



Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Spring 2021 Newsletter | Volume 26, No. 1

In Loving Memory of Cathie Nichols

1951-2020

by Jan Gammon

Cathie Nichols, a member of the Lincoln Highway Association since 2005, served as the Clinton County Consul after she retired from the nursing profession in 2015. From July 2018 to April 2019, she served as the president of the Iowa chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association. She had a passion for history and the Lincoln Highway. Helping at the LHA's National Conference in Denison, Iowa in 2017 she sported red-white-and-blue toenails complete with the Lincoln Highway "L" painted on both big toes.

Cathie also loved her 1964 Ford Galaxie and drove it in LHA Motor Tours and often to chapter meetings. The Wapsi bridges were a passionate project for her as she met with property owners, the Clinton County engineer, and local historical and civic groups. She had a can-do attitude and never shied away from a project or a challenge.

In April 2019, she was given a stage I pancreatic cancer diagnosis and resigned as Iowa president, with the plan to return in one year. She met this cancer challenge head-on, maintaining a positive attitude. After surgery, the diagnosis got bumped to stage III. Unwavering, she endured chemotherapy and its side effects.

Cathie attended the Iowa ILHA meeting in October 2019. But in 2020 she and her husband, Norm, were in a car accident that totaled the beloved Galaxie. We thought things were on the mend for both, but learned that Cathie passed away in a hospice house in Bettendorf on December 17, 2020.

The entire LHA organization and the Iowa Chapter will miss her bright smile, leadership, and positivity. Our sympathies go to Cathie's husband, Norm, her daughters and extended family.



President's Corner

by Mary Helen Preston

As I write this, we are currently in a Polar Vortex after a blizzard closed the Lincoln Highway in Benton County for a day with more snow and below zero temperatures in the forecast for the next several days. I'm so ready for spring to arrive and hopefully by the time our newsletter is published we will have daffodils blooming and travelers venturing out across Iowa along the Lincoln Highway.

I took part in Iowa Tourism's Town Hall meeting (thank you Kathy Dirks for the information) in January, which they shared information on what we could expect in 2021. Here are some of the highlights so we have a sense of what to expect.

*"President's Corner"
Continued On Page 3*



www.iowalincolnhighway.com

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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.

The Facts about That!

Fun & interesting facts about this great state!

You've no doubt heard the phrase "the greatest thing since sliced bread"—well, we have Iowa to thank for those precut loaves. Otto Frederick Rohwedder was apparently fed up with trying to cram hand-sliced pieces of bread into a toaster. So in 1912, he invented a device that would cut bread into consistently-sized slices. Unfortunately, Rohwedder's fantastic invention was destroyed in a fire before it could be unleashed on the world. It took him some time to refine and rebuild, so sliced bread wasn't commercially available until 1928.



<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/71550/25-amazing-facts-about-iowa>

President's Corner (cont.)

by Mary Helen Preston

- The Iowa Scenic Byway Passport program kicked off early January. As of January 25, there were over 2,000 travelers signed up with 430 check-ins in 100 locations. I am hopeful this initial interest will translate to increased travelers along the Lincoln Highway during our peak "season" (which is June - August).
- Tourism is a proven economic driver for Iowa, generating over \$9 billion in 2019.
- Did you know, in 2019 travelers spent an estimated \$25.38 million a day in Iowa! Our tourism budget ranks 42nd in the Nation.
- A "traveling party" spends an average of \$401.31 daily in Iowa. This breaks down to:
 - Entertainment - 17%
 - Lodging - 32%
 - Transportation - 16%
 - Food - 18%
 - Shopping - 17%
- Day trips showed a slight increase in 2020 from 2019 with rural travelers from 42.2% to 46.7%. With overnight trips jumping from 39.1% to 49.3%. These statistics are promising for 2021, speculating Iowans will continue to take day trips.

Each of us know Iowa has so much to offer tourists. I'm not saying promoting Iowa, our communities, the Lincoln Highway and other local attractions solely falls on our shoulders but we need to do our part. I'm certainly not satisfied with being 42nd in the nation for tourism. We have room for growth. 2021 is the year for us to heavily promote the Lincoln Highway along with our communities and other local attractions.

I realize we don't have the budget for large scale marketing so how do we promote and get involved? I know there are social media avenues where we can promote. Hopefully COVID will be (somewhat) under control and social distancing will be lifted so we can participate in community events so we have a presence, but are there other ways we can promote and get involved?

As I began mentioning October 2020, our Association needs to plan for our future and I believe 2021 can be an important year for us. We have great opportunities to increase awareness of the Lincoln Highway with the Iowa Scenic Byway Passport program but there are other areas we need to concentrate on. As a reminder, here are some of the things for consideration as an Association (yes, these are repeated from my Winter column):

- We have decreasing membership and declining 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 do we recruit for membership - individuals, businesses?
- How do we get our communities to become active in the Association?

We as an Association need to come together to address our future in 2021 and beyond. Let's make 2021 great! Thank you for your continued commitment to the Lincoln Highway - Past, Present and Future.



Let's Celebrate! Now a National Scenic Byway!

by Jan Gammon

We are now a National Scenic Byway! The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) long-awaited announcement came the morning of February 16, 2021. Iowa's Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway now joins Nebraska's Lincoln Highway Scenic and Historic Byway (also newly designated) and the previously designated Illinois Lincoln Highway Byway to make over 1,000 miles of continuous National Scenic Byways covering 3 states.

The routes in Indiana, Ohio, and parts of Pennsylvania are currently state byways. The routes in New York, New Jersey, West Virginia, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California are not recognized by their Department of Transportation as a byway, but maybe someday?

From the FHWA announcement: "In 2020, 63 nomination applications were submitted. Forty-nine byways in 28 states were designated, including 34 National Scenic Byways and 15 All-American Roads. This determination takes into account evidence of intrinsic quality(s); demonstration of national or regional significance; overall visitor's experience; and demonstration of long-term sustainability.

All newly designated byways will be featured in a commemorative 2021 National Scenic Byways Program Designations Booklet, and will be added to the America's Byways website. For a list of the All-American Roads and National Scenic Byways designated in 2021, please view the 2021 Summary of Designated Byways."

So along with this announcement came a flurry of spreading the word through press releases, social media posts, as well as answering well-wish messages from fellow Iowans, fellow Iowa Byways, and people from across the nation.

Word seemed to spread quickly! We thank you for all of the support the Lincoln Highway Association and the Iowa chapter have given the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway over the years.



Back When The Original IDOT Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Signs Were Installed.

