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# NTHE RESPONDENCE

Vol. 19, No. 4

The official newsletter of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association

December 2007

# Join us for a Christmas cruise!

Second annual holiday lights cruise is this weekend in the Tulsa area

The Oklahoma Route 66 Association will hold its second annual holiday lights cruise this Saturday, Dec. 8, in the Tulsa

The festivities begin with dinner at 4 p.m. at the Route 66 Harley-Davidson 5 & Diner.

From there, participants will

go to downtown Tulsa at 6 p.m. for the annual PSO Christmas Parade of Lights, which starts at 10th and Cincinnati. After the parade, the group will cruise to Rhema Bible Collect, 1025 W. Kenosha in Broken Arrow, to tour their light display.

The evening will conclude

with dessert and coffee at Frank Gierhart's place at 110 E. Dewey Ave. in Sapulpa.

For more information, contact the Oklahoma Route 66 Association office at P.O. Box 446, Chandler, OK 74834, (405) 258-0008 or okrt66association@ sbcglobal.net.

### **NEW ATTRACTION**

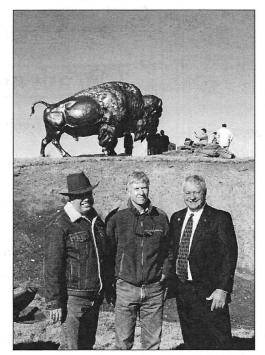


Photo submitted by Frank Gierhart Sapulpa's recently unveiled Centennial project, a giant bronze bison called "Guardian of the Plains," stands between I-44 and Oklahoma 66.

# Cruise is deemed a success

By JEANNE MILLER

On Oct. 13, a number of Route 66 roadies met at Pop's in Arcadia and caravaned to Oklahoma City for a visit to the Oklahoma History Center.

The two-hour stop had many of us wishing for the whole day right there.

The group then traveled to the Route 66 Bar B Que in Yukon for excellent food and good stories about the road told by the ones who cruised with us.

We had some folks from a Model "A" Club.

They cruised right along with us all the way and after lunch we prodeeded to Canadian County Museum in El Reno and toured the many museum build-

We also got to ride the trolley through Olde Towne El Reno and then had a surprise ride in a Model "T" Touring Car.

The day was enjoyed by all, and we are looking forward to the Christmas Light Tour coming up on December 8th. Hope all can join us for an evening of

great fun and food.

Cruise participants included Jeanne Miller, Marilyn Emde, Doug Dickman, Mike Hickey, Carol Duncan, Jim and Darla Waldrop, Mike and Marilyn Murphy, Bill and Gayle Hoag, Dale and Kay Haworth, Terry and Sue Harris, and Beverly and Alvin Harrell.

For more information about upcoming cruises and events, contact the Oklahoma Route 66 Association office at P.O. Box 446, Chandler, OK 74834, (405) 258-0008 or okrt66association@sbcglobal.net.

# Renovations under way on historic Waite Phillips station in Sapulpa

Historical Society plans to put in children's museum

By DORIS YOCHAM

Sapulpa Historical Society is restoring a 1922 Waite Phillips filling station at 26 E. Lee Avenue in Sapulpa which consists of two build-

Over the years alterations were made to the buildings, and after serving as a filling station and battery store for many years, the property became a dry cleaners, then a locksmith shop. The Sapulpa Historical Society purchased the building in January 2007 with the idea of taking it back to its original design and turning it into a museum where children can learn about how automobiles used to be cared for.

The first step is to restore the south building, which was formerly a Willard battery store. The society has replaced the concrete floor in part of the building, installed new windows and doors, and put on a new roof. It is preparing to sod the surrounding area, power wash the

building, then re stucco it.

It is a work in progress, and when this building is completed, work

will start on the main station building.

The buildings are located at the southwest corner of Lee and Water in Sapulpa, which is one block south of Dewey Avenue (Route 66) and one block east of Main Street.

Doris Yocham is president of the Sapulpa Historical Society.



Miss Route 66 Scholarship Pageant Esther Brown Executive Director MissRoute66@cox.net

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# A letter from the president

Association members encouraged to attend annual meeting

Lots of things are going on the Route. We are coming to the end of the State's Centennial celebrations.

