

Along the Lincoln Highway

Newsletter of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Spring 2024 Newsletter | Volume 30, No. 1

President's Corner

Mary Helen Preston

You may notice the newsletter now reads "Along the Lincoln Highway." This was the original name of our newsletter and somewhere along the way it was dropped so I'm re-introducing with our Spring newsletter as I think it's important to our identity.

2025 is off and running. I find myself excited about planned happenings along the Lincoln Highway this summer. Each of our communities have an opportunity to share our history and impact on the Lincoln Highway. Every time we are involved in our communities, we promote our mission.

I'm excited about relaunching our website in the very near future. We kept the information from our current website as it did a fabulous job of educating and promoting the Lincoln Highway and our Association.

Now more than ever, we must be diligent in preserving our history. We may have to fight a little harder but as individuals who share a common interest, remember there is strength in numbers. Our involvement is important to promoting our mission and preserving the legacy of the Lincoln Highway. Continue sharing experiences, insights, and the history which makes the Lincoln Highway significant. Learn from others' stories and their experiences. Every story we share and hear contributes to a broader understanding of why this highway matters to all of us.

I urge each of us to learn more about Jeff Benon's Family Iowa Lincoln Highway Endowment. As David Dahlquist points out on page 2, the Fund is perpetual and is a sustained financial resource for the Association. If you are thinking supporting the Association financially, please consider making a charitable contribution to the fund.

It will take ALL of us to plan, execute and sustain the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association and the Lincoln Highway's historical significance.

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

It's Coming... The Middle Third Tour

The Lincoln Highway Association is organizing an auto tour from Joliet, Illinois to Cheyenne, Wyoming June 17 – 26. This tour is tied to the Lincoln Highway Association's annual conference in Ogallala, Nebraska June 23 - 27.

What does this mean for Iowa? The Middle Third Tour will be traveling through Iowa June 19 and 29. The group will overnight in Cedar Rapids June 19 and Ames June 20.

The group will be stopping in each of our 13 counties visiting iconic landmarks along the way. To make their trip across Iowa interesting we will be providing each traveler with an Iowa Lincoln Highway B-I-N-G-O card to check off a few of the landmarks they visit. Once they in Ogallala, they will be able to turn in their card for a special Iowa souvenir.

Let's show what "Iowa Nice" is all about and the pride we have as Lincoln Highway Association communities.



Jeff Benson Family Iowa Lincoln Highway Endowment

David Dahlquist

As a follow up to the information provided in our last newsletter.

The Jeff Benson Family Iowa Lincoln Highway Endowment Fund is perpetual and will be a sustained financial resource for the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association. Since 2015, the principal has grown to more than \$33,000. The Iowa Lincoln Highway Association annually and exclusively receives a 5% distribution of the Endowment's principal.

Contributing to the Endowment is a financial investment for the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association.

Consider making a charitable donation to the Endowment as a way to sustain support for the Association.

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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Stay in the Know!

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



@IowaLincolnHighwayAssociation
 @LincolnHighwayHeritageByway



The Wall That Heals

Main Street Nevada Facebook Page

The Wall That Heals is a traveling exhibit featuring a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It includes a mobile Education Center and aims to honor and educate about the Vietnam War. Since its debut in 1996, it has visited nearly 700 communities nationwide. The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War and bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

The Wall That Heals will be in Nevada, August 7 – 10. If you have an opportunity, what a great day trip to Nevada.

Iowa PBS

Road Trip Iowa – Iowa Lincoln Highway Episodes

In Part from Prairie Rivers of Iowa Newsletter, Jeanie Hau

AIR DATE	ROAD TRIP IOWA – S2 EPISODE ORDER
4/9	Driftless Area Scenic Byway
4/16	River Bluffs Scenic Byway
4/23	Loess Hills National Scenic Byway North
4/30	Loess Hills National Scenic Byway South
5/7	Grant Wood Scenic Byway
5/14	Historic Hills Scenic Byway
5/21	Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway East
5/28	Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway East-Central
6/4	Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Central
6/11	Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway West



As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, Iowa Public Television was making their way across the Iowa Lincoln Highway filming for Season 2 of the Road Trip Iowa Series. Filming is now complete with editing nearing completion. We've been notified when Season 2 will begin and when segments will air.

Episodes premiere weekly Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and repeat Saturdays at 9 a.m. on Iowa PBS. The program will also be available to stream on demand on iowapbs.org and on the PBS app.

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As you know, postage continues to increase and being a nonprofit, we want to make certain we are fiscally responsible with our funds and want to become more environmentally friendly, so we're starting to make a shift in how we distribute our newsletters. We need your assistance to help us reduce costs and ensure you receive timely updates as we work toward transitioning to email-based newsletters.

We are fully aware not everyone has an email or is willing to share BUT we kindly ask that you provide us with your current email address so we can include you on our digital mailing list. By doing this, you'll receive our newsletters more quickly and help us cut down on printing and mailing expenses.

Please reach out to Dean Parr at drparr51@gmail.com with your preferred email address. If you already receive the newsletter by email, there's no need to respond.

Trolling Clinton: Sawmill Museum

The Sawmill Museum Facebook Page and Clinton Herald

Danish recycling artist Thomas Dambo will be creating one (or more!) of his iconic troll sculptures at The Sawmill Museum in Clinton.

One installation is to be located on property in the Lyons District belonging to The Sawmill Museum, a local museum preserving Clinton's lumber history. The project aligns with the museum's "Envisioning the Future" initiative to transform its grounds into cultural destinations that connect history, art, and the natural world.