L-R: Bob and Joyce Ausberger, Allan Richards, and Jeff Benson

The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway will be presenting "Remembering the Historic 1919 Transcontinental Army Convoy" on Tuesday, April 6th at 6:00 PM Central Time. You will need Zoom on your computer to view the presentation. Tickets are \$12. Contact Janice Gammon for link to purchase tickets and with any questions you may have!

Cedar County Report

by Joe Goodlove, Cedar Count Consul

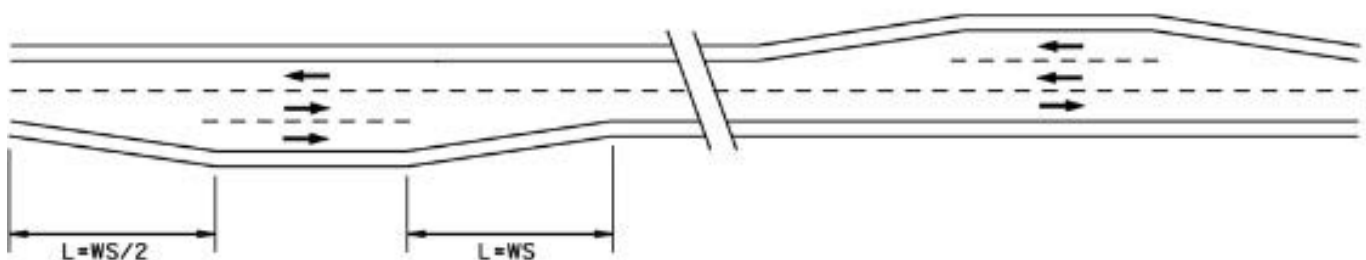
This past fall, the Highway 30 Coalition (4 lane advocates) asked Cedar County Board of Supervisors to contribute \$150 (or \$175) a month to the coalition for “support.” The board turned them down.

In January, it was reported the IDOT opted for a Super-2 design from Mt. Vernon to Mechanicsville. (Nothing was reported beyond Mechanicsville although it could have been missed by those reporting.) That choice apparently comes down to expedient economy. Easements and purchases, they cited a four-lane requires 478 acres through this corridor; where Super-2 only needs 120 acres.

In reaction to the Super-2 decision the Highway 30 Coalition responded by saying, “if the state will not consider some version of a four-lane” (my way) then “leave it alone.” Their opinion is a Super-2 does nothing to improve traffic flow through the county.

Clarence City Council now favors by-passing rather than going through downtown. The city believes if people want to drive to Clarence, they will make the effort. It’s not in the best interest to bisect Clarence main street businesses by taking away downtown parking to accommodate faster traffic while risking pedestrian street-crossing incidents.

No timeline was reported.



Super 2 Design From A DOT Manual

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



www.iowarailwaymuseum.org

Visit one of Iowa's most interesting railroad collections

The Reed-Niland Café should be up and running “any day” now.
The Colo Motel is open for business.

New email:
nilandcafeandmotel@gmail.com

Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Update:

by Jan Gammon, Byway Coordinator

The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway is excited to be a National Scenic Byway and looks forward to the future (*see page four*).

We are in the midst of a passport program with Travel Iowa. The program rolled out January 5th, which is not typically a travel-heavy month. In the first month, nearly 2600 people signed up for the program and checked in 706 times at 125 different sites along the 13 participating Byways in Iowa. Since the initial location sign-up we have added Reed-Niland Corner and will be adding Mahanay Bell Tower, Grand Junction ILHA Museum and Garden, and Nevada's Lincoln and Jefferson Highways Heritage Park.

Each Byway is to offer a prize basket for one lucky winner to win each month. Our month is April and our prize package so far includes a 2 for 1 night stay at Mitzi's Place in Woodbine, a bottle of wine, 4-pack of Alluvial beer, Iowa roasted coffee from Marion, 2 admissions to the Sawmill Museum, \$50 in Clarence Bucks, and an assortment of smaller prizes including koozies, bottle openers, insulated bag, and pens. We are trying to add to the package daily, so if your business wants to donate something, let Jan Gammon know.

We are also working on redesigning the Info Guide we created back in 2016. It will be reorganized by community rather than by intrinsic quality. We received a grant from Iowa Tourism and will be selling ads for the cash match to the project. If you have a business or know of a business that would like to advertise in the brochure, just let Jan Gammon (jgammon@prrcd.org) or Mike Kellner (mkellner@prrcd.org) know.

Our largest current project is the 10 interpretive panels we started under a generous grant from the Union Pacific Railroad. We have 2 completed- one for Preston's Station in Belle Plaine and one for the M and M Divide near Arcadia. Those are waiting for spring and will host unveiling ceremonies after installation. We are currently working on ones for the Bowstring Bridge in Yellow Smoke Park, the Eureka Bridge near Jefferson, Woodbine's brick street, and Marshall County's courthouse.

We are awaiting word on a grant from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to see if we receive funding as a match for the 4 panels in Clinton. If the DAR funding comes through, we are anticipating adding panels in Ames and Vail to the overall project. Each panel will have an unveiling ceremony after installation.

Meet the New Guy

by Joshua Benda

Hello! My name is Joshua Benda, the newest Graphic Designer at Prairie Rivers of Iowa. I am a young, ambitious content creator specializing in taking a comprehensive approach to all my projects.

I grew up in Toledo, IA, with my older brother, older sister, and younger sister. My father worked as a farmer, and my mother homeschooled us four kids--she is a saint for sure. I graduated from high school in 2012, then moved to Hawaii for a few years working in Film while also working for a mission organization. I was privileged to travel to India during that time, which gave me the love of travel; had hoped to do more, but thanks to COVID, I'm grounded for a few more months.

I currently living in Ames and enjoy photography, videography, graphic design, Broadway shows (Hamilton for the win!) and creative writing.

I look forward to working on this newsletter with you all!

-Joshua B



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

President Mary Helen Preston will set up the April 10th 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 Helen and she will get the link out to you. Let Jan Gammon or Mary Helen 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 Helen 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

**July 10th, 2021: Possibly Zoom, will
make call closer to date.**

FIRST CLASS

Place
Stamp
Here

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





IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

Summer 2021 Newsletter | Volume 26, No. 2

President's Corner

by Mary Helen Preston

What a last 15+ months we've had! This time last year we were just beginning COVID shutdowns and were hopeful festivals and celebrations would still happen but they did not. Even with the recent CDC changes, some of those same festivals and celebrations are still cancelled for 2021 with hope and anticipation 2022 will bring us back to celebrating. There is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. In May, we had a number of exciting events happen. **On May 1**, Preston's Station Historic District unveiled its interpretive panel funded in part by the Union Pacific Railroad Community Ties Program and National Endowment for the Humanities through Humanities Iowa and a local match from the Burke Heritage Fund. **On May 8**, Preston's had its first car club stop since fall of 2019. **On May 14**, Niland's Café reopened with new co-owners, Danny and Abi Wilson (page 5). They are currently open on Fridays through Sundays. Travelers are beginning to get off the interstates and are traveling along the Lincoln Highway - let's greet them with a smile and show them **#IowaNice**. These few events may not seem like much but are HUGE steps forward to getting us back "open." As mentioned in our last newsletter, Iowa has so much to offer tourists and it is up to each of us as "Lincoln Highway Ambassadors" to promote in our own communities and across Iowa. I know promoting the Lincoln Highway is a priority for National, so it is important for us to do our part in promoting what we are so proud of and even more so now that the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway was recently named, A National Scenic Byway.

