

THE TRAVELER

LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION - CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

www.lincolnhwy.org/ca/traveler



EDITOR
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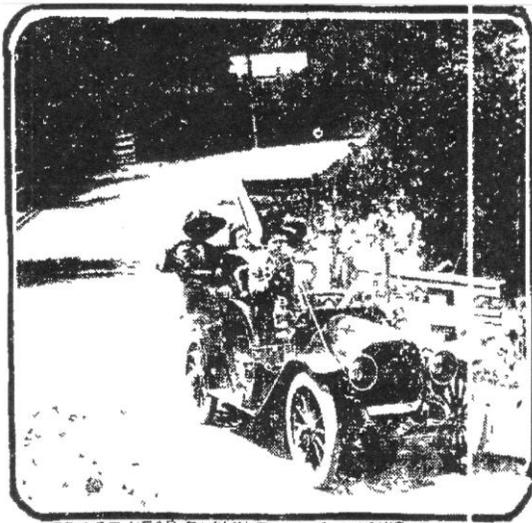


Motoring past the Canyon Inn
Lincoln Highway in Dublin Canyon 1920's

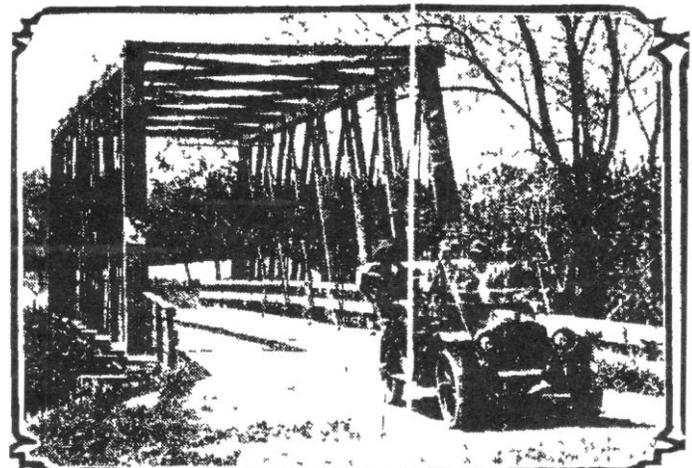
Cover

Quite often the question arises "What was the road like before the Lincoln Highway ?" Dublin Canyon Road between Hayward's and Dublin is no exception. As soon as folks, such as the Peraltas and Estudillos began settling in the area, trails were widened in order to accommodate wagons. There were several deep canyons that cut through the Coast Range separating the Bay front of Alameda County from the San Ramon Valley. "Hayward's Pass" which was the most direct route from the Bay Area into the Central Valley was chosen as a stage route during the Spanish era. The road was laid out in the early 1850's and followed the course of San Lorenzo Creek.

In 1864 William Hayward purchased 40 acres of land that would later become the town of Hayward's. He constructed a resort hotel at the corner of Main and A Streets. In 1876 Hayward became the road commissioner for Alameda County and used his influence to construct roads in his favor. One such road was the road between Hayward's and Dublin. Hayward built other roads in the area all with the purpose of getting travelers to his hotel. In 1853 and again in 1858 road district boundaries experienced major reshufflings in Alameda County. Private franchises were granted to provide short distance toll roads. J.W. Dougherty from Dublin, along with Hayward, built a seven mile plank road from Dublin to Hayward. Dougherty began a stagecoach service upon the completion of the toll road.



