

# Along The Lincoln Highway

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION**

**Volume 18, Number 1**

**SUMMER 2013**

## **MOTOR TOUR CANCELLED FOR 2013**

**By Jeff LaFollette**

The latest news on the 2013 motor tour is that the tour has been cancelled for this year. Several factors have come into play as to the cancellation of the tour. Some have to do with family obligations, some with a new position at work which gives me less flexibility to work to get things set up, and the new position has me travelling occasionally. There have been other factors in working to set up stops and getting hotels that just were not coming together as I had hoped they would. As the time was getting closer to the tour I made the decision that there was not enough time to put together the type of tour that our participants are accustomed to. So we are planning to take the same tour in 2014 beginning in Kearney, Nebraska. So we will begin planning the tour for next year and I will get in touch with the communities along the route to get our stops together. I'd like to have about 80% of the tour set by January 1. I really am sorry that things did not work out this year. I sent a mass e-mail to everyone to let them know that the tour had been cancelled. I'd like to thank Jim & Wini Morris and Kathy Dirks for their help for the tour and I look forward to working with them to help set up the tour for 2014. Keep checking the newsletter and our website for tour updates. We hope to see you on the road for next year's Iowa LHA Motor Tour **L**

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.

## **LINCOLN HIGHWAY EAST- WEST TOURS MEET IN KEARNEY, NEBRASKA**

The National Lincoln Highway Association conducted a nationwide cross country tour of the highway. The tours began from the east in New York City, and from the west in San Francisco, on June 21, and met in Kearney on June 30 to kick off the 100th anniversary of the Lincoln Highway at the conference in Kearney. The tour from the east came into Clinton, Iowa on June 28, crossed through the state and stopped overnight in Ames. The tour departed Ames on the 29th, and entered Nebraska on the final leg before meeting in Kearney.

In the next issue of this newsletter, we should have some photos of the tour stops and the cars that participated on the tour. If any of you have photos and stories about the cross country tour you'd like to share, please send them to me at my e-mail address which is [jefflaf@q.com](mailto:jefflaf@q.com).

Also, if you couldn't make it to the conference, you can get conference merchandise and also centennial items at our merchandise outlet, the Lincoln Highway Trading Post. Go to the Trading Post website which is [www.lhtp.com](http://www.lhtp.com) and get your 100th anniversary and conference merchandise.

We will keep you posted on the 2014 LHA conference which will be in Tooele, Utah from June 17-22, 2014. And if you want to make long term plans, the 2017 conference will be in Iowa **L**



[www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa](http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa)

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



## Have Spare Tire, Will Travel

By Van & Bev Becker

Editor's Note:  
This article taken  
from a previous  
issue of "Along  
the Lincoln  
Highway" from  
Van Becker's  
Archives!

Here I sit. Two weeks before the editorial deadline and the middle of Memorial Day weekend. This Memorial Day is extra poignant, having recently lost my father (1917-2007). Remembering our lives together included snippets of Lincoln Highway-related family tales. Perhaps you will enjoy a quick review. I'll try to keep them brief.

In the mid-1920's, Grandfather would take his family, including my dad and his brother, fishing on long summer weekend campouts. The two boys were approximately ages 8 and 9. The trips usually consisted of Davenport to DeWitt and west on the Lincoln Highway to the Wapsi River. In among the old bridges we treasure today the boys learned why carp are not the fish to keep regardless of their size. There were also told tales of the Lincoln Highway leading all the way to California. Knowing that California had recently hosted the World's Fair and hearing tales of the size of vegetables grown there as well as the 2000-mile-away ocean, the boys were fascinated.

Between camping and fishing, I can visualize two young boys standing in the middle of the gravel road looking west trying to see or imagine the mountains and then the ocean. A coast-to-coast highway to young boys in the 20's must have seemed as fascinating and improbable as space travel is today.