There are a number of platforms for us to promote - our individual Facebook pages (personal and business), attend city council and community development meetings and activities (get involved and support local) and even writing Letters to the Editor of your local paper. While I know I sound like a broken record, it is up to **US** to keep the Lincoln Highway ALIVE.

"President's Corner" continued on page 3



"Preston Station Unveiling" Page 4

Stay in the Know!

**Visit our website to read the minutes
from our spring meeting.**

www.iowalincolnhighway.org/latest-news



www.iowalincolnhighway.com

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Welcome our new members!

Tod & Stacy Knight - Odgen, IA
Doug Kamies - Leopold, Indiana
Debby Conner - Lovilia, Iowa

MISSION STATEMENT

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The Facts About That!

Fun & interesting facts about this great state!

Though the 1995 movie was based on a book of fiction by Robert James Waller, the setting for The Bridges of Madison County is real. There were originally 19 covered bridges from the 1800s in the county, but only six remain today. The one pictured is the Holliwell Bridge which was prominently featured in the movie.

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/71550/25-amazing-facts-about-iowa>



President's Corner (cont.)

by Mary Helen Preston

I am certainly looking forward to having an in-person Association meeting on **Saturday, July 10** in **State Center**. Thanks, Harlan for securing the location. As discussed during our April meeting, please come prepared for an extended meeting. Planning our 3-Year Strategic Plan is an extremely important task and we would like to have everyone participate in person. There will be in-depth discussions and planning so it is important to have everyone involved. As we begin to plan for our July meeting, here are our topline goals:

Goal 1: Build Strong Operational Organization

Goal 2: Create a Vibrant Membership Program

Goal 3: Preserve Historical Integrity of the Iowa Lincoln Highway

The strategies for each of our goals and additional discussion information will be sent separately so keep an eye out. We will offer a dial-in for the business portion of the meeting if you are unable to attend. As much as we would like to offer a dial-in for the planning portion of the meeting it just isn't feasible. But have no fear we will continue to discuss plans and outcomes at regular meetings.

The word, "synergy" comes to mind as I wrap this column up. Synergy is defined as "the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects." It will take ALL of us to plan, execute and sustain the mission and goals of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association and ultimately, the Lincoln Highway Association.

We have room for growth. 2021 is the year for us to welcome travelers BACK, promote the Lincoln Highway in our communities, and prepare for our future.

Iowa's Next Historic Preservation Plan

by Paula Mohr

Help plan historic preservation's path in Iowa for the next 10 years by taking a survey!

Iowa's Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan is intended to embrace local, regional and state perspectives. The current Statewide Historic Preservation Plan for 2013-2022 includes the state's goals for the years 2013 to 2022, each of which is accompanied by strategies or action steps.

In early 2021, the State Historic Preservation Office began the process to develop the next ten-year plan for the years 2023-2032. An advisory committee composed of members of the public and representatives of Iowa's preservation partners has been formed and had their first meeting in April.

You can help us formulate this plan by completing this survey by August 1, 2021 by going to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6BBGLBS>

If you have questions, comments or would like to receive updates on the planning process, please email historic.preservation@iowa.gov.

Preston Station's Unveiling

by Mary Helen Preston



Tourists driving through Belle Plaine along the Iowa Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway™ - A National Scenic Byway can discover a treasured legacy, which has stood for more than four generations. On Saturday, May 1, Preston's Station Historic District unveiled an interpretive panel sharing its history.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway program facilitated the interpretive panel's design and construction as part of a ten-panel project using grant funding from the Union Pacific Railroad Community Ties Giving Program and Humanities of Iowa along with a cash match courtesy of the Burke Heritage Fund. These interpretive panels offer travelers and their families a safe, fun, educational and engaging activity.

"We are honored to be one of the sites to have been selected to install an interpretive panel," says Preston's Station Historic District owner Mary Helen Preston. "Our panel showcases four generations of Prestons which began in 1913 when my great grandfather followed the railroad for work to Belle Plaine. As the Lincoln Highway was rerouted through Belle Plaine, George W. (not the George who made Belle Plaine famous) saw an opportunity to provide a needed service to Belle Plaine and travelers along the Lincoln Highway."

From great-grandfather to grandfather, to father, to daughter, the family has remained Preston Station's caretakers preserving the property and telling the story of how important, the railroad and the Lincoln Highway have been to Belle Plaine.



To watch the unveiling, visit us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/PrestonsStation
Or scan the QR Code!

Niland Café in Colo Reopens!

by Jan Gammon

Niland Café in Colo reopened May 14 to a huge crowd, keeping staff busy all day and through the weekend. Danny and Abi Wilson, long-time Colo residents, are the new managers and lease the site from Colo Development Group. The café closed in August 2020 due to Covid-19. The Wilsons have spent months renovating the café. Probably most noticeable will be the relocation of the Cadillac to the nearby gas station museum. With this change, the dining room has more than doubled the available seating. Food is also available to-go and a new ice cream pick-up window has been added. The menu is starting out small offering burgers, tenderloins, roast beef, pulled pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, side dishes, pie, shakes and ice cream.



Café hours are Friday 11AM-7PM, Saturday 7AM-7PM, and Sunday 7AM- 2PM.

The motel has 6 rooms for rent and has seen upgrades of new paint, blinds, and bedding. They rent for \$60 per night and include a mini-fridge, Wi-Fi, and cable TV.

Reed-Niland corner is an important Lincoln Highway site. In 1923, farmer Charlie Reed began selling gas, then added food and lodging. Other Niland family members were involved in the operation, thus the name Reed-Niland. Three generations operated the site for over 70 years. At one time, it was a stop for both the Greyhound and Jefferson bus lines. The café was open 24/7 to accommodate travelers with the gas station also open. The Jefferson Highway intersects with the Lincoln Highway here and conjoins with it as the routes travel west to Nevada and Ames.

