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dedicated to promoting and preserving
the "Main Street of America".



Contents:

Vintage Trucks Tour Route 66.....4
 Route 66 And Shanghai General Motors.....5
 Celebrating 66 Years Of Route 66.....8
 A Walk On Oklahoma’s “Native Side”.....11
 Victorville Route 66 Festival.....16
 Traveling A Stretch Of Western 66.....17
 Federation Photo Contest.....19
 Route 66 Corridor Management Plan.....19
 Hidden 66: “T” Frank T. Sheets. part two (b).....20
 A View From The Pier.....26
 The Mother Road - My Favorite 25 Miles.....28
 Cuba, Missouri’s Christmas.....30
 So You Want To Write A Route 66 Book.....34
 Route 66 Holiday Sale.....36

On the cover: A very rare, vintage American LaFrance truck at the “2012 Historic Highway Convoy”.
 Photo © Copyright Jerry McClanahan.

Mission Statement:

The National Historic Route 66 Federation is the worldwide, nonprofit organization committed to directing the public's attention to the importance of U.S. Highway Route 66 in America's cultural heritage and acquiring the federal, state and private support necessary to preserve the historic landmarks and revitalize the economies of communities along the 2,400 mile stretch of road. The Federation accomplishes these goals through public education and advocacy. Public outreach strategies include a quarterly magazine, public relations, a worldwide web site, the EZ66 GUIDE For Travelers and the Route 66 Dining & Lodging Guide.

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DIRECTOR’S NOTES

By David Knudson, Executive Director

This issue is the issue of Dans. Dan Harlow, Dan Rice and Dan Taylor have all penned articles. Unusual but probably not particularly interesting to you.

Dan Harlow tells about his involvement in the Route 66 Anniversary Shield Relay from Chicago to Santa Monica, 20 years ago. Just think of all the “runs” that have taken place on 66 since then.

Dan Taylor reminisces over his favorite section of the Mother Road, and Dan Rice explains his efforts to promote Route 66 as well as other historic American roads.

Certainly, one of the most interesting and informative series of articles we’ve published is Kathy Anderson’s three-parter, “A Walk On Oklahoma’s ‘Native Side’”. When I came out to California on Route 66 forty eight years ago, I was coming out to look for work. I had little more than pocket change, so getting here was my prime goal. I would have loved to have visited many attractions like the roadside wild animal centers Kathy describes. Never having been further west than Iowa, I was anxious to see one, but I was just in too big a hurry and running out of dollars.

Crocodile Lyle reports on his General Motors sponsored trip down Route 66 with a group of Chinese Cadillac owners. At the risk of being unbearably trite, people are pretty much the same no matter where they hail from.

Although it got off to a rather shaky start, the Victorville, California Route 66 Festival turned out to be a router-pleaser. Once again, it was nice to see friends from around the world. Read the report on the weekend on page 16.

I love vintage cars and trucks. Vintage car shows can be seen in most towns, but vintage truck shows, particularly for big trucks, are quite unusual. Jerry McClanahan covered one that traveled Route 66. I only wish I could have seen it. All those old semis huffing and puffing. What a sight.

Take a look at what Cuba, Missouri has

Sears Tower marking Route 66's start was breathtaking. With Lake Michigan on our right and the city stretching out to our left, it seemed the linkage between all these Heritage Highways to Route 66 could become one of the neatest phenomena to build on so the next generation of road-trippers can discover our road too.

Driving past Chicago's Navy Pier and turning past the Route 66 "Begin" sign, I couldn't help but think of my own pier 2500 miles away.

While the view from Santa Monica is a definitive ending of all the fun of Route 66, the view from the pier in Chicago seemed ripe for the beginning of fun we haven't even had a chance to comprehend. The future potential from the Midwest for Route 66 and our growing community of Heritage Highways in the USA seems suddenly as bright as the shining sun of California.

That's my view from the pier. 📷



Author **Dan Rice** first walked Route 66 as a child in Chicago and since 1985, he's driven it over two dozen times. In 2009, he opened the first shop at the historic road's end, "66-to-Cali," on the Santa Monica Pier, and soon after, he restored the lost "End of the Trail" sign so fans would finally have a "finish line" to celebrate at. He's the past President of the California Historic Route 66 Association and newly installed VP of Heritage Tourism for the Route 66 Alliance. Read his story "End of the Trail," from "The Way Things Are Publications."

THE MOTHER ROAD – MY FAVORITE 25 MILES

Story by Danny G. Taylor.

I, like many of my fellow 66'ers, have traveled the whole length of Historic Route 66 from the corner of Jackson and Michigan in Chicago to the Santa Monica Pier. I have also traveled many segments of it numerous times. I really can't get enough of it !!

