

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 13, No. 1 NEWSLETTER March, 2001

75th Anniversary Cruise and Car Show

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To celebrate 75 years of Route 66 leading people through the heart of America, the Oklahoma Route 66 Association is holding a passport-style cruise July 13-15. **Grand prize for the event will be a classic car!**

Our cruise will have two start points – Miami and Erick. You can take either one or two days to complete your cruise (Friday and/or Saturday) and closing ceremonies and a car show will be held Sunday the 15th at Route 66 Traders Market just west of Yukon. There will also be special events on Friday and Saturday nights.

You will find a pre-registration flyer inside this newsletter. Pre-registration costs are \$20 for non-members, \$15 for members, and \$10 for each extra passport. Pre-registration must be at our P.O. Box by June 15th. Packets will not be mailed out – they will be available at the start point you designated on your form. If you have not registered by June 15th, you will need to register at one of the two start points on the day of the cruise. Registration costs at that time are \$25 for nonmembers, \$20 for members, and \$15 for each additional passport. If you choose to participate in the car show, the entry fee is \$10 for cruisers. If you just want to do the car show only, it is \$15.

Drivers must get their passports stamped at least once per Route 66 community. If all the checkpoints in all of the east or west communities are logged into the passport, that passport is eligible for a special \$250 cash prize drawing.

Come join us for the best cruise ever! More details to come in the next newsletter! The rules for this event state that you must be present at the closing ceremonies to win the Grand prize or any of the other prize.

Pre-registration must be at our P.O. Box by June 15th

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The year 2001 is going to go down in Route 66 history for several notable reasons. First, it is the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Route. Back in the mid-1980s when US 66 was officially decertified, few if any could foresee the renaissance that would bloom from the ashes of abandonment. Yet, here we are today with tourist interest stronger than ever.

Second, a lot of exciting events are being planned all along the Route to commemorate the diamond anniversary. Hopefully these events will be talked about for years to come and generate even more travelers along our famous highway.

And third, Oklahoma Route 66 seems well on the way to becoming one of the two, first-ever, "Oklahoma State Scenic Byways." The Talimena Drive will become the other one. Many other states have had scenic byways programs in place for some time while the mid-section of the country has had a rough go of it. However, focus has shifted now and our favorite road through Oklahoma seems a shoe-in. The ultimate goal is to have the entire route through all 8 states become a National Scenic Byway. For this to happen, all the Route 66 sections must first become Scenic Byways in their respective states. We are hopeful that Scenic Byway status (and the monies that become available through this program) combined with the National Route 66 Corridor Act program (once organized) will help small business owners and communities along the Route and encourage even more tourism.

Turning to other news, some 25 members came to our Annual meeting, which we had at Hillbillees in Arcadia. Elections were held and preliminary plans were made for our 75th Anniversary Cruise (read more about this elsewhere in the newsletter). Your officers for the years 2001-2002 are: Kathy Anderson, President; Rick Schmigle, Eastern Vice President; Carol Duncan, Western Vice President; Bill Herron, Secretary; Mary Sue Kendall, Treasurer. Bill Fernau was appointed as Federal Programs Coordinator.

On a personal note and on behalf of our membership, I'd like to thank John Ackenhausen for his tireless work over the past several years on behalf of the Association. Even though he has stepped aside

as President, he is still very much involved – he is gathering the lion's share of the 2001 Trip Guide ads, organizing much of the upcoming cruise, and has retained our Association's phone line at his house. A tip of the old ball cap to you, John – and thanks!! See you all on the Road!

Kathy Anderson

A TRIBUTE TO GLADYS GRACE CUTBERTH

"Mrs. 66" 1904-2001

By Carol Duncan

Gladys Cutberth passed away on February 11th. One of the true Route 66 Road Warriors, she traveled US Highway 66 one last time on February 13th. "Mrs. 66" was her name and promoting the Mother Road was her game!

Gladys traveled the 2,000+ miles of Route 66 at least once a year and sometimes twice. That's not counting all the side trips to tourism meetings and conventions. A few times she and her husband, Jack, "Mr. 66," went overseas to foreign countries to spread the word about "Our Road." This happened, of course, before 1978, when Mr. Cutberth died.

Mrs. Cutberth had a strong faith and was very active in her church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church. For many years, Gladys kept up her membership in the Eastern Star organization. She was a devoted wife and mother to her husband, Jack, and son, Kenneth. Her two granddaughters, Jan and Jill, were the light of her life. Mrs. Cutberth took over as secretary of the National Route 66 Association until the membership voted to become dormant.

