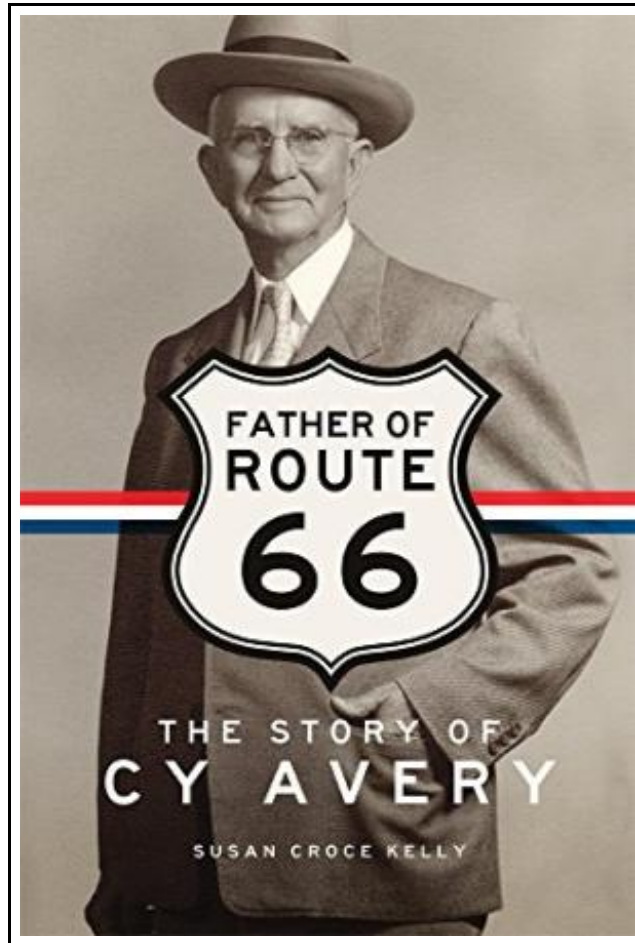


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University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 2014. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. 288 pages. Hardcover with dustjacket. New book. BIOGRAPHY. If it weren't for Cy Avery's dreams of better roads through his beloved Tulsa, the United States would never have gotten Route 66. This book is the story of Avery, his times, and the legendary highway he helped build. In this engaging biography of a remarkable man, Susan Croce Kelly begins by describing the urgency for "good roads" that gripped the nation in the early twentieth century as cars multiplied and mud deepened. Avery was one of a small cadre of men and women whose passion carried the Good Roads movement from boosterism to political influence to concrete-on-the-ground. While most stopped there, Avery went on to assure that one road—U.S. Highway 66—became a fixture in the imagination of America and the world. Father of Route 66 transports readers to the years when the United States was moving from steam to internal combustion engines and traces Avery's life from his birth in Stevensville, Pennsylvania, to his death more than ninety years later. Avery came west in a covered wagon, grew up in Indian Territory, and spent his adult years in oil-rich Tulsa, where fifty millionaires sat on the Chamber of Commerce board and the builder of the Panama Canal dropped in to size up a local water project. Cy Avery was a farmer, teacher, real estate professional, oil man, and politician, but throughout his long life he remained a champion for better roads across America. He stood up to the Oklahoma Ku Klux Klan, hatched plans for a municipal airport, and helped build a 55-mile water pipeline for Tulsa. The centerpiece of his story—and this book—however, is Avery's role in designing the national highway system, his monumental fight with the governor of Kentucky...



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