



THE TRAVELER

Lincoln Highway Association • California

www.lincolnhighway.org/ca/traveler

Trey Pitsenberger — Editor



Volume 24, Number 1

Published Quarterly

Winter 2023



Upcoming Chapter Meeting and Officer Elections

January 7 • 11:30am • West Sacramento

More meeting info on Page 12



Lincoln Highway Association

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



Editor's Page

The Rainbow Bridge at Donner Summit, 1927

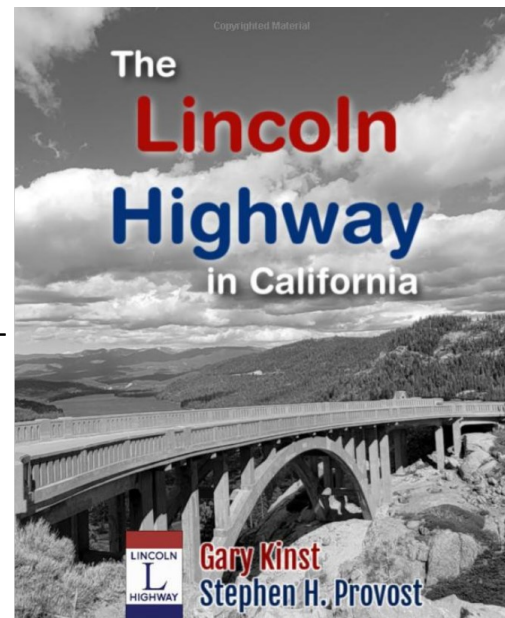
Donner Summit Historical Society, Norm Saylor Collection



A number of years ago, our former Traveler editor Gary Kinst started a book project concerning the Lincoln Highway in California. Unfortunately Gary passed away last year and the book was never finished. The Chapter decided to see if we could get the book published and see Gary's idea come to fruition. I'm excited to say the project is complete with the publishing of *The Lincoln Highway in California*, by Gary Kinst and Stephen H. Provost.

Stephen Provost writes historical nonfiction and fantasy adventures. A journalist with more than 30 years of experience and a former educator, he is the author of 40 books. From 1986 to 2018, he worked as an editor, reporter, and columnist at four daily newspapers in California, including as news editor at *The Fresno Bee* and managing editor of *The Cambrian*. Steven is also an active member of the Lincoln Highway Association, Nevada Chapter.

The book is available on [Amazon for \\$19.95](#).



(continued next page)

Editor's Page

(continued from previous page)



Trey, and Jeanette Lawson show off the new sign in front of the Elk Grove House. Photo: Monica Pitsenberger

The historic Elk Grove House, south of Sacramento, sits on the 1913 alignment of the Lincoln Highway. The Elk Grove Historical Society maintains the beautiful house and grounds, and have for years displayed the Lincoln Highway sign on the front of the building. The sign became a bit worse for wear, so Monica and I took a trip down and met Jeanette Lawson, treasurer of the historical society, who took possession of the new sign. Our crisp new sign came just in time to brighten up the house for their annual Christmas fundraiser!

Our 2023 LHA National Conference will be in June, and the California Chapter is hosting the attendees in Folsom. Our Conference Committee, consisting of Paul Gilger, Mark Hoffman, Joel Windmiller, Paulette Johnston, Neil Rodrigues, Bill von Tagen, and me, have been meeting every other week to ensure a successful

