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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New “History of Route 66” Available Online

The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership is excited to announce a new, more accurate history of Route 66 has been published by Oxford University Press’ *Research Encyclopedia on American History*.

The work is the product of a collaboration between members of the Road Ahead’s Research and Education working group, Dr. David Dunaway and Dr. Stephen Mandrogoc of the University of New Mexico. Their analysis will not match other histories of Route 66, for their intent was to move beyond stereotypes to tell the stories of groups often left out of the road’s history.

According to Dunaway, “The world has long needed an accurate history of Route 66. Many books tell the story but not always with accuracy.”

The work spans the changing eras of America’s mother road, including the origins and early uses of Route 66. Also addressed is the role of the historic freeway during the Depression and the Postwar Era, which led to its popularity as a family vacation destination in the middle of the 20th century. The article documents the decommissioning of the legendary highway and its recent revival, and includes a discussion of Route 66 literature and an overview of primary sources.

Classic photos and links to related digital works, along with suggestions for further reading, punctuate the story of the changing eras on this historic trail.

Students and teachers around the world can access the free article at <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.013.967>.

This new History of Route 66 is a “Birthday Present” to Route 66 from the Road Ahead. The Road Ahead is happy to offer it as one of the first of many more to come over the next five years leading up to the Route 66 Centennial in 2026.

Established in 2016, 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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