Last Call For Motor Tour Registrations

It’s not too late to sign up for the motor tour. Registrations will be taken up to the day of the tour. That means if you are undecided about coming on the tour, you can sign up the morning of Friday August 8, before we depart from Clinton. All the motels holding room block are doing so until July 8, one month before the tour starts. So if you haven’t made reservations yet, now would be the time to do so. Currently we have over 30 cars registered. One major update is the Friday evening dinner. This will be conducted at the Ox Yoke Inn in Amana, an Amana Colonies tradition since 1940. The restaurant is located approximately 20 miles southwest of Cedar Rapids. The dinner will cost $20 per person and will be a family style all you can eat dinner with pie for dessert. Tax and gratuity are included in the price as well. We will contact those of you who have signed up for the tour, or you can contact Jeff LaFollette by e-mail at jeffla@peoplepc.com to RSVP for the dinner. We’ll need to give the folks at the Ox Yoke a head count so they know what size room to reserve for us, and how much food to prepare. We will caravan from the hotel complex in Cedar Rapids. Time and location will be listed in the driving guide that each participant will receive at registration. We hope that we’ll see all of you on the motor tour!

It’s Election Time Again for LHA Officers

It is hard to believe it, but it has been nearly two years since our latest slate of officers has been elected. This October’s meeting in Colo will be our election meeting. President Keith Whiltlatch will be concluding his term, and Vice-President Kathy Dirks will be assuming the role as President beginning in 2009. So we will be looking to elect a new vice-president. The term of office for Secretary and Treasurer will be up as well. If you would be interested in running for one of these positions, you may contact Iowa LHA State Director Jeff LaFollette and let him know which position you would be interested in serving for, or you may attend the meeting in October in Colo and declare there when nominations are made for each office, if you’d like to run for a specific position. Plus, there is still one County Consul position that we need a representative for, and that is Carroll County. We are working on filling the vacancy in Crawford County and hopefully will have that spot filled at the upcoming meeting in July. These are volunteer, non-elected positions and require that you attend at least one meeting per year and promote the Lincoln Highway within that county. If you do not wish to run for an officer position, then please come to Colo and exercise your right as an Iowa LHA member and vote.

IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 14
OGDEN, IOWA 50212

www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org
Sweeping the gravel to the middle of the road

My “Inbox” is overflowing. So is my “Hold Box.” Pulling out various notes to clear my desk, I realize it’s time to sweep the gravel to the middle of the road. Throughout our national conference in Cedar Rapids, we often used the photo of Clem in the mud. You remember the old fellow in a Model T Ford depot hack up to the hubs in a mud track. We took to calling the driver Clem for quick easy identification. Well, we might have gotten the name wrong... Cecil Stewart sent the following email almost 20 months ago. “I shared some of our LHA Conference experiences with Bill and Phyllis Enquist of Ames. Bill saw the picture on the mug and on the front of the conference booklet showing the car in the mud on the road. Bill said, ‘When Eugene Eness saw that picture, he would say, ‘That’s my dad.’” Bill went on to indicate that Eugene’s father ran a music store in Ames and farmed in the Gilbert area. Eugene Eness is no longer living. He has two sons that I know of who lived in the Ames area. David still lives here, Paul was with the ISU Vet College and has retired near Dayton. I have looked up Enesses in the 1910 and 1920 census. Without going into detail, it appears to me that Eugene Eness’s father was Louis. Perhaps the man in that famous DOT picture was Louis Eness. None of this is documented, but it makes a good story. Perhaps it is of interest to LHA aficionados to put a name with that person.” We should probably have been calling the gentleman Louis. Good work, Cecil.

About two years ago, there was an email discussion among some of the national directors. The question was what is the best product to use to repair damaged ‘28 markers? I simply and positively stated, “Use Liquid Nails.” Well, at the end of this last severe Iowa winter, the red, white and blue rectangle with the L fell out of my reproduction marker. Nothing broke; it just fell out on the ground. I took my own advice and used my trusty tube of Liquid Nails to reinstall the pieces. So far—so good. Drivers on our favorite highway in the Linn County City of Mt. Vernon often remark about the canopy gas station being used as a city welcome center. Sorry, but that assumption is incorrect. The building was originally built in 1912 by Doctors J.D. and T.L. Wolfe to house their doctors’ offices. It was later used by 2nd and 3rd generations Wolfe’s as law offices. Originally sited on the Lincoln Highway corner of 1st Street and 2nd Avenue South (where the bank stands today) it was moved to its current Lincoln Highway location in Memorial Park about 20 years ago. Mt. Vernon historian Richard Thomas tells me that the original plans called for a structure to resemble southern cotton weighing stations remembered from Mr. Wolfe’s youth. There you go—Doctors offices—not canopy gas station. Still a genuine Lincoln Historic structure since 1912!

