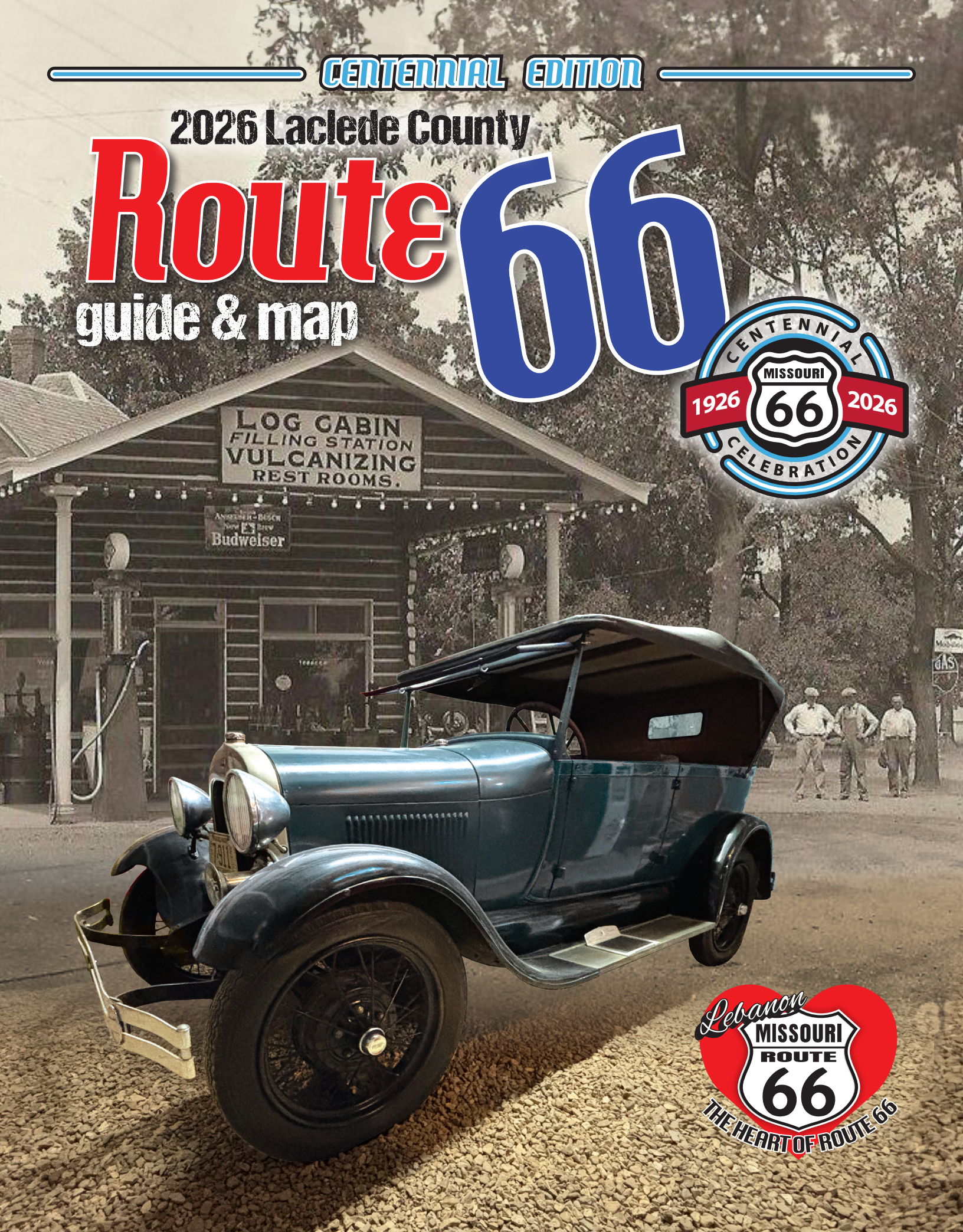
CENTENNIAL EDITION

2026 Laclede County Route 66 guide & map



CENTENNIAL MISSOURI 1926 66 2026 CELEBRATION

Lebanon MISSOURI ROUTE 66 THE HEART OF ROUTE 66



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As we celebrate the centennial of Route 66, there's no better time to follow the Mother Road to Lebanon.

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As you make your trip along Route 66, be sure to stop by these fine businesses that helped make this guide possible.

Thank you for your support!

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Welcome to the Heart of Route 66!

Thanks for picking up a copy of the 2026 Laclede County Route 66 Guide and Map, a joint project of the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society and the Laclede County Record. With this ninth edition of our guide, you can travel 36 miles of Route 66 from one end of Laclede County to the other, identifying mile-by-mile nearly 100 existing and past points of interest that made the Mother Road the attraction it continues to be today. You'll also learn the history of many of those points of interest.

You also can explore the shopping, dining, lodging, antiquing, factory outlets and many other attractions offered by the nearly 70 advertisers whose support made it possible for this guide to be free. Please consider spending a full day or more in Lebanon, "The Heart of Route 66," and Laclede County to experience everything we have to offer.

If your time is short, make sure you see these 10 Route 66 attractions. From east to west:



Gasconade River Bridge

The historic Gasconade River Bridge is about two miles west of the Pulaski-Laclede county line. Built from 1922 to 1924, closed in 2014, the bridge was threatened with demolition, but in 2023 the Route 66 Association of Missouri assumed ownership from the state of Missouri with a goal of rehabilitating it for pedestrian and bicycle use. To access it, look for turnoffs to the south on either side of the replacement bridge, which opened in 2019.



Munger Moss Sign

When you think of Route 66 in Lebanon, Missouri, the first image that comes to mind probably is the beautiful neon sign of the former Munger Moss Motel. The sign is being restored this year by the City of Lebanon, which now owns it. When work is completed, the lights will shine every night. Pete and Jessie Hudson purchased the Munger Moss sandwich shop in 1945 and moved it from the old, bypassed alignment of Route 66 at Devils Elbow to Lebanon. The motel opened the next year. Following the 2023 death of 52-year owner Ramona Lehman, the motel was sold to the Dels Corp., which has converted most units into studio apartments.



Wrink's Market

Wrink's Market on the north side of Route 66, just past the Munger Moss Motel, was operated by the late Glenn Wrinkle, a true Route 66 ambassador, from 1950 until his death in 2005. Today, the building is home to Smokin' Jones BBQ and Wrink's Pies, keeping the historic Wrinkle name alive.



Manor Inn on Route 66

The stately mansion across from the Cowan Civic Center reopened to the public in 2018 as The Manor House Inn and was renamed the Manor Inn on Route 66 by new owners in 2025. From 1932 to the early 1970s, the building provided overnight accommodations to Route 66 travelers under the names Lenz Tourist Home, Lenz Homotel and, in its later years, simply the Lenz Motel, operated by William and Ethel Lenz.



Weaver Auto Sales/ Former Wood & Goss DX

Best known as the old Wood & Goss DX service station, the building at the southeast corner of Route 66 and Adams Avenue has been restored to honor its DX heritage since being bought by the Weaver family in 2014 as an office for their car lot. New DX features continue to be added. Gene Wood and Kenneth Goss opened their first service station on March 1, 1957, at the corner of Jefferson and Commercial. In 1964, they moved to this location, which had been Tyres DX in the 1950s. It became Wood's Service Station after Goss died in 1971. Wood closed the station in January 1990.



Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Museum

Lebanon is proud to be the home of an internationally known Route 66 Museum located in the Lebanon-Laclede County Library. The museum attracted visitors from 52 countries and 50 states last year. The 3,500-square-foot museum honors the legacy of Route 66 in Laclede County and includes a Route 66-themed gift shop. It's open six days a week, and admission is free. Make sure you see

the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame honoring "those who made exceptional contributions to the development or promotion of Route 66 or who operated legendary businesses on Route 66 in Laclede County, Missouri."



Route 66 Murals at Boswell Park

The three murals at Route 66-themed Boswell Park are a tribute to the county's proud history on The Mother Road. In recent years the park has been redeveloped to include a Route 66-themed playground, a winding replica of Route 66 called "66 Mural Drive," a Blue Star Memorial Garden, replicas of arches that once welcomed Route 66 travelers to Lebanon with the greeting "Our Town, Your Town," a replica of the fountain that once was a marvel of the stone cottages at Nelson's Dream Village, and an amphitheater.

The first mural depicts a 1957 Chevrolet driving past the "Our Town, Your Town" sign at the entrance to Lebanon. It's designed so you can pull your classic car in front of it and pose for pictures. The second mural shows a 1927 Texaco gas truck crossing the Gasconade River Bridge. The third mural depicts the "Nelson Family Legacy," which recognizes the many contributions Col. Arthur T. Nelson and his descendants made to Route 66 in Lebanon, including donating 40 acres for the right-of-way and founding such iconic businesses as the Nelson Hotel and Nelson's Dream Village. The mural pays tribute to Nelson's Dream Village and the Nelson family's famous apple orchard.



Camp Joy cabin at Boswell Park

Before you leave Boswell Park, check out the Camp Joy cabin on the hill. Camp Joy was one of Lebanon's first Route 66 tourist camps, founded by the Spears family in 1927, one year after the gravel road through Lebanon was designated Route 66. Camp Joy was located at the present location of Route 66 Sales and Rentals, and then-owner Lee Sing donated the last surviving cabin to the Route 66 Society in 2019. Volunteers from the Route 66 Society restored the cabin inside and out and moved it to Boswell Park. The replica Camp Joy arch was added in 2024. The flower gardens planted by Laclede County Master Gardeners celebrate the flowers that lined Route 66 in its early days courtesy of Col. A.T. Nelson. Make sure you read Camp Joy's history on the cabin's north side. Outlaws Bonnie and Clyde were among Camp Joy's most notorious customers.



Underpass Café

About nine miles west of Lebanon on Route 66/Highway W, just west of the Frisco Railroad bridge, you'll find the Underpass Café. The Route 66 Society finished restoring the building's exterior in 2019. O.E. Carter and Ed Lawson, who previously operated two gas stations in Lebanon, owned the café, a prefabricated gas station and a garage. The gas station, no longer standing, opened in 1941, and the café was added in 1950. The original garage still stands. The businesses closed sometime after the new Interstate 44 bypassed them in 1957.



Twin Oaks

About a mile west of Phillipsburg on Route 66/Highway CC, you'll find the Twin Oaks service station and tourist camp, now being restored. The gas station, believed to have been built in 1925, was owned by Sadie McMenus, widow of a Phillipsburg merchant. Other buildings include the restaurant, a water tower that delivered water to the cabins, and two cabins. A mechanic's garage in back, built in 1962, has been remodeled into apartments. The business was named after the many double-trunked oak trees on the property at the time. Gala annual picnics were held at a roadside park across the road every July through 1938.



Before you start

We remind you that some of the Route 66 landmarks are on private property. Please don't trespass where it's obvious you shouldn't.

Every year we learn more about Laclede County's Route 66 history. Text for this 2026 guide was updated by Gary Sosniecki, accompanied on the final drive-thru by Cliff Claxton, both of the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society. Valuable resources were the weekly "A Look Back" and "Pics from the Past" features by Laclede County Record historian Kirk Pearce, the Memories of Laclede County Facebook page, and the book, "Route 66: Laclede County Memories 1926-1957." Copies of the book may be bought at the Laclede County Record office and the Lebanon-Laclede County Library gift shop. We're also indebted to authors Joe Sonderman, the late C.H. "Skip" Curtis and the late Jack D. Rittenhouse for their extensive Route 66 research.

The cover, designed by Courtney of The Laclede County Record, showcases a 1929 Model A touring car once owned by B.G. Williams, now on display at the Lebanon Route 66 Museum. The historic background is the Log Cabin Filling Station, circa 1933, operated by J. Ward Owen at the northeast corner of Route 66 and Highway 5 in Lebanon.

The guide is only as accurate as the memories of those who contributed to it. If you find an error or know of a landmark we missed, please let us know for the next update. Remember that odometers may be calibrated differently, so locations of landmarks may differ slightly in your vehicle.

Advertising for this publication was sold by Jennifer Early, publisher of the Laclede County Record, and Vicki Carey, Sales Manager of the Laclede County Record. Design was by Courtney and Danielle, Laclede County Record Graphic Designers. Distribution to Route 66 locations statewide was by Gary and Helen Sosniecki of the Route 66 Society. We thank all the businesses and organizations that participated.

3 Named to Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame

Brothers-in-law who famously kept their gas stations open 24 hours a day, a husband and wife who operated the popular Eden Resort from the 1940s to the 1970s, and the entrepreneur who made "fried domestic rabbit" a delicacy still remembered decades later are the newest members of the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame.

The Wall of Fame is located at the entrance to the Route 66 Museum at the Lebanon-Laclede County Library, 915 S. Jefferson. The museum and library are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Closed for federal holidays. Admission is free.

The 2026 Wall of Fame inductees are, in alphabetical order:

• ONELL EVERETT CARTER
• JAMES EDWARD LAWSON SR.

Brothers-in-law O.E. Carter and Ed Lawson were Laclede County Route 66 mainstays for more than 30 years. They prided themselves on serving their gas-station customers 24 hours a day. "We never close," they advertised. The first Carter and Lawson station in Lebanon opened in April 1935 at Washington and Route 66. Barnsdall called it a "Super-Service Station." In May 1944, Carter and Lawson Oil Co. moved their business to a former Skelly station at Jackson and 66. "We will continue to sell Barnsdall products as we have for the past nine years," their ad said. But by January 1945, they had switched to Mobilgas. In August 1947, they opened Carter and Lawson Tire Co., selling General Tires, in a new building next to the gas station, which was leased to Paul Scott. Also in the 1940s, Carter and Lawson expanded to Phillipsburg with a prefabricated gas station just west of the Frisco underpass. In 1950, they added the Underpass Café building next to their station and moved all operations from Lebanon to this site. Their Lebanon gas-station buildings and their café and garage at Phillipsburg still survive.

• WALTER AND HELEN DICKINSON

It was the Eden of Route 66. For more than 40 years, Eden Resort, on a hill just west of the Gasconade River on the south side of Route 66, was a self-proclaimed paradise for thousands of travelers, vacationers and fishermen. Eden Resort was built in the 1920s by Stanley M. Riggs, a St. Louis businessman



who had a vision that city dwellers would enjoy its beautiful location and comforts beyond those found in an average resort. Most of his guests came from the St. Louis area. Riggs hired managers to operate Eden Resort. Among them were Walter "Dick" and Helen Dickinson, who came to Eden from Monett in 1942. Four years later, they bought the resort, operating it into the 1970s. "I think it would have been called the nicest and most beautiful place on 66," Hugh McClure Jr. of nearby Hazelgreen recalled in a 2002 interview, adding that the resort "was booked up and sold out from year to year. They had a big pine dining lodge, and it sure was a treat to eat in that place." Gasconade River float trips were featured, and Walter Dickinson arranged floats for an untold number of Missouri sportsmen and others from out of state.

• ANDY LIEBL

Andy Liebl didn't come up with the idea of turning two street cars from Tulsa into a popular café on Route 66 in Lebanon — credit that to Robert DeSuza in 1936. But Liebl was the most-famous owner of Andy's Street Car Grill, an entrepreneur who made "fried domestic rabbit" a delicacy remembered decades later. Credit that success to his unusual menu item, his memorable personality and his marketing skills, which included souvenir postcards and a sign that bragged: "THE FINEST FOODS IN THE OZARKS SERVED HERE." "Everybody just loved his personality," David Bass, Liebl's stepson, remembers. Liebl, then 38, hit the ground running when he bought the restaurant in December 1949, offering a free cup of coffee on his first Sunday. We don't know exactly when Liebl began serving "fried domestic rabbit," but since he previously advertised dressed domestic rabbit "cut and ready for your frying pan," it's likely he raised some of the rabbits himself. He bought others from Lebanon youngsters who raised rabbits. "He was famous for his fried rabbit," Bass says. Liebl sold the restaurant in April 1956, the year before through traffic moved to the four-lane New Route 66 south of town.



Carter & Lawson Oil Co. at the corner of Route 66 and Jackson.

THIS YEAR'S HONOREES JOIN:

2022 inductees:

—Bob and Ramona Lehman, longtime owners of the Munger Moss Motel.

—Col. Arthur T. and Lizzie Nelson and Frank and Dorothy Nelson, operators of "Nelsonville" businesses at Route 66 and Highway 5.

—Charles and Lida Spears and Emis and Lois Spears, founders of Camp Joy.

—Bill Wheeler, organizer of the first Lebanon Route 66 Festival and the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society.

—Glenn Wrinkle, operator of Wrink's Food Market for 55 years.

2023 Inductees:

—The Direct Route Delegates – 1922: I.T. Curry, W.M. Hawkins, Bert Henderson, Andrew Rader, Fred D. Harris, Phil M. Donnelly, L.C. Mayfield and the Lebanon School Band, the community leaders who in 1922 successfully campaigned for the future Route 66 to be routed through Lebanon.

—William and Ethel Lenz, a husband and wife who welcomed guests into their Lebanon tourist home for 40 years.

