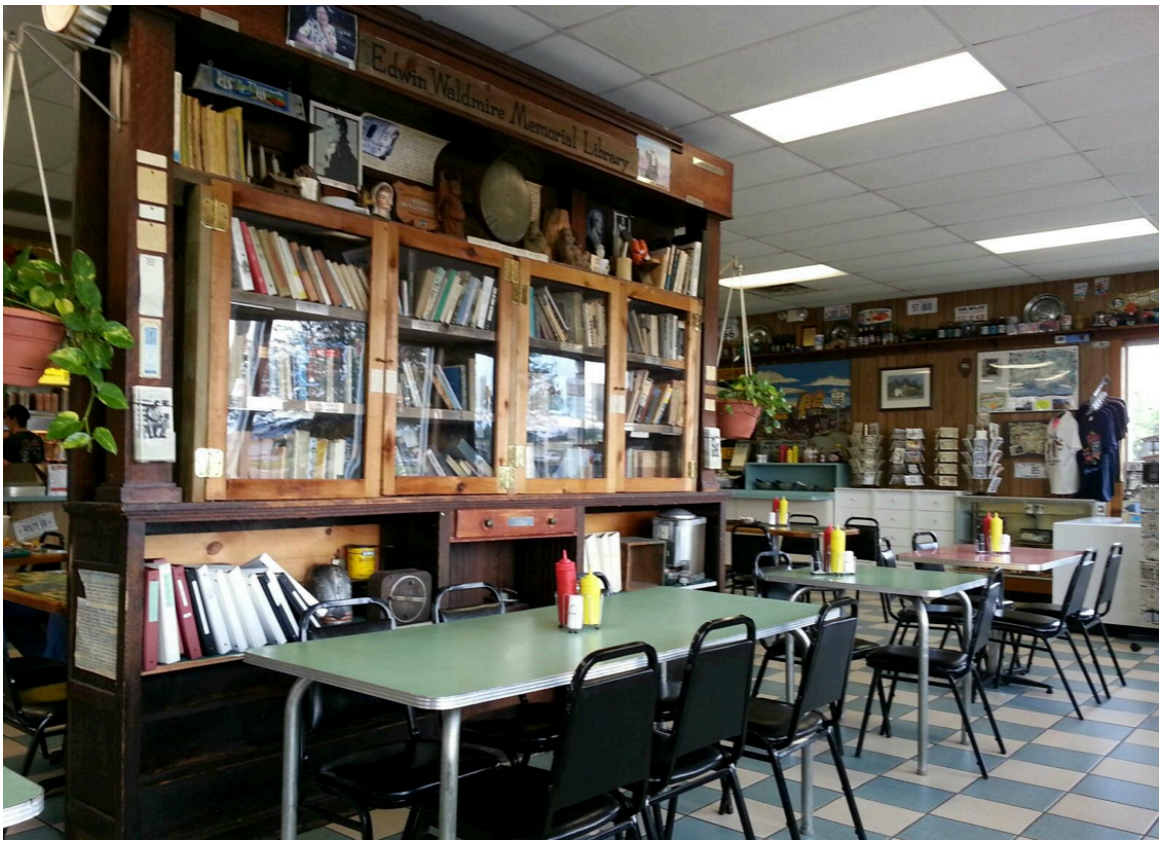
Midwestern Memory

garyuscoates@gmail.com

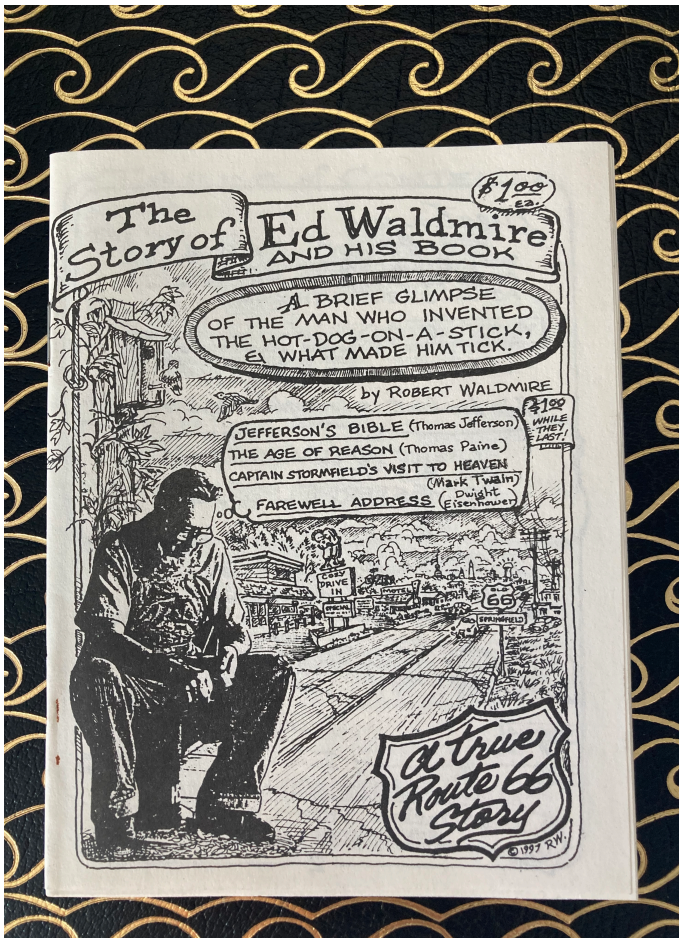
Free thought, Corndogs, and the artist of Route 66



EDWIN WALDMIRE : CREATOR OF THE CORN DOG



The Edwin Waldmire Memorial Library stands like a monument to the memory of the Free Thinker who created a version of the corn dog in the Cozy Dog Diner that Ed and Virginia Waldmire founded on Route 66 in Springfield, Illinois, the capital city of the land of Lincoln. To accompany a lunch of golden comfort food, I took down a volume from the glass door cases, “The Age of Reason” by Thomas Paine. The mystery of this enchanting old fashion eatery on America’s iconic mid-century roadway began to unfold as I made a post-prandial perusal of the postcards and pamphlets drawn by the founders’ son Robert.

