



ALONG THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

Volume 15, Number 1

SPRING 2010

VAN BECKER TO RUN FOR NATIONAL LHA AT-LARGE DIRECTOR POSITION

Every year the National Lincoln Highway Association elects directors to its board. There are 14 state directors positions and four at-large positions. Currently, Jeff LaFollette is the Iowa State Director. Last year, Van Becker of Cedar Rapids was appointed by national LHA president Bob Dieterich to fill a vacant at-large director position.

Van has agreed to run for a full three year term as an at-large director on the Lincoln Highway Association Board. Van was previously an executive advisor to the national president of the LHA, and has been President of the Iowa Chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association for two terms. He and his wife Bev hosted the National LHA Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 2006. Van is very familiar with the people and the mission of the organization.

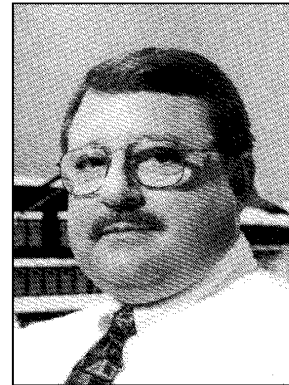
Since he joined the LHA in 1996, Van has attended 86% of the national conferences. Most of all, he does this because he wants to, and not because it will enhance his resume.

Van voluntarily enlisted in the US Army during the Vietnam Era and served as a radar instructor in the Signal Corps, which culminated in a short tour in Korea. He was honorably discharged from the US Army in 1969. He graduated from St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa with a BA

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.

degree in business administration.

Van was employed by Rockwell-Collins as an international contract manager. He left Rockwell-Collins,



because he needed to acquire sales experience to qualify for promotion.

Van also held various high-dollar sales positions including the sale of vintage collectible cars.

He returned to Rockwell-Collins as a professional radio operator and capitalized on his unique combination of FCC radio licenses and security clearances. Van retired from Rockwell-Collins late in 2007.

Van has been a licensed amateur radio operator since 1962. His call letters are WØVAN. He is the license trustee of the Lincoln Highway Amateur Radio Group. Recently Van acquired the new current call letters for the group which are NY2SF. (New York to San Francisco, the route of the Lincoln Highway)

Van is married to his wife Bev, and has lived in the same home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for over 30 years.

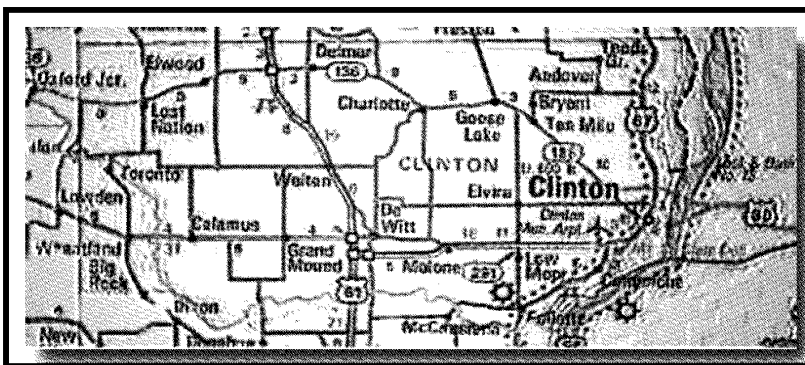
If you are a national LHA member, please vote for Van, and all the candidates on the ballot, when you receive your next issue of the "Forum". If you are not a national LHA member, you can get info on joining at www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org.



www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa

**Iowa Lincoln Highway Association
P.O. Box 14
Ogden, Iowa 50212**

Between The Rivers... and then some! By Jeff LaFollette



March is a time of rebirth with the coming of spring. Along with the change of season is the time that basketball fans affectionately call "March Madness." The madness struck several communities along the Lincoln Highway this year. Cedar Rapids placed two teams in the Class 4A state basketball tournament. Ames won the Class 4A title for the second year in a row. Carroll qualified in Class 3A and Carroll Kuemper finished third in Class 2A. And the madness struck the Clinton county communities of Calamus and Wheatland as the Cal-Wheat Warriors finished second in Class 1A.