Dad also told of finding the best way to stop a leak in the roof of the old Oakland phaeton—chewing gum! But it works best when pressed into the offending holes from both sides of the roof. Since he was the youngest and the leak only showed up when it was raining, he was usually the one elected to press the gum down from the wet topside.

During the 1930's, the young man yet to become my father, was working as an accountant by day and a professional musician on weekends. He spent many weekends traveling the Lincoln Highway in the "band bus." Often there were gigs at the Hiway Gardens in Stanwood, Iowa. In those early years, the sax player often earned only 50 or 60 cents for the whole night including travel



musicians, if not for the cost of gasoline to travel the Lincoln Highway from Davenport.

I caught his band one evening in the early 70's at the old Armar Ballroom on the original 1913-1919 route on the boundary between Cedar Rapids and Marion. By the mid-40's it was time for marriage. Gas and tires were rationed due to the war, but extra gas coupons appeared as wedding presents. The tires on the old four-door '40 Plymouth sedan were judged good enough for the trip from Blue Grass



near Davenport to Clinton. Yes, my parents spent their honeymoon at the Lafayette Hotel in Clinton, the Lincoln Highway Control Point in downtown Clinton, Iowa. In the morning they strolled out of the hotel to a little "tearoom" across the street located about where the photographer was standing for the above photo. After being charged **50 cents** each for coffee in the 1940's, the two newlyweds assumed they paid for the cups too. I have that pair of cups in my kitchen yet today.

In later years, early 1950's, I was taken fishing at Crystal Lake. This was a lake made by damming a stream 2 ½ miles west of DeWitt. Early maps and Lincoln Highway road guides indicate that there were free campsites and fishing at Crystal Lake just 2 ½ miles west of DeWitt. It was designated as a free city campground for travelers. I have memories of bathhouses and cabins on Crystal Lake. Somewhere in the stacks of family photos there are photos of three generations of Becker's in an old rowboat on this small lake.

(Spare Tire Continued on Page 3)

## ILHA Officers, Board of Directors, County Consuls, and Staff

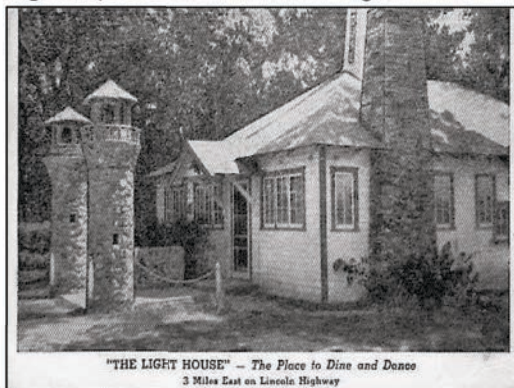
<b>Officers</b>		
<b>Co-Presidents</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail Address</b>
Dean & Jeannie Parr	(319) 366-0552	drparr@mchsi.com
<b>Vice President</b>		
VACANT		
<b>Secretary</b>		
John Mazzello	(515) 232-0048	jmazzello@prrcd.org
<b>Treasurer</b>		
Joyce Ausberger	(515) 386-4521	bobjoyce@netins.net
<b>State Director</b>		
Jeff LaFollette	(563) 320-7054	jefflaf@q.com
 <b>Board of Directors (County Consuls)</b>		
<b>Clinton County</b>		
Jeff LaFollette	(563) 320-7054	jefflaf@q.com
<b>Cedar County</b>		
Joe Goodlove	(316) 650-0342	joeiowalh30@fbcom.net
<b>Linn County</b>		
Van & Bev Becker		NY2SF@lmonmail.com
<b>Benton County</b>		
Mike Kelly	(319) 472-5183	mtk@videoportraits.com
<b>Tama County</b>		
Allan Richards	(641) 484-4000	AllanMaxRichards@aol.com
<b>Marshall County</b>		
Harlan Quick	(641) 483-2440	hmquick@partnercom.net
<b>Story County</b>		
Scott Berka	(641) 377-2238	colocity@netins.net
<b>Boone County</b>		
John Fitzsimmons	(515) 432-3697	seanfitz50@hotmail.com
Ed Mondt	(515) 432-2343	tobes1994@yahoo.com
<b>Greene County</b>		
Kim Clark		tcliblady@hotmail.com
<b>Carroll County</b>		
VACANT		
<b>Crawford County</b>		
Deb Rothmeyer	(712) 263-8356	debrothmeyer@gmail.com
<b>Harrison County</b>		
Marshall & Rita		
Schichilone	(712) 647-2646	
<b>Pottawattamie County</b>		
Charles Willard	(712) 322-5412	moose6969@cox.net
 <b>Support Staff</b>		
<b>Membership Coordinator</b>		
Dean Parr		drparr@mchsi.com
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>		
Jeff LaFollette		jefflaf@q.com
<b>Noble Sojourner</b>		
Lyell Henry		disorg@mchsi.com
<b>Iowa Artist in Residence</b>		
John Fitzsimmons		seanfitz50@hotmail.com
<b>Webmistress</b>		
Sandii Huemann-Kelly		nilandcafe@gmail.com
<b>Director Emeritus</b>		
Bob & Joyce Ausberger		bobjoyce@netins.net

