

# ALONG THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY

The Newsletter of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

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## Message from the LHA Lincoln Highway Director/President

Another great National LHA Conference! It seemed to be the opinion of most attendees, while each conference has been unique, this one will be remembered for its feeling of coming together as a genuine national organization which shares a common purpose. The tours, speakers, boat ride on Lake Tahoe and the food were all great. This conference stood out from the others in that it was more emotional. Members were talking with pride about projects accomplished in their state and picking up ideas for new projects.

I was especially impressed with the character of the road both north and south of Lake Tahoe where you could actually get out and walk the ruts of the old wagon road which became the original Lincoln Highway.

We had twelve members from Iowa attend the conference. Next year, Mansfield, Ohio will host the conference. I hope we can get more Iowa folks there to witness the evolution of one of the great preservation and promotion efforts in the U.S.

The Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska bus was fun. Next year, there is talk of starting a bus in Salt Lake, and picking people up on the way to Mansfield.

It was with mixed feelings when I turned the gavel over to Esther Oyster, our new National President, but in general I will be happy to spend more time on our Iowa projects.

## State LHA President, Bob Ausberger

### Navigate the Lincoln Highway with the New Iowa Map Pack

They're here - the new Iowa Lincoln Highway Map Packs. This will help you discover where the Lincoln Highway traveled as it stair-stepped its way through counties and towns. The material for the new publication was taken from the 1916 and 1924 Lincoln Highway Guides as well as several other sources. Each county is featured showing the path of the highway, its first, second and third routes. The new maps have been computerized to make them easier to read. Dana Scheidegger of the Iowa Department of Economic Development worked hard to pull the graphics and the copy together and get this all to the printer.

These will be for sale for \$5.00 each. You can get one at our open house, or at upcoming Lincoln Highway events.

Special thanks to the Leonard Good trust of Ogden for funding this project.

## The Coordinator's Corner

What a way to start a new job!! Getting on a plane to Reno for my first National Lincoln Highway Conference. It's neat to see all the things happening to preserve the LH in other states. The best way to experience the Lincoln Highway is on it. Tours of two separate routes the Lincoln took us through the Sierra Nevada area of Reno. It's hard to say which was better, tracing the old road along beautiful Lake Tahoe, or the spectacular vista of the Rainbow Arch Bridge at Donner Pass. Meeting all the Lincoln Highway people was probably the best part of all. But to top it off, I jumped on the Iowa Tour bus to trail the Lincoln Highway to its end in San Francisco. What a sight following the old road under the gaze of the Golden Gate Bridge!

### Sesquicentennial Exhibit

Great to see so many people turn out to hear Drake Hokanson take us across the Iowa Lincoln Highway (with slides) at an appearance July 11 at Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids. Lyell Henry's exhibit *Lincoln Highway - Iowa's Main Street*, is a great visual story of the LH. Thanks to Lyell and his colleagues for a great job. It runs until September 8th.

### Nuts and a Few Bolts

In order to preserve and protect and promote this roadway, we need to have an organization in place which can sustain and coordinate all of the projects and promotions we'd like to do along the Lincoln Highway corridor.

To get the ball rolling, we pulled together some people we'd met along the way to try to launch an organizational effort. The following is a synopsis of what took place at our meeting in Ames on June 26th.

Sixteen people were in attendance. President Bob Ausberger reported how six ISTE A grants were applied for and six were funded to restore bridges and a viaduct, and Youngville station. He also told of an historic resources survey funded by ISTE A which will identify historic features of the Lincoln Highway as well as the Mormon Trail. Ausberger says there is great potential for people touring Iowa to take one leg on the Lincoln Highway, and return on the Mormon Trail. Ausberger told of plans for two group tours which will visit the Iowa Lincoln Highway this year and next.

Troy Seifert, an ISU graduate student who has truckloads of ideas, explained a concept for series of interpretive sites to explain the Lincoln Highway and its local features. Sites have been proposed for Grand Junction, Ogden, Tama, and Mount Vernon, with plans also calling for interpretative sites at the

state's borders. The Department of Transportation is interested in this.

Ann Vogelbacher of the Central Iowa Tourism Region held an organizational seminar for the LHA. She indicated it may be in the best interests of the Iowa LHA to have its own 501(c)(3) or (c)(6). This would give the group a stronger Iowa identity, and she encouraged the group to draw up by-laws. After discussion the group decided to direct its Coordinator to investigate the cost of having an attorney do this.

