



ON THE ROAD

Volume 15, No. 4

December 2003

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Vacant



Photo by Steve Clem

These little tourist cabins between Sapulpa and Kellyville were featured in a 1959 bestselling book called *Preposterous Papa*..

CABINS NEAR KELLYVILLE ENDANGERED

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article originally was slated to run last issue but was held for lack of space. Since then, the cabins and the acreage on which they sit have been put up for sale. Members of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association are trying to find a way to save the property from destruction. Watch your mail for updates on this project and requests for assistance as supporters of these historic cabins develop a plan to try to protect them from the wrecking ball.

By Steve Clem

We all have our favorite Route 66 relics. Me, I'm a sucker for tourist courts, of which, sadly, there are fewer each time I cruise the road. My favorite tourist court is probably more accurately described as tourist cabins — four of them, sitting alongside Oklahoma 66 between Sapulpa and Kellyville.

Cruising westbound from Sapulpa, they come into view right after you pass the Creek County Fairgrounds.

These natural stone structures, with their giraffe-like patterns and neglected condition, are a tourist court junkie's dream. But I fell in love with them before I ever saw them. Before I even saw one picture. Because I had seen them in my mind's eye from reading the bestselling book that features them.

See **Cabins**, page 9



Calendar of events

Oklahoma Route 66 Association Annual Meeting. Begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 25 at the public library in Chandler. Lunch will be provided. The morning session will cover development of a master plan. A business meeting will be held in the afternoon. RSVP by Jan. 3. Please fill out the form on Page 7 of this newsletter. For more information, e-mail okrt66@brightok.net. All Association members are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Green Country Fishing and Hunting Show. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, through Saturday, Feb. 21, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22 at the Expo Center in Claremore. For more information, call (405) 943-3800 or visit www.oktacklehunt.com.

ABATE of Tulsa Annual Motorcycle Show. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 20 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 21 at the fairgrounds Exchange Center I in Tulsa. For more information, call (918) 282-6604 or visit www.tulok.com/abate.

Art Exhibit. March 5 through April 3 at the Edmond Historical Society Museum. Artists' reception from 5 to 7 p.m. March 5. Free admission. For more information, call (405) 340-0078 or visit www.edmondhistory.org.

Valentine Dinner and Dance. Feb 14, 2004 at the National Cowboy Museum, 1700 NE 63rd St. in Oklahoma City. For more information, call (405) 478-2250 or visit www.nationalcowboymuseum.org.

An Evening with Baxter Black. March 13 at the National Cowboy Museum, 1700 NE 63rd St. in Oklahoma City. Cowboy poet and humorist Baxter Black will perform. Reservations required. For more information, call (405) 478-2250 or visit www.nationalcowboymuseum.org.

The Art of American Arms Makers. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 14 through May 16 at the National Cowboy Museum, 1700 NE 63rd St. in Oklahoma City. Features Western hunting images used as advertising art by firearms and ammunition manufacturers. For more information, call (405) 478-2250 or visit www.nationalcowboymuseum.org.

4 properties closer to National Register

When a building or landmark receives the distinction of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is the final step in a process often begun a year or so earlier. Four such properties along Route 66 have just cleared one major hurdle.

The Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee met Oct. 16 to look over five properties they might recommend to the National Register as being worthy of acceptance. Four of them are on Route 66: Narcissa Gas Station, Bridgeport Hill Service Station, Little Deep Fork Creek Bridge near Bristow and the Ozark Trails section of Route 66 east of Stroud, which includes the Ozark Trail Obelisk, the dirt roadbed, two stone culverts under the roadbed and the old Dosie Creek bridge.

Before a property can be considered, a thorough background search is done and through well-established guidelines, a nomination is prepared. This process can take months to complete. The nomination then is submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review. The office may accept the nomination as is, request sections be revised or indicate more research may be needed.

In this case, the four properties were written up by Dr. Mike Cassity, who has been hired as a temporary employee of SHPO to write Route 66-oriented nominations, thanks to grant money received through the Route 66 Corridor Program. More properties will be nominated in the future. These first four were chosen for geographical diversity and type.

The Association has requested copies of the research Mike has done so we can have the treasure trove of information he has uncovered on file for anyone curious about these properties.

It is our hope that we can, over time, get copies of all the nominations done in the past for those OK 66 properties that attained National Register status.

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Two inducted into Route 66 Hall of Fame

Mason, Avery
earn recognition

By Carol Duncan

Two more individuals have joined the list of respected and noted men and women whose pictures are hanging in the Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum.

The late Cyrus Avery of Tulsa, better known as the "Father of Route 66," and Dr. Walter S. Mason of Clinton, longtime owner of the Tradewinds Motel, are the latest inductees.

The first inductee, Avery, was an astute businessman.

He came to Oklahoma from Pennsylvania as a young man. At first, he spent time as a farmer, but he later organized the Avery Oil and Gas Company with his partner, Henry Sinclair.

Avery became interested in good roads. He became active in two trail associations and the national trails movement.

He ran for the office of Tulsa County Commissioner and won. County roads improved under his leadership.

Avery and associates from the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce were active in the formation of Coin Harvey's Ozark Trail Association.



Photo by Brad Nickson

Cyrus Avery's granddaughter, Joy Avery, left, spoke about her late grandfather as Route 66 author Michael Wallis looked on.

The Ozark Trail Association did much to mark the highways in a name system. Avery was so interested in road mapping, he got involved in several organizations, including the Associated Highways Associations of America.

In 1923, Avery was appointed a state Highway Commissioner and became the first chairman of the commission.

In 1924, he used his position to get a law passed that connected a gasoline tax with highway funding.

He was a leader in the American Association of State Highway Officials. Through this group, the beginnings of an organ-

ized highway system began.

Eventually the east-west roads were given even numbers, and the north-south roads were odd numbers.

There was a push by many people — including Avery — to establish a main road from the Midwest to the West Coast.

After all the debates were over, U.S. Highway 66 became a reality, and Avery went down in history as the father of Route 66.

The second Hall of Fame inductee, Walter Mason, became interested in politics in the mid 1950s.

He became involved

in the campaign to elect Raymond Gary governor.

Mason later was appointed to the Board of Public Affairs. During his time in office, the economic impact of tourism, the trucking industry, and related businesses made Mason keenly aware of how the new federal interstate system would change things.

Mason and his wife, Velma, made many trips with the Cutberths and the Overmans to Washington, D.C., to plead their case for concessions in building a four-lane Route 66 through or near the towns.

See Hall of Fame, page 4

Hall of Fame • Museum honors longtime volunteer, former ODOT engineer

Continued from page 3

When the city business loop was decided, Mason bought land to build a business.