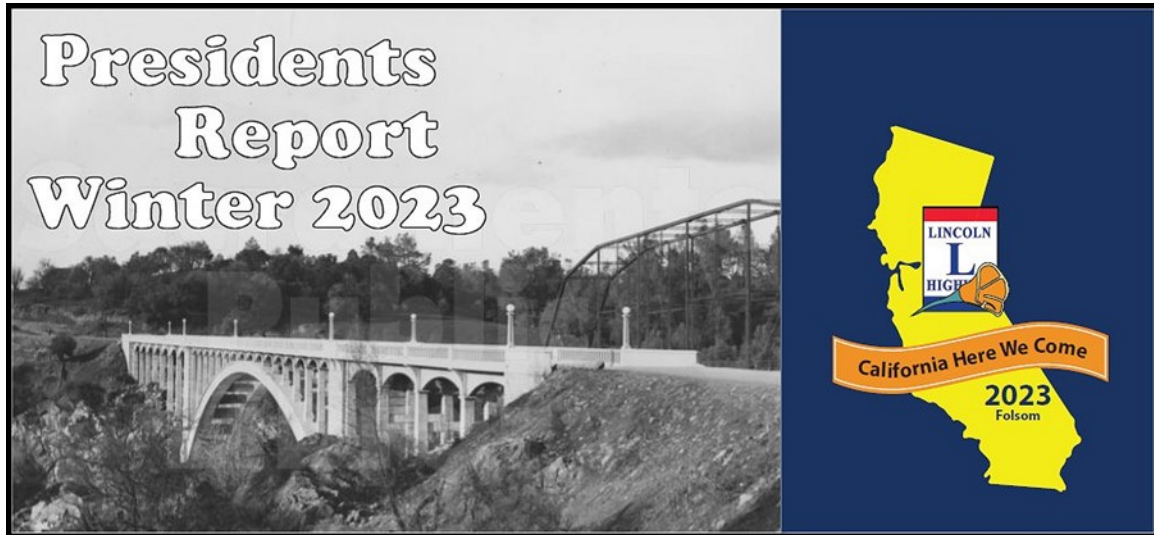
event. There will be two bus tours, one to Lake Tahoe via the southern route of the LH and another the next day to Donner Summit via the northern route of the LH. We will visit and pass through the famous Tunnel #6 of the Transcontinental Railroad, guided by myself. No trains currently run on this section of track, so no worries there. "Friend of the Highway" Moe Mohanna will host the awards dinner at his event center on the longest stretch of Lincoln Highway concrete left in California. The views of the Sacramento Valley from the center are outstanding.



Some of the longest remaining Lincoln Highway concrete in California.



Lincoln Highway Association
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



Joel Windmiller
President

Wishing our members, a **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 2023**, California Chapter will host the National Conference in June.

The host city will be Folsom, California, a location rich in history. It was first settled by the Native American Southern Maidu and Nisenan indigenous people.

Gold Rush: The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill along the American River, in the nearby town of Coloma, attracted prospectors to the region from around the world, hoping to strike it rich. Folsom was named after Captain Joseph Libbey Folsom, born in Meredith, New Hampshire.

Railroad: The influx of gold-seekers sailing into San Francisco created a demand for transportation to serve miners in the mountains. A group of San Francisco businessmen organized the Sacramento Valley Railroad in 1852. Charles Lincoln Wilson, who owned a steamship company, a toll road, and bridges, was the inspiration. Wilson hired Theodore Judah to lay out the railroad route from Sacramento to Folsom, a distance of 22 miles.

Pony Express: The Pony Express ran from April 1860 to October 1861 as a 10-day delivery mail service from Missouri to California. It employed horse-mounted riders and 150 relay stations, with its western terminus located at Folsom's Assay Office.

Lincoln Highway: The 1913 and 1928 Pioneer Alignments traveled through Folsom on its way from South Lake Tahoe to Sacramento.

(continued next page)

(continued from previous page)

First long-distance transmission of electricity. In 1895, the first long-distance electricity transmission occurred at the Folsom Powerhouse, over 22 miles to Sacramento.

Folsom Dam: Folsom Dam construction began in 1948 and finished in 1955. The dam ushered in a surge of growth known as "Folsom's Second Gold Rush." Folsom Dam provided flood protection for Sacramento and hydroelectric power. It also provided water for domestic, commercial, and industrial use. The dam project created Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma.

