



ON THE ROAD ■ ■ ■

Volume 15, No. 1

NEWSLETTER

March, 2003

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2003 OKLAHOMA ROUTE 66 FULL OF PROMISE

The exciting thing about a new year is all the possibilities it contains. 2003 for Oklahoma Route 66 is no exception.

One – The Association has two new officers. The new President is Tom Brookshire, of Owasso. He takes over from Kathy Anderson, who due to an increasing job load at work and a pressing financial need to rebuild her side business, chose not to run again. The other new officer is Laurel Kane, who takes over as Secretary from Bill Herron. Laurel, as you may recall, is the proud owner of the Afton DX station, soon to be opened to the public. Please give your support to both these individuals as they learn the ropes and make valuable contributions to and important decisions for the Association.

Two – Tulsa will be the host of the 2004 International Route 66 Festival! Much planning and coordination will be required. Read more about it inside this newsletter.

Three – The Association now has established a group email list. The purpose is to provide late-breaking news to our membership. Many things come to our attention that are of interest but would be out-of-date if they had to wait for the quarterly newsletter. Several emails have been sent out and an alarming number bounced. Please, if you have an email address and would like to be a part of the group, confirm it, or report any snail mail address changes by sending an email to: route66membership@webzone.net.

Four – The Bunion Derby Commemorative Relay (weather permitting) still needs volunteers to drive the plaque across the state. In particular, the stretch between OKC and Chandler needs a volunteer as well as many places out in the western part of the state. The cornerstone date for the Relay is April 26th, as the plaque must be in Tulsa by noon where it will be a part of an effort to raise funds for Tulsa schools. Therefore, we are looking for people who can help on April 24 or 25 or early the 26th to get the plaque to Tulsa by then. If you can help, please contact Carol Duncan, western Vice President, immediately at (580) 323-2113.

Five – The Association is searching for an Executive Director again as the person we had been in contact with has declined for personal reasons. Get in touch with any officer or county rep if you are interested in the position or know someone who might be. This position requires a commitment of time and the ability to travel.

Six – Plans are being formulated for the June 2003 Cruise. Volunteers are needed to help with the starting points at each end of the state as well as at the main venue site in Stroud. Call Rick Schmigle at (918) 492-2822/email: route66@webzone.net or Tom Brookshire at (918) 272-3909/email: tebrook@dellepro.com.

Seven – During the June cruise, the Association is hoping communities and individuals along the Route will set up Yard Sales, weather permitting. This will encourage non-cruisers to get out on the road and cruisers an opportunity to spend more time (and money) in our 66 communities.

Eight – Hampton Inns will be holding a 66 caravan in May and June – stay tuned! And be sure to check the Calendar of Events inside this newsletter for the various Association-sponsored events slated for this year.



President's Corner By Tom Brookshire

As your newly elected President, greetings to all of you. I look forward to the opportunities that will arise to meet and talk with many of you out and about on Route 66.

This is a call to all Oklahoma Route 66 Association members and all others who receive and read this newsletter. How long has it been since you've spent a little time on Historic 66? When did you last visit some where on America's Main Street with a long time resident, business owner, or fellow traveler long enough to learn something new and interesting about the person, the business, or the road? Can you recall your last weekend trip or Sunday drive on scenic 66?

If you have ever visited the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., you understand its absolute size - the vastness of the whole complex and its features and displays - and you know that it takes many visits to see and experience all it has to offer. Similarly, Route 66 has evolved over its very own time span to become essentially a natural, national museum displaying the complex and varied features of its unique cultures and way of life. It takes continually visiting the many "rooms" (towns and cities and countrysides and open spaces) of Route 66 to see and experience all it has to offer. Even then, what you see from time to time, may be for one reason or another always changing with the best intention of staying the same - of retaining its history and heritage.

If it has been a while, I challenge all of us to change the oil, check the tires, and fill the gas tank of our favorite vehicle and proceed fresh again to get our "kicks" on 66. Renew your love affair with 66 and get involved in the activities and events and meetings of your Oklahoma Route 66 Association. There are a lot of exciting things coming up on and along Historic Oklahoma 66 over the duration of this and the next few years. I hope to see you soon somewhere on 66!



Schedule of 2003 Meetings/ Calendar of Events

Last weekend of April, BUNION DERBY COMMEMORATION RELAY – volunteers still needed! Details are still being worked out but it looks like the key dates are April 25 and 26, with a possible start on the 24th and an extension through the 27th. More volunteers are needed as not all sections have been covered. The most critical sections open include a lot of the western half of the state up to the OKC metro area, then from east OKC to Chandler. If you are interested, please contact Carol Duncan at 580-323-2113 ASAP.

June 13-14-15, 2003, ANNUAL STATEWIDE CRUISE AND CAR SHOW/ROD RUN & 66 YARD SALE. Start points are Erick and Miami, the closing venue will be Stroud. Look for the advance registration form in this newsletter. Signing up early saves you money!

June 22, 2 PM, BOARD MEETING – Seaba Station in Warwick, Lincoln County. Open to general membership and the public. *Agenda:* Wrap-up discussion of cruise and car show; Any new business.

September 13, 2 PM, OKLAHOMA ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME AWARDS – Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Clinton. Two Oklahomans who have made significant contributions to Route 66 will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Clinton will be celebrating their centennial that same weekend. Everyone is invited to come.

October 4, CARAVAN-STYLE CRUISE – Details are still in the works but it looks like it will start somewhere near Sapulpa and will end at the Coleman Theatre in Miami.

