

LINCOLN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

THE  
TRAVELER

EDITOR  
Gary Kinst

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## COVER

This issues cover photo shows the toll plaza of the newly opened Carquinez Bridge. The plaza was located on the Vallejo side of the Carquinez Strait on the site of the current plaza.



This photo taken in 1927, from the Crockett side, shows the new bridge prior to its official opening on May 21, 1927. The bridge had three lanes and two pedestrian walkways.



An early view showing the Crockett approach. The sign with posted tolls can be seen in center of photo .

## FROM THE EDITOR

As you have all ready figured out there was no Traveler for January. As with so many others I found myself in a situation where I either sold my home and broke even or slowly spiraled down the drain. Tracy, in San Joaquin County, CA. where I resided, had the highest foreclosure rate in the nation. I was extremely lucky to find a buyer in a very short time who was willing to pay my asking price. While going through the selling, packing and moving process everything but the shirt on my back went into storage. The wife and I lived like gypsies for 3 months while our new home was being built in Rio Vista. I now live 2 miles from the Victory Highway. All of my research material along with the computer was under lock and key at a local Bekin's warehouse. So here we are in February of 2011 and still not completely unpacked.

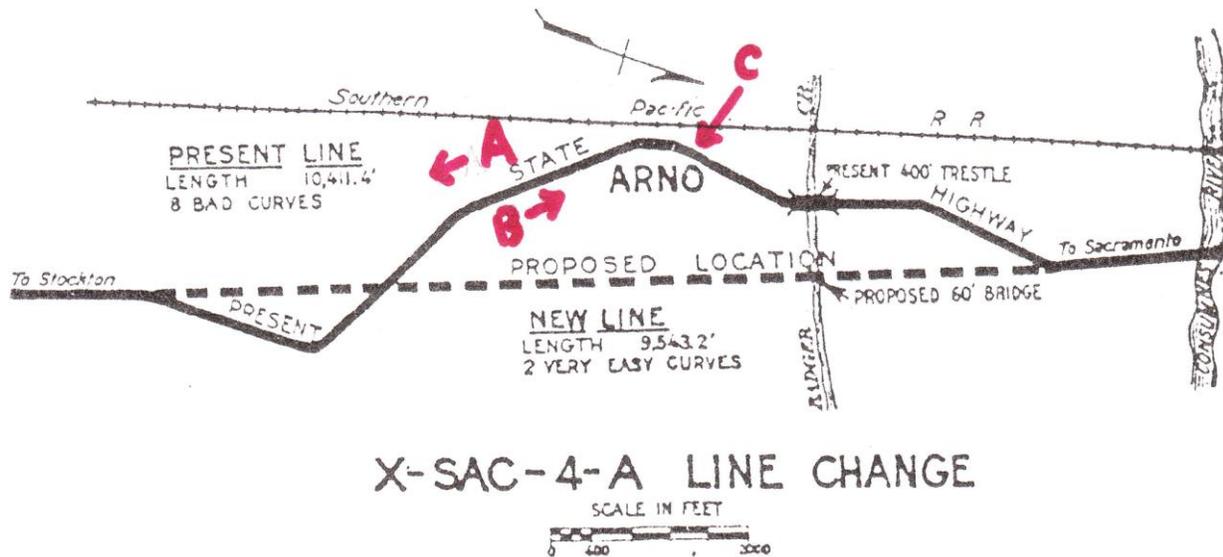
In this issue of the Traveler I will inform you as to what has happened at previous Chapter meetings and bring you up to speed as to what you can expect for the balance of 2011.

Thanks for your patience and understanding.

