

LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER  
**THE  
TRAVELER**



EDITOR; Gary Kinst

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SPRING

APRIL 2007



Oakland Museum of California

The Oakland Rotary Club, with the help of the H.M. Sanborn Company, promoting the planting of 1200 trees along the Lincoln Highway in Alameda County April 3, 1916. Hotel Oakland in background.



A CONTINUOUS CONNECTING IMPROVED HIGHWAY FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC

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March 20, 2007

A Letter from your President to California Chapter Members

Next Chapter Meeting: Banta Inn, April 7, 2007

Mike Kaelin has made arrangements for us to meet in the “back room” of the Banta Inn in Banta at 12:00 noon on April 7, 2007. Banta is just east of Tracy. Coming from the west (Tracy), you want to drive east on Grant Line Road about three miles to Banta or follow 11<sup>th</sup> Street which is the main drag through Tracy to Banta Road and then go north to Grant Line. From the east, exit I-5 one exit south of I-205 and then turn right on Grant Line Road at Kasson Corner. The Banta Inn is on the southwest corner of G Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. If you get lost, try my cell phone 916-215-1902. Following the meeting I hope as many of us as possible will caravan up to the Summit Garage at Altamont Pass. We need to show our support for the preservation of this historic place along the Lincoln Highway. Mike Kaelin will fill us in on all the details at our meeting.

### Election of Officers

At our last meeting in El Dorado Hills near Clarksville, we held the election of officers for 2007. Norm Root was elected President and I was elected as our state’s nomination for State Director on the national board. After a little confusion, and since Norm is unable to make it to our next chapter meeting and doesn’t step down from his Director’s position till the national conference in June, I agreed to continue to serve as President until that time. Our other officers are Paul Gilger, Vice President; Kell Brigman, Treasurer; Miriam Hull, Secretary; Gary Kinst, Newsletter Editor; and Jimmy Lin, Webmaster.

### New Life Member

I was recently notified that one of our California Chapter members, Rann Schultz of El Cerrito, renewed his membership at the Life Member level. Rann is the 36<sup>th</sup> member to do so and deserves a great big “thank you” for supporting the Lincoln Highway Association in this manner. This comes with all our appreciation, Rann!

### Clarksville Tour

We had a turnout of over 100 people for the tour of Clarksville following our last chapter meeting on January 6, 2007. The Clarksville Region Historical Society had been invited to join us, and some articles in the local newspaper generated considerable local interest. There were people there who had never heard of the Lincoln Highway before. See the separate article in this issue of the Traveler.

Hope to see you in Banta!  
Bob Dieterich, President,  
California Chapter, Lincoln Highway Association

# FROM THE EDITOR

## Cycle Racing takes to the LINCOLN HIGHWAY



Tracy Press photo

Stage 3 of the 7 stage “Tour of California”, California’s version of the Tour de France, entered Tracy Thursday February 22 at 11:30am. 140+ World - Class cyclists passed this intersection of Corral Hollow Rd. and Byron Rd. in less than 60 seconds. Upon turning west on Byron Road, they followed the route of the Lincoln Highway 7.4 miles before turning off Patterson Pass Rd. onto Midway Rd. just west of Mountain House.