In 2003, the Colo Development Group purchased the site and restored the café. The motel units opened in 2008. Over the years, several individuals have leased and managed the café for the Colo Development Group. The Wilsons are taking advantage of their local connections and the recently organized Colo Historical Society will help with some of the displays. The Wilson's have 5 children aged 2-18 years old in the Colo-NESCO school district where Abi is completing her 9th year as a teacher. She will now concentrate on operating the café and motel. Danny grew up in Colo and worked for his father on his farm and auction house. Currently, Danny has his own carpentry business and works for the City of Colo.

See their Facebook page www.facebook.com/nilandscafe/ for menu details and to keep up with specials and events. Wishing great success to the Wilson family!

Higgi's Veterans Campground
Secure RV Spots for Rent in Grand Jet. IA
604 Railroad, Grand Jet. IA
2 Blocks South, 1 Block West of Casey's
Electric, Water, Sewer
Call 515-370-0637 for more info

An illustration of a vintage orange and white RV parked next to a wooden sign that reads "Overnight Weekly Monthly".

Dale Higgins Professional Auction Co.
Est. 1973
Licensed Real Estate Agent
603 Railroad St.
Grand Junction Iowa 50107
515-370-0637
www.dalehigginsauction.com
higginsd@nowatelecom.net

A portrait of Dale Higgins, a man with a beard and a cowboy hat, next to a small illustration of a cowboy hat.

Short and Sweet with Shani

by Shani Bonner, Tourism Coordinator, Crawford County

On your next trip across the Lincoln Highway in Western Iowa, make a stop to reflect and honor our veterans at the Eugene Kock Memorial Park in Westside, IA. The memorial honors **U.S. Army Specialist/4 Eugene Kock**, a local soldier who died in Vietnam on March 22, 1969 at the age of 20 years old.

Located at the corner of Cedar Street and the Lincoln Highway, the memorial and park features a bronze sculpture of a battle-field cross, which is made with a soldier's rifle stuck into the ground between a pair of combat boots, with the soldier's helmet on top of the rifle. The battlefield cross is often placed on or near a battlefield to memorialize a fallen soldier.

This battlefield cross also contains a replica of Kock's dog tags, as well as a bronze plaque providing details of Kock's life and death. Behind the cross several flags fly, including the flag of the United States, the flag of Iowa, and the POW/MIA flag. Around the park, you will find 312 engraved pavers, of which 102 are memorial pavers to honor veterans.

Seventeen pavers at the center of the park honor soldiers killed in action in World War I and World War II.

The park was dedicated on Memorial Day, 2018.



While in town, stop by the Westside Tap for food or a beverage. Located on Main Street, Westside Tap opens at **5pm Tuesday-Saturday and serves food from 5:30-8:30pm on Tuesday-Wednesday and 5:30-9:30pm on Thursday-Saturday.**

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

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



www.iowarailwaymuseum.org

Visit one of Iowa's most interesting railroad collections

The Download with Dean Parr

by Dean Parr

Help reduce printing and postage costs and see the newsletter in color!

Would you like to receive the newsletter in color? If you have a valid email, we can make that happen! The newsletter is available as a pdf file which can be e-mailed to you. The photos are usually clearer and in color. The newsletter can then be easily stored in a folder on your computer rather than taking up space on your desk. This also saves the Iowa Chapter time and money. I have e-mail addresses for most of our National Members, but for very few Iowa members. If you aren't comfortable doing e-mail that is fine, we can mail you the newsletter. If you would like to switch from mail to e-mail contact Dean Parr at drparr51@gmail.com

I'm ready for a National Conference

I am missing the face-to-face contact with Lincoln Highway members. The annual National Conferences provide a great opportunity to renew old friendships as well as make new ones while learning more about the importance of the highway. The first conference Jeannie and I went to was in Cedar Rapids in 2006. I learned a lot about the highway that year and the bus tours were awesome. We were instantly hooked. We immediately started making plans to attend the next conference in Colorado.



At the Colorado conference, we learned a lot about Denver's fight to get the Lincoln Highway recognized, which ended with the Colorado Loop. The photo below is a example of the two billboards trying to get travelers to go to Colorado versus the shorter route through Nebraska and Wyoming.

In 2017, the conference was in Denison where Jeannie and I were co-chairs. It was a lot of work to coordinate, but it was fun seeing it come together.



The 2020 and 2021 conferences were cancelled because of Covid-19. So we are looking forward to the 2022 conference in Joliet, Illinois and is about as close to Iowa as you can get and not have to host it.

**The next ILHA meeting will be held in person
Saturday, July 10th at 9:30AM**

The meeting will be held at the **State Center City Hall Community Room, located at 118 East Main Street, State Center, IA 50247**. A ZOOM link will be provided to those who wish to join online for the business portion of the meeting.

If you are not a consul or officer and want to join the meeting, please notify Mary Helen, and she will get the link out to you. Let Jan Gammon or Mary Helen 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 set up and tested before the meeting.

If you are not able to join via ZOOM on your computer, you may also join by phone. Let Mary Helen 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 9th @ 9:30AM

Location: TBD

FIRST CLASS

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



Place
Stamp
Here



IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

Fall 2021 Newsletter | Volume 26, No. 3

President's Corner

by Mary Helen Preston

As I write this President's Corner, it was exactly a year ago when the derecho made its way across Central Iowa impacting most of us. For the most part, our communities have recovered. There's still rebuilding to do, but I believe we'll come back better than before.

From what we've seen at Preston's, more and more travelers are getting out to explore our great state and travel the Lincoln Highway!

I recently received a press release from AAA The Auto Club Group indicating the same:

According to a new AAA Travel survey (from late June) 75% of Iowans feel more comfortable traveling now than they did three months ago.

Throughout the year, the majority of Iowa travelers have felt comfortable using their personal vehicle for a road trip.

Two-thirds (67%) of Iowans have already traveled or plan to take a trip in 2021. Over half of those (58%) will take their next trip sometime between July and September. Travel volumes have greatly increased from the 48% of Iowans who traveled in 2020.

This is great news for us along the Lincoln Highway!

We've talked about how 2021 is our year to welcome travelers BACK and promote the Lincoln Highway in our communities. This survey shows just how important our self-promotion is. Let's continue to get out there and share our stories!

Thank you to everyone who attended our April meeting in State Center. Thank you, Harlan, for your hospitality. It was nice to have an in-person meeting. Thank you again for continuing to humor me as we attempt to set a plan for our future.

I know it was a long day and our focus waned as the day went on but I believe the day opened the door for us to continue having open and frank discussions on how we move forward to sustain and grow the Association.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any comments or thoughts as we continue to brainstorm and have discussions as we set the building blocks for our future.