October 26, 2 PM, BOARD MEETING – Seaba Station in Warwick, Lincoln County. Open to general membership and the public. *Agenda:* Set date for 2004 Annual Meeting; Preliminary discussions for 2004 66 Festival in Tulsa; Any new business.

International Route 66 Festival comes to Tulsa!

By Brad Nickson

If you missed the Oklahoma Route 66 Association annual meeting, you missed the big announcement. Tulsa will be the host city for the 2004 International Route 66 Festival and the National Historic Route 66 Federation's John Steinbeck/Cyrus Avery awards ceremony.

The two most important details, date and location, have been decided. Mark your calendars for June 10-13, 2004 and make plans to come to the Brady Village district, just north of downtown Tulsa. Other details are scarce at the moment, but they will be along soon. Exciting plans for entertainment, workshops, driving/walking tours, vendor exhibits and more are in the works.

Things started at the 2002 Festival in Springfield, IL when Oklahoma Route 66 Association members, Ron McCoy and Laurel Kane, mentioned to David Knudson, National Historic Route 66 Federation Executive Director, that Tulsa would be an ideal host city. Calls were made, meetings were scheduled, committees were formed and in December 2002, David agreed that Tulsa would host the 2004 event. Springfield, IL will host the event again in September 2003 and San Bernardino, CA will host in 2005. 2007 has been mentioned for a return visit to Oklahoma to coincide with our state centennial celebration.

The John Steinbeck award is given to an individual selected as providing a significant Route 66 preservation effort. This award is given by the John Steinbeck Foundation and the National Historic Route 66 Federation. Oklahomans honored with this award include Michael Wallis and Jim Ross.

The Cyrus Avery award is given to an organization or individual with the most outstanding preservation project. It has only been awarded twice with Bill Fernau, owner of Phillips station in Chandler, OK being the second recipient.

Watch the Oklahoma Route 66 Association newsletter and website www.oklahomaroute66.com/festival2004.html for more news of this event.

Old Buffalo Ranch torn down, new one emerges

Story and photos by Laurel Kane
*(supplemental information from the
Feb. 23, 2003 Sunday Oklahoman)*

Talk about conflicted.... that's me! I'm not quite sure how to describe my emotions about this Buffalo Ranch thing, since the last thing in the world I wanted to see was it being destroyed. R. I. P. Buffalo Ranch. So sad.

But things could be much worse. Thinking back to my first trip to Buffalo Ranch as an adult (only about 6 years ago, just after all but Dairy Ranch had closed), I remember seeing that incredible, huge sign out in front ("BUFFALO RANCH -- Visitors Welcome") and thinking that if I was called upon to make a list of ten things on Route 66 that I'd like to own and preserve, that sign would be one of them! Well, folks...now I own it!!! Yes, it's mine, and now it is up to me to make sure that it will be displayed in a safe place where others, particularly those who cherish memories of Buffalo Ranch from their childhood,



All buildings of the Buffalo Ranch are being demolished.

can still come and see it and remember.

A couple of years ago the big yellow and black sign was knocked over by a truck, and, from what I understand, was stored away and virtually forgotten.

February 17th, David Kane, Ron McCoy, and I headed for Buffalo Ranch to pick up the signs promised to me by the new owner. I was thinking I'd get the big "banner" signs across the tops of the buildings, but it turns out they're made of fabric permanently epoxied to the buildings and can't possibly be saved before the wrecking crew came. The owner said, however, that there was a "pile of signs" in one of the old outbuildings behind the Trading Post, so off we went to look. And....what should we find but the ORIGINAL streetside sign!!!!!! It's huge, painted on 8 separate 4x6 pieces of plywood which put back-to-back create a double-sided sign! My breath was taken away! The owner said sure, I could

have them, no problem. Was I dreaming? Heck, I think I'm STILL dreaming!

Ron and David loaded the big boards into the pickup truck and then the owner said we could poke around the other outbuildings and take whatever we wanted.



Left: David Kane and Ron McCoy load up the Buffalo Ranch sign. Right: demolition underway.

With flashlight in hand, we managed to find some ancient (but still in perfect condition) Buffalo Ranch bumper stickers, some nice display racks, a bizarre "Make Your Own Lamp" display (never saw one of those before!), what we think was the hat worn by Larue Olson, the buffalo trainer who appears in that wonderful series of real photo postcards (more about that later), a few other odds and ends, and...the original condom machine from the Buffalo Ranch men's room! Yeah, really!!! The lock is rusted shut, but we could still hear money in it when we shook it!

After this treasure hunt, we learned from the owner that he plans to have a Buffalo Ranch commemorative wall in his travel center, and is working with the State right now to get the permits necessary to keep a pen of peacocks and about a half dozen head of buffalo on the site. He even ceded a portion of the parking lot to an Indian tribe in order for them to have a place to present Native American heritage shows, similar to those at the old Buffalo Ranch. He gave each of us a cap upon which he's already had his "Buffalo Ranch Travel Center" logo embroidered.

So, my take on this whole thing is that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Buffalo Ranch will survive as a "tourist trap" not unlike the original, but with a decidedly modern twist. Trucks will be provided with diesel fuel and the souvenir stand will compete with all the junk found at modern-day convenience marts, and yet there will still be that special touch that only a roadside entrepreneur/showman/huckster knows how to provide. Thanks to it being bought

by someone with that spirit, Buffalo Ranch isn't exactly dying....it's just changing.

