

COLLECTING INITIATIVE

ROUTE 66

In preparation of the advancing centennial anniversary of the designation of Route 66, the ISM is deepening our commitment to preserving and interpreting this important facet of our state and nation's history. With that in mind, we are collecting items related to the history of Route 66 in Illinois that were made, purchased, or used between 1926-1977 in order to develop a collection that can be researched, interpreted, exhibited, and shared with the public for years to come.

WHAT STORIES CAN YOU TELL?

WHAT STORIES DO YOU HOLD?

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OUR WISH LIST

While the ISM is interested in knowing about everything that is available, we must make selections based on what best tells the story of 66 in Illinois and we are able to care for, trying to avoid duplicate items and items in need of conservation. Objects must have a demonstrated connection to Illinois. Preference will be given to objects that carry powerful stories or well-documented histories.

- Objects used in businesses along Route 66 (restaurants, motels, drive-ins, gas stations, auto repair shops, etc) between 1926-1977
- Objects related to the Black experience along Route 66
- Objects related to Black-owned businesses along Route 66
- Souvenirs purchased by travelers along Route 66 between 1926-1977
- Objects related to the construction and paving of Route 66
- Objects related to Route 66 during WWII
- Objects related to early automobile travel (pre-Route 66)
- Maps depicting Route 66 in Illinois
- Objects related to Route 66 in popular culture made, purchased, or used between 1926-1977
- Objects related to the Pontiac Trail (precursor to Route 66 in Illinois)
- Objects related to Prohibition & bootlegging along Route 66
- Objects related to the demise of Route 66 in Illinois in 1977

Due to the limitations of our collections space, large items will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The ISM is also looking for partners to identify donors, collect materials which fall outside its scope, and collaborate on future interpretive projects

If you have items you wish to be considered for the collection, or if you wish to discuss an institutional partnership, please contact Erika Holst, Curator of History, at Erika.Holst@illinois.gov