

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Spring 2023 Newsletter | Volume 28, No. 1

President's Corner

by Mary Helen Preston

As I sit and write this column on the First Day of Spring, I am re-energized by what I'm seeing and hearing in the news about traveling resuming - especially for smaller cities. Inside you will read two articles - one from AARP and one from Iowa Tourism Office confirming this. Traveling resuming is great news for the Lincoln Highway, our counties, towns and attractions along the way! If you haven't heard, Ragbrai is celebrating their 50th ride visiting some of us as overnight and pass throughs during their July 23 - 29 ride across Iowa. This will be the perfect showcase opportunity - if you haven't started your planning, its time to start; July is just around the corner.

There are great things happening across the Lincoln Highway not just in Iowa but across the country - new venues opening and favorites reopening for the season. There are even plans in the works for developing daytrips to explore the hidden gems along the Lincoln Highway - but more to come later. The California Chapter is hosting our National Conference in Folsom June 11 - 15. The Jefferson Highway Conference has contacted us and is making plans to host an event in Nevada where the two highways intersect in June as they tour Iowa.

If you've received information from Prairie Rivers requesting completion of their historic property survey, please take time to complete so they can build a database on the condition of all the National Register of Historic Places located within five miles of the Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway. By completing the survey, this will allow Prairie Rivers to assess needs and provide resources where and as necessary.

Each of us should be excited about the direction we appear to be headed. There are a number of moving parts to address where we are and where we need to be. I truly believe we are heading in the right direction and need to keep the momentum. The re-emergence of travel and prospects of new and restructured activities should energize us. There's no better time than now to educate and promote our rich history. Let's work together to get travelers off the interstates and back on the two lanes to explore what we have to offer.

To those reading this newsletter - 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.

Rick Sampson

Long-Time Supporter



Rick Sampson at the Marion, Iowa stop of the 2019 MVPA Transcontinental Motor Convoy.

We lost a dear friend and long-time supporter of the preservation of the Lincoln Highway, Rick Sampson on February 24. He was 78 years old.

Rick spent most of his childhood and adult years residing at 4010 Johnson Avenue on the Lincoln Highway. His house had previously served as the office for the Log Cabin Tourist Camp (1927-1940). The camp's office was right next door to the original Twin Towers Cafe location. The original Twin Towers building still stands and serves as apartments today.

A few years ago Rick moved to the east side of Cedar Rapids. He was proud to say he only lived a block off the Marion Loop (original 1913 route of the Lincoln Highway).

Rick could be found with his camera at most Lincoln Highway events in Linn County always eager to record the festivities.

He had a vast knowledge of the Lincoln Highway as well as Linn County history.

I am thankful for the friendship we had, I'll miss Rick.

Rex Martin, Linn County Consul

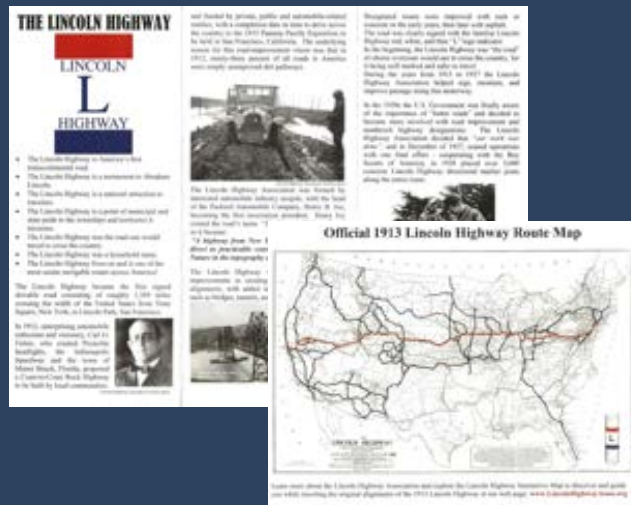
National Lincoln Highway Association News



The California Chapter is hosting the 2023 LHA Annual Conference in Folsom June 11 - 15. The two bus tours will take you on along the southern and northern routes of the Lincoln Highway. Some of the stops will be Echo Summit, Cave Rock, Donner Summit and Lincoln Highway Rainbow Bridge Lookout. If you haven't registered yet, there's still time. Visit <https://lincolnhighwayassoc.org/conference/2023> to download a registration form.

Mark your calendars for the 2024 annual conference June 23 - 29 in Elkhart, Indiana.

John Jackson has informed us, Jim Cassler has restocked a supply of the pictured brochure. If you are interested in receiving the brochure to distribute, please reach out to Jim directly at jim@kbprint.us.



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



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 @LincolnHighwayHeritageByway

Three Years In, How the Pandemic Has Changed Our Lives (and How It Hasn't)

From March 2023 AARP Bulletin

When reading the March AARP Bulletin, it was nice to read the following in print. The second paragraph especially gives me hope we could see more travelers along the Lincoln Highway. The below is only an excerpt of a bigger article. You can find the full article at <https://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2023/three-years-into-covid-19-pandemic-what-changed.html>

Travel has resumed. “We are eating out again, visiting faraway friends, taking family trips — activities that were unthinkable even during parts of last year, especially for older folks,” says Pauline Frommer, editorial director of Frommer’s guides. After years of isolation, multigenerational travel is up 50 percent. Even cruise lines — the original petri dish of the coronavirus — are booking up again. Older travelers are going the extra mile: Nearly 40 percent of people 65 or older say they prioritize traveling out of state, and more than half those travelers prioritize trips to visit family or friends.

At the same time, smaller cities are thriving. “The pandemic provided a necessary reset button for many destinations,” says Bert Sperling, founder of the website Best Places, who says the influx of new populations in towns across America means “things are a lot more cosmopolitan in places like Billings and Missoula and Boise” than in 2019. “You can get a great cappuccino where you couldn’t get one before.”



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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

Spring/Summer Travel Guides Available

From the Iowa Tourism Office, the spring/summer edition of the *Iowa Travel Guide* is now available to inspire travelers who are planning their Iowa road trip. The free 140-page guide can be ordered online at traveliowa.com, by phone at 800.345.IOWA.

The publication includes features on new events and attractions for 2023, RAGBRAI’s 50th anniversary, the Iowa State Fair, the Loess Hills, stops along the Lincoln Highway, golf courses and adventures on wheels. The guide also contains suggested attractions, restaurants, lodging properties, events and an itinerary for each of the five travel areas as well as campground listings. The cover features Rail Explorers in Boone.

“Demand for travel continues to be strong,” said Amy Zeigler, state tourism manager for the Iowa Tourism Office. “According to the US Travel Association, nearly half of Americans with travel plans agree that taking time off is more important than ever and more than half say travel is a priority in their budget. The redesigned Iowa Travel Guide is a great inspirational piece to encourage people to visit our state.”



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

On the Lincoln Highway

Bob and Joyce Ausberger, Greene County



We stopped in Potter, Nebraska this winter. Many great updates. This building is now a coffee shop/brew pub. It was originally a gas station/antique shop. The renovations are outstanding!

Next door is an antique market. The cafe is on the end of the block that once had a soda fountain.

The town received a grant for electric hookups and new restroom. The area is large enough for bus stop. The town is located on the Lincoln Highway just off I-80. Just 3 miles east of Potter is the famous Point of Rocks, once known as "Buffalo Bend" and is the tightest curve on the Union Pacific Line.

Coming Soon to Nevada

Janice Gammon, Story County

In summer of 2023 there will be a new restaurant in downtown Nevada called "T.E. Alderman's" in what is known as the "Journal" building. The exterior and interior of the building are undergoing restoration and remodeling. The building was once the home of the Nevada Journal newspaper, then a local carpenter purchased it and rented out the front area for office space and used the back area for his work room. And now it will become a restaurant!



While the building transformation is taking place, the new restaurateur, Mark Pleis, has been working on his menu and often teases residents with photos of delicious food tests on his Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/tealdermans/>.

