

Along the Lincoln Highway

The Newsletter of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Volume 11, Number 2

Summer 2006

National Conference In Cedar Rapids Is Big Success and Record Breaker

By Jeff LaFollette

The 14th Annual National Lincoln Highway Conference in Cedar Rapids was a big success and also was the highest attended conference ever. 181 attendees enjoyed the conference activities which was conducted from June 13-17, 2006. The theme of this year's conference was "Out of the Mud!" Coe College was the site of many of the activities. A pig roast kicked off the festivities on Tuesday evening. Bus tours heading east to Clinton and west to Colo left Coe bright and early on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. It was a little rainy in the morning on both days but the rain held off for the most part. Seminars by such Lincoln Highway experts as Drake Hokanson, Gregory Franzwa, Lyell Henry and others were held during the day on Friday and on Friday evening the conference was culminated by the Awards dinner. National Association President Bob Lichty presided over the awards ceremony, and praised the Iowa Association members on the wonderful job of putting the conference together. The conference was well represented by many of the 50 states and one member who came from Luxembourg. All in all the attendees enjoyed their Iowa experience. The bus tours included stops to the

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west at Youngville, Belle Plaine and



George Preston's station, the famed Lincoln Highway Bridge in Tama. The Tremont on Main in Marshalltown for lunch and then on to Reed/Niland Corners in Colo before returning to Cedar Rapids. East tour stops included the Seedling Mile in Linn County, Mount

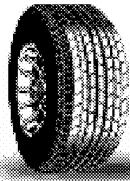


Vernon's Union Pacific Railroad Bridge and original brick section, Lowden's Lincoln Hotel, the pony truss bridge between Calamus and Wheatland. Rastrelli's in Clinton for lunch. Then to the site of the Lyons-Fulton bridge, and the Smith Brothers Hardware Store in Clinton. After a general membership meeting on Saturday morning, we all said our good-byes and then we will begin to make plans to attend the 2007 conference in Fort Morgan, CO. We'll keep you updated on the conference plans for 2007 in upcoming issues. **L**



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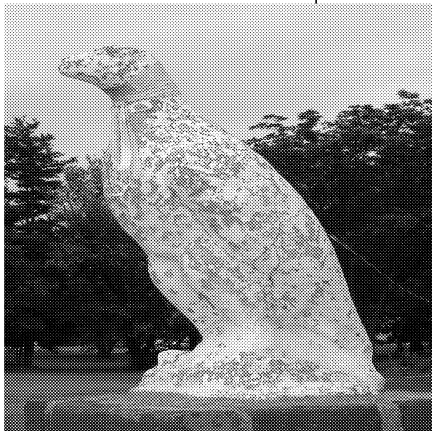
Have Spare Tire, Will Travel

By Van & Bev Becker

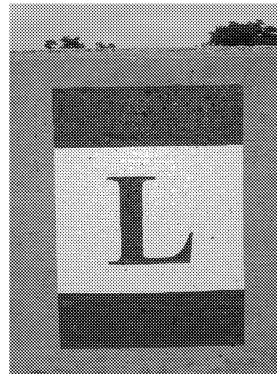
Those at the LH "See Der Rabbits" conference and on the tour buses might have missed a few subtle attractions. These small features are so important I think they are worth repeating. It may be the little things that make our conference memorable

On both the east and west bus tours, the eagle-eyed guest (pun intended) may have spotted two concrete white eagles. Seen on the east tour there are two eagles flanking a private drive just east of Highway 13 on Mt. Vernon Road. Going west on Johnson Avenue, there is one white eagle near the site of the old Log Cabin Tourist Court/Twin Towers Restaurant and there is one on Highway 30 west of Cedar Rapids on the lawn of Hope's Bridal Barn near the intersection with state Highway 201. These eagles were the symbol of the now-defunct 1920's White Eagle Oil Company that had gas-oil stations throughout the Midwest and a large storage facility in Des Moines. The oil company was named for the chief of the Ponca Indian tribe. The company operated 200 gas and oil wells in 1917 and pumped 7,000 barrels of oil in 1924. In 1930, the White Eagle Oil Company was acquired by Standard Oil of New York and later by the Mobil Oil Corporation. The old white eagles so proudly displayed today were originally symbols of the early oil company.

