



ALONG THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

Volume 12, Number 1

SPRING 2007

Hi-Way Gardens in Stanwood Crumbles in History

By Kelth Whltlatch- Iowa LHA President

The Hi-Way Gardens in Stanwood, on the Lincoln Highway (Highway 30) since the early 1920's, became a part of history when it was razed by Luke Oberbreckling in February, 2007.

Built in the early 1920's by Robert McClellan and Elwood Reseweher as an open dance pavilion, it featured many of the big bands and local bands up through the eighties and early nineties; bands like Wayne King, Tiny Hill, Guy Lombardo, Lawrence Welk - and local bands such as Tom Owens' Cowboys, Leo and the Pioneers, and the Dale Thomas Band way back in 1962.



(Hi-Way Gardens circa 1956)

A photo taken of the large Hi-Way Gardens road sign for the 1969 Stanwood Centennial book shows "The XL's" Orchestra was playing."

In 1977 a three-ring circus was set up on the parking lot across the street from the dance hall. In 1979 George Bush appeared there when he was running for president.

(Hi-Way Gardens continued on page 7)

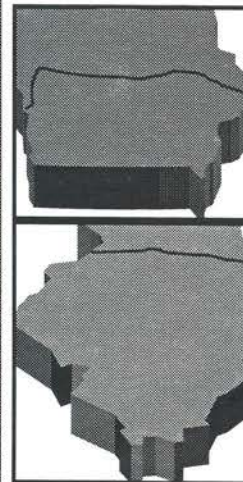
THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION SHALL IDENTIFY, PRESERVE, INTERPRET AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY AND ITS ASSOCIATED SITES, PURSUE THE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PREVENT FURTHER DETERIORATION, DESTRUCTION OR ALTERATION OF THE REMAINING SECTIONS, PUBLICIZE AND SEEK PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ITS GOALS 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.

Iowa and Illinois LHA's to Meet Together on May 12 At National Headquarters

By Jeff LaFollette- ILHA State Director

You are invited to join us for a unique opportunity to join together with our Illinois Lincoln Highway Association counterparts for a two state gathering of LH Associations. On Saturday May 12, 2007, members of the Iowa and Illinois LHA's will come together at the National Headquarters in Franklin Grove, Illinois. This will be an opportunity for those who have never been to the National HQ to check it out.

Illinois LH State Director Kay Shelton and I have been planning this event for a few months and here is what is planned so far. The day begins at 11:00 AM when the Iowa members are to meet at the Franklin Grove National



Headquarters. From there we will caravan to Chaplin Creek Village, which is located south of Franklin Grove. There we will have a catered lunch to enjoy. The cost is not available yet because the menu has not been set yet, but updates will be posted on the world wide web, at address

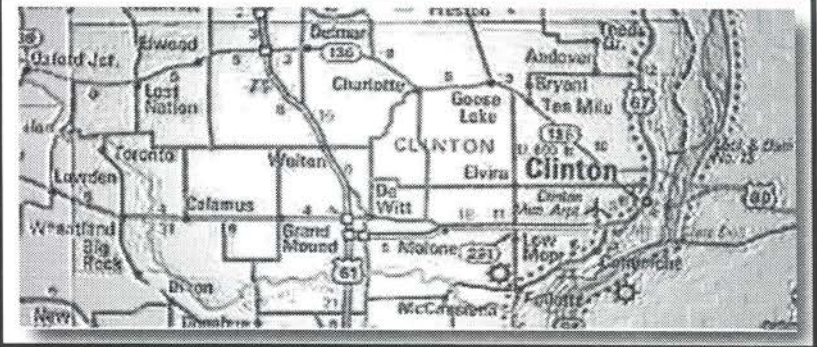
www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa. After lunch, there will be live entertainment provided by the Franklin Grove Boys. One of the "Boys" happens to be
(Iowa & Illinois continued on page 4)



www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org

**IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 14
OGDEN, IOWA 50212**

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



William Folwell Coan Jr. The Man, The Legend

The Iowa Lincoln Highway Association owes much to William Folwell Coan Jr. The Clinton, Iowa native's efforts in highway development and promotion of the Lincoln Highway were known not only in Iowa, but across the nation as well. His life was one of service and was cut short by diabetes and depression and he committed suicide in 1918. Today, many of our members know little about this man. Doing what I have the most fun with, which is perusing through old books in the basements of libraries, along with some help from the fine folks in the Root Cellar at the Clinton Public Library, I have come up with a short synopsis about his life and also discovered a well written tribute to his life in the February 15, 1918 *Clinton Herald*, two days after his death. I hope this story acquaints you with the first state consul, and the first vice-president of the original National Lincoln Highway Association.

