



Journal

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY HERITAGE CORRIDOR

www.LHHC.org

September, 2020

The Mission of the non-profit Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor:

to identify, conserve, promote and interpret the cultural, historical, natural, recreational, and economic resources along the Lincoln Highway in PA's Westmoreland, Somerset, Bedford, Fulton, Franklin and Adams Counties.

The Mission of the nonprofit Lincoln Highway Experience:

utilizing its collection, educational programs and outreach, the Lincoln Highway Experience encourages the exploration of the historic Lincoln Highway at regional, state and national levels as it seeks to connect each visitor's experience to the diverse history, culture and geography found in and along the Lincoln Highway.



Top Row: Howard, Diner & Gallery Docent; Carol, Diner & SM Vol.; Dan, Gen. Vol.; Wanda, Greeter & SM Vol.; Wayne, Diner & SM Vol.; Joe, Gen. Vol.; Middle Row: Miriam, Archive Vol.; Greer, Mgr.; Susan, Greeter; Hannah, SM Vol.; Vickie, Diner Vol.; Clay, Diner & Gallery Docent; Bottom Row: Cindy, Diner Volunteer



In honor of our 25th Anniversary we're using the Good Silver!

Printed 1st issue of *Lincoln Hwy. Journal* in 1996. Created 1st (of 3) Lincoln Hwy. Driving Guides. Recorded and transcribed 31 oral histories. Held 1st (of 12) Lincoln Hwy. Road Rallies. Partnered with Scenic America to create a manual—*Action Steps to Preserve the Character and Beauty of the LHHC*—copies were shared with Corridor communities. Created and printed *Lincoln Highway Book-covers*—distributed 17,000 to elementary students along our 6 counties. With guidance from consultants and many meetings with communities, a 2-volume Interpretive Plan was created and served as the blueprint for our 200-mile *Lincoln Highway Roadside Museum*. Twenty-two colorful replica gas pumps began appearing next to Corridor interpretive exhibits, forming our *Lincoln Highway Pump Parade*. Hosted a Lincoln Highway Swap Meet at Jennerstown Speedway. Over 170 Lincoln Highway road signs installed along 6 Counties. Saved the 1927 Coffee Pot from demolition; restored it; and placed it on the National Register of Historic Places. Partnered with Penn State's Architectural Dept. to provide their expertise with 4 Lincoln Hwy. communities. In 2004, created the *Ligonier Home Tour*, inviting two other nonprofits to collaborate. Created and printed a *Lincoln Highway Motorcycle Guide*, followed by a *Lincoln Highway Bicycle Guide*. Coordinated County Chapter meetings along our 6 Counties to engage local residents and LHHC board members. Created a *Lincoln Highway Cookbook*. Over 10 yrs., a regular participant in Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape project. Created a board game for middle school students—*Lincoln Highway Road Trip*—and distributed to 78 schools along our 200-mile Corridor. In 2008, created a Corridor-wide program for artisans called *Hand-made along the Highway*; it continued for 12 years. Worked with 5 Career and Technology schools to create XL welded *Roadside Giants of the Lincoln Highway*. Their culinary arts students baked a giant cake in same shape. In 2009, the PA Governor's Keystone Society for Tourism awarded the twelve Heritage Area Executive Directors the PA Heritage Areas Enterprise Award. The Sen. John Heinz History Ctr. donates a 1938 diner in need of love and care...a dozen years later we restored it and it becomes the centerpiece of our museum. In 2011, the perfect property along the Lincoln Hwy. between Latrobe and Ligonier is secured to become the LHHC's home and museum. In anticipation of expanding the site to accommodate the newly restored 1938 Serro's Diner (recipient of the PA Preservation Award in 2014), we completed an Economic Impact Study. Honored to have Gettysburg artist, Wendy Allen, work with us and area students on an *Abraham Lincoln Art Contest*. Completed a 13-min. video, *Through the Windshield*, which won a national Telly Award. In 2014, *Lincoln Highway SuperMarket* held it's first weekly event on Wednesdays in June, July and August; it continues today. A dozen or so *Lincoln Highway Pop-up Dinners* at 'mysterious' LH locations proved popular. Working with the Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited Club, created the *Laurel Highlands Trout Trail*. To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Lincoln Highway in 2013, we coordinated a *Lincoln Highway in Bloom* project along our 6 Counties.

Continued—



Member

Where the Rubber Meets the Road...

