



The Reel west newsletter

Day 5
Tuesday
April 5th
Mt Vernon, MO
To
Sapulpa, Oklahoma

Stats
road

Weather
High Temp: 86
Low Temp: TBD
Conditions: Fantastic



This morning I backtracked to Spencer, Mo, where I made the wrong turn last night. The drive from Spencer to Carthage is an I-44 free drive. However, it takes HWY 96 which is still 65 MPH. Good thing was, there wasn't much traffic. In Maxville is the sculpture above of a "flying manure spreader" by Lowell Davis titled "The Crap Duster".

Carthage started with the Boots Court Motel below.



A nice Route 66 flag

My EZ Guide did not mention the G&E Tire Co., but I thought the De Soto Plymouth sign was pretty cool.

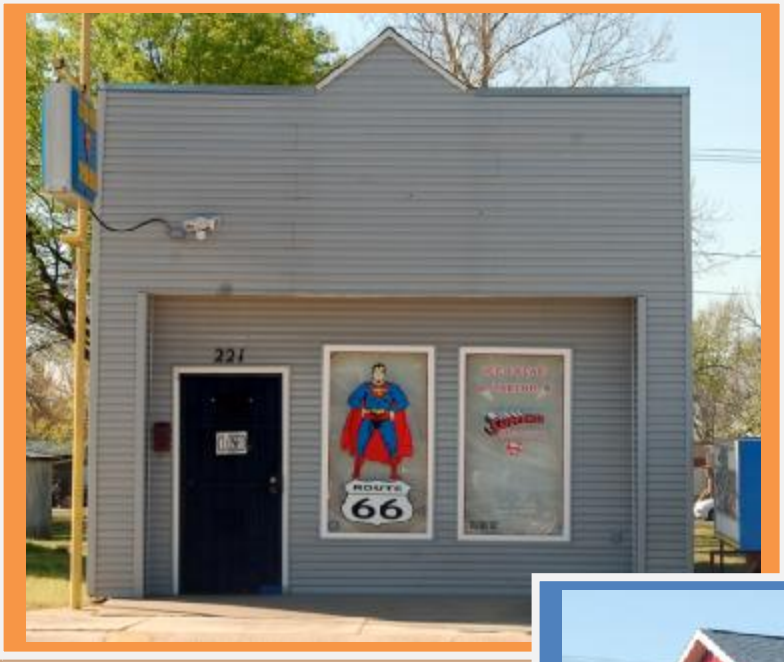


The 66 Drive-In is still in business. I love the little glass block ticket booth.

This bridge is for you Gops!!



Really?? Not sure if they are watching a dirty movie in the room next door or.....



In Carterville the "SuperTAM on 66" Ice Cream Parlor has a 30 year collection of Superman memorabilia and a great restored trolley car to sit around and eat your ice cream. Since I'm not a big Superman fan, I didn't go in. Darn. Forgot you can see the "closed" sign.



Surprisingly few remnants of Route 66 in Joplin, considering the size of the city.

GIANT ALERT – The giant Coke bottle at Woody's.



That was quick. Must not have been a dirty movie.

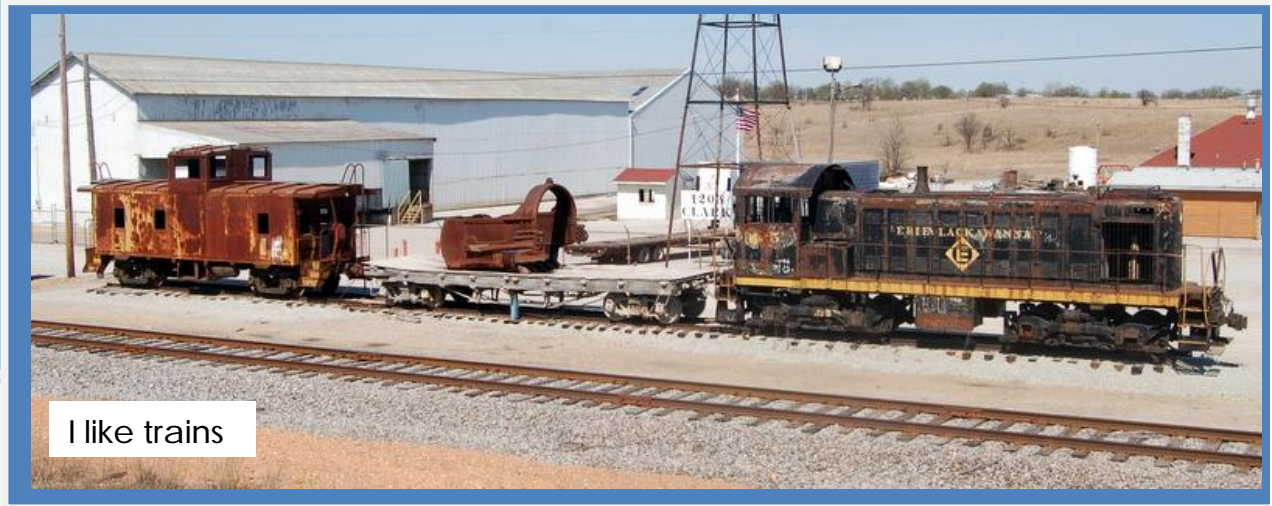


The 66 Carousel Park. Not open yet but they were working on it. I like the "Bobby" police officer on the left.

