



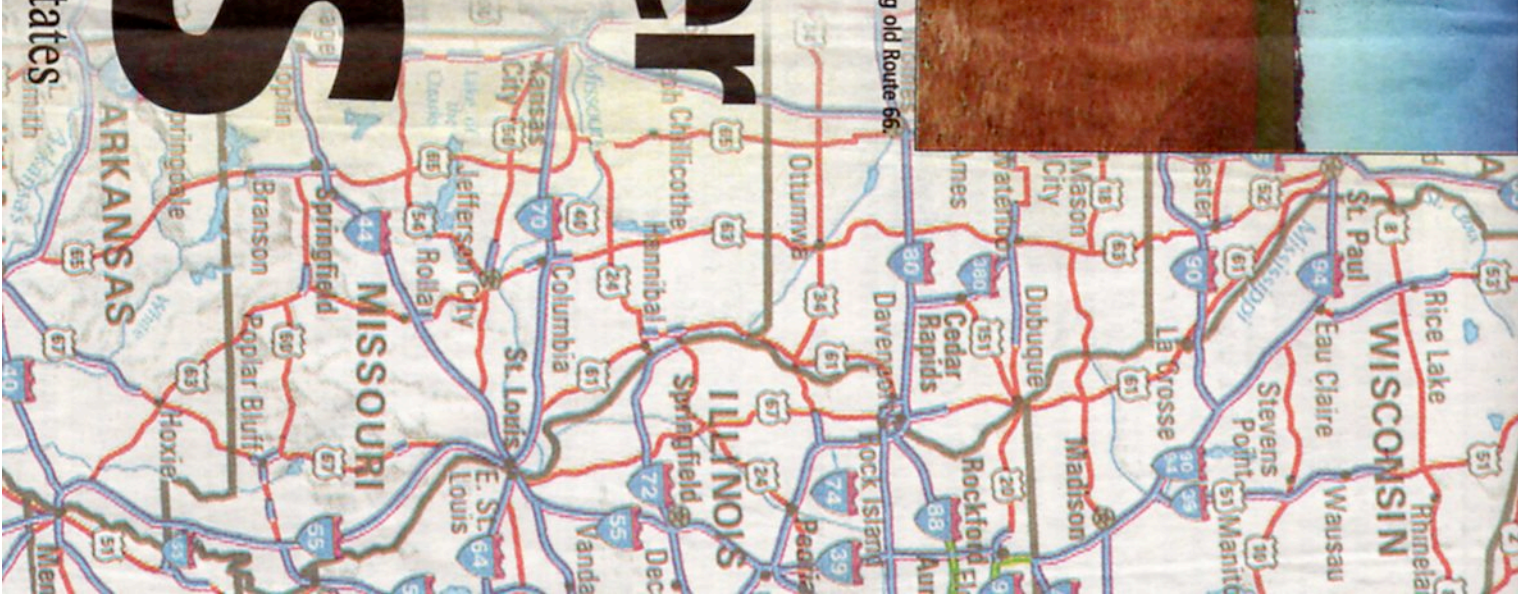
Planted by a group of artists, the Cadillac Ranch springs from a wheat field west of Amarillo, Texas, along old Route 66.

# Getting her



# KICKS

Trip across historic highway runs through 8 states



**N**othing can compare to the euphoria I felt when, as a child, it was time to leave the bleak, cold winter in Illinois and head west on Route 66 to the sunshine in California. It was usually around November when the prairie land my father farmed had all been harvested and the ground had frozen for the winter. My mother would get our school assignments, ship them to Los Angeles and off we would go.

We had relatives in California. My grandmother lived in Santa Monica, where we learned to body surf and play volleyball in the sand. Southern California in those days was a land of sweet-smelling orange blossoms, glamorous movie stars and endless sunshine. My mom took 8-mm movies of those trips, which have kept the memories alive for us forever.

An amazing renewed interest in Route 66 is going on. Magazines, newspaper articles, TV shows and videos are spreading the word about the route's restoration. Though the official route was decertified in 1985, people are arriving from all over the world who want to drive it and find what America was like in years past.

Route 66 associations have been organized in the eight states between Illinois and California. Museums can be found along the way and several festivals are held annually. Dozens of landmarks have been restored, and a few years ago the federal government approved the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Act, which allocates \$10 million to be spent over 10 years.

My sister, Judy Tobias, and I decided we would like to drive the old route once more. We would start at the family farm in Illinois at harvest time, then head west just as we used to do when we were kids. Our itinerary took us over 2,000 miles through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. We drove on parallel routes I-44 and I-40 and picked up Route 66 whenever we could. In Arizona we made a side trip to the Grand Canyon.

