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Oklahoma Route 66 Association, Inc.

OKLAHOMA US 66

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

PHONE 405-258-0008

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

Volume 12, No. 4 NEWSLETTER December, 2000

GET READY TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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Donnie Gray Route 2 Box 2 Vinita, Ok. 74301 Annual Meeting......Saturday, January 20, 2001. 1:00 PM

It will be held at Hillbillees in Arcadia in the banquet room around back. Anyone who wants to come early and join us for lunch, we'll be in the dinning room in front....

I know that you don't need to hear my story about the geese again and you are tired of hearing us beg for support to help out for the following year, BUT, it's what all organizations do this time of year. As you can see on the left some of these names have been there for a long time and they are doing a great job providing their support for our organization over the years. John says that he has done his fare share and we have to agree that we have come a long way under his stewardship, but it's time to give him the well deserved rest he has earned. It's not a hard job and you get to answer the office phone right from your own home. We still have some counties that do not have a director to represent them so if you would like to lend your name to the cause don't be bashful. The job is a snap and we ask very little of you unless you want to do more. Remember we are here because you keep sending us money. We know that you don't want to loose a great piece of American history and everything that Route 66 means to all of us here in Oklahoma. So step up and take your turn at the helm you'll be glad that you did your part to keep the road alive. Please don't read this to mean that with out your help we will be closing our doors. We won't, but this is the time for a new hand at the helm. Our 75th anniversary is coming up and what a time we are going to have. Come to the meeting and give us your ideas and let us know what your community wants to do to celebrate.

More for your calender after the meeting.

President's Corner

A big Route 66 HOWDY to all you road warriors. I hope everybody survived Thanksgiving and is preparing for the Christmas onslaught.

Well, another year has come and (almost) gone. The end of my third and final term as president is fast approaching. I don't want to dwell on this too much, but, we do need some people to volunteer for some of the board member positions for the upcoming year. 2001 is the 75th anniversary of Route 66 and it can be a banner year for the Association, if we can get some volunteer help to plan and execute projects for 2001.

The annual meeting for the association will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2001. It will be held in Arcadia, at Hillbillies, at 1:00 P.M. Everybody, try to make the supreme effort and be there. We will be discussing events that we would like to hold for the anniversary year. Like I said, we can have a banner year, if we get the help needed.

The cruise/poker run, we held, in conjunction with the Davenport car show, on Sept. 30th, was a success. We actually made some money on the event. Hopefully, if we do it again, we will have more time to prepare and make it an even bigger success.

I am continuously getting phone calls about RT 66 in Oklahoma. I have had lots of request for Trip Guides, it seems that our Trip Guide is known of in a lot of places. I have also sent out a few membership applications to those who have requested them.

Well, I don't have much more to say, so I'll sign off with this verbal applause. I want to thank all of our members and non-members alike, who have made my 3 years as president a very memorable one. I have had lots of help from other members, and have gotten to know a lot of members and non-members through the Trip Guide ad sales. Thank you one and all; you made being president a pleasurable job.

John Ackenhausen The Prez

Funding achieved

Finally, some money has been appropriated for the Route 66 Corridor Act – it is called Public Law no.106-291. It is not the one million we had hoped for, but half a million is a good start. The National Park Service will begin to put together the staff and guidelines to be able to review and issue grants (matching funds type). That will surely take several months.

What is amazing about the whole appropriation process this time around is that the head of the National Park Service forgot to put it in his budget. The fact that money was eventually budgeted speaks volumes about all those Route 66 fans who contacted the House and Senate.

Money must be appropriated every year. So we have to stay on top of things and hopefully get 1.5 million next time to make up for the shortfall.

Coleman welcomes visitors

The Coleman Theatre Beautiful in Miami reports that they received over 1000 visitors from the U.S., Germany, Japan, France, Switzerland, Belgium, and Spain this past summer.

Lynn Riggs Awards given

Tulsa author Clifton L. Taulbert and the late folk musician Woody Guthrie were named the winners of the 2001 Lynn Riggs Awards in ceremonies held in Claremore. The Award is named after Oklahoma's most famous playwright and is given to Oklahomans who have demonstrated a deep and lasting commitment to the perpetuation and improvement of the arts in Oklahoma. Previous winners include author Michael Wallis, singer Patti Page, artist and state senator Kelly Haney.