Mark named the restaurant in honor of Theodore Elihu (T.E.) Alderman, known as the father of Nevada, Iowa. Born in 1825 in Ohio, T.E. moved to a farm in Lee County, Iowa in 1849. Married in 1850, he farmed for 3 years before suffering from a serious eye problem that left him completely blind for a year. Upon his doctor's advice, he looked for work in an indoor setting. He decided to move further west into unsettled land. In June 1853, he accompanied the commissioner tasked to find a location for a county seat in Story County. They chose a location in what is now known as Nevada. T.E. decided to build a log house on the west end of the south half of the courthouse. His wife, Hannah, and 2-year-old son, Oscar, joined him in the fall of 1853. This first home in Nevada served as the first store, first post office, and inn for Story County. It also became the office of the county judge and office for the only physician in the eastern half of Story County. T.E. and Hannah had 5 children: Oscar, Mary Nevada (who died within a year), Ed, Ulysses, and Minnie.

Once T.E. Alderman's opens, we will share photos of the interior and the food!



Youngville Announces 2023 Season

Mike Kelly, Benton County

Youngville Cafe, at the intersection of Hwys. 218 and 30 in Benton County will open for the 2023 Season on June 6, 2023.

The cafe will serve lunch on Tuesdays from 11:00am - 1:30pm.

For group reservations, please call (319) 540-3600.

Please Like and Follow: **Youngville Highway History Association** on Facebook for updates.

Ragbrai Celebrates 50 Rides Across Iowa

By Visiting Towns Along Lincoln Highway

The full route for the 50th Ragbrai has been released. Some towns along the Lincoln Highway will host riders overnight, be pass throughs and meeting towns. This will be a perfect opportunity to show the approximately 18,000 riders and their support teams what we're all about. I know Preston's is already making plans.

Here's the route as released on Ragbrai's website.

Day 1: Sunday, July 23 Sioux City to Storm Lake
PASS THRU TOWNS:

- Kingsley
- WASHTA - MEETING TOWN
- Quimby

Day 2: Monday, July 24 Storm Lake to Carroll
PASS THRU TOWNS

- Early
- LAKE VIEW - MEETING TOWN
- Breda
- Mt. Carmel

Day 3: Tuesday, July 25 Carroll to Ames
PASS THRU TOWNS

- Glidden
- Jefferson
- RIPPEY - MEETING TOWN
- Luther

Day 4: Wednesday, July 26 Ames to Des Moines
PASS THRU TOWNS:

- Slater
- Madrid
- Polk City
- ANKENY - MEETING TOWN

Day 5: Thursday, July 27 Des Moines to Tama-Toledo
PASS THRU TOWNS

- Altoona
- Mitchellville
- Colfax
- NEWTON - MEETING TOWN
- Kellogg
- Grinnell



Day 6: Friday, July 28 Tama-Toledo to Coralville
PASS THRU TOWNS

- Chelsea
- Belle Plaine
- MARENGO - MEETING TOWN
- Amana
- Oxford

Day 7: Saturday, July 29 Coralville to Davenport
PASS THRU TOWNS

- Iowa City
- West Liberty
- MUSCATINE - MEETING TOWN
- Montpelier
- Buffalo

To keep up to date with any changes and activities along the route follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RAGBRAI or visit their site at <https://ragbrai.com/>



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.

201 East Main Street
Grand Junction, IA

(515)386-4521



Byway Sign Inventory Completed

Jonathan Sherwood, Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Coordinator

As the Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway coordinator, I recently had the privilege of seeing every corner of the Byway from the Missouri River to the Mississippi River — crossing every river in between. The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) asked byway coordinators to inventory every byway sign on their respective byways. For me, that meant 1100 miles, including both sides of the road, and the loops through downtowns. The goal was to complete the inventory before winter set in. We finished just before the big pre-Christmas storm.

Overall the signs are in good condition and help tell the story of the Byway. But in areas, they go missing, especially where there has been redevelopment along a main street or where new highways have expanded. Some signs even have a few bullet holes. IDOT now has the location and condition of all Iowa Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway signs so improvements can be made.

I can't take all the credit. I had the benefit of having a Prairie Rivers of Iowa volunteer to switch off data entry and driving. My job would have been made much more difficult without a helper who was so thoughtful and thorough. It also made it easier to take in the beautiful landscape along the journey.



We chose to do the inventory on the weekends from October to December and were witness to the seasons changing. Not only did each town have its own charm, many were decked out for the holiday season. One afternoon an awe-inspiring fog frosted the countryside and town trees. Garland, lights, wreaths, and bows adorned lampposts and store frontages along brick-paved streets. This is not to mention the tenderloin and loose meat sandwiches along the way. (Pictured: Taylor's Maid-Rite in Marshalltown)

Some folks call Iowa flat, but if you travel the Lincoln Highway in Iowa you'll see it's not. In Pottawattamie County, the Lincoln actually goes from north to south for a segment where you can see the sculpted deposits as peaked hills with narrow ridges as the windblown Loess Hills between the divide of the Missouri River Alluvial Plain.

I'm a native Iowan but have never had the opportunity to see Iowa in such a way. The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway traverses landscape changes from west to east from its landforms. There's the Missouri River Alluvial Plain, Loess Hills, Southern Iowa Drift, the Des Moines Lobe, Iowan Surface, and East-Central Iowa Drift Plain.

Along the way, Iowa's byways crisscross, adding to the allure of America's Byways® in Iowa. One way to understand Iowa and its cultural and natural resources is to travel its byways. That's why byway signs are so integral to telling Iowa's story. They are part of the deep heritage of wayfinding that began in the 1910s with telephone pole paintings and Boy Scout markers.



Check out Jonathan's montage of the Lincoln Highway while working on the IOWA DOT Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway signage project. You can watch the entire montage at <https://youtu.be/wCLK-PB2-DY>

Produced by Prairie Rivers of Iowa/Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway
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Lincoln Highway Historic Property Survey

Prairie Rivers of Iowa

Dear Lincoln Highway Community,

You are invited to participate in a first-of-its-kind survey assessing the preservation needs of historical properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places within five miles of the Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway in Iowa. This needs assessment is being undertaken by Prairie Rivers of Iowa with funding from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Historical Society of Iowa.

WHY IS THIS SURVEY BEING DONE?

Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are important parts of our cultural heritage. Keeping them in good condition for future generations while preserving features that make them historic can be challenging and expensive. For example, aging buildings need basics such as a protective roof and functioning HVAC system, and many could benefit from improved energy efficiency. Federal and state tax credit programs or grants may be available to assist in offsetting the costs of this and other maintenance work. Knowing where the needs are, Prairie Rivers can be more effective in providing assistance to property owners who request it. Experts in historic construction trades may be beneficial to assist with this work as well.

Information from this survey will help assess the greatest preservation needs along the Lincoln Highway. Our long-term objective is to improve the historical integrity of properties in the Lincoln Highway corridor, and provide information about preservation resources to participating property owners after research is completed in 2024.

HOW CAN THE SURVEY BE COMPLETED?

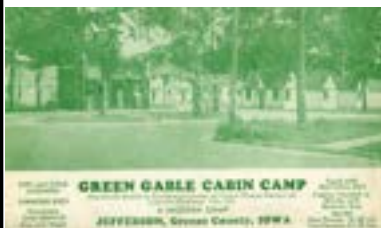
There are several ways to take the survey.

Online: Follow the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FVJK3RC> (Estimated time to complete: 4 minutes)

Mail or Phone: Request a printed survey or complete over the phone, contact Shellie Orngard at sorngard@prrcd.org or at (515) 232-0048.

In February 2021, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration designated the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway a National Scenic Byway. It is our hope that by preserving historic properties, we can better share the unique stories of this historic road. Thank you for your consideration and assistance with this project. Please feel free to contact us with your questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

As a "thank-you gift," each person who completes the survey can receive four full-color vintage-style postcards of historical properties and scenes along Iowa's Lincoln Highway while supplies last.



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

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www.iowarailwaymuseum.org

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515-370-0637

www.dalehigginsauction.com
higginsd@iowatelecom.net

**The next ILHA meeting will be
April 8, 2023 beginning at 9:30 am
at Victory Lanes in Clarence, Iowa**

Victory Lanes is located at 628 Lombard Street in Clarence, Iowa. The meeting will begin at 9:30 am with lunch following at Victory Lanes.

Please let Mary Helen Preston or Joyce Ausberger know if you'll be attending so we can make appropriate arrangements.