WILLIAM FOLWELL COAN JR., son of William Folwell and Catherine Louisa (Peck) Coan was born on April 4, 1860 in Clinton, Iowa. He was educated in the public and private schools of Clinton and attended Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest, Illinois, for two years. On December 11, 1882 in the Presbyterian Church in Clinton he married Mary Alice Welles. The Reverend Dr. Weller performed the ceremony.

Mary Alice Welles was born on May 27, 1860 in Fulton, Illinois, daughter of Edwin Pillsbury and Isabelle (Griswold) Welles. She was a lineal descendant of Governor Thomas Welles of Connecticut. She received her education at Abbot Academy, Andover, Massachusetts.

William was cashier of the Clinton National Bank and was secretary and treasurer of the Clinton Savings Bank. He was very much involved with the affairs of the city and community. He was on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, a trustee of Agatha Hospital, a trustee of the Presbyterian Church, president of the Wapsipinicon Club. However, he was best known and widely recognized for his efforts in highway development. He received a silver medal, one of only six awarded for the first year, for service to the Lincoln Highway project. Carl Fisher, the man who perfected the means of compressing carbide gas in tanks (Prest-O-

Life) and suggested the Indianapolis Speedway, proposed a coast-to-coast rock highway. Consuls were selected for each state to take care of the local rights and work out local problems. William was the first consul for Iowa. He was known all over the country for what he did to promote this highway. Coan also proposed the Mississippi Scenic Highway (ed. note: an early forerunner to the Great River Road). A little west of Clinton at the junction of US 67 and US 30, the Lincoln Highway, there is a stone marker honoring him for his exceptional contribution in making these two great roads possible.

William died suddenly in Clinton on February 13, 1918 aged 57. His wife died in Morrison, Illinois on December 5, 1939 aged 79. They were both buried in Springdale Cemetery in Clinton. (From the book titled *Coan Genealogy 1697-1982*, compiled by Ruth Coan Fulton).

From the February 15, 1918 Clinton, Iowa Herald A Tribute to the Life of William Folwell Coan Jr.

Tomorrow all that is mortal of the late William Folwell Coan will be laid at rest, while his friends offer their tribute to the memory of one whose career began and ended within Clinton's borders, has been devoted to the civic, commercial, financial and moral advancement of his home city.

While the death of Mr. Coan brought a shock and sorrow to many homes and throughout the business circles of the city, only in the days to come when his kindly counsel and ready helpfulness are missing, will come the true realization of Clinton's loss in his passing.

Always a leader, and an enthusiast, in whatever he undertook, he accomplished more perhaps than even

he himself realized. Through the coming years monuments built by his hand will remind us of his existence, and will bring back to the community a memory of the untiring spirit with which he labored to "put Clinton on the map", literally as well as figuratively. For in recent years, his efforts were mainly concerned with his self-assumed task of making Clin-

(*Between The Rivers* continued on page 6)



Ramblings Along the Lincoln Highway

*Minutes of the Winter 2007 Iowa LHA Meeting
Boone County Cultural Center
Boone, Iowa
13 January 2007
Submitted by Jeff Benson, Secretary.*

President Keith Whitlatch called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

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

Treasurer's Report. **Joyce Ausberger** reported a checking account balance of \$3832.15 and an investment account balance of \$5071.75 and the following details for the past year:

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Merchandise sales	\$ 1976.49	Newsletter	\$ 1019.32
National memberships	\$ 1191.00	Merchandise costs	\$ 2008.06
State memberships	\$ 420.00	Post office box	\$ 26.00
Total Income	\$ 3587.49	Donation	\$ 100.00
		Reimbursements	\$ 220.00
		Total Expenses	\$ 3371.46

Lyell Henry (Noble Sojourner) moved accepting the Treasurer's report and **Van Becker** (Linn County) seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

President Whitlatch read the membership report from **Cecil Stewart**, who could not attend.

