



# Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Summer 2020 Newsletter | Volume 25, No. 2

## President's Corner

by Mary Helen Preston

I've struggled to write this edition's President's Corner as I was hoping there would be events and activities to spotlight for the summer but it appears Summer 2020 is being put on hold. With activities for the most part being cancelled or postponed, this gives us more reason to advocate and promote the Lincoln Highway and our 13 counties across Iowa. As we continue to social distance, now more than ever is a great time to hit the road; leisurely traveling across the Lincoln Highway. With over 460 miles; as much as 85% of the original Lincoln Highway still drivable, there is something for everyone's interest - archaeological, cultural, historical, natural, recreational, and scenic stops along the way. Afraid you'll get lost as you trek across Iowa? No worries, the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway is marked well with a mix of modern and historical markers. We have a great travel resource in the Iowa Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Information Guide providing travelers a guide with suggestions of where to stop for a visit, to explore, grab a bite and so much more along the Lincoln Highway.

Now is the time to get travelers off the interstates and a great opportunity to promote our rich Iowa history along the Lincoln Highway.

## The Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Lost Two Longtime Members



### John Richard Schild

John Richard "Dick" Schild, 100, of Grinnell, formerly of Belle Plaine, passed away March 30, 2020 at the Mayflower Health Center in Grinnell. Dick was born on December 14, 1919 in the family home which had been built by his grandparents on land that had been owned by his great-great-grandfather. Dick started country school at the age of 4 at Iowa Central #5. Later he attended Belle Plaine School District from which he graduated in 1937. He operated his family farm for over 73 years.

*Continued on page 3*



[www.iowalincolnhighway.org](http://www.iowalincolnhighway.org)

## The Temporary Switch to ZOOM

In regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, all physical (in-person) ILHA meetings will be making an indefinite switch to the telecommunicating web conferencing program, ZOOM. ZOOM is a simple to use application that can be downloaded and installed from their website: <https://zoom.us/> To find out more about signing up and installing ZOOM on your computer or cell phone, visit their help page where they will assist you in the process.

# Youngville Update

by Mike Kelly

The Board of Directors for Youngville Highway History Association met recently and due to the continuing road construction and COVID-19, decided to not open for the 2020 Summer Season. While disappointing, we feel that it is the best decision for all. Our operating expenses continue whether we are open or not so we are working on ideas to offset expenses. With that being said, plans for 2021 will proceed as we look forward to the new, improved highway entrance. While certainly no promises at this time, we will monitor the ever-changing situation for feasibility for a possible fundraising event at Youngville later this fall. Thank you for your support and understanding. Please visit our Facebook page: Youngville Highway History Association for updated information and be sure to LIKE our page!

## Mission Statement

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.

## ILHA Officers, Board of Directors, County Consuls, and Staff

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Dick was a lifetime member of the National FFA Alumni Association. He was a longtime president of the Belle Plaine Rural Fire Department. Dick continued a commitment to stewardship of the land begun by his father and grandfather by serving as a Soil District Commissioner, on the Executive Board of the Watershed Conservancy for the Iowa and Cedar Rivers, on the Land Use Board, and as a lifetime member of the Soil Conservation Society. In 1955 the Schild farm received the Des Moines Register's top award for soil conservation. The Schild farm was recognized as a Century Farm at the Iowa State Fair. Dick was also interested in preserving the history of Belle Plaine and Benton County. He was as charter member of the Lincoln Highway Association, a supporter of the Belle Plaine Museum, and served on the Benton County Historical Preservation board.



building of a new church and stayed for eight years. Then he went to Clarinda with three small parishes he served on his own. He also served at the mental hospital, state prison, and youth reform center. After eight years, he moved closer to home in Shelby County and took a sabbatical.

### Father Tom Coenen

Father Tom Coenen, 68, died April 7 at the Rose Vista Nursing Home in Woodbine, Iowa. Father Tom was ordained on July 8, 1977 by Bishop Maurice Dingman, at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Earling, Iowa; the home parish of his mother as the church in Woodbine was too small for an ordination. After six months of helping a parish without a pastor, he was assigned to a team ministry serving Creston, Lenox, and Afton, Iowa. After 8 years there, he was transferred to Dunlap, Iowa (1985). He then served the Leon team ministry that covered six Iowa counties with three priest and two sisters. Father Tom led the

His final assignment was as an assistant priest at Queen of Apostles as well as a hospital chaplain in Council Bluffs. He retired in 2013 and lived at the St. Francis Priest's residence in Council Bluffs until he became a resident of Rose Vista in Woodbine. He was a longtime member of the Lincoln Highway Association and hosted an Iowa Lincoln Highway meeting at his Council Bluff's residence in 2015. Memorials may be made to the Woodbine Food Pantry or to the Alzheimer's Association. Due to COVID-19 guidance, the family held a private mass of Christian burial.



