



Along The Lincoln Highway



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

Volume 18, Number 2

Fall 2013

The Lincoln Highway Association shall identify, preserve, interpret and improve access to the Lincoln Highway and its associated sites, pursue the appropriate measures to prevent further deterioration, destruction or alteration of the remaining sections, publicize and seek public awareness of its goals and activities for preserving and developing the LH, facilitate research about the LH, and publish a magazine for articles and news of activity relevant to the LH, work with local communities and businesses to promote the LH as a tourism destination, and be exclusively charitable and educational within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code.

Presidents' Corner

By Dean and Jeannie Parr, Co-Presidents
Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

What an exciting year this has been! Celebrating our beloved Lincoln Highway's 100th birthday has been fun, exhausting and filled with memories for each of us. It was fun to see people across the Midwest, nation and even from across the Atlantic join in the celebration. Exhausting to those of us that put hours into tasks of bringing the Lincoln Highway forward into the public's eye and reaffirmation to those at the conference, local enlightenment through parades and festivals all the way to the Buy Way sales in August. And we're not done yet! There are still events planned for the holiday season, and maybe even a Farmers' Market or two still going. We have so many memories to be shared with each other and our families and friends.

We are so very proud of all of you! We marvel at your devotion and your resolve. Separately, and together, we have proved that the history of our precious highway is important, not only to us, the members of the Lincoln Highway Association, but also to our children and to our state. In the education of the children in schools along the Lincoln Highway - combining current study plans with history right in their own back yards, children are learning the past and present can be combined.



ILHA members at the National Conference in Kearney, NE.

The conference in Kearney, NE, was one week of wonder. I wondered how in the heck these the members of the LHA in Nebraska orchestrated the LH Centennial, tours from both coasts, Archway anniversary, Fourth of July and everything else in between - all to be celebrated in their city in the same week. I'm sure I'm not the only one thinking, "I'm so glad it wasn't in Iowa." There may have been a few moments of displeasure, but, all in all, I think they did an outstanding job.

Speaking of outstanding jobs....Thanks to Bob & Joyce Ausberger and Elaine Ehlert for our awesome displays in the hotel lobby. We outshone every other state, and the birthday cake added the frosting! Our state received three awards: two Friends of the Highway awards and the Educator of the Year. The city of Tama received the first Friend of the Highway award for their continued Tama Lincoln Highway Bridge Festival which has been held for the past 30 years. The second Friend of the Highway award went to Bob and Joyce Ausberger for bringing the LH museum in Grand Junction to life. And the third, but hardly the last, was the Educator of the Year award to John Mazzello and Prairie Rivers of Iowa. Congratulations to all of you!

And on we roll. At the conference, we hoped by all that the past leaders looked upon us as the new spokespeople for the Lincoln Highway. We hope that their dreams coincide with ours to raise enthusiasm across the nation for our beloved highway. To ignite within each person along the path to preserve, protect and promote our heritage that is the Lincoln Highway. Granted, this has been a year of celebration, but don't let us sit back and have a sigh of relief that it's almost over. Instead, let us continue to strive forward to enlighten others about the Lincoln Highway, and remind them of the history and of the importance of preserving it. We've had a great year to get the ball rolling - let's keep it going!

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State Fair Photo Contest Results

By Jessica Johnson, Prairie Rivers of Iowa

There truly was “Nothing to Compare” with the Lincoln Highway at this year’s Iowa State Fair. The butter sculpture was not the only attraction featuring the Lincoln Highway at the Fair. Prairie Rivers of Iowa sponsored a class in the 74th Annual Photography Salon, entitled “Lincoln Highway 100th Anniversary.”

Though many great photographs were entered into the class, unfortunately only three could place. Charley Starnes, the superintendent for Iowa State Fair Photography, has a strict process for selecting judges to ensure that quality and fairness are the top priorities when awarding ribbons.