*(Spare Tire continued from Page 2)*

In the mid-1950's—family vacations with my little sister Kay. She finally turned out pretty well, but what a pain back then! When traveling north, the first mandatory stop was the water tower park with restrooms in DeWitt. Dad would park the car right about where the new brass misinformation Lincoln Highway plaque stands today. Kay's restroom and car-sickness stops really slowed us down!

When traveling west for family vacations in Colorado, Dad would head the 1950 Plymouth Deluxe west on Highway 6 and jog north to the Lincoln Highway at Belle Plaine. A gas stop at Preston's Station always seemed in order. The first year the family vacationed out west, Dad had promised me—probably to shut me up—that we would stop at an "antique car museum" – if I was good. Hey, I was only about 8-9 years old. The stop at Preston's with the old threshing machine, a few old Model T Fords and a nifty museum convinced me that we had arrived at the promised auto museum. I didn't want to leave after the fill up.

Finally, with me living and working here in Cedar Rapids, both Dad and I gravitated to "the old highway" for our regular trips to visit one another. It might have been slower than I-380 and I-80, but as we all know, it has been a lot more interesting. When visiting Cedar Rapids, Dad's favorite place to eat was the old roadhouse, the Lighthouse on the Lincoln Highway, host to John Dillinger and the



**"THE LIGHT HOUSE" – The Place to Dine and Dance**  
3 Miles East on Lincoln Highway

home of great barbecued ribs.

Memorial Day—Memories, Lincoln Highway memories— Thanks, I had to share.

Drive safely—keep the shiny side up.

**L**

**Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Update  
by Jessica Johnson and John Mazzello**

The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway has had an exciting spring. The long-awaited Iowa Byways Travel Guide was released and has been such a big success that a second printing has already been planned! The Travel Guide is a full-color, 32-page booklet with information on all 11 of Iowa's byways, including four pages dedicated to the Lincoln Highway. The easiest way to get one for yourself is to visit [www.iowabyways.org](http://www.iowabyways.org) and click on "order a free Iowa Byways Travel Guide."

This summer, Prairie Rivers of Iowa will be distributing a new Lincoln Highway brochure: "An Adventure 100 Years in the Making." This brochure will allow us to specifically promote the Lincoln Highway, and we will have copies to distribute to Welcome Centers, to attractions along the byway, and to attendees of community events. This brochure was generously supported by the Central Iowa Tourism Region, the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association, and Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development. The brochure gives a taste of what the historic road has to offer, plus ways to find out more. A special "thank you" goes to the ILHA for its generous support of this project.

