

Willem was the kind of whose hands could make what his eyes saw. His specialty and hobby were the creation of scale models of buildings along Route 66.



Since their first trip in 2005 Willem and Monique fell in love with the USA and Route 66! They both are/were avid photographers, so the collection of photos of all kinds of buildings along route 66 grew steadily! Willem always was good in making all kind of things, so when there was less or sometimes even no work at all due to the recession in 2009/2010, he started to make scale models. From then on, taking photos became even more important for details and measurements. Over the years, Willem has received help from many people. to name a few: Judy Wallmark, John Weiss, Joe Sonderman, Jerry Alger, Dave Sullivan, Rich Dinkela, Nick Gerlich, Gary Daggett, Jim Hinckley, Ron Warnick, Paul Chasey, Kevin Mueller, Gar Engman, Jeroen Boersma, Chris Bernard and last but not least, Dries Bessels. They made photos, took

measurements or even brought models to the USA!

In the list below, you can see which models he made and where they are on display. To highlight a few:

1. The Little Juarez Diner in Glenrio; with this model his career as a professional scale model builder was established. Judy Wallmark, treasurer of the Route 66 Museum in Lebanon MO, was thrilled that she found someone who could finish the diorama of the crossroad of Route 66 and Missouri Route 5 in the 1940s. The cabins of Nelson's Dream Village were there but the key element was missing, the landmark Nelson Tavern Service Station, water tower and pump house. He received the measurements from Judy and started to build it. In a couple of months, it was ready and Willem and his wife travelled to Lebanon where he finished the diorama for them.



2. In 2014 Dries and Marion brought '4 Women on the Route' to the USA to be presented to Melba during the Route 66 festival in Kingman. She asked Willem for years to build a model of this place! When the model came out of the box, she went silent.....a rather unique thing! It is now proudly on display in 'Cars on the Route' in Galena.



3. He made a model of the Painted Desert Trading Post give to dries. the PDTP is a very special place for dries. he even has a tattoo of it on his arm. the model has a nice spot at Dries and Marion's home

Unfortunately, Willem became ill in 2015 but he made a lot of models during that time. In December 2016 the disease became really bad and in January 2017 he passed away. During the last visit of Dries, Willem mentioned that he would like it very much if his models would be sent to

the US to be displayed in the state where the actual building was located. Dries made that happen.....he started a fund raiser that same day, sent out a load of email and Facebook messages and the response was almost overwhelming. Within a day or two we had well over 4000 Euro and it was clear we would be able to help Willem with his last wish! We contacted Route 66 Associations and several museums along

the route and in almost those same few days we had found locations for all of them. Locations where the models would be on display and be enjoyed, just like Willem wanted.

However, shipping such vulnerable models to the USA is a difficult thing to get done. You have to deal with all the customs paper work, airway bills, shipment manifests and such. Dries contacted DHL to ask about the cost of such shipment and they were so impressed by the story that they called him back the next day to say that they would take care of everything plus pay for the actual shipment! You can imagine how relieved we were but also how immensely happy that Willem actually got to know about this before he died.



A few days later Willem's funeral took place and it was very difficult for our group of friends, struggling with our own sentiments and supporting Monique at the same time. A big mental boost came when we received the shipping boxes, made by Cris, one of the members of the association, and starting packing them up. We loaded 4 cars full of boxes and drove to the DHL office at the airport where we did the final packing and labelling together with the incredibly helpful people from DHL and we waved them goodbye. It was an emotional experience but also so incredibly good to know that the models will be send all over the US and can be seen by all who travel the Route 66!



A number of models stayed in the Netherlands as you can see in the list below. The route 66 dinner was a gift to Jeroen and Maggie and has been in their house for years. But at their request this model is also going to a location in the US. Dries made another box and made arrangements with KLM and in March 2023 the model went with Dries to Albuquerque. Dries in a tight tourist class seat and the model in business class! The model was handed over to Melissa Beasley by Dries and will get a nice spot in the new office/museum of the Route 66 Association of New Mexico in Tucumcari.