Calamus and Wheatland entered a whole grade sharing agreement in 1985 and the two schools consolidated in 1990. The last time either Calamus or Wheatland was in the state basketball tournament was 50 years ago in 1960 when the Wheatland Wildcats had a record of 23-1 going into the 1960 state tourney. In a poll of 18 sportswriters across Iowa, 14 picked defending state champion Calumet. Three favored Hudson. Only the sportswriter from the *Ottumwa Courier* picked Wheatland.

Wheatland defeated New Vienna St. Boniface 53-48 in the district final. In the state quarterfinal, Wheatland defeated Douds-Leando 66-46. In the semis, they beat Moorhead 67-56 to set up the championship game against defending state champ Calumet.

Enrollment for Class B teams were schools with 101 students or less. Wheatland had an enrollment of 97, just five students shy of being a Class A school. Calumet, on the other hand had an enrollment of only 36.

Wheatland came out strong and led Calumet 34-19 at the half, but Calumet came back in the second half and tied the game in the final minutes. With nine seconds left, Wheatland scored the winning basket to win the game by a score of 61-59. The Wildcats ended the season as champions with a record of 27-1.

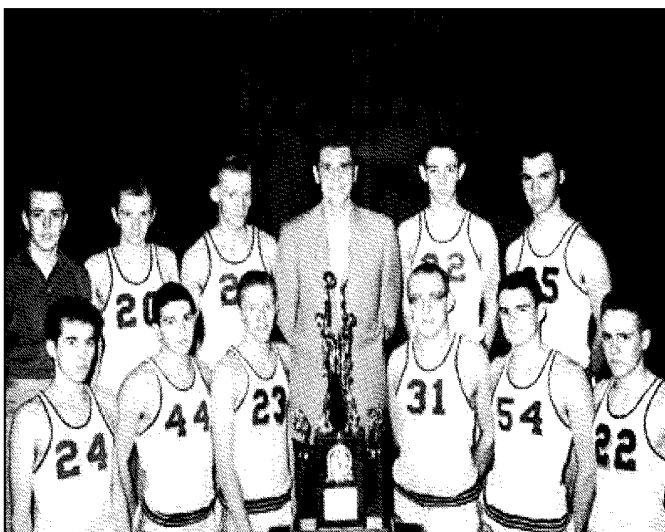
According to the *Davenport Times*, a forerunner of the *Quad City Times*, Wheatland was a "ghost town" on Friday and Saturday when the final two games were played at the Iowa Fieldhouse in Iowa City. There were fewer than 500 people in the town and almost everyone trekked to Iowa City in two chartered busses and a caravan of cars. When the team

returned to town late Saturday night after its championship victory, it was greeted by a parade of 200 vehicles, headed by the town's fire truck.

Imagine a caravan of 200 vehicles heading into town along the Lincoln Highway. I'll bet it was quite a traffic jam along that stretch of US 30 and even into Wheatland along the old Lincoln Highway.

As the years have passed most all small schools have consolidated, and all the teams Wheatland played in the 1960 tournament have been absorbed into consolidated districts. Calumet, the team that Wheatland defeated has been absorbed into South O'Brien High School in Paullina. But as Wheatland can be proud of their 1960 champions, the communities of Calamus and Wheatland can be equally proud of the 2010 Class 1A runner up. Congratulations to all the schools along the Lincoln Highway who participated in the Iowa state basketball tournament. And to Calamus-Wheatland, we hope it won't be another 50 years before your team makes it back to the state tourney. **L**

(Editor's Note: Thanks to the Quad City Times for the history of the 1960 state tournament for this story.)



