

de Stolfe Journal

Candid



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de Stolfe Journal Candid

The de Stolfe Journal *Candid* is a publication made by Robert-George de Stolfe. The first issue was published in March 1986 as the de Stolfe Journal and published irregularly until 1998 (17 issues total). The *Candid* variety of the Journal started in July 2012, with a production now of over 60 regular and special issues. Archives of all issues—including the original ones (1980s-1990s)—are available on the website: www.tophandgraphics.com/rg/journals







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Candid Comments from the Producer



Honk, honk, honk, honk...

That is what we hear every winter from the fall until maybe early spring, thousands of these birds every year flying in dark waves across the sky of the vast South Plains. I've seen these birds ever since I first came here in 2001. I even made the mistake once of trying to feed them! (BIG mistake!) It is nice to see these migratory birds, even though they do make a mess and are everywhere there is water. I have wanted to try to photograph them but just never did. Well, in January, I saw a Facebook post about some wood ducks being in the area of a certain park with a playa. Since wood ducks are nice looking ducks, I wanted to find them. Well, I never saw the wood ducks, but got plenty of the geese and some other birds.

I'm hoping to get somewhat back on the tracks with putting out these journals with some sort of regularity. At this point, I have already put out two regular journals and two special issues. And it's barely mid February! I have plenty of material to include that never got published last year (since I ended up skipping nearly the entire year!) and hence have a sort of backlog.

I've been back in Lubbock now for over three months since leaving Leadville and the job I finished there. I am still seeking employment with no specific offers of any employment in any field. But in fairness, I have been waiting for the close date of some applications as well. I am hoping to have better news about this by the next issue.

So far, there are several holidays or celebrations in February. We started out with Groundhog Day (see the special issue I put out for that), and move on to Mardi Gras, Valentine's Day, President's Day, Super Bowl, and the 2018 Winter Olympics. You can do a Google search for holidays to get a long list of sundry celebrations like National Croissant Day (2.2, see my special issue for that), Day the Music Died (2.3, Buddy Holly's death), National pizza day (2.9), Cherry Pie Day (2.20), National Tortilla Chip Day (2.24), and so many more!

I hope you like this issue and every issue I put out. If you have any suggestions for topics, I am always looking for things to include!

Enjoy! RG



Word for Life

2018: The Year of Decisive Change

About a month ago, I saw a video in church about a prophesy for 2018 (every year has a prophesy for that year). It was a long video with a hefty list of changes that would happen specifically in 2018. Whether or not you believe in modern day prophecies (or fear them because you don't understand what they are—and people wrongly fear what they don't understand!), the overall point was that God is polarizing the people of the earth into one of only two groups that exist: Righteous or Worldly.

If you are with God and for God and not “riding the fence of religion”, you will go over and not under (Deuteronomy 28:13). In other words, you will have peace and success and protection in this year of change.

If you are of the world, you will have an opportunity to get to know the One Who provides salvation and to make the change from the worldly group to the righteous group. (John 14:6)

However, if you are riding the fence of lukewarm, half heartedness, beware and woe to you! God is clear, either you are for Him or you are against Him; there is no middle ground; there is no gray area, no excuses. (Matthew 12:30, Revelation 3:16)

These statements are nothing new. They have existed for nearly 2000 years. Many people choose not to believe them for a variety of false reasons and they discard them as if they were trash! These scriptures—and indeed the entire Bible—are your only source of life! Discard them and you are throwing away the very reason you exist! Discard them and you will NEVER find peace in your life and answers to your deepest questions that you've so vainly searched through worldly sources. The world cannot help you; they are just as lost as you are! Oh, you can continue ignoring God or living a false shell of Christianity, but when all that crumbles away—and it will ALL crumble away!—what then are you going to do? People who live with no hope are truly helpless. People who refuse to believe God's Word can have no hope because they are refusing the very source of hope, the only source of hope. But even more than hope is that you must have faith in God! For God cannot be pleased if you have no faith or have weak or wavering faith. (Mark 11:22, Hebrews 10:23, James 1:6-7).

If you are clueless, God makes it extremely easy! Simply ask Him! But, you need to believe Him and put forth faith without wavering so you are not tossed back and forth from one problem to another to another to another never reaching the stability on the Rock of Jesus! (James 1:5-8)

Deuteronomy 28:13 NKJV

And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.

John 14:6 NKJV

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Matthew 12:30 NKJV

He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

Revelation 3:16 NKJV

So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Mark 11:22 NKJV

Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God.

Hebrews 10:23 NKJV

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Romans 8:5-6, 8 NKJV

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

James 1:5-8 NKJV

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Saddle Break Reads

National Croissant Day



National Croissant Day was January 30, 2018. I got my free croissant from La Madeleine! (They are so yummy!)

New Biscuit Recipe



Nearly a year ago (March 2017), I saw a recipe on Facebook that someone posted and thought that some day I needed to try it. Well, by New Year's Day 2018, I found the recipe again and made them. They turned out great! I have since made them a few more times.

The New Squirrel in Town



Just outside of my apartment is a good sized oak tree. After I got back in November, I thought I saw a squirrel in the tree. I had never seen any around here before. Lubbock has squirrels, but I just don't see them in too many places, and they are a different type than the ones I saw regularly in Colorado. These are basically all gray. I think I'm going to put out a corn cob feeder in the tree, as long as the complex doesn't throw a hissy fit about it!

They Got tha Ketchup



Well, it's true! Whataburger ketchup, both the regular and the spicy, are now at United! (And they probably have the mustard too, though I didn't see it.)

Saddle Break Reads

Won a Contest



Here in Lubbock, the many Chick-fil-as here seem like they're competing against each other for who can give away the most free food! Well, one of the stores posted a contest on their Facebook timeline. I posted an answer and won this particular contest. Nothing really big, but did get two coupons for free sweet treats!

Here was the contest:

“IT’S CONTEST TIME!

If you had six 12 count nuggets, twelve 6 count nuggets, and 8 friends, how many pieces of Chick-fil-A nuggets would each friend get?!

Bonus points: Who would you share them with?!

Five winners with the correct answer and two winners with the most clever answer will be chosen to win some chicken on us! {Contest ends 1/27/18}”

Here’s what I posted that won me a prize.

“With sixes and twelves running rampant, we’d have 144 pieces of various chickens. With eight friends, they’d each get 18 nuggets, a nice treat. However, if you only had six friends, each would get twenty four, a nice small meal. Although, if you only had four friends, each would get thirty six, which would fill everyone up nicely. If there were only two of you, be hungry because you’d each get seventy two nuggets! And, finally, if it was just yourself and ate one hundred forty four nuggets, you’d just explode.”

Super Blue Blood Moon

Okay, this is a mouthful! There are three things here: Blue moon (meaning the second moon in a month), Super moon (meaning that the moon is the closest to the earth making it appear larger and brighter than usual), and a Blood moon (meaning that there is a lunar eclipse). I did not get any photos of the eclipse for I didn’t know when it was or even if I could see in my area. But, I did get photos and video of the moon rise, which started in my area at about 6:50 PM on Wednesday, January 31, 2018.



A few minutes into the moonrise from my church land.



A few minutes later after the full moon was visible.



Nearly two hours later with the moon high up in the sky.

Saddle Break Reads

Teaching Art Classes to the Public

Back in November, I inquired out of an idea and interest to teach some sort of art class to the public at the Lubbock Garden and Arts Center. They have been doing these various classes for many years, but I just recently inquired about how I could teach one. (Interestingly, a year ago, I applied and interviewed to work there, but nothing ever came from it, along with a bunch of other jobs I applied for. Also on a side note, the little carpenter gothic church, St. Paul's-On-The-Plains, is there that I included in the October-November 2016 issue of the Journal.) In early December, I met with them to hash out what I could do. In short, I scheduled two types of classes at two different times. One class is about abstract art and the other class is about art basics, or foundations. So with these four classes, I hope to get people to sign up and provide a useful class to whoever is interested in them.

Abstract Art

This class explores various types of abstract art and its historical movements. Students will create a series of pieces using the art movements as the basis.

Two sets of three classes:

- February 13, 15, 17, 2018
- March 20, 22, 24, 2018

Art Foundations

This class teaches foundations (principles) of understanding and making art. Students will create pieces of art to give structure to these principles.

Two single classes:

- February 22, 2018
- April 7, 2018



Exhibit of Teachers' Art

As part of the new season of classes, the teachers were invited to include their works in an exhibit at the Lubbock Garden and Arts Center for several weeks in January. I included three drawings that represent the general idea of the classes. I did these drawings literally 20 years ago while in Flagstaff, Arizona. They weren't framed, so I needed to get frames back in December. I never did get over to the center to get photos of it up in the exhibit, but here are the pieces I included in it.



Real Versus Abstract



Pinecone Perspective



Color Shading Study

Where the Geese Lay

Wintertime on the Southern High Plains of West Texas usually includes



A single Canada goose floating happily on the water.

Whether they are in a field or around water, such as this playa, there are usually hundreds of them! They have this interesting pattern where they are on or by the water for a period of time, then fly away in waves to somewhere else, only to return hours later.

the presence of Canada Geese! Lots of them! Everywhere! For months! I've been in Lubbock for most of the past 16 plus years and they are around in hoards most winters. They start flying in waves by late September or early October and stay usually until February or March, sometimes earlier. Then, they are gone again until Fall.