Tony Sedore was awarded third place with his photo called “Auto Laundry,” of Preston’s Station with two vintage automobiles out front at nighttime. Second place was titled “Sunday Driver,” by Nancy S. Schmitz, of a church being relocated down the Lincoln Highway near Vail.

The first place winner of the 2013 Iowa State Fair’s Lincoln Highway 100th Anniversary Class was Bob Klemme with “Lincoln Highway Sunrise,” a beautiful sunrise showcasing our beloved road with cascading hills between Mount Vernon and Cedar Rapids.

We would like to thank all those who submitted photographs and those who went to the Fair and supported the photography class.

Be on the lookout as we share these great photos later this year.

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Remember that you can share your photos of the Lincoln Highway, too. You can submit a photo for use in the newsletter or on the ILHA website, and Prairie Rivers of Iowa is always seeking new photos to help promote the byway.



State Fair Photography Superintendent Charley Starnes congratulates Bob Klemme on his first place photograph.



The Centennial Motor Tour visits the Reed-Niland Corner.

The Tours of 2013

By Sandra Huemann-Kelly

The Lincoln Highway Centennial Tour (which culminated with the East and West Tour groups meeting up in Kearney, NE for the Centennial Parade and Conference) was a well-coordinated and impressive undertaking. Kudos to Bob Lichy and Rosemary Rubin tour planners and the East (Jim Peters) and West (Paul Gilger) tour guides for their hard work and promotion of the old Lincoln Highway during the 100th Celebration. The Centennial Tour was but one of many large and small tours that passed through Iowa during the summer of 2013.

The Reed-Niland Corner in Colo was a regular stop for most tours. I reviewed my calendar and our guest logs to summarize who was traveling the highway this summer. We had two "Mystery Trips" visit – a group in a van in April and numerous motorcycles in August. "Mystery Trips" are planned but the participants are not aware of their destination. Both mystery tours originated from the Des Moines area and were pleasantly surprised to discover things to see and do along the Lincoln Highway in Central Iowa.

The early Ford V-8 group visited in early June. This group was not only celebrating the Lincoln's special birthday but the V-8 organization's 50th anniversary AND Henry Ford's 150th birthday as they traveled from Gettysburg, PA to Lake Tahoe (site of their annual conference). We enjoyed seeing 30-some motorcycles later in June as the Deaf Bikers of America came through on their Lincoln Highway Ride. Next in the lineup was the "Tin Can Tourist" in their vintage campers and vehicles making their way to Kearney, NE where they had a great display on auto-camping.

The East portion of the Lincoln Highway Centennial Tour

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

Meetings begin at 9:30 A.M. with refreshments at 9 A.M.

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|------------------|---|
| October 12, 2013 | Missouri Valley Harrison Co. Historical Village & Welcome Center |
| January, 2014 | Colo, Iowa |
| April, 2014 | Denison, Iowa |
| July, 2014 | Tama, Iowa |

passed through at the end of June and gave us one of the highlights of the summer tours – a visit from a Tucker automobile! The owners even took it off the trailer and opened it up for all to see and enjoy.

July saw the large European Tour traveling the Lincoln Highway in Iowa. At Niland's Cafe the first of the vehicles arrived about 1 A.M. and the last passed through around 8 P.M. The vehicles shipped over to begin the trek in Times Square were beautiful and each had its own photo calling card. The Central Iowa Model A Club's visit in late August was enjoyed all along the Lincoln in Central Iowa and provided great photo opportunities the entire route.

Along with the organized groups there were many smaller groups, duos or soloists traveling the highway, many discovering it for the first time. Cece Otto, of "American Songline" traveled and performed the length of the highway over several months. I recall a group of six from the Czech Republic and recent couples from Germany and Norway. The new and renewed interest bodes well for travelers to our state on our prized Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway in weeks, months and years to come.

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State Center hosts a stop for the Model A Tour this summer.