I hope you were able to take in some of the festivities, especially in the

many towns along the Route.

We are currently sponsoring local meetings to develop a corridor management plan for our application for national designation of the

Route as a National Scenic Byway.

This designation will bring about increase in tourism, economic development, and preservation assistance for the entire state. If you weren't able to attend one of the meetings, please send your comments to our Association office or give us a call.

We are again planning a Christmas lights cruise this year in the Tulsa area. I'm sure it will be great fun like last year's event. Thanks to all who

coordinated and attended our events this year.

We are fortunate to have so many members with broadly varying interests common to the Route 66 experience.

Oklahoma has so many authors, artists, historians, photographers, cartographers, innkeepers, restaurateurs, and merchants to help us celebrate our shared histories.

I would truly appreciate you and your ideas at our annual meeting in January.

Thanks for being a part of Route 66.

Mike Hickey President

### Our ads mean business!

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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**

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# Half-building to be restored

Linda and Bobby Allen, owners of the Peoria Mini Storage and Tire Service in Peoria, Okla., have purchased Commerce's famous "half-building," as it is referred to in the Oklahoma Route 66 Trip Guide.

The building is located on histoirc Route 66 at the west side of Commerce, on the southeast corner of Commerce Avenue and Main Street. Visitors can find the structure by following the historic signs into town. Signs are posted at the bank by the new stoplight for westbound travelers and on the curve by PMI Machine Shop and Newell Coach for eastbound travelers.

The building was at one time a filling station. It has been used for many purposes since it was built, including a tombstone sales office, CB radio repair shop, and the Little Castle beauty shop.

The Allens plan to restore the building to a vintage filling station. it will be decorated inside and out as such, with pumps out front.

They will stock Route 66 souvenirs and refreshments.

Linda Allen will be the owner and operator of the business, called Allens 66 Fillin' Station. It is expected to open by spring 2008 at the latest. The station will be open on evenings and weekends next summer.

## Poker run winners announced

The Oklahoma Route 66 Association held its Pops's to POPS Save the Rio Sign Poker Run in September.

Winners were as follows:

High hand: Mike Hickey — Oklahoma plate Low hand: Beverly Harrell — weather radio No hand: Alvin Harrell — Ferrari clock

Door prizes:

Mike Hickey — tire gauge Alvin Harrell — license plate frame

Kathy Anderson — neon license plate frame

Shellee Graham — multi-tool Angela Lilienthal - first-aid kit

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### 2008 meetings slated

Dates have been set for the Oklahoma Route 66 Association's annual membership meeting and regular board meetings.

Dates are as follows:

Annual meeting: 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008 at the Chandler Public Library, 1021 Manvel Ave. There will be a potluck meal before the meeting.

Quarterly board meetings: Sunday, April 13 Sunday, July 13 Suday, October 12

All of the quarterly meetings will be at 2 p.m. at the Oklahoma Tourism Information Center at 122nd Street and I-35 in Oklahoma City.

# An explanation of Chandler's Old Armory restoration

By HOWARD DICKMAN

Following the formation of the Old Armory Restorers on June 19th, 1998 and then the formation of the Chandler Community Development Trust Authority on November 6th, 2001, TAP Architecture was hired in August of 2003 to create the plans for restoring Chandler's WPA National Guard Armory.

TAP Architecture held two public meetings in Chandler, one on Sept. 15, 2003, and then one more Oct. 6, 2003, to get ideas from the

citizens of Chandler.

Attending that first meeting with TAP was Hans Butzer, designer of the Oklahoma City National Memorial.

Hans became the principal designer of the Chandler Route 66 Interpretive Center.

TÂP had prepared a large document that contained the details for restoring the Armory. Within that document was a list of items that were to be supplied by the "Owners" of the project.

The Old Armory Restorers took on the task of supplying those 6 items, which included the following; 15 theater chairs, three beds, 12 bucket seats, nine glass etched panels, two bistro tables and four bistro chairs, and an audio/video system complete with Route 66-themed videos.

