

LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER
**THE
TRAVELER**



EDITOR; Gary Kinst

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Road signs erected by the California State Automobile Association (1916) and the Auto Club of California at the intersection of Lower Sacramento Road (Lincoln Highway) and Acampo Road. The smaller 4-way sign indicates the Tracy Route pointing left and the Sacramento Route pointing right.

The following is the cover story from the Sept-Oct 2007 newsletter of the Placer County Museum. Museum Administrator, Melanie Barton, wrote this article. I include it in the Traveler to illustrate that history cannot be attributed to a single source, but must be a comparison of several. Every individual who witnesses an event comes away with his or her own interpretation.

Administrator's Notes

Melanie Barton

The following article written by Bob Benefiel appeared in the *Berkshire Genealogist*, Volume 27, Number 1. It tickled my funny bone even though it deals with a very real and ever present challenge.

An amateur genealogy researcher discovered that his great-great uncle, Remus Starr, a fellow lacking in character, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows.

On the back of the picture is this inscription: "Remus Starr; horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1883, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889."

In a family history subsequently written by his descendant, Remus' picture is cropped, scanned in as an enlarged image, and edited with image

processing software so that all that's seen is a head shot. The accompanying revisionist history states:

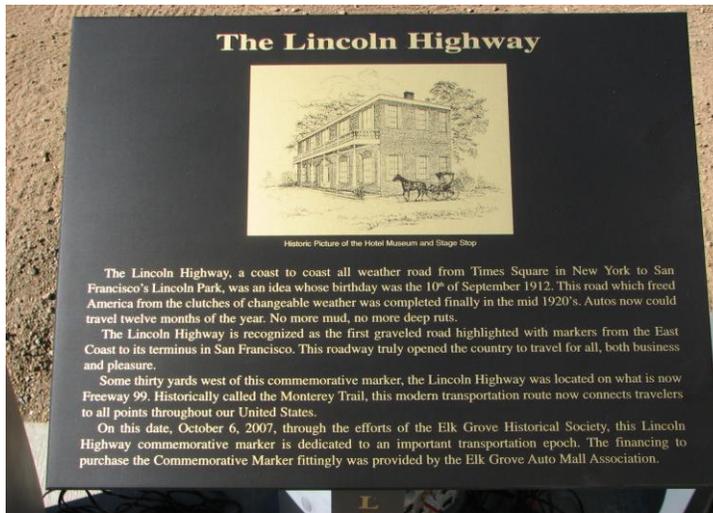
"Remus Starr was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana Railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing suddenly collapsed."

As the above article clearly shows, the temptation to rewrite or revise history can be hard to resist. The challenge for all of us is to present history as accurately and truthfully as possible.♣