Musical Connection: Johnny Cash performed at Folsom State Prison in the 1960s. His famous song "Folsom Prison Blues" placed Folsom in the spotlight. The city opened the Johnny Cash Trail and Bike/Pedestrian Overcrossing in 2014. The amenity delights nature lovers and cyclists.

Automobile Supplies

We carry the biggest line of Automobile Accessories in this section. -Everything from axle grease and spark plugs to speedometers and tires. Remember this when in need of anything in our line. Phone or call. You get what you want when you want it.

Automobile Repairing

This garage is at your service at all hours for quick repairing. We guarantee efficient and careful service in this department, and our charges are within reason. We tow "dead" cars to the garage or repair them on the spot.

....FOLSOM GARAGE....

F. J. NEWMAN, PROPRIETOR

On the Lincoln Highway

FOLSOM, CAL.

PHONE, MAIN 222

(continued next page)

(continued from previous page)

- **2023 Lincoln Highway Conference in California:**
 - Host hotel and city: Hampton Inn, Folsom
 - Pre- and post-conference self-guided tours from Bay Area to Folsom
 - Opening night dinner musical accompaniment by Mark Allen Cash, Johnny Cash's nephew
 - Bus tours:
 - Donner Summit, with a tour of Central Pacific Railroad Tunnel #6 and the Lincoln Highway subway
 - Echo Summit, with stops at Johnson Pass, Echo Summit Lodge, Cave Rock along the eastern shore of Lake Tahoe, Nevada
 - Speakers: Trey Pitsenberger, James Dalesandro, Jeff Ferreira, Dick Noonan, and Heather Kearns
 - Awards dinner at Moe Mohanna's Ranch on the 1913 alignment of the Lincoln Highway, with a spectacular view of the Central Valley at sunset.
- **New book: The Lincoln Highway in California:** Created by former chapter historian Gary Kinst and edited by author and member Stephen Provost, with contributions of photos and historical facts by Joel Windmiller, Trey Pitsenberger, and Paul Gilger. Purchase your copy on Amazon today! <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1949971317>
- **Echo Summit Lodge:** The October 1 chapter meeting was held at the Echo Summit Lodge, currently managed by the California Alpine Club. Monica Pitsenberger provided a buffet lunch, including meats and cheese for sandwiches, salads, pasta, greens, fruits, and dessert. Presentations:
 - * Stephen Provost on the new Lincoln Highway in California book, including photos from the book.
 - * Trey Pitsenberger on the history of Johnson Pass and the Lincoln Highway
 - * The Conference Committee on the progress of putting together the schedule
- **Placer County Planning Commission — Project 8 Winery:** On December 15, chapter VP Trey Pitsenberger and myself appeared before the commission to voice the LHA's concerns on preserving the historic 1916 concrete pavement on Sisley Road in addition to the second story 1931 concrete on Taylor Road.



Lincoln Highway Association
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

CARQUINEZ BRIDGE



Under Construction by American Toll-Bridge Company

Carquinez Bridge is an assured fact.

Permanent construction work has started. The building schedule calls for completion in July 1925.

Construction of the bridge is under the direction of Chas. Derleth, Jr. as Chief Engineer; William H. Burr, of New York, Chief Consulting Engineer. Mr. Derleth is Dean of the Civil Engineering Department of the University of California and recognized authority in the west on bridge building. Mr. Burr's reputation is international. He is one of the greatest engineers in the world today.

The present ferry traffic accomodates approximately 500,000 automobiles annually. Experience has proved that such traffic troubles where a bridge is provided.

The Carquinez Bridge, with its 42 foot driveway, can and will accomodate all of the tremendous traffic that must pass this point.

AMERICAN TOLL-BRIDGE COMPANY

Golden Gate Ferry Bldg., Foot of Hyde Street, San Francisco
BUILDING CARQUINEZ BRIDGE AND ANTIOCH BRIDGE
(Under the same management as Rodeo-Vallejo Ferry and Golden Gate Ferry)

While the Bridge is being built—

motorists will find the shortest and easiest route North via Rodeo-Vallejo Ferry, a six minute trip with big, commodious ferries operating at twenty minute intervals. For Marin county and the Redwood Highway, take Golden Gate Ferry, from foot of Hyde Street to Sausalito. A twenty minute trip. Half-hourly service on week days; twenty minute service on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.

