



Along The Lincoln Highway



Volume 20, Number 2

Summer 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

President's Corner

By Deb Rothmeyer, President,
Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Greetings from Denison! Wow! This weather has been up and down. Hot, warm, and then cold. I can't wait for it to warm up!

I am so very proud to be your President and am looking forward to a year promoting our beloved Lincoln Highway. As the warm weather approaches, we should all be looking toward our individual community celebrations, and promoting the Lincoln Highway.

The Lincoln Highway Buy Way yard sale has a sign-up on the Lincoln Highway Web site, so start signing up! A map of locations will be added later as people start signing up their sales.

The conference for 2017 is coming along great. Tours are in place and the food and entertainment have been put together.

REMINDER: Don't forget to submit information about your individual communities so that anyone accessing our website will be able to plan their personal driving tours across our state. You can send information via email to: lincolnhighway@prrcd.org, phone: (515)232-0048, or mail: 2402 S. Duff Ave Ames, IA 50010

I also would like to extend a thank you to Prairie Rivers of Iowa for all the work that is being done in assisting the Association in various areas.

Hope to see you at the July 11th, 2015 meeting in Clinton, Iowa at the Pizza Ranch (1347 11th St N). We are taking our vacation in Clinton to see all the wonderful sites.

Happy travelling!



Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

July 11, 2015	Clinton
October 10, 2015	Denison
Jan, 2016	TBD
April, 2016	TBD

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A Tribute to Jeff Benson

By Bob Auseberger, Greene County

The phone call we never want or expect to get is one where a person such as Jeff Benson has passed away. We received that call Wednesday, about noon, and were devastated. Over the past 25 years he and his wife Margaret have been such an important part of our lives. They were one of our hero couples, and he was certainly a hero to our Lincoln Highway family.

He was creative, positive, and adventurous in both work and play. It was always fun to visit Jeff and Margaret. Many times the reason was a Lincoln Highway "situation" and always the issues were softened by discussions about their personal lives. They were always up to something whether it was with the kids, their home, yard, garden, camping, or planning a trip. As we talked, the Lincoln Highway issue would blend in and become just part of the visit, and the sharp edges of a seemingly insurmountable problem would taper and solutions would appear. One of my regrets is that we never did get the farm compost delivered for their garden. However, we did get the wheel over to them, and had fun with a highly upscale discussion of where and how the wheel could best be displayed in their backyard/garden.

Joyce and I always learned something new about Jeff in our discussions and were especially entertained with stories about his high school and college days. Did you know that he helped organize a rock band and was quite an accomplished musician?

In the early years of our Lincoln Highway organization Jeff and Margaret were very active. They served as the second presidents and later Jeff served as secretary. He will be remembered for his handling of the Lions Club Tree Park interpretive site situation and ushering it to near completion.

Continued on page 2

The Lincoln Highway Association shall identify, preserve, interpret and improve access to the Lincoln Highway and its associated sites, pursue the appropriate measures to prevent further deterioration, destruction or alteration of the remaining sections, publicize and seek public awareness of its goals and activities for preserving and developing the LH, facilitate research about the LH, and publish a magazine for articles and news of activity relevant to the LH, work with local communities and businesses to promote the LH as a tourism destination, and be exclusively charitable and educational within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code.

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County Consuls, and Staff**

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A Tribute to Jeff Benson continued from Page 1



Unveiling of Byway Sign (Jeff Benson, front right) © IVRCD

His last act was to bring an explaining sign. He and Troy worked hard to keep that project moving forward. Of course the sign still hasn't been placed, and now I can't visit with Jeff about this issue.

In this project, one can see some of his many good qualities—fund raising when last minute money was needed or being able to break down complex issues into simpler parts that could be solved one at a time. And

especially important being able to reduce personality issues so that the project problems could be worked on. He was adamant about the highway being a museum and that our duties were to preserve it and its roadside features so that a story could be told about the development of the highway and road system in our country. He and Lyell developed the plan for a hierarchy of interpretive sites many years ago. This plan continues to be the guide for telling this story.