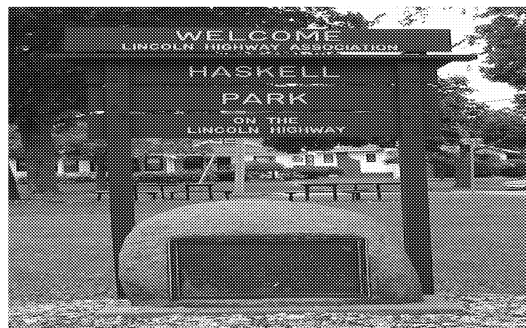
On the east tour, a creek that winds its way from approximately ½ mile west to 1 mile to the east flanks the beloved Iowa Seedling Mile. The bridges over this stream are modern concrete structures. The Linn County Engineer



directed his crew, in preparation for our conference, to sand blast a Lincoln Highway emblem into the sides of both bridges and then had them painted in relief a total of four red, white and blue Lincoln Highway emblems. A thoughtful and appreciated gesture on behalf of the host county here in Iowa.



The City of Cedar Rapids helped in many subtle ways. The west bus tours passed a small unassuming city park near the east end of Johnson Avenue called Haskell Park. There is a large boulder with a bronze plaque outlining Mr. Haskell's accomplish-



ments in Cedar Rapids and in the state house in Des Moines. For us the most significant, he was a strong and forceful "good roads" and Lincoln Highway booster. He realized the economic benefit of the growing transportation routes for cars and trucks and did his best to

(Have Spare Tire continued on page 5)

Ramblings Along the Lincoln Highway.

*Minutes of the Spring 2006 Iowa LHA Meeting
Sutliff General Store & Tavern*

Sutliff, Iowa.

8 April 2005.

Submitted by Jeff Benson, Acting Secretary.

Minutes of the Winter 2006 Board Meeting held January 14, 2006 were approved as published in the Spring 2006 issue of *Along the Lincoln Highway*.

Treasurer's Report Joyce Ausberger reported a checking account balance of \$2296.39 and an investment account balance of \$4913.68.

Membership Report Cecil Stewart reported good response to membership renewal reminders for "Iowa only" members.

State Director's Report Jeff LaFollette reported that he is currently working with Jess Petersen, national LH treasurer on specific items to be paid during the national conference, along with his other conference duties.. Jeff also passed around copies of LH newsletters he received from the other LH states.

Business Items

1. **Jeff Benson** presented a letter from the Scenic Byway Coordinator of the Iowa Department of Transportation informing the LHA that the Iowa Scenic Byway Advisory Council has designated the Lincoln Highway across Iowa as a Heritage Byway. Jeff thanked the County Consuls for their work 18 months ago in securing letters of support for over 50 towns and counties along the route. Jeff will work with the Consuls and the Iowa DOT to finalize the route, after which the Iowa DOT will send the affected counties and cities agreements for placing state scenic byway signs. The help of the County Consuls will also be valuable in getting all of these agreements approved. Jeff pointed out that this will mean the uniform marking of the Lincoln Highway across Iowa and the inclusion of the Lincoln in the state's publicity about its byways. It is also a necessary step in getting National Scenic Byway designation.

2. **Van Becker** discussed Greg Franzwa's plans to tour in support of his new book "Alice's Ride" about the first woman to drive

across the country. He will be giving a slide lecture in various towns in Iowa leading up to the national conference.

3. **Van Becker** lead an extensive review of arrangements for the Iowa LHA's hosting of the National LHA conference. Arrangements are well in hand for the various tours and events, but many details were discussed and assigned to attend to. The decision was made to set the price of the afghan at \$40 with a conference special price of \$35. The cost is \$25.

