



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## About the Trip

Pepperdine University president Andrew K. Benton took a road trip this summer on historic U.S. Route 66 to explore what people are saying along "America's Main Street" about their nation, institutions, communities, and families.

The trip took place from July 14 to July 22, 2008 with stops in Joliet, Funks Grove, and Springfield, Illinois; Rolla and Joplin, Missouri; Riverton, Kansas; Miami, Weatherford, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Shamrock and Amarillo, Texas; Santa Fe and Grants, New Mexico; and Flagstaff and Williams, Arizona before returning to California.



Benton, the 2008 chair of the American Council on Education, says the 2,400 mile Route 66 journey is a way to connect with people along the "Mother Road" as John Steinbeck called it, "and invite them to speak about their values, hopes, and dreams."

Benton met with educators, parents, business people, and church and civic leaders along a road that is more of an outdoor museum than the vital transportation artery it once was. Nevertheless Route 66 occupies a special place in America's history and for many people driving the road from its beginning in Chicago to its end-point in Santa Monica, California is a quest, one that Benton fulfilled in 2007.

"I have been given a wonderful opportunity to serve at Pepperdine for nearly 25 years and am mid-way through my one-year term as chair of the American Council on Education," Benton says. "If I can use that vantage point to comment on what such a significant portion of America would like to say to those of us privileged to help shape the education of the world's future leaders, I will feel the journey has been productive."

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Video Reflections](#)



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Malibu, California

I have kept a diary since I became president and I make entries from time-to-time when significant events occur. This unfamiliar practice of blogging is very interesting and the number of those who have commented on the Web page our team has faithfully maintained is quite interesting to me. After this last post on the Route 66 2008 journey I am not sure what I will do to replace this daily "download" of events. Perhaps I will start by commenting on some of the notable messages attached to blog entries; in fact, that is exactly what I will do.

At the end of the day, this whole effort has been about relevance, leadership, and listening. Our students and alumni deserve no less. About half of our students come from California and the remainder from about 45 other states and many foreign countries.

As we contemplate the future of Pepperdine, all stakeholders should have a voice and we should listen. If Pepperdine can play a small role in enabling voices from America's heartland to be heard, I will be very proud, and in that we supply leadership. In addition to the federal government, state government, accrediting agencies, and so forth, the hopes and dreams of parents, community leaders, teachers, and many others will help us keep faith and maintain relevance in the programs we offer our students.

Last evening, we held a final event with alumni on the famous Santa Monica Pier. Attendance was wonderful and the spirit was very encouraging. The event was populated by alumni, parents, and friends. There were also a couple of incoming freshmen. In my brief comments I singled out one young woman from Chicago to make this point: with a Pepperdine education a student can go anywhere, reach any goal, and enjoy success – real success – far beyond his or her wildest imagination. Several in the room last evening have already proved that. We are in the business of dream fulfillment; I saw that from Chicago to Santa Monica, and it feels very good indeed.

Thanks for riding along with me over the past couple of weeks. I continue to welcome your comments on this blog.

Very importantly, my thanks to all who made this trip possible and who supported various endeavors (many of whom are Pepperdine alumni):

CREATIVE GENIUS

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

Rick Gibson

TEAM LEAD-UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Matt Midura

TEAM LEAD-PUBLIC RELATIONS AND NEWS

Jerry Derloshon

ROAD CREW

Allen Haren

Nate Pang

Ed Wheeler

Ted Garcia

Molly Drobnick

GROUND CREW

Maz Ameli

Kyle Dusek

Adam Spellbring

Jill McWilliams

Brett Sizemore

Megan Huard

TOUR MANAGEMENT

Tamara Dawson

Pam Miller

ALUMNI EVENT COORDINATION

Sandra Barsoum (Alumni Affairs)

Giuseppe Nespoli (Alumni Affairs)

We started with a prayer and, after I close this final entry, I will offer one privately for all who worked together on this project.

Thanks again.

This entry was posted on Friday, July 25th, 2008 at 8:35 a.m.

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)

- [Thank You](#)

- [Video Reflections](#)



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica

You would think I'd know better than to start the day in Flagstaff and then follow Route 66 to Santa Monica before sundown. I did that last year and said I would not do it again! However, there is something about getting home and I am sure my colleagues would readily agree. It was an interesting final day on the road together and a beautiful drive to Route 66's endpoint in Will Rogers Park in Santa Monica where our trip officially concluded.



We began the day at a fun little place in Williams, Arizona called Blondies Route 66 Diner that served as the site of our final meal together. A special commendation goes to Ted Garcia for surviving the Plaza Hurricane in Gallup and the Route 66 Breakfast Burrito in

Williams. Both are presented as culinary challenges accepted by only the most gifted and intrepid diners. Ted finished strong, but only slightly ahead of Allen Haren and Nate Pang. Among other statistics recorded during our time together, I suggested we should have had a group cholesterol exam before and after the Route 66 excursion.

Before reporting the day's activities, I need to add that blog readers' comments on music shaped my selections from Santa Fe on and I will offer the final entry, as well as some travel information relevant to the journey, tomorrow. Today I found an "all Elvis, all the time" station on Sirius and so the King of Rock and Roll rode shotgun most of the way home.

We met in the Grand Canyon Hotel in downtown Williams with Donna Eastman Liddle, president/CEO of the Williams Chamber of Commerce. It was a fine opportunity to talk about the preservation of "Main Street" with one of the leading preservationists for the Western



## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

portion of the journey.

In 1984 a spur was added to Interstate 40 that led most travelers off Route 66 and away from Williams. The town began to die slowly, but today it thrives and a nice art colony is starting to develop along with some clever interpretations of life on Route 66. The Grand Canyon Hotel where we held our conversation is a very special place. Fittingly, its address is on Route 66 – 145 W. Route 66 in fact. The hotel was lovingly restored by Amy Frederickson and her husband and has all the charm and creaks that one would hope for and expect to find in a place that has served guests since 1891.

In the local museum there is a photo of Williams in its heyday and next year, as part of the celebration of Arizona's Centennial year, they will recreate that photo with local townspeople. The city lives today because of people like Donna Eastman Liddle, the Fredericksons, and others who believe in Main Street. There is, in fact, a Main Street Association that meets to discuss the future of small towns and historic routes. I hope they thrive.



Donna speaks freely of a life that has not been easy in many respects. Her journey, however, has led her to pursue her interest in art and making friends in the city of Williams, both of which bring her joy. She also has two sons in whom she takes great pride. The special

place of the individual in small town America is important to Donna and so are education, hard work, freedom, second-chances, and unconditional love. As you can see, we moved from the superficial to those things that reside close to the heart, and while I had just met her, she spoke to me as a long-time friend.

Donna's personal journey includes a search for community. Earlier in life she found it in sports. Today she has found it in art and gardening and she has recently returned to prayer and meditation as strength-giving exercises. In conversation she refers to each element of the "fruit of the Spirit" as outlined in the New Testament.

I sense progress in Williams and, I suspect, Donna deserves a lot of the credit. Her work with the Chamber is much more political than most would understand. To preserve and protect things that are important, one must gain consensus, take risks, and speak up. It has always been that way and always will be.

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)

- [Thank You](#)

- [Video Reflections](#)



This entry was posted on Tuesday, July 22nd, 2008 at 10:15 p.m.

## 5 RESPONSES TO "DAY 9 – FLAGSTAFF TO SANTA MONICA"

1.  *Maddy Alexander Says:*

July 23rd, 2008 at 11:39 a.m.

I have followed your trip day-by-day. Your daily summary of the events was very much appreciated and I feel like I have traveled with you. Thank you for the trip. Until next year at Pepperdine Lectureship.

Maddy

2.  *Sharon Devol Says:*


July 24th, 2008 at 7:05 a.m.

I spent the day in Williams last May, as part of a train trip from Napa to Albuquerque. Downtown Williams was a fun browse! I appreciate the fact that the historic buildings have been preserved and re-used instead of being torn down and replaced with big boxes.

3.  *Andy Says:*

August 4th, 2008 at 10:06 p.m.

They have come a long way since the spur was opened in 1984. Sheer determination is bringing business and hope back to Williams. The Grand Canyon Hotel is a special delight.

4.  *John Stoughton Says:*

August 7th, 2008 at 6:20 a.m.

Andy,

I have really enjoyed reading your blog. I have ridden (motorcycle) several times with a group that does Route 66 every year in June. We meet just outside Chicago on the second Saturday in June and ride to Santa Monica in a week. We have a blast and obviously so did you!

I hope you stopped in Seligman, AZ to see some of the wonderful people (e.g., Angel the barber) and their shops. Great place!

Thanks again!

– john

5.  *Andy Says:*

August 7th, 2008 at 10:36 p.m.

John: You are a better man than I. To do it every year is amazing – and on a motorcycle no less. You are my hero!



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff

We were driving into the Painted Desert this morning and I commented on the beauty of the horizon. It spread for a hundred miles and seemed to blend perfectly with the spectacular cloud formations. My friend Jerry Derloshon replied, "It looks like a cloud convention, and everyone showed up." He was right. Anyone who dares refer to this part of America as the "fly-over states" speaks dismissively about a beauty they do not (and perhaps cannot) comprehend.



After leaving Santa Fe we agreed to meet for lunch in Gallup on our way to Flagstaff. Last year I found a diner in Gallup called the Plaza Cafe that is a bit hard to describe. The front half is white cinder block and the back half is a travel trailer attached permanently – more or less – to the front half. After a little uncertainty as to location, I found the diner again and enjoyed simple fare, presented with authenticity. Two of my young colleagues successfully challenged the house special called Plaza Hurricane. If they make it home, I will let them tell you about it.

After a pleasant drive – including a brief stop in Winslow, Arizona – we arrived at Flagstaff, which enjoys a bit of a bubble in this difficult economy. Sure there is some hardship, but the town bustles with promise. With a little time before our scheduled interview, I visited a rare bookstore in town called Starrlight Books on Leroux Street and left with four first editions. This will take some 'splaining at home.

Our interview was held at an impressive music retail shop named Custom Sound Instruments owned by Ryan Elewaut. He is also a music teacher and luthier (for those of you about to scramble for a dictionary – he makes guitars by hand). He asked his friend Chris Coyne to join us as well. Chris is

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

a teacher of English and a musician who also teaches guitar. Both of these young men are representative of their generation and provided a helpful complement to other interviews.

Ryan and Chris are at the beginning of their respective careers. For Ryan, a new business and the challenge of early expansion is an invigorating experience tempered by the risk of failure. He is invested in his community



and tapped into the welfare of all businesses growing near him. Local politics are tough and unpredictable at best. Chris is a Penn State and Wisconsin graduate who, for a time, made his living as a performing musician. Today as a teacher, he struggles to afford Flagstaff prices on a limited salary. Like so many teachers, he supplements his salary and wishes for more support as he influences young lives. Both gentlemen feel the need for change in state and national politics, but their comments were not partisan, just very sincere. I appreciated so much their candor and frank expressions; I also admired their optimistic outlook on the future.



