

Along the Lincoln Highway

The Newsletter of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Volume 8, Number 3

Autumn 2003

Friend, Can You Spare 37¢.

Iowans pride themselves on being good hosts whenever guests come over, and as host for the 2006 national Lincoln Highway Association conference, the Iowa chapter is seeking feedback from *all* members on their preferences regarding the conference site.

Cedar Rapids is the host city, but the specific location of the June convention is not finalized. This is your opportunity to contribute to that decision.

Included in this newsletter is a brief survey we hope you will complete and mail to Iowa State Director Paul Walker.

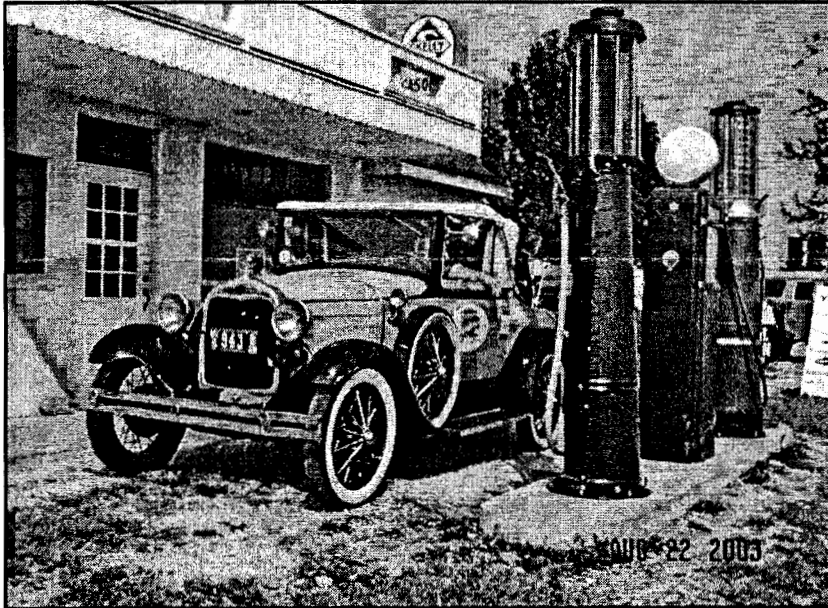
The survey will be used to make decisions about lodging, and how best to accommodate our

out-of-town guests. Feel free to offer additional suggestions contributing to a successful conference.

The Iowa association wants to provide you with an entertaining, educational and fun conference—one with a few surprises and Lincoln Highway experiences you'll not soon forget.

So sharpen that pencil, take 5 minutes, and please give us your comments. **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 ACTIVITIES 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.

Marshalltown Puts On a Show.

*By Mick Jurgensen,
LHA Member.*

Witness the 150-year history of Marshalltown come alive as it is recreated in a unique sound and light show on Friday, September 26, at 8:30 p.m., and on Saturday, September 27, at 7:30 p.m. on the Marshall County Courthouse lawn. This event is the finale to Marshalltown's Sesquicentennial celebration. The general public is invited to attend without charge. The presentation will last about an hour-and-a-quarter.

Sound and Light Shows have been presented at the Louvre in Paris, the Coliseum in Rome, and the Pyramids in Egypt. Similar shows took place at the United States Capitol

and at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, during the Bicentennial Year.

"Marshalltown Milestones" presents the history of the city through the eyes of the old Courthouse. The Courthouse lawn will become an outdoor theater, with the Courthouse as its screen. The façade of the building will be brilliantly illumi-

(Mtown Milestones, Continued on page 6)



www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa

IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 14
OGDEN, IOWA 50212



Have Spare Tire, Will Travel

By Van & Bev Becker

PULLING at THIN THREADS.

It was after midnight on a warm July night and I had settled into my nightly routine at the radio station in Cedar Rapids. The government aircraft that we track had all set down for the night and the commercial airliners, both passenger and freight, were few and far between.

Our 12 radio receivers, huge antennas and two remote sites thousands of miles away were full of atmospheric hiss and thunderstorm crashes, but there were no aircraft requiring attention. It seemed logical to a seasoned radio operator that if there is hiss and lightning crashes on 12 radios, I should turn on a 13th for entertainment. My plan was to tune across the 75-meter ham ("receive only") band. I had to be ready for a real customer to call on those other 12 radios—after all, I was at work. At about 2 a.m., I brought up a spare shortwave receiver to tune the ham bands looking for interesting conversation to keep me awake as I sipped my second cup of joe.

