



Aug 7, 2024

Brew Link Brewpub, Wednesdays

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ROTARY CLUB OF PLAINFIELD

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Get Your Kicks on Route 66...

Your writer's absence over the last several weeks involved an auto trip to Colorado. Our return took an indirect path, starting in New Mexico, to drive some of the classic U.S. Route 66. What a wonderful drive this was for someone interested in history, maps, and cars! Route 66 was one of the first national highways in the United States and became an icon in American popular culture.

The route starts in Chicago and ends in Santa Monica (Los Angeles area), California. Its states traversed are Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Over the years a number of projects relocated sections of the route, usually with the effect of shortening its original 2,448 miles. These projects reflected a deeper change in the perceived purpose of the national highways: originally a means of promoting commerce along their lengths, they came to serve as the essential elements in increasingly popular long-distance automobile travel.

By the mid-1930s, Route 66 traffic was increasing, a growing share of it long-distance, and the need for food, fuel, repairs, and shelter transformed the economies of the towns along the route. The development of novel methods of merchandising to the transient customer that became commonplace in mid-20th-century America—drive-in and drive-up businesses, fast food, motor inns, and roadside advertising—can to a great degree be traced to the influence of Route 66 in those towns. The large-scale migration to California during the 1930s accelerated that development and also produced yet another byname for the highway, the "Mother Road," so named in John Steinbeck's 1939 novel, The Grapes of Wrath.

The explosion of automobile traffic that followed the end of World War II through the 60s meant that Route 66, even more than many other interstate routes, was carrying far more vehicles than it was designed to bear. By the time Pres. Eisenhower signed the Interstate Highway Act of 1956, a few segments of the route had already been superseded by newer, wider, and safer roads. U.S. Route 66 gradually was replaced by portions of several of the new high-speed limited-access superhighways. In many places these highways paralleled the old route or were built over its right-of-way. By 1977 the route had ceased to exist in Illinois, and in October 1984 the last segment was bypassed in Arizona. Route 66 was formally decommissioned on June 27, 1985.

Many private individuals, organizations, and towns have preserved portions of the roadway, businesses that thrived on it, or collections of memorabilia. These entities keep mid-20th Century American history alive through literally hundreds of attractions on Route 66. You can feel the nostalgic Burma Shave signs on those driving trips from your youth as you venture along The Mother Road. Crank up the Ford Country Squire or the Chevy Nomad and do it!

See a few pictures of stops along Route 66 on the next page.

Charlie's \$2 Worth

ON ROUTE 66...

"If you ever plan to motor west, Travel my way, take the highway that is best. Get your kicks on Route Sixty-Six."

- Bobby Troup (Songwriter), Nat King Cole (Singer)

"Highway 66 is the main migrant road. 66 - the long concrete path across the country, waving gently up and down on the map... over the red lands and the gray lands, twisting up into the mountains, crossing the Divide and down into the bright and terrible desert, and across the desert to the mountains again, and into the rich California valleys. 66 is the mother road, the road of flight."

- John Steinbeck, The Grapes of Wrath

"The spirit of Route 66 is in the details: every scratch on a fender, every curl of paint on a weathered billboard, every blade of grass growing up through a cracked street."

- John Lasseter, Screenwriter and Director of Cars

"This highway, if you just think about it, is peppered with hope; it is peppered with tears."

- Angel Delgado, Arizona Route 66 Historical Association

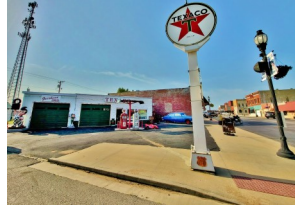
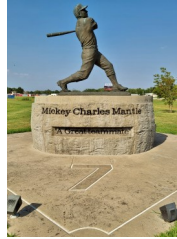
"Route 66 is the essence of Americana: The Mother Road as America's Main Street, embodies the core small-town values of America, with its Mom-and-Pop stores, its vintage service stations, motels, and diners. It is also a representation of freedom, a roaming, mobile, and automobile-oriented society, where new horizons for personal growth and experiences can always be found."