The Centennial has been a great opportunity for increased media coverage of the Lincoln Highway. The May/June issue of *The Iowan* featured a series of stories on "the Lincoln Highway at 100." In June, Iowa Public Radio reported a story on the Lincoln and Jefferson Highways in Iowa. Reporters for both *The Iowan* and Iowa Public Radio interviewed several ILHA members for their stories. A number of local newspapers also wrote Lincoln Highway stories this spring.

Finally, we would be happy to represent the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway in your community! This spring, John represented the byway at events in Ames, Jefferson, and Missouri Valley, among other locations. Please let us know if there is an event in your county or a new person we should get to know! **L**

**State Fair Photo Contest  
by Jessica Johnson**

Nothing Compares...to the Lincoln Highway. This year at the Iowa State Fair, the Lincoln Highway will be showcased in color and black and white, by young and old. On August 8-18, the fair will host the 74th annual photography salon. Prairie Rivers of Iowa is sponsoring the photography category, "Lincoln Highway 100th Anniversary" in celebration of the centennial. The photo contest will be a stop you won't want to miss at this year's fair! **L**

**"Kids on the Byway" News  
by Magon Liu**

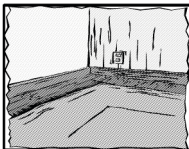
Looking back, the Kids on the Byway program has had a successful 2012-2013 school year. This program is a DNR-REAP funded project that focused on incorporating authentic learning experiences along the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway into the educational program at Kate Mitchell Elementary School in Ames. Students have experienced and learned from many resources along the byway, such as Iowa State University, the Ames Resource Recovery Center and Ledges State Park, to name a few. The year will culminate with a camp on June 24-27. The program will expand next year to three schools in Story and Tama Counties plus outreach to more educators throughout the year. **L**



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

**NO NEW MEMBERS THIS ISSUE**

**L** (Denotes a Lincoln Highway County)



## The President's Corner

By Dean & Jeannie Parr,  
Iowa LHA Co-Presidents

### SPRING AND SUMMER ON THE IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY

What a busy spring we've had here on the Lincoln Highway! Dean and I made it out to Missouri Valley for the 75th anniversary of the Harrison County Welcome Center which also highlighted the 100th year anniversary of the Lincoln Highway. Kathy Dirks and her staff did an outstanding job of presenting the Lincoln Highway and it's history. Elaine Ehler provided so much LH memorabilia that it took several minutes just to scan it all - never mind trying to read everything. Joyce and Bob Ausberger borrowed some of that treasure trove for the Bell Tower Festival. Speaking of the Bell Tower Festival, what a wonderful weekend! Cece Otto performed three times over the weekend, LH was well represented in the parade...Bob A. wearing a LH marker, Bob Owens' car, and even Dean and I got to ride in a 1902 car; Bob & Joyce A. also had two road graders in the parade. Even though there was rain from Saturday afternoon through Sunday afternoon, we were able to enjoy many events. The museum in Grand Junction was open Sunday from 9am till 4pm and the Ausberger's served loose meat sandwiches & fixings to several people that stopped by. We even had a couple from Ohio. The Lincoln Highway Centennial Road Tour will have traveled through Iowa June 28 & 29th. They stopped in Mount Vernon and at the Niland Cafe in Colo on the 28th and at the Greene County Museum and Woodbine, Iowa, on the 29th. Of course we all know of the Conference in Kearney, NE. Notes from that will be in the next Presidents' Corner. By now all the Fourth of July festivities will be memories, so I hope you were able to enjoy some of them if you weren't at the conference. As we hold our meeting, the Colo Crossroads Festival is being held. What a wonderful way to celebrate not only our beloved Lincoln Highway, but also the Jefferson Highway. Don't forget to "talk this up" to all of your friends and family. Encourage all to stop in at the Reid/Niland corner and to enjoy a meal at the restaurant or even just a piece of pie. I can assure you from personal experience the pie is worth the trip.

