**Along the Lincoln Highway**

The Newsletter of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Volume 11, Number 3  |  Autumn 2006

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**Book Signing in Colo on Oct. 21**

by Jeff LaFollette

**Iowa State Director.**

The folks in Colo are gearing up to help raise funds for the further restoration of Reed/Niland Corners. Author Carl Kurtz will be signing copies of his book “Iowa’s Wild Places” at Niland’s Café on Saturday October 21 from 2:00PM-4:00PM. Carl will display some of his photo collection at Reed’s Standard Station on Sat. October 21 from 10:00AM-2:00PM and on Sun. October 21, from 11:00AM-2:00PM.

The book is 248 pages, hard cover with stunning photos and vivid prose. The book sells for $26.99 and there are a limited number available. Carl also has produced a poster of six color photos taken at the Colo Bogs. The poster is 16” by 21” and suitable for framing. 300 will be available and the cost is $25.00 each.

Profits from the sale will be used to continue work at the Reed/Niland site. They need to raise $57,000 to match a transportation enhancement grant recently received to complete the interior of the motel so that rooms can be rented to travelers. Improvements to the parking area on the site will be done as well. The folks in Colo need help to achieve this goal. Order forms for the book can be found on their web site which is www.colo-iowa.org. Click on the link to the Reed/Niland Corner to find a book order form. Or you can call the Colo Development Office for more information as well. That number is 641-377-2248 or toll free at 877-234-2656.

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**New ILHA Officers to Be Elected on October 14**

On October 14 in Woodbine, a new slate of officers will be elected to serve as your leaders of the Lincoln highway Association for the next two years. As members it is your right to come out and vote for these candidates, or if you feel so inclined, you may run for one of these positions. Either way, it’s a great way to get involved with your Lincoln Highway Association and get to know the people who make this group as successful as it is. The only officer who will actually be vacating his post is Acting President Van Becker, who came in to fill the shoes of President Bob Stinson, when Bob was promoted to Fire Chief of the North Warren Fire District just south of Des Moines. Van took the reins and guided the Association through one of the best conferences ever held, the recent national conference in Cedar Rapids. Thank you Van, for your great leadership in this role. Now, meet the candidates for the 2007-08 term. Keith Whitlatch is running for President. Keith is Cedar County Consul and a former Cedar County Sheriff and an active Lions Club Member. Keith resides near Stanwood, IA. Kathy Dirks is running for Vice-President. Kathy lives in Harlan, Iowa and is coordinator for the Harrison County Historical Village and Iowa Welcome Center which is owned by the Harrison Co. Conservation (Officers continued on page 6)

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IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

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www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org
By Jeff LaFollette, Clinton County Consul.

WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND!

Two years ago, the city councils of Clinton, DeWitt and Camanche, Iowa were asked to decide whether an eighteen mile section of US 30 from Clinton to DeWitt was to be designated as the Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway. All three communities had to vote for or against the proposal, and the decision had to be unanimous for the designation to take place. This designation would have affected about a six mile stretch of original Lincoln Highway. DeWitt and Camanche voted for the proposal. But the Clinton City Council voted no to the naming, citing that six mile section of US 30 as the Lincoln Highway and also that the designation would take away from the newly created Lincolnway District in Clinton. The proposal was defeated and could not be revived for a future vote.

After this was completed, it got me to thinking, especially recently. Has anyone noticed the proliferation of “named highways” lately on numbered routes? No, Really!! Stop and think about it. Take a look around your area of Iowa or wherever you may call home and look at the signage. I’ve noticed a lot of different signage for highways across eastern Iowa and into Illinois. Some has been around awhile, but some is as recent as the last year. Here are some examples that I’ve found in eastern Iowa and Western Illinois.

