Mary and Tina and Dan...sat down and said, ‘Yeah, let’s move to Winslow and spend the rest of our lives there’. It just sort of became our lives as we got into it.”

Historic Route 66
Congestion, safety, and national defense concerns prompted the creation of the interstate highway system through the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956. Interstate 40 bypassed Winslow’s section of US Route 66 in October 1979, which was the death knell for the city’s vibrant downtown. Winslow’s downtown revitalization began when Route 66 received a historic highway designation in 1987. The city’s transportation history became the foundation for its cultural heritage tourism efforts. More tourists began to pull off the interstate to slow down and experience the charm and authenticity of an earlier time. Some had been stopping on corners around town to take photos ever since 1972, when the Eagles hit Take It Easy declared, “Well, I’m a standin’ on a corner in Winslow, Arizona…”

Residents and visitors alike enjoy attractions and annual events along Route 66 including La Posada Hotel, the Winslow Visitors Center/IHubell Trading Post, the 9-11 Remembrance Garden, the Standin’ on the Corner Festival, and the annual Just Choir’s Car Club Show, seen on the left. (Photo courtesy of Todd Roth)

Downtown Winslow received another boost in 1999 when the Standin’ on the Corner Foundation dedicated a park of the same name at Historic Route 66 and Kinsley Avenue. Ron Adamson’s statue of guitarist “Easy” in front of John Pugh’s two-story annex provides an ideal photo-opportunity for Eagles fans. An estimated 100,000 tourists stop at the park each year.

La Posada Hotel and Gardens
Auto-tourists flooded Route 66 after World War II, but they sought more modest accommodations than Harvey grand hotels. La Posada closed in 1957 but escaped the wrecking ball because the Santa Fe used the building for its Third Division offices starting in 1963 (below, left). Meanwhile, the all-volunteer Gardening Angels tended the extensive grounds. The La Posada Foundation secured federal grant funds and got the building listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. Owners Allan Affeldt and Tina Mion reopened the building as a historic hotel and gardens with partner Daniel Lutzick in 1997. Amtrak’s Southwest Chief still stops here twice daily, both eastbound and westbound.

Owner Allan Affeldt reflected on transitioning from Southern California to Winslow: “I started working with some local volunteers... try to help them figure out what it would take to try and save the building. I had no intention of buying it and moving to Winslow. We didn’t really think that this would become our home and our life. We just thought it would just be another adventure in a string of adventures, and maybe we’d save the building... there wasn’t a meeting where... me and Tina and Dan...sat down and said, ‘Yeah, let’s move to Winslow and spend the rest of our lives there.... It just sort of became our lives as we got into it.” Mary Tolan interview, 2008