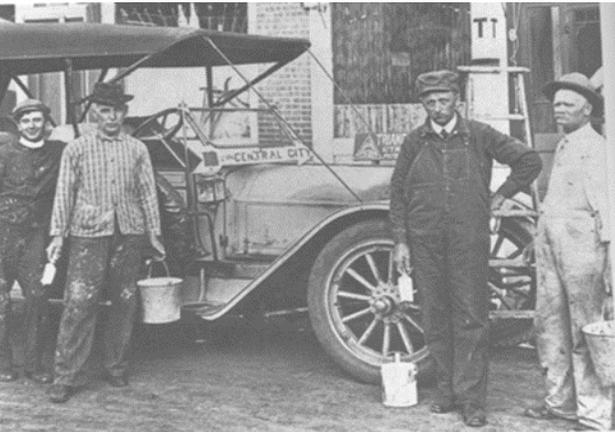
Continued from Page 1—

After an ambitious in-house capital campaign full of generous gifts and donations around every turn, we were able to double the size of the Lincoln Highway Experience museum, and feature several large restored Lincoln Highway artifacts: 1938 Serro's Diner; a tourist cabin, a Packard automobile, and three vintage gas pumps. We opened to the public on August 2, 2018, and it didn't take long for our visitors and Trip Advisor to name us the #1 attraction in our area. Two years later, we still have that honor. It's been an absolute delight to meet visitors from all over PA, from around the country, and the world. They love the Lincoln Highway story as much as we do. In turn, our museum visitors are inspired to travel the historic route through PA. A big THANK YOU to all who have supported me and the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor over these past 25 years—individuals, foundations and PA DCNR.

To raise awareness of our 25th Anniversary this year, our Board Members installed whimsical Abraham Lincoln cutouts on our existing Lincoln Highway road signs. *Many hands make light work*, and that's why teams of two took on this Corridor-wide installation project. Special thanks to Joe Kondisko and Rich Lopretto who now know the location of every Lincoln Highway road sign in Westmoreland County; Ed and Anna Baird guarantee the colorful Abe cutouts will bring a smile to Somerset County travelers; Mike Payne and Bob Piper tackled Bedford County and part of Fulton County (see photos at right); Mike Schen and Mike Ryan were revved up to affix their cutouts in Franklin County; and, Mike Schen rounded out our 200-mile Corridor by completing Adams County all by himself!



Olga A. Herbert
Executive Director



There were Lincoln Highway volunteers doing road work long before 2020.... Who painted the telephone poles and barns with the iconic red, white and blue Lincoln Highway logo to direct early motorists who wanted to travel the Lincoln Highway? Just look at the enthusiasm of this 1915 Lincoln Highway paint crew....



Lincoln Highway SupperMarket 2020 ~ Last one in 2020 on Sept. 9!

Lincoln Highway SupperMarket adapted to all COVID-19 protocols: only 1/2 our picnic tables are out, with most designated for Family and Friends; picnic tables are 6' apart and sanitized after each use; florescent lines are painted on grass for guests to observe the 6' distance when waiting in line to order their meal; and, all are required to wear a mask when not eating. Not everything has changed. We are still able to attract the best musicians around! Their performances are outstanding and SupperMarket guests linger longer; our chefs (5 this year) continue to amaze us with their variety; the parking fee remains at \$3 a car; and guests can use our lovely indoor restrooms, which are sanitized after each & every use.



Ligonier residents Jim and Karen (opposite one another) join Gay at the August 5, 2020 Lincoln Highway SupperMarket.

Friends of the Lincoln Highway Get Behind Us. . .and move us Forward!

(Donors May through August, 2020)

Diner Club (\$500 to \$999)

Joseph Kondisko, *Ligonier, PA*

BFF—Best Friends Forever (\$150 to \$499)

Anna Baird, *Somerset, PA*
 Nancy Hamilton, *Verona, PA*
 John and Suzanne Wright, *Greensburg, PA*

Pal—(\$75 to \$149)

Toni and John Ackerman, *Greensburg, PA*
 Eric Ambro, *Cleveland, OH*
 Richard and Audrey Bartkoski, *Cheswick, PA*
 Joyce Horst, *Chambersburg, PA*
 Jim and Jan Litrum, *Ligonier, PA*
 Nancy and Dick McKelvey, *Latrobe, PA*
 Marilyn McSparrin, *Greensburg, PA*
 Edward Mayer, *Dover, DE*
 Robert and Ellen Piper, *Latrobe, PA*
 Jerry and Anna Marie Stewart, *Washington, PA*
 Jeff Stonesifer, *Gettysburg, PA*
 Charon Tandarich, *Latrobe, PA*
 Celia Whitehead, *Tempe, AZ*
 Claudia Winter, *Greensburg, PA*

