



Along The Lincoln Highway



Volume 23, Number 2

Summer 2018

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

President's Corner By Cathie Nichols Presidents of ILHA

Hello! I'd like to introduce myself to those who don't know me. My name is Cathie Nichols. I've been married to my husband, Norm, for 46 years. We were both in the healthcare field (RN & Pharmacist) and are now retired. We have two daughters, one granddaughter, and two great-granddaughters. We live in a 140-year-old Victorian house in DeWitt, in Clinton County, just two blocks off the original Lincoln Highway. I have been a member of the ILHA for fifteen years.

As a child, I always noticed the old roads that ran along the newer highways and wondered where they went. As I got older, I would get off the highway and drive on the remnants of the original roads. They were more interesting with curves, old bridges, lots of trees, and little towns. When I found out there were others like me who enjoyed the old roads, I was thrilled! I enjoy being an advocate for the Lincoln Highway. I'm always surprised at the number of people who live near the Lincoln and don't know its significance.

There is a lot going on along the Lincoln Highway this summer. RAGBRAI, the annual bike ride across Iowa, has made this year's route partially along the Lincoln. Our members have planned lunch in Jefferson, root-beer floats at Reed-Niland, and an event in State Center. This is an opportunity to get the Lincoln Highway recognized by thousands of people who might not know of it, and some added publicity.

Speaking of publicity, the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway has designed a children's activity book for kids to use on car trips across the Lincoln. There are games, stickers for bingo, a section for stamps at places visited, and a reward for completing it and sending it in. The ILHA has voted to help with funding to get this book printed. It will be available at the Iowa State Fair in

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The Legacy of Henry Ostermann By Jan Gammon, LHHB Coordinator Prairie Rivers of Iowa

Henry Ostermann was a multi-dimension man who helped develop the Lincoln Highway. He was a pioneer in transcontinental travel and provided much insight about traveling to Joy and Fisher. The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway is planning for an installation of an interpretive panel in Montour near the location where Mr. Ostermann lost his life. A grant has been submitted to fund an interpretive panel and we will use part of the information below in that panel. The following information was gathered from the Sacramento Union newspaper and other resources. We do need to confirm what trip # this fateful trip was for him, so if you can verify that or have any other information please contact Jan Gammon at 515-232-0048.

The Adventurer From one of his personal reminiscences Ostermann states: "When I first drove across the United States in a motor car in 1908, and again in 1912, there was no such thing as a transcontinental road. Few people had driven across the country and the innumerable great difficulties which the motorist undertaking a transcontinental drive was forced to encounter made the trip possible only to those who enjoyed hardships

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Mission Statement

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.

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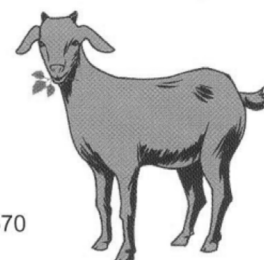
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Continued from President's Corner

the Iowa Byway booth and at several sites along the Lincoln Highway.

In Belle Plaine, the Herring Hotel continues to make progress. The building is now stabilized and restoration is to start soon. The Preston family is also committed to restoring Preston Station. They have non-profit status now and a board of directors. The family will live on site, and after restoring the station, they plan to restore the motel and outbuildings. There are plans for a car charging station also.

The town of Clarence in Cedar County received a \$100,000 Main Street Community grant. The money will be used to restore buildings on Main Street, which is the Lincoln Highway.

Youngville, in Benton County, needs more members. They are running a special this year for ILHA members-\$10 for a two-year membership. The money will be used for upkeep of the Youngville Station and restoration of the floor of the oil room so the public can see it. Anyone interested, please contact Mike Kelly.

In closing, I want to make everyone aware that we have vacancies on our board. County consuls are needed in Linn, Crawford, and Pottawattamie counties, and my promotion to President has left an opening for Vice-President of the ILHA. If you are interested, please contact me or State Director Dean Parr. Remember to renew your ILHA memberships! Thank you.