## Tour of Historic Clarksville



No. 1

Kinst photo



No. 2

Kinst photo



No. 3

Kinst photo



No. 4

Kinst photo



No. 5

Kinst photo



No. 6

Kinst photo

Following our January 6 Chapter meeting in El Dorado Hills we were treated to a behind the gate tour of the Lincoln Highway as it passed through the historic town of Clarksville, which dates back to the 1849 Gold Rush. Our tour began on the bridge over Carson Creek. (No. 1) Mr. Jim Brunello (No. 2) told the story of his Great Grandfather building the bridge in 1918. Jim and his partner Ken Wilkinson are the new owners of the town of Clarksville including the Tong Ranch. Mrs. Madeline Mosley (No. 3) assumed the position of Tour Guide at this point and led us on a building- by - building walk up the grade into the town of Clarksville. (No. 4) Having lived her entire life in this small hamlet she is exceptionally knowledgeable about its history. Her mother and father owned a service station and store here on the Lincoln Highway. Just down Hwy. 50 from this location on the Sacramento – Placerville Stage Road was the Historic Mormon Tavern dating to 1848. Many local residents and history buffs joined us on the tour as the event was publicized in the local paper. Members of the El Dorado Historical Society also turned out adding to the throng of near 100 gathered at the bridge. Mr. Noah Briel opened the gates on either end of Old Bass Lake Road and allowed those interested to drive the 1917 segment of Lincoln Highway. (No. 5) This section of Highway was featured in Volume 6 No. 3 of the Traveler. While on this section Lloyd Johnson, our Sacramento based Highway Historian, walked us down the bank between the Lincoln and Carson Creek to a section of the Giles Toll Road. A Mr. Tong who closed the road forcing travelers to use his road through Clarksville purchased this wagon road. Car in photo (No. 6) is parked on the Highway. Plans are in the works to keep this area, and especially the Lincoln, safe from future development.

## Look What I Found



Richard Lenfestey of Valley Springs displays his acquisition at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Escalon Gas Bash March 10<sup>th</sup>. Richard was there with fellow collector Dave Cross who is a friend of our El Dorado member, Bart Magoffin, another avid sign collector. This was one of two Lincoln Highway signs sold at the Bash. It is very rare to find one of these signs, let alone two. What did Richard pay? Well..... that's a collectors secret.

## Another LINCOLN HIGHWAY ICON is LOST



The 1917 Tracy High School building seen in the above photo with the Lincoln Highway in foreground was leveled on October 21, 2006. The structure had been vacant for several years, as it would not meet earthquake standards. The Westside Pioneers along with the Tracy Historic Landmark Committee fought hard to have the building retrofitted and kept original, but due to how it was initially constructed that was not possible. The new building will have a frontal facade that will mirror the original structure.

## Altamont and the Summit Garage



Michael Kaelin has officially applied for the required documents initiating the process of having the Summit Garage designated a Historic Building. He is also attempting to have Altamont and the Altamont Pass corridor deemed a Historical Site. We have strong support from Alameda County, The Livermore Heritage Guild and from the local State Representative. We are hoping for the replacement of the sign in photo along with the addition of LH signage.

## The Lincoln Highway Tire

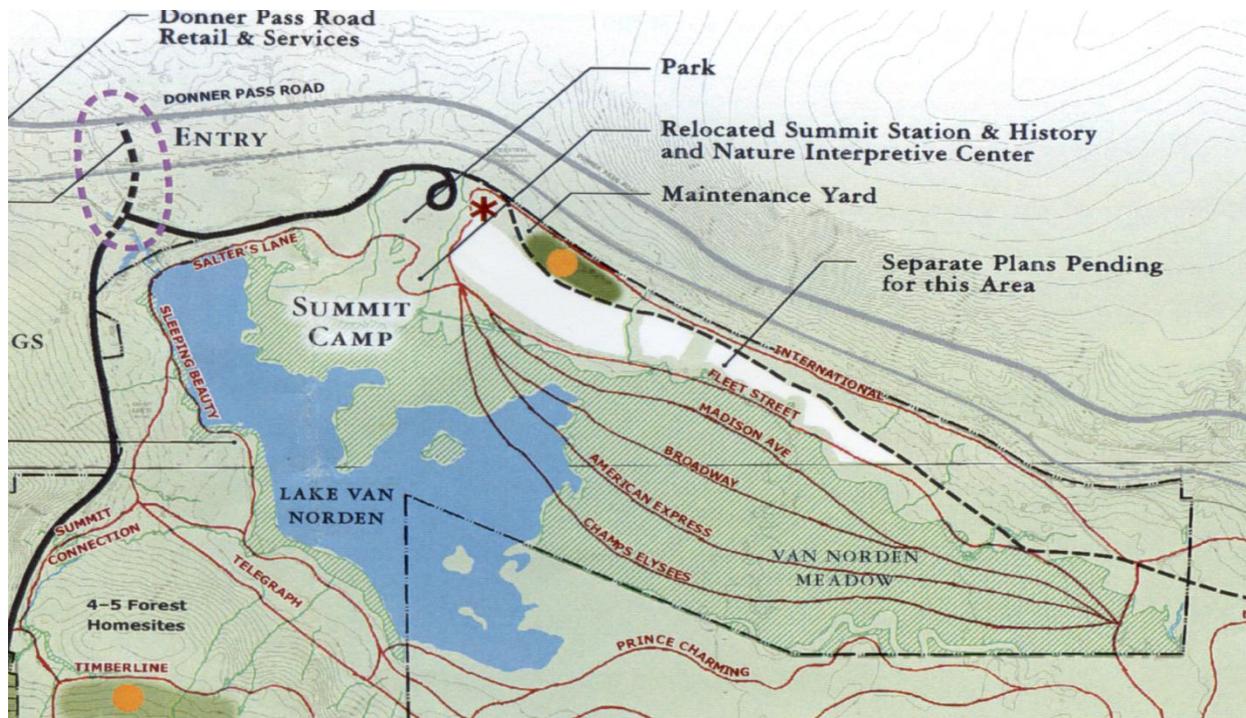
At the January Chapter meeting a friend of Richard Richmond brought a tire manufactured by the Lincoln Highway Tire Company to share with the members and to inquire about its history. The Lincoln Highway Tire Company's factory and offices were located on the northeast corner of 4<sup>th</sup> St. (Lincoln Way) and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Fulton, Illinois from 1916-1923. The Lyons/Fulton Bridge over the Mississippi River could be seen from the factory. The 1924 Lincoln Highway Guide Book shows it on the map on page 330. The word India appears on the tire and refers to the type of rubber used during that time to produce tires and rubber balls.

