



Along The Lincoln Highway



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Winter 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

President's Corner

By Deb Rothmeyer, President,
Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

At our October meeting, Deb Rothmeyer was elected as the new president of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association. She previously served as Vice President, Crawford County Consul, and chaired the Lincoln Highway Buy-Way Yard Sale. Deb lives in Denison with her husband, Vince. They have five children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. She is also co-chairing the 2017 National Lincoln Highway Conference with Jeannie Parr. Below is a short conversation with Deb.

How did you become interested in the Lincoln Highway?

I was working at the Park Motel (in Denison) and Van Becker happened to be staying there. He invited me to the Lincoln Highway Association meeting at Cronk's Cafe that day. I went and became Crawford County Consul that same day!

What are your priorities for your term as president?

I'd really like to involve more of the towns along the Lincoln Highway, whether through our projects, by specially inviting them to meetings, or working with them in other ways. Because of all my work on the Buy-Way Yard Sale, I know how important it is to work with the towns and I'd really like to see more of it. What's happening in Tama is a good example (with the work of the Bridge Park Organization and the city's commitment to the Lincoln Highway Bridge). All the towns have that opportunity, and I'd like to work with them to see how far they can get.

What can you tell us about the planning for the 2017 conference so far?

The conference is scheduled for June 20-24, 2017, based in Denison. I don't want to give too...

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Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Updates

By John Mazzeo,
Prairie Rivers of Iowa

With 2014 in the rearview mirror and 2015 in the headlights, now is a good time to take a look back at the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway's progress over the last year. 2014 saw a deepening of the byway's role in the state. We launched an exciting new project, the development of a new Corridor Management Plan for the byway, last year. This plan is an important opportunity for the byway to reach out to residents, businesses, and travelers to create a strong strategy to support Iowa's communities along the Lincoln Highway and preserve the important resources of the byway.

Also in 2014, we moved forward with a unique project to identify locations along the byway with sustainable land management practices, thanks to a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Innovation Grant. This project will allow us to build interpretive signage to highlight these land practices, sharing with byway travelers we know are highly interested in a healthy environment.

There are many exciting developments on the horizon for 2015. We'll be pilot testing a new initiative, "Greening the Lincoln," which will recognize and highlight businesses that support the byway and engage in sustainable environmental practices. Be on the lookout for more information on this initiative. In 2015, our Corridor Management Plan project will move into a public meeting phase, with gatherings to be scheduled across the state to meet with residents, business owners, and others about the possibilities for the byway in the future...

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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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Lincoln Highway Bridge Park

By Jeannie Sieck, Tama County Consul

The Lincoln Highway Bridge Park Tama-Toledo Organization was established in April of 2014 after a group of community individuals took on the project of renewing the park adjacent to the iconic Lincoln Highway Bridge. We work as a team that gives due respect to self and others and recognizes the importance of diversity. We have partnered with our community's businesses, city councils, Chamber of Commerce, tourism group, clubs and associations, economic development office, and schools to educate, promote involvement, and to bring tourism to our park and towns.

Like the Lincoln Highway Association, we preserve, interpret, and improve access to the Lincoln Highway bridge and park and pursue the appropriate measures to prevent deterioration, destruction or alteration of the bridge and park.

Our accomplishments this spring and summer brought the park back to life. We added on a friendship garden by the memorial on the south entry, and constructed a flag pole, an engraved large rock surrounded by red, and white, and blue wavy petunias. We provided the opening ceremony for the Lincoln Highway Festival in May and we participated in the Buy-Way Yard Sale in August. We recently hosted the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association fall meeting in October. We made sure we had fun selling our Lincoln Dogs and we celebrated the successes we had on this journey so far.

Now we are looking to add an information kiosk by the memorial and a large flag monument at the point of the park to welcome travelers. To save the historic bridge, repairs are needed on the underside, the surface and the letters on the railing. We are...

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The Lincoln Highway Bridge in Tama.

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

**bobjoyce@netins.net
Lincoln Highway Museum
P.O. Box 224 Grand Junction, IA 50127**

Mystery Place

By Van Becker

Can you identify this issue's Mystery Place?

