



IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

Summer 2021 Newsletter | Volume 26, No. 2

President's Corner

by Mary Helen Preston

What a last 15+ months we've had! This time last year we were just beginning COVID shutdowns and were hopeful festivals and celebrations would still happen but they did not. Even with the recent CDC changes, some of those same festivals and celebrations are still cancelled for 2021 with hope and anticipation 2022 will bring us back to celebrating. There is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. In May, we had a number of exciting events happen. **On May 1**, Preston's Station Historic District unveiled its interpretive panel funded in part by the Union Pacific Railroad Community Ties Program and National Endowment for the Humanities through Humanities Iowa and a local match from the Burke Heritage Fund. **On May 8**, Preston's had its first car club stop since fall of 2019. **On May 14**, Niland's Café reopened with new co-owners, Danny and Abi Wilson (page 5). They are currently open on Fridays through Sundays. Travelers are beginning to get off the interstates and are traveling along the Lincoln Highway - let's greet them with a smile and show them **#IowaNice**. These few events may not seem like much but are HUGE steps forward to getting us back "open." As mentioned in our last newsletter, Iowa has so much to offer tourists and it is up to each of us as "Lincoln Highway Ambassadors" to promote in our own communities and across Iowa. I know promoting the Lincoln Highway is a priority for National, so it is important for us to do our part in promoting what we are so proud of and even more so now that the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway was recently named, A National Scenic Byway.

There are a number of platforms for us to promote - our individual Facebook pages (personal and business), attend city council and community development meetings and activities (get involved and support local) and even writing Letters to the Editor of your local paper. While I know I sound like a broken record, it is up to **US** to keep the Lincoln Highway ALIVE.

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"Preston Station Unveiling" Page 4

Stay in the Know!

**Visit our website to read the minutes
from our spring meeting.**

www.iowalincolnhighway.org/latest-news



www.iowalincolnhighway.com

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Welcome our new members!

Tod & Stacy Knight - Odgen, IA
Doug Kamies - Leopold, Indiana
Debby Conner - Lovilia, Iowa

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 Facts About That!

Fun & interesting facts about this great state!

Though the 1995 movie was based on a book of fiction by Robert James Waller, the setting for The Bridges of Madison County is real. There were originally 19 covered bridges from the 1800s in the county, but only six remain today. The one pictured is the Holliwell Bridge which was prominently featured in the movie.

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/71550/25-amazing-facts-about-iowa>



President's Corner (cont.)

by Mary Helen Preston

I am certainly looking forward to having an in-person Association meeting on **Saturday, July 10** in **State Center**. Thanks, Harlan for securing the location. As discussed during our April meeting, please come prepared for an extended meeting. Planning our 3-Year Strategic Plan is an extremely important task and we would like to have everyone participate in person. There will be in-depth discussions and planning so it is important to have everyone involved. As we begin to plan for our July meeting, here are our topline goals:

Goal 1: Build Strong Operational Organization

Goal 2: Create a Vibrant Membership Program

Goal 3: Preserve Historical Integrity of the Iowa Lincoln Highway

The strategies for each of our goals and additional discussion information will be sent separately so keep an eye out. We will offer a dial-in for the business portion of the meeting if you are unable to attend. As much as we would like to offer a dial-in for the planning portion of the meeting it just isn't feasible. But have no fear we will continue to discuss plans and outcomes at regular meetings.

The word, "synergy" comes to mind as I wrap this column up. Synergy is defined as "the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects." It will take ALL of us to plan, execute and sustain the mission and goals of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association and ultimately, the Lincoln Highway Association.

We have room for growth. 2021 is the year for us to welcome travelers BACK, promote the Lincoln Highway in our communities, and prepare for our future.

Iowa's Next Historic Preservation Plan

by Paula Mohr

Help plan historic preservation's path in Iowa for the next 10 years by taking a survey!

Iowa's Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan is intended to embrace local, regional and state perspectives. The current Statewide Historic Preservation Plan for 2013-2022 includes the state's goals for the years 2013 to 2022, each of which is accompanied by strategies or action steps.