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Clinton County Update **By Cathie Nichols, ILHA President**

I have an update on the three bridges at Syracuse, between Calamus and Wheatland. I have finally tracked down the owner of the property we are interested in, beside the Wapsipinicon River and between the 1913 and the 1928 sections of highway. He is the same person who owns the boat ramp property, on the north side of the 1928 section. He said he has no objection to us adding picnic tables to the boat ramp/parking area, as it is already leased to the Clinton County Conservation Board (who also has no objection.) The property owner also is agreeable to our building a path between the 1928 and 1913 sections and building a viewing platform, as long as we can release him from liability. He has a lease with the CCCB to that intent for the boat ramp (but the CCCB apparently can't find it so we can't modify it for our use.) This project can move forward as soon as we get this nailed down, but we need legal advice ASAP. I have also spoken with our local DNR agent, who said the brush cutting by the pony truss bridge and painting the bridge would be fine with him. The county still has ownership of the actual roadbed and right of way, so I will contact them about weed control and mowing to see if they will do some of it.

I hope to meet with the owner of the Winster Motel, a historic Lincoln Highway Motel in DeWitt, about a Lincoln Highway themed room before our next meeting. There are lots of suggestions, from posters and pillows to a mural painter. I'm considering adding a one-year merchant membership to sweeten the pot. There were originally three motels on the Lincoln in DeWitt and this is the only one left, so I hope I can convince her to promote the LH.

A special Country Life edition of the DeWitt and Maquoketa newspapers has two articles on the LH. One is a general history article (featuring a Byway sign and a concrete marker), and one is about the future plans for the three bridges. Now that the word is getting out there, I hope we can get something done. Also check our website for Clinton County events in June.

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and a rough outing, and who had time to do the drive—which might take sixty days or ninety days, depending upon the conditions of the roads and the luck one had in finding good ones, and in getting across the different states in as direct a manner as possible. In those days one started out with no very clear conception of exactly what route would be followed and proceeded across the country in a more or less uncertain fashion, inquiring at different points the best road to follow to the next city to the west. It was impossible to estimate with any degree of accuracy the length of time to be required in reaching the coast, the cost of the trip, or in fact to foretell whether it would be possible to complete the journey at all or not. Since the inception and announcement of the Lincoln Highway in 1913, it has been a wonderful experience to watch the growth and development of this transcontinental road. In 1912 it is probable that there had been less than a dozen through transcontinental trips by motor car actually completed under their own power. The development of a transcontinental route is shown in the fact that conservative estimates place the number of motorists who made the transcontinental drive last year at between thirty and forty thousand. Instead of sixty days or more being required to make the drive from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the ordinary unhurried progress of a pleasure party can make the trip in less than thirty days, provided, of course, the weather conditions are favorable.”

It might be said with due reasonableness that Ostermann was the pioneer traveler of the transcontinental motor route, which today has developed from a pastime, or pleasure to an ends which mean much to a commercially active future.

The Organizer Ostermann, while in California in the late 1910's, chose many of the early county consuls to represent the Lincoln Highway Association and his death was keenly

felt in the highway circles within which he had moved up in popularity as he became the Field Secretary of the original Lincoln Highway Association.

Upon his death in 1920, the Lincoln Highway Association directorate had this to say concerning Ostermann and his work: “H. C. Ostermann, Field Secretary of the Lincoln Highway Association, has spent practically all of his time since 1908 on the Lincoln Highway between New York and San Francisco, and has driven that route more times than any other man. He had completed his eighteenth transcontinental trip in 1919. In Ostermann's own words about transcontinental motor trips, it appears that his work has been responsible for the introduction of that popular adventure of the present day. His publications telling experiences of his journeys back and forth and the timely advice given motorists have been widely read. Some of his snappy slogans will mark the Lincoln Highway transcontinental route for years to come.”

The Visionary From the Sacramento Union, 1920: “During the advent of the army transport train from Washington to San Francisco, occurring in September 1919, Ostermann acted as guide to the train of about 70 trucks and 200 men over the Lincoln Highway. The transport was the idea of Ostermann, his purpose being to demonstrate the practicability of using motor trucks in the transportation of troops, supplies and arms and ammunition over the transcontinental highways. Ostermann also served valiantly, as one of the directors in the highways division of the Army and won praise for his ability to route and to control the movements of army motor trucks and automobiles. The present endeavor upon which he had undertaken his fourth transcontinental drive from New York to San Francisco was for the purpose of laying out a second adventure in the use of highways for military purposes directly affecting both inland and coast travel.”

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Continued from Ostermann

His Demise Sacramento Union, 1920:

“Ostermann and his assistant were enroute to Sacramento and Oakland, driving the Scout official car on the Lincoln Highway, when the car went over an embankment, killing Ostermann and seriously injuring his assistant.”

Henry Ostermann had married Sarah Simms of East Liverpool, OH only 4 months after the passing of his first wife, Babe Bell. Sarah's honeymoon was delayed; and when it came, it was Ostermann's first 1920 crossing of the highway. Since 1908, this would be the 21st time that Ostermann had crossed the Lincoln Highway.