The Old Armory Restorers brought together a team of people to discuss the "owner supplied items" at a meeting held at the home of Don and Sally Ferrell, on March 19, 2006.

During the meeting, the team felt that the glass etched panels would be too permanent and suggested billboard-type signs instead.

The team felt that due to the fact that no car actually had four bucket seats in it, as envisioned on the architectural drawings for the car seat platforms, that seats from different era cars would be used.

This document reflects the concepts formed with working with the Old Armory Restorers, the Chandler Community Development Trust, TAP Architecture and the team of people from the design team meetings.

Hans Butzer had many concepts

that he wanted to convey with his interior design of the Interpretive Center:

"The challenge for the design of the Chandler Route 66 Interpretive Center is to transcend the typical Route 66 museum's display of chrome and neon, and try to strike at the heart of what we believe is the true meaning of Route 66.

It should seek to create a place which complements the exhibits in Elk City and Clinton, and go one step further.

Its goal is to emphasize the life Route 66 instilled- and continues to breathe- into the most American of our communities.

In other words, Route 66 is alive. It is where opportunity is created for all who seek to understand the American dream.

Like the works of the noted American artist Robert Indiana, we at Chandler's Route 66 Interpretive Center celebrate the red, white and blue.

How perfect to begin with the red sandstone of the 1926 Chandler Armory and build from there another legacy project that helps celebrate the Oklahoma Centennial.

As such, the design seeks to introduce the white and the blue to this building in red, making a clear statement as to how Route 66 represents the best of America.

Designed with the simplicity of an art gallery, lights, sounds and visuals create a full and memorable sensory experience of America's favorite highway.

The primary engagement of the Chandler Route 66 Interpretive Center involves interaction with video exhibits.

Modeled after iconic elements of Route 66- the hotel bed and the car-, video stations offer visitors opportunities to learn more about Route 66, Oklahoma, Chandler, and the Armory itself.

Whether the Great Bunion Derby, Jim Thorpe or Harley Davidson Motorcycles, for example, almost every imaginable 66 theme can be covered.

Videos will be changed out over periods of time, ensuring the experience is different with each visit.

Visitors lay on silver-white naugahyde-covered beds or shimmering blue naugahyde-covered automobile seats while surfing video shorts.

Above this interpretive center space, floating blue ceiling panels recall the clouds, blue skies and expanding roads of the American landscape captured in the paintings of famed American painter Richard Diebenkorn.

The Chandler Route 66 Interpretative Center will also include a gift shop and travel center, which encourages visitors to stay on Route 66 and visit countless places of interest along the way, adding to the route's life and living meaning."

ing."

The overhead white sheets (clouds), undulating in appearance, represent the hills and dales that Route 66 traversed. The beds represent the motels that dotted Route 66 and the car seat platforms represent the vehicles that traveled its length.

While the beds were time era neutral the design team felt that the car seat platforms could be time era specific. Thus the Model A seats represent the '20s and '30s era of the route, the WW II Jeep seats represent the '40s and '50s era of the route, and the first-generation Mustang seats represent the '60s and beyond era of the route. The first six film shorts, produced by Kathy Anderson, were created to conform to this concept.

The theater section houses 15 1940s-era theater seats that were donated by the H&S Theater of Chandler, Oklahoma, and restored to their present state.

The travel planners that lie within the Center are designed to house pamphlets from attractions along the Route.

The east travel planner is for attractions east of Chandler, and the west one is for attractions west of Chandler.

We, of the Old Armory Restorers, recognized the symbiotic relationship of all the attractions along Route 66, and to this end, we have the desire to promote each and every one of them within these travel planners.

A compromise was made concerning the nine glass etched panels. They were created out of sheets of clear Plexiglas with the text donated by Jim Ross and the art work donated by Jerry McClannahan.

That way, when Jim and Jerry update their information on their Route 66 Map series, we could also update our panels, thus keeping them current.

You will notice that the Center is very open, which is assisted by the clear panels, and uncluttered in appearance. It was Hans' wish that this was to represent the wide openness of the Route 66 roadway. Hans wanted to use the technology of audio/video to both entertain and educate about the impact that Route 66 contributed to American way of life, instead of fixed artifacts.