State Director's Report- **Jeff LaFollette** reported on communications about the "Tin Can Tourist Tour" that may follow the Lincoln Highway in 2008 and will continue communications on the details. In a follow up to the national Lincoln Highway Association hiring **David Hay** of South Bend Indiana as the director for managing the endowment grant, there has been discussion about opening a new office in South Bend, IN and naming it as the LH National Office, and renaming the current national headquarters location in Franklin Grove, Illinois as the "national visitor and tourism information center." **Jeff Benson** (secretary) moved that the State Director **Jeff LaFollette** write a letter to the national board that they, the national Board of Directors should take official action to vote on changing the name the Franklin Grove office. **Lyell Henry** seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Newsletter Editor Report- **Jeff LaFollette** has made some changes in the newsletter format and more are yet to come.

Business Items

1. DeWitt Plaque- **Jeff LaFollette** reported that the DeWitt City Council was not too concerned about fixing the errors

in the Lincoln Highway history on the DeWitt metal plaque, which could cost up to \$4500. **Joyce Ausberger** moved that a letter to the editor of the local paper be drafted and **Margaret Elbert** seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Policy for Records Management- **Lyell Henry** (National Archive Committee Member) presented a proposed "Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Policy on Official Files." **Margaret Elbert** moved approval of the policy and **Jeff LaFollette** seconded. Policy approved unanimously. There was discussion of how to determine if photos and other documents about the Lincoln Highway are valuable to be saved and how to accomplish this.

3a. Congressional Action- **Allan Richards** (Tama County) asked about the status on Congressional action following the recommendations of the National Park Service in the Lincoln Highway Special Resource Study. No one had information about any follow up by the U.S. Congress.

3b. Tama Catholic Church- **Allan Richards** has negotiated terms for the purchase of an historic Catholic Church one block from the Lincoln Highway in Tama and asked the Board to consider setting up a non-profit organization to own and maintain the building for display and other purposes. Funding is available for maintenance. **President Whitlatch** recommended that this proposal be considered between now and the spring meeting. **Jeff LaFollette, Bob Ausberger,** and **Mike Kelly** agreed to work on this with **Allan** and report back to the Board.

4a. Greene County Projects- **Jeff Benson** reported on that Greene County has said that they cannot carry out a grant to produce two books on historic bridges without the Lincoln Highway Association leading the project. After discussion, **Joyce Ausberger** moved that no objection be made to Greene County giving up the grant, but that the ILHA continue to seek an author and funding to produce one book or a smaller booklet. **Lyell Henry** seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4b. Jeff Benson also reported that the project to develop the Greene County Lincoln Highway Interpretive Site at Lion's Club Tree Park is moving forward again, but some help may be needed to fund and coordinate completing the interpretive panels themselves. **Joyce Ausberger** moved that the ILHA commit to completing the interpretive panels on the project if this help is needed and to appoint **Jeff** as the ILHA representative this project. **Jeff LaFollette** seconded and the motion passed unanimously. **Jeff Benson** also reported that Greene County has received a \$2 million grant to rehabilitate the Eureka Bridge, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. **Sandii Huemann-Kelly**
(*Ramblings* continued on page 4)

(*Ramblings* continued from page 3)

(Benton County) moved and **Bob Owens** (Greene County) seconded that **Jeff Benson** also be the ILHA representative on the committee advising the county on the design for this project.

4d. **Iowa Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway-** **Jeff Benson** reported on steps to get counties' and cities' approval of the route and thanked the County Consuls for their effort on this.

5a. **Joint meeting with Illinois LHA-** The Board agreed on the May 12th date to meet at Franklin Grove, Illinois with the Illinois LHA for a two state get together.

5b. **River-to-River Road** Reviewed and discussed a sample itinerary and tour stops and timeline prepared by **Jeff LaFollette**. The Board agreed on a three-day tour in August 2008.

5c. **National Scenic Byway-** The Board agreed that this be pursued after the route for the Iowa Heritage Byway has been approved.

6a. **LHA Endowment Fund-** **Jeff LaFollette** moved and **Joyce Ausberger** seconded that ILHA donate \$1000 over two years to this Fund, which funds grants to local groups for Lincoln Highway projects.