There he was! I had heard him before—"Mac," W8ZNX in Detroit, Michigan, chatting with a couple of other night owls on 3.875 megahertz. He had a good signal, and I began to listen to Mac's sailboat adventures. After about a half-hour, Mac confided in the other hams that his sailing club had a rather nice clubhouse at Gross Pointe, Michigan (just north of Detroit) on Lake St. Claire, the little lake that connects mighty Lakes Huron and Erie.

It seems his club facility is a converted boathouse. Approximately 40' X 100' and previously holding a single yacht, it has a full-length catwalk along the peak of the roof for viewing members' sailboat races. Mac further explained that the widow of the President of the Packard Motor Company donated the building to the sailing club many years ago. The gift came with the stipulation that the club never build or include a bar at the facility for serving alcohol.

This rich Packard president's name was

Henry B. Joy. And, oh by the way, he was also an amateur radio operator (ham). Even in the middle of the night, hearing "Henry B. Joy" rang a bell. Gosh, he was the first president of the Lincoln Highway Association.

My ears perked up, waiting for more juicy tidbits, but Mac had to work the following morning and signed off. The rest of the story would have to wait for another day.

It was still the middle of the night. I was at work and at the ready, but no activity was heard on our 12 radios. So this July night I was being paid just to sit, listen and be ready. I felt like the Maytag repairman.

Those thoughts passed as I mulled the ham radio connection to Henry Joy. In addition to being a professional radio operator, I have been a licensed ham radio operator since 1962 and my wife, Bev, since 1954, totaling 90 years as hams! (Stop that snickering.) I wondered if the Internet would yield more information on this new perspective on the Joy legend.

I got online, and searched and searched, but the ham radio connection seemed to be a dead end. However, I discovered that Henry B. Joy's father was James F. Joy, described as a prominent attorney and railroad entrepreneur. He was president of several railroads and on the boards of more.

Pulling on this thread, I was interested in his involvement with the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad, which formed the original connecting link for uninterrupted railroad traffic between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

In his capacity as a railroad president, James F. Joy was the first to enlist and hire the young Abraham Lincoln in legal work for the railroads. In this legal capacity, James F. Joy helped start the career of Abraham Lincoln, and the relationship lasted about a decade. James F. Joy's admiration and respect for the young attorney must have made quite an impression on the son, Henry B., for it positively affected his decision to head the highway association bearing Lincoln's name.

Let's follow this thread a little further.

(Tracking Joy. Continued on page 6)



Henry B. Joy
Henry B. Joy Papers, Box 25, BHL

Ramblings Along the Lincoln Highway.

*Minutes of the Summer 2003 Iowa LHA Meeting
Louise and Lucille Hink Tama Public Library.
12 July 2003.
Submitted by Su Aros, Acting Secretary.*

Approximately 31 members and guests attended the July 12 Board meeting. Coffee, juice and Tama Bakery donuts were served by our host, Ron Cory.

Mike Kelly called the meeting to order at 9:33am. Minutes of the April 12 meeting were approved as published in the Summer 2003 newsletter.

Membership report by Cecil Stewart indicated that between 10-11 names have been dropped from the roster with only a few having rejoined. Cecil also mentioned that at the Ft. Wayne Annual Conference, the national membership chairman reported that Iowa has the most members. Cecil offered to do membership reports by counties in Iowa for the consuls. Currently, Green County leads with most members.

State Director's Report

Paul Walker suggested that each Consul keep an ongoing log of county activities throughout the year which will make assembling the State Activity Report for the annual conference an easier task.

Paul reported Jess Peterson accepted the Treasurer position for the LHA.

Iowa stops for the Lincoln Highway Anniversary 2003 Coast to Coast Tour include lunch in Mt. Vernon on Aug. 22, stops at Youngville and Preston's Gas Station in Belle Plaine. Overnight is in Marshalltown August 23 possible coffee break in Ogden, lunch at Cronk's in Denison, afternoon break in Woodbine. There are 50 entries for the tour with vehicles from 1926 to 2004 vintages. Bob and Joyce Ausberger have room in their motor home for anyone wishing to make the trip. The Nevada, Iowa Lincoln Highway Festival Days is happening that weekend. Cedar Rapid news coverage is offered if there was a local participant. Mike Kelly is local and making the entire trip. Press release for this tour distributed to Board and consuls for local publications.

Lincoln Highway Trading Post is producing a 2004 Calendar with pictures of LH sites. State event dates can be noted on the calendar; please send to Paul.

State Center will host the January 2004

Board Meeting.