Once again, I close out President's Corner with "**synergy**." Synergy is defined as "*the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.*"

It will take ALL of us to plan, execute and sustain the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association. Thank you for your time and passion.



Corn flattened from derecho
Toledo, IA

Stay in the Know!

Visit our website to read the minutes from our last meeting.

www.iowalincolnhighway.com/latest-news



@ IowaLincolnHighwayAssociation

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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.

The Facts About That!

Fun & interesting facts about this great state!

“Arabella Mansfield (May 23, 1846 - August 1, 1911), born Belle Aurelia Babb, became the first female lawyer in the United States in 1869. After challenging an Iowa state law restricting the bar exam to only males in court and winning, Mansfield took the bar and earned high scores.

Because of her, Iowa amended the state’s licensing statute and became the first to accept women and minorities into its bar.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabella_Mansfield



THIS NEWSLETTER IS MANAGED BY



PRAIRIE RIVERS
of Iowa

Remembering JR Manning

by Mary Helen Preston

In August, we lost a friend of the Lincoln Highway, JR Manning.

JR and I were Lincoln Highway Facebook friends for some time. I had the pleasure of meeting JR in May at the unveiling of our interpretive panel and it was as if we had known each other for some years.

He was a supporter of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association and the Lincoln Highway Association. He was sincerely interested in what we were doing at Preston's and was looking forward to seeing the Station preserved and restored.



From JR's Obituary:

You may have seen J.R.'s award-winning writing/photos specializing in non-fiction subjects of a historical nature in such places as The Restorer Magazine (Model A Club of America), Wheeling the A (Wisconsin Chapter) as Loose Lug Nuts, Landmarkhunter.com, Bridgehunter.com, Doors Open Milwaukee, Old Milwaukee and Wisconsin Memories Group. J.R. was a founding member of the Ford Model A Foundation, a member of the Wisconsin Chapter, Great Lake A's Chapter of the Model A Ford Club of America, Singlefest and held many positions in these organizations.

You may have met J.R. on a road trip, The Lincoln Highway 2003 Cross Country Tour in Sonja, his 1929 Model A., the Lake Geneva Poker Rally, historic sites in any number of states or his quest to go to all of Wisconsin's twenty-seven counties.

It doesn't matter where or how, you remember J.R. if you met him. He had a twinkle in his eye, an offer to help and a kind word.

JR, his quick wit and smile will be missed by many of us.

Preston's Corner Update!

by Mary Helen Preston

Over the summer, Garry and I took a major step toward keeping our promise to preserve and restore the Station and the rest of the buildings located on Preston's Corner. We knew the time could come when we would need to remove the signs. The reality came in August. This was a bittersweet weekend for us but we knew we had to take a step back in order to move forward. The removal of the signs was a major step in the preservation portion for us to continue the Legacy. With the signs being down, Martin Gardner Architecture, P.C., can begin the process of preparing a master stabilization and rehabilitation plan for us so we preserve and restore properly.

This project is being made possible through a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



Before (top) & After (Bottom)

Preston's has partnered with Amazon Smile as a featured charitable organization. What does this mean? When you shop through smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to Preston's. There is **NO COST** to you - Amazon contributes to our efforts to preserve and protect Preston's. With more and more individuals shopping through Amazon this is a perfect opportunity for us. What we ask of you is to shop through smile.amazon.com and select Preston's Station Historic District as your charity to support our efforts to continue the Legacy.

Here's our link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-1813452>.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Access the Amazon Smile account by scanning the QR code!

Let's Meet Lisa!

by Lisa Cassady - Prairie Rivers of Iowa Staff

Hello! My name is Lisa Cassady, the newest employee and development and event coordinator for *Prairie Rivers of Iowa*. When I am not organizing our latest events or assisting with development at Prairie Rivers, I am running my own business, *Iowa Eats Well*, providing fresh produce, homemade baked goods, and jam to customers at farmers markets in Story County. I grew up on a farm in St. Mary's, Iowa, and spent many years doing agricultural communications.

After graduating from Iowa State University, I moved to St. Louis, MO. I lived there for many years and owned a house on the National Register of Historic Places built in 1895.

I currently live off the Lincoln Highway in Nevada, Iowa, where I am active in serving my community and helping to create a community garden on the ground of the Nevada Historical Society's Evergreen Lane.

In my free time, I enjoy baking, gardening, and trail running with my dog Shelby.

I look forward to meeting and working with you all!



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higginsd@iowatelecom.net



New Byway Travel Guide!

by Joshua Benda - *Prarie Rivers of Iowa Staff*

For the past several months, I have had the opportunity of working with the entire *Prarie Rivers of Iowa* team on a new “Iowa Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway - A National Scenic Byway” activity guide!



Cover of Brochure



Example: Clinton County

This project has been an enormous undertaking, as it required a completely new design concept and understanding of how activity guides function in today’s world. Since most people use their phones to track down their favorite spots, the activity guide was designed to be viewed on a mobile device safely as well as in print.

This project has been a great honor to create. I enjoy learning about all the towns located on the Lincoln Highway; their history, attractions, and beauty have captivated me. This project has made me want to spend more time next summer traveling the Lincoln Highway to visit in person.

I truly hope you enjoy using the activity guide as much as I have enjoyed working on it! We are working hard to get it to print so you can begin exploring all the beauty found on our Iowa Lincoln Highway.

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



www.iowarailwaymuseum.org

Visit one of Iowa's most interesting railroad collections

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

Welcome VP Dale Higgins

by Bob and Joyce Ausberger

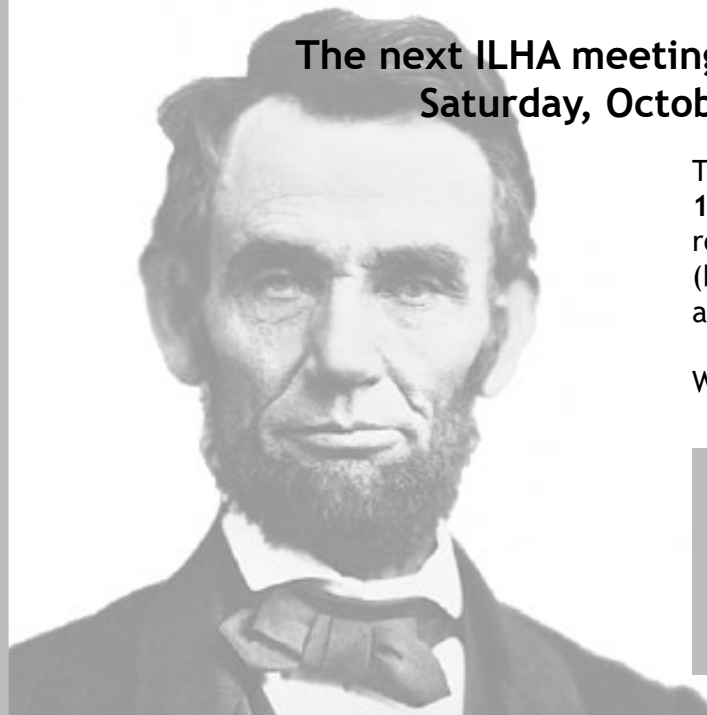
Since Dale was elected vice president of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association he never has really been introduced to the membership. So let us do that. We have known Dale for a number of years, but have gotten better acquainted through some of our work sessions and meetings in Grand Junction. He was always in the East Greene school district, while our family was just over the line in the Jefferson district.