A wide-ranging conversation took us from technology and its wonders (and limits when it comes to interpersonal relationships) to teachers who influenced them greatly by touching their lives personally. We also talked about health care costs and the cold reality

that some young people simply can't afford basic insurance. I dared not ask about planning for retirement. Among astute comments about the students who are a part of their daily lives, both referenced the need for young people to advocate for themselves with greater conviction.

Our day's journey ended with an afternoon rainstorm and robust table conversation over dinner. There is nothing quite like travel and shared experience to develop strong friendships. Such is the case for all those who have made this trip and made it possible. As we left the restaurant this evening, a young man and a young woman both stood and approached me and introduced themselves as Seaver College graduates. It makes me so proud to see our alumni and to observe their lives as they take hold of the future. They have been reading portions of this blog which makes me want to work harder and record this journey just a little better.

It occurs to me to end with a couple of questions aimed at those who have left formal education and are moving into the mainstream of life, work, and a full plate of responsibility:

1. What are the most significant issues you

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Video Reflections](#)

have faced since leaving college?

2. Can you give me some examples of how you have found a support/mutual interest community (related to work, music, service, faith, and so forth) and have become involved?

3. I would really enjoy hearing of some successes that have given you energy and confidence for the future.

Thanks so much. Tomorrow we're off for Williams, Arizona.



This entry was posted on Monday, July 21st, 2008 at 9:09 p.m.

## 5 RESPONSES TO "DAY 8 – SANTA FE TO FLAGSTAFF"

-  *Donia Newman* Says:  
July 22nd, 2008 at 12:57 p.m.

Dear Dr. Benton,


I find your journey inspirational. I am sending my favorite poem by Robert Frost *The Road Not Taken* for the road home to Pepperdine University. The journey of life is a transformational voyage.

I am a doctoral student at Pepperdine University in the Ed.D. program in Organizational Leadership in addition to completing two other degree programs at Pepperdine. I value greatly the transformational learning journey with Pepperdine University and am in the process of working on my dissertation as an autoethnography/personal narrative of the transformational learning

journey with Pepperdine University.

I am very inspired by the mission of Pepperdine University and appreciate the opportunity to reflect on the transformational growth of being a part of the Pepperdine learning community.

The Road Not Taken  
Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;  
Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear,  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,  
And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I marked the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.  
I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood,  
and I, I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.  
Best wishes on your journey home to Pepperdine!  
Donia Newman

2.  *Sam Lagana Says:*  
July 23rd, 2008 at 12:48 a.m.

Andy,

Looks like you are making great progress on many fronts! I hope that while you are in Williams, you were/will be able to step back in time and enjoy a bit of the fun that Williams provides in the "confrontations in the street" shows. The skits and shoot-em-up performances on ole Route 66 street by the locals are great entertainment for the masses that descend on this access town to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon! Check out the steam engines that still roll next to American's Main Street.

If by chance, you are near Cucamonga (an old Route 66 favorite town – made popular by Jack Benny) on Wednesday night, stop by the Epicenter for some Rancho Cucamonga Quakes Single A baseball with our incoming freshman from the Inland Empire! Reception at 5:45pm and game at 7:05pm. Drive safely and Happy Motoring!

See in Santa Monica!


3.  *Russ Ray Says:*  
July 23rd, 2008 at 8:07 a.m.

Dear Andy: Pepperdine is a household word in Southern California. Living on the East Coast I find that the word hasn't yet reached that level. My guess is that the seeds you've spread along 66 will root there and bring new friends. With the new campus here in Washington DC we will even further our recognition. Stay in the slow lane. The fast lane awaits you later. Russ Ray

4.  *David Says:*

July 23rd, 2008 at 4:12 p.m.

But did you stand on the corner in Winslow Arizona?

5.  *Andy Says:*

August 4th, 2008 at 10:12 p.m.

To set the record straight: I not only stood on a corner in Winslow, I had apple pie there! Winslow owes the Eagles big time, let's face it. Like so many cities on the route, they have found economic equilibrium while simply maintaining a slower pace of life. Good for them and a fun stop for the rest of us.

"You've got to take it easy"



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe

Who has not heard of Cadillac Ranch just west of Amarillo? My colleagues and I stopped by today to pay homage to one of the most amusing and bizarre art projects of all time. Several decades ago the Ant Farm (a collective of artists) decided to take ten classic Cadillacs, dig ten deep holes, and then drive the cars in the holes, engine first, one after another. Stanley Marsh offered the land and passers-by have offered their graffiti and comments freely through the years. Some of us can identify the automotive icons built between 1949 and 1963 by their respective body types and fins. It is impossible to see this exhibit without smiling, especially since spray paint contributions are actually encouraged.

Our goal was to reach Santa Fe in time for an afternoon interview. Fortunately we also had time to explore another roadside diner along the way. It sold a brand of Route Beer (correct spelling), a deep fat-fried item I could not identify, and some of the best chicken fried steak I have ever experienced. I think a fat-free Route 66 tour is not practically possible.

I arrived in Santa Fe and met with the Honorable Cindy Padilla, cabinet secretary for Aging and Long-Term Services. Secretary Padilla went out of her way to make this interview possible and the La Posada resort in Santa

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

Fe generously offered a room for our interview. Hospitality in New Mexico is most impressive.



Secretary Padilla will probably be the only cabinet-level official with whom we will meet. It has been terrific to visit with teachers, parents, school superintendents, preservationists, and small business owners. Cindy Padilla represents a government official

who can make a difference in the lives of senior citizens and those who may need long-term care in this part of the country.

Any voter would be encouraged by Secretary Padilla's approach to the position. She listens and cares deeply. Important to the conversation was the fact that she is positive about the future and the role of higher education. Her own college experience was at a small, private college and her world has broadened considerably from there. Education was very enabling for her.

Going forward, education needs to offer attention to not only young people but also seniors. I say that for reasons beyond the fact that I will be a "senior" in the not-too-distant-future (indeed, AARP is already in earnest contact). I am heartened by the spirit of volunteerism among today's students and I hope that more public/private partnerships can be created to respond to those who are "at risk" in society. I am confident Secretary Padilla joins me in this aspiration. I was impacted by her use of the word "hope" and the importance she assigned to that word. We all need hope. Young people need hope to persist in high school, in college, and in life.

Secretary Padilla and I are both optimistic. There is a lot of good news out there if we will turn our attention toward it. Encouraging our nation's young people, giving them hope, is an investment in the future.

Our merry band of travelers ended the day by discovering and dining in one of Santa Fe's many traditional, and might I add excellent, Mexican restaurants. There we reflected on the journey thus far; the things we've seen and experienced, and the terrific people we've met – some we planned to meet and others we encountered along the way.



In his preface I think to *Travels With Charley*, John Steinbeck's autobiographical account of a road trip he took with his faithful standard poodle Charley, Steinbeck noted that sometimes we take journeys and sometimes journeys take us. On that note, we look forward to moving further westward tomorrow and see where our journey leads.

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Video Reflections](#)

### 3 RESPONSES TO "DAY 7 – AMARILLO TO SANTA FE"

1.  *Ron Batchelder Says:*

July 21st, 2008 at 4:17 p.m.

Andy: Your visit to Cadillac Ranch brings back fond memories for me. I used to refer to my Caddy as the Black Beauty or Le Chateaux. Was that Jeff Pippin spray painting the car? It sure looked like him — whenever there is a fire in Malibu I think of Steve Davis needing more empirical evidence for his research — I will now think of Jeff whenever I see graffiti on campus. Drive safely and don't pick up strangers.

Cheers, Ronnie Baby

2.  *Brandon Leake Says:*

July 22nd, 2008 at 4:38 p.m.

Your visit to Cadillac Ranch brings back many memories from my early years. I used to live in Amarillo and can't count the number of times I used to drive by Cadillac Ranch. Hope your trip was a success.

Brandon Leake

3.  *Andy Says:*

August 4th, 2008 at 10:16 p.m.

I hate to dump on a city, but Amarillo is just an acquired taste I have not acquired. I think it started last year when I got "skunked" on a decent hotel room (and my standards were none too high at that point). I need to try Amarillo from a different angle, maybe upwind.



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Amarillo

Today was a blur of activity and distance traveled. We had some fascinating conversations and also moved horizontally across Oklahoma and Texas with great efficiency.

Oklahoma City is enjoying a rebirth and a renewed economic vibrancy. There is a lot of civic pride and engagement. Our first session included Randy Grau, a 1998 Seaver graduate who is now a lawyer and the 2nd Deputy of Oklahoma County's District Three Office (his boss is Ray Vaughn, a friend and mentor of mine from my Oklahoma days); Dean Bogle, a Pepperdine parent and a life insurance and financial planning professional; and Leslie Spears, communications manager for the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. We met at the museum – one of the city's true points of pride – and toured its remarkable, permanent Dale Chihuly exhibit.



One participant in this first meeting spoke earnestly about the importance of government trusting the people, and another encouraged government to speak less and to listen more. The indomitable spirit of Oklahoma continues it seems.

Despite my best efforts to squeeze out a criticism of higher education (constructive or otherwise) the comments were favorable about our work. More attention to encouraging good citizenship, financial responsibility, and an understanding of economics were offered as topics that would enable the student upon graduation. This is another interview where more time with the actual transcripts will yield depth and nuance.

On to Weatherford and a meeting with T. E. "Ed" Tippens, Jr. and Jim Lovell. Ed Tippens is the proud father of Pepperdine's provost Darryl Tippens. Ed is also a farming and ranching innovator, a long-time vocational agriculture teacher, and a resident of the area since Route 66 (as we know it today) was just a dirt trail. Jim Lovell is a retired professor, who focused his career on the environment and now leads the Heartland Museum in

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Sante Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

Weatherford.

Ed is a storyteller of the first order. Before beginning this trip I read his recent book, *Along the Way*, and I found his story compelling and familiar. His stories and his prose are reflective of the lives of all who made their lives and their living from hard work in the soil of this nation. While visiting, one of Ed's former students joined the discussion. The affection and the warmth of shared memories were perfect for the occasion.

After lunch we made a brief stop at the museum Jim Lovell is curating. Once again, in Ed Tippens and Jim Lovell we found people proud of their heritage and eager to honor it. We also found individuals unafraid of hard work and long odds. It was a visit filled with great stories, a lot of laughter, and a vision focused on the next hill, the next challenge, and the joy of it all.

We made our way to the historic U-Drop Inn (no, I am not kidding) in Shamrock, Texas. There we met Wes Beck, a 28-year veteran of Texas public schools and now superintendent of the Shamrock Schools, and Pam Halliburton, a junior high English teacher (there must be a special place in Heaven for junior high English teachers), whose husband is the athletic director and football coach at the high school.