Adventures in California History

Lincoln Highway Style

With Trey and Monica Pitsenberger



Monica and Trey

Verdi, Nevada on the Lincoln Highway

Verdi, Nevada is on the old Emigrant Trail as well as the Lincoln Highway. We wanted to walk a section just outside of town that features three bridges or bridge sites, two railroad lines, and the Truckee River. In the photo below Monica is standing on the 1913 alignment of the Lincoln Highway looking east.

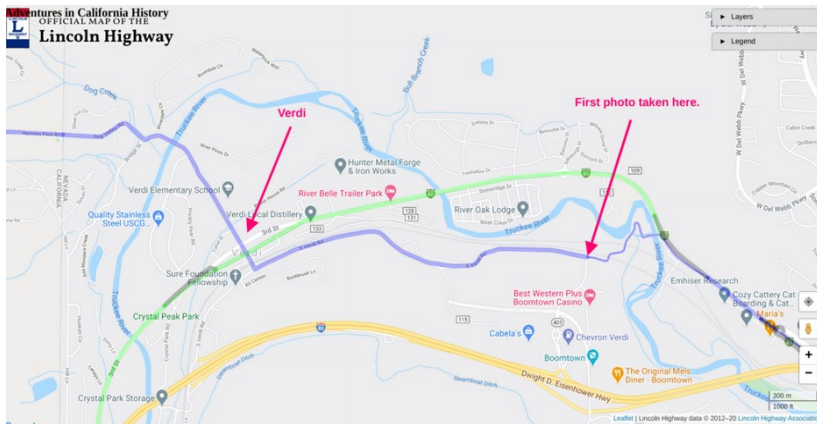


(continued next page)



(continued from previous page)

Adventures in California History



Here is the official Lincoln Highway map showing the area around Verdi. You can see the blue line indicating the original 1913 alignment and the green line showing a later 2nd generation Lincoln Highway route. I've marked where I took the first photo of Monica. You can see that it's the end of the drivable part of the old route; beyond that, you must walk.

In the photo at right, we can see the Lincoln Highway at the right, turning left towards the first wooden bridge site that spanned the first set of railroad tracks. You can see the concrete foundations for the bridge with graffiti on them.



(continued next page)

(continued from previous page)

Adventures in California History



The photo on the left shows the site of the second bridge over the second set of railroad tracks. We are looking north from the roadbed. You can see the railroad tracks at the bottom. Both of these rail lines are live, with trains running on them. Be alert!

Once the early autoist crossed the second wooden bridge, they would follow the road around a horseshoe bend and ford an irrigation canal spillway, as seen in the photo above. We did a little research and found that the canal existed in 1913, and you would have had to cross it.



Adventures in California History

(continued from previous page)

Adventures in California History

Once we cross the metal bridge, the old road continues for another couple hundred yards and then merges with the second generation 1925 Lincoln Highway. While most of this walk is easy enough, there is a bit of scrambling through bushes and up some banks between the first bridge site and the second bridge site.



Below is a map showing the area and the various features we have discussed.



Winter 2023 Chapter Meeting and Officer Elections



Vince's Ristorante, West Sacramento

*Join us as we elect chapter officers and discuss the 2023
Lincoln Highway Conference in Folsom.*

Saturday, January 7, 2023

Starts at 11:30 am

Vince's Ristorante
840 Harbor Blvd
West Sacramento, CA 95691



Lincoln Highway Association
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER



Lincoln Highway Association

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

MARK YOUR 2023 CALENDAR

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

Vince's Ristorante
West Sacramento

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

Location to be
announced

Saturday, **July 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 Joel Windmiller <joelwindmiller@att.net>.

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

