# THE ORIGINAL ROUTE 66 GIFT SHOP NEWSLETTER



**June 2016** 

# PASSPORT ARIZONA 66 HISTORIC ROUTE 66 ROAD MAP

# The Passport Project Saved By Our Wonderful Route 66 Communities!

The Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona, the association Angel started in 1987 to save

Route 66, continues to promote Route 66 in Arizona in many ways. One of its very successful and popular projects is the Historic Route 66 Passport Program, a joint Route 66 community project creating a destination travel experience for visitors from around the globe. This project was recognized by the Arizona tourism industry with the Governor's Cooperative Marketing Award during the 2011 Governor's Conference on Tourism.

The very successful program provides a Route 66 Arizona Passport to travelers free of charge. They can take the passport to Route 66 institutions throughout Arizona to collect stamps. The free passport encourages travelers to stop at the small towns along Route 66 that they may have missed otherwise.

The cost of passports was originally paid for by grant money which recently has ran out. In order to keep the much-loved program going, some of our dedicated Route 66 businesses (including us, of course) have joined together to fund the new issue of passports. Thank you to all the other contributors. It is one of the reasons Arizona's section of Route 66 is the best!



#### om tripadvisor<sup>®</sup>

Angel & Vilma Delgadillo's Route 66
Gift Shop & Visitor's Center

#### "Love this Place"

"Possibly the most memorable stop on my Route 66 trip. The shop itself is a little piece of Seligman history, which also happens to sell some cool souvenirs. But the highlight for me was chatting with Angel's son-in -law, Mauricio. The way he speaks about the town, you can tell that he is really passionate about it. He took the time to describe how Angel essentially saved Seligman, talked to us about the history of the Burma -Shave signs when we asked what they were all about, and even provided tips on where to get good shots of Route 66 road stamps. A huge thank you to Mauricio. Had we not stopped in here, I feel like we would have missed out on the best of what Route 66 has to offer. Can't wait to return some day!"

TripAdvisor Review from "934emc" on May 28, 2016

## Thanks for all the Fun on the Run



**Fun Run 2016** 

Still keeping our numbers strong at 756 participating vehicles this year! Thank you to all who contributed to make this year's 29th Annual Route 66 Fun Run another fun-filled event.

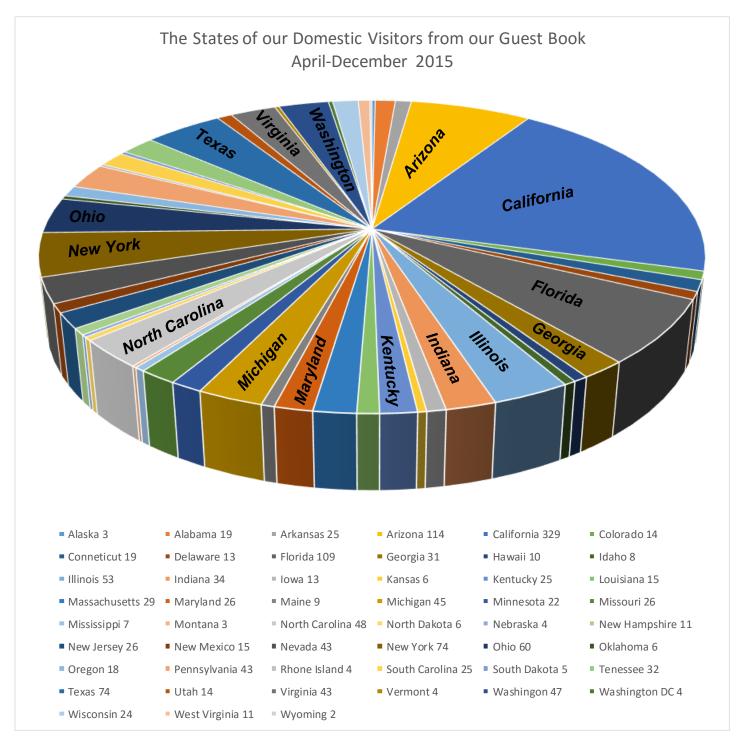
Angel never imagined that we would still be celebrating the historic designation and rebirth of Route 66 so many years after the dedication of Historic Route 66 in 1988. We are looking forward to celebrating the 30th Fun Run next year with some extra special events. Not only will it be the 30th Annual Fun Run but Angel will also be turning 90 next year, just a few short weeks before the Fun Run. So we will all have some extra celebrating to do next year. Start preparing now!