A resurgence of interest in the Will Rogers Highway gained state and national attention in the late eighties. And so Gladys and all the other icons of the Road raised their voices and waved their flags to tell the world that Route 66 did not die but rose from the decommissioned ashes and that the people and their highway were an important part of the 20th century development and history and would continue on into the 21st century.

Writers and filmmakers made it a point to contact Mrs. Cutberth for her input on their projects about Route 66. Any serious publications on the Mother Road always gave acknowledgement to the many

contributions of the Cutberths to the promotion of tourism, businesses, and the people of the Main Street of America.

Gladys was always willing to be a speaker for Route 66. She loaned memorabilia and Association records to the Route 66 Museum in Clinton for archival use. She was membership Number One in the Friends of the Museum support group. Also, she had a lifetime membership in the Oklahoma Route 66 Association. In the video, "Cruisin' Oklahoma 66" you will find an interview with Mrs. Cutberth which was shot at the Museum prior to renovation.

In 1994, the Oklahoma Route 66 Association presented Gladys with a plaque in appreciation for over 45 years of promoting Route 66. This was at a ceremony in the soon-to-be transportation museum. There were Historical Society officials and local museum supporters present.

Spunky Gladys, then age 91, helped with publicity and promotion during the development and grand opening of the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton. She wanted so much for her National Association and all the states' Associations to get recognition for all their hard work.

One of my favorite Gladys' quotes is from Tom Teague's book "Searching for 66." In it she says, "Route 66, I call it the highway that won't die. I get telephone calls and letters all the time. The government called it just a route. But I'd say it was a shrine. It was a road for the common man. The common man built it, the common man drove it, and the common man run its businesses."

From now on, whenever I drive out on the Ol' Route 66 pavement, with the Oklahoma wind blowing in my face, and I listen to the thrump of the tires as they pass over the seams of the Portland Concrete sections, I will remember GLADYS. What a great lady and Route 66 Road Warrior she was. We will miss "Mrs. 66." YOU WERE ONE OF A KIND!

MEMBER UPDATES

Belated condolences to the family of Norma Lee Hall, proprietress of Norma's Diamond Café in Sapulpa. Norma passed away last November.

We also extend our heartfelt condolences to Tootie Teuscher of Edmond (and of Arcadia

Historical Society fame) – her husband Charlie passed away in early March.

Bob Reed of Bartlesville was recently released from the hospital after suffering a bout with pneumonia. He is recovering quite nicely.

WILL ROGERS ARRIVES IN CLAREMORE

On February 1, the second Will Rogers granite marker was installed in Claremore. Please read more about the marker's history in the Clinton story...

OLD CHANDLER ARMORY RESTORERS PRESS ON

A revised application has been resubmitted to the Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation in order to get TEA21 funds for armory building restoration. The committee is also planning on making some critically needed emergency repairs. They also hope to learn the proper methods of restoring the steel multi-paned casement windows to upgrade the building's appearance and enhance protection against the weather. They are in the process of developing an ADOPT A PANE plan.

OLD STROUD SCHOOL HAS HOPE

The WPA historic Old Stroud Schoolhouse has been listed as one of Oklahoma's eleven-most endangered historic places. The building, built in 1937 and located one mile west of Stroud in the original Old Stroud townsite near Route 66 and the Turner Turnpike, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. On May 3, 1999 the building was heavily damaged by the same tornado that took out Tanger Outlet Mall. Although the building is owned by the Turnpike Authority and they are willing to sell, state statutes disallow the transfer of state property to a non-governmental entity. Present negotiations to acquire the building for restoration and use are underway between Habitat for Humanity of Stroud and The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. Some cash contributions and pledges by former students and area residents have already been made towards restoration.

Oklahoma Route 66 Association, Inc.



75TH Anniversary Celebration Cruise and Car Show

CAR AND DRIVER:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
CAR MAKE AND MODEL: _____ YEAR: _____
NAMES OF PASSENGERS FOR EXTRA PASSPORTS:

Check your starting point: ()

Erick _____ (Honey Farm) ~OR~ Miami _____ (Waylan's KuKu Burgers)

Please note: To help save on postage and handling fees, your cruise packets will be available at time of registration at the starting point you checked.