Many people mistakenly want to call these "Canadian Geese", but that is wrong. They are not geese from Canada to be called "Canadian"! Here is what a Wikipedia entry states:

"The Canada goose (*branta canadensis*) is a large wild goose species with a black head and neck, white cheeks, white under its chin, and a brown body. Native to arctic and temperate regions of North America, its migration occasionally reaches northern Europe. It has been introduced to the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Argentina, Chile, and the Falkland Islands. Like most geese, the Canada goose is primarily herbivorous and normally migratory; it tends to be found on or close to fresh water."

It doesn't state that they are "from" Canada despite having it in its name.

Read more: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada_goose



Bird Watching

I expected to see wood ducks, but ended up seeing many other birds instead.

In the late afternoon of January 19, I stopped by the Leroy Elmore Park in Lubbock to see some wood ducks I heard were in the area. So, as usual, I had my camera and stopped by the playa. I expected to see the Canada geese (since they are everywhere this time of year), but I did not know what other various birds that would be there. I never did see any wood ducks, but I did see a bunch of other birds, which I photographed. Here's a sampling.



Canada geese, branta canadensis



Unknown birds. Geese?



Male Mallard, anas platyrhynchos



Double crested Cormorant, phalacrocorax auritus



Gulls, possibly ring billed gulls, larus delawarensis



Unknown bird. Duck?

***Happy 50th Anniversary
To
Mom and Dad
February 17, 1968***



Photo from the late 1970s (I think)

Review

Longmire for Sheriff

I have watched every episode of Longmire from the time it premiered on A&E the summer of 2012 through to the last episode released in the fall of 2017 on Netflix. Rarely, do you find a show that maintains its continuity for six seasons with the last episode matching right up with the first! I reported about Longmire in my very first issue of the de Stolfe Journal *Candid*, July 2012. In that issue, I included from the A&E website (now no longer there):

Longmire is “a contemporary crime thriller set in Big Sky country, based on the Walt Longmire Mystery novels by Craig Johnson. The series stars Australian actor Robert Taylor as Walt Longmire, the charismatic, dedicated, and unflappable sheriff of Absaroka County, Wyoming.”

The series was mostly shot in several locations of north central New Mexico, basically north of Albuquerque. The fictional location, Absaroka County, Wyoming, was near the Montana border in what supposedly would be a similar landscape of the “plains meets mountains” environs.

The seasons tended to be difficult to keep up with considering that each season was only ten episodes, once a year. So, by the time the next season came around, you really had to reacquaint yourself with where they left off the last season to then move forward.

Going into the sixth season, they knew it was the last season for the end of the series, and the writers really did a flawless integration of all the previous seasons into this last one and wrapped up many ongoing themes and started

a setup for any potential resurrection of the series in the future. Many characters came and went—even some major characters—but many continued from the very first episode through to the last.

What really defined and foreshadowed this last season was the vision that Cady had while in the sweat lodge, shown the last few minutes of the last episode from season five: the owl, the empty sheriff office, the box with Walt’s wife’s ashes, Henry Standing Bear hanging from a tree but alive, the cell phone...

As I watched the last episode, sad as I was that this was the end, I finally got to see some themes finally wrapped up and some characters moving into place that seemed long overdue to happen. And yet, the entire last season was full of interesting and unexpected twists and turns, characters that you wouldn’t expect to see again, and a very peaceful conclusion that just seemed right, much like how the series started in 2012.

Who would have ever thought that Agent Jones from *The Matix*, that is Robert Taylor, would 13 years later develop into such an iconic character with a new series that probably would forever define him as his finest work on TV!

[All seasons of Longmire are available for view on Netflix with a subscription.]



XIT Ranch of Texas

One of the last great ranches of the 1800s into the turn of the century 1900s is the XIT Ranch in the Panhandle of Texas. The ranch occupied large sections spanning ten counties (Dallam, Hartley, Oldham, Deaf Smith, Parmer, Castro, Bailey, Lamb, Cochran, and Hockley counties) from the very northwest corner of the panhandle down about two thirds of the way all along the western border by New Mexico (see the map to the right). The headquarters of the ranch was in Channing, Texas and the ranch was divided into several divisions: Buffalo Springs, Middle Water, Ojo Bravo, Alamasitas, Rita Blanca, Escarbada, Spring Lake, and Yellow House.

Since its existence and eventual sale of the land, many speculations, assumptions, and conflicting information from historical writings and oral histories cloud the many facts about this ranch. I shall not attempt to prove or disprove these debates nor even discuss them at all! I am more interested to show some historical photos I found taken on the ranch. Take a look on the last page of this issue to see an encore inclusion of my book review of *The XIT Ranch of Texas and The Early Days of the Llano Estacado* by J. Evetts Haley to read more about what I thought of the book (as of 2002 when I wrote it).

Many of the photos you see here are from the Library of Congress collection of historic photographs.

www.loc.gov/pictures/search/?q=xit

Other photos were obtained from a Facebook group called Traces of Texas that specializes in showing historic photos of various time periods and of all subjects about Texas and its culture.

www.facebook.com/TracesofTexas

I've tried my best to verify that these photos are public domain despite the age of the photos. Certain ones are not verified and all of them are included as part of my educational commentary in relation to fair use.

Read more:

- tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/apx01
- www.xitmuseum.com/history.shtml
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XIT_Ranch
- westerntrips.blogspot.com/2011/08/xit-ranchs-3-million-acres-built-texas.html



The XIT Ranch extended from the NW corner of the Texas Panhandle down the state border.

XIT Ranch of Texas



*circa 1902
F.M. Steele,
photographer
Library of Congress
LC-USZ62-74946*

*XIT mess wagon
“Photograph shows
seven cowboys from
the XIT ranch in the
Texas panhandle
seated on ground and
eating, cook standing,
wagon and horses
behind them.”*



*circa 1904
W.D. Harper,
photographer
Library of Congress
LC-USZ62-72136*

*Day herds, XIT outfit
“Photograph shows
three cowboys from
the XIT ranch in the
Texas panhandle with
their horses. A herd
of cattle in is in the
background.”*

XIT Ranch of Texas



*circa 1904
C.A. Kendrick,
photographer
Library of Congress
LC-USZ62-45061*

*Bronch busting
"Photograph shows a
cowboy riding a
bucking bronco on
the plains, probably
on the XIT ranch in
the Texas
panhandle."*



*circa 1904
C.A. Kendrick,
photographer
Library of Congress
LC-USZ62-45060*

*Broncho busting
"Photograph shows a
cowboy riding a
bucking bronco on
the plains, probably
on the XIT ranch in
the Texas
panhandle."*

XIT Ranch of Texas



*circa 1904
W.D. Harper,
photographer
Library of Congress
LC-USZ62-67026*

*Two of a kind
“Photograph shows
two men on bucking
horses.”*

*[You can also see the
tail of a third horse in
the photo with
obviously another
cowboy atop. I think
this is another photo
of the bucking
broncho from the last
page.]*



*1891
Cowboys at Escarbada
Bunk House. XIT Ranch*

*This particular division of
the Ranch is called
Escarbada, literally
translated as “dug up”.
The typed text of the name
is misspelled. Carbada
means “carved”, es
cabada translates as “is
hot”, and escabada
translates as “escaped”.
Cabada by itself does not
translate.*

*The National Ranching
Heritage Center has
another building of the
Escarbada division. It
served as the residence for
the division manager and
as a central place to eat
with its attached kitchen
and dining room.*

XIT Ranch of Texas



*circa 1904
W.D. Harper,
photographer
Library of Congress
LC-USZ62-45059*

*Branding on the XIT
"Photograph shows
cowboys on the XIT
ranch in the Texas
panhandle branding
calves."*



*circa 1904
W.D. Harper,
photographer
Library of Congress
LC-USZ62-67025*

*Branding on the XIT
"Photograph shows
cowboys branding
cattle on the XIT
ranch in the Texas
panhandle."*

XIT Ranch of Texas



*circa 1904
W.D. Harper,
photographer
Library of Congress
LC-USZ62-16315*

*Branding on the XIT
“Photograph shows
cowboys on the XIT
ranch in the Texas
panhandle branding
calves.”*



*circa 1904
W.D. Harper,
photographer
Library of Congress
LC-USZ62-68541*

*Open range branding
“Photograph shows
cowboys branding
cattle on the open
range in the Texas
panhandle.”*

XIT Ranch of Texas



This image shows a page out of a book by Nordyke showing the exterior and interior of the general office of the XIT Ranch.

*Image citation:
Texas Historical Commission. [XIT Office], photograph, Date Unknown; (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph682043/m1/1/: accessed February 10, 2018), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Texas Historical Commission.*



Exterior and interior views of the XIT's office in its own town of Channing.