Of course, the main one that a short portion of US 30 in Clinton is designated as, is the Great River Road. The Great River Road designation has been in existence since 1954 and parallels the Mississippi River along the ten states that it borders, including Iowa. Started in 1938 by the Mississippi River Parkway Planning Commission, this group was instrumental in the eventual formation of the Great River Road as we know it today. Working with the state DOT’s and the newly created Bureau of Public Roads in 1951, a route was established and the familiar green and white signs, with the pilot’s wheel were being placed on the route in the late 1950’s. The route encompasses nearly 3,000 miles, and is one the most familiar scenic byway routes in the United States.

Another route that has a long history is US 6 across Iowa. Since 1947, this route has been otherwise designated as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway. Major William L. Anderson of the U.S. Army conceived the idea of designating US 6 the Grand Army of the Republic Highway to honor the Union forces during the Civil War. Based on his recommendation, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War began promoting the idea in April 1934. Because the highway was owned by the States, the organization asked each State to act on the proposal. The first to do so was Massachusetts when Governor Charles F. Hurley signed a bill on February 12, 1937, naming the route. Over the years, the States gradually adopted the name. For example, California did so in 1943, Indiana in 1946, and Iowa in 1947. A formal dedication of the Grand Army of the Republic Highway took place on May 3, 1953, in Long Beach, California. The occasion was a gathering of the five related service organizations, including the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The five organizations held their own meetings, but came together for the dedication on that Sunday afternoon to place a monument in front of the Municipal Auditorium. The monument has the following wording engraved on it:

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC HIGHWAY U.S. 6

(Between the Rivers continued on page 5)
Ramblings Along the Lincoln Highway.

Minutes of the Summer 2006 Iowa LHA Meeting
Milwaukee Road Depot
Jefferson, Iowa.
8 July 2005.
Minutes taken by Lois Whittlatch
Edited by Jeff LaFollette, State Director

Van Becker, Acting President

Minutes of the Spring 2006 Board Meeting
held April 8, 2006 were approved as published in the Summer 2006 issue of “Along the Lincoln Highway”

Treasurer’s Report Van Becker for Joyce Ausberger reported a checking account balance of $3221.00 and an investment account balance of $4780.00

Membership Report Van Becker for Cecil Stewart reported 18 new members and 18 names dropped off the membership rolls. Total Iowa membership is 253 that are national members with a grand total of 300 members (National and Iowa Only)

State Director’s Report Jeff LaFollette passed around the National LHA financial statement mailed to him by national treasurer, Jess Petersen. Jeff reported the next four national conferences will be located as follows: 2007-Fort Morgan, CO 2008-Evanston, WY 2009-Indiana 2010-Illinois. An endowment committee has been formed by the National LHA in order to make grants available for worthy projects in all the LH states. Grants will be given out beginning in 2007 and the total amount given each year will be $10,000. Jeff read a thank you note from Bob & Lenore Stubblefield of Nebraska stating how much they enjoyed the conference.

Bob Ausberger represented Iowa LHA and gave a medal to the director of the Iowa DOT in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Interstate Highway system. Medals were purchased at the national level and were divided up among the LH states. Iowa LHA awarded one medal.

Nominating Committee Van Becker for Joyce Ausberger and Jeff Benson reported the elections are to be conducted in October for President, Vice-President and Secretary and Treasurer. Candidates are: Keith Whitlatch for President, Kathy Dirks for Vice-President, Jeff Benson for Secretary and Joyce Ausberger for Treasurer.

Business Items
A Certificate of Appreciation given to the Iowa LHA for hosting the 2006 national Conference was given to Bob Owens to be displayed in the “Treehouse” in Jefferson, IA.
The National LH archives are being stored at the University of Michigan. Lyell Henry reports that the archives would like copies of our newsletters, board meeting minutes, and history. The National LH is sending the U of Michigan $3000.00 to help with storing and filming LH documents.

Jeff LaFollette asked for future meeting locations. October 2006 meeting is already scheduled for Harrison County (Woodbine, IA). January 2007 meeting will be in Boone County and April 2007 meeting will be in Benton County. July ’07 and October ’07 locations will be announced at a future meeting.