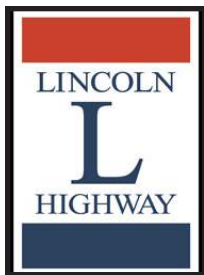
Upcoming Iowa LHA Meeting
July 8, 2023
Location: Belle Plaine

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





Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Summer 2023 Newsletter | Volume 28, No. 2

President's Corner

by Mary Helen Preston

It's mid-June and it appears Summer will be busy! The Jefferson Highway Association just wrapped up their long overdue conference in Mason City. Kuddos to Sandii and Mike for hosting, by all accounts, a hugely successful conference. The Lincoln Highway Association conference is currently taking place in Folsom, California and without a doubt will be a great one. There are a TON of community events taking place over the next few months. Ragbrai is having its 50th ride the week of July 22 - 29. We have towns who will be hosting riders overnight, serving pass throughs and meeting towns. If the talk is true, this will be the largest in years. Darcy Maulsby, author of *The Lincoln Highway in Iowa* is traveling with a bus tour in August; stopping at a number of locations featured in her book. Youngville Café is open Tuesdays from 11:00a - 1:30pm, so why not take a day trip and stop in for lunch. There are great opportunities to visit favorite places or explore new. And while your out exploring, why not visit with others promoting the Lincoln Highway.

Just a reminder, if you received information from Prairie Rivers requesting completion of their historic property survey, please take time to complete so they can build a database on the condition of all National Register of Historic Places located within five miles of the Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway. This will help assess the needs and provide resources where necessary for our historic places.

It's been awhile since I've been on my soapbox so please indulge me. It is imperative WE preserve and protect the historical significance of the Lincoln Highway. Preservation is not just focused on the route(s) itself but individuals, towns, and places - which played an integral part of its history. The Lincoln Highway was critical in building the groundwork for automotive travel - and my how travel has changed and continues to change. **WE cannot let the lore of automotive travel disappear. WE are the knowledge keepers and must be committed to educating and promoting the Lincoln Highway.**

Let's work together to get travelers off the interstates and back on the two lanes.

To those reading this newsletter - It will take ALL of us to plan, execute and sustain the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association and the historical significance of the Lincoln Highway.

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

RV Trip Along The Lincoln Highway



As enthusiasts, we know how important it is to get off the four lanes and travel the two lanes to experience the Lincoln Highway.

As an Association, we have done a great job of providing travelers with tools, an interactive map and map packs, to travel the Lincoln Highway. Providing guides is not a new concept as the first guide was published in 1915.

Paul Gilger, California, recently shared a post on Facebook, *The Lincoln Highway: Plan An RV Trip on This Historic Path* from campersmarts.com (originally published July 20, 2021). Paul states in his post - this is a wonderful article and it is a wonderful extensive article. Be sure to check it out. I learned a few facts.

Brian Newman, author shares fun facts, details, back stories about the history and provides a list of books written about the Lincoln Highway. Be sure to watch the *The Lincoln Highway's Ideal Section* on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/hyYF0VbsQQ>).

Brian comments in the section, "How Long Does it take to drive the entire Lincoln Highway?" it could take a traveler 4 - 5 days if you don't stop OR if you stop at all of the best attractions it could take weeks!

Hopefully this article will peak interest not just with RV travelers but ALL to travel the Lincoln Highway.

Travel Iowa Passport Program

Travel Iowa introduced the Iowa Passport program several years ago with Iowa State Park and Iowa Scenic Byway Passports. This program has now expanded and includes: Wine, Distillery and Beer Passports. This is a great program for travelers to experience ALL that Iowa offers. The Iowa Scenic Byway Passport encourages travelers to experience small town Iowa, while experiencing our rolling hills, farmlands, visit our historic sites, and support local unique restaurants and businesses. These passports are great tools for travelers. The programs are "mobile-exclusive" for ease of check-in when visiting a location participating in the program. The beauty part of the programs it's FREE. If you are an attraction or local business participating, please make certain you have your QR code posted for those experiencing Iowa through Travel Iowa's Passport Program. If you're experiencing Iowa, be sure to sign up for one or ALL of the passports - if EASY.

Visit <https://www.traveliowa.com/passport> to

DISCOVER IOWA. CHECK IN. EARN REWARDS.



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



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Route Signage Task Force

During our April Association meeting, a task force was charged with gathering, reviewing and documenting recommendations then reporting back to the Association the accuracy of current route signage and possible realignments. **The task force task is NOT to unravel/rewrite/reroute history but to investigate.**

IDOT used the information provided by the Lincoln Highway Association when approving the route to become a state byway in 2006. The route signed by IDOT was the most accurate and safest. What a lay person and what IDOT considers "safe" may not be in agreement. Detailed mapping has been done for the map pack, on-line LHA interactive map, for the approved state route, and for the map submitted to make the byway a national scenic byway. The mapping has not been done haphazardly. **We MUST maintain the integrity and historical significance of the route, as the last thing we need to do is adversely affect any of our designations.**

There are without a doubt, changes which should to be discussed with IDOT such as the Lisbon/Mt Vernon road change, the Chelsea turnoff change, and the closure of Wapsie bridges. There needs to be an investigation regarding the section just east of Ralston for correction as it does not take the traveler around the Gregory Markers on a curved gravel on the south side of Highway 30, but instead takes the traveler north of Highway 30 on a gravel running parallel to Highway 30 before joining the paved highway. This area is very confusing with angled roads and curved roads intersecting.

We need to take into consideration the recent inventory of signage across the state. The map pack produced and the on-line interactive map do an excellent job of showing the different alignments over times. As we all know, no one wants to drive all of the options.

As stated on the Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway website... *Based on the historical routes, the byway features many loops - paved and unpaved - giving you a feeling for the history of the road and what it was like to travel in the original days of the automobile.*

We as an Association need to make absolutely certain we retain the historical significance established.



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Meet Jeanie Hau New Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway Coordinator



Jeanie comes to Prairie Rivers of Iowa with a background in landscape architecture, environmental studies, and design. She is an Iowa State University graduate but also cheers for the Hawks, Panthers, and the Bulldogs.

She says the best adventure she has ever taken was with the National Park Service NE Region as a landscape architecture historian.

Jeanie likes to read, flower garden, and thrift shop instead of cleaning her house. Her husband, Matt (of 32 years), daughters, Arabella (21), Audrey (19), and son, Joshua (16) are not as happy with her cleaning habits.

Jeanie brings positive energy and is excited to begin her newest journey on the Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway as Iowa Coordinator.



Mark your calendars for what is shaping up to be a remarkable event in Elkhart June 24-28, 2024. Check out <https://www.visitelkhartcounty.com/lincoln-highway-association-conference> to see events and sites as well as up-to-date planned activities for the Conference. Hope you can come for some or all! - Jeff Blair, President

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:

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P.O. Box 224
Grand Junction, IA 50107

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

Carroll County Historical Society to Host Charlie Maguire Concert

Barbara Hackfort, Carroll County



Photo of Robert Capa. Photo credit: Britannica

The Carroll County Historical Society will host a concert by singer/songwriter Charlie Maguire on September 10, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. at the United Methodist Church in Carroll. Mr. Maguire will feature the Carroll County premiere of his song "Robert Capa Goes to Iowa" during his performance. This song tells the story of how the world-renowned photojournalist, Robert Capa, would find himself traveling the Lincoln Highway a mile east of Glidden in 1947 to discover the perfect family and farm for the Ladies Home Journal series entitled "People are the Same around the World." This was the same year that Capa would be awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Truman for his photographs of WWII. The Historical Society is proud to be a part of restoring this story to its proper place in county history, and to help people recognize the role played by the Lincoln Highway to make it happen.

Jefferson Highway Association Sociability Tour Stops in Nevada

Janice Gammon, Story County

The Jefferson Highway Association Sociability Tour came through Nevada, Iowa June 6 and were met by Thomas Jefferson, Abe Lincoln, Iowa Lincoln Highway President Mary Helen Preston, and Nevadians. The Lincoln and Jefferson Highways conjoin by the park at city hall then traveled east to Colo, Iowa where they part ways. The Jefferson Highway folks were heading to Mason City for their annual national conference.



Pictured above: Thomas Jefferson; Roger Bell, President Jefferson Highway Association; Mary Helen Preston, Iowa Lincoln Highway President and Abraham Lincoln

Photo credits: City of Nevada

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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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Tama Bridge Update

Charles Betz, Facebook April 25, 2023 Post

From today's (April 25) council meeting.