A second installation is to be located at the Bickelhaupt Arboretum, Sawmill Museum Board of Directors president Ari Lewerenz said.

Expected to be completed in the early summer of 2026, the installations will be Dambo's first in both Iowa and along the Mississippi River. Dambo has, otherwise, crafted 130 giant troll sculptures of recycled materials in 17 countries.

"This is more than art, it's about community. This project reflects the creativity, collaboration, and determination that I think define Clinton as a community," Lewerenz said. "Having Thomas Dambo's art here will not only elevate our vision but also create a lasting legacy for residents and visitors to enjoy."

Photos of Dambo's previous artwork are available online at thomasdambo.com.



An example of Thomas Dambo's work: "Helle Haltben," located in Halt, Denmark.

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
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Alternative route offers hope for iconic Lincoln Highway Bridge in Tama, Iowa

Cindy Hadish, Homegrown Iowan

A new route through Tama bypasses the more than century-old Lincoln Highway Bridge, offering an opportunity to save the iconic structure.

Built in 1915, the Lincoln Highway Bridge is the last original bridge remaining along the historic transcontinental highway but has fallen into disrepair in recent years. The bridge was closed while city leaders and residents debated its future.

Late last year, the Tama City Council approved a Department of Transportation realignment of Fifth Street to bypass the bridge. The town of just over 3,000 residents is in east-central Iowa.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa noted January 16, 2025, that the new route avoids the historic bridge, and a core team of stakeholders has been assembled to discuss a future resolution for the bridge.

From Jeanie Hau, Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Coordinator...

It is official, the City of Tama, Iowa, home of the iconic Lincoln Highway Bridge, has announced they are going forward with an alternate traffic route of 5th Street, thereby avoiding the historic bridge. Construction of the alternate route is to begin in April with work to be done by PK Construction. The route will curve around the bridge on the west and connect with Business 30 to the north. There will no longer be access to the bridge by vehicles.

The now iconic Lincoln Highway Bridge was built in 1915 by architect Paul N. Kingsley, who became world renowned for his design talent. He designed the Tama bridge based on the slab bridge design by the Iowa Highway Commission. Instead of balusters, the decorative railing spells out the words, "Lincoln Highway." It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in March 1978.

The bridge was paid for by the citizens of Tama who were proud that the Lincoln Highway route went through their town and saw the design of the bridge as a way to advertise and distinguish their bridge from hundreds of others across the U.S. Longtime Tama resident, Charles Betz, recently found a photo with additional local advertisements on the bridge railing.

For over 100 years, Lincoln Highway travelers and then enthusiasts from all over the world would drive over the bridge, stop to see it up close, and take photos. They have been known to ship their cars to New York, travel the entire Lincoln Highway route from Times Square to San Francisco, and then ship their cars home.

The Lincoln Highway through Tama is also a farm-to-market road. For many years, residents, farmers, and truckers have traveled the Lincoln Highway through the town on this main route. Maintenance has been continuous over the last 100 years and the community continues to take pride in their bridge. Tama-Toledo has adopted the bridge as their identity by using the image in welcome signs on Hwy 30, in their town logo, with a small replica at city hall, and the annual Bridge Festival in May.

The existing bridge can no longer hold the load of vehicular traffic. With the alternate traffic route for 5th Street avoiding the bridge, the future of the concrete bridge continues to be hopeful.



Solar Lamp Post Project on Clarence Main Street

Clarence Main Street Facebook Post

On February 5, Lenstra Welding and Clarence Main Street President, Gerry Stamp, took one of the solar lampposts and custom bases out for a spin. The bases will be powder coated after they are custom fit to the slope of the new sidewalk, attached to the sidewalk and the posts attached to that.

Grant dollars, generous memorial funds and donations, and volunteer labor have brought this project to fruition. Fundraising is ongoing to get to completion. If interested in investing in this project please mail checks to : Clarence Main Street, PO Box 44, Clarence, IA 52216. Donations are tax deductible.



Redesigned Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Website



Be on the lookout for the launch of our redesigned website. We have been battling some technical issues with our current site, so we've been working to redesign and freshen up our site. We want our site to be user friendly while sharing the history of the Lincoln Highway and the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association. We are in the final review stages and as soon as we are comfortable with the information and the design we will be relaunching.

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As you travel along the Lincoln Highway be sure to stop in Grand Junction to visit the Museum, Lincoln Highway Garden and the Green Gable Cabin.