6b. **Financial Support for Harrison County Interpretive Site-** In a follow-up to the Fall 2006 visit to this site, **Joyce Ausberger** moved that \$500 be donated to this project for the interpretive element consistent with the Iowa Lincoln Highway's Plan for Interpretive Sites. **Jeff Benson** seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

County Consul Reports

Clinton County - Jeff LaFollette reported on more pole painting and that work on another phase of the U.S. Highway 30 improvement project is beginning.

Cedar County - Keith Whitlatch said that the Highway Gardens dance hall in Stanwood will be demolished.

Linn County - Van Becker said that six of the planned eight interpretive panels are completed. He also reported on a new Lisbon History Center on the Lincoln Highway. Nationally, the new map CD is in beta version review.

Benton County - Mike Kelly said the Lincoln Café in Belle Plaine has reopened.

Tama County- Allan Richards reported that work will begin this year on the new US 30 bypass around the Tama-Toledo area

Marshall County - State Center Main Street organization is looking for a permanent representative to the ILHA.

Boone County - Joe Moore met twice with the Boone County Supervisors on the Programmatic Agreement, but they are still reluctant to concur with it.

Greene County -- Jeff Nemechek discussed his creation of a Lincoln Highway marker emblem in chocolate.

Carroll County - Bob Owens may have a potential representative from Carroll County.

Crawford County- No Report

Harrison County - Joyce Ausberger reported on behalf

of **Elaine Ehler** that Woodbine has received an enhancement grant to complete an historic lighting project.

Pottawattamie County- No Report

Other Business

1. **Sandii Huemann-Kelly** needs event information and historical society contacts for the web site.

2. **Lyell Henry** is still looking for copies any past, significant Association correspondence for the archive.

3. The Spring general meeting will be in Belle Plaine and the July Board meeting will be at the Lisbon History Center. The National Conference will be June 17-22 in Fort Morgan, Colorado.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM L

(*Iowa & Illinois* continued from page 1)

National Headquarters curator Lynn Asp. Lynn volunteers her time to talk to those who stop in the building and she never tires of talking about the Lincoln Highway. Yes, Lynn is a wonderful lady, and one of the "Franklin Grove Boys"

There are a few more plans in the works, but as stated earlier, keep an eye on the website for updates.

If you are interested in attending, the folks in Illinois would like a count on how many people are coming. They need to know by no later than May 1 so they can get the food ordered. So if you wish to come to this event, the only cost you will have is for your gas to get there and for lunch. Plus you'll get to meet with other Lincoln Highway enthusiasts and share your stories. If the weather is nice and you have a classic car, I would encourage you to get your old ride out for a spring cruise.

Please contact Jeff LaFollette by phone at 563-349-3047 or by e-mail at jefflaf@peoplepc.com to confirm if you plan to attend and how many you will have in your party. Please remember to RSVP by May 1, 2007.

For directions to Franklin Grove, Illinois there are three main ways you can get there:

- 1) Take I-80 east through Iowa and cross the Mississippi River Bridge Take the I-88 east exit to Sterling-Rock Falls. Follow I-88 to Exit 44 which is the US 30 exit. There is no exit for Franklin Grove off of I-88. Turn right on US 30 and go east. When you come to an intersection with US 52 continue about one mile east and look for a sign that directs you to turn left to Franklin Grove which will be 6 miles north. Follow the Historic LH signage when you get into Franklin Grove and you'll come to the Lincoln Building.
- 2) Take US 30 east through Iowa and cross the bridge into Illinois in Clinton. Continue east on US 30, look for the US 52 intersection and then follow the directions listed above.
- 3) Or take the scenic route! Come into Clinton on US 30 and when US 30 crosses the bridge, head north on US 67 and cross the north bridge (IA 136). Follow the Historic LH signage the entire route to Franklin Grove. The route is very well marked with the signs. Main highways you'll encounter will be US 30, IL 2 and IL 38. Watch for Historic LH signs at several turns in Dixon. Total trip time after crossing into Illinois should vary from 75 to 90 minutes for all the routes listed. L



The President's Corner

By Keith Whitlatch,
ILHA President

I had good positive results when I took the information reference the Highway Heritage Byway to the Cedar County Engineer and Supervisors. It was a great help having Jeff Benson preparing a sample resolution ready for them to use. My county auditor appreciated that. It passed easily. I think anytime we can have personal contact with the county officials it is good. How are things going in other counties?