4. **Joyce Ausberger** reported on nominations for offices that will be open in October. Kathy Dirks has agreed to be nominated for Vice President/President Elect and Jeff Benson has agreed to be nominated for Secretary. Nominations are still needed for a President to take office after the October meeting, since the President-Elect was elected as State Director and also serves as newsletter editor and Clinton County Consul.

County Consul Reports

Clinton US 30 bridge in Clinton will be closed for repairs until November. Former County Consul Elmer Ketelson is at Wheatland Manor recovering from a hip injury. The ILHA has been invited to be

involved in the Wheatland Sesquicentennial on or about August 8, 2008 and County Consul Jeff LaFollette will represent ILHA.

Cedar *Quad City Times* covered the impending demolition of the Lowden Hotel in Stanwood (not to be confused with the Lincoln Hotel in Lowden!).

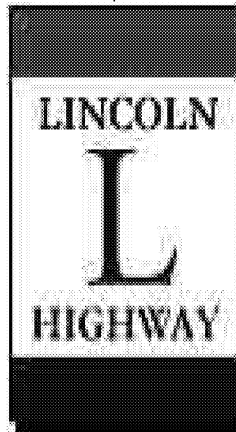
Linn The big news from Linn County is of course the arrangement for the National LHA conference coming in two short months.

Benton Youngville Station is making preparations for their stop on the tour of the National LHA. Discussion going on about if and how U.S. 30 west of Youngville Station will be rebuilt. Poles in Benton County have been repainted with the Lincoln Highway directions.

Tama No report at this time. The Lincoln Highway Bridge Festival is in May.

Marshall An email was received discussing the opportunity to have a tour of historic barns on the Lincoln Highway.

Story A State Transportation Enhancement grant has been received to restore six rooms of the motel portion at the Reed/Niland One-Stop at Colo. Nevada Historical Society has received



(Ramblings, Continued on page 4)

(Ramblings, Continued from page 3)

a grant from the Historical Society of Iowa to research and document Lincoln Highway resources in Nevada.

Boone John Fitzsimmons has made three historic presentations.

Greene Dedicated volunteers continue to staff the Club House museum in Jefferson. There will be a preview of the movie "The Unspoken" with filming at the Star Motel in Scranton a few years ago.

No report from **Carroll** or **Crawford** Counties.

Harrison Planning is underway for an \$811,000 project at the Iowa Welcome Center east of Missouri Valley, which includes the Lincoln Highway interpretive site welcoming visitors from the west to the LH in Iowa. This project, part of which is funded by \$366,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant, will also emphasize an abandoned grade section at the site.

Pottawattamie No report
The group had lunch at the historic Sutliff Tavern and a tour of various sites in the area. **L**

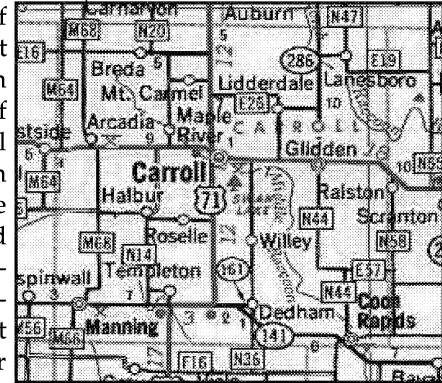
Welcome New Iowa LHA County Consuls

Recently, the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association has been in search of County Consuls for Carroll County due to the passing of Norma Berns and in Boone County because of a vacancy by John Fitzsimmons. Well, with the help of Bob & Joyce Ausberger and Joe Moore, these positions have been filled. I'd like to introduce you to two of the newest members of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Board of Directors, Peter Youngren of Carroll County and Ed Mondt, of Boone County.

