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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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*The Lincoln Highway at Slippery Ford, southern route in El Dorado County.*

**Upcoming Chapter Meeting**

**Sat. July 9 • 11:30am • Donner Ski Ranch**

**More meeting info on Page 11**

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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

Our summer chapter meeting is on July 9 at the Old 40 Bar and Grill at Donner Ski Ranch. The grill is an excellent venue, as right outside the door is California's most historic square mile. The Donner Ski Ranch is a landmark as one of California's earliest ski resorts, and Sugar Bowl is another pioneer ski resort just down the road.

Our October chapter meeting will be held at another historic summit, at Johnson Pass. The California Alpine Club is our host. You don't want to miss this meeting, as we will be able to view the inside of the building, which is situated on a

sheer cliff looking down upon Lake Tahoe. The building was originally a Forest Service lookout for visitors traveling the southern route of the Lincoln Highway through California. The building was then leased to Theodore Clemens Wohlbrück (1879–1936), known as "T.C." Wohlbrück, who enlarged the building for what he called a "canteen" service station. The building today still includes some of T.C.'s handmade furniture. The color photo shows the lodge as it is today. It still has a Lincoln Highway sign!



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## Editor's Page

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In the past we posted the minutes of our last meeting in this newsletter. Our webmaster, Jimmy Lin, has now posted all the minutes of our past meetings on the website at [www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/ca/meetings/](http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/ca/meetings/). We will leave a link in the newsletter for you to follow if you wish.

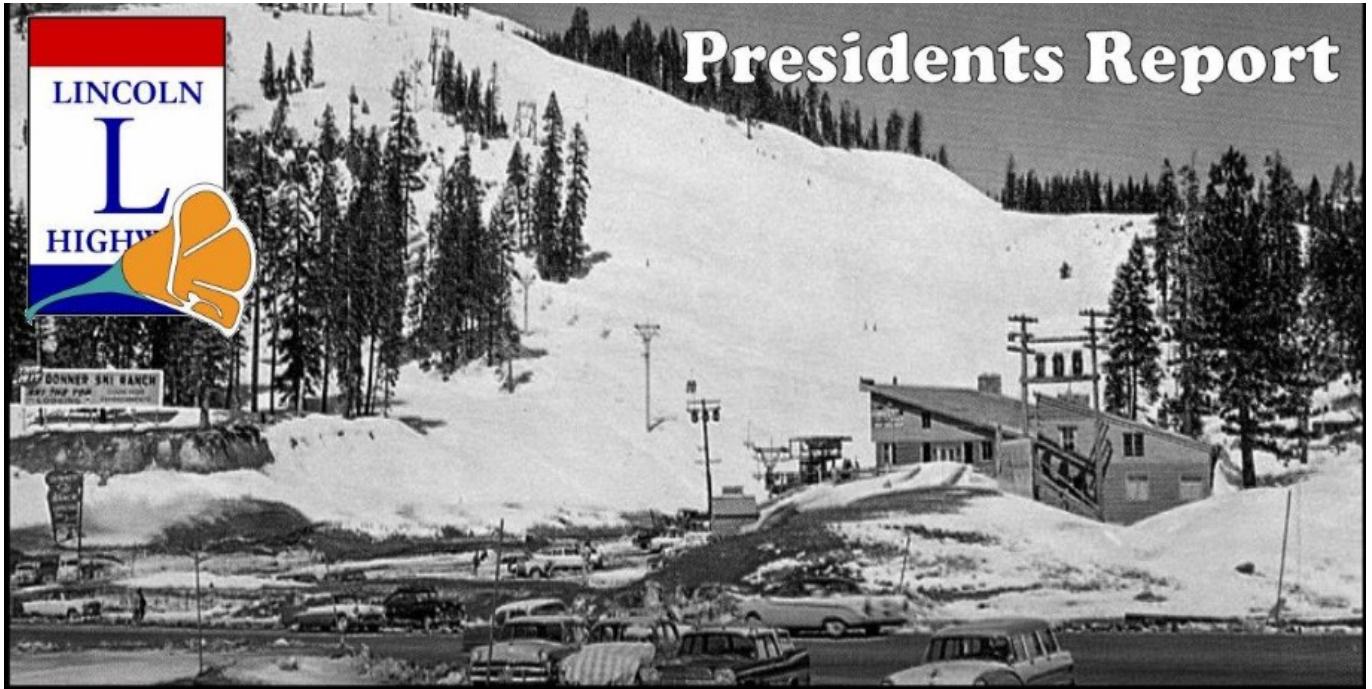
The National Lincoln Highway Conference for 2023 will be in our state! Our committee is starting the preparation by choosing a hotel near Folsom. We are currently working with the Lake Natoma Inn, which would be a great location along the Lincoln Highway and near Folsom's historic district. If you are interested in helping prepare for the conference, contact Joel or me.

