

# Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Spring 2020 Newsletter | Volume 25, No. 1

## **President's Corner**

by Mary Helen Preston

Spring should be springing and activity picking up along the Lincoln Highway. Garry and I are certainly looking forward to the weather breaking to begin scavenger hunts at Preston's Station. So much history in the buried treasures. We are looking forward to greeting travelers who have gotten off the interstates and are traveling along the Lincoln Highway.

I want to address the elephant in the room - The Herring Hotel. The City of Belle Plaine worked for a number of years with The Herring Hotel to make certain it could be restored to be economically viable for the community. Through a number legal proceedings, the City of Belle Plaine received title to The Herring Hotel in December. The City has always wanted The Herring to be successful. In a recent letter from Mayor Fish to the Citizens of Belle Plaine, "The city is looking for someone to come up with a development plan that makes sense for our community. The city would like to come into an agreement with a group to complete some type of Urban Renewal Development project. Making it into another city-owned parking lot does not improve the tax base of Belle Plaine, nor does it bring more revenue into the community." Mayor Fish goes on to say, "This project is only limited to what a private entity is willing to propose and finance." More to come.

In January, we lost our friend Bev Winkie. Ms. Winkie was the president of the Belle Plaine Historical Society where she led the efforts to establish the Belle Plaine Area Museum. Ms. Winkie befriended Garry and I after daddy's passing and always encouraged us with our efforts

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# Recreational Vehicle (RV) Readiness

by Jan Gammon

Recently, Kevin Broom from Go RVing presented a webinar about "RV Readiness for your Byway". Go RVing is a division of the RV Industry Association, but is also an independent organization. They have collected some data on people who buy and use RVs (Recreational Vehicles). According to research, outdoor recreation is 2.2% of the nation's GDP and that equates to \$114 billion in economic impact last year.

RVs are growing in popularity. Forty million people go RVing, which translates into 10.5 million households that have an RV. Eightyeight percent are towable. The average age of an RV owner is going down from 50 years of age

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to preserve and restore Preston's. Before I knew Ms. Winkie, she would have Grandpa visit her classes to talk about the history of Lincoln Highway and Belle Plaine. I know someplace somewhere in our treasures I have a syllabus from Ms. Winkie and a picture from the Belle Plaine paper showing Grandpa in her classroom. It amazes me how paths cross and re-cross as we go along our journeys.

While the summer of 2019 was packed with special activities with Centennial Tours, Convoys and Celebrations; and community dedications, there is no lack of activities this year. Car shows and community festivals

are being planned and scheduled. To touch on some highlights - Lincoln Highway Bridge Festival is scheduled for May in Tama. June will be a busy month for conventions, conferences and summits. The Jefferson Highway Convention (which our own Sandii Huemann-Kelly and Mike Kelly are coordinating) in Mason City, Iowa on June 3 - 6. Preserve Iowa Summit in Dubuque, Iowa on June 4 - 6. The Lincoln Highway Association Convention in Joliet, Illinois on June 22 - 25.

Let's make this a great spring in getting out and sharing the history of the travel across the Lincoln Highway.

#### **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.

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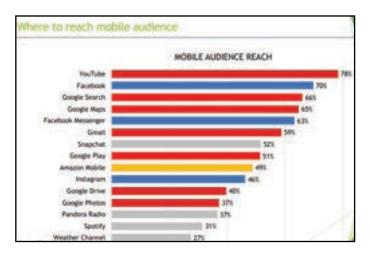
Continued from page 1: Recreational Vehicle (RV) Readiness

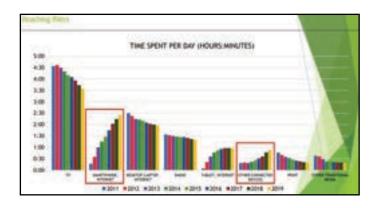
(2000) to 45 years of age (2017). Millennials are traveling more than any other generation and are purchasing RVs. They aren't waiting to take big vacations, they are going now. Millennials purchase RVs as a way to save money, but with their adventurous spirit it allows them authentic experiences in places off-the-beaten path.

RVers want to disconnect and enjoy nature, but at the same time the #1 amenity they look for at a campground is Wi-Fi connection. (#2 is toilet paper.) Pets travel with 66% of RVers and 92% of those pets are dogs. Many RVers work from the road or take mini-vacations over long weekends.