Drive Safe! This $4/gallon gas will look cheap next year!
Ramblings Along the Lincoln Highway

Minutes of the Spring 2008 Meeting
Denison, Iowa
12, April, 2008
Submitted by Bev Becker for Jeff Benson

President Keith Whittatch called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m. at Cronk’s in Denison.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of long-time member of the Iowa and National Lincoln Highway Association member, Phyllis Stewart. Phyllis was a valued member of our association, and she will be missed by all.

The minutes of the January meeting of the ILHA were approved as published.

Joyce Ausberger presented the treasurer’s report. The ILHA had $6,948.29 in checking and $5,195.38 in the investment account.

Due to dangerous road conditions, Jeff Benson, secretary, and Cecil Stewart, membership chairman, were not in attendance.

Jeff LaFollette encouraged members of the National LHA to vote their ballots for state directors. The ballots were enclosed in the last copy of the Forum.

Jeff LaFollette, state director, reported that registrations are coming in for the River to River Motor Tour. As a result, the ILHA at last count had gained 10 new members.

Newsletter editor Jeff LaFollette encouraged members to contact merchants and organizations in their counties to inform them of the opportunity to place ads in our newsletter and also on the ILHA webpage. Directions and prices can be found in the newsletter and on the webpage.

Jerry Roberts of Greene County reported that Heritage Byway efforts have been transferred from the IDOT to Resource Conservation and Development agencies. We were told to expect signage to be in place within two years.

Mike Kelly proposed that state standards be developed for informational kiosks yet to be designed and placed along the Lincoln Highway across the state. An ad hoc committee of Mike Kelly and Van Becker will look into formulating guidelines for future kiosk projects. Linn County proudly exhibits eight kiosks strategically placed across the county. Other counties are interested in kiosks as well as other projects.

The July meeting of the ILHA will be a joint meeting with the Illinois chapter. This meeting will be held at Palisades-Kepler State Park. Jeff LaFollette asks that those planning to attend notify him so he will know approximately how many want to participate in the cook-out.

Bob Ausberger reported that the National LHA Endowment Committee has decided that the application for a $5,000 grant toward restoration of the Herring House in Belle Plaine was approved. The grant awards will be announced at the National Conference in Evanston, Wyoming in June. Bob reported that there were only two applications for endowment grants submitted to the national committee this year. He encouraged Iowa members to prepare more requests for help with worthy Iowa projects.

Keith Whittatch reported that there will be an Iowa Barn Foundation Tour along the Lincoln Highway the weekend of June 7-8. Two barns on the tour will be barns on the Ausberger farm in Greene County and the Whittatch farm in Cedar County. Maps for the tour are available.

Keith Whittatch also reported that there are funds available in each county from gambling money to be awarded by county foundations. He encouraged members to apply for grants that can be obtained for projects such as kiosks.

Sandi Kelly will be updating the ILHA webpage with information about upcoming events including the barn tour, the joint IA-IL meeting in July and the River to River Tour. She has posted an extensive list of LH events scheduled across the state.

County Consul Reports:
Clinton—Jeff LaFollette reported that the City of DeWitt plans to take apart a vintage barn in Germany and have it transported to DeWitt and reassemble it in DeWitt. The barn will be a tourist attraction and some city departments will be moved to the structure.

Cedar—Keith Whittatch advised that Clarence, Stanwood and Mechanicville, the three towns in Cedar County, are very interested and ready to go to work on kiosks tailored to their locations and history. Keith asked Van Becker to speak on subject of the Lincoln Highway at the Lion’s Club meeting in April 29 at Stanwood.

Linn County—Van Becker reported plans for an amateur radio Special Event celebrating 95 Years on the Lincoln Highway to be held at Youngville Café the weekend preceding the National LHA Conference in Evanston, Wyoming, June 17-21, 2008. See the ILHA webpage for details.

