



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

Presidents' Corner

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

Warm greetings from your co-presidents! This has certainly been a memory-making year for our beloved Lincoln Highway! Let's try to not lose the enthusiasm we gained throughout the year, especially the momentum from the conference. The options are endless for us to move forward and educate, enlighten and encourage people of all ages about the Lincoln Highway.

Dean and I met Angie Hettinger, the new Byway Coordinator, for breakfast at the end of November. Angie will definitely be a welcome addition to our association. We found her well-informed and she has some awesome ideas to share. We just wish we could have BOTH John and Angie. Welcome, Angie.

As things wrap up for the 100th birthday year for LH we look forward to the future. We sincerely hope that the Buy Way garage sales event in August 2014 will be even better than this year's. And as more towns along the Lincoln are designated Main Street Communities, we hope that they remember to celebrate the Lincoln Highway each year during their annual celebrations. The Scenic Byways association is increasing the educational aspect of the Lincoln Highway, also.

We were at Prairie Rivers of Iowa's open house on December 5th and were impressed with their dedication to incorporating the Lincoln Highway into their partnering schools' study programs.....

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ILHA members at the Prairie Rivers of Iowa Open House held December 5th 2013.

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Prairie Rivers of Iowa Welcomes a New Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Coordinator

By Angie Hettinger
Prairie Rivers of Iowa Byway Coordinator



I am pleased to announce that I will be serving as the new Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Coordinator at Prairie Rivers of Iowa. I come to you today as a native Iowan, from the town of Strawberry Point, located in Northeast Iowa. I am one of six children raised on a dairy farm and had a great childhood using the land as my playground. I enjoy being outside as much as possible, which led me to my decision to study landscape architecture at Iowa State University. My professional background spans working at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources - River Programs to Urban Forestry for the City of St. Paul, Minnesota.

It is my pleasure to be back in Iowa, serving such a great role that will truly help revitalize and showcase the great state we live in. The Lincoln Highway has great potential to become the backbone for economic enhancement and development in Iowa. Through planning, education, and implementation of our goals, we will be able to improve the byway and our local communities.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you, either at the January meeting in Colo or along the Lincoln Highway. You can always reach me by email at ahettinger@prrcd.org.



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.

**ILHA Officers, Board of Directors,
County Consuls, and Staff**

Officers

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(County Consuls)**

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| Byway Coordinator Angie Hettinger | 515-232-0048 | ahettinger@prrcd.org |

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
P.O. Box 224 Grand Junction, IA 50127

**Celebrating the Lincoln Highway
Through Music**
By Nolan Stolz

In 2013, the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra and the Clinton Symphony Orchestra performed the “Prairie View” movement of Nolan Stolz’s Lincoln Highway Suite. The Omaha Symphonic Winds and the Ashford University Wind Ensemble (Clinton, Iowa) performed the concert band version of the same movement this fall. The Taylorsville/SLCC Symphony Orchestra (Salt Lake City, UT) will premiere the entire five-movement suite on May 2, 2014.

Several other orchestras and bands will perform the “Prairie View” movement in 2014: Central Community College Band (Columbus, NE) on March 9, Cornell College Wind Ensemble (Mount Vernon, IA) on April 17, Joliet Symphony Orchestra (Joliet, IL) on April 27, and Kirkwood Community College (Cedar Rapids, IA) on May 10. The concert bands at Prairie State College (Chicago Heights, IL) and Rich Central High School (Olympia Fields, IL) will perform the “Prairie View” and “Metals Heartland” movements in Spring 2014.

“Prairie View” paints the scenery along the Lincoln Highway from the tall-grass prairies of Illinois and Iowa to the mixed- and short-grass prairies of Nebraska and Eastern Wyoming. “Metals Heartland,” incorporating some metallic percussion, depicts the area sometimes pejoratively referred to as the “Rust Belt” (Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Eastern Illinois). Please visit www.nolanstolz.com/lh for more information.

L



Composer Nolan Stolz talking to the audience about the “Prairie View” movement before the premiere given by the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra in June 2013.

