Old Trails Museum
WINSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

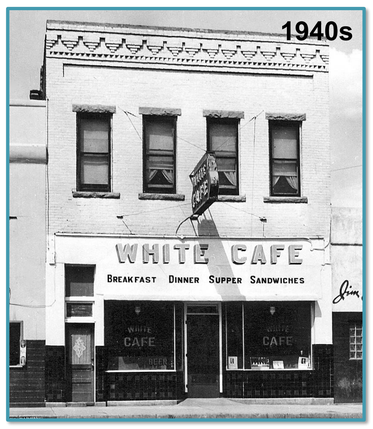
100 YEARS OF ROUTE 66 IN WINSLOW

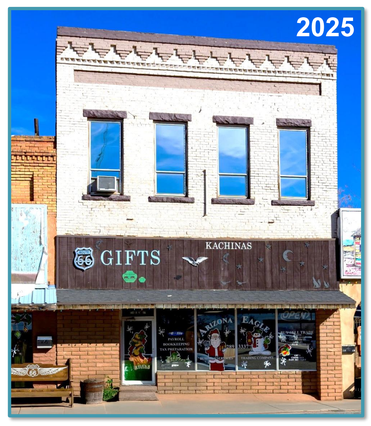
Dining Out on Route 66

Restaurants in railroad hotels like La Posada were not always convenient or affordable for Route 66 motorists. Campgrounds and auto courts offered firepits and stoves, so travelers often prepared their own food. As highway traffic increased through Winslow in the 1940s and 1950s, drive-ins, cafés, diners, and restaurants opened along the length of Second and Third Streets. By the late 1960s, over 30 eateries with the characteristic combination of tables, booths, and counters served Route 66 residents, tourists, and commercial drivers.

Left, Then & Now: George Cheros emigrated from Greece in 1914 and opened the Coney Island Café in 1932 with partner Gus Thomas in the building on the southwest corner of West Second Street and Kinsley Avenue. Troy and Stephanie Armstrong opened RelicRoad Brewing Company in the western half of the building in 2017.

Right, Then & Now: Cheros operated the White Café at 114 East Second Street from 1946 to 1959. Under new owners, the café moved to First Street in 1966 and was torn down in 2006. The Second Street location currently houses Arizona Eagle Business Services.





Above, Then & Now: W.H. and Jeri Hunt opened Gabrielle's Kitchen at 918 East Second Street in 1961. It operated under a variety of owners and names through the early 2000s, including Gabrielle's Pancake and Steak House, and Gabrielle's Restaurant. The building now houses the China Feast restaurant.

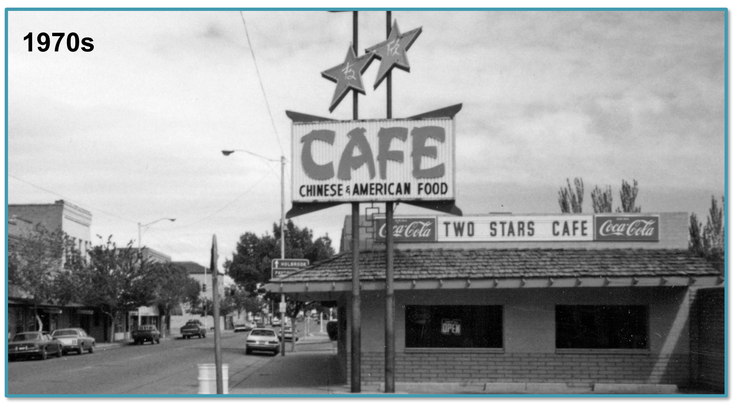
Above: "Joe" Bing Yee Jue emigrated from China in 1928 and opened the Grand Café at 110 East Second Street in 1939. In 1948, he reopened the café on the first floor of the building on the southeast corner of Second Street and Kinsley Avenue, which previously housed the Winslow Drug Store (see Panel 7). The Grand Café was well-known among locals and tourists for hamburgers, smothered fries, and milkshakes. Jue sold the business to King Lee and brother-in-law Kenneth Jue in 1960.

Right, Then & Now: Kenneth Jue opened the Two Stars Café in the single-story structure that replaced the Grand Café building after a 1968 fire. Poi Lee bought the business in 1973, which operated until the mid-1990s. The building has housed the Arizona 66 Trading Company since 2013, where local blues legend Tommy Dukes is often seen performing next to the giant guitar.

Left: From 1959 to 1969, the Snow Cap Drive-In (not affiliated with Delgadillo's Snow Cap in Seligman, Arizona), located on the southwest corner of West Third Street and Warren Avenue, served hamburgers, foot-long hot dogs, ice cream cones, malts, milkshakes, and sundaes to both residents and travelers. The nearby Potter's House Christian Center now owns the building.

Right: From 1950 to 1975, Ralph & Bessie Simmons operated Ralph & Bessie's Bar-B-Q Pit & Café on East Highway 66, near what is now the Winslow Sweetland Community Garden. The café was well-known for its Southern cooking and warm hospitality.

Above: The National Café, seen east of the Grand and White Cafés, opened at 118 East Second Street in 1937. It was a popular place for meetings, high school students to socialize, and Route 66 travelers to get meals 24 hours a day. The café closed in 1964, and the building currently houses the *Painted Desert Tribune* newspaper office.



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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.