

# The Missouri U.S. 66 Tour Book

By C.H. (Skip) Curtis (Additional Material By Van Beydler)

If you're looking for a nostalgic trip down Route 66 in Missouri, then you need to get a copy of the book, "The Missouri U.S. 66 Tour Book." The Missouri U.S. 66 Tour book is the only volume that makes an extensive, in-depth examination of the history of Route 66 in any one state. The Missouri U.S. 66 Tour Book is in its first edition. 5,000 books were printed with a publication date of November 1994. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch states that the 272 page volume with over 350 vintage postcards and photographs "...offers a glimpse of what the Golden Age held for motorists along that storied highway." A brief history of each of the Missouri towns affected by the "Mother Road" is also presented.

The book was written and researched by the author, C.H. (Skip) Curtis. Curtis was born and educated in Springfield, Missouri and has lived in St. Louis for the past 25 years, heading his own advertising company. Curtis has collected in impressive number of Route 66 pictures and postcards which are reproduced in the book. Over 30 of the photos in the book are of the Fort Leonard Wood area.

The most famous road in America was commissioned U.S. Highway 66 on November 11, 1926. Stretching 2400 miles from Chicago, Illinois through eight states to California, "Route 66" meandered over 300 miles in ten counties in Missouri. Roughly following the Kickapoo Trace and stagecoach routes, U.S. 66 in Missouri had been variously called the Old Wire Road, Osage Trail, Ozark Trail, Springfield Road and MO 14. From St. Louis, the highway traveled west through the rugged beauty of the Ozark hills, along the Springfield plateau and Ozark Plains, into the mining districts of the Carthage-Joplin area.

You could use The Missouri U.S. 66 Tour Book as an aid to revisiting the historic route by "touring" in your home reading the book or as a way to experience the "Show Me State" on the open road. Those who want to see the places described in the book in person can use a series of accurate 2-color sectional maps printed in the book which show the original route and the way the road runs today. It tells the reader what's along the road now, while showing them what used to be there, too. It contains detailed instructions on how to travel the highway in either direction across the state, including accurate maps, mileage, and notations concerning bypassed sections no longer accessible.

The book will enhance your appreciation of the old road, acquainting you with the people, businesses, sites, and facilities in Missouri that served Route 66 for over fifty years. Many local residents contributed postcards, photographs, and humorous stories which appear in the book. Reference sources include the 1982 History of Pulaski County published by the Pulaski County Historical Society, Crocker resident Mabel Mottaz' book "Lest We Forget-A History of Pulaski County" published in 1960, The Route 66 Collection at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at UMR in Rolla, John Bradbury's "Route 66 East to West, A Self-Guided Tour Through Phelps County" from the Phelps County Historical Society Newsletter, Dr. and Mrs. Clair V. Mann's "The Story of Rolla" published in 1974 by the Rolla Bicentennial Commission and the Rolla Area Chamber of Commerce.

Photographs came from many area residents including one from Devil's Elbow showing the Elbow Inn. The Elbow Inn was a Route 66 roadside restaurant serving bar-b-cue. The photo includes the following funny caption.

"After Munger Moss relocated to Lebanon, MO (1946), Paul and Nadine Thompson reopened under the new name, operating into the 1960's. Ever the "card," Paul once placed two glasses of water in front of new customers from Massachusetts, saying to local (resident) Bruce Debo, "Look Debo, the river cleared up!" (The couple cleared out!)

The book gives a detailed description of travelling Route 66 through the entire state. The book's tour includes following the "Mother Road" from Rolla to Martin Spring and beyond. Prior to Route 66, the nearby springs watered horses and livestock. During the civil war it was known as Sycamore Spring. The area became known as Martin Spring after William and Emma Martin opened a store and operated the springhouse in the late 1920's. The house/store (with gas pumps) on their farm (once the Bloom farm) was rebuilt in the 1950's after a car accident. They sold milk and Emma's homemade butter. The two "outhouses" still standing on the property were built by the WPA in 1940.