Van Becker reported on the Programmatic Agreement/Heritage Byway Status. All county consuls received an envelope from Jeff Benson. Van stated to read your envelope’s contents and act on them. If you need help talking to your county engineer or county board about this program, contact Jeff Benson and he will come to your county and offer assistance if you need it.

Jeff LaFollette asked about possible updating of the map packs. Iowa decommissioned a lot of state highways in 2003 and these roads are listed in the map packs. Some of the roads are unmarked or are new county highways. This might be confusing to the Lincoln Highway traveler using a map pack, looking for a specific intersecting road that is not there. Van stated that we probably will not at this time because of the National LH mapping effort using GPS technology, and that we will most likely update when we need to re-order. If consuls note changes in routes, e-mail either Van or Jeff L. with changes. We will revisit this at next meeting.

Phyllis Olson gave updates on Volkswalks across the LH in Iowa in seven locations. Clinton, Mount Vernon/Lisbon, Belle Plaine, Tama, Nevada, Jefferson and Council Bluffs. The final walk will be on October 14, 2006.

Ron Preston gave a talk at the station in Belle Plaine and will be a feature in the next “American Road” magazine.

Keith Whitlatch asked about route marking. It was suggested to mark the 1928 route if we have to mark only one route, but mark the 1913 route if it the best option. Keith also asked about a “Tales of the Lincoln Highway” feature for (Ramblings continued on page 4)
(Ramblings continued from page 3) newsletter. Van suggested someone write and submit stories to the newsletter.

Recap of National Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa Van Becker reported record attendance of 181 members. Gregory Franzwa, editor of the “Lincoln Highway Forum” stated how the bus tours were excellent and also thanked the Iowa LHA for a great time. Van stated that he believes we ended up with a profit for the conference. Mike Kelly showed a photo of the entire group. Sandii Huemann-Kelly mentioned National Public Radio is doing a radio story on the Iowa section of the Lincoln Highway on the 28th of July. Van continued, stating the following accomplishments from the conference: We provided ten meals to visitors, which were included in the registration cost, made the conference economical as possible, lowering the cost, but not the quality, raised the academic standard, and provided top-notch speakers (authors and professors) for the seminars. Jeff LaFollette mentioned many participants stated finding registration forms online was excellent and also many stated that the Iowa LH website was the best of all the states sites. Our furthest participant was from Luxembourg and he took home a rubber chicken from Smith Brothers Hardware store in Clinton, IA.

County Consul Reports

Clinton Jeff LaFollette reported that the LHA conference received good press from the DeWitt Observer and Clinton Herald newspapers. The city of Clinton is acquiring land for a road project to be completed in 2009 making current US 30 and a new section to be built as one way in and out of the city from the US 30/67 interchange to the intersection with 5th Ave. South. Also Jeff will attend the Clinton County Board Meeting in regard to the Programmatic agreement.

Cedar Keith Whitlett reported that Lowden was pleased with the bust tour stop for the conference and is looking forward to working with the Iowa group for their sesquicentennial in 2007. A group is looking into acquiring a bridge to span the abandoned section west of Lowden. They are suggesting a hiking/biking trail from the abandoned section west of Lowden to the Calamus Bridge. Bill Norton wants to try to acquire the old gas station on the LH on the east side of town. Keith hopes to get the Lions Clubs along the LH to work with us. Stanwood has old single post station that someone is looking into acquiring.

Linn Van & Bev Becker reported that the Linn Co. Engineer surprised them, having the bridges on both sides of Abbe Creek sandblasted and the LH logo painted on them.

Benton Mike Kelly reports that he received good comments about the bus tours. A reproduction marker has been "planted" in front of Youngville on the east side. Their original marker will be displayed inside. The "Out of the Mud" Conference 2006 commemorative stamp cancellation is available in Cedar Rapids for 30 days after the June 16, 2006 conference cancellation. Special Youngville conference postcards are available for sale at Youngville.