On to Kansas. There are only 13 miles of Route 66 in Kansas but they are very interesting. Kansas goes out of its way to promote Route 66.



Route 66 signs for Kansas.

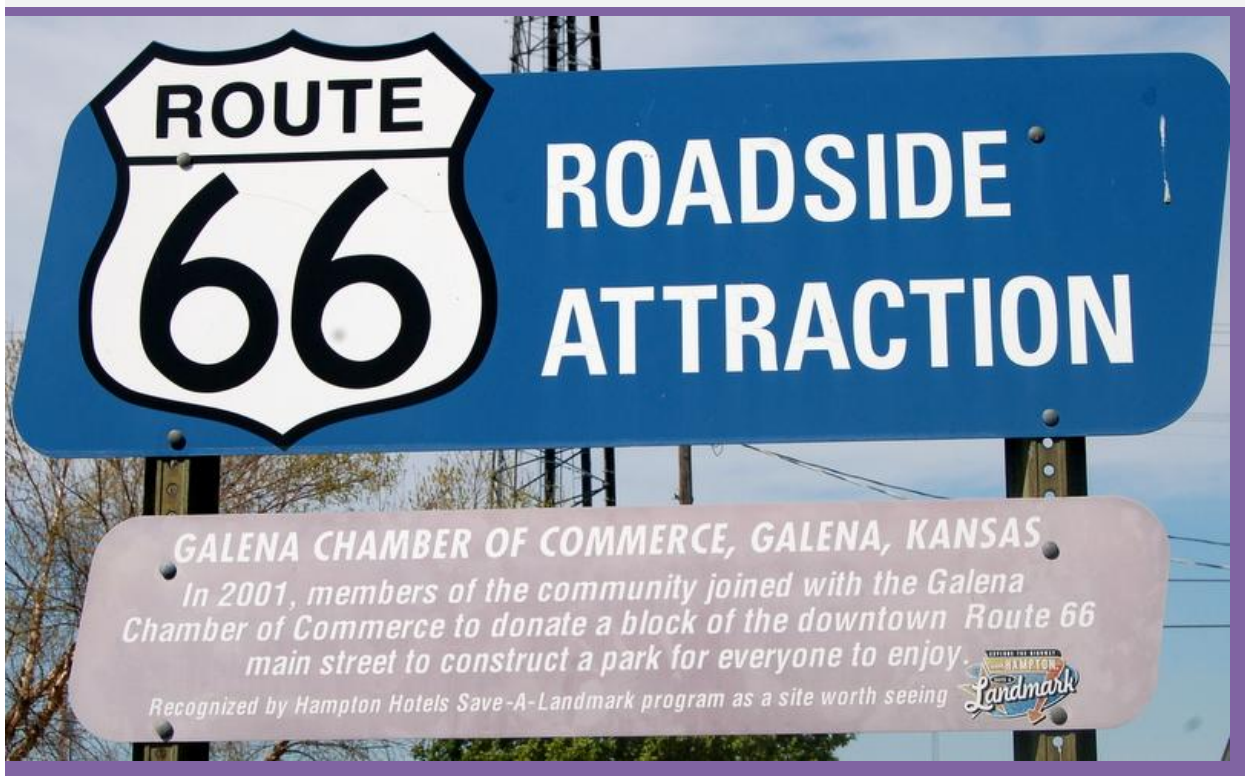


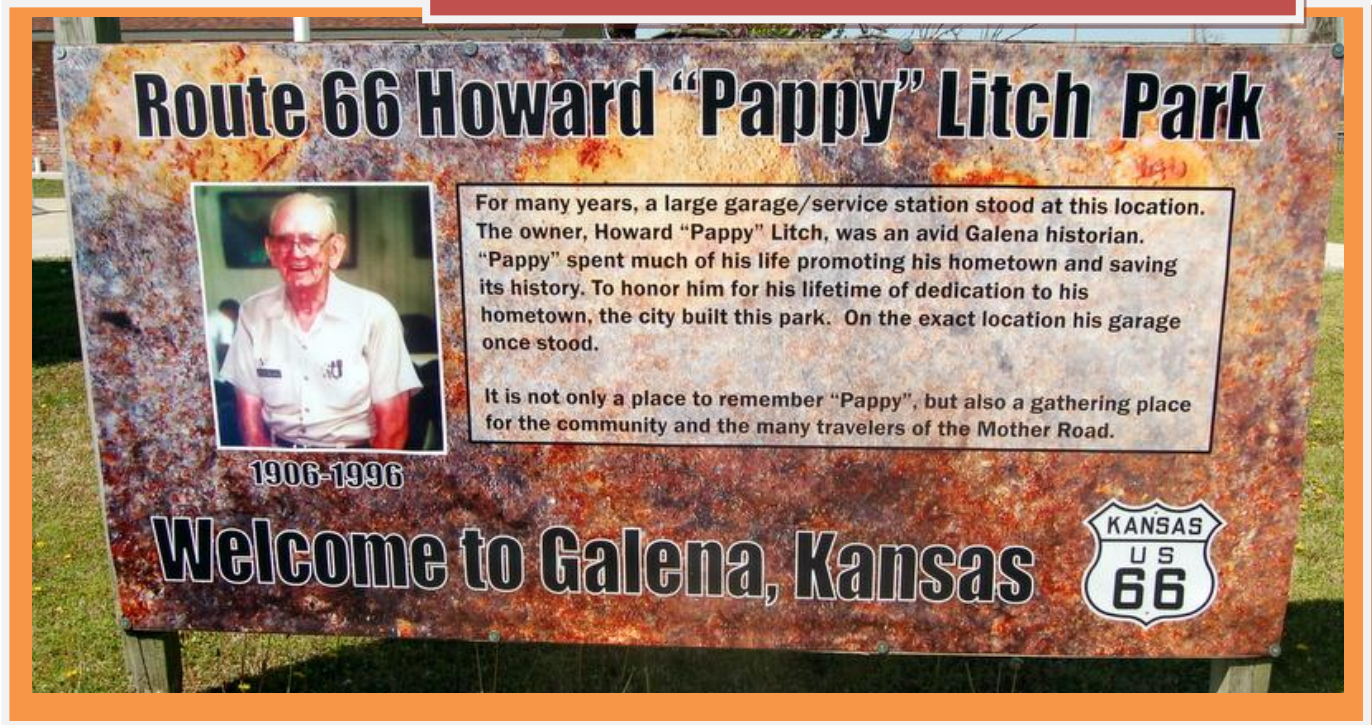
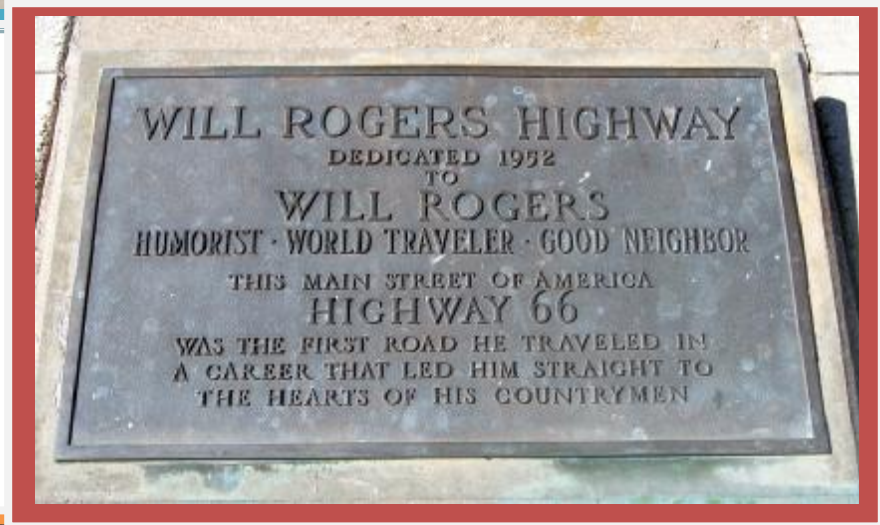
I like trains



I have never seen the Disney/Pixar film CARS. However, from my research I know it is somewhat based along Route 66. Note the eyeballs and teeth on the trucks. Hard to see, but the boom tow truck on the right is a character in the movie. More on that later.

