

Along the Lincoln Highway

The Newsletter of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Volume 8, Number 2

Summer 2003

IT'S OFFICIAL!

In its annual meeting on June 10th, the National Lincoln Highway Association Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept Iowa's proposal to host the 2006 LHA national conference.

The Board meeting was held on the opening day of this year's national conference in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Eleven of the twelve State Directors were in attendance and heard Iowa Director Paul Walker's brief presentation and offer to host the annual event.

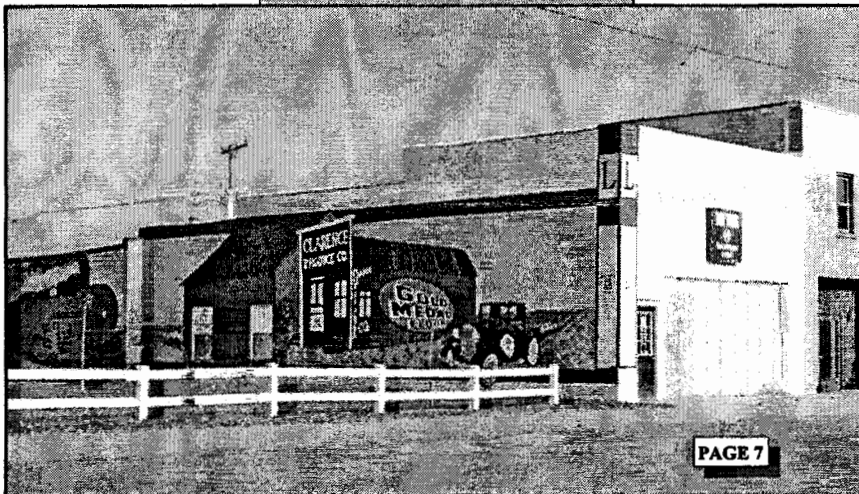
This is Iowa's second time as conference site since the re-organization of the Lincoln Highway Association in 1992. In 1994 the conference was held in Ames.

At their January Board meeting, Iowa's County Consuls voted to host the event, and designated Cedar Rapids as host city. Iowa Consuls will now begin notifying cities and towns along the LH route.

There is obviously sufficient time to put together an unparalleled national conference, but event organizers have already met to sketch out tours and discuss potential speakers and discussion topics. Organizers are projecting up to 200 participants for the week-long conference.

The national LHA conference in 2004 will be held in Chester, West Virginia. Ely, Nevada will host in 2005. **L**

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.

Clarence Has Done it Again.

By Pat Kroemer
Reprinted from the Cedar County Sun-News.
25 October 2001

In our Spring 2001 issue, *AtLH* featured Clarence's new "Welcome to Clarence" signage. Now travelers on the Lincoln Highway can admire another tribute to this Cedar County community, contributed by their proud citizens.

Keith Whitlatch of Stanwood sent an article from the *Sun-News* describing the town's dedication, excerpted here.

"The Clarence Vision Committee in February 1999 initiated projects to enhance the town."

"The committee which consists of people from the Clarence Economic De-

velopment group, civic and community leaders, parish representatives, business proprietors and concerned citizens, give the group a well rounded perspective."

"Projects have included 'Welcome to Clarence' signs, a new entrance to the city park, landscaping on the east end and at the cemetery, playground equipment, and \$22,000 worth of trees in the last 6 years. These projects have all been a great asset to the town."

(Clarence, Continued on page 7)



www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/iowa

IOWA LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 14
OGDEN, IOWA 50212

A Tale of Two Markers.

By Paul Walker.

For years the display building of the Historical Society of Marshall County has had a pristine 1928 concrete Lincoln Highway marker prominently positioned in its front window. With crisp lines and a faultless bronze medallion, the 7-foot giant stood proudly overlooking Marshalltown's 3rd Avenue Lincoln Highway.

Occasionally it was whispered, however, that the marker was not an only child. The golden boy among three brothers, its two siblings were forced to hide in the shadows for years, relegated to the fenced area out back, on the ground.

Snow covered the two markers, and the sun baked them. Their cracked and shortened posts were unhealed scars. Where the medallions once rested, the concrete was jagged and rough, the medallions long ago gouged out. The tri-color patterns, however, were bright and clear, assuring all that they would have no trouble again marking the route, if called upon.