He and his business partner built a bowling alley and a motel, the Tradewinds. Mason later added a restaurant.

The Masons donated land across the four-lane business loop to the State Historical Society for a museum.

The first museum was called the Western Trails and had displays of local history.

The museum later became the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum.

Tourists visiting the Tradewinds can sleep where Elvis Presley slept. The King stayed at the motel whenever he was in

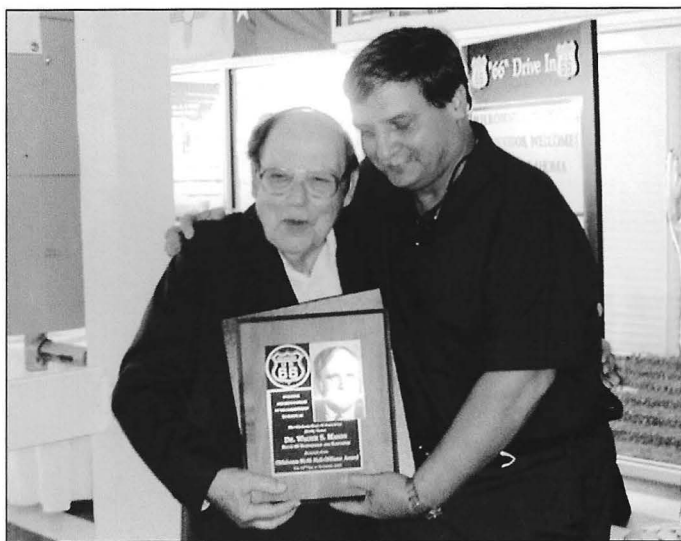


Photo by Brad Nickson

Wallis, right, congratulated Mason on his award.

Clinton — until somebody found out and told the secret.

When ODOT auctioned the last Route 66 signs, Mason was in the crowd and made sure he had a memento of the highway he tried to help.

Hall of Fame member

Michael Wallis of Tulsa presented the awards.

Joy Avery, granddaughter of Cyrus Avery, traveled from Tulsa to help celebrate the recognition of her ancestor's important role in creating Route 66 and influencing the routing through 400

miles of Oklahoma.

In addition to the Hall of Fame inductees, the late Joe Morgan, a longtime engineer with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, was honored posthumously for his contributions to Route 66.

Morgan was a road engineer from 1944 to 1986 and put in many hours volunteering at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum. He donated many artifacts on surveying and road-building to the museum.

Visitors attending the Hall of Fame induction got to see some of the recent additions to the museum, including a restored Valentine Diner and a picnic table and benches from a defunct Route 66 roadside park.

National Park Service funds projects on 66

The following projects have been chosen to receive funding from the National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Program:

Project: Oklahoma Route 66 Inventory Survey and Roadbed Documentation

Recipient: Oklahoma Historical Society

Amount: \$77,000 NPS

In 2001, the Oklahoma Historical Society received grant funds to update and expand an inventory survey of extant historic properties associated with Route 66 in Oklahoma. The project includes the preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations for select properties, and the development of a historic context statement. The Oklahoma Historical Society also received funds to document and map extant Route 66 roadbeds (very capably carried out by the Oklahoma Route 66 Association), and to develop priorities and

See **Grants**, page 12

WE'VE MOVED!

Time to update your Rolodex —
the Oklahoma Route 66
Association has a new address!

Questions, membership renewals and other
communications should be directed to:

**Oklahoma Route 66
Association
P.O. Box 446
Chandler, OK 74834**

Hitchhikers

Route 66 news and events from other states

Illinois

Looking for a last-minute Christmas gift? The Route 66 Association of Illinois is offering *We Work for Food*, a collection of more than 200 recipes submitted by members of the association. The cookbook shows you how to make everything from "Convict Booze" - an actual recipe used by inmates at Statesville Prison - to Bob Waldmire's chili and Ariston Cafe owners Nick and Demi Adams' baklava. The book also features divider pages showing preservation projects by the Route 66 Association of Illinois. Price is \$10 plus \$4 shipping and handling, and proceeds go toward Route 66 preservation projects. For more information, contact Kathy Miller by phone at (708) 389-3823 or by e-mail at Kathleen@hotmail.com. Please put the word "cookbook" in the subject line.

Got information about upcoming events along Route 66? E-mail sundayjohn66@aol.com or snail-mail them to Emily Priddy at 106 N. 30th St., Belleville, IL 62226.

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A Letter from the Executive Director

By Carolyn Moon

I am very excited to be a part of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association by becoming the Executive Director in August 2003. Everywhere I go, I see Route 66. Whether it's in Ponca City or in Ardmore — not just along the Route — I continue to run across passion and excitement about Route 66. It is for this reason that I believe there is a lot potential for the Oklahoma Route 66 Association.

I encourage each of you to come to the Annual Meeting in Chandler on January 25, 2004, and become involved in developing our Master Plan. Help the Association come up with some concrete goals that we can achieve. We really need your participation. Without your participation, we can do nothing.

We don't need Monday morning quarterbacks; we need game day players to make a winning team. Even a great quarterback can do nothing if he doesn't have players to hold the line and somebody to pass the ball to, and make the touchdown. We all want to make a lot of great plays and get those touchdowns so we can win the game. If the team wins, then the whole community has something to brag about and be proud of. The Route 66 community is already well liked and admired; we just need to remind them why so we can continue to get the support we need to keep our team on top.

I hope to get to know all of you over the next few months and get your ideas on how we can become the avenue for promotion of tourism, preservation, education, events, and just plain old enjoyment for the Route. See you on the Road!

Carolyn

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Fall caravan brings casual adventures

About 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4, Association members began arriving in downtown Sapulpa for the fall caravan.

Frank Gierhart, Creek County rep, and Kathy Anderson, caravan leader, set up a table in the Creek County Courthouse parking lot.

They greeted cruisers and signed them up for the caravan as well as the Coleman Theatre Mystery Tour.

Some folks popped across the street for a delicious brunch at Rivett's Café.

Greg Stone, a reporter from the Sapulpa Daily Herald, dropped by to do a short interview and took photos of Frank and Kathy talking to Laurel Kane, secretary and Delaware/Craig County rep, seated in her distinctive gold PT Cruiser.

Despite the threat of rain, only 12 raindrops fell as everyone climbed into their cars.

Nine vehicles left the parking lot at 11 a.m. to begin the relaxing, low-key, eastbound trip.

After traveling along Frankoma Road/Southwest Boulevard/11th Street in Tulsa, the group jogged north on 193rd and turned east on Cherokee to head through downtown Catoosa.