Below is the list with all the models and their location. The list (including photo's) can be found online in the Route66 Picture Archive (<https://pics66.com/pictures/Willem%20Bor%27s%20models/index.html>).

Model name	Owner/location
Illinois	
Ambler's Texaco Gas Station	Dwight Economic Alliance, 119 West Main Street, Dwight
Old Mill Restaurant, Lincoln	Klaas van der Heide, The Netherlands
Rich & Creamy, Joliet	Maurice Aust, The Netherlands
Riviera Roadhouse (burned down), Gardner	Lebanon Laclede County Library, 915 S, Jefferson Ave, Lebanon
Standard Oil Gasoline Station, Odell	Pontiac Oakland Automobile Museum, 205 N Mill St. Pontiac

Missouri	
Diamonds Restaurant, Villa Ridge	Lebanon Laclede County Library, 915 S, Jefferson Ave, Lebanon
John's Modern Cabins, Near Arlington	Ramona Lehman, Munger Moss Motel, Lebanon
Gay Parita Sinclair Gas Station, Paris Springs Junction	Lebanon Laclede County Library, 915 S, Jefferson Ave, Lebanon
Munger Moss sign, Lebanon	Ramona Lehman, Munger Moss Motel, Lebanon
Nelson Tavern, Lebanon	Lebanon Laclede County Library, 915 S, Jefferson Ave, Lebanon
Philips 66 station, Red Oak	Marion Flimm & Dries Bessels, The Netherlands
Kansas	
4 Women on the Route, Galena	Melba Rigg / Cars on the Route, 119 N Main St., Galena
Oklahoma	
Magnolia Service Station, Texola	Seaba Station, 336992 E Hwy 66, Chandler
Allen's Conoco Fillin' Station, Commerce	Monique Bor, The Netherlands
Dairy King, Commerce	Seaba Station, 336992 E Hwy 66, Chandler
Lucille's station, Hydro	Mirjam van Ravenhorst & Willem van den Brink, The Netherlands
Owl Court Motel, Oklahoma City	Chandler Route 66 Interpretive Centre, 400 East Highway 66, Chandler
Top hat Dairy Bar, Foyil	Chandler Route 66 Interpretive Centre, 400 East Highway 66, Chandler
Water Hole #2, Texola	Seaba Station, 336992 E Hwy 66 Chandler
Texas	
66 Super Service Station, Alanreed	Devil's Rope Museum, 100 S Kingsley St, McLean
Cadillac de Ville 1959, Amarillo	Monique Bor, The Netherlands
Little Juarez Café, Glenrio	Tee Pee Curios, Tucumcari
Whiting Bros. Station, Shamrock	Devil's Rope Museum, 100 S Kingsley St, McLean
New Mexico	
66 Diner, Albuquerque	Route 66 Association, Tucumcari
Ranch House café sign & truck, Tucumcari	Monique Bor, The Netherlands
Tee Pee curios, Tucumcari	Tee Pee Curios, Tucumcari
Texaco Gas Station, Glenrio	Blue Swallow motel, Tucumcari
Arizona	
Cool Springs Station, Kingman	Sabine Zimmer & Ronald Teijken, The Netherlands
General Store, Hackberry	Monique Bor, The Netherlands
Mr D'z, Kingman	Scott Dunton's Garage, Kingman
Painted Desert Trading Post, Holbrook	Marion Flimm & Dries Bessels, The Netherlands
Snow Cap Drive-In, Seligman	Anja & Wolfgang Werz, Germany
Twin Arrows trading post, Winona	Antares Point Visitor Centre, Antares Point, Kingman
California	
Bagdad Café, Newberry Springs	Route 66 Museum in Victorville
Cucamonga Service Station, Rancho Cucamonga	Route 66 Museum in Victorville