Tama Allan Richards reported that the new Iowa Highway map has the Tama Bridge on the front. Ron Cory helped with the placement of a new sign at the park near the Tama Bridge. A roofing project is going on at the old bank in Montour and also the new US 30 construction will split through the towns of Tama and Toledo.

Marshall Catherine Noble-no report

Story Margaret Elbert-by Van Becker: Colo is having its “Fun Days” today Reed-Niland’s Café is open and is having a sock hop.

Boone Ed Mondt reported that downtown Boone will have a spot for an upcoming meeting. They are planning to paint a mural on a building downtown with the hopes of it being completed by our meeting in January.

Greene Bob Owens reports about the “Problematic agreement” because the Greene County Board isn’t going along with it. Greene County road project coming up is resurfacing the old LH from Jefferson west but it will keep the roadside integrity. A 1918 Army ordnance truck box, possibly one like the original 1919 Army caravan used while traveling the Lincoln Highway, was recently repainted and is currently on display at the depot.

Carroll Peter Youngren, not present and it was mentioned that he is no longer at the Carroll newspaper. Will check into further.

Crawford Deb McKown- no report

Harrison Elaine Ebhert- no report

Pottawattamie Brett Ford-no report

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 and lunch was at the Lincoln Highway Grill with a tour afterwards. L
(Between the Rivers cont. from page 2)

"This monument marks the western end of a coast to coast highway extending a distance of three thousand six hundred fifty-two miles through fourteen states. It was erected by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in memory of the heroic services and unselfish devotion of the Union soldiers, sailors and marines who laid down their lives on the altar of sacrifice during the Civil War. National Highway first proposed by Major William L. Anderson, Jr., U.S.A. of Massachusetts. For what they did and dared, let us remember them today."

A third route, lesser known to those of us on the Lincoln Highway and exclusive to Iowa only is the 34th Infantry Division Memorial Highway. This route follows US 34 in southern Iowa, and is 268 miles in length and goes from the Mississippi River to Burlington, the Missouri River to Burlington, the eastern terminus west to Ottumwa, about a sixty-five mile run. This routing was designated in 1948, in honor of the unit that fought in World War II. Signs have the “Red Bull” logo posted on them, the same logo that the 34th Infantry Division utilizes. The 34th Infantry Division is comprised of troops from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North & South Dakota.

Last, but not least, the former section of US 61 from north of Davenport, Iowa in Scott County to the south edge of DeWitt in Clinton County, where the current US 30 alignment crosses over old US 61 was designated in 2004 as the Veterans Memorial Highway. This was not the compromise to the defeated proposal of the Korean War Veterans Highway that the section of US 30 from Clinton to DeWitt was to be designated, but a joint effort by the county boards of Scott and Clinton to honor all veterans. This highway a fifteen mile section crosses over the Wapsipinicon River, passes by the Fairyland Park Ballroom, which is currently open for dinners and dancing Thursdays through Sundays, and the Pioneer Village Park about seven miles north of Eldridge.

I am sure that there are many more named sections of numbered highways designated in Iowa besides these few that I mentioned. Jumping across the river into Illinois, I have seen the Ronald Reagan Memorial Highway, a section of Interstate 88 from East Moline to Sterling, Illinois, which was designated in 2004 by an executive order of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. Reagan has another highway named for him as well, designated in 1999 by the Illinois General Assembly, the Ronald Reagan Trail which runs an elongated route on various US highways and Illinois state routes from Monmouth to Eureka, where Reagan attended college then northward through the communities of Princeton, Walnut, his boyhood home of Dixon and finally to his birthplace in Tampico. These examples are just a few of I’m sure may of the named highways to be found on numbered routes. If any of you see any named routes on numbered roads, especially on the Lincoln Highway, please send them in. I’ll be happy to include them in future newsletters. Until then I’ll see you between the rivers...and then some! L

DID YOU KNOW?