In early 2021, the State Historic Preservation Office began the process to develop the next ten-year plan for the years 2023-2032. An advisory committee composed of members of the public and representatives of Iowa's preservation partners has been formed and had their first meeting in April.

You can help us formulate this plan by completing this survey by August 1, 2021 by going to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6BBGLBS>

If you have questions, comments or would like to receive updates on the planning process, please email historic.preservation@iowa.gov.

Preston Station's Unveiling

by Mary Helen Preston



Tourists driving through Belle Plaine along the Iowa Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway™ - A National Scenic Byway can discover a treasured legacy, which has stood for more than four generations. On Saturday, May 1, Preston's Station Historic District unveiled an interpretive panel sharing its history.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway program facilitated the interpretive panel's design and construction as part of a ten-panel project using grant funding from the Union Pacific Railroad Community Ties Giving Program and Humanities of Iowa along with a cash match courtesy of the Burke Heritage Fund. These interpretive panels offer travelers and their families a safe, fun, educational and engaging activity.

"We are honored to be one of the sites to have been selected to install an interpretive panel," says Preston's Station Historic District owner Mary Helen Preston. "Our panel showcases four generations of Prestons which began in 1913 when my great grandfather followed the railroad for work to Belle Plaine. As the Lincoln Highway was rerouted through Belle Plaine, George W. (not the George who made Belle Plaine famous) saw an opportunity to provide a needed service to Belle Plaine and travelers along the Lincoln Highway."

From great-grandfather to grandfather, to father, to daughter, the family has remained Preston Station's caretakers preserving the property and telling the story of how important, the railroad and the Lincoln Highway have been to Belle Plaine.



To watch the unveiling, visit us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/PrestonsStation
Or scan the QR Code!

Niland Café in Colo Reopens!

by Jan Gammon

Niland Café in Colo reopened May 14 to a huge crowd, keeping staff busy all day and through the weekend. Danny and Abi Wilson, long-time Colo residents, are the new managers and lease the site from Colo Development Group. The café closed in August 2020 due to Covid-19. The Wilsons have spent months renovating the café. Probably most noticeable will be the relocation of the Cadillac to the nearby gas station museum. With this change, the dining room has more than doubled the available seating. Food is also available to-go and a new ice cream pick-up window has been added. The menu is starting out small offering burgers, tenderloins, roast beef, pulled pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, side dishes, pie, shakes and ice cream.



Café hours are Friday 11AM-7PM, Saturday 7AM-7PM, and Sunday 7AM- 2PM.

The motel has 6 rooms for rent and has seen upgrades of new paint, blinds, and bedding. They rent for \$60 per night and include a mini-fridge, Wi-Fi, and cable TV.

Reed-Niland corner is an important Lincoln Highway site. In 1923, farmer Charlie Reed began selling gas, then added food and lodging. Other Niland family members were involved in the operation, thus the name Reed-Niland. Three generations operated the site for over 70 years. At one time, it was a stop for both the Greyhound and Jefferson bus lines. The café was open 24/7 to accommodate travelers with the gas station also open. The Jefferson Highway intersects with the Lincoln Highway here and conjoins with it as the routes travel west to Nevada and Ames.

In 2003, the Colo Development Group purchased the site and restored the café. The motel units opened in 2008. Over the years, several individuals have leased and managed the café for the Colo Development Group. The Wilsons are taking advantage of their local connections and the recently organized Colo Historical Society will help with some of the displays. The Wilson's have 5 children aged 2-18 years old in the Colo-NESCO school district where Abi is completing her 9th year as a teacher. She will now concentrate on operating the café and motel. Danny grew up in Colo and worked for his father on his farm and auction house. Currently, Danny has his own carpentry business and works for the City of Colo.

See their Facebook page www.facebook.com/nilandscafe/ for menu details and to keep up with specials and events. Wishing great success to the Wilson family!