How can your community attract more RVers or make their stay more pleasurable? Most RVs are 10 ft. or taller. They like hard surfaced roads and need a radius of 50 feet to make turns into parking lots. Parking spaces should be at least 12 ft. wide and an ideal camping spot 18 ft. x 48 ft.

RVers often find businesses (restaurants, gas stations, attractions, grocery stores, etc.) through Google Search or on YouTube. Make sure your businesses and attractions are up to date on those sites by claiming your business on Google. Include the state you are in on all your social media platforms. Take your information out to campgrounds. Many





contained units (those that have the vehicle and living space on the same chassis) do not want to negotiate downtowns or congested locations. All RVers look for gas stations with pull-throughs and high enough canopies or no canopies. If possible, your attractions could develop a shuttle service from the camping or parking area to the amenity. Even towable rigs do not always want to unhook and re-hook-up and drive their own vehicle. (Casinos are good examples of the shuttle service.)

Perhaps take itineraries out to campers or post ideas on a campground bulletin board for them to have easier access to your information.

RVers report that RV usage would increase if they:

- 1) had more free time
- 2) had more places to go
- 3) had parking lots and roads that were more friendly
- 4) had better campgrounds
- 5) felt more welcomed as patrons

This is all food for thought as the Department of Natural Resources celebrates 100 years of the Iowa state park system in 2020. How can your state, county, or even a local park be more RV friendly? What local or area information can you share with campers? How can we make the Lincoln Highway the friendliest road for these types of vacationers? Send your ideas you to Jan Gammon at jgammon@prrcd.org.

# Lincoln Highway Monuments and Boy Scouts

by Joe Goodlove

Below is an excerpt of speech given by Joe Goodlove, LHA Cedar County Consul, at the 91st Anniversary of the installation of Lincoln Highway Monuments by the Boy Scouts in Lowden, Iowa.

(This is Part 2 of the speech. Part 1 was a recap of how the Lincoln Highway came about. Joe used information from the book "The Lincoln Highway" by the Lincoln Highway Association, 1936)



Metal Lincoln Highway sign, taken by Jan Gammon

### **SIGNAGE:**

Road signs? Not many. A lot of times directions were word of mouth, based on landmarks, such as: "turn left at the red barn, go three miles and turn right at the oak tree." Or, "follow this mountain range 80 miles to the south to a stick in the fork of the road with a

paper tied to the top. Take the ruts that lead off to the right." But, since a mediocre road, perfectly marked, is preferable to a perfect road on which a traveler is always in doubt as to his direction, road markings of all types came about.

The first markings on the LH were simply red, white, and blue bands painted on a pole, rock, or other convenient object. Later the LHA designed its official insignia to ensure uniformity but the actual painting was done by good road enthusiasts, clubs, civic bodies, and public spirited individuals. In June 1916 painters started in Jersey City and worked west

to the NE-WY line until weather forced them to stop. More than 8,000 markers averaging five to a mile were placed. In the state of Nevada, donated worn out boiler tubes were cut to four foot lengths, pointed, and driven



Boy Scouts taking a break in Illinois, University of Michigan Lincoln Highway Archives

into the ground. The advantage was they were permanent. Cattle, seeking something on which to scratch their necks, broke down the high wooden posts, but never learned to get down on their knees to lean on the boiler tubes. Handsome enameled metal signs were introduced. For rural areas eight-foot redwood posts were used. In cities, the signs were placed on poles of public utilities, lightings, etc. Completed in 1921, it was thought they would last many years. Yet, in 1924 it was noted that over 1,570 poles and 2,150 signs needed to be replaced.

#### **REASON:**

Wooden poles rot, are handy for prying cars out of the ditch, and readily end up in the farmers' chicken yards.

Enameled steel signs are ideal targets—they react with a distinctive ping when hit by a rock or a bullet. Once chipped, the metal rusts. This mortality of signs was especially noticeable where there was much hunting or when in the vicinity of country schools.

One LHA executive wrote that "this damage was obviously the work of boys. What we need are more Boy Scouts." An executive in the Boy Scouts read this and said the Scouts are ready to participate. In fact, they would dig the holes for a concrete marker, obtain volunteer local transportation to place of erecting, AND set them all from New York to San Francisco IN ONE DAY.

