

Episode #3 Show Notes: Route 66 and Other Road Trips

What we all need is sun, heat, green grass, spring flowers, and dappled sunlight through young leaves. We need a warm breeze on our faces. We need an open road and the promise of adventure. These are the well-springs of optimism, and it is our optimism, and our faith, that will see us through this crazy time of uncertainty.

I'm dreaming of road trips. When not in quarantine, travel fairly regularly, most often by air. The problem with flying is that it permits very little freedom. You have to adhere to set schedules, follow established protocols, and then, when you are on the plane, you have to fold yourself into a tiny space, breathe in stale air, and lock in to an agonizing position for the duration of the flight. Taking to the open road is different in every way. It offers an infinite variety of freedoms; a choice at every turn. In a road trip, "getting there" is not nearly as important as *getting there*. So roll down your windows, put your foot on the gas, and let the wind whip your hair. It's a bright warm day and we're on the road. Who knows where it will take us?

~ Jennifer Passariello, Circa 19xx

An Ode to Road Trips

"On the way." I love the sentiment of that phrase. It hints at surprise and of joyful discoveries. I'm not the first traveler to recognize that road trips are not about the destination, but about the miles traveled and the decisions made at each junction and bend in the road. I've probably taken hundreds of road trips—both short and long—in my life, and I feel rich for the memories of them when I'm sick in bed or homebound in the thick of a winter storm. Once you go to a place, if you chronicle it carefully, you have it forever. You can visit it again and again in your imagination. Here are just a small handful of the places I like to go when I tuck myself in under thick blankets and close my eyes. Most of them weren't destinations in and of themselves, but were found, like unearthed treasures, "on the way."

- Andalusia, the Home of Flannery O'Connor, in Milledgeville, GA
<https://www.gcsu.edu/andalusia>
- Uncle Remus Museum, Eatonton, GA
<http://www.uncleremusmuseum.org/>
- Tall Grass Prairie National Preserve, Flint Hills, KS
<https://www.nps.gov/tapr/index.htm>
- Trail Days Café and Museum, Council Grove, KS
<https://www.traildayscafeandmuseum.org/>

- Kahekili Highway, Maui, Hawaii
<https://www.dangerousroads.org/north-america/usa/643-kahekili-highway-usa.html>
- Julia's Tree House, Kahakuloa Village, Maui, Hawaii
www.juliasbananabread.com

There are a few essential ingredients to a perfect road trip:

- A clear day (not *required*, but certainly preferred; nothing beats flying down the highway under a blue sky.)
- An early start, when the day is new and a sliver of sunlight is just visible on the horizon. You need as much time as you can get when you're on the road so you are free to follow your curiosity and take unexpected detours.
- Flexibility. This is a must-have. It's ok to have a general destination and schedule, but be willing to adjust in the interest of exploring discoveries made on the way.
- A way to chronicle the trip. Pictures are not enough! Over time, the memories associated with the images tend to fade. Written commentary is necessary. You can do this via Facebook of course, or with a notebook or journal.

The Road Trip of all Road Trips: Route 66

At one time Route 66 was known as “America’s Main Street.” It cut through a large swath of the United States, and was the favored way to travel west.

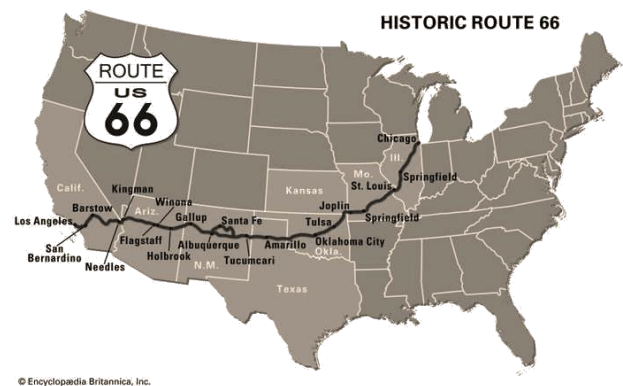
Established in 1926, it was removed from the U.S. Highway system in 1985. It still inspires romantic notions of fresh starts and new adventures—to the point that people from all of the world attempt to travel the entire route to this day. Unfortunately, Route 66 is no longer completely intact, but some stretches of the original road still are, including a bit of it in

Springfield, Missouri, where I now live part time—and where Route 66 was born.