A visitor admires the Tucker automobile, a highlight of the Centennial Tour for travelers and Iowans alike.

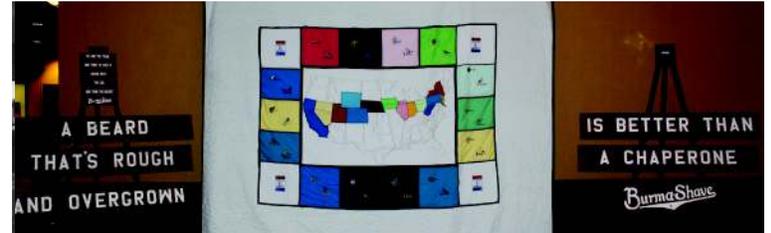
Scenes of the Centennial



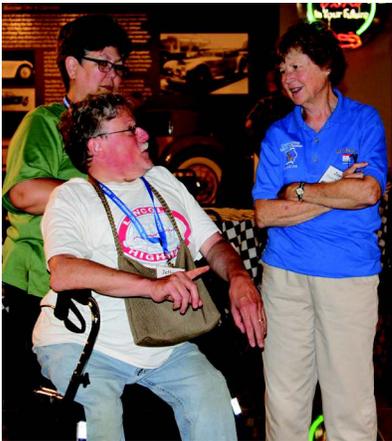
John Mazzello receives the LHA Educator of the Year Award on behalf of Prairie Rivers of Iowa's Kids on the Byway Program.



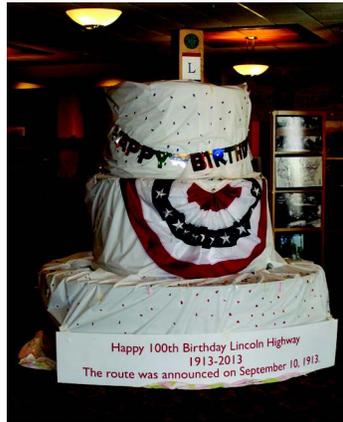
Joyce Ausberger, Brian Butko, Kevin Patrick, and Bob Ausberger reflect on reinventing the Lincoln Highway Association.



Iowa LHA memorabilia highlights the lobby at the conference hotel.



A service station attendant greets Motor Tour participants for their Iowa dinner in June.



A giant cake celebrates the Lincoln Highway's 100th Birthday in the Centennial Conference hotel lobby.



A Centennial Motor Tour participant is interviewed by a reporter near Preston's Station in Belle Plaine.



Birthday greetings from the Greene County Interpretive Site.



Local residents and travelers admire the beautiful vehicles that filled the streets of Mount Vernon.



A group of Czech travelers commemorates a trip along the Lincoln Highway in Iowa.

Lorrie Fleming, founder of the Canadian Route 66 Association, Judy Wunsch of Ft. Morgan, CO, and Scott Berka, Story County Consul pose for a picture on the Lincoln.





The famous Lincoln Highway Bridge in Tama sculpted out of butter at the Iowa State Fair.

Buy-Way Yard Sale

By Deb Rothmeyer, Vice President

We had a great Buy-Way Yard Sale this year along the Lincoln Highway in Iowa. More than 70 sales or events registered this year, representing 24 Lincoln Highway communities. Sellers appreciated registering on our website and buyers were able to receive an updated listing of all the sales online.

I talked with people who had sales this year and they said that this was the best year for the Buy-Way Yard Sale so far! I especially appreciate the large multi-family sales and those events sponsored by organizations like the Lowden Historical Society, Niland's Cafe, the Greene County Lincoln Highway Museum, Museum of Religious Arts, Harrison County Welcome Center, and the North Broadway Neighborhood Association. These bigger events and sales are a big draw for those shoppers from other states! Thanks also to Super 8 locations statewide, Denison's Park Motel, and Council Bluffs' Fairfield Inn for offering discounts to Buy-Way shoppers.