- Austin Whithal

Upcoming Speakers/Events

- Aug 7 - Board Meeting - all Club members welcome
- Aug 14 - Rotary District Governor visit
- Aug 21 - Sherry Sighting - Patrick Drabick, Goat Locker Racing non-profit
- Aug 28 - Reann Poray
- Sept 4 - Diane Burks
- Sept 7 - Rotary Night Golf Outing
- Sept 11 - Board Meeting - all Club members welcome
- Sept 18 - Scott Olinger
- Sept 25 - Max Hank - Loren Delp, Hendricks Cty Prosecutor
- Oct 2 - Susan Ament
- Oct 9 - Board Meeting - all Club members welcome

Stops along The Mother Road



Clockwise fr upper left: Tucumcari, NM - Trading Post & Blue Swallow Motel; Arcadia, OK - Round Barn; Galena, KS - Gearhead Curios Texaco station; Ash Grove, MO - Gary's Gay Paresa Sinclair station; Commerce, OK - Mickey Mantle statue; Amarillo, TX - Cadillac Ranch



UPCOMING SPEAKER ASSIGNMENTS

Please carefully examine the schedule below and let Max Hank know who you have obtained as a speaker for your date.

Jan 3 Brian Culp	Jun 26 Donnie Emerson
Jan 17 Max Hank	Jul 17 Andrew Klinger
Jan 24 Bob Sands	Jul 24 Royce Carter
Jan 31 Andrew Klinger	Jul 31 Ryan Rash
Feb 7	Aug 7 Sherry Sighting
Feb 21 Scott Olinger	Aug 21 Brad DuBois
Feb 28 Ryan Rash	Aug 28 Reann Poray
Mar 6 Donnie Emerson	Sep 4 Diane Burks
Mar 20 Royce Carter	Sep 18 Scott Olinger
Mar 27 Diane Burks	Sep 25 Max Hank
Apr 3 Joe Bennett	Oct 2 Susan Ament
Apr 17 Sherry Sighting	Oct 16 John Graham
Apr 24 Brad DuBois	Oct 23 Rocky Turner
May 1 Susan Ament	Oct 30 Daniel Kinnamon
May 15 Rocky Turner	Nov 6 Joe Bennett
May 22 Reann Poray	Nov 20 John Baer
May 29 John Graham	Dec 4 Jan Baer
Jun 5 John Baer	Dec 18 Bob Sands
Jun 19 Bob Sands	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! AUGUST

John Baer - Aug 13
Christina Wilburn - Aug 25

Little Free Library Maintenance Schedule

Jun 12-18 - Diane Burks
Jun 19-25 - Joe Bennett
Jun 26-Jul 2 - Reann Poray
Jul 3-9 - Max Hank
Jul 10-16 - Sherry Sighting
Jul 17-23 - Max Hank
Jul 24-30 - Susan Ament
Jul 31-Aug 6 - Joe Bennett
Aug 7-20 - Royce Carter

Please check supply, refill as needed.
Report any damage to Joe Bennett.
Books are available at the Library.

SPEED BUMP



Committees and Chairs

Bulletin: Max Hank

Finance: Joe Bennett

Foundation: John Baer

Fundraising :

Golf Outing: John Baer, Brad Dubois

Crew Car Wash: Sherry Sighting

Membership: Brian Culp

Orientation: John Baer & Diane Burks

Programs: Brian Culp

PR & Website: John Baer

Quaker Day Parade & Picnic: TBD

Service Committees: Royce Carter

Literacy/LFL: Joe Bennett

Teacher of the Year: Max Hank

Youth: Diane Burks

Interact and RYLA: Diane Burks

Scholarships: Max Hank

Straight-A Salute: Sherry Sighting

The Imagination & Idea Labs: Diane Burks

4-Way Test

OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY AND DO

1. IS IT THE TRUTH?

2. IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?

3. WILL IT BUILD GOODWILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

4. WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?

(5. IS IT FUN?)