The engineers did not have any good news. The Lincoln Highway bridge is likely beyond repair. They removed 6 inches of blacktop off the bridge decking to get to the concrete bridge span. It was then they started finding trouble. The decking itself is 18 inch thick concrete and in a couple of the test sections they've dug down 12 inches and not found any good concrete. When you are 2/3rds of the way through from the top and know the bottom has deterioration as well at some point you have to accept that there is not going to be anything left of the 108-year old bridge to repair if you keep digging.

The engineers did present 3 options:

1. Continue removing bad concrete in hopes to hit enough good concrete to salvage the bridge deck.
2. Evaluate whether the old concrete deck can be replaced with a new concrete deck.
3. Replace the bridge with culverts.

Option 1 - I don't believe got any serious consideration from the Council given the engineers had stated this could potentially lead to collapse of the bridge.

Option 3 - I think is the preferred engineering option. This of course mean the railings which make up the bridge would be removed and it would lose its place on the National Register. There are some other technical challenges here too in that the proposed culverts would require expanding the width from 24ft to 30ft. The property along side the bridge is privately owned so would have to be acquired by the City to move forward with this option.

Option 2 - Seemed to be the proposal with the most support. But it too needed some additional exploration before they would know if they could move forward with this option. The Council voted to have core samples taken from the 108-year old concrete abutments the concrete decking sit on. If the abutments are in the same shape as the decking there just wouldn't be anything that could be done to save the bridge. If they are good then the next obstacle becomes exactly how much could be done to the bridge so it could be preserved and maintain its place on the National Register of Historic Places. It was noted the 108-year old concrete railings spelling out LINCOLN HIGHWAY do not meet modern safety standards for guard rails. The street leading to the bridge is wider than the bridge itself so prone to being grazed by vehicles. It's unclear at this point if the bridge could be widened and still stay on the National Register. In that this was an engineering discussion the representatives from the state historical society were not allowed to present any information for discussion on that topic. And honestly without all the details they may not have been ready to present anything.

Then comes the question of money. No one would venture a guess what this could potentially cost. I don't think any of the proposed options would be less than the original bid. There was a small portion of the funding for the current project that came from donations and a grant specifically meant to preserve the bridge for its historical value. The City might not be able to use this grant money if the structure no longer has historical value.

And though not presented at the meeting there was some private discussions on the safety aspect of having a tourist attraction in the middle of what is a truck route. Frequently there are people standing or parking in the road to get that shot of the bridge. This is probably the strongest argument for moving the bridge off the street to the nearby park. This too costs money that would likely not come out of the current project budget or any street maintenance budget but something that would need to be added to the park maintenance budget. A non-existent budget item at this point.

No easy solutions for a small town in Iowa. I have a feeling I may have driven across the historic Tama Lincoln Highway bridge for the last time.

Note: Since Charles' April 25 post there have not been bridge updates during Tama City Council Meetings.
Next Meeting scheduled for Monday, June 19.



Step Into the Sankot Garage for Treasured Bits of Lincoln Highway History

Shellie Orngard, Prairie Rivers of Iowa Special Projects Manager

To get to Sankot Motor Company, or Sankot Garage as it's known in Belle Plaine, find the Lincoln Café where the Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway crosses 8th Avenue in the middle of town. Treat yourself to the lunch special - it was fried fish the Friday when I was there - then walk east on the Byway barely half a block. The big red Case sign, the neon long gone, reaches out from the old red brick building to show you where you're going. As you get closer, you'll notice the large plate glass windows and the plaque that reads, *Sankot Motor Company has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior. Registered 1995.*

To step into Sankot Garage in Belle Plaine today is to step into the bits and fragments of small-town Lincoln Highway history. A massive safe rests alongside a beaten-up wooden table with worn, ornate hardware; racks of aging car parts line the walls up two stories. On one side of the building, a skylight allows the sun's rays to illuminate bins of car parts, hoists hanging from beams, and a partial tractor body waiting for repair.

Dust and the faint scent of oil hang in the air. Over a century old, Sankot Garage is a place where the parts and pieces of the decade intermingle.

Owner Bill Sankot greets me. Dressed from neck to ankles in overalls, he's taking a break from his current Case tractor restoration project. Bill is great-nephew of O.B., Charles, and Sid, brothers who owned the company back in the 1920s, those heady years when the country's major coast-to-coast highway ran through Belle Plaine. This was the era before interstates facilitated travel bypassing towns and their amenities. Before the interstate rest stop, roads were designed to angle through towns, where travelers could stop for gas or get a bite to eat at a local café.

If it was late in the day, they might decide to stay the night at a local campground, spend a dollar for a motel room, or splurge for a room at the Herring Hotel. The Lincoln Highway eventually brought enough travelers to keep 19 gas stations in business, according to Mitch Malcolm from the Belle Plaine Area Museum, "and they all were a going concern."

Sankot sold Chrysler cars and auto parts, and did repairs in the 1920s and 30s. In those days before paved roads, Iowa had the dubious distinction of having both dirt roads that turned into "gumbo," sucking in automobiles in inclement weather, and the resistance to modern paving methods.

Every town needed a good towing service. Sankot Garage was open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and offered all-night towing and wrecker service. A poster on the wall displays photos from Sankot history. It shows a tow truck hauling a Model T Ford and some the famous people who stopped by on their travels west from Chicago, including heavyweight boxer Kingfish Levinsky, crouching in a boxing stance for the camera.



Sankot Garage self-made wrecker made from a 1929 Cadillac chassis.

implements. Once Interstate 80 sapped clientele, things got quieter, but there is still enough business to keep Bill busy.

What's next for Sankot Garage? None of Bill's children are inclined to take over the business, but as long as Bill's there, he's minding the store ... and the history.



A Lincoln Highway Gem - The Historic Lincoln Hotel

Prairie Rivers of Iowa Staff



One of the gems of the Lincoln Highway in Iowa is the historic Lincoln Hotel in Lowden in Cedar County. Following a complete restoration, the hotel was listed on the National Register of Historic Places 1996 by Susan Licht for the owners at the time Brad and Elizabeth Norton. They started restoration work in 1992 with a historic resource grant from the government. At that time, the town saw little value in the building and considered burning it to the ground. It had sat empty since 1981.

The inside, however, has changed numerous times and was qualified for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing with HUD-style light fixtures. It was then fully occupied by tenants. Importantly, the dog legged yellow pine staircase has been preserved.

Built in anticipation of the Lincoln Highway's construction, America's first transcontinental highway, the property is associated with events that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The original construction of the hotel started in March 1915 by Cecelia Clemmens and her husband to coincide with the construction of the Lincoln Highway and was one of the first businesses in Lowden established to serve the automobile.

With the construction of the new highway, came a demand for food and lodging from automobile travelers. The hotel provided an alternative to railroad hotels, campgrounds, and motor courts. At its beginning, a stay at the Lincoln Hotel cost \$2 a night and a steak dinner was only 75 cents.

No longer \$2 a night, the hotel still offers very affordable rates for each of its four suites featuring private baths, queen size beds, and luxury linens. And as their website notes, "guests can enjoy a quiet small-town setting surrounded by beautiful farms and scenic byways." Most notably, the Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway. It's a great place to experience history while getting away from the craziness of everyday life. Don't worry though, they do have Wi-Fi if you need a "reality check" during your stay.

Another factor of the hotel's significance is the modern Prairie School architectural style, one of the only examples in Lowden. Elements which make up this style are the low-hipped roof, wide overhangs, and textured stucco with a neutral color. The building faces south with a wide front porch to cover guests from the elements.

In the 1990s, owners took the exterior down past the old stucco and rebuilt using a similar building method of pebble dash stucco. Everything on the outside is preserved close to its original state. The windows, the Tuscan-style columns on the porch, and galvanized pipe railings are all original.

More work was done in 2019 to incorporate modern amenities. "It has been fun and wonderful to restore," according to Owner-Proprietor Melissa Schliff-Hardman, "We are very proud to operate the hotel."

Today local events drive visitors according to Schliff-Hardman. "We see people come for birthdays, family reunions, and the occasional wedding," she reveals. Bicyclists feel at home too including a place for bike storage inside. Lincoln Highway enthusiasts and car clubs stay from time to time and appreciate the history. "Some visitors are train enthusiasts too and stay for the soothing night train sounds," adds Melissa.

