

Oklahoma Route 66 Association, Inc.

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

Volume 11, No. 4 NEWSLETTER DECEMBER, 1999

HAPPY MILLENNIUM

Well there goes another year, and look what's coming up next. Y2K! WHY Y2K? Can we write that on our checks? Will it be excepted on legal papers? Why not Oh Oh or Nought Nought, Ought Ought and Zero Zero? What ever happened to the year 2000? Gone! and it's not even here yet. Well I guess its just one of those mind over matter things. That is, if nobody minds, it just doesn't matter. That's what happened. I'm sure we just don't care anymore. Look at what has happened to the license plates on our cars. It used to be you could tell the state that someone was from even before you could read the numbers. Nowadays everyone wants to be associated with their favorite cause . Here in

Oklahoma we even have one for Route 66. How did all this happen? Mind over matter again. Now even the local police can't tell if your plates are valid or if you are from the same state that they are. What's all this got to do with The Oklahoma Route 66 Association? Well as you will read on the inside, we will be hosting the first Route 66 Corridor Act meeting here in Oklahoma City. We will have representatives at that meeting that will have a hand in developing policy that The National Park Service will use in implementing the Act. They would love to have your input on how you think this important Act should be implemented. As an Association we have almost 400 dues paying members. Your financial support is needed and appreciated. The problem comes in participation and feed back. In the President's Corner John writes about the poor turnout for the events that we had during 1999. It is very disheartening for those who work hard to make these events as interesting as possible for the membership only to find out that no one shows up. Our Charter is to keep Route 66 alive by promoting commerce along the Mother Road and we have a loyal and supportive group of business members. Here again your financial support is imperative to the success of our goals but we also need your representation and input at the annual meeting. We scheduled the annual meeting on a Saturday afternoon in late January because we think this is a time that most business members can get away with little impact on their place of business. Our members have always been leaders in their communities and Oklahoma has always been at the lead when it comes to promoting commerce and tourism along Route 66 in Oklahoma. Now is not the time to sit back and let someone else run the show. Now is the time to play your part in the history of Route 66. It's time to take your share of the success that is sure to come to those that make sure that The Route 66 Corridor Act is implemented for the benefit of all. Let's not let this important year go slipping by. There are a lot of very important things that we all have to do everyday and we all have our own priorities, but don't let another year disappear without putting in your two cents worth. So let's show up at the annual meeting. Let's be more supportive, and let's make sure the world knows that as Oklahomans, we care about the future of The Oklahoma Route 66 Association.

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ANNUAL MEETING: 1pm, Saturday January 29, Y2K. Arcadia, Ok. at Hillbillees.

Come early and join us for lunch around Noon. As a member of this Association you have a vote in everything we do. It doesn't cost you any more to make your thoughts known and have a voice in your Association. There will be an election of Officers. We are in need of County Directors, please help. A lot of things need to be discussed for the up coming year and we would like your input.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

President's Corner

Howdy!! How are all of you Road Warrior types doing, this time of the year? I hope everybody is doing great. Getting closer and closer to the new millennium!!

Well, lets talk about all the happenings since the last newsletter. I got a chance to visit with some folks from Washington State and Vancouver Canada. They were on their way home from the National Corvette Meet, in Bowling Green, Kentucky. They got on Route 66 in Carthage, Missouri and were going to drive most of the way to California on 66. They stopped in Tulsa for the night. We ate dinner at the Metro Diner, and then I took them on a tour of the Art Deco Buildings in downtown Tulsa. Also let them take pictures of the front of Lyon's Indian Store (the front of the Old Warehouse Market) at 11th and Elgin.

In September, we were out in western Oklahoma for the fall cruise and Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. The ceremonies were held at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, in Clinton. Lucille Hamons was one of the inductees and she was really proud of the plaque she received as part of the ceremony. Congratulations Lucille!!! After the ceremonies, the cruise started in Weatherford and went to Texola. It was another Scavenger hunt. The closing ceremonies were held at the National Route 66 Museum in Elk City. Then we all joined in a Saturday night cruise around Elk City with the local car club and a bunch of car fanatics. Had a great time.

On Saturday, October 9, we held an annual meeting in the City Park at Bristow. We were going to decide what we wanted to plan for the years 2000 and 2001, which will be the 75th anniversary of Route 66. Hardly anyone showed up. So the few of us that did had a great BBQ lunch, lots of ice cream and sodas and just enjoyed the day.