As we think about next year's fifth anniversary Buy-Way Yard Sale, there are a few areas we can look at to make the event even better:

- Better signs – we need garage sale signs as well as the Lincoln Highway Buy-Way signs, since that's what shoppers use to find sales.
- It's best to hold sales all three days of the Yard Sale, as folks travel from miles around to shop, and they expect it! They take vacations for this event, they stay at hotels, they eat at restaurants.
- Towns could hold sidewalk sales during Yard Sale days, especially if they have city-wide sale dates on other weekends.

Overall, I did not hear many complaints and got a lot more positive feedback than in past years. Thanks to everyone who volunteered, encouraged sales to sign up, or who promoted the Yard Sale in your community.

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The Lincoln Highway Immortalized in Butter

By Peter Hoehnle, Iowa Valley RC & D

Since 1911, a cow sculpted from butter has been a treasured feature of the Iowa State Fair. In recent years, the butter cow, and its long time sculptor, Norma "Duffy" Lyon became internationally known celebrities.

Beginning in the 1990s, Lyon's butter cow was joined by additional sculptures including the figures from Grant Wood's painting, American Gothic, John Wayne, Garth Brooks, Elvis Presley, a Harley Davidson motorcycle and a full-sized interpretation of the last supper.

Affectionately known to generations of Iowans as "the Butter Cow Lady," Lyon lived near the Lincoln Highway in Tama County, and one of her few bronze works, a statue of a cow and calf, is found at the junction of Highways 63 and old Highway 30 in Toledo.

Lyon retired in 2005 and turned the sculpting duties over to her longtime apprentice, Sarah Pratt, also from Tama County.

This year, in addition to creating a Jersey cow from 500 pounds of butter, Pratt decided to honor the Lincoln Highway Centennial, including a significant landmark of the highway, the bridge near Tama whose concrete sides spell "Lincoln Highway."

In addition to the bridge, Pratt also created a full sized statue of Abraham Lincoln giving a speech, in honor of the sesquicentennial of both the Emancipation Proclamation and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in 2013. The Lincoln statue included a backdrop and stood on a revolving platform. As the platform turned slowly, visitors were able to see a map of the United States with the Lincoln Highway marked on it, from coast to coast.

The Butter Cow is one of the most popular attractions at the Fair, viewed by a constant line of slow moving visitors who pass by the refrigerated case in which it is displayed at a constant temperature of 40 degrees.

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This butter map shows the course of the Lincoln Highway throughout the United States.



Lincoln Highway Mystery Place

By Van & Bev Becker

Here are the hints for the Mystery place on the Lincoln along with the two photos, above and below.

“Under the Viaduct”

“Down by the Vinegar Works.”

The answer is hidden in a story in the newsletter.

Do you recognize the place? Be the first to email lincolnhighway@prrcd.org and win a free newly updated Map Pack!



New Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Map Packs are available! Newly updated in 2013 with route corrections, the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway route, and more. Map Packs are available for \$10 each from:

Lincoln Highway Museum in Grand Junction
P.O. Box 224
Grand Junction, IA 50127

Bringing Music Back to the Lincoln

By Cecelia Otto

An American Songline began on April 13 in New York City and ended on Sunday, September 1, when I reached the Western Terminus of the Lincoln Highway in San Francisco. My goal: to bring music back to the Lincoln Highway by giving a series of vintage-style music performances all the way along the route. In those five months, I traveled through 14 states, played about 30 concerts and got to meet countless amazing people. And of course, I was one of the lucky ones able to experience the Lincoln Highway from one end to the other.

