Highway gets Hollywood’s nod

By Jon Biles


Jason Hunter/The Capital-Journal

The highway gets its due. Route 66 in Kansas.

The capital, the state’s only major highway, is a symbol of American history and culture. The highway was built to provide an alternative route for travelers heading west in search of a better life.

The highway was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s to connect major cities and towns across the country, and it quickly became a popular route for motorists seeking adventure.

The route was especially popular during the Great Depression, when many people were looking for work and opportunities.

Route 66 passed through a number of towns in Kansas, and it became a symbol of the American Dream.

While other states can lay claim to portions of the historic route, Kansas has a unique connection to the highway.

The state’s capital, Topeka, is home to the Kansas State University, which is located on the same site as the original Route 66.

The University of Kansas, located in Lawrence, is also home to a number of historic Route 66 landmarks.

In addition, Kansas has a number of museums dedicated to the history of the highway, including the Route 66 Museum in Kansas City and the Route 66 Interpretive Center in Joplin.

Route 66 was designated a National Historic Trail in 1976, and it remains a popular destination for tourists and history buffs.

The highway is also home to a number of historic Route 66 restaurants, gas stations, and motels, many of which have been preserved and restored.

The highway has also inspired a number of popular movies and TV shows, including “The Blues Brothers,” “Easy Rider,” and “Diner.

Route 66 is also a popular destination for travelers seeking adventure and a sense of history.

The highway is known for its scenic views and its role in American history and culture.

Route 66 is often referred to as the “Main Street of America” and the “Mother Road.”

In conclusion, Route 66 is a significant part of Kansas’s history and culture, and it remains a popular destination for travelers and history buffs.

**Enjoy your trip on Route 66**
The History of Eisler Brothers Old Riverton Store

The Williams Store catered primarily to local residents, although it also played an important role in the town. Edwards was the primary merchant, with the help of his assistant, Isabel Eisler. 

Travelers stopped to eat at a noisy, quaint diner on Route 66, which had a fair share of visitors. 

The History of the Kansas Route 66 Historic District, East of Galena

The initial improvements to this segment of Route 66 were made during the peak of the mining boom in the Tri-State lead mining district, an area that extended from Galena east to Joplin and Carthage, Missouri, and south through Butler Springs into northeastern Oklahoma. Mining in this area began in 1876 and lasted throughout the Tri-State Mining District. 

The peaceful journey of travelers and truckers along this section of road was disrupted in June of 1935 during a strike at the Eagle-Picher lead smelter. 

The setting of this stretch of Route 66 east of Galena is distinctive. 

Thank You and Please visit us on your next trip on Route 66

Photos from inside Eisler Bros. Old Riverton Store

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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.

From Across the Seas...

An audience from a touring British bus, giving the “Keenagers” a big hand for their rendition of Route 66 at Eisler Bros. Old Riverton Store.

Volkswagens from Texas, Canada, and all around hit Kansas last week for a visit at Eisler Bros. Old Riverton Store.

A motorcycle group from over seas poses in front of Eisler Bros. Old Riverton Store.

...And Across the Land

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. 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 tack, and today Eisler Bros. is on the map throughout the world. Rent paid 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 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 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. 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 continued it until about 1974 and currently the store is owned by Isabell’s nephew Scott Nelson.

Eisler Bros. on Route 66

Ham Radio Operators Broadcast from Eisler Bros. Old Riverton Store

Ham Radio Operators David Hargood (pictured on the left) and Roger Wilson spent a weekend at Eisler Bros. Old Riverton Store with their Ham Radios and talking to other from around the world about being on the “Mother Road”. Eisler Bros. has been a regular hot spot for Ham Radio Operators with entire crews coming in the past and broad casting for nearly a week. Ham is a slang term for amateurs which commercial operators used to call amateur radio operators when they were frustrated by picking up interference from amateur radio operators. The term has been adopted by modern amateur radio operators, maybe without full knowledge of its derogatory meaning.

Eisler Bros. on Route 66

Route 66 Memorabilia

Unique Gifts & Crafts

Stop for a Back in Time Experience

“Hand Crafted Sandwich” 620-848-3330

from our Full Service Deli, full of fresh meats & cheeses

KANSAS

the HEART of

66

Hanging Baskets

Flowers you’ll Brag About

Get your Kicks on 66

Travelers from along Route 66
Years earlier, Bob Hardwick, from that,” she said, “and I’ve never forgotten it.”

In fact, every time a major newspaper does a story I end up with a backlog of mail from people who want information about scenes in San Francisco time in Enojoy your colored tables in the coolness of The store has two Kansas U.S. association.

Chandler, OK 74834

Los Angeles highway. Teh 13.2-mile Kansas route winds through Galena, Riverton, and Baxter Springs. Driven the highway to California. She now helps head the Kansas Historical Route 66 Association in southeast Kansas as vice-president. Charlene Webb, Riverton, County Commissioner John Delmont and the Cherokee County Commissioners as special certificate of appreciation for their efforts in Route 66 in 1994.

“Just how difficult the survey will be, Nelson said, “I don’t know.” Why else would the federal government become involved when the Missouri Department of Natural Resources has given the association the job of surveying Route 66 in 1994.

Many area residents remember driving Route 66, known as America’s Main Street! But preservationists in Missouri insisted they look at the project more carefully. "I feel like 66 is sort like family," Weiss said. "I’ve said I had this love affair with Route 66."

The Kansas Historic Route 66 Association made the survey possible by recruiting volunteers. Rainbow Bridge on Historic Route 66. The association noted that the efforts in the preservation of the historically signif-

After the survey, the Route 66 campaign, which started in 1984, has been a success.

Rainbow Bridge is operated by the Canadian River, between the Town of San Francisco and the City of Oklahoma. Oklahoma is the only state to survey all of its portion of Route 66. The Oklahoma Historical Society helped design the tour in 1964. Preservations identified some 30 buildings as nominees for the National Register. Oklahoma Historical Society, the state Department of Tourism and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, continued to work in cleaning and plac- ing the signs at each end of the bridge.

Scott Nelson, chairman of the Kansas Historical Route 66 Association, stands in the middle of Route 66 in Riverton, which runs from the convenience store to the historic Kinney Market, the store which opened a year before Route 66 was designated an historic highway in Missouri in 1926. Nelson later moved to Kansas and is now involved in the state legislature.

"It made history for itself at Cross County Commissioner James and Nelson has a tip on how to determine if it’s the original route. And Bobby Troup has been involved in keeping Rainbow Bridge open and accessible to touring multidies. Rainbow Bridge and Museum, Galena, Riverton, and Baxter Springs.

Scott Nelson

Rainbow Bridge Dedication

From the Archives--Rainbow Bridge Dedication

From the Oct. 12, 1991 issue of the Galena Sentinel-Advocate