#### Upcoming LHA State Meetings

July 13, 2013	Belle Plaine
October 12, 2013	To Be Determined
January 11, 2014	To Be Determined
April 12, 2014	To Be Determined

Coming up August 8 - 10 is the Lincoln Highway Buy Way yard sale weekend. PLEASE ask Deb Rothmeyer if you can help in any way. Deb has put yet another year's worth of effort into this year's event. Be sure to contact your local newspaper to make sure they print a notice of this event and if you have a local radio station, you might contact them too and boost the LH centennial. Have a wonderful summer and fall traveling the Lincoln Highway!

**Dean & Jeannie**



**NILAND CAFE & COLO MOTEL**

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday  
6:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday 6:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Breakfast Buffet  
Closed Mondays

---

641-377-3663 (FOOD)

nilandcafe@gmail.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK! 

SEE US ON COLO CITY PAGE WEBSITE  
UNDER REED/NILAND CORNER

#### 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)**

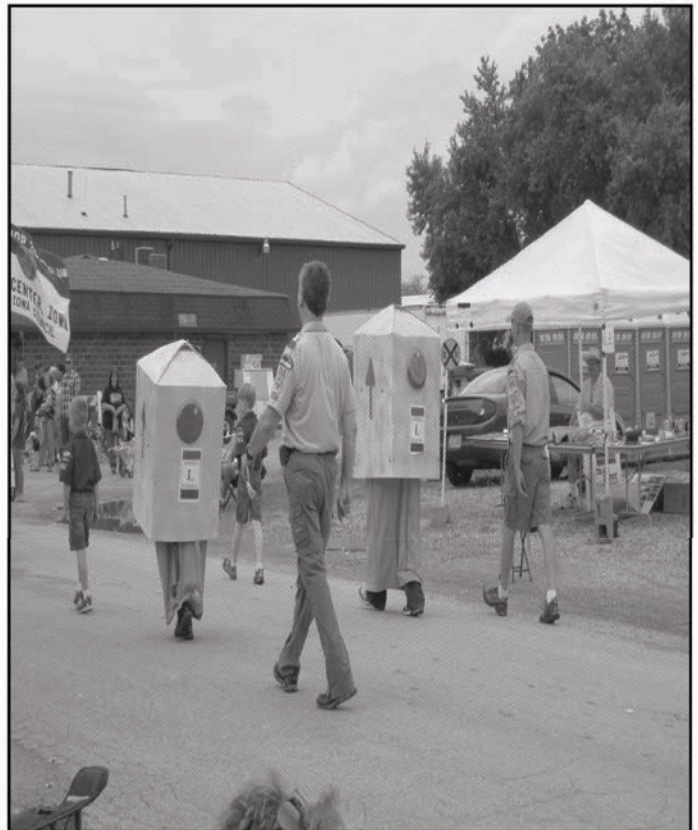
**Flyer:** 1 page 8-1/2 X 11 provided by the customer inserted into our eight page newsletter.

**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](http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa)**

# PHOTOS FROM THE STATE CENTER LINCOLN HIGHWAY PARADE FROM JOHN MAZZELLO





## IOWA WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY BUY-WAY SALE FOR 2013

The Iowa Lincoln Highway Association will participate in the Lincoln Highway Buy-Way yard sales for the 5th consecutive year. The sales which began in Ohio in 2006 will be held in West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska this year. Look for information on the state and national websites [www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org](http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org). For Iowa information, add /iowa to the web address. You will find information on the communities that will be a part of this year's sale. The dates are August 8-10. So get out and enjoy the weather, and look for some great bargains as well as traveling the Lincoln Highway and patronize LH businesses along the way. See you at the yard sales!



In This Issue...

The Best of Have Spare Tire and LH Heritage Byway Updates

**FIRST CLASS**

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association  
 P.O. Box 14  
 Ogden IA 50212