Despite the written directions, the back half of the group didn't quite catch that the plan was to



Photo by Kathy Anderson

Carolyn Comfort, left, gave caravan participants a history lesson at Ed Galloway's Totem Pole Park in Foyil.

take the Ozark Trail road out of town in order to drive over the wonderfully secluded old one-lane wooden decked bridge and admire the beautifully landscaped property that runs along one side of the road.

Everyone regrouped at the Blue Whale, the first scheduled stop.

Some caravaners had not been to the Whale since the work Hampton Inns had helped with (landscaping, painting, and upgrading the rest rooms) had been completed.

After poking around and posing for some group photos, it was time to continue on.

Following the older alignment behind the





Arrowood's Trading Post building and then rejoining SH 66, the caravan followed 66 through Verdigris, Claremore and Sequoyah.

At the outskirts of Foyil, the caravan turned onto Andy Payne Blvd and followed the old Portland cement concrete alignment past the Andy Payne statue, the Bunion Derby marker, and on to

the Top Hat for a long and yummy lunch stop.

Although a good 30-45 minutes ahead of schedule, lunch and pit stops almost put the group back on its original timetable. At the Top Hat, a 10th car joined the caravan. They had arrived in Sapulpa 30 minutes after the caravan

See Caravan, page 8

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING!

This year's annual meeting is set for **Sunday, January 25th** at the Public Library in Chandler. There are two segments to this year's meeting, so read the descriptions below and make plans to attend.

Starting at 10:00 am: Developing a Master Plan

We have come to a crossroads and need your help in charting the Association's future:

Should the Association...

- stay at our current size and match our services to the level of funding, or
- choose to grow the Association?

This needs to be a conscious choice by the Association's members.

If we choose to take the growth path, we need to seek more members, expand our funding alternatives, and most of all, enable greater participation from our members. (And this means you!) If we want to do this, we can expand the services we offer and provide more activities that we all can enjoy while promoting tourism. The end result will be greater economic development along Route 66.

Therefore, we want your input and involvement in developing a Master Plan for the Association. This Master Plan is a road map we use to support what the Association wants to be. So here is your chance to speak up and make a difference. We will break into discussion groups and get your input needed to develop this Master plan.

12:30 pm – Lunch will be provided

Each discussion group will report on their results while we enjoy a special lunch. Plus there will be time to tour our new Association office next door.

2:00 pm – Business Meeting

There have been some changes in leadership since our last Annual meeting. Mike Hickey has been appointed as acting President; we have hired an Executive Director, Carolyn Moon, and an administrative assistant, Marilyn Emde. This portion of the meeting will review activities from 2003 and announce plans for 2004. This will include reports from our officers and county reps. We also will elect officers and half of the county reps, so there are many opportunities for you to be involved and make a difference in your Association. If you are interested in serving as an officer or a county rep, please call Marilyn at our office in Chandler (405-258-0008).

Below is an RSVP for the Annual meeting along with a mini survey so we can better determine your interests and what discussion groups will be offered. Please fill it out and mail it to us at P.O. Box 446, Chandler, OK 74834, or send an e-mail to our office at okrt66@brightok.net by **January 3, 2004**.

REMEMBER: You get the most benefit from the Association if you are active and involved!

-----Tear here and return the bottom portion to the Association -----

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

- Yes, I plan to attend Annual Meeting, and here is the survey and some of my ideas.
- No, I will be unable to attend, but here is the survey and some of my ideas.

SURVEY

- I am interested in expanding our membership (being part of a membership drive)
- I am interested in developing an advertising campaign to promote the tourism and the Association
- I am interested in preservation
- I am interested in events
- I am interested in government grants and special funding
- I am interested in public relations/newsletter

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: _____

Caravan • Oklahoma roadies enjoy Route 66 cruise across eastern part of state

Continued from page 6

had left, so they went on ahead and met up with the group once it arrived in Foyil.

Four miles to the east of the Top Hat is the Totem Pole Park, the next exploration stop.

Carolyn Comfort rolled out the red carpet for our group, providing beverages, cookies, and lots of information.

Sixty-sixers roamed the grounds, checking out the inside of the large Totem as well as the Fiddle House and the new Nature Trail.

Afterwards, several vehicles left the caravan, heading off home or to other adventures.

Laurel Kane had gone ahead to prepare the way so the group could visit her DX Station in Afton.

Thanks to cell phone technology, she was able to relay to the group that Summerside Winery, which is on Highway 66 on the east side of Vinita, was having a grand opening, and perhaps the group might like to stop.

Off the group went, heading back to SH 66, then on east through Bushyhead. In Chelsea, the caravan took the older First Street alignment in order to travel across a lovely 1926 truss bridge.

Rejoining SH 66, the caravan went through White Oak and Vinita, then pulled into Sum-



Photo by Kathy Anderson

Participants paused for a photo on the Blue Whale's tail.

merside Winery. What a delightful place! The owners, Marsha and Gary Butler, have built a wonderful place, and 66ers owe it to themselves to check it out.

After the stop at the winery, it was on to Afton and Laurel Kane's place. Everyone enjoyed wandering through the old DX Station and marveling at what a great job Laurel has done in restoring the main area.

The section with the Packards is yet to be restored, but that doesn't put a damper on the great selection of classics to be admired.

The caravan then trav-

eled to the new Buffalo Ranch Travel Stop.

The buffalo herd is in the back of the property, approximately where the original herd was kept.

At the Buffalo Ranch, most of the cars left the caravan, leaving three vehicles to make the final run to Miami.

After pulling in at Waylan's Ku-Ku Burgers about 30 minutes ahead of schedule, the three remaining caravan cars decided to go on to Kansas.

They returned to Miami in time for dinner at Montana Mike's, where Laurel joined Kathy, Ben and Carol Nagel, and

David and Jerri Sandridge for dinner.

The Nagels and Kathy then headed over to the Coleman Theatre Beautiful for the 8 p.m. Mystery Tour. Unfortunately, there was some sort of miscommunication, and the Tour was scheduled to start at 9.

The Nagels decided to head on home, so Kathy represented the Association during the 9 to 11 p.m. tour as the guide introduced guests to the "presences" said to inhabit the Coleman.

So is the Coleman haunted?

All Kathy will say is that if accomplices were not used, there were certainly noises that could not be explained by the Theatre simply being an old building.

Over and over, participants in the caravan expressed how much they enjoyed the relaxed pace and the chance to see some of the older alignments and really explore certain places.

The next time the Association schedules a caravan, make it a point to come.

It makes for a wonderful daytime adventure.