## Beware! Developers may pounce from anywhere at any time. Once again, a segment of the Lincoln Highway may be in peril.

By Norman Root

Two Bay Area developers, Foster and Syme, recently purchased the 3000 acre Royal Gorge Cross Country Ski Area, just west of Donner Summit. And now, in order to develop the area into a world-class ski resort, which I thought it already was, they need to build four residential villages. I attended their public plan proposal meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup> at their Serene Lakes Ice Lake Lodge.

The two owners first spent a lot of time explaining how they are local boys who grew up in the area, went to local high schools and love outdoor recreation, hiking and skiing. They love the wilderness atmosphere and desire to keep it that way. But they don't seem to mind building 960 new home sites here. In short, they are very excited about the wonderful and beautiful thing they plan to do and think we should be excited too. They pointed out that the County general plan, which is zoned for only one residence per acre, would legally allow them to build nearly 3000 homes. But they should be thanked and praised for only building 960. After their development is approved they will apply for no more growth thus preserving the park like atmosphere into perpetuity.



The 1913-1925 alignment of the Lincoln Highway passes through the north edge of the property. It is Lake Van Norden Road in Nevada County and is Old Donner Summit Road on the Placer County side. This road was originally the Dutch Flat and Donner Lake Wagon Road built by the Central Pacific Railroad in the early 1860s. It was used as a construction access road and as a wagon freight road during construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. Part of this road is right on top of the Overland Emigrant Trail opened in 1844. In 1913 it became the Lincoln

Highway. This was the Main Street of America, the transcontinental highway from New York to San Francisco. This stretch of the old road is historically unique in that it is open to public traffic in exactly the same condition; unpaved, unmaintained, and under snow in the winter; as it was in 1913.

The Lincoln Highway may be safe for now in that the dashed line on the map indicates an existing unpaved road (implying to remain as is?). However the area on the south side of the road is labeled “separate plans pending for this area”.



There is also an old concrete arch bridge over Van Norden Creek, built around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The good news is that the Lincoln Highway may be a winner with this project. There is a proposed History and Nature Interpretative Center to be built very near to the old bridge. I proposed that the Center include historical displays about the Overland Emigrant Trail, the Dutch Flat and Donner Lake Wagon Road and the Lincoln Highway. I also suggested that Historic Lincoln Highway signage along the old road would be quite appropriate.

