



# Along The Lincoln Highway

Volume 19, Number 1

Spring 2014

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

### Presidents' Corner

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

Greetings from Cedar Rapids. As I write this we finally have warm March temperatures if only for a day. It has been a long, cold winter and all of us, I'm sure, are ready for Spring.

Dean and I are so very proud to be your Co-Presidents and are looking forward to another stellar year promoting our beloved Lincoln Highway. As the warm weather approaches, we should all be looking toward our individual community celebrations. We should be ever mindful of continuing the promotion of the Lincoln Highway and the education of our young and old alike. Hopefully, we will also be promoting membership on the national level.

In 2017 we will be hosting the national conference. As of yet, no city has been chosen, but both Ames and Council Bluffs are the fore runners. Both have pros and cons, but since western Iowa has been left out of the loop during the past two conferences held in Iowa, Council Bluffs has a slight lead. The conference will also mark the 25th anniversary of the reformation of the national association. Thanks to the hard work of Joyce and Bob Ausberger, Bob Owens and others, we now have a national association to be proud of. The conference will be one of the items on our agenda at the April meeting being held in Denison at Cronk's Cafe. We hope see you there!

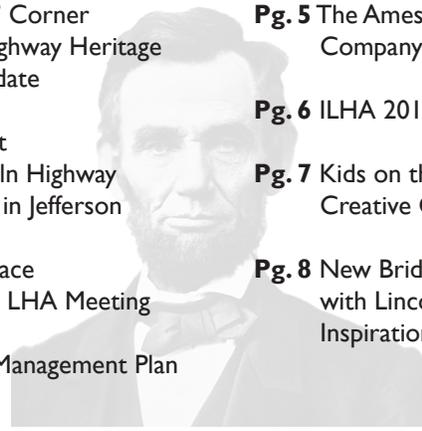
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1945 Ames Shovel Company Shovel Detail. (Story on Page 5)  
Photo Credit: David Ausberger

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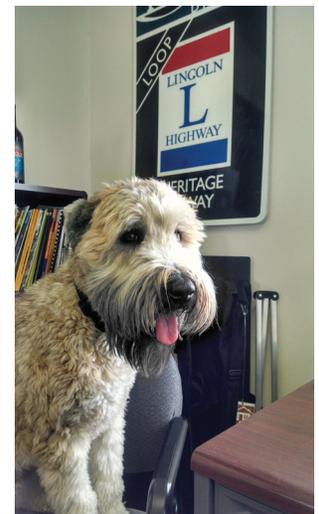


### Prairie Rivers of Iowa: Byway Updates

By Angie Hettinger  
Prairie Rivers of Iowa Byway Coordinator

I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and enjoying the spring weather! At Prairie Rivers of Iowa, we have started 2014 off with a bang and have many projects and plans for the year! I had a great time at the January 11th ILHA meeting in Colo and would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome. I know John Mazzello is missed by many, and I would like to let everyone know John will be assisting with the Corridor Management Plan (CMP) process that is being coordinated by Prairie Rivers. He will be visiting Iowa periodically. His next visit is in April and he will be attending the meeting in Denison in my place since I am unable to make it.

I really enjoy the variety this position as the Byway Coordinator allows me to have. This winter I have been participating in some activities for the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway. In January, Byway Coordinators around the state represented Iowa's eleven byways in Des Moines at the Travel Federation of Iowa Legislative Showcase as well as Transportation Day at the Capitol in Des Moines.



Stop by Prairie Rivers and meet some of our furry staff friends!

*Continued on page 4*

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.

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County Consuls, and Staff**

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**Welcome Two New Businesses Along the  
Lincoln Highway**

By Joyce Ausberger

Jefferson, Iowa has seen the addition of two new businesses along the Lincoln Highway. Keep an eye out for Roadside Relics, an antique shop owned by Shawn and Jennie Olson. You can find Roadside Relics near the Greene County Fairgrounds and the Milwaukee Depot on the Lincoln Highway.

The building was originally a Standard Oil station. The Olsons buy, sell, trade and restore some amazing objects. They produce one of a kind items and take in custom design requests. Shawn has experience creating and restoring neon signs and is working with Bob & Joyce Ausberger to restore signs the Iowa LHA has acquired.