Iowa has great Lincoln Highway spirit and was so welcoming and enthusiastic about my project. Despite a little rain and high water, my journey through Iowa got off to a great start with a visit to Belle Plaine, where I spent the day touring the town with Dick Schild, who had 94 years of great stories and memories to share. From there, it was on to the Reed/Niland corner, where I paid a return visit to the Colo Motel and Niland's Café, and its wonderful owners Sandii and Mike. Perhaps the highlight of my trip through Iowa was when I was invited to the Jefferson Bell Tower Festival. I gave two performances in Jefferson and even got to ride in the parade. Best of all, I was able to catch up with some great Iowa Lincoln Highway folks: Bob and Joyce Ausberger, Bob and Janet Owens, Dean and Jeannie Parr, John Fitzsimmons and many more!

There was so much more I got to see and do on the great Lincoln Way. I sang in an old opera house, took part in the Centennial celebrations in Kearney, Nebraska, and performed for a group who had come all the way from Norway and Denmark to drive the Lincoln. It was all so wonderful — and much too much to describe in a few short paragraphs. I'll be writing a book detailing my experiences on the road, as well as some new music. Once that's ready, I'll be back on the Lincoln once again, sharing music and stories about our great highway.

To learn more about An American Songline, visit Cece's web page at americansongline.net, and watch clips of her performing at youtube.com/user/americansongline.

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Cece Otto preforms at the State Center Rose Festival in June.

Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Update

John Mazzello, Secretary & Byway Coordinator

The last few months have been an exciting ride along the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway! From the motor tours and Centennial Celebrations in Kearney to the expansion of our elementary school education program, Kids on the Byway, there have been many reasons to be excited for the Lincoln Highway.

I am especially pleased that Kids on the Byway, which received this year's LHA Outstanding Educator Award, will be expanding from one school to three. In addition to Kate Mitchell Elementary in Ames, Meeker Elementary in Ames and North Tama Elementary in Traer will be joining the program this year. While Traer is a bit more than a "stone's" throw from the Lincoln Highway, we intend to demonstrate that even communities that do not lie along the byway can benefit from its resources. We are actively seeking volunteers from the ILHA to help connect young people to the Lincoln Highway, so please let me know if you are interested.

I'm also excited to tell you that the revision to the byway's Corridor Management Plan (CMP) will begin this fall and winter. A three year process, the CMP revision will update the guiding planning document for the byway corridor and position it for long-term growth in the years to come. Be on the lookout for more information on the planning process in your community in the months ahead.

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State Center's Old-Fashioned Christmas on Main

By Marcia Quick

State Center's 14th Annual Old-Fashioned Christmas on Main will take place on Friday, December 6. The city-wide celebration will feature holiday open houses and shopping at area businesses beginning at 1:00 p.m. and ending at 8:00 p.m. with the live auction at St. Andrew's Grill & Bar.

The evening's activities kick off at 5:00 p.m. when a horse-drawn trolley drops Santa and Mrs. Claus off at historic Watson's Grocery Store on West Main Street. Other activities include the West Marshall High School Holiday Art Show, a Nativity scene, horse-drawn trolley rides, live and silent charity auctions, dance and musical performances, a chain saw artist, a story-telling and craft-making event at the public library, wine tasting, and s'more-making. For dining, there will be a spaghetti supper, a chili feed, and grilled brats and hotdogs. To complete your holiday shopping, there will be an indoor farmers market and a craft and gift fair.

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Watson's Fall Festival Coming to State Center

By Marcia Quick

Celebrate the harvest season along the historic Lincoln Highway in downtown State Center at the 15th Annual Watson's Fall Festival. The event will be held from 5:00 to 7:30 on Friday evening, October 11, during the final Farmers Market of the season. The event is sponsored by the State Center Historical Society and the State Center Development Association. Activities will center around Watson's Grocery Store, a permanent fixture along the Lincoln Highway on State Center's Main Street since 1895.

The 5th Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest will be held inside Watson's Grocery Store. Winners will be chosen by a popular vote of visitors in Watson's Grocery that evening. Watson's will also be hosting the State Center Historical Society's homemade pie and ice cream sale. A short video made from film footage taken along the Lincoln Highway during the 1947 and 1948 State Center Fall Festivals will be shown.

