

## LISTENING TEST: Route 66 - America's Lost highway turns 90 (SCRIPT)

### **JEFF BUSH (journalist at the Wall Street Journal)**

This road has been known by many names: America's Road, the Main Street of America, the Will Rogers Highway, the Mother Road. Most just call it Route 66.

In its 90-year history, this American byway has meant many different things to those who have travelled it. For some, it meant deliverance. For others, it meant freedom. Two lanes stretching as the song says, more than 2,000 miles from Chicago to Los Angeles.

### **PAUL SMITH (Volunteer Historian, Route 66 Museum, Barstow, California)**

It started with the first building of each main town, and ended with the last building. It was the Main Street in so many towns.

### **JEFF BUSH**

Route 66 was designed to link a series of main streets across the country, rolling with the landscape, east to west. Its design made 66 a near microcosm of America, linking small towns and cities by automobile.

Just a few years after its inception in 1926, Route 66 became a highway of home for farmers fleeing the Dust Bowl and headed for California. For many, this stretch of highway that slices through the Mojave Desert from Needles California to Barstow was an insurmountable obstacle.

### **PAUL SMITH**

So many of them tried to plan it for night because of the excessive heat, because the vehicles were not very sophisticated. There was no air conditioning, there was no real creature comforts.

Source: <http://www.wsj.com/video/route-66-americas-lost-highway-turns-90/713419C8-89EB-4608-B3E2-B5670D6BA781.html>