Old Armory Committee reviews grant

After being turned down for TEA-21 grant money through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the group of Chandler Armory restorers is revising the grant application and will submit it again in January. Good luck!

Torn down to make way for a parking lot! By Carol Duncan

There was a time when travelers and salesmen could make that eastward approach to Clinton on Route 66. They could top the Country Club Hill and look down into the Washita River Valley. There it would be, the tallest building in town besides the grain elevators, the Calmez Hotel. Six stories high, she was the Grand Dame of the Western Oklahoma prairie. Her portico was a welcome sign of the stylish hospitality within. The ruins of the old country club can still be seen, but the Calmez is no more. The wrecking ball made an ugly heap of rubble.

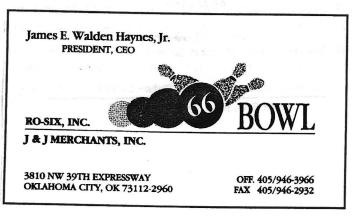
The grand opening of Mr. C.M. Calmes' dream hotel was Thanksgiving Day in 1929. Elegant ladies and handsome men, dressed in the latest fashion, turned out to dine in the huge dining rooms. After the evening meal, dancing with live music by the Sooner Orchestra went on until just after midnight. Many couples stayed overnight in the guest rooms. Bridge tables were set up on the mezzanine for guests to use.

Out of town guests from Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Chickasha, Elk City, Sayre, Foss, Weatherford, Mangum, Hobart, Altus, and Amarillo, Texas helped the Clinton people to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

In 1929 dollars, it cost \$300,000 to build the Calmez. It would have taken over 8 million in 2000 dollars to restore and develop the beautiful historic building. There weren't the resources available or maybe nobody knew where to look.

Kudos to the citizens of Claremore for finding and developing the means to save the Will Rogers Hotel. Thanks to the support organization in Miami, the Coleman Theatre Beautiful graces the downtown area in a shining example of enterprise.

Route 66ers, support any way you can your own local historic sites!





Mr. Calmes' Dream comes tumbling down

Will Rogers Hotel featured on TV

Route 66ers are familiar with the exterior of the old Will Rogers Hotel and breathed a sigh of relief once the Rogers County Historical Society was able to restore the famous landmark. Recently the Hotel, now the Will Rogers Center, was featured on Bob Vila's "Restore America" program, which aired on the Home and Garden network on October 8th. Congratulations!

Tulsa to host world Art Deco conference

The 6th World Congress on Art Deco will be held in Tulsa April 18-22. Many Tulsa buildings will be toured as well as the Frank Lloyd Wright high rise "Price Tower" in Bartlesville along with the private residence "Hillsdale." For updates and complete plans for the Art Deco Congress, visit their web site at http://tulsadeco.listbot.com/

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Civil War Buff Alert

Tickets are now on sale for "An Evening with Ed Bearss," sponsored by the Tulsa Civil War Round Table. Bearss will be appearing Friday, May 18, 2001 at 7:00 PM in the Phillips Auditorium located Tulsa Community College's downtown campus. Ed's subject will be "The Discovery and Recovery of the U.S.S. Cairo." The Cairo was a Civil War gunboat sunk by a Confederate mine in the Yazoo River in Mississippi. Ed and two friends discovered the gunboat's forgotten location while he was the historian of the Vicksburg National Battlefield Park in 1963.

Tickets are only \$10.00 each plus 50 cents for postage. Proceeds from the event will go toward Civil War battlefield preservation in Oklahoma. Limited seating is available. Contact Steve Warren by e-mail at swarren385@aol.com or send a check or money order to: Tulsa Civil War Round Table

c/o Steve Warren 8801 N. 137th E. Avenue Owasso, Oklahoma 74055

Old Stroud school update

From the Lincoln County Historical Society News, October issue: Melvena Heisch, Deputy Director of the State Historic Preservation Office, has reported that her office has the official National Register of Historic Places certificate for the Old Stroud WPA 1937 stone schoolhouse to present to new owners. No one from the Oklahoma Transportation Authority came to receive it when it was announced and awarded at a Preservation Conference more than a year ago.

