President’s Corner
By Deb Rothmeyer, President
Iowa Lincoln Highway Association

Wow! I can’t believe it’s November already. The year 2015 has flown by. My hubby and I traveled our beloved Lincoln Highway during the last part of October; it was beautiful as the leaves were changing. I went back to Clinton for 3 days and visited the Saw Mill Museum. Wow! I was impressed!

I want to thank everyone that participated in the Lincoln Highway Buyway yard sale. All reports indicate this was a good year.

Plans for the 2017 conference that will be in Denison, Iowa are coming along great. Tours are set up, speakers are lined up, and the town of Denison is hosting two nights with food, music, a show and more.

Just to let you know, I will be gone the first part of December and will be returning around the 15th. If anything arises that needs to be addressed immediately, please call the Parr residence and they would be glad to help.

See you all in Scranton for the January business meeting!

Lowden Installs Original Lincoln Highway Marker
Lowden Sun News, provided by Joe Goodlove

Approximately 2,430 Lincoln Highway markers were installed by the Boy Scouts of America on Sept. 1, 1928. To commemorate the event, members of Lowden’s Cub Scout Troop No. 160, former Boy Scouts, and volunteers installed a recovered Lincoln Highway Marker in the Lowden City park. The marker was recovered in Clinton for the Lincoln Highway Association by LHA member Joe Goodlove of Lowden. In a joint effort by Joe and Lowden resident, Barry Hoffmeier, the marker was acquired from the ILHA for the City of Lowden.

The Lincoln Highway was named by the Lincoln Highway Association on July 1, 1913 to honor Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States. The LHA wanted to create the nation’s first transcontinental highway and thought a patriotic name would sell the project to investors. The Lincoln Highway originally ran coast to coast for 3,389 miles from New York’s Time Square to San Francisco’s Lincoln Park and ran through 13 states. Due to realignments and improvements, the route was shortened to 3,142 miles by 1924. The Highway was marked by signs with a red, white, and blue rectangle, with a large blue “L” and the words “Lincoln Highway” stenciled in the white portion.

In 1926, the American Association of State Highway Officials and the Joint Board on Interstate Highways created a more uniform sign and numbering system to identify the nation’s highways. Most of the Lincoln Highway route became US Highway 30, with portions becoming US 1 in the East and US 40, US 50, and US 93 in the West. Due to realignment, today’s Highway 30 aligns with less than 25% of the original 1913-1928 Lincoln Highway route.

With the numbering system in effect, the LHA embarked on one final effort to mark the route of the Lincoln Highway and continued on page 2
Lowden Installs Original Highway Marker, Cont. from page 1

to honor Abraham Lincoln. The LHA approved the casting of 3,000 concrete markers, which would be placed along the Lincoln Highway. The markers carried the familiar red, white, and blue Lincoln Highway symbol. Also, each marker had a bronze inset of Lincoln's bust and the words; "This Highway Dedicated to Abraham Lincoln."

On September 1, 1928, the LHA partnered with the Boy Scouts of America to install 2,436 of these markers along the Lincoln Highway, from coast to coast.

To some, the first transcontinental highway united the nation that Lincoln fought to save and made the Lincoln Highway a fitting symbol to remember the 16th President.

Apple Daze

Photos and Article by Mike Kelly

Youngville held its Annual Fall Festival on Sept. 27th. The celebration pre-dates the opening of the cafe in 2003 and has been known as Apple Daze since then. Front row parking is always reserved for the Hawkeye Model A Club and the Antique Automobile Club of Cedar Rapids. These long-time friends and benefactors played a huge role in the restoration of Youngville with donations toward matching funds that made the project possible.

Our two antique gas engine displays are always popular and Lyell Krug, known as the “apple peeler guy,” always brings a unique and sometimes mysterious display from his kitchen gadget collection.

In keeping with his tradition of keeping you guessing, the identity of this gadget will be in the next newsletter. Here's a clue. It was used in the preparation of one of today's most popular pies.