Springfield was once home to Red’s Giant Hamburg, the first Route 66-spawned fast-food restaurant with the first drive-up window! Here are two other Route 66 era sites that I see often:

- Danny’s Service Station
<https://www.ozarksalive.com/old-time-springfield-service-station-serves-on/>
- Rockwood Court and Café Motel
<https://rockwoodcourt.com/>

Here’s some information about the Route 66 TV show: <https://www.route66roadtrip.com/route-66-tv-series.htm>



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How Do You Know When It's Time to Make a Change?

OK, so moving three hours south of Kansas City to another Missouri town isn't the biggest move anyone has ever made in their life. But in many ways it was a huge move for me. I changed towns, yes, but more than that I changed companies, jobs, and industries. I have been in a perpetual state of adaptation for weeks. I've made many changes over the years, however, and taken many impulsive chances as I've tried on several different life designs. When I look back, I don't see a straight line; I see many curves and jags, ups and downs, and I wouldn't trade any of the resulting uncertainty for the monotony of routine for anything in the world. On occasion I've been asked how to tell if the time is right to make a change. Well, for one thing, you have to take into consideration how much adventure you can afford. The financials are important, and they have always factored into my decisions. Your risk tolerance is critical, too. I don't have small children at home, so risks are perhaps easier for me to take than it is for those supporting a young family. Risks are inherent in any decision, and I believe some risks are worth taking, but everyone has to weigh the potential costs and benefits for themselves.

While I'm no expert on decision-making, there are a few things that have guided my thought processes when determining whether or not to make a move. I generally feel it's time to go when:

- You are miserable where you are. (I know, this is an easy one).
- You are comfortable to the point of boredom, and the sameness is getting to you.
- Life is starting to repeat itself and you are not learning from it anymore.
- You have thought about making a move for a long time but are paralyzed by fear.
- You find yourself complaining all the time.
- You constantly compare yourself to others and find yourself feeling jealous.
- You spend a lot of time imagining yourself living a different life.
- You've prayed about the change you're considering, and the conviction to make a move is still there.

All of these factors have impacted my decisions over the years, and they have driven me to take chances. But I'm not as daring as I would have you believe; I *always* have a contingency plan. It's comforting to know there is a path forward even if things don't work out like you had imagined they would.

Inspirational Messages...From Candy Wrappers

Everyone is telling people how to improve their lives these days, and little pep talks abound out on social media. I've decided to get in on that act. However, my own inspirational messages fall flat, so I'm drawing on the wisdom of Dove Chocolate's "promises," as printed on the insides of their wrappers.

- *Keep life moving forward; looking backward is for time travelers.*
- *The magic is in the mess.*
- *Be your own Valentine.*

- *You are exactly where you're supposed to be.*
- *Love rules without rules.*
- *Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.*
- *Be the sculptor of your dreams.*
- *Things have to fall apart before they can fall together.*
- *Inhale the future, exhale the past.*
- *A smile is the quickest way to brighten a room.*
- *Always make your past self jealous.*
- *Be someone your past self can look up to.*
- *Hands are meant to be held.*
- *Be fearlessly authentic.*
- *When life isn't going right, go left.*
- *Everything will be OK in the end; if it's not OK, it's not the end.*

[Favorite Thing of the Week](#)

I have two favorite things this week: Plain Creamy Bone China and Tortoise Shell-Pattern Glass Salad Plates. The creamy bone china plates that I love have been in my cupboard for several years. I purchased them, open stock, from my local Tuesday Morning store, and while extremely plain, they are delicate and beautiful. The tortoise shell salad plates I found are from Pier 1. So pretty together!