In Memory

We offer our deepest condolences to the families of the two County Consuls who passed away this year:

Kim Clark (Greene County)
Jerry Needham (Pottawattamie County)

Mystery Place

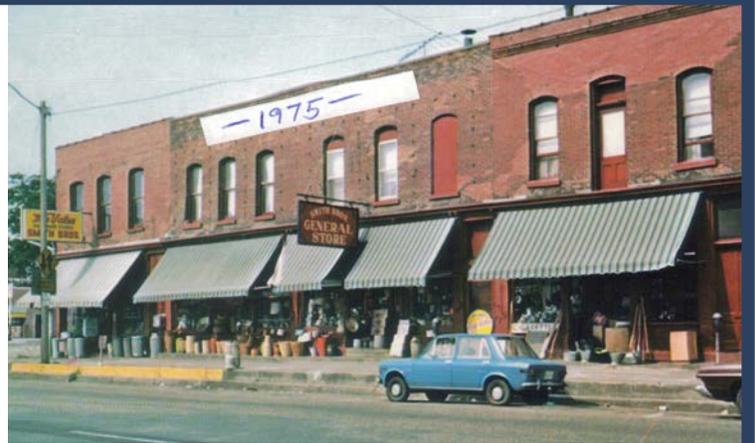
By Van Becker

Can you identify the Mystery Place?

This photo comes with 3 hints:

- The photo is from 1975. The building and business look the same today.
- The blue Fiat on the street is long gone as are the parking meters.
- This business stocks rubber chickens for those special moments when only a rubber chicken will do!

If you think you can identify the Mystery Place, send an email to lincolnhighway@prrcd.org or call 515-232-0048. The first person to identify the Mystery Place will receive a 2013 Iowa Lincoln Highway Map Pack!



Last Issue's Mystery Place

Several readers contacted us with the correct answer for last issue's Mystery Place.

The Mystery Place was Stone's Restaurant in Marshalltown under the 3rd Street railroad viaduct. Congratulations to Beth Murphy and Everett Halsted for the first correct responses!

We apologize for the typographical error in the email address to respond to last issue's Mystery Place; the correct email address for this issue is listed above.

Plan to Attend the Next Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Meeting

January 11, 2014 at Niland's Cafe

Niland's Cafe is located at 24 Lincoln Highway, Colo, Iowa At the intersection of the Lincoln and Jefferson Highways (Lincoln Highway and U.S. Highway 65)

Coffee and rolls will be available beginning at 9:00 am. The meeting begins promptly at 9:30 am.

In addition to regular business, the meeting will feature a special presentation on the Iowa Department of Transportation Centennial entitled "A Journey in Transportation," by Iowa DOT Librarian Leighton Christiansen.

Around noon, we will adjourn for lunch at Niland's Cafe. The cafe will serve your choice of soup with crackers, a sandwich bar, and cookies/bars for dessert. The meal includes choice of coffee (regular or decaf.), tea (hot or cold), or lemonade. Cost: \$10.00 per person (includes tax and gratuity).

In order to get an estimated head count for the lunch, Sandii Kelly is requesting that you contact her if you know are planning to stay for lunch: Please email nilandcafe@gmail.com or call 319-573-5711 and give your name and the number planning to attend.

L

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| April 12, 2014 | Denison, Iowa |
| July 12, 2014 | Boone, Iowa |
| October 11, 2014 | Tama, Iowa |

Presidents' Corner, continued from Pg. 1

We now need to start focusing on the national conference that will be held in Iowa in 2017. We know that western Iowa is the preferred location, but sadly there aren't as many options available for the conference. Council Bluffs has been discussed as it is large enough to hold the conference, but with so few Iowa association members there, it would be a challenge to say the least. Ames has also been mentioned. We know there has been a conference held there in the past, but it seems we have several more members in that area compared to Council Bluffs. It's early, but I think we'd better decide on a location and get the ball rolling. Remember - it's also the 25th anniversary of the renewed National Lincoln Highway Association that year. So we will have to incorporate that very important milestone. Does it feel like it's been that long, Bob, Joyce and Bob?

We are looking forward to a very active and forward moving year in 2014.

Dean and Jeannie Parr

Co-Presidents, Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

L



A Journey in Transportation: 100 Years of the Iowa DOT

By Leighton Christiansen

Iowa Department of Transportation Librarian
Iowa DOT 100th Anniversary Committee member

Two thousand thirteen marked the centennial of the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), as well as the Lincoln Highway. In fact, the Lincoln Highway route through Ames runs through the DOT's front yard. (Read about the DOT's LHA concrete marker at http://www.iowadot.gov/virtual_museum/artifacts/LincolnHighwayMarkers.html) During this anniversary year, I have had the pleasure of sharing this history with folks across the state. As it is a rich history, I will hit a just a few highlights below, and point you to a number of resources where you can learn more. (Read more at <http://www.iowadot.gov/history/home.html>)

The Iowa State Highway Commission (ISHC), forerunner of the Iowa DOT, became a state governmental department in 1913. From 1904 to 1913 it had been only an advisory body. However, by 1913, it was clear that if Iowa was going to take advantage of the motor age in personal travel and mechanized farming, we needed a group working full time to improve our roads and bridges. (Read more at <http://www.iowadot.gov/about/organizationalhistory.htm>)