To the devoted Lincoln Highway enthusiast, of course, even the lowliest of the markers are deserving of our respect because we recognize their significance. They are the most tangible symbol of this era we are so fervently trying to grasp, though always out of reach.

In 2002, Dale Benskin, a member of the Historical Society, contacted me with an offer to contribute the broken markers to the Iowa LHA on the condition that if they are ever re-planted, it will be on the Marshall County LH.

A Marshalltown native, I had heard rumors that a marker once stood on the square in front the 1880s County Courthouse. Was this the chance to put it back?

I contacted Ron Goecke of the Marshall County Board of Supervisors with the proposal to do just that. Marshalltown has done some positive things to preserve its heritage in recent years, and I believed a permanent monument to the Lincoln Highway would coincide with that plan. The Board agreed.

Now how to dress up those two boys?

One name sprang to mind. Readers of the *Forum* will remember Dennis Meyer as the concrete maestro who rebuilt the Moss Corner busts of Abraham Lincoln in Greene County. I contacted Dennis and he agreed to take on the project. Both markers were on their way to Johnston.

Only one marker was needed for Marshalltown, so I encouraged the Society to give one to

the State Center Main Street group, which continues its impressive progress with the Main Street / Lincoln Highway restoration. Dale Benskin agreed... and then there was one.

Dennis Meyer does marvelous things with concrete, but replicating a bronze medallion is not his expertise. I contacted vendors of replica medallions, but I have yet to find a replacement that captures the fine detail of an original.

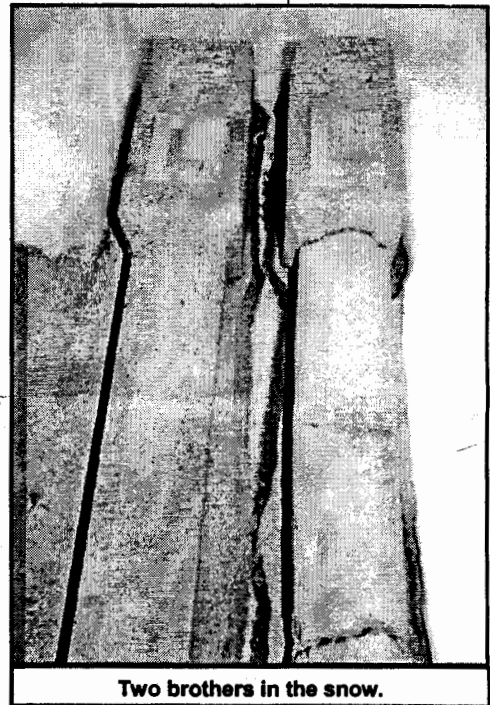
I was ready to abandon hope when my father, a life-long resident of Marshalltown, learned of the existence of a medallion. Ken

Main, a retiree from the Water Works, had a medallion in his desk drawer and agreed to contribute it to the effort. Off it went to become a permanent addition to marker #1.

What would a marker renovation be without a ceremony to welcome it to the modern world? Fortunately, 2003 marks the 150th birthday of Marshalltown, with celebrations aplenty this summer. The official birthday party is the weekend of August 15-17. I am in discussions with the Chamber of Commerce to do the unveiling on one of those days—probably Friday, August 15th. We have some details to work out, but so much has fallen into place, I'm sure everything will be fine.

Contact me or the Chamber of Commerce for the exact date, or if you're in Marshalltown some day, be sure to look up our rehabilitated friend here on the left. Like his big brother on display, he will soon have an audience and a nice view of the Lincoln Highway himself. Pat him on the head, and if no one's looking, tell him "good job!" He's come a long way and had a hard life.

Thanks to the Marshalltown Board of Supervisors, the Chamber of Commerce, Ken Main, the Historical Society of Marshall County, and my dad. **L**



Two brothers in the snow.

Ramblings Along the Lincoln Highway.

*Minutes of the Spring 2003 Iowa LHA Meeting
Woodbine Golf Club
12 April 2003.*

Submitted by Bev Becker, Acting Secretary.

