

## Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

## Spring 2023 Newsletter | Volume 28, No. 1

#### **President's Corner**

by Mary Helen Preston

As I sit and write this column on the First Day of Spring, I am reenergized by what I'm seeing and hearing in the news about traveling resuming - especially for smaller cities. Inside you will read two articles - one from AARP and one from Iowa Tourism Office confirming this. Traveling resuming is great news for the Lincoln Highway, our counties, towns and attractions along the way! If you haven't heard, Ragbrai is celebrating their 50th ride visiting some of us as overnight and pass throughs during their July 23 - 29 ride across Iowa. This will be the perfect showcase opportunity - if you haven't started your planning, its time to start; July is just around the corner.

There are great things happening across the Lincoln Highway not just in lowa but across the country - new venues opening and favorites reopening for the season. There are even plans in the works for developing daytrips to explore the hidden gems along the Lincoln Highway - but more to come later. The California Chapter is hosting our National Conference in Folsom June 11 - 15. The Jefferson Highway Conference has contacted us and is making plans to host an event in Nevada where the two highways intersect in June as they tour lowa.

If you've received information from Prairie Rivers requesting completion of their historic property survey, please take time to complete so they can build a database on the condition of all the National Register of Historic Places located within five miles of the Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway. By completing the survey, this will allow Prairie Rivers to assess needs and provide resources where and as necessary.

Each of us should be excited about the direction we appear to be headed. There are a number of moving parts to address where we are and where we need to be. I truly believe we are heading in the right direction and need to keep the momentum. The re-emergence of travel and prospects of new and restructured activities should energize us. There's no better time than now to educate and promote our rich history. Let's work together to get travelers off the interstates and back on the two lanes to explore what we have to offer.

To those reading this newsletter - It will take ALL of us to plan, execute and sustain the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the Lincoln Highway - the Past, the Present and the Future.

# Rick Sampson Long-Time Supporter



Rick Sampson at the Marion, Iowa stop of the 2019 MVPA Transcontinental Motor Convoy.

We lost a dear friend and long-time supporter of the preservation of the Lincoln Highway, Rick Sampson on February 24. He was 78 years old.

Rick spent most of his childhood and adult years residing at 4010 Johnson Avenue on the Lincoln Highway. His house had previously served as the office for the Log Cabin Tourist Camp (1927-1940). The camp's office was right next door to the original Twin Towers Cafe location. The original Twin Towers building still stands and serves as apartments today.

A few years ago Rick moved to the east side of Cedar Rapids. He was proud to say he only lived a block off the Marion Loop (original 1913 route of the Lincoln Highway).

Rick could be found with his camera at most Lincoln Highway events in Linn County always eager to record the festivities.

He had a vast knowledge of the Lincoln Highway as well as Linn County history.

I am thankful for the friendship we had, I'll miss Rick.

Rex Martin, Linn County Consul

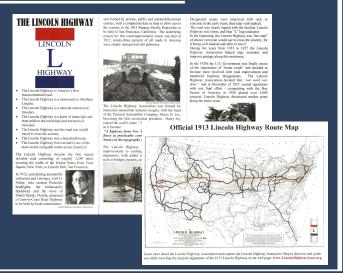
### **National Lincoln Highway Association News**



The California Chapter is hosting the 2023 LHA Annual Conference in Folsom June 11 - 15. The two bus tours will take you on along the southern and northern routes of the Lincoln Highway. Some of the stops will be Echo Summit, Cave Rock, Donner Summit and Lincoln Highway Rainbow Bridge Lookout. If you haven't registered yet, there's still time. Visit https://lincolnhighwayassoc.org/conference/2023 to donwload a registration form.

Mark your calendars for the 2024 annual conference June 23 - 29 in Elkhart, Indiana.

John Jackson has informed us, Jim Cassler has restocked a supply of the pictured brochure. If you are interested in receiving the brochure to distribute, please reach out to Jim directly at jim@kbprint.us.



Denison Carroll Ames 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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### Stay in the Know!