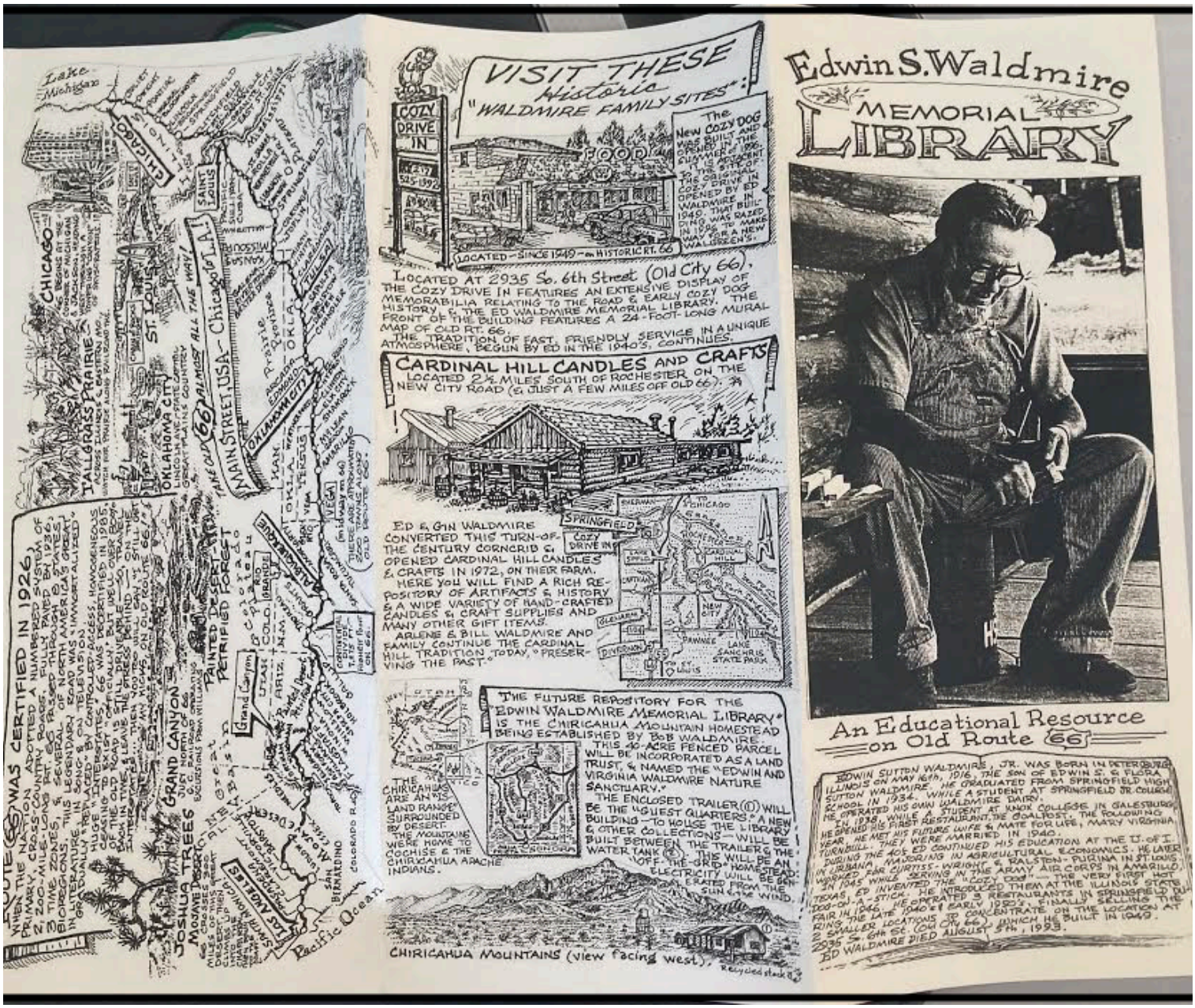


ROBERT WALDMIRE'S ACCOUNT OF HIS FATHER'S BOOK

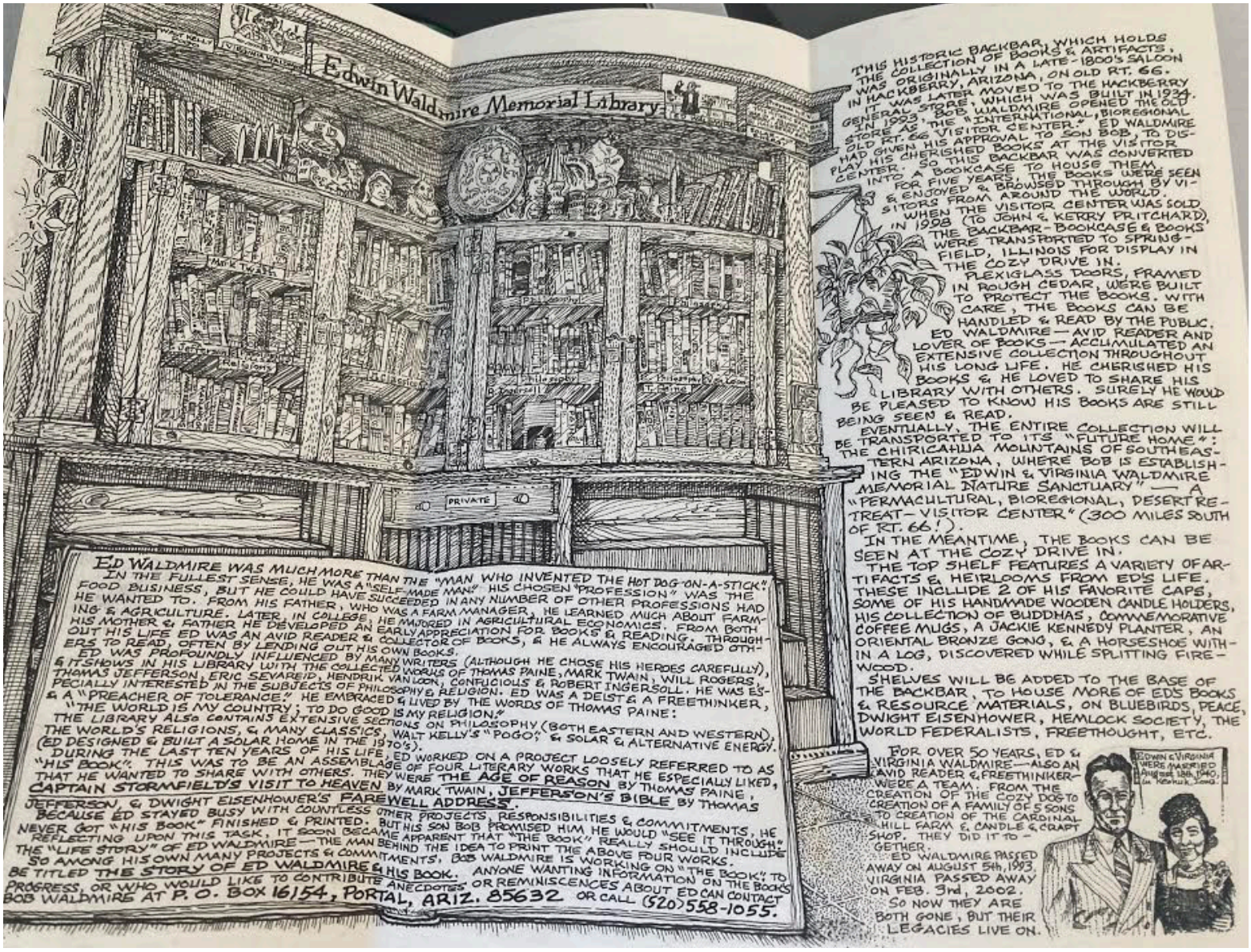
Ed Waldmire had many projects including designing and building a solar energy supplied home in the 1970s, well ahead of his times. The project he could not complete was "his book", an anthology of The Thomas Jefferson Bible, Thomas Paine's "The Age of Reason", "Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven" by Mark Twain, and the Farewell Address of President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Ed and Virginia made a success of the Cozy Dog and Virginia's candle shop and passed the businesses on to their children's families. Ed was an avid reader, a self described deist and Free Thinker and his library is a collection of Free Thought writing, literature, and works on alternative energy. Ed had a volume of the work of Robert Ingersoll, an Illinois Civil War officer veteran. Ingersoll became a famous 19th century orator on the speakers circuit where he was called The Great Agnostic.

