

THE ORIGINAL ROUTE 66 GIFT SHOP NEWSLETTER



March 2017

Our List of Things to Do this Spring:

- ☐ Celebrate Angel's **90th** birthday
- ☐ Celebrate the **30th** Route 66 Fun Run
- ☐ Rest after all the celebrating

It is a significant year for us here at the Original Route 66 Gift Shop! Angel will be turning 90 years YOUNG on April 19th, a few short weeks before he will be participating in his 30th consecutive Route 66 Fun Run. And since the Fun Run would not exist without Angel, the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona honored him by featuring his barber shop and gift shop on the artwork this year. So register for the 2017 FUN RUN and you will get a cool new T-shirt with our building on it!

This year is not only the 30th Annual Fun Run but it also marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona. Founded in 1987, The Association was the very first organization of its kind, promoting Route 66.

See page 2 for the schedule of FUN Run events in Seligman and page 7 for a FUN RUN registration form!



COME CELEBRATE THE 30TH ANNUAL
HISTORIC ROUTE 66 FUN RUN
AND
THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE HISTORIC ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA
MAY 5TH, 6TH & 7TH 2017

HERE ARE THE SELIGMAN SCHEDULE OF EVENTS :

Friday, May 5th

Noon to 6:00 p.m. Fun Run Registration at ACME

4:00 to 9:00 p.m. All you can eat SPAGHETTI DINNER at the St. Francis Catholic Church. All proceeds donated to Family Fun Night

7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Dance on the patio at the Snow-Cap Drive-In to "Beauty and the Beast" DJs

7:00 to 12:00 p.m. Dance the night away at the Black Cat Bar, featuring "Garlin Hackney and South Fire Band"

7:00 p.m. "Cruisin' Route 66 Parade." Everyone is welcome to join in and cruise the Route. Line-up at the Route 66 General Store at 6:45 p.m.

Saturday, May 6th

Dawn Early birds start to line up on Historic Route 66

7:00 to 10:00 a.m. Final registration

7:00 to 11:00 a.m. Cinco de Mayo Breakfast at the Snow Cap, featuring chorizo burritos and mimosas for sale

10:00 a.m. Grand Marshalls Angel and Tom Spears lead the run to Kingman

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

“Reliving Angel Delgadillo's Amazing Story”

“My wife and I were on a very interesting but gruelling group tour last January. On our way from Las Vegas to Grand Canyon, while enjoying the off-beaten path road scenery and perhaps my mind was already imagining of what to expect in Grand Canyon, I didn't catch what our Tour Director might have mentioned about our next restroom and coffee break. As well, our printed itinerary only said, “We will travel along the historic Route 66 where you can possibly ‘get your kicks.’”

Because our coach were mostly seniors, as what we normally do on the tour, we headed first to the washrooms as soon as we left the coach. After emptying my gall bladder, it was only then I realized we were stopping at Angel & Vilma Delgadillo's Original Route 66 Gift Shop and Visitor's Center. After helping myself with free coffee, I then browsed on various, interesting memorabilia items displayed all over the place

In our travels, I operate my inexpensive digital camera most of the time because I could take pictures faster than my wife. Knowing we had limited time in our brief stopover, I then clicked my camera left and right, with the intention of viewing them at the end of the day or tour.

Perhaps my wife knew something that I didn't know about the place, she urged that she take a picture of me sitting on what I would learn later, Angel's historical barber chair. While holding the Information Center's nicely printed pamphlet, The Birthplace of Historic Route 66, my wife picked up as a keepsake for our travel scrapbook and resuming my browsing over interesting memorabilia items, Mauricio, the son-in-law of Angel and Vilma, approached me with his contagious smile. He provided me information about Angel and what he did that made him respected and popular to the community of Seligman. His genuine hospitality and voluntarily providing me information about Angel impressed me. When I asked what kind of a man Angel at his age now, he told me in the morning, unless Angel does not feel good, the man still enjoys meeting compassionate visitors and receiving their sincere feedbacks make Angel healthy and happy.

Because of the interesting itinerary and gruelling demand of the tour, it was only when we returned home I was able to read the content of the pamphlet my wife picked up. Being a history buff and advocate that one man can make a difference at times, I fully appreciated the historical significance of the old Route 66 and the story of how the Seligman's community bounced from an economic disaster when on September 22 1978, the newly constructed Interstate 40 bypassed Seligman and replaced the section of Route 66 that had brought the traffic of thousands of cars through town on a daily basis.

