

## Fruitport residents exploring great American highways

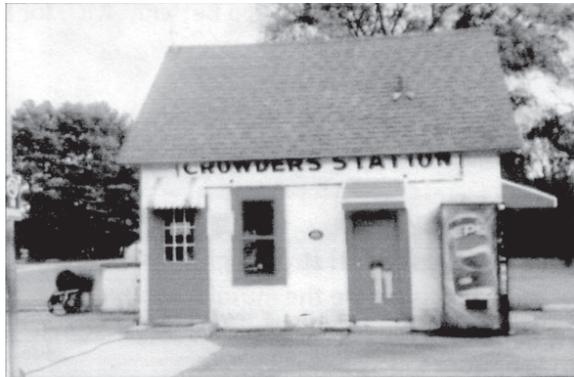
By Mary Weimer

Fruitport residents Jerry and Lynda Alger have become enamoured with trips across America via two-lane highways. Every fall, they take a month-long trip, following a specific highway. The couple has traveled US 2, US 30, the Great River Road, US 50 ("the lonliest road"), Natchez Trace and have completed Route 66 five times. They have seen all of the national parks, both the east and the west coast, and all the small towns and sights along the way. And the list doesn't end there.

Their most recent trip on the Jefferson Highway came about because of an earlier trip on the Lincoln Highway. While on that trip, they discovered a pamphlet about the north-south highway that runs from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada to New Orleans, Louisiana, and selected the Jefferson as their next trek.

Lynda does the research necessary to locate the highlights along the way. The couple likes history and they enjoy meeting the people they encounter on their travels.

Lynda keeps a journal of each day on their trips. They eat their meals in small diners and stay in small town locally-owned motels. They have even been interviewed



Crowder's Station, Little Falls, MN

for local newspapers.

Historic highways hold a special place for many people, as they wind their way through the small towns, past barns, churches and the birth sites of the famous and infamous. The highways have experienced twists and turns through the years, and the Algers make every effort to follow the original route.

The Algers met Glenn Smith in Muskogee, Oklahoma, who made some "networking" connections for their Jefferson Highway adventure, putting them in touch with several people along the way who were interested in helping plan the trip. Glenn is the director of the Jefferson Highway Association. In fact, to promote the historic highway, the Association is planning a centennial celebration during its 2015 convention. By the time this issue reaches you, the Algers will have celebrated with the members of that group and will have had a reunion with many of the people they met along the way.

## Algers return to Muskogee

By Mary Weimer

Fruitport residents Jerry and Linda Alger with Michael Wallis, best-selling author of *Route 66: The Mother*



Road and other books. He was also the voice of the sheriff in the movie, "Cars." The photo was taken Saturday, May 2, 2015 at the banquet for the Jefferson Highway Association centennial, held in the 1915 Severs Hotel in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

This hotel is rich in the history of the Jefferson Highway, having held the first Jefferson Highway Association conference in 1916.

During the banquet, the Algers were presented with an ambassador award plaque for promoting interest in touring the Jefferson Highway.

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