The Mother Road...
Est. 1926

Historic Route



1. Chicago, IL
2. Springfield, IL
3. Litchfield, IL
4. St. Louis, MO
5. Springfield, MO
6. Joplin, MO
7. Tulsa, OK
8. Oklahoma City, OK
9. Elk City, OK
10. McLean, TX
11. Amarillo, TX
12. Tucumcari, NM
13. Albuquerque, NM
14. Gallup, NM
15. Winslow, AZ
16. Flagstaff, AZ
17. Kingman, AZ
18. Barstow, CA
19. San Bernardino, CA
20. Los Angeles, CA

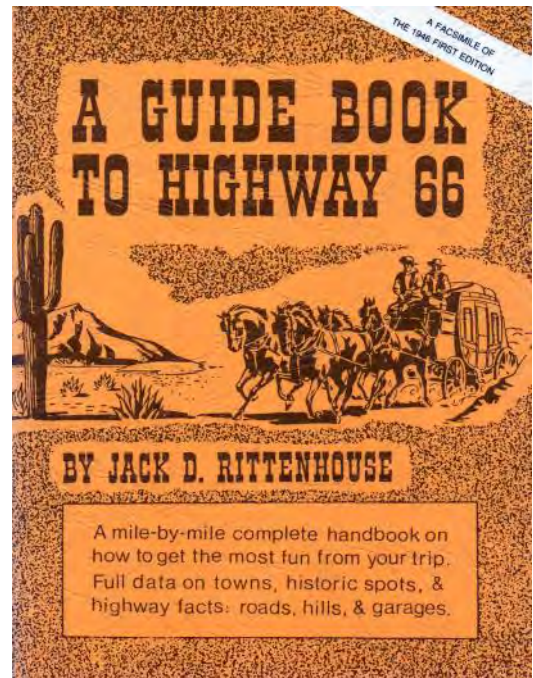
Small images of 'Greetings from' postcards for Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, and California.

Get Your Kicks on Route 66 (Part 3) - Arizona

One year ago in the February 9, 2017 issue, I continued with the New Mexico leg of this Route 66 book from 1946. So now we finally continue the journey from the New Mexico/Arizona border through Arizona to the California border. Like with the New Mexico section, the Arizona section is rather lengthy. In the next available issue, we will conclude with the California section. I might or might not add other sections that go from Chicago to the Texas border in later future issues. It really depends on how much energy I want to put into it! (-)

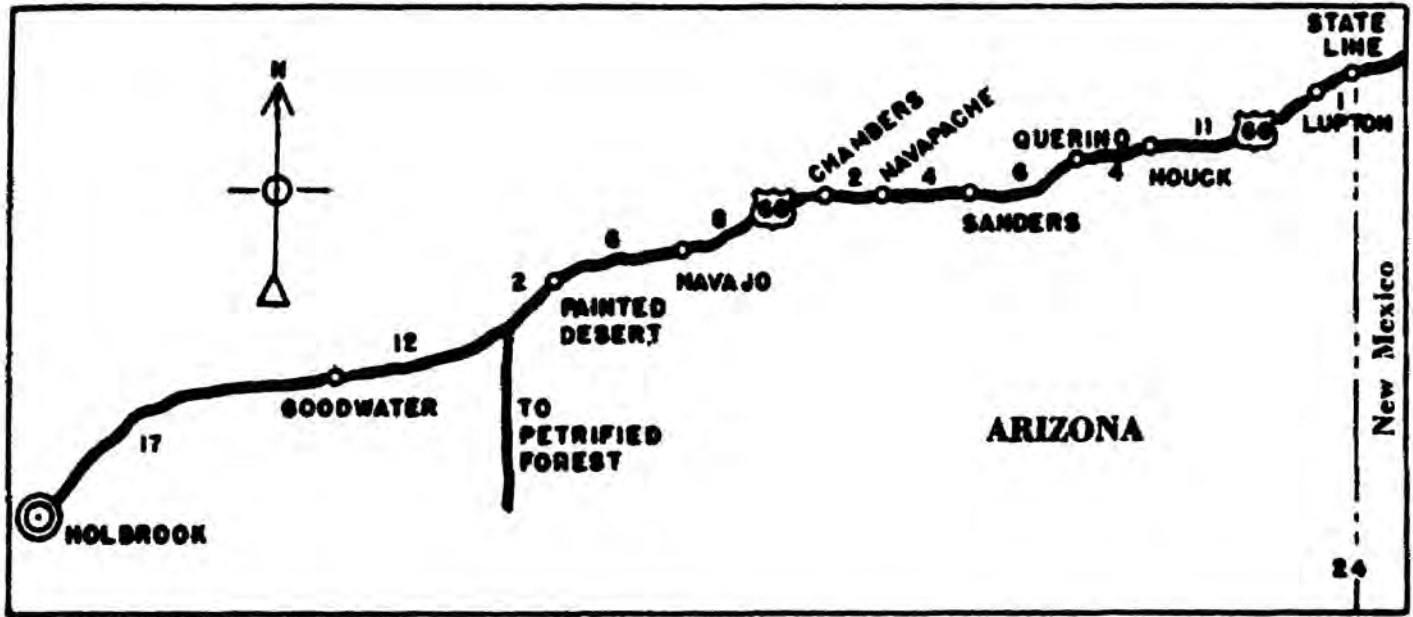


As for Arizona, here we go!
[My notes are in brackets and in blue.]



A Guide Book to Highway 66 by Jack D. Rittenhouse, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1946. Reprint, 1989.

Get Your Kicks on Route 66 (Part 3) - Arizona



169 mi. (81 mi.) NEW MEXICO-ARIZONA STATE LINE. As you pass under an arch, you pass the "State Line Station," which maintains a good cafe, gas station, etc. At once you enter on a wide stretch of Arizona highway, which will extend for the next 12 miles.

170 mi. (80 mi.) LUPTON. (Pop. 33; alt. 6,295'; postoffice; gas stations; store; no other facilities.) The Arizona Port of Entry is located here, and all trucks must be inspected at this point.

Now the bluffs on both sides of the road begin to separate as you emerge onto a wide area, forested with scrub pines.

173 mi. (77 mi.) Stafford's Cafe, including gas, groceries, and a curio shop, comprises the town of ALLANTOWN here. Soon the trees become more sparse, and you begin to enter a stretch of over 125 miles of almost barren country.

181 mi. (69 mi.) HOUCK. Two establishments here: the White Mountain Trading Post (which includes a postoffice) and a small curio shop. Gas and groceries here. Navajos are nearly always lounging around the trading post, drinking the soda pop they enjoy. The Navajos are a quiet tribe, whose deft ability in silverwork made them useful in many war plants requiring fine assembly work during the war. They are not allowed to vote, but were subject to the draft in the war [World War II].

182 mi. (68 mi.) US 66 passes a colony of Navajo hogans: private dwellings. [The Navajo Reservation is mostly in New Mexico and Arizona, but parts of it are also in Colorado and Utah.]

183 mi. (67 mi.) Good News Indian Mission. Trading post nearby. No gas here. Gas station at 184 mi. (66 mi)

185 mi. (65 mi.) QUERINO. Another one-structure "town," consisting of the Querino Trading Post. Curios and gas.

186 mi. (64 mi.) Trading post only. No gas here.

188 mi. (62 mi.) A building here houses some excavations of Indian ruins. Private enterprise.

189 mi. (61 mi.) Gas station and garage.

191 mi. (59 mi.) SANDERS. (Pop. 88; alt. 5,836'.) This town consists of the Tipton Bros. Store and two gas stations.

195 mi. (55 mi.) NAVAPACHE. Another small "town" consisting of one tourist court, a gas station, garage and store.

197 mi. (53 mi.) CHAMBERS. (Pop. 59.) Consists of one small tourist court, 2 gas stations, Riggs Cafe, and a few buildings.

199 mi. (51 mi.) Indian Village Trading Post. No gas.

201 mi. (49 mi.) Rio Puerco Service station; gas only.

205 mi. (45 mi.) NAVAJO. (Pop. 52; alt. 5,634'.) Consists of Marty's Trading Post, with gas and groceries; a small neat cafe in a house back of the trading post, and five tourist cabins.

221 mi. (29 mi.) PAINTED DESERT. At this point, you will be able to see the famous Painted Desert, whose soils and rocks are of many colors—blue, chocolate, rose, purple, and many other pastel tints. The colors are best at sunset or at sunrise. This is only one of many such Painted Deserts in this part of Arizona, but this one is the most famous. Indians use the colored sands to make beautiful paintings. [Most of the entire northeast part of Arizona is the "generic" painted desert. The so called Painted Desert is part of the Petrified Forest National Park encompassing a good concentration of the paintedness. Within the park, there is one stop along the park road where the old Route 66 crossed.]

At the above mileage point is a roadside establishment which serves as a bus route stop. It offers gas, cafe, and curios. It has a tower from which the Desert can be seen. Just west of this point is a road (R) which runs two miles north to the PAINTED DESERT INN, built a few years before the war, and offering tourist accommodations and good food. Contains a museum, ranger station, and trading post. Fine view of the Painted Desert from here.

221 mi. (29 mi.) Road left here to PETRIFIED FOREST, 5 miles. This is a National Monument, [while President Roosevelt created the Petrified Forest National Monument in 1906, not until 1962 (16 years after this book was published) did Congress establish the monument instead as a National Park.] and contains over 90,000 acres of petrified trees. Visitors are now forbidden to carry away any of the wood, because the forests were nearly wiped out by those who first came here and shipped out carloads of the material.

Get Your Kicks on Route 66 (Part 3) - Arizona

There is a 50¢ admission charge [[much higher now!](#)] for autos and for trailers. The area contains camping facilities and picnic areas, and Rainbow Forest Lodge offers a few housekeeping cabins. There is an interesting museum at the park headquarters.

The trees have become petrified over millions of years, and now lie like great jewels—which they are: huge chunks of agate and carnelian, useful for semi-precious stones in jewelry when polished properly. Ancient men lived here, and have left their ruined homes and hieroglyphics [[petroglyphs, actually](#)].