Friend—(\$50 to \$75)

Butch and Candy Bellas, *Ligonier, PA*
 William Clark, *Bensalem, PA*
 John and Joyce Jackson, *Delaware, OH*
 Diane Thomas, *Tampa, FL*

Adopt-a-Sign—(\$75)

Dolores and Jay Jarrell, *McMurray, PA*



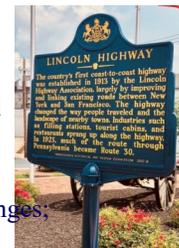
The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is holding a free, one-hour webinar to share tips for submitting the best nomination for a successful grant to have a blue and gold Historical marker in your community. Topics include:

- ⇒ Criteria for Approval, including recent changes;
- ⇒ Nomination, review, and approval process;
- ⇒ Expectations for approved markers; and,
- ⇒ Tips and tricks for successful nominations.

All must register in advance.

Webinar is set for Wed., Sept. 30, 2020 at 10 am.

Email: kgalle@pa.gov or call 717-705-4266.



I like the work the Lincoln Hwy. Heritage Corridor has done and continues to do. I want to show my support by *Renewing* or *Becoming* a Friend of the Lincoln Highway at the level I've circled below.

Lincoln Circle Packard Club Diner Club BFF PAL FRIEND

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Send your tax-deductible donation to LHHC, 3435 State Route 30 East, Latrobe, PA 15650. Thank you!



Listen Up—

If visiting your local, state, or national park, please be responsible and take home any trash you created. Thank you!



- ◆ The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is accepting applications for grants to aid snowmobile and ATV-related projects. **The grant round is open now through September 30.** Applications are being accepted electronically through DCNR’s online grant application system. In previous years the grants have supported land acquisition, trail maintenance, education, etc. Don’t wait—check their website www.dcnr.pa.gov and then go to GRANTS.



- ◆ **Need funding for your PA park, trail, or conservation project?** DCNR’s annual grant workshops begin in November. You need to attend one of these to get the ‘inside scoop’. In eastern PA, your session is Wed., Nov. 4. In central PA, attend the Thursday, Nov. 12 workshop. And, those in western PA, should attend the Tuesday, Nov. 17 workshop. Each runs from 9:30 to noon and will be virtual. Get more details at their website: www.dcnr.pa.gov
- ◆ **The 2020 Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape TRAIL SUMMIT is set for September 22-23.** This FREE virtual Summit will be capped at 200 attendees. In addition to DCNR Sec. Cindy Dunn, Keynote Speaker will be Chuck Flink. If you have trails, or are in the process of building a trail, you definitely need to be part of this Summit! For more info., and/or to sign up, email mpapernick@pecpa.org

Lincoln Hwy. Mini-Grants-around the bend!

Later this fall, the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor will be announcing our popular Mini-Grant Opportunity to nonprofit organizations and municipalities along our 200-mile, 6 County Corridor. Details will appear in local newspapers; but, if you would like to be notified of this opportunity, just email office@LHHC.org and put *Mini-Grant* in Subject line; or call us at 724-879-4241. These funds originate with the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The Virtual Preservation **preservation** PENNSYLVANIA PA Conference is set for October 13-16. Registration is OPEN now. For more information and/or to register, visit www.preservationpa.org or call 717-234-2310.



This beautiful photo was taken last week by one of our long-time volunteers, Clay Stoner, of Latrobe, PA.

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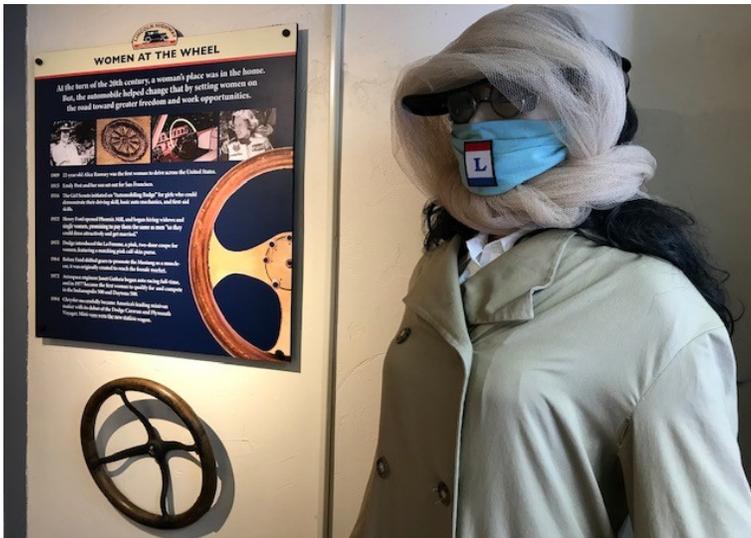
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Women at the Wheel

This is just one of many exhibits at the Lincoln Highway Experience.

