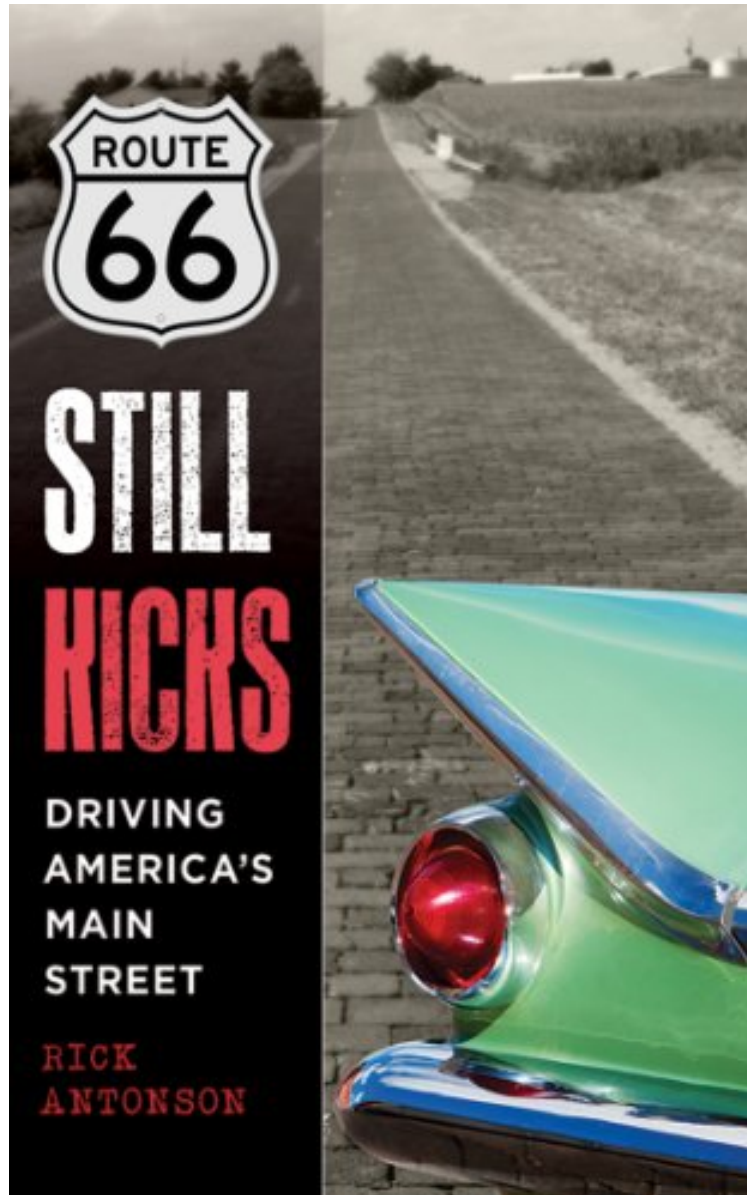


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Route 66 Still Kicks: Driving America's Main Street

Rick Antonson

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Rick Antonson : Route 66 Still Kicks: Driving America's Main Street before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Route 66 Still Kicks: Driving America's Main Street:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A nostalgic delight By LibrarianI was worried, from reading some previous reviews, about the level of bantering between the book's two travellers, but it proved to be neither excessive

nor bothersome. This account, despite its occasional levity, is an almost Proustian search for places, a way of life, and a state of mind now forever lost in time. The vestiges of Route 66 and the businesses that remain on it (keeping in mind that many, like portions of the great highway itself, have fallen to ruin) are either, themselves, crumbling or are only a shadow of what they once were, thereby demonstrating that you can't turn back time. Many who can remember the America of this road's heyday, and who seek to revisit it (either in person or in a book like this) will likely be saddened (if not disappointed) by the inevitable impossibility of revisiting the past, but others (of a certain age) will enjoy the nostalgia resulting from at least making the attempt. Reading the book, this oldtimer sure did. Whether or not a younger reader will experience the same level of pleasure, however, is debatable given that this is NOT a look back at memorable things from THEIR personal past but (depending on their age) that of their parents or grandparents (or even their great-grandparents). It should also be noted that the author's coverage of cities and sights along the way is rather selective and haphazard; some things mentioned and initially sought remained unvisited and undescribed. Because the actual roadway or "route" of Route 66 was occasionally subject to change over the years, there are variations of it (some more interesting today than others). These two travellers strove to visit many of the oldest, now totally neglected portions of the road, sections bypassed and often dead-ended by such re-alignments. Doing so required them to exit the "newer" designated through-route to detour and backtrack. Some of these portions (now soggy mud and gravel, pot-holed macadam, or buckled concrete and no longer able to be ridden on) have little to recommend them and not much to describe apart from their desolation and the melancholy of their abandonment and decay. So, as much as this book successfully serves as a memoir of a two-week jaunt on this historic road by a Canadian and his travel buddy (in the process, seeing in the road a metaphor -- though NOT a negative one -- for America), it is not meant to be a detailed, comprehensive guidebook to all its variations or current "attractions." Thus, this is likely not the best book about Route 66, but it is certainly a very enjoyable one. ADDENDUM: I purchased this ebook as a "special" for \$1.99, but as much as I enjoyed it at THAT price, I don't know that I would have enjoyed it as much at \$9.99; I prefer my ebooks to be under \$5.00. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... travel books but it held my interest and I enjoyed reading it By maddeer ms I do not usually read travel books but it held my interest and I enjoyed reading it. I will probably not read it again unless I take the trip or part of it someday. It answered several of my questions about the road and even mentioned the TV show. I really did not care what kind of beer they drank in the evening but it was a guy trip so... and the places they drove that mustang through I am not sure I would have attempted with my four-wheel drive F250 but my husband would have. It sounded like they had fun and after all that is what the trip was about! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I'm going to Route 66 too. By TurkWink So glad to have read this book as I plan a cross country trip across the USA. Although we will be driving only a portion of it, this book gave great insights to the history of "America's Main Street". I can't wait to start my own adventure.

