN HOUSE CAR SHOW



OUR NEW OFFICE

OFFICE STAFF

Route 66 Restaurant Review
By the 4th Grade G/T Class from
Kendall Whittier in Tulsa

Note: The students were originally going to review Ollie's. But the recent fire put those plans on hold.

The name of the restaurant is Halim and Mimi's. We had never been there but we had good reviews from the teachers at school, so we thought we had better check it out. (One teacher said that she has eaten at that restaurant for the last 17 years one day a week. She said that her children ate there and that her grandchildren ate their homos before the grandchildren had teeth.)

When we walked in the front door, Helim said, "Hello, can I help you?" He said that to everyone that walked in the door. He knew almost everyone's first name that walked in the door, like they were all related. Mimi knew all the other teachers at our school by name that had ever eaten at her restaurant. She wanted to add our names to her endless list.

The customers in the store were diverse. Some were businessman on their way home, picking up a to-go order. Others were Tulsa University students getting some dinner. Mimi said that many lawyers from downtown eat at their restaurant. One thing they all had in common was that they all like Halim and Mimi.

The restaurant only had one room with 10 tables, all non-smoking. It is a small room but it has nice decorations such as plates from Lebanon and ladles and spoons from Lebanon. The rest of the wall space had awards ranging from Tulsa's Absolute Best Deli to Best Vegetarian Lite Fair to Best Lunch Special to Best Take Out Food to Best International Food.

When we were looking at the menu above the register, we didn't know what any of the food was and we thought, "Man, this is going to be nasty. I should have never agreed to come here." Helim and Mimi noticed our puzzled looks on our faces and thought they had better start explaining what everything was. Helim guided us as to what would best suit our taste buds. Helim said there were seven kinds of chicken. He helped us decide on five and whether we wanted sandwiches or platters. He gave us a quick course on Lebanese food. We would now like to share our food reviews with you.

My name is Stephanie Foster. I had the lemony-chicken on pita bread with tomato, onions, and spices

and lots of juices. It was called simply "Chicken Filet." When I got it I said to myself, "Oh my God, this is going to be so nasty." I said to myself, "I'm going, just to be nice, eat it even if it makes me throw up." But when I took a bite I told everyone, "This is good...I mean delicious!!" I then started taking more bites at the same time. I finally pulled the chicken piece out of the pita bread and savored it later after eating the pita bread first. It was really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really delicious. I'm going to ask my parents if we can go back sometime.

My name is Jordan Mares. I had the Jaj B Tahini. I know you know exactly what that is. It is a pita sandwich with sesame sauce and seeds. It had lots of chicken meat on it. It also had tomatoes. It was big! I give it a 10, with 10 being the best! It was a lot better than a Big Mac!

My name is James Harvey. I had Chicken Creole, Cajun style. I was like Stephanie where I thought the food was going to be gross. I took a bite of it and didn't quit biting until the whole thing was gone. It was good and I'm begging Ms. Harris to take us back for more!

My name is Ms. Harris. I had the Halim and Mimi's Special Platter. I asked if it was good. Helim said, "It's named after me, isn't it?" It was a chicken breast with zesty sauce and Swiss cheese. The platters came with homos dip, pickle spear, pocket bread and rice pilaf. The chicken was very tender. The homos was made from scratch from garbanzo beans. Mimi cooked the homos fresh every day. It tasted very smooth and flavorful. I had trouble sharing it with my students. For the record, Mimi makes everything there from scratch except the gyros and the borma dessert.

Mimi found out we were students from the neighborhood school and brought us a sample of baklawa. We had the plain baklawa but it also comes in chocolate. It is a desert with nuts in layers of flaky pastry. It tasted like it might have some caramel in it. Jordan and James liked the baklawa. It was very good.

Mimi came by and told us about how healthy their food was. They got their recipes from Lebanon, their home. We then noticed this big chunk of meat behind the counter twirling around a fire. It looked like a big piece of chocolate, starting out tan and turning really dark as the meat rotated. If there are a lot of

customers and Helim has to cook it really fast, he turns it on high and it can cook in 10 minutes. If he cooks it slow, he changes the speed and it will take an hour to cook.