You can drive off US 66 to the Forest and return, or you can drive through the Forest for 25 miles south and reach US 260, which continues 20 miles west into Holbrook.

Returning to US 66, you continue west. At 225 mi. (25 mi.) is a gas station and cafe in an old stone structure bearing the sign: “Old Stage Station.”

226 mi. (24 mi.) Painted Desert Point. Gas only.

233 mi. (17 mi.) GOODWATER. Consists of gas stations, grocery and curio shop.

250 mi. (0 mi.) HOLBROOK. (Pop. 1,184; alt. 5,079'; hotels: Arizona, Holbrook, Navajo; courts: Forest, Barth, Navajo, El Moderno, El Sereno, White, El Patio, Central, and El Rancho; garages: Mefford, Heward, and Guttery; good food at Green Lantern Cafe; stores; all facilities.)

Holbrook is now a quiet county seat, but in its early days was a rootin', tootin' cowtown, where the boys could blow off steam accumulated through long, hard days on the range. Today it is quite a tourist center, especially for those who plan a few days' stopover to leisurely visit the Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, and the many Indian villages in the vicinity. Dates of Indian dances and other events can be secured from the local Chamber of Commerce.

SOME FACTS ABOUT NAVAJO RUGS

Many tourists buy Navajo rugs as souvenirs. There are no “imitation” Navajo rugs—all are genuine, but some are made with cotton warps and are not 100% wool. The Indian weaver receives less than 10c an hour for her work, and it takes about 8 hours to weave a square foot of rug, when you include preparation of the wool. For this reason, rugs are scarce and may be more so.

Navajo rugs wear indefinitely. They may be vacuumed or dry cleaned, but should not be laundered, although small ones may be washed with lukewarm water and Lux.

CHAPTER IX HOLBROOK, ARIZONA, TO KINGMAN, ARIZONA



From Holbrook, Arizona, to Kingman, Arizona, your journey over US Highway 66 climbs to 7,130 feet. You will pass near pre-historic ruins, wind through the nation's largest stand of pines, and will pass near the tremendous Grand Canyon. In the winter months, you may find sections of the road blocked by heavy snow for short periods, and will encounter frequent ice. Plows clear the roads promptly, but you should use caution in driving, especially at night.

In the center of Holbrook, US 66 makes a right turn and heads almost straight west. 0 mi. (274 mi.) Mark your speedometer reading in the margin of this page here, so you can follow the mileage readings given in this Guided Book. Adjust figures to allow for variance in your speedometer when necessary, if your calculations reveal a difference.

Heading west from Holbrook, US 66 climbs very slowly for the next 75 miles. At 9 mi. (265 mi.) you pass some red stone buttes (R), with a service station nestling at their base. On your left is a wide, shallow pond.

15 mi. (259 mi.) JOSEPH CITY. (Pop. 308; alt. 5,080'; courts: Hopi Village and Oasis; gas; garage; store; no cafe or other accommodations.) This town was founded by the Mormons 70 years ago [[about 1876 and obviously named for Joseph Smith who founded Mormonism](#)], and some of the old brick homes, of eastern design, may date from that early period. The Mormons struggled valiantly to irrigate the region and establish farms, with some success.

On the level plains west of Joseph City, you enter a region of true Arizona beauty. During many months of the year, great, soft clouds drift across the turquoise sky; the earth is a warm tan; the sunsets are an indescribable riot of vivid colors which change swiftly. Far ahead you can see great peaks, snow-capped much of the year. These are the San Francisco Peaks, ancient volcanoes which are Arizona's highest mountains. You will pass them west of Flagstaff.

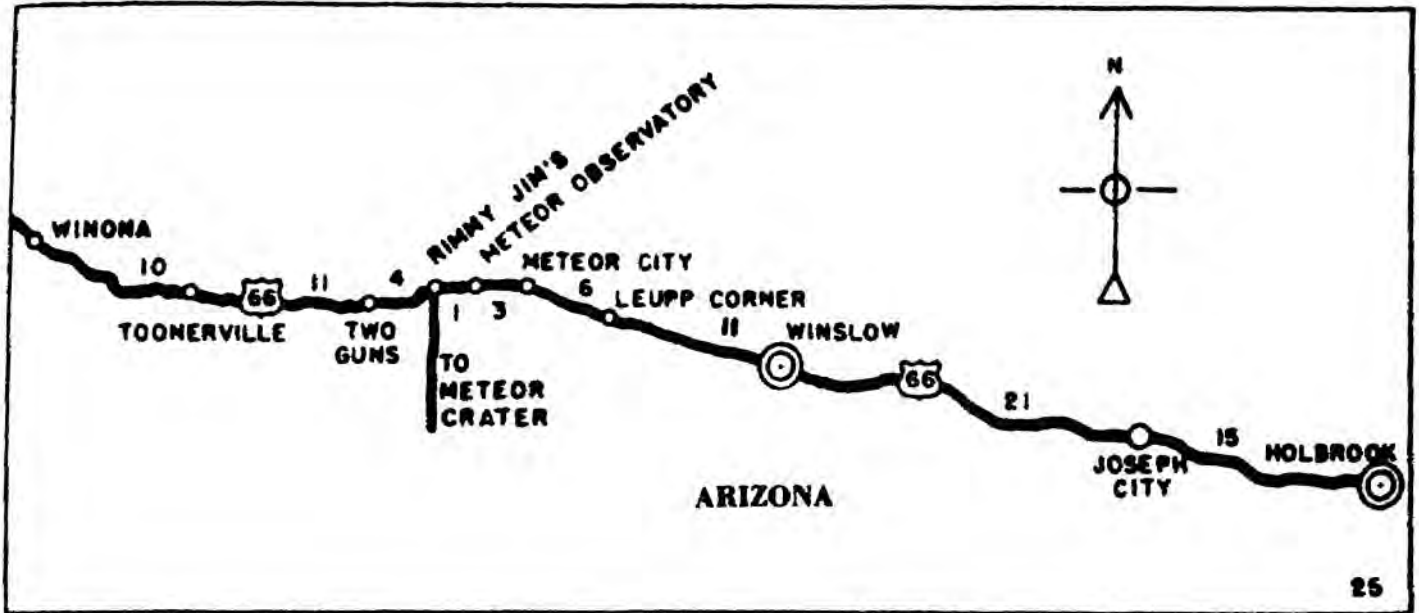
Some road maps show two “towns” along here. Both are mere collections of yellow shacks which house railroad workers; neither touch the highway nor even offer a gas station for the motorist: MANILA, at 18 mi. (256 mi.), and HAVRE, at 24 mi. (250 mi.) both on your left.

32 mi. (242 mi.) The “Painted Desert Hideaway,” a gas station and cafe.

33 mi. (241 mi.) At this point you cross the LITTLE COLORADO RIVER. This river has paralleled US 566 on your left, in the distance, since Holbrook. It provides the chief source of irrigation for the district.

36 mi. (238 mi.) WINSLOW. (Pop. 4,577; alt. 4,856'; hospital; hotels: La Posada, Chief, Winslow, Palace, Elk; courts: Bazell, Drumm's, West End, El Hopi, Union, Camp Keyton, Beacon, Sears Auto Camp; garages: El Gran and Lorenzo Hubbell Motor Co.; cafes; stores; trading posts; all facilities.) Rodeo here early each September.

Get Your Kicks on Route 66 (Part 3) - Arizona



Winslow is quite a center for tourists, vacationists and health-seekers. Its open air, high altitude, and pleasant climate are combined with its location in the center of many surrounding historic spots: Indian villages, old ruins, and similar points. It is one of the largest towns in Northern Arizona, and is a cattle and railroad center. Lorenzo Hubbell was one of the most famous early Indian traders, and his sons carry on his work here. In the Lorenzo Hubbell Motor Co. showroom is the world's largest Navajo rug: 21 feet by 37 feet. It was made for Mr. Hubbell, and required two years to weave. It weighs 240 lbs.

44 mi. (230 mi.) The "town" of MOQUI shown on many maps at this point consists of a railroad siding with a few yellow board shacks.

47 mi. (227 mi.) LEUPP CORNER. The Hopi House Service Station is the only building here, with a few Navajo hogans near it. The trader here is an affable, experienced man with a fairly extensive stock.

Another disappointing "town" is DENNISON, at 50 mi. (224 mi.). It consists solely of railroad houses, and offers no tourist facilities, not even gas.

53 mi. (221 mi.) METEOR CITY. One building, offering gas, groceries, and curios. For many years, a roadside sign here said "Population 1," but early in 1946 the operator of the "town" married, and the sign now says "Population 2."

US 66 winds around some low hills along this stretch which is often swept by whipping winds in the spring.

At 56 mi. (218 mi.) you pass METEOR CRATER OBSERVATORY, a castle-like stone structure on a hill (R). Admission is free, and a stock of curios is for sale. The building houses a model of the METEOR CRATER, which lies a few miles south and is visible from the observatory.

