

ALONG THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY

The Newsletter of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

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Well, here I am back sooner than I thought with newsletter #2 The main reason is to announce the change in dates for our February meeting. It has been changed to March 23 (Saturday). The tentative schedule is for the meeting to start at 9:30 at the King Tower Cafe in Tama. We will have lunch at 11:30, and then tour to Montour, Tama, Chelsea, Belle Plaine, and end at Youngville.

What do you think of "On the Lincoln Highway" as a name or title for our newsletter? The idea came from Lyell Henry. You are welcome to submit additional ideas. We will pick a permanent name at the March meeting.

We will still plan to have a Lincoln Highway walk on some of the abandoned sections in western Iowa. Save the weekend of April 6-7. The activity will probably take place on Saturday - I need to clear this with some landowners.

The first newsletter mentioned a great group of activities. I asked for projects that had been excluded. Here are some additional activities along with some updates:

Lincoln Highway Days in Nevada, Iowa. The only celebration in the United States that is dedicated to the Lincoln Highway. It is held the last weekend in August. The event includes the longest parade in Iowa (excluding the State Fair parade), largest purse rodeo in Iowa (last year there were 99 bull riders), carnival, crafts, hobbies, food tents, and a dance. Marla Rhodes, chairperson, told me that plans are well underway for this year's event. There will be an Iowa Sesquicentennial theme, possible TRANSPORTATION THEN AND NOW. Parade entries are invited.

Lincoln Highway Days booth at the Iowa State Fair. This booth is staffed by groups from Nevada. The booth is in the air-conditioned tourism building. They can always use volunteers to help promote Nevada or the Lincoln Highway. The Iowa Lincoln Highway Association had a booth at the festival and staffed the State Fair booth for a half-day.

Ogden has formally preserved a section of the old highway that passes for several blocks through their business district. The footprints are in part of the section that is saved; they are marked with a white striped crosswalk marking.

Updates!

Banner project. This may be one of our best statewide projects. It surely has generated a lot of interest. So far these towns have ordered through the city, chamber, service organization, or individuals: Belle Plaine, Calamus, Carroll, Chelsea, Denison, Dow City, Dunlap, Glidden, Grand Junction, Honey Creek, Jefferson, Lisbon, Logan, Lowden, Mt. Vernon, Marshalltown, Mechanicsville, Vail, Westside, Wheatland, Woodbine, Youngville Station, Morrison (Illinois), all of the LH towns in Merrick county, Nebraska, as well as Maxwell, Shelton, and Woodriver, Nebraska. Add to this the towns of Clarence, Nevada, and Ogden that already have banners and we have a nice start to an "avenue of banners" across the United States. (Cheyenne, Wyoming also has LH banners.)

We have just learned that a new book, *The Lincoln Highway in Pennsylvania* by Brian Butko, has been published and will be released in April. Brian is a former director from Pennsylvania.

Also, good news from a former Iowan. Mary Anderson has just received word that her children's book on the Lincoln Highway will be published in 1997.

Joyce just finished reading *Coast to Coast with Alice* by Patricia Hyatt about Alice Ramsey's trip in 1909 on what was to become the Lincoln Highway.

The next newsletter will contain a list of all books and guides on the Lincoln that we know about. Youngville's new roof is progressing. The application for the ISTEAF funds to help with renovation has passed several

review states and seems to be a strong candidate.

Woodbine has just received word that they will get \$24,000 to begin the process of renovating their brick section of the Lincoln Highway. This will be matched (20%) by funds from the town and others. I talked with Zell Millard about this grant. He said that there was quite a process undertaken in getting the grant, but now it appears that the town is behind the project and the "bricks are safe."

The process, in general, was as follows: 1) a series of public meetings identified many strengths and weaknesses in Woodbine; 2) a second series of "Town Hall" meetings prioritized these into a list of projects that would benefit the town the most; 3) saving the brick Lincoln Highway was the number one priority, followed by a front porch (entry improvement) project, developing their own CableVision Company, getting a new doctor, and housing was fifth; 4) a National Historic Register determination of eligibility was applied for; 5) contact was made with the Golden Hills RC&D for assistance in applying for the grant; 6) written application made; 7) oral interview.

Words cannot express how happy I am that communities are coming together to work on historic preservation projects that involve the Lincoln Highway.

I hope to see a good group at King Tower restaurant on the 23rd.

**State LHA President,
Bob Ausberger**



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