I've contacted the family of our former editor, Gary Kinst, to seek their permission to help get Gary's book about the Lincoln Highway in California published. It was a dream of Gary's, and we would like to see it come to fruition. I have a contact at Arcadia Publishing, so we are moving ahead, albeit a bit slowly. Some of you have donated money to see the book published, and I'll keep you abreast of developments.



**Lincoln Highway Association**  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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Joel Windmiller  
President

Summer has arrived, schools are in recess, and families are packing up for vacations. The California Chapter returns to Donner Summit for our Summer Chapter Meeting on Saturday, July 9. This will be a great opportunity to cool off in the high mountain air while exploring California's most historic square mile. The chapter meeting will be held at Old 40 Bar and Grill located at the Donner Ski Ranch at Donner Summit.

1. On **June 12–20, the Eastern Third Tour**, the first of three tours that follow the final 1928 alignment of the Lincoln Highway, took place. Tour guides Paul Gilger and Jim Cassler lead group members from New York to Joliet, Illinois. Stopping at numerous historical sites along the road was a fun-packed adventure. Paul Gilger will present the tour during our summer chapter meeting.
2. **The Illinois chapter hosted the annual conference in Joliet from June 20–24**, after a three-year absence due to the pandemic. Besides the Lincoln Highway, attendees were could also explore the Dixie Highway (another brainchild of Carl Fisher) and Route 66, which connected Chicago to Los Angeles and was a primary route for those who migrated west, especially during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. It was recognized in popular culture by the 1946 hit song “Get Your Kicks on Route 66.”

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**3. Next year, California will host the 2023 national conference.** Our committee is currently working on the agenda, which will include bus tours of Donner and Echo Summit alignments of the Lincoln. There will also be self-guided driving tours, one before the conference from the Western Terminus Marker in San Francisco to Folsom, and one after from Folsom to the Duarte Garage in Livermore. The Folsom–Rancho Cordova area will host the conference. The awards dinner will be held at the Mohanna Ranch and Event Center, which also hosted the Lincoln Highway 100th Anniversary California Dinner in 2013. Other details are still in progress.

**4. Lake Slow Street project in San Francisco:** There are no additional updates from my last report. We are currently waiting for a response from the city to install a Lincoln Highway History plaque.

**5. "L" California Chapter roadway painting project:** Monica Pitsenberger is working on the stencil, which will be used on concrete alignments in El Dorado and Placer Counties. We are waiting for replies from Caltrans and local county public works departments for painting "L" along alignments under state or county control.

**6. Echo Summit Lodge:** The October 8 chapter meeting will be held at the Echo Summit Lodge, currently managed by the California Alpine Club. We are researching having a food truck set up before the meeting, so we can enjoy lunch at the lodge.



**Lincoln Highway Association**  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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# Adventures in California History

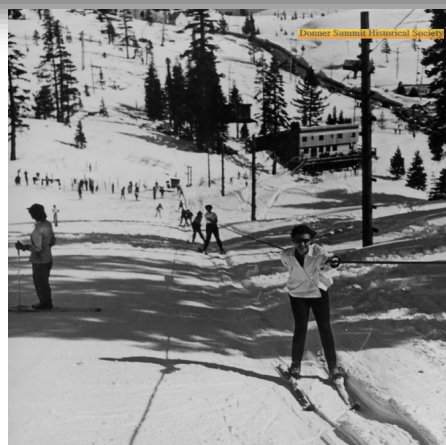
## Lincoln Highway Style

With Trey and Monica Pitsenberger

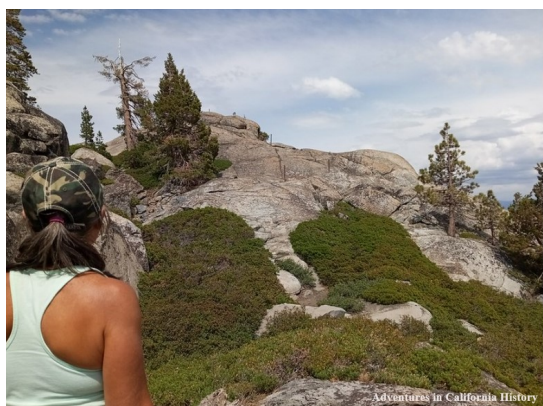


Monica and Trey

As we head into summer, it's time to head back up-country to enjoy the fresh air and cooler temperatures. Our summer chapter meeting is being held at the Old 40 Bar and Grill at Donner Ski Ranch. This will be a great opportunity to check out some of the amazing history that's just outside our meeting place. Donner Ski Ranch is itself historic, as it was one of the pioneering ski resorts in the west.