For more information on the Fun Run, or the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona, the Association Angel started in 1987 to get Route 66 back on the map, visit the Association's website at http://www.azrt66.com/ or call them at (928) 753-5001.

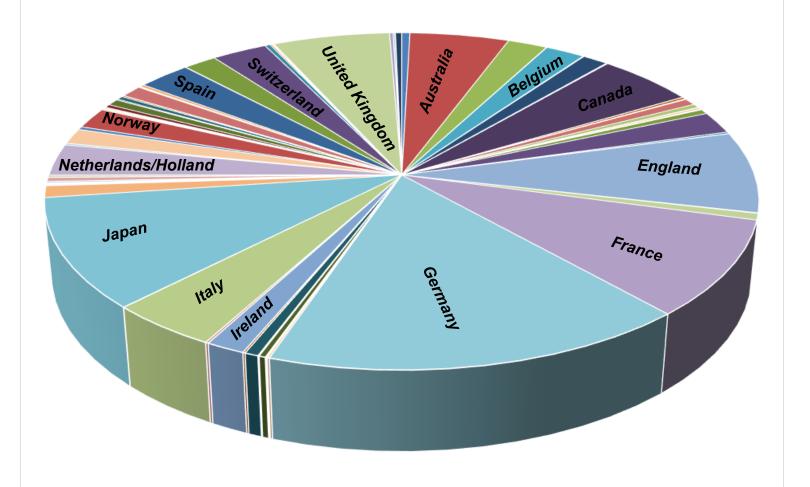
### Our V.I.P. Guest List

So, just for fun, we tallied up our guest book entries from last year to find out where you all were coming from and here are the results on this and the next page! Of course, this is just a count of the people who actually signed the guest book. Many more people from more places actually visited us last year. (And please note that we assigned categories by our visitors' entries. For example, we have the United Kingdom as a category but if someone wrote England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland, we put them in those separate categories.)

(collected from guest book entries: April 5, 2015, when we started our new guest book, to December 31, 2015)



#### Countries of Our International Guest Book Visitors April - December 2015



- /-	Arge	ntı	na	18

■ Bermuda 2

Canary Islands 1

Corsica 1

Czech Republic 19

Equador 2

■ Guatamala 2

■ Indonesia 4

Japan 443

■ Luxembourg 3

■ Nepal 9

Norway 84

Peru 2

Russia 5

Slovania 2

■ Switzerland 123

U.K. 259

Australia 220

■ Brazil 57

■ Catalonia 8

Costa Rica 1

■ Denmark 89

Finland 26

■ Hong Kong 1

Ireland 65

Korea 47

■ Macedonia 1

Netherlands/Holland 128 New Caledonia 7

Oman 4

■ Phillipines 13

Saudi Arabia 1

South Africa 10

■ Taiwan 12

Uruguay 8

Austria 88

■ Bulgaria 1

Chile 3

Croatia 6

Dominican Republic 7

France 387

■ Hungary 11

Israel 5

Kuwait 1

■ Majorca 2

Pakistan 1

Poland 26

Scotland 48

 Spain 118 ■ Thailand 4

Venezuela 4

Barbados 1

Cambodia 2

China 27

Cuba 3

Egypt 1

Germany 706

■ Iceland 2

Italy 184

Latvia 2

Malaysia 6

New Zealand 63

Panama 2

Portugal 4

Serbia 1

Sri Lanka 1

Trinidad and Tobago 2

Vietnam 1

Belgium 88

Canada 217

Columbia 16

Cyprus 1

England 328

Greece 4

■ India 23

Jamaica 1

Lithuania 1

Mexico 17

Northern Ireland 12

Paraguay 4

■ Puerto Rico 14

Slovakia 1

Sweden 74

Turkey 3

■ Wales 14



In preparation for the 30th Annual Fun Run next year, in this and the next 3 newsletters the history page will be featuring the story about how Angel and his fellow Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona friends helped bring Route 66 back as a historic highway, and how Angel made Seligman the "Birthplace of HISTORIC Route 66"

#### The Rebirth of Route 66: PART 1

In 1926 the 2,448 highway called Route 66 was born by assembling local roads throughout Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. In order to maximize driving on flat terrain with moderate climates, the new highway had an untraditional diagonal course connecting numerous rural towns, including Seligman, which brought greater mobility to the people of the remote communities as well as the travelers passing through.