Then Stephanie opened her sweet mouth and said, "Oh that looks good. I wish I had some." Helim heard this and said, "You want some meat...it's lamb and beef combined." He cut it into strips and gave it to us. It tasted good but then they gave us some creamy cucumber sauce to dip it in and that really made it taste great!

Stephanie gives Helim and Mimi's two thumbs up and 10 stars. James said Helim and Mimi's was the best food he's ever tasted in his life. He wants to go there every day. "I wish my mom cooked the same food as they did," James said. Jordan said, "Helim and Mimi's was the best food I ever tasted. I want to go there and try all the food on the menu. I give them an A+ on their cooking." Ms. Harris said that Helim and Mimi's deserved to be on Route 66. She said it was the type of restaurant that is known for its hospitality, good people, home-cooked food, and down-home atmosphere. Route 66 is a place where everyone is like family and that's the way you feel at Helim and Mimi's.

Their address is 2615 E. 11th Street in Tulsa. Their hours are 11-3 and 5-7 Monday through Friday. Do yourself a favor and add your name to Mimi's already lengthy list of favorite customers.

Tornadoes Cruise OK 66

On Monday May 3rd, the state of Oklahoma was hit by numerous tornadoes. F4 and F5 tornadoes are rarely survivable yet thousands and thousands did, thanks to the advanced media warnings and excellent coverage.

As far as actual Route 66 landmarks, there was some wind damage to buildings along 66 in Stroud and the newer 66 alignment between Sapulpa and Tulsa. Thankfully, none of the damage was bad enough to put folks out of business. However, the Tanger Outlet Mall in Stroud and its neighboring motel by the I-44 Turnpike were heavily damaged. So was a food distribution company located in Stroud. Thanks to these losses, the town has lost over 60% of its tax revenues and has cut its operating budget for the year by over a million dollars. Some 300-500 people are now unemployed.

Round Barn News

Have you ever noticed the brick walkway leading up to the Barn from Route 66? These bricks are personalized with the engraved names of Round Barn members and supporting friends. The Barn is limited as to how many more bricks they can place. So if you are interested in ordering a brick for yourself or in memoriam for a departed loved one, place your order soon. Pricing is 25.00 per brick with each brick accommodating 2 or 3 lines of copy with 12 letters per line.

For more information, contact the Arcadia Historical and Preservation Society at P.O. Box 134, Arcadia, OK 73007, send an e-mail to bluecamp1@juno.com or stop by the Round Barn.

Lucille Hamons Update

As many of you know, Lucille has been recovering from a stroke. Feisty and independent as always, she has refused to take things easy and has insisted on being home to greet her Route 66 visitors. Her passion however is beginning to take its toll and she is worn out with trying to do it all. After much consultation with Cheryl Nowka (Lucille's daughter and our web site creator and host) she has agreed to move to Las Vegas and live with Cheryl during the fall and winter months, then come back to Oklahoma May through August for the tourist season.

So, for this year, Lucille will continue to live in Oklahoma - until after her formal induction into the Oklahoma Route 66 Association's Hall of Fame.

So as you travel by Lucille's this year, be sure to stop in and say hi. She really lives to meet all you Route 66 travelers.

The Empire of Greer or Old Greer County

By Carol Duncan

Editor's note: Several issues ago, we mentioned the missing marker at the Texas/Oklahoma border. Speculation as to the actual content of the marker has ranged from the Will Rogers Caravan marker to the misplaced "You are Entering Oklahoma on Historical Route 66" sign up on I-40. A Welcome Center employee remembers the marker as saying "The Empire of Greer." We asked readers to let us know if they knew more about the Empire. This is Carol's response.

