



## Missouri United States Highway 66 Collection (SP0080)

**Collection Number:** SP0080

**Collection Title:** Missouri United States Highway 66 Collection

**Dates:** 1930-2017

**Creator:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Abstract:** The Missouri United States Highway 66 Collection is an artificial collection consisting of multiple acquisitions related to Missouri's U.S. Highway 66. The collection contains brochures, maps, photographs, postcards, newsletters, and ephemera.

**Collection Size:** 2 cubic feet  
(17 folders, 2 DVDs, 2 VHS tapes, 2 oversize boxes)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [springfield@shsmo.org](mailto:springfield@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information and about reproductions and permission to publish.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Missouri United States Highway 66 Collection* (SP0080); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].

**Donor Information:** See administration folder for donor information.

**Accruals:** Further accruals are expected.

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Missouri United States Highway 66 Collection can be found in the following collections:

[Nelson Family Collection](#) (R0252)

[Atlasta Service Station Map](#) (R0592)

[Robert L. Elgin Travel and Tourism Collection](#) (R0623)

[\*Fred W. Fife Collection\*](#) (R0794)

[\*Israel Jacob Baumgardner Photograph Collection\*](#) (R1299)

[\*Bunion Derby Collection\*](#) (R1417)

[\*Morrow and Skaggs Families Papers\*](#) (R1520)

**Processed by:** Processed by Haley Frizzle-Green, October 20, 2023

### **Historical Note:**

United States Highway 66 was a continuous route connecting Chicago, Illinois, to Los Angeles, California. The numerical designation 66 was approved on April 30, 1926, and construction began on November 11. U.S. Highway 66 was a conglomeration of an already existing network of State-managed roads, including the Lone Star Route and the National Old Trails Road. The highway extended 2,448 miles diagonally, linking hundreds of rural and urban communities throughout Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Entrepreneurs Cyrus Avery and John Woodruff, who lobbied for creation of the route, are credited with the establishment of U.S. Highway 66. Avery also pushed for the creation of the U.S. Highway 66 Association which paved and promoted the highway. By 1938, Route 66 became the first highway to be completely paved.

As one of the country's main thoroughfares, Route 66 was the primary route for east to west migration and tourism. Increased highway traffic resulted in locally owned establishments such as restaurants, motels, gas stations, and roadside attractions along the highway. The decline of Route 66 came after President Eisenhower signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956. The bill authorized funding for the construction of 41,000 miles of the Interstate Highway System. Interstate 40 and 44 replaced major segments of Route 66, and on June 26, 1979, the American Association of State Highways and Transportation Officials eliminated the designation of U.S. Highway 66. In October of 1984, the final section of the original road was replaced by Interstate 40 at Williams, Arizona. In 1985, the highway was officially decommissioned.

Preservation and commemorative efforts continue today through public and private organizations, as well as local, State, and Federal agencies. Locations along Historic Route 66 have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program provides financial and technical assistance to individuals, nonprofits, local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies to help preserve significant resources along the route. In 2016, the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership was formed with a mission to revitalize and sustain Route 66 as a national icon.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into 13 folders and 2 oversize boxes.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains brochures, maps, menus, publications, newspaper articles, photographs, and postcards related to cities, businesses, and roadside attractions along United States Highway 66 in Missouri. This collection also includes materials from the Route 66 Association of Missouri, such as "Motor Tour" booklets and newsletters. The audiovisual materials consist of two DVDs and two VHS tapes related to traveling along historic Route 66. The two oversize

boxes contain ephemera, such as stickers, matchbooks, pins, highway signs, and calendars. The collection is arranged by subject.

### Container List:

f. 1	Brochures, no date
f. 2	Maps, no date
f. 3	Menus, no date
f. 4	Newspapers, 1990-2012
f. 5	Photographs, 1953, no date
f. 6	Postcards, Missouri, 1930-2012
f. 7	Postcards, United States, 1948-1998, no date
f. 8-12	Publications, 1956-2010, no date
f. 13	Route 66 Association of Missouri, 1991-2017
DVD 1	"Route 66 Screensaver", no date
DVD 2	"The History Channel's Modern Marvels: Route 66", 2002
v.t. 1	"Route 66: Return to the Road with Martin Milner Volume 1, 2002
v.t. 2	"Route 66: Return to the Road with Martin Milner Volume 2, 2002
OS Box 1	Ephemera, no date
OS Box 2	Calendars, 1992, 1999-2017

### Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Medium	Image
Basketwork--Missouri	8		Yes
Big Chief Restaurant (Willwood, Mo.)	3, 6		
Boots Court Motel (Carthage, Mo.)	1, 6		Yes
Bridges--Missouri	1, 6		Yes
California	8		Yes
Carterville (Mo.)	1		
Carthage (Mo.)	1, 6		Yes
Chain of Rocks Bridge (St. Louis, Mo.)	1, 6		Yes
Cookbooks	10		
Coral Court Motel (Marlborough, Mo.)	6, 11		Yes
Crawford County (Mo.)	1, 3, 5-6		Yes
Cuba (Mo.)	1, 3-4		Yes
Diamonds Resort (Villa Ridge, Mo.)	6		Yes
Fantastic Caverns (Springfield, Mo.)	1-2		Yes
Fox Spring Lodge (Cuba, Mo.)	1		Yes
Franklin County (Mo.)	6, 8		Yes
Greene County (Mo.)	1		Yes
Hooker (Mo.)	6, 8		
Hotels--Missouri	1, 6, 8		Yes
Interstate 44--Maps	2		
Jasper County (Mo.)	1, 6, 8		Yes

Index Terms	Folder	Medium	Image
Joplin (Mo.)	6		
Laclede County (Mo.)	1, 4-5		Yes
Lake of the Ozarks (Mo.)	6		Yes
Lawrence County (Mo.)	4		
Lebanon (Mo.)	1, 4-5		Yes
Meramec Caverns (Stanton, Mo.)	5-6		Yes
Motels--Missouri	1, 5-6		Yes
Mount Vernon (Mo.)	4		
Munger Moss Motel (Lebanon, Mo.)	6		Yes
Old Route 66 Café (Cuba, Mo.)	3		
Pennant Hotel (Rolla, Mo.)	6		Yes
Phelps County (Mo.)	3		
Pinga's Tortilla Flats (Rolla, Mo.)	3		
Pulaski County (Mo.)	1-2, 4		Yes
Rail Haven Motor Court (Springfield, Mo.)	1		Yes
Restaurants--Missouri	3, 6		Yes
Rolla (Mo.)	6		Yes
Route 66 Association (Mo.)	13		
Springfield (Mo.)	1, 6		Yes
St. Louis (Mo.)	1, 6		
St. Louis County (Mo.)	1, 6		Yes
Stanton (Mo.)	5-6		Yes
The Manor Inn (Rolla, Mo.)	6		Yes
Toky's Bar-B-Q (Rolla, Mo.)	6		Yes
Tourism--Missouri	1-13	DVD 1-2, v.t. 1-2	Yes
Tourist Park (Carthage, Mo.)	6		Yes
Transportation	1-3	DVD 1-2, v.t. 1-2	
Twin Bridges (Union, Mo.)	6		Yes
United States Highway 66	1-13	DVD 1-2, v.t. 1-2	Yes
United States Highway 66--Maps	2, 9	DVD 1-2, v.t. 1-2	
Vesta Court (Lebanon, Mo.)	3		Yes
Wilder's, Inc. (Joplin, Mo.)	6		Yes
Zeno's Steakhouse (Rolla, Mo.)	3		