Many thanks to Frank Gierhart, Justin Rogers (Ottawa County rep), Rick Schmigle (Eastern Vice President), Mike Hickey (President), Laurel Kane, and Kathy Anderson for making the caravan possible.

Cabins • Stone tourist cabins were part of a ranch with a colorful history

Continued from page 1

Preposterous Papa was a 1959 worldwide million-seller, penned by Sapulpa native and well-known Tulsa bookseller Lewis Meyer.

The book chronicles the life of Meyer's bigger-than-life father, Max. While some of the names in the book were fictionalized, the main character, Max Meyer, and the locale, the family's expansive ranch along Route 66, were real.

The book still commands respect at used book stores and flea markets, because it is laugh-out-loud funny. I've been recommending it to anyone with a funny bone since it went through an additional printing in the late '70s. But it was only a few years ago that someone pointed out to me that some of the settings from the book still could be seen on Route 66.

Thus began the "hands-on" phase of my love affair (some might call it my trespassing phase), and I've been exploring the cabins and their history ever since.

Actually, the book tells us a lot, including the Meyer property's relationship to the mother road: "Papa's ranch hugged hiway 66 for almost three miles, beginning at a high point some five miles from Sapulpa and extending to the city limits of a small village

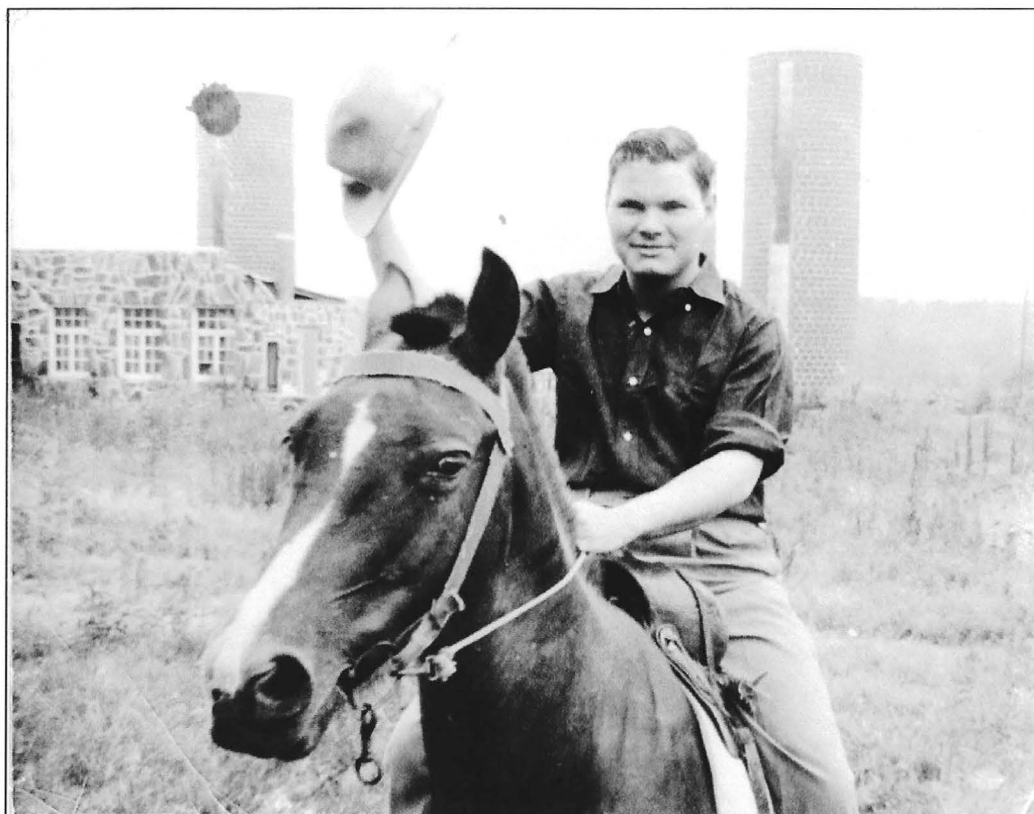


Photo courtesy Morris Meyer family.

Morris Meyer, pictured above in a photo circa 1940, was the son of Max Meyer.

called Kellyville."

The author describes his dad as a compulsive builder who went on building binges the way an alcoholic goes on drinking sprees. Through the years, Route 66 travelers were treated to numerous Meyer benders, including gas stations on both sides of the highway and a café/tavern that was part of the tourist court complex. Just down the hill, he built a lake (which recently has been re-dug) and a dance pavilion that Papa eventually bulldozed himself.

Just to the south of the cabins, facing the highway, sat the Big House, Meyer's two-story stone residence and 50-year

intoxicant. It boasted 10 bathrooms and the biggest fireplace in Oklahoma. But more prominent to passers-by was the giant flagpole made from galvanized oil pipe. It held a huge American flag that the book says got the attention of Route 66 travelers. One of the book's most entertaining yarns involves the painting of that flagpole, which, like many Meyer projects, never was completed.

The author claims to have learned the facts of life largely from running the tourist court one summer, over his father's objections. The elder Meyer was full of advice: "Sonny boy, some people get tired drivin' and want

to rent a cabin for maybe just an hour or two to get a little rest. Don't look at 'em like you don't believe 'em. Keep still and mind your own business."

Another piece of advice was: "Some of the people who look the tireddest from drivin' will have license plates from our own county. If they pay in advance, you've gotta believe 'em when they say they're tired."

The book says each cabin was an original Max Meyer design — no two were alike. Each had a built-in fireplace, two bedrooms, a kitchenette, and mattresses the author described as "dreadful."

See **Cabins**, page 10

Cabins • Little remains of the tourist court featured in the book *Preposterous Papa*

Continued from page 9

All of this information is from the book. But when it's love, you just can't leave it alone. I had to know more: What was the tourist court's name? Where can I find a vintage picture? Who owns the cabins now, and what is their fate?

So many questions ... but I just happened to have the time. Through the Sapulpa Historical Society, I discovered that the Big House burned to the ground in 1959, the same year the book was published. Max's second wife, Jenette, was killed in the fire. Papa died in 1964.

What the Historical Society did not have were any pictures of the ranch.

Through interviews, several different people who grew up in the area told me they never knew the tourist court to have any name other than Max Meyer's. But a 1948 Shell Tourist Accommodation Directory lists a Rock Lake Courts Café on the Meyer property.

The ranch was sold at

an auction in the '70s. Ironically, the new owners were named Meyers (plural and no relation), a fact that has made a lot of folks in the area think the property still belongs to the original family.

It was at the Creek County Courthouse that the rule of "ask enough people, and eventually you'll find someone who knows something" finally paid off.