FROM THE EDITOR

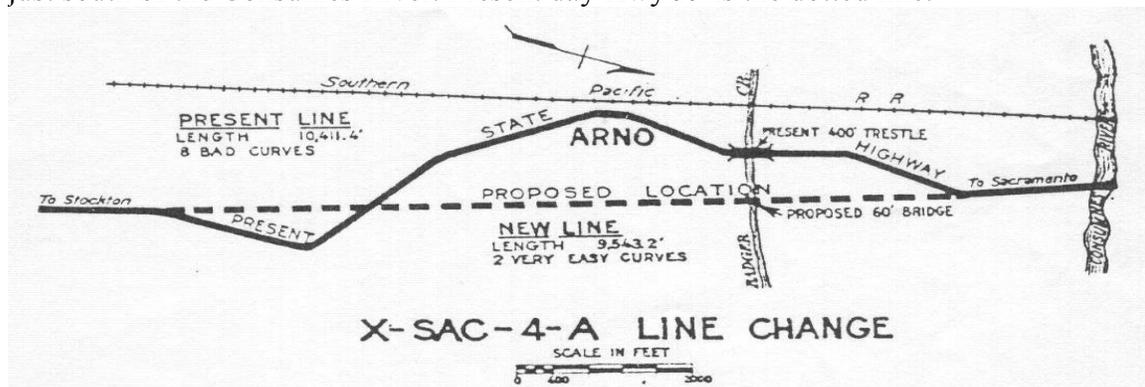
Elk Grove Dedication



The Commemorative Marker shown above and located at the site of the historic Elk Grove Hotel Stage Stop was officially dedicated Saturday October 6, 2007. After the dedication, which included several local dignitaries, docents from the Elk Grove Historical Society gave tour of old Hotel and grounds. A barbeque lunch was provided and was enjoyed by members of the California Chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association. Norm Root and Bob Dieterich were speakers and presented Anita Peters, of the Historical Society, with two of the new Historical signs. They will be installed on East Stockton Blvd to commemorate the Lincoln Highway. If ever in the area, this museum is a must see.

Chapter Tour

After the Elk Grove dedication and barbeque, Chapter members led by Michael Kaelin toured the LH south to Stockton. The purpose of the tour was to point out the original alignment in the Arno and W. Collierville areas, and to view the proposed plans to alter the 1924 LH routing into Stockton, which will involve closing the Hwy 99 ramp to Wilson Way and closing Newton Road at the north end. Mike has requested to be invited to city/contractor planning meetings to present our concerns. Chapter member Lloyd Johnson described the original alignment at W. Collier Rd and Norm Root provided the 1927 sketch of the original alignment south of the Consumnes River in the Arno area; much of this alignment can still be seen on "Google Earth". The tour ended at the Hotel Lido, a landmark on North Wilson Way near Weber Ave. Mike has since received permission, from landowners in the area for our Chapter members to hike the original alignment. Below is the proposed re-alignment map of the 1927 LH Highway at Arno just south of the Consumnes River. Present day Hwy 99 is the dotted line.



Mystery Circle



The Midwest has its Crop Circles..... and now Northern California has it's own variation, The "C" Circle. Those attending the Dedication in Elk Grove were surprised when they discovered this mysterious "C" marker next to the newly installed interpretative plaque. What is that? and where did it come from? were the questions being asked. The ring was placed to prevent visitors from tripping. It was hinted that the responsible parties initials are contained in the following
only I'm Not Responsible for this

Big Bend Display



Tahoe National Forest Ranger Phil Sexton, pictured above, posing at the interpretative plaque and 1928 replica marker post across from the Big Bend Ranger Station. Phil put together a magnificent display of Lincoln Highway memorabilia, which included two new signs that will be placed at the respective campsites. The display included items from Phil's personal collection and was greatly admired by the participants of the California Chapters Driving Tour #3 August 25th.

Summit Garage

All is quiet in the Altamont Pass. The current renter is working on opening a gift shop within the Garage. When time allows, Michael Kaelin and I will present the new owner, Mr. Al Vieux, with a new Historical sign which will be placed on the east end of the building. Someone who claims to represent the LHA has installed a small LH sign on a telephone pole directly across from the Garage. He apparently didn't identify himself during the installation. I'm hoping that the new owner will allow me to place a sign in the gift shop, which I plan to surround with old photos of the Garage and the Altamont Pass. Until Michael can have this declared an historic corridor, the display will draw attention to the Highways importance to the area.

Wiggin's Trading Post Dedication



The Trading Post was established on the Lincoln Highway in 1924. Francis Wiggin opened his store to serve the needs of the motoring public traveling through the Central Valley. He provided Gilmore Gasoline, oil and other motoring necessities. In 1932 he began selling "Indian Head" gasoline for which he had a patent. Francis also provided Indian trinkets and souvenirs, a holdover from his early days as a setup man with the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show. His second son, Francis Porter Wiggin II, became involved in the business around 1936. Francis's Grandson Richard operates the Wiggin's Trading Post in Chilcoot, Ca. on Hwy 70. Another grandson was the famous football coach Paul Wiggin of Stanford and Kansas City Chief's fame. The Trading Post closed in 1967. Francis senior passed away around 1950 and Francis II in 1978.