I truly believe in the Ralph Waldo Emerson quote: "Life is a journey, not a destination". Isn't that what all of us believe who love to travel the road? Each time we travel part of Route 66, we forsake speed and efficiency for the slower-paced time and beauty (sometimes pretty rustic) of yesteryear.

Having said that, and reflecting on the wonderful places and people I've meet, I have decided to offer my favorite small segment of America's Main Street - 19.72 miles (per MapQuest) of Oklahoma; I'm starting in Commerce and heading south and west to Afton.

Here are a few of the points of interest:

Commerce - This town has one huge thing going for it – the birthplace and childhood home of Mickey Mantle. His home is at 319 S. Quincy St. There is a nice plaque on the vacant home. The local high school baseball field is named for his father "Mutt" Mantle.

There is a sign on Old 66 which states that Commerce is going to build a museum to Pinstripe # 7. I saw that same sign in 2002. C'mon Commerce – just do it!

Chat - Having been raised in Southern Indiana, I am used to seeing piles of unusable, discarded limestone. Perhaps you've noticed the piles of earthen matter in this area; it is called "chat". Chat is a term for fragments of waste rejected in the milling operations that accompanied zinc-lead mining in the first half of the 20th century. The EPA is working in the tri-state area to clean up this contamination. "Only" 100 million tons of chat remain of the estimated 500 million tons left behind. One use of it is as a material to improve traction on snow covered roads. (I sure could



Boyhood home of the "Commerce Comet" – #7 Hall of Famer – Mickey Mantle in Commerce, OK.



1929 Spanish mission-styled Coleman Theatre on Main St. in Miami, OK.



Waylan's Hamburgers in Miami, OK is a popular stop for Route 66 explorers.

have used some chat in Indiana in January and February this year!)

Miami - Don't mis-pronounce the name of this town or you may get run out of it. Not really, but they do insist you say "My-am-uh". If you're hungry, stop at Waylan's Ku-Ku Burger – they have a very nice 1965 neon sign. Also, don't miss taking a quick browse in the 1929 Spanish mission-styled Coleman Theatre on Main St. It is still under restoration and the folks there are doing a magnificent job on it. Phantom of the Opera is played here with a live organist twice a year. With incredible luck (no pre-planning), I hit town on one of those two days. Wonderful!

The Sidewalk Highway aka "The Ribbon Highway" - Continuing south, ladies and gentlemen, you are in for a rare treat. I have been on this stretch of old, old, Route 66 three times. It is a slight detour off the "old R66", but you will be rewarded. This little stretch is one of the earliest roadbeds of Portland cement still in existence – poured in 1922 and served as Route 66 until a newer alignment in 1937. You can still see the concrete base and the two curbs – only nine feet apart! Thus the name – sidewalk or ribbon highway.

Afton - Real simple – see the Packard sign – stop! Attached to the beautifully restored Afton Station, a former D-X station that now serves as a welcome center for travelers, you'll find a museum with an impressive collection of about twelve Packards. The welcome center and Packard museum are more of a hobby than a business to the owners, so they may or may not be there. Go ahead – peek in the windows if they're not.

Well, there you have it folks - my favorite slice of the highway. Sorry Chain of Rocks Bridge, Elbow Inn, Cadillac



The beautifully restored Afton Station in Afton, OK is a must-stop. Great hospitality and great Packards.



This photo was taken on the 9 foot ribbon highway on a section between Afton and Narcissa, OK. The wheelbase of the Mustang is 107 inches.



The 1955 Studebaker President Speedster is mine and I have driven it a little on Route 66 in Illinois. I plan to drive all of the Route in the next year or two with some buddies with their old cars and motorcycles.

Ranch, and the neon of Tucumcari; maybe someone else will choose you as part of their favorite segment of Historic Route 66.

I hope to see you on the road, look for me – I’m gonna leave the Mustang at home; I’ll be driving the Studebaker! 🚗



Danny Taylor and his wife Karen -

Danny ran all of R66 in 2006 with his mother (Karen was still working). He has driven many parts of it numerous times in the last 10-12 years. He lives in Southern Indiana where he says it is a short drive to Springfield, IL or Dwight or Oh yeah, maple syrup at Funk's Grove - ha!

CUBA, MISSOURI'S NEW CHRISTMAS POSTER

Cuba, Missouri, population 3400, bills itself as a small town with big ideas. Designated as “Route 66 Mural City” by the Missouri legislature because of its extensive mural project, the town’s attractions also include a 42’ Guinness World’s Largest Route 66 Rocking Chair and the Wagon Wheel Motel, the oldest continuously operating motel on the road.

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