



THE TRAVELER

Lincoln Highway Association • California

www.lincolnhighway.org/ca/traveler

Trey Pitsenberger — Editor



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FALL ON THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY



Upcoming Chapter Meeting

October 1 • 11:30am • Donner Ski Ranch

More meeting info on Page 9



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 October Chapter meeting is to be held at the historic summit of Johnsons Pass on October 1. The Alpine Club is our host, and 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.,” who enlarged the building for what he called a “canteen” service station. Today it 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!

Our Chapter is hosting the 2003 National Convention under the theme, “California, Here We Come!” Our host city will be Folsom, along the American River. We are working on having a great lineup of speakers, as well as some great tours of both the northern and southern routes of the Lincoln Highway.

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Editor's Page

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Folsom had contacted the California Chapter on how to celebrate their section of the Father Road. We worked with the Public Works Department to manufacture and install these reflective Lincoln Highway signs. Now the city will be able to show off their work to the entire National membership. We look forward to working with Folsom for this great event.

Historic Folsom District
@Historic_Folsom

Replying to @LincolnHighwayE

#HistoricFolsom is proud to promote the Lincoln Highway on what is now Sutter Street in the District.
#visitfolsom

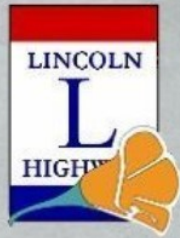


Trey, Monica, and David "Squirrel" Schlosser show off the new sign.
Photo: Ron Harris

With the help of new member Ron Harris, Monica and I have been contacting various businesses along the Highway 50 corridor in El Dorado County, to see if they would allow us to post one of our Historic Lincoln Highway signs on their section of the old highway. We recently had a sign posted at the Strawberry General Store, which sits across from the historic Strawberry Lodge, on the southern Route of the Lincoln Highway. We want to thank the owners of the store, David and Jenifer Schlosser, for placing the sign in a great location easily seen from the road. The 1913 alignment of the southern route in California passes directly in front of the store.



Lincoln Highway Association
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



President's Report



Echo Summit Lodge



As Fall arrives we wait for the fall foliage to reach its peak, the California Chapter meeting held at Echo Summit Lodge overlooking Lake Tahoe.

Echo Summit Lodge: The chapter meeting on October 1 will be held at the Echo Summit Lodge, currently managed by the California Alpine Club. Box Lunches will be provided by Trey and Monica Pitsenberger. The agenda includes: Officer, Committee, Website, Sign & Marker Reports, 2023 California Conference, and an update on the

California Lincoln Highway Book.

California Conference Committee: The committee has been busy working on details and arrangements for next year's conference in Folsom. We are planning tours over both Echo and Donner Summits, and scheduling speakers, including James Taylor Sandrow on the 1915 Panama–Pacific Exposition in San Francisco, and Trey Pitsenberger on the history of Lincoln Highway in California.

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National Treasurer Position: John Jackson is stepping down due to health issues. We are currently searching for a replacement. Anyone who is interested should contact John at jacksonperson2@gmail.com.

Podcast: On August 14, I was a guest on the podcast *California Highways: Route by Route*. The episode, [Building a State Highway System: The 1920s](#), discussed how the Lincoln Highway contributed to the early development of the state highway system in the 1910s and 1920s.

California Lincoln Highway Book: Stephen Provost is currently working on the draft created by our former chapter historian Gary Kinst. He just completed a book titled *America's Loneliest Road: US 50 and the Lincoln Highway in Nevada*, currently available for [purchase on Amazon](#). The California book will be dedicated to our former chapter historian Gary Kinst and should be available for purchase on Amazon by Christmas.



Lincoln Highway Association
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

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Adventures in California History

Lincoln Highway Style

With Trey and Monica Pitsenberger

Echo Summit Lodge at Johnson's Pass



Monica and Trey



Donner Summit Historical Society, Norm Saylor Collection

The early autoist would have finally reached Johnson's Pass after climbing up the steep Meyer's Grade from the Tahoe valley floor. These old autos would need supplies like water and oil once they reached the summit, as they were constantly leaking or burning up fluids. Fortunately, entrepreneur T.C. Wohlbrück had built an early service station and food stop that he called a "canteen." While there had been a small forest service cabin here, T.C. added to it, creating the building we see in the above photo.