—The Bacon-Speaker Family: Tom Bacon, Thornton 'Thorny' Speaker, Tommy Speaker, Teddy Speaker, Lena Bell Speaker England and Dale Speaker, a three-generation family that operated a Lebanon gas station for seven decades.

2024 Inductees:

—J. Floyd Caffey, an entrepreneur who sold ice water, then Coca-Cola, to travelers on the Old Wire Road even before Route 66 existed, then added a grocery, café and filling station as the community became known as Caffeyville.

—The Harris Family: father S.W. "Sim," son Barney and Barney's wife Marie, who were Route 66 mainstays in Conway for 35 years, owning the Harris Café, three gas stations and a tourist court.

— Marie Williams, who owned five motels at various times, including the Vesta Court/El Rancho and The Holiday Motel on Route 66 at Lebanon.

2025 Inductees:

—Pete and Jessie Hudson, who brought the Munger Moss restaurant to Lebanon and built an internationally famous motel with the same name.

— Harry "Shorty" Jones, Bill Jones Sr. and Bill Jones Jr., a father and son who operated a Shell station and garage on Route 66 for decades and the grandson who served as president of the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society.

—Don O. Vernon, Sam R. Farrar and William H. Owen Jr., three community leaders who, in 1917, drove five days to Texas to ensure that the Ozark Trail pass through Lebanon.





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"Some beautiful paths can't be discovered without getting lost."
~ Erol Ozan



Roadside Attraction Signs Erected

Two dozen signs identifying Route 66 roadside attractions in Laclede County have been erected by the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society for the iconic highway's centennial in 2026.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded a $5,900 "Preserve Route 66" grant to the Route 66 Society for the project.

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS AT THESE ATTRACTIONS:

—Site of Satellite Café and Station
—Munger Moss Motel
—Wrink's Market
—Speaker's Mobil Station
—Lenz Tourist Home
—Site of Camp Joy
—Carter and Lawson's Station
—Woods DX Station
—Lebanon Route 66 Museum
—Site of Nelson Dream Village
—Site of Nelson Hotel and Station
—Wallick Motor Sales
—Carter and Lawson's Oil Co.
—Boswell Route 66 Park and Murals
—Campbell 66 Trailer
—Camp Joy Cabin
—White Sands Motel
—Shepherd Hills Motel
—Site of Capri Motel
—Underpass Café
—Twin Oaks Tourist Court
—Site of Harris Tourist Court
—Historic Downtown Lebanon
—Bowlmor Lanes Rt. 66

Learn about the attractions at https://www.lebanonroute66.com/attractions/



The Midway Motel and Standard Station on Route 66 at Phillipsburg, pictured in the late 1950s after the opening of New Route 66 and Interstate 44. The back of the postcard advertises these features: "Tiled Bath — Air Conditioned — Panel Ray Heat — Cafe — Gifts — Standard Gas — Reasonable Rates — Quiet — off The Highway." Originally, this was the site of Midway Cafe and Camp. The Standard Station, later remodeled for other business uses, was destroyed by a fire several years ago. The motel, converted to storage units, was torn down in 2017.



4 Acre Camp, also known as 4 Acre Court, was located four miles east of Lebanon on Route 66. According to the 2002 book "Route 66: Laclede County Memories, 1926-1957," the camp was built in 1939 by Ray Coleman and Blackie Walters. It included "family units and a campground, along with the station/residents in front."



Parsons Lodge on Highway 66, Hazelgreen, MO.



One of the newly erected Roadside attraction signs. This one is the marker for the Lenz Tourist Home. The sign also features a QR Code, where visitors can learn more about the location.



The Rock Court, which included a barbecue restaurant, was located on the south side of Route 66 just west of the Munger Moss.

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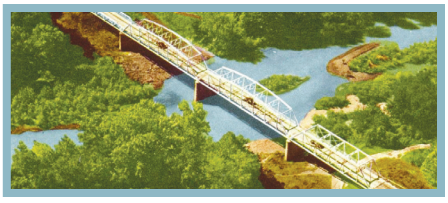
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Highway 5-32 bridge over New Route 66/Interstate 44.

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~ H.S. Crow



Route 66 Bridge over Gasconade River in the Scenic Missouri Ozarks.

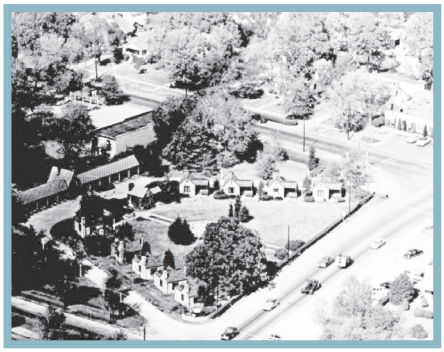




Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society members often bring their classic cars and trucks to Route 66-oriented events, including those at the Lebanon-Laclede County Library and Museum.

June 1 -June 30 — The State Historical Society of Missouri exhibit, "Missouri's Main Street, 100 Years of Route 66," will be on display at Lebanon-Laclede County Library and Museum.





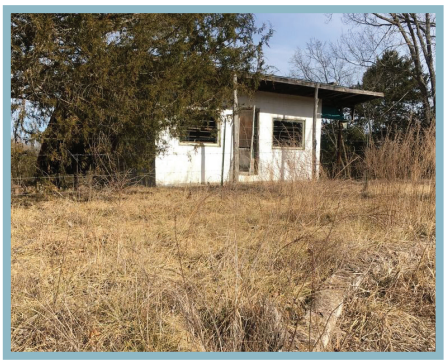


"Highway 66 is the main migrant road. 66—the long concrete path across the country, waving gently, up and down on the map, from the Mississippi to Bakersfield—over the red lands and the gray lands, twisting up into the mountains, crossing the Divide and down into the bright and terrible desert, and across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

~ John Steinbeck,
"The Grapes of Wrath"

Nelson's Dream Village at the northwest corner of Route 66 and Highway 5 was a vision conceived in a dream by Col. A.T. Nelson. The village of 12 Old English-style cabins opened in 1935.





Charley Gilmore built this station west of the Gasconade River Bridge at the same time I-44 was built, because for a few years this segment of Route 66 still was being used as I-44's westbound lanes. Estill Clay, the first employee, remembered pumping the first tank of gas at the station. Al Harper was the subsequent operator, selling Skelly gas. The station still stands today on Hidden Hills Road.



Brochure promoting Eden Resort, just west of the Gasconade River Bridge.

Rock Ridge Station was located on what today is Hidden Hills Road.





The 66 Motel.



The first flyer for the Lebanon Route 66 Festival in 2001. Thanks to Jeanette Whipple for contributing to our collection of material.



The Bell Motel and Restaurant were located on the south side of Route 66 just west of the Wyota Commons apartments, formerly the Wyota Inn.

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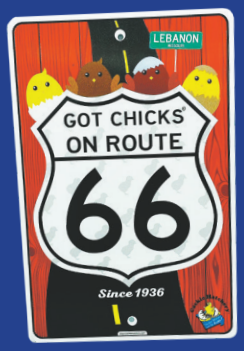
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Clifton & Nancy Smith
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Nathaniel Smith 2024 (left)
& Jeff Smith 2006 (right)



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The Union Bus Depot, also known as the Greyhound Post House, still was a busy place in 1958, the year after New 66/Interstate 44 bypassed old Route 66 in Lebanon. The business was located at the northeast corner of Route 66 and Highway 5. This photo is from a Facebook post by Kerry D. Hilton.



Highway 5-32 cloverleaf in the early years of New Route 66/Interstate 44.



Lee Walker Resort in Hazelgreen.

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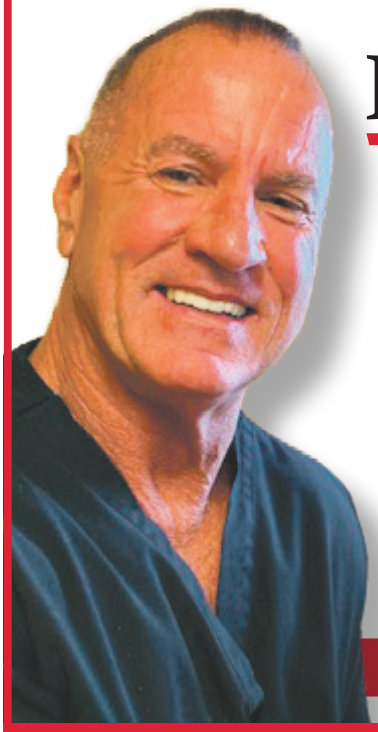
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Tommy Speaker in 1946 in front of the original Speaker's Station in Lebanon.



Caldwell Truck Stop on Old Route 66, looking east toward the Nelson Tavern, on Dec. 4, 1957, shortly after New 66 (today's I-44) had opened. Dave Caldwell bought the old Claxton Hotel in 1949. The business remained open until 1971. It's now the site of Ed Morse Ford.

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Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society presents:

2026 Lebanon Route 66 Centennial Festival

Sponsored by The City of Lebanon

BY MIKE BOGGS
LEBANON-LACLEDE COUNTY ROUTE 66 SOCIETY

If you've ever planned to travel Route 66 but haven't gotten around to it, now's the time! There are many events scheduled for 2026, and Lebanon is sure to make a splash with our biggest and best festival ever, planned for June 5 and 6. Of all the events along the historic highway, this is the one you can't afford to miss!

Friday night, June 5, will be kicked off by none other than the band that has made "Get Your Kicks" famous for over 40 years, Asleep at the Wheel! Ray Benson and company have been touring since 1970, so we couldn't think of anyone better to highlight the Lebanon Route 66 Centennial Concert Series in 2026. They'll take the Boswell Park Amphitheater Stage, sponsored by Slim Chickens, at 6 p.m., but local favorites, The Nautical Brothers will open around 5p.m. Food trucks will be on hand all evening, and don't forget your lawn chairs!

Saturday's festivities begin around 11 a.m. with our traditional Parade cruise down Route 66 sponsored by Graven Chrysler Dodge, ending up at Boswell Park. The classic car and hot-rod cruise-in will continue throughout the day, any and all makes and models are welcome. The Cruise-in, sponsored by C&J Classic Cars and Route 66 Adventure Lodge, will be headlined by "Bandit & Buford," the Ultimate Smokey and the Bandit Tribute, who are sure to put on a show! And Bigfoot will be on display for the kid in all of us!

New for 2026 is the "Mother Road Market and Food Truck Alley," highlighting the many craft and merchandise vendors, displays, and food and drink vendors who will certainly tickle the tastebuds or provide those must-have memorable items. And the official 2026 Lebanon Route 66 Centennial T-shirts, sponsored by Starnes Auto Body & Glass, will be on sale as well. Don't leave without one!

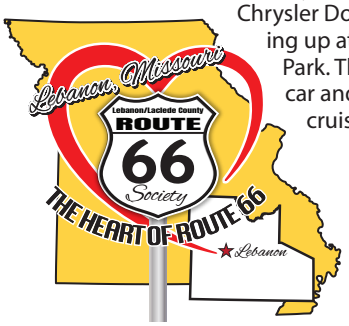
Another addition for 2026 is the "Kids Showcase" pavilion, which will allow kids under 18 to show off any Route 66 or automobile related artwork of any medium, Lego builds, model cars, pedal cars, and more. No registration is necessary, and displays will be up throughout the day. Kids can also have fun in the foam party area or take advantage of free face painting and other fun activities, including the Local Celebrity Dunk Tank that is always a huge hit and raises money for Shop with a Cop.

One final new event during the festival will be the Slim Chickens "Wing Wars," taking the stage in the afternoon for an all-out wing eating competition, with locals being entered to win a chance to compete for cash prizes. And then local celebrities and personalities will join the fun for some amazing, and messy, entertainment!

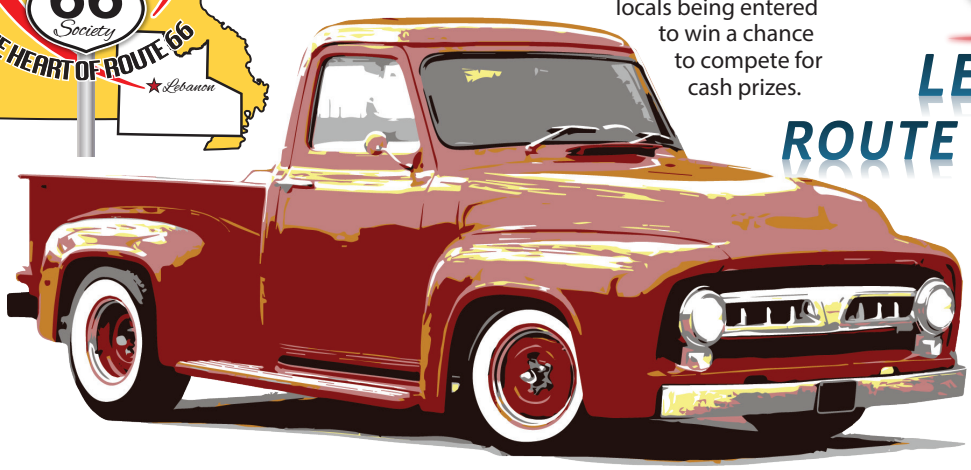
Emcee Roger Sherrer will host the event once again, and DJ Luke Kenworthy will provide the tunes throughout the day, with some special appearances and performances mixed in. And we'll once again be giving away $66 in cash every 30 minutes! Cash giveaways, hospitality and first-aid tents, and courtesy parking-lot shuttles are provided by Lake Regional Health System.

Stay up to date on festival activities at our Lebanon Route 66 Festival Facebook page.

From all of us at the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society and The City of Lebanon, we can't wait to see you at the 2026 Lebanon Route 66 Centennial Festival!



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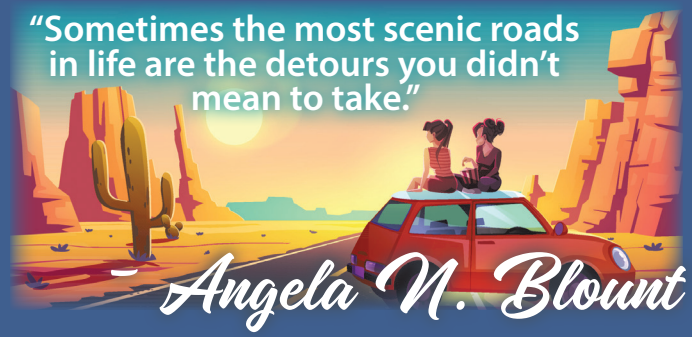


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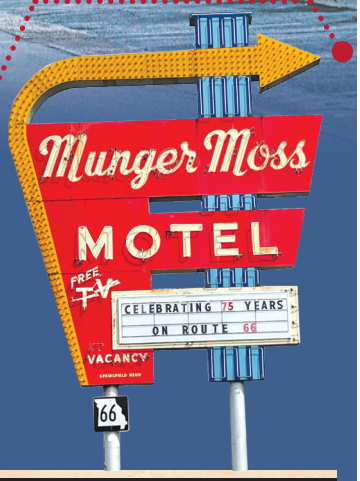
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HAZELGREEN TO SLEEPER

To start the westbound tour, exit Interstate 44 at Missouri 133 (Exit 145) and go south to the outer road, which is Route 66. Turn right (west). Set your trip meter to zero at the Laclede County line. **Buildings and landmarks from the Route 66 era that still can be seen are boldfaced in this guide.**

Mile 0.0 (Eastbound Mile 36.0) — Pulaski-Laclede county line. Start of tour.

Mile 0.2 (Eastbound Mile 35.8) — Long thought (incorrectly) to have been a Route 66 motel, the long building on the south side was built by Neil and Mildred Hancock as six apartments rented mostly to military families. In the late 1960s, the property was acquired by Elva Lea Stewart Henson, who converted the eastern two apartments into a beer-and-pizza joint, the Wayside Inn. "It was mostly a joint for locals to hang out," Rich Green, Henson's cousin and the current owner, said. The bar featured live music, including an impromptu appearance by Waylon Jennings. It closed about 1998.

Mile 0.2 (Eastbound Mile 35.8) — Take a quick glance north across I-44. Ed Lentz's one-time Oasis Truck Port and Café, destroyed by fire in 2022, was located on the hill where Mid-Mo Home Center is today. The truck stop — built in 1956 (garage) and 1958 (restaurant), then closed in 1976 — was accessible from Route 66 via the old, pre-overpass alignment of Missouri 133. Between 1951 and 1993, Lentz operated gas stations in four different locations on Route 66 in Laclede and Pulaski counties. Three locations included restaurants. Two had motels. Three were called the Oasis Truck Port. Twice, he was forced to start over because the state moved a highway. This location was No. 2. The last location, on Missouri 133 north of I-44 at Hidden Hills Road, survives under different ownership.