In some ways this part of the nation is untouched by the faith neutrality of the past decade or so. A "minute of silence" begins each school day and most students know this means prayer. Shamrock does not struggle with the importance of God, faith, and personal conviction. There was a plea to avoid the intrusion of the Bush administration's No Child Left Behind initiative and further an articulated desire to be left alone to do their work with students. As hard as the job is already, "legislators who are not educators" complicate the task considerably.

Across the street, my colleagues found a first-year high school student, an engaging young woman who could not have been more positive about her hometown, its schools, or her future.

Shamrock has a big heart and a lot of good values firmly in place. At this point the small town offers a strong appeal and different perspective from what I hear in Washington, D.C. One voice resounds from the vortex of power and policy development, and the other, powerful in a different way, is offered firmly and with no less conviction, from Main Street. A question I would like to explore with you if you'd care to respond, is whether they can co-exist?

Tomorrow is Sunday and we have lot of distance to travel early in the day. Among the benefits of this trip, I have particularly enjoyed the opportunity to know some of my younger colleagues better. They are good and talented people who have found Pepperdine to be a place where faith and vocation coincide. I just finished reading the Letter to the Galatians and those

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Video Reflections](#)

thoughts will travel with me in the morning.

This entry was posted on Saturday, July 19th, 2008 at 9:52 p.m.



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City

Today was very memorable. We got an early start and took off for Riverton, Kansas and the famous Rainbow Arch bridge. I believe this is the last remaining arch bridge of this nature along Route 66.

I missed a turn to Riverton and ended up in Baxter Springs, Kansas. Wanting to be on time for the rendezvous with my colleagues, I stopped a "local" in Baxter Springs (known better, I think, as Radiator Springs in the movie *Cars*) and asked for directions. It turned out that I had approached a man known as Craig "Crazy Legs" Walker who was the inspiration for that movie's character Mater. One never knows what blessings will abound along the highways of life. Sometime ask me why they call him "Crazy Legs" or better, let me show you.



The first interview took place on stage in the beautiful Coleman Theatre in Miami (pronounced Mi-am-uh), Oklahoma. The staff was delightful and the

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Sante Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

property is without peer. Initially we asked Chuck Chestnut, a third generation local attorney, to visit with us. When I learned that his son Michael is coming to Pepperdine's Seaver College as a freshman this fall, we invited Chuck, his wife Shirley (a family physician), and incoming Wave Michael to all participate. Having parent and child engage in this discussion was very productive and interesting.



Michael wants to come to Seaver to study religion and eventually to become an attorney. He is leaving a loving home and a strong Oklahoma tradition to come west, primarily he said, because Pepperdine is a faith-based institution with a strong tradition of service. His

affection for his family and his community is apparent, as are his sense of self-confidence and desire for new discovery. His parents support him in his decision.

I asked Shirley to imagine taking a future grandchild for a walk to discuss timeless values she would like to impart. She spoke of self-reliance, courage, and faith. Chuck, in response to the same question, focused on encouragement to enjoy life, nature, and people.

This is a family that communicates remarkably well. Good for them. I asked Michael what he would miss in terms of family traditions and "family meals together" was his first response. Again, good for them.

Later in the evening we hosted an alumni/friends event at the Skirvin Hilton in Oklahoma City. So many important people in my life attended and made this homecoming complete. At the end of the day, it is people who make this world a meaningful place.



Today I made friends with a new Pepperdine family, reconnected with some wonderful friends, and had my picture taken with the real-life Mater. Topping this day will not be easy but there is always hope and there is a lot of road between Oklahoma City and Amarillo.

I was doing research for a speech a few years ago and ran into a quote that went like this: "The number of breaths we take in life is not nearly as important as the number of moments we experience that take our breath away." For some reason that sentiment just came to mind as I finish this entry and look forward to a new day.

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Video Reflections](#)



This entry was posted on Saturday, July 19th, 2008 at 12:20 p.m.

## 2 RESPONSES TO "DAY 5 – JOPLIN TO OKLAHOMA CITY"

1.  *David Dallas Says:*

July 19th, 2008 at 3:29 p.m.

Hi, Andy!

When I opened the Daily Oklahoman, read about your trip, and saw that you stopped in Miami—I was sure that you would have stopped in the Coleman Theatre. So I was motivated to find your blog and see what you saw in Miami.

It was good to hear of your visit with the Chestnut's and that Michael is going to Pepperdine in the fall. Chuck is at least a second generation to serve on the Miami Board of Education.

Barbara Smith, who is the manager of the Coleman, is a former school teacher who taught English, Speech, and Debate in Miami Public Schools. She also served as the leader of the Oklahoma Education Association [OEA] for a number of years. Many of the "Friends of the Coleman" volunteers are former educators.

It was my pleasure to be a member of the Miami City Council when we accepted the Coleman Theatre from the Coleman family and to be a charter member of the "Friends. As you learned, a lot of sweat, money raising and planning has gone into the continuing restoration of a beautiful Miami asset.

Best wishes and fond memories of your time in my Bible class in Lawrence, KS. Fond memories of your Dad and Mother as well. May your trip be all and more than you expected as you embarked.

David Dallas

2.  *Andy Says:*

August 4th, 2008 at 10:18 p.m.

What great memories. You are very kind about my youth. I was a bit edgy and you were gentle and understanding. Thanks.

Miami was a highlight and the theatre is something I will never forget.

Thanks for blogging in, David. May God continue to bless you.





# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin

A quick breakfast, a brief meeting, and we were on our way to points south and west, ever west. I remember this part of the trip last year and I knew that there would be a number of interesting reminders of how things once were. Not much has changed in one year and today afforded a little more time for the exploration of things I missed the first time through.



The first two stops included the Hooker Cut – once the deepest excavation through a rock formation in the U.S. – and then Devil's Elbow. The complete departure from the highway and associated noise allowed for a devotional moment along the creek whose formation inspired

the name Devil's Elbow. All that could be heard was natural: birds, insects, and a flowing stream. It was a magical moment.

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Sante Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

The next stretch of driving allowed us to arrive at Carthage, Missouri, and a brief visit to a delightfully restored drive-in movie theatre. I hope it is a profitable enterprise and that a new generation can enjoy the simple pleasure of a drive-in movie on a warm and pleasant July evening. *Wall-E* was showing last night. I must say that the Carthage Court House is magnificent and a must-see on any Route 66 trip.

The interview at the Joplin Family Y included Pat Crespino, South Family Y branch executive director; Morgan Ramsey, the youth and family director at the Y; and Victor Knowles, minister of Peace on Earth Ministries and a frequent guest and speaker at Pepperdine.



Joplin is a city that enjoys community. In an era when many cities are fractured and disengaged, Joplin seems to have turned the tide. Their churches, community groups, Boy and Girl Scout organizations, and other civic and social entities seem to be thriving. Several examples of local philanthropy supporting local charities were shared.



I was heartened by how easily this group spoke of the importance of faith and timeless values. The notion of prayer in school was a welcome concept and not threatening. When it comes to those things that students should be encouraged to attain in the course of their

academic curriculum, we discussed the need to learn about money, good manners, social conduct, and a strong sense of self-reliance and responsibility.

Not surprisingly, parents were cited as indelible influences in the lives of those interviewed. I say "not surprisingly" because of the apparent and close connections shared between generations in a community like this one.

We discussed technology, adolescent influences, the economy, and a range of interesting, relevant topics, but the open conversation about the significance faith can have in our lives was one more positive attribute of this trip to America's heartland.

I would like to add another question to the five I proposed last evening for my blog-along friends:

6. In your opinion, what role should public secondary schools play in shaping values among their students?

Tomorrow offers an all-too-brief, 12-mile foray into Kansas and then a return to Oklahoma and an alumni event at the Skirvin Hilton Oklahoma City.

Your blog comments are very interesting. Thanks very much. Wish you were here!



This entry was posted on Thursday, July 17th, 2008 at 8:55 p.m.

## 4 RESPONSES TO "DAY 4 – ROLLA TO JOPLIN"

1.  *Victor Knowles* Says:

July 18th, 2008 at 8:53 a.m.

Dr. Benton,

Thanks for including Joplin on your nifty tour. It was good to see you once again. I appreciated you including me in the interview. I mentioned Roy Rogers Rider's Rules. I thought you might enjoy them.

### ROY ROGERS RIDER'S RULES

1. Be neat and clean.
2. Be courteous and polite.
3. Always obey your parents.
4. Protect the weak and help them.
5. Be brave but never take chances.
6. Study hard and learn all you can.
7. Be kind to animals and take care of them.
8. Eat all your food and never waste any.
9. Love God, and go to Sunday School regularly.
10. Always respect our flag and our country.

Many Happy Trails,  
Roy, Dale & Trigger

And "happy trails" to you and your crew, Andy!

Victor Knowles

2.  *Doug Cole Says:*

July 18th, 2008 at 12:23 p.m.

Dr. Benton,

I love this idea of traveling the "Mother Road" similar to what Steinbeck did, to rediscover the bedrock of who we are as a nation of people. Your experience at Devil's Elbow illustrates something we need more of today, solitude. It seems that our lives are lived at such break-neck speed that we don't have time to think deeply or create moments that define life more clearly. A few years ago I took a group of teens on a trip. We were driving across the desert at sunset and stopped on the side of the road to experience the beauty of the moment. It was silent. Not even a breeze was blowing. The response of the teens was nervousness, fear, and one even screamed and said she "Had to have some noise!" She then dove back into the van and turned on her music.

It seems that we have gotten used to all the noise that keeps us distracted from some of the more important things in life, and life has become more shallow because of it.

I pray your trip offers you some quiet refreshment as you connect with the heartland.

In Christ,  
Doug Cole

3.  *Brian Gaither Says:*

July 21st, 2008 at 10:13 a.m.

This is a great idea! As a person who was raised near Joplin, MO and now a Pepperdine student myself, it's a great thrill to see Joplin being exposed to the rest of the world in the spirit of education.

Best Regards,  
Brian Gaither

4.  *Andy Says:*

August 4th, 2008 at 10:22 p.m.

Joplin was a great stop in all respects. I would have liked to stayed longer and to look around. This, by the way, is a hard admission for a Kansan.

I have always enjoyed the occasional quiet moment and the story Doug relates is both interesting and sad to me. There is entirely too much "noise" in life when it is silence that speaks so clearly.





# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla

What a perfect summer day in Missouri. Hot, humid, and completely clear. A seasonal thunderstorm would be spectacular to behold, but one should not complain about weather like this.

We left Illinois yesterday on schedule and drove straight (well, to the extent that any trip on Route 66 is straight!) to Rolla, Missouri, where we took video of local sights and had an interview with John Butz, the city administrator; Scott Grahl, the communication coordinator for Rolla; and Trish Watson, the director of the New Student Program at Missouri University for Science and Technology (formerly University of Missouri at Rolla).



The participants seemed to forget the cameras and spoke personally and with conviction. And they were ready for us, with hospitality we did not expect and a generous gift of time. Rolla is a university town with some of the same challenges we face in Malibu. The participants were

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Sante Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

each public servants and we learned how they found their way to public service and, in one case, higher education.

