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# THE TRAVELER

**Lincoln Highway Association • California**

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

Trey Pitsenberger — Editor



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**Upcoming Chapter Meeting: Duarte Garage • Livermore**

**Sat. April 2 • Lunch 11:30 • Meeting 1:00**

**More meeting info on Page 10**

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# Lincoln Highway Association CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



## Editor's Page

The Rainbow Bridge at Donner Summit, 1927

Donner Summit Historical Society, Norm Saylor Collection



Trey Pitsenberger  
Editor

The cover photo of our newsletter shows Register Rock, a well known site along the Pioneer (or southern) route of the Lincoln Highway through California. This section of the old road lies below the current Highway 50 expressway. If you zoom in on the photo, I'm actually standing next to the rock. The rock's name refers to its graffiti for advertisements for businesses.

Below is a photo showing the rock at left, with an auto parked on the Lincoln Highway. You can still travel this section of roadway to get a feel for what it was like traveling in the mountains back in the day. In another month or so the snow will have melted and we will once again be able to travel down this road into the past.



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## Editor's Page

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Adventures in California History

The photo at left shows the Terminus post located in Lincoln Park, San Francisco. Below that is the recently discovered bronze plaque which pre-dated the installation of the 1928 concrete post by eleven years. I will be bringing the plaque, located in the Chapter archives, to our meeting at Duarte Garage in Livermore. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity to see the "END OF THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY."

[Learn more about the plaque in our blog.](#)

Chapter members recently discovered that a couple of our Lincoln Highway signs on Grant Line Road had gone missing during construction work. Kevin Shawver, a long-time member of the chapter, lived in the area and kept us informed of the developments. We sent two signs to Kevin as replacements. As Joel mentions in the President's Report, we then discovered that the City of Tracy replaced the signs at its cost. We often have to remind municipalities when our signs go missing, and it can take a bit of time to get the work down. Many thanks go to Kevin, who has built a great relationship with the City of Tracy over the years.

Our spring chapter meeting is at the historic Duarte Garage in Livermore. We have met there several times, including in July 2015, when the garage celebrated its centennial. We covered the meeting and the historic garage in the [July 2015 issue of \*The Traveler\*](#).

See you there!



**Lincoln Highway Association**  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER





# Presidents Report



*Joel Windmiller*

Spring is in the air: trees, flowers & allergies are in full bloom, with pollen is blowing in the breeze. The California Chapter returns to one of our favorite locations for our Spring Chapter Meeting on Saturday April 2: the historic Duarte Garage in downtown Livermore along the 1913 alignment.

**Lake Slow Street project in San Francisco:** During the January chapter meeting, Trey Pitsenberger and Paul Gilger reported that the city is considering making Lake Street a permanent slow street (<https://www.sfmta.com/projects/lake-slow-street>), which would prevent through traffic and allow only local traffic. Currently we are working with city and local parties involved with the project to include the history of the Lincoln Highway in San Francisco. The chapter proposes to post several plaques along Lake Street informing the public history of the Lincoln Highway.

To get a sense of what would be involved in setting up such plaques, I contacted Bill Oudegeest from the Donner Summit Historical Society, which set up numerous plaques along twenty miles near Donner Summit. Bill sent some quotes for the stands and plaques. The chapter did set up a plaque at the western terminus, but George Clark, who built the stand, has unfortunately passed away.



**Lincoln Highway Association**  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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**Michael Lynch, co-author of [\*Historic Signs over California's Roadways\*](#)** (part of the *Images of America* book series) will speak at the July meeting. Michael is a 35-year veteran of California State Parks, serving as a ranger and superintendent. His presentation will include his collection of images of historic overhead roadway signs, focusing on Lincoln Highway alignments in California.

**"L" California Chapter roadway painting project:** I asked Moe Mohanna what he thought about painting a Lincoln Highway "L" on Tong Road and Old Bass Lake Road, and his answer was "yes." Moe's enthusiasm for promoting and saving the Lincoln Highway is rare for a local developer. The chapter also plans to paint our Lincoln "L" on the concrete on Old White Rock Road in Clarksville. After this has been completed, we will approach public works departments for similar projects in their cities and counties, before contacting Caltrans to place our "L"s on sections of state highway which overlap the Lincoln Highway.