Cruise Entry Fees:

Non-member	\$25	_____
Members	\$20	_____
Extra Passports	\$15 ea.	_____
Car Show	\$15	_____*

Sub-total _____

Pre-register before June 15, 2001

Non-member	\$20	_____
Member	\$15	_____
Extra Passports	\$10 ea.	_____
Car Show	\$15	_____*

Sub-total _____

***Note: If you are registered for the cruise, Car Show entry \$10**

State Association Annual Memberships: ()

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

Sub-total _____

Total _____

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

Oklahoma Route 66 Association

P.O. Box 21382

Oklahoma City, OK 73156

Phone (405) 258-0008 (Chandler)

For further information:

Oklahoma City area (405) 570-5724

Tulsa area (918) 742-4898

(918) 712-7229



Get Your Kicks on Route 66

Motels in the Miami Area

Best Western Inn

2225 East Steve Owens Blvd.

Miami, OK 74354

(918) 542-6681

Wake up calls

Restaurant

Non-Smoking Rooms

Outdoor Pool

Lounge

Meeting Room

Truck Parking

HBO

Prices per person:

1-\$49.00

2 to 4-\$59.00

Suite-\$89.00

Rollaway Bed-\$8.00

Cribs-\$3.00

Senior Citizens—10% discount

Triple A—10% discount

Super 8 Motel

2120 East Steve Owens Blvd.

Miami, OK 74354

1-800-800-8000

Wake up calls

Toast and Coffee Bar

Non-Smoking Rooms

Indoor pool and spa

Prices per person:

1-\$43.88

2-\$47.88

with 2 beds-\$47.88

3-\$50.88 (has 2 beds)

Bridal Suite-\$53.88

Rollaway Bed-\$5.00

Cribs-No charge

Senior Citizens—10% discount

5/more rooms—10% discount

Townsmen Motel

900 E. Steve Owens Blvd.

Miami, OK 74354

(918) 542-6631

Outdoor Pool

Restaurant

Meeting Room

Lounge

Truck Parking

Prices per person:

1-\$25.99

2-\$31.95

Motels in the Yukon Area

Super 8 Motel (8 MILES WEST)

2820 south highway 81

El Reno, OK 73036

For Direct Reservations

Call 1-800-262-8240

Fax (405) 262-6580

Prices per person:

King 1-\$36.90 + tax

King 2-\$38.70 + tax

D/D 2-\$44.10 + tax

Hampton Inn

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Yukon, OK 73099

(405) 350-6400

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Fax (405) 350-6500

Complimentary Breakfast Bar

Luxury Jacuzzi Suite

Deluxe rooms with Microwave,

Refrigerator and Wet Bar also

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Premium Cable TV Close to Fast food

and Good Restaurants.

Call for RT-66 Cruiser Rates

Economy Inn

850 West Main

Yukon, OK 73099

(405) 354-2096

Call for RT-66 Cruiser Rates

Motels in Western Okla.

Old Hotel Bed & Breakfast

311 West Main

Sayre, OK 73662

(580) 928-5446

Call for RT-66 Cruiser Rates

Comfort Inn

I-40 at Exit 7

Erick, OK 73645

(580) 526-8124

Call for Rates

Holiday Inn

I-40 & Highway 6

Elk City, OK 73644

(580) 225-6637

Restaurant, Lounge, Indoor Pool

Fun Center, Hot Tub, Sauna

Call for RT-66 Cruiser Rates

Elk City/Clinton KOA

I-40 Exit 50 Clinton Lake Road

P.O. Box 137

Canute, OK 73626

(580) 592-4409

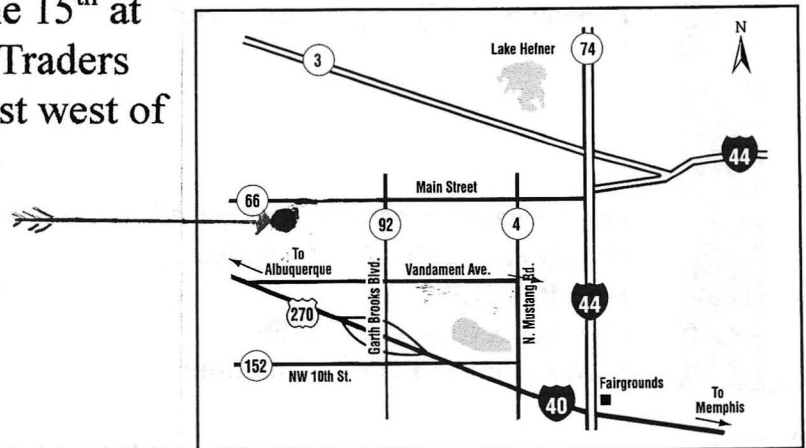
Call for Rates

All Prices subject to

Change!