On Thursday, October 14, I was in Vinita for the unveiling and dedication of the first of the granite plaques/markers commemorating and marking the Will Rogers Highway/Route 66. We are urging all our Route 66 communities to get at least one of these beautiful markers set out somewhere in their community on Route 66. It is a beautiful plaque/marker. Mr. Darrell Ray of Joplin, Missouri came up with the idea and the design. He also did the legwork it took to get a company to make the plaques. Darrell, I want to personally tell you that it is a great

idea and the plaque/marker is beautiful. Let's all give Darrell a big round of applause for a job well done.

I only have one other thing to discuss. The turnout at our events and meetings is almost non-existent. Folks, this is your association and it will go the way its members want it to. So I want to see all of you make a supreme effort to be at all our events/meetings the next two years. We need volunteers for several of our board member positions as well as for committees for event planning.

The next annual meeting is on Saturday, January 29, 2000, at 1:00 p.m. in Arcadia. Everybody, forget all the excuses and be there.

That's all for this session. Keep on kickin' on Route 66!!!

John Ackenhausen

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Coleman in Miami continues restoration

Restoring the massive Theatre is no small task. At the moment, the Friends of the Coleman are trying to figure out what the actual color of the lobby was circa 1929 so they can finally paint the walls with an accurate color. Several authentic doors have been rehung but still need refinishing. The big two-ton chandelier also needs restoration.

If you are interested in helping out, call (918) 542-6685 ext 454.

Another Route 66 restaurant is lost

Just after we went to press on the last issue, we learned that Linda's Route 66 Café in Afton burned to the ground. The fire broke out around midnight on August 18th, probably the result of an electrical short. The Café and the neighboring barbershop, both of which rented their spaces, were a total loss. The building's owner would like to rebuild but is uncertain whether the insurance reimbursement will be enough.

Stroud Shoe Tree

Ken and LaVonne Plute, owners of the Shoe Tree, have replaced the old weathered shoes with newer ones. They've also added Christmas light. They also want everyone to know that they are having a garage sale under the Tree every Friday starting at 8 am. The tree, which is actually on an older, cut-off loop of 66, is located about 3-4 miles east of Stroud on the north side of the current alignment. Although our mailing has gone out too late for this information to be useful, the Plutes wanted us to invite all classic car owners to take part in Stroud's Christmas Parade, at no charge. The parade was Dec. 11 at 2 pm. So, if you are interested in participating under the Route 66 Association's banner next year, remember to contact the Stroud Chamber of Commerce at (918) 968-3321.

GREED strikes 66 President

If you are a regular watcher of the Fox Network show "Greed", then on Dec. 2nd, you saw our fearless Association president get "terminated". John, although you didn't get to win any money out there in L.A., at least you were able to put in a plug for Route 66!

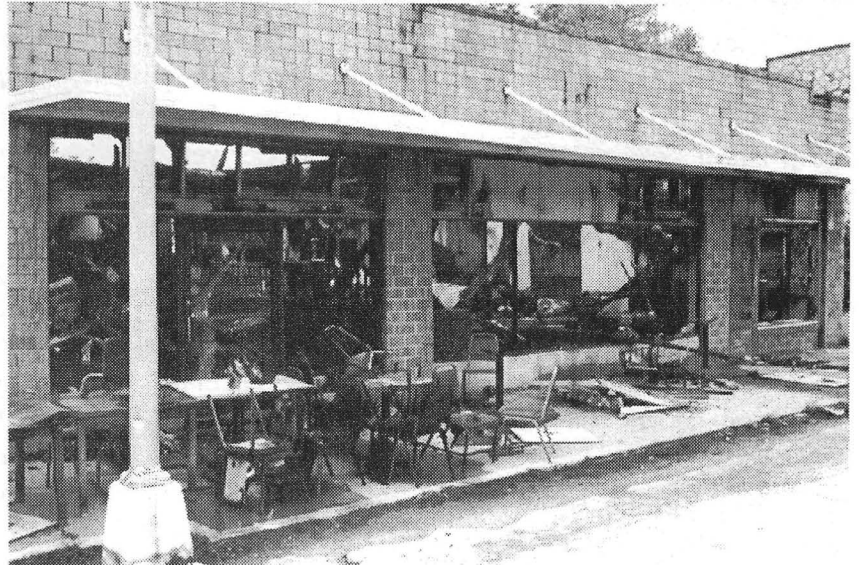


Photo by Jim Ross

What's left of Linda's Route 66 Cafe

Chandler citizens work to save historic roadside armory; support invited

By Sally Ferrell

Work on preparations of proposal for grant funding help to restore the abandoned 1937 Oklahoma National Guard armory at Chandler is nearing completion. Consideration by the city of demolishing the historic stone building earned it a place among Oklahoma's most endangered historic structures.