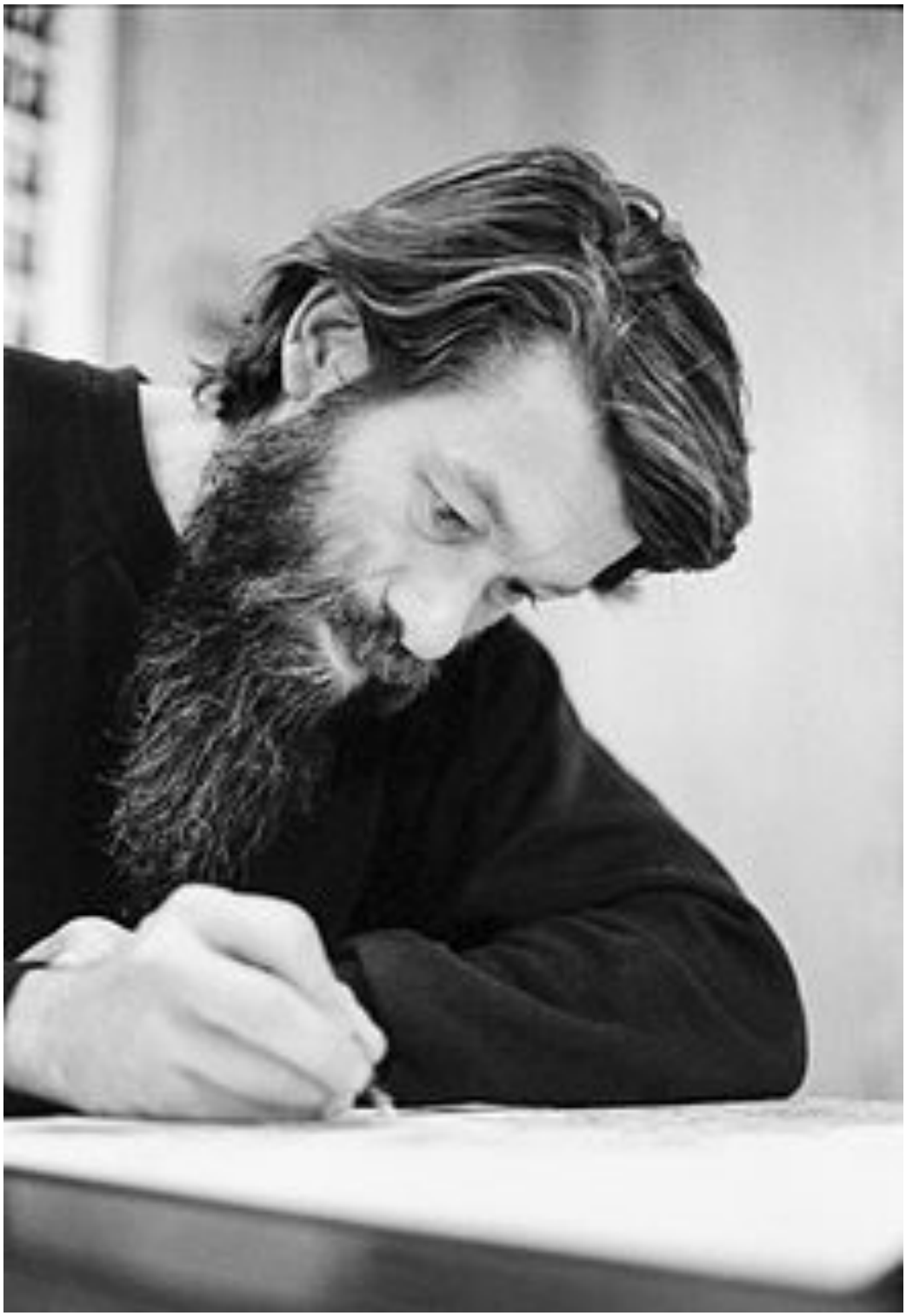
The library's history and character are celebrated in the art work of son Robert.