*Image of a Car in Mud on the Lincoln Highway
From the Iowa DOT Historic Archives Digital Collections
<http://historicalphotos.iowadot.gov>*

By 1918, when the driver above was mired axle-deep in the Lincoln Highway east of Ames, Iowa had more than 100,000 miles of dirt -- or mud -- roads. Twelve miles were concrete paved, including the Lincoln Highway Seedling Mile in Linn County. (Read more at <http://publications.iowa.gov/9446/1/MLR-07-01.pdf> and <http://publications.iowa.gov/4135/1/TheSeedlingMile.pdf>)

The ISHC set out to get Iowa out of the mud by grading, graveling, paving, and bridging the Primary Road System, and setting construction and materials standards for counties and towns to follow. Iowa now has 114,000 miles of roads (concrete, blacktop, gravel, and, yes, dirt) and more than

24,000 bridges. (Read more at <http://www.iowadot.gov/about/Roads,Streets,andBridges.html>)

Along the way, the ISHC engineers and researchers have made tremendous contributions to the road research and construction, including inventing the slipform paver. (Read more at http://www.iowadot.gov/50thpages/featured_articles.aspx?article=article3.txt)

Of course, automobiles and trucks were not the only mode of transportation available to Iowans, and by the 1970's, it was clear Iowa needed a more comprehensive approach to transportation planning. In 1974, the legislature, combining the ISHC, the Iowa Aeronautics Commission, and other modal offices, created the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Iowa has an interesting aviation history as well. The Iowa Aeronautics Commission (IAC) had been created in 1945, 100 years after the first pilotless balloon ascent took place at Burlington. The IAC was created for much the same reasons as the ISHC: as more people took to the air, we needed safer planes, safer airports, and safer pilots. Among Iowa's aviation firsts, Ames resident J. Herman Banning was the first African American in the United States to receive a commercial pilot's license. (Read more at <http://www.iowadot.gov/aviation/aviationiniowa/iowaaviationhistory.html>)

Did you know that Iowa can lay claim to the first train robbery west of the Mississippi River? (Read more at <http://www.mycountyparks.com/county/Adair/Park/Jesse-James-Historical-Site.aspx>) Many Iowa counties were very sparsely -- if at all -- settled until the expansion of railroads following the Civil War. At one time rail was the best method of passenger transport through the state. Even though passenger rail has been eclipsed by highways, 43 percent of Iowa's freight still moves by rail. (Read more at <http://www.iowadot.gov/iowarail/history/history.htm>)

Transportation is a dynamic system, changing to meet -- or create -- the needs of, and options available to, Iowa's citizens. It is a system that continues to evolve, such as with public transportation (<http://www.iowadot.gov/transit/>) or biking/hiking trails. (<http://www.iowadot.gov/iowabikes/index.html>) The Iowa DOT continues to design, build, and/or maintain our transportation infrastructure to enable commerce, life, and leisure into the future.

I hope you will check out these and other transportation history links at <http://www.iowadot.gov/>

L

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 of Iowa
Executive Department

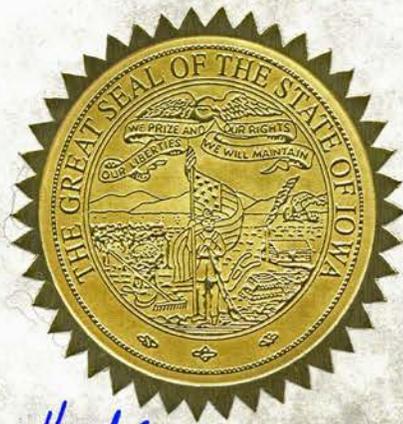
IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

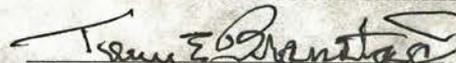
- WHEREAS,** the Lincoln Highway was established in 1913 and celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2013; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lincoln Highway was the first coast-to-coast improved highway in the United States, stretching from New York City through Iowa to San Francisco; and
- WHEREAS,** Iowans were instrumental in the establishment of the Lincoln Highway and the formation of the modern Lincoln Highway Association; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lincoln Highway crosses the state of Iowa from river to river, connecting thirteen counties and 44 communities; and
- WHEREAS,** the Lincoln Highway honors the memory of the 16th president of the United States, and is known today in Iowa as the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway; and
- WHEREAS,** Iowans celebrated the formal dedication of the Lincoln Highway on October 31, 1913, through speeches, music and special events:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby recognize the 100th anniversary of the Lincoln Highway and proclaim October 31, 2013, as

LINCOLN HIGHWAY CENTENNIAL DAY



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERE-
UNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED
THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO
BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS
21st DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR OF
OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN.


TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:


MATT SCHULTZ
SECRETARY OF STATE

Governor Branstad issued this proclamation in response to a request from the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway and Prairie Rivers of Iowa.



Van Becker stands by the final kiosk in Linn County located on 2nd Avenue SE between 7th and 8th Streets, near the Cedar Rapids Fire Department.

Ninth and Final Kiosk Nears Completion

By Van Becker

--- Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa, 24 November 2013, 10 degrees F with wind ---

The ninth and final kiosk of the Lincoln Highway is almost finished. The official dedication is coming on 10 December 2013.

In the photo above, Van Becker stands in for the 1928 repo marker that is soon to be placed between the panels. For the finishing touch, red brick pavers from the original 2nd Avenue route of the Lincoln Highway will be added as a walkway. (Van says, "You know your acting career is going nowhere when the best job available is a stand-in for a cement post.")

Like the other eight kiosks in Linn County, this one also tells the story of the location where it is placed. The left panel tells how the Lincoln Highway came into Cedar Rapids; the right panel tells of the Highway and the growing Automobile Row. Together they tell of the Lincoln's influence on commerce and travelers in Iowa's 2nd largest city.

The location of the new outdoor panels on 2nd Avenue SE between 7th and 8th Streets is only the start of cooperation with the Cedar Rapids Fire Department. After the devastating flood of 2008 here in Cedar Rapids, the city is still, 5 ½ years later, cleaning and rebuilding in the aftermath. One of the larger projects was the construction of a new Central Fire Station on high ground far away from future flooding. The financing came from city, state and county funds as well as federal FEMA funds. There was a mitigation clause attached to the FEMA funds and the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association, along with city and county historians, took this as an opportunity.

This final kiosk with design features and art layout ties to the other eight kiosks that Dick Thomas, Lyell Henry and Van Becker placed along the historic route in Linn County seven years ago. For this final kiosk, we closed a gap in the downtown Cedar Rapids area. We had assistance from Greg Buelo of the Cedar Rapids Fire Department and Mark Stoffer Hunter, Cedar Rapids historian. With all the federal guidance and requirements, we often had meetings with more than 20 people present.

As this final kiosk is completed, our attention will turn to the display in the front lobby of the new Central Fire Station. We, the Iowa LHA members, have been asked to design four electronic Lincoln Highway displays.

The original 1928 LH marker that was placed in September 1928 was only 150 feet east of our soon-to-be placed reproduction marker at the ninth and final historic teaching kiosk.

L

Iowa Transportation Museum Update

By Bob and Joyce Ausberger

The Iowa Transportation Museum (ITM) is located in Grinnell, Iowa at the old Spaulding factory. At this location, Spaulding buggies in the 1800's and Spaulding cars in the 1900's were built. In mid 1990's, a group was organized to find a transportation museum which would include the Lincoln Highway. Citizens from Grinnell stepped forward and offered the Spaulding factory site. Several more years went by as the committee developed plans for the transportation museum.

The first building to be rehabilitated was the former administration building. The outstanding rehab has been completed which also includes a glass walkway to another factory building. This building was originally being considered to house large road building equipment.

Bob & Joyce attended the fall ITM board meeting and learned that the original concept of the transportation museum had been changed, mainly due to income and expense considerations. The factory buildings will become loft-type housing. The museum will now be limited only to the administrative building. In addition to the transportation displays, including a Lincoln highway display, the building will be used for special events such as weddings and meetings.

Now it is even more important for us to use the Lincoln Highway as a "living museum" to tell the story of the start of transportation history. This may be a better approach over the long haul, for the Lincoln. We already have a good start with projects and preservation efforts and the heritage byway status.

L

Kids on the Byway By Magon Liu & Kayla Hasper



ISU Physics Club teaching the Meeker students about magnetic force.

Kids on the Byway (KOTB) is a Department of Natural Resources - Resource Enhancement and Protection (DNR-REAP) funded program that offers Iowa elementary school students authentic learning experiences that can be found with the abundance of resources and experts along the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway.

As KOTB enters into its second year, the program has expanded to a total of

three elementary schools; Kate Mitchell Elementary and Meeker Elementary in Ames, and North Tama Elementary in Traer. "Capstone events" on the Lincoln Highway are based on the 4th or 5th graders' current studies and, with the help of related experts, we are able to incorporate environmental education as well as Iowa history, agriculture, and natural resources into a day full of fun learning.