Howard Dickman, Corvette enthusiast and owner (Blkc5vette@aol.com), is president of the Old Armory Restorers Committee -nearly 300 people who care strongly that it be saved. Plans are for it to become a Route 66 rest stop and welcome center, plus museum space for early Oklahoma National Guard history, plus meeting space for up to 750 people who want to meet in central Oklahoma.

You're invited to send \$5 dues, donations (tax deductible) or support letters to OARS, 717 Manvel, Chandler, OK 74834... Sign up and you'll be on their mailing list for future rallies and events there.



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Chandler Museum offers travelers historic silent films

By Sally Ferrell

Visitors to the Museum of Pioneer History at Chandler are offered free viewing of some of the nation's earliest silent movie films, especially the recently noted "Passing of the Oklahoma Outlaw" produced by the famous U.S. Marshal Bill Tilghman and Chandler pioneer cameraman Benny Kent.

This 1915 film made to show that crime does not pay, was filmed at Chandler and featured briefly in the recent television movie about Tilghman starring Sam Elliott. You can see the newly-presented film weekdays 9:30-4 in downtown Chandler. It now has additional photos, music & information. Better yet, you can buy one for yourself... (405-258-2425 for more information).

Also, the Museum is conducting a contest for its Centennial Collection. The newest museum collection addition is a very old, very tall and ornate tin weather vane. It signaled to the museum staff that it's a special time to think back at the "modern age" of the passing century.

Prizes will be awarded in January, 2000 for contributions of the most significant, most humorous and most unusual artifacts from the passing century or before...could be anything from grandmother's whalebone corset to you name it...maybe something from Rt.. 66 travels?

Editor's Note: Congratulations to the Children's Historical Resource Center in Chandler! In September the American Association for State and Local History awarded a Certificate of Commendation to them for their projects and activities – especially Miss Fay's Marionette Theater, which is a division of the Lincoln County Historical Society.

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Will Rogers Highway marker

By John Ackenhausen

On Thursday, October 14, 1999, the official dedication and unveiling of the first Will Rogers/Route 66 Highway Granite Marker was held in Vinita, Oklahoma. This marker is the first of what we all hope will be many that mark the Will Rogers Highway across Route 66 from Chicago to Los Angeles.

For those of you who do not know, after the death of Will Rogers in 1935, the National Route 66 Association decided to give Route 66 an official name, thus in 1936 it was named the Will Rogers Highway, in honor of a great American.

Mr. Darrell Ray, of Joplin, Missouri, conceived the idea of a permanent granite marker, set along side the Mother Road, in every community that the Grand Old Highway passes through. He got the idea, then came up with a design, contacted the company that makes them and has been talking to several of the communities along Route 66 about purchasing and setting them up on permanent display.

The top, circular part of each marker will be the same, but the inscription on the bottom part of the marker will be directly related to the particular community that is purchasing the marker. The backside of the marker will be engraved with the companies and individuals who donated to the cost of the marker.

For all of you fellow Route 66 Road Warriors who would like to see your community set out one of these fine markers, for your community, contact Darrell Ray, (417) 782-3844, Joplin, Missouri, for further information.

As you can see by the pictures, it is a beautiful marker. So, get with your local chambers of commerce and business associations and let's get these markers set all across Route 66.