A clerk gave me the name of a retired historian, who in turn gave me the name of Max Meyer's grandson in Tulsa.

Mike Meyer owns and manages a liquor store in Brookside, an upscale Tulsa neighborhood.

Interestingly, his store is right across the street from where his uncle, Lewis, had his well-known bookstore for many years.

When I approached Mike, he was friendly, but he said, "Yeah, Max was my grandpa, but I was born after he died, so I never knew him. I've never been to the ranch."

As we were talking, he began to dial the phone,

then he spoke softly to the person on the other end. I thought his phone call might be signaling that our conversation was over, when he said, "It's my mom. She says she'll talk to you."

Wanda Meyer married Max's son Morris in 1960. She recalls the cabins' beautiful fireplaces, built by Ott Hutton, whom Max referred to as "The champeen fireplace builder of the world."

Max and Ott put fireplaces in everything from the chicken house to the gas stations to the dance pavilion.

By the time Wanda married into the family, the cabins were being rented to monthly tenants.

I asked her if she had any pictures of the ranch. "Sure," she said. "I'll have Mike bring them down to you tomorrow."

The next day, I was at Kinko's, copying Meyer family pictures — includ-

ing a postcard of Max and his first wife, Annie, on horseback in front of the Big House — but still no photos of the cabins.

Of all the ranch structures, only the cabins and a couple of silos remain. A trailer now sits in the vicinity of the Big House. Just a few yards from the Mother Road is a long, bent, rusted-out piece of pipe, half-buried in the grass.

What little is left of the ranch likely won't be there much longer.

The land is up for sale; it probably will be sold for commercial development like that already bordering the ranch on two sides.

Meanwhile, vintage pictures and postcards of the tourist court have remained elusive.

The cabins themselves will probably be gone soon. But thanks to Lewis Meyer's words, we can still see them anytime we want.

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comments, ideas and information to:

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Belleville, IL 62226

sundayjohn66@aol.com

Submissions must be received by Feb. 15, 2004,
to be included in the next issue.

Fernau gives Route 66 a Valentine

By Emily Priddy

Bill Fernau is at it again.

The Cyrus Avery Award-winning owner of the cottage-style Phillips 66 station being restored on Route 66 in Chandler literally stopped traffic with his latest project.

On the evening of Oct. 29, an enormous flatbed truck pulled up to Fernau's station, backed onto a side street, and — with the help of a local firefighter and his John Deere tractor — unloaded a 1958 Valentine diner.

The flatbed, angled out into the middle of Route 66, and its unusual cargo attracted a small crowd of friends, well-wishers and curiosity seekers who stopped to find out what Fernau was up to.

Fernau bought the diner from a restaurateur in Leedey who was ready to quit the minute Fernau pulled up.

"I literally walked up to this fella the day he threw in the towel and decided he was not going to run it," Fernau said.

Fernau paid \$10,000 for the little diner — "I think about the same" as the original owners paid for the diner in 1958, he said.

Fernau won't be using the same method of payment as the original owners, however.

Valentine diners, which



Photo by Emily Priddy

Chandler Assistant Fire Chief Bobby Johnson used his tractor to help unload the diner.

were manufactured in Wichita, Kansas, from 1938 until the late 1960s, were small, prefabricated diners that came complete with all the equipment an entrepreneur needed to start serving customers, Fernau said.

The diners were trucked to the prospective owner's chosen site and unloaded.

Owners who chose to pay for their new business in installments had a box mounted to the right of the front door, where they were required to place 10 percent of their gross receipts, Fernau said.

Once a month, a representative of the Valentine company would come by to collect the payment.

"If you didn't make your payment, they would bring their truck

back and take your diner," he said.

Fernau's diner is the "Little Chef" model, a 10-by-30-foot metal building with 10 stools arranged around the counter.

He said the Little Chef was the most popular model, although larger sizes and a smaller, eight-stool version also were available from Valentine.

Once he gets the diner restored — a process he hopes to complete in about a year — Fernau will enlist some expert help to run it: "Dawn (Welch, owner of the Rock Café in Stroud) said that she's going to run it for me," he said.

Don't expect the Rock Café's elaborate menu, though; Fernau said when the diner opens, it

will have a "very limited" menu featuring "typical diner stuff: hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream, milkshakes — that sort of thing."

"We're not putting it in to make money," he said.

"We're just putting it in sort of to increase the feel of the property — '30s and '50s and Route 66."

Fernau said the residents of Leedey were sorry to see their favorite eatery go, but he's willing to make it up to them: He took out an ad in the Leedey newspaper promising a free meal to any Leedey resident willing to make the 175-mile drive to Chandler once the diner reopens.

The business will be

See Diner, page 14

Association Board meets in Warwick

The Oklahoma Route 66 Association is moving!

At its most recent meeting, held Nov. 2 at Seaba Station in Warwick, the Oklahoma Route 66 Association Board approved new signage, which will cost slightly over \$100, for the organization's new executive offices in Chandler.

During the same meeting, the board agreed to move the Association bank account from Oklahoma City to Chandler to be closer to the new offices.

The executive office isn't the only thing that's new on Route 66 in Oklahoma.

During the meeting, it was reported that:

- There are two new wineries in the Craig, Delaware and Rogers County area, both of which have expressed interest in having a Route 66 wine tour sometime soon.

- A new restaurant, Pete's, has opened on Route 66 in Chandler.

- A new park with a Route 66 theme is planned near Lake Overholser, to include trails and other activities. The park will be developed in three phases and is due to be completed by the spring of 2005.

- A bill passed by the state legislature could put Route 66 in line for tourism funding.

The bill makes 10 multi-county groups eligible for \$40,000 — minus 5 percent for administrative costs — to promote tourism in Oklahoma.

After the bill is signed, the Association will have 30 days to propose how it would spend the money.

The Board discussed producing a pamphlet for tourist centers that would list activities and events in Route 66 towns.

Tourist centers would need 12,000 copies of the pamphlet.

- The nominating committee has two new members. Sue Preston and Rick Schmigle were appointed to the committee.

The positions of President, Western Vice President and Treasurer are up for election, along with several country representatives' positions.

Board meetings for 2004 have been scheduled for April 25, June 27 and Oct. 31 at Seaba Station.

The Association's Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Jan. 25 at the Chandler Library. All Association members are encouraged to attend if possible.

A registration form can be found on Page 7 of this newsletter.