**Echo Summit Lodge:** I contacted Cindy Toran of the California Alpine Club about hosting our October chapter meeting, to which she replied positively. Cindy noted that they hosted a coffee and bathroom break during the 2010 conference tour. She reported the current condition of the Lodge after last year's wildfire: *"As it stands today, the Lodge is not useable — no water because of fire damage to the electrical lines from the Lodge to the well; that will be fixed once the snow melts, allowing access to the conduit route."*



**Lincoln Highway Association**  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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## President's Report

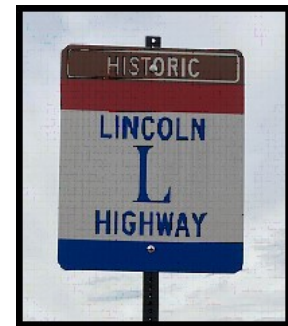
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**Lincoln Highway by Gregory Franzwa books:** Paul Gilger made a motion during our January meeting for the chapter to purchase a complete set of Lincoln Highway books authored by Gregory Franzwa for the chapter archives. We found a listing for such a set on eBay with Buy It Now enabled, which let us buy it with no issues.

**LHA State Chapter Financial Stimulus Program:** In January, the chapter board received email from John Jackson, the national Treasurer, letting us know that the LHA Executive Committee is supporting a new financial stimulus program aimed at helping state chapters accumulate funds to be used for local promotional purposes. The idea is to make an immediate lump-sum advance to each chapter, approximating what they would have collected through the quarterly share of national dues over the next four years. After reviewing the proposal, the chapter will instead apply for a grant from National to help us with our projects.

**New LH Signs in Mountain House:** On Grant Line Road near the Alameda–San Joaquin County Line, six new Lincoln Highway signs have been installed. This section of road has been widened to four lanes for a new housing development. The signs were put up through a joint agreement by the developer and the city of Tracy. We were surprised by these new signs, as the chapter was never contacted about them.



**Lincoln Highway Association**  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



# Adventures in California History

## Lincoln Highway Style

With Trey and Monica Pitsenberger



Monica and Trey

Monica and I made a trip to Donner Summit to check out the legendary December snowfall. While we were there, we wanted to check out the replica Lincoln Highway concrete marker just below the Summit Bridge. At first, we thought it was



missing, but venturing closer, we realized it was buried under about 4 feet to snow, as you can see Monica standing next to it above.



A closer view at left shows old Abe and a pine bough tugging it out just above snow level. I imagine the pillar is more exposed now, as we have had little snow or rain over the last two months. This post was a project of the California LHA chapter and the Boy Scouts.

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# Adventures in California History

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Pictured at right, Monica checks out one of three California “C” monuments we found along a stretch of the Lincoln Highway, near the Bass Lake Road exit on Highway 50, in the foothills above El Dorado Hills. You can see the freeway off in the distance. We had passed by this section of road many times, but this was our first exploration, and the three monuments were a great surprise.



The photo at left shows Monica walking down this section of the road, headed north. Here the road was bisected by constructing the Highway 50 freeway in the 1930s. After the highway, the road continues as the famous Old Bass Lake Road grade, the longest remaining stretch of Lincoln Highway concrete in California.



**Lincoln Highway Association**  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER







# Lincoln Highway Association

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

## Spring Chapter Meeting Saturday, April 2, 2022

Historic Duarte Garage  
Portola Ave and North L Street  
Livermore, California

Officer reports

See the 1917 Terminus Plaque

2022 Illinois Conference

2022 Coach Tour

2022 Eastern Third Tour

California LH Roadway Painting Project

Echo Summit Lodge

Historic Signs over California's Roadways

Meeting starts at 1:00 pm

Lunch at Old Mexico (across the street)

starts at 11:30 am





# There was a time...



This photograph was taken in 1916 and showed the K.V.A. Ball Team in Alta, California. While we are unsure what the initials stand for, we are confident of the location. In the background, you can see a railroad crossing, which at this date would be the Southern Pacific Railroad. The building at the right is the Alta Store, which still operates today.

Today's Alta Bonny Nook Road was in 1916 the Lincoln Highway, which would have brought most transcontinental drivers right through the town. What's fun about the above photo is a Lincoln Highway logo painted on a gas pump of some type. The Lincoln Highway logo was painted on telephone poles, bridges, and any other prominent spot to help drivers navigate the country, and it would have been a central location in town. It was interesting to note no autos in the photo, but horses and buggies were still prevalent in the early 20th Century.



# Lincoln Highway Association

## CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

### MARK YOUR 2022 CALENDAR

Saturday, <b>April 2</b>	Duarte Garage Livermore
Saturday, <b>July 9</b>	TBA
Saturday, <b>October 8</b>	Echo Summit Lodge El Dorado County

**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 website. Contact Joel Windmiller <joelwindmiller@att.net> regarding the mailing of postcards.

