



# THE TRAVELER

LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION – CALIFORNIA

[www.lincolnhighway.org/ca/traveler](http://www.lincolnhighway.org/ca/traveler)

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## Seasons Greetings!



### Upcoming Chapter Meeting

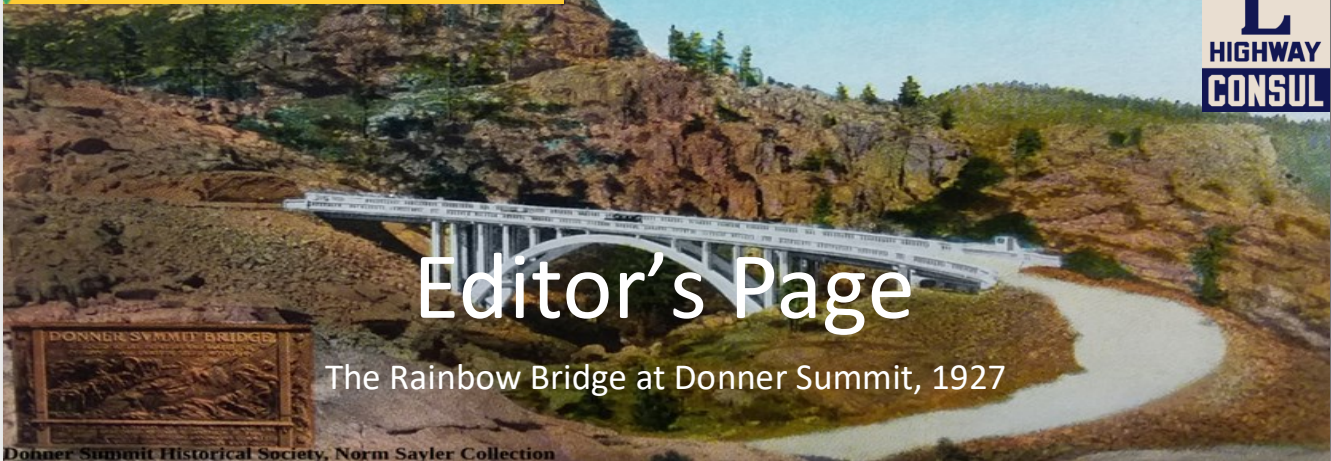
January 9th, 12 Noon

Via Zoom

More meeting info on Page 11



*The above photo shows two skiers near Cisco Grove. Railroad snow tunnels can be seen in the background.*



## Editor's Page

The Rainbow Bridge at Donner Summit, 1927

Donner Summit Historical Society, Norm Saylor Collection



*Trey Pitsenberger*  
 Editor

The Traveler Newsletter has been in the capable hands of editor Gary Kinst since October 2005, 15 years! It's been a source of inspiration and information for countless Lincoln Highway enthusiasts, including myself.

Some years ago, I searched for information on Slippery Ford, the famous emigrant crossing near Echo Summit. Information on this area was sorely lacking, except for an article in The Traveler! It was the only online source that included photos and detailed descriptions of the site. The report was also my first introduction to the Lincoln Highway, which followed the Slippery Ford route. Automobiles drove down this old wagon trail? That would explain the asphalt we encountered at a spot on the road.

Thanks to Gary Kinst and his love of detail, I started reading other issues of The Traveler, which are [available for viewing here](#). There is no other online source of early California automobile travel that is as detailed and extensive as The Traveler.

Editing The Traveler has been a labor of love for Gary, as he one of us, a road and trail enthusiast who loves to dig deeper into a story and place.

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## Editor's Page

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Neil Rodrigues, State Director for the California Chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association, put's it well, "Gary always held a passion for seizing and documenting the Lincoln Highway as it was and is today. Thank you, Gary, for capturing what is slowly fading into history."

