LINCOLN HIGHWAY ICON
RON PRESTON
PASSES AWAY

Ronald D. “Tiny” Preston, age 77 passed away on Aug. 12, 2011. A visita-
tion was held on Sunday Aug. 14th at
Charter Funerals Gladstone Chapel, 77
NE 72nd St. Gladstone, MO. Ron was
buried in Belle Plaine, Iowa. Ronald was
born on Good Friday, April 13th, 1934 in
Belle Plaine, Iowa. He and his wife Doro-
thy had just celebrated 51 years of
marriage in July. He was a strong but
gentle man, who was the foundation of
a wonderful family who adored him. He
was preceded in death by his parents
George and Blanche Preston. Ronald is
survived by his wife Dorothy; daughters
Mary Helen Preston and husband Garry
Hevalow; Georgetta McDowell and
husband Robert; granddaughters Sara
Brookshire and husband Mike, Kari Jo
Bovard and Kimberly Bovard; brother
Monte Preston and loving family and
friends.

Ron was a regular fixture at Iowa
Lincoln Highway Association meetings,
and was always willing to help promote
the Lincoln Highway in any way possi-
ble. Ron was the caretaker of his father
George’s station in Belle Plaine. Ron
also was a tireless supporter of the
community of Belle Plaine and also
made sure he was available to meet
the Iowa LHA Motor Tour at the station.
Ron also made it a point to make as
many national LHA conferences as pos-
sible.

Ron will be missed by everyone

Iowa Blackie & Ron Preston enjoy
the 2008 RAGBRAI parade

along the Lincoln Highway, not only in
Iowa but along the entire route.

(Editor’s note: Ron’s daughter sent me
a thank you note for the comments I
placed on the webpage obituary. Mary Preston stated that it is “the hope
of the family to keep the legacy of the
station alive, and to continue to be
involved as much as we can with the
Lincoln Highway Association. Mary
also added in her note that they are
beginning to renovate and that they
hope to have the station ready in time
for the centennial celebration in 2013.”)

With that, from the excerpts from
the note above, the Iowa Lincoln
Highway Association will work with the
Preston family and do what it can to
help keep them station’s legacy alive.

Preston’s Station is a Lincoln Highway
icon and it is our job to help keep the
station, and the memories of Ron and
George Preston alive.

Iowa Lincoln Highway Association
P.O. Box 14
Ogden, Iowa 50212
Between The Rivers...and then some!
By Jeff LaFollette

All of you I’m sure have heard of the Iowa based movie, “The Bridges of Madison County”. Now there is another story brewing in Iowa in regard to bridges. Gene & Marcia Kemmann, Cathie & Norm Nichols and Tammy and I were at the pony truss bridge west of Calamus about two weeks before the motor tour doing the annual cleanup before the tour. At the end of the task, I was informed that the two bridges west of the pony truss bridge are in danger of being closed. These bridges were built in 1931, and carried post-Lincoln Highway, and US Highway 30 traffic from 1931-1956. The bridges have carried less traffic since then and much less when the pony truss bridge was closed in 1997. So these bridges have been in service for 80 years with no improvement. They are 18 foot wide bridges, and since 2000, they have been designated as single lane bridges because of weight restrictions.

One of these bridges were featured in the “Name That Lincoln Highway Spot” in the spring issue of this newsletter. The photo below is that of the bridge that crosses over the Wapsipinicon River. These bridges are in danger of being taken out, but they may also be open to certain traffic with new weight restrictions. Clinton County may decide on one of several options. Close the existing bridges over the Wapsi, build a new one over the overflow. The county could build access roads to US 30 for property owners that are affected by the closing of both bridges. The county could also close the Wapsi bridge and repair the overflow bridge with local labor and funding.

The one option that Todd Kinney, Clinton County engineer favors is building a new county road in between the alignments of current US 30 and old 30 (LH). That would affect the Lincoln Highway, where a part of the original alignment went through the area where a proposed new county road might be built. There are a couple of steel and concrete bridge abutments in the soupy land in between the roads. There is some old Lincoln Highway concrete that might need to be removed to build a new road.

