Chasing the Mother Road– During the 2026 Chrome Glidden Tour

By Liz Lindig and Chrystene Speed



An Amarillo mural with Sunbeam Tiger owned by Joe and Cindy Brown.

2026 is a special year with celebrations. The U.S. Semiquincentennial, the 100th Anniversary of Route 66, and the 60th Anniversary of the *TEXAS* musical in Palo Duro Canyon State Park, were all celebrated during the 43rd Chrome Glidden Tour held in Amarillo, Texas, June 14 -19, 2026.

Tour participants were welcomed to the "Golden Spread" of Texas on Sunday, June 14, with registration and an opening banquet. There were 144 participants registered with 72 cars. The "Golden Spread" is a nickname for the Texas Panhandle that reflects both its geographic openness and its historical prosperity. The term evokes the vast, open plains stretching across the region, along with the golden hues of wheat fields, sunlit grasslands, and the area's rich agricultural heritage. It also speaks to the spirit of opportunity and growth that has defined the Panhandle, rooted in ranching, farming, and energy production, while highlighting the resilience and pride of the communities who call this expansive landscape home.

Touring began on Monday, June 15, with a travel back in time along Route 66 to Shamrock, Texas, in the eastern portion of the Texas Panhandle. Along the way we saw what happens to small communities that "died on the vine" after the completion of Interstate 40 in 1968. We traveled along some 100-year-old Route 66 sections with original concrete road going to and returning from Shamrock. The Shamrock Rotary Club graciously hosted our coffee stop at the Donley County Rest Stop, which featured Route 66 information for everyone to enjoy. While in Shamrock we visited the Historic Conoco Tower Station, the U-Drop Inn, the Pioneer West Museum, the Magnolia Station, and the Historic Water Tower after a delicious catered lunch prepared by the owners of U-Drop Inn. From great roads and fascinating landmarks to warm hospitality and wonderful fellowship, it was truly a memorable first day of touring!





The Art Deco Conoco Tower Station along Route 66.

The "Welcome to Shamrock" mural.





Doug and Shawn Reaves' 1965 Chevrolet Corvette



Photo by Trisha Copley





Left to right: Duane and Trisha Copley's 2001 Toyota Solara Convertible parked in front of the Magnolia Mobil Gas Station. Chrome Glidden cars drive a concrete paved section of Route 66.



A line up of tour cars during our lunch stop.





Left to right: Ken Blake, TexOma Region Director, painting a Cadillac at the world-famous Cadillac Ranch. In 1938, former professional athlete Cal Farley opened the Boys Ranch to help at-risk youth. Coed students grade 5 -12 attend this residential school.

We were off like gangbusters on Day 2 and headed to the Window on the Plains Museum in Dumas, Texas, where the Dumas Rotary Club provided morning refreshments. We had the privilege of meeting Mayor Sims, the chamber of commerce team, and museum staff. What an incredible welcome! The Window on the Plains Museum's collection of agricultural history and memorabilia was truly impressive.

Along the way, two tour participants experienced mechanical issues. In true Chrome Glidden fashion, fellow tour members quickly came to the rescue and helped get them back on the road. The camaraderie of this group continues to be remarkable. From there, we traveled to the famous Cal Farley's Boys Ranch for a delicious hamburger lunch. We had the opportunity to showcase our cars to the young people there and participate in honoring the VMCCA Chrome Glidden Tour freshman class. The day concluded with a drive through Vega, Texas, reconnecting with historic Route 66. We stopped at the iconic Midpoint Café in Adrian, Texas, (the midpoint between the beginning and ending of Route 66) to enjoy their famous pie before experiencing the Cadillac Ranch, an Amarillo landmark and true Texas icon.



Chrome Glidden Tour host, Chrystene Speed, inside the Boys Ranch Museum.



A vivid mural in Claude, Texas.

Day 3 provided a welcome opportunity to slow down, recharge, and experience the unique beauty of the Texas High Plains. Based in Amarillo for the first half of the day, we enjoyed exploring historic Route 66 along 6th Street and discovering the character and charm of downtown Amarillo. While scorching and unseasonably hot temperatures reminded us that summer had arrived early, the day offered a refreshing break from the miles and adventures of the previous two days. Today brought its share of hiccups, and Chrome Glidden Tour friends quickly came to the rescue.

The afternoon showcased one of Texas' most surprising treasures, the vast and remarkably diverse landscape of the High Plains. As we traveled through the countryside, we were treated to dramatic geological changes, sweeping vistas, and colorful layers of rock and earth that revealed millions of years of natural history. Our visit to an overlook at Palo Duro Canyon Overlook left many speechless as the breathtaking panorama unfolded before us. Known as the "Grand Canyon of Texas," Palo Duro's immense scale and vibrant strata of reds, oranges, and golds provided unforgettable views.