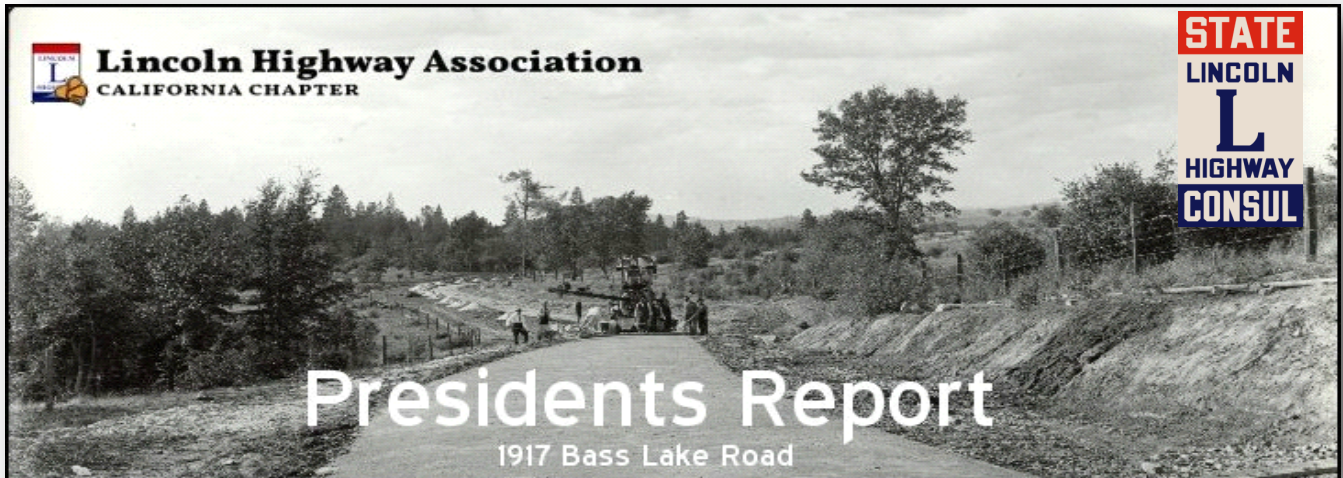


*Gary Kinst on the Lincoln Highway*

Gary has decided to "leave on a high note" from editing the Traveler. He will remain as our chapter historian, which is excellent news for myself and the organization. His knowledge of the old road is invaluable, and we appreciate his staying on as our Lincoln Highway "sage." I know he will continue to be a valuable resource for our group as we move into the future.

As the new editor of The Traveler, I hope you will join me in wishing Gary the best and thanking him for 15 years of dedication to The Lincoln Highway Association and The Traveler Newsletter.

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*Joel Windmiller  
President*

*"Season's  
Greetings LHA  
members! I  
hope everyone  
has a safe and  
healthy  
holiday  
season."*

This year has had its ups and downs to challenge us dealing with the **corona virus**. State and Federal guidelines to follow has restricted chapter activities this year beginning with chapter meetings. January's meeting at the Historic Smith Flat House just east of Placerville was the only in person meeting. Before the scheduled April meeting board meeting was held via phone and it was agreed that the remaining chapter meetings would be held on zoom to keep our members safe and healthy. April, July & October meetings held via Zoom. Special thanks to our Secretary Paulette Johnston for her help coordinating our Zoom meetings.

The popular "Clarksville Days" was cancelled annual event held during the summer in the gold rush town of Clarksville El Dorado County. Historic 1917 concrete section "longest intact section of original roadbed in California" the Lincoln Highway passes thru making it way to west to San Francisco and east to Lake Tahoe.

Illinois National Conference in Joliet was rescheduled next summer 2021 followed by California National Conference in Folsom-Sacramento Area following summer 2022.

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## Presidents Report

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- *Illinois Chapter member Jim Garner creating a 1928 reproduction Marker for the Western & Eastern Terminus of the Lincoln Highway in the State of Illinois. Chapter sent Jim our set of drawings and photo's to assist Jim with his marker project. Due to COVID 19 marker project has been put on hold.*
- *Lifetime member Glenn Beck planning a cross-country Lincoln Highway journey early spring 2021. Mr. Beck plans to visit all remaining 1928 Lincoln Highway concrete markers during his cross country road trip.*
- *Robert Paul former highway engineer for Caltrans worked on the Northern Section of old US 40 / Lincoln-Victory Highways in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. During the years of realigning and widening US 40 crossing the Sierra Nevada. He retired to Paradise in the 50s and built the home. He died in the 90s. He planted the marker in 1957 in front of pine tree and planted small holly bush in front of it. The holly bush grew to 12 feet tall and 6 foot wide hiding the marker 2019 Camp Fire burned tree and bush revealing the marker. Current Property owner has moved the marker to a undisclosed location.*
- *Our current Chapter Historian Gary Kinst due to health issues has resigned as editor of our chapter newsletter "The Traveler" but will continue as our chapter historian. Our VP Trey Pitsenberger at the request of the board has accepted to take over as editor of the "Traveler"*

With 2021 on the horizon my Christmas wish list for the chapter is after medical research has Covid under control and a vaccine has been distributed. Life returns to a new normal chapter can return to meetings in person so everyone can see and talk to one another face to face outside at a historic location along the Lincoln Highway.