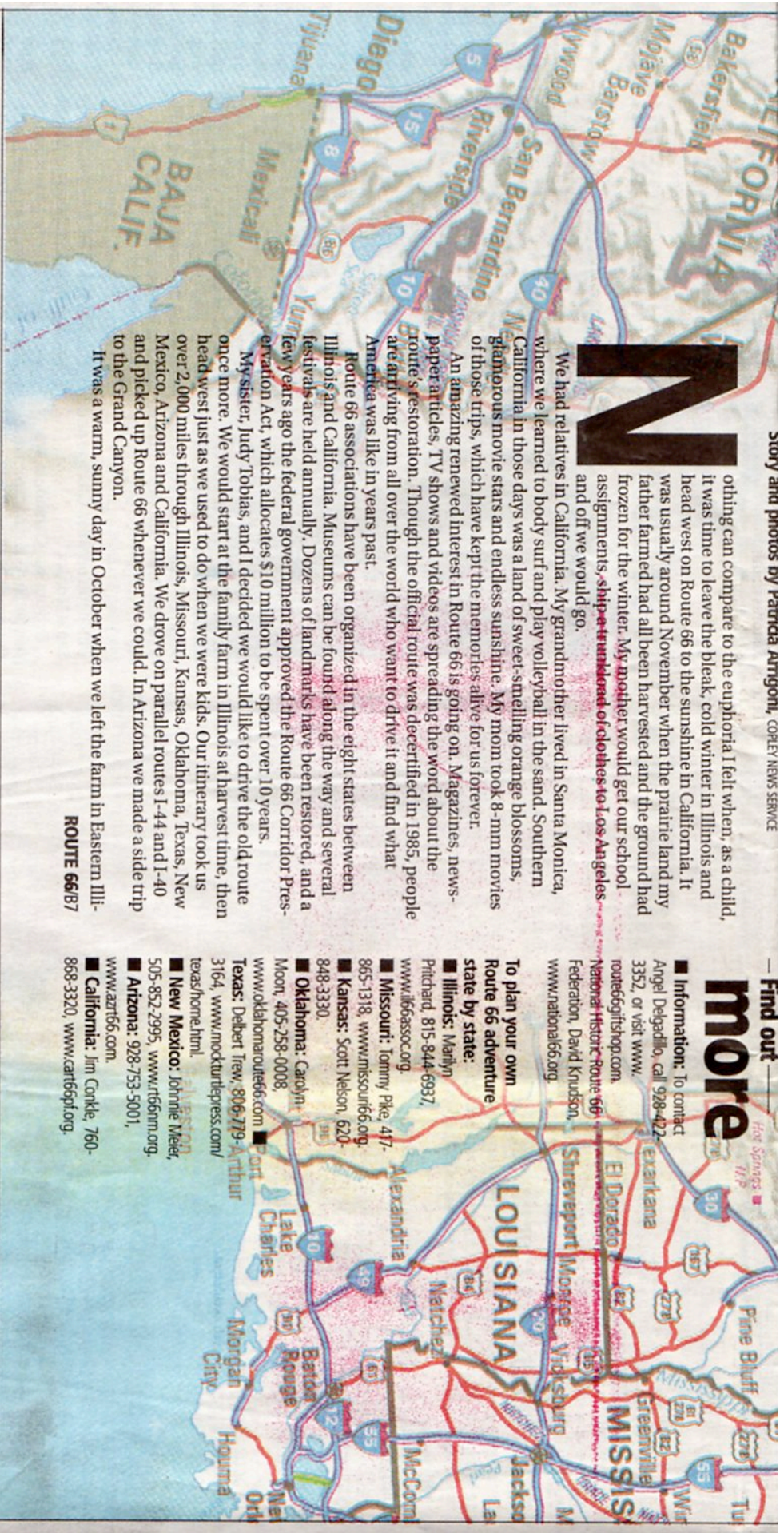
It was a warm, sunny day in October when we left the farm in Eastern Illi-

**Find out more**

**Information:** To contact Angel Delgado, call 928-422-3352, or visit [www.route66giftshop.com](http://www.route66giftshop.com).  
**National Historic Route 66 Federation,** David Knudson, [www.national66.org](http://www.national66.org).

**To plan your own Route 66 adventure state by state:**

- **Illinois:** Marilyn Pritchard, 815-844-6937, [www.il66assoc.org](http://www.il66assoc.org)
- **Missouri:** Tammy Pike, 417-865-1318, [www.missouri66.org](http://www.missouri66.org)
- **Kansas:** Scott Nelson, 620-848-3330
- **Oklahoma:** Carolyn Moon, 405-258-0008, [www.oklahomaroute66.com](http://www.oklahomaroute66.com)
- **Texas:** Debert Tew, 806-719-3164, [www.mokartpress.com/teas/home.html](http://www.mokartpress.com/teas/home.html)
- **New Mexico:** Johnnie Meier, 505-852-2995, [www.nm66m.org](http://www.nm66m.org)
- **Arizona:** 928-753-5001, [www.azr66.com](http://www.azr66.com)
- **California:** Jim Conkle, 760-868-3320, [www.cabr66f.org](http://www.cabr66f.org)



# Train to carry family's RV may prove hard to find

**Q:** We'd like to travel cross-country with our recreational vehicle but would like to piggyback the RV onto a train one way and drive back the other. Are there any trains that offer this service and how expensive is it?

**A:** As far as I know, there isn't an auto train that runs coast to coast. If you don't want to drive both ways, you might consider hiring someone to drive one way, or, depending on the size of your vehicle, you might be able to find a trucking company to help you. Auto



**George Hobica**  
TRAVEL Q&A

can find maps of Vancouver Island online at [www.bctravel.com/vanislemap.html](http://www.bctravel.com/vanislemap.html) although, as far as I can tell, there is no map showing the location of RV sites or golf courses.

**Q:** Your response on home exchanges brought back lots of memories, almost all good. One word of caution for your readers: If something goes wrong, do not expect any help from the home exchange organization

not to bring children into our condo, but that didn't stop her. She parked our car in a handicapped zone. She ruined our cooking utensils. She left the place in a mess. We had to hire someone to clean it up.

She misrepresented her apartment — it was not as close to the motorway as she said, and her clothes dryer was a wooden rack over the tub. When we returned, I wrote a six-page single-spaced letter to Homelink, enclosing 30 pages of exhibits to back up my