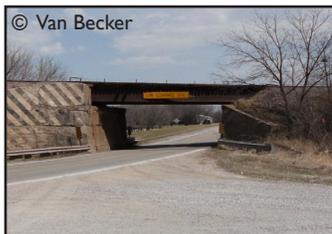
Obviously, this station has been abandoned for years. Where in Iowa is this located? That is the question.

This photo comes with 3 hints:

1. The photographer was standing on the LH facing south.
2. There are no tracks in the snow, but it is close to railroad tracks.
3. The price of cheap gas in eastern Iowa is \$2.82 per gallon as of this writing. [Written in November]



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 photo is of the Union Pacific railroad viaduct that is located 4 miles straight west of the Reed-Niland's Cafe in Colo, Ia. The stretch of highway pictured (also known as E-41 today) carried the Jefferson and Lincoln Highways.

Lincoln Highway Bridge Park, continued from page 2

...collaborating with the cities of Tama and Toledo, the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association, and the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway to support these repairs.

We maintain the park and bridge through contributions from individuals and businesses. Through grants and fundraising, we will continue to build on the future of the bridge and memorial park. We are striving to expand the future of the park, for it is the gateway to our two cities. Come visit the historic bridge and park along the Lincoln Highway, at East 5th Street and East Old Highway 30 in Tama.

If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a member of our group, or making a contribution, contact President Colleen Davis at 319-558-8849 or Secretary Jeannie Sieck at 515-520-1773. You can also mail to: Lincoln Highway Bridge Park Tama-Toledo Organization, Attn: Dawn Roth, 3869 O Ave., Chelsea, Iowa 52245.



Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

January 10, 2015	State Center <i>(see pg. 8)</i>
April 11, 2015	Council Bluffs
July 11, 2015	Clinton
October 10, 2015	Denison

President's Corner, continued from page 1

...much away just yet, but we have a great conference coming together. We have good tours set for east and west. We have really unique meals planned for throughout the conference. Denison is planning some activities for the group along the way. I was looking for a real "wow" factor and I think I have found several of them!



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Archaeology of the Lincoln Highway Area

By Abby Lundquist, Prairie Rivers of Iowa

While we are normally most interested in the history of Iowa related to the development and use of the Lincoln Highway, this issue we will take an even deeper look back in time. Abby Lundquist is a student at Iowa State University working as office assistant with Prairie Rivers of Iowa. She is researching the archaeology of the Lincoln Highway corridor as part of the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway's Corridor Management Plan process. Here is a brief review of some of her findings:

Archaeology is one of six intrinsic qualities (the others are the historic, natural, cultural, recreational, and scenic characteristics) that are examined in a corridor management plan and it is an important one to consider for Iowa because its rich archaeological past helps to reveal the history of the land and the people who have called this area home for thousands of years. Through a working partnership with the Office of the State Archaeologist and the Iowa Archaeological Society, we have gained insight into Iowa's many archaeological treasures.

Some of Iowa's earliest known inhabitants appeared approximately 11,500 years ago, at the end of the last Ice Age, in what is known as the Paleo-Indian Period. One famous Iowa archaeological site that has been dated to this era is the Rummells-Maske cache in Cedar County. When excavated, it was found to contain spear points representative of one version of the Clovis point, which is the oldest currently known type in North America.



Figure 1: Clovis points from the Rummells-Maske Site, Cedar County, Iowa.

The story of Iowa's people continues as we move through time to the Late Woodland Period, around 1,500 years ago, and to the M.A.D. site in Crawford County where the oldest tobacco seeds from the state have been found. This tobacco was cultivated by male members of tribes and both the flowers and leaves were dried, ground, and smoked as a part of rituals, or for medicinal purposes.



Figure 2: *Nicotiana Rustica*

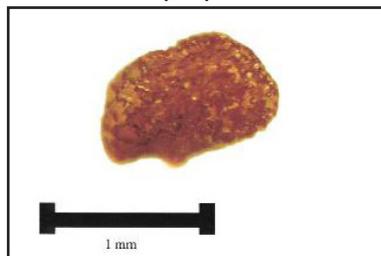


Figure 3: *Nicotiana Rustica* Seed

One thousand years ago, the loess hills in Harrison and Pottawattamie Counties were home to people of the Glenwood culture, famous for their earth lodges. These earth lodges and the beautiful rolling hills they are nestled in can be explored at the Loess Hills Archaeological Interpretative Center where history, archaeology, and nature come together in a seamless blend.



