

Approved 2-14-91
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Transportation

The meeting was called to order by Representative Herman G. Dillon at
Chairperson

1:34 ~~PM~~ p.m. on February 5, 1991 in room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Darrel Webb - Excused
Representative Delbert Gross - Excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila - Legislative Research
Bruce Kinzie - Revisor of Statutes
Jo Copeland - Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Carolyn Brozek, Vice-President, Rt 66 Association, Wichita, Ks.

Chairman Dillon entertained a motion to approve the January 24th and January 29th minutes. Representative Shore moved, seconded by Representative Smith. Motion carried.

Representative Rezac requested a motion that legislation be introduced relating to railroads; concerning the obstructing of Highways; penalties; amending KSA 66-273, 66-274 and repealing the existing sections.

A motion was made by Representative Smith, seconded by Representative Reinhardt that this be introduced as a Committee Bill. Motion carried.

Chairman Dillon introduced Carolyn Brozek who testified for HB 2040, designating United States Highway 66 as a historic highway. (Attachment 1)

Discussion and questions followed.

A motion was made by Representative Shore and seconded by Representative Crowell that HB 2040 be passed and put on consent calendar. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Testimony Regarding

H. 2040—An Act designating United States Highway 66 as a
historic highway.

Before the
House Transportation Committee
Kansas House of Representatives
February 5, 1991

Presented by
Carolyn Brozek
Vice President
Kansas Historic Route 66 Association

On Behalf of
Kansas Historic Route 66 Association
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Wichita, Kansas 67206
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*House Transportation
2-5-91
ATTACHMENT 1 -1*

Distinguished members of the House Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee.

My name is Carolyn Brozek. I am Vice President of the Kansas Historic Route 66 Association. I am here on behalf of an association which represents 194 members from Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Texas, Oklahoma, Nevada, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico, California, Alabama, Minnesota, and Virginia. The Kansas Historic Route 66 Association is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Historic Route 66 in Kansas.

On behalf of the Association, we respectfully request your support of Senate Bill 60 to designate United States Highway 66 as a historic highway.

ABOUT ROUTE 66:

Route 66 began in Chicago and wound its way through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, finally reaching the ocean in California. To the dust bowl farmer Route 66 was the road to the promised land and California was the promised land. A land where flowers bloomed, food was plentiful and the dust did not blow. They loaded up their meager belongings in dilapidated vehicles and headed west on old route 66. It was the "Mother Road" calling its weary brood to follow their dreams of a better life. It was the "way west."

Route 66 was the major east/west traffic route from the inception of widespread automobile traffic in the mid 1920's through the completion of the interstate highway system by the defense department in the late 1960's. The consistent and heavy traffic along Route 66 served as the catalyst for the founding and existence of many small communities along the highway. Additionally, the highway served as a scenic route for travelers that encompassed a great deal of Americana and Historical sites. It was the longest main street in America. A main street linking eight states, hundreds of tiny communities, and thousands of weary travelers.

When the interstate highway system was completed in the late 1960's, Route 66's popularity dropped significantly. In 1985 certification and federal/state financial support was terminated. Sections of the highway were rededicated to the counties and/or cities. Most of the Route 66 signs were removed, the road was renamed in some areas and businesses declined.

What is left is a quaint drive through history consisting of a variety of styles from split four-lane interstates to single lane highways which pass through small communities as though nothing has changed. It is a step back in history to be enjoyed at the travelers own pace and with an air of nostalgia for hometown, apple pie, Americana.

NEW INTEREST IN ROUTE 66:

Route 66 has once again become the main street of America. People are again traveling route 66 but this time they are in search of the past, in search of a part of America, a part of history. Travelers are coming from all across the United States, Europe, Asia and Australia. Associations have been formed in each of the eight states to preserve the history of route 66. Missouri, Oklahoma and Arizona have designated it as a historic highway.