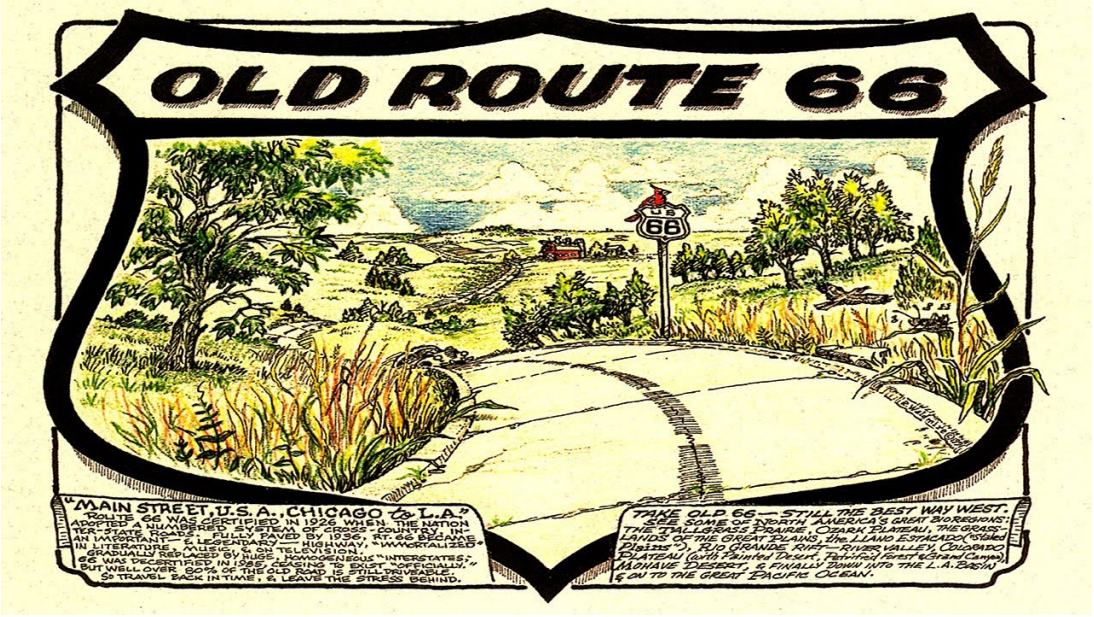
ROBERT WALDMIRE'S TRIBUTE TO HIS FATHER'S LIBRARY



ROBERT WALDMIRE'S HISTORY OF HIS FATHER'S LIBRARY



BOB WALDMIRE, ARTIST AND CARTOGRAPHER



Edwin and Virginia's son Bob became a painter and illustrator. He made a living drawing Birds Eye View maps of states and cities in India Ink with incredibly detailed texts recounting the history, geography and ecology of a location with fine drafting of wildlife, many species endangered.