Looking for influences in their lives, we discussed parental impact, mentors, and, in one case, a mother who defied the odds to provide opportunity and a bright future for her daughter. All three participants were parents and two had college-age children. They expressed hope that in addition to the academic curriculum, their children would emerge from college with a strong work ethic, a desire to serve others, and an understanding that success is about much more than material things.

The group also expressed a desire that our federal government focus on its own strengths – defense, commerce, common national interests, and the like – and avoid too much local intervention. When asked to comment on the strengths of our nation, the discussion was deep and meaningful.

Frankly, since I cannot easily take notes as we visit, I look forward to experiencing each of these recorded sessions when I get home to be reminded of all that was shared. With conviction I can say that Rolla is in good hands and this appears to be a community very proud of its accomplishments and its future.




It would be interesting to have the benefit of what many of you might say in response to some of today's questions. I invite you to please respond to one or all of them. I plan to read all of your comments.

1. Reflect on someone who was influential in your life.
2. What do you hope college students (perhaps even your college student) will gain from their educational journey beyond a degree?
3. If you could design a required course for all students, what would it contain and how would it benefit them after graduation?
4. What do you admire about our nation and its citizens?
5. If you could take a young person for a long walk, what timeless values would you like to impart?

I have more questions, but let's start there. Thanks for joining me in this rich conversation.

This entry was posted on Wednesday, July 16th, 2008 at 9:37 p.m.

### 3 RESPONSES TO "DAY 3 – SPRINGFIELD TO ROLLA"

1.  Ashley Gartrell Says:  
July 17th, 2008 at 10:44 p.m.

If I had the pleasure of designing a mandatory college course, I

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Video Reflections](#)

would entitle it, "Literary Travels". The class would be asked to read a non-fiction book of their choice about a historic event (Boston Tea Party, the Gold Rush, the Alamo, etc.) and travel to the central destination of the incident. Students may also choose a biography and visit the city or state of that person's greatest achievements.

Through reading, you learn the details of a historic event or well-known individual, most of its history, and facts leading up to the climactic occasion; however, by physically visiting the intended location, you have the clarity to appreciate what happened in the past, people involved, and the vastness of the situation formerly studied. The ability to behold and touch what you have previously read about is a paramount experience.

To emphasize my point, it is not until you see the exact bricks where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, or peruse the headstones at Gettysburg National Cemetery will you utterly understand the impact of the past and how far we have come as a nation. Reading about these events is undoubtedly moving; seeing it with your own eyes is life-changing. The significance of experiential learning is vast and regrettably not practiced enough in the world of literature. I believe students would benefit immensely by bridging the gap between reading, traveling, and romanticizing about the past. Not only would they comprehend the depth to which our nation's history extends, they would also hold greater respect for the key individuals of our yesteryear. The final goal would be for students to admire and treasure the power of a book, its ability to captivate and make you ponder life and what lies beyond your individual comfort zone.

Similar to President Benton, I am fond of road trips and in a perfect world (with endless funding!) I would ask that students drive to their desired destination. This allows them to see different states, communities and individuals they may otherwise never encounter on their own. It is an eye-opening, indispensable experience that would prepare them for their upcoming target. Driving the open road allows you to see life from a whole new perspective, one that is lucid and vibrant with the true intentions and goodness of mankind. In addition, driving hundreds of miles also instills a certain maturity to handle several types of situations and truly tests your ability to trust yourself and your surroundings. You walk away from a road trip more comfortable in your own skin, and what better lesson to teach the youth of today?

This class would benefit students many years after graduation by simply staying with them. No one can take away knowledge from a book read or images of places traveled. I am convinced that if this course were tangible to students they would rediscover a love of reading, traveling, and learning about the United States, instilling a desire to think, act, and participate more in the overall health of our nation.



2. *jerry* Says:

July 18th, 2008 at 9:30 p.m.

Ashley, your note is beautiful and wise. I loved reading it. Thanks so much for sharing a bit of yourself here.

3.  *Andy* Says:

August 4th, 2008 at 10:24 p.m.

Ashley, Your post is beautiful. Thank you for it. I am going to save it for latter reference.



# ROUTE 66 *Dialogues*

*Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road*

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield

In the land of Lincoln, I am emboldened to say that I think Abe would like this undertaking very much. Route 66 roots the journey, but otherwise the experiences are genuine and free-flowing. An early breakfast in a delightful Joliet cafe this morning was followed by a short trip to a park dubbed "Route 66 Park" and the first interview of the day.

If this genuine American experience survives (in Illinois, at least), it will be owing to the effort of people like John and Lenore Weiss. For nearly 20 years they have worked tirelessly to assure the Route 66 experience. The museum in Joliet, the park in which our interview was conducted, the Red Carpet corridor they have developed, and the books they have written are evidence of their labors to preserve our heritage and to improve modern day experiences. I will comment on our interview a bit later.



Down the road is Funks Grove. I am a bit uncertain about the apostrophe (or lack thereof) and, I think, the community is too. Nevertheless, I met with Mike and Debbie Funk who are fifth generation Maple Sirup (this is not a typo) producers. They are also parents of three children who have experienced higher education in America.



I feel I heard from Middle America today. When asked what they are most proud of about America, both couples used the word "freedom" almost immediately: the freedom to make choices, to choose a personal pathway, to succeed or fail depending upon how much effort we are willing to supply. When asked about those who have been influential in their lives, three pointed to a family member or a family friend. Another said simply "no one." It turns out that his formal education ended with the 8th grade and, with a difficult family

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Video Reflections](#)

situation, he actually grew up as a street kid.

He learned the lessons of what not to do and today he is an author, a preservationist, and without significant roots of his own, he fights to conserve the story of Route 66. He is successful without the usual trappings of success.

I asked if there were any messages to Washington that I might be able to deliver from these four residents of Main Street. One said, "Don't forget the little guy." Another said, "Protect our troops and bring them home." My new friends from Funks Grove expressed concern for the environment. I observed their farm to be a model of sustainability and think we all would do well to do half as well. Their observations about how tough circumstances sometimes yield positive outcomes were based on their own real experiences.



Both interviews focused on the importance of instilling in our students a sense of responsibility and common sense along with an understanding of how our economy works and the need to learn solid personal financial practices.



It was a good day and an interesting day. The values discussed related to hard work, self-discipline, the impact of good mentors and models, and the oft-forgotten gift of freedom that is ours. I was inspired.

Tomorrow's travels will take us to Devil's Elbow and other places with intriguing names, and then into Missouri where we have a group interview in Rolla.

P.S. The Funks Grove Maple Sirup is remarkable. Makes me want to go find some pancakes.



This entry was posted on Tuesday, July 15th, 2008 at 9:41 p.m.

## 6 RESPONSES TO "DAY 2 – JOLIET TO SPRINGFIELD"

1.  *Monika (Schulte) Morris* Says:

July 16th, 2008 at 1:17 p.m.

Hi President Benton!

I am excited to see you are over here in this part of the country. My husband of now 19 days (Joseph Morris, also Class of 2005) and I moved out here to Kirksville, Missouri last year as he began medical school. I wish I could go down to Rolla tomorrow, but I have a job interview for a teaching position at the university in town.

We've learned a great deal about the people and values found in this part of the country over the last year as well, and I hope your trip continues to yield such informative, interesting, and valuable findings.

Best wishes for a safe and memorable trip!

Best,

Monika Schulte (now Morris)

Class of 2005

2.  *terry giles* Says:

July 16th, 2008 at 3:56 p.m.

Hi Andy,

When you are traveling through Missouri, you will go through a small town called Cuba (about 20 miles east of Rolla. About 200 yards past the turn off to Cuba (which borders 66) there will be two very tiny houses elevated up on a hill to your right while you are headed west. My Mom and I lived in the second of those homes.

When things were really bad (I was 9 years old), I used to walk along Highway 66 picking up soda bottles that were tossed from cars. The 2 cent deposits would add up and pay for dinner that night. This was in 1957.

Have fun on your trip. The Rolla School of Mines is an impressive institution you might enjoy visiting.


Terry Giles

3.  *Martha Groves* Says:

July 16th, 2008 at 4:14 p.m.

Maybe we all oughta take out the apostrophes and spelling rules ...

Ha! Sounds like an inspiring day of insight and revelation. Looking forward to your next entry!

4.  *Deborah Waugh* Says:

July 16th, 2008 at 4:34 p.m.

Andy,

Sounds like you're having a great time! I ran across a piece of Pepperdine literature today and thought of you — got on your

website and wanted to say hello! Too bad Nashville isn't on Route 66—we'd love to see you. If you're ever out this way let us know! Take care and be careful!

James & Deborah Waugh



5. *Scott Says:*

July 23rd, 2008 at 4:51 p.m.

If you didn't get a chance to pass through Ottawa Illinois for one of the original sites of the historic Lincoln Douglas debates I hope you can pass through on your next trip to Illinois. Be sure to also stop at Bianchis world famous pizza, if you are a pizza lover. It is the best there is, and Ottawa is the only location!



6. *Andy Says:*

August 4th, 2008 at 10:27 p.m.

Everyone who responded to this day brings back a memory – and a pleasant one at that. Thanks for writing. I wish each of you could have come along for a portion of this terrific day.



# ROUTE 66 *Dialogues*

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet

It is significantly different traveling with a group than basically going it alone. Democracy is sometimes not a pretty thing to observe. Still, sharing the road is a special delight, especially when your colleagues prove such wonderful ambassadors along the way.



We held our first alumni reception this evening. After a light presentation and some questions I invited our guests to comment on what there is about Pepperdine they thought we should keep and what we

should change. We didn't get beyond what to keep, and one perfectly wonderful challenge. A current MBA student expressed satisfaction with his faculty and a former parent spoke of a caring community. The challenge came from a former teacher who asked that Pepperdine (and schools like Pepperdine) act and lead in a manner that would encourage a "third grade teacher." I liked that very much.

Earlier in the day we held our first group discussion. Our participants included a school superintendent, a professor involved in placing his university teacher-education students in inner-city positions, and a minister with roots in England and Australia. All hold terminal degrees and the discussion was reflective of that fact.



We talked about the importance of encouraging our students not to lead

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Sante Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

insular lives where cell phones, PDAs, and iPods distract from earnest face-to-face encounters. I asked that they identify a course that should be required of all college/university students. They underscored the importance of a course integrating analysis and critical reasoning and one added that it would be important that it encompass values and ethics.

One participant expressed the opinion that "no child left behind" places metrics above all else and is disrespectful of teachers who give deeply of themselves. Another urged attention to better communication between and among K-12, college/university, and governmental interests. More support and funding are needed and the present "finger pointing" is not productive of much good. Generally there was a lot of interest in bringing to bear forces for good – parents, churches, teachers, colleges and universities, and government – in a manner to support America's youth.