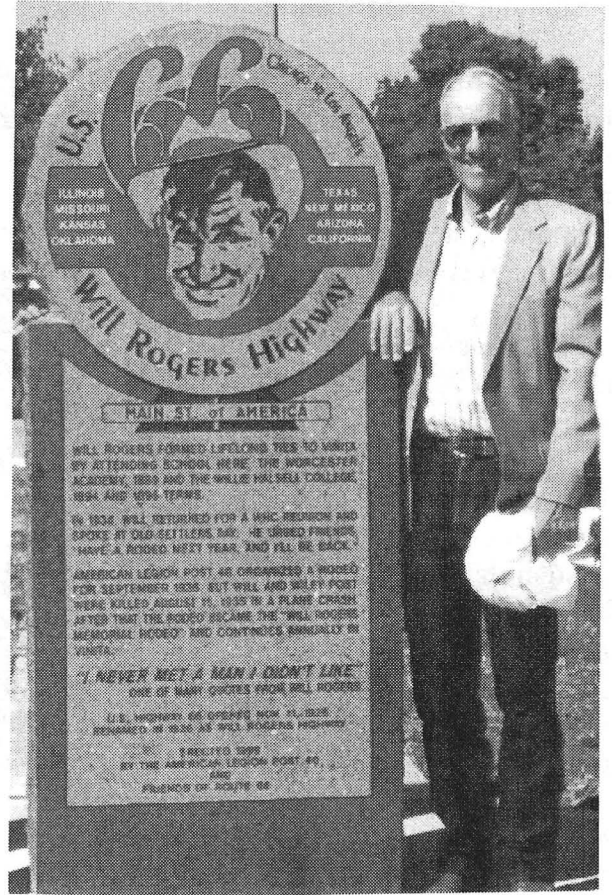


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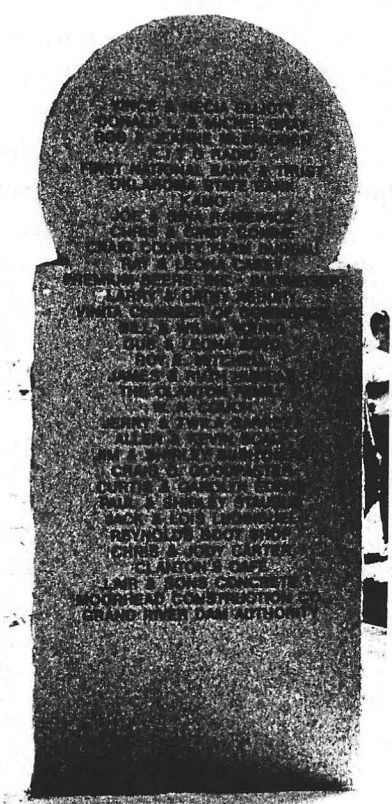
The Route 66 Cookbook
The Main Street of America Cookbook



Darrell Ray, Bob McSpadden & Don Gray



Bob McSpadden



Edmond to restore Sanders Camera Shop to its schoolhouse beginnings

If you travel Route 66 in Oklahoma much, or have a copy of our Association's Trip Guide, you are familiar with Sanders Camera Shop, located on Second Street (66), just west of Boulevard in Edmond. The plaque in the front notes that the building was the first school house in Oklahoma Territory.

The Edmond Historic Preservation Trust has been charged by the Edmond City Council to restore the structure to its school house appearance.

Opening its doors in 1889, it operated as a one-room school till 1892, and then a two-room school till 1900.

An initial \$125,000 is needed to pay the Sanders heirs for the site, and then another \$125,000 is needed for the actual restoration. Plans call for the finished "living history school facility" to provide visitors and tour groups with an authentic 1889 one-room classroom experience.

For more information or to make a donation, write to Edmond Historic Preservation Trust, c/o City of Edmond, P.O. Box 2970, Edmond, OK 73083.

Route 66 goes into OKC time capsule

Several items representing Oklahoma Route 66 have made it into the Daily Oklahoman's time capsule out at the State Fairgrounds: Jim Ross' "Oklahoma Route 66: The Cruiser's Companion", Ken Turmel's Postmark Art, and two publicity articles about the two Route 66 videos produced and co-produced by Kathy Anderson.

The capsule is to be opened in 2099. Do you suppose anyone will even know about Route 66 then? Hopefully, because of the passage of the Route 66 Corridor Act, they will.

Incidentally, Jim Ross had two other items accepted into the capsule – books on the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building.

Hall of Fame Induction September 18, 1999

By Cheryl Hamons Nowka

From the time of her stroke, to the recent near diabetic coma, Lucille looked forward to the Induction Day. It was all she could talk about after the stroke but she kept getting it mixed up and said she was being crowned Queen of Route 66. After her doctor changed her diabetic medicine her thinking got much better and

by the time September rolled around Lucille was calling it the induction.

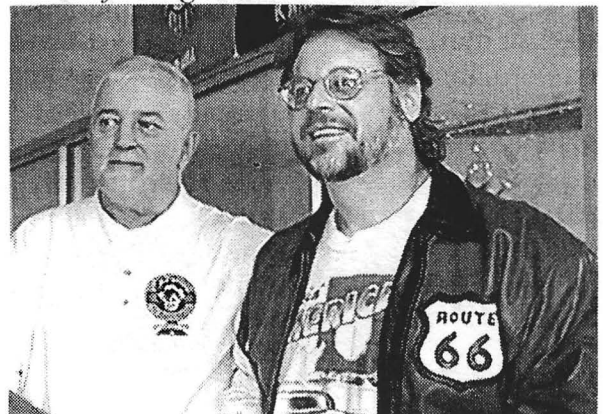
Whatever you want to call it, the award from the Oklahoma Route 66 Association helped keep her alive and fighting. It gave her the opportunity to be together with her two daughters and many Route 66 friends all in one day. It was such an honor for her and to be picked with Kent Ruth made it even more rewarding.