### **WORKING:**

A great idea—everyone was for it. But first the LHA had to design, manufacture, and transport these monuments. By the end of 1927, things began to move. While the monuments were being manufactured a Lincoln Highway Association and a Boy Scout executive drove across country from New York to San Francisco specifying locations, telling exactly where each was to be set, how far from the edge of the road, how deep to dig the hole, and everything else to ensure accuracy. By the end of August the monuments were shipped and the holes dug.

On September 1, 1928, on official word from headquarters, the Boy Scouts placed the monuments. Many groups set at least 100 miles; one in the state of Nevada set 175 miles. Approximately 3,000 were set: two each at important cross roads, one at each minor

crossing, and others at sufficient intervals to assure the motorist that he was traveling the right road.

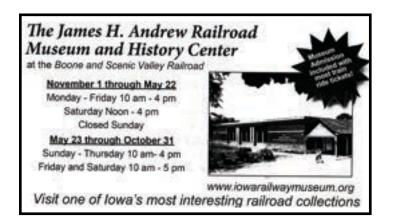


Boy Scouts with marker from Lincoln Highway
National Museum and Archives

### **CLOSING:**

There are not many markers left, although Cedar County has three: this one, one in the Clarence City Park, and the third at the Cedar County Historical Museum in Tipton. The monument you see here, although missing a couple feet of its original seven, is an original marker, still in good shape for 91 years.

Today we commemorate this anniversary by dedicating this monument and saluting the Boy Scout organization on their achievement.





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## Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Update

By Jan Gammon, Coordinator

Boy, have I been busy writing grants this winter! Community Foundation grants have been submitted to Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Harrison, and Marshall Counties. We have yet to write to Clinton and Benton. The grants are all to create interpretive panels to tell the Lincoln Highway History. Fingers crossed they all are funded!

We also applied for a Paint Iowa Beautiful grant to help Bob and Joyce Ausberger with the Quirk's Cabin project in Jefferson.

The City of Tama and the University of Iowa are continuing to work together on a Comprehensive Plan for the City. Jan has been on some of the Zoom calls on the internet with both groups. The Comprehensive Plan will be completed by the end of the school year.

The Byway received funding for two 2-minute videos about breweries, wineries, and distilleries. One video will feature the Clinton area and the other, the Cedar Rapids area. We will be working with the University of Iowa Cinematic Department's grad students to create the videos. Once completed, the videos will be shared on the Byway website and Facebook, Travel Iowa's sites, and with the National Scenic Byway Foundation Facebook Page. They will be available for the businesses to post as well. Work should begin in earnest in the spring.

Currently, I am working on an application for National Scenic Byway status. The bill to "Revive America's Byways" was signed in 2019 and the program to accept nominations has been reopened. The application is due May 15th.

This year is the 100th anniversary of Iowa's State Parks. Not sure if we will get involved in the celebration efforts, but wish them well on this historic event.

I will be attending the Iowa Tourism Conference in Des Moines in March and the Heartland Byway Conference in Leavenworth, KS in April.

## **Clues for Mystery Photo**



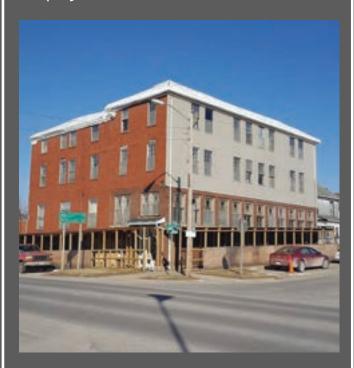
### Answer to last the last Mystery Photo:

Cecil's on old Hwy 30 in Marshalltown. The reference to the Hawk was the Chicago based term for north wind.

- 1. Why are they all laughing?
- 2. The photo was taken at last meeting hosted at Youngville.

## Herring Hotel Update Urban Renewal Development Proposal

The City of Belle Plaine, Iowa is the owner of real estate located at 718 13th Street, Belle Plaine, Iowa 52208. The City acquired the parcel pursuant to a 657A Petition and is seeking a Development Proposal to renovate and or restore the existing structure. Interested developers should submit a proposed plan for redevelopment along with a financial plan and bank letter showing availability of funds to complete the project.