Heading west on Route 66, the next area called Centerville (halfway between Newburg and Rolla) was renamed and dedicated to 1946 to honor General Jimmy Doolittle, World War II flying hero and Medal of Honor winner, who flew his own bomber to the ceremonies. Arlington, laid out by P.C. Harrison and probably named for his hometown in Virginia comes up next. Some suggest that Arlington was a "corruption" of Arlie, wife of the first storekeeper. Due to county lines being redrawn through the years, Arlington has successively been in St. Louis, Gasconade, Crawford, Pulaski and Phelps counties.

Clementine, Missouri, also known as "Basket Ridge," became a popular tourist stop along Route 66 for the many stands selling homemade Ozark baskets

and novelties, many strung on wires paralleling the highway. CO. Z, the 4-lane blacktopped New 66 (completely paved in 1945) was built during World War II to facilitate traffic to Fort Leonard Wood. This was the first used and last replaced 4-lane section of Route 66 in Missouri. It was replaced in 1981. The book describes going through Springvale, Hooker, Devils Elbow, St. Robert, Waynesville, and to Buckhorn. Buckhorn was originally called Pleasant Grove. It was renamed for the Buckhorn Tavern where the stagecoaches stopped on the road from St. Louis to Springfield. There was a sign over the door with a large pair of antlers. Photos of the Buckhorn area include D & D Cafe and Market, the old Pleasant Grove Cabins and Cafe, Normandy hotel, gas station and restaurant, and Hillcrest Groceries and station. The book continues west to Laquey, Dadtown, Gascozark, Hazelgreen, Sleeper and Lebanon.

The Missouri U.S. 66 Tour Book is the second book about Missouri history which has been published by C.H. (Skip) Curtis. The first, "Why'd They Name It That?" (A Look at Some "Peculiar" Missouri Towns). The book deals with "odd" town names in Missouri. Readers can discover why anyone would name a town Jerktail, Rat or Tightwad. Each town is represented with a full page photograph and history of the town's name. The origins of over 160 place names of Missouri towns are examined including Pulaski County towns of Devils Elbow, Hooker, Palace, Buckhorn and Poor Man's Chance.

Both books can be ordered directly from Mr. Curtis for \$23 each. The price includes tax, shipping and handling. Send \$23 for each book to CURTIS ENTERPRISES, 2302 Gascony Drive, Lake Saint Louis, Missouri 63367. You can call 314-625-8267. You can also use the coupon to order.