Galena is relatively small, but each lamppost along the main street has a speaker playing music. They created the park noted below. They have a Route 66 Museum and info center. A famous Madame and brothel.





Yup, another gas station



What a great mural.



The Galena Murder Bordello

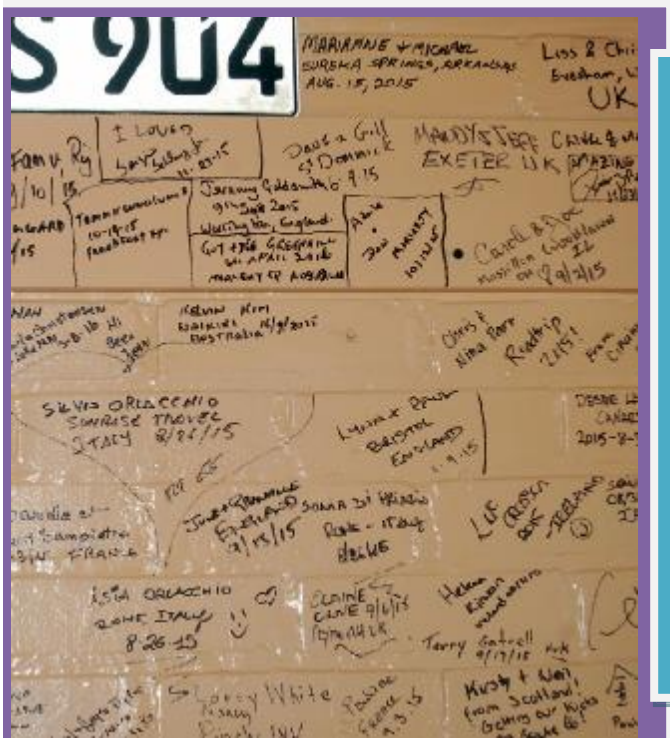
This restored home offers tours and overnight stays. Devoted to the story of Madame Staffleback. The murderous Madam killed and robbed some 50 clients at a house of prostitution in Galena during the 1890's.