Visit our website to read the minutes from our last meeting. www.iowalincolnhighway.com/latest-news



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. From March 2023 AARP Bulletin

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Travel has resumed. "We are eating out again, visiting faraway friends, taking family trips — activities that were unthinkable even during parts of last year, especially for older folks," says Pauline Frommer, editorial director of Frommer's guides. After years of isolation,

multigenerational travel is up 50 percent. Even cruise lines - the original petri dish of the coronavirus — are booking up again. Older travelers are going the extra mile: Nearly 40 percent of people 65 or older say they prioritize traveling out of state, and more than half those travelers prioritize trips to visit family or friends.

At the same time, smaller cities are thriving. "The pandemic provided a necessary reset button for many destinations," says Bert Sperling, founder of the website Best Places, who says the influx of new populations in towns across America means "things are a lot more cosmopolitan in places like Billings and Missoula and Boise" than in 2019. "You can get a great cappuccino where you couldn't get one before."



#### YOUR AD HERE

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; 3 Issues: \$30 Buy 3 Get the 4th Free

An advertisement form can be found on our website or you can contact Joyce for information: bobjoyce@netins.net

# Spring/Summer Travel Guides Available

From the Iowa Tourism Office, the spring/summer edition of the *Iowa Travel Guide* is now available to inspire travelers who are planning their Iowa road trip. The free 140-page guide can be ordered online at traveliowa.com, by phone at 800.345.IOWA.

The publication includes features on new events and attractions for 2023, RAGBRAI's 50th anniversary, the lowa State Fair, the Loess Hills, stops along the Lincoln Highway, golf courses and adventures on wheels. The guide also contains suggested attractions, restaurants, lodging properties, events and an itinerary for each of the five travel areas as well as campground listings. The cover features Rail Explorers in Boone.

"Demand for travel continues to be strong," said Amy Zeigler, state tourism manager for the lowa Tourism Office. "According to the US Travel Association,

nearly half of Americans with travel plans agree that taking time off is more important than ever and more than half sav travel is a priority in their budget. The redesigned lowa Travel Guide is a great inspirational piece to encourage people to visit our state."



#### **Annual Dues**

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association dues are \$15.00 annually. You may pay up to three years. Make checks payable to Iowa Lincoln Highway Association. Please send membership info and payment to:

ILHA P.O. Box 224 Grand Junction, IA 50107

If you have any questions, please write to the above address or contact:

Membership Coordinator - Dean Parr (319)366-0552 or drparr51@gmail.com

#### On the Lincoln Highway

Bob and Joyce Ausberger, Greene County



We stopped in Potter, Nebraska this winter. Many great updates. This building is now a coffee shop/brew pub. It was originally a gas station/antique shop. The renovations are outstanding!

Next door is an antique market. The cafe is on the end of the block that once had a soda fountain.

The town received a grant for electric hookups and new restroom. The area is large enough for bus stop. The town is located on the Lincoln Highway just off I-80. Just 3 miles east of Potter is the famous Point of Rocks, once known as "Buffalo Bend" and is the tightest curve on the Union Pacific Line.

#### Coming Soon to Nevada

Janice Gammon, Story County

In summer of 2023 there will be a new restaurant in downtown Nevada called "T.E. Alderman's" in what is known as the "Journal" building. The exterior and interior of the building are undergoing restoration and remodeling. The building was once the home of the Nevada Journal newspaper, then a local carpenter purchased it and rented out the front area for office space and used the back area for his work room. And now it will become a restaurant!



While the building transformation is taking place, the new restauranteur, Mark Pleis, has been working on his menu and often teases residents with photos of delicious food tests on his Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/tealdermans/.

Mark named the restaurant in honor of Theodore Elihu (T.E.) Alderman, known as the father of Nevada, Iowa. Born in 1825 in Ohio, T.E. moved to a farm in Lee County, Iowa in 1849. Married in 1850, he farmed for 3 years before suffering from a serious eye problem that left him completely blind for a year. Upon his doctor's advice, he looked for work in an indoor setting. He decided to move further west into unsettled land. In June 1853, he accompanied the commissioner tasked to find a location for a county seat in Story County. They chose a location in what is now known as Nevada. T.E. decided to build a log house on the west end of the south half of the courthouse. His wife, Hannah, and 2-year-old son, Oscar, joined him in the fall of 1853. This first home in Nevada served as the first store, first post office, and inn for Story County. It also became the office of the county judge and office for the only physician in the eastern half of Story County. T.E. and Hannah had 5 children: Oscar, Mary Nevada (who died within a year), Ed, Ulysses, and Minnie.