I don't remember Jeff telling jokes, but he had a great sense of humor. One day during a planning session for the Lions Club Tree Park (on the Lincoln Highway, east of Grand Junction) we were discussing monetary compensation for the "big shots" as Jeff sometimes referred to them. He suggested that the historians, architect, graphic designer, and landscape architect get equal compensation. This suggestion caused quite an uproar. Amongst shouting and disagreement, Jeff said, "Wait, wait, this was just a dream and forget that I said it."

"Context Sensitive Design" was a byword for Jeff. A country road, city street, or cross-country highway, park, bike trail, pedestrian island, etc. was not just a piece of dirt, rock, concrete or asphalt with a fore slope and back slope. To him, it represented a place in time and space. The past, present, and future needed to be reckoned with and this required planning, time, and sometimes more planning, and many times strange and unknown involvement of science, history, culture or other human or inhuman activity.

Jeff gave great presentations and programs including an adult education series at Iowa State. He was good at captivating an audience and ending these in a timely manner. He was punctual with starting and ending meetings but always took time afterwards to work with people on their particular issues.

I am sure that Jeff will want Margaret and the kids to carry on and that he will want the Lincoln Highway Association to carry on. His other friends, acquaintances, and people involved in projects and his job with the city will surely feel this same challenge. Let's live up to his expectations.

L

**The Next ILHA meeting will be
July 11th, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in
Clinton, Iowa at the Pizza Ranch
(1347 11th St N)**

Mystery Place

By Van Becker

As with all Mystery Photos, I have four very special clues to make the location of this summer photo extra easy to identify.

The question is: Where is this Lincoln Highway planter?

1. This summer the LHA National Conference is in Michigan. This photo is 520 miles west of the conference site.
2. The photo is of the north side of the planter.
3. The BWN is to the southeast of this mystery location and the UP is to the north.
4. For years, but sadly, no more, a black knight watched over this site from across the Lincoln Highway.

If you think you can identify the Mystery Place, send an email to lincolnhighway@prrcd.org or call 515-232-0048. Call with the correct information and we will take your name and contact information. We then will hold a random drawing for a winner to receive a 2013 Iowa Lincoln Highway Map Pack! This is to accommodate for the varying time and travel the postal system can take and to give all a fair try.



© Van Becker



Last Issue's Mystery Place

The photos are of the "east end of the viaduct in Mt. Vernon, Iowa." Of course, it is on the Lincoln Highway on what is also known today as 1st Street East. The vintage photo was taken in the early teens and I took the second photo just this spring. Congrats to our winner, Bob Crawford of Newport, MN.



Kids in front of the Tama County Courthouse © LHBPO



Abe at Tama Bridge Park © LHBPO

YOUR AD HERE

Business Card Size Ad: Single ad placed on an inside page of newsletter in black and white. The card or ad should be in standard digital format (.jpg) or scanner ready. Double size business cards will be double the price.

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3 Issues-\$30 Buy 3 Get 4th FREE

Contact Joyce for more information:
bobjoyce@netins.net

The James H. Andrew Railroad Museum and History Center

at the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad

November 1 through May 22

Monday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Saturday Noon - 4 pm

Closed Sunday

May 23 through October 31

Sunday - Thursday 10 am - 4 pm

Friday and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm



Museum Admission included with most train ride tickets!

www.iowarailwaymuseum.org

Visit one of Iowa's most interesting railroad collections

Lincoln Highway Bridge Park Update

By Dana Davis Hanson, VP of the Tama-Toledo LHBPO

We have been very busy with the Lincoln Highway Bridge Park Organization (LHBPO) in Tama/Toledo this spring! One of our biggest projects was educating our youth on the history and importance of the LH in hopes that they will carry on the tradition of preserving it in the future. Allan Richards, one of our members, made several presentations to the elementary and high school students at South Tama Schools.

The 4th grade class took a special interest in the LH and they have been involved in many of our activities. They made a large confetti mural of the LH bridge that was on display at the State LH meeting last fall. The mural has since been on display at the Tama County Courthouse and may one day make it to the National meeting. On 4/23 this group of 120+ students came by bus to the courthouse to welcome John Mazzello, Janice Gammon and other supporters that came to learn more about the LH Corridor Management Plan. On May Day, the same group of 4th graders came out to the LH Bridge Park to clean up trash, pick up sticks and plant flowers. Their teachers and their principal, Jim Bugge were very supportive in the projects and all are very deserving of an extra-special "thank-you"!