Before statehood in 1907, Greer Country

contained 1,571,575 acres of Southwest Oklahoma Territory. It consisted of what is now known as Greer, Harmon, Jackson, and the south half of Beckham counties. It was bounded on the North by the North Fork of the Red River and on the west by the 100th Meridian.

The area changed ownership from Spain, the Republic of Texas, the state of Texas, the Louisiana Purchase, Mexico, the Confederate States, Indian Territory, and the United States.

There was much controversy over the boundary lines between the United States, Texas, and Mexico in the 93 years between the Louisiana Purchase and the final decision over jurisdictional status.

During this time, the old Greer County was created as a part of the state of Texas. Greer County was named in honor of John A. Greer. Mr. Greer served the Republic of Texas as a Senator and Treasury Secretary. He also served the state of Texas as Lt. Governor.

Boundary markers were placed on the locations that were determined to be the geographical limits of the much-surveyed area. A round brass marker was one of these markers. On each one of these the words "The Empire of Greer" appeared. One can be found at the 100th Meridian Museum in Erick, OK. Route 66 passes through the northernmost part of "Old Greer County."

One of the markers was placed west of Texola to show the west boundary. Since the 100th Meridian was surveyed at least eight or more times, the absolute accuracy may be speculated about. But this is when folklore legends become a part of our state's history.

People Magazine Travels 66

People Magazine has been traveling Route 66 in May and June. According to one of the three writers working on the project, it will be about a 6-page spread, primarily photos. A variety of people have been interviewed for the article, including Jim Ross of Arcadia. The issue should hit the newsstands July 4th weekend. Be sure to pick up a copy!

63rd Annual Will Rogers Memorial Rodeo

The Rodeo in Vinita was first suggested by Will Rogers in 1934, when he told his Vinita friends, "Have a rodeo next year and I'll be back." He returned that fall for the Old-timers Parade but was killed in a plane crash in 1935. That same year, it was decided the rodeo would be held as a memorial to Will. Since that time, it has become one of the outstanding rodeos in the entire southwest and the largest on Route 66.

Vinita's American Legion Post 40 has sponsored the annual Rodeo since its inception and has spared no expense in making this year's rodeo the biggest and best in their history. The large purse of \$50,000 attracts the top cowboy champions in the nation and the 62 years of producing the rodeo have given the sponsors the know-how to make the show perennially one of the nation's best.

The Will Rogers Memorial Rodeo Arena is located on Historic Highway 66. This year's event will be held August 25-28, just in time for late summer cruisers. Discount tickets for Route 66 Association Members can be purchased at Little Cabin Pecan Company, just east of Vinita on Route 66.

The Associates of the Western History Collections

The Associates is a group of concerned friends committed to promoting and coordinating support for the Western History Collections. Their interest also extends to the study of history and culture of Oklahoma as well as to the entire American west. Funds from memberships are used to enrich the acquisitions program and publicize its holdings. In 1998, for example, endowment income purchased over \$8400 in rare books, maps, and photographs and funded the preservation of sound recordings in the Western History Collections archives.

An "Active" membership is \$25.00 a year. Make checks payable to OU Foundation and mail to the Associates of the Western History Collections, 630 Parrington Oval, Room 452, Norman, OK 73019. For more information call (405) 325-3641.

Old Armory in Chandler

Given New Life

By Sally Ferrell

On Tuesday March 23, the Chandler City Council voted in favor of a resolution to recognize the importance of the Old Chandler Armory, support restoration, apply for grant funding and use it for city offices and a variety of community services, Route 66 and National Guard heritage tourism.

The resolution was presented by members of OAR (Old Armory Restorers organization). A car show and open house was held April 10. It netted \$1600 to apply on the armory project. The sponsors sold t-shirts with Route 66 & Armory images, saying "The old Chandler Armory needs YOU." If you'd like one, go by the Chandler museum gift shop. They can be purchased for \$12.00 each.

