



Along The Lincoln Highway



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Winter 2018

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

President's Corner

By Cathie Nichols, President

Happy Winter, everyone—I hope you all enjoyed the holidays! Now for some updates:

Not only was this year's Motor Tour a success on its own, but the ILHA picked up four new members! Let's give the 2019 tour a lot of publicity, both by word of mouth, our website, and our Facebook page to see if we can grow it even more.

Van Becker received a certificate of appreciation at the last meeting for his work as Director At Large for the past 17 years. Van is giving up his director's chair and is excited to be a regular member for a while. Thanks to Van for his years of dedication and hard work.

This fall, two men walked the length of the Lincoln Highway in Iowa. Their website 2oldguys.org got a lot of views. They were welcomed in several towns along the way, after news of their "secret" trip came out.

This newsletter and the Forum magazine need more articles. Due to lack of submissions, Jan Gammon has been writing most of the feature articles. Please help fill the newsletter with Lincoln Highway news, county updates, photos, and historical articles.

Several new interpretive panels have been installed in western Iowa recently! These help travelers new to the Lincoln understand its history and importance. If your community would like help planning and installing an interpretive panel, contact Jan Gammon for assistance.

The Lincoln Highway kids' activity book discussed in the last newsletter

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Planning for the Future

By Bob Ausberger, Greene County

Joyce and I are on our way to being 80-years-old and having 27 years in the Lincoln Highway Association. People have asked what we expect the LHA to look like after we are gone. What will happen to the building in Grand Junction? What will happen to the LHA Garden? What about Reed-Niland's Corner? What does the future hold for the LHA? One thing we do know is that people are finding ways to honor the Lincoln Highway.

We had a nice 100th birthday party at our Greene County Courthouse on Sunday, November 11, for the Abraham Lincoln statue that sits on the Courthouse Square. Dean Parr, our State Director, spoke about the beginning of the Lincoln Highway and its early days. The Abraham Lincoln Statue story was given in a short play by Don and Jean Vangilder. Other Lincoln Highway members present were Jeannie Parr (now cancer-free), Dale Higgins, Bob Owens, Jim Andrews, myself, and Joyce Ausberger.

It is rewarding to see our county supporting the road instead of being against it; and well-worth the 25-year struggle. With the many activities across the state and nation, I think we are moving forward. The whole project is coming along across the nation, but we need a long-range plan and need funds to implement the plan. So see my challenge in another article about the Jeff Benson fund on page 4.

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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.

The James H. Andrew Railroad Museum and History Center

at the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad

November 1 through May 22

Monday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Saturday Noon - 4 pm

Closed Sunday

May 23 through October 31

Sunday - Thursday 10 am - 4 pm

Friday and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm



Museum Admission included with most train ride tickets!

www.iowarailwaymuseum.org

Visit one of Iowa's most interesting railroad collections

Solid Ice and Other Stories from the Heartland



The storytelling techniques of an American artist

Ronald M. James and Donald E. Dakins

Solid Ice and Other Tales from the Heartland is a book about life in Iowa in the 1920s, driving truck on the Lincoln Highway in the 1930s, and other stories from a time gone by.

Available for purchase on amazon.com.



Nancy & Ronny Hauser

Hours:

M-F 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Sat 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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Stay in the Know

Visit our website to read the minutes from our October meeting.

www.iowalincolnhighway.org/latest-news.



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Continued from President's Corner

has been a success! Jan Gammon gave out 800 copies this year at the Iowa State Fair Byways booth. Any child completing the passport section in the book can turn it in to Jan for a prize. All the advertisers in the booklet have something interesting for families to do—please visit our advertisers and check them off when completing the book. You may also want to give these to teachers, to help with Iowa History curriculum. Contact Jan for more copies. (Did you know Iowa History is no longer a subject taught in school? I didn't. Teachers now have to incorporate it into general history studies. Help them by promoting this booklet!)

This year (2019) is the 100th anniversary of the military convoy, which traveled across the country via the Lincoln Highway, accompanied by the young army officer Dwight D. Eisenhower, to determine if highways would be a good means of getting military troops and supplies deployed quickly to all areas. This trip was the foundation of Eisenhower's interstate highway system. There will be two reenactments of this tour with one starting September 1 in Washington, D.C. Watch for more details in the next newsletter.

The ILHA still needs a county consul from Pottawattamie County, and a vice president. Harlan Quick was nominated by the council as vice president, in absentia. He may accept or decline the nomination—watch for further updates. The council also voted to donate \$500 to the city of Tama for the Lincoln Highway Bridge project.

