



Day 6
 Wednesday
 April 6th
 Sapulpa, OK
 To
 Shamrock, Texas

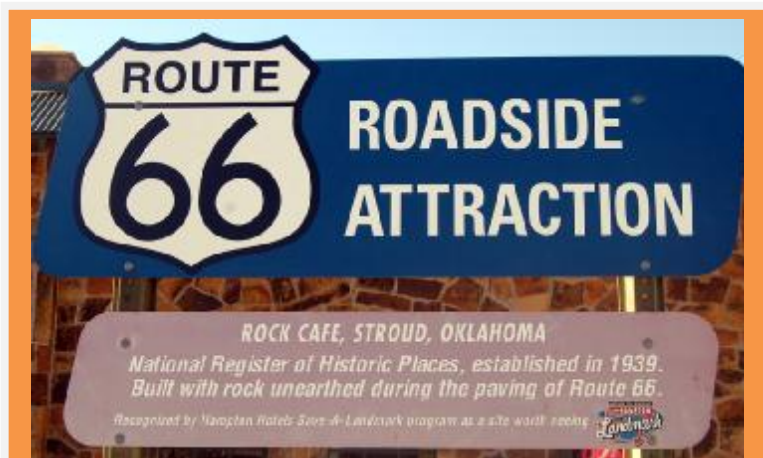
Stats

Just over 9 hours on the road

Weather

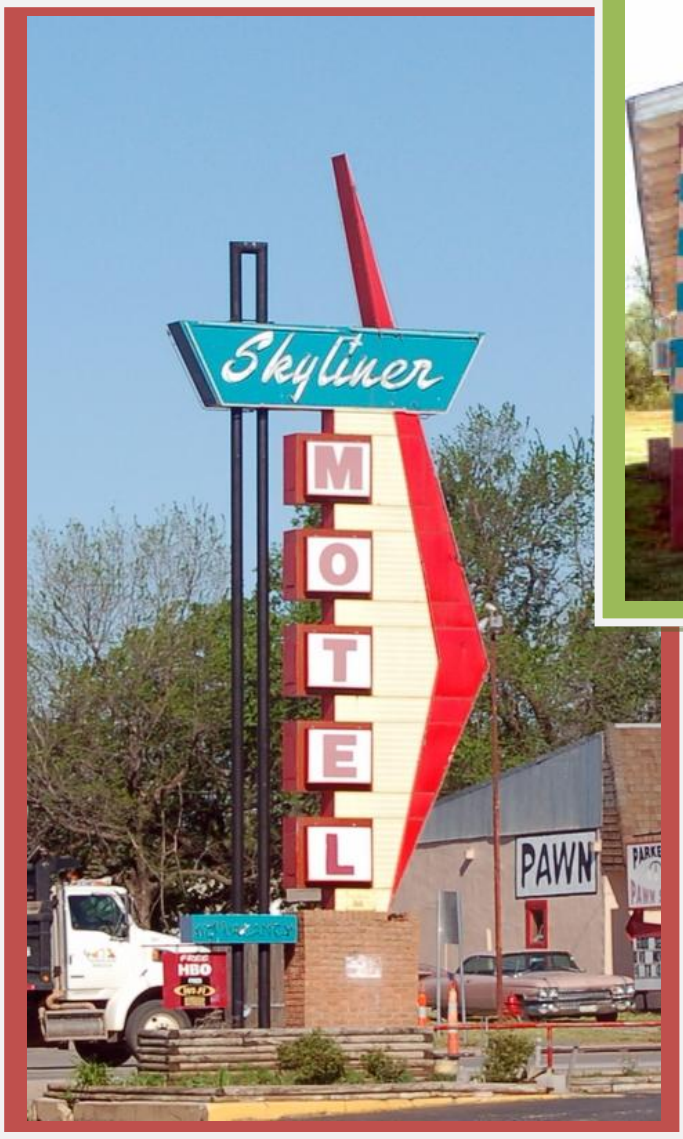
High Temp: 73
 Low Temp: TBD
 Conditions: Sunny and windy

Between Bristow and Stroud, remnants of Route 66 run alongside the more modern OK 66. Few parts are drivable. Most of the bridges over small creeks have been removed. Some of the "old" road was regularly used until 1984.