*Roadside Relics, 505 Lincoln Highway, Jefferson, IA*



*National Lincoln Highway Members, Edward & Marcia Calvert open The Lincoln Way Salon in Jefferson, Iowa*

The Lincoln Way Salon, 908 West Lincoln Way, is another addition to the Lincoln Highway in Jefferson. Please help welcome this business! Marsha Calvert, the beautician, and her husband have been members of the national Lincoln Highway Association for many years.

They were happy to get a Greene county rock from Janet Owen's and Mel Miller's farm that worked perfectly to accent their yard and engrave Lincoln Highway on it.



*Lincoln Highway Bridge in Tama, Iowa. Photo: Bryan Osberg*

## Mystery Place

By Van Becker

Can you identify the Mystery Place?

### Three Hints:

- The building is known as “Little Brick”.
- This stretch of the Lincoln Highway was graded and paved in 1925.
- The small building, partially hidden by the trees is made of wood.



If you think you can identify the Mystery Place, send an **email to [lincolnhighway@prrcd.org](mailto:lincolnhighway@prrcd.org)** or **call 515-232-0048** and ask for Angie. 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 Smith Brothers General Store, located at 1014 through 1020 South 4th Street in Clinton, Iowa.

Congratulations to Jessie Young of Clinton, Iowa, for the first correct response!

## Plan to Attend the Next Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Meeting

### April 12, 2014 at Cronk's Cafe

Cronk's Cafe is located at 812 4th Avenue South, Denison, Iowa. On U.S. 30 and 59 and Iowa 4 and 141 at the crossroads of Western Iowa.



*Park Motel 1940 Postcard from the collection of Lyell Henry*

The meeting begins promptly at 9:30 am. Around noon, the meeting will adjourn for lunch at Cronk's Café. The café features a soup, sandwich and salad bar option for \$6.50 all you care to eat. Dessert will be available for an additional purchase.

### Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

July 12, 2014	Boone, Iowa
October 11, 2014	Tama, Iowa
January 10, 2015	TBA, Iowa

## Presidents' Corner, continued from Pg. 1

Dean and I have been approached by Sandy Perry on behalf of the National Dodge Brothers to provide locations of Lincoln Highway museums between Ames and the Amana Colonies. They will be holding a weeklong conference in Ames in 2015. I have given them information on Reed/Niland Corner, main street State Center, Preston's Corner and the museum in Belle Plaine. If you think of any other town or attraction that might be of interest, please email me with the information. I have no dates nor do I know if their bus tour will be longer than one day. But this is a wonderful vehicle for us to network our local attractions along the Lincoln Highway.

Please let Dean and me know if you have concerns/interests that you would like to see on the agenda for our April meeting.

Happy traveling!

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



## Building a Byway for the Future: Creating a Corridor Management Plan

By John Mazzello  
CMP Project Coordinator

Recently, you might have heard that the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway is beginning to develop a Corridor Management Plan, or CMP. This is an exciting opportunity for the Lincoln Highway in Iowa—a chance for all of us to recognize the most important assets of the byway, identify areas we would like to strengthen, and think about how the Lincoln Highway can help build local economies.

### What is a CMP?

A CMP is a written plan that defines the assets of a byway and sets out a guide for enhancing them. It covers the byway's historic, scenic, archeological, cultural, natural, and recreational qualities. A CMP includes short- and long-term plans for interpreting key sites, increasing tourism, and economic development. CMPs are based on input from community members like you.

### Why is a CMP important?

First, it gives all of us a chance to contribute to planning to reach our goals for the byway. Second, the Iowa Byways program, of which the Lincoln Highway is a part, requires a CMP for each byway in the state. Finally, the Federal Highway Administration requires a CMP for byways hoping to become a National Scenic Byway.

### Who is working on the Lincoln Highway's CMP?

ALL supporters of the Lincoln Highway and its communities are invited to get involved. The creation of the document is being managed by Prairie Rivers of Iowa, the nonprofit organization that coordinates the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway. Byway Coordinator Angie Hettinger and I are the main staff contacts.