Originally the Higgins clan came to the United States from England and settled south of Chicago near the towns of Wilmington and Braidwood. They settled near what is now Route 66. Great Great Grandfather is buried in a cemetery only a stones throw from the now famous byway. Some of the clan is still there; however, Dale's strain moved to Iowa. The Higginses opened the first coal mine in Illinois. The property along with the inactive coal mine are still owned by the family who stayed in Illinois. Dale still has artifacts and fossils from the mine. He visits back there regularly. Dale was born in the Greene County hospital in Jefferson in 1952 and eventually was part of a farm family of 8 children. They never got into town very often, but part of Dale's interest in history began on those visits to Grand Junction. In the 50's it was a thriving and active farming and railroad center. Dale remembers 5 grocery stores, 2 theaters, several hardware stores, 2 banks, and 3 auto dealerships. There were 2 farm implement dealers and 19 places to buy gas. The Lincoln Highway was busy with 3500 cars and 700 trucks passing down mainstreet daily. Dale went to school in all three East Greene Schools and just barely missed out on a murder on the steps of the Dana School. The murderer was found guilty but hung himself while in jail.

Dale served two years in the service after graduation and then worked for the school as a mechanic. He then opened his own mechanics shop on Main Street. By this time U.S 30 had been moved north of town. In 1992, at the urging of some of his customers, Dale attended an auctioneering school at Mankato, Minnesota. He is still in that business today.

Through the years, Dale has collected tons of stuff dealing with the Lincoln Highway, Grand Junction, Greene County, and beyond. Some of his prized items include 4 display cases of Lincoln Highway items, which I hope will be on display at a future meeting in Jefferson. He also has one of the best corn and hybrid corn displays in Iowa. The display is centered around the Turner Hybrid company, which was in Grand Junction. Turner was the man who taught Henry Wallace about hybrid breeding. Wallace later started the Pioneer hybrid company.

We hope to see a good crowd in October!



**The next ILHA meeting will be held in person
Saturday, October 9th at 9:30AM**

The meeting will be held at **Family Table Restaurant, 1525 Radiant Rd in Carroll** (located on the frontage road). Please let Mary Helen or Barbara Hackfort (bjhackfort@westianet.net) know if you will be attending so we can plan accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you in Carroll!

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

January 2022

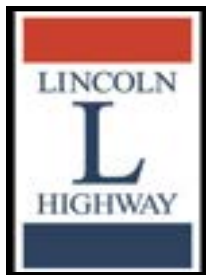
Location: Zoom

FIRST CLASS

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





Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Winter 2021 Newsletter | Volume 26, No. 4

President's Corner

by Mary Helen Preston

As I write this President's Corner, the holiday season is peaking around the corner and by the time you read this, it will be 2022. I am extremely thankful and honored to have the privilege to lead the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association.

In 2021 we began to welcome travelers BACK. While the numbers may not be where they were pre-pandemic BUT people are getting out on the two lanes to explore; maybe it was because of the new Travel Iowa Passport programs or just maybe travelers were being adventurous and exploring.

As you know by now, my favorite word for our efforts is "synergy." It will take each and every one of us to continue to educate and share the history of the Lincoln Highway!

At the end of 2020, I talked about challenges facing us as an Association. As we begin 2022, we continue to face these challenges:

- » *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?*
- » *How do we build a strong cornerstone for the Association?*
- » *How do we recruit for membership – individuals, businesses?*
- » *How do we get our communities to become active in the Association?*

In July, we spent an afternoon taking a deeper dive on some of these challenges. Our discussions in July opened the door for frank conversations as we move forward. We need to continue to have those hard conversations if we want to sustain and grow the Association. Without a doubt, I know firsthand change is not easy and sometimes frustrating, but as a friend recently told Garry and I as we work toward restoring and preserving Preston's, sometimes you need to take a step back to move forward. I firmly believe, as an Association, we too need to step back to move forward.

It will take ALL of us to plan, execute and sustain the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association. Thank you for your continued commitment to the Lincoln Highway - the Past, the Present and the Future.

Stay in the Know!

Visit our website to read the minutes from our last meeting.
www.iowalincolnhighway.com/latest-news



www.iowalincolnhighway.org

Lincoln Highway Association

Membership Brochure

by Mary Helen Preston

Below is the NEW membership rack card hot off the press from National.

This replaces the tri-fold brochures National has been using for publicity and membership recruitment. The change in format comes as there has not been enough applications submitted to justify continued publication.

The new rack card updates the Association's message and encourages potential members to visit National's website to complete and submit an application on-line.

Please become familiar with this new rack card.

If you have the availability to distribute to travelers, you can order from the Lincoln Highway Trading Post.



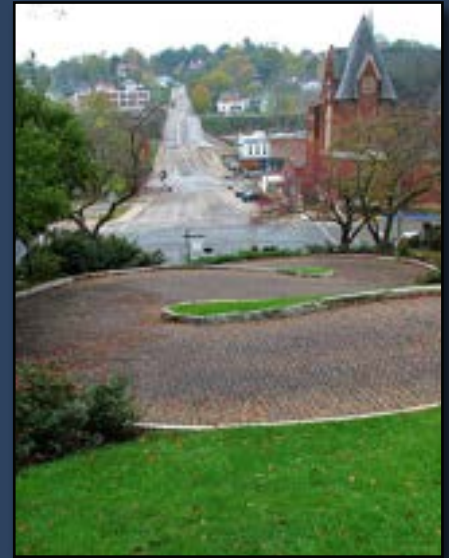
The Facts About That!

Fun & interesting facts about this great state!

In close comparison to something you might see in San Francisco, Iowa has one of the world's most crooked streets located in Burlington.