Nancy & Ronny Hauser

Hours:  
M-F 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM  
Sat 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
LincolnHwyTrdingCo@gmail.com

110 W 6th St  
Carroll, IA 51401  
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Chris cell 515-238-0755

### YOUR AD HERE

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

1 Issue: \$10, 2 Issues \$20,  
3 Issues: \$30, Buy 3 Get the 4th Free

An advertisement form can be found on our website or you can contact Joyce for information: bobjoyce@netins.net

# Military Training During WWI in Ames, Iowa

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by Jan Gammon

Back before the 1919 Army convoy, Ames, Iowa was a training ground for military truck drivers during World War I. Below are excerpts from the Iowa Highway Commission Service Bulletin August 1918, Vol VI, No. 8.

## *Iowa State College Roads and Streets Doing Their Bit Making Soldiers Ready for Battle Line in France*

“Iowa State College is facing a real road problem in maintaining roads upon the college campus and the college farm for training military truck drivers for Uncle Sam to send to the battle line in France.

College campus roads are composed largely of cinder surfaces. Road engineers and builders who have had experience with building and maintaining roads with cinder surfaces, will not wonder that the wits of the road men are hard put to, to keep the campus roads in traveling condition for the training camp.

Five hundred selective draft men, who have volunteered for this special training service, are trained at a time. The period of training lasts for eight weeks, two sets of five hundred men each have gone through the training period. The third is now in training and will be ready for actual service about October 15th. The five hundred men wear the khaki and in every way are like all other men in military service. They are subject to the same strict orders they would be at camp or any other training camp. They have their time off and their opportunity for recreation under the same restrictions as their brothers in the other camps. The chief difference is that the time for actual military training is divided up with special training in the driving and care of motor cars and motor trucks..... Uncle

Sam wants truck drivers who can keep their machines going and in good condition at all times.....”

How does Iowa State College go about this training? “First she has walled in the rear of the big concrete bleachers, put in windows, and filled the place with cots. There is plenty of ventilation and light and it makes a very attractive place for living quarters. Two big bath houses have been built at the east end of the bleachers. The men are quartered here with their officers. They are fed at the college cafeteria the same as the college students during the college year. The athletic field in front of the bleachers form an ideal drill ground for the military training.....

The training in driving is given on one of the recreation fields, the one where the practice baseball fields were located. This field has been staked off into one continuous route with curves, long and short, horseshoe, hairpin, and every other type, square turns, back-up corners with obstructions here, there, and everywhere.” After mastering the training ground, the men drive the campus roads and then the county roads.

“There is about three-quarters of a mile of concrete paving on the college campus. The majority of the college roads are dirt with cinder surfacing. What Liberty war trucks do to surfaced roads can well be imagined. In dry weather when the moisture disappears entirely the passage of twenty or thirty truck or motor cars resemble a shell blasted on a battlefield. Road oil has helped quite a bit..... During wet periods, the cinder roads stand the traffic fairly well but the long dry periods make the job of maintenance a hard one..... Uncle Sam recognized (road) oil as a military necessity, otherwise Iowa State College would have paid a heavy price in torn up and destroyed roads for her military truck drivers’ training school.”

# Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Receives National Interpretive Award

by Jan Gammon

The National Scenic Byway Foundation (NSBF) whose mission is to empower, strengthen and sustain byways has awarded the 2020 Organization Award for Interpretation to Prairie Rivers of Iowa and its Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway program. In the announcement, the NSBF cited the Byway's use of interpretive panels across the state to enhance visitor experiences while traveling the Lincoln Highway.

"We're honored to receive the award. This project started five years ago with two panels and now to date, we've created 20 panels throughout the communities of Westside, Jefferson, Scranton, Grand Junction, Ogden, Nevada, Montour and Tama. Our immediate goal is to install at least one interpretive panel in each of the 43 communities the Lincoln Highway connects with in Iowa," says Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Coordinator, Janice Gammon.

One of the most recently installed panels honors the first Field Secretary of the Lincoln Highway Association, Henry Ostermann, who lost his life on the highway near Montour in 1920. "The more I learned about Ostermann, the more I liked him. He was quite an

individual," says Gammon, "He worked at age six in New York City as a newsboy and then served three years in the U.S. Navy after joining at the age of 14. After the Navy, he traveled around the country doing odd jobs including promotions for Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show."

"We were honored to work with the City of Nevada to create panels about the two historic routes that are the east/west gateways to that community," says Gammon. The Lincoln Highway and Jefferson Highway share the same roadway from Colo and through the heart of Nevada.

Another great project was helping Eagle Scout Hunter Davis with an interpretive panel about the Lincoln Highway and its connection to the Boy Scouts of America through the concrete markers installed in the late 1920's. That panel is installed in Tama's Lincoln Highway Bridge Park on East 5th St.