The Oregon California Trails Association may not have fared as well, however. One of the proposed villages, Lake Camp, along Pahatsi Road appears to be very near if not right on top of the area mentioned in several of the pioneer's diaries as resembling a herd of stone sheep grazing. These are a group of glacial run and deposited boulders sitting on a glacial polished granite surface. It is near the entrance to Boy Scout Camp Pahatsi. A new lake will be built in this village and Pahatsi Road is realigned to skirt the new village. I can't get there now to see exactly where the new village will be, the ground is covered with about 8 feet of snow. OCTA is not listed as one of the numerous organizations contacted by the developers.

## *We are now taking reservations for the 2007 Lincoln Highway California Tours!*

- Tour #1 Sat. April 28: 1913-1927 Central Valley Route: *Sacramento to San Francisco via Altamont Pass*  
Tour #2 Sat. June 30: Sierra Nevada Southern Route: *Sacramento to Lake Tahoe via Echo Summit*  
Tour #3 Sat. Aug 25: Sierra Nevada Northern Route: *Sacramento to Nevada via Donner Pass & Dog Valley*  
Tour #4 Sat. Oct 27: 1928 Central Valley Route: *Sacramento to San Francisco via Carquinez Strait*

Each tour - \$40 per person.

All tours are one-day trips beginning and ending at the Holiday Inn "Sacramento I-80 N.E."  
5321 Date Ave. in Sacramento, at the Madison Ave. exit off I-80

*Boarding at 8:45 am. Departure at 9:00 am sharp!*

You may select a single tour or any combination of tours.

Please fill out order form below and mail with check or money order in the amount of \$40 per person per tour made out to "Lincoln Highway California Chapter", to:

Lincoln Highway Association California Chapter, PO Box 2554, Fair Oaks, Ca 95628-2554

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate the number of people in your party for each tour: Tour #1 \_\_\_ Tour #2 \_\_\_ Tour #3 \_\_\_ Tour #4 \_\_\_  
*All tour participants agree that the Lincoln Highway Association, the California Chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association, its officers, directors and agents, shall have no responsibility or liability, in whole or in part, for any loss, damage, or injury to person or property, or any act of omission resulting from, arising out of, or occurring during any activity, program, tour, meeting, meal, or other service or facility furnished or supplied in conjunction with the tours. All participants must sign and date below:*

Signature #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature #3: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature #4: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include other dated signatures, if applicable.

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## *Order Lincoln Highway Driving Maps for California now!*

We have received hundreds of orders from all over the United States for our very popular Lincoln Highway Driving Maps for California. They are essential for exploring the Lincoln in California.

Please fill out order form below and mail with check or money order made out to  
"Lincoln Highway California Chapter", to:  
Lincoln Highway Association California Chapter, PO Box 2554, Fair Oaks, Ca 95628-2554

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of map sets: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
Packaging and postage + \$6.00  
TOTAL: = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# MARK YOUR 2007 CALENDAR

- Saturday **April 7**  
12:00 noon  
State Chapter Meeting  
Historic Banta Inn  
22563 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
Banta, CA. 95304  
209 835 1311
- Saturday **April 28**  
Tour #1 Sacramento to San Francisco  
1913-1927 Central Valley Route  
via Altamont Pass
- June 18 - 22**  
2007 Lincoln Highway Convention  
Fort Morgan, Colorado
- Saturday **June 30**  
**NOTE: DATE CHANGE**  
Tour #2 Sacramento to Lake Tahoe  
Sierra Nevada Southern Route  
via Echo Summit
- Saturday **July 14**  
12:00 noon  
State Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced
- Saturday **August 25**  
Tour #3 Sacramento to Verdi, NV.  
Sierra Nevada Northern Route  
via Donner Pass & Dog Valley
- Saturday **October 6**  
12:00 noon  
State Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced
- Saturday **October 27**  
Tour #4 Sacramento to San Francisco  
Central Valley Route  
via Yolo Causeway & Carquinez Bridge

NOTE: All tours depart the Holiday Inn Sacramento Northeast, Madison @ I 80  
at 9:00 am. Boarding begins at 8:45 am.



Participants of Tour #3, 2006 posing at Donner Summit