Route 66 near Waynesville



Waynesville Route 66 postcard



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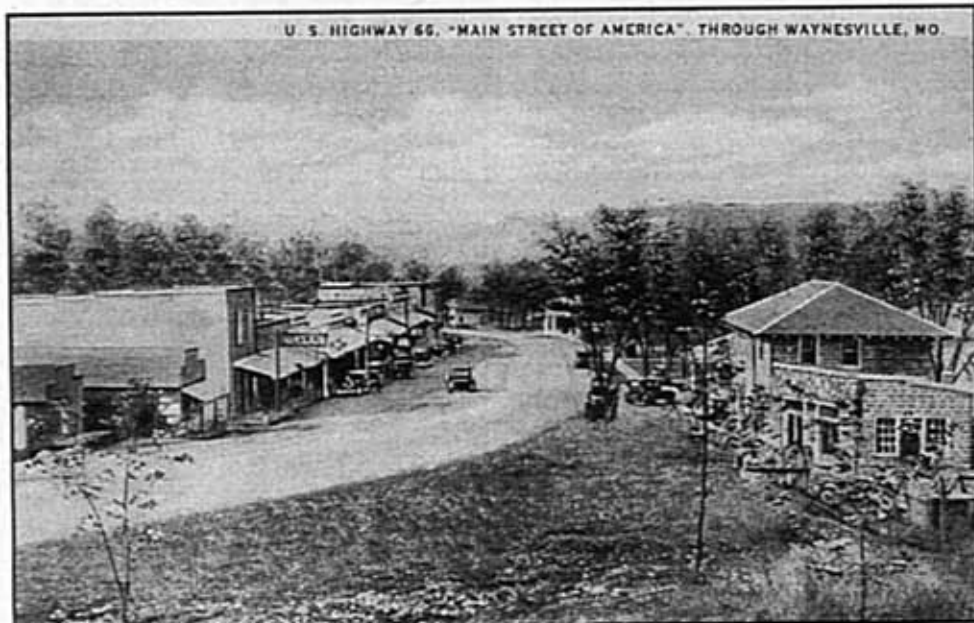
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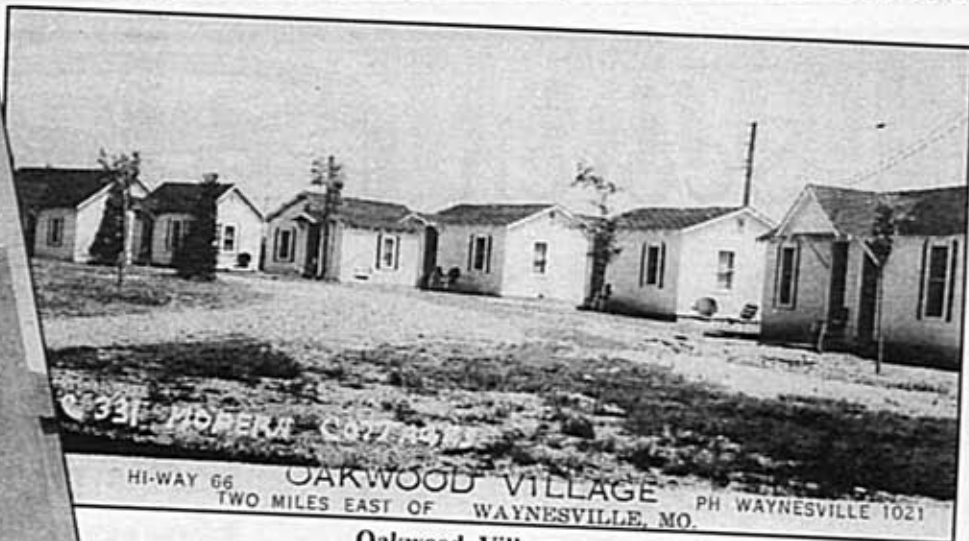
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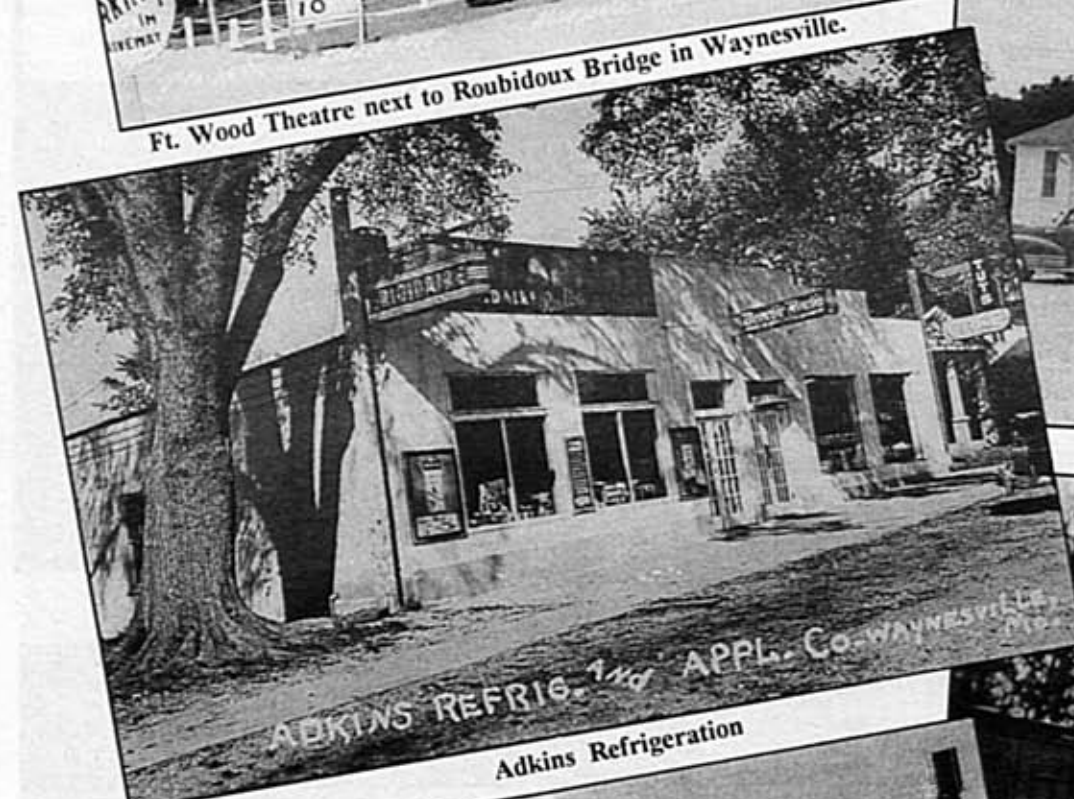