For the event with Meeker Elementary fourth grade students, we focused on Magnetism and Electricity. The students went to the Ames Resource Recovery Plant and listened to a presentation on magnetism and the process of burning trash for energy. They also visited the Water Treatment Plant and toured the process of treating water in Ames. The students then went to Physics Hall on the Iowa State University campus, where members of the ISU Physics Club presented interactive demonstrations on electromagnetism. The students also visited the ISU Solar Car Workshop to learn about how the ISU PrISUm Club designs and makes their solar car. While there, Steve Martens from Powerfilm talked about and showed some of Powerfilm's solar charger products.

All the locations visited on this event were located on or very near the Lincoln Highway. The other capstone



All smiles on this field trip!



Cy poses for a picture with Meeker Elementary students.

events for Kate Mitchell Elementary and North Tama Elementary, similarly featured locations on or near the Lincoln. On the way to visit locations, students have the opportunity to travel and learn about the history of the Lincoln Highway itself.

With one capstone event in the books, Prairie Rivers of Iowa is working hard on bringing more Lincoln Highway community experts to Iowa classrooms as we plan holding in-class events for this winter. We are especially looking to help students learn more about the Lincoln Highway by meeting with LHA members.

If you are interested in sharing your expertise with fourth or fifth grade students, please email Project Coordinator, Magon Liu at mliu@prrcd.org for more information.

L

Restoring and Sharing Lincoln Highway Signage

By Bob & Joyce Ausberger

We would like to continue visiting the issue of signs owned by the Iowa LHA. One sign involved is the Kaiser Fraser sign that was donated to the LHA from Margaret Elbert and Jeff Benson. The sign is currently being stored in Ausbergers' barn. Another sign that needs a better home is the Lincoln Lodge Motel sign from Ames. It was saved by Lyell Henry and has also been stored at Ausbergers'. It is a large 13 x 11 metal neon sign.

The cast iron Highway 30 signs mentioned in the fall LHA newsletter, estimated to have been originally used from about 1926-1940 in Marshall County, have several suggested locations that were offered at our fall LHA meeting. Long term loans from the ILHA to the following locations were suggested: Home Oil Station/new police station in State Center, Niland's Cafe, Youngville Cafe, Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center, and Marshall County Historical Society, with the rest kept at the Lincoln Highway Museum in Greene County.

The Kaiser Fraser sign is probably a "keep as" project. The cast iron signs probably just need a better clean up and are also in the "keep as" category. The Lincoln Lodge sign is probably a candidate for restoration (It weighs over 1,000

pounds). Shawn Olson, a new national LHA member from Jefferson, will be at our January meeting. He has experience in sign restoration and will propose several options and the costs. Bob will bring these signs to Colo. Hopefully we can make decisions to get them out on the Lincoln Highway!



Bob Ausberger holds one of the recently unearthed cast iron Highway 30 signs at the fall LHA meeting in Missouri Valley.

L

ILHA Receives Invitation to Transportation Conference

By Angie Hettinger

The American Society of Civil Engineers hosted a Transportation Conference at the Scheman Building at Iowa State University in Ames on Wednesday, November 6th. Conference educational program coordinator Steve Jones contacted Jeff Benson, Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Advisory Committee member and former ILHA Secretary, to be the luncheon speaker. Jeff's speech, entitled "100th Anniversary of Lincoln Highway in Iowa", was captivating and full of passion.

Jeff spoke to the beginnings of the highway, including the "seedling" mile in Iowa between Mount Vernon and Marion, and also of the current conditions of the many route variations of the highway. More recent preservation and restoration projects were also included, such as the technical drawings of the "context sensitive design" to widen the Eureka Bridge in Greene County, which was a great example for the civil engineers to see. Jeff emphasized the historical importance of segments of the Lincoln Highway and the opportunity they bring for historians and engineers to work together when modifications may be required.



Jeff Benson was a guest speaker at the Transportation Conference luncheon.

The opportunity to share the historical and cultural importance of the Lincoln Highway is always appreciated. We hope that we can continue to share with professionals and local residents the unlimited qualities the Lincoln Highway will bring to Iowa. If you have an event you would like us to speak at, please, do not hesitate to contact me.

L

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 at lincolnhighway@prcd.org

In this issue....

LH Proclamation, 100 Years of the Iowa DOT, Final Kiosk, and much more!

FIRST CLASS

www.iowalincolinhighway.org



**Iowa Lincoln Highway Association
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