

Bob's Art Works

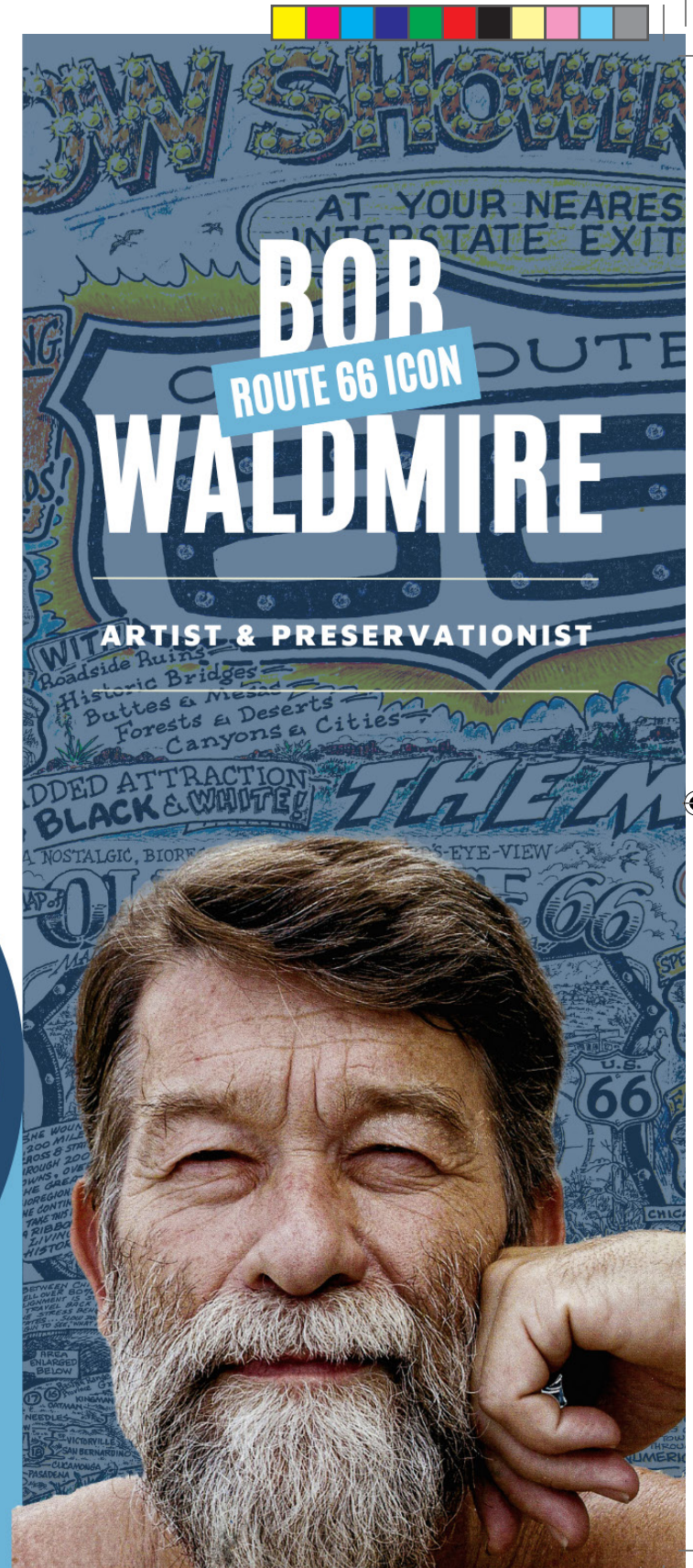
As an artist, Bob worked in a wide variety of media. However, his pen and ink postcards, painted murals, posters, and highly detailed maps were his most notable works of art. Inside the Route 66 Association's Hall of Fame and Museum is a mural map Bob began in 2006. Each time he came to Pontiac, Bob would add another element to the map. Although his death precluded his finishing the map, he did leave us some drawings of images he planned to add to the mural.

Bob's last commissioned artwork is the large, 66-foot-long map of Route 66 that can be seen behind the museum on Main Street. Bob was too sick to do the painting himself, so he told the city to invite his family and friends to paint the mural after he passed on. In 2011 Bob's family and more than 500 of his friends - from all along Route 66 - came to Pontiac and painted the mural in Bob's memory.

Postcards and maps created by Bob are available for sale at Home Again Gifts on Route 66 located in the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum.

Enjoy Bob Waldmire's Art in your own home.

You can treasure Bob's unique art style forever with prints and postcards. Bob's art prints are on display and available for purchase at the Route 66 Gift Shop, located on the 2nd floor of the Pontiac Museum Complex.