Clean Up Day

The cleanup day at the Pony Truss Bridge in Clinton County was not held. Cathie Nichols will reorganize the event in late March of 2016. Be sure to watch the ILHA website and Facebook page closer to March for more information.
The LINCOLN HOTEL in Lowden, Iowa is seeking a NEW INNKEEPER. The current owners are looking to retire.

For details contact Elizabeth Norton 563-941-7563 www.lincolnhoteliowa.com

Your ad here

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

1 Issue: $10, 2 Issues: $20
3 Issues: $30, Buy 3 Get 4th Free

Contact joyce for more information: bobjoyce@netins.net

The James H. Andrew Railroad Museum and History Center
at the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad

November 1 through May 22
Monday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm
Saturday Noon - 4 pm
Closed Sunday

May 23 through October 31
Sunday - Thursday 10 am - 4 pm
Friday and Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

Visit one of Iowa’s most interesting railroad collections

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Crossroads of the Lincoln & Jefferson Highways
Great Food With A Side of History

Open Tues. - Sat. 6:30 am - 8:00 pm
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24 Lincoln Way • Colo, IA 50056
Sandra Huemann-Kelly
Call: (319) 573-5711
nilandcafe@gmail.com

Mystery Photo

By Van Becker

1. This photo is an unmistakable landmark on the Lincoln Highway.
2. The building is NOT in Iowa.
3. There is a 1928 marker out front dedicated by Boy Scouts.
4. Photos of this building have appeared numerous times in the Forum.
5. In the entire length of the Lincoln Highway, there is only one other site that can compare with the unique status of this building/site.

The question is: where was this photo taken and what is this building’s name and what is it used for?

Last Issue’s Mystery Photo

The mystery photo in the fall 2015 newsletter is located one half mile east of the Benton/Linn county line on the Lincoln Highway. It is known as the Ced-Rel Motel. The Ced-Rel Supper Club is adjacent to the west. The two businesses share a neon sign along the highway. The motel is at 11901 16th Ave. South West, Cedar Rapids.

If you think you can identify the Mystery Place, send an email to lincolnhighway@prrcd.org or call 515-232-0048. Call with the correct information and we will take your name and contact information. We then will hold a random drawing for a winner to receive a 2013 Iowa Lincoln Highway Map Pack! This is to accommodate for the varying time and travel the postal system can take and to give all a fair try.

2015 Iowa Motor Tour
By Bryan Osberg

Pictured are the participants in the 2015 ILHA Iowa Motor Tour. The group traveled from NE and ended at the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center. Ideas and planning are beginning for the 2016 Iowa LHA Motor Tour. There will be dates and details in the next newsletter.

© Osburg

The question is: where was this photo taken and what is this building’s name and what is it used for?

© Van Becker

Taken on old LH in Duncan, NE
Jeff Benson Family
Iowa Lincoln Highway Endowment
Condensed by Meredith Ponder, ILHA Intern

A fund has been established at the Story County Community Foundation in order to help fund the Jeff Benson Family Iowa Lincoln Highway Endowment. This is an Endow Iowa fund, which allows Iowa tax payers to take a tax credit equal to 25% of a gift in addition to the normal federal deduction for charitable gifts.

This fund was set up by Jeff’s loved ones who wanted to honor his memory by utilizing an innovative program to give back to something that he was passionate about and that reflected his values. For more information please review the Jeff Benson Memorial Form located on the ILHA website.

Please direct donation questions to the Story County Community Foundation by calling (515) 232-9200 or emailing storycounty@storycountyfoundation.org

Please mail donations to:
Story County Community Foundation
P.O. Box 1666
Ames, IA 50010

Due to minimal spacing, October’s meeting minutes will be available on the website.

Take the Economic Impact Baseline Survey at:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s9Y95BXW
for a chance to win a prize!