Lastly, the 2018 Lincoln Highway Conference in New Jersey did not make enough to cover their expenses, so our Iowa group voted to send \$500 to help with this shortfall. Please be sure to attend this year's conference in Wyoming—it sounds like it will have something for everyone. Hope to see you at the next meeting!

L

Changes for Reed-Niland Corner

Sandii Huemann-Kelly has announced that she plans to end her tenure at Reed-Niland Corner. She has done a wonderful job the last seven years in promoting this historical site, the Lincoln Highway, and the Jefferson Highway.

She would like to retire, but wants to make sure the site doesn't close. If you know anyone wanting to operate a cafe and six-unit motel, this would be a great place to start. It's owned by the city of Colo, so it just needs someone to run it. Please spread the word around—as of printing the position is still available. If you, or someone you know, is interested in leasing the Cafe, please reach out to Amy Kohwles with the Colo Development Group at colocity@netins.net or (641) 377-2238. You can learn more about the cafe by visiting their website, reednilandcorner.org.

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Represent Your County!

The Iowa Lincoln Highway Association is currently seeking Pottawattamie and Crawford County Consuls.

Interested? Contact Cathy Nichols, ILHA President, at:
scampcat@iowatelecom.net.

Carroll County Update

By Barbara Hackfort, Carroll County Consul

First of all, the Grant Road and Highway 30 intersection has opened. There are a few final touches to be made, but the barricades are finally gone - and in November, as promised!

Second, I received an inquiry to our county museum asking if we had any pictures and/or postcards of participants in the 1908 Great Race from "New York to Paris," which apparently used the Lincoln Highway/Hwy 30 route. The caller had found some postcards from Boone County and is now checking the other counties along Hwy 30. I found no pictures, though according to the caller, one of the participants had his car repaired in Carroll. As of yet, we have found no record of it. What I did find was a 75-page booklet entitled: "New York to Paris: The Thomas Flyer- Champion Endurance Car of the World."

Third, I've noted an increasing interest in the Lincoln Highway among visitors to our museum, and in our brochure about the Lincoln Highway through Carroll County. We're always trying to push for new members!

L

Linn County Update

By Rex Martin, Linn County Consul

When I first started exploring the Lincoln Highway in Linn County, one of the first items I photographed was the steel truss bridge on Bloomington Road. Each trip along the highway I would find changes in many places. When it was determined that this bridge was no longer safe for motor vehicles, they decided replace the 1925 structure.

While it was sad to see the picturesque bridge go, the new concrete bridge allows motorists to travel that section of the original route.

L



Jeff Benson Family Iowa Lincoln Highway Endowment

By Bob Ausberger, Greene County

Jeff Benson was a tremendous asset to our organization. He always was able to analyze problems, put them in perspective, and come up with reasonable and workable solutions. And he still had time and energy to move our organization ahead with innovative ideas.

Others have contributed in many ways but Jeff was special enough that David Dahlquist, another landscape architect, wanted to honor and recognize him in a special way. So he started an endowment fund with a gift of \$10,000.

This fund was set up through the Story County Community Foundation. Interest from it comes directly to the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association's general fund and in the past three years, we have received almost \$2,000!

I believe we should make the endowment fund grow faster by putting half of the national Lincoln Highway members' fees we receive into the Jeff Benson Family Iowa Lincoln Highway Memorial Endowment. (We can discuss this at our January meeting.) And why don't we personally give at least \$25 a year to the fund? I am asking each of you to consider this. In Iowa, we have 172 national members (receiving \$6 of national dues), 55 state only (\$10 dues), and 11 lifetime members (all going to nationals). Donations of \$25 from each member would grow this fund significantly. Go to our web page for a downloadable form: www.iowalincolnhighway.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Jeff-Benson.pdf

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Barber to Paver —The Backstory of Mike Ford

By Jan Gammon, LHHB Coordinator
Prairie Rivers of Iowa

One hundred years ago, in 1918, the Ford Paving Company of Cedar Rapids won the bid-letting for the Seedling Mile in Linn County. 100 years later, the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* released an article that shed light on the founder of the company. Mike Ford had started out as a barber, learning the trade from a friend and moving to Cedar Rapids in the 1880s to start his own barbershop. From the April 22, 2018, *Gazette* article, "Time Machine: The house that Mike Ford Built:"

The well-liked 'genial tonsorial artist' as he was described in an 1888 newspaper, often visited his sister in Iowa City, as well as 'numerous other people's sisters'... but by May 1890, he married Elizabeth Mentz. He expanded his barbershop in 1892, with a new chair and another room to accommodate the porcelain tubs for his new Turkish bath service. The next addition was a handsome barber pole that literally out-shown any other. It had a flashing light on the top that could be seen for blocks.