Snake Alley is a cobblestone creation made to mimic vineyard paths in France and Germany, this steep street veers left and right, up Heritage Hill, connecting the downtown area with a shopping plaza, and gives visitors a good photographic moment and a bit of exercise.

<https://bestthingsia.com/fun-facts/>



Mission Statement

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Visiting Niland's Cafe

by Joshua Benda - Prairie Rivers of Iowa Staff

On November 6, I decided to have a little fun along the Lincoln Highway. The last few months working on the Lincoln Highway Activity Guide piqued my interest in many (if not all) of the historic sites. So, I decided to visit one of these sites in person. Since I am a massive fan of the cafe life (the coffee, food, ambiance, etc.) I thought it best to start my journey at Niland's Cafe. So on that faithful morning, I took a journey to Colo along the Lincoln Highway.

The morning sun was caressing the top of the trees as I traveled, rendering golden beams of light to guide me down the Highway; the way it weaved and welcomed the land ignited a sense of home within me, and I found myself longing for those simple days, those good old days. When I arrived at Niland's Cafe, I entered a cafe filled with warm smiles from the faithful dedicated to keeping this place alive. The atmosphere filled my heart with joy as I took my place in an oversized booth. The waitress welcomed me with a warm cup of joe, followed by a generous helping of a traditional breakfast; eggs, bacon, hashbrowns, and sausage. Eating my fill, I took a few moments to sit and bask in the feeling I was experiencing at the moment; history flowed throughout, coupled with the joys of seeing diners enjoying their own Saturday morning joy. Early landmarks lined the wall, their stoic faces telling their own story of a time long gone. Neighbor sat with neighbor, older farmers mentored the younger generation, and loved ones confined themselves to the simple pleasure of being together. Though my time was short, I loved this little cafe and added it to my list to return to one day.

As I got into my car and took off down the faithful Highway, my heart longed to continue my search for these small, out-of-way places that brought many travelers joy. Moving into 2022, I hope to visit more places like Niland's Cafe, and with the Lincoln Highway Activity Guide at my side, I know I will discover other hidden secrets of heaven, we call the Lincoln Highway.

To watch the vlog, check out my youtube channel
(Joshua H.Benda) by scanning this QR code!

Be sure to subscribe!



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Green Gable Cabins

by Joyce Ausberger

Lyell Henry, Lincoln Highway Association Founding Member, has written about the Green Gable Cabins and other manufactured cabins for the Society for Commercial Archeology (SCA magazine. In the early 1930's, Green Gable Cabins were built in Onawa, Iowa, following a specific plan. The cabins were prefab and shipped to many locations with the idea of becoming a national camp chain. Green Gable Cabins lasted only a few years in their effort to become a national chain.

This period of time were good years for tourist camp startups along America's highways; as travelers were looking for a step above camping with tents, but below staying in hotels. A selling point for the Green Gable Cabin Camps was the franchise advertising for the camps. At one time, there were 61 Green Gable Cabin Camps advertised. In 1931 the cabins were distributed: 32 in Iowa, 16 in Minnesota, seven in South Dakota, five in Nebraska, and one in Illinois. Later in the 30s, 29 more cabins were distributed.

The last Green Gable Cabin Camp was built and opened in 1938 in Carroll, Iowa. Jefferson also had a Green Gable Cabin Camp located two blocks south of the courthouse on Wilson Street. One of these cabins was moved by the late Bob Owens to his backyard in Jefferson some 20 years ago. Before his passing Bob asked that the cabin be relocated at another Lincoln Highway location; so about a year ago, Bob Ausberger, Dale Higgins, and Wayne and Jim Taylor moved the cabin from Bob Owens' backyard to the Quirks Cabin location but due to zoning issues was moved again to the Lincoln Highway Garden in Grand Junction.



Above: Bob Ausberger moving the cabin to the Quirks Cabin site about a year ago. The cabin has since been moved due to zoning concerns. The cabin is now north of the Lincoln Highway garden gazebo in Grand Junction.

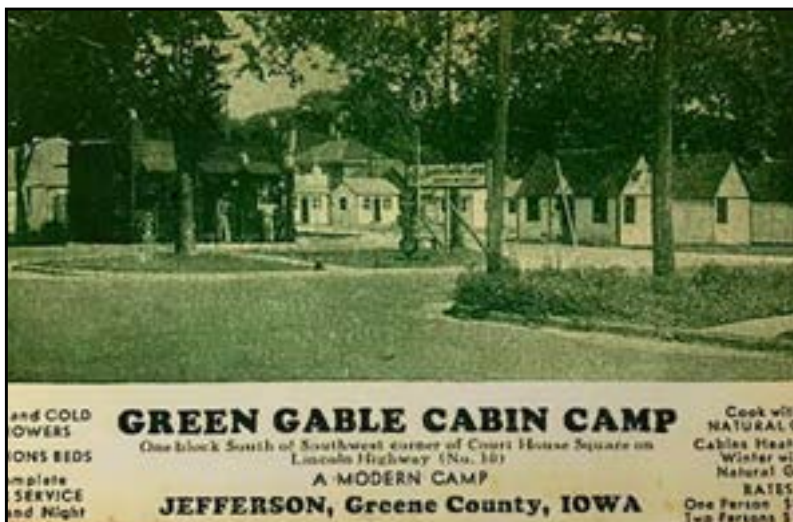


Middle Left: Shirley Herrick surrounded by 1930 furnishings she provided.

Middle Right: Joyce Ausberger standing in front of the repainted cabin.



Left: John Fitzsimmons and Bob Ausberger in front of the cabin before repainting.



Annual Dues Update

Effective January 1, 2022, Iowa Lincoln Highway Association dues will increase to **\$15.00**. You may pay up to three years. Make checks payable to Iowa Lincoln Highway Association.

Please send membership info and payment to:

**ILHA
P.O. Box 224
Grand Junction, IA 50107**

If you have any questions, please write to the above address or contact

Membership Coordinator - Dean Parr
(319) 366-0552 or drparr51@gmail.com

Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Tama Bridge

by Shellie Orngard – LHHB Coordinator

One of the most iconic bridges in the 3,389 mile length of the historic transcontinental Lincoln Highway is in Tama, Iowa; its structural integrity is in need of repair.

The Tama Lincoln Highway bridge holds an important place in the history of transportation in our country. It was constructed in 1915 when Woodrow Wilson was President of the United States and before we got tangled up in World War I. It was the year Babe Ruth hit his first career home run. Half of the US population lived on the farm, and most transportation was still by foot or horse. The Model T was popular and promised increased mobility but roads could be treacherous, especially after a rain. The idea for the first improved transcontinental highway generated support across the country and gave birth to the Lincoln Highway. Towns along the roadway's charted path were grateful for the honor, anticipating an influx of travelers and hence growth in commerce.