**For information on Car Cruise and Sports Leisure Bus Tours**, contact Paul Gilger <paulgilger@att.net> or Joel Windmiller <joelwindmiller@att.net>

**For additional information on the 2022 LHA Conference**, go to [www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/conference/2022](http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/conference/2022)

**NOTE:** Meetings are preceded by lunch at 12:00 noon, unless otherwise noted. Official meetings will start around 1:00 pm.







# Lincoln Highway Association

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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\* Indicates Board Member





LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION  
**California**

## Quarterly Chapter Meeting Minutes – Saturday, January 15, 2022

Online video conference via Zoom

- I. Meeting called to order at 1 PM**
- II. Introductions [Joel] and Attendance (15 members) [Paulette]**
- III. Approval of [October 2021 meeting minutes](#)**
- IV. Officer and committee reports**
  - A. Neil Rodrigues: State Director**
    1. **Speaker invitation:** asked to speak at [Greater South Bay Region of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America](#) on February 2
    2. **California Wishbone Tour brochure**, including map of Lincoln Highway between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe – Neil is still working on it
    3. **National board meeting:** discussion of 2022 conference (next item)
    4. **2022 Conference in Joliet, Illinois:** Monday, June 20–Friday, June 24. National President Kay Shelton Kozak will post details in next issue of the Forum
    5. **2023 Conference in Sacramento/Folsom area:**
      - a. Need conference committee volunteers
      - b. Need to decide on a good central location, around Sacramento or Folsom
      - c. Need to choose hotel or motel with rooms for Trading Post and speaking halls
      - d. Need to choose speakers, seminar topics, and movies
      - e. Paul Gilger and Mark Hoffmann are working on tour routes, both self-guided and bus tours
      - f. Need to come up with list of local spots to visit (including museums and historical spots)
      - g. Need to find catering
      - h. Need to develop and produce documentation
      - i. NOTE: Everything needs to be ADA compliant because, as Paul Gilger said, the average age of the participants is “dead”.
  - B. Joel Windmiller: President**
    1. **Chapter Historian:** Gary Kinst passed away. We held an open discussion for



everyone to honor Gary and his work for the Lincoln Highway. He was the voice of the California Chapter. We have definitely lost a valued member of our association.

2. **Sacramento County Health Department** sent out an executive order to hold all public and private meetings online, including this one.
3. **Caltrans right-of-way maps:** Joel collected 200 right-of-way maps for all five alignments of the Lincoln Highway in California.
4. **Clarksville Marker Project:** No update on marker project for Moe Mohanna. Will update at the April meeting.
5. **Michael Lynch**, co-author of [\*Historic Signs over California's Roadways\*](#) (part of the *Images of America* book series) would like to do a presentation for our April chapter meeting at the Duarte Garage in Livermore.
6. **Davis 1928 concrete markers:** Email from Doren Maxwell of Davis gave historical information on the two original 1928 concrete markers in Davis.
7. **Historic Highway Status:** Working on a letter to urge the state legislature to have the Lincoln Highway be a historical California highway.
  - a. Jimmy: there is no specific measure for the legislature to endorse, so the letter will not have any effect.
  - b. Trey has a box of information on how US 40 became a California historical highway from Eddie Lang.

#### C. **Trey Pitsenberger: Vice President / Signage / Traveler / Chapter Historian**

1. **Caltrans right-of-way maps:** located second Strawberry resort using the Caltrans right-of-way maps that Joel described earlier.
2. **The Forum:** Wrote an article for the Forum on finding the 1917 bronze terminus plaque from the Native Daughters of the Golden West flagpole.
3. **The Traveler:** Produced the latest issue of the Traveler newsletter, which is up and [ready for reading](#).
4. **Social media:** Donner Memorial Historical Society is a friend of the Lincoln Highway Association. Trey is constantly updating the chapter's accounts on Facebook and Twitter.
5. **1917 western terminus bronze plaque** was bought by Trey and saved. Weighs about 40 pounds. Amazing story in the [latest issue of The Traveler](#).

#### D. **Grant Gassman: Treasurer**

1. **From National:** \$270 × 2
  2. **Book sales:** During the October meeting, we sold \$270 of Lincoln Highway books by Gregory Franzwa.
    - a. We are in search of a single complete set of Gregory's books. Paul Gilger found a set of books on eBay during the meeting. Motion by Paul for Joel to purchase the books and be reimbursed by the chapter. Seconded by Paulette. Motion passed unanimously. Joel will make the purchase through eBay and deliver the book set to Trey for safekeeping.
  3. Balance: contact chapter
-

**E. Paulette Johnston: Secretary**

1. Nothing submitted.

**F. Mark Hoffmann: Tours**

1. **Spring Day Trip:** up to the Rainbow Lodge and to Donner Lake
2. **2023 Tour** from Cheyenne, Wyoming to California for the conference
3. **Fall 2022 trip** to San Francisco is also in the works.
4. Mark will keep us posted as he has more information.

