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ON THE RESEAD ...

Vol. 18, No. 3

The official newsletter of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association

October 2006

'Progress' comes at a price on Route 66

Western Capri sign lost; Lewis Motel threatened by plans to build an auto parts store

They call it progress.

Most roadies have other words for it, but they're not printable.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Metro Diner in Tulsa will probably be closed and may, in fact, be gone altogether, thanks to the University of Tulsa's ill-advised plan to tear down several blocks' worth of buildings and replace them with a fancy new entrance to the campus.

The Metro is not historic (it was built in the 1980s), but its presence on 66 helps draw travelers off the interstate and into Tulsa.

When people ask you where to stop on Route 66, please redouble your efforts to make them aware of Tulsa's other treasures, such as the Desert Hills Motel, Lyon's Indian Store, El Rancho Grande, Ollie's, and others. We don't want them to miss out on Tulsa just because TU has selfishly chosen to destroy the city's best-known Route 66 icon.

Another loss for Tulsa came unexpectedly, when the owners of the Western Capri Motel decided to replace the motel's huge, historic neon sign with another backlit plastic monstrosity. By the time anybody discovered the loss, the sign had been taken to a junkyard and put through a shredder. Inexplicably, I never got around to photographing the sign before it was gone, and now it's too late.

Preserve your favorite Route 66 treasures on film while you can. If you wait until tomorrow, they may disappear today, and you'll have lost your chance.

Fortunately, all is not lost. O'Reilly Auto Parts has purchased the historic Lewis Motel in Vinita — across the street from Clanton's Cafe — and is planning to tear it down to make way for a new store. The sign has already been sold to someone from California who plans to put it on display on his own property. No word on whether that property is on or near 66. But the sign still exists, and it's not too late to try a Hail Mary pass on behalf of the building.

If O'Reilly's decisionmakers receive enough letters protesting this decision, they may change their plans — or at least think twice before attacking another historic icon.

Please take a moment to write a polite but firm letter to O'Reilly Auto Parts, urging the



Photo by Emily Priddy

O'Reilly Auto Parts wants to tear down the historic Lewis Motel in Vinita and replace it with an auto parts store. Please write a letter to O'Reilly, protesting this decision.

company officials to reconsider their decision to tear down a piece of history. You can e-mail chairman of the board David O'Reilly at doreilly@oreillyauto.com, CEO and co-president Greg Henslee at ghenslee@oreillyauto.com, and COO and co-president Tom McFall at tmcfall@oreillyauto.com.

If you do not have access to e-mail, please call the company's customer satisfaction line at (800) 755-6759 and politely inform them that you are most definitely not satisfied with their decision to destroy a piece of Route 66 history.

Finally, send a letter to the editor of the Vinita Daily Journal (by e-mail at vdjnews@cableone. net or by mail at 138 S Wilson St., Vinita, OK, 74301-3730) expressing your disappointment with this situation. A flood of letters to the editor scared Walgreens away from the historic Boots Motel in Carthage, Mo., a few years ago. Perhaps a similar response will encourage O'Reilly to keep its bull-dozers away from the Lewis Motel.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Depew Route 66 Auto Show. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 14. Depew High School gym. For more information, call (918) 324-5237 (daytime) or (918) 324-5617 (evening). Registration is \$15 (\$20 after Oct. 1.)

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Hot-air balloon festival includes wine tasting, car show, balloon races, fireworks show, music, burritoeating contest, chainsaw wood carving contest and more. Oct. 6-15. For more, visit www.balloonfiesta.com/

Chili Cookoff. Oct. 21. Cuba, Mo. Proceeds benefit the city's mural projects. For more, call (877) 212-8429.

Route 66 Poker Run. Registration begins at 7 a.m. Oct. 21 at Route 66 Sunrise Grill, 7915 New Sapulpa Road (the newer alignment of 66 between Tulsa

and Sapulpa). Cruise ends at 3 p.m. at Summerside Vineyards in Vinita. \$20 for a single hand or \$30 for a double. Sponsored by the Oklahoma Route 66 Association. For more information, call (405) 258-0008.