Team photo of the 1960 Class B Iowa state champion Wheatland High School boys basketball team.
(Photo Courtesy of the Quad City Times)

State Center, Iowa Keeping History Alive Along the Lincoln Highway

By Carman Rosburg, Prairie Rivers RC&D

As I sat down with Harlan Quick, Everett Halsted and Mike Kielly in the new State Center Development office, I soon realized that State Center, located in western Marshall County, is a community with a long history of volunteerism and local pride. From the beginning of the 20th Century, State Center's Main Street, located along the original Lincoln Highway, has been a focal point of pride for the community.

State Center's footprint in Marshall County has not changed much over the last 100 years; its population is about the same. Like most small communities, State Center has seen many of its residents go from working in State Center to commuting to other larger towns for employment. The people of State Center, however, have kept a strong sense of identity.

This article is meant to share some of the things that have made a difference in State Center. They have steadily built on their past with the future in mind. This process has provided economic benefits to the city and has brought pride to its residents. Their efforts have created a jewel on the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway.

In 1913-1914, plans for the Lincoln Highway route through State Center were put into place. Ira Kauffman, a local doctor and president of the local Automobile Club, worked to bring the Lincoln Highway down Main Street. The town invested in curb and gutter on Main Street and graveled the route through town in 1917-1918. It was hoped this would ensure the permanent Lincoln Highway would pass through State Center. In 1922, the signs for the Lincoln Highway were moved to Main Street from a temporary route running along the north edge of State Center. In 1925, the Main Street route was paved along with the rest of the Lincoln Highway across Marshall County. Businesses thrived and continued to prosper until a gradual decline began with the realigning of Highway 30 in 1930-1931; this realignment directed the main flow of traffic away from downtown State Center. Changes in transportation and a decreasing farm population contributed to the decline of small farm to market towns like State Center.

Dr. Kauffman left a living trust to the community. Following the death of his wife and only daughter, the trust transferred to the City of State Center, which created the Kauffman Charitable Trust. The mission of the Kauffman Trust is to benefit the quality of life of the residents of the City of State Center and the surrounding area.

For the most part, the community remained the same until the 1980's, when the agricultural crisis hit

and accelerated what had been a gradual decline. At that time, the State Center Development Association, with the support of the City Council, chartered a 501(c)3 non-profit group. This move helped the community secure grants and financial opportunities in an effort to counter the farming crisis and reduce its impact on the community. Meanwhile, the storefronts and general appearance of Main Street continued to deteriorate.

Watson's Grocery, which had been in operation since 1885, closed in 1981 after its owner, Florence Watson, was no longer able to maintain it. The present building was built in 1895 after a fire destroyed the original. This store and its interior had changed little since its construction. The store sat just as Florence left it until she passed away in 1989. This was a turning point. A local preservation effort to save Watson's Grocery began with widespread community support.

The newly formed "Committee to Save Watson's" recognized Watson's as a local historical treasure. They, along with the support of other State Center area residents, raised funds to buy the building and its contents. In 1990, Florence Watson's heirs put the property and its contents up for auction. The building and about 75% of the contents were purchased by the Committee, and the work to make the store a museum and repository of local history began. The need to maintain and operate Watson's Grocery as a museum resulted in the formation of the State Center Historical Society.

In 2000, producers of the movie *Rain* were choosing a setting for their independent film. They identified State Center for their filming location based on the "rundown" Midwestern appearance of the town. That designation was an eye-opener for the citizens of State Center. The challenge facing the residents was how to fix up the town, while keeping in mind the need to fix up and make the empty storefronts economically viable once again. **(continued on page 4)**



Watson's Grocery State Center, IA (Photo by Carman Rosburg)

(Keeping History Alive continued from page 3)

The Iowa Department of Economic Development's Main Street Iowa Program started in State Center in 2000. The mission of the Main Street Iowa Program is to improve the social and economic well being of Iowa's communities by assisting selected communities in capitalizing on their unique identity, assets, and the character of their historic commercial districts. Main Street Iowa is economic development within the context of historic preservation. This, along with the Iowa Department of Transportation's Community Visioning program, helped focus the direction for improvements within the community and prioritized the projects the community had identified in surveys conducted with the help of planners from Iowa State University.