In September 1953, Continental Trailways offered the first trans-continental express bus service in the United States from New York City to San Francisco, California. The 3,000 mile plus ride from the New York island past the redwood forests lasted about 89 hours and 77 hours were actual riding time. The cost was $56.70. Today one way on a Greyhound bus is $183.00. L

Car in Ditch - Driver in tree – Moon was full
And so – Was he – Burma Shave (1947)
Reed/Niland Corner Project Update

Condensed from the Project Narrative written by Lyell Henry, Project Historian

The Reed/Niland Corner “One-Stop Site consists of six structures located on 1.9 acres at the northwest quadrant of the Y-intersection of US Highway 65 (formerly known as the Jefferson Highway and County Highway E41 (formerly known as US 30 and the Lincoln Highway) in Colo, Iowa. At this site between 1923 and 1995, members of two related Colo families, the Reeds and the Nilands operated one or more of what was, for many years, a “one-stop” business providing gas, food, and lodging to travelers on these two major highways.

During Phase I, the city of Colo acquired the Reed/Niland Corner property (including the apartment house, which John Niland sold to the city) and extended the city limits to incorporate the site. Project work done during this phase included restoring the service station (for display purposes only) completing historical research and beginning the planning of historical displays; preparing a brochure, developing the parking facilities and a walkway throughout the site; and beginning the installation of landscape plantings.

During Phase II, the city of Colo extended water and sewer service to the site. Other major tasks completed during this phase included restoring the café exterior, roof, and interior; completely outfitting the café with new furnishings and kitchen equipment; mounting the historical and graphic displays in the north wing of the café; restoring the exteriors and roofs of the three motel buildings and the restroom/shower building; installing interpretive texts on nine pedestals along the site’s walkway and completing restoration of the grounds.

As a result of the work done during these two project phases, Reed/Niland Corner is today a site having considerable historical interest and tourist appeal as well as a revived commercial base and community significance.

The main objective of Phase III of the Reed/Niland Corner “One-Stop” Restoration Projects to restore and furnish six of the units of the original Colo Motel, towards the further goal of then reopening the motel and renting these units to travelers for overnight use. During this phase, all units of the five-unit motel will be restored and furnished to look as they appeared in the 1950’s, thereby complementing the work being carried out during Phase II that restored the building’s exterior to its original appearance. The restoration work now required in the rental units includes installing new electrical wiring, lighting, climate control systems, carpets, and drywall; upgrading plumbing, restoring doors and windows; stripping old paint and repainting; and furnishing the rooms.

A supplementary task to be completed during Phase III is to upgrade a portion of the parking area (located between the south side of the café and the original route of the Lincoln Highway) by replacing the gravel surface with paving. This is necessary, because rain continues to erode the graveled surface. This improvement will make the site more visitor-friendly, increase handicapped accessibility, and reduce maintenance costs.

Reinforcing the heritage tourism trend today are promotional efforts of state tourism offices as well as those by such private organizations as the Lincoln Highway Association, the Society for Commercial Archeology, AAA, antique auto clubs, and such publications as “American Road” magazine. Such organizations and publications point to the existence of a large pool of motorists ready to be tapped by appeals to make Reed/Niland Corner a trip destination and to include an overnight stay at the Colo Motel as part of the travel experience.

(Officers continued from page 1)

Board. For Secretary, Jeff Benson of Ames is the candidate. Jeff is very instrumental within the ILHA and works with the Iowa DOT on LH issues. He recently worked to get a Heritage Byway status for the Lincoln in Iowa. And for treasurer, Joyce Ausberger is running for another term. Joyce along with her husband Bob, from Jefferson, IA helped organize the LIHA as we know it today. So come out on Saturday October 14 to meet and greet your candidates and exercise your right to vote.
The President's Corner
By Van Becker,
Acting ILHA President

It has been a long and busy highway year! Highlights of 2006 include hosting the National LHA Conference at Coe College in Cedar Rapids and finally achieving Historic Byway status for our beloved highway. There has been significant progress in the Lions’ Tree Park near Grand Junction. Youngsville is “just about” ready for inclusion on the National Historic Registry. Six of the eight Linn County kiosks are in place. The “Clubhouse” continues to play host to numerous travelers. We have been a busy bunch!