One other thing....items from Dairy Ranch are going to Betty Wheatley, who leased it for over 40 years and retired two years ago. That's a perfect place for them.

P.S. Read Thomas Repp's "Route 66: The Empires of Amusement" to learn the wonderful history of this disappearing landmark.

Additional information from Sheila Stogsdill, Sunday Oklahoman: Terry and Kimberly Addington are the new owners of the 29-acre Buffalo Ranch. As a child, Terry would go with his parents from Welch to see the buffalo and other entertainment at the Ranch. The original buildings were removed because they could not be brought up to health codes. The Addingtons expect to spend several million dollars to create the travel plaza. It will include a 70-seat restaurant, a convenience store, gift shop and tackle store. The center hopes to open Memorial Day weekend.

Rock Café returns to its roots

Story and photos by Emily Priddy

When Dawn Welch was 14, she told off Garth Brooks.

Welch and Brooks worked together at Ken's Pizza in Yukon, Okla., where Brooks and several other employees thought it was hilarious to play pranks on Welch. They'd pick up the motor



Dawn Welch and her daughter, Alexis Herr, 8, take a break at the Rock Café.

scooter she drove to work and hide it from her. They'd lock her into the cabinet under the salad bar when she crawled inside to let the water out of it.

One day, Welch got fed up with Brooks' antics.

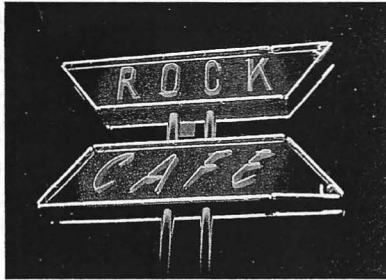
"I told Garth Brooks -- I said, 'You're such a big loser, I'm gonna come (to town) one day, and you're gonna be the carnie

that lets me onto the carnival ride,” she laughed.
OK, so she’s not clairvoyant.

Nearly 20 years later, Brooks has taken his country music act all over the world.

Welch, meanwhile, is still in Oklahoma, letting the world come to her.

“All summer long, you never know what’s gonna pull up,” said Welch, who owns the historic Rock Café on Route 66 in Stroud.



Neon sign glows brightly, welcoming travelers.

A Japanese singing group once serenaded Welch and her customers with American rock 'n' roll tunes.

Sitting in a booth at the café, the three-man group launched

into an impromptu rendition of Bobby Troup’s “Get Your Kicks.”

“We started clapping when they got done, and that just let ‘em loose,” Welch said. “They said they were big rockabilly stars in Japan. They could spell ‘rockabilly.’”

Unfortunately, that was just about the only English they knew, aside from the song lyrics.

“People started shouting out songs for them to sing, and they would sing something, but it wouldn’t be what you wanted. They had no clue,” Welch said.

Foreign tourists aren’t the only source of entertainment at the Rock Café.

“You have all your American weirdos doing all their American weirdo stuff,” Welch said.

She recalled the chain smoker who was riding down Route 66 on his bicycle (“He rode 100 miles a day on that bike, and he looked like the most fit person in the world, but he never, ever stopped smoking those cigarettes”) and the guy who was saving the whales by bicycling down 66 with his kid riding next to him in a sidecar shaped like a whale.

Welch bought the Rock Café in 1993. Her plan was to stay in Stroud for a year, build up the business, then sell the restaurant at a profit and move to Costa Rica. At the time, the Costa Rican government was offering incentives to entrepreneurs to set up restaurants and other

businesses that would serve tourists and employ locals.

The Rock Café turned out to be so much fun that one year turned into ten.

During those ten years, the business has seen some changes.

In 1998, Welch began the process of nominating the property to the National Register of Historic Places. Four years later, the Rock Café was placed on the register.

“It was very time-consuming,” Welch said of the application process. “It costs about \$2,500 to have somebody do it for you, and I just decided to do it on my own. Basically, if you pester the government long enough, they’ll do it.”

Pestering the government has paid off for Welch, who got a grant through the National Park Service’s Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program to cover half of the \$55,000 cost of remodeling the Rock Café.

Renovating the building -- which was constructed in 1936 -- wasn’t easy.

In addition to filing paperwork and coming up with her half of the remodeling costs, Welch had to deal with a few unexpected hassles.



The bar was replaced as part of the renovations.

For instance, the construction crew had just put the finishing touches on the kitchen when Welch went in to clean up the dust.

“I was ... all alone in the kitchen, sweeping up the floor, and all of a sudden, the whole entire ceiling fell down on me,” she said. “That was pretty scary. As soon as it was done, you couldn’t even see me” because of the dust and debris.

Welch took the situation in stride.

“I have this saying. I always say, ‘Oh, monkeys’ about everything, and I said, ‘Oh, monkeys,’ and one of the construction guys said, ‘Oh, no, that’s more like oh, gorillas,’” she said.

Fortunately, the damage took just a day to repair, and today, the Rock Café is in good shape. The restaurant’s bar and booths -- which were removed in the 1980s -- have been

replaced, and the original entrances on the east and west sides of the building, which had been covered with rocks, have been restored. A pass-through window also was installed between the kitchen and dining room, and the neon sign out front glows brightly.

The improvements have been popular with customers, Welch said.

"We just had our best January ever, and I've been here 10 years," she said. "We had a big 53-store mall here until '99, and a tornado blew it away, and our numbers sank to 50 percent of what they were... Now we're having the best time we've ever had."

