

THE ORIGINAL ROUTE 66 GIFT SHOP NEWSLETTER



December 2016

♪ *You'll go down in history...* ♪



It's official! Much like Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Angel Delgadillo and his story of triumphing over impossible odds has gone down in history! A formal dedication of Northern Arizona University Cline Library's newest archival collection, the ANGEL DELGADILLO COLLECTION was held on November 11th.

We transformed the gift shop into a party zone to celebrate a multitude of events that all happened to fall on November 11th of this year: Route 66's 90th birthday, Veteran's Day, and Mauricio's birthday. What better day to have the official hand-off of the first box of documents for the Angel Delgadillo archive at NAU!

Angel was joined by his siblings, Augustine, Joe, and Luz as well as many other close friends and family for this momentous occasion. We were very fortunate to have in attendance many veterans to thank for their service, including two WWII veterans, Angel's brothers Augustine and Joe.

Sean Evans, archivist from NAU and Route 66 enthusiast, spoke of how Northern Arizona University is so excited to have such an important Route 66 collection at their University. He also mentioned how this will be the first collection of its kind for many reasons. It will be the first Route 66 collection in Arizona and it will be the first collection featuring a working class family whose lives revolved around Route 66, illustrating the historical importance of the road to the average American living along it.



Top: Angel speaking of his Route 66 life
Left: NAU Archivist Team: Sean Evans, Peter Runge, & Kathleen Schmand receiving the first official box of documents for the "Angel Delgadillo Collection" at the Cline Library
Right: Angel and the Delgadillo Family

You can see more pictures from the event on our Facebook page!

RT 66 W6R

We recently received an email from amateur radio operator, Harry S. Rouse K6PDQ of Goleta California thanking us for our previous newsletter. Harry has an interesting story about when he met Angel:

"My acquaintance with Angel began early in the morning of 9/11/2001, when I got my first Route 66 haircut from him. A few hours later I learned of the terrorist attacks on NYC and DC. Since then, I've managed to visit Seligman and your shop almost every September, when participating in the annual Amateur Radio event, Route 66 On The Air."

The Amateur Radio temporary call sign "W6R" was issued to Harry by the Federal Communications Commission for the "Route 66 On The Air" special event. This annual event started 17 years ago as a way to allow amateur radio operators a way to relive their own memories of Route 66 as well as a way to celebrate the history of the famous U.S. highway. Harry has a very special California license plate that reads "RT66 W6R" residing on his RV. A few years ago he took the pictures below of Angel holding his license plate here in the shop and a picture of John Delgadillo with it at the Snow Cap. Harry has promised to one day retire his license plate here at what we call our "People's Museum."

In closing, some wise words from Harry:

"I have to confess, Seligman (with its residents) has become one of my all time favorite places to visit."

Thanks, Harry!



Happy Holidays!

Thank you for your support all year long!



Take advantage of our holiday special for our newsletter recipients! For the entire month of January use the code:

NEWYEAR2017

To receive 20% off your entire purchase at www.route66giftshop.com

Our Favorite Comments of the Year!

It's always nice to read the guestbook to see what interesting comments we find. Here are some of our favorites from 2016:

JUST MAGIC

Fun, Fun, Fun

What a treat!

GETTING OUR KICKS.

Sandy was wonderful

Keep doin' what you do

One life, live it! Charming place

SO MUCH CULTURE, LOVE it age:13

Lovely people, great place

Mandatory bucket list stop, check.

Thank you Angel for making this possible.

What a treasure, traveled this road as a child.

Finally visited after years of dreaming. **Excellent service!**

Thanks God, I'm here! Dreams come true! Rocks!

So scenic, love the Burma Shave ads. **Great!** I keep coming back!

I get the shave! Back after 20 years! What a fab shop! Love America.

Unforgettable! Awesome (Ian from Santa Monica sent us) Living the dream on 66.

Thanks for sharing and conserving such a historic place so my kids can enjoy it.

Are we there yet? We are here! Today is my 66 Birthday, spending it on Route 66

I love your town. You have done great things in your life. **I like the number plates from everywhere!**

A piece of history and humor. I've found my new home! An honor to meet Angel :)

Made my day! Great story. Best coffee this side of the Mississippi! Very quaint, I love it here.

Just adorable this place. **First time, not the last.** Thanks for your hospitality & friendliness!

We are coming to see Clarissa and it's a nice place we come back. Amazing step back in time!

New babyface! Your French is amazing! **You're great!** Historic Beauty 66 in our 66th year! **HAPPY.**

Beautiful. Thanks for saving Route 66. Old fashioned satisfied. Absolutely Fantastic.

Best place!! Glad to be back. Our 7th visit to Angel! **Lovely! Such commitment! A dream fulfilled.**

WE FOUND THE ROUTE OF HAPPINESS ON ROUTE 66. A SPECIAL PLACE FOR OUR HONEYMOON. I'M YOUR FAN.