Property is located in an Urban Renewal Area with potential real estate tax rebates available. Property has been listed on the National Historic Registry (#08001250) and there may be tax incentives through the IRS and federal and state preservation credits available.

RFP's are due to City Hall at 1207 8th Ave, Belle Plaine, Iowa 52208 by 5:00 p.m. on May 1, 2020. City reserves the right to reject all proposals.



### 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 712-792-0011 Chris cell 515-238-0755

### Welcome new members of the lowa Lincoln Highway Association!

Wendi Winkie and Dusti Winkie, Belle Plaine

Nick Glenn, Huxley

Bell Tower Community Foundation, Jefferson

Benton County Historical Preservation Commission, Vinton



## **Carroll County Courthouse**

Pictured is a bulletin board display in the Carroll County Courthouse. They used the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway's "Celebrating the 1919 U.S. Army Convoy" brochure that was developed this past summer. If you didn't get a copy yet, but want to read it go to http://www.prrcd.org/lincoln-highway-heritage-byway/lincoln-brochure/Photo above is by Mike Bolton.

Thank you Carroll County for sharing the Lincoln Highway history with the public!

# The next ILHA meeting scheduled for April 11, 2020 at the Family Table in Carroll has been canceled due to COVID-19.

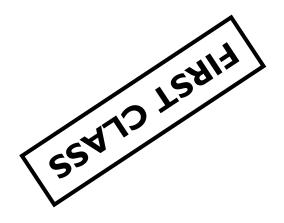
Future ILHA events, aside from the canceled April 11th event at the Family Table in Carroll, are still scheduled as planned. However, any upcoming ILHA Meetings are subject to change in response to any future COVID-19 developments.

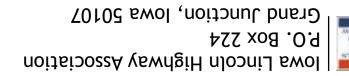
Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

April 11, 2020: Family Table Restaurant

July 11, 2020: Location TBD

October 10, 2020: Location TBD









# 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 lowa. 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 lowa history along the Lincoln Highway.



## 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: <a href="https://zoom.us/">https://zoom.us/</a> 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.

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

## 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!

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			Eddy Hedegaard		ejskj@msn.com

Continued from page 1: The Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Lost Two Longtime Members

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.

### 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



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.

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

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# Military Training During WWI in Ames, Iowa

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.

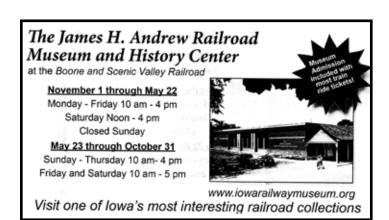
One of the most recently installed panels honors the first Field Secretary of the Lincoln Highway Association, Henry Ostermann, who lost his life on the highway near Montour in 1920. "The more I learned about Ostermann, the more I liked him. He was quite an

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





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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 Grasslev. 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?

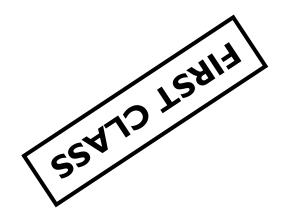
A: These two photos of Bob Owens

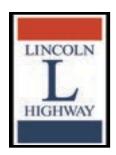
# The next ILHA meeting will be held virtually through ZOOM on Saturday, July 11th at 9:30 AM.

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





# Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Fall 2020 Newsletter | Volume 25, No. 3

## **President's Corner**

by Mary Helen Preston

I don't know if anyone else is ready to tag out of 2020 but I certainly am. First, COVID triggering cancellation of so many activities and turning some into virtual events. Activities, festivals, and conferences just aren't the same as participating in person. Then on August 10, we encountered an unprecedented event - a derecho! A land hurricane leaving a path of destruction across lowa.

Let me jump back to COVID. So many of our attractions are feeling and felt the impact of the virus. I'm sure there are others but the ones jumping to mind are: the closing of Reed Niland Corner in Colo (but soon to be under new management) and most recently King Tower Café in Tama. The Lincoln Highway and Jefferson Highway Conferences were cancelled. Then you have roadside attractions, like Youngville Café which didn't open this season and Preston's Station which had a significant drop in visitors.