The building next to Watson's Grocery was empty, its floor falling in, and its roof damaged. Renovation of the decrepit building was needed to keep the appearance of the historic Main Street intact. With the help of many volunteers, the Main Street Iowa program, and a number of grants, work began. Many volunteer hours later, 104 West Main was restored. The building was sold to the Mitchell Family Funeral Home in 2005, giving the State Center Development Association funds for future renovation projects.

In 2006, the State Center Historical Society and State Center's Main Street Iowa Program became part of the State Center Development Association, combining economic development and historic preservation that has served State Center well.

Completed projects include new Main Street paving and lighting, and a new Main Street grocery store. Preservation of historic architectural design on the storefronts, combined with residential space on the second floors and back portions of the buildings, made restoration feasible. State Center continues to attract new residents and new businesses.

State Center has found success due to five factors:

1. They have worthwhile ideas or projects to attract volunteers and supporters.
2. They have progressive and supportive City Council members who crossover from other community groups.
3. There is a working Main Street Iowa organization in place.
4. They have vision for projects that will fill a need, both now and in the future.
5. There has been charitable giving to the State Center community from two charitable trusts.

Their current projects along the Lincoln Highway route include: a renovation of the building at 127 West Main, adding shutters to the one room Washington Center School and also signage along the routes of the Lincoln Highway.

The newly designated Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway is providing additional energy and resources for the ongoing efforts in State Center and other communities.

Next time you travel the Lincoln Heritage Byway, be sure to take time to visit State Center, "The Rose Capital of Iowa".

(Editor's Note: Carman Rosburg is the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Project Director for the Prairie Rivers RC&D)

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Business card size ad: Single ad placed on an inside page of the newsletter in black and white. The card/ad should be in standard digital format (.jpg) or scanner ready. Double size business cards will double the price.

Rates: 1 issue- \$10 2 issues- \$20

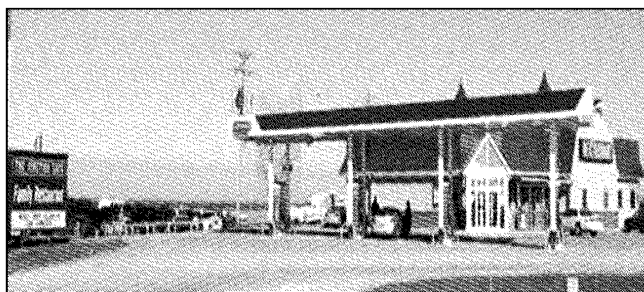
3 or 4 issues- \$30 (Buy three and get 4th free)

Flyer: 1 page 8-1/2 X 11 provided by the customer inserted into our eight page newsletter

Rates: 1 page flyer- 1 issue- \$50

Please visit our website for more information and to download an advertising rate sheet. Information about advertising on our website is also available. Check us out at:

www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa



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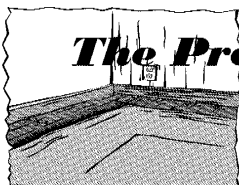
Hours: Sunday -Thursday 7:00AM-9:00PM
Friday-Saturday 7:00AM-10:00PM

FOR SALE

Original Bronze Medallion from Lincoln Highway Concrete Marker
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Upcoming LHA State Meetings

July 10, '10	Belle Plaine
October 9, '10	Clinton
January 8, '11	To Be Announced
April 9, '11	To Be Announced



The President's Corner

By Kathy Dirks,
ILHA President

Never say never, for if you live long enough, chances are you will not be able to abide by its restrictions. Never is a long, undependable time, and life is too full of rich possibilities to have restrictions placed upon it.