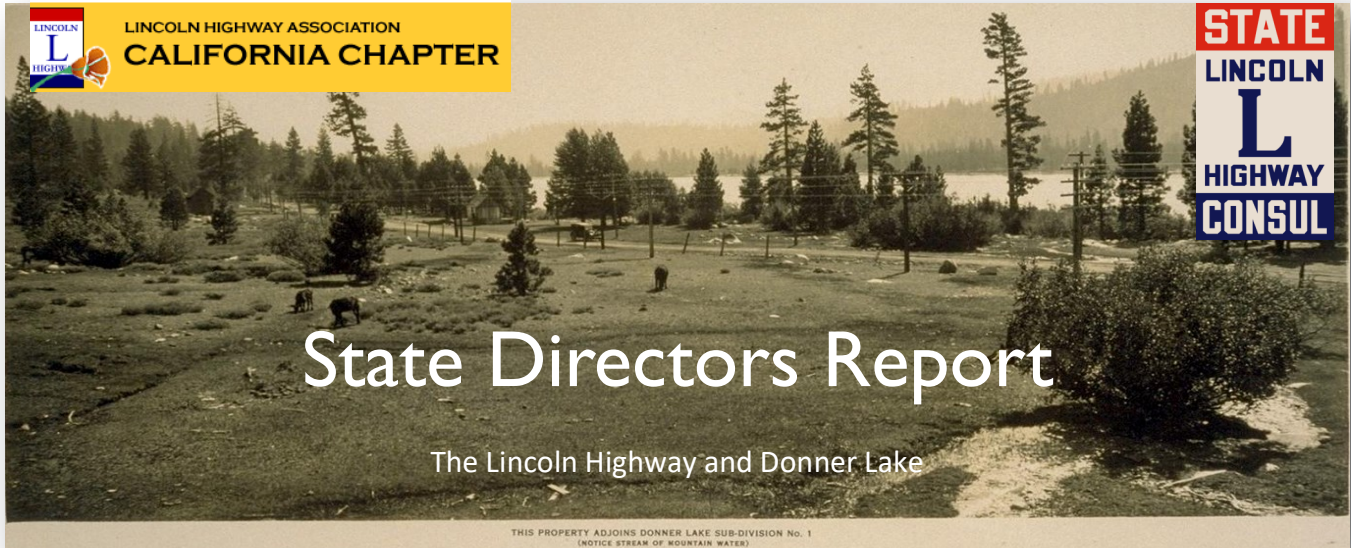


**Lincoln Highway Association**  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

**Joel Windmiller President LHA**

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*Neil Rodrigues  
State Director*

The main contributor to success in any organization is communication. Our effective communication tool - the Yahoo LHA\_CAL\_Chapter@Yahoogroups.com email distribution list, is going away in December by Yahoo.

FEAR NOT! I have signed the LHA CAL Chapter up to a new (and Free) Email Distribution List group called "Groups.io". Our new list email address is now: " LHACA@Groups.io "

This is NOT a Social Network so it is a much more serious, safer, and a better tool to simply convey directly to association members of happenings in our organization. Your email and your information will not be "friended" and will not be sold or distributed into the Cyber web...

Once signed up you use the new email address the same way as sending emails – just type LHACA@Groups.io into the "TO" line of your email, and your email will be sent out to all on the list. Also the LHA CA has a more efficient and simple tool to send out important LH information.

BUTT - the list will not work well until we all are signed up!  
We encourage all members to accept this invitation, and others to sign up to help the LHA CAL Chapter conveniently share organization information.

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## State Directors Letter

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If others wish to sign up, here's how:

- 1) go to [www.Groups.io](http://www.Groups.io)
- 2) Click on "Find a Group" - type in the Search entry box: LHACA - then press the Enter box to the right.
- 3) The LHACA group description displays.
- 4) Click on the LHACA title of the group description.
- 5) The LHACA Groups.io page displays
- 6) At bottom of page - select the button "Apply for membership in this group".
- 7) Enter YOUR email address where you wish to receive Lincoln Highway California Chapter correspondence.
- 8) The Group Moderator (Neil A. Rodrigues) will accept your request. Then you're in!

Again - to use the group, once signed up and accepted - just type LHACA@Groups.io into the "TO" line of your email.

REMEMBER - this is NOT a Social Network and completely confidential.

Please sign up and use this email list to keep in Lincoln Highway touch with our organization.

Thank you!

Neil A. Rodrigues,  
LHA CAL Director





by **Mark Hoffmann**

## The Loneliest Road Across Nevada



*Mark Hoffmann*

Covid has restricted travel now for the better part of a year. But during the summer, when infections settled down for a while, we were able to get our **US 50, The Lincoln Highway, America's Loneliest Road** tour underway.

We left Sacramento September 29<sup>th</sup> and headed out on I-80 to Elko, then on to Ely. We picked up the old highway and made our first big stop at **Cherry Creek**, the ghost town clinging to life, just a couple of miles off the 3rd generation of the Lincoln.

A two night stay in Ely gave us plenty of time to explore. In McGill, the Rexall Drug store closed one day in the 70's, and never opened again. Everything on the shelves is just the way it was left, all those years ago. Quite a step back in time. The "houses of ill repute" in Nevada are closed due to Covid, but that didn't stop us from our tour of the **Stardust Ranch**. Trust me, ladies who travel are **extremely** curious about these places and the chance to go inside and ask questions about the operation is always a highlight of our travels.

The local circuit court judge is an amateur astrologer. We enlisted his services as a guide of the skies (Ely is one of the best places in the US to go stargazing, because of its distance from the lights of any major cities). We saw **five planets**, and laughed a lot. If you ever get a speeding ticket in Ely, we know the guy who can "fix" it!