The Missouri-Kansas Texas Railroad first passed through Galena in 1901. The city relocated the depot to its present site in 1984. Today it houses the Galena Historical and Mining Museum.

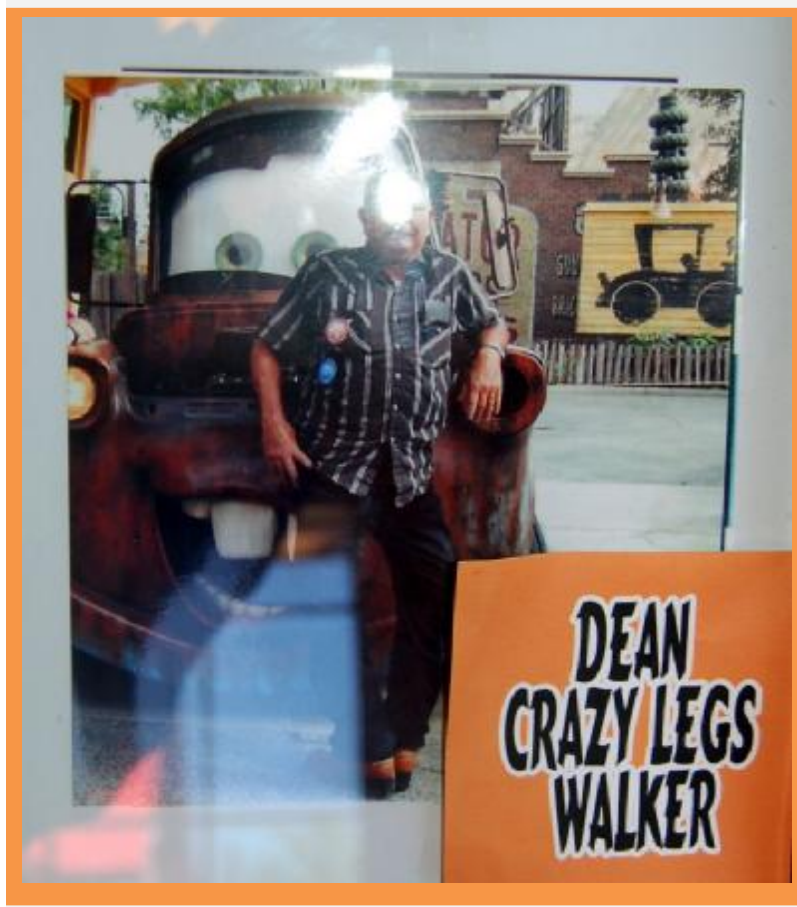
Just north of Baxter Springs is the Rainbow Curve Bridge. James Marsh of Iowa designed and patented this type of graceful arch bridge in 1912.





Yea, I know, another gas station. This one IS different though. It is also a museum and info center. I walked in and Dean Walker said "Where ya from?" "Wisconsin" "How far ya goin'?" "Santa Fe" He frowned at that, then proceeded to pull brochures from the rack and started giving me detailed instructions on what was worth seeing, what I should pass up, where I should slow to 25 MPH when it says 25 MPH, not even 26 or I will get a ticket, what I was interested in, do I like cowboys? Do I like RAWHIDE? Do I like guns? This museum for Cowboys, that museum for guns, RAWHIDE reunion in Tucumcari, NM next weekend. He is going to a quick draw and shoot get together in Dallas next week, Claremont the week after, etc. etc. Non-stop. An amazing wealth of information. He told me to sign the wall if I could find a spot. It looks the way it does because I was squatting down and reaching far to my right, almost to the floor, behind the edge of a cabinet. Every space from the floor to 8' high was covered with names, dates and where they were from. Note the person from France above mine. He told me that when I get to Stroud, OK I should go the house next door to the Rock Café and tell Fran hello from her crazy boyfriend in Kansas; that I should also tell Jerry (EZ Guide author) hello when I get to Chandler. Dean also signed my EZ Guide. (I didn't know the EZ Guide doubled as an autograph book).

Now, to go back to my earlier reference to CARS. Apparently there is a character in the movie based on Dean "Crazy Legs" Walker. You see in the photos why he earned that moniker. Look closely at his feet. The owner of the Rock Café mentioned above is the inspiration for Sally in CARS. Dean told me to watch the credits for his name.



WB: West of **RIVERTON**, curve to the US 400 / 69A JCT (KS HWY 66 ENDS); curve thru the circle onto Beasley Rd / Historic-66. Continue 1.4 mi (pass the STOP at 60th) and cross Brush Creek (see **BRIDGE DETOUR**). Follow the curve south onto 50th St, continue for 2.7 mi (becomes Willow St). Curve **LEFT** to join 3rd St, then turn **RIGHT** onto US 69A (Military Ave) thru **BAXTER SPRINGS**. (SEE **OLD 66 OPTION**) Continue south past the US 166 JCT for 2.5 mi into **OKLAHOMA**.

Eat at the famous Eisler Bros (now Nielson's) Grocery and Deli in **RIVERTON**. **GIFT SHOP ALERT!** Scope out the original embossed tin ceiling of the 1925 store and an old outhouse in back.