If COVID wasn't enough, the double whammy occurred with the derecho; leaving us reeling and now recovering. Youngville lost its garage; King Tower Café lost some of its tower lights; Preston's lost chimneys, a window and damage to roofs and Belle Plaine's Welcome sign on 30 Highway and Highway 131 was crushed and tossed like a pop can across the road. I'm certain there are more historic attractions which suffered damage since the derecho travelled along the Lincoln Highway. Derecho took something from all of us but as Iowans, we are IOWA STRONG and will overcome the destruction handed us.

I'm posing this to the group, what as an Association can we do to promote lowa, the Lincoln Highway, and our attractions as travelers plan for daytrips, long weekends and vacations? I have a feeling COVID is going to have an effect on us for some time yet. Janice and her team do a great job with social media. Travel lowa has a number of our towns and attractions listed, but what are some out of the box things we can do to promote US? We've worked too hard to preserve and promote the Lincoln Highway and keep it alive. I certainly don't want our veins to dry up.

It's time to rebuild and recover. We are IOWA STRONG and PROUD.

# Niland's Cafe and Motel Update

by Jan Gammon

In a space of just a few days, Niland's Café closed and then days later the City of Colo announced they had new proprietors for the Café and Motel. Names of the new managers have not been released, but the Lincoln Highway Association is pleased that someone is willing to step-up and continue operating this iconic destination.



We thank Charity and Arlo Starbuck for their 19 months at Niland's Café and we know it was a struggle at times due to COVID-19 and construction at the intersection of Highway 65 and the Lincoln Highway. The couple closed their doors on August 5, 2020. The property is owned by the City of Colo and the Colo Development Group oversees the property and they wasted no time in finding replacements.

We await an official announcement for a new opening day!



## City of Lowden's Mural

by Jan Gammon

While traveling the Lincoln Highway a few weeks ago, we spotted a new mural painted in Lowden at the intersection of the Lincoln Highway and the Hoover Highway. The mural has bright, vibrant colors and the Lincoln Hotel was quick to point out they are featured in the letter "D". Each letter depicts something related to living in Lowden.

There are 4 University of Iowa students who are working in various communities to create public art through murals. Katlynne Hummell is working in Clarence and Lowden, both Lincoln Highway communities.

#### **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.

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Eddy Hedegaard		ejskj@msn.com

## 1913 Dedication of the Lincoln Highway in Carroll

by Barbara Hackfort, Carroll County Consul

It was not difficult to convince people in the early 1900s that good roads were an absolute necessity, but what was difficult was deciding who was to pay for them. Even Henry Ford, unlike most of his colleagues in the auto industry, thought that the government should pay for the roads and levy taxes to pay for them. Fortunately, there were many people who disagreed with that attitude, and supported the many promotions that advocated improved roads using differing sources to fund them.

One of the promotions encouraged every community along the newly designated Lincoln Highway to hold a formal dedication of the event, and Glidden and Carroll responded to the request. Halloween was chosen as the day for the festivities, which began in Glidden at 7:00 P.M. The Glidden Band played, fireworks were launched, and fifty cars then drove over to Carroll where another, more elaborate program was to begin. At 7:30 P.M. decorated cars, bands, and "just walkers" formed a parade winding around the downtown streets. Three speakers were engaged for the occasion: Dr. Williams from Manning, who spoke about changes in the roads since his arrival to the area; Fred Von Erdwyk, an expert on the plans for the transcontinental road; and Judge B.I. Salinger, a prominent citizen and popular orator in the community. Music was included in the program with children singing, and

the Manning Liederkranz (a German singing choir) performing. The evening ended with more fireworks. One of the local newspapers reported that there were more than a thousand autos in Carroll, and prizes of \$5, \$3, and \$2 were awarded to those that were the best decorated.

By March of 1914, the Carroll County Board of Supervisors set aside \$20,000 to improve the highway in the county, and appointed a committee to superintend and raise funds for the project. Problems such as uncooperative weather, insufficient sources of labor, and inadequate equipment would delay construction in the county, but, overall, by 1917 the Lincoln Highway claimed to be the best marked road in the United States.