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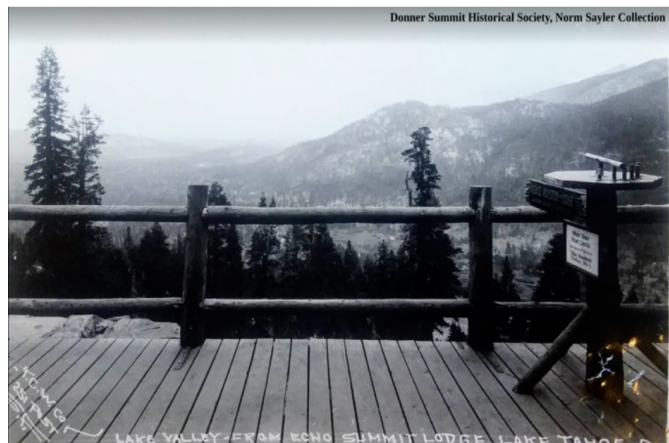
Adventures in California History

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To the left is a rare photograph of the inside of the Echo Summit Canteen. Everything seen in the photo was hand made by T.C. Apparently, some of the furniture is inside the present Alpine Club Lodge, which occupies the site today.

While enjoying a break from the road, you could head out back and check out the magnificent view, as seen at right.



A close up of the proceeding photograph shows the signs attached to a directional device: "Please Register at Lodge" and "Make your post cards from the top of the world, Echo Summit..."



Lincoln Highway Association
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Adventures in California History

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This photograph shows the lodge as approached from the west. Immediately after the lodge, the road drops down a very steep and twisting portion of Meyers Grade headed towards Lake Tahoe. While looking at the photograph through a magnifier, I noticed the sign on the right, which is a Lincoln Highway sign, guiding the traveler along the “highway.”

When the State of California built the current Highway 50 alignment, it bypassed this historic spot for the current route around Echo Summit. The business soon declined, and in 1952 the Alpine Club purchased the lodge and still runs it today. There is a new Lincoln Highway sign, which still stands, attached to the building by the stairs.



Adventures in California History

Adventures in California History

Fall Chapter Meeting



Alpine Club, Echo Summit Lodge

You don't want to miss this opportunity to see the inside of this historic structure on the southern route of the Lincoln Highway in California

Saturday, October 1, 2022

Starts at 11:30 am

Echo Summit Lodge
9010 Johnson Pass Rd
Twin Bridges, CA 95721



Lincoln Highway Association
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



Lincoln Highway Association

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

MARK YOUR 2022–23 CALENDAR

Saturday, **October 1**
11:30 am

Echo Summit
Lodge

Saturday, **January 7**
11:30 am

Location to be
announced

Saturday, **April 1**
11:30 am

Location to be
announced

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 website. Contact Joel Windmiller regarding the mailing of postcards.

NOTE: For information on Car Cruise and Sports Leisure Bus Tours, contact Paul Gilger <paulgilger@att.net> or Mark Hoffman <marksit@aol.com>.

NOTE: For additional information the 2023 LHA Conference, go to www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org.

NOTE: Meetings are preceded by lunch which is scheduled for 11:30 AM, unless otherwise noted. Official meetings will commence at approximately 1:00 pm.





Lincoln Highway Association

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

P.O. Box 447
Carmichael, CA 95609
www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/ca

Joel Windmiller *
Chapter President
Marker and Membership Chairman
(916) 208-9790
joelwindmiller@att.net

Neil Rodrigues *
State Director
Promotional Chairman
(408) 374-6288
neil_rodrigues@yahoo.com

Paulette Johnston *
Secretary
(916) 202-2724
Pj12thrnte@sbcglobal.net

Trey Pitsenberger *
Chapter Vice-President
Field Secretary of Signage
Newsletter Editor
VP National Exec. Committee
(530) 334-6040
trey@pitsenberger.com

Grant Gassman *
Treasurer
(530) 756-5507
grant.gassman@att.net

James Lin
National & State
Webmaster
lincolnhwy@jameslin.name

* 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



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
LINCOLN
HIGHWAY
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 447
Carmichael, CA 95609