The Rock Café, located at 114 W. Main St. (Route 66) in Stroud, is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. For more information, call the café at (918) 968-3990.

Bunion Derby Anniversary coming up

By Carol Duncan

This year, 2003, marks the 75th Anniversary of the Bunion Derby. The Oklahoma Route 66 Museum will open an exhibit in the WOW Room on April 5th commemorating this event. An Oklahoman from Foyil, Andy Payne, won this great Transcontinental Footrace. The exhibit will be on display for the month of April and is free to the public. This historic showing is a collaborative effort of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association, Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, Oklahoma Historical Society, Route 66 historian Jim Ross, the Andrew Payne family, and myself as western vice-president of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association.

After U.S. Highway 66 had been declared an official federal road in November 1926, staunch supporters of the new highway system and especially U.S. 66 came together in a big meeting in Tulsa in February 1927. At this meeting, it was unanimously voted for and declared that U.S. 66 was to be known as the "Main Street of America."

The 1920s was an era of endurance contests, flamboyant people, and bigger than life heroes. Sports figures of astounding capabilities were looked up to.

A scheme was tossed around and the possibilities were discussed at a dinner gathering

of Route 66 civic leaders in Oklahoma City. "What kind of spectacular, colossal event would draw attention to this pathway from the Midwest to California?" they wondered. Lon Scott, publicity director for the new U.S. Highway 66 Association, agreed to explore some ways to create an event of the century.

What he came up with was a 3400-mile endurance footrace from Los Angeles to New York City. Of course, Los Angeles to Chicago would be on Route 66. Next came financing. A major pledge leader was needed to get things rolling. The Association undertook this role and pledged \$60,000. That's roughly equivalent to about \$200,000 in today's money. More money and pledges would be solicited from cities' Chambers of Commerce.

One of the nationally known sports promoters of his day was Charles C. Pyle. His specialty was football, skating, and track events. Pyle jumped at the chance to create this cross-country marathon. He thought it was a way to make big money.

C.C. Pyle attended the annual meeting of the Route 66 Association in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in the fall of 1927. He explained his whole plan and convinced Association members the transcontinental footrace would draw the country's and the world's attention to their highway and to their doorstep. Pyle sent promoters across the nation and to foreign countries to lure runners. The grand prize of \$25,000 was an irresistible temptation for anyone who thought they had the right stuff.

Although commonly called "The Bunion Derby," the official name was "C.C. Pyle's First Annual International Transcontinental Foot Race." About 300 entrants started; only 55 finished.

In Foyil, Oklahoma, lived Andrew Payne, a young 20-year old man who was a local track star. He ran five miles to school each day. In 1927, he graduated from Foyil High School.

Jobs were already getting scarce in the economically depressed Oklahoma of the late 1920s – especially as the state was young and many parts of the state were still take faltering economic steps.

Andy made his way to California to seek work but did not find anyone willing to hire this earnest Cherokee lad. While there, he heard about the

race. The entry fee was \$100, a fair amount of money that he just didn't have.

Andy came home to find sponsors. The Claremore Chamber was approached, but they declined. Everyone felt the need to be careful on how they spent their money. But Andy's father had faith in his son. No one knows for sure the true story, but Mr. Payne found a way to borrow the \$100.

Back to California, by thumb, walking, and hopping the rail, Andy went. He trained at Ascot Speedway and along the roadways. A more determined, focused young man could hardly be found. The grand prize would help his family and he would have the financial means to marry the girl back home.

The Bunion Derby started March 4, 1928 at Ascot Park in California and ended May 26th at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The race was 3,423 miles of hot desert, thin air in the mountains, soaking rain, grinding sandstorms, and blizzards. The runners endured many physical hardships. But Andrew H. Payne, an Oklahoman, made the race and won. He became an Oklahoma hero and Oklahoma legend.

Andy Payne Memorial Foot Race to be held May 24th

UNITY (United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc.) sponsors the Andy Payne Memorial Foot Race each year on Memorial Day weekend. This year the event will be held Saturday May 24th. In addition to the main event, a Willie Nelson 10K and Allie Reynolds 5K for the shorter distance runners will be scheduled.

Andy Payne was the winner of the 1928 Bunion Derby, the Transcontinental Foot Race from Los Angeles to Chicago on Route 66 and then on to New York City. Mr. Payne later became the court clerk for the Oklahoma State Supreme Court from 1934 to his retirement in the 1970s.

This marathon race is sanctioned by the USA Track and Field Certified Courses. It has been held for 26 years in the area around the old Route 66 alignment at Lake Overholser between Bethany and Yukon. This lies just south of the current alignment.

For more information write J.R. Cook, 500 N. Broadway, Suite 250, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. Or you can call (405) 236-2800 or send an email to mekko@unityinc.org. The web address is www.unityinc.org. Donations and/or sponsorships are gratefully accepted.

Oklahoma Oral History Workshop - Your help is needed By Marian Clark

David Dunaway, a professor at UNMU, led Oklahoma Route 66 enthusiasts in an informative workshop Feb. 22-23. The seminar examined the importance of preserving oral history along Route 66 and included tips on recording and organizing interviews. Oral history will be a major asset in helping future generations understand our nation's (and the world's) fascination with Route 66.

It is hoped that from the class, a group of skilled interviewers will soon be ready to document Oklahoma memories of those who worked and lived along Route 66 during the days it was a national highway.