Mile 0.3 (Eastbound Mile 35.7) – The long-abandoned Phillips 66 station — known as a "gull-wing" station because of its unique canopy — on the south side was owned and operated by Roma Hoffman in the late 1960s. Daughter Beverly Keltner remembers working with Mary Stickler Rippy serving hotdogs, burgers, fries and shakes the summer of 1967 at her parents' snack shop next door. From 1975 to 1985, Kenneth Howlett owned the station with the building leased from Wyota Oil Co. of Lebanon. During that period the station shared a parking lot with one of the first Walnut Bowls Factory Outlet stores. Both businesses were impacted when Missouri 133 was moved to the new overpass in the early 1970s.

Mile 0.7 (Eastbound Mile 35.3) — "A Guide Book to Highway 66" by Jack D. Rittenhouse, the first complete Route 66 tour guide when published in 1946, described Hazelgreen like this: "This town is typical of many throughout the Ozarks, drawing their livelihood from the fishermen and vacationists who throng the region. As in nearby villages, native pottery and other handicraft items are sold here." Jack and Andrew Brazier built the first store at Hazelgreen in 1870. The field on the south side was the site of Walker's Resort, opened in 1916 by John and Lola Walker and Lee and Alvia Walker. The resort was next to the Hazelgreen Store and Post Office and a Sinclair gas station. The Walker Brothers Resort had six cabins, a dining room, and croquet and tennis courts. The business also included a grocery store. In the 1930s and '40s, cabins could be rented for $2 a day. After the death of Lee Walker, Ralph and Velma Watkins helped run the resort and grocery store for a time. Alvia Walker was Hazelgreen's last postmistress when the Post Office closed in 1958. A rooftop sign boasted "Good Fishing, Boats & Guides, Meals, Rooms, Cabins" and "Tourists Welcome." On the north side, where 1-44 is now, were another gas station and Parsons Lodge, advertised in the early 1930s as a "peaceful spot where you can rest, and every desire for fishing, boating, swimming, driving, riding or hunting can be enjoyed in the fullest measure." The grounds included a dining room with home-cooked meals, tennis court and croquet court, and the owners "personally stocked the waters adjacent to Parsons Lodge with thousands of bass." At the top of the hill across I-44 was the Cedar Bluff Resort, started by G.E. and Laura Wrinkle, the parents of Glenn Wrinkle, who operated Wrink's Market in Lebanon. Glenn described the resort as consisting of a farm house, one-room and four-room cottages, and tents. Meals and rooms at the residence were $2 per day, $12 a week, and $45 a month. A younger generation will remember the Black Cat bar, liquor store and bait shop west of the cemetery on the south side of Route 66.

Mile 0.9 (Eastbound Mile 35.1) — The former Hazelgreen Methodist Church, founded in 1876, on the south side was rebuilt in 1957 after construction of Interstate 44 forced the old church to be razed. A cross on top was erected in memory of Walter and Helen Dickinson, longtime owners of Eden Resort. The congregation held its last service on Easter 2023. The building now is the Hazelgreen Reformed Chapel.

Mile 2.2 (Eastbound Mile 33.8) — Riverview Restaurant and a gas station were on the north side just before the old Gasconade River Bridge.

Mile 2.1 and 2.5 (Eastbound Mile 33.9 and 33.5) — To see the historic Gasconade River Bridge, look for turnoffs to the south on either side of the new bridge, which opened Aug. 2, 2019. The original bridge's four spans include two Parker Trusses, one Pratt Truss and a Warren Pony Truss. The bridge was built from 1922 to 1924, before Route 66 was born. Even after the westbound lanes of Interstate 44 were built in the mid-1950s, the old bridge carried eastbound highway traffic into the 1960s and local traffic until December 18, 2014, when it was closed because of extensive deterioration. Nine years of efforts to save the bridge from demolition were successful on Sept. 7, 2023, when the Missouri Department of Transportation transferred the bridge's ownership to the Route 66 Association of Missouri, which is raising money to rehabilitate it for pedestrian and bicycle use. Pedestrian access to the bridge has been fenced off for safety reasons until it can be stabilized. Actually, this was an historic site a century before Route 66. The first cabin constructed by a white man in what became Laclede County was built on the west side of the river by Jesse Ballew, a North Carolina native, between 1817 and 1820. Ballew may have been working for frontiersman Daniel Boone's company at the time.

Mile 2.5 (Eastbound Mile 33.5) — Just west of the old bridge, Eden Resort was on the hill to the south. Rittenhouse's 1946 tour guide called it "one of the best accommodations in this region." According to the Winter 1995 edition of Show Me Route 66 magazine, Eden "was a popular resort for float trips and camping on the Gasconade River, used mostly by locals and vacationers. Eden Resort was buult in the 1920s by Stanley M. Riggs, a St. Louis businessman. In 1935 there were 14 cabins, renting for $1.50-$3.00." Walter and Helen Dickinson managed the resort for Riggs from about 1942 to 1946, when the Dickinsons bought it. A 1955 ad in the Kansas City Star promoted Eden Resort as an "Ideal Vacation Spot" for family groups and honeymooners. On the opposite side of Route 66 was Eden Roadside Park, which, according to Rittenhouse, had stone picnic tables in 1946. Construction of I-44 in 1956 demolished the resort's bricked entrance and bus stop, although it remained open until 1973. Walter Dickinson died in 1971. Two years later, Helen Dickenson sold the resort to World Renewal Inc. Walter and Helen Dickinson were inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame in 2026.

Mile 2.6 (Eastbound Mile 33.4) – Take a quick glance across I-44 to see where the original alignment of Route 66 continued on the north side. Until all lanes of I-44 were completed, Route 66 in this area had only eastbound lanes in some locations and westbound lanes in other sections.

Mile 4.2 (Eastbound Mile 31.8) – Junction with Highway N indicates where, if you're westbound today, Route 66 returned to the south side of the present I-44.

Mile 5.1 (Eastbound Mile 30.9) – Pull to the right (north) side of the road just before the storage buildings on the left. If you look through the trees, you still can see some debris from what was a large, two-story building built for J.P. Headen's Station. It changed hands many times, becoming an early location of Geno's, a popular pizza place and bar (before it moved farther west), then the Save U More gas station run many years by Merle Kelly and later by Bill Lynch. The last business in the building was Hidden Valley Gifts. The building was demolished in the winter of 1992. The abandoned roadbed to the west, between this site and the former Andy's Midway, was the original road to Stoutland.

Mile 5.2 (Eastbound Mile 30.8) — Junction of highways T and N. At the northeast corner was the Midway Restaurant, known as Andy's Midway when owned by Andy and Grace Elliott, who had moved their restaurant east across Highway T to a new building. Andy Elliott also built a Shell station at the new location. Later, he leased the station to the Stombaugh Brothers. The building burned in 2008. Today, the property is the fenced-in site of TNI trucking.

NOTE: Route 66 enthusiasts who want to drive every mile of existing pavement should cross the overpass to the north side of 1-44, then turn right (east) on the dead-end outer road, Hidden Hills Road (road sign missing on east side, early 2026). Reset your trip meter at zero as you turn on the road. At .8 mile, you'll notice a change in pavement. This is approximately where westbound Route 66 returned to the south side of the future I-44. Traveling east, at mile 1.1 on the left, Sunrise View Tourist Court and Standard Station was the first business on this segment of Route 66. The cedars indicate where the gas pumps were. Sunrise View was built in 1926 by Lee and Marie Moore. The six log cabins (with community showers) rented for $1 to $1.50 each night during the summer season only. Sunrise View stayed in operation until the mid-1950s, when 1-44 was built. One youngster remembered watching the 1952 presidential conventions at the Sunrise View because it had a TV, still a rarity in those days. Across from Sunrise View, on the south side, was Cedar Crest Camp with a store, cabins and Texaco gas, at one time operated by Jim Harrison. A sign above the door promoted CABINS – BEER and in smaller letters: LUNCH – GROCERIES. Back on the north side, just east of Sunrise View, a promoter in 1971 dug a well, built a gravel parking lot and erected a tall sign identifying it as "God's Well." The owner advertised in the Kansas City Star that Christ had appeared at the well three times. The water was promoted to have curative benefits and shipped all over the country, but God's Well was short-lived as a tourist attraction. Rock Ridge Store and Station was on the north

side at the 1.5-mile mark, where a newer house and garage sit today. The Rock Ridge well house still can be seen. George and Alice Hugle owned the business in the early 1940s. Lloyd and Sylvia Engle bought Rock Ridge Store and Station in 1948 after he retired from Shell Oil Refinery in Illinois and came to the Ozarks. "He had driven through the area and loved it so much he moved his wife and daughter here," a granddaughter related. Lloyd died in 1951 or 1952. Later, the Rock Ridge Store was owned by George Perkins, then Warren Nusbaum. Alonzo and Julia Burgess managed Rock Ridge for Nusbaum for 10 years until the new highway came through in the 1970s, cutting it off from traffic. The building later was destroyed by fire. You'll see the well-preserved remains of Al Harper's Skelly Station, with its curbed driveway, on the left at the 2.3-mile mark. Charley Gilmore built the station at the same time I-44 was built, because for a few years this segment of Route 66 still was being used as I-44's westbound lanes. Estill Clay, the first employee, remembered pumping the first tank of gas at the station. Al Harper was the subsequent operator. You can follow the old pavement for 2.6 miles, to the second dead-end sign, to see where Route 66 crossed the future I-44 again as it approached the Gasconade River Bridge. Turn around at your convenience and return to the overpass to resume the tour. Mileage for the rest of the tour resumes at 5.3, the distance from the county line.

Mile 5.3 (Eastbound Mile 30.7) — Just past the junction of highways T and N, on the northwest corner where a new building was being constructed in early 2026s, was The Harbor roadhouse, at various times also called Lucy's Truck Stop, Brownie's (owned by L.M. Brown), Andy's Midway (owned by Andy Elliott, who later moved it east across Highway T) and, finally, Geno's. Geno Matella's pizza restaurant was protected by a dog that was overweight because, it was said, everyone fed it pizza. (In the late 1960s or early'70s, Genos's moved to where Alva Starnes Auto is on Route 66 near the Lebanon east city limits.) Several cottages were on the east side of the property. James Brackett had the Mobil gas station next to Brownie's, then moved across Route 66, where the Eagle Stop is today, to a station built by the Speakers. Brackett later sold the station to Bill Wagoner. According to historian Skip Curtis, the two-story Harbor building burned in 1965.

Mile 7.1 (Eastbound Mile 28.9) — Only the concrete pump island remains of what once was Riley's Snack Bar and Souvenirs, with a single cabin to rent, on the left (south) side of the road, 27190 Route 66. According to "Eating Up Route 66: Foodways on America's Mother Road" by T. Lindsay Baker, the business was begun about 1933 by a Mr. Brockman. Bill Wheeler's "Windshield Tour" of Laclede County said the stop first was called the Red Ball Gas Station, selling Tydol gas. "Bud and Ruth Riley operated this stop from 1947 to 1965," Wheeler wrote. Bud Riley remembered years later that tourist business improved after the family stopped selling groceries and concentrated on selling Ozark souvenirs, low-priced cigarettes, and sandwiches. The family also erected "many road signs." Ruth's mother "made a good Sloppy Joe on a bun," Riley recalled. A lot of the soldiers from Fort Wood ordered them with a beer (3.2 variety)." For a while, the Stoutland school bus stopped at Riley's so the kids could buy snacks. Red and Maxine Estill took over operation of the business in June 1965. George and Jean Fletcher were later owners. The business burned in the early 1970s.

Mile 8.0 (Eastbound Mile 28.0) — On the north side, past the white house and green shop building, you'll see an original giraffe-rock cabin from the Blue Moon Camp, later known as the Blue Moon Motel. The business included an office, restaurant and gas station. Mrs. Travis Grier, the owner, held a liquidation auction of the gas station on Dec. 21, 1973.

Mile 8.8 (Eastbound Mile (27.2) – Opposite Redwood Lane, note the old one-lane bridge on the right (north) that at one time was a road to Sleeper.

Mile 10.0 (Eastbound Mile 26.0) — At the junction of Highway F on the south side of I-44, a short stretch of Route 66 continues west on Pennington Drive. To continue the tour, turn right at the junction and cross over Interstate 44 at exit 135. Pick up Route 66 on the other side. Follow signs.

HAZELGREEN

MM 0.0

MM 0.2

MM 0.3

MM 0.7

MM 0.9

MM 2.1

MM 2.2

MM 2.5

MM 4.2

MM 5.1

MM 5.2

MM 5.3

MM 7.1

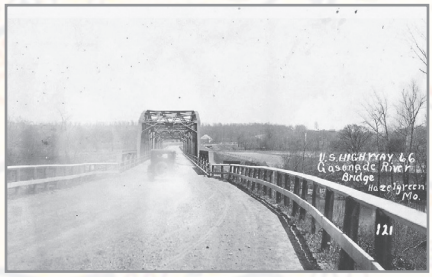
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SLEEPER

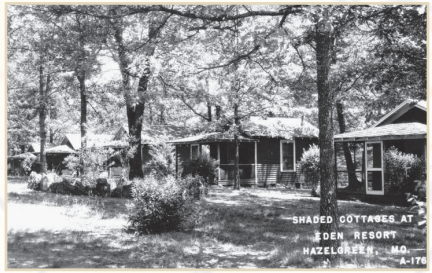




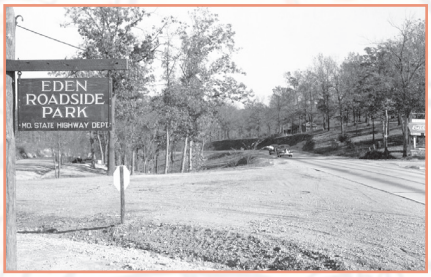
MILE 2.1 - THE GASCONADE BRIDGE



MILE 0.7 - LEE WALKER'S RESORT



MILE 2.5 - SHADED COTTAGES AT EDEN RESORT



MILE 2.5 - EDEN ROADSIDE PARK

SHEPHERD HILLS

Factory Outlets

CASE XX
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Cutlery





ROUTE 66

EXIT 127

INTERSTATE MISSOURI 44

WÜSTHOF

Capri MOTEL

LEBANON, MO



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Historic Route 66 stretches across the U.S. from Chicago to Los Angeles. Along the way, in Lebanon, MO is a growing popular landmark stop for any history enthusiast, tourist, or local Ozark resident. Shepherd Hills Factory Outlets started in the outlet business in 1972 as an outlet for locally made Walnut Bowls.

Ida & Rea Reid, founders, began their entrepreneurship operating a motel in the 1960's called the Capri Motel which was located right along Route 66, known today as I-44. They sold the Capri Motel in 1966. Ida & Rea along with their sons, Rod & Randy, started a new business in 1972 called Shepherd Hills Gift Shop, which was leased as part of the Shepherd Hills Motel and happened to be located in virtually the same spot as the Capri Motel.

Later, as they began expanding, they bought the motel as well as the gift shop and began construction of their current building in 1999. In the meantime, Shepherd Hills added additional locations including those in Osage Beach, MO, Branson, MO, and Eddyville, KY, and brought in other quality products to the lineup including Wüsthof, Precious Moments, Benchmade, and of course, Case XX pocket knives -- making the latter also available through catalog mail order and eventually on the web at: **www.ShepHills.com**.

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ROUTE 66

SLEEPER TO WRINK'S

Note: Buildings and landmarks from the Route 66 era that still can be seen are boldfaced.

Mile 10.4 (Eastbound Mile 25.6) — From Highway F (the I-44 overpass at exit 135), turn west on Route 66, the outer road. Route 66 now is on the north side of I-44.

Mile 10.9 (Eastbound Mile 25.1) – The curve across from Willard Quarry is about where Route 66 originally crossed from the south side of the future I-44.

Mile 11.3 (Eastbound Mile 24.7) — The Lebanon I-44 Speedway was built by Bill Willard and opened as a dirt track in 1983. It has been converted to asphalt twice, most recently in 2010, and is known as one of the finest racing facilities in the Midwest. Nationally known drivers such as Rich Volger, Tony Stewart, Steve Butler and Steve Carlson have found the speedway to their liking, while drivers such as Mike Wallace, Jamie McMurray and Carl Edwards used the track to help vault their careers.

Mile 11.6 (Eastbound Mile 24.4) — ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! A sign advertising CAFÉ, FRIED CHICKEN and HOME MADE PIE and a rocket that once stood along the road are all that are left from the Satellite Cafe and Phillips 66 Space Station, just west of the Lebanon I-44 Speedway. (Don't be surprised to see cattle grazing on the site.) Loren and Norma Alloway operated the café, and LeRoy Hawkins ran the station. They closed in the 1970s. The old cafe building burned in 1999. An original menu from the Satellite Café is on display in the café exhibit at the Lebanon Route 66 Museum.

Mile 12.4 (Eastbound Mile 23.6) — Now apartments, 4 Acre Court, on your right (north), was called 4 Acre Camp when built in 1939 by Ray Coleman and Blackie Walters. According to the 2002 book "Route 66: Laclede County Memories, 1926-1957," it included "family units and a campground, along with the station/residence in front." Phillips 66 and Tydol gas were sold at various times. Historian Kirk Pearce wrote in 2024 that "at one time a drive-through canopy covered the pump island in front of the main building," which also was the court's office and grocery store. A sign on the building in an old postcard said: "Deluxe Rooms, Showers, Toilets, Steam Heat." In November 1963, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Guzan were the new owners, but the 2003 "Route 66 in Missouri Historic Resources Survey" lists Bob Thornton as owner from the 1960s to 1990s. One cottage burned in 2003. Later names included Village Oaks and Foxfire Inn. Four cottages and the main building remain. Note the bell hanging in front.