For more information about the survey read Jan Gammon’s CMP and LHA Update

Bob and Joyce Ausberger have talked to Linn County farmer, Allan Viktor, about the 90-year-old bridge in Linn County that goes over Big Creek. Mr. Viktor owns the land around the bridge and was trying to save it from the wrecking ball. In September it was scheduled to be replaced, but local residents appealed to the Board of Supervisors to save it. The Board voted to go ahead with replacement. Demolition began in November of 2015.

http://www.historicbridges.org/b_c_ia_linn.htm

Bridge on Bloomington Road in Linn County
Jan Gammon, LHHB Coord.
Prairie Rivers of Iowa

Jeff Benson
1952 - 2015
The Lincoln Hotel in Lowden, Iowa celebrates its 100th birthday this year. The Lincoln Hotel is a Lincoln Highway gem that is featured in both Brian Butko’s *Greetings from the Lincoln Highway* and Drake Hokinson’s *The Lincoln Highway: Main Street across America*. The hotel has served travelers on the Lincoln Highway since Celia Dean Clemens opened for business on June 17, 1915. On that day, guests paid $2 per day for a room and could enjoy a steak dinner for 75 cents. The contemporary prairiesque architecture gave the hotel a modern twist at the time. The electric lights, steam heat, and the bathroom with running water provided comforts not always available to travelers in 1915. The Lincoln Hotel was the only lodging between Clinton and Cedar Rapids when it was built and Celia enjoyed a brisk business, servicing both the rail and highway travelers.

The Hotel stood in witness of the progress of the Lincoln Highway. The highway was originally a dirt road. On April 27, 1917 paving began in Lowden and was complete through Cedar County on Oct. 27 of that year. On September 7, 1925 the Lowden City Council ordered all hitching posts on the streets of the business district be removed within 30 days. Autocross guests first purchased buckets of gasoline at the livery stable on the north side of the hotel. Later gasoline became available at the general store and in the early 20’s the Hawkeye Filling Station opened. On Aug 14, 1925, the Freund Garage was making improvements and a new gas tank and pump were added along with the cement walk repaired to meet the increase in business. In 1928, H.C. Kaman & Sons erected a Standard Station and a Phillips 66 opened in November of 1934. The traffic kept coming; Model T’s became Hudson’s, the ’57 Chevys became SUVs.

Celia remained the innkeeper for 31 years when she sold the business to John and Anna Stickpin who tended to the business for 10 years. Donna and Prince Hudson Jr. purchased it in 1956 and assigned the contract to Mary Louise Wiles within a year of ownership. Mary Louise ran the hotel for seven years. On Oct. 7, 1967, William and Arlene Cederberg purchased the business and Arlene ran it for 13 years. The building stood vacant until Lincolnway Hotel, Inc. purchased it for the purpose of historic preservation in 1991. Brad Norton and Sue Licht, on behalf of the corporation, renovated the building. The hotel opened as an apartment building for low income housing in the spring of 1996. At that time the hotel was presented with the “Preservation at Its Best Award” from the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance and had earned a spot on the List of Historic Places on the National Historic Register. The hotel operated as a residential facility until 2001 when Brad and Elizabeth Norton purchased the business. Elizabeth took over management and gradually converted the apartments to five spacious suites with private baths. She also introduced an optional gourmet breakfast served either in the room or in the dining room. The seventh room offers a space for a massage therapist. Elizabeth has served travelers from as far as Vienna, Norway, and Germany, hosted family reunions with families coming together from both coasts of the United States, entertained the organizers of RAGBRAI, and provided the comforts of home to the many other travelers who travel the highway for business and pleasure.

After 100 years, six innkeepers, and an unknown number of guests who shared the comforts of the Lincoln Hotel, the Norton’s, in their 60’s, are now thinking of retirement and looking for a new keeper for this stately building and place of repose. The Lincoln Hotel will continue to serve highway travelers and witness change on the Lincoln Highway as it once again outlives its innkeepers.
Meet Your LHHB Intern
By Meredith Ponder

Hello! My name is Meredith Ponder and I am your Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Communications intern. I met some of you at the ILHA meeting in Denison on October 10th, but for those of you who I haven't met, here is a little background about me.