The OU Historic Preservation and OSU Leisure Studies and Landscape Design teams will study and give input to plans for the Route 66 roadside site. Hopes are for TEA21 funding for this historic city-owned property that can provide meeting spaces, city offices, entertainment, tourist/information space, transportation history, bike and walk trail and even, we think, a tornado shelter for the public.

Speaking of tornadoes, people cruising Route 66 and interested in tornado history should stop at the Chandler Pioneer History Museum where rare, early photos and data are always on exhibit as part of city heritage and remembrance. On March 30, 1897 a "cyclone" nearly destroyed the town and reports from those days indicate 23 people were killed. There was no train service yet but towns all around sent money and help by horse-drawn wagons. Most early homes in the original townsite have backyard cellars, caves or "fraidy holes" and many were in use during the tragic eve of May 3, 1999 though this time Chandler was not in the storm's direct path. The old stone Stroud School, listed recently on the National Register of Historic Places, was damaged in the tornado. It appears fixable at first passing look. More news about it later. You've passed it a zillion times, sitting boarded up close to the turnpike.

Good news is that another place is going on the list. The Lincoln County Historical Society is proud to announce that the Oklahoma National Guard Statistical Building (actually summer and state

encampment headquarters) near Route 66 in Tilghman Park in Chandler has been approved by the State Historic Preservation Reviewers and sent on to D.C. for final approval. Hats off to LCHS for financing the nomination by providing the \$500 match funding to pay the preparer...it's a grant available to all for possibly eligible places.

And they're already planning another one...watch for news about the 1899 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Chandler, now 7th Day Adventist. It is an exquisite example of rural English Pastoral stone churches which may be the only one in Oklahoma.

Our Children's Division, next door to the Chandler museum, has republished a wonderful book by Wellston/Chandler area author Alberta Wilson Constant - *Oklahoma Run*. A benefactor provided financing so we have been able to give this book - a wonderful account of the settlement of this area and of the state - to all high, jr. and intermediate schools, state libraries and museums.

Just north of Chandler on Highway 18 is the little community of Agra. Its two-story 1904 Agra Bank Building is built of native sandstone and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The building has been fenced off because of danger from weakening stone walls. Sad news is that the building may not be two-story much longer. The owner - the Agra Community Preservation and Historical Society - fears its stability won't allow more time to seek funding help. The vote at last meeting was to pull down top story, secure the stones, and see if the city won't get involved to turn it into one-story offices, senior center, etc. It is interesting that it survived the high winds of May 3. So it's goodbye to another of Oklahoma's National Register of Historic Places sites. To offer help or condolences, call the Pools at 918-375-2338.

Oklahoma Museums Association

The Oklahoma Museums Association has over 350 members, but they could always use more. For an individual membership of just \$15 a year, or an institutional membership of \$35, you'll receive the quarterly newsletter MUSENEWS, their technical bulletin series, discounts on publications including three museum education programs, access to their resource lending library with over 300 titles available specifically relating to collections care, legal issues,

fund raising, exhibit design, etc., and timely updates on public policy issues via mail, fax, and e-mail.

For more information contact Cherie Cook at the Oklahoma Museums Association, 2100 NE 52 Street, OKC, OK 73111 or call (405) 424-7757.

Wiley Post

Oklahoma Trailblazer of the Skies

The story of Wiley Post can now be taught to students in Oklahoma through Miss Fay's Touring Historical Marionette Theater. This brings to three the total number of plays Joann McMillan (AKA Miss Fay) has created to showcase Oklahoma's fascinating history. The other two plays are *The Last Land Run: Opening of Kickapoo Territory* and *Early Oklahoma Peace Officers: US Marshal William Tilghman*.

Each program is designed for 80 to 100 students, third grade level or older. Included in each show is a Q & A period, skits showing the world-wide history of puppetry, a puppet-making demonstration, and teacher curriculum packets with photos, reading lists, maps, games, etc.

The Wiley Post play is approved for 50% funding through the State Touring Program. The cost is \$475 a day for 2 performances of \$237.50 with the state funding.