A skier using a rope-tow at the Ranch, c. 1948



Monica looking up towards the air station site.

If you are a bit daring, there is a short hike up to the Donner Summit weather station site, part of the 1920s era Transcontinental Airway System. Before pilots had instruments for flying, they flew by what they could see. There were beacons and weather stations for guiding planes across the country.

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# Adventures in California History

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*The Weather Station overlooking Donner Lake*

The weather can be so extreme on Donner Summit that steel cables were stretched over it and anchored to the granite when the weather station was built. That kept the building from blowing away.



*Monica standing at the site of the Weather Station.*

Just below the weather station site is a small quarry that was used for building and repair of the highway. There is a “C” Monument in a most unlikely location. Can you see it in front of Monica in the photo below?



*“C” Monument and pine cone.*



**Lincoln Highway Association**  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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# Adventures in California History

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This photograph shows the first snow removal equipment on Donner Pass. These vehicles didn't work the Lincoln, but the early Highway 40, which followed the second-generation Lincoln Highway.



Donner Summit Historical Society, Norm Saylor Collection

An automobile is headed down the grade at Donner Summit. This photograph was taken before the use of snow removal equipment. The snow was hand dug by eager merchants and others who were looking for the first customer to come over the summit.

To the right is a fantastic shot of a couple of automobiles headed down into the auto subway under the Southern Pacific tracks next to the China Wall. The snow looks dirty, as the very same people who hand-dug the snow would bring ash and coal dust to sprinkle on the snow in an attempt to help it melt faster.



Donner Summit Historical Society, Norm Saylor Collection

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# Adventures in California History

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What looks like the Rainbow Bridge is the scaffolding for the new bridge. The actual height of the bridge will reach those two abutments we see towards the top of the photo.

Here is a cool photograph of the construction of the Rainbow Bridge. We can see the new bridge, the approaching roads, and if you look very closely at the very bottom right, an automobile headed up by the small pond and using the original alignment of the Lincoln Highway, since the bridge is not yet complete. The small pond the car is passing was formed by the construction of the second-generation Lincoln, which blocked its outflow.