"We are extremely proud of the work Jan does of behalf of the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway and are thankful the National Byway Foundation is celebrating the results of her, time, efforts and expertise," boasts Prairie Rivers Executive Director Penny Brown Huber. "We've had great design team members that have made significant contributions to our interpretive projects over the past several years," Gammon says, highlighting the support the team has contributed to make the project a reality

## 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



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# Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Update

by Jan Gammon, Coordinator

This has been a challenging few months for all of us! The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway continues from my home office (my kitchen table!)

The biggest task I have worked on is the application for National Scenic Byway designation. As you might remember, Congress passed a law last year to reinvigorate the National Scenic Byway Program (NSBP) and the President signed it into law. Applications were due April 15th to the Iowa Department of Transportation for them to review and then submit on to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) by May 15th. Around the first of May, the FHWA deadline was extended to June 15, 2020.

In the NSBP application, the Byway identified 8 important sites for visitors to see and experience along the route. Photos and descriptions were submitted as well. We received support letters from numerous organizations and individuals such as Senator Grassley, Representative Abby Finkenauer, former Iowa Representative Rita Hart, Cornell College, Clinton County Hometown Pride, and the University of Iowa Outreach and Engagement Office. The application required maps with required information. Prairie Rivers is fortunate to have a great map maker, Dan Haug, who is an educator in our Waterways and Watershed program.

Now we wait for the Iowa DOT and FHWA to review and hope to hear sometime in the fall about this honor.

We had planned on attending the Heartland Byway conference to be held in Leavenworth, KS in April. It has been postponed to October, 2020. The conference is held every 2 years, so we hope it is still going to happen this fall. I was asked to be a speaker at the event and had started to work on my presentation when the COVID-19 stuff broke out. I still plan to attend and speak at it this fall.

Our biggest news was receiving a National Scenic Byway Foundation (NSBF) Award for interpretation in April 2020. (See article on page 5.) The Covered Bridges Scenic Byway (in Madison County, Iowa) was selected as an honorable mention in the Partnership Award category for their efforts in rebuilding the iconic Cedar Bridge which was destroyed by fire.

On May 6, I was interviewed by Susan Franzen on KHOI radio in Ames about the interpretive award and the Byway program. I followed speakers about COVID-19 problems in prisons and Story County Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald talking about any virus issues in the Story County Jail. I hope I lightened the mood a little at the end of the show with talk about travel and the Lincoln Highway.

In researching stories and information for this ILHA newsletter, I came across the story about military motor driving training at what is now Iowa State University. My father, my daughter, and I all graduated from ISU.

When I was looking at the campus as a prospective student back in the 1970's, my father walked me past Clyde Williams football field at the west end of campus and told me how after returning from 4 years in the US Navy during WWII, he lived under the bleachers while attending ISU. He never expanded on it and, for some reason, in my mind's eye I thought it was like a converted stable. Now 46 years later, I learn that it was walled-in to make military barracks during WWI

and they probably re-used it when WWII veterans, like my dad, attended college under the GI Bill. I have a whole new perspective on Clyde Williams and dad's living quarters! (Lincoln Highway ran right along the south end of the field and one of the football cheers when heading south on the field was "all the way to Lincoln Way!") I attended one season of football games there before the new stadium was built on the other side on campus.



## Coffee Corner

by Joyce Ausberger

Bryan and Beth Mount opened the Coffee Corner located on the Lincoln Highway on Main Street, Grand Junction, Iowa. There was a soft opening during Grand Junction's 150th year celebration last summer. Bryan and Beth and their son, Brandon, moved to Grand Junction from California. The Coffee Corner serves several different types of drinks as well as a variety of soups and sandwiches. There is a drive-in window on the east side of the building. One may also go in the building to order and take-out. Their business has been expanding this spring with folks enjoying their take-out, while observing the social-distancing COVID-19 policy. Recently, a second building has been brought in and the couple is preparing it for indoor seating. There will be outdoor seating between the two buildings.

## Clues for Classic ILHA Photo



**Answer to last the last Mystery Photo:**

**Q:** Why are they all laughing?

**A:** These two photos of Bob Owens

**The next ILHA meeting will be held virtually through ZOOM on Saturday, July 11th at 9:30 AM.**

President Mary Preston will set up the meeting and a link will be emailed out to consuls and officers. If you are not a consul or officer and wish to join the meeting, please notify Mary and she will get the link out to you. See inside this newsletter's front cover for her contact info. Let Jan Gammon or Mary Preston know if you need help downloading ZOOM onto your computer. You will need a camera on your computer or a webcam to join the video. Please have everything setup and tested prior to the meeting.

If you are not able to join via ZOOM on your computer, you may also join by phone. Let Mary know and she can get you the phone number and code to use when calling. This is not a free call, so it may count against your phone minutes or as a long-distance call.

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings  
October 10, 2020: Family Table in Carroll (dependent on pandemic)  
January 9, 2021: TBD

**FIRST CLASS**

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association  
P.O. Box 224  
Grand Junction, Iowa 50107