Benton County—Mike Kelly advised that Youngville Café will be opening on May 6th. Lunches will be served on Tuesdays and Thursdays until October 2008. Farmers Market is scheduled for Fridays for the (Ramblings Along the Lincoln Highway continued on page 4)
(Ramblings Along the Lincoln Highway continued from Page 3)

same timeframe.
Tama County—See report above reference Herring House.
Marshall County—no report
Boone County—no report
Greene County—Bob Owens reported the Clubhouse was open on Saturdays through the winter and expects to be open more during the spring, summer and fall months. Work is proceeding on the Lions Club Tree Park east of Grand Junction. The Deep Rock Station in Jefferson may be saved. $2 million has been secured for restoration work on the Eureka Bridge. Bids will be let within three months or so with work to begin next summer.
Carroll County—Wittrock garage has been purchased and will be converted to a winery, the Santa Maria Winery. The outside of the building will remain the same.
Crawford County—We have a new co-consul for Crawford County, Deb, night clerk at the Park Motel. Although her last name was given, this substitute secretary failed to record it. Please accept my apology.
Harrison County—Rita Schichilone of the Brick Street Station reported that their business will donate T-shirts for the River to River Motor Tour. Thank you Rita and Marshall. Elaine Ehler reported plans for additional historic enhancements to their Main Street project.
Pottawattamie County—no report
Bob Owens suggested that we contact prospective members in our communities and offer ILHA (Iowa only) memberships at $10. He says he has been successful in developing new members in this way.

Van Becker shared that he and Bev have documented the existence of 93 out of the original 300 Lincoln Highway markers placed across Iowa along the LH in 1928. They have photos, GPS coordinates and information that fills two fat 3-ring binders! There are more out there—where are they?

RAGBRAI will travel much of the Lincoln Highway across the state. Make our presence known.

Sandi Kelly provided information about promotions of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebrations. See the website.

President Whitlatch adjourned the meeting at approximately 12 o’clock noon. The attendees enjoyed a soup and salad bar lunch. Thank you, Cronk’s.

Remember to make plans to attend the National Lincoln Highway Conference in Evanston, Wyoming! Register now.

Also remember our July meeting at Pallsades-Kepler State Park. Please let Jeff LaFollette if you plan to attend.

FOR SALE
Original Bronze Insert From L.H. Concrete Marker $400
515-232-2222
Ask for Lynn Christian

ILHA Officers, Board of Directors (County Consuls), and Staff

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Keith Whitlatch (563) 942-6670
Vice-President
Kathy Dirks (712) 755-7474
Secretary
Jeff Benson (515) 233-1445
Treasurer
Joyce Ausberger (515) 386-4521
State Director
Jeff LaFollette (563) 349-3047

Board of Directors (County Consuls)

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Cedar County
Keith Whitlatch (563) 942-6670
Linn County
Van & Bev Becker
lowaLHA@Iomnail.com
Benton County
Mike Kelly (319) 472-5183
Tama County
Allan Richards (641) 484-4981
Marshall County
Harlan Quick (641) 483-2440
Story County
Margaret Elbert (515) 233-1445
Boone County
Joe Moore (515) 432-6174
Ed Mondt (515) 432-2343
Greene County
Bob Owens (515) 386-3419
Carroll County
VACANT
Crawford County
TO BE ANNOUNCED
Harrison County
Marshall & Rita Schichilone (712) 647-3030
Pottawattamie County
Brett Ford (712) 545-3283

Support Staff

Membership Coordinator
Cecil Stewart
Newsletter Editor
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Iowa Artist in Residence
John Fitzsimmons
Webmistress
Sandii Huemann-Kelly
The President’s Corner
By Keith Whitlatch, ILHA President

The past three months have been a busy time for “the Old President”. In April our local Lincoln Highway expert, Van Becker, spoke to the Stanwood Lions Club on what the Lincoln Highway is and why it is still an important highway for history. That man is a walking/talking encyclopedia on the subject. If anyone needs an interesting speaker, he’s your man.

In May, I spoke to the Hawkeye Model A Club at the Time Check Community Center. One of the members in their club is Wendell Beckley of Tipton. He will be participating in our River to River Tour in August for part of the way. The Time Check Center is west of the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids. I spoke to them about our upcoming tour; about membership in the Lincoln Highway Association, and about the Iowa Barn Association Tour held June 7/8. As they have a large tour the week before ours, most were not going to be able to go.

The week-end of June 7/8, as I said, was the Iowa Barn Tour along the Old Highway 30 (our Lincoln Highway) there were approximately 30 barns to tour in the two day event. We had four barns in Cedar County. Two of them, Merlyn Hulse’s and Forest Johnson’s are right on the Hoover Highway and had been featured in a Lincoln Highway/Cedar County Historical tour from the Mississippi to Mt. Vernon several years ago. The other two barns were one on our country farm and the Louise Robinson barn two miles south of Mechanicsville. We had approximately 150 guests stop and tour, which isn’t bad, considering the fact that it was a self-guided tour and one day was very rainy and stormy. People were interested in the barn, but also in the fact that we had the old Bloomington to Marion road run past our home, which is part of the Lincoln Highway, and they seemed to enjoy the horses and the haymow. We had guests from across Iowa and also from Georgia, California and California. It was an enjoyable experience, but I didn’t get an opportunity to tour the other barns.