A few years later, the contracting business caught Ford's eye, and he partnered with R.C. Delahunt to do sewer, paving, and construction work. When he again learned all he could about the business, he set out on his own, securing contracts for most of the paving work in the Cedar Rapids area, finally selling his barbershop in November 1905. He formed a company with two other partners to run five asphalt plants that served a 10-state area, and he became a stockholder in several brick companies, including the Purington Brick and Tile in Galesburg, Illinois.

Perhaps without this career change, the Seedling Mile might have taken longer to be paved or could have gone to another location as Greene, Marshall, and Pottawattamie Counties all were vying for the Seedling Mile opportunity. Thanks, Mike Ford.

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Mystery Place By Mike Kelly

This Issue's Mystery Place



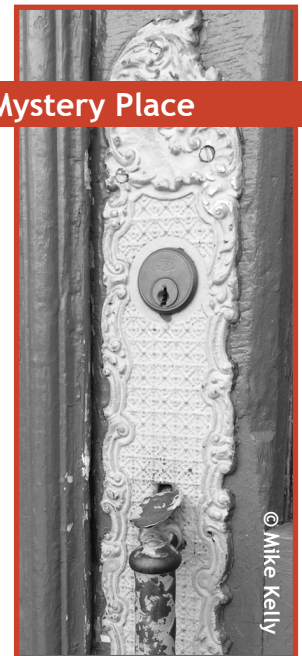
While this photo was not taken in Colorado, during WWII Gernam POWs worked on local farms in this part of the state helping with the hemp harvest. After the war some of these men may have thought that their work in Iowa and their work to rebuild their homeland was part of a grand scheme or plan.

Highway travelers often find forks. To find this site go with the Robert Frost Plan.

Last Issue's Mystery Place

You can find this beautiful hardward on the front door of Watson's Grocery in State Center, Iowa.

Correctly answered by
Van Becker.



If you think you can identify the Mystery Place, send an email to lincolnhighway@prcd.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.

LHHB Update

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

We are more than halfway through our current three-year contract with the DOT! An Advisory Board meeting was held November 16 at Prairie Rivers of Iowa. The group discussed current projects and set goals for state Corridor Management Plan projects. Look for more information on those in the coming months.

I have focused my time on further research and writing for the American Society of Civil Engineering Historic Landmark Award. The Advisory Board had suggestions on further research. The plan is to give the application to the local society, who will do the formal submission. It will take the national group about a year to review and then hopefully the announcement will come in 2020, when the local ASCE celebrates a 100th anniversary and they can roll this prestigious recognition into their celebration.

I have also written two grant applications. One to help fund a traveling Lincoln Highway Display and the other for a tri-fold brochure about the 1919 Army Convoy, the Lincoln Highway, and Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower. The plan is to have this brochure developed and printed for the summer and promote the two reenactments that will travel across the nation on the Lincoln Highway.

The City of Tama and the Tama Bridge Park are about \$3,000 away from having the necessary funding for the bridge restoration. Word is a group is interested in donating the final funds and the work will begin in the spring, with some initial engineering done this winter.

I will be applying for grant funds for an interpretive sign about Henry Ostermann that will go in the Montour Cemetery. Mary Helen Preston, of Preston's Historic District in Belle Plaine will be working with Ryan Prochaska (we connected them to this Kirkwood instructor initially) and the City of Belle Plaine on a state grant. I have helped connect Boone County Conservation and the University of Iowa Engineering students to develop 7-8 projects plans for Boone County.

L

Clinton County Update

By Cathie Nichols, President

Progress is still slow on the Syracuse area proposed highway trail. I attended a Trail Symposium this fall in Panora with Jan Gammon and one of the things we were told was it takes 20 years, on average, to get a new trail established! I've been working on this one for three years, so only have seventeen to go. Since the roadway is being abandoned by the county, the land will revert to the property owners on each side of the road, up to the center line adjacent to their property. This means I will have to get acceptance of our project and releases of liability from every property owner along this two mile stretch. I've gotten verbal agreement from two property owners, and a large chunk is owned by the Iowa DNR (who also gave approval), but there are still several to go and lots of releases to be signed before we can even begin to do anything. At the summit, I met a representative from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation who told me they have a standard release they use for property along trails. I have contacted her and asked her to send me one. Then I'll have the fun of going to the courthouse and researching every piece of property to see who owns it and their addresses, so I can start contacting them to see if they will sign the releases. I can see why it takes 20 years.

