

# Grandma's Quilting and Gift Shop



Linda Watkins operating the quilting machine in the back of Grandma's Quilting

Located at 402 Main Street, Galena, Kan. next to the old Galena National Bank Building sits this unique little quilting shop. The shop is owned and operated by Linda Watkins and daughter Cheron Myers, both natives of Galena.

When a local machine quilter retired from quilting, Linda saw the need for a shop. She decided to start her own shop so she would have a place for her quilting machine. She enjoys being her own boss, and being closer to home.

Her daughter Cheron came up with the idea to turn the front of the shop into a gift shop, and naturally being located on the Route she selected lots of Route 66 memorabilia as souvenirs.

Inside the shop you will find many different and unique items. Route 66 lap throws are just one of the items available. There is lots of hand crafted

woodworking including Route 66 bucket-style end tables, wall clocks and shields. There is also a few antiques, old fashioned candles, silk-screened and heat press custom graphics T-shirts, which are made in the shop, and quilt racks.



One of the unique items available for purchase

Linda started quilting 15 or so years ago as a hobby, she is very fascinated by seeing things come to-

gether. Her daughter Cheron came up with the idea to turn the front of the shop into a gift shop, and naturally

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Bucket style end tables which are available for purchase



Some of the souvenirs and antiques available for purchase in the store

# Riverton, Kansas Memory of Visionary Owner of Eisler Bros.



Isabell Loughmiller Eisler, co-owner of Eisler Bros. Old Riverton Store passed away on November 10, 2007 in Allen, Tx. she and Joe Eisler came to Riverton over 34 years ago. The Eisler's purchased the (Lora Williams) store in 1973. At the time of their purchase, Isabell recognized it's value to the community and to Route 66. Both Isabell and Joe agreed to maintain, but never change the old history laden store, and so it is today an icon of the past that sits on the side of Route 66, in Riverton, Ks., bringing travelers from all over the world to walk in the footsteps of time, to

view the old days through this ancient reality, the Old Riverton Store, that remains busy and vibrant today.

Coming to Riverton over 34 years ago, both Joe and Isabell learned to love the people and the community even though they only lived here for about 3-4 years. Joe's position with Wolf Medical Instruments required their move to Allen, Tx. Isabell's desire was to keep it as nearly as possible in its original state. She never lost interest in the community and was always interested in the welfare of those who lived here. Her vision of the store has kept it in tact, and today Eisler Bros. is on the map throughout the world. Filmed and documented all over the globe.

The existing store originally had an open front porch, but the present closed in porch replaced that in 1933. The interior has changed little since 1925. A pressed metal ceiling is used throughout the

Once known as the "Williams Store", Eisler Brothers Old Riverton Store, located on HWY 66 in Riverton, Kansas, continues to attract visitors from all over the world

building. The building was divided into two primary spaces, the east section which was, and is, used as the commercial area and the west section consisting of three rooms which was the residence of Leo and Lora Williams and their daughter, Jane Marie. In the 1940's the Williams moved their residence to the house next door to the store. Today the original living room, houses Route 66 merchandise and

souvenirs. There were gasoline pumps in front of the store for many years, leased first to Texaco and later to Standard Oil. The store itself carried everything from groceries to general merchandise - shoes, clothes, milk, fresh meat, a wide variety of goods. Leo also barbecued beef and venison in a pit behind the store and served sandwiches to

customers. Lora served her special recipe of chili. Customers were mostly local people, but the store played an important role on Route 66 as the traffic increased through the late 20's, 30's, 40's and 50's. There were originally two outhouses back of the store. One now remains, painted white with a thin moon silhouette cut into the door. Leo and Lora

Williams ran the store until 1945 when they leased the grocery to Lloyd Paxson. Leo died in 1948, so when the Paxson lease expired, Lora returned to the store and operated it until about 1970, and currently the store continues under management of Isbell's nephew Scott Nelson.

## Travelers from along Route 66



Bikers from Norway

The Galena part of Old Route 66 has the most complete section of road bed and also is the longest section in Kansas to retain its original design largely intact



Bikers from Norway



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