Old Trails Museum
WINSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

100 YEARS OF ROUTE 66 IN WINSLOW

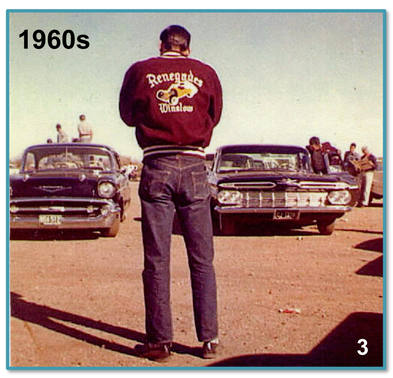
Auto Businesses on Route 66

As car ownership became common by the 1950s, businesses that catered to auto sales and maintenance ran the length of Second and Third Steets, including service stations, car dealerships, repair shops, and auto parts stores. Several national petroleum companies ran or leased most of Winslow's service stations, including Chevron, El Paso, Enco, Gulf, Mobil, Richfield, Shell, Standard, and Texaco, as well as the regional Whiting Brothers chain that also included motels. Dealerships operating in the mid-1950s included Andy Issacson (Oldsmobile), Ames Bros (Ford and Mercury), Ralph Cake (Chevrolet), El Gran Garage (Buick), Hill Top (Nash), Marcher Motors (Dodge-Plymouth), Southwest Motors (Pontiac), and Winslow Tire Company (Packard). Today, Winslow's Route 66-era history is reflected in repurposed buildings along Historic Route 66 on Second and Third Streets, including many former auto businesses.

Left: The original Standard Station on the southeast corner of West Second Street and Warren Avenue opened in 1936 and was replaced with a new building in 1958. The building was torn down in 1973, and the site is now the city parking lot next to Bojos Grill & Sports Club. **Center Left:** Johnnie's Chevron Station opened in 1954 at 400 East Third and Colorado Avenue, which is now the site of a closed gas station. **Right, Then & Now:** The Texaco station at 700 East Third Street was built in 1953 and leased in 1959 to Harold Nimtz by Hubert R. McHood, the local wholesale distributor of Texaco products. His son, Harold Nimtz, has operated his House of Tint business in the building since 2012.

The Texaco station at 201 West Second Street opened in 1955 and operated under various owners and names, including Fred's, Crozier's, Smith's, and Ben's Texaco. Owners Dave and Ann Hartman restored the building to its 1955 look, providing downtown visitors with a photo op.

In 1930, El Gran Service Station and Garage opened at 422 East Second Street as Standard Oil Company's first combination station and garage in the country, and it also served as Winslow's Buick dealership from 1938 through the 1960s. The building is now a private residence that occasionally hosts public events.



A culture grew up around automobiles, allowing owners to express themselves though custom vehicles and car clubs. **Above Left:** Founded in 1958, Winslow's Renegades Drag Club held events on the drag strip at the Winslow Municipal Airport. The Winslow Drag Strip hosted its last event in 1985. **Above Right:** Winslow's Just Cruis'n Car Club formed in 1993 with some former Renegades as founding members. The club hosted its first Just Cruis'n Car Club Show in 1995, still held on the first weekend in October.

Above Left: Marcher Motors opened in 1946 and moved to 113-117 East Second Street and Williamson Avenue in 1954, where it offered Chrysler, Datsun, Dodge, and Plymouth sales and service. The business sold in 1973, and the site is now the city parking lot where the Mother Road Farmers Market is held on most Saturday mornings.
Above Right: Andy Isaacson moved his Oldsmobile Agency to 513 West Third Street and Campbell Avenue in 1954. Auto-related businesses occupied the site from the late 1960s and swap meets from the 1990s.

Above Left, Then & Now: The Hatches of Taylor, Arizona, bought Winslow's Ford franchise in 1954 and moved it to 1001 East Third Street in 1962, where they added Comet, Falcon, and Mercury. The current owners rent the former dealership to the local office of the Arizona Department of Child Safety. **Above Right, Then & Now:** Jack and Ray Blumlein opened Bush Motors, a Rambler and Jeep dealership, at 901 East Third Street in 1960. The Winslow Fire Department moved their station from downtown Second Street to the former dealership in 1975.

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Acknowledgements: *100 Years of Route 66 in Winslow* was developed for the Winslow Route 66 Centennial Committee's celebration by the Old Trails Museum and funded by the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona, City of Winslow, and Winslow Chamber of Commerce. For more Winslow history, visit the Old Trails Museum.