Figure 4: Glenwood Earth Lodge



Figure 5: Loess Hills Western Iowa

Iowa's archaeological past and the Lincoln Highway are intimately connected as people both past and present have lived, worked, and traveled through the central regions of this Midwest state. This connection serves as a reminder to us all that the Lincoln Highway and the land it moves through are deserving of both respect and protection.

Image Credits

Figure 1: Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist Collection

Figure 2: <http://www.ramshornstudio.com/tobacco.htm>

Figure 3: <http://www.oldthingsforgotten.com/seeds/solanaceae.htm>

Figure 4: <http://loesshillsarchaeology.org/>

Figure 5: <http://www.reflectiveimages.com/03april.htm>

We invite you to share your photos and stories of the Lincoln Highway. Submit photos and stories to: Newsletter Editor, Prairie Rivers of Iowa

2402 S. Duff Ave
Ames, IA 50010
lincolnhighway@prrcd.org



State Center Main Street in 1985, with what became known as Watson's Grocery and the Benson Building left.

Old Building Gets New Life Along Lincoln Highway

By Marcia Quick, Marshall County

The Benson Building, sitting at 108 West Main Street in State Center, is the latest renovation project of the State Center Development Association. The 120-year-old structure sits along the Remarkable Row of historic buildings on State Center's West Main Street, which is also the historic Lincoln Highway. The building that sits east, Watson's Grocery Store, is a sister building to the Benson Building. The buildings were built at the same time by the Watson and Tummel families.

Fredrick Tummel had operated a clothing and dry goods store, called the Clothing Emporium, in State Center during the late 1870s. His daughter, Pauline Tummel, came to State Center to join her widowed father and married a local grocer, William Watson, Sr., on April 28, 1880.

There were two devastating fires on State Center's West Main Street in 1895. The wooden Bishop Building, which today houses the YOLO Boutique on West Main Street, was the only structure to survive the January 1895 fire that claimed the west end of the block. That same year, a second fire took out the eastern half of the block, which now left nothing standing but the lone Bishop Building on the far west end of the block.

Later that same year, William Watson, Sr., rebuilt Watson's Grocery Store while, next door, the Tummel family built a sister building to house their clothing and dry goods store. These two new structures helped fill in the burned out block of buildings on State Center's West Main Street. William Watson and J.W. Tummel were in business, next door to one another, in 1922, when State Center's Main Street became part of the historic Lincoln Highway, the first transcontinental highway running east and west across the United States.

In 1924, Elmer Benson bought out J.W. Tummel's store,

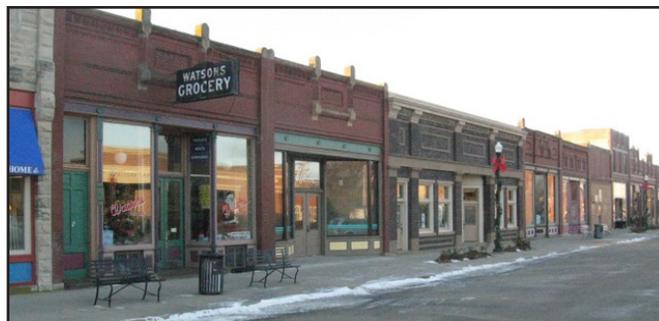
and the business became Benson Dry Goods Store. Elmer continued in the dry goods business in this same location until 1956, when he retired from the clothing and dry goods business at the ripe old age of 90. Elmer Benson had been in business in State Center for 71 years.

In 1956, Elmer sold the business to Gladys Smith, and the business was renamed Gladys's. The business continued to change hands until 1987, when the building was sold to Merle Nolta. For the first time in 92 years, the building no longer housed a clothing and dry goods store; it was now a pottery and greenware shop.