The award that went to Lucille has her name on it but it also represents a whole group of people like her that fought and struggled on Route 66 through the 60s, 70s, and mid-80s at a time no one else cared about Route 66. Without the persistence of these people there wouldn't be the portions left of Route 66 that there still are today. The award also stands for sort of a rebellion against the words that still ring in Lucille's ears from when a legislator told her in the early sixties that the purpose of the interstate was to get those small businesses like hers out of the way.

In 1999 Lucille had some serious health problems but with encouragement, proper medication and, of course, the visits of many tourists, she plans to improve more and more each day. And no matter what the future holds for her, the Oklahoma Route 66 Association has paid her an honor that has made all her 58 years on Route 66 worth it.

Lucille wants to thank the Association and all who love Route 66 for the privilege of having the Hall of Fame Award and having it hang in the Route 66 Museum in Clinton, Oklahoma for folks to see. The only other request she has is, "Travel Route 66 and Come See Me"!

Editor's note: The Oklahoma Historical Society November newsletter featured a very nice article about the Hall of Fame inductions. In addition to Lucille's induction, Kent Ruth (well-known travel and historical writer from Geary) was also inducted, but posthumously. Our Association President also gave former Oklahoma Route 66 Museum director John Hill an award of recognition.



John Ackenhausen & John Hill



LUCILLE'S
BIG DAY!

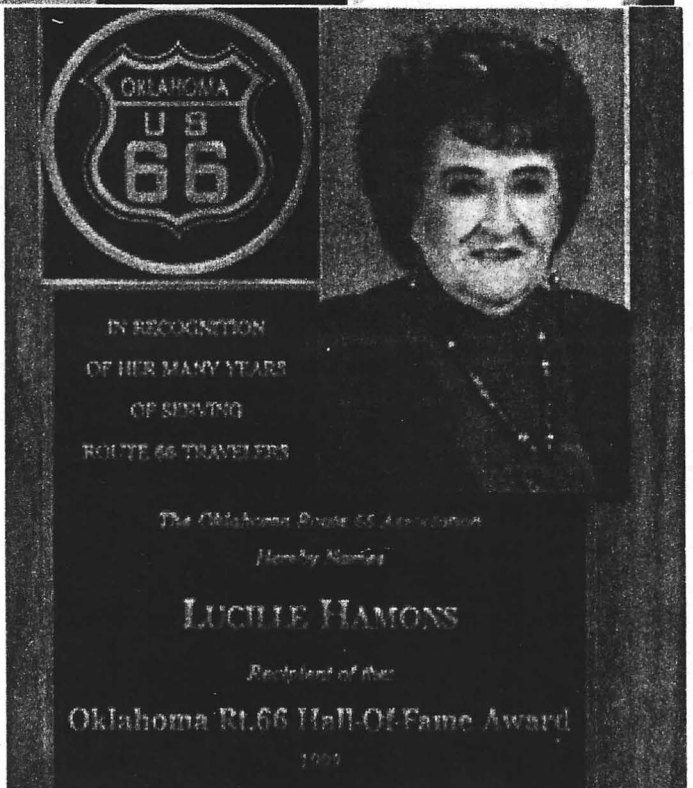


Photo by Jim Ross

First ever Route 66 Corridor Act meeting to be held in OKC

February 24-25, 2000 are the dates when history will unfold. These are the two days when some 40 participants, including at least two people from the Oklahoma Route 66 Association, will meet to set in motion the larger organizational and operational understandings and partnerships necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Route 66 Corridor Act. It will NOT address specific requests for funding nor will more than 40 attendees be allowed. The group will split into task work groups and resolve the many questions that have already arisen.

The National Park Service is requesting this pool of Route 66 friends be drawn from all 8 states – the regional reps for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, reps from the 8 states' Historic Preservation Offices, reps from state and national Route 66 organizations, and reps from federal, tribal, state and local governments.

Blackburn appointed Executive Director of Oklahoma Historical Society

Dr. Bob Blackburn, former deputy director of the State's Historical Society, is now its director. He succeeds J. Blake Wade, who recently became director of the Oklahoma Capitol Complex and Centennial Commemoration Commission.

As director, Dr. Blackburn also assumes the title of the State Historic Preservation Officer for Oklahoma. Melvena Heisch continues in her role as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

As our Route 66 Association begins to work with the Route 66 Corridor Act, we look forward to working with both of these dedicated preservationists.