### 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 712-792-0011 Chris cell 515-238-0755



### Chris Hinners

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# Derecho Damage at Youngville

by Mike Kelly, Benton County Consul



The damage from the August 10, 2020 Derecho windstorm to Youngville and the surrounding properties indicates that Youngville bore the full brunt of the storm. The Lincoln Highway Corridor in Iowa, especially in Benton County, was in the direct path of the storm's fury. It appears the newly completed cloverleaf may have served as a windbreak and saved the historic property from greater destruction. The cafe appears to have sustained damage, but it will need a more thorough examination to determine the extent beyond the observable shingles, gas pump glass, the kiosk, signs, and the damaged tree tops along with literally anything that wasn't bolted down outdoors. The garage at Youngville, which also has National Register designation, blew into the kiosk and was severely damaged. In the meantime, the Benton County Preservation Commission has relayed information on several Emergency Grants opportunities - this coming immediately following our application for COVID-19 nonprofit assistance.

# Derecho Damage along the Lincoln Highway



Interpretive panel installed at the Tama Bridge is still standing after the derecho. The bridge is still intact as well. Both the bridge and the brick interpretive structure are both missing some light globes, but local say the bridge globes were missing prior to the storm.



The beloved grain bin with the big "Belle Plaine" welcome took a hit during the derecho in August. A post on the Lincoln Highway Association's Facebook page of what it looked like before and after the storm received 36 comments; 18,596 engagements; reached 91,200 people; and was shared 932 times!



Preston's Station Historic District lost the front window to the station and had some roof damage to the station and the garage. Mary and Garry were busy cleaning up brush and will have a structural expert assess any further damage.

## Sidewalk Art in Jefferson

by Jan Gammon

Jefferson, lowa has added more art to their streets! Or should we say, art on the sidewalk? Roger Aegerter has been busy this June and July. He painted a to-scale Lincoln Highway extending from the southeast corner of the Greene County Courthouse square, past the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Gardens to the Greene County Historical Museum. The 15-inch green stripe turns and bends as the route does across the nation. He even has some cities marked along the route.

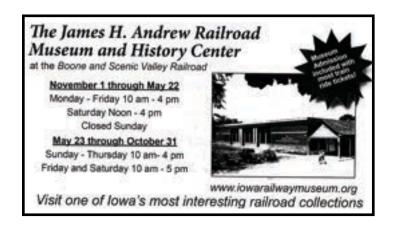
What was his inspiration, you ask? From the Greene County Iowa Historical Society's webpage: "Roger Aegerter has long been intrigued by the historic Lincoln Highway. Maybe it's because for 42 years, he has lived just a half-block off the highway's route as it goes through Jefferson. Over that time, he's driven nearly the entire route, from its beginning in New York City to its finish in San Francisco. And now he's painted it! Aegerter, a former art teacher, school administrator, working artist and for eight



years the executive director of our Greene County Iowa Historical Society, had been thinking 'a couple of years' about doing a public art project on the highway, and decided in March it was time to act. He talked to the City of Jefferson streets department officials about the idea, got their permission and arranged to borrow the paint sprayer they use for traffic markings on local streets."

### For more information and photos go to:

https://www.greenecountyiowahistoricalsociety.org/stories-articles/rogeraegerters-fun-artwork-lets-you-walk-the-full-length-of-the-lincoln-highway/





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# Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Update

by Jan Gammon, Coordinator

We thought this COVID-19 year would be a challenge, and it has been, but it seems we are busier than ever. The National Scenic Byway application was submitted and we should hear sometime this fall if selected for such an honor. Nebraska's Byway applied as well and we heard that Ohio might have too. Illinois already is a National Scenic Byway, so adding 3 more states with this distinction would be fantastic!

Along those same lines, we are working on an American Society of Civil Engineering Historic Landmark Award and hope to have that submitted soon. It takes about a year for their panel to review!

Our biggest project this year is interpretation. We received a \$10,000 grant from the Union Pacific Railroad Community Ties Giving Program.
This is about half of what we needed to create 10 interpretive panels in Woodbine, Denison, Arcadia, Jefferson, Marshalltown, Belle Plaine (Preston's), and Clinton. Locations are being asked to contribute to the project and we are well on our design process for several of the panels and bases. We are also working on a huge (4' x 8') replacement panel for the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center.