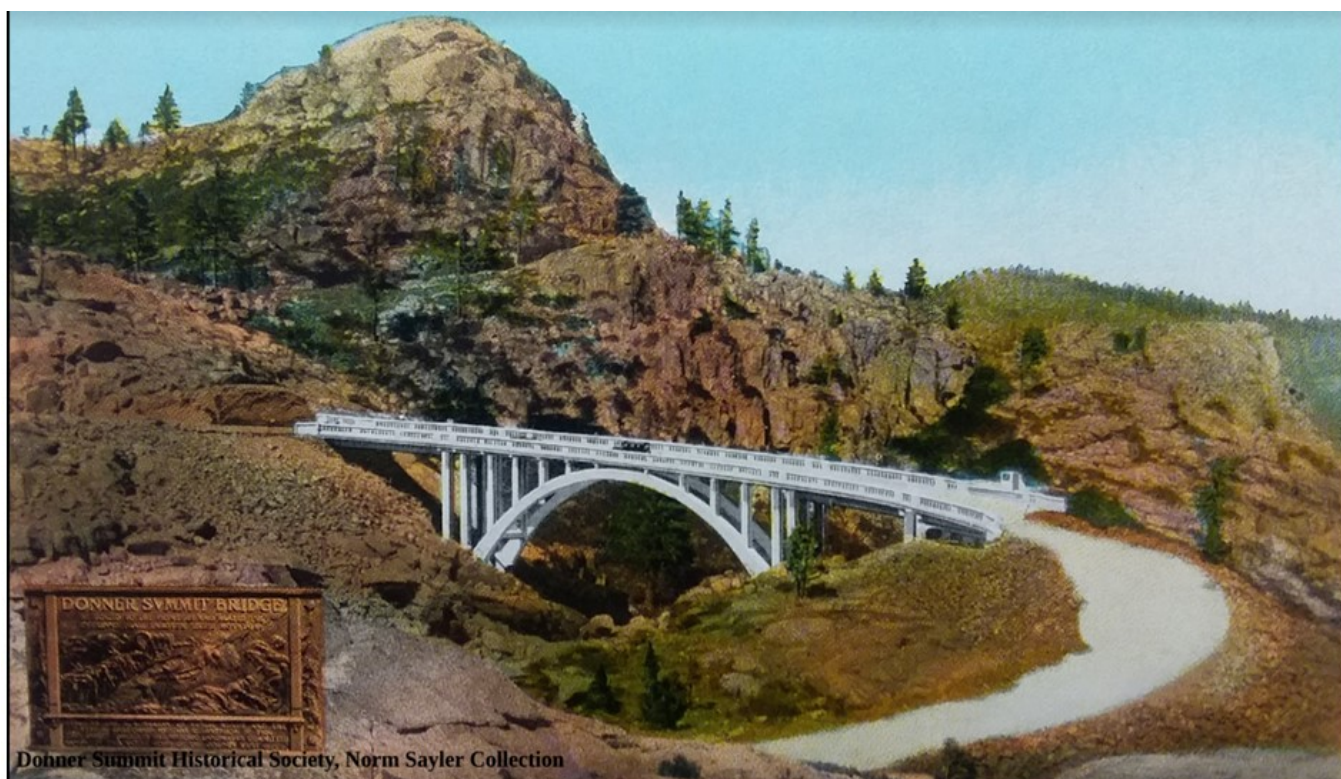


Donner Summit Historical Society, Norm Saylor Collection

# Adventures in California History

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A beautiful postcard photograph is showing the newly completed second-generation Lincoln Highway bridge, complete with dirt approaches, which changed to asphalt when the road became Highway 40. The plaque pictured used to be at the lookout point near the bridge. It now rests at the Donner Summit Historical Society.



**Lincoln Highway Association**  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



**Donner Ski Ranch, Highway 40 Grill, Donner Summit**

*Enjoy the cool mountain air while exploring the most historic square mile in California.*

**Saturday, July 9, 2022**

**Starts at 11:30 am**

Old 40 Bar and Grill  
Donner Ski Ranch  
19320 Donner Pass Road  
Norden, CA 95724

[Google map of location](#)



**Lincoln Highway Association**

**CALIFORNIA CHAPTER**

# There was a time...

Enjoy these advertisements from a news article in the Sacramento Bee, July 1916. At this time, the state highway department did not plow the roads up and over the two California summits. You had to wait for the spring melt before attempting to cross the mountains. Heading up to the resorts was quite a trip, and the various resorts did their best to lure the new auto traveler. These are some advertisements for resorts and camps along the southern or Pioneer route of the Lincoln Highway in California. (\$1 in 1916 is worth about \$27 in 2022.)

## TAHOE VISTA

California's Most Delightful Mountain Resort  
The Hotel Where You Always Feel At Home

Ten miles from Truckee by auto; new State road from Tahoe Tavern to Tahoe Vista. At the northern end of the lake, affording the grandest panoramic view in the Sierra Nevada. Finest fishing grounds on the lake. Finest beach for bathing. Hotel modern. Hot and cold water, electric lights, mail, express and telephone. "Good eatings." Fine casino for dancing. \$14 to \$16 per week. Special monthly and family rates. Sleeping accommodations in hotel or floored tents. Send for folder. Address TAHOE VISTA, Lake Tahoe, Cal., Ed L. Paton, Mgr.

## Glenbrook Inn, Lake Tahoe

OPENS JUNE 15TH.  
Excellent table with home cooking. Milk, cream, butter, vegetables, etc., supplied by our own ranch. Finest fishing, good orchestra, and all kinds of outdoor sports. Cottages with hot and cold running water and private baths. On Lincoln Highway, with auto accommodations. Daily steamer. Telephone and telegraph connections. ADDRESS GLENBROOK IMPROVEMENT CO., GLENBROOK, NEVADA.

## HOMewood McKinney's

Lake Tahoe, West shore. Hotel, Tent and Cottage bedrooms: \$2.50 and \$3.00 per day; \$14.00 and \$18.00 per week. Electric lights. Open air dancing. MRS. A. W. JOST, Homewood, Cal.