Bethany Bridge update

The old truss bridge by Lake Overholser has been closed the last several months for repairs on some deteriorated beams. The bridge should reopen soon for local traffic. Technically speaking, the Bethany Bridge is inside the OKC city limits. The City plans to extensively rehabilitate the bridge in 2002 or 2003.

If you haven't crossed this picturesque bridge and followed on around the Lake and on to the older alignment on 36th Street westward to Yukon, take a

weekend afternoon to cruise a very scenic stretch of the old Route. However, last time we were out that way, the sweeping curve onto 36th was blocked, due to the Turnpike extension construction. Work crews had dug up some of the old P.C., apparently as a part of the preliminary work to build a bridge/overpass over the historic pathway.

Oklahoma Association business members offered web deal

Cheryl Nowka, one of Lucille Hamons' daughters and the web master of our Association's web site, has made quite a generous offer to our business members. (To clarify, a business member is someone who is paying their dues at a business membership rate.) She will create a simple web page for each member and have it linked to our Association's web site – for FREE! The site can contain one or two photos, a logo, the company's address, phone number and a list of what they sell.

All the business sites will be built on a similar template, so don't expect rampant individuality here – we are talking free, after all. If you have Internet access, you can see a sample site for Jim Ross at <http://route66maps.itgo.com/jr.html>

Why is Cheryl doing this? It is her way of thanking the Route 66 business community here in Oklahoma for all their hard work and struggles.

For more information or to ask questions, write Cheryl at 6415 Westwind Road, Las Vegas, NV 89118. Or you can fax her at (702) 876-5634 or e-mail her at nowka@4unet.

KOCO TV crew at Clinton Museum

KOCO Channel 5 out of Oklahoma City shot some footage on Route 66 at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton for a special program on Oklahoma history. Watch your TV guide and newspaper listings for times and dates.

Save a copy of year/century end newspaper

Your Association has been saving articles and stories with Route 66 connections for archival purposes. Most communities with a local paper are putting out a special millennium edition at the end of the year. These special papers will have stories about local people and events during the last 100 years. Some of these stories will be about Highway 66, Route

66 businesses, or people.

We would like to ask our members to send us a copy of their community's historic editions. It would help with our special historical project.

Thanks ahead of time for your interest and help. As of this date, we are working on Scrapbook #14.

Sayre loses a friend

On October 4th, Cliff Ivestor passed away. He was born in Sayre in 1931, attended OBU and OU, and moved out of state to attend the Parsons School of Design in New York. He and his wife Joan moved to California where Cliff ran his own interior design firm. In 1989, Cliff returned to Sayre. In 1993, the Sayre Journal named him "Man of the Year", as he was active in his community in the areas of government, church and the relatively new Shortgrass Country Museum. Soon after, he became the volunteer director of the Museum and got involved with other local historic preservation projects.

Canadian County Controversy

By Kathy Anderson

You may remember that in our last newsletter we gave you some good news about road construction in Canadian County: ODOT was going to leave Bridgeport Hill alone as it begins to do new highway construction to create a 4-lane link of Watonga and Geary to I-40. We didn't find out about the bad news till after we went to press.

Unfortunately, ODOT intends to rip out 2.4 miles of the original 1932 pavement located between Exit 108 on I-40 (the easternmost of the two Cherokee Trading Posts) and the ruins of the old gas station located near the top of Bridgeport Hill.

The ruins are not to be damaged. Nor, unlike the article in the Daily Oklahoman implied, is the Pony Bridge in danger. But the remarkably well-preserved P.C. concrete with its distinctive rolled curbs and drains as well as a 1932 concrete and steel bridge with an inset FAP marker are to be torn out.

As it became clear what ODOT's intentions were/are, Jim Ross and I alerted the Daily Oklahoman, Internet friends of Route 66, and the National Historic Route 66 Federation. Cheryl Nowka (the host of our Association's web site) took the bull by the horns and rounded up a list of politicians and ODOT officials we could e-mail. Jim and I made several appearances on

Mike McCarville's Open Mike Live radio show on KTOK. Cheryl even persuaded KFOR Channel 4 to do a story on the situation. But so far, we have not been able to stop the intended demolition.

As it turns out, when public hearings were held in Geary back in 1995/1996, ODOT made several proposals on how to handle the highway construction. One was to expand 281 to go straight down to I-40 (without having to jog east along the existing 281-Spur or west over the Pony Bridge on 281) and create a new interchange. A second was to build a new diagonal alignment from Geary (keeping to the high ground) to near the top of Bridgeport Hill, then build an off-set alignment along 281-Spur to link it to the existing Exit 108. And a third was to widen both 281 and the 281-Spur to four lanes - including Bridgeport Hill.