As the Armory is on the National Register of Historic Places, structural alterations during the renovation were held to a minimum.

Thus, no electricity could be run to any of the viewing platforms.

The challenge that the Old Armory Restorers faced was how to create an audio/video interactive exhibit.

This task fell to the firm of AVL Systems Design of Edmond, Oklahoma.

Touch panels at each viewing area transmit a signal to a box in the ceiling of the Center, which in turn transmits a signal to the systems network to start a video.

This system, very complex in nature, was designed to be very user-friendly.

In the morning, a key is turned, and the system comes up by itself; at the end of the day, turn the same key, and the system shuts itself down.

The Center's audio/video was designed to be multifunctional. During regular hours all seven stations can be operated individually. For an after-hours event, all stations can play the same content at the same time while a wireless microphone can be used by a speaker.

During our grand opening ceremonies on May 19th, 2007 I uttered the following words, just prior to inviting all of guests to enjoy the Interpretive Center;

"This place gives a whole new meaning for the term 'Rest Stop!"

Howard Dickman is founding member and chairman of Old Armory Restorers in Chandler, Okla.

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ELK CITY National Rte. 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 The Rosebud Cottage 706 N. 4th Sayre, OK 73662 (580) 729-1160

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

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

ERICK Roger Miller Museum P.O. Box 464 101 E. Roger Miller Blvd. (Route 66) Erick, OK 73645 (580) 526-3833

ELSEWHERE: Image Everywhere 1423 E. Concord Place Broken Arrow, OK 74012 (918) 355-1731

Peoria Mini Storage & Tire Service 47 E. Main Peoria, OK 74363 (918) 533-1151

Midtown RV Services 959 W. 126th Street Jenks, OK 74037 918-625-5114

Vic's 123 N. 2nd St. Guthrie, OK 73044 (405) 282-5586 Postmarkart 10524 Goldenrod Lane Midwest City, OK 73130 (405) 737-3739

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

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

Route 66 Sodas, LLC/ Route 66 Root Beer P.O. Box 276 Wilmington, IL 60481 815-458-2594 or 877-667-6327

University of Utah, Marriot Library 295 S. 1500 East Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0860 (801) 581-7744

PAST DUE BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS WILL NO LONGER BE LISTED AFTER SIX MONTHS. LISTINGS WERE CURRENT AT PRESS TIME. PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE ON NEWSLETTER. IF IT IS HIGHLIGHTED, YOUR MEMBERSHIP HAS EXPIRED OR IS ABOUT TO!

# Support our sister organizations in other areas!

### **ILLINOIS**

Route 66 Association of Illinois Johnny Miller, President 2743 Veterans Parkway #166 Springfield, IL 62704

#### **MISSOURI**

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

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Kansas Route 66 Association Earl Stanton, President P.O. Box 66 Baxter Springs, KS 66713 (620) 856-2385 heritagectr@embarqmail.com

### TEXAS

Old Route 66 Assoc. of Texas Bob Lile, President Box 66, McLean, Texas 79057 (806) 779-2225

### NEW MEXICO

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

### ARIZONA

Historic Route 66 Assoc. of Arizona Tom Spear, President P.O. Box 66 Kingman, AZ azrt66@route66web.com (928) 753-5001

#### **CALIFORNIA**

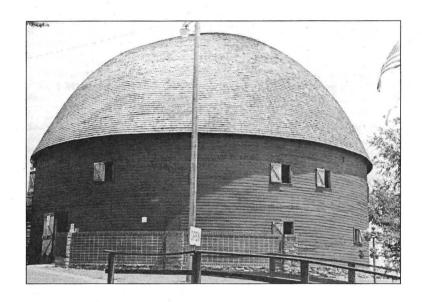
Calif. Historic Route 66 Association Kevin Hansel, President P.O. Box 1359 Rialto, CA 92377 (909) 874-9448 kickinon66@msn.com

#### CANADA

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

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

### **COME VISIT US AT THE ROUND BARN!**



Free Admission

Oklahoma Route 66 Museum Satellite Exhibit

Barn & Gift Shop Open 10 am - 5 pm Monday - Sunday

For Barn Loft Rental (405) 396-0824

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



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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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