This mannequin is Emily Post, complete in period duster coat; hat; leather gauntlet gloves; netting to keep her hat in place, but also to fend off insects when riding in an automobile with no roof or windshield. (*The mask with Lincoln Highway logo is a recent addition!*)

When some of us think of Emily Post, we remember the New York socialite who authored a series of etiquette books. But, she had a life before that—a rather exciting life with a Lincoln Highway connection.

In 1915, Mrs. Post was on assignment for *Collier's Weekly* magazine and was asked to take a cross-country automobile trip on the relatively new Lincoln Highway. “I was deciding upon the route through the Allegheny Mountains to Pittsburgh, and then onto St. Louis.” However, someone convinced them (her son and a cousin accompanied Mrs. Post) the Lincoln Highway route through Pennsylvania would be too challenging, so they went west via Buffalo (?*#!?). Now how is that route on the Lincoln Highway! Any guess how long it took for these adventurous travelers to realize they would not need the silver tea service they packed?

Be a Tourist in Your Own City.

In partnership with the Senator John Heinz History Center’s Affiliate Program and the Allegheny County Library System, the Lincoln Highway Experience was invited to partner in “*Be a Tourist in Your Own City*” Program for 2020-21. This Program encourages families to visit the Heinz History Center, as well as other sites in nearby counties. For 2020, the **Transportation Theme** includes Fort Pitt Museum in Allegheny County; the Air Heritage Museum and Aircraft Restoration Facility in Beaver County; the Lincoln Highway Experience in Westmoreland County; the McKeesport Regional History and Heritage Center in Allegheny County; the Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village in Washington County; and the PA Trolley Museum, also in Washington County. Allegheny County Library cardholders are able to participate and visit the above museums at no cost for up to four people per visit. Each receives an Experience Kit that includes virtual access to educational support materials and itinerary suggestions.

Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor Executive Director, Olga Herbert, gave an online virtual tour of the Lincoln Highway Experience museum in mid-August. Shortly thereafter, preschoolers really enjoyed the virtual reading of the new Lincoln Highway book, *GIANTS of the Lincoln Highway*, by Wanda Kingera, a former elementary educator, and current Greeter at the Museum.



Art and Cheryl put finishing touches on the popular Automobilia2020 Exhibit in The Gantz Gallery.

Our special *Automobilia2020* Exhibit continues through next six weeks at Museum from 10-noon, every Tues., Thurs., and Sat.



On one hand, the pandemic has limited shopping options (frequenting little artsy shops; special deli markets, etc.); but, many of us have ‘crossed over’ into the online world. It’s scary; one package arrived from “The Tiki Shack”, and some with no readable return addresses (no, they weren’t seeds). But, when small museums, like ours, are not getting the volume of visitors we are used to, we’re also not ringing up sales in our Gift Shop. It’s time to **Shop Local—Shop Lincoln!**

Visit our website: **www.LHHC.org** then click Lincoln Highway Experience.

- ◆ The Lincoln Highway Gift Shop has very cool tee shirts that are definitely road-worthy. Have a teen heading off to college? Think nightshirt!
- ◆ We also have a number of items from our *Handmade along the Highway* program. These are high quality and one-of-a-kind. They are best appreciated when seen up close and personal—in our Gift Shop.
- ◆ You can *never* have too many MAGNETS You’ll need these to display all the remote learning assignments and artwork that kiddos will be cranking out this upcoming school year. Our MAGNETS are designed by the best graphic artists around!



- ◆ New baby in the family? It may *seem* like this little bundle of joy has absolutely *everything*. But, chances are he/she does not have a **Newest Lincoln Highway Fan** bib! Easy to mail—
- ◆ If you are caring for a grandchild now or when school starts, here’s an opportunity to make new memories together. You will both enjoy reading our ‘hot off the press’ **GIANTS of the Lincoln Highway** book. Follow it up with a Lincoln Highway road trip where you can visit each of the Giants in person and take lots of photos. Full addresses are provided for each Giant’s home. The oldest of these giants is the Coffee Pot which has been perking in Bedford, PA since 1927. Our nonprofit saved it from demolition, restored it, and placed it on the National Register in 2004. The Shoe House was erected around 1948 in Hellam, PA (near York). Later, a mini-Shoe House was crafted as a doghouse! Purchase these items via our website—www.LHHC.org—or call Greer at the museum at 724-879-4241.





