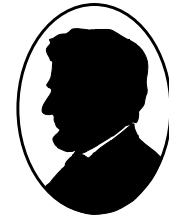


The Lincoln Highway Comes of Age

A Nationwide Millennium Project



**The Lincoln Highway
National Museum & Archives**

102 Old Lincoln Way West
Galion, Ohio



"The Day Mr. Lincoln Came to Town"

"The Unfinished Journey"

"Celebrating America's Spirit Together"

"Spirit of the Lincoln Way"

Marietta, Ohio

Irwin, PA to San Francisco, CA

July 29, 2001



Press Release

www.lincoln-highway-museum.org



The Lincoln Highway National Museum & Archives

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For Immediate Release

Sunday July 29th marked the beginning of "The Unfinished Journey", a trip across the Continent on The Lincoln Highway - America's First Transcontinental Highway. Traveling in the "Spirit of the Lincoln Way", the Nation's most famous fire truck, Craig Harmon, Founder and Director of The Lincoln Highway National Museum & Archives in Galion, Ohio will pilot the 27,000 lb. tower truck on the final leg of a 3400 mile Odyssey.

Beginning in Marietta, Ohio, original home of the "Spirit of the Lincoln Way", a 1964 Maxim with a 100' ladder, Mr. Harmon participated in a Homecoming Celebration which included an exchange of gifts and a "Fire Truck Parade" through town led by Mayor, Joe Matthews and Fire Chief, Ted Baker followed by the Marietta Fire Department and a "Special Motorcycle Escort" by Firefighters from the "Wind & Fire" Motorcycle Club of Merced California who just happened by.

After spending the night at the Marietta Fire Station, Mr. Harmon ceremoniously slid down the fire pole before leaving for Irwin, PA to pick up the Lincoln Highway where he left off last summer. Leaving with only a \$1000.00 and a sleeping bag, Mr. Harmon hopes to make it to San Francisco in time for Fleet Week in October and is trusting in the "Spirit of Lincoln" and Divine Providence to see him through the two month journey.

The "Spirit of the Lincoln Way" was most recently seen in Washington, DC rolling down Pennsylvania Avenue in the Inaugural Parade for President George W. Bush carrying such notables as Mr. Lincoln played by Crawford County Commissioner, Mo Ressallat, baseball greats, Steve Garvey and Johnny Bench, as well as Olympic Star, Mary Lou Retton and Ms. America 2001, Susan Jeske.

The "Journey" which began one year ago in front of the Lincoln Memorial is to commemorate the 85th Anniversary of the 1915 Lincoln Highway Film & Flag Trip and Liberty Bell Crossing. The idea is to carry the "Sacred Fire of Liberty" across the Country, raise the American & Lincoln Highway Flags in all 450 towns on the Lincoln Highway and reclaim Lincoln Park as the End of the Lincoln Highway.

Using the Bush Inaugural theme, "Celebrating America's Spirit Together" the goal is to continue the work started last year under The White House Millennium Council and invite every Lincoln Highway Community to nominate their portion of the Highway as a White House Community Millennium Trail. The Lincoln Highway National Museum & Archives is the largest sponsor of Community Millennium Trails in the Nation.

The idea is to form an unbroken "Link Across America" as part of a 10 year program to "Honor the Past and Imagine the Future" celebrating The Lincoln Highway as "The Show Road of the World" in preparation for the Nationwide Bicentennial Celebration of Mr. Lincoln's Birth in 2009.

Dubbed, "The Perfect Tribute", plans call for the reenactment of major Lincoln Highway events including the Grand Finale, a reenactment of the 1919 First Army Transcontinental Convoy, a 62 day trip across the Continent from The White House to San Francisco as well as the reenactment and possible feature filming of The Greatest Funeral in the History of the United States-The Great Funeral Cortège -The Lincoln Funeral Train, by film legend Steven Spielberg.

**For More Details, Real Time GPS Location, a Six Page Press Kit and Hi-Res Photos
Go to www.lincoln-highway-museum.org.
Call for Interviews, or Location on the Fire Truck Cell Phone: 419-566-0790
Media Rides Available**



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"The Perfect Tribute" National Events-Lincoln Highway Bicentennial Celebration Mr. Lincoln's Birth

2003

**90th Anniversary
National Lincoln Highway Day
Dedication of The Lincoln Highway
October 31, 1913**

On October 31st the Nation Celebrated.
Over 300 Communities lit bonfires
in Honor of Mr. Lincoln and the Opening of
The Great Highway-The Lincoln Highway
the "Show Road of the World".