A Preservation Iowa "Preservation at Its Best" award winner, the Lincoln Hotel is a fine example of what can be done to preserve Lincoln Highway in Iowa cultural and historic places. Visit them on the web at www.lincolnhoteliowa.com to learn more and make your reservation. You will enjoy your stay!



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**The next ILHA meeting will be
July 8, 2023 beginning at 9:30 am
at Belle Plaine Area Museum in Belle Plaine, Iowa**

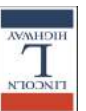
The Museum is located at 901 Main Street in Belle Plaine, Iowa. The meeting will begin at 9:30 am with lunch following at the Lincoln Cafe. Please let Mary Helen Preston know if you'll be attending lunch so we can make appropriate arrangements with the Lincoln Cafe.

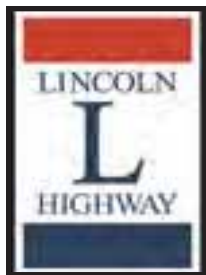
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October 14, 2023
Location: TBD

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Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Fall 2023 Newsletter | Volume 28, No. 3

President's Corner

by Mary Helen Preston

What a summer!!!! From community events to Ragbrai to bus tours there was certainly something for everyone. Now we turn the corner for fall, hoping travelers continue to travel and visit our communities in Iowa and especially along the Lincoln Highway. It is important we take every opportunity to raise awareness and educate visitors about Lincoln Highway and Iowa's rich history. We are "Iowa Nice." There's so much we should be proud of.

I am confident everyone reading this newsletter has interest in what the future holds. News within this newsletter concerns me and I hope after reading concerns you too. It's increasing apparent we are losing our history due to deterioration, lack of attention, lack of knowledge and progress. I'm not only concerned about material items (buildings, books, pictures, etc.) but also with the knowledge within some of our members. How do we combat the potential losses? How do we educate on the significance of the Lincoln Highway's importance?

Let's first talk about the material losses. There's a possibility we may lose one of the most iconic landmarks along the Lincoln Highway - the Lincoln Highway Bridge. Garry and I are personally on a labor of love journey to save Preston's. Mike Kelly is working hard to maintain Youngville. The Ausbergers continue to save important structures. These are only a few. Yes, time has taken its toll. Yes, there will continue to be success stories but how many will we lose?

Now, let's talk historical knowledge. I think we can all agree as an Association we are getting older with few younger generations interested in what we are. Again, from personal experience - I lost my dad unexpectedly in 2011 and in turn the historical knowledge of Preston's now I'm having to rely on others to help me fill in the blanks. I know there has been talk about audio recordings from those who knowledge about our history. Who do we know who can undertake this project? Are there grants available to us? This is something we need to consider before it's too late.

The Lincoln Highway was critical in building the groundwork for travel. As I've written and stated in our meetings, WE cannot let the lore of automotive travel disappear. WE are the knowledge keepers and must be committed to educating and promoting the Lincoln Highway. WE have so much to be proud of!

To those reading this newsletter - It will take ALL of us to plan, execute and sustain the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association and the historical significance of the Lincoln Highway.

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

Lincoln Highway Postcards

Kay Shelton, LHA President

September 1, 2023 Facebook Post

If anybody has an extra Lincoln Highway postcard or two, feel free to mail any postcards to the Stockton Heritage Museum in Illinois.

The museum is off the U.S. Grant Memorial Highway (Route 20 in that area of Illinois). The museum is looking to create a display of postcards in a few months and they want people to send postcards from all over.

Please send 'Greetings from the Lincoln Highway' to:

Stockton Heritage Museum
PO Box 93
Stockton, IL 61085

Redbird Express Sandra Huemann-Kelly

August 27, 2023 Facebook Post

Sad news today. We have known various hoboos over time. Redbird Express was a very special fellow. Always enjoyed seeing him at Lincoln Highway gatherings. If you look at conference group photos over the years I am usually standing next to him and his big friendly wave.



Peak Fall Foliage Viewing



From AccuWeather's 2023 Fall Foliage Forecast

After a dry, hot summer; fall is fast approaching providing a great time for a day trip along the Lincoln Highway to experience Iowa's fall beauty, festivals, vineyards, and orchards. Just really the perfect time to get out.

Due to the harsh summer we've had, AccuWeather has indicated we could be in for a dull fall since trees were under more stress this year than normal and could shed their leaves early. Let's hope not!

Other reports are indicating, by mid-October is when most counties will start seeing peak colors.



By Halloween, most of Iowa will see peak colors.

You can find an interactive map at <https://smokymountains.com/fall-foliage-map/> to plan a day trip or even a weekend excursion. So get out and explore what our great state has to offer.

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!

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"The King is deal! Long Live the King!"

Charles Betz

August 11, 2023 Facebook Post

In preparation for the King Tower's imminent demolition, King Tower's iconic Native American Head signs have been removed from the grounds. Hopefully someone has also taken care to remove the Native American murals that graced the walls of the King Tower since its glory days.

Editor's Note

During the August 21, 2023 Tama City Council meeting, attendees were informed the sign, which was been recently restored, was in a safe place.



Photos from August Facebook post. Top photo posted by Rob Smith. Bottom photo posted by Charles Betz.



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Shelby Tour Stops At Preston's



On September 9, a group of Shelby Cobra driver's touring the Lincoln Highway from Dekalb, Illinois to Medicine Bow, Wyoming stopped at Preston's Station in Belle Plaine. They were stopping at many of the Lincoln Highway attractions they could while following the Lincoln Highway. The group was made up of Shelby enthusiast and Lincoln Highway Association members from across the country. Their goals was to reach Medicine Bow by Wednesday, September 13.

One couple stated they had to read a book and watch a movie so they knew Lincoln Highway history.



Montour Gas Station Update

Joyce Ausberger reported Bob got the Phillips 66 sign up at the gas station.

Richard Dunsmore from Toledo donated the sign.

Annual Dues

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Tama Bridge's Future Remains Unclear

Council hears opinions about Lincoln Highway landmark

Jeff Morrison, Between Two Rivers

A side rail of the Lincoln Highway Bridge is faithfully replicated in wood atop a trophy case in the hallway of the Tama Civic Center.

On August 21, in that building, following an hour of public comments, the Tama City Council voted to seek \$1 million in federal funding to modify the bridge. How much of the original structure can be retained, and even its status as a vehicle or pedestrian bridge, remains unknown. Completion could take up to two years.

Other bridge-related actions taken at the meeting were to prepare for closing the present contract with Boulder Construction, including the issue of detour signs, and to continue the current contract with Snyder & Associates to determine the next steps.

Use of federal money requires satisfying Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966, proving “that there are no feasible and prudent alternatives to the use of certain historic bridge structures to be replaced or rehabilitated with federal funds and that the projects include all possible planning to minimize harm resulting from such use.”

The Lincoln Highway, the nation’s first transcontinental highway, runs from New York City to San Francisco. The Tama bridge, built in 1915, is the only one of its kind in the country. A rehabilitation project, nearly a decade in the making, stalled soon after work began this spring as the condition of the concrete deck was found to be worse than expected.



North side of the Lincoln Highway Bridge on August 21, 2023
Photo by Mary Helen Preston

Those in attendance wanted the bridge on Fifth Street to be saved, but the differing goals of historic preservationists and present-day businesses were on full display in the public comment session.

Shellie Orngard, project manager with Prairie Rivers of Iowa, explained \$92,000 from various sources had been raised in the 2010s for the “express purpose of rehabilitating the bridge and repairing it,” and “not for creating a truck route or replacement bridge.” If not used for rehabilitation, the money should be returned to the donors, she said.

Orngard suggested a “bold proposal” of creating a new truck route, with a new bridge in a new location, and using the previously dedicated money to restore the old bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists. Other commenters favored that idea. David Kingsley, a grandson of the bridge builder, came to the meeting from his vacation in Minnesota. He said he had met many people who had seen the bridge, and hoped the community “will treasure your treasure.”

Joan Hayward Helm, president of the Tama County Historical Society, said many people had stopped at the Tama County Museum while visiting the bridge. “I think there’s a lot of people here who are willing to live with some discomfort for a while knowing that the end result is something all of us can be proud of.”