KANSAS HISTORIC ROUTE 66:

The Kansas Historic Route 66 Association was formed in April 1990 to preserve our portion of this historic highway. We have the smallest portion of the route with only 13.2 miles which travels through Galena, Riverton and Baxter Springs.

The original Kansas historic route 66 is unmarked and difficult to locate. Requests for location of the original Kansas route 66 have been received from California, New Jersey, Illinois, New York, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arizona, Kansas, Minnesota, Michigan, Washington, Indiana, Texas, Canada, Hawaii and Australia.

Designation of United States Highway 66 as a historic highway will preserve our part of the "mother road." It will enable travelers of the road to locate the original Kansas Route 66. Designation of Kansas Route 66 will tie together the Historic designation of Route 66 from Missouri through Oklahoma.

On behalf of the Kansas Historic Route 66 Association, I want to thank you for this opportunity to recognize Historic Route 66. We ask your support of House Bill No. 2040 to designate United States Highway 66 as a Historic Highway.



ARE YOU PLANNING TO GO "CRUSIN" ON HISTORIC ROUTE 66 ??

BE SURE TO TIE YOUR TRIP TOGETHER WITH A LEISURELY TOUR OF THE 13.2 MILES OF KANSAS ROUTE 66!

As you are heading west on Historic Route 66, begin your tour of Kansas route 66 with an ice cold soda (for old times sake) at the State Line Bar on the Missouri/Kansas State line.

Then hop in the car and begin your journey into Kansas. Just before you reach Galena you will cross over an area that looks like it could have been a battle zone. This is the area called "Hells Half Acre". Stop for a while and gaze at the destruction of this once beautiful landscape by the many years of mining industry.

When you reach main street in Galena, turn left then right on Kansas route 66 and continue West. Old Route 66 signs have been posted at the Galena Museum where you will enjoy a visit with Howard Litch about the history of the mining industry. Howard's museum has an abundance of "one of a kind exhibits" that are a lasting tribute to those courageous men who worked the mines of Southeast Kansas. Before you continue West take time to cruise around Galena, and visit the Chamber of Commerce or Business members of the Kansas Route 66 Association to learn more about Galena. (see list page three)

Once you are ready to continue your journey West the next stop is the Spring River Inn in Riverton. You'll find the Inn by taking the first right turn after you cross the river. Built in 1905 the Spring River Inn boasts a 35-foot fantastic smorgasbord that will please the tastes of any traveler. Once your hunger is satisfied take time to stroll along the river and view the beautiful Kansas landscape. Then, before you continue West take a side trip through the old "Rest Awhile Resort" just south of the river. You'll find this area by taking the first right turn East of the river. Eisler Brothers Old Riverton Store is you next stop before leaving Riverton to pick up a souvenir and a RT 66 memory.