The building is located one mile west of Stroud near Route 66 and the Turner Turnpike. Stroud Historic Neighborhood Association (SHNA) members are awaiting final negotiations to take title to the tornado-damaged schoolhouse and to begin restoration and new uses. It has been professionally determined stable and worthy of repair.

Though first concerns are roof and weatherproofing, Jim Damiani of York International has offered to furnish heating and air conditioning equipment free of charge. "We like to help with

projects like this," he said.

Arthur Thompson and attorney Danny Beltz are negotiating with the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority for the transfer of title to the property at no cost to SHNA.

Edmond Historical Society update

Over the past year, the Edmond Historical Society has accomplished a lot. It has hosted the Vietnam Wall Experience for 50,000+ visitors, commissioned and premiered a historical opera and the Mayor of Edmond adopted the overture as the official City of Edmond march, published a tabletop book titled "Historic Edmond: An Illustrated History", received the Oklahoma Heritage Association's Gaylord Territorial Award for Organizations Preserving Oklahoma History, and received the Oklahoma Museums Association's Outstanding Outreach/Educational Program Award for the Vietnam Wall Experience.

In 2001, the Society will host (among other events) the magnificent and patriotic American Legacy Collection by watercolorist Kay Smith of Chicago and offer expanded hands-on/minds-on fun and educational tours of the Children's Interactive Center within the Museum.

The Edmond Museum is one of a number of Oklahoma Route 66 satellite museum stops.

Museum changes name

One of Oklahoma City's premier museums has changed it name. The National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Museum is now known as the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

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The Latest Chapter in the 281 Spur/Route 66 destruction west of El Reno...

Sections of Route 66 going to DC

You've probably read about it by now in various newspapers, heard about it via e-mail or saw a story on TV, but just in case you haven't, a dozen sections of the original Portland Cement pavement along Route 66/Spur 281 are headed to the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC. But what you never heard in any of those reports was how instrumental the Route 66 community was in making this happen.

First, a recap of the latest news. The following is a press release from the Smithsonian:

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

GETS ITS KICKS

WITH A PIECE OF ROUTE 66

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History is acquiring a piece of the historic Route 66 for its Fall 2003 exhibition, America On The Move. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) has agreed to provide several sections of the original 1932 concrete pavement from U.S. Route 66 from the spur between Interstate 40 and U.S. 281, midway between the towns of El Reno and Clinton, Okla. and west of Oklahoma City.

"We're happy to participate with the Smithsonian in sending a portion of the 'Mother Road' to the America's history museum," said Oklahoma Transportation Secretary Neal McCaleb. "This slab has borne the wheels of commerce for over 65 years and is still functional, as are the 400 miles of Route 66 that remain a part of the fabric of our state highway system today." Oklahoma is home to more miles of Route 66 than any other state.

A five-mile highway safety improvement project in Oklahoma includes the removal of two miles of pavement from Route 66 for reconstruction. The portion coming to the Smithsonian will have the original Portland Concrete surface. While the concrete remains strong, a portion of the roadway was rated in critical condition because narrow lanes and

lack of shoulders made it unsafe for modern travel. The upgrade plan includes widening the highway to four lanes and re-routing more than half of the highway. This will preserve three nostalgic miles of Route 66.

Central Technology Center of Drumright, Okla., a member of the Oklahoma Trucking Association, responded to the museum's request for assistance in bringing the road to the nation's capital. Central Tech, the vocational training center for 17 high school districts and the Truck Driver Training Center for the state of Oklahoma, is donating its services to transport the eight slabs of concrete, each weighing approximately 9,300 pounds, the 1,400 miles to the Smithsonian's storage facility in Suitland, Md. The pavement is scheduled to be loaded and depart Oklahoma on Dec. 6, 2000 and is scheduled to arrive in Maryland on Dec. 13.

"The trucking industry is proud to help save this piece of transportation history," said American Trucking Associations President and CEO Walter McCormick, Jr., "The original Route 66 not only helped build America, it helped build our industry too."