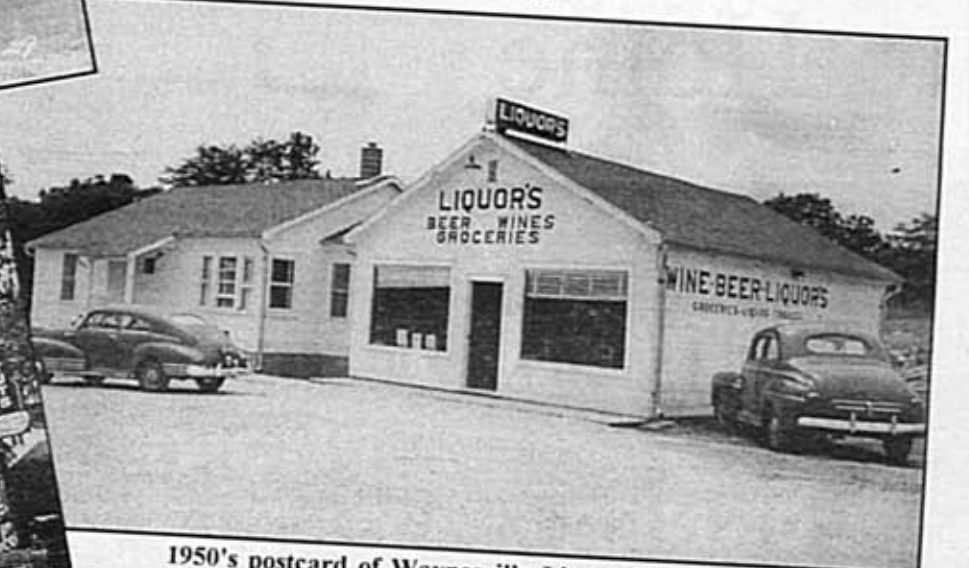
Ft. Wood Theatre next to Roubidoux Bridge in Waynesville.



Oakwood Village



Adkins Refrigeration



1950's postcard of Waynesville Liquor Store.



Jodies Cafe in St. Robert on Rt. 66.



Route 66 traffic following the building of FLW in 1941.