We also had the “500 years” flood the second week of June. Van Becker’s town, Cedar Rapids, was just one huge body of water. One of the first places flooded was the Time Check area; until I spoke there a week ago, I had never heard of it, ironically. Highway 30 was closed west of Mt. Vernon and the old bridge at Sutliff fell victim to the high water. (we ate there last year with our ILHA board). The Sutliff bridge had a “fire sale” prior to the high water hitting. They flooded their basement themselves, trying to save the building. Haven’t heard if they were successful. Hopefully they were.

I got involved in rescuing some horses from the Cedar Valley Stables located right on the Cedar River. They and their owners are currently temporary residents at the Cedar County Fairgrounds. We hope their homes escape the worst of the flood, but know that they did have water flowing into them. All the bridges crossing the Cedar River were closed in Cedar County, including I-80 Bridge. We heard they did open the Cedar Valley Bridge on Sunday, June 15. To get from Tipton to West Branch is normally a 20 mile run; right now it’s well over 100 miles.

Our next meeting will be the joint meeting of the Iowa Chapter and the Illinois chapter at the Palisades/Kepler State Park on Highway 30 on the 2nd Saturday of July, with coffee at 9:30. A note, just east of the Palisades park on the south side of the highway is a painting of the Grant Wood American Gothic painted on the side of a small barn. See you then.

Keith

WHEATLAND, IOWA SESQUICENTENNIAL
AUGUST 8, 9 & 10th, 2008

Friday Night Fireworks

Music By:
Friday 5 p.m. Lyle Beover Trio
Friday 9 p.m. Do’ and Don’t’s
Saturday 9 p.m. Brian Flynn Band
Featuring Mike Estes of Lynyrd Skynyrd
Featuring Mike Estes of Lynyrd Skynyrd

FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE
ALL WEEKEND.
ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL AGES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WEBSITE
www.cityofwheatland.org
Sesquicentennial Link
NAME THAT LINCOLN HIGHWAY SPOT

When Lincoln Highway expert Van Becker called the mystery spot a “real stumper” well that’s saying something, because Van knows his Lincoln Highway!

OK, before we reveal the spot and winners, take a good look at the photo in this issue and the compare it with the one in the last issue. In the last issue there was no caption at the bottom of this postcard photo. The caption reads “At the Crossroads-DeWitt, Iowa” which was submitted by Cathie Nichols of DeWitt.

The correct guesses came from two folks from DeWitt, Ann Soenkken, who is president of the Central Community Historical Society and Gary Paarmann. We’ll give Van Becker 1/2 a star. He was undecided if it was DeWitt or Logan.

Ann wrote this is on the northeast corner of the intersection of 6th St and 11th Ave. Gary added in his e-mail that these water towers were taken down in 1955 by a crane and that Davenport, Iowa TV station WOC-TV 6 (now known as KWQC) had shown the towers coming down. He stated he saw it after he came home from school. The new one was put up in 1957. By the water tower was a city jail. On the left hand (west) side of 6th Ave. there was a gas station with a carport on top. The DX station pictured burned down in 1980. Thank you Cathie for this stumper. Name that Lincoln Highway spot will take a break this issue, but will return in the fall issue. I’m sure we will find some out of the way, interesting spot along the Lincoln Highway on the motor tour to have you guess in our next issue.

NEVADA LINCOLN HIGHWAY DAYS CELEBRATE 25 YEARS
Submitted by Linda Griffith,
Nevada Lincoln Highway Days Committee

Nevada Lincoln Highway Days committee will celebrate their 25th annual event on August 22-24, 2008. Our founding fathers, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Huffaker and Mr. & Mrs. Keith Cooper in 1983 decided to celebrate the grand opening of the overpass west of Nevada, Iowa on Highway 30-The Lincoln Highway. Our board members, officers, and all the volunteers have celebrated the third weekend of August ever since.

We welcome everyone to come and see our parade, carnival, rodeo, arts & crafts booths. There will also be a flea market and food vendors. The theme of the event for 2008 is “25 Years of Family Fun”.

If you want more information about the celebration, our website is www.lincolnhighwaydays.com. On the site are contact numbers, and a schedule of events. Registration forms are also available. Our mailing address is Lincoln Highway Days P.O. Box 64 Nevada, IA 50201.