The crater is a deep bowl about a mile in diameter and over 700 feet deep, with a low mound heaped around its rim. There is quite a controversy over the crater: for many years it was presumed to be the spot where a great meteor struck at a tangent, entering the earth at an angle about 50,000 years ago. Many attempts have been made to drill down to the meteor—all unsuccessful, but alleged fragments of meteoric mineral have been picked up in the vicinity. In 1946, strong claims were advanced by government scientists that the crater was actually caused by volcanic steam, not by a meteor, and the spot is now marked on all official government maps as Crater Mound. The site is owned by an eastern firm. [\[Not sure what this statement is about. I'm sure since 1946, many theories have been debunked.\]](#)

57 mi. (217 mi.) Rimmy Jim's Service Station. Gas, lunchroom, and a few cabins built to resemble Navajo hogans. Purchase tickets here for Meteor Crater, 4½ miles south. 25¢ per person. [\[Much higher admission fees now!\]](#)

61 mi. (213 mi.) TWO GUNS. One establishment, offering gas, lunchroom, and curios. At the rear of the building is a small zoo exhibiting western animals. In previous years, US 66 ran behind this building, and some old Apache Caves in a canyon there were great showpoints. They can still be visited if you care to walk a few hundred yards back. [\[The ruins of this establishment are still there, but not much is left.\]](#)

62 mi. (212 mi.) Cross CANYON DIABLO, an amazing canyon which appears suddenly as a great gash in the level plain. Unless you watch sharply, you will cross it before you are aware of it. It is over 100 feet deep and several hundred feet wide, although south of here it is deeper. Early wagon-train pioneers found it difficult to cross.

72 mi. (202 mi.) TOONERVILLE. A single building providing gasoline, groceries, and lunches. West of here, the plains end, and you soon enter the COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST. The first trees are rather scrubby, but they soon give way to tall yellow pines.

[\[Somewhere in this area of the road, but not specifically mentioned by name, is the Twin Arrows Trading Post, which was originally called Padre Canyon Trading Post built in 1937 then changed names in 1955 with the addition of the two arrows. I am thinking that this is the same building specified above in Toonerville. The place closed in 1998, but you can still drive off I-40 to see the arrows that were restored a few years ago. You can read more about this place in my April-May 2016 issue.\]](#)

Get Your Kicks on Route 66 (Part 3) - Arizona

74 mi. (200 mi.) US 66 here crosses PADRE CANYON, which is quite similar to Canyon Diablo.

Now US 66 winds through the pines, which present a welcome relief from the parched desert. In this region, many ancient pueblos have been found, since the early Indians undoubtedly also enjoyed the timber and shade. Filling station operators between here and Flagstaff can direct you to some of these sites.

82 mi. (192 mi.) WINONA. (Alt. 6,005') Winona Trading Post offers cafe, gas, groceries, and several cabins.

US 66 now begins to climb more steeply, although there are no difficult grades between here and Flagstaff. The pines become taller, and the road winds a bit.



At 86 mi. (188 mi.) a road runs (L) to WALNUT CANYON STATE PARK, five miles south. This is one of the major prehistoric ruins easily reached from US 66. In a deep gorge, over 200 cliff dwellings cling to the sides of the steep rock. The village was busiest from 1000 to 1200 A. D., and the people were hunters, farmers, and traders. Open from 8 AM to 5 PM. No admission. Picnic area. Foot trails to many structures.

90 mi. (184 mi.) Gas station. Another at 91 mi. (183 mi.).

93 mi. (181 mi.) Junction of US 66 and US 89. Camp Townsend Trailer Camp here, with garage and store. You can camp here in the pines.

96 mi. (178 mi.) Camp Elden. Another camping spot, with a garage and cafe.

99 mi. (175 mi.) FLAGSTAFF. (Pop. 8,089; alt. 7,000'; hotels: Monte Vista, Weatherford, Bank, Commercial; many courts, including: Arrowhead Lodge, El Pueblo, Flagstaff Motor Village, Rock Plaza, Vandevier Lodge, Nickerson's, Mac's, Motor Inn, Cactus Gardens, Dixon, and Sunset; garages: Cheshire, Babbitt, Waldhan's; curio shops; stores; cafes; all facilities.)

Flagstaff is the locale of the great All-Indian Pow-Wow each year for three or more days starting on July 4th and attended by thousands of Indians. Cowboys and Indians can be seen in their picturesque dress on Flagstaff streets the year 'round. Three miles north of here is the Museum of Northern Arizona, housing many prehistoric and pioneer relics. Flagstaff is a great trading and lumbering center.

US 66 goes down the main street of Flagstaff [[this is still the case](#)], and soon you are on the road among the tall pines again. At 101 mi. (173 mi.) is Camp Kit Carson. At this point, you strike a stretch of new, wide highway on which you travel for the next 32 miles.

Gas station and cafe at 110 mi. (164 mi.). Now you are in the eastern end of the KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST.

111 mi. (163 mi.) BELLEMONT. (Pop. 141; alt. '7,130'.) This town has the highest altitude of any along US 66. The town includes a store, post office and two gas stations. No other accommodations. [[While not mentioned here because of the still fresh effects of WWII and the sensitivity of it, across the way from Belmont is a munitions storage facility that made bombs used during WWII and still exist and is in use today, though not making bombs anymore \(at least from when I worked there in 2000\).](#)]

113 mi. (161 mi.) Trading post here; no gas. [[A friend of mine owns this building right at this point on the map, although he said it was a gas station. Perhaps the gas was added later.](#)]

119 mi. (155 mi.) PARKS, another of those "one establishment towns," offer gas and a few cabins.

120 mi. (154 mi.) Fireside Inn here, with gas and a few cabins.

122 mi. (152 mi.) A tree-shaded camping spot here (L), maintained free by the U. S. Government. Two miles west of here you pass the buildings of the Challender Ranger Station, about a half-mile off US 66 to your left.

124 mi. (150 mi.) Wagon Wheel Lodge here offers gas and a few cabins, built of logs.

132 mi. (142 mi.) Junction with paved road north to GRAND CANYON, which lies 58 miles north. For information on Grand Canyon, see next page.

GRAND CANYON INFORMATION

Visitors to the Grand Canyon find themselves powerless to adequately describe the magnificent grandeur of this mighty chasm, which is over 200 miles long, a mile deep and from 4 to 18 miles across.



The Grand Canyon is easily reached over a paved highway from US 66. Naturally, there is no bridge across the canyon itself, although it can be approached from the north over another highway. The two "communities" are known as the North Rim (open from May 30 to September 30) and the South Rim (which you reach from US 66; it is open all year 'round).

There are ample tourist facilities in Grand Canyon Village, on the South Rim, for a short or extended stay. Facilities were curtailed during the war, but have been reopened and increased since the war to accommodate the unprecedented crowds now visiting this awe-inspiring canyon. Facilities include a public auto camp, cabins, hotel, and lodge. Major facilities are under Fred Harvey management. It is advisable to make advance reservations at Bright Angel Lodge and El Tovar Hotel, because of the crowds.

The National Park Service charges an admission fee of \$1.00 [[more now](#)] for each auto entering the Grand Canyon National Park, and the receipts supplement the federal expense of maintaining rangers, roads, and museum here.

Guide trips, mule rides, and other facilities are provided for the visitor. It is possible to get a fine view of the Canyon even though you may be able to spend only an hour or so there.

Get Your Kicks on Route 66 (Part 3) - Arizona

134 mi. (140 mi.) WILLIAMS. (Pop. 2,622; alt. 6,762'; hotels: Fray Marcos, Grand Canyon, and El Pinado; tourist courts: Sal's, West End, Bethel's, Williams Motel, Sun Dial, Mt. Williams, Del Sue, Hull's Motel Inn, Sutton; garages: Williams Motor Co., Gateway, Campbell, and Cheshire; cafes; stores; all accommodations.)

The town gets its name from Bill Williams Mountain, back of the town. Williams was a famous old trapper and scout. Rodeo here at the end of August. An extremely courteous Information Bureau here provides information on Grand Canyon and other nearby scenic points.

From Williams to Ash Fork is 19 miles, but in this distance you drop 1,700 feet down winding grades which are tricky on winter nights when the road is icy. Inquire about road conditions before starting, if driving at night.

135 mi. (139 mi.) Public camp ground here in the pines. At 140 mi. (134 mi.) is Pine Springs Ranch Lodge, providing gas and a few log cabins.

At 143 mi. (131 mi.) you start on the downgrade, which winds about 700 feet down in the first 4 miles and then drops another 500 feet in the next 3 miles. There are a few wide curves, but no tricky "switchbacks," though. As you come out on the open slope, you have a magnificent view of the plains ahead. The pines end as you descend, and toward the foot of the grade the road straightens out.

Gas station and store at 150 mi. (124 mi.); another gas station at 151 mi. (123 mi.).

153 mi. (121 mi.) ASH FORK. (Pop. 600; alt. 5,143'; hotels: Escalante, Arizona, and White House; courts: Hi-Line, Copper State, McCoy's; Theroux garage; cafes; all facilities.) Ash Fork is a trading and supply center for the many cattle ranches in the vicinity. Sandstone is also quarried near here.

No gas between Ash Fork and Seligman, about 30 miles distant. The road is fairly straight, across a plain covered with grass and sagebrush.

183 mi. (91 mi.) SELIGMAN. (Pop. 500; alt. 5,242'; hotels: Havasu, Navajo, Central, and Seligman; courts: Deluxe and Court Royal; garages: Olson and Seligman; cafes.) Seligman still retains much of its appearance of a cattle town, with its sidewalk awnings and even occasional hitching rails. The town is a railroad section point.