On June 7th, 1920 while staying with friends in Tama, Iowa, Ostermann left early in the morning to go to a meeting in Marshalltown, thirty miles to the west, with plans to return that evening to Sarah. Six miles east of Tama he pulled out to overtake a slower car. While going 40 - 50 mph Ostermann lost control, skidded two hundred feet, rolled over twice, and was killed instantly as his head was crushed between the ground and the steering wheel. Sarah took his body back to be buried in Riverview Cemetery in East Liverpool, OH. They had only been married for seven months. Distraught at her loss, Sarah never remarried. (From “American Road” by Pete Davies, 2002)

Closing The Lincoln Highway was just about as important to Ostermann as he was important to the Lincoln Highway. The route would not have been as easily developed without his insight and travel knowledge. This is not to say it was an easy task, but without Mr. Ostermann, it may never have connected America, from coast-to-coast. He was a true pioneer in his field and we owe him much gratitude.

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KCRG-TV “Our Town” Comes to Tama

**By Jan Gammon
LHHB Coordinator
Prairie Rivers of Iowa**

Beth Malicki and a cameraman from KCRG-TV came to Tama County on June 4th-6th to interview people at highlighted locations around the county. Among those interviewed were Anne Michaels, past president and member of the Tama Historic Preservation Commission; Colleen Davis, president of the Lincoln Highway Bridge Park Association; Byron Witt, original member of the Lincoln Highway Bridge Park Association and “worker bee;” and Jan Gammon, Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Coordinator. They spoke about the historic Lincoln Highway Bridge, the nearby park, the effort to make King Tower to the Bridge a historic district, and the effort to make repairs to restore this iconic bridge.

We are not sure when this segment will air, but look for more information on the ILHA website or Facebook page.

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Lincoln Highway Read through
the minutes from April's
meeting on our website!**

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LHHB Update
By Jan Gammon, LHHB Coordinator
Prairie Rivers of Iowa

After the very long winter and very short spring, the Byway is gearing up for summer activities. We do not know of any communities that are celebrating their 125th or 150th this year, but have been told the City of Carroll and the City of Stanwood are planning activities for their 2019 celebrations. Let Jan Gammon know if you know of a community celebrating this year.

RAGBRAI, the annual bike road across Iowa, will be traveling through several Lincoln Highway towns July 22-28. We are currently planning on having an information table at Reed-Niland in Colo and may be in other towns as well. The overnight towns are Denison, Jefferson, and Ames. The ride will also travel through Scranton, Grand Junction, Nevada, and State Center. The ride, in past years, has drawn 20,000+ bikers and even more manning sag wagons or as supporting people. It is quite an event in Iowa. We will take pictures!

The Iowa Byways will again have a booth at the State Fair. In 2018, the DOT is celebrating 20 years of the Byway program in Iowa. The booth is under the grandstands and has very good traffic. This is the third year of doing this and we have given out about 800 Lincoln Highway information Guides and 3,000 Iowa Byways booklets each year.

The Byway is working with the ILHA on interpretive panels at the east entrance to Jefferson on 3 smaller panels that will surround an original Boy Scout marker. Another 3 panels have also been designed for the Lions Club Tree Park outside of Grand Junction that explain the I-Beam that has been salvaged from the old overpass and details information about the nearby new overpass that carries Highway 30 over the Lincoln Highway. Other interpretive panels are being discussed in Montour and Tama.

We have submitted several grants to assist with restoration projects at Preston's Station Historic District in Belle Plaine and Youngville in rural Benton County and will share information about them as they are funded. The Byway has developed a Junior Explorer Booklet and is selling ads for participating project businesses. It will certainly be a busy summer!

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Motor Tour Update
By Bryan and Caron Osberg

Hello, everyone. I hope you are enjoying the warm weather! Just an update on the tour: Everything is coming together nicely regarding the tour.

I want to encourage you to register soon if you can. This helps with the t-shirt order and the places where we stop would like some idea of a head count. There are always some last-minute decisions and I understand. However, if you are planning on attending this year's tour, please register sooner rather than later.

If there is anyone who would like to donate a door prize, please email me and let me know. I look forward to seeing all of you again as well as some new faces. Feel free to email me at osbergbd@gmail.com with any questions.