ATTENTION: LINCOLN HIGHWAY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN CLINTON AND CEDAR COUNTY! CLINTON COUNTY CONSUL JEFF LAFOLLETTE IS PLANNING A CLEANUP DAY ON THE CALAMUS PONY TRUSS BRIDGE, W. OF CALAMUS SATURDAY JULY 26, 2008 AT 10:00 AM

BRING LAWN TOOLS, LIKE STRING TRIMMERS, LEAF BLOWERS, RAKES, ETC. WE WILL BRING 2 LAWN MOWERS AND GARBAGE BAGS. SODA AND BOTTLED WATER WILL BE PROVIDED! CALL JEFF AT 563-349-3047 FOR MORE INFO!

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

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L (Denotes a Lincoln Highway County)
COME AND JOIN US FOR THE FIRST EVER TOUR OF
THE IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY
THE RIVER TO RIVER MOTOR TOUR
CLINTON COUNTY TO POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
AUGUST 8-10, 2008

FEATURING STOPS IN:
Clinton- Lowden- Mount Vernon- Cedar Rapids
Youngville Café- Belle Plaine- State Center- Colo
Boone- Jefferson- Woodbine- Honey Creek

See the site of the Lyons-Fulton Bridge in Clinton
Walk on the Abandoned Lincoln Highway west of Lowden
See the Famous Youngville Café in Benton County
Visit the World Famous Lincoln Highway Bridge in Tama
Tour Restored Reed/Niland corners in Colo
See the Lincoln Highway Clubhouse in Jefferson
Drive on the Brick Lincoln Highway in Woodbine
Tour Ends in Hitchcock Nature Center near Honey Creek

Sponsored by the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

REGISTRATION FORM
Any Vehicle - Any Model - Any Make
Registration Fee: $20.00 per vehicle for Iowa LHA members
$30.00 per vehicle for non-members (Includes one year membership to the Iowa LHA)
You may join or leave the tour at any point or at anytime.
The Iowa LHA is not responsible for accidents or injuries incurred on this motor tour

NAME__________________________________________ PHONE__________________________

ADDRESS____________________________________________

CITY________________________________________ STATE_____ ZIP__________

E-MAIL________________________________________

Make checks or money orders payable to: Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Mail To:
Iowa LHA Motor Tour
C/o Jeff LaFollette
2130 W. 4th St.
Davenport, IA 52802

More Tour Information:
Jeff LaFollette:
jeffla@peoplepc.com
563-349-3047

A LIST OF HOTELS AND TOUR ITINERARY WILL BE MAILED TO YOU
SOON AFTER WE RECEIVE YOUR TOUR REGISTRATION.
PALISADES-KEPLER PARK - IOWA-ILLINOIS JOINT LHA MEETING
PICNIC LUNCH - ALL THAT'S MISSING IS YOU!!

Come join us for the second gathering of the Iowa and Illinois Lincoln Highway Associations. This year, Iowa is hosting the event. The place is Palisades-Kepler Park on US 30 (the latest Lincoln Highway alignment) between Mount Vernon and Cedar Rapids. The Iowa LHA will conduct a short business meeting from 9:30 when President Keith Whittatch drops the gavel. There will be a short business meeting and it should be concluded by 11:00. We will then enjoy a picnic style lunch beginning at 12:00 noon. State Director Jeff LaFollette will be grilling for our guests. Soda and bottled water will be provided by Jeff, as well. If you wish to bring a salad or a dessert, by all means, please do. Table service will be provided too. Just bring lawn chairs and plan to have an enjoyable day. Van Becker, Linn County Consul has reserved a shelter for us in case of inclement weather. So if you plan to come, please RSVP to Jeff LaFollette by phone at 563-349-3047 or by e-mail at jeffla@peoplepc.com so that we know how many people to plan for. So come and spend an enjoyable day with our Illinois counterparts. DIRECTIONS: On US 30 from the west, turn right into the entrance to the park and look for LH signs. From the east on US 30, turn left into the park entrance and follow the LH signs.

(EDITOR'S NOTE) MEETING UPDATE: I HAVE CHECKED WITH THE PARK RANGERS AT PALISADES-KEPLER STATE PARK ABOUT THE RECENT FLOODING OF THE CEDAR RIVER. I WAS TOLD THAT THE SHELTER THAT IS RESERVED FOR THE MEETING WAS NOT THREATENED BY THE FLOODING AND IS HIGH AND DRY AND THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE THE MEETING AND PICNIC AS PLANNED SO PLEASE RSVP TO JEFF LAFOLLETTE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE MEETING ON JULY 12.