Call for Best Rates

Closing ceremonies and
car show will be held
Sunday the 15th at
Route 66 Traders
Market just west of
Yukon.



ASSOCIATION ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR OKLAHOMA ROUTE 66 HALL OF FAME

Yep, it's time again – time to think about two people (one living and one deceased) who should receive our Association's highest honor. Past recipients include Michael Wallis, Cyrus Avery, Don Mullenix, Jack Cutberth, Lucille Hamons, and Kent Ruth.

Submit your nominations in writing along with a brief explanation on why this person should win the award. Just sending us a name won't do! Deadline for submissions is August 1.

The winner will be announced on November 10th, 2001, in order to truly honor the 75th Anniversary of the Road, which was established on November 11th, 1926.

“RUN, STEVE, RUN...

ACROSS OKLAHOMA'S ROUTE 66”

March 29 - April 15, 2001

Steve Kime, a Tulsa runner and lifelong friend of Special Olympics, has pledged to run Oklahoma's historic Route 66 - that's nearly 400 miles - accepting pledge dollars benefiting Special Olympics Oklahoma. As he enters each community he'll run through town dressed as the character “Forrest Gump.”

Preliminary plans call for Steve to begin this marathon-a-day on Thursday, March 29, 2001 in Texola, Oklahoma. He'll follow Route 66 throughout Oklahoma for 18 consecutive days, ending at the Oklahoma-Kansas border just west of Baxter Springs, Kansas.

Steve's had a history of running the Tulsa Run dressed as “Forrest Gump.” In the October 2000 race, his efforts garnered nearly \$4,000 for Special Olympics Oklahoma. In November he also ran the “Race Across Kansas” - the Kansas 13-mile segment of Route 66, generating donations for Special Olympics Kansas.

His schedule is planned to end his daily marathons as follows:

3/29	just west of Elk City
3/30	just past Foss
3/31	east of Clinton

4/1	at Hydro
4/2	at Geary
4/3	just past El Reno
4/4	just west of OKC
4/5	State Capitol Grounds (Steve Kime Day at 12 noon), at Luther
4/7	at Stroud
4/8	west of Sapulpa
4/9	at Tulsa
4/10	at Claremore
4/11	at Chelsea
4/12	just east of Vinita
4/13	at Quapaw, then on to the Kansas border at Baxter Springs
4/14-15	Extra days for delays

Kime is also hoping to enlist the efforts of area VIP's, athletes, and celebrities to run or walk with him for a block or a mile, as he passes through Oklahoma's Route 66 communities. To date, Lt. Governor Mary Fallin, and Mayor Susan Savage are slated to run with Steve. This is a great opportunity to involve your running club, school team, cheerleaders, church youth groups, just to name a few examples. Please contact Michael King, at Special Olympics Oklahoma (OKC) at (405) 670-3456, or sook10@telepath.com

OKLAHOMA 66 ASSOCIATION TO BECOME SCENIC BYWAY SPONSOR

On February 28th, 2001, the Oklahoma Route 66 Association submitted its official letter of intent to become the sponsor of Oklahoma Route 66 Scenic Byway. So just what is a scenic byway sponsor? The following information comes from Rob Gragg, the Oklahoma Scenic Byways Coordinator.

Before beginning the process of preparing a nomination to the Oklahoma Scenic Byway Program, a group of interested citizens, community organizations, businesses, or local officials should be established to coordinate the planning and nomination effort. There are no rules as to the size or composition of this group, but it should have enough members to complete the work involved in inventorying and evaluating the resources of the proposed byway, and contain enough experience and expertise to effectively manage and promote the

route. The appropriate size for the group will obviously depend on the length and complexity of the roadway corridor being considered.

The route sponsors should be thought of as the coordinators who will work to conserve and promote the byway once it has been designated. To be most effective, the group should include a cross-section of the people and organizations that will be affected by the designation.