*Ely, Nevada*

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## The Loneliest Road Across Nevada

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*A socially-distanced picture inside the Eureka*

Traveling the Lincoln from Ely, you come to one of my favorite spots on the old road. The town of **Eureka** (pop. 600) is a county seat in boom-and-bust mining country. The ups and downs have been going on for years. Last time they had money, the tourism director at the time, a character named **Wally Cuchine**, got the county to restore some of the magnificent buildings in town, including the courthouse and the opera house. Eureka is truly one of the most unique spots on the Lincoln, and well worth an overnight. Even got to

say hi to Wally, who is a rural Nevada legend.

Leaving Eureka, we headed to Austin. For the first time in its 150+ year history, Austin is getting **sidewalks!** All of the downtown stretch of 50/Lincoln was ripped to shreds. It was truly impossible to get into the parking lot at the International Hotel, the best

Our final day of travel included brunch at the newly-reopened buffet at the Atlantis Hotel (extremely well done and monitored would go back when it's safer to eat indoors). We stopped into the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, to get an overview of the state's people and their history.



*Sports Leisure Travelers take up the soda fountain job at McGill's Drug Store - everything is just the way it was left in 1979*

## The Loneliest Road Across Nevada

*(continued from previous page)*



*The orange cinnamon rolls at Courtyard Cafe and Bakery in Fallon might be one of the old highway's best kept secrets!*

it makes a great final tale.

In five days, we covered a lot of the old road, made some new friendships and renewed some old ones. The “Loneliest Road” across Nevada and the people along it represent some of the finest old highway travel in these United States. Long Live The Lincoln!

Mark Hoffmann, CTP  
Owner, Sports Leisure Vacations

### Our Hotels:

**Elko – Shutters (former Hilton Garden Inn)**

**Ely – La Quinta Inn & Suites**

**Fallon – Holiday Inn Express**

All were satisfactory. The Shutters in Elko was exceptionally clean and the staff was friendly. It was the best, but would be “return to” hotels for SLV.

On the way home, I pointed out the old Johnson Pass Road on the summit; and shared the story of Mr. **Berry**, who always had plenty of **straw** for the horses (and even for travelers when the rooms at his lodge ran out). And you thought the lodge was named for the mountain next to it which certainly looks like an upside down strawberry...

Don't ever try to come home on Hwy 50 on a weekend in October, is the Apple Hill lesson I remind you of, took a while to get through Placerville on an October Sunday afternoon. ...The Clarksville story is one most folks don't know (There's a town down there?), so





# Adventures in California History

## Lincoln Highway Style

With Trey and Monica Pitsenberger



Monica and Trey

When the weather changes, and we find ourselves unable to reach the high country due to snow and cold, we keep to the lower elevations and explore sections of the Lincoln we might have missed. Yesterday was a great day to talk a walk along the longest remaining section of original Lincoln Highway concrete in California, The Clarksville Grade. Located in El Dorado Hills along Highway 50, this section had been closed to the public for many years. Now the gate is open, and you can ride or walk this historical section, with bike riders being in the majority the day we went.

We start at the bottom of the grade and park near the church on Tong Road. The walk will be a slow, gentle climb to the top, where the present Highway 50 breached the old road. Along the way, we keep our eye's peeled to the side of the road, looking for "C" monuments, which were state highway right of waymarkers. The markers, in use since 1914 to 1934, are generally found about fifteen feet from the road's edges and are buried a couple of feet into the ground!



Monica point's to a "C" monument, with the road below.

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# Adventures in California History

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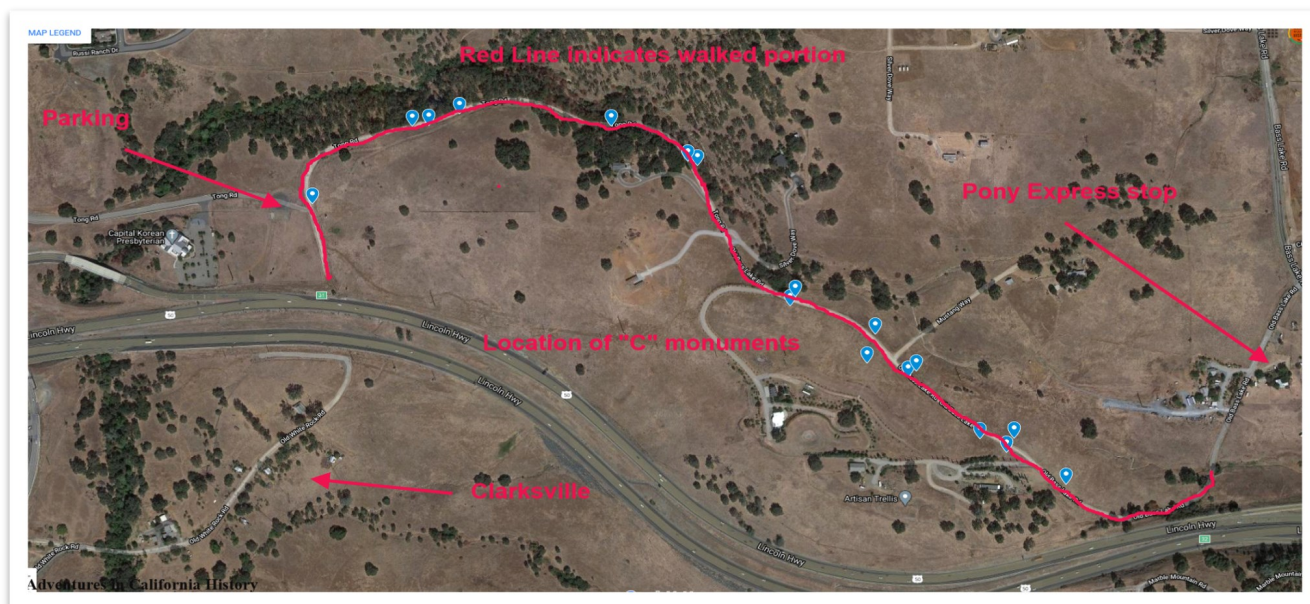
They can help find and mark new-found alignments of the Lincoln Highway. We found and recorded 17 of these monuments along this stretch of the road. [Here is a link to more information concerning "C" monuments.](#)

