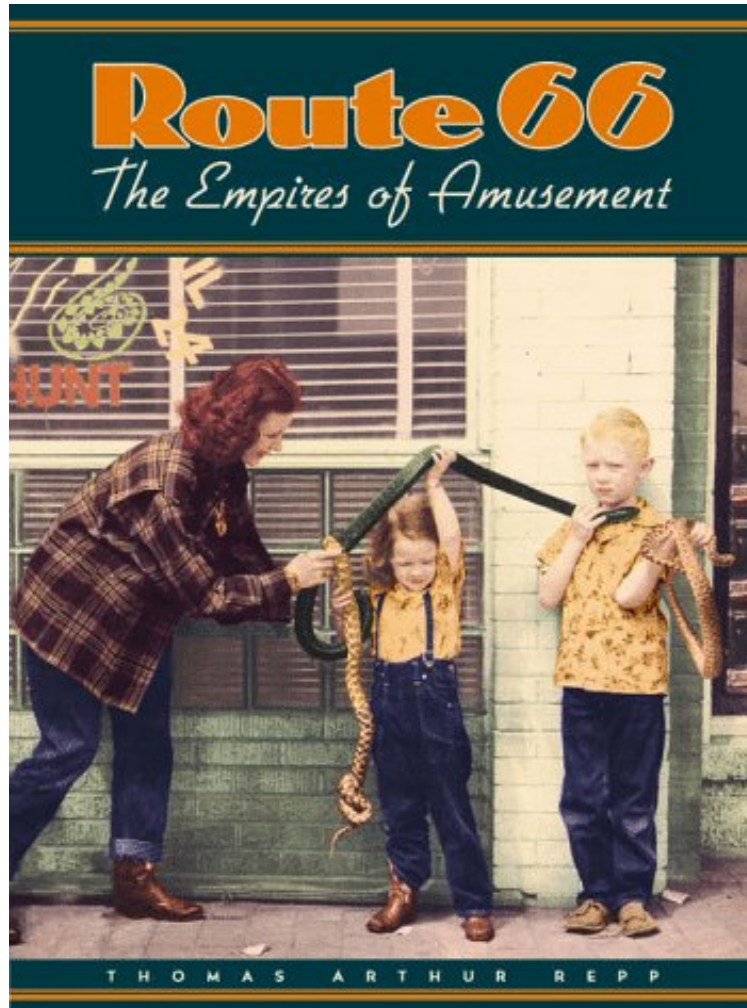


## Route 66: The Empires of Amusement

Thomas Arthur Repp

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**Thomas Arthur Repp : Route 66: The Empires of Amusement** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Route 66: The Empires of Amusement:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good collection of Route 66 human interest stories By NM Artist I am reading this book for research purposes related to Route 66, and enjoying the variety of information provided, along with great photos featured. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Flawed presentation of great material. By clodhoppersmith Great subject material combined with convoluted writing leave me giving this book an average rating. Over 20 years old, I doubt there are that many interested in it, but the recollections put down in this book are, in many cases, probably all that is left of some of the most iconic stops on Route 66. The book winds its way south from Chicago, hitting virtually every cave along the way. The author clearly has a strong interest in his subject matter, but I wonder how many places missed the cut simply due to a lack of source material. Each stop gets from 1 to

6 pages of background material before we travel further south (west) along the old route. Strong writers know when to sparingly use the tools of the trade (Metaphors, Similes, Analogies....), Repp seems determined to jam at least one of them into every sentence, worse yet, many of them simply make no sense at all. This causes the reader to reread entire sentences and paragraphs numerous times, trying to understand where he was trying to lead us. I would never think of comparing a road to an IV, nor have any idea what that means, yet that is one of the more understandable comparisons made in the book. I believe Repp also has a strong sense of humor, again, those moments get lost in simply trying to understand the sentence, further taking us away from the enjoyment of the material he has compiled. I fully intend to buy the 2nd book from this author as he continues the journey on 66, I only hope he has toned down his overzealous use of the techniques he learned in writing class. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. SpeedReaders.info ReviewBy Speed Readers It is reassuring to note that Repp's book was received positively by the inner circle of established Route 66 writers such as Wallis or Ross. Repp does cover a new facet, especially in terms of the photographic record, but it is rather on the fringes. His focus is on the carnival folk that set up shop along certain parts of Route 66. What the book doesn't say, what none of the reviewers say, but what ought to be clarified nevertheless is that the circumstance that entertainers sought out Route 66 has more to do with necessity being the mother of invention than any intrinsic quality of Route 66. The book's 200 new and vintage photos have largely not been published before. That, in and of itself, regardless of its Route 66 connection, validates the book's purpose. Undeniably, Repp has done a great deal of research in his six years of traveling Route 66 and provides a heretofore missing piece to the puzzle, especially the oral histories in his interviews with the original protagonists or their offspring. His writing style is, well, unique. Whether you call it inspired or contrived, the result is the same: it forces you to slow down. The book has a bibliography and an index but no map. The Route 66 novice will note with irritation that none of the attractions are specifically identified by state; the text does provide clues but they have to be stumbled across. Full review at . Copyright 2010, Sabu Advani