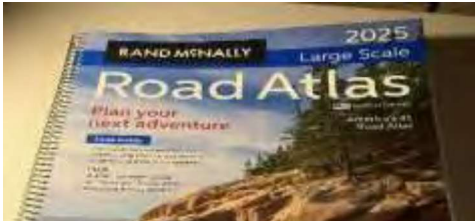
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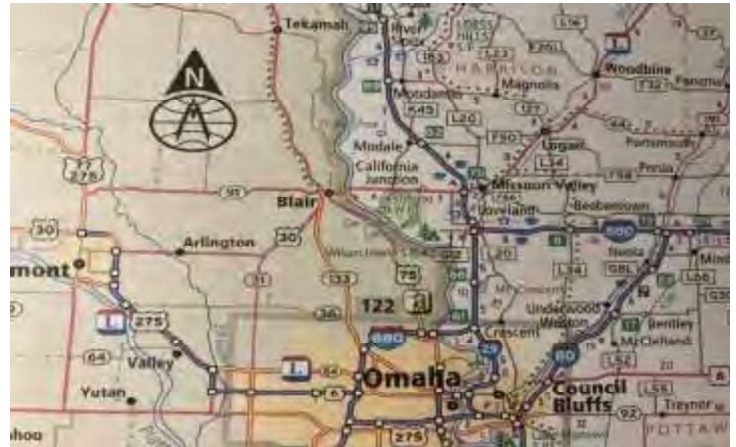
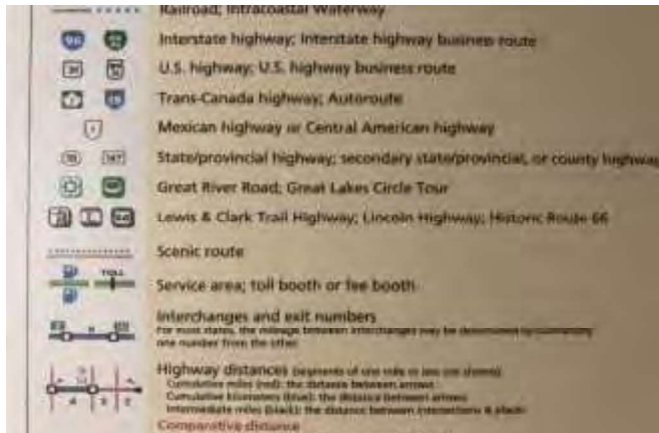


Lincoln Highway Included in Rand McNally Road Atlas

Facebook Post by Paul Gilger



We're making progress! The new 2025 Rand McNally Road Atlas now includes Lincoln Highway "L" symbols on their maps. Here is an assortment of their maps from Ohio, Iowa, Nebraska, Utah, Nevada, and California.



Annual Dues

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association dues are \$15.00 annually. 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

Help us preserve a Legacy

While the Station appears to be structurally sound, the improvements, restoration and preservation planned are urgent, so this slice of Americana history is preserved. While we've made progress, there is still much left to do to preserve a story which began over 100 years ago. We have a master plan outlining necessary steps to achieve total restoration **BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Your support is critical to continuing Preston's legacy for generations to come. If we don't save our history now, it will be lost forever.

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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

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**The next ILHA meeting
is April 12 beginning at 9:30 am
Belle Plaine Area Museum**

The next meeting will be held at the Belle Plaine Area Museum located at 901 12th Street, Belle Plaine, IA. Lunch will follow at Fire Box on Main. Please let Mary Helen (mary@prestonssstation.com) know if you will be attending and having lunch no later than Friday, April 4. Consider stopping by The Regal Fritillary (coffee shop) at 806 12th Street on your way to the meeting to pick up a coffee, specialty coffee, or hot tea.

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

July 12, 2025

Locations to be Determined

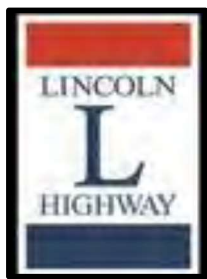
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Along the Lincoln Highway

Newsletter of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Summer 2025 Newsletter | Volume 30, No. 2

President's Corner

Mary Helen Preston

Summer certainly has started with a bang – Iowa Lincoln Highway featured on Iowa PBS Road Trip Iowa and the Lincoln Highway Association's Middle Third Tours traveling across Iowa. Jefferson Matters receiving recognition for being a Great American Main Street and State Center's Police Station (formerly the Home Oil Service Station) being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Prairie Rivers is working hard to update/develop an audio tour and have started collecting oral histories.

Everyone associated with or have a vested interest in the Iowa Lincoln Highway should be proud of the exposure we've recently received. Now's the time to take advantage to share personal stories of how the highway has had an impact or what drew you to become involved – make it personal. Additionally, share the historical significance of the Lincoln Highway, ensuring its story remains alive for generations to come. Every story we share contributes to a broader understanding of why this highway matters to all of us.

Tis the season to get out and explore the Lincoln Highway not just in Iowa - why not take a long weekend and visit a neighboring state.

For those who were able to attend the Conference in Ogallala, thank you for representing Iowa.

Want to let everyone know, Bev Becker passed in April not long after attending our meeting in Belle Plaine. Sending our condolences to Van.

Let's keep our momentum moving forward. We must preserve our history – orally and physically. It will take ALL of us to plan, execute and sustain the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association and the Lincoln Highway's historical significance.

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

Have a great summer. To borrow a comment from Jeanie – Hope to see you along the byway!

Youngville Café News

First, the good news...

Youngville Café is open on Tuesday's from 11:00am – 1:30p until August 26. Be sure to stop by to get a loose meat or grilled tenderloin sandwich and of course a slice of homemade pie.

Next the devastating news...

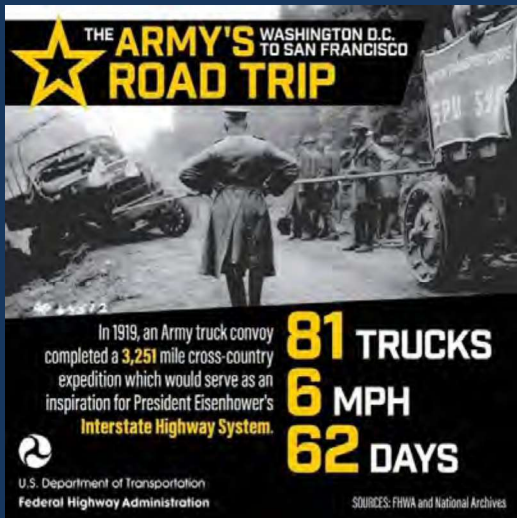
The middle pump from in front of the Café was stolen TWO days after Memorial Day, just prior to opening for the season.

