



The Lincoln Highway National Museum & Archives

102 Old Lincoln Way West
P.O. Box 201
Galion, Ohio 44833
(419) 462-2212 - Voice
(419) 462-2214 - Fax

The Lincoln Highway Comes of Age

A Nationwide Millennium Project

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September 21, 2003

Dear Fellow Fire Fighters,

Greetings from The Lincoln Highway National Museum & Archives in Galion, Ohio.

While I am not a fire fighter in real life, I can assure you I am one in Spirit.

As many of you may know, I recently completed a 2 year 15,000 mile odyssey across the Continent on The Lincoln Highway in the "Spirit of the Lincoln Way" a 1964 Maxim-Open Cab 100 foot ladder truck, originally in service in Marietta, Ohio.

Starting in July of 2000 in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC, then traveling to New York City and Times Square, the Eastern Terminus of the Nation's First Transcontinental Highway, I began what The New Jersey Journal calls a "Long Journey into History".

Charged with a Mission from President Clinton and The White House Millennium Council to "Honor the Past-Imagine the Future" and "Keep Alive...The Sacred Fire of Liberty" I set out to carry "The Sacred Fire" and fly the American Flag from the ladder in all 450 cities on The Lincoln Highway to commemorate a similar trip in 1915. Along for the ride was a special guest, Abraham Lincoln, in the form of a picture and lock of his hair on loan from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

The first stop in every town was always the fire station, where we were always greeted with open arms, friendly conversation and a willingness to assist in our Mission, no matter what the hour. Many times we shared a meal and were offered a warm bunk in support of our quest. In addition, fuel and funds were often donated as was an occasional opportunity to "Go Along for the Ride" as you went about your work. On several occasions, we even "bunkered up" and lent a hand as the situation required.

When we finally arrived in San Francisco on the 4th of July after 10 months on the road, the Oakland and San Francisco Fire Departments escorted the "Spirit" across the Bay Bridge into the city. There we planted the American and Lincoln Highway Flags and reclaimed Lincoln Park as the End of the Lincoln Highway.

Later I took Mr. Lincoln to the Beach and fulfilled a life long dream to dip his big toe in the Pacific Ocean. Finally...after two long years we had realized our dream and accomplished our mission, but we owe it all to the constant support aid of the Firemen!!

On September 11th I was sound asleep at the Fire Station in Goshen, Indiana when one of the firemen woke me up and said, "They just hit the World Trade Tower..."

For the remainder of the day, I like the rest of the world watched in disbelief as events continued to unfold. The next day, I decided to continue the journey across the Continent in honor of those lost and changed the "Guest Book" to a "Book of Remembrance". In addition, I added a 9 foot 11 inch chain to the rigging, and for the next 30 days the flags flew at half staff.

Since I was the only guy in the United States traveling across the country in a fire truck carrying "The Sacred Fire of Liberty" that had spoken to Chief Downey and visited with the fellows of Rescue 1 and Ladder 8, that had a symbolic photo of the "Spirit of the Lincoln Way" in front of the WTC and was meeting with firemen and flying the American Flag in every city across America, that put me in a unique position and added to the significance of my mission.

Wanting to do something special, I asked the Chief in Cedar Rapids to sign a Helmet in tribute.

When I got to Valley, Nebraska it was full, so one of the guys said, "We've got an extra helmet." and started the tradition of each Department signing a helmet. To date there are 114 on board.

The plan was to send the helmets to the Chief in New York, but that quickly blossomed into this.

One night...October 31st, Halloween and the 90th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Lincoln Highway, firemen from all around the world will gather to Honor Abraham Lincoln and their fallen brothers by lighting "The Sacred Fire of Liberty" and forming a "Light Around the World".

Then each department will Sign a Helmet and send it New York as part of a "Wall of Helmets" similar to the Viet Nam Wall. Departments on The Lincoln Highway will be assigned a fallen brother and designate a Memorial Mile in their honor, followed by a candlelight vigil, striking the four fives and ringing of the Peace Bell.