On 5/15 the LHBPO staged a kick-off and flag raising ceremony at the park for the local Lincoln Highway Festival. The mayor of Tama, Dan Zimmerman, was on hand to open the kick-off. Allan Richards talked about the LH history and the significance of it in our community. Abe Lincoln (AKA Lance Mack) made an appearance and gave an inspiring rendition of the Gettysburg Address. The 4th grade students proudly sang the Star Spangled Banner. The local American Legion was on hand to present the American flag to the Boy Scouts that raised the flag. It was a wonderful ceremony and we were so pleased to see the community come out and show their support!

Of course no festival is complete without a parade! The LHBPO worked hard to build a float to enter in the parade, or maybe it just seemed hard because we were all inexperienced at float building. It all came together just in time for the parade Saturday morning. Whew! Around the float were Iowa maps that the 4th graders had traced the LH. Abe Lincoln sat tall in a large antique chair in front of a large American flag. Colleen Davis, the President of our organization, and some of the students rode along with Abe to throw out the candy. It all went so fast and we spent hours getting ready!

Our next adventure will be the Lincoln Highway Buy-Way Yard Sale in August. We hope to once again fill the park with vendors and have other locals along the route participate too. This is really only our second year at this, but we hope to grow each and every year. Maybe one day we will reach across the whole town. Even better, across the whole state of Iowa!! Let us know if you are interested in being involved, we need to get this going!

We also have been continuing our efforts to restore and preserve the Lincoln Highway Bridge in Tama. The bridge is such an icon in our community and visitors who travel the highway continue to make this a point of interest along the route. We are working with the city to find funding through grants and

donations to make the necessary repairs. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the bridge. We have added new bushes and flowers to the park area and it should be beautiful when in bloom this summer. We are still working on our plans to build a large informational kiosk at the park. You know how the saying goes...we have plenty of big ideas, but little money. So, we continue in our fundraising, so that one day this will become a reality for us and for the community.

If you are interested in following us and our adventures you can find us on Facebook at: Lincoln Highway Bridge Park Org. Tama/Toledo, IA.

L

Jefferson Bell Tower Festival 2015

June 12-13

Jefferson's annual festival promises a weekend full of family-friendly fun and entertainment. Nestled in the middle of Greene County's county seat, the festival is home to a broad spectrum of activities.

From free shows on the plaza stage, to events and attractions like craft and food vendors, the fun run and walk, basketball tournament, and the beverage garden with its nightly musical entertainment, to a couple of events with a bit of a twist. The Bell Tower Festival was the place to be the second weekend of June!

L



Abe at Tama Bridge Park © LHBPO

Corridor Management Plan Update

By John Mazzello, Program Coord. Prairie Rivers

The last few months have been very busy ones for the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway's Corridor Management Plan project. As you'll recall, a Corridor Management Plan, or CMP, is a long-term planning tool that identifies the byway area's strengths and opportunities, and lays out a strategy for enhancing the roadway. A major part of the CMP planning process is engaging with byway communities in order to gather priorities from residents, leaders, and organizations.

Since February, we have held community meetings in 13 Lincoln Highway communities: State Center, Jefferson, Lowden, Clinton, Boone, Belle Plaine, Ames, Toledo, Marion, Missouri Valley, Denison, Carroll, and Nevada. At each meeting, we had a great conversation about the Lincoln Highway, its important locations and assets, and each community's dreams for how the roadway might enhance the local area. Specifically, we considered the "intrinsic qualities," or the things that make the Lincoln Highway unique in six areas: historic, cultural, recreational, scenic, natural, and archaeological. From these meetings, we are assembling community priorities and strategies for reaching these goals.

More than 150 Iowans have participated in these meetings so far, including many Lincoln Highway Association members. Also represented have been business owners, elected officials, government employees, leaders of community groups, and local residents. Thank you to all the ILHA members who have attended meetings or given input on this project so far. We especially appreciate the help of the members who assisted with securing meeting spaces, providing refreshments, or organizing meetings.

