

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Winter 2020 Newsletter | Volume 25, No. 4

President's Corner

by Mary Helen Preston

As I write this, we are a week away from Thanksgiving. I think we would all agree 2020 will be a year we won't soon forget. While 2020 sucked, I believe we can all find at least one or two things we are thankful for - I know I certainly can!

As an Association, in 2020 we faced a number of obstacles yet held our own. In 2021, we will face a number of challenges as we attempt to regain our footing. I think it's time for us to think toward our future. For those of you who were able to participate in our October call, you heard me on my 'soapbox' and I'm certain you're thinking "this is beginning to sound like a continuation" and it is. Since our October meeting I've been thinking more about how we move the Association forward and plan for our future. I have a real concern about our future and plans for the next generation to continue the great work the Association has done since its inception. Everyone has worked too hard to get us to where we are to take steps back then attempt to rebuild.

- ▶ *We have decreasing membership and bank account - how do we increase those? How do we engage our membership to become involved?*
- ▶ *How do we capture our historians' knowledge? This concerns me since we've lost a number of historians recently - Bob Owens and Dick Schild to name a couple.*
- ▶ *How do we build a strong cornerstone for the Association?*
- ▶ *How to we recruit for membership - individuals, businesses?*
- ▶ *How do we get our communities to become active in the Association?*

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This note was sent to Mary Helen Preston, ILHA President, and she wanted to share it with the members:

It's me again. It sounds like the Derecho did some real damage as it followed the LH across the State. On our LH trip to western Pennsylvania I photographed 26 LH Concrete Markers that I had missed or couldn't find until I had more information given to me. I do believe I have photographed all of them through Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, none in New York only the LH sign on the 42nd and Broadway light pole. This coming Spring I will make a trip to the West Coast and photograph the rest of them I missed in two previous trips. The total should reach somewhere close to 425-450.

While in Warsaw, Indiana we stopped at the Old Jail Museum (Kosciusko County) to photograph one I missed as the Museum was closed in past trips. We were asked to do an interview for the local newspaper, and we did! It was in the Times Union Online on Oct. 2020 about the 20th of the month. Russell Rein our Field Secretary from Ypsilanti, Michigan said he was going to put it out on Facebook as we don't do Facebook.

*Just promoting the LH!
Gene Rabel, National LHA Member*

These are some of the things I think of during the middle of the night - honest! The Lincoln Highway is in my blood and the reason Garry and I moved to Belle Plaine 3 years ago on Halloween 2017.

I proposed an Advance (as opposed to a retreat; as we don't want to go backwards, we want to continue moving the Association forward) for us to come together as a group to begin tackling and developing our road map for the future but with COVID spiking to all time highs, timing isn't right. While it is preferred to do an Advance in person, again timing isn't right so the idea of a 2-hour Zoom was tossed around but I don't believe that is the best way for us to map our future and we'd tie-up Saturday mornings or evenings.

So in an effort to move our Association forward, I'd like to propose a change to our meeting structure so we can focus on big picture concerns and maybe meet more than once a quarter. I'd like to see Committees developed with Consuls and members being accountable and involved to map our future.

As I write this, 2 months before our next meeting, I don't know exactly what our new meeting structure looks like but I know we need to change how we conduct our meetings. I've reached out to Penny Brown Huber at Prairie Rivers about my concerns and vision for the Association to get her insight and guidance. I've also reached out to Kay Shelton Kozak, National Lincoln Highway President, to share her thoughts and vision for the Association as a whole. We'll share Kay's message at our January meeting in hopes to spark ideas to help us build our road map.

I look forward to great things happening with the Association as we advance in 2021.

Now, going back to being thankful - I am extremely thankful and honored honor to have the privilege to lead the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association as we continue to build on the groundwork set for us.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Lincoln Highway - the Past, the Present and the Future.

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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.



Street Signs for Sale

The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway has 3 street signs for sale. These once hung on a section of the Lincoln Highway that is also the Jefferson Highway in Nevada. All three signs say "W Lincoln Way" and are now on sale at \$75 each. Contact Jan Gammon if you are interested 515-232-0048, jgammon@prcd.org

Redesigned Panel at HCHVWC Kathy Dirks, ILHA Harrison County Consul

Please check out the new, redesigned Lincoln Highway panel in the large shelter house the next time you are at the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center! Some of you may remember our old one was literally falling apart. This one should last for a minimum of 10 years! Thank you to the following for helping with this project: Prairie Rivers of Iowa RC&D in Ames and in particular Jan Gammon - Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Coordinator - and Jackson Donels - PR & Marketing Intern - for doing the redesign to fit the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway family of signs across Iowa, and the Harrison County Conservation Board for funding the new sign and doing installation.