I enjoy working with the Iowa Lincoln Highway Association, through Prairie Rivers of Iowa, where I also work as the marketing assistant. My favorite thing about this job is learning about a unique facet of Iowa's history and helping you educate Iowans about the beautiful Lincoln Highway.
Old-Fashioned Christmas in State Center

By Marcia Quick

The holiday season is here, and with it came State Center’s 16th Annual Old-fashioned Christmas on Main, held Friday, December 4. The events kicked off early, at 8:15 a.m., with “A Christmas Carol”, a one-man show by actor Duffy Hudson, in the High School Auditorium. The citywide celebration featured holiday open houses at area businesses beginning at 1:00 p.m. There was caroling along Main Street in the afternoon by WMHS singers. Chainsaw artist Pat Doyle performed his chainsaw magic throughout the afternoon and evening at the corner of East Main Street and 1st Avenue South. Nearby, a silent auction ran from 1:00 p.m. till 7:00 p.m. in the Main Street Office Suites. Down the street, the Annual West Marshall High School Holiday Art Show was held in Jacobson Portrait Studio. Across the street, a life-sized Nativity scene was nestled under the City’s stately Christmas tree between Garry’s Barber Shop and Central State Bank.

The evening’s activities kicked off at 5:00 p.m. when a horse-drawn trolley dropped Santa and Mrs. Claus off at historic Watson’s Grocery Store. There were free horse-drawn trolley rides, with pick-up and drop-off on West Main throughout the evening. Musician John Schumacher played guitar in Hometown Foods. There were Craft and Food Fairs from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. in four convenient locations along Main Street: the first floor of City Hall, Mitchell Family Funeral Home, David Beary Enterprises, and Soleil Tanning & Fitness. The evening ended with a live auction at St. Andrew’s Grill & Bar.

In addition to two fine local restaurants, members of First Presbyterian Church served their annual spaghetti dinner in the Community Hall, with vocal performances by the Heart of Iowa Sweet Adelines and the Marshalltown Men’s Chorus. At the Remarkable Rose Floral & Gifts, the State Center Development Association served tasty soups and sandwiches. Afterwards, there was s’more-making along the street outside.

We hope you joined us along the historic Lincoln Highway in downtown State Center, but if not, mark your calendar for next year for December 2nd for the 17th Annual Old-fashioned Christmas on Main!
The Next ILHA meeting will be January 9, 2015 in Scranton, Iowa at the Community Center. Refreshments at 9:00 AM, business meeting to follow.

The address is 900 Madison in Scranton, Iowa. If coming from either the east or west on the US 30, turn south onto Hwy25 (also known as E Ave or Locust Ave). Continue south. A block after State Street, turn east (left) onto Madison. Continue east, past Main Street. In the next block, at the corner of Lincoln St and Madison, you should see the Community Center on Madison.

Upcoming Iowa LHA Meetings

January 9, 2016       Scranton, Business
April 9, 2016           Belle Plaine, General
July 9, 2016           Missouri Valley, Business

In this quarter’s issue....

Apple Daze Recap, Lincoln Hotel 100 Year Anniversary, Jeff Benson Endowment, and more!

Historic Greene County Attractions and Evolution of Transportation
By Joyce Ausberger

Prairie Rivers of Iowa, Bob Ausberger and John Fitzsimmons worked together to produce the Greene County brochure. John did the artwork and Bob provided the transportation history. Prairie Rivers of Iowa provided the brochure layout. Bob had gotten the idea of a Lincoln Highway map across Greene County with attractions seen along the route from a Route 66 brochure he picked up many years ago. The Greene County Community Foundation provided the matching funds for the brochure. Look for the brochure in Greene County Communities.