The piece of the historic road will be featured in America On The Move, a new 20,000-square-foot permanent exhibition about transportation and its significance to the nation's lifestyles and economy since the 1870s. The exhibition will include topics on transcontinental railroads, vacation travel, school buses, container ships and the interstate highways.

The National Museum of American History traces American heritage through cultural, social, scientific, and technological exhibitions. Collections are displayed in settings that recapture and interpret the American experience from colonial times to the present. The museum, located at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W., is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, except Christmas Day, Dec. 25. Admission is free.

Now for the news behind the news. In addition to our genuine Route 66 pavement, the exhibit will

include the Hamons Court neon sign from Lucille's, thanks to Cheryl Nowka, Lucille's daughter.

Some of the newspapers did contact John Ackenhausen and Michael Wallis about their feelings. Michael, spoke for all of us when he pointed out that "the road itself is a living museum" and that Route 66 fans don't want the alignment tampered with. But, if a section is going to be ripped out, it is better to have it someplace where people can appreciate it than buried in a landfill or discarded by the side of the road as a heap of rubble.

It was thanks to the efforts of a number of Route 66 "road warriors" that the Smithsonian, as they were initially contacting people about memorabilia, etc. for their exhibit, became aware of the destruction of this pristine roadbed and the feasibility of intact sections being removed.

We know for a fact that ODOT was very embarrassed over the Spur 281 protests, letter-writing campaigns, etc. They never counted on the publicity hailstorm that resulted, culminating in an interview by the Learning Channel over the issue. As a result, we felt certain that ODOT would go out of their way to help the Smithsonian in order to offset the terrible publicity blow they received over the entire affair. In fact, we even told the Smithsonian that.

So, although Neal McCaleb, director of ODOT, may take credit for the good deed they are doing, be assured that it was Route 66ers who really set the stage.

Busch or Elk City? Elk City is the best choice By Carol Duncan

Test Question – this is multiple choice: What is the name(s) of Beckham County's largest city

- A. Elk City
- B. Busch
- C. Busch/Elk City
- D. All of the above

If you guessed D, you were right. Some of the early settlers wanted the name Busch in hopes that the beer manufacturer would be flattered and donate \$500 to the city. Plus maybe a brewery could be built in the city in order to create jobs.

Some of the citizens would not accept the name Busch. The leader of the opposing group was Mrs. Nancy Keen, who ran a boarding house. She refused to feed anybody who supported the Busch name. Demonstrators threatened the painter who was putting "Busch" on the depot.

Even though the Post Office was known as Busch for the first seven years of the town, the merchants and residents adopted the name Elk City. The name was taken from Elk Creek. The creek was named after the Indian Chief Elk River.

Crowe was the first area post office, though it got its name through an error in reading the application. It was supposed to be Crone, after A.L. Crone. This post office was located 3 miles SW of present Elk City. The second post office, located on the present town site, was called Busch.

For seven long years the Washington officials would not accept applications for the changing of names from Busch to Elk City, because there was another town in Inclian Territory named Elk. The town was adopted by area settlers as Elk City in 1901. Finally, on July 20, 1907, the official records of the Bureau of Post Office Operations recognized the name change to Elk City.



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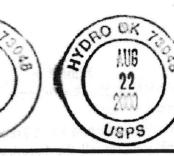


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USPS

Lucille Hamons

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Mail Bag

This handwritten thank-you note came from the Lucille Hamons Family...

To My Favorite and Most Treasured Friends:

Thank you for all the happiness you gave my Mom while she was <u>alive</u>. And thanks for the Farewell Ceremony on Route 66.

Dear President John Ackenhausen.