Bell Motel





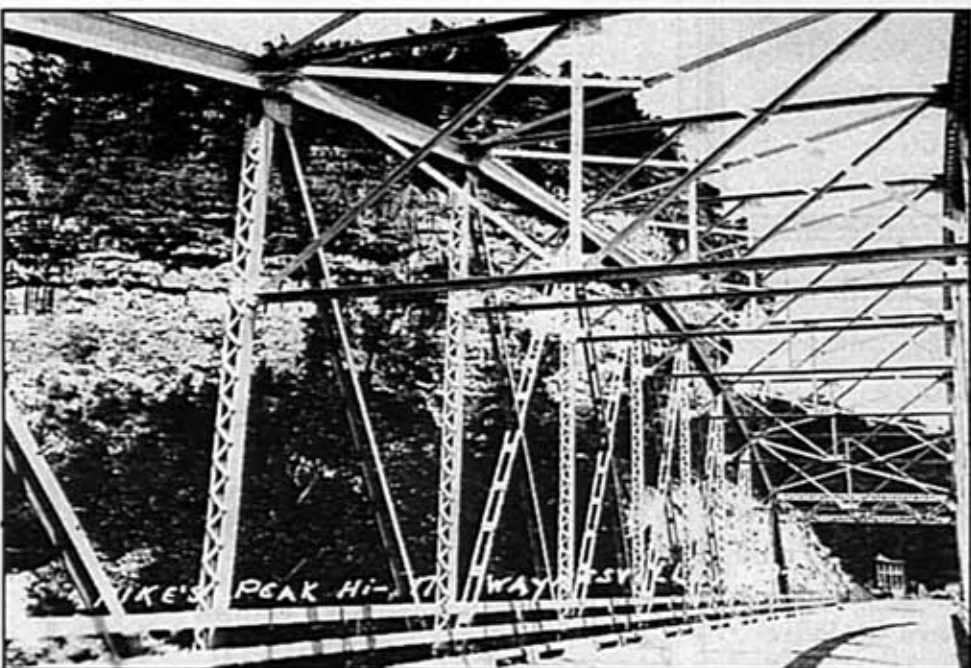
1931 Sinclair in Waynesville.



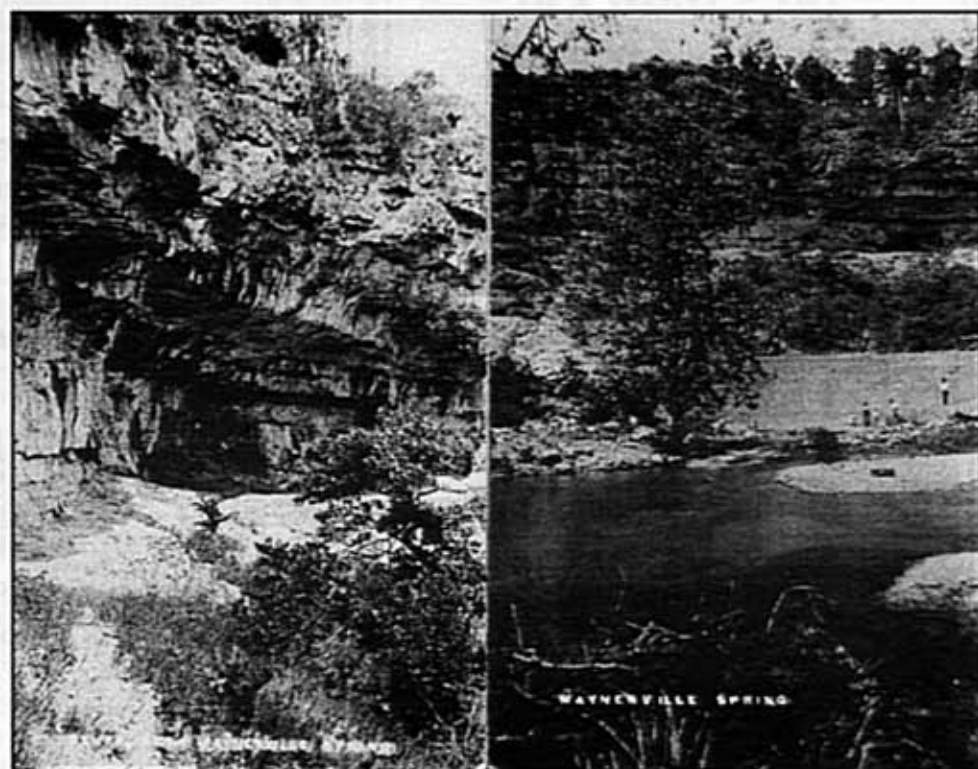
Baker Hotel



The day the Trans Continental Runners came through, April 23, 1928.



Waynesville postcard Pikes Peak on Hwy. 17.



Two Waynesville Spring postcards.