In 2013, the State Center Development Association purchased the building. Since then, the SCDA has replaced the roof and restored the building's façade with detail like that of the original. The inside of the structure has been updated with new wiring, plumbing, ceiling, hardwood floors and a deepened basement with concrete floor.

The Benson Building is now good to go for another 120 years, still sitting there beside its sister building along the historic Lincoln Highway. The old Benson Building will soon become the new home of NuCara Pharmacy in January of 2015.

L



State Center's "Remarkable Row" in 2014, with Watson's Grocery and the Benson Building visible.



Past and present come together at State Center, seen here during a Model A Motor Tour.

The Beginning of the End

By Fred Monthei, Green County

The first time I looked at this photo it didn't register what was happening here. The location is what struck me at first. If you stand in the middle of the yard between the house I grew up in and the old farmhouse my grandparents lived in and look southeast across the road, that's the view here.



Photo of the view from Monthei farm along the Lincoln Highway 1924, the year before the road was paved.

Cliff Rhodes is driving his new tractor to his farm located west of the Monthei farm, on the Lincoln Highway. The draft horses are tied to the back of the wagon. What I find poignant about this photo is the look on the horse's face. If you look carefully you'll see a confused look on the face of the horse on the left. He's not sure what to think about his role in the farming operation from this point forward. When he woke up that morning, he was hitched up to the wagon with his brother, just like any other day, and pulled the wagon into town. His sense of usefulness was completely intact.

Upon arriving at the new farm implement dealer, the horses were unhitched from the wagon and tied to the BACK of the wagon. This must have been a confusing situation for the horses, as they had never FOLLOWED the wagon before. Sort of a "cart before the horse" situation. At first this must have seemed like a relief. Especially since they usually had to strain a little coming up Danger Hill pulling the wagon. It wasn't long before the horses were not being hitched to the plow in the fall and spring anymore. And the horses weren't hitched to the corn wagon anymore, either. It soon became obvious the horses were only being used to pull buggies and small wagons. Shortly after this, they didn't even get to pull the buggies anymore, as the Model T took over that work as well. They began spending more time in the back pasture, grazing on the sweet clover there. I'm not really prepared to speculate on their fate after that but I'm sure it wasn't positive, as farming in those days didn't involve feeding anything that didn't work....

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Marsh Arch Bridge Update

By Bob & Joyce Ausberger, Greene County

The fall Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Newsletter contained an article about Marsh Arch Bridges. Jim Ranniger, a former LHA president from Colorado, contacted us in response. He chaired the 2007 LHA Conference in Fort Morgan, Colorado. Jim reminded us that the Marsh Arch Bridge in Fort Morgan was the longest Marsh Arch Bridge (Fort Morgan is located on the original Lincoln Highway Colorado Loop). We agree that their bridge is the longest and still think the Cotter Bridge in Arkansas is the most massive. Now we all need to visit these two impressive bridges!

We ate lunch on the I I-span (longest) Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridge at the Fort Morgan conference. It is now part of the town's walking and hiking system. The bridge connected the Colorado loop with roads on the north side of the Platte River. One of the desirable features of Marsh Bridges was that they were expandable - thus the Platte (which has been described as a mile wide and an inch deep) needed I I arched segments to span while many of the creeks in Iowa would need only one segment.

For the Cotter Bridge, we should have used the term most massive instead of largest as each segment had a higher and thicker arch. It was also made of concrete with a pinkish aggregate so that when the sun struck it at certain angles there was a beautiful pink hue to the structure, while most Marsh bridges had the traditional grayish-white concrete coloring.

L



Fort Morgan Rainbow Arch Bridge courtesy of Bridgehunter.com photo submitted to them by Marne Jurgemeye.

...The mechanized age had come to Iowa and the beginning of the end of self-sufficient, subsistence farming was well on its way. Since this picture was taken, tractors have continued to get larger and more powerful. It completely changed the concept that one man was only capable of farming a total of 160 acres. Over the following decades, farming continued to become more mechanized. The use of technology (and now bio-technology) has made it possible to farm thousands of acres.

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Byway Updates continued from page 1

...This is sure to be a truly meaningful statewide conversation about the Lincoln Highway, and we invite you to participate in the planning process in your area. You can sign up for our email list to learn about events in your area. Visit www.prrcd.org/cmp and click the "Sign up" button.