Just a short note to say that we enjoyed your state and especially Oklahoma City. We were there in June and spent 4 days touring your capital city. Our group could only go in June so we missed your yearly cruise. Sincerely, Bill Albertin, MO 66 group

Kirk Woodward of the Mother Road Ride/Rally is offering a new motorcycle video of the 2000 tour, aptly called The Millennium Run. The length is 32 minutes, the price is 14.95 plus 4.50 shipping and handling. The Oklahoma segment includes the new Murrah Memorial in downtown Oklahoma City as well as a peak at the Elvis Suite in Clinton. You can contact Kirk by calling 800-553-5883, writing to him at 2024 Heatherbrook, Grapevine, TX 76051 or shopping on-line at www.hhjm.com/products

Billie Gardner of Eaton Rapids, MI writes that she is starting a walk along Route 66 on January 1st to fight Birth Defects. She is starting in Santa Monica. She is looking for volunteer drivers in NM, TX, OK, MO, and IL. Her tentative schedule puts her in Oklahoma around April 1 and leaving Oklahoma around April 24th. If you are interested in helping her, she has a web site at www.walkforbabies.com and she can be called at (517) 663-6999 or e-mailed at missbillie@voyager.net

Pat Cameron with the Elderhostel program (for folks 55 and older) is putting together a 12-day bus tour along Route 66 in 2001 that begins in St. Louis and ends in Albuquerque. No dates have been set yet.

And several of our Route 66 members wrote expressing concern that their membership renewal checks had not yet cleared the bank. We want to take this opportunity to let our members know that we are in the process of trying to find another bank – one closer to Oklahoma City – so we can make deposits more often than once a quarter!

Hitchhikers – News from other Route 66 States

Dateline, Missouri... Gary A. Adkins, nicknamed Papa Joad, has been appointed chairperson for the 2001 Motor Tour. Anyone with ideas or who just wants to participate in the MO 75th Anniversary cruise can contact Gary at papajoad@prodigy.net or at 4938 Itaska, Apt. A, St. Louis, MO 63109.

Also, for those of you who have not heard, Ron Robb, former President of the MO Association, passed away unexpectedly.

Dateline, New Mexico... The Albuquerque Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Albuquerque, and the New Mexico Route 66 Association have named their 75th anniversary celebration as "Remember the Route." They are planning three days of events July 20-July 22. The National Historic Route 66 Federation will also host their annual Steinbeck Awards Dinner at the Festival. For more information, call Denise Petree at (505) 222-4342.

Dateline, Arizona... The 14th Annual Route 66 Fun Run will be held May 4-6, 2001. The entry fee is \$44 in advance, \$49 after April 9th. For more information, write to the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona, P.O. Box 66, Kingman, AZ 86402.



Kay Hunt Executive Director

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TOWN & COUNTRY GROCERY PO BOX 405 DAVENPORT OK 74026 918-377-2535

DAN'S BAR-B-QUE P. O. BOX 561 DAVENPORT, OK 74026 918-377-2288

CHANDLER

JACK'S DELI. 501 E. 1ST CHANDLER OK 74834 405-258-2548

LAGERE AND WALKINGSTICK 1006 MANVEI . DRAWER 9 CHANDLER OK 74834 405-258-0604

LD'S AUTOMOTIVE RT. 1 BOX 92 ROUTE 66 CHANDLER OK 74834 405-258-2120

LINCOLN MOTEL 740 E. 1ST CHANDLER OK 74834 405-258-0200

MUSEUM OF PIONEER HISTORY 719 MANVEL CHANDLER OK 74834 405-258-2425

NATIONAL AMERICAN INSURANCE CO. 1010 MANVEL AVE. P.O. DRAWER 9 CHANDLER OK 74834 800-822-7802

OAK GLEN RV PARK & STORE RT. 2 BOX 102 CHANDLER OK 74834 405-258-2994

WELLSTON

WELLSTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE P. O. 69 WELLSTON, OK 74881 405-356-2628

WARD'S RV PARK P.O. BOX 477 WELLSTON OK 74881 3 MILES WEST 405-356-2364

ARCADIA

HILLBILEE'S CAFE P.O. BOX 356 ARCADIA OK 73007 405-396-8177

THE ROUND BARN ARCADIA HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY BOX 134 ARCADIA OK 73007 405-396-2398

EDMOND

EDMOND MUSEUM EDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY 431 S. BOULEVARD EDMOND OK 73034 405-340-0078