Youngville is on busy Highway 30 so someone had to see something! Help spread the word to get this piece of history returned to Youngville. Visit Youngville's Facebook page for the original post.

If you happen to attend an auction, flea market or see online for sale, please contact Benton County Sheriff or Mike Kelly (319-472-5183) with information.



Photos provided by Mike Kelly.



Recently the Army celebrated its 250th anniversary. Over 100 years ago, the Army played a major role in demonstrating the need for the Interstate's Highway System. The trip in 1919 was taken across the Lincoln Highway. Today, their 62-day journey could take less than a week.

Read more about the Army's epic road trip at <https://www.archives.gov/.../2006/summer/interstates.html> and how it started the road system we use today at <https://highways.dot.gov/highway-history/interstate-system>

From the Federal Highway Administration Facebook page.

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Iowa PBS Road Trip Iowa – Iowa Lincoln Highway Episodes

Iowa Public Television made their way across the Iowa Lincoln Highway for Season 2 of the Road Trip Iowa Series. Four episodes aired every Wednesday from May 21 through June 11. If you missed any of the episodes you can watch them on Iowa PBS's YouTube channel

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvRLtntb03x-TetXU7oh9JBq63a2sdTcJ&si=sEbep4LWgjbIKxfW>

Here's a few featured stops along the Iowa Lincoln Highway from Season 2.



Thank you to all who took the time to share our stories and histories of life along the Iowa Lincoln Highway.

Photos from Iowa PBS Facebook page.

13 Iconic Stops Along Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway

Katie Giorgio published on Iowa Starting Line

Piggybacking on Iowa PBS's Road Trip Iowa trekking across Iowa, I came across this article on *Iowa Starting Line* by Katie Giorgio. Some of the sites mentioned are not so familiar stops. Why not get out to explore this summer.

Read on to learn about some of the iconic stops you can make as you travel the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway (seen here as you travel east to west, but feel free to chart your own course), Iowa's portion of this famed strength of pavement. To plan your full trip, check out the [Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Activity Guide](#).

1. Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center - 3942 291st St., Camanche

Travelers heading west on the Lincoln Highway first cross the Mississippi River at Clinton. Not too far away in Camanche, you can stop and visit the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center to learn more about the mighty river that makes its way through the heart of the country. There is an 8,000-gallon fish tank where you can see some of the native habitants of the Mississippi. You can rent canoes and kayaks to explore the surrounding waters or take guided boat tour during the summer months. There is also a nearby campground and marina.

2. Abbe Creek School Museum - 877 W Mount Vernon Rd., Mount Vernon

Built in 1856, this small, one-room schoolhouse had to be moved slightly to accommodate the Lincoln Highway being built nearby in 1925. The school operated until 1936 and was a private residence at one point before being dedicated as a museum in 1964. Just behind the school is a small cemetery where many early settlers, including two Civil War veterans, are buried. The earliest gravestone dates back to 1847. The Abbe Creek School Museum is open to the public on Sundays in June, July, and August from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. in June, July and August.

3. Jumbo Well - Corner of 8th Ave. and 8th St., Belle Plaine

Some call it the eighth wonder of the world. It certainly is interesting. Jumbo Well was first discovered in Belle Plaine in 1886. The city was known for sitting on a large artisan well with strong pressure that would push water all the way up to the second story of buildings without pumping. But when the city first decided they needed a well, they put out a bid for someone to drill the well, and it went to the lowest bidder. However, all went awry. They dug a two-foot hole but it blasted water 50 feet into the air at 50,000 gallons per minute. Many people tried to stop it, but all were unsuccessful ... for 14 months! It was eventually stopped but news spread all around the country of this astonishing water wonder. Today, a plaque on a rock at the corner of 8th and 8th marks the spot of Jumbo Well.

4. Meskwaki Cultural Center and Museum - 303 Meskwaki Rd., Tama

The land now known as Iowa has long been inhabited by the Meskwaki Tribe who began defending the territory from French settlers in the 1700s. After many decades, on July 13, 1857, the Meskwaki formally purchased their first 80 acres in Tama County. Today, they own some 8,100 acres in Tama, Marshall, and Palo Alto County.

In Tama, the Meskwaki Cultural Center and Museum was built to help spread awareness of the history and cultural significance of the tribe. The museum opened in 2010 to help give visitors a glimpse of the tribe's rich history and culture. It's full of artifacts, including those that have been reacquired and repatriated, that showcase the Meskwaki lifestyle and traditions. You'll see arrowheads, bowls, spoons, other pottery, tools, clothing, jewelry, photographs, and other objects. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., but other visits can be arranged by calling in advance.

5. 1915 Lincoln Highway Bridge - E 5th St., Tama

This pit stop is short and sweet but is a great photo opportunity. Drive right on over to the bridge on East 5th Street in Tama to see one of the iconic Lincoln Highway bridges. Built in 1915, the bridge has "Lincoln Highway" spelled out in concrete on the side panels.

