

ALONG THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY

The Newsletter of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

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Dear Lincoln Highway Member,

I want to apologize for not having a fall meeting and tour. We had a meeting last February in State Center, and a short Iowa meeting at the Cheyenne Conference. A fall meeting should have been in order but it just didn't get organized.

On a brighter note, there is a list of about twenty projects - either finished, in the process, or being planned, that are taking place at the local level. Many of these are being done because we have an active membership across the state. It is better to be doing a bunch of things and not have a fall meeting, than to have a fall meeting and not get anything else done. Next year let's do both.

My first newsletter is going to simply list these projects. The list is in random order. If I have left a project out be sure to let me know.

We have an office in Ogden. It is shared with their Main Street person. Their part of the office is being staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Our part is being staffed sporadically by Ty Casotti, Joyce and myself. The phone number is (515)275-4966. We will get an answering machine in operation, and you can still call me at my home.

Bill Sankot's Garage has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is in Belle Plaine. Bill did the nomination himself.

The Youngville Station is being refurbished, some of the exterior wall repair has been made and the west section of the roof has been resingled (located at Jnct. 218 and 30).

The Lincoln Hotel restoration at Lowden has been completed. Its modern use is as efficiency apartments. A Historic Register nomination is being processed.

The double canopy station in Carroll along with the Wittrock Motor Co. Sales and Service Garage have been refurbished (all connecting). I have not made an inspection but early observances showed that much historic integrity would be retained.

Mary Gift at the Shady Oaks Tree House has located several of the original cabins and is attempting to get them returned to the old campground.

John Fitzsimmons from Boone finished painting the billboard panels for a Lincoln Highway sign. We erected the panels earlier this fall and now have a nice "Welcome to Boone County, Drive the original Lincoln Highway" sign at the west edge of Boone.

Woodbine, through a series of town meetings, has identified preservation of their brick section of the Lincoln highway as a number one priority. Application is being made for a determination of Historic Register eligibility, and for ISTEIA enhancement funds. The enhancement funds, if received, will be used for starting repairs.

We have received grant money from Iowa Department of Economic Development, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Good Trust in Ogden. Grant projects include:

- Location and design planning for several interpretive sites in Boone and Greene counties

- Upgrading the Iowa Map Pak

- Preparing a video on the Lincoln Highway in Iowa

- Hiring a consultant to help plan fund-raising, organizational process, promotion and preservation

- Mt. Vernon brick section and viaduct (part of a historic district) are awaiting enhancement funds for a repair and maintenance project

Other ISTEA applications include enhancement funds for:

Completion of the restoration of Youngville

Repair and restoration of the Marsh Rainbow Arch bridge north of Beaver

A statewide survey of the Lincoln Highway and its roadside features

The banner project needs to be pushed. Hopefully I can contact towns during December. Our goal is to get each Lincoln Highway town to have a Lincoln Highway Banner at each entrance on the highway. So far Ogden, Nevada, and Clarence have banners, Wheatland, Grand Junction, Dunlap, Woodbine, Logan, and Missouri Valley will order. Banners are being sponsored by individuals, service clubs, and the towns.

Greg Franzwa reports that sales of his book on the Lincoln in Iowa are going well. Lyn Protteau has reprinted the 1916 Guide and the 1935 Lincoln Highway book. They can be ordered from me and the Iowa Association gets part of the proceeds. Lyell Henry is giving part of the proceeds from his Iowa Postcard Book, *Was This Heaven?*, to the national organization (ordered from University of Iowa press).

Two Italian writers made a flying trip across the Lincoln. They write and photograph for an Italian travel magazine *Gulliver*.

Several programs have been given by Lincoln. Joyce visited a fifth-grade class in Ogden and told them some Lincoln Highway stories. A curriculum is being developed by our education committee (national).

There were rumblings that the Coan marker might be moved from its original location at the edge of Clinton to a private residence in Clinton. It appears that it will stay put; it could become an important interpretive site.

Two sets of Burma Shave signs are up, one west of Grand Junction, and one at Montour. Several more should pop up this spring.

Save the 10th and 11th of February for a state meeting and tour. I would like to have it in eastern Iowa and visit Youngville, Marion section, and Mt. Vernon section. What are your ideas?

Also, what do you think of an early spring hike of the Loveland to Crescent abandoned remnants? Let's look at the weekend of April 6-7.

Update on banners.. It appears that (maybe all) Iowa towns and a large number of Nebraska towns will sport the red, white and blue banners this spring.

Moss corner markers (Scranton) rehabilitation is planned from spring of '96.

The Reno conference is shaping up. It will be another good one. We will take an Iowa bus if there is enough interest. I thought the Cheyenne bus tour was fun. Let me know if you want to try it again going to Reno. Preliminary deadline is March 15.

**State LHA President,
Bob Ausberger**

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