Seligman is the dividing line for another time zone: Pacific Standard Time begins here. Westbound travelers should set their watches back one hour at this point (going east advance them an hour), but since Mountain Time is "unofficially" observed even in Kingman, Arizona, it is better to wait until you reach the Arizona-California State line before making the time change. [This might have been the case in 1946, but today, the zone is along the Arizona/California border. Arizona still does not follow the time change. However, the surrounding states do. During the winter, Arizona is the same as Mountain time. During the Summer, Arizona is the same as Pacific time. The only exception is the Navajo reservation which does follow the time change to stay the same as the New Mexico portion of the reservation.]

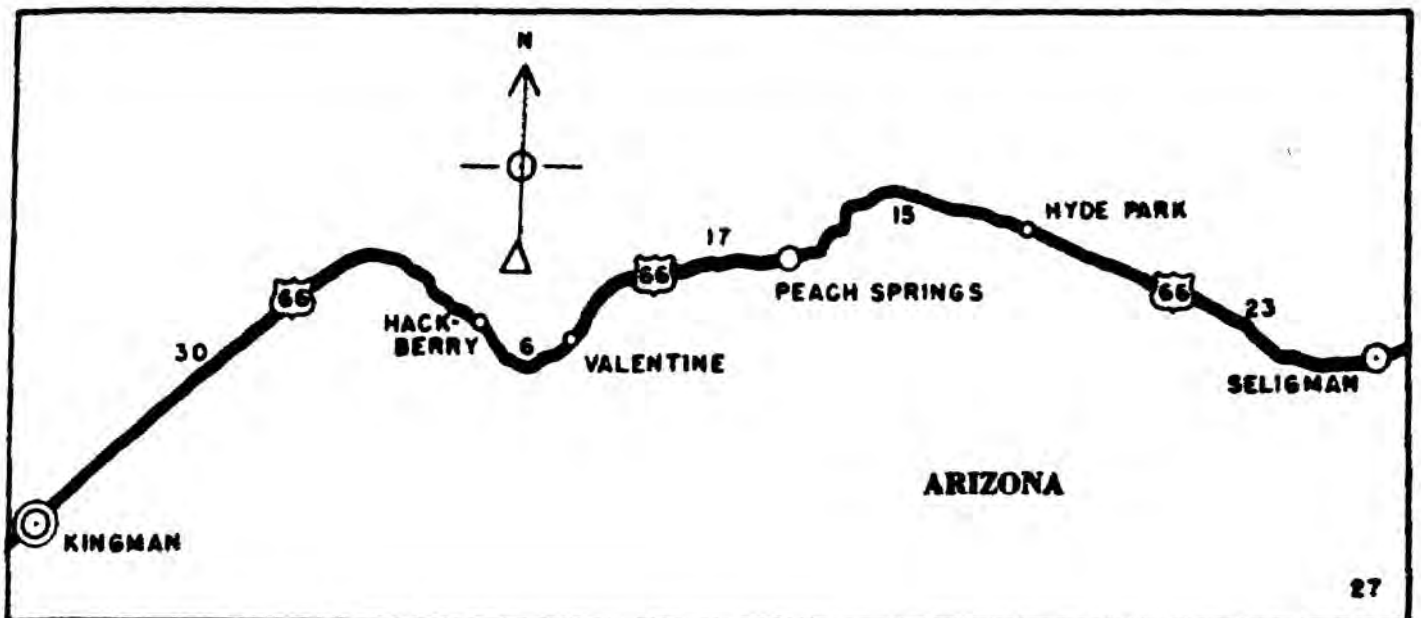
[From a few miles west of Seligman to Kingman, I-40 takes a much divergent path to the south of the old Route 66. The road still exists to the towns in the rest of this section, but you will just need to get off I-40 for most of the rest of the Arizona portion.]

204 mi. (70 mi.) Deer Lodge cabins and gas. At 20-6 mi. (68 mi.) is HYDE PARK, offering a cafe, gas, and cabins.

In this region, you enter the Hualpai Indian Reservation [this should be Hualapai], home of a tribe whose numbers have been steadily diminishing—in contrast to the Indians in general, whose number is growing. You will see many Hualpai Indians in Peach Springs.

At 217 mi. (57 mi.) you start down a grade which drops about 250 feet in 2 miles. About halfway down this grade is a sign (R) stating that the lower end of the Grand Canyon can be seen in the far distance to the north (R).

Now you drop down through a cleft in the mountains and enter PEACH SPRINGS, at 221 mi. (53 mi.). (Pop. 129; alt. 4,791'; courts: Quamacho, Peach Springs, and Texaco; garage: Milligan; Quamacho Cafe; no hotels; few stores; limited facilities.)



Get Your Kicks on Route 66 (Part 3) - Arizona

The highway to Peach Springs from Ash Fork has been quite straight, over slightly rolling plains, and the altitude has been dropping steadily. At 234 mi. (40 mi.) the road begins to wind through CROZIER CANYON.

At 236 mi. (38 mi.) you pass CROZIER, a settlement down in the canyon to your left. US 66 previously ran through this canyon community, and the remains of several tourist buildings can be seen. At present, it appears to be a town of railroad homes, distinguishable by their yellow color. There is a swimming pool here.

As you proceed, the canyon becomes more pronounced, and the highway is often cut through solid rock. At 238 mi. (as mi.) you pass VALENTINE post office. There is a gas station, grocery and a few cabins here.

At 240 mi. (34 mi.) is the Valentine Indian School (R). Long distance telephone station here. The school was built about 45 years ago, and provides education for over 200 Indians from the nearby mountains. (Alt. 3,790'.)

Now, as the road winds around the canyon slopes, the mountains begin to recede, and at 244 mi. (30 mi.) you reach HACKBERRY. (Pop. 94; alt. 3552'.) The town of Hackberry lies down in the valley across the railroad tracks (L). There are several large tanks in the town, which contain the diesel oil used by the locomotives operating on the railroads through here. Along US 66 are 3 gas stations (one offering light repairs) and a lunchroom.

Soon after leaving Hackberry, you leave Crozier Canyon and wind out onto a great plain, on which the road runs amazingly straight into Kingman.

At 265 mi. (9 mi.) is the entrance (L) to KINGMAN ARMY AIR BASE, one of the greatest of our military training bases during World War II. The vast plain, the isolation and the geography of the region offered ideal training conditions. Great bombers and swift fighters operated from here. It was said that the bright moonlight made true night-flying training difficult, though.

267 mi. (7 mi.) Gas station and grocery here. Nearby are homes of many employees of the Kingman Air Base.

274 mi. (0 mi.) KINGMAN. (Pop. 2,200; alt. 3,337'; hotels: Beale, Brunswick, Commercial; tourist courts: Akron, Arcadia, Wal-A-Pai, Williams, Kit Carson Motel, Gypsy Garden, Stony Wold, Bungalow, White Rock, Lambert's, Gateway Village, Bell's, Stratton's, Kingman, El Trovatore and Challenger; Modern Trailer Court; garages: Williston & Ireland, Old Trails, and Shanks; cafes; stores; all accommodations.) Guide Book speedometer readings end at the mid-town section of Kingman. Going east, mark your mileage reading in the margin of this page at this point.

All cars going east must stop at the STATE INSPECTION STATION, at the eastern edge of Kingman. The purpose of the inspection is to prevent importation of plant diseases and parasites which are unwittingly brought into the state. Arizona officials regret the necessity for such inspection, but the great citrus orchards of the state require careful protection. Officials inspect luggage and cars.

During the war, when the Air Base was active here, all tourist courts were occupied to overflowing, but with the coming of peace the traveler can now find accommodations. Several good cafes in town.

Each September, the citizens of Kingman celebrate their famous "Dig-N-Dogie Days" in a rodeo which combines cowboy contests with miners' events. Since Kingman lies on the margin between the cattle country to the east and the mining country to the west, the event draws a wide audience of local folks as well as many outside visitors. Only "working cowboys" can enter the riding contests, and miners compete to see who can drill a hole fastest. The town takes on quite an old-time, costumed atmosphere during the celebration.

Kingman residents will probably tell you, too, that it was in this town that Clark Gable and Carole Lombard were wed.

Northwest of Kingman, the new Davis Dam is being built across the Colorado River, at a cost of \$18 million. [The Davis Dam, originally called Bullhead Dam (for the town nearby), is about 70 miles south of the Hoover Dam along the Colorado River and northwest of Kingman, and formed Lake Mohave. It was completed in 1951.]

Some west-bound tourists leaves US 66 at Kingman and take US 466, which runs northwest from Kingman to Boulder Dam (the road runs across the top of the wall of the dam), to Las Vegas, Nevada, and then turns southwest and rejoins US 66 at Barstow, California, about 135 miles east of Los Angeles.

CHAPTER X KINGMAN, ARIZONA, TO LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

On this, the last leg of your route over US Highway 66, you climb one of your steepest grades, wind through rocky mining country, cross the Colorado River and the scorched Mojave Desert, pass close to volcanoes, and finally drive through cool orange groves and vineyards into Los Angeles.



As you leave KINGMAN, Arizona, you come to a fork at the west side of town where US 466 turns north and US 66 turns southwest. 0 mi. (369 mi.) Mark your speedometer reading in the margin of this page, so you can follow the mileage figures in this chapter.

For the first 5 miles west of Kingman, US 66 climbs slightly and passes through SITGREAVE PASS, whose rocky, palisaded walls narrow and then widen as you emerge upon a wide plain. This country is the home of the Mojave and Hualpai Indians, who fell upon early immigrant trains through the pass, one notable massacre occurring about 1862.