6. Taylor's Maid-Rite - 106 S. 3rd. Ave., Marshalltown

If you've never had a Maid-Rite sandwich, then you are in for a treat; this pit stop takes you to one of the first restaurants to serve up the notable Iowa loose meat sandwich. Taylor's Maid-Rite first opened in 1928 and began dishing up their signature finely ground hamburger sandwich served up with pickles, mustard and chopped onions. You can even add ketchup if you'd like. You can still belly right up to the counter, and why not add fries and a milkshake while you're there?

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

Visit one of Iowa's most interesting railroad collections

www.iowarailwaymuseum.org

Museum Admission included with most train ride tickets!



As you travel long the Lincoln Highway be sure to stop in Grand Junction to visit the Museum, Lincoln Highway Garden and the Green Gable Cabin.

201 East Main St.
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7. Jack Trice Stadium - 1732 Jack Trice Way, Ames

The home of the Iowa State Cyclones football team is worth a stop as you hit the approximate midway point of the Lincoln Highway. This iconic stadium was first built in 1975. It features a real Kentucky bluegrass field and holds 61,500 people, making it the third-largest stadium in the Big 12 Conference. It is also the only Division I FBS stadium named for an African American. Jack Trice was the school's first African-American student-athlete, playing football for the Iowa State Cyclones in 1923. Tragically, Trice sustained and died from injuries in a game played in Minnesota that same season.

8. Kate Shelley High Bridge - 190th St., Boone

The Kate Shelley High Bridge, officially named the Boone Viaduct, is the highest U.S. double-track railroad bridge (185 feet high!) and is still in operation today. But it's also notable for an incident that happened more than 140 years earlier.

On July 6, 1881, a devastating storm washed out a part of the tracks leading up to the bridge. Kate Shelley, just 17 years old at the time, risked her life and crawled across the tracks in order to warn incoming trains of the disastrous conditions ahead. She risked her life, crawling on her hands and knees across the bridge at night during a storm, to save the lives of many others and avoid certain disaster.

9. Mahanay Bell Tower - 100 E. Lincoln Way, Jefferson

One of the least expected structures as you travel through rural western Iowa is a large bell tower with sweeping views. But right in the heart of Jefferson's town square, you'll find just that. The Mahanay Bell Tower, some 168 feet and two inches tall, was built in 1968. The tower is one of only four carillons in the state of Iowa—this one has 47 bronze bells.

You can take elevator rides to the top of the tower, where there is an observation deck. From there, you can take in the views of five surrounding counties, as well as the rooftop artwork that has been scattered across the buildings in Jefferson. The Bell Tower Festival takes place in Jefferson each summer as well.

10. Scranton Water Tower - 1211 Main St., Scranton

Another quirky stop along the Lincoln Highway allows for a fun photo op. The Scranton Water Tower is one of the ten oldest water towers in the country and remains the oldest working water tower in the state of Iowa. It was first built in 1897 and is a steel elevated water tower—you can't miss it. The famed water tower led to the town's motto, "towering above the rest." You can grab a photo to prove it.

11. Merle Hay Memorial Cemetery - Glidden

This quick pit stop in the small town of Glidden allows you to pay tribute to Merle D. Hay, a young boy from Glidden who was the first American soldier killed in the trenches of France during World War I in 1917.

The memorial, near the roadside, was erected by the State of Iowa in 1930 in Hay's honor and features a drawing by famed Iowa newspaper cartoonist Ding Darling.

12. Donna Reed Museum - 1305 Broadway, Denison

Donna Reed, a beloved actress known for "It's a Wonderful Life," "From Here to Eternity" (for which she won an Oscar), and "The Donna Reed Show," was born and raised in Denison. Today, in her hometown, you can visit a museum dedicated to showcasing her rich life and career as a Hollywood darling. You can see her awards and personal effects, including correspondence, original scripts, vintage costumes, and scrapbooks.

The Donna Reed Foundation operates the museum and hosts a whole host of performances and workshops to carry on Reed's theatrical legacy. The museum is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment.

13. 100 Block - 100 Block of West Broadway, Council Bluffs

A great way to end your trip along the Lincoln Highway across Iowa is pulling up to "100 Block" in downtown Council Bluffs. This historic district, surrounding the 100 block of West Broadway, is rich with locally owned retail businesses and dining establishments.

What a better time to get out and explore Iowa along the Lincoln Highway.

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Lincoln Highway Association Middle Third Tour



A few snapshots from the Lincoln Highway Association's Middle Third Tour through Iowa. The tour traveled across Iowa June 19 – 21. Thanks for visiting on your way to Ogallala. Hope you had a great time in Iowa and will visit again soon.

Photos below from Main Street Clarence Facebook page.

Bixler and Shirley Geadelmann hosted a welcome reception for the Lincoln Highway Association Middle Third Tour participants in Clarence on June 19.



Freida Bixler created a red, white and blue display, in front of the Elvis Museum, that looked very festive to welcome the tour.



Above photo from Youngville Highway History Association Facebook.

On Day 3 (June 20), the 2025 "Middle Third" Lincoln Highway Association tour, led by Paul Gilger, stopped at Youngville. It was a rainy start to day 3 (of 8 days).



Above provided by Sue Grove and Preston's Station. Left – Emery from Las Vegas and Emery from York, PA. Right – Megan, Garry and Matthew dodging the storms at Preston's on June 20.



Lincoln Highway Tour participants at the Lincoln Highway Garden in Grand Junction, Iowa. While there the group also visited the Lincoln Highway Museum on June 21.

Photo from Paul Gilger's post on Lincoln Highway's Facebook.



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As you travel along the Lincoln Highway be sure to stop in Grand Junction to visit the Museum, Lincoln Highway Garden and the Green Gable Cabin.

