

2015

ROUTE 66

Route 66, also colloquially known as the Main Street of America, was one of the first highways in the US. On maps, it starts in Chicago and ends about 2,400 miles further, in Santa Monica. But as an idea, Route 66 runs through the heart of American pop culture. Synonymous with the adventure of the open road, it has become virtually **1.1. (MORTAL)** _____ in songs, on TV, in books, and in movies. Route 66 served as a major path for those who migrated west. People doing business along the route became prosperous due to the growing **1.2. (POPULAR)** _____ of the highway. Nowadays, these old businesses line the old route and are part of its appeal. It's one of the most **1.3. (CHARACTER)** _____ features of this road. "It's America the way it used to be," says David Listokin, a professor at Rutgers University. "The restaurants and shops are **1.4. (INDIVIDUAL)** _____ owned, so people can speak to the proprietors. Not like in chain stores." The road is no longer a highway and there are faster ways to get from Chicago to Santa Monica but many **1.5. (TRAVEL)** _____ still prefer to explore the small towns by sticking to the old road.

2016

KINDNESS ONE

Leon Logothetis has embarked on a seemingly **1.1. (POSSIBLE)** _____ mission: to circumnavigate the globe with no gas, no food, no money and no places to stay. He has relied solely on the **1.2. (GENEROUS)** _____ of strangers to put him up, feed him and fuel his vintage yellow motorcycle. He calls his **1.3. (REMARK)** _____ mission Kindness One and his motorcycle "the first ever vehicle powered solely by kindness." So far, Logothetis has proven that kindness is a quality not bound by borders. In Pittsburgh, he met a homeless man named Tony who, despite having hardly anything himself, gave Logothetis some clothes, a place to sleep for the night and food. "I told him that he was the **1.4. (WEALTHY)** _____ man I had ever met, because true wealth does not come in the form of a hefty bank account." What Leon wants to emphasize in his blog is that true wealth comes in the form of a full heart and an overflowing spirit, both of which **1.5. (ABLE)** _____ us to do noble deeds. Leon keeps *The Kindness Diaries* in his blog, where he describes all the acts of kindness he has experienced.

adapted from www.perryellis.com

2017

"FACIAL" CREDIT CARDS

Bank cards are already being replaced by smartphones and sophisticated watches that have payment technology built-in. But the latest threat to the plastic in your pocket could be your face – a Finnish company has launched the first ever payment platform completely on facial **1.1. (RECOGNISE)** _____. The system doesn't require a bank card or a phone – instead, a camera is positioned at the checkout and takes a photo of a shopper's face when they are ready to pay. It then scans a database for the face and matches it to stored payment details in order to complete the transaction. To **1.2. (SURE)** _____ authorized access, the transaction will not gain acceptance until the customer confirms the match and clicks OK on a touchscreen. According to financial sector representatives, using biometric information as authentication will **1.3. (REVOLUTION)** _____ the whole banking system. Since the technology is capable of identifying even the smallest of distinguishing features of identical twins, it is expected to have a **1.4. (BENEFIT)** _____ effect on the payment procedures, making them safer and more convenient for buyers. The bad news is, however, that all interested in the service need to pay for such a privilege: the monthly fee depends on the user's **1.5. (EARN)** _____ and the area in which the system is installed.

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