Dunaway, an oral history expert, pointed out



*L to R: Howard Dickman, David Dunaway, Sally Ferrell.
Photo by Brad Nickson.*

that oral history is the recorded eyewitness account of history. He added that the difference between an abandoned roadway and an important piece of history are the stories and memories of those who lived and worked along the road.

Rodger Harris from the State Historical Society and Gwyneth Windon from the State Tourism and Recreation Department added support and expertise.

Now it is up to us as members of the state organization to follow through with several priorities that were identified. First, we need to establish a statewide Route 66 oral history advisory committee. The committee will need to look at funding sources for recording equipment and for office space where oral history records and information can be assembled. Second, the committee must make a time line, review what has already been collected in our state and local libraries and historical societies, and set up a master list of candidates to be interviewed.

After the advisory committee has established these priorities and goals, then a wider group of interviewers can begin to contact and collect memories. It is hoped that these recorded interviews can be stored at a Route 66 location in Oklahoma with copies going to the State Historical Society.

Now, it is up to you as members to respond. If you would be willing to be a part of the advisory committee or if you would be willing to do interviews or even add names of those people who should be interviewed, please contact our new president, Tom Brookshire at (918) 272-3909 or by email at tebrook@dellepro.com.



Some of the attendees included, standing L-R: Rick Schmigle, Marian Clark, David Dunaway, Brad Nickson, Carol Duncan, Mike Hickey, Barbara Brookshire. Seated L-R: Gwyneth Windon, Sally Ferrell.

Oral history and copyright issues

From information supplied by Rodger Harris,
Oklahoma Historical Society

When oral histories are compiled, it is necessary to have the person being interviewed sign a release form. The form suggested by David Dunaway differs from the form used by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The difference lies in how the interview will be used. Dunaway's form is designed primarily for those doing documentaries, writing a book, etc. – formats that end up being copyrighted. However, things done for the Oklahoma Historical Society are considered public domain and are not for copyright. If these interviews are to be used and stored with the Oklahoma Historical Society, the OHS release should be used. Otherwise the Dunaway release may need to be assigned every time it is used. Paramount in the release is the description of what will be done with the oral history and who is responsible for preserving it.

It is important for participants to understand that developing a "body" of oral history locally might offer suggestions on how to preserve the roadway and to do local exhibits and events. General research should be done before oral histories begin. Rodger would be happy to assist in planning any projects, especially if it can be done via email – rharris@ok-history.mus.ok.us.

2003 Route 66 Corridor Act Funds available through the National Park Service

The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is dedicated to preserving the rich and diverse historic resources of Highway 66. The program provides financial and technical assistance. For 2003, applicants may apply for funds in amounts between 5,000 and 50,000. All grants will require a minimum 50% cost-share contribution, preferably cash rather than in-kind.

Eligible projects/activities include:

- Historic structure reports
- Professional building surveys and/or archeological surveys
- Route 66 Road Alignment or Pavement Preservation Plans

- *Planning, Collection and Management of Oral Histories*
- *Planning and Development of Interpretive or Educational Activities that directly advance the preservation of Route 66. Brochures or materials with an emphasis on tourism are not eligible.*
- *Project Planning and Architectural Drawings for preservation, rehabilitation or restoration projects*
- *Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Restoration of eligible historic properties such as gas stations and automotive repair shops, restaurants and cafes, motels, hotels and campgrounds, curio shops, trading posts and other tourism-related businesses or attractions, road segments and associated road features, bridges. Other property types may be eligible if they have important associations with Route 66.*

All projects must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended which requires the State Historic Preservation Office be involved during the early phases to mitigate any adverse effects on the historic properties.

Projects in Oklahoma that have benefited from the Corridor Act program include the Rock Café in Stroud, the Phillips 66 station in Chandler, the recent Oral History workshop, and the roadbed survey/management plan done in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office.

To get an application, call the National Park Service in Santa Fe, NM at (505) 988-6701. Applications must be turned in by May 2, 2003.

Hampton Inn Route 66 Caravan

As you may recall, last year Hampton Inn helped do some restoration on the Blue Whale in Catoosa and installed "Roadside Attraction" signs at the Whale and at Mojo's, also in Catoosa. They donated 20 Historic Route 66 brown and white markers and \$1000 to our Association as well.

This year, Hampton will be installing more signs during an eight-week west-to-east caravan. Although details are still being worked out, it appears that the caravan will arrive in Oklahoma on May 27th and will leave the state late on June 5th. Once a firm schedule is set, we will post it on our web site. Hopefully it will be finalized before the May newsletter goes to press.

Places where signs are confirmed to be placed in Oklahoma are: The National 66 Museum in Elk City, The Oklahoma Route 66 Museum in Clinton, the Round Barn in Arcadia, the Seaba Station in Warwick, the Phillips 66 station in Chandler, and the DX station in Afton. As we went to press, other likely spots are Lucille's in Hydro, Ann's Chicken Fry in OKC, the Rock Café in Stroud, the 11th Street Bridge in Tulsa, the Will Rogers Memorial in Claremore, and the Coleman Theatre in Miami.

We urge our members to make at least one sign posting ceremony while the caravan is in Oklahoma.

News from our Membership

(Tidbits sent to us by our members. If you have something going on, be sure to let us know!)