We also came upon what we believe is a cattle subway or culvert. There is no water flowing through it, so we assume it was put in sometime after the original concrete was poured to facilitate cattle moving from one side of the road to the other. This is still cattle country, though quickly transitioning to suburbia.



Adventures in California History

Cattle culvert? Click photo for closer look.



Map of the route, surrounding features, and 17 "C" monuments.



# Adventures in California History

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Towards the end of the walk, off the Lincoln Highway, is a place that was rumored to be a Pony Express stop. We assume these stops were right on the old trails, so why was this place away from the Lincoln Highway's path? Typically the original 1914 route of the Lincoln Highway followed existing wagon routes and trails. This didn't seem the case here, and then we discovered why. There is an older wagon road below the path of the Lincoln Highway! We noticed the rock retaining walls while searching for "C" Monuments and immediately climbed down the hill to check them out.



*An older wagon road below the Lincoln Highway.  
Road is on the left of the row of rocks.*



*Monica on the older road, looking at a rock wall at right. Carson Creek is just to her right and down.*

We talked to residents who drove by, and they told us this was an old stage-coach route passed by the Pony Express stop at the top of the hill. We assume this is an "older" Old Bass Lake Road that was likely the Pony Express. This is why exploring the Lincoln Highway is so entertaining. You often come upon relics from the older days.



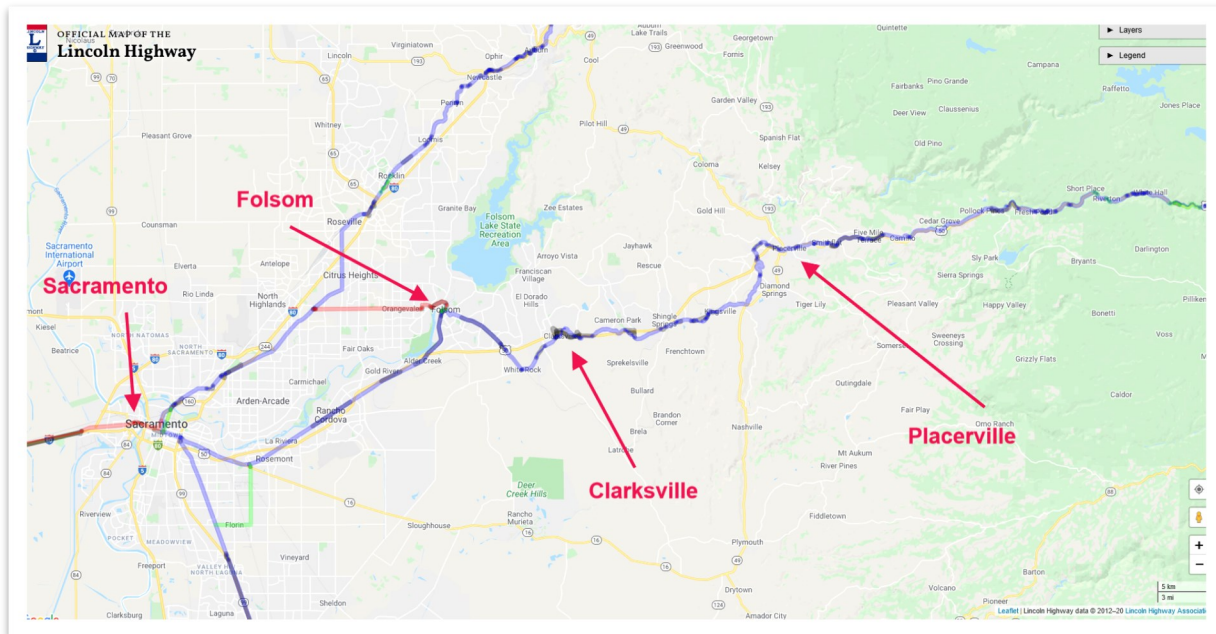
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The end of the hike and the road. Monica off to the right, looking for “C” monuments.