You'll never understand America until you've driven Route 66 that's old Route 66 all the way, a truck driver in California once said to author Rick Antonson. It's the most famous highway in the world. With some determination, grit, and a good sense of direction, one can still find and drive on 90 percent of the original Route 66 today. This travelogue follows Rick and his travel companion Peter along 2,400 miles through eight states from Chicago to Los Angeles as they discover the old Route 66. With surprising and obscure stories about Route 66 personalities like Woody Guthrie, John Steinbeck, Al Capone, Salvador Dali, Dorothea Lange, Cyrus Avery (the Father of Route 66), the Harvey Girls, Mickey Mantle, and Bobby Troup (songwriter of (Get Your Kicks on) Route 66), Antonson's fresh perspective reads like an easy drive down a forgotten road: winding, stopping now and then to mingle with the locals and reminisce about times gone by, and then getting stuck in the mud, sucked into its charms. Rick mixes hilarious anecdotes of happenstance travel with the route's difficult history, its rise and fall in popularity, and above all, its place in legend. The author has committed part of his book's proceeds to the preservation work of the National Route 66 Federation.

From Booklist Their hopes for a trip to Asia dashed, the author (president of Tourism Vancouver and a frequent traveler) and his friend Peter quickly came up with plan B: Route 66, the legendary and now mostly bypassed highway that spans nearly 2,500 miles from Illinois to California. The result is this lighthearted travelogue Rick and Peter being a sort of road-comedy team but the book also has its bittersweet moments, since to remember Route 66 in its heyday is to remember an America that no longer exists. The book is full of interesting or amazing historical facts (for example, Illinois was the first state to completely pave its portion of Route 66, way back in the Roaring Twenties, because Al Capone needed a good road to transport bootleg liquor). It might be a bit too artsy-fartsy to call the book a road trip into the past, but along the way, Rick and Peter do discover bits of the original Route 66, untouched by the modern world, including a smattering of people who live along the original roadway and who seem to have stepped out of the past. A winning mixture of travelogue and history. --David Pitt One of the best books of the bunch [2012 round up of Holiday Travel Books by The New York Times] is partly a homage to Bobby Troup, the lyricist who wrote the 1946 hit (Get Your Kicks on) Route 66. (Joshua Hammer, for The New York Times) Antonson calls Route 66 "the highway

of highways," and after reading his luminous travelogue, you probably will agree. A must for Route 66 aficionados. (Chicago Tribune)Antonson's most impressive feat in *Route 66 Still Kicks* is how he incorporates history into the narrative. Even those familiar with the stories of Will Rogers, Cyrus Avery, Mickey Mantle, or Al Capone will find them rendered by Antonson in a fresh way. Highly recommended. (Route 66 News)There are travel books, and there are travelogues, and then, if you're lucky, you come across storytelling like this that actually takes you on a history-filled, magical mystery tour that becomes a remarkably accessible journey. (Peter Greenberg, travel editor, CBS Evening News)His tale is a middle-age Woodstock in motion, an encounter with an America that isn't as lost as we think. And in the end Antonson proves that Route 66 indeed still kicks as does America. (Keith Bellows, editor in chief of *National Geographic Traveler*)The most impressive account of a road trip I have ever read. (Paul Taylor, publisher of *Route 66 Magazine*)There are many Route 66 books but none are a full-length road trip like this. If you plan to motor west and get your kicks doing it, I suggest you read it. (David Knudson, executive director, National Historic Route 66 Federation)By far the best book I have read about the Road in many, many years. Two guys went in search of Route 66 and found America. Highly recommended. (Bob Moore, co-author of *The Complete Guidebook to Route 66* and *The Complete Atlas to Route 66*)I have traveled Route 66 more times than a long-haul trucker and this book is going to become one of the classics of the road - solid proof that Route 66 still kicks. (Jim Conkle, director, Route 66 Pulse newspaper and TV) We've all travelled some part of Route 66, if only in our dreams. Road-tripping 66 is largely a young person's rite of passage - when everything is possible and nothing is certain. Rick Antonson comes to this mythic road in later years and his Mustang-enabled journey with a buddy represents a life "without restrictions or obligations." His tale is a middle-age Woodstock in motion, an encounter with an America that isn't as lost as we think. Off he goes in a cratering economy, summoning the voices of Woody Guthrie and John Steinbeck, singing from the hymnal of the road - the Eagles's anthemic "Take It Easy" - and thrumming through obscure towns like McLean and Romeroville and Bellemont, across landscapes made iconic in the movies of Errol Flynn and Ronald Reagan. It is, of course, the characters he encounters that make this funny, warmly rendered little treasure of a road-trip chronicle so winning. And in the end Antonson proves that Route 66 indeed still kicks - as does America. (Keith Bellows)