For more information, contact the Children's Historical Resource Center, 721 Manvel Avenue, Chandler, OK 74834 or call (405) 258-2809.

The Real Wild West

Michael Wallis' new book *The Real Wild West* is now available in hardcover. *The Real Wild West* chronicles the rise and fall of Oklahoma's 101 Ranch – arguably the most influential and memorable ranch of the old West.

Founded in 1893, the 101 Ranch in Oklahoma embodied the spirit of the frontier for the entire nation. The ranch's troupe of cowboys and cowgirls performed before packed audiences across the country and 101 ranchhands starred in many of the first silent Westerns ever made.

Full of incredible characters - Geronimo, Buffalo Bill, Will Rogers, Lucille Mulhall, and others who visited the ranch - and unbelievable stories, this tale reflects the story of America itself, in all its grandeur and all its foibles.

Michael's book is available at many bookstores

and is published through St. Martin's Press.

On March 13th, Michael was honored with the 1999 Arrell Gibson Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Oklahoma Center for the Book at ceremonies held at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma City.

Update on The National Route 66

Preservation Bill

By David Knudson

You will be happy to know that the new Senate Bill S.292, passed the full Senate March 25th, unanimously.

As of this writing, however, the new house Bill H.R. 66 is still chugging along. It was introduced on January 6, 1999 by Congresswoman Heather Wilson (R NM). Then it was referred to the Committee on Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands.

On March 11, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill, where the Administration testified in support of H.R. 66, contingent on a few minor technical amendments. On March 18, the Subcommittee met to mark up the bill. Chairman James V. Hansen (R UT) offered amendments to change the beginning of the period of historical significance from 1933 to 1926, to clarify the role that the Secretary of the Interior would play in Route 66 preservation and interpretation, to clarify that the Secretary should base the technical assistance program on the Secretary's standards for historic preservation, and to clarify what types of federal lands the bill would apply to. The amendment was adopted by voice vote.

On April 28, the Full Resources Committee met to consider the bill. No further amendments were offered. It was then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

The bill now awaits consideration in the full House. When the House passes it, the House and Senate will have to reconcile any differences between their two bills.

Tourism Dollars in Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Dept. of Tourism released some interesting figures for 1996. Traveler spending in Oklahoma put more than 3.2 billion dollars into the state economy. Tourism travel related expenditures supported jobs for 62,000 Oklahoman's. These expenditures generated \$246.5 million in state and local tax revenues. Just how does this break down for Oklahoma's Route 66 counties for 1996?

In Ottawa County, travelers spent \$10,530,000 and supported 160 jobs.

Craig: \$8,550,000; 80 jobs.

Rogers: \$20,050,000; 280 jobs.

Tulsa: 906,570,000; 21,370 jobs.

Creek: \$17,860,000; 270 jobs.

Lincoln: \$10,680,000; 150 jobs.

Oklahoma: 1,091,080,000; 22,690 jobs.

Canadian: \$30,570,000; 360 jobs.

Blaine: \$6,220,000; 90 jobs.

Custer: \$24,540,000; 470 jobs.

Washita: \$2,570,000; 20 jobs.

Beckham: \$76,400,000; 1,220 jobs.

Of course, this reflects all tourism, not just Route 66 related. Curiously enough, there don't seem to be any figures available specific to Route 66 tourism. But you have to admit, the overall numbers are impressive.

Tourism in Oklahoma is important to our local economies. And Route 66 tourists certainly do make an impact. Support your local tourism efforts!

Oklahoma Route 66 Museum

The Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton sent a memo to their "Friends" group on February 17. Much too lengthy to reprint here, it details all the changes that have been made to the Museum plus outlines some future plans.

In a nutshell, the exhibits are shifting from each gallery being devoted to a specific decade, to a more thematic approach. If you haven't been to the Museum in the last year or two, it's time to pay another visit.

News from Western Oklahoma

By Carol Duncan

Canute:

Open House and dedication ceremonies were held

in April for the Heritage Center in Canute. The new community center is located on the corner of Highway 66 and 6th Street in the Old Holy Family Church building. Public grants and private donations were obtained to help with the financing. The citizens of Canute did the rest.