It's a tall order, but I know we can do it. The Mayor of Marietta, a former fireman and the Fire Chief will "Start it Off" by sounding the alarm at 12 midnight followed Council Bluffs lighting the first fire at 12:01. Then later that night at 7:22 local time the call will go out and everyone will join in.

Hundreds of Departments have expressed a desire to participate, so it's really just a matter of "setting the spark" and "letting the fire run wild". Please contact all area departments and make sure everyone knows. You don't have to be on the Lincoln Highway, this is for Firemen everywhere.

While conditions vary, use your best judgment as to where and how big. If a parade and fire is not possible you can still tone out, sign a helmet, light a candle, strike the four fives and say the Fireman Prayer followed by Lincoln Eyes. Please contact local Media and alert them accordingly.

Have your mayors issue proclamations and pastors devote their Sunday services.

Go to the web site at www.lincoln-highway-museum.org for additional information on The Lincoln Highway and the 1913 Dedication and the "Light Around the World" section to download a pdf file with full details including proclamations, speeches, etc.

Feel free to call any time 24-7. The Cell Phone in the Fire Truck is 419-566-0790.

Warmest Regards,

Craig Harmon, Director



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A Nationwide Millennium Project



**The Lincoln Highway
National Museum & Archives**

102 Old Lincoln Way West
Galion, Ohio



"The Perfect Tribute"

The Lincoln Highway
Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration
2003-2009

"Light Around the World"

90th Anniversary
Dedication of
The Lincoln Highway
October 31, 2003



**Firemen Light
"The Sacred Fire of Liberty"**

Press Release

www.lincoln-highway-museum.org



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For Immediate Release

Friday October 31, 2003 marks the 90th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Lincoln Highway as America's first transcontinental highway from New York City to San Francisco. On this night in 1913, towns and cities all Across America Celebrated this "Great Patriot Event" with Proclamations, Bon Fires, Torchlight Parades, Dances and Speeches. (See Web Site for Details)

Dubbed, "The Show Road of the World" the Lincoln Highway was always intended to be an "Object Lesson" in "Good Road Building" the world over and as such "The World's Greatest Memorial" in Honor of Abraham Lincoln to be perpetuated by each successive generation.

Born under the The White House Millennium Council in 1999, The Lincoln Highway Comes of Age, A Nationwide Millennium Project was charged with a Mission to "Honor the Past-Imagine the Future" and "Keep Alive...The Sacred Fire of Liberty".

Accordingly, Craig Harmon, Founder and Director of The Lincoln Highway Comes of Age and The Lincoln Highway National Museum & Archives set out in July of 2000 in front of the Lincoln Memorial to carry "The Sacred Fire of Liberty" and The American Flag across the Continent on The Lincoln Highway in the "Spirit of the Lincoln Way" Fire Truck, a 1964 Maxim 100 foot ladder truck to commemorate the 85th Anniversary of a trip made in 1915.

After a few detours that led to the Presidential Inaugural Parade in 2001 and the Lincoln Birthday Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial, Director Harmon finally arrived in San Francisco on the Fourth of July in 2002 after a year on the road with stops at 350 Fire Departments to visit with firemen and raise the flag on the 100 ft ladder. (See Web Site for Media Coverage)

While on the road in Goshen, Indiana the attacks on the World Trade Center took place. Wanting to Honor the lost Firemen as he continued the trip, Director Harmon asked Fire Chief's along the way to sign a Fire Helmet in their Honor. In Valley, Nebraska the helmet filled up so one of the Firemen said, "We've got an extra Helmet" thus starting the tradition of each Fire Department signing a Helmet. Director Harmon has collected 113 Helmets as a catalyst for things to come. (See Web Site for Complete Listing with Photos)

After a year in the Bay Area researching Abraham Lincoln and The Lincoln Highway, Director Harmon released a 500 page book on Mr. Lincoln's Birthday called, "The Perfect Tribute" which details The Lincoln Highway as the centerpiece of a 6 year Celebration beginning October 31, 2003 with the 90th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Lincoln Highway and leading up to The Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration in 2009.