Roger Miller "King of the Road" Festival. 10 a.m. Oct. 28. Downtown Erick. Entertainment, arts and crafts booths, food vendors, all wheels show, cruise, children's activities and more. For more, call (580) 526-3332 or visit www.rogermiller-museum.com.

Will Rogers Day. Nov. 3-4. Will Rogers Birthplace and Museum, Claremore. Birthday party, parade and more. For more information, call (918) 341-0719 or (800) 324-9455 or visit www.willrogers.com.

Mother Road 100. Nov. 11-12. 100-mile foot race begins at

the Round Barn in Arcadia and ends at Frankoma Pottery in Sapulpa, with detours through towns and along older alignments of Route 66. Registration is closed, but support for runners is still needed. For more, visit www.motherroad100.com.

Tulsa World Route 66 Marathon. Starts at 8 a.m. Nov. 19. A classic car parade and vintage aircraft flyover will precede this Route 66-themed marathon. Half-marathon and relay options are available for those who don't want to run the full 26.2 miles. Race starts and ends in downtown Tulsa. Registration is limited to 4,000 participants. For more information, visit www.route66marathon.com.

Route 66 Half-Marathon. This 13.1-mile foot race starts at 9 a.m. Nov. 25 on the outskirts of Galena and follows

Route 66 to Baxter Springs. Registration is limited to 100 participants. For more information, call Scott Nelson at (620) 848-3330 or e-mail *route66@kans.com*.

Christmas in the Park. 6 to 8 p.m. every Friday and Saturday evening in December until Christmas. Ackley Park, next to Old Town Museum in Elk City. "Candy Cane Express" miniature train, "Mistletoe Express" double-decker bus, holiday lights and decorations, hot chocolate, visits with Santa and more. For more information, visit www.elkcitychamber.com/xmaspark.asp.

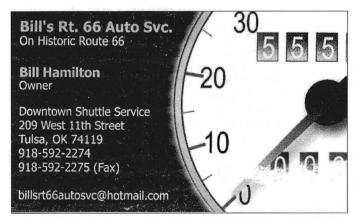
Got news? Send it to Emily Priddy, 4014 W. 42nd Place, Tulsa, OK 74107, or sundayjohn66@mac.com.

Deadline is Nov. 15.



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Make plans now to attend the fall Route 66 poker run!

The Oklahoma Route 66 Association is holding its fall poker run Oct. 21.

Registration for "Route 66 Hold 'Em" will begin at 7 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 21, at Route 66 Sunrise Grill, 7915 New Sapulpa Road (the newer alignment of 66 between Tulsa and Sapulpa).

Registration ends at 9 a.m.

The poker run ends at 3 p.m. at Summerside Vineyards in Vinita

Poker hands cost \$20 for a single or \$30 for a double.

Stops will include the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore, Southern Belle Flea Market in Chelsea, and The Little Tin Barn between Chelsea and Vinita.

The cruise is open to all types of vehicles.

Take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy a fall Saturday exploring Oklahoma Route 66, making new friends, and perhaps even winning a prize or two! For more information, call the Association office at (405) 258-0008.

Our summer poker run was held July 22 and went from Oklahoma City to Clinton.

Several roadies turned out
— including some in classic
cars — to cruise Route 66. A
few even won prizes.

Cletus Simpson won first place, which was a rotisserie oven.

Jeanne Miller won second place, which was a Route 66 polo shirt.

John Hargrove won third place, which was a \$25 gift certificate from Gar Wooly's in Davenport.

Our cruise committee is planning a fun and exciting poker run Oct. 21.

The new Miss Route 66, Gentry Johnson — a Claremore native who now attends school in Edmond — is planning to attend.

Gentry is trying to learn as much as she can about Route 66,

so if you see her, please be sure to make her feel welcome and share your stories and thoughts about the Mother Road.

The cruise committee is planning more exciting events this year.

Be sure to watch your mail and check the Association Web site — www.oklahomaroute66. com — for details as they become available.