RAINBOW BRIDGE DETOUR: You **MUST** take the short loop across this historic unique bridge, in a lush setting at Brush Creek. This is the **LAST** of three "Marsh Arch" bridges (named for their designer) that once graced US 66 in **KANSAS**. "Progress" claimed the others; preservation saved this one. Look for the "Field of Dreams" baseball field on 50th St south from the bridge.

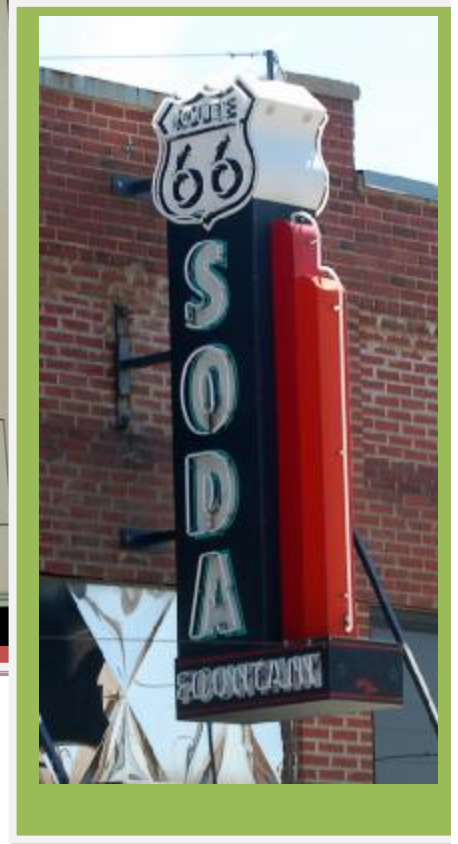
In historic **BAXTER SPRINGS**, a restored 1930s-era Phillips 66 Station at 940 Military (on National Historic Register) houses a great **Route 66 Visitor Center**. **SIDE TRIP:** The Baxter Springs Museum at 740 East Ave (1-block east of 66, between 7th and 8th) is very neat. baxterspringsmuseum.org/ (620) 856-2385.

OLD 66 OPTION: Since **KANSAS** has so few Route 66 miles, be sure to follow the map to drive this short stretch on the south side of **BAXTER SPRINGS**, along Roberts Rd and 30th St, behind the Wal Mart and McDonalds.

EB: Follow US 69 ALT into **KANSAS**. Becomes Military Ave in **BAXTER SPRINGS** (SEE **OLD 66 OPTION**). Stay **AHEAD** thru downtown, past the US 166 JCT. Go 0.7 mi, and turn **LEFT** on Third St. Follow the curve **RIGHT** onto Willow Ave (becomes 50th St). Go 2.7 mi, curve across Brush Creek (see **BRIDGE DETOUR**) then continue for 1.4 mi on Beasley Rd (pass the STOP at 60th St). Curve to the circle at US 400 / 69A, then curve with Historic-66 onto KS HWY 66. Continue 4.2 mi, thru **RIVERTON**, to **GALENA**. (see MO MAP # 6, MO page-24)

KS page-2

Dean CARZY LEG'S Walker KANSAS RT66



As I said earlier, Kansas is short, but a great place to linger.

On to Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Route 66 signs to follow.

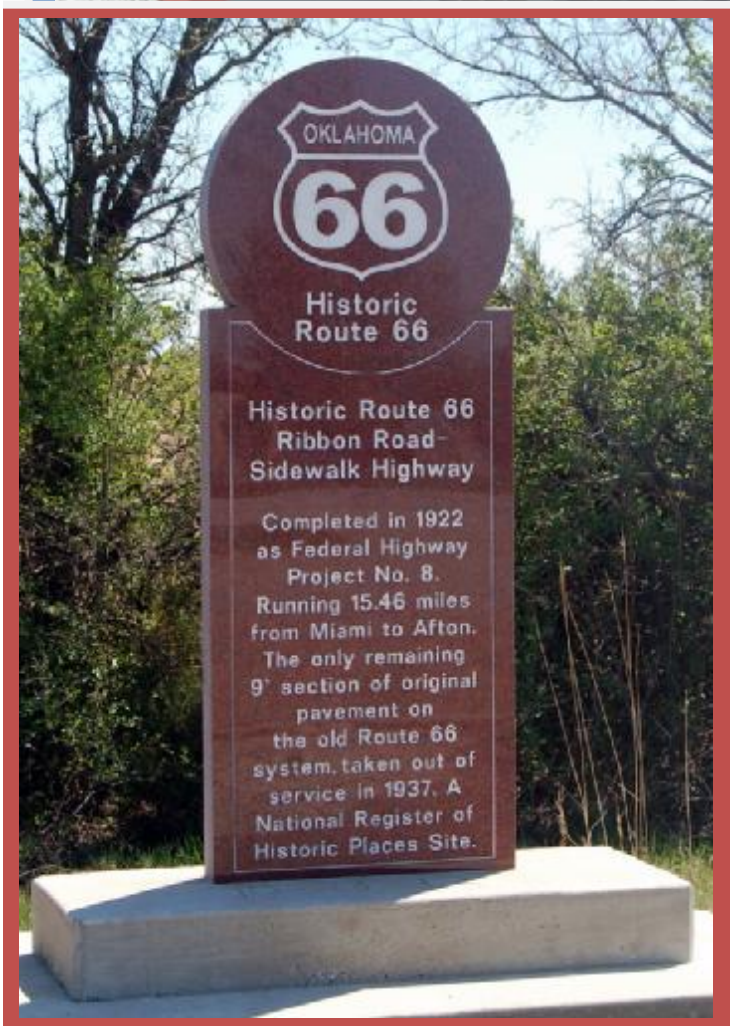
First stop, Commerce, the hometown of Baseball's Mickey Mantle.