The purpose of the Center is to provide a public meeting place for anyone needing a room. Canute's senior citizens have regular meetings there. Also, a part of the building is to be set aside for a small museum devoted to the history of the area.

Representatives Randy Beutler of Elk City and Jack Bonny of Burns Flat were supportive of this project as was State Finance Director Jack White. Former Governor David Walters, who is from Canute, was the principal speaker.

Custer Co.:

The Route 66 Association had a booth at the Great Plains District Boy Scouts Rally held at the Custer County Fairgrounds on May 1st. We had handouts and Route 66 Fun Quizzes to pass out to everyone. Steve Crane from Custer City won the free T-shirt. The judging committee gave us a red ribbon for second prize on our booth theme and layout.

Clinton to Elk City:

"Character Counts" Bike Ride was held on May 8th on Route 66 between Clinton and Elk City. This ride was sponsored by the towns and businesses along the Route. This was also a Boy Scout fund raiser event. Association members helped at various parts of the event. Organizers want to make this an annual happening. All proceeds were given to the Oklahoma Boy Scouts organization.

Foss:

Individuals and groups are out on the "Road" discovering Oklahoma and our favorite highway. One group that I talked to at Foss Junction was three retirees from Dixon, IL. This trio wanted to take a leisure trip on Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica. Of course, their choice of transportation caused quite a passing interest. The men's names and their cars are the following: Andy Near and his 1930 Model A Ford, Everett Kraft and his 1931 Model A Ford, and Merle Deets and his 1937 Pontiac. Mr. Deets said he was having a great time. If the trip

takes two months, it will be all right with them. One modern concession was CB radios in order to stay in touch with each other. **HAPPY TRAVELING ON ROUTE 66!**

Weatherford:

How many drive-in movies would you guess are still operating in the state of Oklahoma? How many would you guess are operating on Route 66 west of Oklahoma City?

Well, "pardner", add one to that number! Brian Gayer, Weatherford's Showest Theater manager is rolling up his sleeves and working hard on renovating the drive-in theater on Route 66 just west of Weatherford.

Everything is going according to plan, and the new theater is open under the new name "**66 Twin.**"

A number of changes have been made: a new giant screen, a larger concession stand, FM transmitters for movie sound, new playground equipment for the kids, and movies seven nights a week.

So if you're cruisin' 66 in western Oklahoma, make plans to take in a drive-in movie with the family or your best gal or guy. See you at the concession stand. The first bag of popcorn and Coca-Cola are mine!

History Along the Trail

The Oklahoma Historical Marker Program is the first of its kind in the nation. Of the nearly 260 historical markers on state highways, more than 140 markers and safety turnouts will be refurbished and enhanced with wildflower plantings. Join the Oklahoma Historical Society and local sponsors in enhancing Oklahoma's markers.

Eighty percent of the funding for the 140 markers is being provided by the federal government. The matching 20% must be raised by each local county.

For more information, contact Bruce Joseph at the Oklahoma Historical Society, 2100 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105 or call (405) 521-2491.

Claremore Centennial Heritage Tour

Hot off the press, presented by the Rogers Country Historical Society, is the Claremore Centennial Heritage Tour. The tour highlights twenty-six sites and includes five buildings on the National Register

of Historic Places including the Will Rogers Hotel, Preparatory Hall and Meyer Hall on the campus of Rogers State University, the Belvidere Mansion, and the Keller Bath House in Radium Town. However, the Heritage Tour is not just about places, but the story of people and the Indian heritage that is woven together to make this a little city with a big Hall of Fame.

The guide is free and additional copies may be obtained at the Will Rogers Center lobby, the Chamber of Commerce, and most downtown antique stores. For more information call (918) 341-5630.

Calling all Route 66ers! Calling all Roadies!