The 2006 Annual Conference is confirmed for Cedar Rapids. Paul wants the entire Lincoln Highway across the state marked with painted telephone poles.

Concern voiced about approval to paint the county poles. Paul will start the process by asking power companies for written permission.

Paul also wants to put together an all-Iowa calendar for sale at the '06 conference. Also an Iowa postcard, and an Iowa LH Hall of Fame. Conference goal is 200 attendees.

A committee is visiting Coe College on August 8 as a possible venue.

October 11 General Membership meeting in Boone to be held in Boone Co. Museum. Want to take a group photo of all County Consuls (need 100% attendance of these people).

Paul proposes John Fitzsimmons conduct a pole-painting clinic. Group agreed to keep the business meeting to one hour (no consul reports) to allow sufficient time for clinic and touring sites in Boone Co.

Agenda Item Discussions

National Park Service is drafting an environmental impact report in the Fall. ILHA should think about a special Board meeting to hear the report.

ILHA Affiliate Program Proposal presented by Paul Walker. Having groups such as the Tama Lincoln Highway Assn., Youngville Highway History Assn., Colo Reed/Niland Corner, Auto groups, etc. associated with the ILHA would show support from a variety of organizations when presenting issues/concerns/requests to government groups for action. ILHA Members asked to consider "mutual benefits" (what we offer, what they offer) for this proposed program.

National Conference Updates: 12 ILHA members were present for the Ft. Wayne conference. Concurrent educational sessions were held which is always an issue as attendees have to choose and therefore miss out on other sessions.

Motion made and passed to accept the offer from the Iowa DOT commissioners to present at their September 16 meeting (8:30am-noon) in Ames. Charlie Kuester to draft a 15-20 minute ppt presentation and submit to Mike Kelly and the Board for review. Board members, County Consuls urged to attend. Presentation to include such items as an update on ILHA projects, our goals for road preservation,

(Ramblings, Continued on page 4)

(Ramblings, Continued from page 3)

our response to NPS, support we'd like from IDOT. Bob Stinson offered to attend and introduce Charlie. Need meeting location.

Brett Ford asked for input/suggestions for the LH interpretive site at Hitchcock Nature Center which includes the Honey Creek grade. County purchased the property and added it to the Park. A campground is being built, to be partially done by Labor Day. Jeff Benson to send Brett existing list of themes set for Iowa and assigned to various sites, including copy of an existing blueprint that was done for Grand Junction. Paul Walker asked Brett for photos/story for next newsletter.

Miscellaneous topics

- Consideration was given to a standing LH float for use in state parades.

- Mass distribution of LH press releases to publications as opposed to individual states/Consuls managing them.

- Lyell Henry distributed postcards of the old L-Ranko Motel in Toledo. New ownership begat new name of "Budget Inn." Old neon sign is gone, but Lyell saved the 28 wrought iron door ornaments. Motel is for sale.

County Consul Reports

Clinton: Recruiting continues with help of Paul to find replacement for Elmer Ketelsen. Attended an Illinois LH meeting in Rochelle and there is some talk around a joint IA/IL meeting. LH signs up on west edge of Clinton, which the city did on its own.

Cedar: No report

Linn: Lunch plans in place for hosting of Cross-Country tour. Van and Bev Becker to meet and greet. An original concrete marker located in Mechanicsville; owner asking upwards of \$1,000.

Benton: Kelly reports President of Youngville Highway History Assn. passed away. A wind-break (trees) is planned for Youngville with some of the memorial contributions. Summer hours are 11am-1:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays for lunch; Friday 3pm-6pm with pie and ice cream (through end of Farmers' Market season); Saturday 8am-10am coffee/rolls. Looking for LH members to help staff on Saturdays and Sundays fro 1-4pm. Mike to send out a sign-up sheet.

Belle Plaine C.of C. has asked to join ILHA; will include LH sites on their tours. Historical society trying to get funds for a museum. Kelly and Walkerr to contact Cross-Country tour organizers as Ron Preston would like to

get the city involved for the stop at Preston's.

Tama: 3 new banners to be hung with 2 more planned bringing total to 10.. Cabin work at King Tower progressing. Almost 3000 in attendance at the May 17/18 festival LH Bridge Festival, including Ausbergers representing the ILHA. Bridge maintenance is in its 17th year.

Marshall: Cross-Country tour is invited to State Center evening of Aug. 22 for the farmer's market, bluegrass band and beer tent. Grant money received to assist with renovations; World Heritage Center of Iowa to include the Iowa Barn Foundation, and LH Interpretive Site. NPS wants to include State Center in its rural community presentation.

