



Route 66 Museum Musings

Spring Edition 2015



NEW TO THE CALIFORNIA ROUTE 66 MUSEUM

The museum is the proud owner of the first Santa Monica Route 66 Booth from Mr. Dan Rice. The



Past President of Rte. 66 Assoc. The booth is located by the double glass doors which are now ADA Compliant.

The museum's 1917 Model-T bear skin seat cover has been replaced with new cushions. Courtesy of Mr. Antonio Loera, Thank You, Mr. Loera.

Additionally, new concrete pads have been laid in the back employee parking area, and a new concrete handicap parking area, and ramp has been installed by the double glass doors, (where the new museum entryway will be located.) by L.P.C. Inc.

The museum's roof is in the process of being resurfaced with a white reflective covering to reflect the sun light to lower the building's internal heat. Be sure to wear your sunglasses. On your next visit, we have completed renovation of the men's bathroom, WOW! What an improvement, Thank you Patty & Sue.

We have our new photo map display; was created by Keith Howard. Keith has been a long time member of our museum. The Needles & Santa Monica photo display marks significant Rte. 66 landmarks. You can find the photo map in our transportation room on the back wall.



HISTORIC ROUTE 66 LOST TOWNS

Where are the lost towns of Route 66?
They couldn't be found, but not for lack of trying.

The towns were lost with the ghosts of Route 66. The search for the fabled ghost towns will be renewed again with the rumors of new resurfaced roads between Barstow and Needles.

The town of Bagdad is a good example, a thriving tourist stop in the 1930s and '40s and home to the original Bagdad Café' with the only jukebox and dance floor along this stretch of Route 66. Eerily quiet now, the music died decades ago. It was so quiet, the silence, as they say, was deafening. Broken pieces of glass, a few decaying rock and concrete foundations and rusty cans surrounded us in this place.



The remnants of old building foundations along Route 66 symbolized lost dreams, and broken pieces of someone's life, and hopes. Wandering around the sandy expanse, and stepping gingerly around rocks can give you the feeling of day's long pass.

Bagdad is a town, really just a spot to stop in the middle of nowhere, a tiny foot print. A couple of Santa Fe trains chugged passed us on the nearby tracks, their lonely whistles fading into the distance.

The tales of desert towns that just disappeared from the face of the Earth was a story. There were no rusty signs, no legible clues. Just a couple of concrete pads.

We returned to the car and continued a few yards west on this old stretch of the road, paved with crushed lava rock from nearby volcanic fields.

We are not deterred; however, next time we set out on a quest to travel Route 66 to Needles we will hopefully find some more remnants of buildings in spite of road closures, and detours.

THE SUN EXPLORES THE ROUTE 66 MUSEUM

The Sun Newspaper Columnist Trevor Summons "Travels with Trevor" visited the museum and wrote an article that appeared in the February 8, 2015, Sunday edition.

The title of the article is "Exploring Route 66 Museum".

One of the true joys of returning to museums and galleries in Southern California is the revisiting of old friends. Of course, many of the docents and volunteer workers of these small jewels fall into this category, but it's also the inanimate objects that they protect and promote.

Over the years, I have become very friendly with many of these works of art and artifacts and I look forward to catching 'up with them whenever I walk through the doors. This was the case when I went to The California Route 66 Museum in Victorville the other day.

As soon as I crossed the threshold there was one of these items I was so pleased to see again: a bright blue and white Teardrop camper. It is in immaculate condition and opened up so that visitors can see the

THE SUN EXPLORES THE ROUTE 66 MUSEUM (CONT.)

neat inside accommodations, which can sleep two people comfortably as well as hold clothes and the necessary items for a successful camping trip.

I asked Chick Kirk, a past president of the organization, if it was still on loan. "Well, we managed to raise enough money to actually buy it," she said.

I was very pleased as that way I can revisit it at any time in the future. But there's so much more at this small but crowded piece of history since I was there last.

As I made my way over to the second room, which holds another old friend, I stopped at a new display featuring the exploits of a George Air Force Base Officer named Mark Ward, who lives locally. His helmet was on show with several articles about the base.