OKLAHOMA CITY

66 BOWL 3810 N.W. 39TH EXP. OKLAHOMA CITY OK 73112-2960 405-946-3966

VOORHEES & VOORHEES, P. C. 7200 S.PENNSYLVANIA OKLAHOMA CITY OK 73159 405-682-5800

BETHANY

NATIVE AMERICA GALLERY & GIFTS 3823 NORTH COLLEGE BETHANY, OK 73008 405-789-4300

ET CETERA GIFTS 6704 NW 38th ST. BETHANY, OK 73008 405-789-9994

BETHANY KARS 7126 NW 39 EXPRESSWAY BETHANY; OK 73008 405-789-4755

YUKON ROUTE 66 TRADERS MARKET 3201 NORTH RICHLAND ROAD YUKON, OK 73099 405-350-3366

EL RENO

EL RENO VISITORS & TOURISM P. O. BOX 700 EL RENO, OK 73036 405-262-4070

EL RENO MAIN STREET P. O. BOX 606 EL RENO, OK 73036 405-262-8888 CANADIAN COUNTY MUSEUM - HISTORICAL SOCIETY BEN CLARK RIFLE CLUB BOX 173A RT. 1 COUNTRY CLUB ROAD EL RENO, OK 73036 405-262-6656

JOBE'S DRIVE-IN 1220 SUNSET DRIVE EL RENO, OK 73036 405-262-0194

FORT RENO VISITOR CENTER 7107 W. CHEYENNE ST. EL RENO, OK 73036 405-262-3987

CALUMET

CALUMET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE P.O. BOX 241 CALUMET OK 73041

GEARY

CANADIAN RIVERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 115 EAST MAIN GEARY OK 73040

HYDRO

LUCILLE'S 66 MEMORABILIA ROUTE 1, BOX 44 HYDRO OK 73048 405-663-2341

GRAFFITI GRILL P. O. BOX 424 HYDRO, OK 73048 405-663-2475

WEATHERFORD

WEATHERFORD CHAMBER of COMMERCE P.O. BOX 729 ROOM 224, CITY HAIJ. WEATHERFORD OK 73096 405-772-7744

ZOELLEWR-DAVIDSON FORD 1324 GRANDVIEW DRIVE WEATHERFORD, OK 73096 580-772-3319

CLINTON

CLINTON CHAMBER of COMMERCE P.O. BOX 1595 CLINTON OK 73601 405-323-2222

OKLAHOMA ROUTE 66 MUSEUM 2229 WEST GARY BLVD. CLINTON, OK 73601

CHEYENNE CULTURE CENTER ROUTE 1 BOX 3130 CLINTON, OK 73601

BEST WESTERN TRADE WINDS 2128 GARY BLVD. CLINTON OK 73601 405-323-2610

ELK CITY

ELK CITY CHAMBER of COMMERC P.O. BOX 972 ELK CITY, OK 73648 580-2250207

NATIONAL ROUTE 66 MUSEUM P.O. BOX 5 ELK CITY, OK 73648 580-225-6266

OLD ROUTE 66 ANTIQUE MALL 401 E. 3RD ELK CITY OK 73644 405-225-9695

OLD TOWN MUSEUM P.O. BOX 542 ELK CITY OK 73644 405-225-2207

ANADARKO BASIN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY 107 EAST 3RD. ELK CITY OK 73644 405-225-2940

TRAVELODGE 301 SLEEPY HOLLOE CT. ELK CITY, OK 73644 580-243-0150

SAYRE

SAYRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 111 NORTH 4TH SAYRE OK 73662

ERICK

ERICK HONEY FARM ROUTE 1 BOX 80 ERICK, OK 73645 580-526-3759

OUT OF STATE

U-DROP-INN P. O. BOX 870 SHAMROCK,TX 79079

O'REILLY'S AUTO PARTS P.O. BOX 1156 SPRINGFIELD MO 65801 417-862-2674

ROUTE 66 U.S.A. 2700 KIOWA BOULEVARD SOUTH LAKE HAVASU CITY AZ 86403 520-680-6677

ESTER LEE MOTEL 3803 S.W. HIGHWAY 101 LINCOLN CITY, OR 97367 541-996-3606

IF YOU FEEL THAT YOUR PLACE OF BUSINESS HAS BEEN MISTAKENLY LEFT OFF OF THIS LIST PLEASE LET US KNOW.

St. 1 1 20