Either way, it looks like one of the bridges may be closed, and that would close a historic piece of the Lincoln Highway. Of course safety is the main concern, and with federal, state and county budgets being so tight these days, spending millions of dollars to replace both bridges may not be feasible. Elmer Ketelsen fought to keep the pony truss bridge from being removed in 1997. Now we need to work again to keep the lines of communication open with Mr. Kinney and the Clinton County Board. We have won battles before: saving the pony truss bridge, keeping an original railing on the new Eureka Bridge west of Jefferson, and the new bridge in Chelsea that mirrors the old one it replaced. The one thing against saving these bridges is that there are very few people living along that section, and the land is very wet and there is no farmland until you get west of the Wapsi. Nothing will be done until the county gets estimates for work which will take some time. We will work with the county to do what we can to save the bridges. If you wish, you may contact Clinton County Engineer Todd Kinney by e-mail at engineer@clintoncounty-ia.gov. Let’s do what we can to save the Bridges of Clinton County.

(Photo Courtesy of Van & Bev Becker)
ILHA Officers, Board of Directors, County Consuls, and Staff

President
Allan Richards
(641) 484-4000
AllanMaxRichards@aol.com

Co-Vice Presidents
Dean & Jeannie Parr
(319) 366-0552
drparr@mchsi.com

Secretary
Jeff Benson
(515) 233-1445
melbert@mchsi.com

Treasurer
Joyce Ausberger
(515) 386-4521
bobjoyce@netins.net

State Director
Jeff LaFollette
(563) 349-3047
jefflaq@q.com

Board of Directors
(County Consuls)

Clinton County
Jeff LaFollette
(563) 349-3047
jefflaq@q.com

Cedar County
Joe Goodlove
(316) 650-0342
joeiowalh30@fbcom.net

Linn County
Van & Bev Becker
IowaLHA@Imonmail.com

Benton County
Mike Kelly
(319) 472-5183
ntk@videoportraits.com

Tama County
Allan Richards
(641) 484-4000
AllanMaxRichards@aol.com

Marshall County
Harlan Quick
(641) 483-2440
hmquick@partnercom.net

Story County
Margaret Elbert
(515) 233-1445
melbert@mchsi.com

Boone County
John Fitzsimmons
(515) 432-3697
seanfitz50@hotmail.com

Ed Mondt
(515) 432-2343
tobes1994@yahoo.com

Greene County
Bob Owens
(515) 386-3419
jaowens4230@yahoo.com

Joyce Ausberger
(515) 386-4521
bobjoyce@netins.net

Carroll County
VACANT

Crawford County
Deb Rothmeyer
(712) 263-8356
debrothmeyer@gmail.com

Harrison County
Marshall & Rita
Schichilone
(712) 647-2646

Pottawattamie County
Charles Willard
(712) 322-5412
moose6969@cox.net

Membership Coordinator
Dean Parr
drparr@mchsi.com

Newsletter Editor
Jeff LaFollette
jefflaq@q.com

Noble Sojourner
Lyell Henry
disorg@mchsi.com

Iowa Artist in Residence
John Fitzsimmons
seanfitz50@hotmail.com

Webmistress
Sandi Huemann-Kelly
shk@videoportraits.com

Director Emeritus
Bob & Joyce Ausberger
bobjoyce@netins.net

Support Staff

2ND IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION YARD SALES A SUCCESS

Crawford County Consul and Iowa LHA Yard Sale coordinator Deb Rothmeyer reports that the 2nd year of the yard sales were a success. She reports that there were fewer sales this year than last, but reports came to the editor that more communities were involved with citywide sales and larger scale sales where there were one large area of sales. One report was that a sale area was like going to a flea market with lots and lots of items to choose from.

Congratulations to Deb for her hard work in getting the 43 Lincoln Highway communities involved in the statewide sale. All in all, five states (W. Va., Ohio, Indiana, Illinois & Iowa) were involved and there were nearly 1000 miles of sales. The LH yard sales will be back on the first weekend of August 2012.

IOWA LHA E-NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

We currently have about 15 members who are currently receiving their newsletter by e-mail. You have the option to either receive yours by e-mail or regular mail. If you wish to receive an e-copy please e-mail newsletter Jeff LaFollette and we will add your name to the e-mail list. One advantage is that with an e-copy, you’ll see all the photos in color. So it’s your choice. If you want your newsletter by e-mail let us know and we’ll take care of it.

2011 IOWA LHA MOTOR TOUR DASH PLAQUES AND WINDOW DECALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE DECALS AND PLAQUES ARE $3.00 EACH OR GET BOTH FOR $5.00! THERE ARE SETS FROM 2008, 2009, AND 2010 ALSO. CONTACT JEFF LAFOLLETTE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.
Name That Lincoln Highway Spot

The last photo in "Name that Lincoln Highway came from Lincoln Highway super sleuth Van Becker. He was stumped by the photo, and was asking our help on where the spot was. Well, we have one person who knows. Joyce Ausberger received a note from Jessie Young from Clinton who stated that this tourist camp was located in Clinton at 850 S. Bluff Blvd. Congratulations to Jessie for giving us the location of this spot.