The Clarence Community Newsletter shows the pride in being a part of the Lincoln Highway, and also now being part of the Lincoln Heritage Byway. Each issue, they seem to have a Lincoln Highway article. Clarence's summer celebration is called "Lincoln Highway Days". Their community newsletter is published quarterly.

Stanwood also has a community newsletter called "The Rock Creek Express", and they are always looking for stories and articles. I would encourage all of the county consuls to search out these local newsletters as well as newspapers of county and area coverage. Our local newspaper, "The Tipton Conservative", will take articles. I just have to write stories and submit them.

With the demise of the Stanwood Hi-Way Gardens dance hall I am writing an article for both the "Rock Creek Express" and the "Tipton Conservative".

Also, I feel the Lincoln Highway is still suffering an identity crisis. People keep referring to it as "Old Highway 30" rather than the Lincoln Highway. We need to keep promoting our name, "Lincoln Highway".

Good things are happening at Ditto's Restaurant in Stanwood (one of the Becker's favorite spots). The Stanwood Lions Club, which meets in their back room, purchased a Lincoln Highway coverlet from our organization and presented it to the owners of Ditto's. It is now proudly displayed on a wall hanger in their back room, which has now become "The Lincoln Hi-Way room. I realize Highway is spelled differently, but that is a take off on the Old Hi-Way Gardens. They have even put the sign "The Lincoln Hi-Way Room" over the door, and are looking for more mementos of the Lincoln Highway to display.

We need to encourage the use of the Lincoln Highway name along the "Old Highway 30". Lois and I recently ate at the Lincoln Cafe in Mt. Vernon. Good food at a reasonable price. Let us know about Lincoln Highway names popping up in your counties.

Keith

**PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY!
SEND US YOUR COMMUNITY EVENTS TO BE
PRINTED HERE OR POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE
SEND YOUR EVENT TO JEFF LAFOLLETTE AT
jefflaf@peoplepc.com**

Youngville Café Receives National Register Honor

On February 1, 2007, one of Youngville Café's long term goals was achieved. Youngville Café received word that it has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many of the efforts at Youngville over the past several years have focused on reaching this goal. The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of cultural resources deemed worthy of preservation. Youngville Café is among 80,000 properties districts and buildings that have been designated as significant in American history and architecture among other criteria. Listing in the National Register honors an historic place by recognizing its impor-



tance to the community, state or nation.

The café, located at the intersection of US 30 and US 218 is staffed by dedicated volunteers. Lunch is served on a limited basis and groups may be accommodated with advance arrangements. Youngville will reopen for the season on May 1, 2007. The weekly Farmers Market will open later. More details are available at www.youngvillecafe.com.

**LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION
15TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FORT MORGAN, COLORADO
JUNE 18-22, 2007**

**Registration Info on the Iowa LHA website
or at www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org**

Upcoming LHA State Meetings

April 14, '07	Benton Co.-Belle Plaine
July 14, '07	Linn Co.-Lisbon
October 13, '07	Boone Co.-Ogden
January 12, '08	To Be Announced

(Between The Rivers continued from page 2)

ton a city known far and wide through its location on leading highways. With that aim in view, he was instrumental in the organization of the old Transcontinental route, subsequently absorbed in large part by the Lincoln Memorial Highway.

Through his labor and enthusiasm largely, the Lincoln Highway was projected through Clinton and this portion of Iowa and Illinois. Not satisfied with the achievement of that aim, he had since worked indomitably to make that section of the highway, for which he was responsible as state consul, the best on the entire route with splendid prospects of success.

Nor did he confine his wonderful fund of good roads enthusiasm to the Lincoln Highway alone. For he found time and opportunity for promoting other good roads efforts, notably the organization of the Mississippi Valley Scenic Highway, and for supporting every other better highway project that in any way affected the interests of Clinton.

Even with the recounting of his improved roads successes, the story of his life and of his devotion to Clinton to the upbuilding of the community is not told; it is only a fair beginning, the outstanding feature of his efforts.