GIANT ALERT – The giant Ku Ku just popping out of the building. Found at Waylan's Ku KU Burger in Miami (My-am-uh).



Three and a half miles of washboard road I could have avoided if I had entered from the south, where the sign is, instead of from the north.





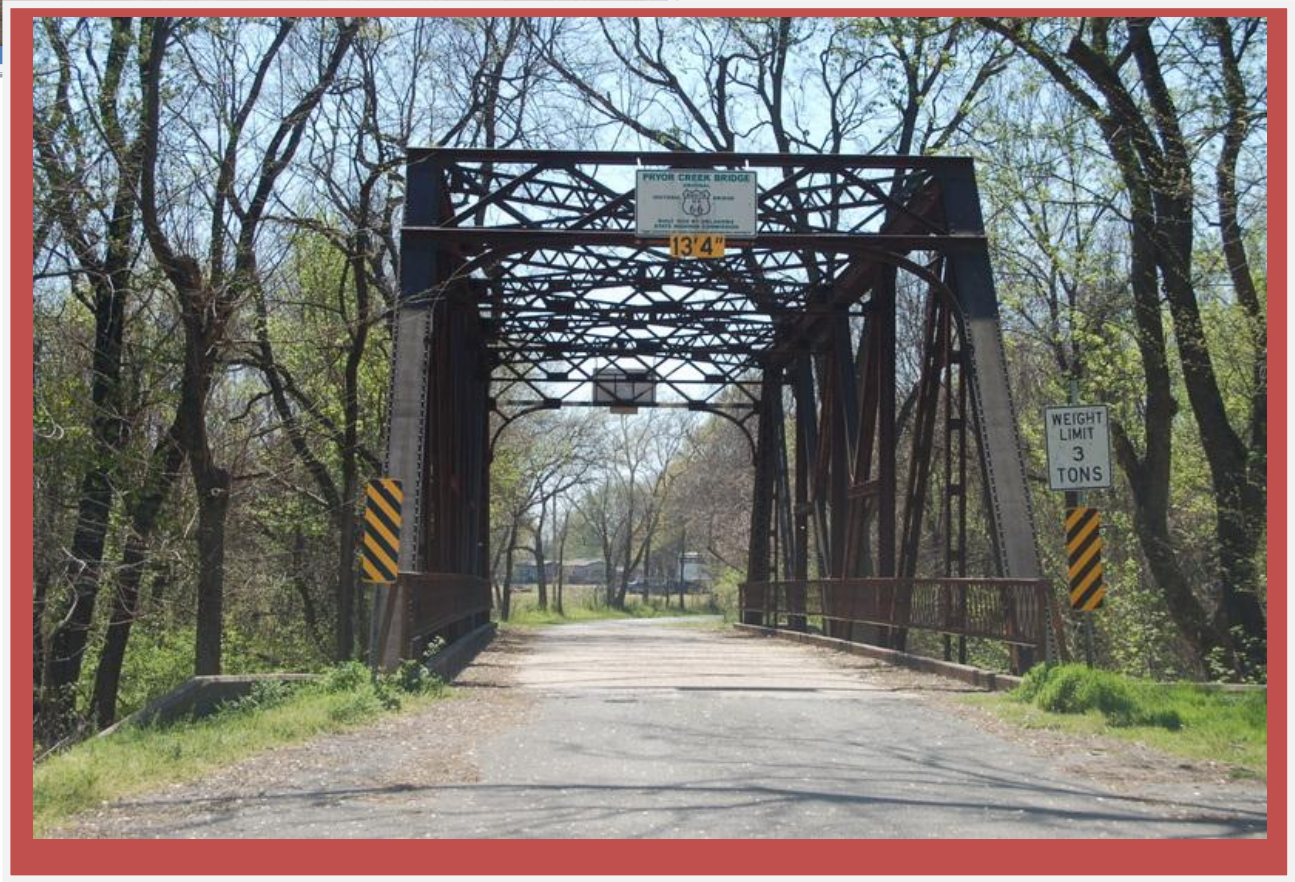
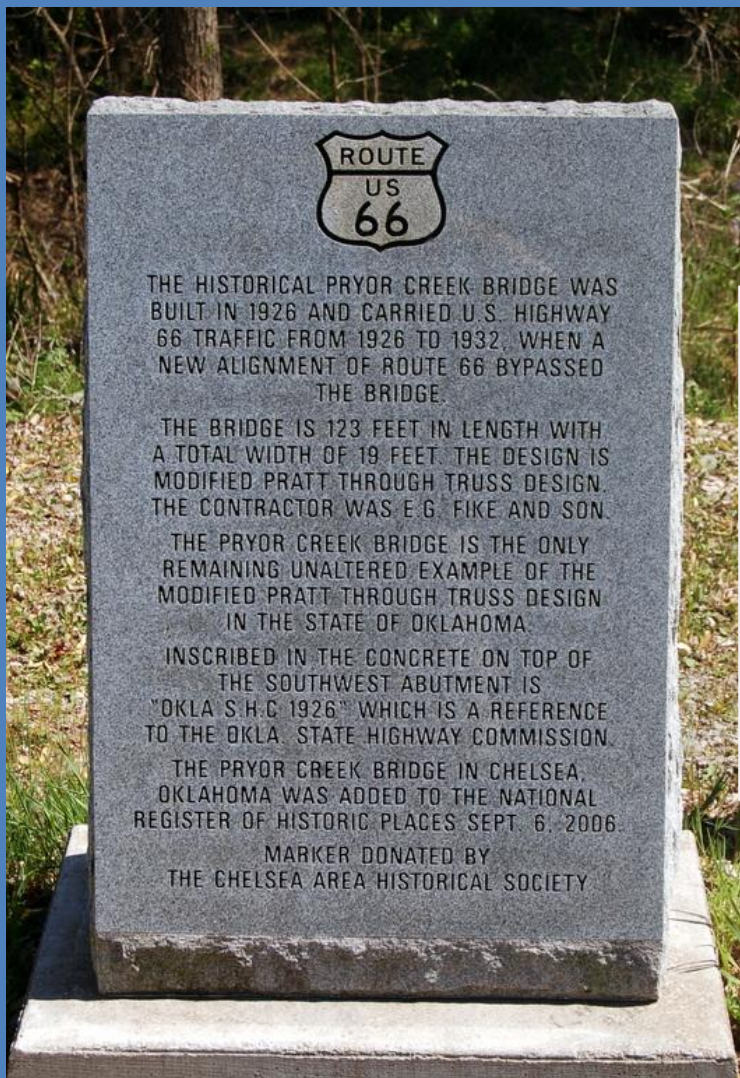
EAGLE (D-X) SERVICE STATION, AFTON, OKLAHOMA
Opened in the 1930's, the Eagle Service Station served
Route 66 travelers for nearly 60 years.
Recognized by National Historic Landmark program as a site worth saving.

