Old Trails Museum
WINSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# 100 YEARS OF ROUTE 66 IN WINSLOW

## Accommodations on Route 66

**Hotels:** Before the rise of auto-tourism, hotels were typically located in business districts close to train depots, and several of them operated in downtown Winslow. **Auto & Cottage Camps:** In the 1920s and 1930s, auto camps provided a less expensive alternative to hotels, and communities provided Route 66 travelers with camping spaces, wood, and restroom and laundry facilities free of charge. These auto camps evolved into privately-owned cabin or cottage camps, which also sold gasoline, tires, and groceries. **Motor Courts & Motels:** Cottage camps evolved into motor courts, with rooms under a single roof. Motor courts built after World War II were called motels, which often boasted swimming pools and adjoining coffee shops or restaurants. As motel construction boomed in the late 1950s and early 1960s, they became the dominant accommodation on Route 66. Winslow's phone directory listed 26 motels in 1967, most of which advertised the city's proximity to Meteor Crater, the Petrified Forest, and the Grand Canyon. Most of those properties are now apartment complexes, with two exceptions: Earl's Motor Court and the Delta Motel.

**Hotels, Left:** In the 1920s and 1930s, the Winslow Hotel operated on the second floor of the building on the northwest corner of Second Street and Williamson Avenue. The current owner leases part of the first floor to a restaurant. **Center:** In 1926, the Giragi brothers constructed the first three-story building in town at 210 East Second Street to house their *Winslow Mail* newspaper. The Howell and then Chief Hotels operated on the upper floors. The building was renovated into the Hill Apartments in 1980 and the Chief Apartments in 2005. **Right:** La Posada, the grand hotel built by the Santa Fe Railway and operated by Fred Harvey, opened in 1930 at 303 East Second Street, in between the Santa Fe line to the south and Route 66 to the north. La Posada opened as a grand railroad hotel when rail travel was in decline, and after it closed in 1959, the building housed Santa Fe division headquarters from 1964 through the 1990s. Though La Posada did not successfully transition to serving Route 66 travelers, the hotel's revival on Historic Route 66 is an historic preservation success story (see Panel 10).

**Auto Camps & Courts, Left to Right:** Winslow's first auto camp was the West End Camp, which opened at 624 West Second Street in 1923. By the 1930s, the camp was rebuilt as the West End Court. The buildings were razed in 1966 and Joe's Glass and Locksmith Shop occupies the site today; G.C. Bazell opened the Bazell Camp Ground at 800 West Second Street in 1921, and by 1924 it was an auto court with ten permanent cabins, a grocery store, and a gas station. In the mid-1930s, Robert Powell remodeled and renamed it Bazell Modern Court. It closed in the early 1950s and the site is now an empty lot; John B. and Frona Parr Drumm operated the 20-unit Drumm Auto Court at 317 West Second Street from 1937 to 1944. The site is now the Winslow Dental parking lot.

**Motels, Left:** M. E. "Burt" Clark built La Siesta Motel No. 2 at 911 East Second Street in 1946, offering "modern" units with private baths, air conditioning, and free television. The motel was converted into the Winslow Garden Apartments in the 1980s. **Center:** The Westerner Motel at 500 East Second Street changed owners several times in the 1950s and 1960s and is now an apartment complex. **Right:** Winslow's TraveLodge was built in 1959 at 1216 East Third Street as the 111th unit in the country's first "budget" motel chain, offering 30 air-conditioned units and a heated swimming pool. The property currently houses the Tierra Linda Apartments.

**Right, Then & Now:** In 1954, Ralph and Virginia Miller opened the 46-room Knotty Pines Motel at 1500 East Third Street. They advertised air-conditioning, wood paneling, and wall-to-wall carpeting, and the large bear statue invited guests to the Bear Den Cocktail Lounge. Various businesses have occupied the former motel, which currently houses Tom's Tavern.

**Above Left, Then & Now:** In 1953, Rex and Lillian Marble opened the Marble Motel at 512 East Third Street. Lee and Floranel Earl bought it in 1974 and changed the name to Earl's Motor Court, advertising "Sleeping on the corner in Winslow, Arizona." After the Interstate 40 bypass opened in 1979, they supplemented their business by converting some rooms into Lee's professional photography studio and Floranel's beauty salon. Owners Angela and Blas Sanchez reopened the hotel in 2018 as Earl's Route 66 Motor Court.
**Above Center, Then & Now:** John Gremel opened the Delta Motel at 2141 West Third Street in 1962, and Howard Cundiff added more rooms in the late 1970s. After years of changing owners, Robert and Christine Salisbury bought the motel in 2019 and have created 13 themed rooms in an original Route 66 motel.

**Photo Credits:** 1 & 2: Jeremy Rowe; 3: Grand Canyon National Park Museum Collection #44635-05; 4-6: Lawrence Kenna
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