ODOT indicated its preference was the diagonal route with the offset alignment. After the 1996 hearing, a number of opposing petitions were received, including a quite succinct letter from State Senator Bruce Price.

What is interesting is that in 1995, when the Oklahoma State Preservation Office (SHPO) of the Oklahoma Historical Society presented its findings to ODOT, it categorically stated that they found that all of ODOT's proposals would have "an adverse effect" on Route 66/US 281-Spur except the one that would create a new I-40 interchange.

SHPO has no power beyond voicing objections and requiring that ODOT thoroughly photo-document whatever they intend to destroy. So, essentially this means that once ODOT decides they want to do something, even though the object in question is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, nothing can stop them. What is also interesting is that apparently the SHPO realized that "off-set alignment" meant the destruction of the old P.C. road, despite ODOT's map clearly showing a separate line representing the old roadway. ODOT officials now state that the off-set alignment is only for the first phase of construction, with the original lanes then being demolished to create the final 4-lane asphalt. However, in reviewing the transcripts from the 1996 Geary hearing, that distinction is not made very clear. ODOT is also claiming that the Historical Society approved their plan, while correspondence from the SHPO clearly shows they did not.

You may be wondering, "What about the State

Senate resolution passed in 1998 that stopped the proposed re-routing of the Road in Arcadia?" Unfortunately, that legislation dealt specifically with changing the alignment/path of the old Road, not its paving surface.

The e-mail and letter-writing campaign did have an impact, but has not stopped the process. And frankly, it may be too late, as the project has already been let out for bid and approved. The Association has written a letter to ODOT asking that we be put on the environmental impact notification list whenever any future ODOT projects arise that would involve any of the Route 66 alignments. The National Historic Route 66 Federation has written area newspapers, expressing its concern. The Watonga newspaper wrote an article on November 17th about the controversy as a follow up to the Federation's letter. This article was then reprinted by the Hinton newspaper.

So just what does the Association want ODOT to do? Simply put, we object to the destruction of the roadbed. Beyond that, we are open to suggestions. Should the old road be bypassed totally with the 4-lane new Spur-281 running just to its north or south? Should it become either the east-bound or west-bound lanes? We don't have a specific position. But obviously, no matter what happens, there are traffic scenarios to consider: how do you safely allow Route 66 traffic to go across whatever new construction is built? Truck traffic is heavy along the Spur – we'd hate to see tourists and locals having to turn across or onto a high-speed highway.

By law, ODOT must notify SHPO and other entities when structures that may qualify for the National Register of Historic Places are possibly affected. And according to SHPO, as a rule, ODOT is pretty good at notifying folks. The long-term problem, as we see it, is how to prevent things like this from happening in the future.

And don't forget, ODOT is only one entity that impacts roads. County and state governing bodies can impact the Road too, and they are under no obligation to notify the SHPO or us if they decide to do something with a stretch of the old Road. Fortunately, most local bodies do not have the funds to demolish stretches of road, so the wholesale destruction is probably not an issue on the local level. But it does reinforce the fact that we all need to pay attention to what is happening to the Road in our own areas and be

willing to speak up, loudly if need be, to ensure that Route 66 isn't lost forever.

Incidentally, should ODOT do what they propose to do, the remaining stretch of US 281-Spur (Bridgeport Hill) would be removed from the US Highway System and revert to county authorities for maintenance.

It is truly ironic and disheartening that in the very year when Congress finally passes the Route 66 Corridor Act to begin the preservation process of Route 66 we should lose 2.4 miles of that very same road.

Hitchhikers – Route 66 news from other states

Dateline California, October 16, 1999 – Earthquake Rocks Route 66...

Do you remember seeing on the news how an Amtrak train was derailed out in the desert, thanks to an earthquake? What you may not have known was that the quake, which registered 7.1 on the Richter scale, was centered on the little community of Hector, which is located on the original, unpaved alignment of 66 in California. The town of Ludlow, which is located a few miles north of Hector and is on the paved alignment of 66, also suffered damage.

Ludlow is owned by the Knoll brothers, who bought the town in 1978. It is located about 125 miles east of L.A. All the mobile homes in the Ludlow Mobile Home Park were knocked off their foundations. Not only were personal effects destroyed but so were air conditioning and heating units, and windows.

Dateline Texas – the Dallas Morning News...

On September 28th, the Dallas Morning News ran an interesting article about Route 66 and the Internet. Among the sites mentioned are the National Historic Route 66 Federation (www.nationalroute66.com), the Oklahoma Route 66 Association (www.nowka.com/ok66.html), Lucille's (www.route66.itgo.com/index.html), and the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton (www.route66.org).