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association President Mary Helen Preston also spoke. She is the granddaughter of George Preston, whose gas station in Belle Plaine is also a Lincoln Highway landmark. The bridge is one of the most photographed places on the Lincoln Highway, she said. “It’s something we need to save.”

Randy Zimmerman of Z-Line Trucking on the east side of Tama said he “almost agreed” with a proposal for a second bridge, but said a truck route is needed sooner rather than later. There is no good way to get from that part of town to the other while the bridge is closed, he said, and “something needs to be done.” Zimmerman pointed out that a 24-month period until a connection was restored would span three harvest seasons.

Farmer Ken Bidwell urged an “immediate bypass” of the area. Jason Lakin of Tama Livestock Auction told the council, “I know it’s not your fault the bridge is bad,” but the city needs to move forward in a timely fashion. Nearly half of the auction company’s business comes from south of Tama, he said, and the closed bridge is an obstacle to livestock owners who are trying to get there. Lonnie Upah couldn’t understand why people were still talking about what to do with the bridge after Tama spent millions of dollars to repair and upgrade Fifth Street. He said he didn’t know the right answer to satisfy everyone, “but we have to have that road.” “I don’t know how we can’t crane” the bridge out, he said.

That method could result in severe damage if not instant disintegration.

The option of replacing the deck alone depends on the condition of concrete in the abutments. Tama resident Charlie Betz asked Kelli Scott of Snyder & Associates if that remained an option. Scott said it’s possible the abutments could be reused, but the concern is getting in there and finding more bad concrete.

Replacing the deck would take 12 to 18 months to complete, and even then, it would be a 20-year fix at most. A full modification/rebuild of the bridge would take up to two years. If the rails become part of the new bridge — and there’s no guarantee the entirety of both rails would be usable — a modern guardrail would be needed in front of them.

Building a new road to connect Fifth Street to Business U.S. 30, bypassing the bridge, would require acquisition and demolition of a mobile home park — or a completely different route — before construction could begin. The bridge deck would still need rebuilding before pedestrians could use it.

The bridge appears prominently in marketing for the Tama-Toledo area, including in large welcome signs along U.S. 30, a mural at the Toledo Hardee's and the logo as an overnight stop for RAGBRAI in July.



The council have their work cut out for them. Allan Richards, the Tama County consul (a sort of ambassador) for the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association, said during the comment session that if the council decided to move the bridge, "we [should] just as well put up a tombstone and each of you can put your names on that tombstone as making it happen."

The south side of the Lincoln Highway bridge in Tama, Iowa, is shown July 15, 2023. The "AY" at the west end already was slated for repairs, but the area received further damage in the winter of 2022-23. Photo by author.

This article was originally published in the Between Two Rivers newsletter on Substack, betweentworivers.substack.com.

Fall/Winter Iowa Travel Guides Available

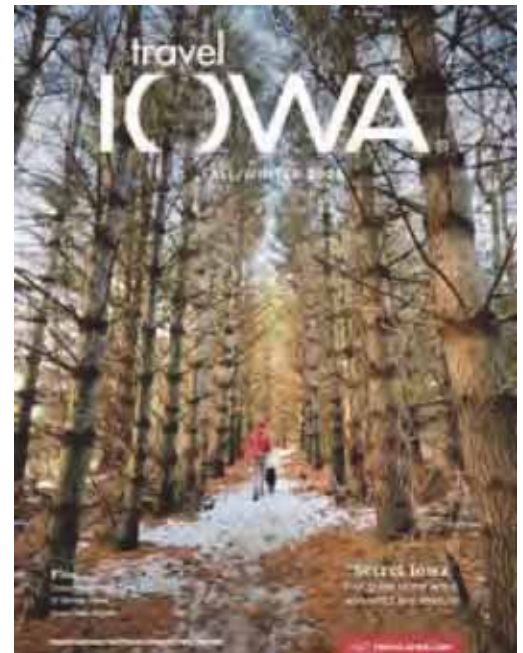
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As you travel along the Lincoln Highway be sure to stop in Grand Junction to visit the Museum, Lincoln Highway Garden and the Green Gable Cabin.

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Celebrating 100 Years of the Reed/Niland Corner

Jeanie Hau, Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway Coordinator

100 Years of the Reed-Niland Corner

The Reed/Niland Corner sits at the crossroads of the Lincoln Highway (the West-East motor route officially announced in 1913), and the Jefferson Highway (the North-South motor route officially announced in 1915) meet, join, and eventually separate in the center of the United States.

To celebrate the 100 years of the Reed-Niland Corner, the Colo Historical Association hosted an open house at the Reed Station Museum in June. Visitors ranged from local citizens to a caravan of motorcyclists who took cover under Charlie's awning and visited with the historians. Additionally, Kelsey Reed, who manages Niland's Café and the Colo Motel also held a celebration on August 5.

The Beginning

In 1923, a soft-spoken, kind-hearted, generous man, Charlie Reed needed to supplement his small farming income to support the farm and his mother, whom he cared for until she passed away at 95. He saw an opportunity where the Lincoln and the Jefferson Highways meet, which happened to be at the SE Charlie started selling gas to travelers and set up a small gas station on his property.



Early days of Reed's Standard Service Station - Colo Historical Association Photo

He called his station the Lincoln-Jefferson Station (the L&J for short). It was not long before Charlie allowed travelers to camp on his land and to make them more comfortable, he added several "cubby hole" tourist cabins. To feed all of the travelers, Charlie soon started to sell sandwiches and cool beverages next to the small station. There is little chance that Charlie knew at the time he had just started what was to become known as the traveler's "one stop." The corner may hold the claim that it was the first one-stop on the Lincoln Highway in Iowa, and it quickly became one of the first that was open 24 hours as well.

The Gas Station

The L&J Station relocated to the west side of the one-stop in 1930 (the original location was east of the current motel). Charlie renamed the station Reed's Standard Red Crown Service Station. The architect of the station is unknown but the design shows design details of the Arts & Crafts movement of the early twentieth century with its awning and pillars.

Charlie's gas station sold gas, oil, tires, batteries, cigarettes and cigars, soda pop, and candy and until 1940, the station offered oil change and tire repair services.

Charlie Reed could be seen at the station most days until he passed away on June 26, 1967, at the age of 91. The Station closed and has not been open on a regular basis since then.



The Café

In 1926, Charlie decided to build a building for his lunch sandwiches and located it across from the L & J Station on the south side of the Lincoln-Jefferson Highway and fittingly called it, the L & J Café. Charlie's nephew, C. Reed Niland helped Charlie run the station and C. Reed's wife, Florence, ran the café. In 1930, when Charlie moved the Standard station to the west, he relocated the café to the north side of the road at the present-day location, and he enlarged the kitchen and seating areas. The café was renamed Niland's Café. In 1932, C. Reed Niland passed away unexpectedly so another one of Charlie's nephews, Claire Niland, helped at the station and Clare's wife, Margaret, ran the café. Later, the

husband/wife team took over the café. In 1952, Herb Owens reported the couple still ran the café and described there was, "a counter, booths, and a 100-selection jukebox; seven people were employed, and an extra girl worked in the summer." The café was run by the Nilands until their son John took over and decided to close the café in 1995.

The Corner

In 1930, when the Jefferson Highway (US 65) was paved from the corner to the north, a sweeping curve was built on the north side, or backside, of the building. This curve created a triangle form of roadways around the buildings. The corner or, "the operations on the triangle," as Owens called it, had become known as the Reed-Niland Corner. Three generations of the two related Colo families had served auto travelers for more than seventy years because a small, quiet man needed to supplement his income and in doing so had discovered that he enjoyed the interaction and service to others



Keeping the Historic Corner Historic

In 1995, the Reed/Niland Corner became the property of the City of Colo. The Colo Development Group was formed and appointed to plan a renovation to preserve the history of the corner and plan for the operation of the café and motel. A Des Moines architectural firm was hired. It was decided the station, the café, and the motel would be restored to a 1940s-1950s design. A pedestrian walk was added to the corner with several interpretive signs to tell the Reed/Niland story.