**G. Jimmy Lin: Website****1. Web Report**

- a. Transferred lincolnhighway.org domain to National. In the future: make this the primary domain for LHA's website
- b. Redesign of California Chapter website in progress. New URL: calincolnhighway.org

**2. Stats**

- a. This is an unprecedented year.
- b. Quarter 4 has doubled from the year before, and there are more spikes of traffic than before. Paul and Paulette think it's because of Amor Towles' novel *The Lincoln Highway*. If you haven't read it, it's so good!
- c. Both map and homepage visits are up sharply, a nice trend reversal for the map.
- d. Mobile widens lead over desktop. Tablet stays flat.
- e. Social media: Largest year-over-year percentage increase ever, likely due to Trey's consistent posting. Facebook up 11% and Twitter up 19%. Chapter Facebook group members is up 62%.
- f. 208 emails sent out, 3 bounced, 0 unsubscribed, 103 opened.

**H. Presentations: no reports****V. Old business (may reference officer and committee reports)****A. Facebook group *Lincoln Highway in the Golden State* [Trey]**

- [VP report item #4](#)

**B. *Adventures in California History* [Trey]**

- [VP report item #4](#)

**C. Ophir Road Monument – LH sign replacement [Trey]**

1. Sign was replaced, but the L was red instead of blue. They are replacing it as soon as possible.

**D. LH Historic Highway status in California [Joel]**

- [President report item #7](#)
-



**E. LH historical book project [Trey]**

1. Trey will contact Gary Kinst's daughter to be sure we have their blessing to move forward with the publishing of his book.
2. Trey has already contacted her about any of Gary's research that the family might be willing to share with the chapter.

**F. Signage and markers [Trey and Joel]: no report****G. 2022 Illinois and 2023 California conferences [Neil]**

- State Director report [item #4 \(2022 conference\)](#) and [item #5 \(2023 conference\)](#)

**H. Website report [Jimmy]**

- [Website report above](#)

**I. Other business [members]: none****VI. New business (*may reference officer and committee reports*)****A. Officer Elections [Joel]**

1. Running for re-election:
  - President: Joel Windmiller
  - Vice President: Trey Pitsenberger
  - Treasurer: Grant Gassman
  - Secretary: Paulette Johnston
  - Field Secretary: Trey Pitsenberger
  - Historian: Trey Pitsenberger
2. Motion made by Mark Hoffmann to elect officers. Trey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**B. Winter National Board meeting [Neil and Trey]**

- [State Director report item #3](#)

**C. 1917 LH terminus bronze plaque [Trey]**

- [VP report item #5](#)

**D. Lake Street slow street in San Francisco [Trey and members]**

1. City is considering [making Lake Street a permanent slow street](#), which would prevent through traffic and allow only local traffic. We could have a permanent kiosk conveying to passersby that they are on the first coast-to-coast highway in the U.S. (There is no historic paving left, just that the alignment goes down that street.)
2. Slow street conversion may allow us to have more of a presence in San Francisco.

**E. Caltrans maps of as-built plans [Joel]**

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- [President report item #3](#)

**F. Remembering Gary Kinst, Chapter Historian [members]**

- [President report item #1](#)

**G. 2022 meeting locations [Joel and members]**

1. Next meeting will be at the Duarte Garage in Livermore.

**H. Effect of COVID-19 on chapter activities this year [Joel and members]**

- [President report item #2](#)

**I. Other business [members]**

1. **After Ike** book and upcoming documentary: its website [after-ike.com](http://after-ike.com) points to a [video on C-SPAN](#) of Michael Owen, the book's author, narrating the film of the 1919 military convoy along the Lincoln Highway. At the end of the video, he gives a nod to the Lincoln Highway Association.
2. **Chapter Bylaws** need to be updated and revised. A board meeting will take place to update and streamline the bylaws. These changes will be presented to the members in April or October.
3. **Altamont Pass signs** are gone or faded. Paul has recently driven this route.

## VII. Meeting adjournment

**A. Jimmy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lawrence Friedman.**

**B. Next meeting**

- April 2 at the [Duarte Garage and Lincoln Highway Museum](#) in Livermore.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Paulette Johnston, Secretary  
February 27, 2022*

*Edited by President Joel Windmiller and Website editor Jimmy Lin*



*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...

**To learn more about joining us, visit**  
**[www.lincolnhighway.org/support](http://www.lincolnhighway.org/support)**



*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](#)

**CALIFORNIA  
CHAPTER  
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