Mile 12.7 (Eastbound Mile 23.3) – Past the "Butcher Beef" sign: Only the foundation of the restaurant and, if you look closely, the two pedestals that once supported flag poles and an arch over the entrance remain – both can be seen from the highway -- from a landmark Route 66 motel and restaurant known by two names. The Vesta Court opened in 1937 with several cabins. Clayton Lein bought it after spending a night there in 1942 and added a restaurant in 1947. In 1956, Vesta Court was advertised as a "Motor-Motel having 23 modern units, a restaurant and a Texaco gas station." Forrest "Tiny" and Marie Luper bought the Vesta Court on July 4, 1957. "The name was changed to El Rancho Motel and we began to remodel and redo the property, plus we had to move 42 Shetland ponies to the Ozarks," Marie recalled years later. Five weeks after they bought the motel, Forrest Luper, 54, died. Marie and her second husband, Bill G. Williams, sold the El Rancho in 1958 but later owned the Holiday Motel in Lebanon. The El Rancho cabins, office and restaurant were sold at auction in 1974 and torn down. Marie was inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame in 2024.

Mile 13.0 (Eastbound Mile 23.0) — At northeast corner of Grandview Road and Route 66, you can see the foundation of the Skyline Café along the highway and, if you look carefully amid the mobile homes, one rock building from the 12-unit Skyline Motel, originally owned by Jack and Mae Church. In November 1951, Mr. and Mrs. Verle Smith became managers of the café, which was open until midnight daily and advertised quality food, excellent service and a friendly atmosphere. The café was owned by Fern Frandenburg when it closed in 1967. The café was destroyed in a November 1968 fire. A sale was held at the Skyline Motel in July 1971. The units were razed in 1990. A single sign pedestal stands at the driveway off Grandview.

Mile 13.8 (Eastbound 22.2) —K and T New Deluxe Court was in this general area. "When I-44 was being built it went right through the property where K and T Courts was," Gus Sorenson recalls. Sorenson is the grandson of Thomas Viggo, the "T" in K and T Courts. "The 'K' was for Ken Knox; he was the husband of my grandmother's sister, Louis Gehl Knox." Sorenson remembers that Viggo "bought one of the cabins at auction and made it into a house on what is now Pennington Drive."

Mile 14.1 (Eastbound 21.9) – Scotty's Tourist City, with three cabins, a café with eight stools and two tables, and a Skelly station/liquor store, was on the right (north) between today's Westgate Trailers and S&S Recycling/U-Pull-It. Dennis Scott was the owner. Joe Sonderman writes in "Route 66 in the Missouri Ozarks": "The café offered just nine items, from a 25¢ hamburger to a southern fried chicken dinner for $1." **One building remains as an apartment but is unrecognizable because of additions.** The Silver Slipper nightclub was next door. The Silver Slipper was open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. featuring beer, sandwiches and dancing.

Mile 14.2 (Eastbound Mile 21.8) — Across 1-44 on the left (south), just before the "FOOD-EXIT 130" sign, is the approximate location of the 66 Motel, built about 1940 as Weideman's Court. It later was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Adrin J. Lowry Jr. and Sr. The 66 Motel closed, at least temporarily, in 1962 after construction of Interstate 44 left it on the south frontage road (now Highway MM) with limited access from travelers. The Lebanon Daily Record reported in 1964 that "The 66 Motor Court, formerly known as 66 Motel on the east edge of Lebanon on Highway MM, which runs along the side of Hwy. 66, will be sold at auction May 11. E.L. Hightower is the owner of the 12-unit court." The motel was destroyed in a fire April 1, 1968. A statuesque sign remained at the edge of the property as late as July 24, 1977, when a photo appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mile 14.7 (Eastbound Mile 21.3) -- Arrive in Lebanon (1930 population: 3,562). Opposite the city-limits sign, on the south side of Route 66, is where Harry "Shorty" Jones opened a Shell station in the late 1920s. Harry died in 1946, and Bill Jones Sr. took over the station, operating it until 1956 when it was torn down for the construction of Interstate 44. Bill Jones Jr. can pinpoint the station's exact location, because Route 66 now curves at that spot. The family still owned land across Interstate 44, so Bill Sr. opened Bill's Garage there. Bill Jr. later ran the garage for 10 years before retiring. Bill Jr. was president of the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society from 2016 to 2020. The Jones family was inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame in 2025.

Mile 15.2 (Eastbound Mile 20.8) — ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! The beautiful neon sign on the left welcomed travelers for decades to the iconic Munger Moss Motel, featured in many Route 66 books. The sign probably is Lebanon's best-known Route 66 landmark. Pete and Jessie Hudson operated the Munger-Moss sandwich shop, known for its barbecue, on the old alignment of Route 66 at Devils Elbow. In 1945, after their restaurant was cut off from the new four-lane Route 66, they moved it into a Lebanon building that previously had housed the Chicken Shanty. The Hudsons built the Munger Moss Motor Court the following year. Bob and Ramona Lehman bought the motel June 1, 1971. Bob died in 2019. Ramona died in 2023 after 52 years of ownership. The motel was sold in late 2024 to the Dels Corp., which has converted the rooms into studio apartments. The Dels Corp. donated the iconic sign and its easement in 2025 to the City of Lebanon, which is refurbishing the sign with the goal of its neon being lit nightly. Among the motel's early customers: Harry James and his band when performing at Fort Leonard Wood. The long-gone Munger Moss Restaurant, owned in the 1950s by Jack Sponseller, was open from 6 a.m. to midnight in 1959. It was located on the site of the newer brick building to the west. The Munger Moss originally had gas pumps, and another small gas station was across the street to the north. Bob and Ramona Lehman and Pete and Jessie Hudson all have been inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame.

Mile 15.2 (Eastbound Mile 20.8) — ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! Across Route 66 from the Munger Moss, check out the Route 66 mural inside the Bowlmor Lanes RT 66. Artist Garrett Sixone Jackson described the mural as "a massive illustrated journey io a trip down Historic Route 66 through Missouri. Starting in STL, traveling through the Ozarks and ending on the state line in Joplin, this visual voyage has scenes of Jesse James, Bennett Spring, Ha Ha Tonka, and includes the Spirit of St. Louis and the Hubble space telescope. There are many other treats for the eyes hidden throughout the work."

Mile 15.3 (Eastbound Mile 20.7) — The driveway on the right (north), just past Tires, Brakes & More, originally was for the Green Gables Court, built in 1941, consisting of four cabins with attached garages. Later, the cabins were connected and the garages converted into additional rooms for the renamed Forest Manor Motel. A campground with shower building was in back. Elsie and Lee Kimes purchased the motel in 1941 and operated it into the mid-1950s. James and Arla Pape bought it in 1973, selling three years later when the gas shortage decimated business. The motel closed in 2017 and was demolished in 2023. **The sign remains.**

Mile 15.4 (Eastbound Mile 20.6) —Rock Court Motel and Café was located west of the Munger Moss, where the back buildings of Wyota Commons apartments are today. The motel had 16 "Strictly Modern Cabins among the trees" at one time. It was known as Clark's Rock Court when operated by Claude B. Clark, who sold it in 1948. A later owner was Fred Parthier. Later owners of the café included Lewis Tate (in 1949), Chuck Wrinkle and, in 1964, Mrs. Harold Barber. In the early 1950s, the restaurant was open 24 hours a day and known for its Sunday chicken dinners. In later years the restaurant served steak, chicken and shrimp but was especially known for its pizza. A 1949 ad promoted chicken dinners every Sunday plus baked ham and pork chops. Hamburgers were 15 cents. In 1951, the Rock Court Service

Station, then owned by Lewis Tate, advertised that "you can't buy genuine TEXACO PRODUCTS any place else as cheap . . ." Regular gas sold for 19.9 cents. The Lebanon Daily Record reported in 1965 that Lebanon businessmen C.W. and Gary Van Stavern had been granted the franchise to build a 50-unit Quality Courts Motel on the site of the Rock Court, which was to be torn down. (That motel now is Wyota Commons apartments). The Rock Court's furnishings were auctioned off in 1971. The last surviving rock cabin was torn down during the past decade.

Mile 15.4 (Eastbound 20.6) – The Holiday Motel was located on the right (north), past the Forest Manor Motel, where Tires, Brakes & More is today. Before being bought by B.G. and Marie Williams, it was known as the Travel Town Motel. Marie, who previously had owned the El Rancho Motel, served on the Missouri Tourism Commission for six years. Marie was inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame in 2024.

Mile 15.4 (Eastbound Mile 20.6) – ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! Historic Wrink's Market on the right, now a restaurant known as Smokin' Jones BBQ and Wrinks Pies, keeping the Wrinkle nickname alive, was operated by the late Glenn Wrinkle, a true Route 66 ambassador, from 1950 until his death in 2005. G. E. "Grover" Wrinkle began constructing this building in 1947. He planned to build a two-story hotel. However, he became ill and couldn't finish the project. His son, Glenn "Wrink" Wrinkle returned to Lebanon after serving in the military and decided to start a grocery store in the building. He opened his store in the front of the building and the Laclede County library occupied the back part of the building. Wrink's was the first store in Lebanon to carry magazines and disposable diapers. He had the first ice machine in town and in 1960 he put self-service, coin-operated dry-cleaning machines in the back of the building. (Show Me Route 66 Magazine, Spring 1999). The building has housed a restaurant in recent years; Smokin' Jones BBQ opened in late 2024. Glenn Wrinkle was inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame in 2022.

Mile 15.4 (Eastbound Mile 20.6) – Look to the left for the "Lock Your Love on Route 66" sign accessible from the convenience store's parking lot. The sign features two intersecting hearts with grids where couples can place a padlock that symbolizes their love – publicly if they include their names, privately if not. The idea is that they throw away the key, ensuring that their love lasts forever. Look to the right to see Taylor's Dairy Joy. Alexander's Dairy Joy, its original name, was located on Route 66 at the east edge of Conway.

SLEEPER

MM 10.4

MM 10.9

50s Diner

MM 11.3

MM 11.6

MM 12.4

MM 12.7

MM 13.0

MM 13.8

MM 14.2

MM 14.7

MM 15.2

MM 15.3

MM 15.4

WRINK'S



MILE 12.4 - THE 4-ACRE COURT / 4-ACRE CAMP



MILE 14.7 - SHORTY JONES SHELL STATION



MILE 15.4 - HISTORIC WRINK'S MARKET



MILE 15.4 - THE ROCK COURT MOTEL



Note: Buildings and landmarks from the Route 66 era that still can be seen are boldfaced.

Mile 15.5 (Eastbound Mile 20.5) — Route 66 turns right (west) at the Munger Moss billboard, just past Taylor's Dairy Joy.

Mile 15.6 (Eastbound Mile 20.4) – The vacant lot on the left (south side) was the site of the Bell Restaurant, built by Clinton Bell in 1964. The restaurant closed in late 2011 following the death of Darrell Martin, who had bought it from Bell in 1974. It was demolished in 2013. Future President Barack Obama campaigned there on July 30, 2008, prompting the Bell to be mentioned in Newsweek magazine. **Several units of the adjoining Bell Motel survive as Mary's Budget Inn.**

Mile 15.7 (Eastbound Mile 20.3) –Bill Walters announced a new, modern Standard station at this location in 1963, when the highway was City Route 66, later moving his station closer to I-44. The building, in later years used for a car lot, was torn down in 2020.

Mile 15.7 (Eastbound Mile 20.3) – On the left (south side), the block building that now houses Retro Gamin Realm, from 1960 to 1982 housed the popular Big Wig Drive-In, home of the Big Wig Steak, a breaded-beef sandwich in a hoagie bun with homemade hot sauce. "I sold those things by the carload," owner Bernie Bollig remembered. Bernie died Jan. 20, 2017, the morning after he was interviewed about the Big Wig. Read the interview at LebanonRoute66.com.

Mile 15.8 (Eastbound Mile 20.2) — ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! On the right (north side), the former Speaker's Mobil is virtually unchanged from its later Route 66 days. The first gas station on the site was built by Tom Bacon when Route 66 came through town in 1926. According to a 1934 business directory, Bacon also had a tourist camp with cabins. The station sold Shell products but switched to White Eagle (a predecessor of Mobil) in 1933 when Bacon's son-in-law, Thorny Speaker, took over. The Speaker family, through their Home Oil Co., became a distributor of Mobil products, selling gasoline, diesel fuel, fuel oil, hydraulic oil and industrial oil by the truckload over a wide area. The station you see today was built in 1952 and closed in the late 1990s. A family propane business continued until 2004. You still can see the ghost of the Mobil Pegasus at the top. The Bacon-Spears family was inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame in 2023.

Mile 15.8 (Eastbound Mile 20.2) — On the left, across from Speaker's Mobil, was the Del-Ray Motel, owned by Ray and Gladys Reid. Their nephew, Bradley Reid, remembers six or seven little cottages "just like you would see up and down Route 66," alongside a three-unit "middle-century-modern" motel. The Reids had a home with a small front office for visitors to check-in. In earlier days, before the Reids bought the business, the motel had a Phillips 66 gas station operated by Tolliver Jones. The last building, the three-unit motel, was torn down in 2019.

Mile 15.9 (Eastbound Mile 20.1) — The construction of State Road No. 14 – soon to be renamed Route 66 – through Lebanon in 1925 and 1926 meant traffic would bypass the business district downtown. An arched sign over Millcreek Road (on the right at the stoplight) once enticed visitors to turn off Route 66 and drive downtown. The sign welcomed tourists with the words, "Our Town, Your Town," the winning slogan in a Chamber of Commerce contest. A similar sign was built across Springfield Road. Reproductions of the arch are at Boswell Park. You can see from the private driveway on the right how Millcreek Road originally curved toward downtown. A small Standard Oil station once stood to the right of the old alignment.

Mile 15.9 (Eastbound Mile 20.1) — Cree-Mee, a long-forgotten soft-serve ice cream drive-in, was a small white building with a walk-up window, on the northwest corner of where Millcreek Road splits from Route 66. C.M. Carlisle bought the business in 1954. The building was torn down pre-1960 when the intersection was reconfigured. A factory building is in that location now.

Mile 16.1 (Eastbound Mile 19.9) — ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! The stately mansion at the intersection of Sherman Avenue on the right reopened to the public in 2018 after eight months of restoration as The Manor House Inn, a bed-and-breakfast once again targeting Route 66 travelers. In 2025, new owners, the Hamilton family, renamed the property the Manor Inn on Route 66 and made more improvements. From 1932 until the early 1970s, the building provided overnight accommodations to Route 66 travelers under the names Lenz Tourist Home, Lenz Homotel – an amalgamation of "home" and "motel" – and, in its later years, simply the Lenz Motel, operated by William and Ethel Lenz. The Lenz family was inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame in 2023.

Mile 16.2 (Eastbound Mile 19.8) — **ROADSIDE ATTRACTION!** Across from today's Cowan Civic Center, on the site of Route 66 Sales and Rentals, was Camp Joy, with 400 feet of Route 66 frontage, believed to be Lebanon's second tourist camp. In June 1927, when Route 66 was a two-lane gravel road, Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Spears and their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. E.G. Spears, bought the city block that was bordered by Route 66, Catlin Avenue, Spiller Avenue and Sherman Avenue after counting the out-of-state cars that passed by over a three-day period. The original cabins were built in a "U" facing the highway. The operation also included a Standard (later Sinclair) gas station and, across Catlin Avenue, the Blue Bird Café, operated by a family member. Later known as the Joy Motel, it stayed in the Spears family until 1971. The last surviving cabin was donated in 2019 to the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society for restoration and is now on display at Boswell Park. The Spears family was inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame in 2022.

Mile 16.3 (Eastbound Mile 19.7) — The west side of the strip center on the right at 379 E. Route 66 — the building that extends toward the street — now Chops Barbershop, was the Blue Bird Café, a popular dining spot for overnight guests at Camp Joy. E.G. Spears, an owner of Camp Joy, built the building in 1949 and leased it that August to Mr. and Mrs. Mel Tolman, who opened the new restaurant. The restaurant apparently changed hands frequently. In June 1950, Tom and Helen Saunders bought the Blue Bird Café from Mr. and Mrs. O.D. Nelson. They were assisted by their son, Tom Saunders II. In March 1953, the Saunders family sold the café to Fred Irvin and Lavaughn Rubottom, who renamed it Yellow Jacket No. 2. It was the Blue Bird Café again in 1963 when it was bought by Sidney Everett. In later years, it was the home of Evelyn's Chicken Land, Taylor's Chicken Land and the Lebanon Art Guild. In Route 66 days, the café was open until 11:30 p.m.