For those of you who live in central and western Oklahoma, you may remember that on the following Friday, KFOR picked up on the Dallas story and ran a brief version about the Route 66 Internet sites, too.

Dateline Albuquerque, New Mexico...

The New Mexico Route 66 Association in conjunction with the Albuquerque Convention and

Visitors Bureau (ACVB) and the City of Albuquerque are planning a 3-day shindig to celebrate the 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee of Route 66. The fun should start on July 20th, 2001. For more information, contact Mary Kay Cline, National Diamond Jubilee, ACVB, P.O. Box 2686, Albuquerque, NM 81125.

Dateline McAllen, Texas...

Chris Yelland's Route 66 RV Tours continue to gather steam. May 1-22 is for vintage pre-1970s RVs only and starts in Chicago. May 27-June 17 is an open tour for all makes and years of RVs. It will start in Santa Monica and head east. Then the final 66 tour will begin June 23 and go through July 14, starting out from Chicago. It too is an open tour. Cost for each of the open RV tours is 2100.00 (for 2 persons). For more information, call (800) 455-8687 or write to Adventuretours, P.O. Box 944, McAllen, Texas 78505. E-mail can be sent to: route66@adventuretrek.com.

Dateline Hemet, CA...

The CHVA (Contemporary Historic Vehicle Association) is the mother club of several smaller clubs. In September 2001, they will be running a tour of Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica. They expect between 50 to 100 cars. For more information, contact Ray and Alphy Norman, 30450 Santa Fe Street, Hemet, CA 92543. Or you can call (909) 652-1155 or e-mail alphy@gte.net.

Dateline Glendale, Arizona...

Kenn Kemper is working on a fictional, feel-good book about Route 66. The idea is to tell the story of the Road from the standpoint of the fictional, multi-generational Schmidt family as they traveled westward over the decades along Route 66. Kenn is looking for actual stories from folks who have either lived or traveled along the Road, which he will then transform into "memories" that the Schmidt family shares. In March or April of 2000, Kenn will be out on Route 66, riding an ebike – an environmentally friendly bicycle that also has a battery-powered motor that can go up to 20 miles without peddling. Lee Iacocca is CEO of "ev Global Motors Company" and has donated the bike. It will be auctioned off, with the proceeds given to charity. The book is due out in 2001, in time for the 75th anniversary.

If you have a story and/or photos to share with Kenn for use in his upcoming book, write him at: Kenn Kemper, US Route 66 The Mother Road, Inc., P.O. Box 66, Glendale, AZ 85311. Or you can call (602)

768-8366. Kenn may also be looking for volunteers to help drive his motor home across the state as he rides the ebike. We will keep you posted as events unfold.

Dateline Shamrock, Texas...

The Tower Station/U-Drop-Inn now belongs to the City of Shamrock. The First National Bank of Shamrock purchased the property from James Tindall, son of the original owner. The City plans to restore the original appearance and furnishings to create a Tourist Welcome Center/Information Center with rest facilities. Regional history and attractions will be featured in a museum setting. For more information contact Bridget Renfroe, Shamrock EDC/Tourism at (806) 256-2516 or e-mail irishdb@pan-tex.net.

Dateline St. Louis, Missouri...

The Route 66 Association of Missouri, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the Missouri State Museum announce a joint Route 66 exhibit and display from November 6 to January 30th. It can be seen in the Capitol Rotunda in Jefferson City. The exhibit includes a historical timeline, an extensive collection of vintage maps, photographs, postcards, information on surviving sites and attractions, and a current driving guide and map for Missouri.

Michael Wallis was the featured speaker at the kick-off event.

Dateline Denmark...

The Association received a letter from Soren Danielson, a former Danish pilot who is a part of the USAF Pilot Training Class 52G Association. They will be holding a 48-year reunion in Albuquerque in October 2000. The group he is with is planning to fly over to Chicago, then ride bikes along 66 to the reunion.

Dateline Canada...

The Canadian Route 66 Association had some members make the trek to the Corvette Rally in Bowling Green, KY. In their latest newsletter, they recount their trip out and back. Their time spent in Oklahoma was brief but memorable – they spent time with John and Donna Ackenhausen in Tulsa, had breakfast at Norma's in Sapulpa, stopped at the Rock Café and met Dawn, visited with Butch at the Round Barn, met Lucille in Hydro, and visited the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton where they spent time with Pat Smith and Carol Duncan. Lorrie Fleming, secretary-administrator of the Canadian Association, was also kind enough to send us some of the pictures they used in their newsletter.