### What's next for the CMP process?

The CMP development process is scheduled to last through 2016. Right now, we are building contact lists of potential key people to talk to in Lincoln Highway communities. Later this year, we will begin distributing surveys to collect community input and scheduling public meetings across the state.

### How can we learn more?

I encourage anyone interested in the Lincoln Highway to participate in helping to develop the CMP. The first step is to sign up for our mailing list, which we will use to give you updates and let you know of opportunities to get involved. You can sign up by emailing me at [jmazzello@prrcd.org](mailto:jmazzello@prrcd.org), by calling (515) 216-4005, or by visiting our web page at [www.prrcd.org/cmp](http://www.prrcd.org/cmp), where you can also learn much more about the process.

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

## Prairie Rivers Update, continued from Pg. 1

This was a great opportunity to speak with legislators and lobby for funding for roads and byways. There was a great turnout and I recommend checking out the blog I wrote on Prairie Rivers' website. Visit [www.prrcd.org/blog](http://www.prrcd.org/blog) or go to [www.prrcd.org](http://www.prrcd.org) and Click on **Conservation Connection** or to see updates and blogs from all of the programs here at Prairie Rivers of Iowa.

L



Iowa Byways booth set up at the TFI Legislative Showcase

## YOUR AD HERE

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

**RATES: 1 Issue-\$10 2 Issues-\$20 3 Issues-\$30**  
**Buy 3 Get 4th FREE**

**Contact Joyce for more information:**  
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Cosmetologist

## The Hair Junction

(515) 738-2252  
201 1/2 Main St  
PO Box 241  
Grand Junction IA 50107

# The Ames Shovel Company and the Lincoln Highway

By Bob Ausberger

As Joyce and I prepared for our Lincoln Highway presentation to the fifth graders at Kate Mitchell Elementary School in Ames, the issue of the town's namesake, the Ames Brothers, came up. They were especially interested when they found out that we had an antique Ames Shovel.

Ames, Iowa and I suppose Ames, Nebraska and possibly some other towns were named after Oliver and Oakes Ames. Their father, John, had started the Ames Shovel Company in 1774 in the town of West Bridgewater, Massachusetts. In 1803 the company was moved to North Easton, Massachusetts, where it remained and expanded until 1952. Today it exists as the Ames True Temper Company in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.



*Detail of 1945 Ames Shovel Company Shovel owned by Bob & Joyce Ausberger. Photo Credit: David Ausberger*

In 1844, John transferred the company to Oliver and Oakes and the firm became known as Oliver Ames and Sons. Tools for the Gold Rush in 1849 in California and in Australia in 1855 were needed. This spurt in demand made the brothers wealthy. They entered politics—Oakes became a member of the U. S. House of Representatives and became a member of the Railroad Committee. It was the perfect time to establish their construction company.

During the Civil War, Ames shovels were standard issue for the Union Army. The company made swords and picks used by the Army. Also, their construction company built and repaired railroads used to carry war materials. At this time, during the civil war, Congress and Lincoln were anxious to get the transcontinental railroad construction started. The Union Pacific was struggling and in 1865 had only 12 miles of track laid west of Omaha. Lincoln asked



*The Ames Monument, 20 miles east of Laramie, WY  
Photo Credit: wyomingtourism.org*

the Ames Brothers to get the project moving. They then contracted to build the east segment of that famous route. Of course there was some graft and corruption but that is a subject for another time.

After the transcontinental rail route was finished, the Union Pacific constructed a pyramid-shaped monument to honor the Ames Brothers and their railroad achievement. Rail passengers could admire the monument, at the high point of the Railroad, for a few years. The line was moved several miles away and out of sight of the monument but the roadbed remained and was used by wagons, stagecoaches and other road traffic because of its gentle grade and all weather material.

In exploring and locating the route, our Lincoln Highway forefathers could hardly resist this well prepared roadbed, and made a deal with the Union Pacific to use it. Today one can find and drive on this section of the Lincoln Highway. It is accessed at the Summit Rest Area on Interstate 80 east of Laramie, Wyoming. From the monument the drive can continue down a very winding dirt road to Tie Siding, WY, and then continue on to Laramie on the paved Route 287.