PETER YOUNGREN

Greetings Lincoln Highway Members, My name is Peter R. Youngren and I would like to introduce myself as a candidate for your Carroll County Consul. I do realize that I have some very large shoes to fill in accepting this position. How would you even begin to fill a legend's shoes? It is because of Norma Berns and Su Aros that I humbly request to be your next Carroll County Consul. I'm a transplant to Iowa & Carroll County, from Minneapolis, Minnesota. I moved to Carroll eight years ago with my wife Renee (Moeller) and our five beautiful children Cristina (24) Jacob (17)

Kali (15) Abbey (8) & Grace (5). I've have lived in various states throughout the United States in my younger years, it is with pride that I now call Carroll, IA my home. I've always loved the history of certain things that make America what it is today. I'm no history buff, nor a writer, I just know that certain pieces of our great American history make me want to know more. I believe that the Lincoln Highway fits that bill and with the help of the Lincoln Highway members that will happen. I had no idea that the Lincoln Highway was just outside my door here at the newspaper, it wasn't until I heard Norma talk about the treasure right outside that I realized Highway 30 was actually The Lincoln Highway. I first met Norma at the Carroll Today Newspaper when I was the Editor in Chief, she was so excited about the Lincoln Highway and I had no idea what she was talking about but through Norma and Su, now I know. I attempted to get as much coverage for the Lincoln Highway Association as I could printed in to the newspaper and with The help of Norma I did just that. So it is with the utmost humility that I wish to serve as the next Carroll county consul, knowing full well that there is not a very long line in front or in back of me wanting this position, but someday there will be.

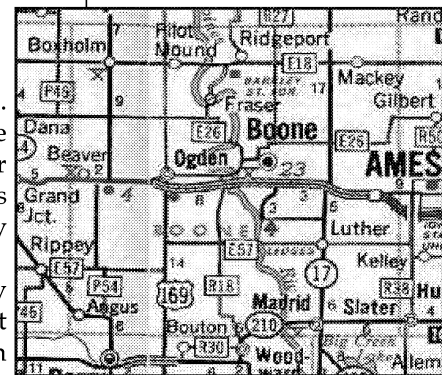


ED MONDT

I was born and raised in Boone, Iowa. My father's parents lived right off the original Lincoln highway on the river across from Nic-O-Let Park, so we always heard the stories about how the highway moved through the valley.

In 1946, my father leased the Crary Coffee Shop, located in the Crary Hotel at the corner of 7th and Story. This was on the original Lincoln Highway route. In 1951 he leased the hotel, and operated it as the Mondt Hotel, until it was destroyed by fire in 1964. He then built a new restaurant one block south, and still on the original LH route. I have lived and worked on the original Lincoln highway route for 55 years, so the Lincoln Highway has been a big part of my life. A project that I'm working on is putting together a history of the Lincoln highway and US 30 through Boone County.

Congratulations to Peter and Ed and welcome aboard as our newest county consuls.



The President's Corner

By Van Becker,
Acting ILHA President

WE DID IT! WE PULLED IT OFF! IT'S OVER! IT'S IN THE RECORD BOOK!

The 14th annual Lincoln Highway National Conference is now history. A good time was had by all! We had a record-breaking 181 registered attendees (unofficial total) on the Coe College campus in Cedar Rapids. We achieved our two main goals! We raised the academic level with a lineup of very special presenters: authors, professors and experts. We also made the total experience more economical for our guests by offering \$18 dorm rooms, all meals (except Thursday evening) and bus driver tips included in the already low cost.

The initial review by National Treasurer, Jess Petersen, indicates that we kept the conference in the black. We actually came in under budget!

Reviews and raves from guests from coast to coast say we are not just corny in Iowa, but we put on **one heck of a conference!**

A big thanks to all who helped in roles big and small!

Now—start making plans to join Bev and me in Fort Morgan, Colorado next year. Mid-June 2007 is already on our calendar! Please put it on yours.

Thanks again for all the help! **L**

Van



Even the 10,000,000th Ford came to
"See Der Rabbits"

The Tangled Web We Weave

By Sandii Huemann-Kelly

The Iowa Lincoln Highway Website is gradually evolving as some of you may have noticed. The National Conference was the perfect opportunity to showcase our uniquely Iowa Lincoln highway treasures and expertise.. Our Iowa chapter website is also an opportunity to share the wonderful sites (and web-sites) , and work of our dedicated members and important news of our group and the Iowa sections of the Lincoln Highway.