Meetings are currently being planned for this summer in Mt. Vernon-Lisbon, Marshalltown, and Council Bluffs. Please look for more information in your local newspaper, on the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association's Facebook page, at our website at www.prrcd.org/cmp, or by phone at 515-232-0048. If you were unable to make the meeting in your area and would like to learn more about the CMP project and provide your input on your local area, please call or email lincolncmp@prrcd.org. As members of the ILHA, you have an important and unique perspective on the Lincoln Highway, and it is critical that we include your ideas in the CMP. We invite you to get involved with this exciting project!



CMP meeting in Harrison County

© Jan Gammon



Jeff Benson (1952-2015)

By Adams Funeral Home

Jeffrey Donald Benson was born on June 28, 1952, the second child of Donald and Martha Benson, in Lawrence, Kansas. The family moved to Ames in 1958 when Donald accepted a position as an assistant Professor in the English

Department at Iowa State University. As a boy, Jeff attended the original Edwards School, followed by Welch Junior High and finally graduated from Ames High School in 1970. After spending two years at Carlton College in Northfield, Minnesota, he returned to Ames to attend a community college. While there, he studied design and eventually found work in several engineering companies.

Early in his career, he pursued an interest in landscape architecture and interned for The Design Collaborative at Ames design firm in Ames. He worked under the direction of James Sinatra and David L. Dahlquist, landscape architects.

Throughout his professional career, Jeff became a distinguished landscape architect through his project achievements and subsequent services to the profession. He was perhaps the one of the few to pass the State of Iowa registration examination and immediately become fully registered before earning a degree in Landscape Architecture. Following his registration, he then enrolled at Iowa State to receive a B.S. degree in Landscape Architecture and continued on to receive a Master's Degree in Community and Regional Planning. In 2001, he was employed by the City of Ames Planning Department and thus held the position for 14 years. While in this position, he was responsible for many projects for the beauty and betterment of Ames. In the 1980's, he played instrumental roles in the design and development of many major products including: the Gateway Hills and Green Hills developments in Ames and the State Historical Building landscape at the State Capitol.

Jeff's success in his personal life was also mirrored in his personal life. On April 27, 1980 he married Margaret Elbert, of Ames. They have been happily married for 35 years. Jeff and Margaret have contributed many years of service and leadership to the Lincoln Highway Association. Jeff also served on the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Advisory Board and the Byways of Iowa Coalition.

Jeff died on Tuesday, May 26, 2015, surrounded by his wife and family, at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames. Memorials can be made to the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association, PO Box 224 Grand Junction, IA 50107 or the Ames Historical Society, 416 Douglas Avenue # 101, Ames, IA 50010.



ILHA April Meeting Recap

By Jan Gammon, LHHB Coord.
Prairie Rivers of Iowa

The Lincoln Highway Association gathered in Council Bluffs on April 11, 2015. The meeting was held at the St. Francis Center and called to order by President Deb Rothmeyer. Mayor Walsh welcomed the LHA to the city of Council Bluffs and thanked the group for their efforts over the years. The Lincoln Highway has been very important to his community and to Iowa.

The minutes of the January meeting and the Treasurer's Report were approved. State Director Dean Parr gave a membership number update and our totals to date in Iowa are 285. Dean and Van Becker urged everyone to sign up to attend the National Convention in Ann Arbor, MI this June. Discounted hotel rooms are going fast, so get your reservations in.

Jessica Johnson, from Prairie Rivers of Iowa, joined the group via phone and gave an overview of the new look for the LHA website.

The Spring LHA newsletter was distributed recently. Prairie Rivers of Iowa also shared that the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway is the first of the Iowa Byway series in the magazine "Edible Iowa." That edition just came out and features the Youngville café, the Lucky Pig in Ogden and other food options along the Byway.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa is also hosting public Corridor Management Planning (CMP) meetings in communities along the Byway. Everyone is encouraged to attend the meeting in their county. After the CMP is completed, an Interpretive Plan will be done. A current Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) will help place two interpretive panels in the Lions Tree Park near Grand Junction and the Lincoln Prairie Park in Ogden. These signs will be in the same design all of the Byways are adopting.