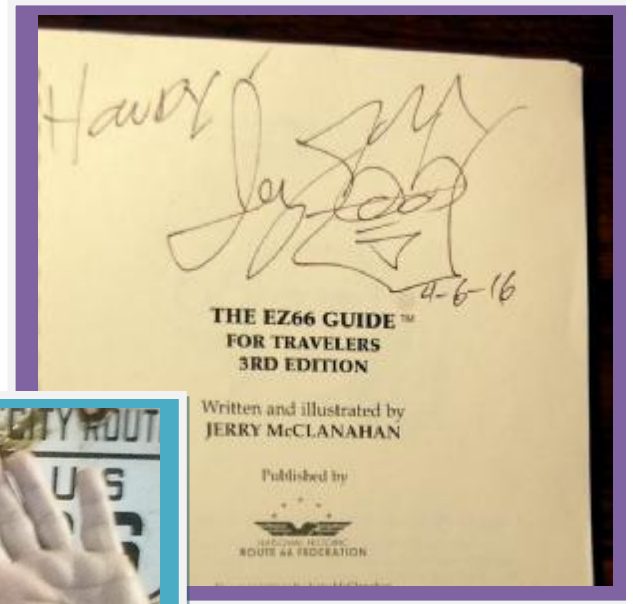


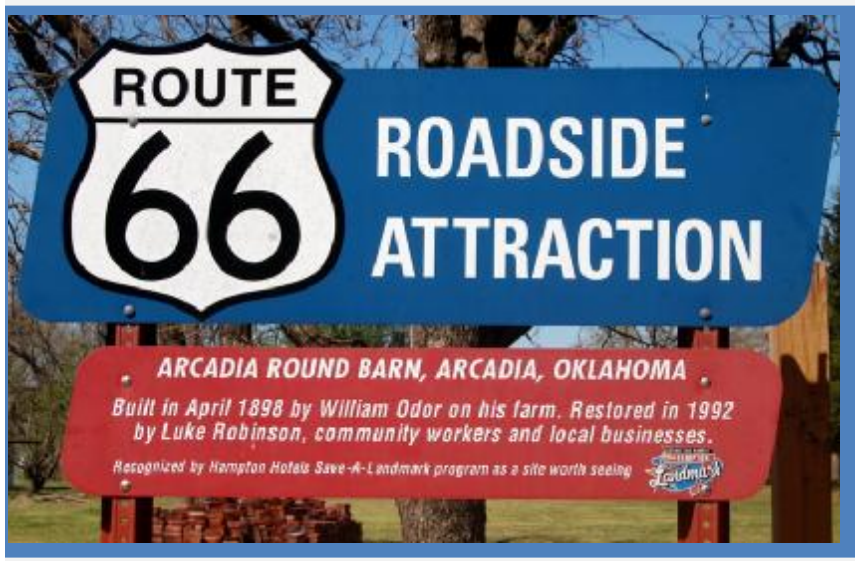
Most of us will recognize that stance.



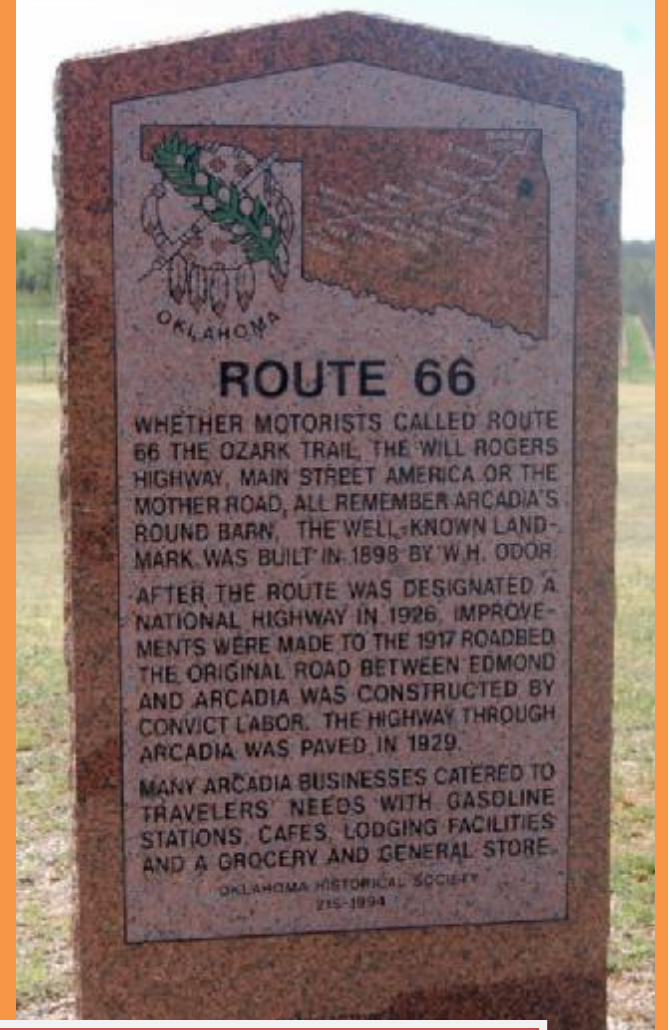


That is Jerry McClanahan above, author of the *EZ 66 Guide*, standing in the door of his Route 66 Gallery in Chandler, OK. In the book he invites anyone following Route 66 to drop in and pay him a visit. So I did. We chatted for about an hour. I bought one of his prints, which he signed. He also signed my EZ Guide and posed with me for the selfie shot below.





A barn is a barn is a barn. This one is just round instead of rectangular. It was interesting to see the photos of the very poor condition of the barn, the roof had actually collapsed, prior to the restoration to what you see below. It was also interesting to find that the idea of round barns, first built in New England, may have stemmed from the American Indians round wigwams.