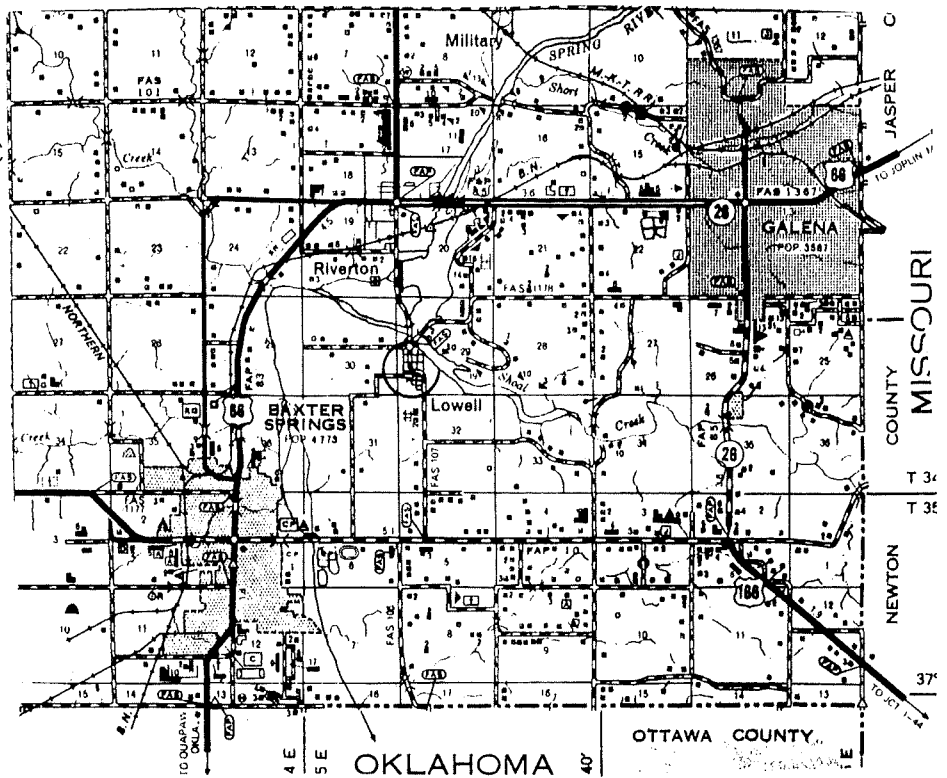
Route 66 turns into Alternate 69 as you leave Riverton and continue on to Baxter Springs. But if you want to follow old route 66 take the first right turn out of Riverton and follow the telephone poles west. You'll cross over the old concrete truss "Rainbow" bridge that was built in the 1920's. This area used to flood and was a natural swimming hole for the local teens. Old Route 66 continues on into Baxter Springs makes a sharp left curve and then turns right on to Military Ave. (continued page 5)

(continued from page 4)

Baxter Springs also has an excellent historical museum. As you tour the museum and stop to visit you'll learn about the history of route 66 in Baxter Springs, where battles were fought and unions were formed. Then stop at the Hairtenders to pick up an Official Kansas Route 66 Association T-shirt and the Chamber of Commerce to learn more about Baxter Springs. You'll also want to stop at Murphy's Restaurant on old route 66 in Baxter which in 1876 was a bank that netted Jesse James a cool \$2,900. Baxter Springs has a thriving business district whose Kansas Route 66 association members are eager to welcome 66 travelers. Old route 66 cuts a path through the center of the business district as alternate 69 before winding its way into Oklahoma.

Then as you continue your journey west on historic route 66 we hope that your tour of Kansas Route 66 will have been a special part of that journey. As one recent traveler commented "even though Kansas has only 13.2 miles of route 66, I will not forget the friendly hospitality that was shown me." And that is Kansas Route 66--13.2 miles of hospitality.

WELCOME TO HISTORIC
KANSAS ROUTE 66!!!!



WELCOME TO THE KANSAS HISTORIC ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION

THE KANSAS HISTORIC ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO:

- * PROMOTE STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION IN THE ASSOCIATION
- * PROMOTE THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC ROUTE 66
- * ESTABLISH A LINKAGE WITH THE NATIONAL HISTORIC ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION
- * PRESERVE, RECONSTRUCT, REMARK, DEVELOP AND REFURBISH KANSAS HISTORIC ROUTE 66
- * ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES ALONG ROUTE 66
- * PROMOTE TOURISM ALONG ROUTE 66

MEMBERS OF THE KANSAS HISTORIC ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION WILL:

- * RECEIVE THE BI-MONTHLY KANSAS HISTORIC ROUTE 66 NEWSLETTER "CRUSIN' KANSAS"
- * RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL KANSAS HISTORIC ROUTE 66 MEMBERSHIP CARD.
- * BE INVITED TO ATTEND A YEARLY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.
- * BE ELIGIBLE TO SERVE ON THE KANSAS HISTORIC ROUTE 66 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR COMMITTEES

ALL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE USED TO OFFSET OPERATING COSTS AND TO FUND SPECIAL PROJECTS. MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE ANNUAL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BENEFACTOR MEMBERS WHICH ARE LIFETIME.