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Short and Sweet with Shani

by Shani Bonner, Tourism Coordinator, Crawford County

On your next trip across the Lincoln Highway in Western Iowa, make a stop to reflect and honor our veterans at the Eugene Kock Memorial Park in Westside, IA. The memorial honors **U.S. Army Specialist/4 Eugene Kock**, a local soldier who died in Vietnam on March 22, 1969 at the age of 20 years old.

Located at the corner of Cedar Street and the Lincoln Highway, the memorial and park features a bronze sculpture of a battlefield cross, which is made with a soldier's rifle stuck into the ground between a pair of combat boots, with the soldier's helmet on top of the rifle. The battlefield cross is often placed on or near a battlefield to memorialize a fallen soldier.

This battlefield cross also contains a replica of Kock's dog tags, as well as a bronze plaque providing details of Kock's life and death. Behind the cross several flags fly, including the flag of the United States, the flag of Iowa, and the POW/MIA flag. Around the park, you will find 312 engraved pavers, of which 102 are memorial pavers to honor veterans.

Seventeen pavers at the center of the park honor soldiers killed in action in World War I and World War II.

The park was dedicated on Memorial Day, 2018.

While in town, stop by the Westside Tap for food or a beverage. Located on Main Street, Westside Tap opens at **5pm Tuesday-Saturday and serves food from 5:30-8:30pm on Tuesday-Wednesday and 5:30-9:30pm on Thursday-Saturday.**



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



www.iowarailwaymuseum.org

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Business Card Size Ad: Single Ad placed on an inside page of the newsletter in black and white. The card or ad should be in standard digital format (.jpg) or scanner ready.

1 Issue: \$10, 2 Issues \$20,
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An advertisement form can be found on our website or you can contact Joyce for information: bobjoyce@netins.net

The Download with Dean Parr

by Dean Parr

Help reduce printing and postage costs and see the newsletter in color!

Would you like to receive the newsletter in color? If you have a valid email, we can make that happen! The newsletter is available as a pdf file which can be e-mailed to you. The photos are usually clearer and in color. The newsletter can then be easily stored in a folder on your computer rather than taking up space on your desk. This also saves the Iowa Chapter time and money. I have e-mail addresses for most of our National Members, but for very few Iowa members. If you aren't comfortable doing e-mail that is fine, we can mail you the newsletter. If you would like to switch from mail to e-mail contact Dean Parr at drparr51@gmail.com

I'm ready for a National Conference

I am missing the face-to-face contact with Lincoln Highway members. The annual National Conferences provide a great opportunity to renew old friendships as well as make new ones while learning more about the importance of the highway. The first conference Jeannie and I went to was in Cedar Rapids in 2006. I learned a lot about the highway that year and the bus tours were awesome. We were instantly hooked. We immediately started making plans to attend the next conference in Colorado.



At the Colorado conference, we learned a lot about Denver's fight to get the Lincoln Highway recognized, which ended with the Colorado Loop. The photo below is a example of the two billboards trying to get travelers to go to Colorado versus the shorter route through Nebraska and Wyoming.

In 2017, the conference was in Denison where Jeannie and I were co-chairs. It was a lot of work to coordinate, but it was fun seeing it come together.



The 2020 and 2021 conferences were cancelled because of Covid-19. So we are looking forward to the 2022 conference in Joliet, Illinois and is about as close to Iowa as you can get and not have to host it.

The next ILHA meeting will be held in person Saturday, July 10th at 9:30AM

The meeting will be held at the **State Center City Hall Community Room**, located at **118 East Main Street, State Center, IA 50247**. A ZOOM link will be provided to those who wish to join online for the business portion of the meeting.

If you are not a consul or officer and want to join the meeting, please notify Mary Helen, and she will get the link out to you. Let Jan Gammon or Mary Helen know if you need help downloading ZOOM onto your computer. You will need a camera on your computer or a webcam to join the video. Please have everything set up and tested before the meeting.

If you are not able to join via ZOOM on your computer, you may also join by phone. Let Mary Helen know and she can get you the phone number and code to use when calling. This is not a free call, so it may count against your phone minutes or as a long-distance call.

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

October 9th @ 9:30AM

Location: TBD

FIRST CLASS

Place
Stamp
Here

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