The writing had a point of view of a Free Thinker and told the stories of the unsung people as in the California Missions usage to subjugate the First Nations peoples for the Spanish Colonial Empire.

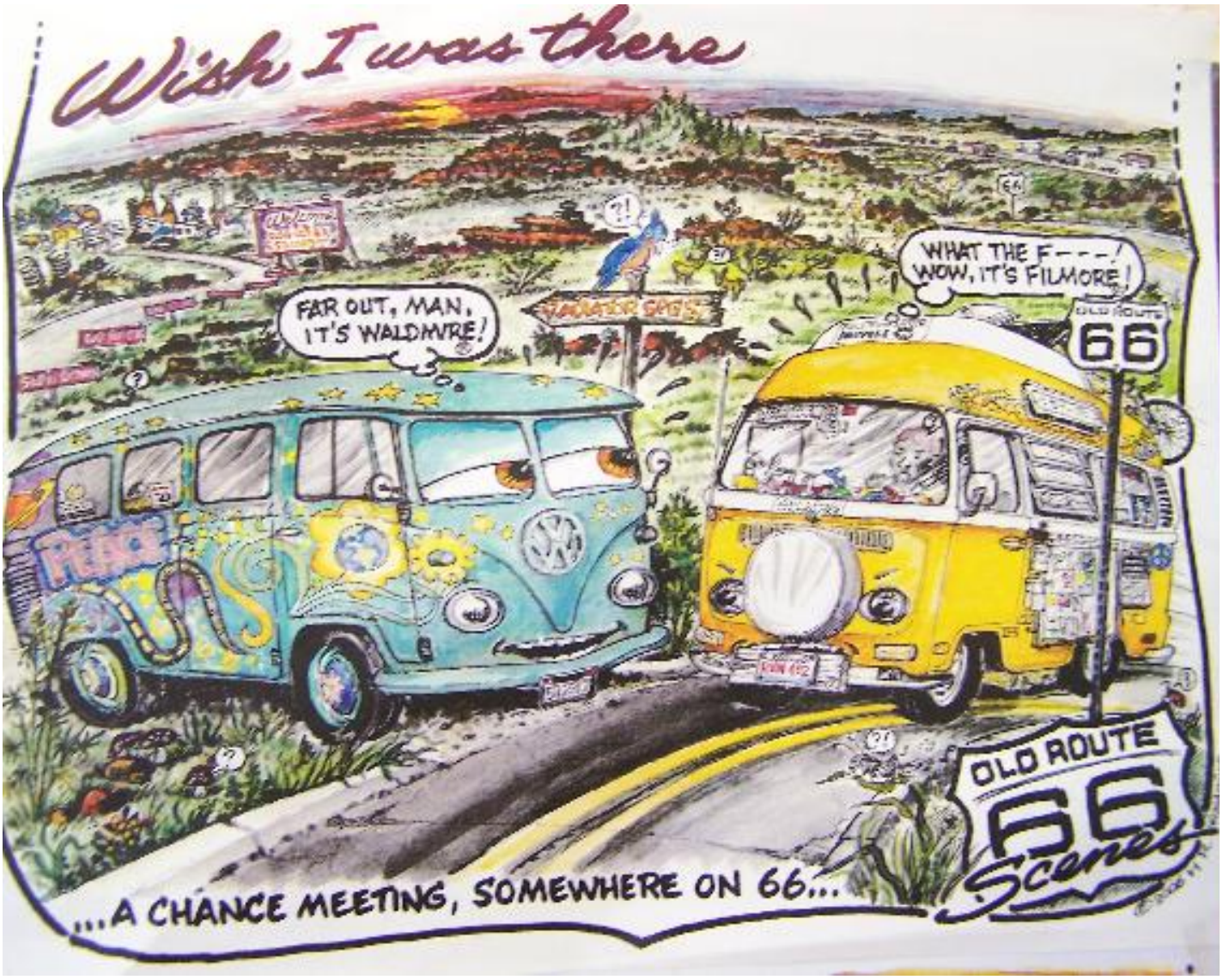
Bob became an "ethical vegetarian" and environmentalist. His great passion for the history and geography of Route 66 made him become its illustrator of memory in water color and India Ink.





