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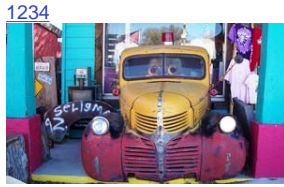
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Strange RV Encounters: Seligman, Arizona, Birthplace of Historic Route 66



The Weird, the Wacky, and the Wonderful



Juliana Mathews, Yahoo Contributor Network
Jul 8, 2013

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After seeing [the World's Largest Kokopelli and Montezuma Castle in Camp Verde, Arizona](#), I continued my Route 66 travels. Our next stop is Seligman, Arizona, the birthplace of Historic Route 66, in the northeast area of the state.

In 1987, according to the [Chamber of Commerce](#), Seligman gained the name "Birthplace of Historic Route 66" due to the efforts of residents, most notably, Angel Delgadillo, who convinced the state of Arizona to dedicate Route 66 as a historic highway. Delgadillo's story of Seligman getting bypassed by the interstate was one of the main inspirations for Pixar's animated feature "Cars."

I didn't know it at the time, but traffic in the little town of roughly 450 people all but disappeared on the day in 1978 when nearby Interstate 40 opened. When I first turned off Interstate 40 onto Route 66 toward Seligman, I thought I'd made a wrong turn -- there was nothing around for miles, nothing at all. I began to miss seeing tumbleweeds. Ever persistent, I kept driving down the long, empty stretch of highway. My perseverance soon paid off.

The town, a few miles down an empty stretch of Route 66, is chock-full of wackiness. There's a store with lingerie-clad mannequins seated on the walkway overhang. There are several competing Route 66 memorabilia shops, each with an exterior flashier than the last in an effort to entice you inside.

There's a burger joint where the owner will squirt you, an unsuspecting customer, with mustard. I was shocked when I first heard this. It's supposed to be a surprise, so I won't name the restaurant. I didn't eat there; I wouldn't handle being squirted with condiments very gracefully.

There's the Roadkill Cafe. Even though the menu items include such names as "The Chicken That Almost Crossed the Road" and "Rigor Mortis Tortoise," that seemed better than being squirted with mustard. The food and service were great.

Inside the men's room of the Roadkill Cafe is Pandora's Box. There is a small label on the box hinting the 12 possible items inside are not rated G. (It will cost you 75 cents to find out for yourself. You should be 18, but no one is watching -- it is in a bathroom, after all.)

Then, there is the old Territorial Jail House. It once housed such notorious outlaws as Seligman Slim, Carl "Curly" Bane, and Four-Fingered Frank. It's OK -- I've never heard of them either, which is unfortunate. The telling of their stories would probably have made history class more enjoyable for me.

Join me on my next adventure: Area 66 and the Giant Golfball House. There will be flying saucers.

To see more photos, [follow more of my weird, wacky, and wonderful RV adventures on Flickr](#).

My next stop: [Strange RV Encounters: Giant Golf-Ball House in Arizona](#)



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Read how it all began: *Strange RV Encounters: An Introduction.*

Published by [Juliana Mathews](#)

In the summer of 2011, Juliana bought an RV, gave up most of her possessions and began traveling around the country with her cat, seeing all the weird, wacky and wonderful roadside attractions. She writes... [View profile](#)



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