It may be useful to think of the group as representing two types of people: (1) those who use and will use the road, and (2) those who have property or interests connected to the route and will participate in or be affected by the byway program. Depending on the character of the roadway, the user portion should include a representative cross section of individuals and/or groups who use or will use the road. The second portion of the committee (property owners and interested groups) should include chamber of commerce members, tourism groups, farmers, environmentalists, landowners, builders, designers, town officials, public land managers, and lodging and restaurant operators. Others who can contribute to a high quality nomination, who would be potentially affected by the nomination, or who will help manage the promotion and conservation of the byway after designation should also be considered.

Once the route sponsoring group has been established, its members should review the nomination forms and think about the roadway's resources in terms of the concepts presented in that document. In particular, the qualities and experiences that the roadway offers to visitors and travelers and the potential for existing resources to make these experiences more attractive should be considered.

In Oklahoma, the Scenic Byways Committee is made up of folks from Tourism, the Department of Transportation, and OU. For more information about the National Scenic Byways Program, log on to www.byways.org and for the OK program go to www.ou.edu/architecture/dla/byways/2byway.htm

Incidentally, did you know that Travel and Tourism is Oklahoma's third largest industry?

STEINBECK AWARD AND AUTHORS AND ARTISTS FAIR TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEW MEXICO'S BIG 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The National Historic Route 66 Federation invites everyone to attend their Route 66 Authors and Artists Fair and their gala Steinbeck Awards Banquet on Saturday July 21st.

The Fair is on the State Fairgrounds on the lawn in front of the pueblo-styled Harms Hall. It is free and will run from 10 am to 4 pm. Here you can meet the most notable Route 66 authors, artists, and photographers from around the country will be signing and selling their work.

Tickets for the John Steinbeck Banquet, which begins at 6 pm inside Harms Hall, are \$39 per person. Reservations must be made in advance before July 1 as no tickets will be sold at the door. Following the banquet, a 1950s costume and dance contest will be held.

For more information, contact David Knudson at (818) 532-7232.

HAMPTON INN WANTS TO HELP RESTORE LANDMARKS WITH "EXPLORE THE HIGHWAY WITH HAMPTON"

Hampton has launched a national initiative to identify and help restore some of our nation's historical, fun and unique roadside attractions.

Hampton employees, armed with paint, ladders and other supplies, are excited to join their local communities in refurbishing some of America's timeless landmarks.

Since the campaign launch last spring, the volunteers have already restored several landmarks like the *Rain of Arrows*, Mancos, CO; *"See Rock City" Barn*, Sevierville, TN; *Big Duck*, Flanders, NY; and *Bell Markers*, San Diego, CA.

Hampton is looking for other projects to undertake. One they are considering is on Route 66 in Illinois:

Standard Oil Gas Station, Odell, IL

Located on Route 66 and built in the 1930s, the gas station represents the epitome of old-time

nostalgia. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Considering landscaping, painting, repairs to the station's interior and/or exterior.

Hampton did a survey to find out what Americans thought on Landmark Preservation:

More than nine out of 10 people believe it is important to protect our nation's landmarks.

Two-fifths of Americans believe the country's landmarks could use a good make-over. An additional 13% believe landmarks are often ignored and in desperate need of repair.

Nearly three quarters (72%) of Americans take a family vacation by car once a year or more. And almost eight out of 10 say they sometimes or always include a visit to a historical landmark or roadside attraction.

Types of landmarks people enjoy visiting most:

Historical (54%)

Cultural landmarks (31%)

Landmarks reflecting a city's heritage (26%)

Fun, wacky or "world's largest" landmarks (17%)

As you can see by the projects Hampton has chosen, they are looking for places that are unique and captivating to the tourist. If you have a property that you feel would interest Hampton (and there is at least one Hampton Inn on 66 in Oklahoma, by the way, in Edmond), visit their web site at www.hampton-inn.com and fill out their application form.

Here we come!

By Suzanne Wallis

Come summer—June 23-July 8— Michael and I will be out on the Mother Road again, this time with our Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.)® pals.

In 1996, Harley-Davidson® enlisted us as Route 66 ambassadors to guide H.O.G. members along the highway from Chicago to Los Angeles. That historic journey sparked an immediate love affair between two early 20th century all-American icons—Harley-Davidson and Route 66.

A good many of the Road Warriors who took part in that initial tour will return to travel with us again this summer. Also in our company will be hundreds more who have heard stories about that first memorable odyssey or have dreamed of making the

journey down Route 66 on their Harley®. In 1996 they came from 47 states and 12 countries and forged enduring friendships fueled by the magic of the road.