For wherever a hand was needed at the wheel, or to hold the reins, or to provide funds for a public weal, in Mr. Coan could be found a ready volunteer. No task was too great if his aid was needed nor was any task too small or too humble.

Thus he achieved financial, commercial, civic, moral and social success, for he was as intensely interested in the moral and social welfare of Clinton as he was in the more material things of life. He was a stalwart in his religious and moral faith and he had that congenial spirit which craved, sought and attained social activity.

The imprint of his influence, therefore is to be found upon many public and social organizations, notably Agatha Hospital, of which he was a trustee; the Wapsipinicon Club, of which he was one of the founders and at the time of his death, president; the Commercial Club, which he served as a member of the board of directors; the Presbyterian Church of which he was a member for more than forty years, one of its chief supporters and for twenty years as one of its trustees; and finally, the two banks which he served so many years as cashier and secretary and treasurer.

William Folwell Coan loved the truth. He loved Clinton and Iowa and helped to make them strong. His motto: "Stand fast; stand firm; stand sure; stand true." L

BURMA-SHAVE JINGLES

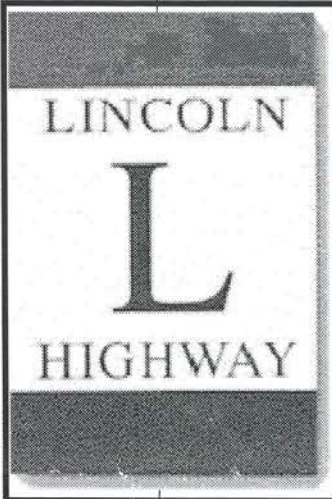
You Can't Reach 80- Hale And Hearty- By Driving 80- Home From- The Party- Burma Shave

Altho- We've Sold- Six Million Others- We Still Can't Sell- Those Coughdrop Brothers- Burma Shave

National LHA Hires Executive Director and Opens New National Office

National Lincoln Highway Association president Bob Lichty announced in January the hiring of an Executive Director for the National LHA. David L. Hay assumes the position of Executive Director after a several month search by the Association's Endowment Committee. David will be working to help leverage our endowment

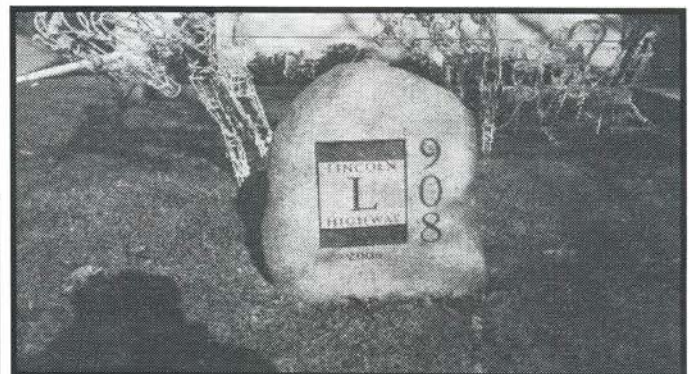
fund by looking to gain grants and other fund raising efforts for the Association. David will be working with the State Directors of the state associations to help with efforts between the state organizations and heritage groups, historic byway groups and communities with an interest in the Lincoln Highway. David will be establishing an office in South Bend, Indiana in the near future that is to be called the LHA National Office. The address of that office will be posted in a future issue of "Along the Lincoln Highway". Please join us in welcoming David to the Lincoln Highway Association. If you have suggestions for grant or fundraising ideas for the Association you can contact David via e-mail at hay.1@nd.edu L



Jefferson, IA. Couple Promotes Lincoln Highway in Unique Way

We are always looking for interesting way of promoting the Lincoln Highway, so Joyce Ausberger and Bob Owens from Greene County sent this in from Jefferson.

Eddie and Kathy Colvert who are Lincoln Highway Association members had this stone engraved in Jefferson. The stone was given to them by another Association member, Mel Miller from his farm near the Jefferson area. The Colvert's reside at 908 W. Lincolnway in Jefferson, on the old Lincoln Highway through Jefferson of course. If you happen to be in the area, stop by and check it out. L



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(Hi-Way Gardens continued from page 1)

The Hi-Way Gardens got its start as an open air pavilion in the early 20's and it continued that way until 1936, when Howard McClellan bought out his partner, Elwood Resewehr. McClellan then closed in the dance floor and added a lunch room and bar. Prior to this time, alcoholic beverages were not served. McClellan and his wife Grace continued to operate the popular ballroom for many years. This partnership continued until January 1, 1967, when it came to a tragic end. That evening the place was packed, as was the norm for a New Year's Eve dance. Grace was walking home prior to the end of the evening's activities. She would walk north a block, and then west one block, to her home. As she approached the intersection where she would turn west, a hit and run vehicle hit her and she died on impact. This hit and run was never solved.