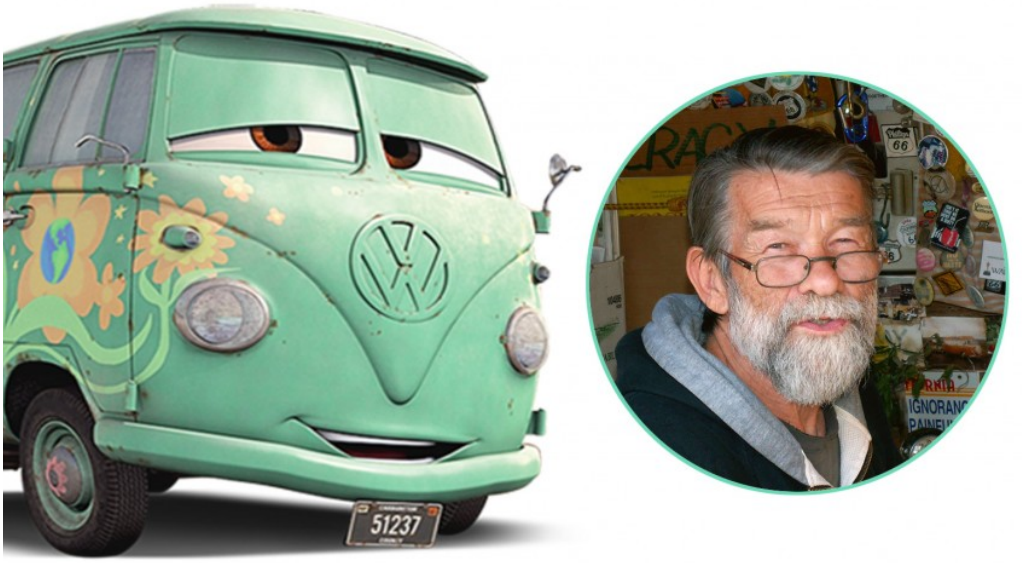
ONE CORNER OF A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF CALIFORNIA BY ROBERT WALDMIRE


OSTALGIC, BIOREGIONALLY-FLAVORED, BIRD'S-EYE-VIEW
OLD ROUTE 66
MAIN STREET U.S.A. — CHICAGO TO L.A.
A LEGEND
EXPLANATION
OLD 66 VISITOR CENTER
HACKBERRY, ARIZ. 86411
PAGE ONE



The Bob Waldmire Story in ROUTE Magazine

The link below the drawing is a very fine article about the Waldmire family and goes into great detail about Bob. There is an account of how he met John Lasseter of PIXAR who was inspired by Bob to add the character "Fillmore" voiced by George Carlin in the first CARS film with Bob casting a skeptical eye over his participation in the commercialization of Route 66, the road and land he loved.



THE FILLMORE SCENES IN "CARS"



THE STONE ON THE LEFT BEARS THE WALDMIRE MOTTO:
"THE WORLD IS MY COUNTRY. TO DO GOOD IS MY RELIGION." THOMAS PAINE

The curator thanks the Waldmire family for providing the documents used here with respect to their memories.

garyuscoates@gmail.com