All of this leads me to want to summarize a lot of thinking that has occurred in various conversations held over the past few months. I may try to do that while experiencing tomorrow's drive to Funks Grove and Springfield. One thing I hoped to find on this journey was opinion – deeply held, carefully considered opinion. I am confident there is a lot of that ahead. Today was productive and, I might add, blog comments are also proving to be very interesting.

Closing this brief entry, I want to observe the joy of spending time today


with an alumnus who is living our "purpose, service, and leadership" mission, while hosting two families who will begin their own journey with us this fall. Both are sources of pride and joy.

This entry was posted on Monday, July 14th, 2008 at 9:00 p.m.

## 7 RESPONSES TO "DAY 1 – CHICAGO TO JOLIET"

-  *Jim Campbell Says:*  
July 15th, 2008 at 9:15 a.m.

How "cool" is this that you are doing! What a great opportunity to validate beliefs and challenge them as well. I look forward to sharing the journey with you in a medium (internet) that did not exist for the general public when Route 66 was in it's heyday.  
Be safe and Godspeed!

-  *Jerry Derloshon Says:*  
July 15th, 2008 at 10:06 a.m.

Andy, the road that served so many vehicles and travelers well over decades is serving today as a vehicle for you to explore important issues. As the stories are told and perhaps some conclusions drawn and shared, the road will once again teach many lessons.



3. *Malcolm Hollombe Says:*

July 16th, 2008 at 12:42 p.m.

I admire the mission of your trip...Listening! What is going to be most interesting is how well we, as parents, teachers, and students, listen to what is told us through your meetings. As I near retirement age, I am extremely concerned that our American culture is becoming so very insular and unaware of the needs and issues that the rest of our world faces. We need to open up and "see" how our educational systems affect not only our society but our relationship to the rest of the world, civilized and otherwise.

To the point about a course in critical thinking, it is called Philosophy. There should not be only one class required, but a series that includes a whole section on ethics.

Thanks for sharing this very important trip with us.

MBA '84



4. *Martha Groves Says:*

July 16th, 2008 at 4:05 p.m.

Great idea! Great venture! Wish you Godspeed all the way! Will be listening and learning along with you but will let you do the driving!



5. *Donna McIntosh-Fletcher Says:*

July 16th, 2008 at 8:56 p.m.

How grand that you are doing this. We plan to follow along to learn about the wonderful people and their thoughts with you. Please tell your web folk that we also appreciate how they made this dialogue process so thorough and easy to navigate. A notable surprise as to how comprehensive this web site is, not only your dialogue which is enough as it is, but pictures, tracking of events and so much more. Thank you!



6. *David Dallas Says:*

July 21st, 2008 at 12:55 p.m.

Quote from your blog: "They underscored the importance of a course integrating analysis and critical reasoning and one added that it would be important that it encompass values and ethics."

I say amen and comment that critical reasoning can be taught as part of all courses including Bible classes. Science is a very good area that needs always to encompass critical reasoning [thinking].

Students need to know how not to get taken in by "thought stoppers"

7.  *Andy Says:*

August 4th, 2008 at 10:31 p.m.

The point of the trip was listening and understanding. There is nothing quite like speaking with someone face-to-face to see what they really think and how they express their hopes and dreams and positions. E-mail, texting and the like just don't accomplish the same.

Critical reasoning, common sense and the ability to handle money were the suggestions most often put forward, by the way.



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Off We Go!

In some respects I have done this before – driving the length of Route 66. The first time it was an experience rich in discovery and imagination. Discovery of what Steinbeck called the "mother road," which carried about 250,000 Americans from Midwestern depression and despair many decades ago to the opportunity that drew them to California. It wasn't easy for them, but they did it, and moved toward their dreams.

It isn't particularly easy now either. The road is hard to follow in some states and what is left is often merely a shell of its former glory. That is where imagination comes in. I am entranced by what probably was present during the route's heyday and fascinated by what has been left behind for our consideration today.

The first trip for me was a bit of a 2,400-mile lark. I was joined on two separate segments by two special friends, but the rest of the time it was just me and the road. I didn't even listen to much music. The thrum of the highway encouraged deep thought and personal exploration. It was – and is – a very special gift for which I am very grateful.

This second journey – one that will begin in about an hour – will follow the same path; indeed, there is only one Route 66. This time I am joined by an

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Sante Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

intrepid band of talented colleagues who will help me record the purpose of this second journey. What I want to do this time is to converse with Main Street America on the subject of higher education. Specifically, are those of us entrusted with the leadership of colleges and universities responding to the hopes and dreams of Middle America? I hope so, but sometimes I am not so sure.

My colleagues have arranged some very interesting interviews and meetings. I have my questions ready, and I look forward to hearing the answers these new friends will share with me. I think the purpose of a blog is to invite comment, and I certainly welcome the inquiries and observations of those who want to follow along over the next ten days.

Much as I look forward to the journey and appreciate the planning that has been done, I suspect the best part will be the surprises and serendipities along the way. So, off we go.

This entry was posted on Monday, July 14th, 2008 at 6:01 a.m.

## 11 RESPONSES TO "OFF WE GO!"

-  *Rod Harsh* Says:  
July 14th, 2008 at 9:48 a.m.

Mr. Benton,

Sounds like you are really looking forward to your adventure on The Mother Road. I would like to meet you during your pass through Webb City on your way to Joplin, and help you navigate this area. You may also visit my webside ([www.visit66.com](http://www.visit66.com)) for a downloadable tour guide (Carthage, MO. thru Baxter Springs, KS.) that lists points of interest that are not in many other guidebooks.

My number is 417-291-2647. Thanks.  
Rod

-  *sulette stickel-rufer* Says:  
July 14th, 2008 at 10:33 a.m.

"I am entranced by what probably was present during the route's heyday and fascinated by what has been left behind for our consideration today."

I think that sums up my feelings, too. I took my 15 year old son, flew to Chicago and drove back to Santa Monica. It was amazing. I spent a lot of moments imagining what many of the towns looked like in their heyday and how difficult it would have been to drive the road, especially in the desert in those old cars.

I'm glad you're asking those people who are along the route about what they think of America and education. I look forward to reading what you discover.

3.  *Tony Cason* Says:

July 14th, 2008 at 11:54 a.m.


Wow Andy.

I can't believe your driving it again. I hope you're in a '60s something Corvette convertible this time. (Watch the price of gas change as you get closer to California)

It sounds like a great adventure and I hope you gain some valuable information from the people you will meet and talk with.

Have a safe trip and I look forward to following your progress.

Tony

4.  *carol kmiec* Says:

July 14th, 2008 at 12:08 p.m.

Ok, so you're Oprah. Who's Gayle on this roadtrip?

Love all the music — Copeland's Fanfare for the Common Man and Rodeo are our #1 favs.

Here's the question I would ask: What's a waste? They can fill in the rest.


Be safe.

5.  *Rick Gibson* Says:

July 14th, 2008 at 12:16 p.m.


Andy, we'll be watching each step of the way. Looking forward to keeping track through your daily blog.

I am also following a blogger who writes about all things related to Route 66 and he is, quite coincidentally, blogging about you and your visit to the "mother road". He's telling his readers, if they happen to meet you, to be polite, but to give you an "earful". Good luck. It sounds like they're waiting for you.

6.  *Marie Ann Thaler* Says:

July 14th, 2008 at 12:21 p.m.

Thanks so very much for sharing this experience, Andy! I look forward to your comments and observations as you make new friends on "The Route." (Most especially the serendipities!)

7.  *Lou Drobnick* Says:

July 14th, 2008 at 2:37 p.m.

Andy,

I know you have book looking forward to traveling Route 66 again for

the past year. I wish you a most memorable trip and know you will enjoy the journey each day. A poem I read describes what I hope you feel each day as you begin your journey:

Familiar World

This world look so familiar  
The air, I think I breath before  
The music, I think I heard before  
The journey, I've journeyed before

Olufunmbi Aransiola

Good luck on your journey, I look forward to following your progress.

Lou



8. *Bruno Lerner, Heidelberg Program Says:*

July 14th, 2008 at 11:48 p.m.

Dr. Benton,

I wish I could come with you.  
Are you stopping at the Univ. of Oklahoma at Norman ?  
My wife Peggy is the European Director for OU.  
Best wishes.



9. *Tami Says:*

July 15th, 2008 at 4:25 pm.m

I know you wanted the Steve McQueen Bullitt Mustang for nostalgia reasons—but I think you would have enjoyed the Shelby GT 500!  
Vroom Vroom.

P.S. Can I drive it when you get back? (ha ha)

-Tami



10. *Don Philbin Says:*

July 16th, 2008 at 1:10 p.m.

Enjoying the posts and look forward to seeing you in Oklahoma City — we happened to be at Grand Lake for the week and decided to go back a day early to see you at mid-point.



11. *Patrick Evans Says:*

July 17th, 2008 at 7:44 a.m.

President Benton, I have been part of leading an international tour for motorcycles(Mother Road Ride Rally) on Route 66 for last 9 years. Many great friendships have developed over the years with the people along the Mother Road.As you probably know all of the characters in Pixar's movie Cars are based on real Route 66 people. At least 2 places you do not want to miss are; The Old Meat Market

in Erik, OK. (Harley & Annabelle Russel) Notice the influence on the character "Mater". Erik is east of Shamrock on the old road. The second is the Mid point Cafe in Adrian TX (west of Amarillo). Fran and Joan are creators of the "Ugly Crust Pies"...to die for. The character "Flo" is based on Fran.

Continue getting your kicks.



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

### Andy's Playlist (Final)

I confess that I left off some pretty special tunes in my first and second recommendations for inspirational road music. I would like to make amends by adding just a few of my latter day favorites as I concluded the 2,400 mile plus journey:

1. **"Take it Easy" – Eagles.** After actually "standing on a corner in Winslow, Arizona" how could I do less than turn the volume up and let Jackson Browne, Glenn Frey, and the Eagles "loosen my load" for a bit.
2. **"Vehicle" – Ides of March.** Great tune from the rock 'n roll enlightenment. A brass section to die for, a lead singer equaled only by David Clayton Thomas of Blood Sweat and Tears, and Jim Peterik, who later co-wrote "Eye of the Tiger" and sang it with the band Survivor.
3. **"Born to be Wild" – Steppenwolf.** "Get you motor runnin'" – it does just that, every time.
4. **"Pretty Woman" – Roy Orbison.** The simple drum opening is one of the easiest song identifiers ever heard. I can name that song in two beats, maybe one.
5. Almost anything by **Elvis**

I tried Dave Matthews and John Mayer, but those guys are thinking too much. I tried a lot of new and nearly-new artists and while I like some of them very much (Rob Thomas comes quickly to mind) I doubt their staying power. To each his (or her) own.

Some of you have inquired about how the car did. The answer, in a word, is "great." When I took off I had 500 miles on the Mustang and by the time I reached Chicago I had 2,500. I changed the oil and prepared for the trip home. Driving at a constant speed going out, I averaged 25.4 miles per gallon. On the 2,460 mile return trip (with more shifting, passing, and grades to address) I was still able to average 23.8 miles per gallon. Overall, after 4,500 miles, I averaged 56 miles per hour and had a flawless driving experience except for one blown speaker that I credit to Elvis during his "thin years." A small price to pay.