GIANT ALERT – A giant pop bottle here at Pop’s, a diner and convenience store, also in Arcadia. I could not stick around til dark to take a photo, but I found one online for you. That bottle is 66’ tall.



The next several photos are from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. I spent about two hours there and could have spent all day. If anyone is ever in the area of Oklahoma City, make sure you plan a visit.



The John Wayne sculpture on page 1 was at this museum. The lighting was poor throughout except for the paintings, and there were a lot of paintings.

On the left is the front entrance.

Below left is probably the most famous Indian statue ever made.



Hard to tell here, but the sculpture above was about 10' tall.

THE END OF THE TRAIL A Native American View

In 1894, when James Earle Fraser completed his model of *The End of the Trail*, American civilization stretched from shore to shore. Most Euramericans believed the frontier period was over and that such progress was inevitable. Many viewed Native Americans as part of the past, a vanishing race with no place in the twentieth century. Popular literature portrayed Indian people as "savages," noble or otherwise. Fraser's *The End of the Trail* reflects this legacy: a nineteenth century Indian warrior defeated and bound for oblivion—frozen in time.

The museum also has Prosperity Junction. Think "Old Milwaukee" but in a western frontier town. Prosperity Junction is a replica of a turn-of-the-century cattle town built in an area of the museum where a 40' high ceiling allows two story structures. At its northern edge lies the town's industrial section, including a railroad depot, blacksmith shop, and livery stable. At the south end are the school, church, and residences. Between those two extremes lay the bulk of the town's business structures. Loved it!!

Below is the Remington "Coming Through the Rye" Here he depicts 4 horsemen riding together at full gallop. The history is that these men are jubilant after returning from a long cattle drive.





There was one whole gallery devoted to the Hollywood Western. Photos and paintings of James Arness, Tom Selleck, Sam Elliot, Tom Mix, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers and of course, John Wayne. Plus every cowboy in-between. All sorts of personal and film related items all of these stars have donated to the Museum. John Wayne's personal gun collection, James West's (Robert Conrad) hat and jacket. I could go on and on.

As I mentioned earlier, the lighting was not real good throughout the museum, there were several areas where photos were not allowed and several where a flash could not be used. Even though I could have taken a thousand photos to document my time there, I didn't think you would really want to be that bored. And of course I would not have had the time to include them. Just come and see it for yourself.

So just past Bethany, OK is the historic Lake Overholser Bridge built in 1924. I pulled over to the side of the road, stepped out of the truck into the road, pointed the camera at the bridge and took a picture. As I stepped back towards the truck I heard a voice. I looked back and saw a 20-something girl, maybe younger, get out of her car. I said something like "excuse me" or "pardon me" and she says, very accusingly, "Why are you taking pictures of my car?" I pointed to the bridge and told her "The bridge". And drove away. I should have told her not to get her undies in a bunch



For those of you who are Garth Brooks fans!



Another beautiful, unlit, neon sign.

Between El Reno and Hydro the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long Pony Bridge, below, built in 1933, uses 38 "pony" (small) trusses to cross the South Canadian River. That guy did not complain that his car was in the photo.





I know I read something about this type of gas station, with living quarters over the pumps, one of the last of its kind, but I cannot find the reference anywhere. Just enjoy it.

Sorry to say, I never heard of Mr. Stafford, but he did walk on the moon. There is also a jet he flew and a museum honoring him.



In Clinton I stopped at the "Must See" Route 66 museum. It closed at 5:00. Time? 4:55. Then I called the "Must See" museum in Elk City - closed at 5. Then I called the "Train Buffs Must See" railroad museum in Sayre - Closed at 5. So, since there was not much else to see between Clinton and Shamrock, Texas, I decided to hop on I-40 and save some time. Route 66 was really only 30-40 yards to my right most of the way, it runs as the frontage road.

I arrived in Shamrock, TX about 6:30 and, since I was in Texas, decided to treat myself to a steak at Big Vern's Steakhouse. Decent reviews. All the steaks were listed at "market price". So I asked the market price for the 8 oz fillet. What? You're out of fillets? How can a Texas steakhouse be out of steaks? Don't they just have to walk out the back door and grab a steer? Since all the other steaks were 12 and 15 oz, too much for me to eat and no place to keep a doggie bag, I chose an old stand-by, chopped steak. Let's just say I've had better chopped steaks back in Wisconsin than in Texas, so far anyways.

I took a short drive after dinner and took this photo of the super exciting, just plain hoppin' downtown Shamrock. THE place to be at 7:30 on a Wednesday evening.



IF you want a nap!!



The guy on the platform was painting the sign. Probably part of a restoration. The guys on the street just walked up and started talking to him. I just noticed the sign in the window, "Sold out". Why is everyone in Texas having trouble getting meat?

I checked into the Route 66 motel and started this newsletter. I plan to cross Texas tomorrow, only about 150 miles left to go. Most of those miles are frontage roads of the interstate, just like in Oklahoma and Missouri. I will probably pop off and on to look at things here and there, take the old Route now and then. I just have to make sure I am in Santa Fe by Friday night.

Good night for now. I leave you with another pretty good photo below of the Tower Building.

Mark