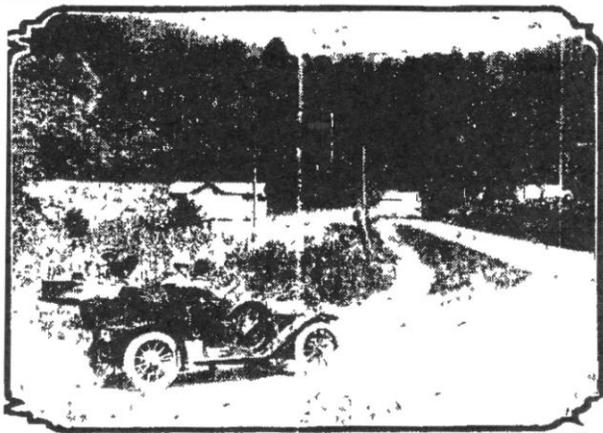
BRIDGE NEAR DUBLIN SHOWING WINDING GRAD-
* IN BACKGROUND *



BRIDGE NEAR HAYWARDS ON THE DUBLIN ROAD

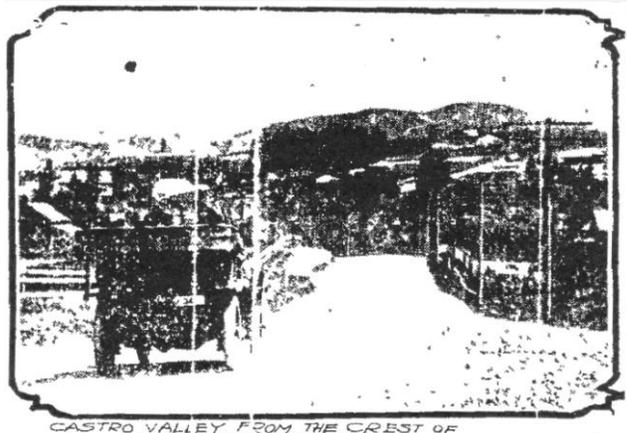
The photos above are from the Oakland Tribune of May 15, 1910 and their quality unfortunately doesn't match that of our cover photo

In 1911 improvements were made to the Alameda County road from Dublin over the Altamont Pass to the San Joaquin County line where it joined the oil macadam road to Stockton. Work on building the highway thru Dublin Canyon was under way in May of 1912 and was expected to be completed by summer.



LOOKING NORTH SHOWING BROAD TURNS IN DUBLIN

Photo showing broad turn in Dublin
1910



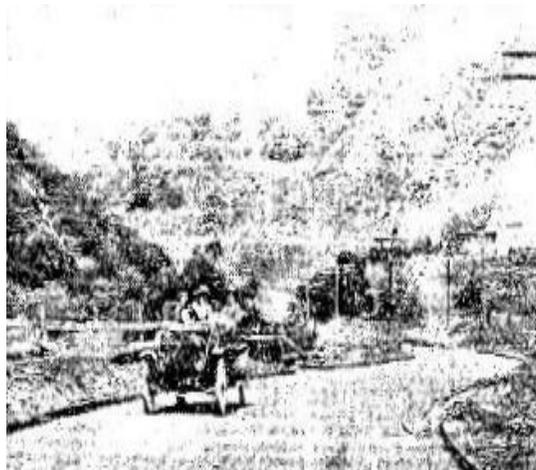
CASTRO VALLEY FROM THE CREST OF
ONE OF THE GRADES

Looking west from Pergoda Grade
toward Castro Valley 1910

The Oakland Tribune of Nov.3, 1912 gave the new Dublin Boulevard rave reviews going to the extent of calling it the finest piece of road construction in the entire state. The new boulevard began at Castro Valley and the section of highway from that point to Foothill Boulevard at B Street in Hayward was still in poor condition. There was also an uncompleted section at the Dublin end. Both sections being the responsibility of those two towns. They were both quickly improved.



near Palomares School



approaching Dublin Grade



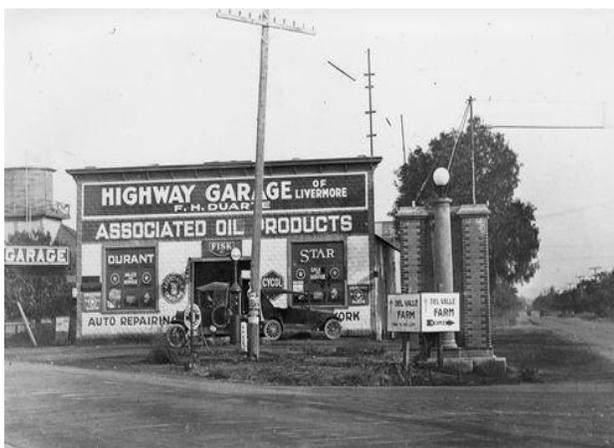
descending Pergoda Grade

Scenes on the new Dublin Boulevard from the Oakland Tribune Nov. 3, 1912

By 1913 when the Lincoln Highway route was laid out through California, the system of State Highways which it traced were the finest in the country.