Story: College Seniors Program (Ames heritage) starts in Fall. LH exhibit to open in November. Margaret willing to buy any Ames phone books or city directories from the 1910's and 1920's. Larry Forney showed pictures of the progress being made at Niland's Corner. The restored restaurant will be an operating one. Paul will invite Cross-Country Tour to stop.

Boone: General membership meeting to be held October 11 in the Boone Co. Museum.

Greene: Grand Junction buildings on the main street through town soon to be razed.. Saving these buildings in any town takes money to bring them up to code. We all feel the loss when historic buildings are torn down.

Carroll: Attended the Ft. Wayne annual conference; visited the exhibit at DeSoto Bend before it was dismantled. The *Carroll Today* weekly newspaper has asked for and will print articles about the LH for as long as we wish. Norma asked for information on W. Coan, first state consul from Clinton. Suggested she search on Google.

Crawford: No report

Harrison: Elaine had pictures of the Woodbine brick street progress at the Ft. Wayne annual conference. Norma visited and drove down the first completed section. Reports it's "smoooooth."

Pottawattamie: As reported in agenda items.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20pm. Attendees met at the King Tower Restaurant for lunch, and later walked to the remaining cabin to see the restoration progress.

Submitted by Su Aros, Secretary

**WEEK-OLD BEARD
SO MASKED HIS FACE
HIS BULLDOG
CHASED HIM
OFF THE PLACE**

Burma-Shave

Already? The Proposed I-80 Museum.

Coming soon to the world's largest truck stop: A museum of antique trucks that will tell the story of America's love affair with the highway.

The museum will be next door to the Iowa 80 Truckstop on Interstate Highway 80 near Walcott [Iowa].

Delia Moon Meier, daughter of former Iowa 80 owner Bill Moon, said the first phase of the museum will open soon to showcase her family's collection of antique trucks and transportation memorabilia.

"This will be a work in progress" said Meier. "In five years, we hope the museum will be a destination on its own merit."

Iowa's interstate highway system doesn't have many attractions near the road, Meier said, so weary travelers can pull off and spend an hour or two learning history or indulging in nostalgia.

Standard Oil built and opened the truck stop in 1964, before the nearby interstate was complete.

Bill Moon assumed management of the truck stop in September 1965. He purchased it in 1984, and the family built Iowa 80 Truckstop into the world's largest. Moon and his wife, Carolyn, who remains active in the business, practically raised their three children there.

The truck stop now spreads over 200 acres and is a small city in itself with a restaurant, dentist office, barbershop and movie theater.

Bill Moon collected antique trucks, and his family kept collecting after his death in 1992.

Delia Meier's husband, David Meier, said in the first phase the museum will house 27 of the 100 trucks in the family's collection. A 1916 Mack AC truck, believed to be the first Mack truck built, will stay in its current place in the lobby of Iowa 80 Group's 26,000-square-foot corporate headquarters north of the truck stop.

Delia Meier said the museum will show trucks everyone remembers, "not just the one-of-a-kinds. We want a little bit of everything, not a lot of one thing. My father always had it in his mind that he wanted to build a museum to tell the story of transportation in America."

*Reprinted from the Muscatine Journal.
28 December 2002*



The President's Corner

by Mike Kelly, ILHA President



Just a few thoughts on the 90th Anniversary Tour as my return from the twenty-one day trip and the newsletter deadline coincided.

I shot approximately 23 hours of video, which will be edited into a 1-1/2 to 2 hour program. Included are a number of Lincoln Highway sites that have been preserved or sites where preservation efforts are underway.

On the other hand, many remnants of the original Lincoln Highway are slowly disappearing. My traveling companions for the 6500-mile trek, Bill Karr and Bob Leisinger, were always willing to go around the block to get a better shot of a crumbling motor court or gas station. This was no easy task as the schedule was tight. After a leisurely hour of hanging out in Times Square, those of us who stuck to the original route struggled to meet lunch appointments and other scheduled events. Visits with "Lincoln Highway Characters" along the route also put stress on the schedule but they were truly the icing on the cake.

The Iowa section was one of the tour highlights for everyone. The hospitality was legendary. The ongoing joke was "you'd better eat those cookies because it will be at least 15 minutes before you get any more." A number of Iowa map packs were purchased and from my observations they were the best received supplemental guide on the route. As far as the easiest state route to navigate, the hands-down winner was Illinois. It was the only state that has successfully satisfied the overwhelming need to *mark the entire route*. 75 years ago hard surface roads finally paved the way for expanded commercial development along the route. Today we need to *point the way*.