My second administration is rapidly coming to an end. Actually these are the final days of the Stinson/Becker Administration. Unforgettable! It began with Bob’s ride in a squad car and ended with a national conference.

There is still much work to be accomplished. There are poles to paint, signs to erect and buildings to restore. There is a digital coast-to-coast map of the entire Lincoln Highway coming soon. There is another national conference right around the corner. Our Iowa website keeps getting bigger and better. And…when you have time, ask me about the movie.

At our October membership meeting we will elect new officers. You will want to be there to vote and to show your support for the incoming administration.

The best way to assure that the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association is going your way is to attend the meetings and to vote. The State of Iowa chapter has the largest membership roster in the National Lincoln Highway Association. We want to see YOU show up and make your interests known.

Van

See YOU on the Lincoln Highway!
This issue’s new members...

Jerry Berg        Beaverton, OR
Linda Buchanan    Boone  Boone Co. L
John & Judy Carter  Woodstock, GA
Marie Cook            Mechanicsville  Cedar Co. L
Dan & Elaine Day            Topeka, KS
Dr Daniel De Vries    Grand Rapids, MI
Elizabeth Gibson      Cedar Rapids  Linn Co. L
Doris Gray            Lisbon  Linn Co. L
Donald C. Stogsdill        Jefferson  Greene Co. L
Barb & Abb Hamilton   Jefferson  Greene Co. L
Patrick & Amy Haney      Mount Vernon  Linn Co. L
Tyge Jantzen     Luxembourg
William I. Kendall    Jefferson  Greene Co. L

(continued on page 8)
Westward Ho!!—Harrison County Awaits ILHA Members

We’re heading west for the October meeting, Saturday Oct. 14 is the day. Woodbine is the place at the Brick Street Station located at 524 Lincolnway. Since most of us will be traveling from the east, the best route is to take US 30 then follow the old LH (Lincolnway) into Woodbine. If you get lost, the phone number at Brick Street Station is 712-647-3030. They will be ready for us at 9AM with coffee and donuts. Van will call the meeting to order around 9:30. A slate of new officers will be elected at this meeting. Lunch will be catered in at Brick Street. After lunch, we will car caravan to the Welcome Center on US 30 west of Woodbine. The fall colors should be beginning to peak so it should be a beautiful day for a drive. For those of you who wish to travel and stay over on Friday, Woodbine does not have an available motel but there are options in Denison and Missouri Valley. The Park Motel in Denison is located directly across the highway from Cronk’s Restaurant. Their rooms have been recently renovated and they are LH members. The Park Motel’s number is 712-263-4144. Also available in Denison is a Super 8 (712-263-5081) and a Days Inn (712-263-2500). In Missouri Valley for those traveling the interstate there are the Hill Side Cottages located on US 30 (712-642-3408), an older motel that has been newly remodeled. Also at the I-29 and US 30 junction is the Oak Tree Inn (712-642-3000), a Super 8 (712-642-4788) and a Days Inn (712-642-4003). Come join us for an enjoyable day, and see what the western Iowa LH has to offer.

Upcoming ILHA State Meetings

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<tr>
<td>January 13 '07</td>
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<td>July 14 '07</td>
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See YOU on the Lincoln Highway!
This issue’s new members...

Dean Miller                  Ogden Boone Co. L
Richard Montag               Colo Story Co. L
Jim Moore                    Ames Story Co. L
Jeff Nemechek                Stratford Hamilton Co.
Bob Pick                     Littleton, CO
Calvin Whitmore              Moline, IL

In This Issue...

Update on Reed/Niland Corner Project

First Class

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