

**John Steinbeck dubbed Route 66 the “Mother Road.” Angel Delgadillo saved it. Born in Seligman, Arizona, in 1927, Angel graduated from Seligman High School in 1947 before attending the American Pacific Barber College in Pasadena, California – on Route 66. He served as an apprentice in William, Arizona, also on Route 66, from 1948 to 1950. In 1978, however, Route 66 and Angel’s hometown were being quickly forgotten as interstate highways replaced Route 66 as the central artery for traveling the western United States. With businesses closing and Seligman’s population dropping sharply, Angel said, “we couldn’t afford to leave, and we couldn’t afford to stay.”**

**Luckily for Seligman and other Route 66 towns, Angel’s love for America’s most famous highway is matched only by his energy to save it. Angel founded the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona, which now has chapters in all seven states that the highway runs through, as well as seven foreign countries, and in 1987 successfully lobbied to have the road designated an historic highway.**

**Today, one only has to observe the business Angel’s brother Juan is doing at The Snow Cap, an ironic name for a hamburger joint set in the desert, to see that Angel’s efforts paid off. The name is only the first joke Juan plays on his largely unwitting customers, who come back again and again from all over the world - though German’s seem to have a particular predilection for Juan’s milk shakes.**

**Angel attributes the rejuvenation of Seligman and Route 66 to peoples’ desire to reconnect with the values and institutions of the past. “In the high tech world of today...we are exposed to more abuse, rape, killings,” Juan said. “This is America of yesterday, and people are beginning to slow down.”**