Reed's Standard Service Station and Niland's Café were renovated in 2003, and the motel finished renovations by 2008. You cannot get gas at Reed's but it is now a museum outfitted with vintage Red Crown gas pumps, the original cash register, and other small items left from the working station. Signs for the bus station and the historic Lincoln and Jefferson Highways can be found inside. The station museum was only open to visitors by request or during special events until recently. Several bus tours and many visitors from nearby and abroad have stopped by the restaurant and received a special tour of the Station.

The Future

Early in 2022, the Reed Station was opened to visitors by the Colo Historical Association as their local history museum. The Association's main focus is displaying the history in and throughout Colo. The Association states, *"With the Reed-Niland Corner being a complete one-stop complex left in the Nation along the Lincoln Highway, the museum has been pleasingly overwhelmed with the number of visitors and their wonderful comments and support for having the Station opened to view, not only for the station history and artifacts but those of the Lincoln and Jefferson Highways, Niland Café & Colo Motel, the nearby railroad and our vast local Colo history!"*

Kelsey Reed, current manager, said travelers can expect a traditional homemade dining experience that includes homemade pies and hot beef sandwiches. Reed would also like everyone to know, *"I have had great support from the community and welcome any and all ideas to continue to make the business successful."*

The motel's six rooms rent out per night, week, or month. Reed says she is almost completely booked out until winter with many of her customers being construction workers, migrant workers, and travelling nurses. Additionally, the City of Colo manages four apartments on the corner. Motel rooms can be reserved in advance by calling 641-377-3662

The Colo History Museum/Reed Station is open the last Saturday and Sunday of every month from 10-2 and for special events. Café hours May 1 - Oct 31: Tues-Fri 11-8, Sat 8-8, Sunday 8-2, Nov-April closes, at 7 p.m.

Thank you to the Colo Historical Association for the history and to Herb Owens, for the January 25, 1952, Des Moines Tribune article.

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

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**The next ILHA meeting will be
October 14, 2023 beginning at 9:30 am
at Main Street Guest House in Arcadia, Iowa**

The Guest House is located at 114 Main Street in Arcadia. Driving directions are simple: Drive to Arcadia from Highway 30; the Guest House is on Main Street just off the center of town. Coffee and pastries will be served starting at 9:00 am. A light lunch consisting of make your own sandwiches, fruits and veggies will be offered at noon. **We will need a headcount by September 29 if you will be staying for lunch.** Please let Mary Helen Preston or Barbara Hackfort know if you'll be staying for lunch. Don't forget to stop at the M&M Divide to see all of the improvements.

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

January 13, 2024

Location: ZOOM

April 13, 2024

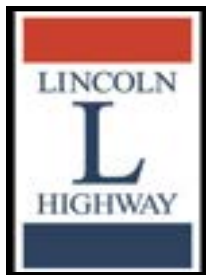
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Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Winter 2023 Newsletter | Volume 28, No. 4

President's Corner

by Mary Helen Preston

It is Christmas Eve Eve as I am finally able to sit down to write. Composing this on Christmas Eve Eve brings a perfect time to reflect on 2023. It's been a significant year for so many of us - both personally and as an Association.

2023 was a great year as we were able to introduce many to the Lincoln Highway especially with Ragbrai riding through so many of our towns; along with the resurgence of car and bus tours, and individual travelers. It's always a good when we are able to share our histories and let visitors take a step back in time to when we weren't so focused on the fastest way to get from Point A to B.

As we all are aware, the Lincoln Highway played such critical part to across country travel developing and becoming what we know it to be now. We have been and continue to be in the cross-hairs of struggling how to save what began 110 years ago. Each of us would not be involved in the Lincoln Highway Association if we weren't concerned about what the future holds. We lost the Herring Hotel in Belle Plaine in November. I'm uncertain on the current status of the Lincoln Highway Bridge in Tama and the cabin from the King Tower. Yes, there's the Ausbergers, Mike Kelly, Garry and I, and others working diligently to save what we can physically before deterioration, lack of attention and progress swallows up important iconic landmarks. The question posed in last newsletter and again here - How do we combat potential losses? How do we educate on the significance of the Lincoln Highway's importance?

I know I sound like a broken record but, WE cannot let the lore of automotive travel disappear. WE are the knowledge keepers and must be committed to educating and promoting the Lincoln Highway. **WE have so much to be proud of!**

To those reading this newsletter - It will take ALL of us to plan, execute and sustain the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association and the historical significance of the Lincoln Highway.

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

Wishing you health and happiness in 2024.

Preston's received a \$10,000 grant from MidwestOne Foundation to assist with restoration in November.



Lincoln Highway Poem

Amelia Kibbie

It's hard to imagine now
as our modern mobiles whisper past
that along this road
horses and herds of cattle passed
and the air was splattered
with the jangled rattle of Model A's and T's
the clattered patter of Tin Lizzies.

New York, New York
1914 Times Square
This city, our homegrown gotham
the gateway to America
and the road started there or ended - beginnings and endings
are muddled, as is our mixed memory
and truth-stained history.

Named for Lincoln
who put pen to paper and called for freedom
freedom, the siren song of the automobile
"Life is a Highway"
"Every Day is a Winding Road"
"Bacon and eggs to fix..."
Never mind that the children of those he freed
had to use the Green Book to
keep them safe as they traversed this path
and many others.
Was that freedom?

Nostalgia is not memory
but from sea to shining sea,
follow the hood ornament
until you've reached the terminus
the Golden Gate, so named
by a pathfinder-colonizer
All that's left is the open ocean.

Think of this place
where we stand
as a bead strung on a necklace
that adorns the decolletage of our country
some jewels bigger or more intricate than others
but hanging on the same chain
and just as precious.

Traveled to this day,
the roads were the pride of ancient Rome
a piece of
history, yes
but to us
this road
leads home.



Preserve Iowa Summit

If you have a historic property or are interested in preservation, the Preserve Iowa Summit is a must.

The Iowa Economic Development Authority/State Historic Preservation Office, the Mount Pleasant Historic Preservation Commission, and the City of Mount Pleasant will present the annual Preserve Iowa Summit June 6-8, 2024, in Mount Pleasant.

The summit is the state's premier conference for professionals and volunteers involved in historic preservation in Iowa. The 2024 conference will highlight Mount Pleasant's historic preservation successes.

General sessions, concurrent breakout sessions, and hands-on educational training will occur throughout the two-and-a-half-day conference - as well as mobile workshops, networking opportunities and an exhibit hall.

Here's the link to learn more and stay up to date: <https://culture.iowaeda.com/preserve-iowa-summit/>



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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Pottawattamie

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Stay in the Know!

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



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Benton County Preservation Commission "Spotlight on Preservation" - Youngville Cafe *Mike Kelly, Benton County Consul*

The Benton County Preservation Commission (BCPC) holds an annual service event. On Sunday, October 22, 2023 volunteers from the preservation board and Youngville Cafe hosted a "Spotlight on Preservation" luncheon and tour at the Benton County site. The event provided an opportunity to showcase this year's renovation project including progress on repairs and the application of a fresh coat of red paint on exterior trim and completing restoration of the original oil room door.

A number of first-time visitors (including some from the local area who were waiting for a weekend event to stop by), along with regular guests enjoyed a typical Youngville experience: vintage cars parked in front, root beer floats and a piece of the famous and delicious pie for dessert. The regular season ended earlier so local pitmaster, Logan Merchant, fed the crowd hot sandwiches and sides from his "Beast and Bird" food truck.

The Vinton Eagle, a Benton County newspaper, ran a front page article on the event and is planning future coverage of progress and happenings at Youngville. The headline "Roadside Trip Down Memory Lane" encapsulated the Youngville experience and was a fitting end to the extended season.



Penny Brown Huber, Prairie Rivers of Iowa Executive Director Steps Down *Mike Kellner, Prairie Rivers of Iowa PR and Marketing Coordinator*



Prairie Rivers of Iowa Executive Director Penny Brown Huber stepped down from her position December 15.

Penny established a culture of teamwork, insight, and encouragement for over a decade. "Her leadership as our executive director has helped create a uniquely talented staff who are working together in our important conservation work," boasts board chair Reed Riskedahl.

The announcement was met with a sense of loss among staff, the board of directors, our partners, and many of those we serve as an organization, but we are grateful for her leadership and wish her the best in her new endeavors. We have all benefited from her encouragement, guidance, and compassion.