Again, in the summer of 2001, riders will come from around the world, this time to mark the 75th anniversary of the highway that is heaven-made for a Harley. They will gather in six venues, scattered along the highway between Chicago and Santa Monica, to attend presentations by Michael and Suzanne Wallis. These gatherings are exclusive to registered tour members of H.O.G. The tour package for which they have paid a fee includes the presentations.

However, tour members will not be traveling as a single large group. Instead, they will travel at their own pace, giving them time to explore and experience the many facets of America's Main Street that Michael and I will be telling them about. In several locales they will take part in a parade and/or street dance hosted by the city. Everyone is invited to join in the fun and help celebrate the 75th anniversary of Route 66.

I am including here an itinerary of the tour so that Route 66 aficionados in all eight states will know approximately when the Harleys will be on their particular stretch of the road. If you have banners to wave, or even if you don't, come to the parade or pause long enough to wave when the H.O.G. Road Warriors come through. And if your city is hosting a street dance, put on your dancing shoes and trip the light fantastic with us. The Harley riders love to show and tell stories about their motorcycles and they will be on a quest for Route 66 tales to collect as some of their finest souvenirs.

From June 23 to July 8 be listening for the rumble of hundreds of Harleys along Route 66. Come join us in a special Happy Anniversary chorus. We look forward to seeing you.

H.O.G.® Made In America Tour:

Route 66 2001 Itinerary

St. Charles, Illinois (Chicago) June 22, 23, 24

Travel 300 miles to St. Louis June 25, 26

St. Louis, Missouri June 26

Travel 400 miles to Tulsa June 27, 28, 29

*** Tulsa, Oklahoma June 28**

Travel 380 miles to Amarillo June 30, July 1
 * **Amarillo, Texas June 30**
 Travel 385 miles to Albuquerque July 2, 3
 * **Albuquerque, New Mexico July 2**
 Travel 400 miles to Flagstaff July 4, 5
 * **Williams, Arizona July 4**
 * **Flagstaff, Arizona July 5**
 Travel 250 miles to Laughlin, NV July 6
 Travel 350 miles to San Bernardino, CA July 7, 8
 Santa Monica, California July 8

Cities marked with an asterisk () will host a Route 66 street party. Parades may also be held in a number of cities during the tour. **The general public is invited to take part in the street party festivities.***

(Dates and locales are subject to change. Visit the following web sites for up-to-date information: www.hog.com and www.michaelwallis.com)

RED EARTH FESTIVAL IN OKC

June 8-10 in the Myriad Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City will be the site of America's acclaimed Red Earth dance competition and prestigious art competition and show as well as family entertainment, cultural foods, Native American dance performances and storytelling, hands-on adult workshops, fashion shows by American Indian designers, and hands-on children's activities. For more information go to www.redearth.org or call (405) 427-5228.

CLINTON GETS THIRD WILL ROGERS MARKER

By Carol Duncan and Kathy Anderson

Despite an ice storm that made road travel hazardous (nothing like seeing three semis, a car and a pick-up truck overturned on the interstate!), a good-sized crowd turned out on March 1st to see Will Rogers Highway Marker #3 dedicated at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton. Darrell Ray, who has been spearheading the drive to get markers placed up and down the Route, was on hand to say a few words, as were the Mayor of Clinton Don Rodolph and Kathy Dixon from the Oklahoma Historical Society.

The history behind these new markers is very interesting.

After Will Rogers and Wiley Post were killed in an airplane crash in 1935, the nation grieved for the death of a beloved American and a philosopher/humorist who helped people to see the humor in everyday life, to poke fun at Washington politicians, and to look forward to the future with hope.

The National Highway 66 Association held their annual meeting in Amarillo, TX on Dec. 9, 1935. At that meeting, a resolution was passed to designate Route 66 as the Will Rogers Memorial Highway. This was done with the blessing of the Rogers Family. It was also decided to approach the Federal Highway Department to make an official recognition of America's highway to be named to honor Oklahoma's Favorite son.

During 1936, the Highway 66 Association worked with congressional delegates to get Federal designation for the Will Rogers Highway. C.M. Bartlett, of Miami was President of the Association that year. There was strong support from Oklahoma to make this happen.

In August 1937, the Federal Highway Department proclaimed officially that Route 66 was to be known as the Will Rogers Memorial Highway in dedication ceremonies at Los Angeles, CA.