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Jefferson Matters Wins 2025 Great American Main Street Award

Nation's top honor for excellence in preservation-based commercial district revitalization
Iowa Economic Development Press Release

Main Street America announced that Jefferson Matters in Jefferson is one of three recipients of the prestigious Great American Main Street Award (GAMSA), which recognizes Main Street communities for their excellence in preserving and revitalizing their historic downtowns and commercial districts. The 2025 GAMSA honors were presented during the Main Street Now Conference in Philadelphia.

"Jefferson not only embodies the spirit of a thriving Main Street community but also serves as a model of innovation and community engagement for Main Street programs across the state — and the nation," said Debi Durham, director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) and Iowa Finance Authority. Main Street Iowa is a division of IEDA.

Selected by a national jury of industry professionals and local leaders in economic development and historic preservation, Jefferson is being recognized for its welcoming culture and its significant investment in public art programs, which have enhanced the aesthetic value of Jefferson's downtown and brought renewed economic vitality to local businesses.

Downtown rooftop murals have attracted an average of 6,500 visitors each year to the town's bell tower, where they can view the displays from an observation deck. Art-focused efforts have also brought in new businesses and studio spaces; turned unused alleyways into vibrant art hubs; and inspired public art installations and events.

During the past 13 years, community leaders and volunteers led by Jefferson Matters have:

- Transformed \$6 million of public investment into \$18 million of private investment;
- Helped open 45 net new businesses;
- Facilitated the creation of 101 net new jobs;
- Catalyzed the rehabilitation of 115 buildings; and
- Leveraged more than 57,000 volunteer hours.



"This award is a reflection of the passion that fuels Jefferson," said Matt Wetrich, executive director of Jefferson Matters. "Our community, board and volunteers have embraced the idea that public art is more than just decoration — it is a driver of economic growth, a source of civic pride and a way to bring people together."

Jefferson Matters, a GAMSA semifinalist in 2020, is the 10th Main Street Iowa program to be named a winner. Past recipients include programs in Bonaparte (1996), Burlington (2004), Cedar Falls (2002), Corning (1998), Dubuque (1995), Elkader (2001), Keokuk (2000), the Valley Junction district in West Des Moines (2012) and Woodbine (2014).

Congratulations, Jefferson Matter!

Annual Dues

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association dues are \$15.00 annually. 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

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

**The next ILHA meeting
is July 12 beginning at 9:30 am
Ames Public Library**

The next meeting will be held at the Ames Public Library located at 515 Douglas Avenue, Ames, IA. Lunch will follow at Hickory Park. Please let Mary Helen (mary@prestonsstation.com) or Shellie Orngard (sorngard@prcd.org) know if you will be attending and having lunch no later than Tuesday, July 8.

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

October 11, 2025

Locations to be Determined

January 10, 2026 – Zoom

April 11, 2026

July 11, 2026

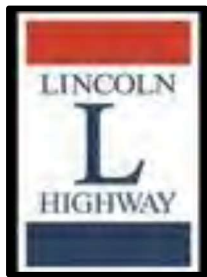
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Along the Lincoln Highway

Newsletter of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Fall 2025 Newsletter | Volume 30, No. 3

President's Corner

Mary Helen Preston

As I write my column, fall officially begins Sunday. I must say this summer seems to have been busy across Iowa – more visitors, lots of events and some good media coverage. Maybe, just maybe travelers are getting off the interstate and traveling to see what the Lincoln Highway has to offer.

On the other hand, it appears preservation of history has been kicked in the knees with the announcement the State Historical Society of Iowa's Centennial Building in Iowa City is closing after nearly 70 years of public access to some of our most important collections. There is a real concern as potentially 60% of the current collection could be moved to other institutions or even destroyed. We believe there are some Lincoln Highway artifacts in the collections and are working to get confirmation on how we can obtain those items.

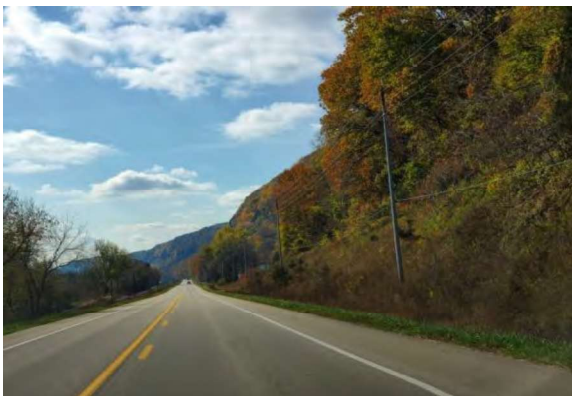
We are grateful for the grant Grand Junction received to begin logging the inventory there. Janice, Jeanie, Shellie and myself are working to develop a plan to catalog and preserve Lyell Henry and others' collections.

As I've said and will continue to say... We must preserve our history – orally and physically. It will take ALL of us to plan, execute and sustain the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association and the Lincoln Highway's historical significance.

If you're planning on coming to our quarterly meeting in Denison, take time to drive the Lincoln Highway and enjoy the scenery.

Have a great fall and wonderful holidays – however you celebrate.

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



Jeff Benson Family Iowa Lincoln Highway Endowment



The Jeff Benson Family Iowa Lincoln Highway Endowment Fund is perpetual and will be a sustained financial resource for the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association. Since 2015, the principal has grown to more than \$33,000. The Iowa Lincoln Highway Association annually and exclusively receives a 5% distribution of the Endowment's principal.