B.D. Berryhill's striking 1970 Monte Carlo.



The day concluded with a visit to Palo Duro Canyon State Park, one of Texas' most treasured natural landmarks. As evening settled over the canyon, tour participants enjoyed a Texas Barbecue dinner and attended the outdoor musical *TEXAS*, now celebrating its 60th season. Set against the spectacular canyon backdrop, the performance showcased exceptional talent, storytelling, music, and choreography. The patriotic spirit woven throughout the production resonated deeply with the audience, filling us with pride and appreciation for the history, heritage, and enduring spirit of the American West. This day delivered a memorable celebration of Texas hospitality, natural beauty, and the enduring bonds formed while touring together.



The Carson County Square House Museum.

On Thursday, June 18, Day 4, we visited the town of Panhandle, Texas, and the Carson County Square House Museum. This museum, which opened in 1967, has many buildings such as the Dugout-Pioneer Dwelling, Santa Fe Railroad Caboose, General Store, and Square House to name a few of the 18 different exhibit areas. The Panhandle Rotary Club hosted us for a refreshment break. Always enjoy another cookie!

We continued through farm and ranch lands as we drove to Groom, Texas, the location of the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ that is 190 feet high. The complex includes life-size bronze sculptures that depict the journey of Jesus Christ and his life. The history of the cross project was shared by Jason Eugea, manager of the complex, and Steve Thomas, the owner/designer. This landmark can be seen as far as 20 miles away on a clear night.

The final day of touring, June 19, was spent in Amarillo.

We visited three collections, Sisemore RV Museum, Bill's Backyard Classics, and Warrick's Collectibles throughout the day. Jack (father) and Trent (son) began collecting and restoring unusual vintage RVs over 25 years ago and have built a museum to house their collection from the 1930s through the 1970s. Bill and Linda Pratt began their classic car collection with autos that appeal to Baby Boomers. He shares his passion by showcasing the cars in a family-centered permanent exhibit that now includes over 100 cars, the largest private car collection in the area. The Warrick Garage is by invitation only and was a joy to view. Many cars, especially a 1962 Impala SS, aluminum front end, Z-11 motor, parts and more parts, many signs, and automotive related toys enthralled us all.

Parked at the Warrick Garage (left to right): 1941 Cadillac Sedan Convertible owned by Wes Knapp, 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle owned by George and Brenda Cowan, 1989 Jeep Grand Wagoneer owned by Onnie and Virginia Weaver, and a 1982 Chevy C2 500 owned by Amber and Brent Seiler.







Left to right: The Flxible RV at the Sisemore RV Museum. Tourists marvel at Warrick's Garage.

The closing banquet included the presentation of the Chrome Glidden Tour Participation Awards, the Tour Awards, and many Route 66 themed door prizes. "Celebrating Route 66 in the Golden Spread in Amarillo, Texas" came to an end but we took many memories and friendships home with us.

Chrome Glidden Tour Participation Awards:

- Plaques for ten tours presented to Ray Maxfield and Carol Maxfield

Tour Award Shields:

- 11 Tours: Jim Talbot, Marilyn Talbot
- 12 Tours: Mike Bloyer, Sharon Bloyer
- 14 Tours: David Lindig, Liz Lindig, Marilyn Cornfoot
- 15 Tours: John Cornfoot
- 17 Tours: Don Knight, Cindy Knight
- 19 Tours: Pat Crandall
- 20 Tours: Jamie Crandall, B.D. Berryhill
- 29 Tours: Lloyd Hill, Mary Ann Hill
- 31 Tours: James Solomon, Carol Solomon

2026 Chrome Glidden Tour Awards:

- Farthest Car Driven to the Tour: Duane and Trisha Copley, 1,800.7 miles
- Youngest Driver driving car on tour: Amber Seiler
- Oldest Driver driving car on tour: Clyde Bangiola
- Hard Luck Award: Lloyd Reed

(Photos by Trisha Copley, Ray Maxfield, and Chrystene Speed)



The oldest Airstream camper at the Sisemore RV Museum.











Clockwise from upper right: Liz Lindig (far right) stands with Carol and James Solomon, who were recognized for attending 31 Chrome Glidden Tours! The bluegrass band, The Grass Daddies entertained the group during the closing banquet. Liz presents Amber Seiler with the "Youngest Driver" award. Clyde Bangiola receives the "Oldest Driver" award from Liz.