A moderate priced resort. Rates, \$12 to \$18 per week. Southern Pacific, ninety-day excursion ticket from Sacramento, including trip around the lake, \$13.55. For further information address MURPHY BROS. and MORGAN, McKinneys P. O., Lake Tahoe, California.

## Riverton Resort

The only resort on the banks of the American River. Best fishing, hunting, dancing, etc. First class dining room and cafe, garage, tents, electric lights. Reasonable rates. Address M. W. DAVIDSON, Proprietor, Pacific P. O., El Dorado County, Cal.

## TAHOE VISTA

California's Most Delightful Mountain Resort  
The Hotel Where You Always Feel At Home

Ten miles from Truckee by auto; new State road from Tahoe Tavern to Tahoe Vista. At the northern end of the lake, affording the grandest panoramic view in the Sierra Nevada. Finest fishing grounds on the lake. Finest beach for bathing. Hotel modern. Hot and cold water, electric lights, mail, express and telephone. "Good eatings." Fine casino for dancing. \$14 to \$16 per week. Special monthly and family rates. Sleeping accommodations in hotel or floored tents. Send for folder. Address TAHOE VISTA, Lake Tahoe, Cal., Ed L. Paton, Mgr.

## The New Hotel Placerville

PLACERVILLE, CAL.  
The Best Hotel on the Lincoln Highway  
Rooms \$1.00 up. Table d'Hote. Meals 50c—a la carte at all hours. A real home for motorists, mining men, commercial travelers. E. Z. ROWEN, Prop.

## Riverton Resort

The only resort on the banks of the American River. Best fishing, hunting, dancing, etc. First class dining room and cafe, garage, tents, electric lights. Reasonable rates. Address M. W. DAVIDSON, Proprietor, Pacific P. O., El Dorado County, Cal.

## "PHILLIPS"

At the "Summit" on the State Highway between Placerville and Lake Tahoe. An Ideal Summer Resort in Heart of the Sierra. Opens June 1st. For rates or information address MRS. VADE BRYSON, Prop., Vade P. O., El Dorado County, Cal.

## The SHORTEST ROUTE TO LAKE TAHOE

is via Placerville on the Lincoln Highway. For road information and expert auto repairing stop at the

**Placerville Garage**  
PLACERVILLE, CAL.  
Opposite the Ohio House  
H. K. MARKS, Manager.

## PIERCE-ARROW STAGE

Sacramento 8 a. m., connecting with steamer Placerville at 10:30 a. m. Leaves for the various River Resorts on the Lincoln Highway to Lake Tahoe: Pacific House, Riverton, White Hall, Kyburz, Strawberry, Phillips, Meyers, The Grove, Tallac, Al Tahoe and Glen Alpine. Write A. L. RICHARDSON, the New Placerville Hotel, or Ohio House, Placerville, El Dorado County, Cal.

## Kyburz Resort

Largest resort on the Placerville State Highway. Electric lighted. Best fishing and hunting in the Sierra. Dancing, etc. Write A. B. KYBURZ & SON, Kyburz P. O., El Dorado County, Cal.  
Kyburz resort is reached via S. P. Co. to Placerville, then Pierce-Arrow stage line from Placerville, at 7 and 11 a. m.

## Al-Tahoe Inn

Lake Tahoe's new, modern hotel. Cottages, housekeeping apartments, tents, camp ground: \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00 day, private bath, including meals, \$12 to \$18 weekly. Cement tennis court, fine bathing, free tents for campers; free garage. D. H. CHAMBERS, Mgr.

## The Easy and Short Way to Lake Tahoe Over the Lincoln and State Highway Is VIA PLACERVILLE

Offers the motorist the greatest comfort and the most beautiful scenery, good hotels, garages, all camping, fishing and hunting supplies.



**MINING, LUMBER, FRUIT GROWING AND GENERAL AGRICULTURE**  
Are the resources of El Dorado County. The best Bartlett pears, cherries and peaches are grown. El Dorado is one of the State's heaviest gold-producing counties.



# Lincoln Highway Association

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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## MARK YOUR 2022 CALENDAR

Saturday **July 9**  
11:30 am

Old 40 Bar and Grill,  
Donner Summit

Saturday **October 8**  
11:30 am

Echo Summit Lodge

Saturday **January 15**  
11:30 am

Location to be announced

**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 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>

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





# Lincoln Highway Association

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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\* Indicates Board Member



*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  
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