Thank you, Penny, for the thirteen incredible years of dedicated service to Prairie Rivers of Iowa and the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association.

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

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Cedar County Historical Museum Celebrates Lincoln Highway 110th Anniversary

Joe Goodlove, Cedar County Consul

On October 29, 2023, the Cedar County Historical Museum in Tipton, Iowa celebrated the 110th anniversary of the Lincoln Highway Association with guest speakers, discussions and refreshments. Patricia Barglof, membership chair and newsletter editor of the Museum introduced the speakers and the discussion items.

Speakers/panel members included: Joe Goodlove, Cedar County Consul, Iowa Lincoln Highway Association; Merlin Hulse, retired farmer and former Senator in the Iowa Legislature; Keith Whitlatch, retired Cedar County Sheriff and former president of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association; Dick Woods, descendent and family historian of the Page Hotel in Stanwood, IA.

Joe Goodlove presented how it all started. From the words of Carl Fisher, President of Presto-O-Lite in 1912, "Lets build a road across the country before we're too old to enjoy it", soon called "The Lincoln Highway" the road was built. The Lincoln Highway Association was formed in 1913 and in 1927, feeling that it had accomplished its purpose, was dissolved. In 1992 the modern Lincoln Highway Association was formed to preserve and promote the Lincoln Highway.

A summary of the Lincoln Hotel in Lowden, IA was also presented. In 1915 seeing that "this new Lincoln Highway" was to be built into downtown Lowden, Cecellia Clemmons saw a need for accommodations for travelers. She and her husband bought the empty corner lot and construction began. There were twelve rooms upstairs (\$2/night), the owners lived downstairs where meals were served (steak for .75 cents). It was reported the Lincoln had the best food in town. It was sold in 1927 and went through many owners and functions until about 1981. It was closed for good. Over the next 10 years the city wanted to burn it down but was saved in 1992 and purchased by Liz and Brad Norton. They did a complete renovation and reopened for business shortly after. New owners in 2019 also did some rebuilding. Today The Lincoln Hotel still stands proudly after almost 110 years serving travelers on the Lincoln Highway.

Merlin Hulse was born in 1923 (100 years young this past fall) on a farm along the Lincoln Highway between Clarence and Lowden. He told numerous stories of growing up next to this new road and of stories his father told during its construction. One his father experienced was that sometimes a mule or horse being used in construction died in its harness. At times, they just covered it with fill dirt but once in a while they would drag it up to the family farm and feed it to the hogs. Not something done today but life was a little different then.

Keith Whitlatch long time Cedar County resident and sheriff told about the Lincoln Highway routing through the towns and county both existing and gone. Also why some roads didn't follow a route that looks preferable - for example, some farmers did not want to give up any of their land for a road so it was routed on a county section line. He also told about a few of the historic buildings such as gas stations still in existence.



Dick Woods, family historian reported about his affiliation to the Page Hotel in Stanwood still in use although now as apartments. The Page still belongs to the family. He showed numerous pictures of the hotel along with his ancestors. He also told of the affiliation with Alice Ramsey, first women in 1909 to drive across the country and her drive and overnight stay in Cedar County.

Lincoln Highway in Cedar County, Iowa
circa 1917

Montour Phillips 66 Station

Bob Ausberger

Bob Ausberger led a group of individuals, that included Skip Ridout, Ron Green and Allen Richards, who worked on preparing the Red Adair Phillips 66 Station in Montour for Montour's Sesquicentennial in September. Richards Dunsmore donated a Phillips 66 sign which was moved from his home west of Toledo and mounted on a concrete base.

With the help of a group of volunteers from Montour, they cleaned up the site and tore down the destroyed lean-to. They continued to clean out the dirt and rotten boards along with a opossum and wild cat from the basement.



The group removed the lower steel panels while bracing and shoring up for preparation to raise the building. The building was raised about 4 inches, to allow for new steel plates and floor joints to be installed.

After the building was lowered back down, new subfloor was laid. A portion of the rotten south wall was removed and replaced. The exposed building was wrapped and prepared for winter. Additional work will take place in the spring.

Bob Ausberger testing out the new subfloor.



Mark your calendars for what is shaping up to be a remarkable event in Elkhart June 24-28, 2024. Check out <https://www.visitelkhartcounty/lincoln-highway-association-conference> to see events and sites as well as up-to-date planned activities for the Conference.

Hope you can come for some or all! - Jeff Blair, President

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Hotel Checks Out After More Than 120 Years

Taken in part from article by Winona Whitaker, Hometown Current

Belle Plaine City Council voted in September to demolish the old Herring Hotel.

The city removed significant architectural items before the demolition.

The building is vacant and it not to code, said Beck, so the City of Belle Plaine took possession of it as an abandoned property. Beck said he doesn't know what the city will do with the property. The lot is very small, he said.

The Herring Hotel was privately owned and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in late 2008, admitted as an example of late 19th and early 20th century American craftsman.



The hotel was built in 1900, a two-story building with a full attic and basement with a stone foundation, according to the National Register form prepared by Architectural Historian Leah Rogers and research assistant Hesper Meidlinger. It was designed by Cedar Rapids architect Charles A. Dieman who was also responsible for the 1922 remodel. James Park of Belle Plaine was the general contractor. Various remodeling projects enlarged the building vertically and horizontally from its initially L-shaped footprint.

The hotel fronted Eighth Avenue when built, with the main entrance moving to 13th Street frontage during a 1922 remodel. The change may have been prompted by the shift the year before in the route of the Lincoln Highway, continuing due west along 13th Street instead of turning north on Eighth Avenue.



The hotel's heyday was the early 20th Century when the Lincoln Highway followed 13th Street and turned north on Eighth Avenue. The hotel was near the railroad, only two blocks from the main passenger depot.

Owner William P. Herring ran a small auto bus from the hotel to the depot. In 1919 the hotel added a service station on 13th Street to accommodate automobile traffic.

The hotel served as the headquarters of the Lincoln Highway Glad Hand Club and was the official hotel for the American Motor League. Herring's son and business partner, James, served as the local Lincoln Highway consul.

The first remodel was prompted by a fire that destroyed the attic and roof in

February 1914. A third story was added, creating additional hotel rooms. Some of the rooms were rearranged to create private baths and a large soft-water reservoir added.

The main interior staircase was moved from the west side of the lobby to the southwest corner.

In 1919 the hotel was remodeled again. The project enlarged the steam-heated garage, created a billiards room, a new boiler room and a gasoline station in the rear of the building.

In later years the garage housed auto sales businesses, including the Essex sale room operated by Edward Herring.

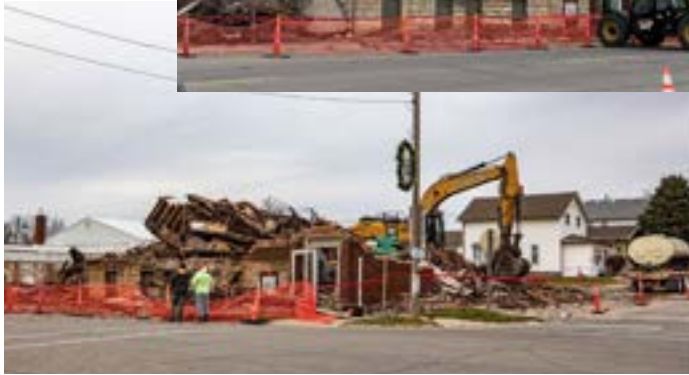
By the late 1940s, the hotel was rundown. In the mid-1950s, the entire exterior of the hotel was faced with a faux brick which was still largely in place when the hotel was placed on the National Register.



In the 1970s the building was The Graham House. Residents could rent overnight or long-term. Some of the rooms were combined to create larger living spaces.

In the late 20th century, the hotel served as a station for the Greyhound bus line. A laundromat in the basement served tenants and the general public and continued to operate after the Belle Plaine Historical Society acquired the building.

Photos from Belle Plaine Historical Society / Museum



Photos from
Facebook and
Tina Lynn

The James H. Andrew Railroad Museum and History Center
at the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad

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**The next ILHA meeting will be via ZOOM
January 13, 2024 beginning at 9:30 am**

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

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

April 13, 2024

Location: TBD

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