Gloria Swanson, Actress (1899 - 1983)

I try never to say never. How technology, my health, my life (insert what comes to your mind) is or appears to be today, is not necessarily how it will be or appear to be tomorrow. Those few times I have said it, it has usually come back to haunt me. My article in the last newsletter would be one example. I didn't exactly say "never" when I was writing about snowstorms and meeting cancellations, but it was the next thing to it. Since this has been a winter for the record books, I'd like to think good judgment prevailed when we opted to cancel the January meeting with the -25 temperature predictions.

Here's hoping that our next meeting in Denison on Saturday, April 10th will be a sunny, warm day with no snow. No matter the temperature, **don't wear sandals or shorts** if you are planning to go on the tour Crawford County Consul Deb Rothmeyer has planned for us.

Have I piqued your curiosity? If so, check out the meeting information on the back page of this newsletter and make your reservation to attend. In addition to an interesting tour, we will have full agenda of projects to discuss. Topics will include signage progress for the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway, an update on this summer's Iowa Lincoln Highway Motor Tour, and helpful information on how your county, community or business can be involved with the Lincoln Highway Buy-way Yard sale in August. Representatives from the RC & D's have also been invited to share an update about how their work with the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway is progressing as well.

I mentioned this in the last newsletter but wanted to remind everyone that the National Lincoln Highway Association Conference will be in Dixon, Illinois on June 22 - 26, 2010. Conference information including program and hotel information is now available. Check it out on the Illinois Lincoln Highway Association website at www.illinoislincolnhighway.tripod.com/2010.html. Illinois has lined up some great tours, and done a wonderful job of holding the registration fee down - rolling it back to the same fee as when Illinois hosted in 1999. If you haven't made your summer vacation plans and would like to do something close to home, this could fit the bill. Have a great spring and I hope to see you in Denison on April 10th.

Happy Traveling!

Kathy

AMATEUR RADIO MEETS THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY

By Van & Bev Becker

The select group of Iowa amateur radio operators who for the last two years have operated a summer "special event" radio station on the air celebrating 95 and then 96 years along the Lincoln Highway have banded together under the name Lincoln Highway Amateur Radio Group (LH-ARG). Under this new name, we applied to the Federal Communications Commission for a special call sign to use during on-the-air club operations. We are pleased to announce our Lincoln Highway Amateur Radio Group now holds the unique call sign: **NY2SF... "New York to San Francisco."** From the Eastern terminus to the Western terminus of the historic Lincoln Highway.

Only one station can hold this special call sign and the issuance is permanent, not temporary. The new call letters will be used proudly and often during our future special event operations. As in the past, the Lincoln Highway Amateur Radio Group plans to team with the Benton County Amateur Radio Club to operate another special event station celebrating 97 Years along the Lincoln Highway from Youngville Station the weekend immediately before the National Lincoln Highway Conference. Key officers of the new LH-ARG are Van & Bev Becker, LHA Life Members. Last year's special event spread the word of the Lincoln Highway to almost 1000 different stations in 3 countries. This year's event promises to be even bigger and better. Stand by for follow-up reports. **L**

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

George & Jean Archer	Des Moines, Polk
Jon & Betty Christensen	Des Moines, Polk
Ken & Marjorie Gookin	Story City, Story L
Jim & Marilyn Sheets	Ames, Story L
Nan Brenholdt & Dick Johnson	Minneapolis, MN
William Wulff	Sugar Grove, IL

L (Denotes a Lincoln Highway County)

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TIMES OF OUR LIVES
By Jim DeLong
FROM THE CEDAR RAPIDS GAZETTE

(Editor's Note: This article was sent in by Van Becker. This was in the Saturday March 20, 2010 edition of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* newspaper.)

20 Years ago: 1990

March 23: Belle Plaine resident George Preston said he was treated "just like the President of the United States" when he appeared on the "*Tonight Show*" with Johnny Carson.

Known for his entertaining stories of the Lincoln Highway, the 79 year old Belle Plaine native at one time operated a gas station on the highway adorned with advertising signs from the 1920's and 1930's.