Mile 16.3 (Eastbound Mile 19.7) — The canopy is gone and the roofline has changed, but the building that houses Mike-E-Auto Sales was the Pat O'Quinn DX Station until 1948, when Elvin Tyre bought it. J.A. Loney was a prior owner. However, the 2003 "Missouri Route 66 Historic Resources Survey" said the "building was listed as Terrell's Service Station in the 1951 Lebanon Telephone Directory and as Drake's Garage in the 1972 Telephone Directory."

Mile 16.4 (Eastbound Mile 19.6) — The white-block Pro-Tech Auto Repair on the right is on the site of the Street Car Grill, which operated from 1936 to 1961. Robert DeSuza, the first owner, bought two used streetcars from Tulsa in and joined them together to create the restaurant. Other early operators were Ollie and Floye DeSuza, Fritz and Alice Woosley and Jim and Mary Wallace, (who added curb service seven days a week from 5 to 11 p.m.), Andy Liebl Jr., the best-known of all the operators, took over in December 1949. Andy's Street Car Grill boasted "The Finest Foods In The Ozarks Served Here" and was known for "Andy's Famous Fried Domestic Rabbit." Liebl sold the restaurant to Mr. and Mrs. Allen Dibben in April 1956. Charley and Berniece Getz were the last owners. Andy Liebl was inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame in 2026.

Mile 16.4 (Eastbound Mile 19.6) — ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! Orchard Hills Package Store on the northeast corner of Route 66 and Washington still has the look of its original purpose as Carter and Lawson's first Lebanon gas station, which opened in April 1935, featuring Barnsdall gas and Quaker State Oil. Barnsdall called it a "Super-Service Station." O.E. Carter and Ed Lawson advertised: "We service your car by the latest methods, with celebrated Barnsdall products." Carter and Lawson moved their business in May 1944 to a gas station at Route 66 and Jackson, but the station at Route 66 and Washington operated until 1971. Harold Lucas was a later owner. Dean Elmore bought the building in 1971 from Ivey Oil Co. and moved his package store from its original 1946 location, farther west on Route 66. Orchard Hills celebrated its 75th anniversary on Route 66 in 2021. Carter and Lawson were inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame in 2026.

Mile 16.4 (Eastbound Mile 19.6) — ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! Best known as the old Wood & Goss DX service station, the building at the southeast corner of Route 66 and Adams Avenue has been restored to honor its DX heritage since being bought by the Weaver family in 2014 as an office for their car lot. New DX features continue to be added. Gene Wood and Kenneth Goss opened their first service station on March 1, 1957, at the corner of Jefferson and Commercial. In 1964, they moved to this location, which had been Tyres DX in the 1950s. It became Wood's Service Station after Goss died in 1971. Wood closed the station in January 1990. Across the street to the west was the Stanley Allen Conoco, sold to Johnnie Allen in 1949, later known as Owens Conoco. It no longer stands.

Mile 16.4 (Eastbound Mile 19.6) — The building housing 320 Pawn Exchange with big glass windows at 211 E. Route 66 was erected after World War II by S.H. (Harry) Winsor for his Winsor Motor Co., a Lincoln-Mercury and Kaiser-Frazer dealership that he had until 1957. Winsor also built a Shell gas station in what today is the parking lot. "He wanted the Shell name because there weren't any for many miles," his granddaughter recalled. Winsor's son-in-law, John Klug, held the Shell franchise. In 1948, Norris Montgomery bought the Johnson Chevrolet Used Car Department, also between Washington and Adams. In early 1950, Nash dealers Sheddie Barber and Glen McCrory moved into the building formerly occupied by Montgomery.

Mile 16.5 (Eastbound Mile 19.5) — The northeast corner of Highway 5, the present site of Walgreens, is best remembered as the former site of the Greyhound Post House ("Delicious Sandwiches-Coffee-Drinks"), built in 1941 and demolished in 2005. Until 1947, when purchased by the Greyhound Post House Co., the business was known as the Union Bus Station, owned and operated by Alma and Joe Knight. "With the establishment of a new bus station at Highway 5 and Route 66, Lebanon emerged as a favorite short-distance weekend travel destination for (Fort Leonard Wood) soldiers in training . . ." according to the Feb. 1, 1942, Springfield News & Leader. The depot also sold Standard gasoline. Next to the bus station, on the northwest corner of Adams and Route 66, was the Lowrance Sinclair Station (owned in 1956 by Paul Jones), which later was a Volkswagen dealer shortly before being torn down in 1970 for Johnson-Hough Ford's new building. The Ozark Cafe, originally known as the Ozark Sandwich and Gift Shop, was on the south side of the street in one side of the two-unit Owen building. Bliss Sporting Goods Store occupied one unit in 1947. The Ozark Café was bought by Leonard and Vicky Hayes in 1948 and remodeled in 1956-57. John Ellis bought the business in 1960. It closed in 1966. The Ozark Cafe had the first franchise in the area to serve broasted chicken. The southeast corner was a baseball field during much of the Route 66 era. In 1947. Montgomery Motor Sales bought the lot for its used-car department and erected a small office building on it. In 1956, Milan Brackett built a Texaco gas station on the corner. The station had many name changes and was vacant for several years when it was demolished in 2025. Brackett had been the last operator of the Nelson Texaco and garage on the southwest corner before the Nelson Hotel and adjoining property were sold to make room for a Consumers supermarket in 1958.Previous owners of the Nelson Service Station included Chester Smith, who bought it in 1950 from Roy E. Gourley.

Mile 16.5 (Eastbound Mile 19.5) — We know that the Nelson Service Station (southwest corner) wasn't the only gas station at the Route 66-Highway 5 intersection in the 1920s, though we're not certain of the other locations. We think that at the northeast corner, where Walgreens is today, J. Ward Owen operated the Log Cabin Filling Station. A 1928 ad lists the National Highway Garage "on Main Street of America at Junction of Highway No. 66 and No. 5." The garage offered the "Only Complete Wrecking Service Between St. Louis and Springfield." George G. Bird was the manager. A 1934 business directory lists a Conoco service station operated by Twyman Edwards at this intersection.

NOTE: ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! Turn left (south) at the Highway 5/Jefferson Avenue intersection for a short detour to the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Museum in the Lebanon-Laclede County Library, which includes the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame and a Route 66-themed gift shop. The museum and library are located at the first stoplight south (turn right/east at the light, just past Arby's). The 3,500-square foot museum, which opened in 2004, honors the legacy of Route 66 in Laclede County. It attracted visitors from 52 countries and 50 states last year. The museum is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday. Admission is free. Make sure you see the the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame honoring "those who made exceptional contributions to the development or promotion of Route 66 or who operated legendary businesses on Route 66 in Laclede County, Missouri." For tour groups, free guided tours by Route 66 Society members can be arranged by calling 417-532-2148.

Return to the intersection of Highway 5 and Route 66. Turn left/west. Mileage resumes at 16.5.

WRINK'S

MM 15.5

MM 15.6

MM 15.7

MM 15.8

MM 15.9

MM 16.1

MM 16.2

MM 16.3

MM 16.4

MM 16.5

HIGHWAY 5

MILE 16.5 - LOG CABIN FILLING STATION (Pictured in the background of the cover.)



MILE 16.1 - THE LENZ HOMOTEL



MILE 16.2 - CAMP JOY



MILE 16.4 - ANDY'S STREET CAR GRILL

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HIGHWAY 5 TO WEST LEBANON

Note: Buildings and landmarks from the Route 66 era that still can be seen are boldfaced.

Mile 16.5 (Eastbound Mile 19.5) — **ROADSIDE ATTRACTION!** Continue west on Route 66 across Highway 5, then pull into a parking lot so you can imagine what used to be. You are in "Nelsonville." Historian Ross Malone notes that in 1897, the Nelson apple orchard was the largest in the world with 138,000 trees on 2,300 acres. When Route 66 was being built through Lebanon, Col. Arthur T. Nelson owned the 40 acres of land on the west side of Highway 5. He gave the state the right-of-way through his land, and, as reported in a 1926 Lebanon newspaper, he "began the establishing of what has grown into a village in itself, with filling station, the inn, cottages for tourists, each cottage distinguished by the name of a State, equipped with beds and facilities for cooking, toilet accommodations, restrooms – everything for the comfort and convenience of travelers." The filling station was on the southwest corner, where the supermarket is today. To the west, Nelson built the eight-cabin Top O' The Ozarks Inn in 1926, followed in 1931 by Nelson Tavern, a restaurant and hotel. In 1934, on the northwest corner, Nelson built the stone cottages of Nelson's Dream Village, which, according to a Lebanon newspaper, he "planned to be the most beautiful and modern cabin accommodations on the highways of the middle west . . ." You'll see a replica of the fountain from Nelson's Dream Village in Boswell Park in a few minutes. The Nelson family was inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame in 2022. For more about Nelsonville, visit www.LebanonRoute66.com.

Mile 16.7 (Eastbound Mile 19.3) — Claxton Hotel and Truck Stop (selling Marathon gas) was listed in a 1934 business directory. Known as Caldwell's Truck Stop and Café after Dave Caldwell bought it in 1949, the business was on the left (south side), where Ed Morse Ford's Preowned lot is today. Joe Sonderman writes in "Route 66 in the Missouri Ozarks" that Caldwell's son-in-law, Barney Brown, took over in 1954 and that the business closed in 1971. The Dairy Queen, then Orchard Hills Package Store were just past the truck stop. Dean Elmore rented the package store building from 1946 to 1971 before buying the gas station-building at Washington and Route 66 and moving his business.

Mile 16.7 (Eastbound Mile 19.3) — It's gone now, but Ed Morse Chevrolet's Fleet and Commercial lot on the right was the site of the Silent Nite, or perhaps Silent "Night," Tourist Home, built by James D. and Myrtle Stanton and opened in April 1938. The two-story, 10-room structure, which cost about $4,000 to build, included "all modern conveniences," according to the Lebanon Rustic-Republican. The Stantons sold the tourist home Oct. 1, 1944, to Hugh W. Slaughter, who also operated a United Farm Agency. In 1958, after Interstate 44 opened and traffic on old Route 66 diminished, the building was remodeled into Dr. L.N. Carter's chiropractic clinic. C. Norman Unverzagt bought the clinic and the building in 1971.It remained a chiropractic office for many years.

Mile 16.8 (Eastbound Mile 19.2) — The white-frame building with pitched roof on the right, just past Ed Morse Chevrolet's Fleet and Commercial lot, was the North Star Café in Route 66 days.

Mile 16.8 (Eastbound Mile 19.2) — ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! The intersection at Jackson Street (the first stoplight west of Highway 5) was important to Route 66 commerce, and two of the business buildings from that era still stand. On the northeast corner (right side), Day Enterprises was a Skelly station that in May 1944 became Carter and Lawson's second Lebanon station. It originally sold Barnsdall products but in 1945 switched to Mobilgas. The station was open 24 hours a day. Just east of the station, where Don's Auto Glass is today, Carter and Lawson opened a General-brand tire and battery store in 1947, leasing the gas station to Paul Scott. Charlie Lane operated the station in the 1950s. Lynn Stowe later was its longtime operator. On the left, on the southeast corner, is Crow Paint and Glass (since 1971), originally the home of H.V. Wallick Motor Sales, built in 1946, a Buick and Oldsmobile dealer. Wallick claimed to be "the best equipped service shop on 66 between Joplin and St. Louis," according to the 2003 "Route 66 in Missouri Historic Resources Survey." Wallick bought the land from the Wrinkle family in 1946 for $1,400 and a 1941 Pontiac Silver Streak, but the Buick dealership moved to 220 W. Second in April 1949 when Ed Peters took it over. Roy Jacobs then leased the Wallick building and moved the Dean-Jacobs Co. dealership (Hudson cars, White trucks and Case farm machinery) into it. The 2003 survey said the dealerships used the west half of the building while the east half was home of the Laclede Frozen Food Locker Co. On the southwest corner, Summit Insurance is on the site of the old American Legion hall. An ad from the early 1950s lists Dean & Jacobs Motor Co., a dealer of Hudson cars and White and Case farm machinery, at the northwest corner, the site of KVC Missouri Academy today but best known as the former home of Detroit Tool. The Dean & Jacobs building suffered extensive damage in a 1952 fire. Later, it was the site of Welch Buick and, starting in 1960, Hugh Palmer Motor Co., a Lincoln-Mercury dealer and, starting in 1966, a Jeep dealer. A Phillips 66 station also was at the northwest corner until the car dealership expanded.

Mile 16.8 (Eastbound Mile 19.2) — On the left, the second building from the corner on the south side, now RE/MAX Next Generation, is on the site of Norman & Dickinson Sinclair. The empty lot on the north side, was home to Hopkins Lumber Yard and, new in 1947, Hopkins Motor Sales, a REO agency.

Mile 16.9 (Eastbound Mile 19.1) — 500 W. Route 66, the large one-story giraffe rock building on the south side was the Missouri Highway and Transportation Maintenance building, built in the early 1940s.

Mile 17.0 (Eastbound Mile 19.0) — ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! Turn left/south into Route 66-themed Boswell Park, then make a quick right onto 66 Mural Drive, which takes you to several Route 66 attractions: three Route 66 murals, the replica fountain from Nelson's Dream Village, the new, giant Route 66 shield and, on the hill, the last surviving cabin from Camp Joy, one of Lebanon's first tourist camps. Pose your car in front of the first mural, which depicts an iconic 1957 Chevrolet driving Route 66 at the entrance of Lebanon. The middle mural is a tribute to the Nelson family, which donated much of the land for Route 66 in Lebanon and later operated Nelson's Dream Village and the Nelson Tavern at the Route 66 intersection with Missouri 5. The third mural shows a 1929 Texaco gas truck crossing the Gasconade River Bridge in eastern Laclede County. The mural images were kiln-fired into the ceramic tiles in Spain. See the plaque on the back of the first mural for a list of donors to the $75,000 project. The Camp Joy cabin was moved from its original location on Catlin Street in 2019 following restoration by the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society. Make sure you read the story of Camp Joy on the cabin's north wall. The replica Camp Joy arch was erected in 2024. Also note the two "Our Town, Your Town" arches over sidewalks, a tribute to the arches that once welcomed Route 66 travelers to Lebanon. Later in 2026, look for the addition of a mural painted on a truck trailer as a tribute to Campbell 66 Express. The park playground and the amphitheater also have a Route 66 theme. Boswell Park is the site of the annual Lebanon Route 66 Festival, which is Saturday, June 5-6, in 2026.

Mile 17.4 (Eastbound Mile 18.6) – Lebanon's former Campbell 66 Express depot, at the southeast corner of Route 66 and Utah, now is a garage for Justice Furniture. Please honor the no-trespassing sign.

Mile 17.5 (Eastbound Mile 18.5) — Owl Tavern was on the right, just past where Rogers Auto Salvage is today.

Mile 17.6 (Eastbound Mile 18.4) -- On the left, at the corner of Bland Road and Route 66, was Lowther Oil Co.

Mile 17.7 (Eastbound Mile 18.3) -- Gene Barnett's Skating Rink was on the right at the northwest corner of Howard Drive and Route 66.

Mile 17.8 (Eastbound Mile 18.2) — Red Fox Motel on the right (north side), now a pawn shop with apartments, was advertised in 1960 as being AAA approved and Duncan Hines recommended. A postcard's description of the Red Fox: "Twelve fully modern units, equipped with fine Mengel furniture and Englander Super Hotel Mattresses, Automatic Panel Ray Heat with thermostat control. Ceramic tiled showers, Air cooled, fully insulated. Reasonable Rates." Percy and Margaret Alexander owned the then-13-unit Red Fox from 1954 to 1961 during its prime. Before the Red Fox was built, Snort's Barbecue, owned by Harry Smart, then renamed Roy Dees' Blue Line Tavern and finally called Red's Place — probably Lebanon's rowdiest nightspot in the late 1930s and 1940s — was located on the site.

Mile 18.1 (Eastbound Mile 17.9) – Horseshoe Lake, on the right, was a popular spot for fishing, swimming and other recreational activities. The lake originally extended across what's now Route 66, but the east end was filled in so the road could be straightened. This was outside the Lebanon city limits during most of the Route 66 era.

Mile 18.2 (Eastbound Mile 17.8) — ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! The Adventure Lodge on Route 66, an Airbnb with 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom suites, all with Route 66 themes, opened in 2025 in the former Route 66 Motel, originally the White Sands Motel when Dale and R.G. Lillard built it around 1959. The Lillards sold it two years later to build the nearby Shepherd Hills Motel. Some of the material came from old Army barracks at Fort Leonard Wood. The AAA-rated White Sands featured 32 rooms, air conditioning, with free TV, wall-to-wall carpets, panel ray heat, tub and shower and room phones. The Sands Restaurant — "Dining for the Whole Family" — and service station were next door. It also had a swimming pool. T.W. and Mickey Harms were listed as hosts in 1968. The two-story wing, where the new Marketplace on Route 66 is today, was demolished in 2021 after a tornado tore the roof off.