I will post one more report after the Route 66 closing event at the pier in Santa Monica this evening.

### Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

### Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

### Photo Gallery



### Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

This entry was posted on Thursday, July 24th, 2008 at 8:04 a.m.

## ONE RESPONSE TO "ANDY'S PLAYLIST (FINAL)"

1.  *Shani Herron* Says:

July 27th, 2008 at 5:55 p.m.

Andy, you're AWESOME!!!

Thinking of you and your explorations! Thoroughly enjoying your vision –and your quality handling of this event.

Congratulations, sir.

Warmest regards,

Shani Herron

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)

- [Thank You](#)

- [Video Reflections](#)



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Andy's Playlist (Updated)

### Illinois to Missouri

Expanding on the list of musical artists joining me along the ride, I add Sam Cooke, one of the greatest soul singers who ever lived. I listened to his greatest hits album and was taken back several decades by the hit "You Send Me;" then "Wonderful World," which Peter Noonan and Herman's Hermits covered years later; and finally a song that I think The Beau Brummels covered in the 60s called "Bring It on Home to Me." They are three selections by Sam Cooke for anyone who loves that great era of soul music.

It would be very hard to have a list of top road music selections without including Southern Rock, so I'll add "Sweet Home Alabama," and heaven help me, that rock anthem "Free Bird" by Lynyrd Skinner to a list of songs that are good to listen to on high volume while ripping along Route 66.

Van Morrison's daughter Shana is a 1993 Pepperdine alumna, and I was interested to explore Van Morrison's career all the way back to when Van was a lead singer with the group Them. No doubt any garage band in America has played "Gloria" many times. I find today that I enjoy Morrison's more mystical or spiritual phase and I would commend to anyone Van Morrison singing "Into the Mystic" and "A Brand New Day." There's a lot of other great Van Morrison tunes but these are especially good.

Another of my musical heroes is a guy named Bill Bell – William Bell – who did an album titled *The Soul of the Bell*. The first two cuts are "Everybody Loves a Winner," which I've always loved, and "You Don't Miss Your Water" – probably his greatest hit. Both were recorded after Bell had a pretty good music career and then went into the Army in the early 60s. He returned from the service and continued his career successfully. If you listen very carefully in those albums you'll hear Steve Cropper, Doug Dunn, Issac Hayes, and Booker T. Jones. Anyone who enjoys soul music can't help but marvel at the collective talent, particularly on the first two selections – "Everybody Loves a Winner" and "You Don't Miss Your Water."

Today's selections included influences of country music in the William Bell songs and gospel in the work of everyone's favorite, Sam Cooke. I'm sure I'll move into more rock and roll as the journey continues.

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Sante Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

## ONE RESPONSE TO "ANDY'S PLAYLIST (UPDATED)"

1.  *Doug Hurley Says:*

July 18th, 2008 at 8:39 a.m.

Andy,

If you really want to crank it up, I'd suggest another addition that definitely describes you. None other than Steppenwolfe's "Born to Be Wild." Happy Trails!

Doug H.



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Andy's Playlist

- "Glad" – Traffic**  
Great jazz and rock tune provided by Stevie Winwood and friends. Popular when I was in college. Can't get over it.
- "Layla" – Derek and the Dominoes**  
Clapton post-Cream and a truly great power ballad of sweeping proportions. Great guitar leads, piano that resets the mood, and rhythms that move me today.
- "Route 66" – John Mayer, Bobby Short, or Asleep at the Wheel**  
The anthem of the "mother road" and it doesn't matter which version you prefer. There are a dozen out there.
- The musical score from the movie *Gettysburg***  
A great way to start the day. Evocative music emerging from a movie about the American tragedy that scars our history. Beautiful music frames and jagged story from our past.
- "Fanfare for Common Man" – Aaron Copland**  
A great way to end the day. I first heard this performed live in London 21 years ago and I fell in love then. Today it is still one of my favorite pieces from an American composer, just next to John Williams in my list of heroes.
- "Life Is a Highway" – Rascal Flatts**  
Just plain, great music. It's part of the score from *Cars* and such fun to sing along with on the road.
- "America" – Simon and Garfunkel**  
I am not so old that I have forgotten what it felt like to be young and searching. This is a wonderful, thoughtful ode to youth and the wonder of wandering toward the future.
- "Bridge Over Troubled Water" – Simon and Garfunkel**  
Of many songs that I love, this is the one I wish I had written. Simple and beautiful vocally, emotionally, and in its structure.
- "Sunshine of Your Love" – Cream**  
Can't help it – these three guys (Clapton, Bruce, and Baker) just blew me away when I was young and still do today. This album is filled

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

with great tunes.

#### 10. "Questions 67 and 68" – Chicago Transit Authority

I have no idea what the lyrics mean, but the musical arrangement is spectacular. In the 70s there were a lot of bands who followed Chicago Transit Authority (now just Chicago) but few came close. The lead guitarist was Terry Kath back then, and he was as quick and lyrical on the guitar as anyone else. Too bad the excesses of the age got him. What a loss.

This entry was posted on Monday, July 14th, 2008 at 6:00 a.m.

### 21 RESPONSES TO "ANDY'S PLAYLIST"



1. *Sharon Devol* Says:

July 14th, 2008 at 11:49 a.m.

I hope you don't mind popping in. As a history buff, I've always wanted to travel the whole route, so I'm looking forward to your reports.

Interesting list—some titles I know, some I don't, but will check out (thank you, iTunes)! My favorite rendition of Route 66 is by Nat King Cole or Manhattan Transfer.

Happy cruising!

Sharon

(Christopher Parkening's secretary)



2. *Kathy Shores* Says:

July 14th, 2008 at 12:31 p.m.

Andy, I love your playlist! Enjoy the ride.



3. *Andrea Harris* Says:

July 14th, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.

Hi, Dr. Benton!

I would like to recommend another song to add to your playlist:

"Small Car" by Marvin Pontiac. It is a really strange song, but it might grow on you.

Marvin Pontiac is a pseudonym for John Lurie, an eclectic artist of various media.

We miss you and hope you are well!



4. *deek* Says:

July 14th, 2008 at 1:51 p.m.

if only you had your red 66 mustang, windows down and the 8-track.

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)

- [Thank You](#)

- [Video Reflections](#)

be careful, brother and see you in OKC.

5.  *Joe Munoz Says:*

July 14th, 2008 at 2:31 p.m.

Would add the following tunes for roadtrips:

1. That's Just the Way It Is – Bruce Hornsby
2. Graceland – Paul Simon
3. Won't Get Fooled Again – The Who
4. New Sensation – INXS
5. Dust In The Wind – Kansas

The first four will get your toes tappin', the last one's good for the flowing fields of wheat and corn.

6.  *Joe Loesch Says:*

July 14th, 2008 at 2:36 p.m.

Andy, Pick up a copy of "Songs From The Mother Road" by The Road Crew at Henry's Rabbit Ranch when you go through Staunton, IL. You won't regret the stop.

7.  *Nancy Pippin Says:*

July 14th, 2008 at 5:31 p.m.

Hey Andy,  
Watch out for that hitchiker who's lookin for a ride in Okie City! I hear he plays a mean blues guitar! If I were with you I'd roll down the windows of that Mustang and crank up a little Earth Wind and Fire "Fantasy" (I know, I'm stuck in the 70's)! Y'all have fun!  
Nancy

8.  *Malone Camp Says:*

July 15th, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

Very nice playlist. Love the Traffic selection. I would recommend "Send Your Mind" originally by Van Morrison, or as covered by Widespread Panic. Great road trip song, especially as the first track of the day.

BTW I think what you are doing is a great idea! As a student at Pepperdine, I drove through our great land several times to visit family and friends and believe it is the best way to understand the dynamic nature and people of our country.

Look forward to reading more and drive safe!

Malone Camp

9.  *Sarah Fisher Says:*

July 15th, 2008 at 9:20 a.m.


Hi Andy,

You also can't go wrong with a bit of 70s/80s rock – Bon Jovi (Livin' on a Prayer), Asia (Heat of the Moment) and some Kansas as you drive through Kansas (Carry on My Wayward Son).

That era of music always makes me think of driving along a wide open road with the windows rolled down. So does anything by Guns n Roses – possibly because of the classic video for November Rain, with the guitar solo outside the remote church in the desert.

I hope you're having fun on the trip as well as accomplishing your goals for it!

Sarah

10.  *Ed Fredericks Says:*  
July 15th, 2008 at 10:03 a.m.


Hello Andy,

Great road trip! But you've just got-ta, got-ta, got-ta (my James Brown improv.) bring along the Blues Brothers. Fabulous re-do's of some great R&B tunes. What could be better for the road?

On a more "mellow" note, Mountain Jam from the Allman Brother's Eat A Peach Album is 20 minutes of nice melodic riff's. Wonderful background music for the open plains.

Enjoy your trip.

Ed Fredericks

11.  *Justin Edwards Says:*  
July 15th, 2008 at 10:29 a.m.


I wrote a song once about 66 called Mother Road.

It is available here:

<http://pseudobook.com/justin/music/mroad.mp3>

PS – I used to have Nate's job and could have been on this trip! But I quit to move to Africa to get robbed, build bridges, and make movies.

Have fun guys!

12.  *Jane Morrow Says:*  
July 16th, 2008 at 7:33 a.m.

Greetings, Dr. Benton!

Have a great trip! What I loved about traveling through our nation:

- Imagining what it would have been like for the pioneers to be traveling on the route westward.
- Seeing the sky full of stars at night time (something you don't get to

see often in the bay area)

- Reaching the destination but savoring the journey that lead me there.


Take care and God speed.

Warmly ~ Jane

13.  *Russ Ray* Says:

July 16th, 2008 at 8:07 a.m.

Andy, No Roy Orbison? Russ

14.  *drtax* Says:

July 16th, 2008 at 12:47 p.m.

Clapton has a wonderful album – available on iTunes – which has music from all of his incarnations. The depth of his musical abilities is truly awesome. (the Album is called Complete Clapton)

I agree about Orbison by the way he should be on the list.

15.  *Jack Briscoe* Says:

July 16th, 2008 at 12:56 p.m.

Dear Dr. Benton:

55 years ago, on the day he graduated from high school in Chickasaw, OK, my father hitchhiked from OKC to LA (never to return to OK until his 25th H.S. reunion). He had no money with which to share gasoline expenses(which was 29 cents per gallon!), offering instead peanut butter and jelly sandwiches which he brought along with him to any kind soul who would take him west along Route 66. Not a single truck or car that gave him a lift was air conditioned and, of course, he had no money to stop to sleep in a motel along the way. And, "iTunes"...I'm not sure they even got AM radio during any of the trip.