Tama's now-famous bridge was constructed to attract interest and burnish the town's image as a destination. Designed by Iowa Highway Commission architect Paul N. Kingsley, the Lincoln Highway Bridge is distinctive for spelling out the name of the roadway in its railings. Concrete lampposts topped by globe lights decorated the bridge's four corners, adding to its graceful charm. The Tama bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, nominated by the Tama Bicentennial Commission. The nomination included a quote from the July 1919 Lincoln Highway Forum, asserting that the bridge is *"a good example of up-to-date highway advertising. Tourists over this section of the famous road cannot fail to be impressed with the advertising values as well as the pleasing and distinctive appearance of this unique feature of bridge construction."*

While the bridge has continued to attract admirers over the years, time has taken its toll. Prairie Rivers of Iowa worked with the City of Tama to assess the integrity and safety of the bridge and put together a plan for its restoration. In 2018, PRI applied for and received a grant from the Historical Resource Development Program of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to help cover the costs. Additional support and funding has come from the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association, the Mansfield Foundation, and other donors, but a series of delays and the advent of COVID have held up progress. In October of this year, Iowa DOT informed Tama that Iowa Code necessitates yet another delay to gather additional information and must rebid the work. Meanwhile, the original cost estimate of \$115,000 has mushroomed to over \$300,000.

The Tama-Toledo News Chronicle reported in October, the City of Tama is planning to re-bid the project and complete the repair by August 2022. The situation is being closely monitored by PRI, the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association, and history buffs across the nation.

New Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Coordinator

by Prairie Rivers of Iowa Staff

Shellie Orngard of Ames, Iowa, has joined Prairie Rivers of Iowa as Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Coordinator, following Jan Gammon's retirement. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and a Master of Arts in English from Iowa State University. Shellie taught part-time in the Department of English at Iowa State University from 1995 to 2018, and from 2010-2013 collaborated with PRI to establish gardens at two Ames elementary schools.

Shellie will manage the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway. The job is part historic preservation and interpretation, and tourism. She will work closely with government officials, business leaders, and community members in the 13 counties and 43 towns that lie along the Lincoln Highway from the Mississippi to Missouri rivers. The Lincoln Highway is one of three national Byways in Iowa, joined by 11 state Byways.

Shellie is committed to restoring, protecting, and preserving the cultural and natural resources in Iowa. *"This work provides the opportunity for me to work on some of the things I'm most passionate about, the natural environment and our cultural resources,"* commented Shellie.

"We are very happy to have Shellie's love of history and her commitment to Prairie Rivers leading the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway effort," said PRI Executive Director Penny Brown Huber. *"Having someone who has great communication skills and a passion for the work will help us continue bringing the history of this important road to life in Iowa."*

Shellie grew up in Ames, and like many others left Iowa for a period of time, living in San Francisco and then New York City before returning to Ames to finish college. She ended up raising a family here too. Her son, Sam, is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at University of Chicago, and her daughter, Anya, is an interior designer whose job allows her to work remotely and travel. The three enjoy traveling together and in just the past three years have been to Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, and the San Francisco Bay Area together.



The James H. Andrew Railroad Museum and History Center

at the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad

November 1 through May 22

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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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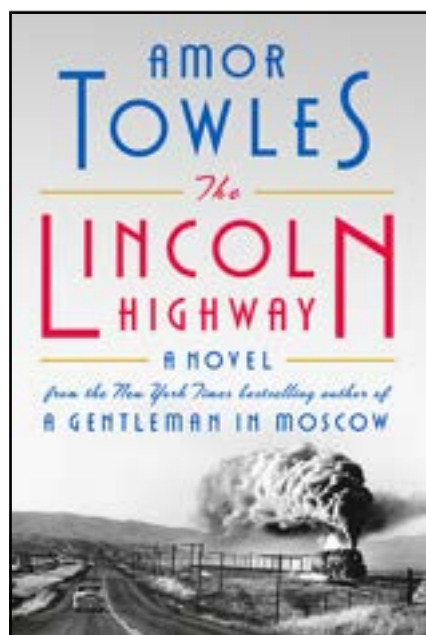
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The Lincoln Highway - A Novel

by Mary Helen Preston

In September, the novel “The Lincoln Highway” by Amor Towles was released. Mr. Towles is a bestselling author. The book was chosen as book of the month by the NBC daily show “Hoda and Jenna.” The National Lincoln Highway Association is anticipating increased interest in the Lincoln Highway based on Mr. Towles book “driving” (sorry, not sorry for the pun) potential travelers to LHA’s website to learn more about the Lincoln Highway. Hopefully, with more visits to LHA’s website, readers and travelers will search further to individual states to discover more and maybe, just maybe, plan a trip along the Lincoln Highway. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to educate and share the history of the Lincoln Highway.



About the book from the author's website:

In June, 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the work farm where he has just served a year for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother and head west where they can start their lives anew.

But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future.

Spanning just ten days and told from multiple points of view, Towles's third novel will satisfy fans of his multi-layered literary styling while providing them an array of new and richly imagined settings, characters, and themes.

A couple of reviews of the book:

“Towles’ third novel is even more entertaining than his much-acclaimed A Gentleman in Moscow. A remarkable blend of sweetness and doom, [The Lincoln Highway] is packed with revelations about the American myth, the art of storytelling, and the unrelenting pull of history. An exhilarating ride through Americana.” – Kirkus Reviews

“An absolute beauty of a book. Every character is a gem, the many locations spring to vivid life, the book is an intricate and moving exploration of journeys and the infinite unexpected turns they can take—and somehow Towles makes it all seem effortless. As soon as I finished it, I wanted to read it again.” –Tana French

I have my copy of “The Lincoln Highway” and am anxious to begin reading. If you haven’t purchased a copy yet and are interested, you can purchase through a number of avenues from the author’s website - <https://www.amortowles.com/the-lincoln-highway-about-the-book/> or scan the QR code to be taken directly to the site!



SCAN ME!

The next ILHA meeting will be via ZOOM

The meeting will be on January 8, 2022 beginning at 9:30am.

President Mary Helen Preston will set up a conference line for the meeting and email a link to consuls and officers. If you are not a consul or officer but wish to join, please notify Mary Helen and she will provide you the link. If you are unable to join on your computer, you can join by phone. You will need the dial-in number and code. This is not a free call, so it may count against your phone minutes or act as a long-distance call.

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meeting

April 9, 2022

Location: TBD

FIRST CLASS

Place
Stamp
Here

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