In other news, the recent elections gave Clinton County a new member of the Board of Supervisors who is from DeWitt and formerly of Calamus, which are both in the western side of the county (as is our proposed trail project). Formerly all members were from the city of Clinton or Clinton area, on the extreme eastern edge of the county. I'm hoping that we'll get a little more sympathy from the board for our project now (keep your fingers crossed). I'm still also working with the Hometown Pride group in Wheatland to connect their proposed bike trail along the old Lincoln with our trail. A combined trail of 5 miles will get more attention (and hopefully more grants) than a two-mile trail.

L

Lincoln Statue Centennial Celebration By Dean Parr, State Director

The Greene County Court House Centennial Committee decided they were not quite done after last year's celebration. They wanted to mark the 100th anniversary of Lincoln statue dedication as well. The celebration was held at 2 PM on November 11, 2018, at the Greene County Court House. The statue was donated by E. B. and Minnie Wilson. The program started with some background on the Wilsons by narrator, Rick Morain, and by way of a skit of E. B. and Minnie (played by Don and Jean Van Gilder). This was followed by a dramatic recitation of President Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" by Allan Sieck, of Rippey.

I spoke about the beginning of Lincoln Highway by first pointing out the September 11, 1912 meeting in Indianapolis with Carl Fisher, Henry Joy, and other automotive executives. The route of the Lincoln Highway was announced about a year later. The Wednesday, September 17, 1913 Jefferson Bee had the headline "We Get the Lincoln Highway." The article stated the "Official notification of the selection of the Trans-Continental route, through Iowa, for the Lincoln Memorial Highway, was received by the mayors of cities along the Trans-Continental last Saturday, and the announcement caused general rejoicing among central Iowa highway boosters." I went on to tell about the 1915 Complete Official Road Guide of the Lincoln Highway, reading what it said about Jefferson, especially that E. B. Wilson was the Greene County Consul at that time. The guide also mentioned that Greene County is said to be the seed corn capital of the world. This was appropriate since the chairs for the celebration were on Cornucopia tile in the rotunda.

Henry Joy was President of the Lincoln Highway Association as well as President of the Packard Motor Company when he left for the Pan-Pacific on May 27th. This made the success of the trip imperative. The spring of 1915 was one of the wettest anyone in the Midwest could remember. It was raining when Joy arrived in Iowa. Floods and mud slowed the trip. They arrived in San Francisco 21 days later.

Henry Joy's trip from Detroit to San Francisco in 1915 along with the guide was proof that it was possible to drive there on the Lincoln Highway.

The US Army Transcontinental Motor Convoy of 1919 went from Washington DC to San Francisco. Dwight Eisenhower was on this trip. The convoy broke and repaired 88 wooden bridges and nine of the 81 convoy vehicles were retired along the way. Twenty-one of the nearly three hundred men were injured and did not complete the trip. Some of the recommendations from the final report included encouraging construction of through routes and transcontinental highways, and exhibiting such to the public. It was estimated that over three million people witnessed the convoy. Today, the Freedom Rock in Jefferson includes a scene of Eisenhower and the convoy.

The ceremony concluded with an original poem written by Tori Riley. Refreshments were then served followed by a lot of visiting with old friends as well as a few new ones.

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**The next ILHA meeting will be
January 12, 2019 in Ames, Iowa, at Cornucopia.
Refreshments at 9:00 AM with business meeting to follow.**

Driving from the west on Highway 30 Take the first exit to Ames onto Lincoln Way. You will go about a mile to the Boone/Story County line and the Cornucopia restaurant is on the right (south) but it sits back a ways from the road. This is near the intersection of Y Ave (500 Ave) and Lincoln Way. (You will be going past the Prairie Rivers of Iowa office just to the north—look for the big American flag and two trees!)

Driving from the east on Highway 30 Take the South Dakota Ave exit and go north to Lincoln Way. Turn west for just a little over a mile and the Cornucopia will be on the left (south) side.

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

January 12, 2019: Ames, Business

April 2019: Location TBD, General

July 2019: Location TBD, Business

FIRST CLASS

Place
Stamp
Here

www.iowalincolnhighway.org



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