Over the years the businesses and services for travelers increased in Seligman as the traffic continued to increase. Motels, restaurants, gas stations, and automobile service stations occupied the town and hummed with business. But this lifeblood of traffic and the business it brought to Seligman abruptly stopped on September 22, 1978. It was on this date that Interstate 40 opened just a couple miles south of Seligman, replacing U.S. Highway 66 as the main thoroughfare across northern Arizona. Seligman had seen its share of hard times in the past but this by-pass by the new interstate hit the town of Seligman like nothing else ever had. One day 9,000 vehicles were passing through town in a 24 hour period, the next day they were all gone.

Seligman's residents had to learn how to deal without the economic base of catering to travelers. Gas stations and restaurants were forced to close. The businesses that were able to stay open had to learn to live on a fraction of the business or they changed their businesses to cater to the increasingly small community. Almost all of the people that had once stopped to eat, get fuel, and stay the night were now quickly driving by just two miles south of Seligman, not even aware they were passing by a town. For all intents and purposes, Seligman no longer existed to the world. Many townspeople were forced to move, others had to stay because they were not able to sell their homes in what was becoming a ghost town. Tragedies and hardships ensued. The county turned the street lights off, the state excluded Seligman's



existence on the interstate signage between Flagstaff and Ash Fork, the railroad crews that had helped keep Seligman's economy afloat were forced to leave, the train ceased stopping in Seligman. The economic situation became more desperate and bleak with every passing year.

Seligman's local barber, Angel Delgadillo, owner of a barber shop and pool hall on Route 66 (at the time renamed "Chino Avenue"), had spent years fighting for Seligman's continued existence. He fought to get the streets lights turned back on and to get Seligman on signs on Interstate 40. He was involved in the Chamber of Commerce for years trying to come up with ways to improve the economy but nothing worked.

Over the years Angel would occasionally get travelers stopping in his barber shop who would talk about how they had driven on Route 66 years ago, often as children on family vacations, and how much they missed the old road. Sometimes he would get international travelers trying to find old Route 66 because they were interested in traveling on "America's Main Street." More and more, Angel would hear the same story from people about the nostalgia they had for Route 66 and the days of leisurely road trips and a sense of old fashioned Americana. Angel finally came to the conclusion that the answer to Seligman's problem was literally right under his nose every time he crossed the street: the road, the road formerly known as Route 66.

#### **The Return of the Hoehns**

In May, Sylvia and Bernhard Hoehn visited us from Germany for the 6th time in 5 years! They have been here in 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015 twice, and again this May of 2016. On their first trip of 2015 they presented Angel with a felt Burma Shave sign for his barbershop. On one of their visits they bought the book that has all the Burma Shave sayings featured on their signs throughout the years. One day when Sylvia came across the saying "MY JOB IS KEEPING FACES CLEAN AND NO-BODY KNOWS THE STUBBLE I'VE SEEN" she thought it was the perfect saying for Angel, the barber! She loves to sew and came up with the idea of the sign.



If you have been in the barber shop in the last year, you couldn't have missed the sign! It was such a thoughtful and appropriate gift for the barber who saved Route 66! It is always such a pleasure to see this delightful couple. We are so fortunate they choose to come to our little town every time they visit the United States. Lovely people!

#### And here are some of our other wonderful visitors this last quarter:



#### New Products at www.route66giftshop.com







Messenger Bags \$19.99



Cosmetic Bag \$9.99





Angel's Barber Shop Rubber Magnet \$5.99



Happy Travels!











Seligman Hz.

All products on our website are made in the U.S.A.



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### The Birthplace of Historic Route 66