Up the street at Jacobson Portrait Studio, 124 West Main, the West Marshall Art Boosters will be hosting their Annual Fall Art Show.

In the street outside, the final outdoor Farmers Market of the season will be underway. The market will feature autumnal produce, crafts, and baked goods. The food vendor for the evening will be State Center's own Hometown Foods grilling in the market area.

The State Center Development Association will be showing off their latest renovation project at their open house in the 1911 Woods Hospital Building, 110-112 West Main Street. Stop in and see all the progress that has made toward bringing the historic building back to being a part of the downtown business community.

In the street in front of the Woods Hospital Building, you will be entertained by jazz music provided by the Ed Kaizer Trio, sponsored by the SCDA. Come and enjoy an evening of great jazz music along the Lincoln Highway.

There will be free entertainment for the kids. A Bounce House will be set up for kids of all ages. Hayrides around town will be available; the pick-up and drop-off site will be in the street in front of Watson's Grocery Store. Next door to Watson's Grocery, Mitchell Family Funeral Home, West Marshall Chapel, will be giving out free caramel apples.

Come help us celebrate the harvest season on Friday evening, October 11, with shopping, dining, and family entertainment along the Lincoln Highway on State Center's historic Main Street. Downtown businesses will remain open later that evening for your shopping convenience.

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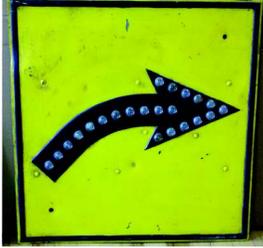
Are there upcoming events happening in YOUR community? Spread the word with an article in the newsletter, by posting on www.iowabyways.org, or by adding an event to the ILHA website. Contact the editor for more information.

Buried Treasures on the Lincoln Highway

By Bob Ausberger

Every now and then a once-in-a-lifetime adventure comes our way. I've always wanted to have this happen in relation to the Lincoln Highway, and now it has.

Let me introduce the characters of this saga. Jerry Herrick is the mayor of Grand Junction, a gifted individual with many talents. Shirley, his wife, is his understudy and wears many hats around town. They own rental properties and one of these is part of the story. Mr. X is the third part of this somber saga. He worked for the Iowa Highway Commission from about 1935 until his retirement in the sixties. His home in Grand Junction on the Lincoln Highway passed through several families and finally fell into the hands of the Herricks. An old decrepit outbuilding on the northwest corner of the lot bothered Jerry and Shirley, so they proceeded to tear it down. Jerry was working with his skid loader to finalize the project. Shirley was standing by to help with the cleanup. All of a sudden she heard a different noise and hollered for Jerry to stop. He said, "What's the matter" and she said, "you hit something, let me see what it is." Upon probing with her spade, she located metal and proceeded to uncover a cast iron US 30 sign denoting an intersection with US 14. She probed



again and struck another one and later found a third sign. They were excited and showed them to me the next day. Of course, I was excited and couldn't wait to show them off to others.

After several days had passed, Bob Owens brought his trusty metal detector over and we checked for more signs, but no beep or needle movement showed. We gave up. Shirley, upon hearing this, took her trusty spade and following the perimeter of the building, found two more signs. I then went to the site one evening with my own shovel and found one more sign. It was quite a thrill!

Altogether, we have eight of the 24" X 24" cast iron signs. They weigh 35 pounds each and one that was a stamped metal sign. We need to do research, but speculate that the cast iron signs were placed in 1926 as part of the numbering system.

In the early forties they were replaced with lighter but more reflective and lighter painted metal signs. The cast iron was supposed to go to scrap for the war effort but Mr. X broke the rules. He sequestered signs from the Marshalltown area and brought them home. Now, two things may have happened. One, he used the signs to help support his building or two, he became afraid they would be discovered by the commission so he buried them.



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In this issue....

The Lincoln Highway Centennial, Motor Tour, State Fair, and much more!

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