Members of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association began arriving at the Woodbine Golf Club before 9 a.m. and were treated to coffee, juice and rolls provided by Elaine Ehlert. President Mike Kelly gavelled the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. with about 40 ILHA members and guests attending.

Minutes of the January Board Meeting were corrected to indicate Joe and Barb Moore as directors of Boone County and Liz and Brad Norton as directors of Cedar County. Minutes were so approved.

Joyce Ausberger's Treasurer's report shows a checking account balance of nearly \$3000, savings account balance \$4000.

Membership Chairman Cecil Stewart reported that our Iowa membership count remains fairly constant at 330.

State Director Paul Walker told of the LH Trading Post webpage being developed by an Ohio marketer. We can sell our LH products via this webpage. The trading post operator will retain a percentage of the proceeds of the sales. Trading Post is creating a Lincoln Highway calendar and asks for our contributions from which they make selections. For more information, contact Walker.

Walker indicated it is time for annual report of Iowa LH developments during the past year. He asks that county consuls contribute reports of events and progress since last year's report. Walker reported that Jesse Peterson of Utah has accepted the position of Treasurer for national LHA. Thank you, Jess!

Dennis Ehlert opened program with discussion of the history of Harrison County and the county LH. He had an impressive display of historic Harrison County photos.

Brett Ford, Park Ranger with the Pottawatomie County Hitchcock Nature Center told of acquisitions made since our last state meeting there in Fall 2000, including land belonging to the reclusive farmer at the Honey Creek grade. The Hitchcock Nature Center has expanded to 830 acres with more additions planned. Ford wants to work with the ILHA to preserve portions of the LH within the Center's boundaries and educate visitors about the LH and its im-

portance to the development of the country.

Bob Sullivan described the Woodbine brick street project, explaining the process using diagrams detailing the layers of rock, concrete and bricks. Actual work to begin Monday, April 14. Bricks to be cleaned and stored until re-set in the street, resulting in a more durable roadway and a beautiful stretch of restored LH with period lighting. Congratulations to Woodbine for their dedication and perseverance. Their dream of restoring their LH will soon be realized.

County Consul Reports

Clinton: October membership meeting may be a joint meeting with Illinois, probably be held in Clinton. Illinois chapter members contacted Elmer Ketelsen on feasibility.

Cedar: Liz Norton was at the NPS meeting in Cedar Rapids and voiced concern over bridge work east of Lowden.

Linn: Van Becker reports Seedling Mile looks much better with ditches turning green; cuts do not look so severe. It is certainly a nice, smooth drive now. Becker found another marker 19 blocks off the highway in s.w. Cedar Rapids.

Benton: Mike Kelly reports Youngville Café to open in May, business hours to be announced. Belle Plaine Museum asks for letter of support from the ILHA. Letter to be sent.

Tama: Annual LH Bridge Festival will be May 17, 2003. Ausberger to provide ILHA display; and possibly a decorated car in the parade. Ron Cory announced remaining King Tower cabin is 80% complete. Tama is displaying 5 LH banners with plans for 3 more, and hopes to get LH painted poles touched up. Ten years since last painted.

Marshall: Marshalltown will be celebrating their sesquicentennial all summer. Restored 1928 LH marker will be planted on Courthouse square in August.

Story: Operator of Ames Dairy Queen asked about LH signs for his business, wanting to devote one wall to historic photos of LH highlights and other memorabilia. Peter Butler asks input in first week of May at workshop with several ILHA members to work on design of LH right-of-way. Nevada is planning a combined celebration of the LH and their sesquicentennial. Becker gave visual report on Niland's Corner: paving torn up, possibly for removal of buried storage tanks. Filling station looks great, appears professionals hard at work inside the café.

(Ramblings, Continued on page 4)

(Ramblings, Continued from page 3)

Boone: Classic cottage-style gas station has been moved from northwest corner of Eisenhower and Marion in Boone. Owner **Bill Jepsen** has invited ILHA to hold a meeting at the station in its new location.

Greene: Best attendance at the NPS meeting held here of any place in country. Jefferson will hold their Bell Tower Fest in June.

Carroll: Had 7 representatives at the NPS meeting in Jefferson.