Michael Wallis update: Michael continues to recover from last year's serious motorcycle accident. He's graduated from a wheelchair and walker to just occasionally using a cane. He continues with therapy. As spring approaches, he is resuming a more active speaking and travel schedule. He'll be teaching a Route 66 course at OSU-Tulsa and is even planning a road trip along 66. Recently, he's been busy writing – including a piece in *Oklahoma Today* magazine about the stretch of 66 between Tulsa and Arcadia, an article in the new *American Road* magazine about Florida's Tamiami Trail, and a lengthy foreword to a new, as yet untitled photographic book containing portraits of Route 66 people, being released by the Museum of New Mexico.

You know them as the owners of Route 66 Traders Flea Market. Well, the Flea Market is now closed and for sale – but don't feel sad! Jerald and Marilyn Ashby (Jerald is also our Canadian County rep) have been transforming their business into an entirely different enterprise – field trips for school kids! Called Field Trips, Etc., kids can learn about Oklahoma agriculture, ecology, history and more. The site includes: Pizza Farm, Pioneer House, Eco-Maze, Owl Pellets 'R Us, Bread & Butter, Animal Farm, and Pumpkin Patch. Access to the property is by appointment/advance booking only. To book a

field trip or to get more information, call 405-350-3366 or visit www.fieldtrips-etc.com.

For those of you who can't get enough of Route 66, you can always do what our member Ron Jones of Bartlesville, OK has done – get lots of 66-themed tattoos. In fact, he has 17 of them! He writes, "I have at least one from each state that Route 66 runs through. I also have one of the Round Barn in Arcadia." You can contact Ron at 918-335-3792.



The Will Rogers Memorial Commission has just installed state-of-the-art DVD systems that upgrade the quality of nineteen video kiosks at the Claremore Museum, Oologah birthplace ranch, and special exhibits at the Vinita's Glass House on the Will Rogers Turnpike. Grants from ONEOK and the Will Rogers Heritage, Inc. covered capital costs. Recently nine Will Rogers feature films were shown via DVD at a Will Rogers Film Festival in Tulsa. Twentieth Century-Fox still holds most of the copyrights to the Will Rogers talkie films. They granted special permission to the Cinemark Theatre in Tulsa to show the nine films to paying customers for the festival. "Many of Will Rogers' 50 silent films were lost years ago," says Michelle Lefebvre-Carter, Director of the Will Rogers Memorial Museums. "Fortunately, all 21 talkies have been preserved."

For more news from Oklahoma, see page 13.

Hitchhikers – news relating to 66 from other states

Second Annual International Route 66 Roadie Gathering – July 11-13. The Tucumcari Convention Center will be the site of this event

sponsored by Route 66 Magazine. The Gathering will be held in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Tucumcari Route 66 Celebration. Celebrity guests will include Martin Milner and Michael Wallis (plus others yet to be revealed!). There will be an Artists and Photographers Exhibit, a Writer's Seminar, Parade, Car Show and Cruise, and an evening banquet for the awarding of preservation and Young Writer's awards. There will also be an auction that will include a complete and authentic set of Burma Shave signs. You can contact the Magazine at 702-299-856 or write them at P.O. Box 66, Laughlin NV 89028.

Northern Arizona University Theatre's production of "Route 66: A Celebration of America's Main Street" will debut this summer at the Roadie Gathering in New Mexico. The group would like to bring their production to venues along the old highway from July 14th throughout the fall of 2003. Hosting towns and events need to supply an appropriate space and electricity. Typically two days are needed to load in, rehearse, perform, and load out, however the fee of \$7000 is the same for one week as it is for one day. The host is also asked to provide housing for the cast and crew. Cost support options are available. For more information, call Mac Groves at 928-523-9596 or send an email to mac.groves@nau.edu.

The Maintenance Division of the Texas Department of Transportation has sent an open invitation to attend the grand opening ceremonies for the new Safety Rest Area in Donley County on Thursday April 3, 11 am, which is Route 66 themed and sits on the old two-lane alignment. The rest area can be accessed from eastbound I-40, mile marker 129 (just west of Alanreed, about 48 miles west of the OK /TXborder). RSVP at 512-486-5904.

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2003 Oklahoma Route 66 Statewide Cruise

Friday June 13 - Saturday June 14 - Sunday June 15

Cruise Advance Registration Form

Please complete and mail before May 1. Make check or money order payable to the Oklahoma Route 66 Association and mail to P.O. Box 21382, Oklahoma City, OK 73156. Entries received after May 1 will be returned and registration must then wait until cruise day. No refunds will be given as the cruise will be held rain or shine. A \$20 recovery fee will be charged for bad checks.

Once our information is finalized, an acknowledgement letter of receipt for your completed form and payment, a schedule of events, motel listings, rules, etc. will be mailed. Cruise information will also be posted on our web site www.oklahomaroute66.com as it becomes available.

State Association Annual Memberships (check one):

Join (or renew) now and save on your pre-registration fees!

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

Advance Registration Cruise Entry Fees (basic entry fee is for one passport):

Non-OK Route 66 Association member \$20 _____ (after May 1: on-site fee rises to \$25)
Member \$15 _____ (after May 1: on-site fee rises to \$20)
Extra passports \$10 each _____ (after May 1: on-site fee rises to \$15)
Sub-total _____

GRAND TOTAL _____

Driver, passport and/or membership information:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone numbers (day) _____ (evening) _____
Email address _____

Names of passengers who will be using additional passports (passports are used to win door prizes):

Cruise and car show entrants must have a valid driver's license and current proof of insurance. Winners are responsible for their own taxes. By submitting this form, you hold harmless the Oklahoma Route 66 Association and anyone connected with the Cruise and Car Show/Rod Run from any and all known or unknown damages, injuries, losses, judgments, and/or claims from any cause whatsoever that may be suffered by any entrant to his or her person or property. Each entrant agrees to indemnify all of the foregoing entities, firms, persons and bodies of and from any and all liability occasioned or resulting from the conduct of entrants or any participant assisting or cooperating with entrants. Any behavior that management deems as poor character on the part of entrants can lead to eviction or restriction, without refund of entry fees.