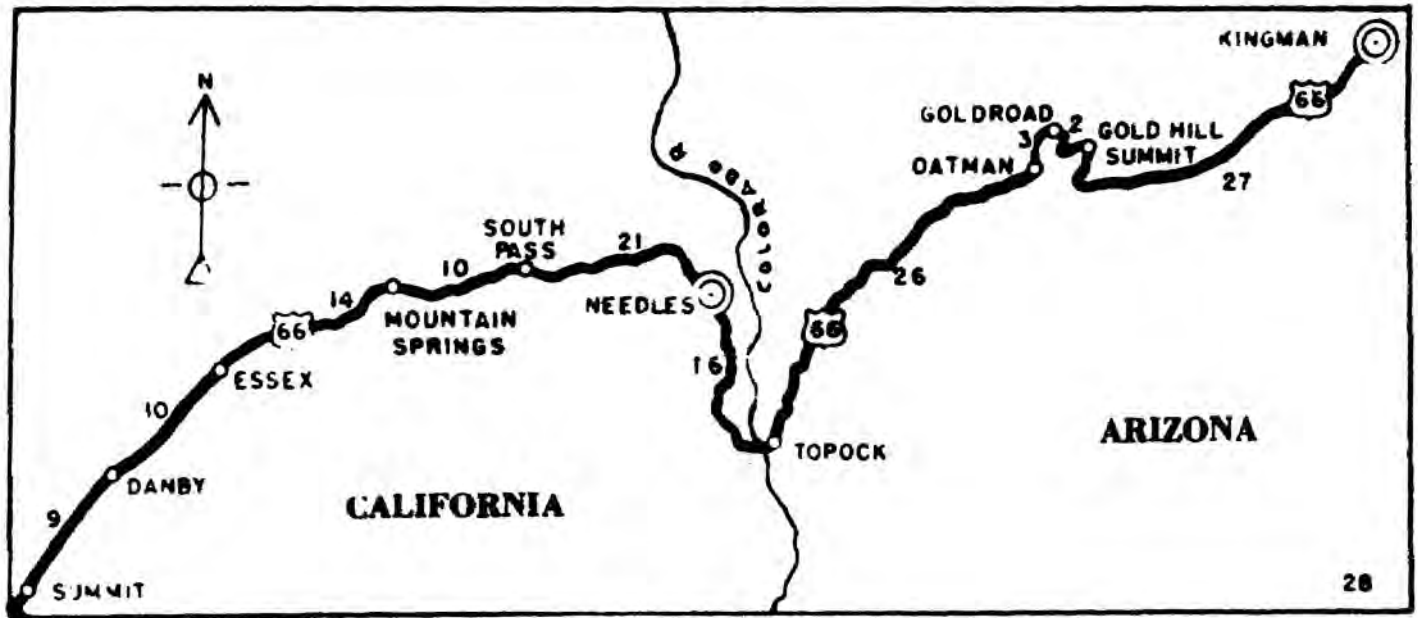
At 6 mi. (363 mi.), you leave the pass. On your left, across the railroad tracks, is a ruined mine structure of rusty corrugated iron. Gas station at 8 mi. (361 mi.).

Now the road runs straight ahead for 13 miles down a slight slope for most of the distance. The plain is dotted with mesquite, greasewood, and yucca. Watch out for cattle on the open range here.

At 18 mi. (351 mi.) you pass Fig Springs Camp, abandoned as this Guide Book goes to press. Here you start the climb up the Black Mountains ahead.

Now you start up the Gold Hill Grade, possibly the steepest grade you will encounter on US 66. The east side of this grade rises 1400 feet in 9 miles, starting with a long, gentle slope and becoming more difficult as you near the summit. In the last half mile there are two or three quick hairpin turns. The west side of this grade is the steepest, but will present no problem to the westbound driver, who should, however, keep his car in second gear going down.

Get Your Kicks on Route 66 (Part 3) - Arizona



On your way up the eastern side, you pass two camps: Cool Springs Camp at 23 mi. (346 mi.), offering gas and a few cabins, and Ed's Camp at 24 mi. (345 mi.), offering gas.

At the Gold Hill Summit, 27 mi. (342 mi.), is a gas station and ice cream parlor. (Alt. 3515'.) Just west is a lookout, with a space where you can park your car to observe the view.

Now you drop down the twisting west side of the Gold Hill Grade, around several sharp turns. The road descends over 700 feet in the 2 miles from the summit into the town of GOLDROAD, at 29 mi. (340 mi.) (Pop. 718; garage; no cabins, cafe or other facilities here.) Goldroad is a small mining community, with gold mines in operation.

For eastbound cars which cannot make the Gold Hill grade, a filling station in Goldroad offers a tow truck which will haul your car to the summit. At last inquiry their charge was \$3.50, but may be higher. Cars with trailers may need the service. [\[Since this was in 1946, I'm sure these travel issues are no longer a problem with the development of the interstate highway system starting in the 1950s and with much more developed cars.\]](#)

Leaving Goldroad, US 66 continues to descend rather swiftly, twisting around the mountains. To the north (R) there is a grand view of the mountains, which are desolate, majestic, sun-baked desert peaks.

You pass the Consolidated Gold Mining Company's mine and soon afterwards enter OATMAN at 32 mi. (337 mi.) (Pop. 737; alt. 2,500'; Everett Hotel; two small tourist courts; Bill's garage; limited facilities.) Oatman is a mining boom, town whose day has passed, although a few mines still operate. US 66 passes through the town's one main street. Along one side are boarded-up stores, plank sidewalks, old sidewalk awnings. There are many old shacks in the town, dating from its boom at the turn of the century. One store sign says, "We carry general merchandise—nearly all guaranteed." The old Arizona Hotel, still operating, is a truly pioneer structure. Celebration here every Labor Day.

Leaving Oatman, US 66 descends a long, gentle slope into the valley of the Colorado River. The highway passes close to towering peaks. At 35 mi. (334 mi.) is a trailer camping spot (R), where the ground is level.

37 mi. (332 mi.) Water faucet at the roadside here (R) for cars that need water on the climb driving east.

39 mi. (330 mi.) Another spot to stop overnight with a trailer, on the site of a burned-out gas station (L).

45 mi. (324 mi.) Patches of ocotillo cactus along the road here, with tall, slender stalks rising in clusters.



US 66 now winds and dips through a section strewn with boulders of volcanic origin. Their glossy, dark surface results from action of the fierce sun over many centuries and is called "desert varnish."

Soon you are near the Colorado River and turn south along its eastern bank. Here, among the willows are many quiet spots for campers and fishermen. At 58 mi. (311 mi.) you reach TOPOCK. (Pop. 52; alt. 500'; gas; grocery; few cabins; garage for light repairs; limited facilities.) Now you are

down to the lowest elevation you have reached so far on US 66. Topock is an oil distributing center.

At the western edge of Topock, you cross a steel bridge over the COLORADO RIVER. Boulder Dam is on this river, far to the north. At the middle of the bridge, you cross the ARIZONA-CALIFORNIA STATE LINE.

On the California side of the river, US 66 climbs a few short, steep grades onto a plateau, over which the highway runs into Needles...

[\[The next available issue will conclude this journey from the Arizona-California border to the Pacific Ocean. I might go back and include in the future other sections of the book or highlight interesting points.\]](#)

Where Food Comes From!

You might be surprised to know where some of the food you see in the store actually comes from! Some have never seen what it looks like in its “natural habitat”! Read more: www.boredpanda.com/how-food-grows



Almonds



Cashews

[So, this is why they're so expensive!]



Peanuts



Pistachios

Where Food Comes From!



Pineapples



Bananas



Pomegranates



Mangos



Starfruit

Where Food Comes From!



Artichokes (after blooming)



Brussels Sprouts



Dates



Wasabi Root

Where Food Comes From!



Tea Leaves



Pepper Corns



Cinnamon Bark



Vanilla Orchid

Where Food Comes From!



Asparagus

[Should be growing fairly soon.]



Cacao (Chocolate!)



Quinoa



Sesame Seeds

America Is Me!

Okay, maybe this is “self incriminating” (okay, not really), but this is certainly sort of embarrassing. I was in a small part of a made for TV special in 1982 produced by the local station, Channel 4, in Miami, Florida. This very low budget (no budget?) half hour special was called America Is Me! The whole point of it was to educate people (other kids?) about how people from all cultural backgrounds is what makes up the unique culture of people in the United States. As I recall, I was only able to be part of one section of it in the studio as shown in these screen shots, which was in the first few minutes of the special. There are more parts of the program in the studio and outside that I was not a part of.

Personal Remembrances

Okay, so we practiced this studio section several times. There were three or four cameras shooting at different angles. Each camera had a light above it showing which one was the active camera shooting. However, when they did the “real” recording (the last one), they disabled the lights so we had no idea which one was active! Also, we had to do this embarrassing “in place” dancing while sitting, on our knees, or standing. In my case, I was on my knees on a box. (Yeah, it was super awkward!)

Me!



Title screen of the special program.

Me!



The whole group. Not everyone was in the whole program.

Me!



Every kid had a “closeup” to say what they wanted to be when they grow up. I had said that I wanted to be an art teacher. (Look at that butterfly collar! That was one of my favorite shirts!)