Afton Station in Afton. A restored 1930's DX gas station with a collection of Packards in the newer building to the right.

The ruins further below are not mentioned in the E2 Guide, but it looks like it might have been the Avon Motel?



South of Chelsea



Ed Galloway's Totem Pole Park

Owned & Operated By
Rogers Co. Historical Society

National Register Of Historical Places 1999
Restoration by Kansas GrassRoots Assoc. 1992

www.RCHS1.org



THE WORLD'S LARGEST TOTEM POLE

Built By Ed Galloway 1937-1948

Dimensions:

90' tall, 18' in diameter, 54' base

Structure:

Made from 100 tons of sand and rock, 28 tons of cement, 6 tons of steel

Markings:

200 different carved pictures with four, nine foot Indian chiefs near the top.

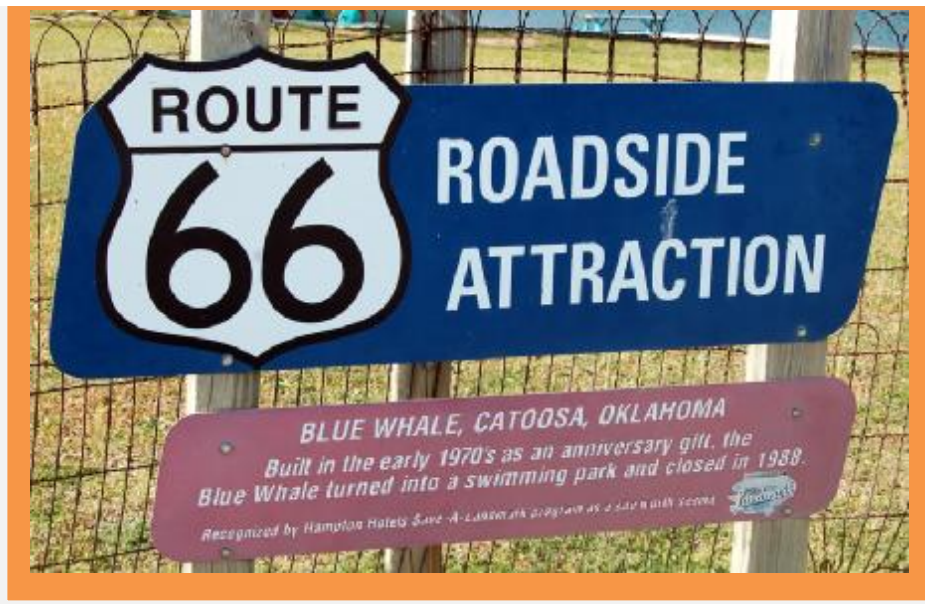




Ed also built "The Fiddle House" which has eight sides. Currently the gift shop, it displays much of Ed's artistic accomplishments. One of those accomplishments is, most appropriately, making fiddles, like the ones below, each made from a different kind of wood.



Claremore, with the Adobe Village Apartments above, formerly the El Sueno Courts, is also the birthplace of Will Rogers. There are many tributes to him here in town, but it must have been the end of the work day because the traffic was horrendous. I caught the photo above as I drove by and kept right on going to Verdigris, home of the Blue Whale. Probably one of the first water parks.