Vogelbacher also discussed board structure. The group decided that each county would be represented on the board and they would be called consuls after the original LHA Consuls, which were local community contacts. This would include 13 consuls (one for each county). Also the Nevada LH Days Committee would receive one consul vote. President Ausberger asked that each county have two representatives or consuls, but each county would have just one vote. The President will appoint these consuls. The board will meet twice each year before the spring and fall biannual meetings.

An executive board will consist of the President, Vice President, and Past President. This group will deal with matters of urgency, which cannot wait for regular board meetings. There was some discussion on whether the Board needs a Secretary or Treasurer.

An organizational committee was formed to draw up some by-laws. Bob and Joyce Ausberger will work with Bob Owens, and Elmer Kettlesen and Roger Riley to draw up by-laws. A membership and fund-raising committee will be appointed. The LHA will raise funds through additional memberships, fund-raisers, grants, and sales of merchandise such as the LH Map Pack.

The group discussed how local people can promote the LH in their own community. The group directed me to prepare a Speaker's Bureau Kit full of information to give people some uniform ideas to follow when making LH presentation. I also explained a video project I'm working on to showcase the LH. This will include a short video for tour operators and a longer one for sale focused on eateries and things to see on the LH.

In addition, the group discussed how local communities can act to preserve important historic elements of the LH. Mary Gift was cited as an example for contacting LHA when she heard of reconstruction planned for the Lincoln Highway in her area (Marshall County).

#### **Clinton County LH Road to Close**

The Clinton County Engineer has proposed closing a beautiful stretch of the Lincoln Highway between Calamus and Wheatland. The problem is one of aging bridges in the area of the Wapsipinicon River. According to the *DeWitt Observer*, the county engineer Bill Belzer estimates it would take \$2.4 million to improve the road and fix the bridges. A public hearing was held June 26th. Most people were concerned about access out of Wheatland, with no mention of the Lincoln Highway in the story. According to the report, this is already a done deal. The first stretch will close in 1997, and others in later years; they'll build access roads in for people who live there.

Your Coordinator learned of this thanks to Elmer Kettlesen of Calamus. Roger Riley has been to Clinton and is working on making sure the Lincoln Highway history is accounted for when the county moves in. We'll check with the DOT to see if we have any other options.

We called the *DeWitt Observer*, and the reporter on the story says they are running an editorial on July 13th about what this would do to the Lincoln Highway. We will issue a news release citing historic preservation concerns. More than that, we'll move our fall LH walk into Clinton County for a "Last Chance Drive," Clinton to Clarence. You can drive this road before the first bridge is scheduled to close. See the registration blank for details.

#### **Dates on Deck**

Now through September 8th, "On the Lincoln Highway: Iowa's Main Street" Sesquicentennial Exhibit at Mt. Mercy in Cedar Rapids. Phone: (319)368-6474 for exhibit hours.

August 8-18: Iowa State Fair. See the Lincoln Highway Days Booth in the Tourism Building.

August 11: Woodbine LH Brick Street Walk at 4:00 pm. Sesquicentennial Event speaker Bob Ausberger commences at 7:00 pm.

August 23-25: Lincoln Highway Days in Nevada.

September 14: Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Membership Meeting in Carroll at 10:00 am. Meet at Tony's Highway 30 & 71. The Road Rally planning meeting is at 9:00 am.

September 21: Iowa Lincoln Highway 150 Road Rally, Ogden to Marshalltown, begins at 9:30 am at the Ogden City Park, rain or shine.

October 5: Last Chance Drive - Clinton to Clarence. Meet at 10:00 am at the Frontier Best Western in Clinton.

#### **What Can I Do? Projects where YOU can make a difference!**

- \* Newsletter/word processing (MS Word-Perfectworks)
- \* LH merchandising
- \* Rally volunteer
- \* Bring a friend to an LH meeting
- \* Fund-raising
- \* Sell Map Packs
- \* Get a banner for your street
- \* Speakers' Bureau
- \* Serve on a committee (sign up in Carroll)

**CALL ROGER in OGDEN to VOLUNTEER!**

**515-275-4966**



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