YUKON

Yukon is the hometown of country music megastar Garth Brooks and Western actor Dale Robertson. It’s also known as the Czech Capital of Oklahoma.

Before Yukon was founded in 1891, the Chisholm Trail, which was used by cattle drovers during the 1870s and ’80s, followed a path now known as 9th Street.

The City Park even has a watering hole visitors can see! For years, wheat and the railroad were two of Yukon’s mainstays. Both are commemorated right across the street from each other.

You can’t miss the huge Yukon’s Best Flour grain elevators. When you find them, look to the north side of Main by the railroad tracks and you’ll see some restored railroad box cars. They house Yukon’s Best Railroad Museum.

* Yukon Chamber of Commerce, 510 Elm, (405) 354-3567. www.yukoncc.com

see YUKON, page 60

sleeping under the stars

Clear sides & roof let nature surround you with woods & the lake.

Quiet, secluded area lets you relax or hike the trails around the small canyon lake. Battery powered lights and porta potty just up the hill. Rent it for a unique experience in a unique structure.

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Fort Reno Visitor Center

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Saturday - Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location
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1/2 mile north of I-40 Exit 119

Contact
Phone 405-262-3987
Fax 405-262-0133

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**YUKON**

continued from page 59

**THINGS TO DO AND SEE**

Chisholm Trail Wall Mural, 4th and Main.
Chisholm Trail Watering Hole and Historic Marker, 2200 S. Holly. Open daily till 11 pm. (405) 354-8442.
Interurban Railway Mural, 3rd and Main.
Standard Oil Sign & Chisholm Trail marker side by side. Just west of main downtown section.
Yukon Museum and Art Center, 6th and Oak. Open 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday and Saturday. Tours by appointment. Free admission. (405) 350-7810.

**EL RENO**

Fort Reno was established as a cavalry outpost to protect the Darlington Indian Agency during the 1874 Cheyenne Uprising.
It was named in honor of Maj. Gen. Jesse L. Reno, who was killed in the Civil War. In 1908, the fort was abandoned, then reopened as a remount station. During World War II, German and Italian POWs were housed here. A visitors’ center welcomes tourists.
El Reno is the home of the world’s largest onion-fried burger — up to 750 pounds and 8.5 feet in diameter. The city cooks the monster burger on the first Saturday in May. Onion-fried hamburgers were first cooked in El Reno in 1926.
A refurbished trolley complete with tracks crosses 66. Tickets are available at the Canadian County Museum. El Reno also has an older alignment of 66 which will take you past some beautiful old homes.

* El Reno Convention & Visitors Bureau, 110 E. Bickford. Call (888) 535-7366 or visit www.elreno.org
* El Reno Chamber of Commerce

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DID YOU KNOW? Apollo 10 Commander Thomas P. Stafford was born Sept. 17, 1930, in Weatherford.
**EL RENO**

*continued from page 60*

merce. 206 N. Bickford. (405) 262-1188.

**THINGS TO DO AND SEE**

Canadian County Historical Museum and Heritage Park, Grand and Wade. (405) 262-5121.
* CDT Synthetics, 1804 Mulberry Lane. (405) 831-8741.
* Fort Reno, entrance off 66 west of town. Guided tours available. (405) 262-3987.

Heritage Express Trolley. Only rail-based trolley in Oklahoma. $3 adults, $1.50 children and senior citizens; runs Wednesday-Sunday. Can be rented for private events. (405) 262-5121.

Historic downtown district. Located on 66 and the Chisholm Trail.

Service stations, 301 S. Choctaw & 220 S. Choctaw. On the National Register.
* 66 Automotive, 1201 S. Rock Island. (405) 262-7444.
* Downtown murals.
* Johnnie's Grill, 301 S. Rock Island.
* Larry Nance Photography, 113 E. Bickford. (405) 262-3975.
* Sid's Diner, 300 S. Choctaw.
* Bill and Clara's Home and Ranch, 5600 S. Country Club Rd. (405) 262-6656.

**CALUMET**

The original path of Route 66 took it through Calumet, Geary, and Bridgeport.

Much of it was dirt, but at least in Calumet, the worst of the rough spots were smoothed over every day with a horse-pulled grader.