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Bob Waldmire - 1945-2009



Robert Waldmire was born near St. Louis, Missouri in 1945. His family later moved to Springfield, IL. As a child, Bob developed a talent and a passion for art. When, as a young adult, he went with his family to California on Route 66, Bob fell in love with the Mother Road, the people who lived and worked along the road, the natural wonders found along the highway, and the many places that were built to serve the traveling public. When Bob set out on his own, he determined that he would spend his life creating art that celebrated the history of Route 66.

In 2004, Bob Waldmire earned the National Historic Route 66 Federation's John Steinbeck Award for his contributions to the preservation of Route 66. In 2010 he was recognized as a Route 66 Ambassador by the Illinois Route 66 Association.

Today, Bob's art is famous across the globe and his legacy remains one of the great stories of Route 66. Bob was highly interested in ecology and nature and created many artworks dedicated to aiding the preservation of our natural world. Today, thousands of Route 66 fans are particularly proud to be able to say, "I knew Bob Waldmire."

The Road Yacht

Inspired by a 1916 poster depicting an over-the-road vehicle designed as a mobile home, Bob found a used 1966 Chevrolet school bus for sale in New Mexico and bought it in 1987. Bob stripped the seats from inside, added an outside deck, and with the help of his mother's eye for interior decorating, turned the bus into stage 1 of his very own Road Yacht. However, Bob always had bigger plans for the bus, and with the help of his brothers, he expanded the size of the bus by adding a 2nd floor. With that addition, Bob was able to add a full kitchen, sleeping loft, shower and sauna, additional storage areas, and a self-composting toilet. The conversion of the school bus into his Road Yacht took more than 4 years. The bus was a legally registered vehicle until 2009 when Bob passed away.

After Bob passed on, his family decided that the bus should be sent to Pontiac to be part of the Route 66 Association's Hall of Fame and Museum.

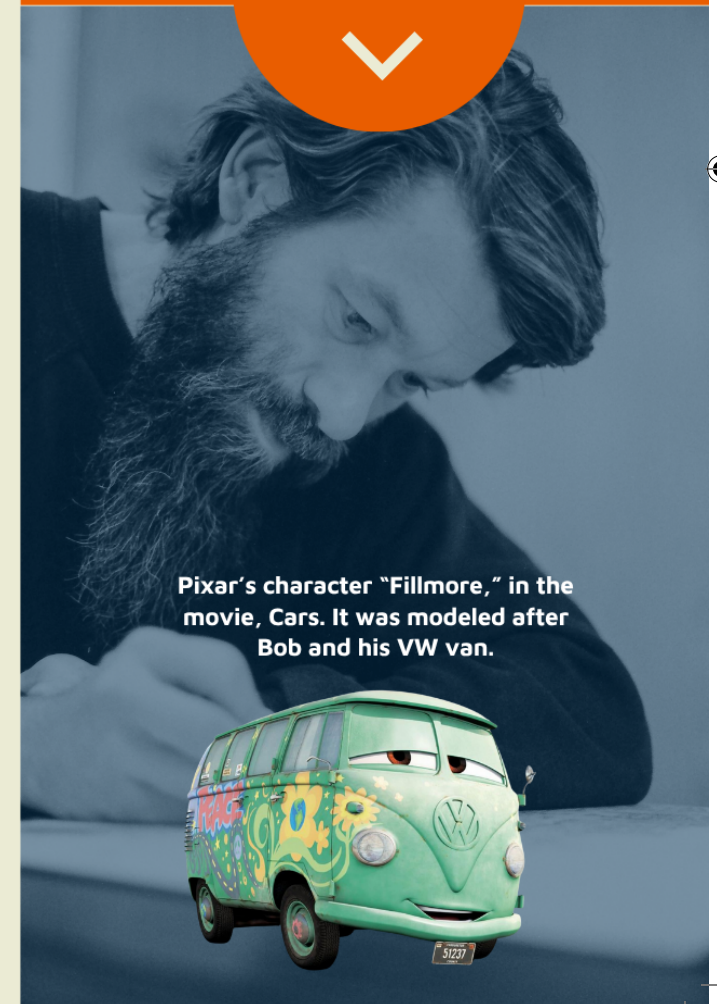
Since it arrived in Pontiac, Bob's Road Yacht has been visited by many thousands of people, including some famous ones. It has been featured in documentaries and magazines produced in Asia, Europe, and South America. A tour through Bob's Road Yacht has proven to be a most memorable experience for many Route 66 heritage travelers.



The VW Microbus



Bob Waldmire used his 1972 Volkswagen Microbus as his road vehicle for more than 18 years. Over time, Bob customized the van for his personal use by adding bookshelves, a bed, and a compact office area. He also replaced the engine twice. Bob and his VW served as the model for the character of "Fillmore" in the Pixar/Disney feature film, Cars.



Pixar's character "Fillmore," in the movie, Cars. It was modeled after Bob and his VW van.