Too cool! Age 10 hair cut. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. 5th visit, always super!!!

Fun & Nostalgic. 2nd visit to see our dollar on the roof! **Best shave ever! Best visit so far. Looooove it.**

We stop every year to see Angel

The USA Rocks! Don't stop believing

A true legend, thank you

Took the Trip in 1958 from KS

Awesome store, warm welcome!

FAN BLOODY TASTIC!





History Page

*because getting here has
been half the fun!*

In preparation for the 30th Annual Fun Run next year, here is our third installment 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 3

By April of 1987 progress of the two month old Historic Route 66 Association was far ahead of their hopes. Membership had increased to 80 people. The committee met with Vic Heller. They were able to get the Governor to recognize Route 66's value as an economic resource. They got Will Rogers Jr. to become a member of the Association to help resurrect Route 66, also known as "Will Roger's Highway." The State of Arizona Highways Committee For Historic and Scenic Roads came for a two day tour that was filmed by Phoenix Channel 10's Bill Leverton. Progress was happening and it was happening fast.

The Association was constantly busy making phone calls and sending letters to any and every organization that might be able to help. They had meeting after meeting to keep momentum alive and members informed. Every passing meeting seemed to increase interest and membership. And maybe most importantly, the Association was getting media coverage; radio, print, and television.

By June 1987 the Association was overwhelmed with its progress. Their quest for State dedication of old Route 66 from Topock to Seligman led them to Ed Corral of the Arizona Department of Transportation, Parkways, Historic and Scenic Roads Advisory Committee and he was ready to help! But Ed informed them they needed to provide him with data to put together a comprehensive presentation to the Committee in the time for its August meeting. If the deadline was missed they would have to wait until January of next year for another opportunity. The Association needed to quickly put together charts, graphs, maps, and photographs of all the varied locals of Route 66 throughout Arizona.

From the June meeting Newsletter highlights written by secretary Dave Wesson, "President Angel Delgadillo gave short recap of our progress. He expressed his wonder that so many people of such diverse backgrounds could unite so successfully toward this common goal. He wants everyone to know just how much he appreciates their interest. If you are a member of Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona, Angel Delgadillo loves you."

These first few months were fueled by the positive enthusiasm of its members. The members constantly sang "Get Your Kicks on Route 66" by Bobby Troupe at their meetings. Jerry Richard was officially given the title of "Master of Ceremonies" along with his Treasurer designation. Angel's sister Mary was named official Cheer Leader for the group.

From June 1987 newsletter by Dave Wesson: "Our host at this meeting, Juan Delgadillo was called upon to show the colors of his mismatched socks and say a few words. Such is Juan's reputation for waggish behavior that there is talk of a guest appearance on the Carson show. His speech was a quiet, heartfelt thank-you to all present for their efforts to restore this road where he had been born and lived his life, to the glory it had once known. They were moving words spoken by a humble man... and well worth hearing."

By August 1987 Robert Byars, Ph.D. of Northern Arizona University researched and wrote a brochure to be issued by the State Office Of Tourism which captured the warm hospitality of Route 66. Jack Beale Smith furnished maps and historical data for the entire route. Loren Wilson put together a professional package of maps and photographs both of his own making. Dan Messersmith and Vince Salmon provide flora, fauna, and topography data for Arizona's Route 66.

By September, the Association had finished their major task of providing Ed Corral with all the information he needed for his presentation in October.

The Association was making so much progress they decided they should incorporate as a non-profit organization. But before doing so they decided that Jerry Richard would become the Executive Vice President and Becky Foster would take over as Treasurer.

In October, The Arizona Department of Transportation Advisory Board met and recommended dedication of most of Arizona's Route 66 as a historic state road. Almost there, and in less than a year. Amazing.

"A Route 66 MUST!"

"We stopped in Seligman for a night whilst traveling on Route 66. First place to go to was Angel's barber shop - and we were very lucky to meet him in person. He was walking his dog Armani, and stopped in the shop to chat to some tourists. Then we asked him to take a photo with us and he chatted to us for a while. He was full of energy, and he was amazed when we told him we are going all the way from Chicago to Santa Monica. He was very pleased we were spending a night in Seligman and gave us a handy map of the town. The gift shop was very good - lots of good souvenirs. In fact, it was one of the best shops on the route. The staff was extremely helpful - I thought I lost my sunglasses and they were very keen on looking for them. Honestly, I couldn't believe how friendly they all were!"

TRIP ADVISOR REVIEW FROM:

"Iveta A" from Northwich U.K. September 2016

Thank you for
subscribing to
our newsletter.

Happy Travels!



**ANGEL & VILMA DELGADILLO'S
ORIGINAL ROUTE 66 GIFT SHOP**

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The Birthplace of Historic Route 66