Route 66: The Empires of Amusement is, quite simply, the first book ever written to examine in detail the lives of the most overlooked group of people on America's favorite highway: the tourist attraction operators. From Whoopee Coasters to show caves, snake pits to trading posts with piano-playing chickens, Route 66: The Empires of Amusement goes to the families themselves for their stories, and then tells those stories in full. It tells tales of Blue Whales and prairie dog towns. Sweethearts who smooched between buffalo burgers. And how each came to claim their place in the Mother Road's history. Route 66: The Empires of Amusement showcases these stories with over 200 color and vintage photographs--many taken from the personal collections of the old entrepreneurs themselves. Their discovery completes a package guaranteed to take you back to those days when happiness was a rubber tomahawk. And getting there was all the fun.

"Crisp and entertaining. . . ("Romance" and "Empires") are the best volumes on the list of the growing Route 66 bibliography." -- Dallas Morning News, July 28, 2002" Just when folks start to think everything has been said about Route 66 along comes Thomas Repp and his Route 66: The Empires of Amusement. Repp's painstaking research, his obvious passion for the open road, and his attention to detail make Route 66: The Empires of Amusement an important contribution to the Route 66 revival. Bravo, Thomas Repp! Bravo!" -- Michael Wallis, author, Route 66: The Mother Road "Thomas Repp delivers one of the great missing links in the Mother Road story with punch and pizzazz. In Route 66: The Empires of Amusement, he piles us into the back seat for a bug-eyed trip through the fun house of yesteryear, where we are entertained by an amazing cast of characters and where the ride through each chapter is as unpredictable as the last. Buckle up, because this Tilt-A-Whirl spins full speed until the last page!" -- Jim Ross, Route 66 historian and author, Oklahoma's Mother Road From the Inside Flap A man who buries himself alive for profit. . . A flying saucer sitting in Doc Holliday's backyard. . . A reptile garden maintained by a church congregation. . . Route 66 has been called the Mother Road, America's Main Street and the Dust Bowl Highway filled with angst and wrathful grapes. Now award-winning author Thomas Arthur Repp wields a ringmaster's baton to point out how U.S. Highway 66 was also the Road of Wonders. Route 66: The Empires of Amusement takes an in-depth look at the old road's carnival roots. It revisits and reconstructs those establishments that sprang up along the highway to serve simple entertainment. It pays an overdue tribute to early curbside impresarios who dared to dream candy-apple dreams. Repp works closely with owners, operators and grown children of Route 66 tourist attractions. He sets down the histories of these establishments in a style nostalgic and lively. These are stories of reptile houses, show caves and prairie dog towns. They are tales of entrepreneurs who earned quarters with piano-playing chickens and motel proprietors who struck deals with traveling snake men. Families of roadside entertainers have graciously shared photographs from their personal albums. Their generosity makes possible a book filled with never-before-published peeks at the workings of Route 66 roadside attractions--and the people behind the elbow grease who invited a nation's travelers to play. So put on your cave suit and pump out the Submarine Room. Break bread with the Talking Crow of Pontiac. And save a Zingo or two for the Supernatural Raccoons. About the Author Thomas Arthur Repp has spent six years traveling Route 66, meeting the families that created the classic roadside attractions and carefully recording their stories. He is a

veteran writer and photographer who has written for television, radio and the stage. Born near Detroit, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Michigan University and his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Washington. He is a former resident of Los Angeles, Chicago and Tucson, Arizona. He lives today with his wife, Rebecca, north of Seattle.