On July 10, 1862 after President Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act that created the Nation's first transcontinental railroad, the Firemen of San Francisco celebrated the event with a huge torchlight parade. Accordingly, Director Harmon is asking Firemen from all around the world to act as "Guardians of the Sacred Fire of Liberty" and sponsor Bon Fire Celebrations on October 31st and form a "Light Around the World" in Honor of Abraham Lincoln and those lost September 11th.

As part of the closing ceremony, a Memorial Mile will be established for each victim of September 11th with each Fire Department being assigned a fallen Firefighter. In addition, a helmet will be signed by each Department to be sent to the Fire Chief in New York as part of a memorial similar to the Viet Nam Wall. The Ceremony will end with the symbolic striking of the Four Fives and the ringing of the World Peace Bell.

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"Light Around the World"

**Tribute to Firemen
and those lost
September 11, 2001**

**Friday
October 31, 2003**

12:00 am est
Marietta, Ohio
"The Start of it All"
Sound the Alarm**

12:01 am cst
Council Bluffs, Iowa
First in the Nation
Keep the Flame Burning**

7:22 pm It
Tone Out
Calling all Firemen
Assemble at the station house.
President Lincoln Died at 7:22 am**

**7:45 pm It*
Proceed to starting point.**

**8:00 pm *
Begin Parade to Bonfire Site.**

8:45 pm It
North Tower Hit
Program Begins
"The Greatest Memorial"
"Road of Character"**

9:03 pm It
South Tower Hit
Light the Sacred Fire of Liberty
Form Light Around the World**

9:43 pm It
Flight 77 Crashes into Pentagon
Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land
Ring Liberty Bells...all 50 States**

**90th Anniversary
Dedication of
Lincoln Highway
*Schedule of Events***

**Tribute to Servicemen
lost in Battles of
Afghanistan-Iraq**

10:05 pm est
North Tower Collapses
Presentation of Fire Helmet
Valley, Nebraska
Firemen Sign First Helmet**

10:28 pm est
South Tower Collapses
Announce Memorial Miles
Light Candles
Strike the Four Fives
First struck Lincoln Chimes
Washington, DC**

10:48 pm est
Flight 93 Crashes in PA near
The Lincoln Highway
Lincoln's Eyes
Ring the World Peace Bell**

**Sunday
November 2, 2003
Sunday Church Services
The Greatest Memorial
Perpetual Memorial
Lincoln's Eyes
Battle Hymn of the Republic**

**Times for planning only.*

*** Times are Carved in Stone.*

**Contact Information:
Craig Harmon
Cell Phone 419-566-0790
www.lincoln-highway-museum.org**

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"The Perfect Tribute"

Firemen Around the World

Join Together

Learn to Look Through...

LINCOLN'S EYES

By FRANKLIN K. LANE

I NEVER pass through Chicago without visiting the statue of Lincoln by St. Gaudens and standing before it for a moment uncovered. It is to me all that America is, physically and spiritually. I look at those long arms and long legs, large hands and feet, and I think that they represent the physical strength of this new country, its power and its youthful awkwardness. Then I look up at the head and see qualities which have made the American—the strong chin, the noble brow, those sober and steadfast eyes. They were the eyes of one who saw with sympathy and interpreted with common sense. They were the eyes of earnest idealism limited and checked by the possible and the practicable. They were the eyes of a truly humble spirit, whose ambition was not a love for power but a desire to be supremely useful. They were eyes of compassion and mercy and a deep understanding. They saw far more than they looked at. They believed in far more than they saw. They loved men not for what they were but for what they might become. They were patient eyes, eyes that could wait and wait and live on in the faith that right would win. They were eyes which challenged the nobler things in men and brought out the hidden largeness. They were humorous eyes that saw things in their true proportions and in their real relationships. They looked through cant and pretense and the great and little vanities of great and little men. They were the eyes of an unflinching courage and an unflinching faith rising out of a sincere dependence upon the Master of the Universe. To believe in Lincoln is to learn to look through Lincoln's eyes.

Current Opinion

April 1920