Mile 18.3 (Eastbound Mile 17.7) — ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! The Shepherd Hills Motel and Restaurant, plus Standard station, also was built by Dale and R.G. Lillard, opening May 24, 1962. Today, with only the east



MILE 18.2 - THE WHITE SANDS MOTEL



MILE 18.1 - HORSESHOE POND

ROUTE 66

HIGHWAY 5

MM 16.5

MM 16.7

MM 16.8

MM 17.0

MM 17.2

MM 17.4

MM 17.6

MM 17.7

MM 17.8

MM 18.1

MM 18.2

MM 18.3

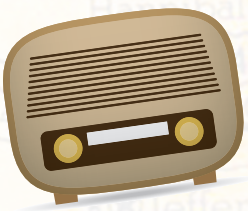
MM 18.4

MM 18.5

WEST LEBANON



MILE 16.8 - CARTER & LAWSON'S





MILE 18.3 - THE SHEPHERD HILLS MOTEL AND RESTAURANT PLUS STANDARD STATION

and south wings remaining from the original U-shaped complex, it's the Americas Best Value Inn. The original motel featured free TV and AM-FM radios, telephones in every room, a heated swimming pool, a children's playground and family rates. At one time it was a Best Western. The restaurant seated 250. It included two dining rooms, a banquet room and a coffee shop. The complex included a beauty shop, a barber shop, a Standard gas station and the Shepherd Hills Gift Shop, which in 1972 was leased to the Reid family. The gift shop was a predecessor to today's famous Shepherd Hills Factory Outlets. The Reids eventually bought the motel and gift shop and began construction of their current building in 1999. Shepherd Hills Motel and Restaurant were widely known for good food and the rocks on the roof of both the motel and the restaurant.

Mile 18.3 (Eastbound Mile 17.7) — Circle Drive Truck Stop, built in 1957, was on the left (south side) between today's Dowd's Catfish and BBQ and Shepherd Hills Factory Outlets. The truck stop sold Phillips 66 gas. Kermit and Phyllis Fletcher owned it from 1957 to 1962. Son Mickey W. Fletcher says the truck stop was open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Kermit was the mechanic and on-call all the time. "Dad could never get all the grease off his hands until many years after he left the station," son Mickey recalls. Several of the Fletchers' sons, particularly Bobby and Richard, worked as attendants and helped Kermit with the mechanic work when needed. The separately owned Circle Drive Cafe was on the north side of the station.

Mile 18.4 (Eastbound Mile 17.6) — **ROADSIDE ATTRACTION!** On the left (south side), approximately where Waffle House is today, was the 66 Sunset Lodge, built by Olen and June Boston in the late 1950s. Rea and Ida Reid bought it on Jan. 1, 1961, renamed it the Capri Motel and expanded it to 10 rooms. Its post cards promoted these features: "Courtesy Coffee in Rooms, Air-Conditioned, Free TV, Hot Water Heat, Carpeted, Tile Baths." In 1972, Ida Reid opened Shepherd Hills Factory Outlets for the first time. Now, the Reid family's business is one of Lebanon's biggest tourist attractions. In 2023, co-owner Rod Reid was appointed by President Biden to serve on the national Route 66 Centennial Commission. He serves as chairman during the 2026 Route 66 Centennial.

Mile 18.5 (Eastbound Mile 17.5) —As Route 66 approaches Interstate 44, turn right at the stoplight onto Highway W to continue your Route 66 journey. On the north side of Jonesy's Travel Center, note the arch declaring "SERVICE ENTRANCE." Some believe that's the same arch that once greeted travelers at the Vesta Court east of Lebanon.

Note: Buildings and landmarks from the Route 66 era that still can be seen are boldfaced.

Mile 18.5 (Eastbound Mile 17.5) —As Route 66 approaches Interstate 44, turn right at the stoplight onto Highway W to continue your Route 66 journey. "From Lebanon to Springfield, the highway is winding and traverses hilly country," Jack D. Rittenhouse wrote in his 1946 "A Guide Book to Highway 66." He added: "Because of the many resorts between here and Springfield, you will find a gas station at almost every milestone, many equipped with a small garage for elementary repairs."

Mile 19.5 (Eastbound Mile 16.5) — Albert Carlson's General Merchandise Store was on the hill on the right, where a home is today. Carlson, a blacksmith, sharpened and repaired picks, shovels and other tools for construction workers paving Route 66.

Mile 21.2 (Eastbound Mile 14.8) — On the left (south side), across from Dover Road, was the Bungalow Inn, consisting of cabins, a service station and a restaurant. It was razed when 1-44 was constructed in 1957, and the cabins were relocated about a quarter-mile toward Lebanon. From 1939 to 1945, the Bungalow Inn was owned by Gail and Izola Henson. Their daughter, Merylene Henson Dampier, remembers it having six cabins and a restaurant with probably two small tables and a few stools at the counter. "There was a little Ferris wheel in front of our living quarters." Mr. and Mrs. Henson did all the work without hired help. Later, the car of cowboy actor Tom Mix's wife burned at the Bungalow Inn while he was doing a show in Waynesville. According to Bill Wheeler's "Windshield Tour" of Laclede County, Mrs. Mix "was filling up with gas at the station when it suddenly burst into flames. . . . The car was destroyed, but the attendants retrieved some valuable jewelry from the car after the burned-out shell cooled down." Merylene adds: "Dad also saved one of Mrs. Mix's fur coats before the flames got too hot." Wheeler wrote: "Tom and his wife were so grateful that they took the owners of the Bungalow out for dinner and gave them tickets to Tom's show in Waynesville." (Tom Mix died in an auto accident on Oct. 12, 1940, so this incident either occurred before that date, or, if afterward, it involved an actor who portrayed Tom Mix on the long-running radio serial, "Tom Mix Ralston Straight Shooters.") Grover Husted may have been a subsequent owner of the Bungalow Inn.

Mile 22.2 (Eastbound Mile 13.8) — Nothing remains of the McClary Motel, Cabins and Service Station at 18811 Highway W, on the north side of Route 66. However, the café was converted into a residence, according to a 2003 "Route 66 in Missouri Historic Resources Survey." Irv and Marge McClary moved in the late 1940s from St. Louis to Lebanon and, depending on the source, either built the six-unit motel and several tourist cabins or bought the existing business. Irv ran the service station, and Marge, an excellent cook, ran the restaurant, working as both chef and waitress. The café had four booths, five tables and eight stools at the counter. Irv and Marge shared responsibilities for running the motel and lived in the apartment behind the restaurant. The restaurant closed sometime after I-44 opened, but the motel and station still were open when Irv died of a heart attack on Feb. 9, 1961. Marge died Feb. 15, 1970.

Mile 22.7 (Eastbound Mile 13.3) — Go left (south) across overpass at Interstate 44 Exit 123. To the left, toward the Happy Trails RV Center, is a short stretch of Route 66 from when the highway crossed the future I-44. To continue the tour, turn right (west) on the outer road (Campground Road) at Mile 22.9 to see a short segment of the original highway and the former site of the town of Caffeyville, which was virtually razed when I-44 was built in 1957.

Mile 23.0 (Eastbound Mile 13.0) — The closed convenience store on the left is where Dr. Herbert's Shell Station with about six tiny tourist cabins and, later, Press Barnett's store were located.

Mile 23.4 (Eastbound Mile 12.6) — The Liberty Free Will Baptist Church is on the left. Turn around in the parking lot. Pause for a minute and try to picture where Route 66 crossed the present-day 1-44. This is where much of Caffeyville was before it was razed for the interstate. On the right (south side) was the Chi-K-Go Tourist Court and Tydol (later Fina) Station, bought by Jerry Kavale, his wife Beatrice and their family in 1948 and operated until 1960 after being bypassed by I-44. Cabins rented for $2 and $3.50 in 1949. The name was changed to "Jerry's" in the



late 1950s. Farther east on the right was Kay's Gift Shop, which displayed in front "Ozark Hand Made Baskets." And on the left (north side), across from Kay's Gift Shop, was the Caffeyville Station and Restaurant, depicted in many photos from the era. J. Floyd Caffey was an entrepreneur who sold ice water, then Coca-Cola, to travelers on the Old Wire Road even before Route 66 existed. Seeing a business opportunity in supplying the needs of motorists, Caffey moved to the new route, built a grocery to supply men building the highway, then a cafe and filling station. In 1925 the community became known as Caffeyville. Caffey later added another gas station, a feed mill for grinding corn and wheat, a campground, cabins for overnight guests, a garage, and several rental houses. Caffeyville survived the widening of Route 66 after World War II but not the construction of Interstate 44 in the 1950s when the state bought and razed the entire town. J. Floyd Caffey was inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame in 2024. To continue your tour, backtrack to the I-44 overpass.

Mile 24.1 (Eastbound Mile 11.9) — Go left (north) across overpass. Return to Highway W and go west.







MM 18.5

West Lebanon

MM 19.5

MM 21.2



MILE 21.2 - BUNGALOW INN

MM 22.2



MILE 23.4 - CAFFEYVILLE, MO

MM 22.7

MM 23.0

MM 23.4

MM 24.1

Caffeyville



G.E. Wrinkle was an entrepreneur who at various times operated Cedar Bluff Resort at Hazelgreen and the Jefferson Hotel in downtown Lebanon. In 1950, he would build Wrink's Market on Route 66 in east Lebanon, operated for decades by his son Glenn Wrinkle. This billboard was located on Route 66 two miles outside of Lebanon.

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CAFFEYVILLE TO PHILLIPSBURG

Note: Buildings and landmarks from the Route 66 era that still can be seen are boldfaced.

Mile 24.2 (Eastbound Mile 11.8) – At the I-44 overpass (Exit 123), go west on Highway W.

Mile 25.7 (Eastbound Mile 10.3) — Nothing remains of the barely remembered Hi-Lite Tourist Court, Cafe, Cabins and "Complete Texaco Service" on the left (south side) at 17371 Highway W. The business may have been named after the neighborhood, identified as "Hi-Lite" in the Lebanon Rustic-Republican's rural-news columns. Or, perhaps the neighborhood was named after the business, which had the slogan, "Stop Here and Feel At Home." According to Lebanon newspapers, the Hi-Lite Tourist Court changed hands several times in the 1940s. "Al Rymark, who is known to friends as the 'Human Cannonball' of motorcycle riding has purchased the Hi-Lite tourist cabins, 8 miles west of Lebanon on Highway 66," the Lebanon Daily Record reported on Sept. 23, 1946. He and his wife moved to Lebanon from Chicago after he retired from the Lynch Thrill Show. Rymark apparently purchased the business from Mr. and Mrs. Merle Wadsworth, who, according to Lebanon newspapers, had added a cabin early in 1946 and built and opened the café that summer. Rymark's ownership didn't last long. In 1950, another new owner, Mr. and Mrs. Elvin H. Stillion, took the Hi-Lite's sellers, Mr. and Mrs. Tony L. Greear, to court in a dispute over the tourist court's water supply. According to the May 5, 1950, Lebanon Rustic-Republican, the court "ordered the title to the Hi-Lite Tourist Court back to the Greears." Kevin Eastburn, who today lives just west of the site, remembers when the buildings were pushed down. "It was beautiful knotty pine," he recalls. Eastburn has found a few Phillips 66 items that may have come from the station. Another one-time operator of the business was Lee Fenton. The cabins and gas-station building still stood when the "Route 66 in Missouri Historic Resources Survey" was conducted in 2002.

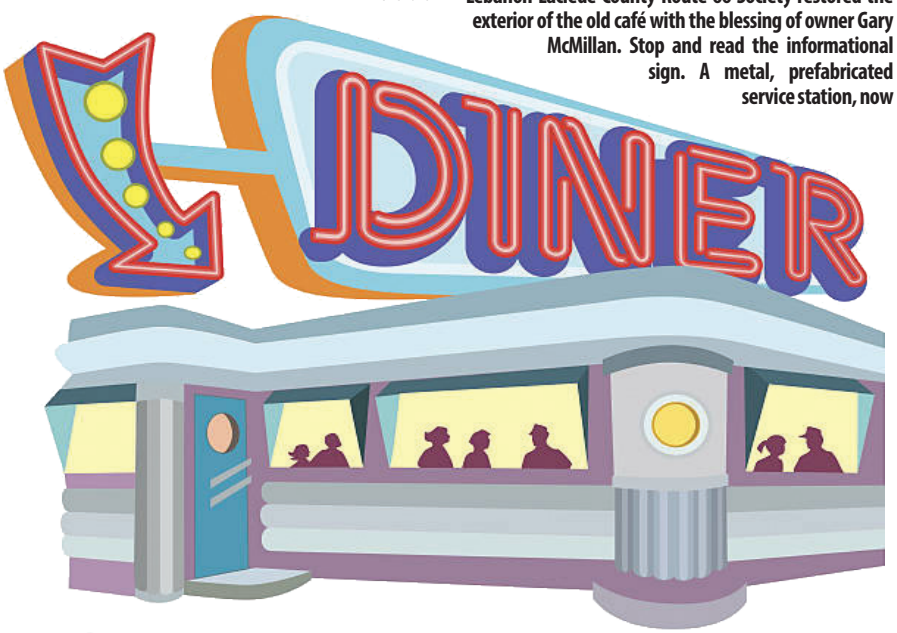
Mile 26.2 (Eastbound Mile 9.8) — No visible sign remains of the Orchard Grove Station, on left, approximately across from New Castle Road. The station was just before a curve that was the scene of numerous accidents in the 1930s. For example, The Lebanon Rustic-Republican reported that at 1 a.m. July 14, 1934, "a large beer truck turned off the high embankment on the curve near Orchard Hills filling station, turning over three times. It demolished the truck, but nobody was seriously hurt." A head-on collision on the curve Nov. 18, 1934, sent three women to the Lebanon hospital, according to the Laclede County Republican. The station was owned by John F. Patton but was leased at various times. George Martin and family operated the station for a year ending in February 1934. Mr. and Mrs. A.N. Stone leased the station in March 1939. In the mid-1960s, the station building, then closed, was moved to another location in the area. A photo from the 1930s shows Bill Mayfield and John F. Patton at the pumps.

Mile 27.1 (Eastbound Mile 8.9) -- Spring Grove Moravian Church was just past the Lonesome Hill Cemetery sign (Naples Road) on the right.

Mile 27.2 (Eastbound Mile 8.8) — The narrow wooden bridge on the left leads to the former site of the Abel Benton Log Home that was built about 1838 and served as a Butterfield Overland Mail stagecoach stop as early as 1858, long before there was a Route 66. The stagecoach carried mail and passengers. Fresh horses took over at this location. The historic building was moved to Highway 64 several decades ago. The Lebanon/Laclede County Historical Museum and Society is raising money to restore the cabin and return it to a location on Route 66.

Mile 27.5 (Eastbound Mile 8,5) – The rock quarry on the right, usually filled with water, was a source of materials for the construction of Route 66.

Mile 28.7 (Eastbound Mile 7.3) — ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! Just west of the old Frisco underpass (13-foot, 5-inch clearance), Carter and Lawson's Underpass Cafe and Service Station was on the right. In 2018-2019, the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society restored the exterior of the old café with the blessing of owner Gary McMillan. Stop and read the informational sign. A metal, prefabricated service station, now gone, was to the right of the cafe. The station's garage still stands. According to the book "Route 66 in the Missouri Ozarks" by Joe Sonderman: "In 1941, O.E. Carter and Ed Lawson erected a prefabricated gas station west of the Frisco Railroad overpass known as 'the Subway.' Many truckers had to let the air out of their tires or detour around the 13-foot-5-inch bridge." Westbound truckers then stopped at the station to refill their tires. In 1950, Carter and Lawson added a café building next to their station and moved their operations there from Lebanon. The café, built with blocks from the Lebanon Concrete Products, Co., included a small gift shop. The station closed shortly after four-lane New Route 66 – now Interstate 44 – opened in 1957. The metal station building was removed. The café building at one time was used as a farrowing house for hogs. It's now used for storage.



Mile 29.0 (Eastbound Mile 7.0) — Lee Ervin's DX station was on the left just before today's I-44 overpass. "It was a marvel of ceramic blue panels and shiny new gas pumps," recalls Steven Long, a child when it opened. "Even the DX logo revolved; it was amazing." Others who operated gas stations at that corner were Lug Massey and George Truitt. Continue west at the overpass.

Mile 29.2 (Eastbound Mile 6.8) — On the right is the remains of a gas station believed to have been built and operated by Standard Oil in 1950-51. Howard Whitten was an early owner. Later owners were Don Robinson and his father, Lee. The station was still open as late as 1993 and at one time was a Skelly. Stan Adams bought it and the land around it in 1994 and opened the 9-hole Heritage 66 golf course in 1997, with the gas station as the clubhouse. The golf course closed in the 2000s.

