



# Indiana Lincoln Highway Association

Preserving & Promoting the 1913 and 1928 Routes  
of the Lincoln Highway in Indiana

15493 State Road 23  
Granger, IN 46530

[www.indianalincolnhighway.org](http://www.indianalincolnhighway.org)



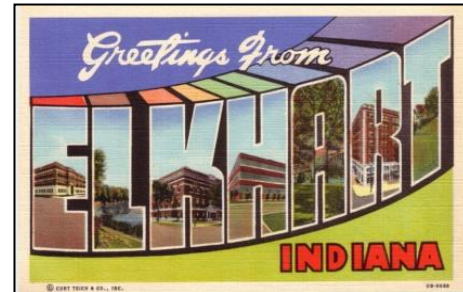
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Cartoonist, Lincoln Highway history buff, and INLHA member Bob Lang sent us this image. We look forward to receiving more cartoons in the future. Thanks Bob!

The 1913 *Hints to Transcontinental Tourists Traveling the Lincoln Highway* offered this advice to get out of a mud hole: "If the rear wheels are stuck and will not take hold, dig a hole in front of each forward wheel, into which the wheels can immediately roll. Place sagebrush in front of the rear wheels. When the car moves, block the rear wheels quickly and repeat the holes in front. Drive the rear wheels as slowly as possible to avoid unnecessary churning." p. 5



## Join Us in Elkhart

We invite you to the Spring Gathering of the Indiana Lincoln Highway Association on **Saturday, May 13**. \$12.50 includes snacks, box lunch, tip, and beverage.

9:00 a.m. EDT ~ Meet at the Elkhart County Visitor Center, 3421 Cassopolis St., Elkhart 46514  
<https://www.visitelkhartcounty.com/>

9:15 – 11:15 ~ Membership meeting: Agenda will include election of INLHA Board members, financial report, updates on current activities, updates on plans for hosting the 2024 National LHA Conference, and more. The agenda and background information will be provided in advance to each registrant to expedite the meeting.

11:30 – 12:30 ~ Lunch will be box lunches from McAlister's Deli which include choice of sandwich, plus chips, pickle spear, and cookie, OR a salad. Beverages and snacks are included in the \$12.50 cost.

12:3 – 2:30 ~ We will caravan to visit sites that will be used as we host the June 2024 national Lincoln Highway Association Conference: Wellfield Gardens, The Lerner Theatre Crystal Ballroom, and Hotel Elkhart.

**Please register by May 10 so we have an accurate count for lunch and can send you meeting materials.**

**Register by email, mail, or phone – see p. 3 for INLHA contact information and p. 4 for registration form.**

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## Ralph's Walk



In order to bring more awareness to the Lincoln Highway and to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday, LHA life member #55 Ralph Spelbring, 77, of Elkhart braved February weather and walked the entire 30-mile length of the Lincoln Highway through Elkhart County.

Notes from Ralph:

**Day 1, February 11:** Guy 77 years old walks along Old U.S. 33. LHA lifetime member #55 walked from the east Elkhart County line with Noble County to CR 31 and U.S. 33 where Fairfield Jr.-Sr. High School is located. Temperature was 46°F at 2:22 p.m.



**Day 2, February 13:** Guy age 77 walked along U.S. 33 from Fairfield Schools at CR 31 to the Elkhart County Courthouse in Goshen. A couple of food breaks were taken. I passed an Amish house just north of the LH and Fairfield Schools. Walk time was about 3 ½ hours. While there was a strong west wind, temperature was about 50°F.



**Day 3, February 18:** When I started walking from Goshen to Elkhart it was 41°F at 12:50. I had intended to walk on the east side of railroad tracks, however trains blocked crossings between downtown Goshen and CR 13. Thus I stayed on the west side of tracks to Indiana Avenue.

