



In April 2007 I travelled along America's "Mother Road" in two of the warmest US states along the road – Arizona and New Mexico (not to be confused with Mexico). I took photos, made sketches and then spent some time at the New Grounds Print Workshop in Albuquerque to create some photogravure prints, based on some of the photos I had taken.

Following Route 66 can be tricky but fascinating. Sometimes this 2-lane road is swallowed up by the 4-lane interstate highway and disappears for a while. Often it runs next to it and shows signs of little use - grass breaking through the tarmac and tumble weed blowing across the road. Sometimes it leads off into a "business loop" to small roadside communities. It often follows the line of telegraph poles and/or the railroad tracks.

Roadside signs, now, as back in the 50s, try to lure you to stop your car and buy "gas", "American Indian blankets," "kachina dolls" and to eat tacos or burritos.

The buildings along the roadside are often diners, gas stations and shops. In some cases they have almost disappeared and just the signage remains, such as Club Cafe in Santa Rosa, or the Longhorn Ranch sign, near Albuquerque, standing high and rusting on its tall poles.

Other buildings have been well preserved, such as the Blue Swallow Motel in Tucumcari, but the "Get your Kicks on Route 66" sign at the deserted Jack Rabbit Gas Station was fading fast. At Twin Arrows, near Winona, the last petrol sales were at \$1.39 a gallon.

I found it all to be a fascinating, fading and, at times, rusting image of a legendary road.