By Carol Duncan

The Oklahoma Route 66 Association members work very hard to bring attention to our cause. Sometimes it is as simple as talking up the many aspects of "Our Road" to anybody who will listen. Sometimes we organize Car Cruises that take in a portion of our state and/or our neighboring states.

On various occasions we have organized booths at Route 66 events and non-Route 66 events. Anyway we can, we want to let people know that Route 66 is not just any road, not just any highway. Our annual Trip Guide is an instant sell-out, reaching the hands of tens of thousands of people each year.

The Association's project list keeps getting longer. In order to do everything we should be doing, we need the support of everybody who is interested in our state, our Route 66 communities, and good old Route 66 itself. We certainly appreciate the verbal support, we certainly appreciate our volunteers and we certainly appreciate the donations small and large.

If you would like to help on our project list, notify our state office for more information.

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HITCHHIKERS (News from Outside the State)

Motorcycle Mother Road Ride/Rally

Kirk Woodward's annual motorcycle ride rally gets underway June 12-19. For more information, contact Kirk by calling (817) 488-4940 or you can e-mail him at rally@hhjm.com.

Diamond Jubilee in the Works

The New Mexico Route 66 Association is partnering with the City of Albuquerque and the Albuquerque Convention and Visitors Bureau to produce a National Diamond Jubilee for the 75th Anniversary of Historic Route 66. The dates are tentatively set for July 20-22, 2001.

For more information contact Susie McComb, President or Rich Williams, Vice President and NM coordinator for the event at the New Mexico Route 66 Association, 1415 Central Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106. Or you can send an e-mail to info@rt66nm.org.

RV Tour of Route 66

Adventuretours' upcoming Route 66 tour is gathering steam. Due to overwhelming interest from RVers who own classics as well as more modern RVs, two additional tours have been scheduled for later dates.

For more information, write to P.O. Box 944, McAllen, TX 78505 or call (956) 630-0341.



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For Sale: Grapes of Wrath truck

The long-time official Route 66 Association of Texas mascot, an original condition 1945 Ford pick-up, outfitted in Grapes of Wrath design, is being offered for sale by Delbert and Ruth Trew. Also included is the Regal Reptile Ranch of Alanreed official rattlesnake-hauling camper made from a '53 Chevrolet station wagon body. Call (806) 779-3164 for more information.

Walking Across Route 66

During July, if you happen to see a pedestrian walking through Oklahoma along Route 66, it might just be folk singer Francis Xavier of Prescott, AZ. He has been in contact with Jim Ross (to purchase his Map Series) and says that he will be donating all proceeds whenever he gives a performance to America's needy families. For more information or if you have a location that might be appropriate for a concert, you can contact Francis at (520) 708-0782.



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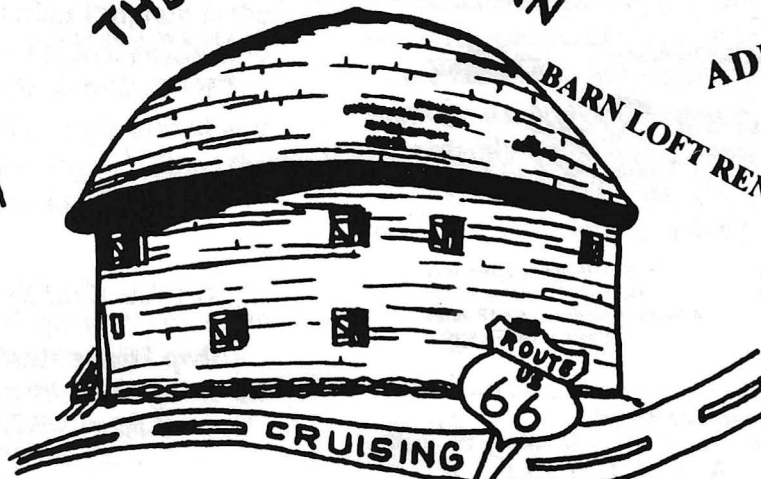
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