In September, Travel Iowa should be rolling out a Byways Passport program. It will work much like the State Parks program, with participants able to win small prizes.

We received an Iowa Tourism grant to create two 2-minute videos about Breweries, Wineries, and Distilleries along the Lincoln Highway corridor in eastern lowa. A University of Iowa graduate student working on a Master of Fine Arts degree is doing the filming and editing. The filming process has started in August and editing during the fall semester. One video will be in the Clinton/LeClaire area and the other in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City area. The videos will be on the Travel Iowa website, the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway website and Facebook page, the National Scenic Byway Foundation Facebook page, and available on participating business websites and Facebook pages.

So even with the Iowa State Fair, conferences, and all the other events we were planning on attending or participating in being cancelled, we have stayed very busy. Zoom meetings, emails, and conference calls are the new normal for us as we continue to do business. We will see what 2021 brings!

# Interesting Information from the 1918 Iowa State Highway Commission

### Iowa Highway Commission Service Bulletin January 1918 Vol VI, No 1

The last wooden culvert on the Lincoln Highway through Greene County is being torn out and replaced with concrete construction. This completes the permanent of the bridging of the highway across the county.

**lowa Highway Commission Service Bulleting Vol VI. No.5 has the traffic counts** Interestingly, the traffic counts kept in 1918 by the lowa Highway commission were listed by "auto" and "horse drawn."

### **Traffic Accidents**

Traffic accidents and deaths were recorded by the State Highway Commission by month. Person's name, town, and reason for death were recorded. Among the reasons were; "going over an embankment," "hit by auto," and "hit by train". But the ones we hadn't heard before were "car turned turtle" and "car skidded and turned turtle." When did they quit using that language?

County	Motor Driven		Horse	Drawn
	No. of Vehicles	Percentage	No. of Vehicles	Percentage
Cerro Gordo	981	98	12	2
Woodbury	187	84	37	16
Jefferson	158	81	36	19
Delaware	369	88	63	12
Buchanan	413	81	100	19
Ringgold	109	81	26	19
Marion	183	70	76	30
Decatur	187	78	52	22
Johnson	262	78-	73	22
Calhoun	98	63.0	46	32.0
Warren	216	88	31	12
Dallas		89	36	11
Webster	427	91.0	42	9.0
Harrison	317	83.4	63	16.6
Mills	248	89.5	29	10.5
Montgomery	266	85.0	47	15.0
Clinton	235	85.2	41	14.8

# 2020 Summer Derecho in Iowa

Can all the King's horsemen and all the King's men put Youngville garage back together again?



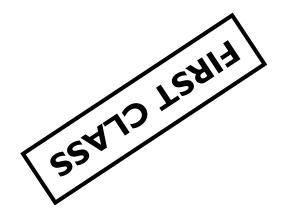


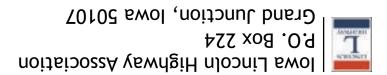
# The next ILHA meeting will be held virtually through ZOOM on Saturday, October 10th at 9:30 AM.

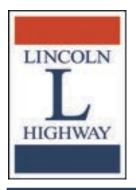
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Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings
January 9, 2021: TBD







# 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? Continued on pg 2

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

#### Continued from pg 1

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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Joyce Ausberger Dale Higgins	(515) 386-4521 (515) 370-0637	bobjoyce@netins.net higginsd@iowatelecom.net
Carroll Barbara Hackfort	(712) 792-1512	bjhackfort@westianet.net
Crawford Open Position		
Harrison Kathy Dirks	(712) 642-2114	kdirks@harrisoncountyparks.org
Pottawattamie Eddy Hedegaard		ejskj@msn.com

#### 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@prrcd.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.



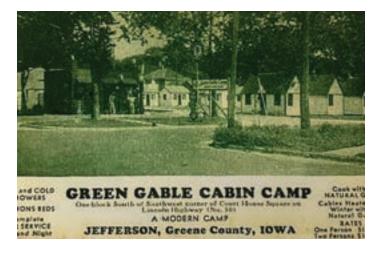
### Green Gable Cabin on the Move

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 addon 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, lowa 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, lowa. 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!



## 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 Gammon, 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 midtwentieth-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 lowa.

"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

<u>Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings</u>

January 9, 2021: ZOOM