Grants • Oklahoma projects funded

Continued from Page 4

methodologies for the management and treatment of those historic roadbed segments in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

Recipient: Oklahoma Historical Society

Amount: \$34,445 NPS, \$34,445 match

Also in 2001, the Oklahoma Historical Society, through a subgrant, awarded \$34,445 to the Rock Cafe in Stroud, Oklahoma. The funds provided assistance in the rehabilitation of the cafe, including the neon sign, masonry, windows, and interior floors. Three interior and exterior doorways were restored to their original location, and new fire-suppression, gas supply, electrical, and HVAC systems were installed.

Project: Chandler's Phillips 66 Filling Station Restoration

Recipient: Private property owner

Amount: \$1,449 NPS, \$1,450 match

In 2002, the owner of the 1930s Phillips 66 Gas Station in Chandler, Oklahoma, was awarded cost-share funds to conduct a restoration feasibility and cost estimate study. As part of this work, a Historic Structures Report was prepared, describing the history, current condition, and potential treatment options for the property.

Project: Chandler's Phillips 66 Filling Station Restoration

Recipient: Private property owner

Amount: \$27,600 NPS, \$27,600 match

In 2003, restoration funds were awarded to complete the restoration of the Phillips 66 Station. The owner intends to restore the 1930 service station building to its original appearance.

Project: Roger Miller Museum Window/Door Restoration

Recipient: Roger Miller Museum in Erick

Amount: \$10,000 NPS, \$10,000 match

The old brick commercial building built in 1929 in downtown Erick that has served the community and Route 66 travelers as two different restaurants and the corner drug store, soon will become the Roger Miller Museum. Funds from the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program will go towards the repair/replacement of the doors and windows on the building.

Project: Palm Trees Restoration Project

Recipient: Preservation El Reno Inc.

Amount: \$4,125 NPS, \$4,125 match

The "Palm Trees" were part of a drive-in restaurant sign called the "Oasis" at the east end of El Reno. They have been greeting Route 66 travelers since the 1950s. The restaurant has closed, but Preservation El Reno Inc. will work with the owner to restore the Palm Trees sign and stabilize the building.

Project: Meadow Gold Sign Rehabilitation

Recipient: Tulsa Foundation for Architecture

Amount: at the time of this writing to amount has yet to be determined

The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is negotiating with the Tulsa Foundation for Architecture to rehabilitate to an operable condition the landmark Meadow Gold sign located on East 11th Street in Tulsa.

Voters approve \$15 million for Route 66

Tulsa County OKs one-cent tax hike

Voters in Tulsa County support the Mother Road. According to KRMG radio's Internet site, www.krmg.com, between 40 and 50 percent of registered voters turned out to cast their ballots on Vision 2025, a set of four propositions funded by a one-cent county tax increase.

Proposition Four, a \$157.4 million capital improvement measure, included \$15 million for development along 24 miles of the 1932-1959 alignment of Route 66 in Tulsa County, along with parts of the 1926-1932 alignment.

Other aspects of the \$885 million ballot measure, intended to make Tulsa the most livable city in the United States by 2025, included plans

for city and county parks, pools, trails, community centers, health-care facilities, higher education, economic development, infrastructure and tourism.

According to KRMG, Proposition Four passed by 60 percent.

The monies allocated to Route 66 under Vision 2025 will be spent as follows:

- **\$6 million:** Streetscaping (lighting, sidewalks, landscaping)
- **\$5 million:** Rehabilitation of the 11th Street Bridge (maybe rename it the Cyrus Avery Memorial Bridge?)
- **\$1.5 million:** Patterned Intersection Shields
- **\$1.5 million:** Signage (along the route and along major highways at appropriate exits)
- **\$650,000:** Administration and marketing
- **\$300,000:** Master Plan

(up to \$100,000 has been donated as in-kind services)

According to figures from the project summary presented to the Vision 2025 leadership, 200,000 visitors per year could visit Tulsa's stretch of Route 66 by 2008.

Average spending (by 2008) of those visitors could be as high as \$13.5 million per year.

The above figures are based on information obtained from the cities of Claremore and Clinton, OK, Springfield, IL, and Albuquerque, NM.

In a comment posted on the Internet site www.vote2025.com, Tulsa City Councilor Tom Baker said voters demonstrated an understanding of the importance of cooperation.

"The overwhelming support is a recognition of the importance of think-

ing about more than just ourselves as individual communities, and the value of looking at things together and working together," Baker said.

In a press release Sept. 10, Tulsa Mayor Bill LaFortune also praised the passage of Vision 2025.

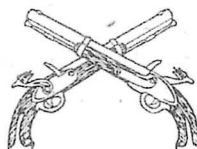
"Our citizens voted for our Vision and gave us the charge to move forward," LaFortune said.

"Now is the time for Tulsa to capture the lead as one of America's most innovative cities.

"Today, Tulsa is at a major transition point, and we have chosen to reinvest in and reinvent our community."

More information on Vision 2025 can be found at www.TulsaRegion.com.

Special thanks to all the Tulsa County members of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association who supported this initiative.



J.M. DAVIS
ARMS &
HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

DENNIS DUVAL
Curator

(918) 341-5707
(918) 341-5771

P.O. Box 966
Claremore, OK 74018

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Donations to the Oklahoma Route 66 Association make great gifts! Honor a road-loving friend with a donation today.

MOVING?

BE SURE TO SEND US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS!

Time to renew your membership?

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

Oklahoma Route 66 Association
P.O. Box 446
Chandler, OK 74834

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

Diner • Phillips station for sale in Texas

Continued from page 11

called the Star Diner in honor of part of the signage Fernau and his wife, Linda, found to advertise it.

"Linda and I have found a '50s vintage star and arrow," he said. "The star has 120 lightbulbs in it, and the arrow has ... more that will be guiding people from Route 66 to the diner."

Matt Howell of Rebel Welding and Scott Armstrong of Miller Trucking moved the diner for Fernau. Chandler's assistant fire chief, Bobby Johnson, used his tractor

to help unload the building once it arrived in Chandler.

Fernau said Linda, whom he recently married, owns a 1930s Phillips 66 station similar to his, except it is located in Pampa, Texas, and has been converted to a real estate office.

While his-and-her vintage gas stations might sound appealing, the Fernaus have decided to sell Linda's building and focus their efforts on their Route 66 properties.

Anyone interested in buying the Pampa station can call (405) 258-5305 for more information.

OUR ADVERTISEMENTS MEAN BUSINESS!

Newsletter advertising rates, per issue:

Members:

Business card	\$7.50
1/4 page	\$15
1/2 page	\$20
Full page	\$30

Non-members:

Business card	\$15
1/4 page	\$30
1/2 page	\$40
Full page	\$60

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

Ad space varies from issue to issue.