January 7th Chapter Meeting

Our meeting for January started with lunch at Beeb's Restaurant at Las Positas Golf Course in Livermore. It was a chance for members to gather in small groups and chat while enjoying some rather good food. At approx 12:45 lunch was completed and the group motored down Portola Ave. to the Duarte Garage. The meeting location was a welcome change compared with the hustle and bustle of a noisy restaurant we normally have to deal with. The Livermore Heritage Guild, which oversees the Garage, had the museum set up for our Chapter meeting. Approximately 30 folks participated and were welcomed by Marie Abbott and Jeff Kaske of the Guild, who pointed out their Lincoln Highway display and the museums 1920 Segrave fire engine, who's restoration is nearing completion. The meeting was opened by VP and interim President Paul Gilger. For those interested in the details, minutes from the meeting will be posted on the Chapters web site. Several key issues were discussed; the passing of Norm Root ,Chapter tours, the Traveler Newsletter, installing signs in Alameda County and election of officers. Paul Gilger was elected President while Joel Windmiller became our new VP. Bob Dieterich remains State Representative and Kell Brigan remains Treasurer. Mike Kaelin continues as Recording Secretary and Field Representative. Jim Lin remains Webmaster and Gary Kinst returns as Newsletter Editor. The format for the Chapters quarterly tours has been modified. We will offer a professional bus tour on June 2nd to Donner Summit and a guided cruise to Lake Tahoe on August 25th. Details to follow. The Chapter meeting was followed by a PowerPoint presentation from Guild member Frank Rainer based on his trip on the Lincoln from the Duarte Garage to Times Square. Very enjoyable with excellent photos. Guild President Jeff Kaske talked on the history of Mr. Duarte and his Garage.





Paul Gilger addresses the membership while members and guests of the Livermore Heritage Guild hang on every word.



Jeff Kaske President of the Guild (left photo) provides the history of the Duarte Garage before introducing Frank Raine. Mark Hoffman of Sports Leisure Vacations speaks about the planned bus excursion for 2012.

Norm Root - A personal reflection

It goes without saying that the California Chapter has been blessed with a number of dedicated and talented members, both past and current. But one individual, through endless volunteer hours and absolute dedication, has earned the right to bear the title of Mr. Lincoln Highway, or as Gloria Scott at Caltrans quoted " the Caltrans Historic Roads God". Norm Root passed from this world on September 27, 2011. Norm was probably our most knowledgeable Chapter member and without question was involved in everything the Chapter under-took. Norm's involvement covered so many facets in the development of the California Chapter that it would take volumes to list them all. Norm held positions as Vice President, President and State Director for the Chapter. Norm was responsible for the numerous LH logos painted on bridge abutments through-out the State and for casting and installing replica 1928 LH concrete markers. Most notably is the Western Terminus marker. With his trusty companion Lloyd Johnson, they researched and scoured California for lost original markers, monuments and hidden sections of roadway. The markers were cleaned, repaired and placed in new homes to be shared by all. I first met Norm in 2004 while researching material for my book about the Lincoln Highway thru Tracy. After purchasing a California Driving map from Paul Gilger I came across a mapping error in the Tracy area. Upon pointing out this error to Paul it was suggested that I might consider joining the Chapter. At this point in time a new venture was being planned. The Chapter was going to provide Tours of the Lincoln on the four routes leading North and South from Sacramento. I was fortunate to be involved in the scouting and planning of the tours along with Norm, Paul, Bob and Clark Wood. Norm of course did the driving and provided his trusty Chevy Suburban. Norm was always there to provide transportation and knowledge as a guide and historian. This dedication proved invaluable in the growth and popularity of the Driving Tours. Norm would take his charges anywhere the Suburban could find footing. Pacific House and Slippery Ford were two destinations that always provided some white-knuckle moments. I was promoted to assistant tour guide (as there were no other volunteers) and joined Norm as second chair. Norm was quick to correct any errors I might make in pointing out the history of the route we were traveling. Eventually I was allowed to drive and guide my own vehicle, which would not have been possible without Norm's guidance. Norm became my mentor as I gathered more information on the Highway. I always felt he was testing me. I would lead a group of folks to a point of interest along the Highway and when my talk was finished Norm would produce a set of Caltrans photos or a newspaper article confirming what I had said. Soon I began bringing my own photos. Norm was very active in the Presbyterian Church and with the Boy Scouts, which were involved in the numerous marker dedications Norm arranged. Norm was continually being approached by Authors, the media and television producers, such as Rick Sebak of PBS television WQED in Pittsburgh, PA .for his historical knowledge of the Lincoln Highway. And we cannot forget the numerous speaking engagements that Norm presented to promote The Lincoln Highway.