Next was Tulsa, oil capital of the USA. After a long drive through town I finally arrived at the Blue Dome Ga Station. Appropriately named it would seem.

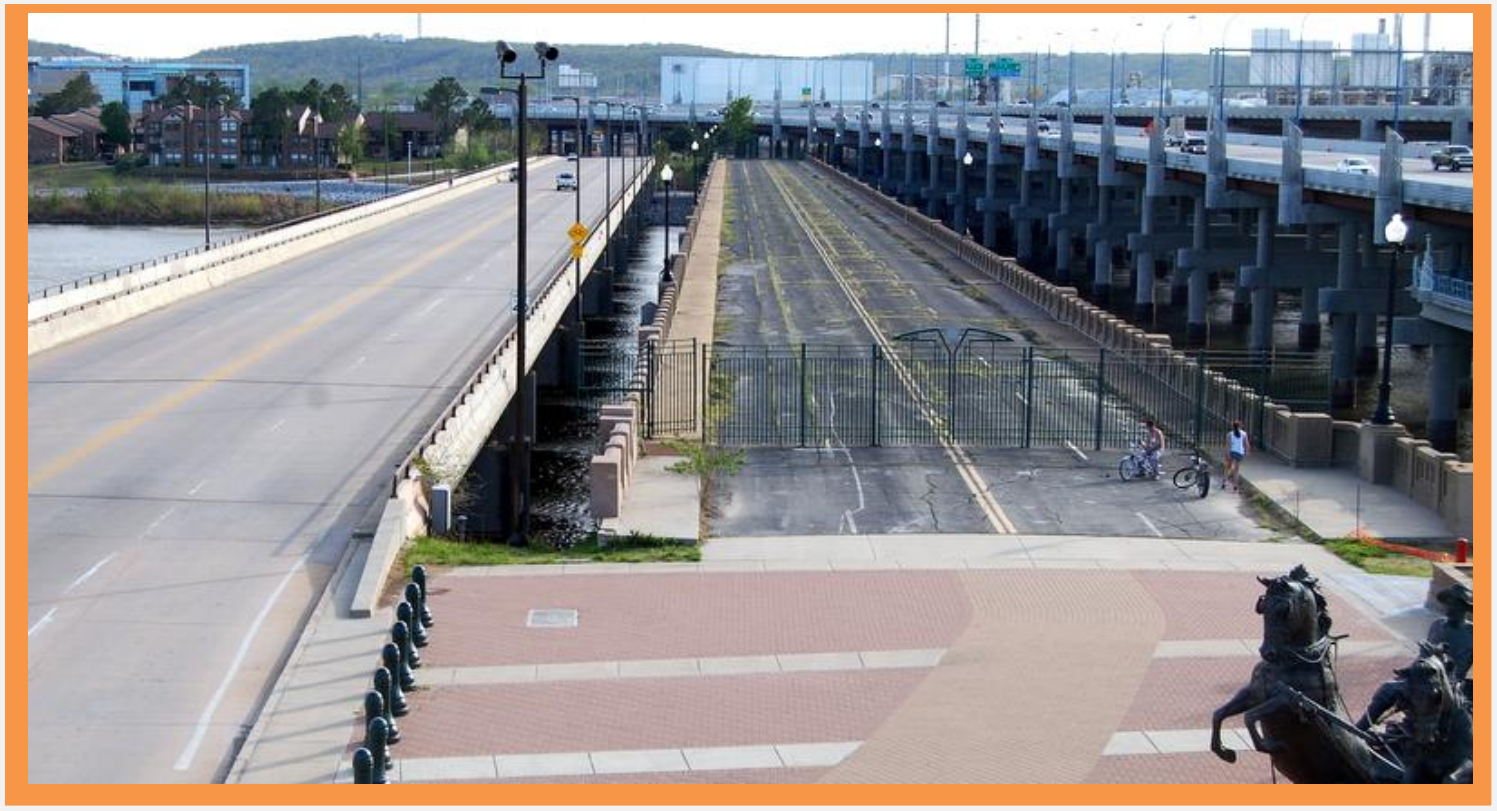
Then I stopped at the Cyrus Avery Centennial Plaza. Who is Cyrus Avery you ask? Basically, Cyrus Avery was the "Father" of "The Mother Road". He was the driving force behind several associations to form a network of roads throughout Oklahoma and the entire U.S.

It was a moving look at the past which I thoroughly enjoyed. I had to hike across the Route 66 arch from the parking area to the Plaza. The bronze statue is titled "East Meets West". Very well done. The Plaza has the flags from each Route 66 state in an arc of the Plaza.

Then you have the contrasting old and new bridges.







I was planning to eat at Ollies in Red Fork because they have model trains running all over the place. I was disappointed to find they closed at 3 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Oh well. It was getting on to hotel time since I knew I had taken a lot of photos today. Grabbed a bite. Found a Super 8, and it's not a great one. The sheets seem clean. You already know how thin the walls are. I almost drew blood when I banged my shin into the sharp, wood, bed frame corner which sticks out beyond the mattress. I had to get an upstairs room. No elevator.

These are the joys of hotel travel on a budget.

Good Night!