Crawford: Counted 7 or 8 representatives at the NPS meeting in Jefferson. Members in Denison are continuing to work on rescuing 3 markers at the Carlyle Monument Co.

Harrison: LH display to be put up at DeSoto Wildlife Refuge; will remain in place May through July. Brick street project beginning; first blocks of project *should* be completed in time for September Apple Festival.

Pottawattamie: Discussion of capabilities of Brett Ford to serve as County Consul.

Walker working on presentation in support of Iowa sponsoring 2006 annual LHA conference, to be presented in Ft. Wayne in June.

TOUR

Meeting adjourned for lunch in golf club dining room. Diners received commemorative Coke glass with an imprint of LH logo and Woodbine, Iowa.

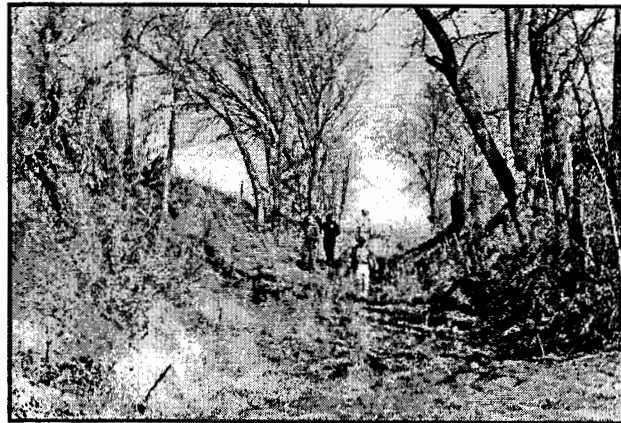
Group boarded Woodbine school bus. Tour began with stop at Merry Brook School, (now local history center), restored Illinois Central railroad depot, and former Standard station which was LH Control Point.

Loess Hills tour extended north to Moorhead in Monona County and south to Hitchcock Center in Pottawattamie County. Tour visited history and culture centers at Moorhead featured wonderful array of craft items and an amazing display of black-and-white photos. From Moorhead, bus headed south to lookout deck in Preparation Canyon Park (photo below)



with spectacular view of the Loess Hills fading into the Missouri River bottom.

Bus headed south to Hitchcock Nature Center at Honey Creek, a now-bypassed town of original LH. Brett Ford, Park Ranger, greeted tour. Group trooped into the lodge to stretch our legs and survey the hills and valleys surrounding the lodge. Hitchcock Nature Center is a major site for the annual raptor (birds of prey) count. Chart evident of the names and numbers of different species observed from this location. After a respite, group started trek down the Honey Creek Cut accompanied by Ford (photo at right), who pointed out the graded area where a campground is projected. Ford plans to include an LH interpretive site as part of campground design. At Fall 2000 tour, group climbed the cut—this time started at the top and hiked down. After much work and considerable expense, the former junkyard no longer detracts from the original highway route. Group consensus was decidedly relief in seeing big yellow bus waiting at the bottom of the one-mile cut.



Last tour stop was home of Don Blackford in Harrison County. Blackford rescued four complete Lincoln Highway markers from a crumbling bank in Council Bluffs. Markers

are positioned across Don's back yard and are an impressive sight. Thanks to Don for alerting us to these relocated treasures.

Bus returned to Woodbine Golf Club, arriving 7:15, after a most satisfying and comprehensive LH tour. Thanks to Elaine Ehlert for planning a truly memorable day.



*Submitted by Bev Becker,
substituting for Su Aros, Secretary
Photos courtesy Charles Kuester.*

Lincoln Highway Anniversary 2003 Coast-to-Coast Tour.

The national LHA is hosting a 3300-mile tour of the historic Lincoln Highway from New York to San Francisco. The tour will commemorate the highway's 90th anniversary. Join them for a tour of the entire route, or for just a little bit.

The tour starts at Times Square on Sunday, August 17th. Vehicles of all types from antique, classic, street rod, sports cars, trucks, motorcycles, and modern cars are welcome. We will head west over as many of the original LH alignments as possible. The group will travel approximately 225-250 miles

per day, with stops in all 13 LH states.