I have included a number of photos of Norm doing what he truly loved. One photo in particular I always told Norm that I would use at the time of his passing as I felt that it said it all, "Walking off into the sunset on the Highway you came to Love"



Dedicated to Norman Root



Love those bridges



Scouting the trail



leading the Scouts



Me and My Baby or The Proud Father



Left or Straight ?



Of course we can make it !!



I told you it was here



Follow the original path no matter what !!



Just the facts "mam"



Another success story

Research

While researching for historical background information, I came across a web site that removes the leg work and much of the cost associated with going to museums and libraries. There is a vast amount of information hidden away in old newspapers, not to mention rare and often one-off photographs. The quality of the photos differ from paper to paper and seem to improve as the papers enter the 1930's. Although this new source isn't free, it's much more convenient and allows you to research at home. The photos used in the Dublin canyon article came from early issues of the Oakland Tribune, along with information related to the subject. Unfortunately the web site doesn't cover all US cities but it does contain a representative sample from most of the States. You can give the site a free test search, without being able to save material, to get a idea what is available. The site is www.newspaperarchive.com.

A great source for photos on the net is a web site Joel Windmiller made me aware of, www.loc.gov/pictures/search. This is the official site for the Library of Congress. Just type in a location or a name and you will be surprised what you can discover. I found photos from Altamont (including the written historical and descriptive data for the building of the Carroll Overcrossing), El Dorado, Auburn and Placerville.

Lincoln Highway Signs

Mike Kaelin is staying busy contacting community organizations throughout the Bay Area to encourage the installation of signs along the Lincoln in their respective area. Signs have been successfully erected in Lathrop, Tracy, Mountain House, the Altamont Pass , Summit Garage, Dublin and San Leandro. Towns that are currently working with Mike for city approval and sponsorship are Livermore , Hayward, Pleasanton (Dublin Canyon Road), Stockton, French Camp, Castro Valley and El Cerrito. Mike is expending a large amount of time and effort to see this project completed, but in this economic down-turn resources and interest are pretty low.



new sign in San Leandro

MARK YOUR 2012 CALENDAR

Saturday **JANUARY 7**
12:00 noon

State Chapter Meeting
Duarte Garage Livermore

Saturday **APRIL 7**
12:00 noon

State Chapter Meeting
Davis
Location to be announced

JUNE 18-21

20th Annual LHA Convention
Canton, Ohio

Saturday **JUNE 2**

California Chapter Bus Tour
Sacramento to Donner Pass

Saturday **JULY 7**
12:00 noon

State Chapter Meeting
Location to be announced

Saturday **AUGUST 25**

California Chapter Cruise and Tour
Sacramento to Lake Tahoe

Saturday **OCTOBER 6**
12:00 noon

State Chapter Meeting
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 web site.

Contact Joel Windmiller regarding mailing of postcards

NOTE: Details of these two events will be released in the April Traveler. Questions can be directed to Paul Gilger



Tour # 3 Donner Summit

**LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER**

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California Chapter LHA Web Site Maintained by James Lin
Log in at: <http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/ca>

Editors Note; Our cover has changed and reflects the old saying " Something Old -
Something New - Something Borrowed - Something Blue.

Old - Two autos meeting on the highway
New - Western Terminus maker photo courtesy of George Clark
Borrowed - Chapter letter head from Jim Lin's Traveler era
Blue - Blue sky at Western Terminus