A website is only as good as it is up-to-date. Therein lies the real message here: your help is needed! Each Iowa Lincoln Highway county is invited to send links of Lincoln highway interest (attractions, historic sites, and/or supportive businesses or groups) The website now has a new "Upcoming Events" section, so if you know of any events ,meetings or tours happening on the Lincoln Highway in Iowa, please let me know-as soon as you know.

Suggestions are welcome, encouraged and desperately needed on what you, the members envision for the Lincoln Highway website.

In the meantime, visit it, bookmark it, and pass the word along.

www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa **L**

(Have Spare Tire continued from page 2)

promote the concept. In this park standing behind the boulder is the brown wood park name sign. The Cedar Rapids Parks Department recently added two extra planks: One reads "On the Lincoln Highway," and the other, "Welcome Lincoln Highway Conference." I applaud their support and thank the Parks Department. This park will also be the site of one our Lincoln Highway kiosks.

I thought you should get a second chance to see these three features you might have missed. **L**

(Editors Note: Jeff LaFollette's column "Between the Rivers... and Then Some was scheduled for this issue. Van requested to write a post conference story. Jeff's column will return in the fall issue. Thanks to Van & Bev for submitting this story.)

Mt. Vernon & Lisbon to Host Arts Festival and Studio Walk

On September 30, cultural enthusiasts will have a rare opportunity to experience the history of the scenic Lincoln Highway plus enjoy a beautiful selection of art, all in two of Iowa's most charming communities. The event, showcasing the works of over 50 local and regional artists, will take place along the historic Lincoln Highway in the heart of Iowa's Cultural Corridor.

Saturday's Festival, which begins at 10:00 a.m., will feature a variety of arts venues and plenty of family fun. A nostalgic trolley will provide free transportation between three main festival areas: downtown Mount Vernon, downtown Lisbon, and the Cornell College campus. Area restaurants and local vendors will ensure that festival-goers are well "fueled" for the day's activities. History buffs will enjoy visiting any one of three designated National Historic Districts, and the Lisbon History Center will display a special exhibit in honor of the Lincoln Highway. There will be free music provided throughout the day by several local groups, concluding at 5:15 p.m. with an old-fashioned concert by the Eastern Iowa Brass Band in the Memorial Park Gazebo.

On Studio Walk Sunday beginning at noon, many of the participating local artists will open up their private studios, offering a wider selection and closer view of their art. The Cornell College exhibits will also be open on Sunday.

Maps will be available which highlight all festival events plus the locations of participating artists' home studios. The Lincoln Highway Arts Festival and Studio Walk Sunday will be held, rain or shine, on September 30 and on October 1, 2006. The Festival is sponsored by the Mount Vernon Area Arts Council.

Located in Eastern Iowa at the intersection of Highways 30 and 1, 20 miles north of Iowa City and 15 miles east of Cedar Rapids, Mount Vernon and Lisbon boast vibrant uptown business communities with numerous antique and specialty stores, restaurants, coffee houses, commercial art galleries, and three National Historic Districts. Mount Vernon is home to Cornell College, one of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges. **L**

Meet Our Newest LH Life Members



Van & Bev Becker of Cedar Rapids, Iowa are the newest Life Members of the Lincoln Highway Association. They are shown receiving their certificate of Life Membership at the National Lincoln Highway Conference in Cedar Rapids, IA Van is currently the Acting President of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association.

Iowans Win Awards at the LH Awards Banquet

Stephanie Fogelman was awarded the "Teacher of the Year Award" for her work with her 6th grade students at Woodbine Community Schools in Woodbine, IA Their Lincoln Highway project earned her the "Teacher of the Year" award.

Lyell Henry of Iowa City, IA was awarded the "Exemplary Friend of the Lincoln Highway" award.

Cecil Reed of Iowa City, IA received the "Member of the Year" award. Cecil is shown below autographing a copy of his book "The Fly in the Buttermilk". Co-Chairs Van Becker



of Cedar Rapids, IA and Jeff LaFollette of Davenport, IA also were recognized for hosting the 14th annual conference. **L**

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What's Happening Along the Lincoln Highway in Iowa?