Mile 29.4 (Eastbound Mile 6.6) — Straight ahead as Highway A curves was the site of Midway Camp, established in 1929 by the Bramhall family and taken over in 1931 by Ed and Blanche Shank. A 1932 article about Phillipsburg in the Laclede County Republican described Midway Camp as "modern in every respect. With up-to-date cabins, a nice cozy dining room, it is equipped to take care of tourists in comfort." Midway Camp consisted of a Standard Oil service station, café and five cabins with locked garages. Notorious guests included Bonnie and Clyde and Pretty Boy Floyd. Terry Wood, in his book "A Place Called Phillipsburg," relates that "Bonnie Parker really liked Blanche's Southern Home Style cooking of breakfast." The Carl and Laura Mort family, including daughters Delores and Maxine and Maxine's husband, Howard Whitton, bought the business in 1948, changing the name to the Midway Station, Café and Motel. They purchased two acres farther back when Route 66 was converted to four lanes, causing the original station and café to be removed. In 1956 they opened a new Standard station with a one-bay garage and an attached café, plus a motel. A postcard describes the Midway Motel as "Hwy 66 – Interstate 44 – Ph. 1603 – Phillipsburg, Mo. Tiled Baths – Air Conditioned – Panel Ray Heat – Cafe – Gifts – Standard Gas – Reasonable Rates – Quiet – off The Highway." The Midway Station, Cafe and Motel closed in 1990. Two of the original cabins, expanded into houses, survive. However, Andy and Brandy Triplett, who own the property, moved two grain bins onto it in 2020 and converted them into The Bins on Old 66, unique overnight lodging. Turn around, return to overpass.

Mile 29.8 (Eastbound Mile 6.2) — Cross overpass into Phillipsburg (population 212 in 1930).



Caffeyville

MM 24.2

MM 25.7

MM 26.2

MM 27.1

MM 27.2

MM 27.5

MM 28.7

MM 29.0

MM 29.2

MM 29.4

MM 29.8

Phillipsburg



MILE 28.7 - UNDERPASS SERVICE STATION



MILE 26.2 - ORCHARD GROVE STATION



MILE 28.7 - UNDERPASS CAFE AND SERVICE STATION



MILE 29.4 - MIDWAY CAFE AND CAMP

PHILLIPSBURG TO WEBSTER COUNTY LINE

Note: Buildings and landmarks from the Route 66 era that still can be seen are boldfaced.

Mile 30.1 (Eastbound Mile 5.9) – Turn right (west) on Highway CC at Phillipsburg, **drive past the ruins of the old Phillipsburg High School, which closed in 1957, on the left.** Ads in old school yearbooks help us to identify Route 66 businesses in this area.

Mile 30.7 (Eastbound Mile 5.3) —This concrete-block building at 14920 Highway CC was constructed in 1955, shortly before Route 66 moved to I-44, as a Tydol gas station. It was in operation as a service station until the 1970s and later was a used-car lot. according to the 2003 Missouri Route 66 Historic Resources Survey.

Mile 31.0 (Eastbound Mile 5.0) — ROADSIDE ATTRACTION! The Twin Oaks service station and tourist court, on the north side, is in the early stages of restoration. The gas station, believed to have been built in 1925, was owned by Sadie McMenus, widow of a Phillipsburg merchant. Other buildings include the restaurant, a water tower that delivered water to the cabins, and two cabins. A mechanic's garage in back, built in 1962, has been remodeled into apartments. The business was named after the many double-trunked oak trees on the property at the time. Across the highway, on the left, is a concrete obelisk that marked the site of a roadside park. "The land for this roadside park was donated by Maud G. Snyder," a plaque reads. The marker has been moved back 30-40 feet from its original location. At one time, the park had a merry-go-round, swings, Ferris wheel, hamburger and ice-cream stands and a dance platform. Gala annual picnics were held there every July through 1938. For more on Twin Oaks, see www.LebanonRoute66.com.

Mile 32.1 (Eastbound Mile 3.9) –- Old stucco building on right (north side) was the new location of Top o' Th' Ozarks Café after the 1950 fire destroyed the location west of Conway. Locals called it "The Top." The restaurant and adjacent Champion gas station were operated by Ray and Marie Eaton, no relation to the family that owned the original business. Wayne Daily, who worked at the station as a teenager on the 1960s, remembered changing his first truck tire, an inner tire, and being paid a whopping $500 by the appreciative driver. He said the café "made good hamburgers and stuff." Thre truck stop closed after it no longer was easily accessible to the drivers on new I-44.

Mile 32.4 (Eastbound Mile 3.6) –- Alexander's Dairy Joy, owned by Kenneth and Mary Lou Alexander, was on the left, closing in 1958 after I-44 bypassed Route 66. Gene and Irene Durbin bought the business in 1964, after it had been moved to West Commercial and Springfield Road in Lebanon. The next owners were Paul and Marolyn Taylor, who operated it from 1972 to 1994. Today, Taylor's Dairy Joy is back on Route 66 next to Smokin' Jones BBQ, the former Wrink's Market.

Mile 32.7 (Eastbound Mile 3.3) — The access road to the second location of the Harris Café was at the curve on the right.

Mile 34.0 (Eastbound Mile 2.0) -- Conway city limits. In 1930, Conway's population was 576.

Mile 34.5 (Eastbound Mile 1.5) — The Duk-N Café, operated by Gerry Pettit, and Sinclair Service were on the right (north side). The 2003 "Route 66 in Missouri Historic Resources Survey" gives the address as 214 N. Newport (Highway CC), just before Nelson Street.

Mile 34.7 (Eastbound Mile 1.3) — **ROADSIDE ATTRACTION!** Junction of Highway J (West Jefferson Avenue). To the right (northwest corner, where First State Community Bank is today) was the site of the Harris Tourist Court and Conoco station. Across J to the right, on the northeast corner (present site of the Conway Post Office and Shelter Insurance) was the Harris Cafe, also known as Barney's, opened by Barney and Marie Harris in 1931. Known as "The Home of The Little Round Pie," the café's most-notorious customers were Bonnie and Clyde. The cafe, also known as Barney's, moved a mile east of town in 1953, then to the I-44 and M junction in 1958 as I-44 was built. The third Barney's finally closed in 1965. According to Show Me Route 66 magazine, Winter 1995, Barney's father, S.W. "Sim" Harris, built a Standard station in 1930 on one corner. He also owned the Conoco station and cabins on another corner, a Tydol (later Shell) station on the third corner and his house on the fourth corner. Continue west on CC. The Harris family was inducted into the Laclede County Route 66 Wall of Fame in 2024.

Mile 35.5 (Eastbound Mile 0.5) — The Bluebird Tavern, run by Lloyd Gossage, was on the right.

Mile 35.7 (Eastbound Mile 0.3) — On the right (north side), was the original location of the Top o'Th' Ozarks Café, Cabins and Tydol station. Kirk Pearce writes that Cassie and son John D. Warren built the business in front of their home about 1940. John Warren operated the business until he went into the service and then it was leased out the remainder of the years. H.T. Stevenson was the owner in a 1941 ad listing the service station and café for sale. Leslie and Edna Weldon leased the café in the 1940s, and their daughter, Dorothy Weldon Courtney, was a waitress. Many of the waitresses boarded at Cassie Warren's home. The café, popular with tourists and state troopers, and service station operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There also were cabins that were rented out. The Tydol station later was leased to Orin Pearcy of Lebanon and the café to Pat Ward. The café burned in 1950. Raymond Eaton then built a new café by the same name on the other side of Conway. On the left (south side) was the DeSuza Liquor Store.

Mile 36.0 (Eastbound Mile 0.0) — Webster County line.

ON SALE NOW!

"Route 66: Laclede County Memories 1926-1957," a 96-page collection of local photographs from the Route 66 era, originally published in 2002, has been reprinted by the Laclede County Record in partnership with the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society.



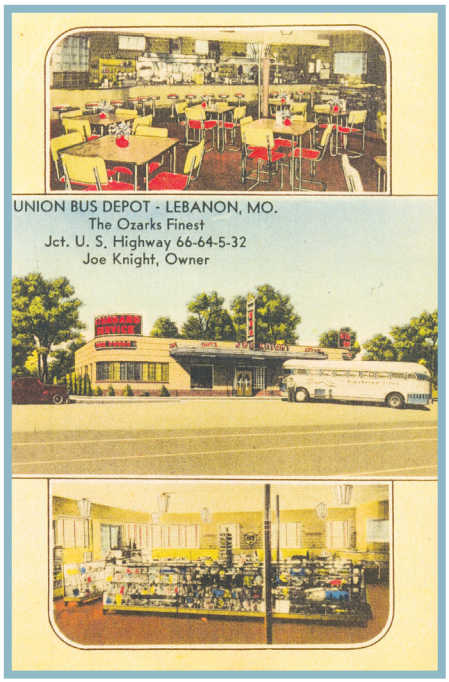
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The Union Bus Depot, also known as the Greyhound Post House and later as the Metro Building, was located at the northeast corner of Route 66 and Highway 5. It was torn down to make room for Walgreens.



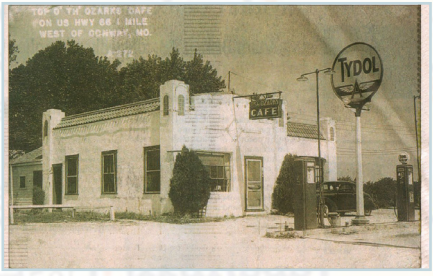
MILE 31.0 - TWIN OAKS STATION AND TOURIST CAMP



CONWAY EXIT SIGN ON NEW 66



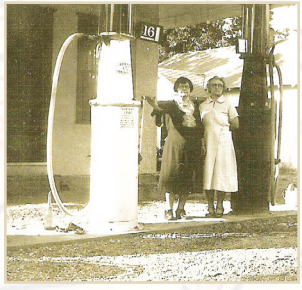
MILE 34.7 - HARRIS CAFE, CONWAY MO



MILE 35.7 - TOP O' TH' OZARKS CAFE



MILE 32.4 - ALEXANDER'S DAIRY JOY



MILE 31.0 - TWIN OAKS STATION

Phillipsburg

MM 30.1

MM 31.0

MM 32.1

MM 32.4

MM 34.0

MM 34.5

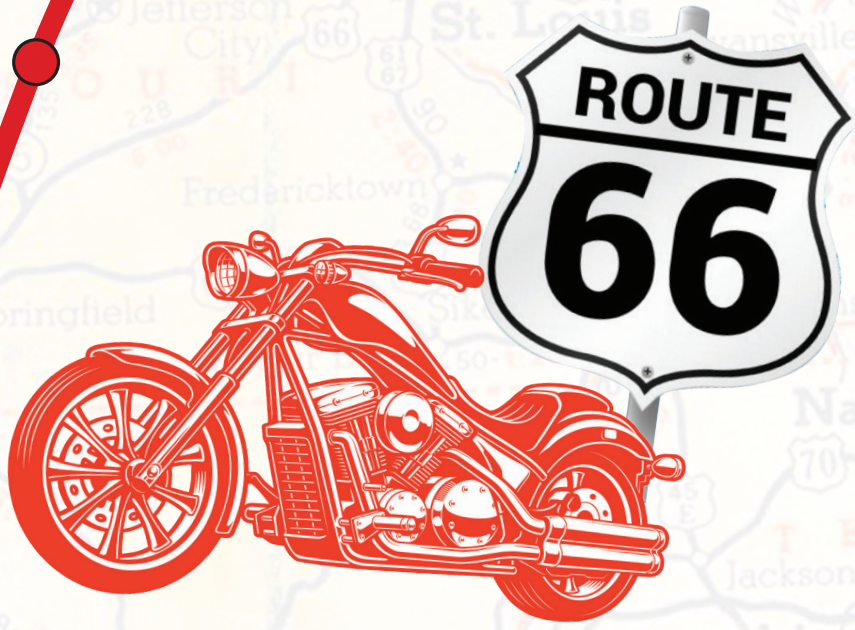
MM 34.7

MM 35.5

MM 35.7

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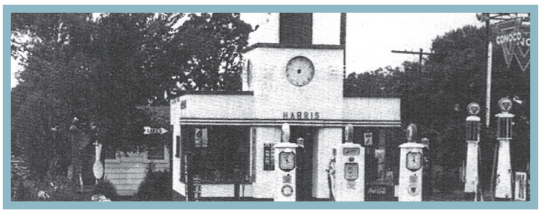
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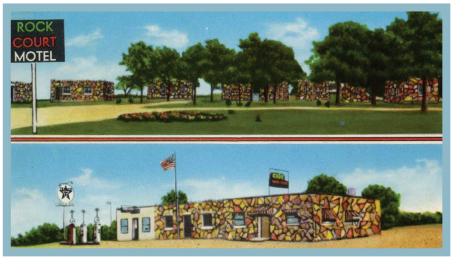
The shuttered Ed Lentz Truck Stop and Café, on the north side of Interstate 44, just inside Laclede County, burned in 2022. Before I-44 was built, the truck stop was accessible to Route 66 via the old alignment of Missouri 133.



The Harris Tourist Court and Conoco Station were located on the northwest corner of Route 66 and Highway J in Conway, where First State Community Bank is today. The Harris Cafe was on the northeast corner, where the Post Office is today.



Aerial view of the Gasconade River Bridge pre-interstate 44.



The Rock Court Motel and Cafe were located to the west of the Munger Moss on Lebanon's east Route 66.



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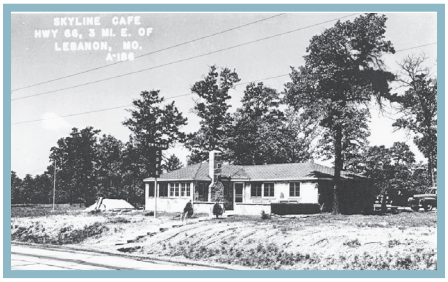
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The Skyline Cafe was located on Route 66 three miles east of Lebanon.



The 66 Motel, located east of Lebanon, was built about 1940 as Weideman's Court, according to "Route 66: Laclede Country Memories, 1926-1957." It was later operated by Mr. and Mrs. Adrin J. Lowry Jr. and Sr. It was razed in the 1970s.



The Holiday Motel was located in east Lebanon where Tire, Brakes and More is today. Before being bought by B.G. and Marie Williams, it was known as the Travel Town Motel.



Nelson Tavern was a hotel and restaurant built of Spanish design in 1931 at the southwest corner of Route 66 and Highway 5.

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State Route 66 group works to save landmark bridge

JACK SILBERBERG
REPORTER@LACLEDERECORD.COM

This story was originally published on June 4, 2025, for the Laclede County Record.

Tucked away from the bustling lanes of I-44, the Route 66 Gasconade River Bridge is hidden but not forgotten.

The Route 66 Association of Missouri has been working to save the bridge, located near Hazelgreen, since it took ownership of it as part of an agreement with the Missouri Department of Transportation.

The Association's 2023 transfer and agreement with MoDOT, noted in a December Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society article from that year, concluded an almost nine-year struggle to save the Route 66 landmark after MoDOT's closure of the bridge in 2014.

Now, Association President Rich Dinkela said in a phone interview, the group is working to first stabilize and then rehabilitate the bridge. The group's engineers are developing a plan now to stabilize the structure.

At the time of the interview, Dinkela and the Association were considering removing the bridge deck to give the planners a better idea of how to strengthen the structure while also taking off the weight the deck gives it during the stabilization process.

The Association's goal is to install a new deck as part of its rehabilitation efforts, which also include replacing the bridge's rotten steel.

Dinkela's estimate of when the Association would remove the bridge's deck hinged on the group's conversations with its hired engineers – he later shared in a May 29 Facebook



post that he met with the engineers at the bridge on the 28th. That said, he hoped the group would remove the deck this winter.

The Association president said the engineers had experience with historic bridges and brought creative ideas to the project.

"These aren't your firm [engineers] that just think you have millions of dollars to spend. They look at every penny and say, 'Eh, you know, we can get this done a lot cheaper if we do it this way,'" Dinkela said.



From the Route 66 Association of Missouri Facebook page. Photo has text that says "Highway Bridge over Gasconade River, at "Eden", Hazelgreen Mo.





The Gasconade River Bridge shortly after it was built. The bridge was built from 1922 to 1924, and the graveled State Highway 14 became U.S. Route 66 in 1926, so the photo likely is from 1925.





The electronic signs in the eastbound lane of Route 66 approaching Hazelgreen, Missouri, no longer alert drivers that the Gasconade River Bridge is closed. A 2019 Photo by Helen Sosniecki

"And that's great,' he continued, "because we're not trying to operate an interstate bridge or a highway bridge anymore."

What the Association is trying to do, Dinkela said, was to open the bridge for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. At the Association's discretion, the bridge might open for the occasional vehicle crossing, but that would not be the norm.

While not under a required timeline, the Association will need to voluntarily present their engineers' plans for stabilization and rehabilitation to MoDOT. Dinkela also said that while the group has generated some funding for the combined project, there is still more to raise before construction can start.

The Association had held a clean-up event for the bridge in April, which Dinkela said went well. Volunteers cleaned up overgrowth below and around the bridge, clearing the way for engineers to examine the bridge and freeing the water flow to avoid further structural damage.



LCR Photo/Jack Silberberg

The Route 66 Association of Missouri has been working to save the Route 66 Gasconade River bridge, located near Hazelgreen, since it took ownership of it as part of an agreement with the Missouri Department of Transportation in 2023, noted a December Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society article from that year.