Now for this issue, we have a photograph from a spot that was sent to us by Joe & Barb Moore from Boone. So your clue is that this picture is from somewhere in the middle of the state, but not necessarily in Boone. All of you super road sleuths who think you might know can send your guesses to Jeff LaFollette at his e-mail at Jefflaf@q.com. And if you have a photo of a spot along the Lincoln Highway that you think might stump the road warriors out there, please send it in and we’ll publish it in an upcoming edition.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Business card size ad: Single ad placed on an inside page of the newsletter in black and white. The card/ad should be in standard digital format (.jpg) or scanner ready. Double size business cards will double the price.

Rates: 1 issue- $10 2 issues- $20
3 or 4 issues- $30
(Buy three and get 4th free)

Flyer: 1 page 8-1/2 X 11 provided by the customer inserted into our eight page newsletter.

Rates: 1 page flyer- 1 issue- $50

Please visit our website for more information and to download an advertising rate sheet. Information about advertising on our website is also available. Check us out at:
www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa

FOR SALE

Original Bronze Medallion from Lincoln Highway
Concrete Marker
Marked Whitehead-Hong, New Jersey
$500.00 Guaranteed Old
Lynn Christian 515-232-2222

Upcoming LHA State Meetings

October 8, ‘11  Jefferson
January 14, ’12  To Be Announced
April 14, ’12  To Be Announced
July 14, ’12  To Be Announced
October 13, ’12  To Be Announced
Lincoln Highway Association members need to be congratulated for the fantastic work in your efforts to promote the Lincoln Highway. Each member is responsible for the success that is being achieved in the continued development of the Lincoln Highway here in Iowa. The LH Heritage Byway Signs are a sure sign of the efforts of many individuals. Thank you!

Creating educational and directional information points is just a beginning to the many more opportunities to promote the Lincoln Highway.

The one new development is the creation of the "Automobile Row Historic District" in Cedar Rapids. It is logical that the Lincoln Highway should be a focus of this project and district, since without the highway, there would have been no need for the row of automobile businesses. Moreover, the Lincoln Highway passes along and through the area where the district is to be located.

The Automobile Row Historic District is being created in Cedar Rapids in mitigation of the removal of historic buildings as a result of the flood of 2008. This is part of the National Historic Preservation Act and a requirement to receive funding from FEMA. As part of this effort, the public and various groups are invited to comment providing suggestions for this project.

I ask that you do comment, the deadline is September 21, 2011, which may be late with the mailing of this letter (FEMA, 7755 Office Plaza Drive, Ste 145, Bldg. G, West Des Moines, IA 50255 or email Fema-ICC-EHP@dhs.gov).

My suggestion follows the path of creating a formable monument to Abraham Lincoln which will highlight the history of the Lincoln Highway throughout Cedar Rapids, and Linn County. The location could very well be at Green Square Park or other site located in the area of Automobile Row. Telling the history of the development of roadways, and the automobile industry would be a fitting way to pay tribute to the first transcontinental highway across the U.S.A. A design that will highlight these facts, tell the story, show the path, and provide the insight about the Lincoln Highway for young and old will do the job.

I would see this monument as a central theme for the Historic District celebrating the Automobile in Iowa, what better theme to draw national attention.

The heartbeat of the Lincoln Highway must go on as a vital part of America and "America's Main Street." Keep up the fantastic work, and each and every little piece of work will make the Lincoln Highway better for the traveling days ahead.

Allan

---

**IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS INVITED TO ILLINOIS LHA MEETING IN CLINTON**

The Iowa Lincoln Highway Association and its members are invited to a meeting with our counterparts in the Illinois LHA. The two groups will meet on Saturday November 19, 2011 in Clinton. Tentatively, the meeting is set to be located at the Pizza Ranch just off of North 13th Ave. in Clinton one block off the original alignment of the Lincoln Highway. One main reason for the meeting is about next years Iowa LHA Motor Tour. The motor tour is taking a new twist for its 5th year and will begin in Rochelle, Illinois and there will be five or six stops in Illinois for the first day. Tour Director Jeff LaFollette will present the motor tour plans to the Illinois Association and will be informing them on the plans for stops and inviting all members from Illinois to join us for the motor tour next year.

If you would be interested in attending this meeting, please contact Jeff at his e-mail address at jefflafo@comcast.net. This way if plans change and the meeting is moved to different site, you can let you know.