Members of the California Chapter in attendance for the John Serpa, Wiggin's Trading Post dedication Saturday December 8th. (from left to right) Bob Dieterich, James Lin, Gary Kinist, Paul Gilger, Norm Root. Lloyd Johnson, Mike Kaelin and Carolyn Lignos. Although the weather was cold, a turnout of 50 + Dignitaries, City Officials, friends and members of the Wiggin Family and Lincoln Highway Association attended this wonderful ceremony. Francis Wiggin's Granddaughters, Janet and Patti presented photos to John Serpa, who was the master of ceremonies. Marine Corps League Detachment #109 from Modesto presented the colors and Boy Scout Troup #425 from Lathrop led in the singing of the National Anthem and the unveiling of the monument. Mr. Dalwinder Dhoot and family, owners of the new Best Western Hotel in background, provided food and beverage to those attending. We thank Mr. Dhoot for allowing John and the Lathrop Sunrise Rotary Club to erect this tribute at this location. The plaques on the monument read as follows (top) Lathrop Sunrise Rotary (middle) America's First Coast to Coast Road Established 1913 (bottom) 1924-1967 Site of Original Wiggin's Trading Post Serving Travelers Along The Lincoln Highway.



Mr. John Serpa, one of the California Chapters newest members poses with his monument. John owned an Arco service station, just west of here, on the corner of Louise Ave. and Harland Road for 35 years. Being an avid highway enthusiast, John wanted to do something to preserve the memory of the Lincoln Highway and pay tribute to the Wiggins Trading Post that served the motorist at the location shown above. John and the Lathrop Sunrise Rotary Club donated the stone and signage.



Norm Root, California Chapter President, addresses the gathering of approximately 50 people prior to the unveiling by Boy Scout Troup #425 from Lathrop, CA. Prior to operating the Arco station John served with the Marine Corp in WWII and as a Captain with the Tracy Police Department.

We are now taking reservations for the 2008 Lincoln Highway California Tours!

- Tour #1 Sat. April 26: 1913-1927 Central Valley Route: *Sacramento to San Francisco via Altamont Pass*
- Tour #2 Sat. June 28: Sierra Nevada Southern Route: *Sacramento to Lake Tahoe via Echo Summit*
- Tour #3 Sat. Aug 23: Sierra Nevada Northern Route: *Sacramento to Nevada via Donner Pass & Dog Valley*
- Tour #4 Sat. Oct 25: 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.

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 2008 CALENDAR

Saturday **JANUARY 12, 2008**
12:00 noon

State Chapter Meeting
Fenton's Creamery
Nut Tree Park (off I-80)
1669 East Monte Vista
Vacaville, CA

Note: After our meeting there will a tour of LH Marker sites and the Alamo Creek Bridge site, the location of the former Vacaville Arch. Also if time permits, the Vacaville Historical Society Museum. A sandwich lunch is approx. \$ 10.00

Saturday **APRIL 5**

State Chapter Meeting
Location to be announced

Saturday **APRIL 26**

Tour # 1 Central Valley 1913-1927 Route
Sacramento to San Francisco
via Altamont Pass

Saturday **JUNE 28**

Tour # 2 Sierra Nevada Southern Route
Sacramento to Lake Tahoe
via Echo Summit

Saturday **JULY 12**

State Chapter Meeting
Location to be announced

Saturday **AUGUST 23**

Tour # 3 Sierra Nevada Northern Route
Sacramento to Verdi, NV.
via Donner Pass and Dog Valley

Saturday **OCTOBER 4**

State Chapter Meeting
Location to be announced

Saturday **OCTOBER 25**

Tour # 4 Central Valley 1928 Route
Sacramento to San Francisco
Via Yolo Causeway and Carquinez Strait

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