The story said livelihood of the businesses in Seligman disappeared in one day. For ten long years the residents of Seligman learned to live on very little. Businesses closed, townspeople moved, buildings were abandoned.

Angel Delgadillo, barber and proprietor of the Delgadillo Barber Shop and Pool Hall, decided he had enough of watching his town waste away. Through his initiative and leadership, he arranged a meeting of representatives from Route 66 towns in Arizona to organize a group to make old Route 66 (from Kingman to Seligman) a “historic” highway. At this meeting the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona was formed with Angel as President. The story chronicled this was the first Route 66 preservation association ever formed and Angel's barber shop/pool hall housed the first headquarters for the grassroots organization.

As interest in the cause and Route 66 nostalgia grew, people started to want Route 66 merchandise as travel memorabilia. Now enthusiasts from all over the U.S. and the world come to drive Route 66 and experience a more nostalgic America. The small unique towns along Route 66 have new life and a piece of American history has been saved.

And the story concluded it all started in little barber shop on Route 66 in Seligman, Arizona because Angel, the town barber, refused to watch his town die.

In retrospect, am I glad I took as many pictures as I could about the place and obliged to my wife's taking a picture of me sitting on Angel's historical barber chair! In a way, I experienced to be part of Angel's amazing and incredible role in making the old Route 66 historical and providing economic renaissance to the community of Seligman.

Romeo R. Fernandez Toronto, Ontario Canada Visited January 2017



History Page

*because getting here has
been half the fun!*

In preparation for the 30th Annual Fun Run this year, we have been 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" Here is our final installment.

The Rebirth of Route 66: PART 4 (the end, or was it the beginning...)

After many months of tireless effort, Angel and his growing band of Route 66 enthusiasts officially known as The Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona, succeeded in their goal to bring Route 66 back as a historic highway!

On November 20th, The State of Arizona did indeed officially approve the dedication of the stretch of old U.S. Route 66 from Kingman to Seligman as a "Historic" highway. The section of Route 66 from Kingman to Oatman was well on its way to being dedicated after some routine paperwork, but Arizona Department of Transportation said they would reserve their dedication of the sections from Topock to Oatman and Seligman to Ash Fork until the responsible counties brought them up to acceptable safe-driving conditions. The goal of the Association was to have the entire stretch of road "traversable and dedicated as soon as possible." So with partial success fueling their cause they set out to coerce the Mohave and Yavapai Counties to see their vision.

This first success was a monumental victory for this grassroots organization that had started less than a year before with only a dozen members. At this point the Association members were all so very excited to really start planning the dedication ceremony of the newly named "Historic Route 66" they helped to create.

The official dedication celebration took place on the weekend of April 22, 23, and 24, 1987. The weather was stormy but the spirits were sunny. The Association made arrangements to have Will Rogers Jr. join them for the fun-filled weekend. Everyone agreed that he turned out to be the ideal celebrity guest for such an event. He was a humorous, affable, uncomplaining man willing to comply with the many requests made of him. On Friday evening, Mr. Will Rogers Jr. was introduced as the Grand Marshall at the VIP celebrity reception during which the Delgadillo band entertained the guests while they were feasting. On Saturday morning, Governor Rose Mofford cut the ribbon in Seligman and later that day in Truxton, Will Rogers Jr. ceremoniously helped install an authentic road sign reading HISTORIC ROUTE 66/WILL ROGERS HIGHWAY. Saturday afternoon in Kingman, a car show was held, with trophies awarded at a barbeque dinner, and all the Dedication participants were entertained by the Dick Clark Band and The Surfaries. On Sunday, they had a second ribbon cutting before heading off to enjoy their time in Oatman and then Topock where County Supervisor Jack Rose promised that the section of Old Route 66 between Topock and Oatman would be resurfaced within a year. In the end, everyone had so much fun at this celebration they decided to make it the yearly event now known as The Route 66 Fun Run. In fact, this year on May 5, 6, and 7 The Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona will be hosting its 30th annual Route 66 Fun Run!

The goal of the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona was to have the State of Arizona make Route 66 a historic highway to remind travelers of the option of a slower, nostalgic, and scenic route that meandered through their small Arizona towns that the interstate had by-passed years ago. And they did it, in a big way. After seeing what was happening in Arizona, the other Route 66 states did not take long to capitalize on the success of the rebirth of Route 66.

The accomplishments of this small grassroots association is a truly inspiring story.