Once T.E. Alderman's opens, we will share photos of the interior and the food!



#### Youngville Announces 2023 Season

Mike Kelly, Benton County

Youngville Cafe, at the intersection of Hwys. 218 and 30 in Benton County will open for the 2023 Season on June 6, 2023.

The cafe will serve lunch on Tuesdays from 11:00am - 1:30pm.

For group reservations, please call (319) 540-3600.

Please Like and Follow: Youngville Highway History Association on Facebook for updates.

## Ragbrai Celebrates 50 Rides Across Iowa By Visiting Towns Along Lincoln Highway

The full route for the 50th Ragbrai has been released. Some towns along the Lincoln Highway will host riders overnight, be pass throughs and meeting towns. This will be a perfect opportunity to show the approximately 18,000 riders and their support teams what we're all about. I know Preston's is already making plans.

Here's the route as released on Ragbrai's website.

## Day 1: Sunday, July 23 Sioux City to Storm Lake PASS THRU TOWNS:

- Kingsley
- WASHTA MEETING TOWN
- Quimby

## Day 2: Monday, July 24 Storm Lake to Carroll PASS THRU TOWNS

- Early
- LAKE VIEW MEETING TOWN
- Breda
- Mt. Carmel

## Day 3: Tuesday, July 25 Carroll to Ames PASS THRU TOWNS

- Glidden
- Jefferson
- RIPPEY MEETING TOWN
- Luther

## Day 4: Wednesday, July 26 Ames to Des Moines PASS THRU TOWNS:

- Slater
- Madrid
- Polk City
- ANKENY MEETING TOWN

## Day 5: Thursday, July 27 Des Moines to Tama-Toledo PASS THRU TOWNS

- Altoona
- Mitchellville
- Colfax
- NEWTON MEETING TOWN
- Kellogg
- Grinnell





## Day 6: Friday, July 28 Tama-Toledo to Coralville PASS THRU TOWNS

- Chelsea
- Belle Plaine
- MARENGO MEETING TOWN
- Amana
- Oxford

## Day 7: Saturday, July 29 Coralville to Davenport PASS THRU TOWNS

- lowa City
- West Liberty
- MUSCATINE MEETING TOWN
- Montipelier
- Buffalo

To keep up to date with any changes and activities along the route follow on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RAGBRAI or visit their site at https://ragbrai.com/

As you travel along the Lincoln Highway be sure to stop in Grand Junction to visit the Museum, Lincoln Highway Garden and the Green Gable Cabin.

201 East Main Street Grand Junction, IA

(515)386-4521



#### Byway Sign Inventory Completed

Jonathan Sherwood, Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Coordinator

As the Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway coordinator, I recently had the privilege of seeing every corner of the Byway from the Missouri River to the Mississippi River — crossing every river in between. The lowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) asked byway coordinators to inventory every byway sign on their respective byways. For me, that meant 1100 miles, including both sides of the road, and the loops through downtowns. The goal was to complete the inventory before winter set it. We finished just before the big pre-Christmas storm.

Overall the signs are in good condition and help tell the story of the Byway. But in areas, they go missing, especially where there has been redevelopment along a main street or where new highways have expanded. Some signs even have a few bullet holes. IDOT now has the location and condition of all lowa Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway signs so improvements can be made.

I can't take all the credit. I had the benefit of having a Prairie Rivers of Iowa volunteer to switch off data entry and driving. My job would have been made much more difficult without a helper who was so thoughtful and thorough. It also made it easier to take in the beautiful landscape along the journey.