We are also currently hiring a new byway coordinator, to begin work in early 2015. As you may know, former Byway Coordinator Angie Hettinger left Prairie Rivers of Iowa in October when she moved to Minnesota. While we were disappointed to see Angie go, we are looking forward to being able to introduce a new coordinator to you soon. We are also glad to announce that we are seeking an intern to assist with Lincoln Highway web and social media marketing, in partnership with the ILHA.

2015 looks to be a banner year for the Lincoln Highway, and we value our ongoing relationship with the ILHA. Please sign up for our Corridor Management Plan email list or contact me at jmazzello@prrcd.org to learn more about how you can support the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway.

L



© Sandii Kelly

Photo from the October LHA meeting.

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@prrcd.org

Events on Along the Lincoln Highway

Date	City	Event Description
Jan 1		Happy New Year!
Jan 4	Clinton	Live vintage sawing. See volunteer sawyers turn logs into lumber at the Sawmill Museum's vintage sawmill. Also first Sunday of February, March, April
Jan 10	State Center	Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Meeting at State Center City Hall, 118 E Main Street, 9:30 a.m. (see pg. 8)
Jan 24	Amana Colonies	Amana Colonies Winterfest featuring ice sculpting, sledding, log sawing, chili cookout, and more, www.festivalsinamana.com
Jan 30	Marshalltown	Entry deadline for Marshall County Conservation's 14th Annual Photo Contest, www.co.marshall.ia.us/departments/conservation
Feb 7-8	Ames	Orchid Fest at Reiman Gardens. Orchids in many species and colors will be on display and available for purchase, www.reimangardens.com
Feb 15	Ames	Farm House Museum Celebration. See the newly restored Farm House Museum on the Iowa State University Campus, www.museums.iastate.edu
Feb 15	Carroll	Snow Shoe Hike for the Great Backyard Bird Count, Swan Lake State Park. Reservations required for snowshoes, (712)792-4614
Feb 28	Cedar Rapids	Beaux Arts Ball, a benefit for the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, a whimsical event featuring food and fun. Tickets required, www.crma.org
Mar 6-8	Council Bluffs	Council Bluffs Home Improvement and Landscaping Show, Mid-America Center, www.iowashows.com
March 26-28	Mt. Vernon	4th Annual Mt. Vernon-Lisbon Cabin Fever Comedy Festival, www.visitmvl.com
Apr 4	Cedar Rapids	Taste of Uptown District, www.uptowncr.org
Apr 11	Council Bluffs	Iowa Lincoln Highway Association Meeting (details to be announced)

January Lincoln Highway Association Meeting

By Harlan Quick, Marshall County Consul, Mayor of State Center

The ILHA meeting will be held on Saturday, January 10, in State Center. It will be held in the Community Hall on the second floor of State Center's City Hall at 118 East Main Street. The Community Hall is accessible by elevator and has handicapped accessible restrooms. There will be a continental breakfast for attendees, starting at 9:00 am, and the ILHA meeting will start at 9:30 am. Those who are staying for lunch will be served at St. Andrew's Grill & Bar, just around the corner from City Hall; they will be ordering from the menu.

After lunch, the Mayor will take you on a tour of two of State Center's latest renovations, located along the Lincoln Highway, also State Center's Main Street. You will tour the 1911 Woods Hospital Building. The second building on the tour, is the 1895 Benson Building, the renovation of which was completed in December, 2014. We will then travel down to the 1932 Home Oil Gas Station, which sits along the 1931-1963 route of the Lincoln Highway. The former gas station has been renovated and is now a police station, home to State Center's Police Department. For those who have never visited historic Watson's Grocery Store, tours of this 1895 building will also

be available. I hope the weather cooperates on Saturday, January 10, and we see you here in State Center, the Rose Capital of Iowa.

L



A look into Watson's Grocery store, located on State Center's Main Street and one of the available buildings to tour after the January 2015 LHA meeting.

In this issue....

Tama Bridge Park, Archeology, Old Building Gets New Life, Byway Update, and more!

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