Green Gable Cabin on the Move

Joyce Ausberger, ILHA Greene County Consul

The Green Gable Cabin that the late Bob Owens moved to his backyard some 20 years ago was recently moved by Bob Ausberger, Dale Higgins, and Wayne and Jim Taylor to the Quirks Cabins Court on the east side of Jefferson on the Lincoln Highway. At the Quirks Cabin location, there remains the original shower house, a 30's gas station and a café, with an add-on for living space. All previous cabins had been moved. All of the Green Gables that once graced Jefferson have also been removed from their original site.

The Green Gable Cabins was the beginning of a type of cabin along the highways for roadside accommodations for travelers looking for a step above camping with tents, but below staying in the towns with hotels. Onawa, Iowa was the site for the first cabins being built, following a specific plan. They were a prefab cabin and shipped to many locations; many going out of state.

Lincoln Highway Association founding member, Lyell Henry, has written about the Green Gable Cabins and other manufactured cabins for the Society for Commercial Archeology (SCA) magazine.



Welcome!

- ▶ **New Member**
Todd Knight, Ogden
- ▶ **Welcome Back Member**
Sharon McQuillen, Jefferson

Linn County News

Rex Martin, ILHA Linn County Consul

Rex has had two meetings with the Linn County Historic Preservation Commission regarding the care and maintenance of the kiosks in Linn County. The Thomas Park Kiosk #5 has been removed for recreational trail construction and Haskell Park Kiosk #7 has been removed due to Derecho damage. Both were badly damaged and are being stored indoors pending repair or replacement. The next meeting of the LCHPC is November 18th.

Byway Coordinator Update

Jan Gammon

Exciting news from the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway! We have our two videos about Breweries, Distilleries, and Wineries uploaded to YouTube and they are ready for everyone to enjoy. One video features Mississippi River Distilling Company in LeClaire, Iowa (not far from the Lincoln Highway) and Wide River Winery in Clinton (just on the north edge of the Lyon's District in Clinton). The other video showcases Big Grove Brewery in Iowa City and Cedar Ridge Winery and Distillery in Swisher, Iowa. These videos were filmed and edited by two University of Iowa graduate students working towards a Master of Fine Arts degree in the College of Cinematic Arts. It was interesting getting these filmed and edited during both a pandemic and derecho, but we prevailed.

Links to the videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skoaBsqtbn0> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gV4zTBb73nM&t=9s>.

Iowa Tourism and the above participating businesses helped fund the project.

Another fun thing we've been working on is interpretive panels. We redesigned a panel for the

Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center. Kathy Dirks has more on that in her Harrison County report. We are also working on 10 panels through Union Pacific Communities Ties Giving program and a Humanities Iowa grant. The first panel is done and on its way to join its base at Preston's Station Historic District. We'll have an unveiling in the spring. Another base and panel are being manufactured that focuses on the Missouri and Mississippi River Divide outside of Arcadia. That will also have an unveiling in the spring.

Our Interpretation Award from the National Scenic Byway Foundation (NSBF) arrived and we are just as excited about it as when it was announced! The NSBF gave out 8 Awards in 2020, their inaugural year for this program. We were honored to receive the first Interpretation Award from them and it gave us momentum to keep the program going. We hope to hear any day about our application to become a National Scenic Byway. The deadline to hear is December 22nd and it is fast approaching. Fingers crossed!

Here is to a new year in 2021 and all that it brings to the Lincoln Highway!