If you or your business would like to contribute prizes, donate items for our goody bags, or help plan and promote our next cruise, please contact the Association office at (405) 258-0008 or e-mail *okrt66association@ sbcglobal.net* so Marilyn can put you in touch with the cruise committee.

Got news? Send it to:
Emily Priddy
4014 W. 42nd Place
Tulsa, OK 74107
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Deadline is Nov. 15.

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MUSEUM HOURS 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Wednesday through Saturday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on SUNDAY

New marker at Lucille's

Will Rogers Memorial Highway Historic Marker erected

A Will Rogers Memorial Highway Historic Marker has been placed on Route 66 at Lucille's near Hydro. A special thanks goes to all the people who supported this project. Route 66ers from Barstow, Calif., to Mt. Holly, N.C., and people from Muskegon, Mich., to Vernon, Texas, contributed to the marker fund.

Lucille Hamons was a unique person who symbolized the resilience and determination of the Mother Road businesspeople. Although she passed away several years ago, hermemory will live on in the hearts of road warriors everywhere.

At press time, arrangements were being made for a recognition plaque to be presented to the new owner of Lucille's, Rick Koch of Weatherford, with the names of the people who donated money to this project. The plaque will have 66 names on it. When the inside of the station is restored, the plaque will hang on the wall in Lucille's kitchen.

Warr Acres to plant daffodils for centennial

The *Daily Oklahoman* reports that on Nov. 4, Citizens for a Better Warr Acres is planning to distribute 50,000 daffodil bulbs to residents, businesses and organizations in Warr Acres. The bulbs are to be planted in the fall so they will bloom next spring.

On Nov. 4, participants can pick up free bulbs and planting instructions at City Hall, 5930 NW 49. Daffodils also will be planted in highway medians and on city property. To participate in Daffodil Days, send donations to OK Centennial Fund Inc., P.O. Box 23111, Warr Acres, OK 73123.

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Full page	\$60	

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



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To join the Association or renew an existing membership, please fill out this form, include your check or money order (in U.S. funds, on a U.S.-based bank), and mail to the address below. NOTE: A \$20 recovery fee will be charged for bad checks.

Type of	annual membership	(check one)		
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Chandler, OK 74834

www.oklahomaroute66.com

(405) 258-0008

Mark your calendar for fun on the Mother Road!

The Route 66 Festival '07 is coming to Clinton next summer. Mark your calendar now and make plans to spend June 21-24 in Clinton.

Activities are still in the planning stages, but the event will include a car show, cruise, golf tournament, awards dinner, museum tours, Route 66 artists and authors, hands-on historic preservation projects and more.

For details or to volunteer to help with the festival, please call the Clinton Chamber of Commerce at (580) 323-2222 or e-mail chamber@clintonok. org.

The delegation of Oklahoma Route 66 Association members who attended the International Route 66 festival in Albuquerque this past June can tell you how much fun it is to participate in this annual event.

Members Mike Hickey, Emily Priddy, Kim Evans, Cletus Simpson, Marilyn Emde, and

King of the Road Festival set for Oct. 28

Don't miss the Roger Miller King of the Road Festival, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 28, in downtown Erick! The festival will include entertainment, a car show, poker run, arts and crafts, food, a quilt show, games, raffles, and more. To learn more, visit www.rogermillermuseum.com. To enter the raffle for a Harley Fatboy, visit www.erickchamberofcommerce.com.

Ron Warnick attended the Route 66 summit meeting and other events associated with the festival.

Their observations and experiences will be used to help make the festival in Clinton the biggest and best Route 66 festival ever.

During this year's festival, the first-ever Will Rogers Award was presented to John Lasseter of Pixar Animation Studios. Lasseter is the director and creative force behind the movie *Cars*, which is set on Route 66.

The Will Rogers Award replaces the John Steinbeck Award, which was presented annually by the National Historic Route 66 Federation to recognize individuals for outstanding service to the road over an extended period of time.

The National Historic Route 66 Federation stepped down in 2005 after 10 years of organizing the awards banquet, handing the reins to the Route 66 Preservation Foundation.