Every time you see a Route 66 sign, on the pier in Santa Monica, on the highway in Arizona, on an antique store in Missouri, or even in a restaurant in New York City, think of how this modern day interest in Route 66 got its start. Just think, those Route 66 signs you see everywhere would not be there if it was not for a small group of dynamic people in Arizona who were banded together by a tenacious barber who refused to let his hometown die. Every time you see a Route 66 sign, just think "Angel did that."



Our Signs are Coming Back Home!

Some of you may be aware that on December 2nd of last year two of our antique signs outside were stolen. Angel noticed one day that our Coke button sign and our vertical Goodyear sign were both missing. We reported the theft only to find that we were not the only business along Route 66 that had antique signs stolen during this time period. Although we did have security footage of the two culprits, we had no idea who they were or where they were from. It did not seem a likely prospect that we would ever see our signs again. But a sincere congratulations to our local law enforcement is in order! Within a few short months, both suspects have been found, charged with the theft, and our signs have been located. We would like to sincerely thank Yavapai County Sheriff Scott Mascher, Detective Mark Yates, Deputy Carl Johnson, Silent Witness Program Director Steve Skurja, and Public Information Officer Dwight D'Evelyn. Thanks to these hard working men we should have our beloved signs back where they belong very soon!

New YouTube Videos

www.youtube.com/route66giftshop



We have recently added a few new videos to our youtube playlists. The must sees include newscaster Paul Adler's video about Angel that was on the Ozark news last year, and a new Finnish song we stumbled upon titled "Angel Delgadillo" on a cd featuring songs all about the legendary Route 66. It is a very beautiful song that says "Angel Delgadillo" and "Arizona, Seligman" but that is all we can understand! If anyone out there can translate it for us we would love a copy of the lyrics in English. Both of these videos can be found on our "Angel Delgadillo" playlist.



One of the many wonderful things about Angel is that he is always happy to give his time for an interview. Angel is pictured above with college student Ethan Sullivan and his father, Damian. Ethan interviewed Angel for a school project on March 5, 2017.

Thank you for
subscribing to
our newsletter.

Happy Travels!



Shop online at www.route66giftshop.com
All products on our website are made in the U.S.A.



The Birthplace of Historic Route 66

ANGEL & VILMA DELGADILLO'S
ORIGINAL ROUTE 66 GIFT SHOP

PO Box 426 * 22265 W Historic Route 66 *

Seligman, AZ 86337 U.S.A. (928) 422-3352

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in this space.

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30th ANNUAL FUN RUN REGISTRATION May 5-7, 2017

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
VEHICLE YEAR: _____ MAKE: _____ MODEL: _____
CLUB AFFILIATION: _____
EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

☐ **ENTRY FEE \$55 PER VEHICLE** (☐ **AFTER APRIL 21, 2017 - \$60**) *Includes T-shirt, Dash plaque, Show-N-Shine, Award Ceremony*, License Plate, and much, much more from Seligman to Topock/Golden Shores. Shirt Size:* ☐ **S** ☐ **M** ☐ **L** ☐ **XL** ☐ **XXL** ☐ **XXXL**

☐ **Annual membership to the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona for \$25.**

TOTAL AMOUNT AUTHORIZED \$ \$ 0.00

☐ **Payment enclosed:** **CASH / CHECK / MONEY ORDER**
CREDIT CARD ☐ **VISA** ☐ **MC/DISC**

Credit card number _____ **Expiration date** _____ **CVV*** _____
* 3 digit verification code on reverse of the card

Liability Release: I hereby certify that I agree to release and hold harmless HISTORIC ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA, the 30th Annual Fun Run weekend May 5, 6, and 7, 2017, its agents and members and the owners and/or managers of all locations where any part of the event is held, from loss, damage, or injury resulting from participation in the above event. I also certify that my vehicle is properly licensed and insured to meet legal requirement of liability.

Signature (required): _____ **Date:** _____ ***SORRY NO REFUNDS***

☐ **Check here if you want your car to be judged** and you are planning to participate in the Fun Run Awards Ceremony on Sunday in Topock / Golden Shores. ***Registrants must be present to win.***

☐ **Check here if you plan to pick up your registration packet in Kingman**, which will be available on Friday, May 5 at the Historic Route 66 Association Gift Shop, between 10 am & 4pm only.

For more information or to register over the phone, call 928-753-5001 (9am - 5pm Arizona time)

Mail registration to: **Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona**
P.O. Box 66
Kingman, AZ 86402-0066