There used to be a flagpole with it, the highway department had it removed. In the early 1960s, when traffic shifted to I-40, Bridgeport Hill. It is said that many gravity-fed vehicles had to climb this hill backwards because the steep grade sent the gasoline flowing in the wrong direction.

**BRIDGEPORT**

When Route 66 was first commissioned, Bridgeport was at the western end of one of two safe water crossings over the Canadian River. People still live here, so be respectful of private property if you go exploring.

The turn into town can be hard to spot — look for an asphalt “Y” on the north side of the highway. There is a small black-and-white sign tucked into the arms of the “Y” as well.

Bridgeport City Hall: (405) 542-6004.

**HYDRO**

Route 66 skirts the far southern edge of town, but don’t let that keep you from cruising up on into town to check it out.

The road into Hydro was once called “Spur 66”; it is now Arapaho Street/State Highway 58.

One-half mile west of Hydro, on 66 itself, is Lucille’s.

Lucille Hamons, known along 66 as “The Mother of the Mother Road,” was a Route 66 legend who passed away in August 2000. Her station is on the National Register of Historic Places, and Lucille herself is a member of the Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame.

In 2004, Lucille’s was purchased by Rick Koch of Weatherford, who has restored the exterior. Koch built Lucille’s Roadhouse in Weatherford as a tribute to the historic property and its longtime owner.

Hydro Chamber of Commerce and City Hall, 105 W. 5th: (405) 663-2531.

**HINTON JUNCTION**

Crumbling structures are all that remain of the once-bustling area known as Hinton Junction.

The area dried up in the early 1960s, when traffic shifted to I-40. A roadside park is all that remains.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Many Oklahomans fled to California on Route 66 during the Dust Bowl.
I have been traveling I-40 for 40 years. I don’t know how long you have been here, but when I would pass, I would say on my way back, “I’m going to eat there.” I’m sorry I waited so long. Great steak and service. Thanks for Sinatra music. Made me relax. Great sweet tea, too.
— Bill Bristow, Amarillo TX

Awesome! I came in on a blizzard night and called beforehand. Rusty was kind enough to take my number to call me back and let me know if you would be closing early. He asked what time I’d be here, and I told him around 9. He called right at 8:30 p.m. to let me know you would still be open. Very friendly service. Thank you! Also, I am a very picky eater and asked for extra extra tomatoes diced, and the bartender Lloyd made sure to go back and dice them himself and make sure there were enough. Thanks again!
— Debbie

My waitress was perfect! Super attentive, and I never had to ask for a refill! I don’t know what you put on your ribeye, but it was absolutely amazing!

“Love it”!!! Will always be here. My new favorite place — thank you, Chris! See you on Facebook!
— Judy Freeman, Texas

Debbie and Anthony and four kids (stopped in after funeral in another town). We’re from OKC, and we haven’t had food this good ever! Steaks compare to Cattlemen’s in OKC. Only place besides Cattlemen’s that served calf fries, kid ate everything — which is unusual — and finally but very importantly, we would ditch the kid to spend an evening date night here in way out Weatherford!!!
— Debbie
The downtown Diner

Remember when everyone met at the diner?

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Downtown Weatherford
On Historic Route 66

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Thursday & Friday 6 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday 6 a.m. - 3 p.m.

123 West Main Street • Weatherford, OK 73096 • 580-774-1234
In Washita County, there are no alternate highway signs to watch for. In Custer County, Business 40 is valid for the eastern part of Clinton and most of Weatherford. In between towns in Custer County, the route has no official designation at all.

Street names of Route 66 in towns (east to west)

Weatherford: Davis • East Main • Washington • Main/Bus. 40/SW Main • Rainey • 4th
Clinton: Bus. 40/Gary Blvd. • 10th • Neptune
Foss: No name given
Canute: Highway 66

Road highlights

See if you can find the following landmarks, listed in no particular order:

• Cherokee Trading Post.
• A steel truss single arch bridge.
• Two tiny old motor court cabins between Canute and Foss.
• KOA Kampgrounds.
• Row of big shade trees down below an I-40 jog, indicating where the road originally tracked.
• Drive-in movie theater west of Weatherford.
• VW Beetle on monster wheels.
• A large wind turbine blade and a veterans' memorial display.
• The 1830s lost Mexican gold mining town of Cascorillo between Canute and Clinton. Tales that this place might exist set off a gold rush in 1895. Little gold was found, although a local man recently discovered what he believes to be evidence of the town's existence.