Above is a map showing Clarksville Grade and surrounding cities. Clarksville is just east of El Dorado Hills and West of Placerville on the southern route of The Lincoln Highway. Click the map for a larger version.





## MARK YOUR 2021 CALENDAR

Saturday <b>JANUARY 9, 2021</b> 12:00 Noon	State Chapter Meeting (Location TBA)
Saturday <b>APRIL 3, 2021</b> 12:00 Noon	State Chapter Meeting (Location TBA)
Saturday <b>JULY 10, 2021</b> 12:00 Noon	State Chapter Meeting (Location TBA)
Saturday <b>OCTOBER 2, 2021</b> 12:00 Noon	State Chapter Meeting (Location TBA)

**NOTE:** Announcement of Chapter Meeting locations are mailed via postcard to all current members approximately 2 weeks prior to the actual date. They are also posted on the California Chapter web site. Contact Joel Windmiller regarding mailing of postcards.

**NOTE:** For information on Car Cruise and Sports Leisure Bus Tours, contact Paul Gilger. paulgilger@att.net or Joel Windmiller, [joelwindmiller@att.net](mailto:joelwindmiller@att.net)

**NOTE:** For additional information on the 2021 LHA Conference go to [www.lincolnhighway.org](http://www.lincolnhighway.org)

**NOTE:** Meetings are preceded by lunch which is scheduled for 12:00 noon, unless otherwise noted.  
Official meetings will commence at approximately 1:00 pm





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California Chapter LHA Web Site Maintained by James Lin  
Log in at; <http://www.lincolnhighway.org/ca>





Meeting Agenda for October 10, 2020  
Zoom Meeting

1. Meeting Called to Order: 1:09 pm
2. Introductions: 44 people Attendance Sign-in Sheet Count
  - a. Jesse: Was a member in 2013, but allowed his membership to lapse. He did ride his Harley across the 1913 alignment from Lincoln Park in San Francisco to Time Square in New York.
  - b. Gary: He's an "old car guy". Found some information a couple of weeks ago, did some research, and applied for membership. Planning a trip for next year and wants some information.
  - c. Julia: Apart of LH in Reno. Has done the Lincoln Highway twice. Once in a 1956 Chevy 210.
3. Approval of July Meeting Minutes [attachment]
  - a. Move to approve the October 2020 meeting: Motion made by Bill Van Tagan. Second by Paul Gilger. Motion passed.
4. Officer, Staff, & Committee Reports
  - 1) Neil Rodriques (Friend of the Lincoln Highway 2019): State Director
    - a) Need an update for officer names and contact information
    - b) Joliet 2021: conference may be pushed out a little later.
    - c) Car Tour may be postponed to 2022 due to (you guessed it) COVID.
    - d) Sacramento National Conference 2022 or 2023
      - i) To do list started and people signed up for things we need to start working on: Committee Members (in parenthesis); Bill Von Taugen, Joel Windmiller (anywhere he is needed)
        - (1) Hotels (Marriott Hotel in Rancho Cordova): Jesse Juarez/Mark Hoffman (City of Rancho Cordova)
        - (2) Banquet Location: Jesse Juarez/Scott Miner/Greg Gaskin/Moe Mohanna
        - (3) Presentations/Activities: Jeopardy Presentation (Joe Teresi)
        - (4) Drive Tours: Paul Gilger, Jesse Juarez (motorcycles), Chuck&Nora





LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

**CALIFORNIA CHAPTER**

- (5) Walking Tours: Old Town Sac, Capital Building
  - (6) Bus Tours: Paul Gilger, Mark Hoffman
  - (7) Museum Tours
  - (8) Other tours
  - (9) Historical LH artifacts and places still in existence  
for handouts
  - (10) Financial and Expenditure Report
  - (11) Sponsors
  - (12) Mailing List
  - (13) Restaurants on the Lincoln Highway
  - (14) Brochure from National
  - (15) Auto/Motorcycle Club Notification: Mark Burnside  
(Packers), Jesse Juarez (BlueKnights), Chuck & Nora  
(Model A/T)
- 2) Joel Windmiller: President [membership: reminder cards, markers]
- a) Manuel Garcia: Corning, CA: Upon surveying property in Paradise, CA he found an original Lincoln Highway marker from 1913. Planning on keeping it for now, but will eventually donate to LH.
  - b) Glenn Beck: he is planning cross country LH tour and was asking for information on places to stop road directions. Joel gave him some information on people to contact to help him.
  - c) Sisily Road Report: Placer County has given permission to build structure. Joel will monitor to see if there is any damage for the Lincoln Highway. He will be in contact with Placer County on logistics.
  - d) January 2021 will be zoom meeting.
- 3) Trey Pitenberger: Vice-President
- a) Two signs on Old Bass Lake Road have been decapitated. Recommends that we do not replace the signs. Looks like collectors are collecting them.
  - b) Rollins Lake Road sign is also missing. It looks like someone plowed into that one. Trey will check with Placerville to see if they have the sign and what their plans are for replacing the sign.
  - c) Stencil on the railroad crossing in Weimar has been tagged. This is the second time. The stencil team will repaint the "L"



LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION

**CALIFORNIA CHAPTER**

- d) Folsom Historical Society has a 1929 post that is sitting out in the back of the museum. Trey is in contact with Folsom in signing the Lincoln Highway. Bob D. and Norm originally donated it to the museum on behalf of the chapter.
  - e) New alignments that have been unmapped. Monica and Trey are working with Paul to get those finds mapped.
  - f) PCWA Sign: Placer County: Lincoln Highway sign is larger than the Hwy 40 sign. Trey wondered where they were made. Placer County may have made that sound. The sign is fading. Who should he contact to see who would update or replace the sign. Paul thinks they would like a phone call to let them know the state of the sign.
- 4) Grant Gassman: Treasurer's Report
- Deposits
- i) \$288 from National
  - ii) \$200 for signage from Bill von Tagan
  - iii) \$100 for signage from NY Director: Jerry Pepper
- Ending Balance: \$2,102.11
- 5) Paulette Johnston: Secretary
    - a) No report submitted.
  - 6) Gary Kinst: Chapter Historian
    - a) Has always done an amazing job with our Traveler, but he will need to step down as editor of "The Traveler" due to health issues and burnout. Board recommends he stay on as Chapter Historian
    - b) Several members commented on the love of the Traveler Newsletter and understanding the health issues and burnout.
    - c) Joel is looking for someone to take over the Traveler and made a suggestion of Trey.
      - i) Trey accepted and would be delighted to fill in for this position. The Traveler is how Trey found out about the LH.
    - d) Question as to where is the historic information is at this time. Joel has boxes of materials from Norm as well as a backup of other materials. When Bob's stuff is added, we will need a storage unit of some kind to hold all the materials safely. Trey could help out with the storage of materials. Joel and Trey will stay in contact and take care of the storage of the materials.



- 7) Jimmy Lin: Website Update
    - a) Power Point of the LHA Web Stats for 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter
    - b) Users are down, but due to the pandemic, this is not a surprise. Winter tends to be our lowest time of the year.
    - c) More mobile phone usage which makes it a definite necessity.
    - d) Media group continues to grow
    - e) California's Website is down since last year, again not surprising due to pandemic.
    - f) Traveler has more hits since nice year.
    - g) Chapter email list: 188 sent out, 2 bounced, 0 unsubscribed.
  - 8) Trey Pitenberger: Signage
    - a) Ken Cooper of Manteca is a new member and Michael wanted to thank him for getting him here today.
    - b) Reviewed a list of successful projects all over California.
    - c) Requested more people to help take on signage work
  - 9) Adventures in California History LH [Trey]
  - 10) Coach Tours: Mark Hoffman
    - a) Had a five day tour out of Ely, dropped down and picked up the Lincoln Highway back to Sacramento.
    - b) Highlights: Austin is all torn up on both sides of the street for now. Austin will have sidewalks for the first time in history. Eureka has a great museum and opera house. Near Ely there is a drug store from 1979 that has been preserved. The doors were closed and everything left intact until one day someone rediscovered it. It's now a museum that is a period piece. Economy Drug is the best place for ice cream and they have an old time toy museum. One of the best places to look at stars at night. Also visited a bordello...
  - 11) Member Reports
    - a) Bill VT: They completed the Yellowstone Trail. This completes their second transcontinental road.
    - b) Mark B: Thanks to Covid I get to participate in these meetings. I have enjoyed being here today.
  5. Old Business
  6. New Business
  7. Lincoln Highway Association 2021 Americana Tour (Paul)
    - a. 905 miles over 9 days.
    - b. Paul shared the schedule
-





LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION  
**CALIFORNIA CHAPTER**

- c. The event is being postponed until 2021.
8. Donation Button:
  - a. Postponed discussion until Jimmy is here at the next meeting.
  - b. Would like to be able to drive people to the donation button to be a part of the event of signing the LH.
  - c. Suggestion of what the money would be going toward.
9. Meeting Adjourned: Motion to end meeting Paul Gilger, second by Paulette Johnston seconded. Motion passed.
10. Next Meeting will be January 9, 2021.