IMPORTANT! Indicate your Starting Point:

Your cruise packet will be waiting for you on June 13 and 14 at the start point you designate.

Erick _____ (Roger Miller Museum, SE corner of Sheb Wooley Ave. & Roger Miller Blvd. Hours: Fri. 9:30 am-6 pm, Sat. 9-10 am)

Miami _____ (Waylan's KuKu Burgers, 915 N. Main. Hours: Fri. 9 am-6 pm, Sat. 9-11 am)

Will you take one day to cruise or two? (We strongly urge all cruisers to take both Friday & Saturday) _____



What's more fun than a game of Twister, Hi-Ho Cherry-O and a runaway Slinky?

The International Route 66 Mother Road Festival &
Car Show in Springfield, Illinois!

Remember when you could trust your car to the man who wore the star? ("The big, bright Texaco star!") Or, when you'd walk a mile for a Camel? Relive those days in downtown Springfield, Illinois again this year at the **International Route 66 Mother Road Festival & Car Show, September 26-28.**

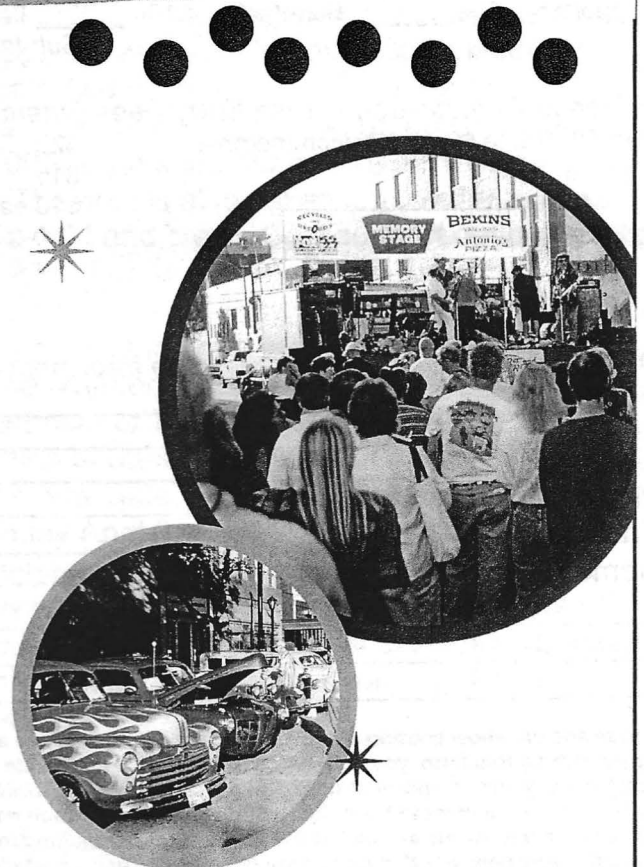
- * **Non-stop FREE entertainment all weekend long - including Martin Milner**
- * **Hundreds of Hot Rods, Classics, Corvettes & more line the downtown streets**
- * **Route 66 Authors & Artists - including Michael Wallis**

The World's Largest Sock Hop

We'll kick the night off with **Danny & The Juniors** performing their number one hits, including "At The Hop"...followed by **The Shirelles** crooning such hits as "Soldier Boy." Then we'll cap off the evening with **The Buckingham**s singing tune after tune of hits such as "Kind of a Drag" and "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy." There's oodles of dance floor space and plenty of concert seating too for those who simply want to relax and reminisce. **Order your tickets today!**

To order Sock Hop tickets:

www.ticketmaster.com
(enter <http://www.route66fest.com/sockhoptickets>)



ILLINOIS
RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW.

September 26-28, 2003

Pre-register your car today by calling toll-free 1-866-RTE-66IL (866-783-6645)
or for more information visit route66fest.com.

Chandler's Old Armory Restoration News

by Howard Dickman,
Old Armory Restorers Chairman

Last June the Oklahoma Department of Transportation granted the Old Armory Restorers a Tea-21 grant to be used to restore the Armory into a Route 66 Interpretive Center. Since June we have been working on the paper work and the search for an architectural firm. Over 20 firms submitted requests to be considered for this project. The list was pared down to 6 who then were interviewed for the project. The winning firm has not yet been released, but the choice has been a difficult one as each firm was very qualified. This is a very desirable project in the state.

The Old Armory Restorers plan on having a public presentation after the architectural firm is announced. We want to have that winning firm come to town and do a show and tell about the restoration plans. We will let every one know when we plan on having this event.

We still have some window panes left for adoption. If any one is interested in adopting a pane of glass in the Old Armory you can send \$66 to the Old Armory Restorers at P.O. Box 582, Chandler, OK 74834.

Miami hosts 15th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference

May 8-10 are the dates when the statewide preservation conference will be held at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami. Featured topics include preserving the recent past, restoration techniques and sources of information, community revitalization assistance programs, rehabilitation case studies, and rural conservation efforts. Contact Melvena Heisch at 405-522-4484 for more information.

