



THE ROAD AHEAD PARTNERSHIP

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

What do baseball and Route 66 have in common?

That's the connection recently retired Baseball Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson and Photographer Jean Fruth are exploring this summer. The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership is assisting them in discovering the story of baseball along the Mother Road, and you can help us, help them!

"We are looking for kids, adults, stickball – any kind of amateur baseball practices or games that routinely take place close to Route 66," said Idelson.

Idelson and Fruth's Grassroots Baseball tour will be used to develop a new book, *Grassroots Baseball: Route 66*, scheduled for release in 2021. They are already aware of the minor league teams in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and California. What they are specifically interested in are the local teams and events that aren't as widely known. They are looking for baseball being played now, as well as next spring and summer, when Jean will conclude shooting.

You may have already seen news about their visits to Peoria, Illinois, in May, and St. Louis, Missouri, in June. There's still time to provide story suggestions for the remaining travel schedule:

- July – Oklahoma
- August – Texas/New Mexico
- September – Arizona
- October – California

Send your ideas to rt66theroadahead@gmail.com.

Grassroots Baseball's mission is to promote and celebrate the amateur game around the globe, with a focus on growing interest and participation at the youngest levels. The overarching goal of Grassroots Baseball is to give back by providing inspiration, instruction and equipment to help ensure more children have the opportunity to learn, play, and enjoy the game. Learn more on their website at www.grassrootsbaseball.com or follow them on social media ([Instagram @grassrootsbaseball](#), [Twitter @grassrootsbb](#) and [Facebook @grassrootsbb](#)).

Established in 2015, with the support of the National Park Service and the World Monuments' Fund, The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership's mission is to revitalize and sustain Route 66 as a national and international icon through partnerships focused on promotion, preservation, research and education, and economic development.

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Contact:

Bill Thomas, Chairman

Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership

rt66theroadahead@gmail.com

217-648-5077