The Lincoln Highway Bridge Park Tama-Toledo group applied for the National Lincoln Highway Association Grant and Tama County LHA has submitted a teacher for the National Educator Award. The Grant will be awarded at the National Convention in June. It appears they have won the educator award. Congratulations!

The 2015 Auto Tour is finalizing the tour route. The 2017 National Convention will be in Denison, Iowa. Deb Rothmeyer and Jeannie Parr are the chairs for the convention and say preparations are well under way. It is unclear if the Grand Junction overpass will be completed in time for the Convention, but we hope so.

Greene County is working on a new brochure and John Fitzsimmons is doing some artwork for it. He also repainted a metal sign that will be hung in the restored gas station in State Center, now used as the police station. Bob Owens would like an article written about Portage Tires in the newsletter and submitted to the national magazine, The Forum. There is a building near the Eureka Bridge in Greene County that has an ad for Portage Tires painted on the outside and hopefully the building will be restored as an auto-related museum.

County reports were then given. Boone will be celebrating their 150th this year. It will be in conjunction with their Pufferbilly Days. Youngville Café will try to extend their hours. Tama is continuing to work on their kiosk, garden, and working on saving a tourist cabin. Harrison County has had some restaurants move to different locations and some new ones start up.

The next Lincoln Highway Association meeting will be in July 11th at the Pizza Ranch (1347 11th St N) in Clinton, Iowa.

L

9 Free Places Along Lincoln Highway Through Iowa

Scott Berka shared a link to the US Long Cuts blog about travels they take across America. (Name is the opposite of Short Cuts- you get the idea.) They included nice photos and an article about traveling the Lincoln Highway last summer. <http://www.uslongcuts.com/road-trips/historic-routes/9-free-places-along-the-lincoln-highway-through-iowa/>

Here's an excerpt:

"The Lincoln Highway, the first transcontinental highway in the United States, dedicated on October 31, 1913, originally stretched 3,389 miles from New York City to San Francisco. The route length decreased over time as the highway was rerouted for better efficiency. Last summer we took the Lincoln Highway partway through Iowa, west to east, stopping at several sites, all free (except lunch, of course), along the way, some for a quick photo and others that required a little more time."

They traveled from Crescent to Tama. Check out the blog and add your own comments if you'd like.

L

Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Updates

By Jan Gammon, LHHB Coord.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa

This spring has been a busy time! John Mazzeo and I have travelled the Lincoln Highway, holding Corridor Management Plan meetings and visiting many of your communities. I have enjoyed meeting everyone and hearing stories of the Lincoln Highway.

As part of the state Byway system, I am to keep the DOT's Byway website up-to-date with events and attractions. I have researched what is happening in each county and have started listing at least one activity in each county. I will keep expanding the list.

This summer I hope to attend several festivals. I started out the season by attending the Lincoln Highway Bridge Festival in mid-May. The folks in Tama have done a wonderful job on the park and everyone was having a good time at the carnival and food booths. As my website events list expands, so does my personal list of what I want to attend!

At a Motorcycle Forum in late April, I met a group of cyclists that are going from west to east on the Lincoln Highway over the Fourth of July holiday. They are hoping to frequent mom-and-pop businesses, attend some events, and enjoy the scenery. I have done some research for their trip and shared it with them.

The Iowa Byways will also be at a Harley Owner (H.O.G.) rally in July and we will be promoting travelling the Lincoln Highway with them. We have also sent Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway brochures to a Goldwing group that wants to travel the Byway. If you see motorcycles on the road this summer, it might be one of these groups!

The two conservation-related interpretative signs are in the fabrication phase and should be installed late summer/early fall in Ogden and Grand Junction area. We will host an unveiling ceremony and all LHA members will be invited to attend.

I will be attending the LHA convention in June and hope to learn even more about the association and the highway as we tour the University of Michigan archives. See you on the Lincoln Highway!

L



After the meeting members enjoy lunch at Dixie Quicks.