This will be the third time that the two state organizations have come together for a meeting. The first was in Franklin Grove, IL and the second was in Palisades Park in Linn County. So if you can, come out and join us on Saturday November 19 for some fun and fellowship with our neighbors from across the mighty Mississippi.

---

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

Fred & Brenda Blom  
Wayne & Linda Brill  
Robert Dietering  
LaVerne & Mary Holstead  
Evan & Karen Hecht  
Ed & Janet Hedegaard  
Donna Jean Hollister  
Don & Irene Newby  
Bill & Nora Schlenker  
Darrell & Cindy Shockey  
Tom & Peg Shroyer  
Deb & Dan Van Winkle  
Diane Wodtke  
Dennis & Judy Bisel  
George Hamlin

Missouri Valley, Harrison L  
Des Moines, Polk  
Missouri Valley, Harrison L  
Vinton, Benton L  
Council Bluffs  
Pottawattamie L  
Pottawattamie L  
Pottawattamie L  
Pottawattamie L  
Bondeurant, Polk  
Ankeny, Polk  
Panora, Guthrie  
Panora, Guthrie  
Panora, Guthrie  
St. Charles, MO  
Fulton, MD

---

(Describes a Lincoln Highway County)
THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY GOLF TOURNAMENT
By Rachael Lahti Donnelly

This is an excerpt from "Ric Lahti, A Golfer." The focus of the full, 96-page document is my father’s amateur golf career, which was based at Kishwaukee Country Club in DeKalb, Illinois. The excerpt deals with the Lincoln Highway Golf Association and the tournaments it has sponsored since 1923 and includes both my mother’s and father’s experiences. Research spans years 1922 to 1963 for my father and 1955 to 1972 for my mother.

That means that not a lot of the verbiage, or all of the photographs, for that matter, will have a great deal of meaning to historical societies located some distance from DeKalb or Sycamore, Illinois. However, there is enough information about the Lincoln Highway golf tournaments that I’m hoping each historical society will find it of some interest.

(Editor’s Note: This story was sent to me on CD. It is a 23 MB Publisher file. There are a lot of pictures and interesting articles. We are trying to hit the high points of this story as best as I can. If any of you would like a copy of the CD, please e-mail me.)

On Thursday, November 2, 1922, The DeKalb Daily Chronicle announced that a meeting was “to be held at Dixon to organize the proposed Lincoln Highway Golf Association.” A piece in the Kishwaukee Country Club files notes, “As one of Kishwaukee Country Club’s charter members, Milo Oakland attended the first meeting.” Milo Oakland, Sr. and Milo Oakland, Jr., as a Lieutenant, both appear in accounts of the Lincoln Highway as team members during World War II.

“Teams from towns all along the Lincoln Highway from DeKalb to Clinton IA are invited to enter this annual tourney.” The first six years, play passed among the cities: Dixon, Morrison, Sterling, Clinton IA, Polo and DeKalb. The Oregon club came into being in 1926 and hosted the 8th annual tournament in 1930. In later years the cities of Mt Morris, Princeton and Rochelle hosted and sent representatives to the Lincoln Highway Tournament.

The Dixon Evening Telegraph on July 7, 1942, explained the unusual format of the tournament: “Play is against blind bogey with players either going up or down on bogey,” bogey normally being one stroke over par. As an example of the procedure for assigning “bogey,” the July 20, 1956, Chronicle, page 12, reported that “bogey this year at Kishwaukee has been determined by a committee of members of the local Sports and Pastimes Committee. Bogey will be par on all holes but 3-4-5-11-12-13-14, where bogey will be one over par.” “Bogey” was often capitalized mid-sentence and colorfully personified as “Old Man Bogey,” “the old man,” “the old timer,” “the old gentleman,” “Mr Bogey,” or “the Colonel.”

“The tournament, unique in golfing, pits the six players of each team as individuals against bogey. In addition to the team honors, which could be up or down on bogey, there are also flight honors and the medalist trophy. “Play is conducted on a flight system with other men one each playing together, the number two men playing together, etc. “The aggregate up or down scores of the individual players determines the teams’ score.” Golfers qualify at their home course and are placed in flights 1-6 according to their scores, the lowest score earning flight 1 and team captain. Articles dated July 11, 1935, and July 13, 1938, mention eight-man teams instead of the usual six-man teams.