Pre-Tour: August 16, 2018
Motor Tour: August 17-19, 2018

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**Promoting Lifelong Learning, Empowering Individuals,
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By The Wallace Winkie Foundation**

The Wallace Winkie Foundation is accepting nominations for the Lifelong Learner Hall of Fame through August 24. Inductees into the hall of fame will be honored for their contributions—through example, discovery, or leadership—to the promotion of lifelong learning (the process of gaining, either formally or informally, skills and knowledge throughout life) and its benefits. All Iowans past and present, of all ages, are eligible for nomination. A \$500 donation to the nonprofit organization of the inductee's choice accompanies the award. Inductees will be chosen by a committee of Iowans, who are leaders in the area of lifelong learning: Simon Estes, Simon Estes Foundation; Dan Gable, Dan Gable Wrestling Museum; Kelli McCarthy, University of Northern Iowa; Mary Muehl, AARP Iowa.

The Wallace Winkie Foundation is also working with the Heritage Area Agency on Aging, with support from AARP Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa's Lifelong University program. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit our website (parkitvirtualmuseum.com) or our Facebook event page (www.facebook.com/LifelongLearnerHallofFame).



Farmer's Markets Along the Byway

Ames	North Grand Mall	Wednesdays
Ames	Main Street	Saturdays
Belle Plaine	Library/Museum	Fridays
Boone	Walmart parking lot	Thursdays
Carroll	Depot	Wednesdays/Saturdays
Cedar Rapids	Green Square Park	Saturdays
Cedar Rapids	Noelridge	Mon/Wed/Fri
Clinton	Four Square Park	Wednesdays/Saturdays
Colo	Niland Café	Thursdays
Council Bluffs	River City	Saturdays
Denison	Behind Hy-Vee	Thursdays
DeWitt	Lincoln Park	Thursdays
Jefferson	Greene Co. Square	Tuesdays
LeGrand	City Park	Mondays
Marion	Taube City Park,	Saturdays
Marshalltown	Cartwright Pavilion	Wednesdays/Saturdays
Missouri Valley	Welcome Center	Thursdays
Mount Vernon	Community Center	Thursdays
Nevada	City Hall	Tuesdays
State Center	West Main Street	July 10
Toledo	Courthouse	Fridays
Vail	City Park	Mondays

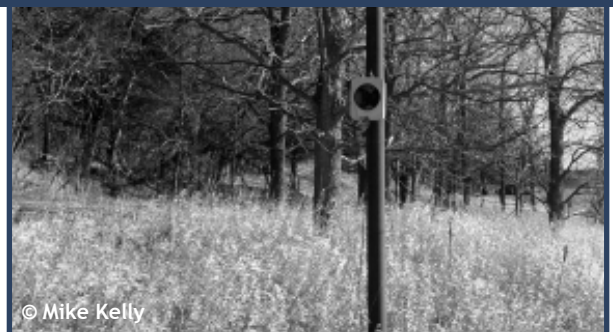
**Mystery Place
By Mike Kelly**

This Issue's Mystery Place



Sometimes you have to move it to save it. Zearing's RR Depot now sits on the Lincoln Hwy. in State Center. Mason City preservationists are searching for a new location to save their 1895 depot. This issue's mystery place is a "where is it now?" The clue: Closer to the Lincoln Highway replacement than the original.

Last Issue's Mystery Place



Congratulations to Rex Martin! He correctly submitted an answer of Chelsea, Iowa. Andy Warhol was born in August 1928 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania along the Lincoln Highway and was known to hang out at the Chelsea Hotel. Thanks for playing!

If you think you can identify the Mystery Place, send an email to lincolnhighway@prrcd.org or call 515-232-0048. Call with the correct information and we will take your name and contact information. We then will hold a random drawing for a winner to receive a 2013 Iowa Lincoln Highway Map Pack! This is to accommodate for the varying time and travel the postal system can take and to give all a fair try.

**The next ILHA meeting will be
July 14, 2018 in Grand Junction, Iowa at the Community Center.
Refreshments at 9:00 AM with business meeting to follow.**

Coming from the east on Hwy 30 to Grand Junction, take the Lincoln Highway just east of town at the Lion's Club Tree Park and follow it to the main part of town. You will see the new Community Center (212 Main St E) on the south side of the street, across from the ILHA Museum and Garden. If coming from the west, turn south on Hwy 144 and go into Grand Junction until you reach Main St, then turn east (left) and you will see the community center to the south (right side.)

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

July 14, 2018: Grand Junction, Business
October 13, 2018: Location TBD, General
January 2019: Location TBD, Business

FIRST CLASS



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