

## Travelers and The Green Book

Even though the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments were great steps toward equality for all Americans, African Americans continued to be mistreated, especially in the South. Laws called Jim Crow laws were designed to keep an unequal status between minorities and whites. These laws, created by state and local governments, segregated minorities (especially African Americans) in many public situations like restaurants, hotels, schools, trains, buses, and housing.

“In the South, black patrons at bus and train stations were cordoned off into separate waiting rooms, with separate bathrooms, drinking fountains, and (when they were provided to blacks at all) separate concession stands. On trains, they were confined to separate, inferior Jim Crow cars. In railroad dining cars, a curtain separated black passengers from whites. On urban public transportation, black and white passengers were separate and unequal. Black passengers were required to sit at the back of buses and trolleys--and to give up their seats to whites on demand. Black passengers who challenged Jim Crow on public transportation systems faced insult, personal injury, arrest, and even death at the hands of angry whites.”

This segregation applied to travel as well. “Although the roads and highways were free for all to use, doing so was not easy for blacks. Most hotels and restaurants would not serve African Americans and driving overnight often meant sleeping in cars and packing food to eat during the journey. Many gas stations would not sell gas to black drivers, so they had to carry gas cans and always be on the lookout for the few stations that would welcome their business. Even then, they might not be allowed to use a public restroom.”

“Traveling on back roads brought other dangers for the black motorist. Throughout the twentieth century, black drivers regularly complained that they were harassed by police officers. It was commonplace advice that black motorists should drive below the posted speed limit--but not too slow as to attract attention--because police officers would regularly stop blacks for traveling even one mile an hour faster than what was posted. Some black drivers took road trips at night, when it was harder for police to identify them by skin color as they drove down dark country roads. Interracial travel was especially dangerous, especially in the South. Blacks who drove with whites in the same car put themselves at risk of arrest or violence. Only when it was clear that the black driver was a chauffeur could blacks and whites share the same car without arousing suspicion. When black and white civil rights activists took the risk of driving together through the south, whites usually sat in the back with a single black driver in the front to fool the police.”

Because more African Americans were traveling and owning cars, Victor Green, himself an African American living in New York City, wrote a book to assist black travelers. He made a list of all of the services (hotels, gas stations, restaurants, and businesses) that would serve African Americans. His first book was about New York City, but the demand was so great that he expanded his book to include other major cities.

The book was called The Green Book and was sold at black-owned businesses and Esso gas stations. By 1949, The Green Book had grown to 80 pages and cost 75 cents. It covered the United States, Bermuda, Mexico, and Canada.

On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon B Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law. Among other things, the Act outlawed segregation in public places.

**From: Automobile in American Life and Society**

**[http://www.autolife.umd.umich.edu/Race/R\\_Casestudy/R\\_Casestudy2.htm](http://www.autolife.umd.umich.edu/Race/R_Casestudy/R_Casestudy2.htm)**

## Stops on Route 66

Springfield, Illinois

St. Louis, Missouri

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Amarillo, Texas

Tucumcari, New Mexico

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Holbrook, Arizona

Flagstaff, Arizona

Kingman, Arizona

Barstow, California

Los Angeles, California

## Stops on Route 66—Answer Key

### Springfield, Illinois

*Hotel:* Dudley; *Tourist Homes:* Mrs. M. Rollins, Mrs. B Mosby, Mrs. G. Bell, Mrs. E Brooks, Dr Ware

### St. Louis, Missouri

*Many Choices:* *Hotels, Restaurants, Beauty Parlor, Barber Shop, Taverns, Night Clubs, Service Stations, Garages, Tailors, Liquor Stores, Taxi Cabs*

### Tulsa, Oklahoma

*Hotels:* Small, Red Wing, Royal, McHunt, Warren, YWCA; *Tourist Homes:* W.H. Smith, C.U. Netherland; *Restaurant:* Your Cab; *Barber Shops:* Swindall's; *Service Stations:* Miece; *Garages:* Pine Street; *Automobiles:* Meharry Drugs

### Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*Hotels:* Little Pace, Hall, Magnolia Inn; *Tourist Homes:* Cortland Rms., Scrogg's, Tucker's; *Restaurants:* Eastside Food Shop; *Beauty Parlors:* Chambers, Lyons, N.B. Ellis; *Barber Shops:* Elks, Golden Oak, Clover Leaf; *Taverns:* Lyons, Ruby's King's; *Service Stations:* Richardson's, Harry's, Mathues; *Sanitarium:* Ed's; *Drug Stores:* Randolph, Cut Rate,

### Amarillo, Texas

*Hotels:* Mayfair, Watley, Tennessee; *Restaurants:* Tom's Place, New Harlem, Blue Bonnet; *Barber Shops:* Foster's; *Beauty Parlor:* Helen's Unique; *Road Houses:* Working Man's Club; *Taverns:* Williams, Green Parrot, Carter Bros.; *Service Stations:* Carter Bros; *Garages:* M & M; *Tailors:* Mitchell's; *Recreation Clubs:* Blue Moon, Watley; *Drug Stores:* G & M; Knighton, Corner

### Tucumcari, New Mexico

*Tourist Homes:* Rocket Inn, Jone's Rooms; *Barber Shops:* Henry James; *Garages,* Swift's

### Albuquerque, New Mexico

*Hotels:* Ideal; *Tourist Homes:* Mrs. Kate Duncan, Mrs. W. Bailey; *Restaurants:* Aunt Brenda's Pit Barbecue, Bon Ton

### Holbrook, Arizona

*No Services*

### Flagstaff, Arizona

*No Services*

### Kingman, Arizona

*No Services*

### Barstow, California

*No Services*

### Los Angeles, California

*Many Choices:* *Hotels, Motels, Restaurants, Beauty Parlors, Barber Shops, Taverns, Night Clubs, Road Houses, Liquor Stores, Service Stations, Garages, Automotive, Drug Stores, Tailors, Real Estate*

## Citations for My Research

Group Members \_\_\_\_\_

### Example:

Slide Name: Leaving Chicago

Image 1: Photograph of home

Internet Source Citation: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ca0214.photos.012012p/>

I believe this photo is accurate because it is on a U.S. government website and the houses look old.

Image 2: Map of Route 66

Internet Source Citation: <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/route66/maps66.html>

I believe this photo is accurate because it is on a U.S. government website and the map looks like other maps of Route 66.

Slide Name:

Image 1:

Internet Source Citation:

I believe this photo is accurate because it

Slide Name:

Image 2:

Internet Source Citation:

I believe this photo is accurate because it

Write (as a group) on the back of this paper a conclusion to the guidebook as if it was written today. Your conclusion should describe how times have changed for black travelers.

Scoring for **each** of your 2 images:

Slide Name: 5 pts

Appropriate Image: 10 pts

Source Citation: 5 pts

Statement of Accuracy: 5 pts

Total 50 pts

Your conclusion to the guidebook: 10 pts

Total 60 pts