The Route 66

Gasconade River Bridge

at Hazelgreen, closed in December 2014 because of deterioration, was saved from demolition when the Route 66 Association of Missouri took over ownership of the iconic bridge with plans to restore it for recreational use.

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4 Acre Camp, later called 4 Acre Court, was built east of Lebanon in 1939 by Ray Coleman and Blackie Walters. It included family units and a campground, along with the station/residence in front. Phillips 66 and Tydol gas were sold at various times.

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Route 66, west of Lebanon, looking east. July 1949.



From 1932 to 1975, the uniquely named Lenz Homotel – an amalgamation of "home" and "motel" -- provided overnight accommodations to Route 66 travelers in Lebanon. In the early days William and Ethel Lenz served home-cooked meals to their guests. The 14-room home was restored and reopened in 2018 and now is open to overnight guests as the Manor Inn on Route 66.

100-mile Route 66 Yard Sale set for July 31-Aug. 1



Route 66 100 Mile Yard Sale has been a popular event since 2019.

Join the fun, find some bargains and learn some Route 66 history by shopping at the eighth annual Central Missouri Route 66 Yard Sale, which will be Friday and Saturday, July 31-Aug. 1, in Missouri's Pulaski, Laclede and Webster counties.

Last year, 100 sales were registered for the 100-mile sale.

If you want to hit all the sales, you should get on Historic Route 66/Highway Z at I-44 Exit 169 on the east side or Old Route 66 at Strafford, I-44 Exit 88, on the west side. Route 66 changes its modern designations several times as you drive through the three counties, but blue-and-white Route 66 Historic Byway signs are the one constant. Route 66 is parallel and south of I-44 in some places (Marshfield and Conway, for example) and north of I-44 in others (Lebanon and

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Waynesville, for example). Not every yard sale will be on Route 66, but most are close to The Mother Road. Use your phone's map app or a GPS to find the sales you definitely want to visit.

The purpose of the Route 66 Yard Sale is to introduce more people to Historic Route 66, which attracts thousands of tourists from all over the world to Webster, Laclede and Pulaski counties each year. As you drive along The Mother Road, imagine that you're traveling it with your grandparents in the late 1920s to the late 1950s, before I-44 and other interstate highways were built, when two-lane Route 66 was the main road from Chicago to Los Angeles. Look along the road at the remaining motels, restaurants and gas stations from that era, some restored, some abandoned and crumbling. Take photographs at some of the famous Route 66 attractions in each community.

For updates on the yard sale, follow "Route 66 Yardsale" (no space between "yard" and "sale") on Facebook.

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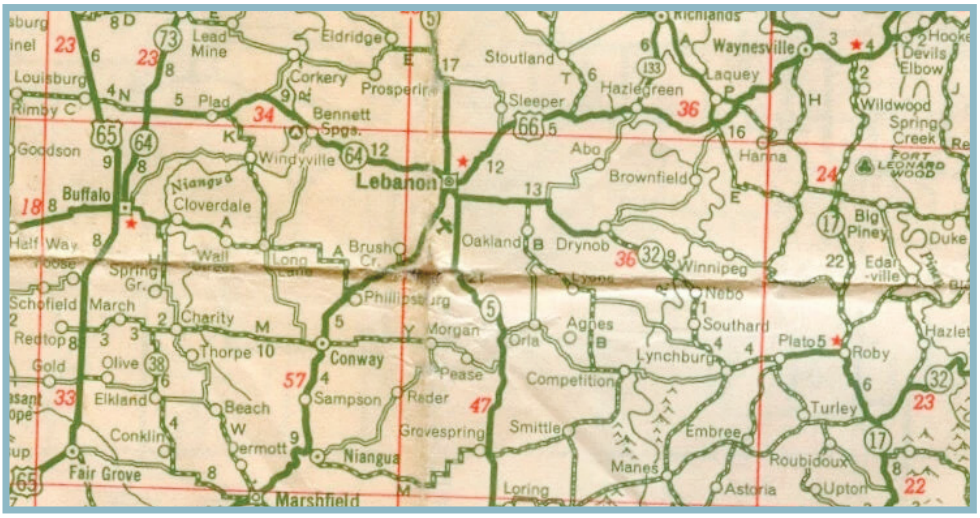
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ROUTE 66



As old highway map from the Route 66 era shows the route where buyers can find yard sales at the Central Missouri Route 66 Yard Sale. Most of the original Route 66 alignment remains in Pulaski, Laclede and Webster counties. Look for the blue-and-white "Historic Byway" signs.



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https://en.wikipedia.org



Brownie's was a popular roadhouse with cottages 12 miles east of Lebanon on Route 66.



Bunion Derby runners on Route 66 in Arizona on March 17, 1928. Photo courtesy of U.S. Forest Service, Kaibab National Forest. The runners passed through Lebanon on April 23.



Winsor Motor Co. was built after World War II by S.H. "Harry" Winsor at 211 E. Elm, the location today of 320 Pawn Exchange. The business served as a Lincoln-Mercury and Kaiser-Frazer dealership and also had a Shell gas station in today's parking lot.



Gail and Izola Henson owned and operated the Bungalow Inn from 1939 to 1945. The Bungalow Inn, located about three miles west of Lebanon, consisted of six cabins, a service station and a restaurant.















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Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society 2026 Centennial Event Schedule

April

April 11 — Commemorative Bunion Derby 5K, Laclede County Fairgrounds Legacy Building, 9 a.m.

April 30-May 2 — Route 66 Centennial National Kickoff Event, Downtown Springfield.

May

May 11 — Centennial Speaker Series: Scott McCoy, "The Ultimate Route 66 Guide," Lebanon-Laclede County Library and Museum, 6 p.m.

June

June 1 -June 30 — State Historical Society of Missouri exhibit, "Missouri's Main Street, 100 Years of Route 66," on display at Lebanon-Laclede County Library and Museum.

June 5 — Centennial Concert Series/Lebanon Route 66 Centennial Festival Kickoff: Asleep at the Wheel, 5 p.m. Opening act: Nautical Brothers, 5 p.m., Boswell Park.

June 6 — Lebanon Route 66 Centennial Festival, sponsored by the City of Lebanon, various events, parade, cruise-in, food trucks, Boswell Park 11 a.m.

June 9 — Cyclist Joe Barr scheduled to pass through Lebanon about 3 a.m. in his at-



tempt to set a Guiness world record for biking Route 66.

June 11 — 2026 Hot Rod Power Tour passes through Lebanon. Watch party and food trucks at Boswell Park throughout the day.

June 20-21 — Main Street of America Route 66 Centennial Caravan and the 2026 Hemmings Great Race (separate groups), pass through Lebanon on Route 66.

July

July 16 — Centennial Speaker Series: Author Candace Taylor, "The Roots of Route 66," Lebanon-Laclede County Library and Museum, 6 p.m.

July 31-Aug. 1 — Central Missouri 100-Mile Route 66 Yard Sale, Pulaski, Laclede, Webster counties

August

Aug. 7-8 — The Birthplace of Route 66 Festival, Downtown Springfield.

Aug. 9 — Centennial Speaker Series: Author T. Lindsay Baker, "Eating Up Route 66," Community Fried Rabbit Dinner and Route 66 Foods Event, Lebanon-Laclede County Library and Museum, 3 p.m.

Aug. 29 — Centennial Concert Series (to be announced)

September

Sept. 12 — Phillipsburg Fall Festival and Cruise-in.

Sept. 14 — "The Main Street of America" documentary screening, Cowan Civic Center Theater, 6 p.m.

Sept. 19 — Conway Community Days and Parade.

Sept. 22 — Centennial Speaker Series (to be announced), Lebanon-Laclede County Library and Museum, 6 p.m.

October

Oct. 24 — Lebanon Route 66 Annual Trunk or Treat Cruise-In, Laclede County Fairgrounds Pavilion, 5 p.m.



November

Nov. 10 — Centennial Speaker Series (to be announced), Lebanon-Laclede County Library and Museum, 6 p.m.

Nov. 21 — Lebanon Christmas Parade (Route 66)

December

Dec. 4 — Christmas in the Park, Boswell Park, 5 p.m.

Dec. 11 — Light Up Lebanon Lighted UTV Parade and Christmas on Commercial, Downtown Lebanon, 7 p.m.

Dates and times are subject to change. Follow the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society and the Lebanon Route 66 Festival on Facebook to stay up to date on events.

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'Primary' road OK'd for Lebanon in 1922

"Citizens in general and road boosters in particular are enthused with the announcement from the office of the State Highway commission that the tentative selection of routes for 1500 miles of the State primary road system included the road passing through Lebanon and Laclede county."
--Laclede County Republican, July 14, 1922





Dean Elmore in May 1957. The Orchard Hills Package Store was located next to Crow Paint and Glass. Elmore owned the store at this location from 1946 to 1971 until he moved to the current location at 311 E. Elm, where in 2021 it celebrated its 75th anniversary on Route 66.

Route 66 symbolized the renewed spirit of optimism that pervaded the country after economic catastrophe and global war. Often called, "The Main Street of America", it linked a remote and under-populated region with two vital 20th century cities – Chicago and Los Angeles.

https://www.national66.org/history-of-route-66/



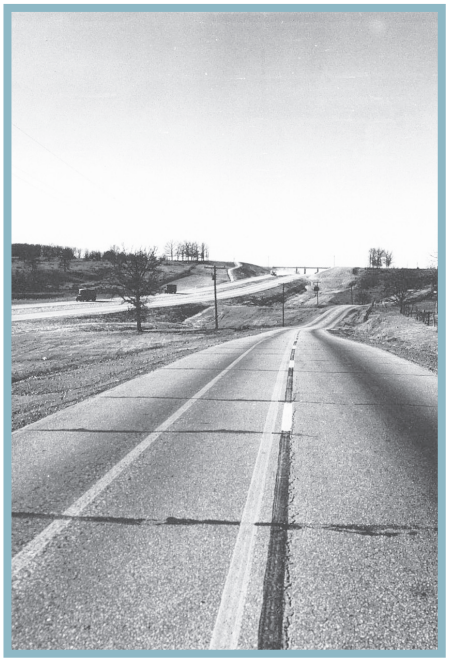
The Lebanon Welcome Sign.



The shuttered Forest Manor Motel was demolished in 2023. It was across from the Munger Moss Motel on east Route 66 in Lebanon.



The North Star Café, shown in 1959, was located on the north side of Route 66 in west Lebanon. The building still stands.



New Route 66/I-44, on left, bypassed original Route 66 in 1957.



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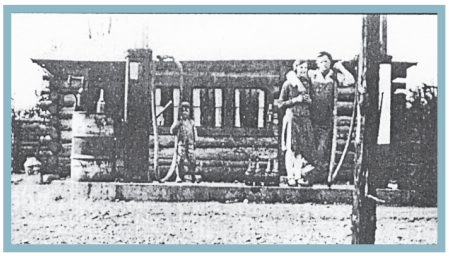
The original Midway Camp service station in 1935 with Harvey Shank and grandchildren in front.



The arch at the entrance to Camp Joy, one of Lebanon's first tourist camps.

The Greyhound Post House, also known as the Union Bus Depot, included a Standard service station and a restaurant. Located on the northeast corner of Route 66 and Highway 5, it was known in its later years as the Metro Building before being replaced by a Walgreens.





Sunrise View Tourist Court was located on Route 66 between Sleeper and Hazelgreen. According to "Route 66: Laclede County Memories, 1926-1957," it was "built in 1926 as six log cabins and a Standard gas station/cafe. The Sunrise was owned by Lee and Marie Moore and stayed in business in the mid-1950s when four-lane 66 was built."





GOOD TIMES
ALWAYS ON TAP

THERE WILL BE **PINTS**

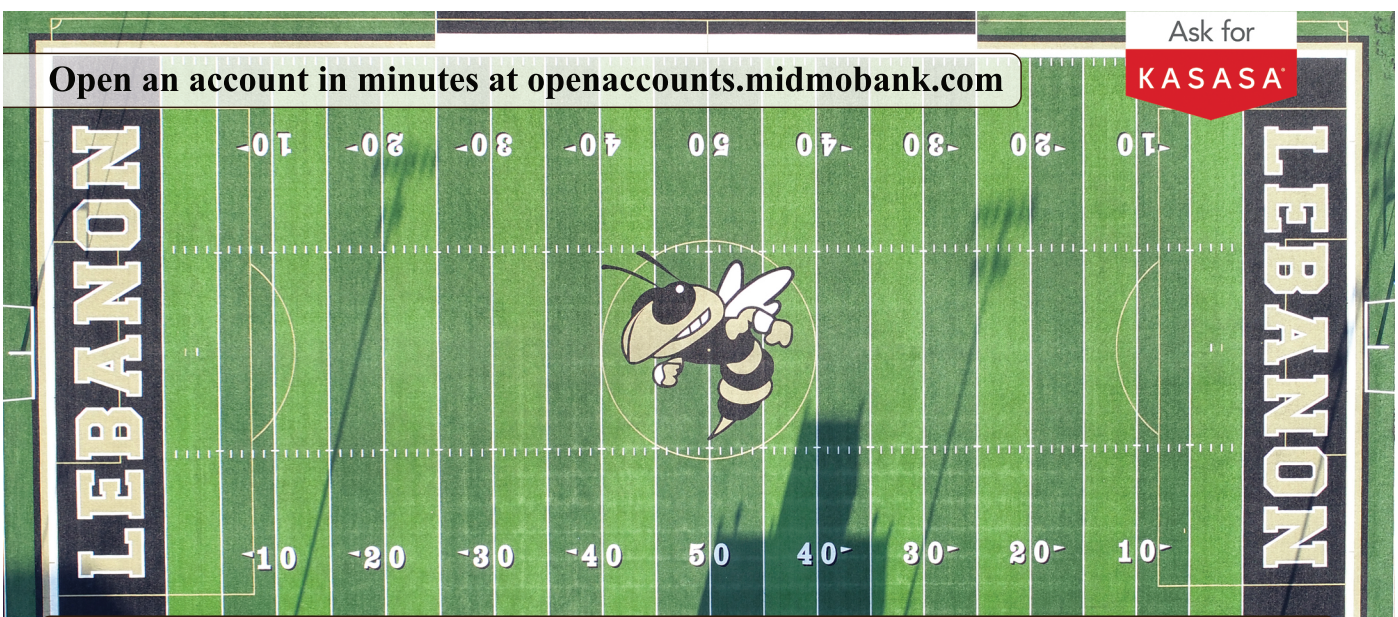
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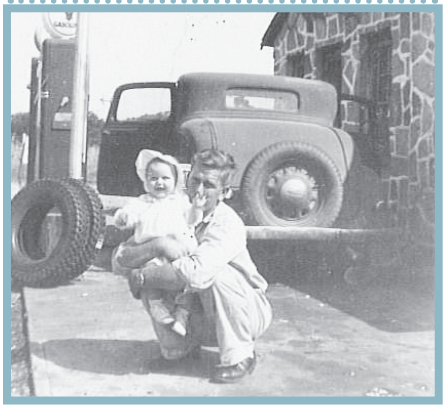
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First eastbound vehicle to drive on New Route 66 after its opening at 10:45 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 8, 1957. The Highway 5-32 bridge is in the background.



Bill Jones Sr., holding Bill Jr., took over the Shell station operated since the 1920s by his father Harry "Shorty" Jones following Harry's death in 1946. The station, located just east of Lebanon on Route 66, was demolished during construction of I-44.





The new Munger Moss Motor Court and Gas Station in 1946.

Route 66 Museum Had Visitors From 52 Countries, 50 States In 2025

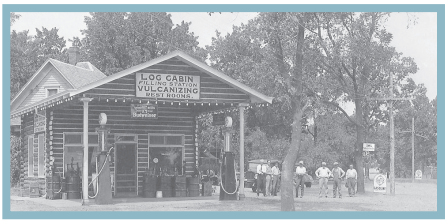
The United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Canada and Germany were the top-five countries from where Lebanon Route 66 Museum visitors came in 2025.

The top five states visiting were Missouri, Illinois, Texas, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Fifty-two countries and all 50 states were represented in the museum's guest register.

Total attendance based on the counter at the museum's entrance was 13,997.

The Lebanon Route 66 Museum is at the Lebanon-Laclede County Library, 915 S. Jefferson. The museum and library are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Closed for federal holidays. Admission is free.



Before Walgreen's, before the Metro Building, before the Greyhound Post House, the northeast corner of Route 66 and Highway 5 in Lebanon was the site of the Log Cabin Filling Station.

We hope you have enjoyed our guide and map. Now is a great time to plan a scenic trip along Route 66 and reminisce about the *glory days!*



Inside the cafe at Scotty's Tourist City on the north side of Route 66 1 1/2 miles east of Lebanon.

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Take A Trip Down Memory Lane









- **Route 66 Memorabilia - gas pumps, cars, postcards, historic photos**

Be sure to visit the Kinderhook Treasures Gift Shop - clothing, ceramics, pins, books and more!



Located inside the Lebanon-Laclede County Library
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