CAST

ROBERT de STOLFE
PNINA FLEMENBAUM
ALHAMBRA GORDON
ALEX “PEKKA” HALL
YASMIN HASSAN
LIONEL JONES
MICHAEL MELBERG
LEE PETIT-PHAR

Credits at the end of the show. This was only part of the cast credits in the program, shown in alpha order. (No one ever gets my name right!)

Upcoming Issues

Here are some topics I plan to feature in future issues, not necessarily the very next issue, but some future issue.

Historic Archives

The Herald Democrat, March 13, 1892

A Hen Story.

One day last summer when I was picnicking near an old farmhouse the lady who lived there told me this story about one of her Leghorn hens: The hen had been very troublesome. She would insist upon hatching eggs and, as her owners did not want any chickens, I suppose she got reckless and thought, "Well, if I can't hatch eggs, I'll hatch something else. I don't care what it is, so long as it is a bit like eggs. But I'll not give in to them and give up altogether sitting on something." So she roamed about on the lawn, and all at once she came upon what looked to her very much like two green eggs. These were apples that had fallen off the tree over her head; but hens' mental capacities are limited, as you know, and she never thought of that, but cackled away as if to say, "Good gracious, how very fortunate I am! It will be nice to see what comes out of green eggs that have a little black dot at one end and a tiny tail at the other." She thought the stalk was a tail, and admired it very much. And there she sat, day after day, as sweetly content as hens can be, and if the apples had not got bad and been taken away I dare say she would be sitting on them still, poor thing!

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Route 66 (final)

With Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona covered, we will conclude with the last section of California going from the Arizona border to the Pacific Ocean.



Texas Independence

Texas declared independence from Mexico on March 2, 1836. Much of what happened before and after this date and the following months was not all that pretty.



Boredom Happens

Do you know what happens when someone is bored? They take parts of historic paintings and superimpose them onto Google Street View, that's what! I'll include some of my favorite ones.

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Back Page Literature

The XIT Ranch of Texas by J. Evetts Haley

This Back Page Literature section is an encore from the October 2015 issue. The original page was part of a small series of writings I did while taking a Texas history class in the Summer of 2002 and put in my journals in the summer of 2015. This was the fourth and last book review of that class.

The XIT Ranch of Texas: And the Early Days of the Llano Estacado was written by John (?) Evetts Haley in 1928. This book was published in 1929 with a re-release in 1953 and in 1967 by University of Oklahoma Press (Norman). The book's organization is roughly in date order with fifteen chapters. Also included is a short preface, an appendix of primary material, bibliography, and index. Thirty-three pages of photos and maps give visual reference to places, people, and details given in the text. Haley notes in his preface that he does not intend to completely cover every aspect of the XIT Ranch's existence, but rather to have a book for the general public about the XIT Ranch. He also states that the complete records of the XIT Ranch were given to the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society in Canyon, Texas who he got most of the printed information to write this book. Besides the printed material, J. Evetts Haley himself interviewed or received letters from most of the people involved with the XIT Ranch, considering that they were still alive in the mid to late 1920s when he first collected the information for this book. Here is a summary of the XIT Ranch's existence as written by Haley.

The story of the XIT Ranch started with a Mexican cow (similar to the famed longhorn) that crossed over the Rio Grande onto Texas land. Even after the struggles Texas faced with Mexico then became independent from Mexico, the cattle remained. Texas had more land than people and populations were scattered. The XIT Ranch developed after the original purpose in 1879. The land that was part of the XIT Ranch (three million acres) was considered payment in exchange for building the state capital in Austin. The land basically bordered the west Texas boundary in the northern panhandle part of the state. Haley goes into much detail about the early occupation of these lands by the Spanish, Mexicans, and Indians. Buffalos were hunted at first for the calves to raise, but then for their meat with hunting parties. Haley gives many details and examples about the hunts and the ways in which the buffalo meat was cured for keeping. Other details cover items that only relate to the XIT ranch by circumstance, such as the origins of the names of the various divisions of the ranch.

After Texas independence, ranching started forming as a Texan specific business. The American cowboy started at this time as the Texans gathered the Longhorns left by fleeing Mexicans. This new cattle industry formed in the 1840s and expanded heavily in the 1850s until the Civil war. Haley then discussing where the many famous ranches started in the 1870s and 1880s along with telling about the people of these ranches.

In November 1875, the Committee of State Affairs passed a resolution to reserve three million acres of land (called the capital reservation) as payment for building a state capitol building in Austin. The issue was put before the state voters and was passed in February 1876. An additional fifty thousand acres were also set aside as payment for a survey of the land. A board was set up to contract for the survey of the lands and advertised for bids for the survey. The bid went to JT Munson who then conducted the survey. The land was then sold, but the cattle industry was not yet in great demand for land, therefore very few bids actually were made. By 1882, the need for the new building was accelerated due to the burning of the old capitol building. Mattheas Schnell was awarded the contract to build the capitol building. Schnell then assigned a three-fourths interest to Taylor, Babcock, and Company and later the last quarter to Abner Taylor as representative. The building was finished in April 1888 at over twice the estimated cost of 1.5 million dollars.

Development of a ranch started before the capitol building was finished. A.C. Babcock and a team of people rode starting to the north corner of the land payment to thoroughly inspect the land. They found a discrepancy with where the Texas boundary was. After some action, Texas-New Mexico debates, and political persuasion, a joint agreement between the states was reached setting the boundaries with the original John Clark surveys. As part of the inspection of the land, Babcock noticed unbreaking expanses of grasses of several types. He heard tales of a cattle boom that promised huge profits and recommended to the others of the company that cattle and sheep should be kept on the lands. He also recommended fencing the land to avoid building many line camps and drifting herds. This was a good solution for the meanwhile, considering that colonizing and selling the land was premature since this region of the state was not yet developed. To start this cattle business

required much money to build the needed structures, buy cattle, and provide water for the cattle, among many other needed items. After no luck in the United States to raise the needed money, John Farwell went to England. After extended negotiations with England, England required that borrowed money must be from an English company. Therefore, the *Capitol Freehold Land and Investment Company, Limited* was incorporated by The Companies Act in England with approximately fifteen million dollars (three million pounds sterling) authorized. So, the Capitol lands were transferred from Texas to the Capitol Company, they transferred it to the trustees of the Capitol Freehold Land and Investment Company based in London.

John Farwell became managing director of the new ranch, which was under lease from the British company. He created monthly reports to the British company and they held annual meetings of the stockholders in England. The first cattle were delivered in July and August 1885. A brand was needed to "label" the cattle. After some discussion, Ab Blocker recommended X I T, which was accepted then used as a brand on the cattle. XIT stands for Ten (roman X) In Texas, meaning the ten counties the capitol lands cover. The brand was large but was easy to make and hard to alter. The cowboys of the XIT then went to branding the cattle the several years while more cattle were bought. Prairie fires, severe blizzards, and dust clouds caused setbacks, but the ranch pushed through. Before the cattle came in 1884, the fencing project was contracted to Bill Metcalf for the north end of the ranch. By the late 1890s, the ranch was fenced off into 94 pastures for a total of fifteen hundred miles of fence, or over six thousand miles of barbed wire (which equates to five carloads of wire staves and one carload of staples and another carload of gate hinges) and over one hundred thousand fence posts.

Even while the XIT Ranch was developing, signs and hints of the end were becoming clear. Because the land was so fertile to grow wild grasses, inquiries came from many other states about purchase of the land. Many predicted that grangers were coming with hoe in hand and were going to plow the land. One of the owners of the capitol lands even said, "...I'll live to see the day when the plow will push the cattle off this range and grain crops will be fed to dairy cows!" This along with the railroad and needs for land development soon will bring the XIT ranch to an end. The cattlemen of the region did not even oppose to settling because land value would rise. Many people came to the panhandle and settled and farmed. Two major lawsuits brought shock to the ranch. One lawsuit was by the minor stockholders of the syndicate against the Farwells and the syndicate stating they were using the ranch for promotion of personal interests. The case and appeal were bitterly and painfully fought but ended with the XIT's name being cleared. The second lawsuit referred back to when Texas set aside land for the building of the capitol building and the past survey errors. Basically, the state decided that too much land was given as payment for the building of the capitol and that the state had right to recover the excess acreage. At the point of this lawsuit, most of the XIT land had already been sold, but the state did claim almost fifty eight thousand acres in two counties. The XIT land was sold to many people in varying sizes and by November 1, 1912, the last of the herds and of the lands were sold. The money gained from the sale of the lands went to pay off the British bonds that were sold just after the syndicate was formed in England. This brought the XIT Ranch to an end.

The detail given in this book is incredible. Haley has a flair for telling a story with exciting detail and expressive words. He provides information that is as much as a history of ranching in West Texas as it is about the XIT Ranch.

He does tend to mix the order of events, which creates confusing references and random points of discussion rather than tell the history in time order. In some cases, information stated seemed slightly biased or only from a particular point of view where the information should just be facts and associations. Occasional cultural slurs appear, especially in reference to Mexicans and Indians. Although the information generally is great, the organization of it tends to be confusing and could be better organized for easier reference. Other than that, the book was fairly easy to read and was extremely addicting to visualize the events as they occurred.

The photos and maps given were directly relevant and provided a face or place for a particular discussion. The sources used were mostly primary with many of them obtained by Haley himself. An appendix provides supplemental information that proves quite interesting and notable. The General Rules of the XIT Ranch in particular was notable for it showed the very structured and even intolerable modes of behavior and rules expected while part of the ranch. This book is recommendable to anyone interested in ranching history.