By 1941, DeForest “Dee” Hunt and Milo Oakland of DeKalb and Doc Markle of Polo had played in all 18 prior Lincoln Highway events. Doc Markle eventually played in the most tournaments, 31, from 1923 to 1953. Dee Hunt won the Lincoln Highway three times, beginning at the first meet in 1923, then in 1926 and 1935. Milo Oakland also won three titles. In 1924, 1925 and 1941.

The July 10, 1942, Dixon newspaper article totals Arne Huhta’s Lincoln Highway wins at four; microfilm research confirms the years as 1928, 1929, 1932 and 1934. Other four-time winners were Ken Detweiler, Dixon; Mickey Beal, Clinton; and Jim Lamb, who was from Oregon but played for Sunset Hills, Mt Morris, in 1951 and ultimately won five titles. Beal and Lamb each won the tournament three times in a row. Both Ric Lahti and Jim Besenfelder took first medalist honors. Jim in 1948 and Ric in 1942.

Although he didn’t win his flight in 1955, the Chronicle acknowledged Ric Lahti’s contribution to the team effort. At least 12 times in the 40 years researched, he was among the top four medalists or won his flight, sometimes both. He also served as the association’s president. A 1956 article records his serving as president the four years from 1934 to 1937; however the July 13, 1934, Chronicle states that F L Markle was president at Polo. For the 1935 tournament held at DeKalb, the July 11, 1935, Chronicle lists A B Gochenour as president. The Lincoln Highway presidency usually goes to a member of the host club, and Kishwaukee hosted the tournament again in 1941 and 1947, each time with Ric Lahti as president.

In a 1950 article it was noted that “Ric Lahti, now pro at Kishwaukee Country Club, will not be among the participants in the tournament this year, although he has had a brilliant and illustrious record in the Lincoln Highway play. The tournament is restricted to amateurs only and Lahti’s decision to take over as pro.
Country Club (Rock Falls), Clinton (IA) Country Club, Edgewood Golf Club (Polo), and Kishwaukee Country Club. Later articles mention other clubs: Big Foot Country Club (Lake Geneva WI), Bureau Valley Country Club (Princeton), Emerald Hills Golf Course (Sterling), Plum Hollow Country Club (Dixon), Rochelle Country Club and Sunset Hills Golf Club (Mt Morris). Many of these clubs were only nine holes. From a half dozen clubs participating at the outset, The Clinton Herald noted in 1960 that “all told 13 clubs entered the annual tourney.”

References in early articles to Rock River Country Club’s location are confusing. On the Lincoln Highway tournament spreadsheet I’ve recorded the city as that mentioned in the Chronicle. Name spellings and other information on the spreadsheet are also recorded as reported in newspapers. However, Sterling-Rock Falls Historical Society Director Terry Buckaloo informs us that Rock River Country Club is actually in Rock Falls but that Sterling (and sometimes Oregon, we note) was often used because it was larger and more well known.

(in the next issue of “Along The Lincoln Highway” we will touch on the ladies of the Lincoln Highway golf tournament. Thank you again to Rachael Lahti Donnelly for this contribution about a piece of rare Lincoln Highway history.)
WE’RE MOVIN ON OUT TO JEFFERSON OCTOBER 8
FOR THE FALL MEETING OF THE IOWA LHA

The Iowa Lincoln Highway Association’s fall meeting takes us to western Iowa in Greene County where we will be meeting in Jefferson. The meeting will be conducted Saturday October 8, 2011 at the former Milwaukee Road Depot, located on E. Lincolnway on the east side of Jefferson. Coffee and rolls will be available at 9:00 AM. President Allan Richards will drop the gavel around 9:30 to begin the meeting. We invite you to join us, and attend our final meeting of 2011. After the meeting around noon, we will have lunch at the Old 30 Café right next door to the depot. There are plans to have a tour after lunch to the newly constructed Eureka Bridge. We are trying to return to the spring and fall tour meeting format, where we have short business meetings, and get out to tour Lincoln Highway sites. This is an opportunity for those of you to come out and visit Lincoln Highway sites. Everyone is welcome to come out. We hope you can join us for our fall meeting and tour.

DIRECTIONS: FROM THE EAST- Travel west on US 30. (Lincoln Highway) At the east edge of Grand Junction, follow the new Lincoln Highway signage through town and on the south edge of town, the LH signs will direct you to turn right onto County Road E53. Follow E53 into Jefferson. The depot will be on your left as you enter town.

FROM THE WEST- Travel east across US 30. (Lincoln Highway). At the junction with IA 4 turn right and head south to Lincolnway. Turn left onto Lincolnway and follow to the east side town. The depot will be on the right.