I hope, trust and pray that your trip along Route 66 has a few more "creature comforts" than my father's, however, as you drive, imagine all the lives and stories

16.  *Bill Swanson* Says:

July 16th, 2008 at 1:46 p.m.

Andy

We are keeping an eye (one of our satellites)on you from 150 miles up.

Be safe and I wish I was with you in my 59 Corvette.

Some day.....

Bill

17.  >Maddy Alexander Says:

July 16th, 2008 at 2:06 p.m.

Dr. Benton:

First of all I'd like to say this is a great web site. Fun to look at and easy to use.

The two songs I would think you would have on this marvelous trip would be "How Great Thou Art" and "America the Beautiful."

I'm planning on enjoying this trip with you.

Pepperdine friend,

Maddy Alexander

18.  Martha Groves Says:

July 16th, 2008 at 4:36 p.m.

Oh, my, my, my! I'm playing them all to get the "real feel"! Would add "Amazing Grace" by Lee Ann Rimes.

19.  Bob Beaman Says:

July 18th, 2008 at 3:38 p.m.

Andy,

I'm shocked. An old 50's and 60's guy like you left off the "FAT MAN" Fats Domino. Strawberry Hill and Walking to New Orleans. Better yet!! Kansas City by Wilbur Harrison.

Drive safe and looking forward to seeing you soon.

Ps....Denise say HI!

20.  Sam Lagana Says:

July 19th, 2008 at 10:34 a.m.

Andy – the updates are great! From the Raytheon satellites, I see the weather has been good! I wish to recommend a California based group for some cruisin' songs – "Five for Fighting" – has a number of great songs and two would be excellent – 'American Town' and 'Hundred Years' would be enjoyable selections. Safe driving brother! Best to Debby and the travel party! ~Sam

21.  Andy Says:

August 4th, 2008 at 10:04 p.m.

How can I argue with any of these great tunes and suggestions? Bottom line: almost anything works when the sun is rising and the road awaits. Play it loud and play it proud! Thanks for the comments.





# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## About Route 66

### How long is Route 66?

The common approximation puts Route 66 at 2,448 miles long (roughly 4,000 km), but the road has changed alignments since it was "born" in 1926.

### How many states does it cover?

Eight: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. The road crosses three time zones.

### What is the history of the road?

Route 66 was established in 1926 connecting Chicago to Los Angeles. The road has been improved, re-aligned, abandoned, and restored at various points along the way, and there is no one set road to follow because of this. In the 1930s, the road became synonymous with the Great Depression and the promise of the west when many migrants traveled to California in search of a better life.

### Why is the road no longer on modern maps?

The road was decommissioned in 1985 when it was taken off the U.S. Highway System and replaced with the Interstate Highway System. Sections of the road have returned to maps under the newly assigned title "Historic Route 66," having been designated a National Scenic Byway.

### Why is it called the Mother Road?

John Steinbeck's 1939 novel *The Grapes of Wrath* deals with the fictional Joad family as they leave behind the poverty in Oklahoma in search of a better life in California. Along the way they meet up with many more migrants heading west along Route 66, which they name the "Mother Road."

### What are some of the iconic images associated with Route 66?

The Corvette, as driven in the 1960s CBS TV show *Route 66*, starring Martin Milner and George Maharis, is the car classically assigned to the route. A new generation has discovered Route 66 through the immensely popular 2006 animated feature, *Cars*.

### What good books and travel guides are there for planning a Route 66

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

trip?

Historian Michael Wallis is considered by many to be the foremost Route 66 expert, and has written books and made DVD documentaries about his experiences on the road. For the 75th anniversary of the road itself, he published a book titled [Route 66: The Mother Road 75th Anniversary Edition](#) hailed by *The New York Times* as "a colorful paean to a most romantic byway."

Drew Knowles has produced two useful guides to traveling across the Mother Road, that are both informative and easy to dip into:

[Route 66 Adventure Handbook](#), which Michael Wallis calls "useful and fascinating."

A handy encyclopedia of Route 66 information: [Route 66 Quick Reference Encyclopedia](#) (May 2008).

Including driving directions, the map collection from Jim Ross and Jerry McClanahan, [Here It Is! The Route 66 Map Series](#), contains a map for each of the eight states on the route.

The [Route 66 Dining & Lodging Guide](#) from the National Historic Route 66 Federation contains over 500 places to wine, dine, and rest your head after a long day of driving.

For a fictional account of Route 66 during the Great Depression, John Steinbeck's [Grapes of Wrath](#) is a classic Americana tale of desperate families traveling west to escape poverty.

### ***What DVDs capture the essence of the Route 66 experience?***

Author Michael Wallis has also produced a DVD collection, [Route 66 - The Ultimate DVD Collection](#), featuring a three-disc package of places to see, eat, and experience.

Martin Milner, star of the 1960s CBS show [Route 66](#), takes a road trip with Michael Wallis and Bobby Troup in the 2002 documentary *Route 66: Return to the Road with Martin Milner*. He returns to the road that made him famous, and meets the people along the way that give the route its character.

Another DVD from Michael Wallis, [Route 66: An American Odyssey](#), was called "the ultimate tribute to the Mother Road" by *Route 66 Magazine*. It contains rare historical footage of the road.

The Disney-Pixar animated film [Cars](#) (2006) is about the journey of a car (voiced by Owen Wilson) on the old route. He ends up in Radiator Springs – a decaying Route 66 tumbleweed town.

The classic 1960s CBS show [Route 66](#) followed two young men (Martin Milner and George Maharis) as they journeyed across America in their iconic Corvette.

The Oscar-winning film adaptation of Steinbeck's novel [The Grapes of Wrath](#), stars Henry Fonda in one of his most acclaimed roles in a dazzling

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Video Reflections](#)

Hollywood career.



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## An Interview with President Andy Benton

Here are some reflections from President Benton about the Route 66 trip:

**Q: When did you first get the idea of driving Route 66 from one end to the other?**

A: Route 66 has always intrigued me, I suppose. Its creation was such a bold and ambitious undertaking and the route played an important role in our nation's history. It's amazing to think about the hundreds of thousands of people for whom the road was "home" for weeks at a time as entire families moved westward over it. I drove the route last year and enjoyed the experience thoroughly. It occurred to me that it would be interesting to return with the intent of exploring expectations Americans in the heartland have about education, especially higher education.

**Q: What thoughts pass through your mind as you pass through long stretches of the American landscape?**

A: Time passes quickly. The scenery is rich and ever-changing and frankly it's good just to have time to think. I enjoy my work very much and having time alone like this gives me a chance to prepare to do better and consider fresh, new approaches to familiar challenges.

**Q: It's hard to imagine long drives without music. Who are some of the artists you look forward to traveling with on Route 66?**

A: I am taking a box of about 45 CDs with me. Old friends such as Simon and Garfunkel, The Beatles, and Chicago will join me in a very crowded car, and I will be content.

**Q: Route 66 travels through what's often called "America's Heartland." What does the term "America's Heartland" mean to you?**

A: It means "home." I love California and my friends and experiences there, but the Midwest will always be home. So much good has come from the center of America - Woody Guthrie, George Pepperdine, and Dwight D. Eisenhower are but three quick examples. It is a place of simple truths and values, and I admire that greatly. My ancestors were from the center of the country and that is important and poignant for me.

**Q: In its heyday, Route 66 must have held great promise for travelers**

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

*who headed west with little more than their dreams of a better life.*

*Comment on how we are inheritors of their dreams and in many ways standing on their shoulders.*

**A:** I have always been fascinated by the period of history sometimes called "trans-Mississippi West," or the Westward Movement and the development of America. I imagine stories of dreams and fears and hardship, rewarded by new beginnings and a host of opportunities. I admire people who move steadfastly toward their dreams. Today, I think of students who each year come to Pepperdine for an education. I suspect they come with their own different hopes and fears but I also believe they are rewarded by their effort. We are fortunate to greet them and help them along their educational journeys.

**Q: *The "Mother Road" as John Steinbeck called it attracts travelers from all over the U.S. as well as visitors from other countries. Why is there so much interest in an old road that long ago lost its relevance?***

**A:** My students will tell you that I often speak of my belief that it is not just the destination that matters; the journey is important too. Along the way we learn much about ourselves. There is a certain sense of romanticism that attends Route 66 today. Making that journey is something of an homage to those who made what we have possible today.

**Q: *In our daily rush to reach destinations, we might not enjoy our journeys as much. What lessons might a road trip, especially one along Route 66, teach us?***

**A:** The one who travels Route 66 is required to slow down and contemplate the texture of the journey. Speed and convenience are good and helpful, but the richness of the slower, more contemplative path has its own rewards.

**Q: *Are there some "must sees" along Route 66 you would recommend to others? Landmarks, towns, monuments, etc?***

**A:** I find it all very interesting, but I am less intrigued by the artifacts than I am by the people who populate the route. Their curiosity as to why I find their lives so interesting when I am from one of the major cities of the world never fails to bring a smile. Having lunch in one of the innumerable diners and talking about life is instructive. Inquiring into what my new found friends think about the work we do in higher education is especially helpful and centering. I fully expect to return home a better university president than when I left. If I do not, I wasn't paying attention.

**Q: *You are a lifelong car buff who lives about a tenth of a mile on campus from your office, so buying a 2008 Ford Mustang Bullitt Edition and driving it 2,400 miles through some stunning vistas must fulfill some kind of fantasy. Tell us about your interest in automobiles.***

**A:** Let's face it: it's mostly a "guy thing." I have had several cars I now wish I had never sold and rare is the opportunity to make amends. I wish I could offer a better explanation, but it is no more complicated than the fact I wanted an authentic American icon. I am blessed to be married to a woman who understands my occasional indulgences.

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)

- [Thank You](#)

- [Video Reflections](#)

**Q: Along this timeless route, you'll be meeting with a number of people about timeless values - family, community, commitment, and service. As someone who has spent most of his professional life in education, what are you seeking to learn from the conversations you have?**

**A:** Frankly, I enter the experience holding myself to some semblance of objectivity. I am looking for signposts for our future. While Washington speaks forcefully, I am vitally interested in what others have to say as well. I am keenly interested in what America - all of America - thinks about a college education today. What is important and why? What might the mayor of a small town in Missouri convey to the higher education community if given the chance? Are people optimistic or fearful? I believe Pepperdine and much of higher education serves well today but we must think carefully and care deeply about what will be important in the future. It is that simple and that important.



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Good Eats

We compared notes and decided to share a list of eateries we've sampled in cities and towns along Route 66. Here goes:

Chicago, IL – **Ed Debevic's**. A healthy dose of diner abuse from the staff combined with generous portions of all American comfort food.

Bloomington, IL – **Lucca Grill**. Established in 1936 by brothers Fred and John Baldini, it was named for their hometown of Lucca, Italy. Lucca's offered the first pizza in Central Illinois. It has an outstanding menu, friendly atmosphere, and antique mahogany bar, all housed under an ornate tin ceiling. We loved it.