© Jan Gammon

Events Along the Lincoln Highway

June 18 - June 21 - 58th Annual State Center Rose Festival

(June 14 & 28, July 12 & 26, August 9 & 23, September 13 & 27) - Classic Car Roll Ins at Reed-Niland Corner 2-4 pm

June 22-26 - 2015 Lincoln Highway National Conference in Ann Arbor, MI

June 27 - July 8 - Henry B. Joy Tour (Detroit to San Francisco)

July 4 - Lincoln Highway Antiques Extravaganza is creating a Pedestrian Mall with booths up and down three blocks of Mount Vernon's Uptown Business District. Mount Vernon's historic First Street will be closed to traffic.

July 10-12 - Colo Crossroads Festival "Magic at the Crossroads" celebrating the crossroads of the Lincoln and Jefferson Highways.

July 11 - Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Meeting: 9:00 a.m. in Clinton, IA at the Pizza Ranch (1347 11th St N)

July 24 - 3rd Annual Depot Dog & Sweet Corn Feed + Bring Your Tractor to Town Night (Antique Tractor Show): 5:00 - 7:00 pm State Center Farmers Market

July 31 - Council Bluffs Public Library will be holding a celebration this July 21st at noon to honor The Boys Scouts involvement with activities along the Lincoln Highway. More information on page 8.

July 31 - August 2 - 31st Annual Mid-Iowa Antique Power Show, Marshall County Sheriff's Office grounds along U. S. HWY 30, east of State Center

August 13-15 - Lincoln Highway Buy-Way Yard Sale (visit our Facebook page). Please note, selected communities will have yard sales- not statewide nor continuous across Iowa. Sign up on our website www.iowalincolnhighway.org

August 14 - Franks From Us, customer appreciation event, from 5:00 - 7:00 pm, at State Center Farmers Market

August 28-30 - Lincoln Highway Days in Nevada: Parade Sat at 10 am, food, crafts, games. Full schedule available in July at Nevada Chamber website www.nevadaiaowa.org

August 30 - Local Food Cycle 8:30 a.m. This year's ride is through eastern Story County with the final stop being at Niland's Café. Music and more delicious treats will be held at the historic Reed/Niland Corner. Sign up today at www.prrcd.org/bike

October 9 - Watson's Fall Festival from 5:00 - 7:00 pm, in area around Watson's Grocery Store on West Main Street, State Center

Event to pay tribute to the 1928 Boy Scout effort

On October 31, 1913, Council Bluffs was the first city in Iowa to dedicate the Lincoln Highway. Several years later, in 1928, the Boy Scouts of America adopted the Lincoln Highway and installed concrete marker signs. That summer, select Boy Scouts traveled from New York to the Golden Gate on a "Lincoln Highway Safety Tour". To honor all of these great Lincoln Highway events, the Council Bluffs Public Library will be holding a celebration this July 21st at noon.

The Lincoln Highway Association has asked the Mid-American Boy Scout Council to be there as we pay tribute to the Boy Scouts' gestures so many years ago. Also honored, in remembrance, will be the last surviving Boy Scout to make the cross-state trip, Bernard Queneau. He died in 2014, at the age of 102. The LHA is asking other businesses along the Lincoln Highway to be involved in this celebration.

Please join us for this important event as past and present Boy Scouts and their involvement with the Lincoln Highway are honored on July 21st at the Council Bluffs Library.

Local Food Cycle

The Local Food Cycle is a special event where bike riders tour local farms, meet farmers and eat delicious culinary delights prepared by area chefs. This year's ride is through eastern Story County with the final stop being at Niland's Café. Music and more delicious treats will be held at the historic Reed/Niland Corner. Sign up today at www.prrcd.org/bike

Date: Sunday, August 30th, 2015

Start time: 8:30 A.M.

Start/End Location: Story County Fair Grounds 220 H Ave Nevada,

Before August 8th – \$45/biker

After August 8th – \$55/biker

College Students – \$35/biker

(must show student ID at registration)

Total miles = 34.5

(if you take the optional hayride the total biking miles = 26.6)

Proceeds from this event support future local food events and natural resource programming, including the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway.

In this issue....

A Tribute to Jeff Benson, CMP Update, 9 Free Places along the Lincoln

The Next ILHA meeting will be
July 11th, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in Clinton, Iowa at the Pizza Ranch (1347 11th St N)

FIRST CLASS

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Grand Junction, Iowa 50107