Did you know? Route 66 is a state Scenic Byway in Oklahoma.
ROAD FACTS

I-40 really sliced through the path of Route 66 in these two counties, so in Washita County, you will find four jogs (one under I-40 and three over it) within a five-mile stretch.

Custer County also has four jogs — two under I-40 west of Clinton and two over it between Clinton and Weatherford.

Be prepared to avoid getting caught up in the access ramps around the various I-40 exits. Signs mark Route 66 through town from I-40 Exit 80 to Exit 84.

Kobel's Place, a former service station on Route 66 near Foss, has been abandoned for many years.

DID YOU KNOW? The Turner Turnpike opened in 1953, to the great detriment of the businesses along Route 66 that depended on tourist trade.
Weatherford, Oklahoma

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WEATHERFORD

Weatherford is named for William Weatherford, an early-day frontier marshal for the area.

The original town was located a bit further north than it is now, but when the railroad came in, the town developed there instead.

Like many Oklahoma Route 66 towns, Weatherford has a native son who has sprung into prominence — General Thomas P. Stafford, astronaut.

There is a museum containing all kinds of military and personal items, including the suit he wore into space.

The turn north to the museum is well-marked from Route 66.

Weatherford is also home to Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

One of the most noteworthy buildings along Route 66 in town is the “Greek Temple,” located at 118 W. Main.

In 1908, the site was sold to the German National Bank for $2,000. In 1918, the bank changed its name to Liberty National Bank, and in 1946, it became the Security National Bank. Now a dress shop is behind the stately columns.

If you need to take a break, pull in by the McPhetridge Centennial Park and Gazebo.

* Weatherford Chamber of Commerce: (580) 772-7744. www.weatherfordchamber.com or e-mail: welcome@weatherfordchamber.com

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

Cedar School House, 500 block West Main (west of old 66 alignment). Early country school moved into town.


see WEATHERFORD, page 67
WEATHERFORD

continued from page 66

General Thomas P. Stafford and Custer County Veterans’ Memorial, 522 W. Rainey in Heritage Park by City Hall. Free admission.

- Heartland of America Heritage Center, 2000 E. Frontage Road (take Exit 82 or 84 to south access road). Exhibits include a one-room schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, and the Porter House Diner, where Elvis Presley ate on his trips on Route 66 through Weatherford. (580) 774-2212.

- Lee-Cotter Blacksmith Shop, 208 W. Rainey. (580) 772-3786.

- National Guard Armory, 6th and Rainey.

- Stafford Air & Space Museum, 3000 Logan Road. (580) 72-5871.

- Wind Farm. Turbines visible from I-40 and Route 66 west of town. A presentation and informational tour of the wind farm is available by making reservations at the Heartland Museum, (580) 774-2212.

- Best Western Mark Motel, 525 E. Main. (580) 772-3325.

- Comfort Inn & Suites, 1311 E. Main (Exit 82). (580) 772-9100.

- Doc’s Longhorn Trading Post, 1511 E. Main. (405) 772-2277.

- Downtown Diner, 123 W. Main. 1950s theme. (405) 774-1234.

- Fairfield Inn & Suites, 201 N. Nevada. (580) 774-0800.

- Lucille’s Roadhouse diner, restaurant and gift shop, Route 66 and Airport Road (I-40 Exit 84). (580) 772-8808.

- Holiday Inn Express, next door to Lucille’s Roadhouse, I-40 Exit 84.

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

- T-Bone Steak House, 1805 E. Main. (580) 772-6329.

- Route 66 Association member.

CLINTON

Clinton is brimming with Route 66 enthusiasm, largely because for some 28 years, the post-World War II National Highway 66 Association was headquartered here.

Although that organization disbanded in the 1980s, the city is now home to the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, the first state-sponsored Route 66 museum in the nation.