One source of purchasing an Ames Shovel today is the A. M. Leonard horticultural tool company.

## 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.**

**Email photos to Angie at  
ahettinger@prrcd.org**



Main Street in Lisbon, Iowa Photo: Bryan Osberg

## 2014 Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Motor Tour

By Bryan & Caron Osberg

*Pre-Registration begins April 15th for the 2014 one-day ILHA Motor Tour! Registration materials will be sent out to everyone on the mailing list!*

We are looking forward to getting together this year and seeing all of you again. As many of you know, there was no tour last year and because of that, we wanted to make sure we got together this year. This year's tour is scaled back to one day instead of the traditional three days with pre-tour activities. However our one-day event is full of exciting stops and things to see.

The day kicks off with registration at Squaw Creek Park on the southeast side of Marion, Iowa at Highways 13 and 100. There will be a short self-guided tour that you can take of the area at Squaw Creek during the registration process. You can see an old Lincoln Highway bridge and pilings of an older bridge on the original Lincoln Highway route. There is also an abandoned section of the original Lincoln Highway. If you'd like, bring your breakfast and come a little early to picnic in the park.



Pony Truss Bridge Over Calamus Creek Photo: Bryan Osberg

## MOTOR TOUR

**August 23, 2014**  
**\$10 PER CAR**

## IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOC.

### ACTIVITIES:

- The day begins with a tour to the seedling mile on the route of your choosing, either the pre-1919 gravel route or the post-1919 paved route
- A photo opportunity of an extra old iron bridge on this route over Mud Creek
- Visiting Mt. Vernon and Lisbon
- Sutliff Cider Company
- Dinner\* and door prizes
- 1910 railroad bridge
- See the rail lines where the Portland cement and rock was offloaded for the seedling mile

The day will end in Cedar Rapids together for dinner with door prizes. Some rooms will be blocked off for folks who want to spend the night before heading home. Details provided upon registration.

Caron and I are working with Van and Bev Becker in planning and leading this year's one-day tour. If you are not on the email list of past tours and have not received any previous emails about this year's tour, email or call me and I will put you on the information list:

**osbergbd@gmail.com or 515-202-8540**

We look forward to seeing you in August,

Bryan and Caron Osberg

*\*All meals at your own cost*

## Kids on the Byway

By Magon Liu & Kayla Hasper

Kids on the Byway is a program of Prairie Rivers of Iowa that offers elementary school students authentic learning experiences that can be found through the abundance of resources and experts along the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway. This school year, the program has expanded to a total of three elementary schools: Kate Mitchell Elementary and Meeker Elementary, located in Ames, and North Tama Elementary, located in Traer. Each season, “capstone events” are created based off the students’ current unit of study. With the help of related experts, we are able to incorporate environmental education as well as Iowa history, agriculture, and natural



*Joyce and Bob Ausberger taught students about the Westward Movement at Kate Mitchell Elementary.*

resources into a day full of fun learning.

Kate Mitchell’s winter capstone event focused on enhancing the students’ unit on Westward Movement. The experts for the Kids on the Byway capstone event

were Pam Schwartz from the Boone Historical Society, Mike Wendel from the Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad Museum, and Bob & Joyce Ausberger from the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association. Each of the speakers engaged students in the various aspects of Westward Movement, including transportation during and after the era of Westward Expansion in America.

Bob & Joyce Ausberger introduced topics during their presentation that gave the fifth graders at Kate Mitchell a foundation of what a byway is and the history of the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway. A unique addition to the capstone event was a contest that Bob and Joyce started among the students that included prizes such as a Lincoln Highway t-shirt and a Lincoln Highway map pack. The contest was aimed at giving the students a new way of learning and thinking about the Lincoln Highway. For the next week, students worked on projects that they thought represented the Lincoln Highway. They could draw a picture, write a poem, or make another artistic creation relating to the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway.