Welcome to the "Redneck Capitol of the World"

Harley and Annabelle Russell extend their own special brand of musical hospitality (which they call Redneck Hospitality) to all comers –

whether a twosome or a whole busload. Located in the oldest brick building (originally the City Meat Market) in Erick, the self-styled "Mediocre Music Makers" will put on a live vintage country & western musical performance at the drop of a hat. Their SandHills Curiosity Shop is also home to vintage musical instruments, furniture, artwork and more. They operate the Redneck Junk Store across the street as well.

If you decide to participate in the June cruise this year at the western end/Erick, be sure to arrive Thursday afternoon. After a dutch-treat dinner at the Elm House and hopefully a tour of some historic place in town (plans still be worked out), everyone will head over to the Curiosity Shop for an unforgettable evening of entertainment.

Ideas on how to promote Route 66

By Emily Priddy

- Wear a Route 66 T-shirt. Be willing to answer questions if somebody sees your shirt and asks about the road.
- Put a Route 66 bumper sticker on your car.
- Eat at a mom-and-pop restaurant.
- Sleep at a mom-and-pop motel.
- Notice neon.
- Slow down and notice your surroundings.
- Drive Route 66 every single time you have a chance, even if it's only for a mile or two.
- Send a child a Route 66 postcard. Kids love getting mail, and you'll be helping to get the next generation interested in the Mother Road.
- Join a Route 66 organization...or two...or all of them.
- Instead of Christmas gifts, request donations to your favorite Route 66 organization.
- Go Christmas shopping at a Route 66 museum's gift shop or a mom-and-pop souvenir shop or other business on 66.
- Attend a festival, car show or concert on Route 66.
- Participate in a Route 66 motor tour.
- More ideas to come in a future issue...

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www.66maps.com

www.americanroadmagazine.com



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(The Redneck Capital of the World!)
Ph: 580-526-3738



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General manager

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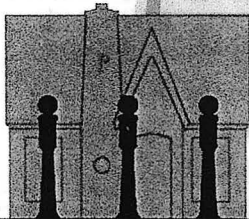
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BE SURE TO SEND US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS!

Time to renew your membership?

You can either go on-line and download our membership form and mail that in, or simply write a check and mail it to:

Oklahoma Route 66 Association

P.O. Box 21382

Oklahoma City, OK 73156.

Individual: \$15, Family: \$25, Overseas: \$25,
Business: \$35, Club: \$40, Benefactor: \$500+

Newsletter advertising rates, per issue:

Members:

Business card	7.50
¼ page	15.00
½ page	20.00
Full page	30.00

Non-members:

Business card	15.00
¼ page	30.00
½ page	40.00
Full page	60.00

Business members get one free business card ad upon joining, space permitting, so if you have not yet submitted a card and you are a business member, please be sure to send us one!

Ad space varies from issue to issue.

OKLAHOMA ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Please patronize our business members. When you do, let them know that you are also a member of the Association.

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March, 2003

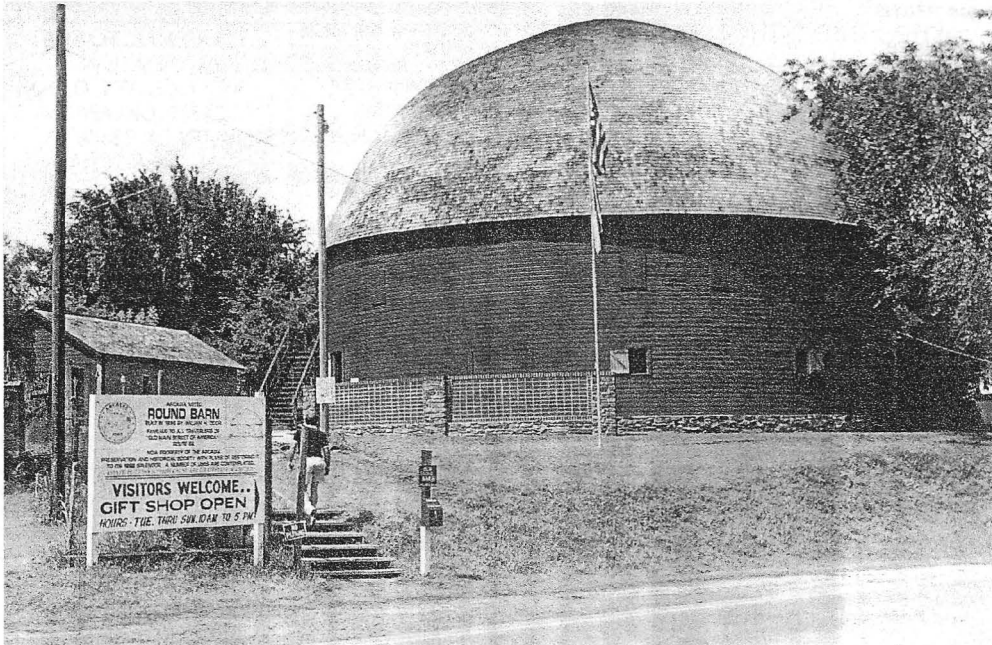


7/1/2003 F
Mike Hickey
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Oklahoma City OK 73162

PLEASE CHECK YOUR EXPIRATION DATE!
If it is highlighted, your membership has expired
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