

# ALONG THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY

The Newsletter of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

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## Ghost Town Tour

The Iowa Lincoln Highway will serve as the setting next summer for a tour by a group interested in ghost towns. The Colorado Ghost Town Club loves to visit towns which once were. They've found that Iowa's stretch of the Lincoln Highway has enough such interest that they are planning a two-week tour. Interestingly, the group is also into the history of towns which are still very much alive, so don't panic if they visit your community!

On June 16, 1997, some 40 to 80 members of the club are expected to begin their trip on the Lincoln Highway in Clinton. The leaders of this intrepid group are Jim and Lil Ranniger of Evergreen, Colorado. They came across Iowa in August with their twelve-year-old grandson. Jim grew up in Gowrie, and his family had owned a gas station on the Lincoln in Denison.

The whole idea of the tour is to find out as much as possible each day while traveling the Lincoln Highway. At the end of each day, there will be a quiz, with questions like "How many Lincoln Highway logos are there on the painted wall in downtown Ogden [answer is 6]." They'll have to pay attention to the number and location of Lincoln Highway banners and markers.

"They'll just love this," said Ranniger when talking about a visit to the old Nic-o-Let Park site west of Boone. "We tramped down a lot of tall weeds, but we found it." Ranniger and Ty Casotti visited the site early one morning and spotted the edge of the top of the wall of the giant swimming pools. Ranniger says that's a perfect example of what excites his group.

For information on this trip, contact the Rannigers at P.O. Box 3905, Evergreen CO, 80347. Their home phone is (303)674-6180.

## Lincoln Highway in Song!

An Iowa musician has written and recorded a song about the Lincoln Highway. Shadric Smith of Fort Dodge took on a request from LHA member Ken Huffaker of Nevada to record a song about the Lincoln Highway. Smith wrote the song, sang it, and played all the instruments on the recording.

*...and when that last chunk of concrete was laid,  
the traffic started up just like a parade.  
Rollin' down that Lincoln Highway  
The oldest road from shore to shore  
Built way back when by those hardworkin' men  
They had a dream but they still wanted more...*

We'll play this recording at our state membership meeting September 14th in Carroll. We may even have some copies to sell by then. In addition, *The Lincoln Highway March* has now been recorded by Lyell Henry's colleagues at Mt. Mercy College.

## Clinton County Update

An update on a story we brought you last month: The Clinton County Board of Supervisors are aware of our efforts to prevent the destruction of the Lincoln Highway near Wheatland. Bob Ausberger has met with the County Engineer, and the Board has declined our initial request to meet with the full board. We do hope to continue discussions with them on options to preserve as much - or all - of the road if possible.

## LINCOLN HIGHWAY IOWA ROAD RALLY - 150

### Ogden to Marshalltown. Meet at 9:30 am on September 21 in the Ogden City Park.

Come enjoy an interesting day on the Lincoln Highway. Come early to Ogden where the Community Development Corporation will host a continental breakfast. You'll then be given materials to help you navigate the Lincoln Highway to Marshalltown, and see how much you can learn about the road. We're working on the gravel routes, plus pavement

alternates. The cost is \$10 a car, which includes the Iowa Map Pack. This is a fun fund-raiser! We'll see interesting items in Boone County, head through Ames, to Nevada, Colo, State Center, LaMoille, and Marshalltown. The object is not to race, but to learn as much as you can. Hopefully you can make the check points and still have plenty of time to see things which are of interest to you.

If you have any questions, call Roger Riley at (515)274-4966 or (515)232-4624.

*Please let us know if you'll be attending these events by returning the enclosed sheet to give us a head count.*

#### **LAST CHANCE DRIVE(?)**

**Saturday, October 5th at 10 am at the Frontier Best Wester in Clinton.**

We'll tour the Lincoln Highway in Clinton, have lunch and a program at the Frontier, then go to Calamus and tour the section which may soon be closed. We'll proceed to Lowden to see an abandoned stretch of the Lincoln, and wind up in Clarence at Red Oak Antiques, and hopefully a supper stop. Only costs this day are are food.



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