By Jeff LaFollette

County Consuls along the LH in Iowa have submitted things that have been and will be going on in their counties. Here is a sampling of what's going on along the LH in Iowa.

Wheatland IA (Clinton Co.) held their Wheatland Summerfest on June 17 and 18, 2006. The community is gearing up for a big celebration in 2008 for the town's 150th birthday.

Clarence, IA (Cedar Co.) will conduct their annual Lincoln Highway Days on July 29 and 30, 2006.

Stanwood, IA (Cedar Co.) will hold their annual festival on July 22, 2006.

Joe Moore from Boone County reports that the Lincoln Highway Questers conducted an Antiques Roadshow during Ogden, IA Fun Days on June 23, 24 and 25.

Bob Owens in Greene County reports that the local Lincoln Highway Museum is open four days a week for guests. The Annual Bell Tower Festival was held on June 9-11. Bob also reports that four Iowa LH members from Greene County attended the conference in Cedar Rapids.

I encourage all county consuls to send a report on events going on in their counties. This way we can get the word out across the state so that members can visit Lincoln Highway communities and spend some time seeing the LH in other parts of Iowa. And for future issues, we can list a schedule of events along the highway. **L**

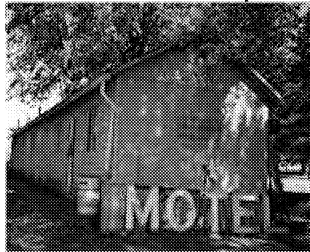
50th Anniversary Interstate Convoy Rolls through Iowa

A convoy commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate Highway System left San Francisco, CA on June 15 and stopped in West Des Moines, IA on June 23, 2006. This convoy not only marked the 50th anniversary of the Interstates but also Dwight D. Eisenhower, who signed the Interstate Highway Bill in 1956. Eisenhower, as a young colonel was on the cross country convoy that traveled the Lincoln Highway in 1919. That trip took 62 days to complete and gave Eisenhower the idea that good roads were a necessity for transporting troops and equipment across the country. Replica medals, like the ones given to those that made the cross country tour in 1919 were given out by each state LH Association. The Iowa presentation was made by Bob Ausberger to Nancy Richardson, Director of the Iowa Department of Transportation. Bob & Joyce also had Lincoln Highway info table set up as well. **L**

Color Us Greene...Join Us In Greene County for the July LHA Meeting

The next meeting of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association will be in Greene County. Bob Owens, Greene County Consul will be our host for the meeting which will be conducted on July 8, 2006 in Jefferson, Iowa. The location is the restored historic Milwaukee Road Depot right on the Lincoln Highway. The depot is located on the east side on Jefferson on East Lincolnway. Coffee & donuts will be available at 9:00 AM, then at 9:30 or thereabouts Acting President Van Becker will drop the gavel, or whatever he has to get our attention and begin the meeting. The just concluded National LHA Conference will be a topic as well as the usual items for discussion. After the meeting, lunch will be served at the Lincolnway Grill right next door to the depot. You can order what you want right off the menu, I

hear from good authority the food is very good there! Bob Owens also has a driving tour planned for us after lunch for those who wish to discover the Lincoln Highway is these parts of Iowa. You can head west on County Road E 53 (Lincoln Highway) to Moss Markers about 12 miles and/or east on the Lincoln to Ralph Millers Camp Cozy Star Motel. Also while in Jefferson we will see the Mahoney Bell Tower and also the Greene County Lincoln Highway Headquarters and Club House . So join us for an enjoyable summer day in Jefferson, IA **L**



See YOU on the Lincoln Highway!
This issue's new members..

Deanna Kimzey
Judd Lawler

Plymouth, MN
Iowa City-Johnson Co.

Iowa Lincoln Highway County

Upcoming LHA State Meetings

July 8, '06	Jefferson
October 14 '06	Harrison County
January 13 '07	To Be Announced
April 14 '07	To Be An-

In This Issue...

National Conference A Big Success!

FIRST CLASS

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