**Day 4, February 20:** I finished my walk across Elkhart County along the 1913 route before 4 p.m. on Presidents Day. I started that day at the Main Street and Indiana Avenue intersection in Elkhart. I walked along Indiana Avenue to the Franklin Street intersection, then turned left and took LaRue from what is now SR 19 and finished at West County Line.

Well done, Ralph! Thank you!

## New Board Member

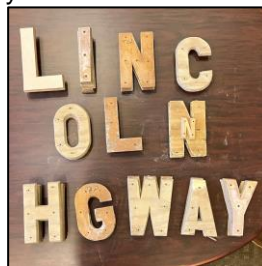


Blake Swihart

We welcome Blake Swihart to our Indiana Lincoln Highway Board of Directors. A Fort Wayne native, Blake and his family recently moved back to Indiana from Michigan when he took the position as director of Indiana Landmarks' Northwest Field Office in Gary. He joins Todd Zeiger and Deb Parcell as Indiana Landmarks representatives on our Board.

Blake has B.A. and M.A. history degrees from Indiana University and McGill University respectively and a certificate in historic preservation from Eastern Michigan University.

Blake is "excited to be back in his home state" and will represent Lake County on our Board. He has already helped us inventory and photograph the original lettering molds for the Ideal Section bridge that we hope will be used when the bridge is replaced next year.



## Welcome New Members!

- Sharon Carlson – South Bend  
Goshen Historical Society
- Bradley Gregson – Clinton
- John & Mary Komenas – Chesterton
- Thomas & Cathy Lowry – Aurora, CO  
Merrillville-Ross Township Historical Society
- James & Pamela Neal – East Lansing, MI
- Deborah Oelling – Valparaiso
- Garry & Cindy Shelton - Plainfield
- Chris Shelton – Indianapolis

## Photo Credits

- P. 1 Bob Lang; Russell Rein Collection
- P. 2 Dave Parcell; Ralph Spelbring; Blake Swihart
- P. 3 Jeff Blair; IN Lincoln Highway Association
- P. 4 Tom Dermody

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MAY 13 ~ 9:00 EDT INLHA SPRING GATHERING,  
ELKHART COUNTY VISITOR CENTER, ELKHART**

**JUNE 1-3 ~ STUDEBAKER DRIVERS CLUB ZONE  
MEET, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS, SOUTH BEND**  
INLHA WILL HAVE AN INFORMATIONAL TABLE

**JUNE 11-15 ~ LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE – FOLSOM, CA**

**AUGUST 10-12 ~ LINCOLN HIGHWAY BUY-WAY  
YARD SALE**

**JUNE 24-28, 2024 ~ LINCOLN HIGHWAY  
ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE – ELKHART**



## INLHA Board of Directors

President: Jeff Blair  
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## Abe “Wanders Indiana”!



He got to Elkhart ahead of us! At Hotel Elkhart and the National New York Central Railroad Museum.

## The 2024 LH Conference Logo

By Jeff Blair



***“The journey IS the destination!”***

Looking forward to seeing friends at the LHA Conference in California in June...and planning ahead for some fun times at the Conference for 2024 in Elkhart. Here is our logo and a short tag line that you might find interesting or inviting...

Note the IN INDIANA. The State Tourism Department has adopted this logo for many of their events and publications to highlight the wonderful fairs, sites, people, parties, conferences, and things to do across our fair state. We were lucky enough to snag this part of our LHA Conference logo from them and they are helping us in so many ways. We are going to provide a huge welcome and an enjoyable time...IN INDIANA.

Note the winding road alongside. Clearly the message is we are on the road again (apologies to Willie Nelson). Some will fly but I suspect most will drive to join us in June, 2024. We hope you will stop in Fort Wayne or La Porte or Dyer on the way here--- we will point out great spots for you to visit along the winding Lincoln Highway (though often pretty straight here in Indiana). ☺

Of course we are highlighting the LHA National Conference. The dates include pre- and post-opportunities, and the host county: Elkhart. This is both an industrial area and an agricultural area. It would probably be all agriculture if it were not for the St Joseph and Elkhart Rivers offering safe early settlements and ready transportation for Native Americans, later the railroads in the latter half of the 1800s, and ultimately the good old Lincoln Highway.