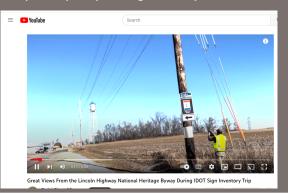
We chose to do the inventory on the weekends from October to December and were witness to the seasons changing. Not only did each town have its own charm, many were decked out for the holiday season. One afternoon an awe-inspiring fog frosted the countryside and town trees. Garland, lights, wreaths, and bows adorned lampposts and store frontages along brick-paved streets. This is not to mention the tenderloin and loose meat sandwiches along the way. (Pictured: Taylor's Maid-Rite in Marshalltown)

PRAIRIE RIVERS OF IOWA

Some folks call lowa flat, but if you travel the Lincoln Highway in Iowa you'll see it's not. In Pottawattamie County, the Lincoln actually goes from north to south for a segment where you can see the sculpted deposits as peaked hills with narrow ridges as the windblown Loess Hills between the divide of the Missouri River Alluvial Plain.

I'm a native Iowan but have never had the opportunity to see Iowa in such a way. The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway traverses landscape changes from west to east from its landforms. There's the Missouri River Alluvial Plain, Loess Hills, Southern Iowa Drift, the Des Moines Lobe, Iowan Surface, and East-Central Iowa Drift Plain.

Along the way, lowa's byways crisscross, adding to the allure of America's Byways® in Iowa. One way to understand Iowa and its cultural and natural resources is to travel its byways. That's why byway signs are so integral to telling Iowa's story. They are part of the deep heritage of wayfinding that began in the 1910s with telephone pole paintings and Boy Scout markers.



Check out Jonathan's montage of the Lincoln Highway while working on the IOWA DOT Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway signage project. You can watch the entire montage at https://youtu.be/wCLK-PB2-DY

Produced by Prairie Rivers of Iowa/Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway ©Prairie Rivers of Iowa 2022 All Rights Reserved

### **Lincoln Highway Historic Property Survey**

Prairie Rivers of Iowa

Dear Lincoln Highway Community,

You are invited to participate in a first-of-its-kind survey assessing the preservation needs of historical properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places within five miles of the Lincoln Highway National Heritage Byway in Iowa. This needs assessment is being undertaken by Prairie Rivers of Iowa with funding from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Historical Society of Iowa.

#### WHY IS THIS SURVEY BEING DONE?

Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places are important parts of our cultural heritage. Keeping them in good condition for future generations while preserving features that make them historic can be challenging and expensive. For example, aging buildings need basics such as a protective roof and functioning HVAC system, and many could benefit from improved energy efficiency. Federal and state tax credit programs or grants may be available to assist in offsetting the costs of this and other maintenance work. Knowing where the needs are, Prairie Rivers can be more effective in providing assistance to property owners who request it. Experts in historic construction trades may be beneficial to assist with this work as well.

Information from this survey will help assess the greatest preservation needs along the Lincoln Highway. Our long-term objective is to improve the historical integrity of properties in the Lincoln Highway corridor, and provide information about preservation resources to participating property owners after research is completed in 2024.

#### HOW CAN THE SURVEY BE COMPLETED?

There are several ways to take the survey.

Online: Follow the link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FVJK3RC (Estimated time to complete: 4 minutes)
Mail or Phone: Request a printed survey or complete over the phone, contact Shellie Orngard at sorngard@prrcd.org or at (515) 232-0048.

In February 2021, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration designated the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway a National Scenic Byway. It is our hope that by preserving historic properties, we can better share the unique stories of this historic road. Thank you for your consideration and assistance with this project. Please feel free to contact us with your questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

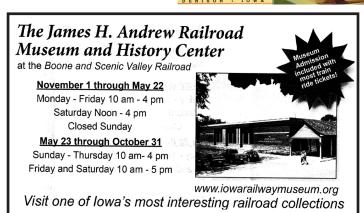
As a "thank-you gift," each person who completes the survey can receive four full-color vintage-style postcards of historical properties and scenes along Iowa's Lincoln Highway while supplies last.













# The next ILHA meeting will be April 8, 2023 beginning at 9:30 am at Victory Lanes in Clarence, Iowa

Victory Lanes is located at 628 Lombard Street in Clarence, Iowa. The meeting will begin at 9:30 am with lunch following at Victory Lanes.

Please let Mary Helen Preston or Joyce Ausberger know if you'll be attending so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meeting
July 8, 2023
Location: Belle Plaine