Contributing to the Endowment is a financial investment for the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association.

With year-end approaching, consider making a charitable donation to the Endowment as a way to sustain support for the Association.



YEAR END GIVING
YOUR GIFT MAKES
A DIFFERENCE





The Lincoln Highway Association will celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary by hosting the national conference in York, PA from June 22 through June 26.

There will be bus tours, special events and presentations about over 250 years of transportation history along the Lincoln Highway.

Register early as the Committee expects a sell out conference.

For more information and register visit www.Lincoln250PA.org and watch this YouTube video <https://youtu.be/88frcz7xY0A?si=PYt9TTnd6t3s63r>

Hope to see you there.

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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Stay in the Know!

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



@IowaLincolnHighwayAssociation
 @LincolnHighwayHeritageByway

Grand Junction Museum Receives Grant for Inventory Project *From Prairie Rivers*

Prairie Rivers of Iowa received a \$5,000 grant from the Iowa State Historical Society to inventory historical items in the Lincoln Highway Museum in Grand Junction, Iowa.

This project began last spring with the assistance of the Historical Society of Iowa's Field Services Program. Collections professional, Angela Stanford from Advanced Museum Services visited the museum and was able to define a scope and proper methods and procedures to use for completion of an inventory. The grant will allow the inventory to begin and establish a system which can be completed in the future when additional funding is found.



Through the years, Bob and Joyce Ausberger have collected an estimated 1,000 objects related to the Lincoln Highway and highway development in Iowa. In addition to objects and artifacts, the museum, housed in an old bank, features a well-established library of books, postcards, original blueprints, and the archive of a precursor group to the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association.

At the conclusion of the project, the Lincoln Highway Museum will have a comprehensive record of what is in the collection and where the pieces are located within the museum. The inventory document will also be a tool to identify gaps in the collection and to add stories to the artifact entries.

As museums and archives struggle with traditional funding practices to preserve history, we must continue to take the steps necessary to ensure that history is not lost. The Lincoln Highway Museum Inventory is that current step that we are taking to look to the future.



Photos courtesy of Prairie Rivers.



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

Membership Coordinator

Dean Parr

(319)366-0552 or

drparr51@gmail.com

Reed Niland Corner, Inc. Non-Proft Group Formed

Jeanie Hau, Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Coordinator



A new non-profit group, the Reed-Niland Corner, Inc., has been formed in Colo, Iowa, with the intent to take over the ownership and management of the Reed-Niland Corner. One member of the organization must be a representative for the Jefferson Highway, one member must represent the Lincoln Highway, one member must represent the Colo Historical Association, and two members must be Colo residents. There are currently 12 members of the organization.

Initial paperwork has been completed and the group is forming committees to fulfill the dedicated purpose to preserve, maintain, and promote the visitor experience of the historic Reed-Niland Corner. And to the continued operation of the café, motel, museum, and apartment buildings through activities which shall include educational programs, advocacy, fundraising, maintenance, and oversight of this historic site. The group hopes to be in a position to take over the ownership of the Corner near the first of the year, 2026.

Background: It has been over 100 years since Charlie sold his first customer gas at the SE corner of his family farm. What began as a supplemental income to farming became a way of life for Charlie Reed, his nephews (the Niland families), and much of the community of Colo. Being located at the crossing of two transcontinental roadways, the Lincoln Highway and the Jefferson Highway, the businesses needed to employ many residents of Colo and the surrounding communities. The Corner became a part of the community.



When Highway 30 was moved to the south and Interstate 35 was built to the west, business declined, and operations ceased by 1995. When the city was gifted the site (minus the apartment building) in 1999 by John Niland, the Lincoln Highway Association and the community of Colo worked together to obtain a succession of grants and donations to restore the buildings and site. By 2003, the station had been restored to an early 1930s design, the café was restored to an appearance it had in 1955, and the motel was restored to a 1946 appearance. The café was leased to operate as a 1950s diner and interpretive center, and the motel rooms were available for rent once again. The Reed-Niland Corner became a popular “one-stop” site to visit on a national level for both the Lincoln Highway Association travelers and the Jefferson Highway Association travelers.

Flash-forward almost 25 years and the Corner is now in a new Era. The community of Colo has invested in a new fire station, a rehabbed firetruck, and a new housing development. Resources are scarce, and insurance premiums are up. At a City Council meeting in February 2025, the council suggested that the city should sell the Corner. Rural Colo resident and Colo Historical Association member, Brenda McGuire, happened to be at the meeting and began asking questions. Brenda contacted Prairie Rivers of Iowa who had recently recorded a video of past Reed Station employees.

Together, Prairie Rivers of Iowa staff, Iowa Lincoln Highway Association members, Jefferson Highway representatives, Kelsey Reed (the current lease holder of Niland's Café and the Colo Motel), and numerous community members started meeting to discuss options for the Corner.



- It was agreed upon that National Register status and Local Preservation guidelines should be created to protect the property.
- A non-profit should be formed to take over the ownership of the property in order to preserve it and to continue operations

This brings us to many meetings later and back to where we are today.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa Special Projects Coordinator, Shellie Orngaard, is working towards a National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Reed-Niland Corner District. She is also assisting the City in developing local preservation guidelines.