After collecting the submissions, Magon Liu, Kids on the Byway Coordinator, and Kayla Hasper, Kids on the Byway Assistant, judged the entries to declare winners in each of the two classes. From Mrs. Marten’s class, the winners were Trinity Engelhardt and Alexis Wilkinson. From Mrs. Mongar’s class, the winners were Karla Torres and Chastity Wilson. The winning projects included two drawings of Lincoln Highway road markers, a song that

showed Lincoln Highway pride, and a clay model of the original Lincoln Highway markers. Each winner was awarded a Lincoln Highway t-shirt donated by the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association.

The students enjoyed this creative way of learning about the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway. The Kids on the Byway Program was created to provide authentic learning environments and effective, unique opportunities for students to grasp the concepts that are presented in their studies. The participation of the Lincoln Highway Association strongly supports the mission of this program. Thanks to Bob and Joyce and the LHA for your commitment to Kids on the Byway.

For more information or if you would like to share expertise with children, please contact Project Coordinator, Magon Liu, at [mliu@prrcd.org](mailto:mliu@prrcd.org) or 515-232-0048



*Winning creative submission from Karla Torres*

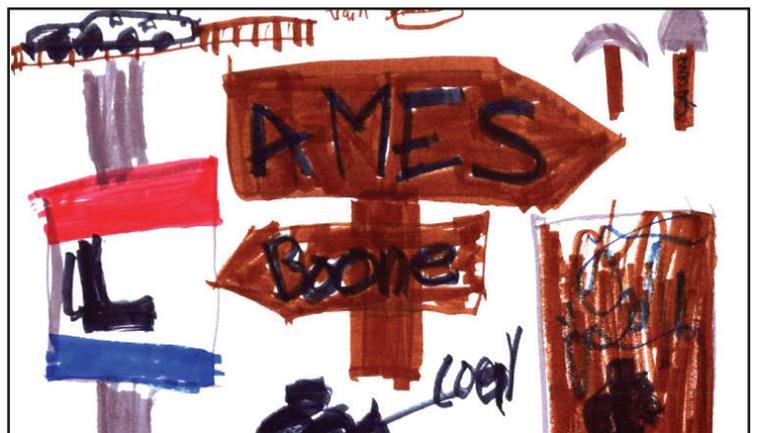
## L

**FUNDED BY** the Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program (**REAP CEP**)

REAP is supported by the state of Iowa, providing funding to public and private partners for natural and cultural resource projects, including water quality, wildlife habitat, soil conservation, parks, trails, historic preservation and more.



**Invest in Iowa, our outdoors, our heritage, our people**



*A winning submission for the Kate Mitchell Elementary Lincoln Highway art contest sponsored by Bob & Joyce Ausberger.*

## Iowa DOT Proposes New Bridge

By Kimball Olson

*Aesthetic Bridge Specialist*

*Iowa Department of Transportation*

On February 7th, 2014, representatives of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association were presented with a US 30 bridge replacement concept by the Iowa DOT. Kimball Olson, aesthetic bridge specialist with the DOT's Office of Bridges and Structures, unveiled the bridge's proposed features to a group of enthusiastic ILHA members at the Lincoln Highway Museum in Grand Junction, IA.

The bridge, which will replace the current US 30 bridge over 222nd Street and the Union Pacific Railroad just east of Grand Junction and in close proximity to the Lion's Club Lincoln Highway Interpretive Park, is proposed to include special design features that reflect the heritage of the Lincoln Highway at the site. The most striking feature will be 14-foot-tall Lincoln Highway Marker icons at each corner of the bridge. The markers will include the Lincoln Highway "L", red and blue accents, and large metal "Iowa" medallions. The supporting piers of the bridge have been designed to recall the front portico of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC.

**L**



*Detail view of Lincoln Highway marker icon located at each corner of a new bridge proposed on the Lincoln Highway.*

**Are there upcoming events happening in YOUR community? Spread the word with an article in the newsletter, by posting on [www.iowabyways.org](http://www.iowabyways.org), or by adding an event to the ILHA website. Contact the editor for more information at [lincolnhighway@prrcd.org](mailto:lincolnhighway@prrcd.org)**

**In this issue...**

**2014 Motor Tour, New LH Businesses, and much more!**

**FIRST CLASS**

[www.iowalincolinhighway.org](http://www.iowalincolinhighway.org)



**Iowa Lincoln Highway Association  
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Grand Junction, Iowa 50107**