Rolla, MO – **Alex's Pizza Palace**. Inspired by the people of Rolla, Alex Kallas and his wife chose the location for his restaurant in November 1964. Forty years later, its success is legendary, offering excellent service, hospitality, and off-the-chart quality.

Carthage, MO – **Sonic**. What can you say about this drive-in staple of the Midwest? Huge burgers, cheese tots, cherry lime-aids, and rich ice cream malts and shakes. We had to do it.

Joplin, MO – **Lumpy's BBQ**. Great pulled pork sandwiches, friendly waitresses with big hair, big laughs, and big smiles. Great fruit pie for dessert.

Miami, OK – **The Ku-Ku Drive-In**. In the mid-1960s there were over 200 Ku-Ku Drive-Ins, but only one remains today. This classic Route 66 drive-in serves up a delicious buffalo burger and makes you feel right at home. Both Dean "Crazy Legs" Walker and the Chestnuts recommended it.

Oklahoma City, OK – **Johnnie's Charbroiler**. The name says it all and while it may play well in any city in America, you might expect more from a Johnnie's Charbroiler in Oklahoma City than other places. We were not disappointed.

Amarillo, TX – **Hoffbrau Steaks**. An Amarillo favorite where the steaks are mouthwatering and the ribs are finger-licking good. Come with an appetite. You'll need it.

Santa Rosa, NM – **Joseph's Bar and Grill**. Roadside diner with a special

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

brand of "Route Beer" and some of the best chicken fried steak I have ever experienced.

Santa Fe, NM – **Los Potrillos**. Authentic Mexican food served graciously and in very large portions. Warm, homemade tortillas, excellent soup, fresh vegetables, and a waitstaff that goes out of its way to make guests feel at home.

Gallup, NM – **Plaza Cafe**. Home of the hearty "Plaza Hurricane," a huge bean and beef burrito covered in fries, cheese, and red or green sauce. Half of the cafe is a trailer right on Route 66. Better be hungry before visiting this place. The railroad-themed decor inside is appropriate, as it is located directly across the street from the rail tracks.

Flagstaff, AZ – **Busters**. Another local favorite with steaks, seafood, soups, and salads. Busters is comfortable and pleasant.

Williams, AZ – **Blondies Route 66 Diner**. An authentic throwback to the '50s. The Route 66 Special Breakfast Burrito is not for the faint of heart or high of cholesterol. This one's the real deal with a musical selection of all-Elvis, all-the-time.

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Video Reflections](#)



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Media Coverage

**The Greentree Gazette:** "Pepperdine President gets his kicks on Route 66"

**The Rolla Daily News:** "Educator inspired by ol' Route 66"

**The Oklahoman:** ["Getting his Kicks"](#)

**OC News (Oklahoma Christian University):** ["OC Alumnus and Pepperdine President Benton Touring Route 66"](#)

**University Business Magazine:** "Heading Down the Highway"

**Route 66 Magazine** also encouraged Mother Road aficionados to follow the journey. [Visit the site](#)

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Video Reflections](#)

Copyright © 2008 Pepperdine University



# ROUTE 66 *Dialogues*

*Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road*

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Route 66 Map and Calendar



- Monday, July 14** – Chicago and Joliet, IL  
**Tuesday, July 15** – Funks Grove and Springfield, IL  
**Wednesday, July 16** – Rolla, MO  
**Thursday, July 17** – Joplin, MO  
**Friday, July 18** – Miami, OK  
**Saturday, July 19** – Oklahoma City, OK and Shamrock, TX  
**Sunday July 20** – Santa Fe, NM  
**Monday, July 21** – Flagstaff, AZ  
**Tuesday, July 22** – Williams, AZ  
**Thursday, July 24** – Santa Monica, CA

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Video Reflections](#)

Copyright © 2008 Pepperdine University



# ROUTE 66

## Dialogues

Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Route 66 Quick Links

### ROUTE 66 WEBSITES

- Historic Route 66: <http://www.historic66.com/>
- National Historic Route 66 Federation: <http://www.national66.com/>
- Legends of America: <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/66-Mainpage.html>
- Historic Route 66 – Association of Arizona: <http://www.azrt66.com/>

### THINGS TO SEE ALONG THE WAY

- Grand Canyon National Park: <http://www.grand.canyon.national-park.com/>
- Stewart's Petrified Wood, Arizona: <http://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/13649>
- Will Rogers Memorial, Oklahoma: <http://www.willrogers.org/>
- Cadillac Ranch, Texas: <http://www.texastwisted.com/attr/cadillacranch/>
- <http://www.libertysoftware.be/cml/cadillacranch/crmain.htm>
- U-Drop Inn, Texas: <http://www.shamrocktx.net/>
- The Wigwam Motel, Arizona (Old Route 66): <http://www.wigwam-motel-arizona.com/>
- The Wigwam Motel, California: <http://www.wigwammotel.com/directions/index.html>
- St. Louis Gateway Arch, Missouri: <http://www.slf.com/View-of-Arch.html>
- Shea's Gas Station Museum, Illinois: <http://www.oldgas.com/info/sheasroute66.html>
- The Blue Whale of Catoosa, Oklahoma: <http://www.roadsideamerica.com/tip/1017>

### BOOKS ABOUT ROUTE 66

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

- [Route 66: The Mother Road 75 the Anniversary Edition](#) by Michael Wallis
- [Route 66 Adventure Handbook](#) by Drew Knowles
- [Route 66 Quick Reference Encyclopedia](#) by Drew Knowles
- [Here It Is! The Route 66 Map Series](#) by Jim Ross and Jerry McClanahan
- [Route 66 Dining & Lodging Guide](#) – 12 by National Historic Route 66 Federation

#### DVDs ABOUT ROUTE 66

- [Route 66 – The Ultimate DVD Collection](#). A three-disc collection of Wallis' travels from Chicago to California
- [Route 66: Return to the Road with Martin Milner](#)
- [Route 66: An American Odyssey](#). Starring Michael Wallis, Bobby Troup, and Angel Delgadillo

#### ROUTE 66 IN THE ARTS

- [The Grapes of Wrath](#) – John Steinbeck. Published in 1939, Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel follows the Joad family as they travel Route 66 from Oklahoma to the promised land of the 1930s California. Made into an Oscar-winning [film](#) in 1940 starring Henry Fonda, the novel raised awareness about the exploitation of working people in the Great Depression.
- [Cars](#) (2006). Directed by John Lassiter and Joe Ranft, this Disney-Pixar collaboration was originally going to be called *Route 66*, until it was changed to avoid confusion with the 1960s television show of the same name. The story follows racing car Lightning McQueen (voiced by Owen Wilson), who finds himself unable to leave the tumbleweed town of Radiator Springs, which became a town in decline when Route 66, going right past the town, was bypassed. The film also incorporates many iconic Route 66 images, such as the Wigwam Motels, the U-Drop Inn, and Cadillac Ranch. The official *Cars* web site: <http://disney.go.com/disneyvideos/animatedfilms/cars/>  
The trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzwWqkxBb5I>  
The IMDB.com information: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0317219/trivia>
- [Route 66](#) (1960-1964). This CBS television show was a hit in the 1960s for its depiction of two young men traveling along the Mother Road in their Corvette – turning the car into a classic icon of road tripping. Starring Martin Milner and George Maharis as Tod and Buz, the show followed the men as they experienced life and adventure on the ultimate American journey. The complete first season on DVD at Amazon: [http://www.amazon.com/Route-66-Complete-First-Season/dp/B001675Z18/ref=pd\\_bbs\\_sr\\_6?ie=UTF8&s=dvd&qid=1215794140&sr=8-6](http://www.amazon.com/Route-66-Complete-First-Season/dp/B001675Z18/ref=pd_bbs_sr_6?ie=UTF8&s=dvd&qid=1215794140&sr=8-6)

## PLACES ABOUT THE ROUTE, ALONG THE ROUTE

- California Route 66 Museum Victorville, California:  
<http://www.califrt66museum.org/>
- Barstow Route 66 "Mother Road" Museum Barstow, California:  
<http://www.route66museum.org/>
- Powerhouse Route 66 Museum & Visitor Center Kingman, Arizona:  
<http://www.kingmantourism.org/to-do-and-see/museums/route-66-museum/index.php>
- Devil's Rope Museum/ Texas Route 66 Exhibit McLean, Texas:  
<http://www.barbwiremuseum.com/>
- Oklahoma Route 66 Museum Clinton, Oklahoma:  
<http://www.route66.org/>
- National Route 66 Museum Elk City, Oklahoma:  
<http://www.nationalroute66.com/>



# ROUTE 66 *Dialogues*

*Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road*

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Thank You

Pepperdine University would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their contributions to the Route 66 trip.

- Paul Swanstrom
- Chris Coyne
- Robert E. Lee
- Rich Little, Ph.D.
- John and Lenore Weiss
- Cindy Padilla
- Ed Tippens
- Debby and Mike Funk
- John Butz
- Scott Grahl
- Trish Watson
- Victor Knowles
- Leslie Spears
- Morgan Ramsey
- Pat Crespino
- Chuck, Shirley and Michael Chestnut
- Dean Bogle
- Randy Grau
- Pam Haliburton
- Wes Beck
- Donna Eastman Liddle
- Ryan Elewaut
- [Grand Canyon Hotel](#)
- [La Posada de Santa Fe Resort & Spa](#)
- [Oklahoma City Museum of Art](#)
- [Joliet Area Historical Museum](#)
- [The Coleman Theatre](#)
- [Joplin Family Y](#)
- [Custom Sound Instruments](#)

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)
- [Thank You](#)
- [Video Reflections](#)

Copyright © 2008 Pepperdine University



# ROUTE 66 *Dialogues*

*Exploring Timeless Values  
Along a Timeless Road*

PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY



About the Trip



Map & Calendar

## Video Reflections

ROUTE 66 REFLECTION – NEW MEXICO – FORD  
BULLITT

DAY 7 – AMARILLO TO SANTA FE

## Daily Updates

- Malibu, California
- Day 9 – Flagstaff to Santa Monica
- Day 8 – Santa Fe to Flagstaff
- Day 7 – Amarillo to Santa Fe
- Day 6 – Oklahoma City to Santa Fe
- Day 5 – Joplin to Oklahoma City
- Day 4 – Rolla to Joplin
- Day 3 – Springfield to Rolla
- Day 2 – Joliet to Springfield
- Day 1 – Chicago to Joliet
- Off We Go!

## Highway Tunes

- Andy's Playlist (Final)
- Andy's Playlist (Updated)
- Andy's Playlist

## Photo Gallery



## Resources

- About Route 66
- An Interview with President Andy Benton
- Behind the Scenes (Crew)
- Good Eats
- Media Coverage

- [Route 66 Quick Links](#)

- [Thank You](#)

- [Video Reflections](#)

## DAY 5 – JOPLIN TO OKLAHOMA CITY

## DAY 4 – ROLLA TO JOPLIN

**DAY 3 – SPRINGFIELD TO ROLLA**

**DAY 1 – OFF WE GO!**