The museum is located on Business Loop 40, which — in Clinton, as in many towns — is the last alignment Route 66 took through the business district before I-40 bypassed it.

Business 40, incidentally, was the brainchild of the old National Highway 66 Association.

Sadly, Pop Hicks Restaurant — a longtime Route 66 must-stop — burned down in a fire caused by an electrical short in late 1999.

The tile floor, which can be seen on the empty lot next to the Glancy Motel on Route 66 in Clinton, is all that remains of the historic diner.

The old Calmez Hotel and Domino Parlor in downtown also have been demolished.

Despite these losses, pieces of history remain in Clinton.

Be sure to check out McLain Rogers Park, with its Art Deco entrance and Route 66-themed miniature golf course.

McLain Rogers is one of two parks in Clinton constructed under the authority of the Works Progress Administration; the other, Neptune Park, is located on the southwest side of town.

Clinton hosts its annual Route 66 festival during the last weekend in June. To trace the town’s several older alignments, consult Jim Ross’ Oklahoma Route 66.

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

THINGS TO DO AND SEE

- City Hall, 400 block of Gary. Land Run mural and Pioneer Man statue.

- Cheyenne Cultural Center, 2250 NE Route 66. Cheyenne artists, craftsmen and dancers appear Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day. Experience Cheyenne culture past and present.

see CLINTON, page 69
Grab a bite of Route 66 in Weatherford, home to the longest stretch of retail shopping on the Mother Road. Relive our nation’s history at the Stafford Air & Space Museum and the Heartland Museum. You’ll find room to roam and plenty of western Oklahoma hospitality. Nowhere else but Weatherford!

- Located on Historic Rt. 66
- Heartland of America Museum
- Stafford Air & Space Museum
- Prairie West Golf Course
- Oldest Annual Pow Wow in Oklahoma - Cheyenne/Arapaho
- Weatherford Wind Energy Wind Farm
- 21st Annual Heartland Cruise and Car Show
- Antique Shopping
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Come visit us today. If you can’t come in person, stop by our website and see all that Weatherford has to offer or simply call us at 1-800-725-7744.

www.weatherfordchamber.com
CLINTON

continued from page 67

Clinton Fire Station, North 6th and Gary, WPA era. Stone from local quarry.

McLain Rogers Park with Route 66 miniature golf course, South 10th and Jaycee Lane. WPA park. (580) 323-2222.

* Oklahoma Route 66 Museum, 2229 Gary Blvd. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon.-Sat. Feb. 1 to Nov. 30; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tues.-Sat. Dec. 1 to Jan. 31; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mon.-Sat. May 1 to Aug. 31. Look for the Will Rogers/Highway 66 marker out front. (580) 323-7866.

Ray’s Motel, on the old truck alignment of 66 just east of McLain Rogers Park. The old motel office was repainted by Association members and other volunteers in 2007.

Rio Siesta Motel, east side of town. The motel’s distinctive neon sign is gone, but the building remains.

Former roadhouse on the southern edge of town at the Y where 66 does one of its characteristic sweeping curves. Now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Old WPA roadside park just beyond it.

National Guard Armory, S. 13th and Opal.

* 66 Association member.

FOSS

About the only way you’ll know you’ve reached the southern outskirts of this Oklahoma ghost town is the stop sign where State Highway 44 intersects Route 66. Look for the old gas station/cafe/bus station called Kobel’s Place.

The original alignment was farther north than the concrete alignment we drive today and dropped south through town (State Highway 44).

Foss was established Sept. 15, 1900, and was named after J.M. Foss. The community moved further north to higher ground, away from the banks of Turkey Creek, after problems with flooding in its early days. When Route 66 came through town, Foss’ business district grew. As the years passed, see FOSS, page 72

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Take A Break! Tour Route 66 in WASHITA COUNTY

CANUTE

Domino C-Store
Friends Pub & Pizza
Snowden Alignment & Tires
Historic Sites

FOSS

Foss State Park
KOA Campground
Big Tow Marine Boat Shop
Pendleton Truck Stop

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Canute - - - - - Foss

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DID YOU KNOW? Clinton is home to two WPA parks — McLain Rogers Park and Neptune Park. Both are on Route 66.