Plans call for firemen from the
Lincoln Way Volunteer Fire Department
to host Bonfire Celebrations and Light
the "Sacred Fire of Liberty"
all across the Continent on
The Lincoln Highway
Then form a
"Light Around the World"
In Honor of Mr. Lincoln.

2004

**90th Anniversary
Christening of The Lincoln Highway
1914 Saxon Motorcar makes the Journey
Summer - 1914
80th Anniversary of 10 Millionth Ford
Lincoln Highway Trip
Summer - 1924**

In the Summer a 1914 members of
The Lincoln Highway Association
dipped the rear wheels of a Saxon Motorcar
into the Hudson River at Coney Island
then filled a canteen full of water and began
the 3400 mile Journey to San Francisco.
Once there, they drove the front wheels into
the Pacific Ocean, and emptied the canteen
thus Christening The Lincoln Highway.

Plans call for a similar trip with either a 1914 Saxon
or the 1924 Ten Millionth Ford.

2005

**90th Anniversary
Film & Flag Trip
Liberty Bell Crossing
Summer-1915**

In the Summer of 1915 Members of
The Lincoln Highway Association
carried the American Flag Across the Continent
and shot over 16,000 feet of moving pictures
for a film called "See America First".
Upon arrival in San Francisco they planted
the Flag and claimed Lincoln Park as the
End of the Lincoln Highway.

Plans call for one more trip by the
"Spirit of the Lincoln Way"
Fire Truck to Commemorate this Event
and this time there will be movies.

2007

**90th Anniversary
Betsy Ross Memorial Flag Pole
End of The Lincoln Highway
July 4, 1917
90th Anniversary
The Goodyear Wingfoot Express
First Transcontinental Truck Line
on The Lincoln Highway
On July 4th, 1917**

The Native Daughters of the Golden West
dedicate The Betsy Ross Memorial Flag Pole
on the 150th Anniversary of America's First Flag.
The Flag Pole marks the End of the Lincoln Highway
and is erected on the spot claimed in 1915
by The Lincoln Highway Association.

The 120 Foot Flag Pole is long gone,
but plans call for The Native Daughters to
once again erect

The Betsy Ross Memorial Flag Pole
as the End of the Lincoln Highway.



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"The Perfect Tribute" National Events-Lincoln Highway Bicentennial Celebration Mr. Lincoln's Birth

2008

**80th Anniversary
Boy Scout Safety Tour
Summer - 1928
3400 Concrete Markers
Lincoln Memorial Highway
Boy Scouts of America
September 1, 1928**

During the Summer of 1928
4 Eagle Scouts set out
in a Hudson Automobile fixed up
like a Conastoga Wagon for
"The Trip of a Lifetime".

They toured the country on
The Lincoln Highway
stopping along the way
giving Scouting Skills Demonstrations.

Eagle Scout Bernard Queneau will be 90 years old
and is the last of the 4 Eagles to make the trip.

Then, on September 1, 1928 hundreds
of Boy Scouts from all across the Country
placed over 3400 concrete
Lincoln Highway Markers
along the Highway
as a Memorial to Mr. Lincoln.

Plans call for 4 New Eagle Scouts to be chosen
for a reenactment of
The Boy Scout Safety Tour
with a special ceremony in San Francisco
to honor Mr. Queneau.

In addition, plans call for the placing
of 3400 new Concrete Markers
along the way to mark
The Lincoln Highway
as The Greatest Memorial and
"The Show Road of the World"
in Honor of Mr. Lincoln.

2009

**90th Anniversary
First Army Transcontinental
Motor Transport Convoy
The White House to San Francisco
The Land Fleet meets the Sea Fleet
Beginning of Fleet Week
Summer - 1919**

In the Summer of 1919
The First Army Transcontinental
Motor Transport Convoy began at
The Zero Milestone in front of
The White House.

62 days later the 75 Trucks and 365 Men
arrived in San Francisco as the
"Land Fleet met the Sea Fleet"
for the largest Celebration in the
History of San Francisco, or what
is now known as Fleet Week.

As the Grand Finale, plans call for
a similar Convoy to cross the Continent
and end with the Greatest Fleet Week ever.

In addition, 2009 is the perfect year
to release a possible film version of
The Great Funeral Cortege
The Lincoln Funeral Train
a reenactment of the last days of
Mr. Lincoln and
The Greatest Funeral in the History
of the United States.

Well over a Million people actually saw
the face of Mr. Lincoln,
and countless Millions lined the tracks in
"Perfect Tribute"
with Bonfires Burning
representing the
"Hopes of a Nation"
and
"Sacred Fire of Liberty"