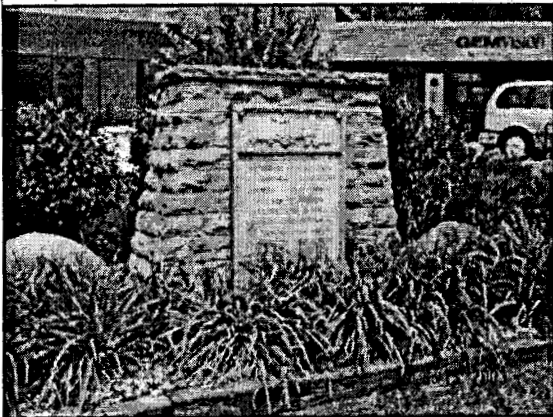
In a sense we were all goodwill ambassadors for the Lincoln Highway and no one was more effective in that role than J.R. Manning of Germantown, Wisconsin. J.R. has chosen Iowa as his chapter affiliation because of our outstanding activity level and excellent newsletter. J.R.'s 1929 Model A was the senior vehicle on the trip and successfully made the Wisconsin to New York to San Francisco trip despite some bad inner tubes and menacing Kennil-worths. I'll have more stories and pictures to share at the Boone meeting.

- Mike

(Tracking Joy, Continued from page 2)

The Internet claims James F. gave Lincoln his start as a lawyer working for the railroads. Back in 1856, the railroad (the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad) was engaged in a lawsuit with the steamship company that owned the Effie Afton Steamboat. It seems the riverboat, on its maiden voyage in 1856, collided with the railroad's first bridge across the Mississippi River at Rock Island/Davenport. The hot smokestacks of the boat set the wood timber rail bridge on fire. The bridge, as well as the steamboat Effie Afton, was destroyed in the resulting fire. The lawsuit pitted steamboat company against railroad and helped launch Mr. Lincoln's career as an attorney for the bridge/railroad. The rest, as they say, is history.

In Davenport, Iowa, along River Drive upstream from the Government Bridge and near the Wonder Bread Bakery, stands a stone monument where the railroad bridge first touched Iowa soil. A replica of the original



bridge pier plaque is on this site.

The caption on the monument explains that construction began in 1853 and was completed April 21, 1856, by the Chicago Rock Island Railroad and that the first train consisted of a locomotive and eight cars passing over the bridge on April 22, 1856. The inscription on the monument indicates that it was the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi River. The original marker plaque is located in the Rock Island Arsenal Military Museum on Arsenal Island along with the bell salvaged from the Effie Afton wreckage.

The marker stands today at the corner of the property that 80 years ago belonged to my grandfather, Carl A. Becker. In the 1920's, Grandfather Becker used this property as the location of his now long-gone coal delivery

(Mtown Milestones, Continued from page 1)

nated with changing colors and intensities of light, including 90,000 watts of colored light and 16,000 watts of sound.

Throughout the performance, you are drawn into these cameo events as they are animated by groups or individuals stepping forth to tell their stories, as conversation pours from large window silhouettes, and as historic photographs are displayed on huge video screens. Choral and instrumental music enhances some sequences, while dramatic and powerful lighting illuminates the Courthouse's countenance.

The script, written by local historian Dorothy Apgar, depicts the timeline of key events in the 150-year history of Marshalltown. It captures the life and times of the community and their leaders and the obstacles they overcame through war, peace, depression, and prosperity.

Naturally, the narrative will include references to the Lincoln Highway, which passes directly in front of the Courthouse.

We hope to see you in Marshalltown when the Courthouse will literally come alive before its audience! **L**



SCENES FROM A TOUR
Van Becker on the Linn/Cedar County line, making sure LH Cross-Country drivers make their way through Lisbon.

"Miss this corner and you miss lunch!"

service.

From my grandfather's coal business to Abraham Lincoln's railroad client, to Henry Joy's father and the amateur radio hobby. I have a connection to the early beginnings of the Lincoln Highway Association.

Amazing where you can go when you start pulling on threads in the middle of the night. **L**

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AND STAFF.**

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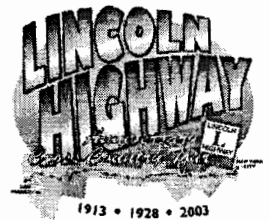
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VOLUNTEER STAFF

Membership Coordinator	Cecil Stewart
Newsletter Editor	Paul Walker
Noble Sojourner	Lyell Henry

GREAT GRADES.