Dream Catcher Bed & Breakfast

5704 South Boston Place

Tulsa, OK 74105

918.743.6704

866.327.2496 (toll free)

dreamcatcher@collectingbuzz.com

DreamCatcherTulsa.com

We're located in a quiet residential neighborhood, just off I-44 at Riverside Drive - close to Tulsa's popular River Parks.



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.

MIAMI

Friends of the Coleman
103 N. Main St.
Miami, OK 74354
(918) 542-2425

Marshall K. Petty, DDS
124 N. Main St.
Miami, OK 74354
(918) 542-1631

Pizza Hut Express & Pizza Hut of Miami
P.O. Box 1247
Miami, OK 74354
(918) 540-2471
(918) 542-8474

Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 760
Miami, OK 74355
(918) 542-4481

Waylan's Ku-Ku Burger
915 N. Main
Miami, OK 74354
(918) 542-1698

AFTON

Afton DX Station
12 SE Firs St.
Afton, OK 74331
(918) 257-4044

Grand Lake Alpacas
450358 S. Hwy 85
Afton, OK 74331

Shadetree Fleamarket
102 SE 1st
Afton, OK 74331
(918) 257-3428

VINITA

Holiday Inn Express
232 S. 7th
Vinita, OK 74301
(918) 256-4900

Little Cabin Pecan Co.
Route 2 Box 22
Vinita, OK 74301
(918) 256-2218

Little Tin Barn
433055 E. Hwy 66
Vinita, OK 74301
(918) 256-5415

Summerside Vineyard & Winery
441251 E. Historic Route 66
Vinita, OK 74301
(918) 256-3000

Vinita Area Chamber of Commerce
125 S. Scraper
Vinita, OK 74301
(918) 256-7133

CHELSEA

Main Street Diner
251 W. Sixth
Chelsea, OK 74016
(918) 789-2001

Next Door Printing
205 W. 6th
Chelsea, OK 74016
(918) 789-5711

Porky & Beans
800 S. Walnut
Chelsea, OK 74016
(918) 789-5212

Southern Belle Flea Market
Route 66 & 5th St.
Chelsea, OK 74016
(918) 789-5212

FOYIL

Top Hat Dairy Bar
Hwy 66 & 28A
Foyil, OK 74031
(918) 341-0477

CLAREMORE

Days Inn
1720 S. Lynn Riggs
Claremore, OK 74017
(918) 343-3297

J.M. Davis Gun Museum
333 N. Lynn Riggs
Claremore, OK 74018
(918) 341-5707

Microtel Inn & Suites
10600 E. Mallard Lake Rd.
Claremore, OK 74017
(918) 343-2868

Rogers County Historical Society
P.O. Box 774
Claremore, OK 74017
(918) 342-1127

Route 66 Ministorage
9702 E. 520 Road
Claremore, OK 74017
(918) 343-0064

Will Rogers Memorial
1720 W. Will Rogers Blvd.
Claremore, OK 74017
(918) 341-0719

CATOOSA

Curves for Women
517 S. Cherokee
Catoosa, OK 74015
(918) 379-0016

TULSA

AJS Auto Sales & Service
2007-2015 E. 11th
Tulsa, OK 74104
(918) 828-0800

Deco to Disco
2921 E. 15th St.
Tulsa, OK 74104
(918) 749-3620

Dream Catcher Bed & Breakfast
5704 S. Boston Place
Tulsa, OK 74105
(918) 743-6704

Image Everywhere
4123 E. concord Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 355-1731

Lyon's Indian Store
401 E. 11th
Tulsa, OK 74120
(918) 582-6372

Metro Diner
3001 E. 11th
Tulsa, OK 74104
(918) 592-2616

Rainbow Concrete
13521 E. 11th St.
Tulsa, OK 74108
(918) 234-9044

Route 66 Harley-Davidson
3637 S. Memorial
Tulsa, OK 74145
(918) 622-1340

Tulsa Regional Early Ford V8 Club of America
P.O. Box 4109

Tulsa, OK 74159

Tulsa Wheels Custom Car Club
1624 S. 69 E. Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74112
(918) 363-8052

SAPULPA

Clark Oil Distributors
801 W. Dewey Ave.
Sapulpa, OK 74607
(918) 224-3070

Frankoma Pottery
2400 Frankoma Road
Sapulpa, OK 74066
(918) 224-5511

Gabe's Printing & Frames
108 E. Dewey
Sapulpa, OK 74066
(918) 224-4190

Rivett's Route 66 Café
219 E. Dewey
Sapulpa, OK 74066
(918) 224-4190

Sapulpa Main Street
101 E. Dewey
Sapulpa, OK 74066
(918) 224-5709

Tulsa Sapulpa Union Railway
701 E. Dewey
Sapulpa, OK 74066
(918) 224-1515

BRISTOW

Grace Graphics
29625 Old Hwy 66
Bristow, OK 74010
(918) 640-9544

Mostly Impalas, Ltd.
1225 N. Main
Bristow, OK 74010
(918) 367-9398

Russ's Ribs
223 S. Main
Bristow, OK 74010
(918) 367-5656

STROUD Clovis Ins. Agency Inc.
P.O. Box 270
Stroud, OK 74079
(918) 968-2552

Rock Café
114 W. Main
Stroud, OK 74079
(918) 968-3990

Stroud Chamber of Commerce
216 W. Main
Stroud, OK 74079
(918) 968-3321

DAVENPORT

Central Oklahoma Telephone Co.
P.O. Box 789
Davenport, OK 74026
(800) 252-8854

Central Cellular
P.O. Box 789
Davenport, OK 74026
(918) 377-2262

Dan's Bar-B-Que
P.O. Box 561
Davenport, OK 74026
(918) 377-2288

Davenport Chamber of Commerce

205 Broadway
Davenport, OK 74026
(918) 377-2355

Gar Wooly's Food-N-Fun
1023 Broadway
Davenport, OK 74026
(918) 377-2230

Marketplace Insurance
203 Broadway
Davenport, OK 74026
(918) 377-2355

Route 66 Ventures
615 Broadway
Davenport, OK 74026
(918) 377-4007

Town & Country Grocery
P.O. Box 405
Davenport, OK 74026
(918) 377-2535

CHANDLER

Fine Things on the Corner
923 Manvel
Chandler, OK 74834

LD's Automotive
Rt. 1 Box 92
Chandler, OK 74834
(405) 258-2120

Lincoln County Historical Society
719 Manvel
Chandler, OK 74834
(405) 258-2425

National Am. Insurance
1010 Manvel Ave.
Chandler, OK 74834
(800) 822-7802

Patina Properties
P.O. Box 528
Chandler, OK 74834
(405) 258-5305

WARWICK Seaba Station
Mailing address:
R.R. 1 Box 7891
Chandler, OK 74834
(405) 258-6700