The following year, in August 1938, a huge 3-day celebration was held in Amarillo commemorating the Main Street of America as Will's Highway. The National US Highway 66 Association changed their name to the Will Rogers Memorial Highway Association. This name remained until World War II began and the Association voted to disband until the war was over.

In March 1939, at the Association's annual meeting in Albuquerque NM, it was agreed to provide signage along the Route. The signs bore the logo that was designed in December 1935. This logo would be used by the Association until 1941. Although images remain of what the signs looked like, to the best of our knowledge, no actual signs still exist.

In 1952, the National Route 66 Association rededicated Route 66 as the Will Rogers Highway with bronze markers at state boundaries and one special one in Claremore right in the middle of Route

66. This was done with a booster caravan with Warner Brothers Officials and Highway supporters in conjunction with the release of the movie "The Will Rogers Story" starring Will Rogers, Jr. Of the original 9 markers, only 2 remain, (Santa Monica and the Will Rogers Museum in Claremore, OK) with rumors of a third in Amarillo. These markers do not bear the logo developed back in 1935.

In the 1990s, Carol Duncan began researching the whole marker issue and rediscovered the 1935 design. A trip to Willis Granite resulted in a prototype design for a new marker, with the hope that state associations could raise enough money to place these new markers at the same state border sites where the 1952 markers once stood. However, funds were not readily available and there were concerns about vandalism and theft as borders tend to be away from populated areas.

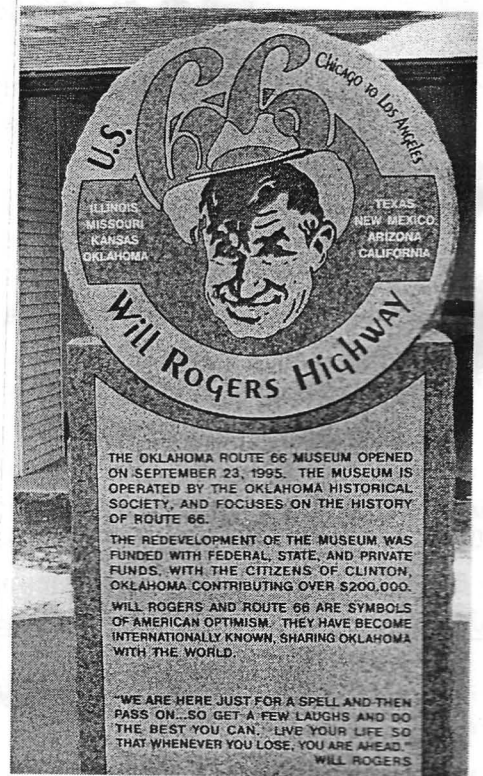
Darrell Ray of Joplin MO and a long-time Route 66 booster all up and down the highway loved the idea of markers. And he figured out how to raise the money. Instead of markers being on state borders, bring them into communities instead, and let local community leaders raise the needed funds. Each marker would reflect something special about the local history and incorporate a Will Rogers' quote. The idea worked.

The first marker was erected in Vinita last year. The second was installed in Claremore on February 1, 2001 by the JM Davis Gun Museum across the street from the old Will Rogers Hotel. And on March 1st, the third was unveiled in Clinton.

We think it is definitely appropriate that the first three markers are all in Oklahoma!

Three more markers are scheduled to be put in – one in Galena KS and two in the Joplin MO area. Darrell would love to see about 40 of them installed all up and down the Route.

Way to go Carol and Darrell! And many thanks to the Friends of the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum for raising the necessary funds to bring the marker to Clinton.



**Left to Right
Darrell Ray, Pat Smith, Clinton Mayor
Don Rudolph, Corky Heard President
Friends of The OK Route 66 Museum**

ERICK GETS TWO BILLBOARDS AND WEB SITE

By Carol Duncan

Mary Miller, widow of Roger Miller, Erick's famous citizen, plans to place billboards on eastbound and westbound I-40. These billboards will advertise Erick, the hometown of Roger Miller, singer and songwriter. Also a web site will be set up to tell Internet users about the town of Erick and biographical information about Miller. The web site address is www.rogermiller.com

Roger Miller moved to Erick as a young boy to live with his aunt and uncle after his father's death. Roger claimed Erick as his hometown. His best known hit record was, "King of the Road."