All vehicles are welcome. Older vehicles are encouraged and will set the pace with newer vehicles to the rear. Participants are welcome to drop in and out of the tour as time and interest permit. The entry cost is broken down respectively, and prorated to encourage full participation. Entrants may opt for full tour, one-week, or three-day passes. Discounts for lodging have been arranged across the county.

A truck and trailer support team will follow up to assist disabled cars. Owners will be responsible for keeping their cars going en

route. Useful guide books, maps, shirts and other items to commemorate the trip will be given to participants as remembrances of this once-in-a-lifetime trip. Any profit from the tour or sponsorships will go the national LHA.

State chapters of the Lincoln Highway Association are assisting in the tour as hosts and guides. Other Lincoln Highway heritage and byway groups are assisting, along with cities and towns via their chambers of commerce and tourism bureaus. Car Clubs are encouraged to travel in groups on the tour if they wish.

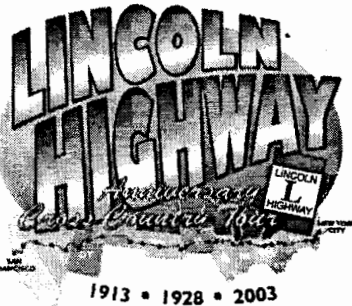
For more information, contact:

**Bob Lichty or Rosemary Rubin, co-chairs
Lincoln Highway Anniversary Tour
330-456-7869**

email: rrubin@neo.rr.com.

For Iowans, the tour leaves Dixon, Illinois on Friday, August 22nd, stops in Mt. Vernon for lunch, and overnights in Marshalltown. On Saturday the 23rd, the group makes a lunch stop in Denison and spends the night in Omaha.

For details on the Iowa segment of the tour, contact Paul Walker. If there is sufficient interest, a two-day mini-tour may be organized to join the larger group in Iowa. **L**



August 17 to September 1, 2003

The President's Corner

by Mike Kelly, ILHA President



Lincoln Highway committees were well represented at the annual "Celebrating Community History Awards" program at the State Historical Building in Des Moines recently. Receiving National Register of Historic Places certificates were the 100 Block of West Broadway (Lincoln Hwy.) Commercial District in Council Bluffs, the State Center Commercial Historic District, and the Woodbine Normal and Grade School. The Iowa Historical Preservation Alliance's

"Preservation at its Best" Award for commercial small property went to Youngville. A special thanks goes out to Joyce Ausberger for nominating Youngville.

The awards ceremony and the recent National Park Service meetings really emphasized the fact that while the Lincoln Highway Association represents many communities with preservation projects, the greater sense of state and national community becomes more apparent as our visibility increases.

Speaking of visibility, another special thanks is in order to Dave Rasdal whose column in the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* continues to regularly feature Lincoln Highway stories. Another media salute goes to Carey J. Hahn, a.k.a. "The Iowa Traveler" who recently celebrated twenty years with KGAN Channel 2 in Cedar Rapids. Carey is a Lincoln Highway enthusiast and has featured Youngville in two segments. He recently produced a piece on Dana Steam's Buick. Dana built the first garage in Mt. Vernon and was featured in the Fall 2002 *Forum*.

Special thanks also to the Woodbine crew who hosted our spring ILHA meeting. My opening remarks suggested that our membership meetings are more than just a meeting and tour—it's a Lincoln Highway experience that is unmatched anywhere in the nation. Park Ranger Brett Ford's talk, the plans for the Honey Creek Cut, and the extended tour made it truly a memorable experience.

Last, this September is the 75th anniversary of the setting of the concrete LH markers and I am looking for a way to recognize the surviving Boy Scouts who participated. This may be in conjunction with the August coast-to-coast car tour. Please contact me if you know of any Scouts who participated.

- Mike



Have Spare Tire, Will Travel

By Van & Bev Becker

Regular readers of *Spare Tire* know that Bev and I are the keepers of "The List" - all known 1928 Lincoln Highway markers still in Iowa. We have the 1928 notes of Gael Hoag, Field Secretary of the original LHA, as to where the markers were originally placed, and we have the notes and photos of where the markers are today.

Of the approximately 300 original Iowa markers, we have catalogued about 88. Some are quite far off the route of the LH.