Minutes submitted by: Secretary Paulette Johnston  
Edited by President Joel Windmiller / Webmaster Jimmy Lin

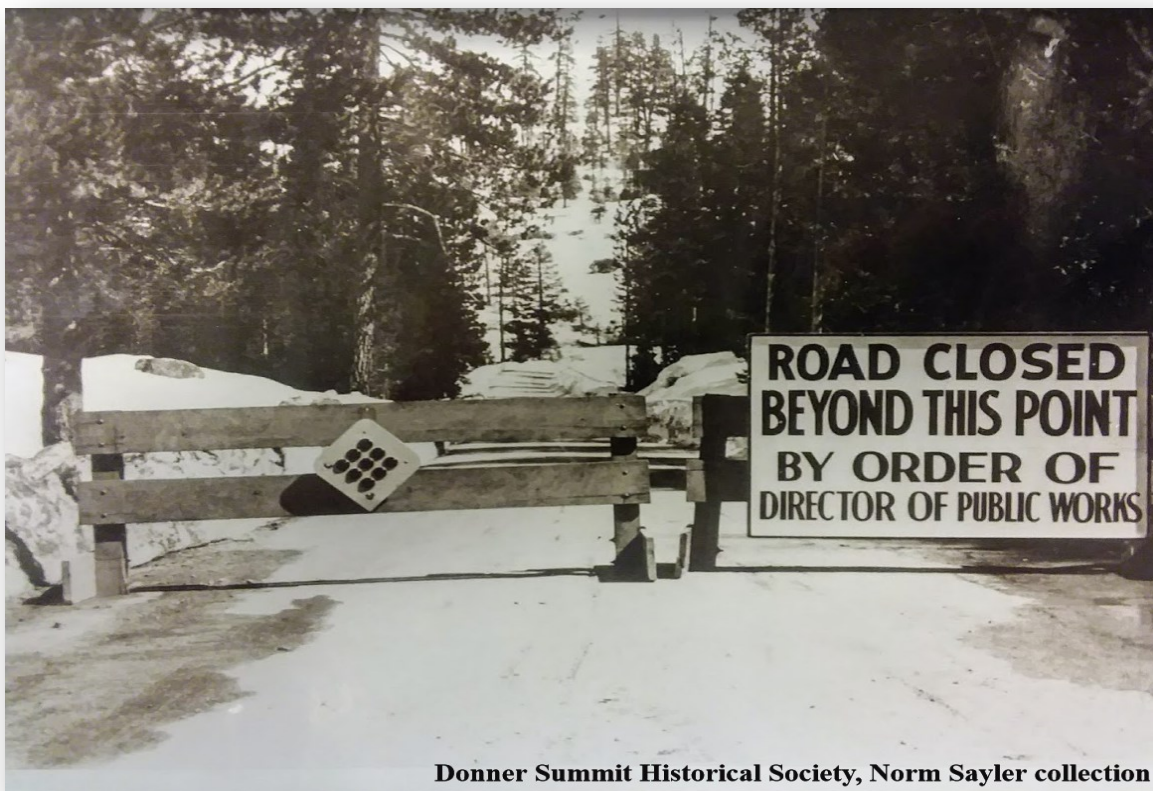


*A rare photo showing automobiles headed east towards the Southern Pacific snow tunnels and the Lincoln Highway subway. Back in the day, the road was not plowed by the state, so Truckee merchants would hand dig the snow in an attempt to get the tourists over the summit earlier. Sometimes they would spread soot on the snow to get it to melt faster. That's the black material on the snow we see in the photo!*

# There was a time...

...when you couldn't get across the mountains during winter as the state of California Division of Public Works, now Cal Trans, did not plow the high country. When the weather got rough and the road impassible, the Director of Public Works closed the highway at Baxter till the spring thaw.

Truckee and Lake Tahoe's merchants went up to the high country in the spring and hand shoveled the snow, so the tourists could get there sooner and spend! ! They even tried sprinkling fireplace ash on the snow in an attempt to get it to melt quicker. The Auburn Ski Club had for years plowed their route to their ski run at Cisco. One day they invited state representatives to see their work. When the representatives saw the potential and the incredible traffic jam, they decided to plow the roads in winter.



Donner Summit Historical Society, Norm Saylor collection

*Control gates at Baxter.*

*The Lincoln Highway, your road to adventure!*

*There's a lot to see and do on the Lincoln Highway. Whether you're a resident of one of the Lincoln Highway states, a visitor or someone interested in learning more about the Lincoln Highway, the LHA is for you! Many sections of the right-of-way are still in place waiting for you to explore them...*

THE  
CALIFORNIA  
CHAPTER,  
LINCOLN  
HIGHWAY  
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 447  
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To learn more about joining us, click the  
Lincoln Highway logo below.



*Click the above logo to learn more!*

**Resources for Lincoln Highway enthusiasts  
(click the link to be taken to the site)**

[The Lincoln Highway in the Golden State on Facebook.](#)

[California Lincoln Highway Association on Facebook](#)

[The Lincoln Highway on Facebook](#)

[The Lincoln Highway on Donner Summit, a photo collection from the Donner Summit Historical Society](#)

[Adventures in California History, Lincoln Highway posts](#)

[The official Lincoln Highway Map](#)