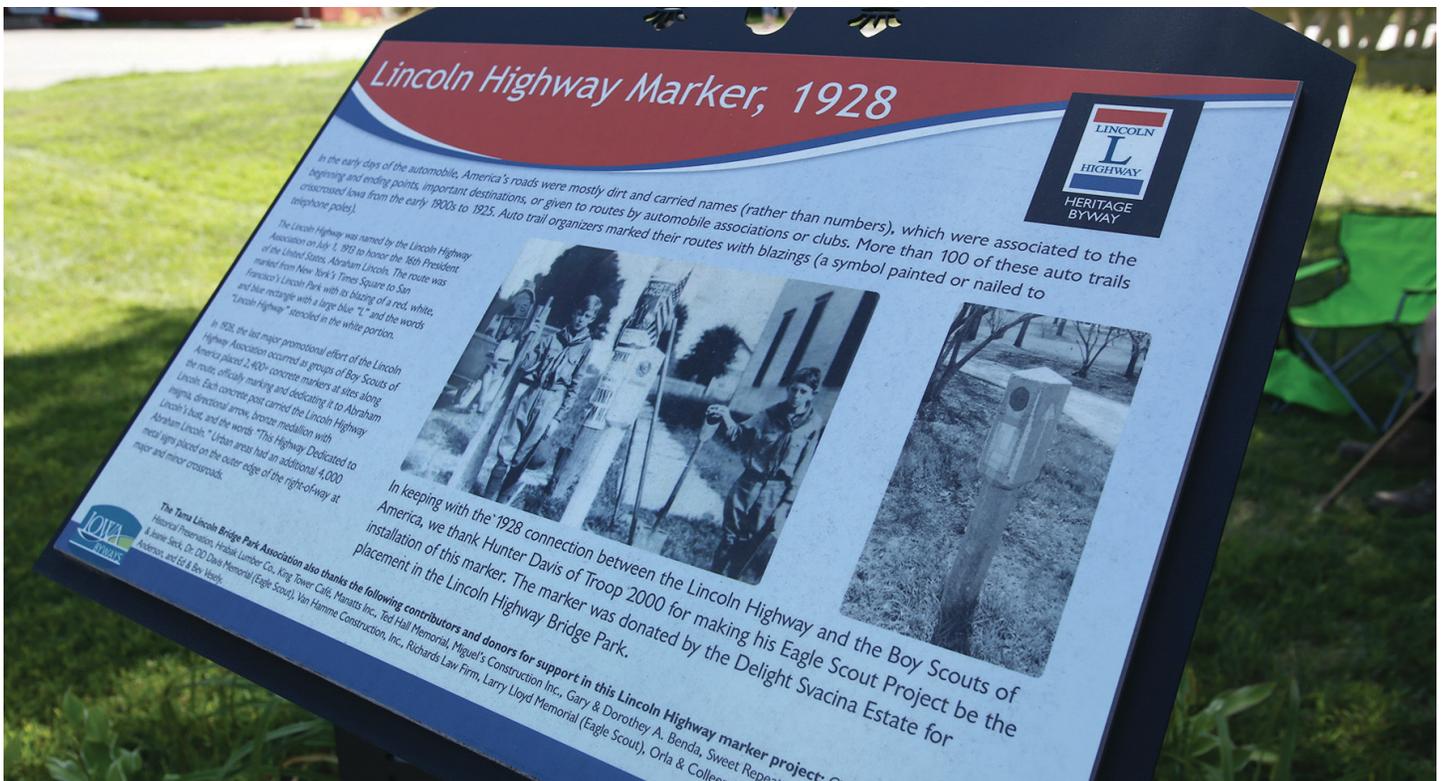
New Marker at Squaw Creek in Linn County

National Scenic Byway Foundation's Interpretive Award

Jan Gannon

In April, the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway was notified they had won the first ever Interpretive Award from the National Scenic Byway Foundation. This was for work done in 2018-2019 in the communities of Westside, Grand Junction, Nevada, Tama, and Montour.

The award was to be announced and given at the Heartland Byway Conference in Leavenworth, KS in April. The conference was postponed until October, then cancelled altogether. So instead, the award was shipped to the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway office in Ames. Pictured is Jan Gannon, Coordinator of the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway and Penny Brown-Huber, Executive Director of Prairie Rivers of Iowa. The Byway is a program of Prairie Rivers of Iowa, through an agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation.





Preston's Station Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Mary Helen Preston, ILHA President

BELLE PLAINE, IA - Preston's Station Historic District (Preston's) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 21, 2020. Preston's becomes the fifth such listing for Belle Plaine. Preston's nomination is supported in part by the State Historical Society of Iowa, Historical Resource Development Program. Jennifer Price, Price Preservation Research, a historic preservation professional was retained to research and prepare the nomination.

Preston's is in its original location on the north side of the old Lincoln Highway route on 13th Street in Belle Plaine; paralleling the route of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, the tracks are still in use by the Union Pacific Railroad.

Preston's Station Historic District conveys a feeling of time and place of an early to mid-twentieth-century "mom and pop" filling station, garage and roadside lodging, complete with family residence. The sign-covered filling

station, itself, has been preserved almost as George Preston left it, so one would not be surprised to see George standing in the doorway. Preston's close association with other such historic roadside building types and the Lincoln Highway has made Preston's Station Historic District a must-see attraction for tourists following the historic route through Iowa.

"We are appreciative of the support our efforts to preserve and restore Preston's Station Historic District has received. Preston's Station is honored to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The listing will assist us with long-term preservation as a historic site and community asset. We are dedicated to educating and raising awareness of the historical significance of Preston's, the city of Belle Plaine and the Lincoln Highway for all generations to appreciate and be inspired by the past," said Mary Helen Preston, Preston's Station Historic District President.

Next ILHA Meeting will be via ZOOM

President Mary Helen 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. Let Jan Gammon or Mary Helen 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.

 www.iowalincolnhighway.com

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

January 9, 2021: ZOOM

FIRST CLASS

Place
Stamp
Here

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