Also during the banquet, the Cyrus Avery Award for historic preservation was presented to Ned Luechtner, who rebuilt the Cool Springs Camp near Oatman, Ariz. All that remained of the camp when Ned bought it was a pair of stone pillars that had supported the building's canopy. Ned and his family reconstructed the building and opened it to travelers.

Several new awards were presented during the banquet: The Mother Road Business of the Year Award, which went to the Munger Moss Motel in Lebanon, Mo.; the Lifetime Achievement Award, which went to longtime New Mexico roadie Bob Audette; and the Mother Road Person of the Year Award, which went to Jane Dippel of St. Louis.

The Foundation presented its Founders Award to the National Park Service and its Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, run by Michael Romero Taylor and Kaisa Barthuli.



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Gentry Johnson, the current Miss Route 66, is looking for sponsors to support her in the Miss Oklahoma Pageant. Financial support is appreciated. Gentry is also available for personal appearances, which help her prepare for the pageant.

To make a donation or book an appearance, please contact:

Miss Route 66 Scholarship Pageant
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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

Comfort Inn & Suites 1311 E. Main Weatherford, OK 73096 (580) 772-4100 CLINTON Cherokee Trading Post 6101 NE Service Rd. Clinton, OK 73601 (580) 323-0001

Clinton Chamber of Commerce 101 S. 4th St. Clinton, OK 73601 (580) 323-2222

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

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

KOA Kampgrounds I-40, Exit 50 Elk City, OK 73644 (580) 592-4409

SAYRE Oklahoma Music Celebration Route 1, Box 55 Sayre, OK 73662

(580) 928-3421 Sayre Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 474 Sayre, OK 73662

Sayre Main Street Inc. P.O. Box 364 Sayre, OK 73662 (580) 928-2514

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OTHER ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION SUPPORTERS:

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Vic's 123 N. 2nd St. Guthrie, OK 73044 (405) 282-5586

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

66films.com/PACCOM P.O. Box 7 Philipsburg, MT 59858

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Cozy Dog Drive-In

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Ester Lee Motel 3803 SW Hwy. 101 Lincoln City, OR 97367 (541) 996-3606

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PAST DUE BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS WILL NO LONGER BE LIST-ED AFTER 6 MONTHS. IF YOU ARE NOT LISTED, AND YOUR **BUSINESS MEMBER-**SHIP IS CURRENT, PLEASE PHOTOCOPY A CANCELED CHECK FOR YOUR MOST RECENT MEMBER-SHIP DUES OR YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD AND MAIL IT TO THE OKLAHOMA ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OFFICE AT P.O. BOX 446, CHANDLER, OK 74834

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Canadian Route 66 Association Bonnie Game, President P.O. Box 81123 Burnaby, BC V5H 4K2 CANADA (604) 434-1818 route66kicks@mac.com Robert Walker, editor (604)341-6634

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Route 66 Association of Kansas Scott Nelson, President P.O. Box 66 Riverton, KS 66770 (316) 848-3330 route66@kans.com Kansas Route 66 Association Dean Walker, President P.O. Box 66 Baxter Springs, KS 66713 (620) 856-2385 heritagectr@4state.com

MISSOURI

Route 66 Association of Missouri Tommy Pike, President 1602 East Dale Street Springfield, MO 65803 (417) 865-1318 furyon66@earthlink.net

Friends of the Mother Road 3947 Russell St. Louis, MO 63110 sundayjohn66@mac.com

NEW MEXICO

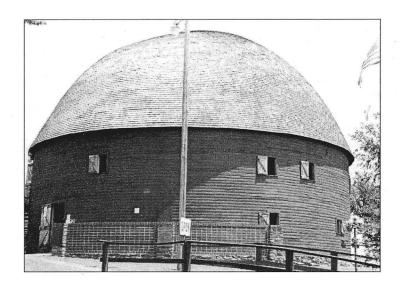
New Mexico Route 66 Assoc. Richard Delgado, President 1415 Central Ave. NE Albuquerque, NM 87106 info@rt66nm.org

TEXAS

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Got news? E-mail sundayjohn66@mac.com
Deadline is Nov. 15.

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Free Admission

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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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US POSTAGE

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



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