George Preston at his station in Belle Plaine
 (Photo by Drake Hokanson)

BURMA SHAVE JINGLES

Are Your Whiskers- When You Wake- Tougher Than- A Two Bit Steak?- Try- Burma Shave (1930)

The Bearded Lady- Tried A Jar- She's Now- A Famous- Movie Star- Burma Shave (1934)

The Happy Golfer- Finds With Glee- The Shave- That Suits Him- To A Tee- Burma Shave (1935)

Put Your Brush- Back On The Shelf- The Darn Thing- Needs A- Shave Itself- Burma Shave (1940)

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 AND STAFF.
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**COME AND JOIN US FOR THE 3rd ANNUAL
IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION
RIVER TO RIVER MOTOR TOUR
FROM THE WIDE RIVER TO THE LOESS HILLS
AUGUST 27-29, 2010**

**FEATURING STOPS IN:
CLINTON, LOWDEN, LISBON, CEDAR RAPIDS, YOUNGVILLE,
TAMA, STATE CENTER, AMES, JEFFERSON, CARROLL,
DENISON, WOODBINE, CRESCENT**

Pre-Tour Event Thursday August 26 in Clinton, IA and Fulton, IL
Visit The Historic Communities of Lowden & Lisbon
Stop at the Youngville Café - Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
See the Famous Lincoln Highway Bridge in Tama
See Historic Downtown State Center
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REGISTRATION FORM
Any Vehicle - Any Model - Any Make
Registration Fee: \$20.00 per vehicle for Iowa LHA members
\$30.00 per vehicle for non-members (Includes one year membership to the Iowa LHA)
You may join or leave the tour at any point or at anytime.
The Iowa LHA is not responsible for accidents or injuries incurred on this motor tour

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Make checks or money orders payable to: Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Mail To:
Iowa LHA Motor Tour
c/o Jeff LaFollette
2130 W. 4th St.
Davenport, IA 52802

More Tour Information:
Jeff LaFollette
jefflaf@peoplepc.com
563-349-3047

**A LIST OF MOTELS AND TOUR ITINERARY WILL BE MAILED TO YOU SOON
AFTER WE RECEIVE YOUR TOUR REGISTRATION.**

Spring is the Time, Denison is the Place Iowa LHA Will Meet on April 10

Mother Nature played a cruel trick on us in January as the extreme cold forced us to postpone the meeting in Colo. But now April is upon us and spring is here. So we are going to get together in Denison for the next meeting of the Iowa LHA. We will meet at Cronks Café located on the Lincoln Highway (US 30) in Denison beginning at 9:30 AM. Coffee and rolls will be available beginning at 9:00AM. Around 9:30AM, President Kathy Dirks will drop the gavel to begin the meeting. A couple of the topics discussed will be the communities along the Iowa LHA participating in the Lincoln Highway Buy-Way event on then second weekend of August and also the 3rd Annual Motor Tour update. There will also be an update on the signage and the Heritage Byway project. Plus we will discuss other plans and items for 2010 along the Iowa LHA.

Lunch will be served at Cronk's and a soup, salad and sandwich bar will be available, or if you wish you can order from the menu. Directions to the meeting location are pretty simple: From east or west get on the Lincoln Highway (US 30), head to Denison and look for Cronk's. After the meeting, Crawford County Consul Deb Rothmeyer has arranged a tour for us after lunch (around 1:30). Deb is requesting that you RSVP to either her or Jeff LaFollette by April 5, so she has a head count for Cronk's and the tour. Deb's e-mail is debbie44@frontiernet.net. Jeff's e-mail is jefflaf@peoplepc.com. **(NO SHORTS OR OPEN TOED SHOES FOR THE TOUR)**

Come join us on Saturday April 10 to see what is going on along the Lincoln Highway in Iowa in 2010. You are always invited to join us at our meetings. Your input is welcome. We hope you can join us in Denison and learn more about the Lincoln Highway and our organization. See you on the road!



In This Issue...

FIRST CLASS

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association
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