HITCHHIKERS –

NEWS FROM OTHER ROUTE 66 STATES

Dateline: Illinois

The Route 66 Association of Illinois will hold their annual Motor Tour June 8-11. The event will start in Chicago and end at the Chain of Rocks Bridge on the Illinois/Missouri border. For more information, contact the Jeff LaFollette, Association President at (319) 893-6653 or e-mail him at: ajon66@aol.com

Dateline: Missouri

The Route 66 Association of Missouri will hold their Motor Tour September 7-9. They are calling their event *Searching for Will, One of the Old Road's Most Famous Celebrities*. Their event will begin in Sullivan MO and end at the Will Rogers Memorial in Claremore. For more information contact Gary Adkins at (314) 832-2536.

Dateline: the web

You may recall an article we did about Lorna Hainesworth and her trip down Route 66. Well, Lorna has put her adventures on the Internet for all to share, but no part can be used for any commercial purposes whatsoever. You will need Word 97. The address is www.bcpl.net/~lhainesw Open the read_first-instructions.doc file and you will have the information you need. When you open the files, make sure you are using the Page Layout View in Word 97 – otherwise the pictures won't show. If you need assistance, contact Lorna at lornament@home.com

Dateline: Texas

The 7th Annual Mother Road Rally will be held June 9-16. Registration is now open and all brands of motorcycles are welcome to participate. Contact HHJM, Inc. at 2024 Heatherbrook Drive, Grapevine TX 76051 or call 800 553-5883. There is also internet access at www.hhjm.com/rally and you can email Kirk Woodward at rally@hhjm.com

Adrian, TX has the distinction of being the midpoint of Route 66. To commemorate the 75th Anniversary, a "MidPoint Monument" is being constructed in Adrian. It will honor those that lived and traveled alongside Route 66 from 1926 to 1984. It will also serve as an outdoor guestbook in the form of commemorative bricks. Each brick purchased will be placed alongside the monument and purchasers will receive a special 75th Anniversary Medallion. Proceeds will be used to fund preservation efforts for the National Historic Route 66 Federation and other worthy preservation efforts along the road. The OK Association received Brick/Medallion #7. For more information, read the article in the Autumn 2000 edition of the Federation News and then contact Fran Houser of the MidPoint Café at (806) 538-6379 or e-mail her at midpoint66@aol.com

Dateline: New Mexico

July 20-22, "Remember the Route" will be held in Albuquerque, NM. Too big for all the events to be listed in our newsletter, we urge you to contact Denise Petree at (505) 836-9670, email her at dgpetree@aol.com or visit the New Mexico Route 66 Association web site at www.rt66nm.org

Dateline: Arizona

The Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona is holding their annual Fun Run May 4-6. For more information, call (520) 753-5001. This year the Association is asking that you bring a box or can of people or pet food to registration for distribution to shelters along their Route.

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MIAMI OK 74355
918-542-4481

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918-542-9300

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918-542-8474

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918-542-1698

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918-257-4303

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918-786-2289

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918-256-7133

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VINITA OK 74301
918-256-7811

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918-256-2255

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VINITA, OK 74301
918-256-4024

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918-256-2808

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VINITA, OK 74301
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CHELSEA, OK 74016
918-789-2220

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74016
918-789-3443

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FOYIL OK 74031
918-341-0477

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CLAREMORE OK 74017
918-342-1127

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P.O. BOX 966
CLAREMORE OK 74018-0966
918-341-5707

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CLAREMORE OK 74018
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CLAREMORE OK 74017
918-341-4410

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16251 SOUTH HIGHWAY 66
CLAREMORE, OK 74017
918-283-1490

DAYS INN
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CLAREMORE, OK 74017
918-343-3297

HOVERS HAVE ALL MALL
714 W. WILL ROGERS BLVD
CLAREMORE, OK 74018
918-341-7878

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COMMERCE
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CATOOSA OK 74015
918-266-6042

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TULSA OK 74112
918-838-9895

LYON'S INDIAN STORE
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TULSA OK 74120
918-582-6372

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TULSA OK 74104
918-592-2616

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TULSA, OK 74104
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TULSA, OK 74107
918-445-5585

THE DINER
1905 S. SHERIDAN
402 E. 2ND
TULSA OK 74112
918-832-6663

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918-224-5511

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918-224-4190

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918-224-5709

SAPULPA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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SAPULPA, OK 74067
918-224-4871

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405-225-9695

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