Finally, we stole a tag line phrase from Ralph Waldo Emerson... *The journey IS the destination!* We think this phrase describes us all pretty well. We love going places, but half the fun is what we see and do on our way.

When you join us next year, you will see this logo and tag line on a variety of printed materials, shirts, and signage. Hopefully you share the same outlook we have---come spend time with some like-minded travel enthusiasts enjoying the LINCOLN HIGHWAY.

## California, Here We Come!

Several INLHA members are already registered to attend the Lincoln Highway Association's National Conference in Folsom, CA, June 11-15. Planning Committee member Paul Gilger recently posted this update on the Lincoln Highway Facebook page.

I'm pleased to announce that we have many people signed up for the upcoming 2023 Lincoln Highway Association National Conference, hosted by the LHA California Chapter. Conference hotel is in Folsom, California, on the Lincoln. As of today we have 92 people signed up for the Conference.

There are 16 cars signed up for the pre- and post-conference car tours. On Sunday we drive from the Western Terminus Marker in Lincoln Park in San Francisco to Folsom via 1928 LH. On Thursday we drive from Folsom back to the Western Terminus via 1913 LH.

There are 80 people signed up for both bus tours. On Tuesday we take the LH Southern Sierra Route to Lake Tahoe. On Wednesday, we take the LH Northern Sierra Route to Donner Pass.

**There is still time to sign up** - for what is turning out to be quite an event. Hope to see you there.  
<https://lincolnhighwayassoc.org/conference/2023/>

## Sagamore of the Wabash



We congratulate INLHA Board member and 2011 Lincoln Highway Association's Outstanding Educator, Bruce Johnson (center), for receiving the honorary Sagamore of the Wabash award signed by Governor Holcomb in December.

The Sagamore of the Wabash is a high honor given by the state of Indiana to acknowledge achievement or civic contributions. Bruce is a retired educator and currently serves as the official La Porte County Historian, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the La Porte County Historical Society.

## INLHA Spring Event Registration Form

**Please select the entree/s and return the form and payment by mail or email by May 10.**

INLHA, 15493 State Road 23, Granger, IN 46530 ~ [lincolnhighwayassoc.office@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolnhighwayassoc.office@yahoo.com)

\_\_\_\_\_ (number @ \$12.50/person) – **Box Lunch** catered by McAlister's Deli. Price includes lunch (sandwich, chips, pickle spear and cookie OR salad and cookie), tax, gratuity, and beverage. Please indicate the number of each choice:

\_\_\_\_\_ Black Angus Roast Beef Sandwich    \_\_\_\_\_ Black Forest Ham    \_\_\_\_\_ Smoked Turkey    \_\_\_\_\_ Veggie

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Salad sandwich    \_\_\_\_\_ Chef Salad **circle dressing**: Ranch, Honey Mustard, or Fat Free Raspberry/Pecan Vinaigrette

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ **Online at [www.indianalincolnhighway.org](http://www.indianalincolnhighway.org) – please add \$.50 for processing fee.**

**Special instructions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sandwich:** Choice of Black Angus Roast Beef, Black Forest Ham, or Smoked Turkey on baguette with spring mix and tomatoes or Harvest Chicken Salad sandwich.

**Veggie Sandwich:** Spinach, tomatoes, crisp cucumbers, balsamic red onions, house-roasted multi-colored peppers, avocado and herb mayo, seasoned with salt n' pepper on 9-Grain bread.

**Chef Salad:** Mixed greens topped with Black Forest ham, smoked turkey, applewood smoked bacon, cheddar-jack cheese, tomatoes, cucumbers and croutons. Served with choice of dressing.