WELLSTON

Pioneer BBQ
Hwy 66 & 66B
Wellston, OK 74881
(405) 356-9409

Ward's RV Park/Faye's Fried Chicken
P.O. Box 477
Wellston, OK 74881
(405) 356-2364

ARCADIA

Arcadia Historical & Preservation Society
Box 134
Arcadia, OK 73007
(405) 396-2761

Ghost Town Press
13100 E. Old Hwy 66
Arcadia, OK 73007
(405) 396-2166

Hillbillee's Café
206 E. Hwy 66
Arcadia, OK 73007
(405) 396-2982

EDMOND

Edmond Historical Society
431 S. Boulevard
Edmond, OK 74034

(405) 340-0078

OKLAHOMA CITY

Master Productions
10524 Goldenrod Lane
Midwest City, OK 73130
(405) 737-3739

Regency Inn
4172 W. I-40
Oklahoma City, OK 73128
(405) 947-8721

66 Bowl
3810 NW 39th Exp.
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 946-3966

Voorhies & Voorhies, PC
P.O. Box 890420
Oklahoma City, OK 73189
(405) 682-5800

Western Trail Trading Post
9100 N. Western
Oklahoma City, OK 73114
(405) 842-8306

The Route 66 Band
8917 S. Country Club Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73159

BETHANY

Apple Tree Antique Mall
6740 NW 39th Exp.
Bethany, OK 73008
(405) 495-0602

Native America Gallery & Gifts
3823 N. College
Bethany, OK 73008
(405) 787-0288

YUKON

Field-Trips, Etc.
3201 N. Richiland Road
Yukon, OK 73099
(405) 350-3366

EL RENO

Fort Reno Visitors Center
7107 W. Cheyenne St.
El Reno, OK 73036
(405) 262-3987

CALUMET

Bethany Kars
24825 W. Hwy 66
Calumet, OK 73014
(405) 789-4755

HYDRO

Graffiti Grill
206 W. Main
Hydro, OK 73048
(405) 663-4242

Mema's, Momma's & Mine
RR 1 Box 42A
Hydro, OK 73048
(405) 663-2983

Route 66 Soda Fountain
125 W. Main
Hydro, OK 73048
(405) 663-2371

WEATHERFORD

Doc Longhorn's
1511 E. Main
Weatherford, OK 73096
(405) 772-2277

Rick Koch Oil Co.
P.O. Box 685
Weatherford, OK 73096
(580) 772-6076

Route 66 Thunderbirds
2121 E. Main
Weatherford, OK 73096
(580) 772-6666

CLINTON

Best Western Trade Winds
2128 Gary Blvd.
Clinton, OK 73601
(580) 323-2610

Cherokee Trading Post
6101 NE Service Rd.
Clinton, OK 73601
(580) 323-0001

Cheyenne Cultural Center
2250 NE Route 66
Clinton, OK 73601
(580) 323-6224

Oklahoma Route 66 Museum
2229 W. Gary Blvd.
Clinton, OK 73601
(580) 323-7866

CANUTE

KOA Campgrounds
I-40, Exit 50
Canute, OK 73626
(580) 592-4409

ELK CITY

The Attic Door
110 N. Main
Elk City, OK 73644
(580) 243-3667

National Route 66 Museum
2717 W. Third
Elk City, OK 73644
(580) 928-3386

SAYRE

Sayre Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 474
Sayre, OK 73662
(580) 928-3386

ERICK

Elm House
515 E. Roger Miller Blvd.
Erick, OK 73645
(580) 526-3912

Sandhills Curiosity Shop
201 S. Sheb Wooley Ave.
Erick, OK 73645
(580) 526-3738

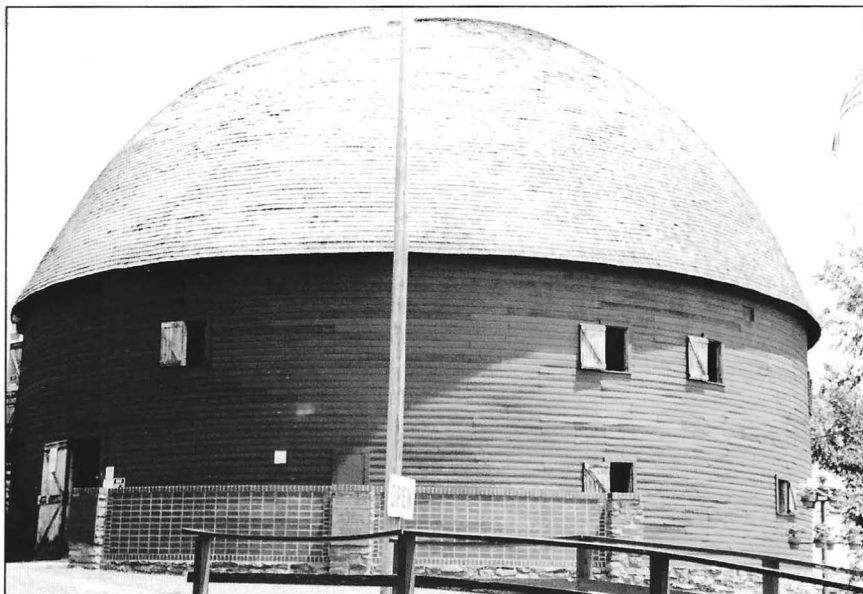
IF WE HAVE AN ERROR IN YOUR LISTING, PLEASE LET US KNOW!

PAST DUE BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS WILL NO LONGER BE LISTED AFTER 6 MONTHS AND WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE WEB LISTINGS AS WELL.

IF YOU ARE NOT LISTED AND YOUR BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP IS CURRENT, PLEASE PROVIDE A CANCELLED CHECK FOR YOUR MOST RECENT BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUES OR A COPY OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD AND MAIL TO THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE AT P.O. BOX 446, CHANDLER, OK 74834.

THANK YOU!

COME VISIT US AT THE ROUND BARN!



Free Admission

Oklahoma Route 66
Museum Satellite
Exhibit

Barn & Gift Shop
Open 10 am — 5 pm
Tuesday - Sunday

For Barn Loft Rental
(405) 396-2761

From Oklahoma City: Take I-35 north to the Edmond 2nd Street/SH 66 exit.
Go east 5.5 miles to Arcadia.



Oklahoma Route 66 Association
P.O. Box 446
Chandler, OK 74834

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December 2003 Issue

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR
EXPIRATION DATE!**
If it is highlighted, your
membership has expired
or is getting ready to.
Please renew now!