Bob McClellan continued to own the facility until 1972 when he

sold out to Dean and Mary Steckley and Jim Driscoll. In 1976 they sold the facilities to Deborah and Rick Wagner. They operated it until a few years ago. The ballroom closed first and



then, finally, the bar. In 2006 the city of Stanwood purchased the property and Luke Oberbreckling razed it in February of 2007.

In addition to many, many dances, the ballroom was the site of many other activities and celebrations. It serves the area as a community center for years. Banquets, reunions, retirement parties, athletic banquets - any function that required a large hall. It was a social center for the area.

Hi-Way Gardens was known far and wide. McClellan was able to attract the "big bands" that traveled on the Lincoln Highway from Chicago to Omaha. It made a nice "over-night" gig for them as they went from one large city to the other. In 1947 WMT Radio of Cedar Rapids broadcast live the New Year's activities. Should you mention the "Hi-Way Gardens" to gatherings of people in their 50's and older, across the state today, inevitably, someone will have a story to tell about having been there.

As people's interests and tastes changed the attendance at the dances dwindled. Deb and Rick discontinued bringing in bands. The facilities were booked occasionally for private parties that Deb catered, and the bar was open. Finally, the building sat empty, before the city of Stanwood purchased it.

I had occasion to talk to Rick Wagner recently. He tells me the last public dance was a new year's dance and Rick served as a DJ. The last time the ballroom was used was February of 02, for a party for the North Cedar teachers.

The last two functions I attended at the ballroom was January 21, 2000, for my retirement party as sheriff, and December 31, 1997, for our daughter Valerie's wedding reception. Touring the ballroom, lunch room, and bar in February, just prior to the wrecking ball, brought back many memories for me. What memories does it have for you? L

WINTER IS OVER! SPRING WITH US TO BELLE PLAINE FOR THE IOWA LHA SPRING TOUR MEETING

I don't know if you feel the way I do, but THANK GOODNESS WINTER IS OVER!! Now that that's out of the way, let's get together in Belle Plaine on Saturday, April 14 for the Spring Iowa LHA Meeting. Mike & Sandii Kelly will be our hosts for this meeting in Benton County. The meeting will be at the Belle Plaine Historical Society Museum, located at 725 12th St. in downtown Belle Plaine. Coffee and Rolls will be available at 9:00AM. Our President, Keith Whitlatch will drop the gavel around 9:30AM to convene the meeting. Lunch will be at the recently reopened Bailey's Lincoln Café, that our diner correspondent extraordinaire Van Becker wrote about in the last issue. The cost of lunch will be \$7.25 per person for a chicken or Salisbury steak dinner served with a salad and dessert tray. After the meeting a walking tour of some of Belle Plaine's many Lincoln Highway sites of interest is offered. Directions are as follows:

FROM THE EAST: Follow US 30 west, then turn left on County Road V-40. Follow V-40 to a T intersection and turn right (about 4 miles) into Belle Plaine. Then turn left onto 12th St. until you arrive at the Historical Museum.

FROM THE WEST:

Follow US 30 east to IA Highway 21. Turn right on IA 21 and continue through the stoplight. Turn right onto 11th Ave, then left onto 12th St.

Come and join us for a day of fun and fellowship! **L**



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

William & Teresa Clark	Jefferson, Greene Co. L
Lorraine Van Fleet	Cedar Rapids, Linn Co. L
Bonita Custer	Logan, Harrison Co. L
Dennis & Lorraine Ehler	Woodbine, Harrison Co. L
Goodlove Museum	Lowden, Cedar Co L
Marlene Robinson	Ames, Story Co. L
William Bauer	Lincoln, NE
Mark & Trace Workman	Layton, UT

(L - Denotes Iowa Lincoln-Highway County)