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NOW, IT'S TIME FOR a REPLACEMENT**

Our patching days are over—rain is still finding a way to quietly travel under the shingles into the *Penny for Your Tots Room* that preschoolers visiting our Museum just love! Water is running down one wall in there, damaging the kids’ mural. It is also coming down on an adjacent wall which we just re-plastered and painted. When we purchased the historic Johnston House, the real estate disclosure form stated the two ‘wings’ and the largest section over the south wing that connects the Postcard Corridor and The Gantz Gallery were installed in 1988. It’s that area that is giving us fits. WHOA—it’s no wonder; it’s 32 years old! It’s time for a replacement. Join us in protecting and preserving the 1815 National Register-listed building that is the core of our museum. *Begin by* taking the first step; pull out the stapled envelope and help us RAISE the ROOF. Thank you for your continued support. Olga



More than a dozen years ago, the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor (LHHC) installed this directional sign (*photos at left*) to help motorists find **Fort Loudon** in western Franklin County.

Recently, when LHHC board members, Mike Schen and Mike Ryan, were out that way installing the Abraham Lincoln cut-outs onto our Lincoln Highway road signs, they took advantage of a stepstool and some painting supplies. Good job; the pole looks very spiffy now!



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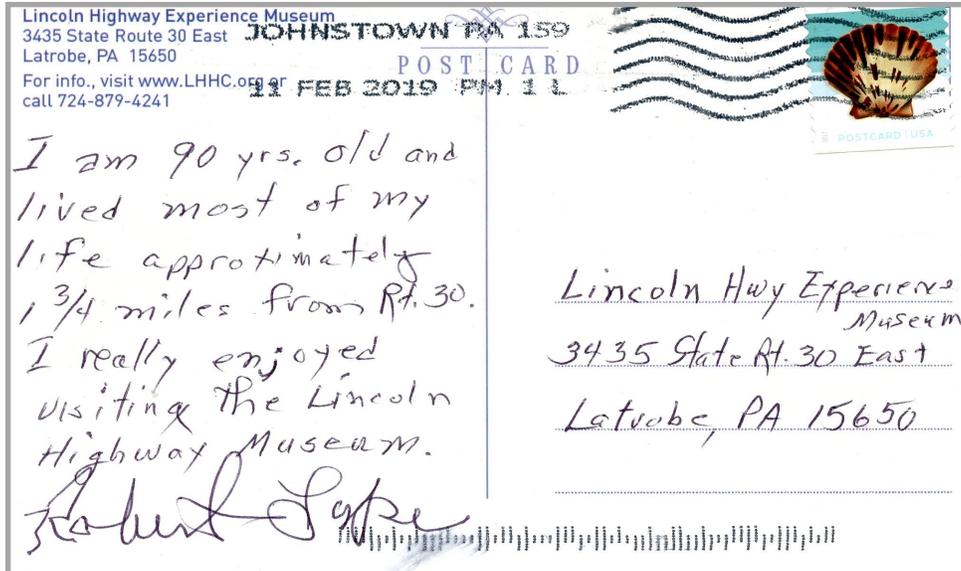
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All visitors to our Lincoln Highway Experience: have the use of an Audio Wand during their tour; receive a 60-page Lincoln Highway Driving Guide; enjoy a piece of pie and cup of coffee inside the restored 1938 Serro's Diner; and, a **Lincoln Highway postcard (with postage) to send.** Last year, WE were the recipient of the postcard below-so sweet.



LHHC Board of Directors

- Anna Baird, Somerset
- Jim Bittner, Breezewood
- Father Brian Boosel, O.S.B., Ph.D.,
Latrobe
- Kristin Ecker, Greensburg
- Joe Kondisko, Ligonier
- Rich Lopretto, Greensburg
- Mike Payne, Ligonier
- Ellen Piper, Latrobe
- David Roderick, Ligonier
- Mike Ryan, Mechanicsburg
- Mike Schen, New Oxford

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- Phyllis Bertok
- Patrick Bochy
- Mark Markosky
- Art McMullen
- Olga A. Herbert, Exec. Dir.

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- Kathy Frankel, DCNR
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