This project was expected to wrap up a few years ago—but new leads and rumors keep coming in resulting in "new" finds. Now it seems the keepers of "The List" will be kept busy for years. Following up on one of the rumors of two markers in Sioux City has been difficult. Reasons to visit the northwest corner of Iowa are difficult to justify, so the search would require a special trip. But then, what would we do without our volunteers?

Members will recognize Bob Stinson, our Iowa LHA President-Elect. Knowing that Bob's travels in Iowa occasionally lead him to Iowa's "northwest territories," we asked him to follow up on the long-dormant lead. The details were shared and off he went.

Success! As a way of introducing a "guest columnist"—let us share Bob's letter that accompanied a set of excellent photos of the markers that flank an elevator. Bob, sounds as though you had fun!

Dear Van & Bev—

Mission Accomplished! Enclosed are photos of the two Sioux City mystery LH markers. They are indeed located at the IDOT District 3 Office located in Sioux City at 2800 Gordon Avenue (Hwy 20 Business Route).

As you can see, they are not door stops but have been cut off and mounted in cement bases. They are located in the front hallway of the building. Perhaps they were markers that were salvaged. I don't know. Neither did the DOT employee to whom I spoke.

My being able to photograph them at all

must be due to divine intervention. It was late Sunday morning before I had time to locate the DOT building and there was not a soul around. All doors were locked. I peeked into the windows and could see nothing.

As I was preparing to leave, a gentleman drove up in a pickup. I approached him and asked if he was a DOT employee. He seemed a little anxious, but when I explained I was with the LHA and stated my objective, he relaxed. The sterling reputation of the LHA has a calming effect on folks!

At first, he could not recall any highway markers at the office, but he thought for a little while and said, "Say, maybe you're talking about those two stubby cement things with the letter 'L' on them."

EUREKA!

He unlocked the door and led me to the front hall and VOILA! There they were! He said, "I've always wondered what those things were.

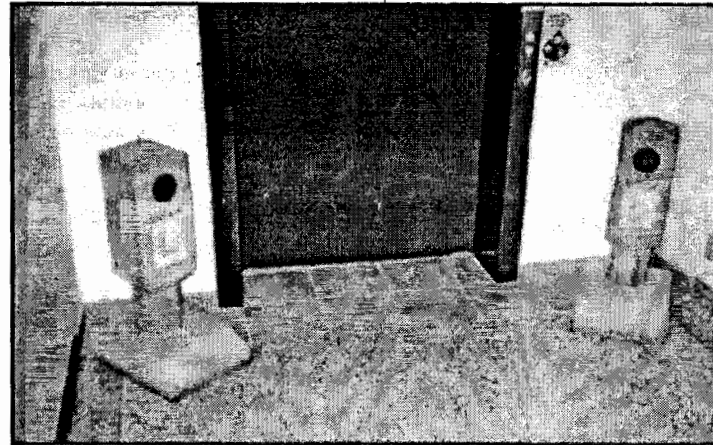
What is the Lincoln Highway, anyway?" We had a short history lesson right there in the hall and he seemed genuinely interested. I am going to send him a newsletter and brochure. Maybe we will get a new member.

Have not had a chance to investigate the wayward marker at the state historical building as yet. That's my next quest. I will also send you a photo of my marker [acquired in Potter, Nebraska].

Also, had a neat highway adventure as I left Sioux City. I discovered about 15 miles of old 18-foot lip curb paving heading east out of town. It is the by-passed Highway 20 Route (originally the Hawkeye Cut-Off) now signed as Woodbury County D-18. The old paving runs almost all the way to Merville. What a pleasure to drive. A great 45-mph road with all the "vertical curves" still intact!

See you on the Highway!

Bob



**ILHA OFFICERS,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(COUNTY CONSULS),
AND STAFF.**

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Brett Ford	(712)545-3283

VOLUNTEER STAFF

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Cecil Stewart
Newsletter Editor
Paul Walker
Noble Sojourner
Lyell Henry

GREAT GRADES.