The Colo Historical Association has been working on grants for awnings for the Reed Station, for which they have recently received awards. The Association has recently posted that they will no longer be located at the station and will not have the station open on the last weekend of the month. Since this is a new development, the Reed-Niland Corner, Inc. has not had a meeting to discuss and cannot comment at this time.



Maintenance issues at the Corner continue to be addressed by the city and the Colo Development Group. A grant committee on the new non-profit is working to find grants to help fund these needs. As with any property management, new maintenance needs arise frequently and communication between groups is key at this time.

Finally, in uplifting news, WHO and "Gabe on the Go" recently filmed a segment at the Corner interviewing former city clerk, Scott Berka and Reed-Niland Corner, Inc President, Brenda McGuire. As Brenda said in the interview, "We hope that the Corner can be a gathering place for years to come."

Historic Colo cafe to be featured on Business Insider documentary

From KCCI TV



For just under a century, travelers from across the country have stopped in the small Story County town, Colo.

The town, and specifically one street corner, is known as the "Crossroads of the Nation," marking the point where the national Lincoln and Jefferson highways meet.

And on that street corner is none other than Niland's Cafe.

Decorated with nostalgic checkered flooring and old photographs, it's obvious the cafe's been around for a while — 99 years, to be exact.

Manager Kelsey Reed says cafes like these are a dying breed.

"Fast food has kind of taken over," she said. "People are all about the instant gratification and hurry up and get done and move on to your next spot instead of sitting down and joining in with family and communicating."

But just under a century after first opening its doors, Niland's remains a local favorite.

Cook Jessica McKinney says the menu — which features Iowa favorites like pork tenderloin, among others — has a lot to do with it.

"We've got a building that's been here for 100 years and recipes that people remember going here with their grandparents," McKinney said. "So, it's pretty cool."

But it's not just the memories of Niland's heyday that Reed and her staff are hoping to keep alive. It's the sense of camaraderie — and the lessons that come with it — that they're hoping to bring to the next generation one meal at a time.

Business Insider visited Niland's Thursday, September 11.

Photos for Reed-Niland articles from Colo Historical Association, Colo, Iowa Lincoln Highway Association and KCCI Facebook pages.

Marshalltown's Queen of Hearts Masion Set for Demolition

*Nation's top honor for excellence in preservation-based commercial district revitalization
Iowa Economic Development Press Release*



The Victorian-style house has been called the Newton Carmean Mansion and the Hatcher Mansion, but is commonly known as the Queen of Hearts Mansion. It got this nickname from its heart-shaped windows.

Built in 1901 for Newton Carmean, president of the Marshalltown Buggy Co., the eclectic-style house featured 18 rooms, including a third-floor ballroom. The house was in the direct path of the 2018 Marshalltown tornado and was further damaged by

the 2020 derecho.

Earlier this year, there was a partial roof collapse near the front porch. As a result, the city condemned the house as a dangerous building and ordered the owners to either demolish or repair it.

"It's long past gone," owner Todd Hollingworth said of the Marshalltown mansion. "It's just collapsing." After exploring grants and other funding sources, Hollingworth said he couldn't come up with the \$1.8 million estimated cost of repair and ultimately decided to demolish it.



West End Architectural Salvage in Des Moines salvaged some interior items recently, followed by the nonprofit Save Cedar Rapids Heritage, whose volunteers salvage as a last resort when a home can't be saved in place or moved.



Story photos from Marshalltowns-IA.gov website, Homegrown Iowa / Cindy Hadish and Reality Day Dream.



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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



www.iowarailwaymuseum.org

Visit one of Iowa's most interesting railroad collections

State Center Police Department listed on National Register of Historic Places

From Preservation Iowa Press Release



Congratulation, State Center!

The former Home Oil Service Station, built in 1933 in State Center, is significant for its association with the roadside commercial development of State Center and the final route of the Lincoln Highway/U.S. Highway 30 through town. Originally built as a Mid-Continent Petroleum Company Diamond Service Station, it required approval from neighboring property owners and was designed to harmonize with its residential surroundings, taking the form of a small English cottage with a stucco and brick exterior, faux half-timbering, a steep side-gabled roof, and a nonextant brick chimney. Early amenities included a modern restroom and fireplace, and over time, the building expanded to accommodate growing services: a tank wagon office and "ladies" restroom were added in the early 1940s, and in 1950, a three-bay garage addition ushered the station into the postwar automobile era with offerings like car washing and greasing.



Chris Jensen from KCRG TV-9 in Cedar Rapids has begun a series on the Lincoln Highway across Iowa. She's featured Preston's Station and Mount Vernon and 10th Avenue Bridge.

Here are the links for the first two segments through YouTube. Be sure follow Everyday Iowa on Facebook for additional segments.

Preston's Station Segment

<https://youtu.be/HYvsaUtc6Z0?si=VgZ6FE9clilVkaSZ>

Mount Vernon Segment

<https://youtu.be/NuMiJEBc2Qs?si=sxXcQ7laSkLJwls>

To borrow Jeanie's saying – Hope to see you along the byway!



**The next ILHA meeting
is October 11 beginning at 9:30 am
The Bake Shop in Denison, Iowa**

The next meeting will be held in the Back 30 Room at the Bake Shop located at 1003 4th Avenue South, Denison, IA. Lunch will follow. Please let Mary Helen (mary@prestonsstation.com) or Bill Bruce (bbruce9@live.com) know if you will be attending and having lunch no later than Friday, October 3.

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

January 10, 2026 – Zoom

Locations to be Determined

April 11, 2026

July 11, 2026

October 10, 2026

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