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 reorganization 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.

Clarence Has Done it Again.

By Pat Scarrow
Reprinted from the Cedar County Sun-News, 25 October 2001

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

Keith Whitlatch of Starwood 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 Development 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)
A Tale of Two Markers.
By Paul Weiler

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 facsimile bronze medalion, 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 medalions once rested, the concrete was jagged and rough, the medalions 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-plantled, it will be on the Marshall County LH. A Marshalltown native, I had heard rumors that a marker once stood on the square in from the 1880s County Courthouse. Was this the chance to put it back?

I contacted Ron Goode 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 sprung 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 Stearn 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 medalion is not his expertise. I contacted vendors of replica medalions, 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 medalion. Ken Main, a retiree from the Water Works, had a medalion 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 see 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
Ramblings Along the Lincoln Highway.

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

Submitted by Ben 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 gavotted 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 L. B. and Brad Norton as directors of Cedar County. Minutes were so approved.

Joyce Ausburger'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 consultants 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 LH. A thank you, Jesse!

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

Brett Ford, Park Ranger with the Polk County Historic 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 importance 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 Cousins Report

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

Cedar: L. B. Norton was at the NPS meeting in Cedar Rapids and voiced concern over bridge work east of Lodwen.

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. Ausburger to provide ILHA display; and possibly a decorated car in the parade.

Ron Cory announced remaining King Tower cable is 90% 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 design one wall to historic photo of LH highway and other memorabilia. Peter Butler asked input in first week of May at workshop with several ILHA members to work on design of LH replica way. Nevada is planning a combined celebration of the LH and their sesquicentennial. Becker gave visual report on Nillion's Corner: paving torn up, possibly for removal of buried storage tanks. Piling station looks great, appeals professionals hard at work inside the café.

(Ramblings, Continued on page 4)
Boone: Classic cottage-style gas station has been moved from northwest corner of Eisenhower and Martin in Boone. Owner Bill Jepson has invited IHLA 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: LHI 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 Brent Ford to serve as County Council. Walker working on presentation in support of Iowa sponsoring 2006 annual LHI 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 LHI 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 LHI 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 LHI. Brent 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 LHI 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 relieved in seeing big yellow bus waiting at the bottom of the one-mile rut.

Last tour stop was home of Don Blackford in Harrison County. Blackford restored 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 LHI tour. Thanks to Elaine Ellert for planning a truly memorable day.

Submitted by Bev Becker, substituting for Sue Aros, Secretary

Photos courtesy Charles Kuester.
Lincoln Highway Anniversary
2003 Coast-to-Coast Tour

The national LHA is hosting a 3500-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 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 permitted to encourage full participation. Entrants may opt for full tour, one-week, or three-day passes. Discounts for lodging have been arranged across the country.

A truck and trailer support team will follow up to assist disabled cars. Owners will be responsible for keeping their cars going or 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 to 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 bureau. Car Clubs are encouraged to travel in groups on the tour as they wish.

For more information, contact:
Bob Lichty or Rosemary Rubin, co-chairs Lincoln Highway Anniversary Tour
330-455-7589
email: rubin@noo.com

For Iowans, the tour leaves Diuron, 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.

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 Place certificates were the 105 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 we band together in common interests.

Speaking of visibility, another special thanks is due to Dave Rasdall whose column in the Cedar Rapids Gazette continues to regularly feature Lincoln Highway stories. Another media outlet goes to Carey J. Rath, 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 Buck, 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 Beeder

Regular readers of Spare Tire know that Bev and I are the keepers of "The List" - all known 1928 Lincoln Highway markers still intact 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 L.H.

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 volunteer investigators?

Members will recognize Bob Simon, 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 photographs of the two Sioux City mystery L.H. markers. They are indeed located at the IDOT District 3 Office located in Sioux City at 2800 Gordon Avenue (Highway 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 DOH 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 amiable, but when I explained I was with the LHA and stated my objective, he relaxed. The starting reputation of the LHA is having a calming effect, I think!

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 VOILÀ! 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 a newsletter and brochure. Maybe we will get a new member.

Have not had a chance to investigate the waymarker monument 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 Mollieville. What a pleasure to drive. A great 45-mph road with all the "vertical curves" still intact.

See you on the Highway!

Bob
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 volun-
teers of the town will paint the mural."

"The mural begins with a backboard leaving Union Grove and crossing the railroad tracks to Clarence. Next is a train engine from 1894, an im-
portant part of Clarence's history. The train pulls into Clarence where it stops at the Church Produce Co., where a Gold Medal Flour logo will be painted. Many older residents will remember when advertise-
ments 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. That 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 traveled 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.

Website Spotlight

LHArms 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 Shadrck Smith, a Fort Dodge per-
former who has been writing music and per-
forming 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.shadrck.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 Turnsmith is available at a reduced price for LHRA 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.
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, carrot 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 restored. Lunch is at King Tower cafe at 12:30.

WHOM DO I WRITE?

Categories:
Student $15  Supporting $50
Individual $30  Patron $105
Family $40  Institutional $100

Application for Membership:
Lincoln Highway Association
P.O. Box 308
Franklin Grove, IL 61031
Membership change/address changes:
Ruth Franz
Box 27
Sugar Grove, IL 60554  (630)466-4362

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

Brett Ford Hitchcock Nature Center
Honey Creek, Pottawattamie Co.

Michael Kramme Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance
Washington, IA

Bob Merritt Carroll, Carroll Co.

Bill Monroe Medicap Pharmacy
Jefferson, Greene, Co.

Joe Pickett Montgomery, TX

Elaine Pruett Lincoln, NE

In This Issue:
Iowa: Get Your Kicks in 2006!

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