It wouldn't be an official Lincoln Highway 90th Anniversary Cross-Country Tour without a scheduled stop at the storied Youngville One-Stop west of Cedar Rapids. Drivers pulled off the Lincoln (U.S. 30) and huddled around the recently restored main building and cabin camp.

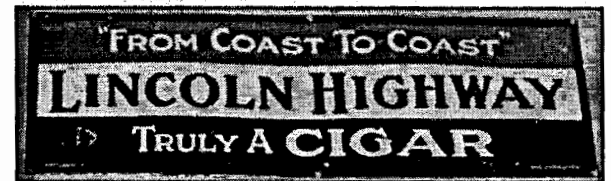


August 17 to September 1, 2003

Our cover photo shows LHA member J.R. Manning of Germantown, Wisconsin, in his 1929 Ford Model A. Mr. Manning drove the entire length of the LH, though it's doubtful he was able to sip much gasoline from Youngville's antique pumps.

Another photo below was contributed by member Cecil Stewart of Ames. Lincoln Highway cigar boxes are found on ebay and in private collections, but a metal Lincoln Highway cigar sign is a rarity, and a true classic.

Readers can email Cecil at cstewart@iastate.edu with their guess as to the location of this impressive LH artifact. *Clue:* It's in plain sight in a commercial establishment in a LH community. **L**



Website Spotlight

A photo diary of the LH Anniversary Cross-Country Tour was maintained throughout the 16-day excursion. You can view hundreds of images from the tour—including many photos of the LH through Iowa—at the Tidewater Region Antique Auto Club of America website:

www.aaca.org/tidewater/lincoln03.htm

But don't stop there! Why not check out some of the other official websites of our Lincoln Highway Association sister states...

UTAH—www.xmission.com/~pgrimes/lincoln.htm

ILLINOIS—www.svonline.net/~lha/

INDIANA—www.lincoln.tripod.com/

OHIO—www.lincolnhighwayoh.com/

PENNSYLVANIA—www.lhhc.org/ (LH Heritage Corridor) **L**

Halloween is Coming... Say "BOOone!"

Welcome everyone to the Fall 2003 meeting of the Iowa LHA on Saturday, October 11th! Meet at the Boone County Historical Center downtown on the old Lincoln Highway at 602 Story—look for the LH marker. Parking is available in the ramp north of the Center and across the street south in the video store lot; only the north spaces running east and west please. Use the Center's southeast door which will be marked. The meeting begins at 9:30, but come early for coffee and conversation. The fee for the afternoon bus tour is \$5.00 per rider—noon meal will be on your own.

There are many places to eat in the downtown area and south of downtown—a list will be provided. Please respond if you will attend the meeting and tour by October 5 to John Fitzsimmons (515-432-3697) or Joe Moore (515-432-6174 or bjmoore@mailstation.com). If you are planning to ride the scenic railroad or visit Mamie Eisenhower Birthplace, or spend more time exploring the LH in Boone, here are some motel numbers: Amerihost (w/pool): 515-432-8168; Super 8: 515-432-8890 or 800-800-8000; American Inn: 515-432-4322.

WHOM DO I WRITE?

Categories:

Student	\$15	Supporting	\$50
Individual	\$30	Patron	\$100
Family	\$40	Institutional	\$100

Application for membership:

Lincoln Highway Association
P.O. Box 308
Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Membership changes/address changes:

Ruth Frantz
Box 27
Sugar Grove, IL 60554 (630)466-4382

See You on the Lincoln Highway!

This issue's new members...

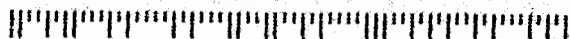
Belle Plaine Historical Society
Judith Cameron
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Jeffrey Kuehl
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Shirley Schaper
State Historical Society of Iowa

Belle Plaine, Benton Co.^L
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^LIowa Lincoln Highway County

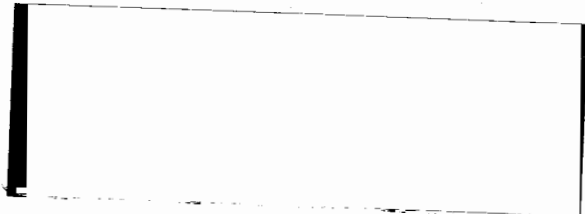
In This Issue...

Showtime in Marshalltown! Grab a Pencil!



5224045609

FIRST CLASS



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