(Clarence, Continued from page 1)

"Ann Munro of Mechanicsville was asked to donate her artistic ability and sketch a mural that depicts the history of Clarence. She will assist in sketching the key element on the west side of the old city hall building and then community volunteers of the town will paint the mural."

"The mural begins with a buckboard leaving Onion Grove and crossing the railroad tracks to Clarence. Next is a train engine from 1834, an important part of Clarence's history. The trains pulls into Clarence where it stops at the Clarence Produce Co. where a Gold Medal Flour logo will be painted. Many older residents will remember when advertisements were painted on the side of buildings. The last section of the wall will have an early 1930 Ford truck parked next to the Clarence Produce Co. This stands for the many years the old city hall was part of the Clarence Ford garage."

"On the southwest corner of the building the Lincoln Highway sign will be painted reminding all that travel through Clarence that it was on the first interstate highway system."

"Many of these enhancement projects have not cost the taxpayers anything. Generous grants and donations of labor and materials have made these projects a reality."

Are you kidding? From Clarence, we would expect nothing less! **L**



Website Spotlight

LHAers in Iowa and beyond will recall the folksy Lincoln Highway song *Rollin' Down That Lincoln Highway* from a few years ago. The composer of *Rollin'* is Shadric Smith, a Fort Dodge performer who has been writing music and performing in Iowa for over twenty years.

Shad has nine CDs for sale, and has a liberal music distribution policy. Visitors to his website at www.shadric.com are welcome to download what they like for fifty cents, and a great instrumental version of *Rollin'* is available this year for free. His latest CD *Tunesmith* is available at a reduced price for LHA fundraising.

The website also provides information on Shad's performance schedule for his large and small bands. You can hear Shad in central Iowa several times this summer. He would love to perform at your LH event. Contact him through his site. **L**

Summer Board Meeting in Tama.

The 42nd board meeting of the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association is at hand. Members and non-members alike are invited to join the Iowa LHA Board of Directors at their summer business meeting. Ron Cory, Tama County LHA Director will play host as we convene on **Saturday, July 12**, at the Louise and Lucille Hink Tama Public Library at 401 Siegel, which is north of the Tama Civic Center at the end of Main, or Third Street, in Tama. Coffee, orange juice and famous Tama Bakery donuts will be shared at 9:00 a.m. President Mike Kelly will drop the gavel at 9:30. Be sure to notice the Lincoln Highway marker as you enter the library. After the meeting we will visit the remaining King Tower cabin on the Lincoln Highway (U.S. 30) which is being renovated. Lunch is at King Tower cafe at 12:30. **L**

WHOM DO I WRITE?

Categories:

Student \$15	Supporting \$50
Individual \$30	Patron \$100
Family \$40	Institutional \$100

Application for membership:

Lincoln Highway Association

P.O. Box 308

Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Membership changes/address changes:

Ruth Frantz

Box 27

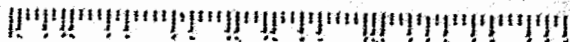
Sugar Grove, IL 60554 (630)466-4382

See You on the Lincoln Highway! This issue's new members...

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Brett Ford | <i>Hitchcock Nature Center</i>
Honey Creek, Pottawattamie Co. ^L |
| Michael Kramme | <i>Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance</i>
Washington, IA |
| Bob Merritt | Carroll, Carroll Co. ^L |
| Bill Monroe | <i>Medicap Pharmacy</i>
Jefferson, Greene, Co. ^L |
| Joe Pickett | Montgomery, TX |
| Elaine Pruett | Lincoln, NE |

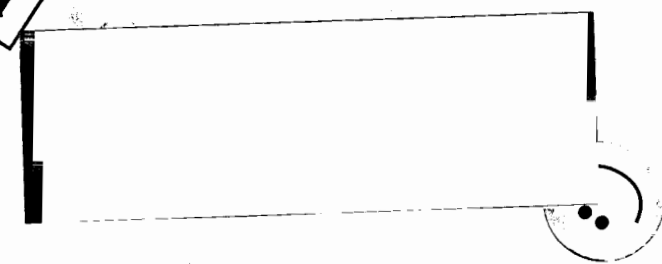
In This Issue...

Iowa: Get Your Kicks in 2006!



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FIRST CLASS



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OGDEN IA 50212