Finally, I went to see the other item I wanted to revisit: a 1917 Model T Truck, it is in the same condition in which it arrived from the Mid-West back in the early days of the Mother Road.
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THE GREAT AUTOMOBILE RACE COMING TO SAN BERNARDINO

"Get your kicks" Getting In, Gear
Michel Nolan, The Sun Newspaper Columnist

The Great Race, is on track to arrive in San Bernardino June 27, they will be greeted with great music, people and hundreds of American classic cars. Needless to say, a lot of folks are pretty excited about this event.

Event planning committee members have been hard at work to make this Great Race stopover at Route 66 a huge hit. Street closures for the Great Race stopover would encompass Second through Fourth streets between E Street and Arrowhead Avenue, enough room for 1,000 cherried out classic American cars, and the Great Race antique cars.

One thousand classic American cars on display, and cruisin', does that sound familiar? Route 66 is a part of San Bernardino's history, celebrated as the Stater Bros. Route 66 Rendezvous since 1991 to recall the glory days of the Mother Road.

Now in its 32nd year, is a prestigious cross-country rally in antique cars competing in a timed, navigation and controlled speed endurance race. In previous races the number of cars was limited to 100, but the response to the 2015 Great Race was so overwhelming; we raised the limit to 120. The 2015 Great Race will feature a 1915 Hudson race car from the Indianapolis 500.

This year themed, "Get Your Kicks on Route 66," the Great Race event dovetails perfectly with San Bernardino's celebration. Entry fees are a bit stiff - \$7,000 business/corporate entry; \$5,000 private entry; \$1,500 student entry. Top prize for the winning "Great Racer" is \$150,000.

Great Race participants in more than 100 antique cars will visit 20 cities along Route 66. They will start out June 20 near St. Louis, including San Bernardino on June 27, before crossing the finish line June 28 in Santa Monica.

Great Race drivers will start arriving about 5:30 p.m. at one-minute intervals that day, plan a fun time, partying like it was 1959 in a city celebrating its heyday.

In addition to display cars and cruisin' festivities will include music, a chili cook-off, food trucks, craft beer festival and vendors. Racers compete true to their motto: "Ride, Repair, Repeat". About 5 percent drop out with serious car trouble, like blown engine.

VISITORS

The California Route 66 Museum welcomes International and U.S. Visitors daily. Our International Visitors amaze us with their excitement in visiting our museum.

VISITORS (CONT.)

Last year we had over 10,000 visitors from the U.S. and from all the corners the world visit, The California Route 66 Museum.

The museum had a visit from Jim Jaillet who is an on-line travel blogger. He spent several hours wandering through the museum talking with the museum staff and taking pictures of the exhibits.



To see Mr. Jaillet blog about our museum go to <http://otrjam.wordpress.com>

The “California Route 66 Museum” apologize for any misspelled names of our visitors

To see more pictures of our museum visitors go to the museum website: www.califrt66museum.org.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING 2015 EVENTS

Tours

June 18th – 21st – Route 66 Bluegrass Festival
Victorville, Ca. Fairground

June 27th – The Great Automobile Race
San Bernardino, Ca.

ANTIQUÉ SPONSOR

Caldwell, Kennedy & Porter
Victorville, Ca.

THE CALIFORNIA ROUTE 66 MUSEUM ON LINE

The California Route 66 Museum ONLINE Store accepting **International** and **Domestic** orders. **Flat rate shipping for items less than 5 pounds is \$8.95**
Look for **NEW** merchandise such as Men, Women, and Children’s “T” and sweat shirts. Clocks and other items on the museum’s website.



Be sure to visit The California Route 66 Museum’s merchandise website at: www.califrt66merchandise.com.

The museum website will contain information about upcoming museum events. To see more photos of past museum’s events and newsletters, go on-line at the museum’s digital sites.

Websites: www.califrt66museum.org.

E-mail: cart66musm@gmail.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/rte66museum](https://www.facebook.com/rte66museum)

Youtube: [youtube.com/rte66museum](https://www.youtube.com/rte66museum)