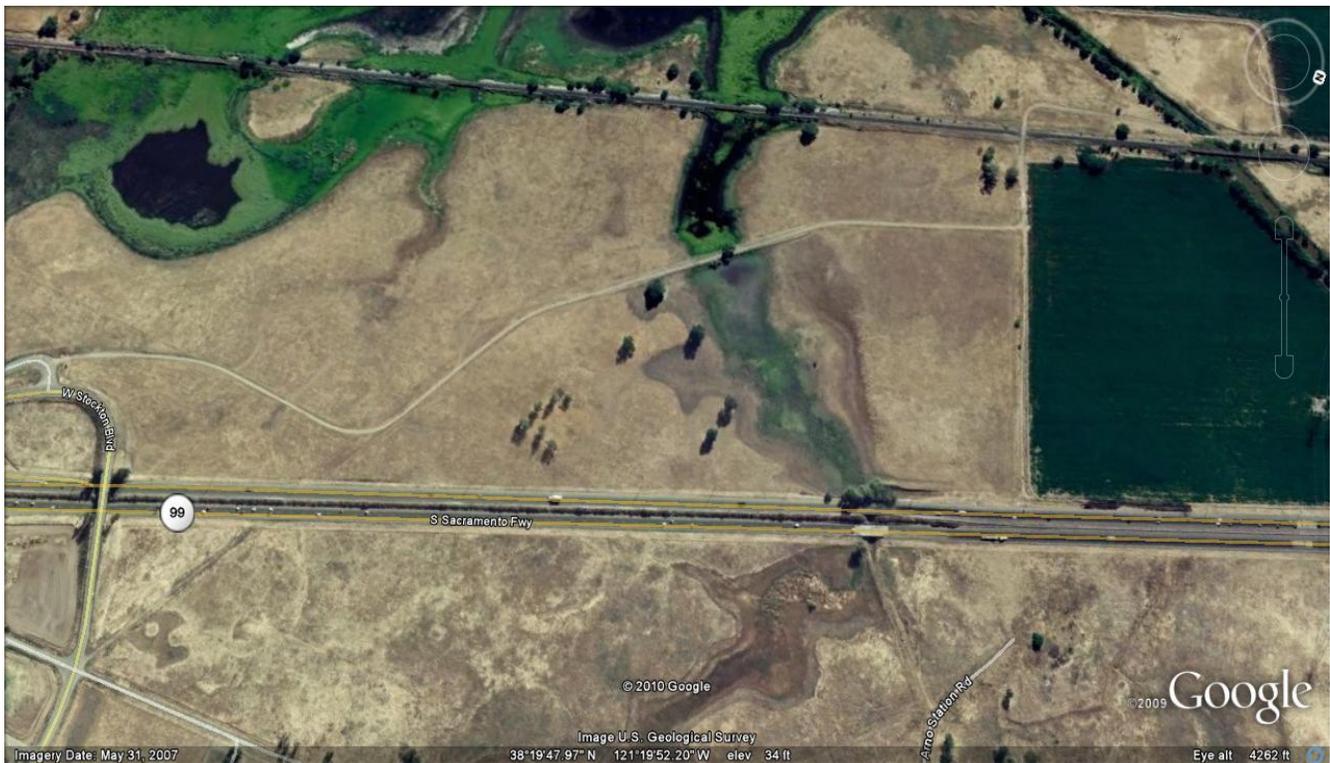
Gary Kinst

## Chapter Meeting October 2, 2010

The July Chapter meeting was held at Original Mike's Cafe in Elk Grove. 13 members were present. James Lin and myself were unable to attend. Mike Kaelin choose the location as it is close to the site of the tour he had planned following the meeting. After the opening reports, VP Paul Gilger reported that 400 California Driving maps have been sold to date. Paul also reported that Mr. Mark Delavern, Capital City Development Manager with Capital Area Development Authority , has included the Lincoln Highway as part of the historic restoration of downtown Sacramento. Paul and Norm Root will work with Mr. Delavern regarding the installation of a LH Marker in the Capital Building. State Director Bob Dieterich reported that the San Leandro Library is interested in posting a Historic LH sign. Also individual State brochures are being worked on at the national level. Member Bob Chase "The Piaggio Guy" reported on his LH presentation at the Santa Clara Model T Associations meeting. 40 members listened at tentatively, for 90 minutes, as Bob recounted his cross country trip on the LH. Paul Gilger discussed the new pricing for the LH tours and that interest in the tours has risen since 2008/2009. Paul thanked Carolyn Lignos Parkin for handling the publicity for the tours. Paul also discussed the progress of putting together the California/Nevada Conference scheduled for June 20-24, 2011 at Lake Tahoe. Myron Gershenson reported that the E. Clampus Vitus Historical Group is waiting for renovations to be completed at the corner of A Street and Foothill Blvd. in Hayward where they plan to erect a plaque recognizing that location as the most southerly point on the LH. The order for the plaque to be installed in Truckee, next to the Victory Eagle, has been sent to the foundry. Bruce MacFarland and Mike Kaelin recounted the story of the Lost Two-Miles at Arno Station. The meeting adjourned at 2:30pm and the group headed on their road trip to Hwy 99 and the Dillard Rd. off -ramp to view a section of LH that once passed the small railroad station of Arno. The section of highway is currently on private property and inaccessible to the public.



The map above is from a 1927 issue of California Highways and Public Works and shows the proposed realignment of the "Arno Cut-off" to eliminate numerous dangerous curves. The "proposed location" is the current location of Hwy 99. The Arno cut-off was the idea of Mrs.(Countess Alice) Valensin of Valensin Ranch who named Arno Station.



2009 Google Satellite photo of Arno area. Pre 1927 route enters photo at lower left (Valensin Ranch Rd.) . At the intersection of Arno Rd. it turns left and crosses present day US 99. Arno was located just outside the dark green pasture at the upper left corner. A group of trees is all that remains. The highway continued across the pasture , crossing Badger Creek on a 400' wooden trestle and connected with West Stockton Blvd. before crossing the Consumnes River.

NOTE: If you go to Google Earth and scroll North from Galt you can see the old highway at Arno Rd. and Valensin Ranch Rd. The section of highway from Arno to Dillard Rd. has been destroyed



Photo taken from location **A** looking SE toward curve in highway with Hwy 99 in background



Photo taken from location **B** looking NW down straight-away towards Arno



Photo taken from location C looking West from SP right-of-way to site of Arno

## Chapter Meeting January 8 , 2010

The October meeting was held at Puerto Vallarta Restaurant in Stockton. 20 members attended. VP Paul Gilger reported that he and Norm are currently working with the Capital Area Development Authority to get LH signage in downtown Sacramento and two concrete 1928 markers adjacent to the Capitol grounds. Paul mentioned that a record of 18 people participated in Tour # 3 which is the "Donner Pass" tour. We have only 1.5 years left on our Google Maps license and we need to find a suitable replacement. Bob Dieterich reported that Jim Bonar is arranging for Forest Green National Conference shirts, with gold inscriptions for California and silver for Nevada. The conference will be held at Harvey's, State Line, Nevada. Bob mentioned that we need speakers from several organizations.. The annual election of officers was postponed to the Spring meeting in April. Paul Gilger handed out detailed plans for the National Conference and said that he and Jim Bonar will be handling most of the arrangements for the conference. Paul thanked Carolyn Parkin for publicity promoting our tours and cruises. Additional "Walkie-Talkies" have been purchased to improve communication on the tours. Mike Kaelin reported on the on-going installation of Historic Lincoln Highway signs . With approval from Alameda County, 3 signs were installed in the Altamont Pass corridor, 2 in the Pass and 1 on Grantline Rd. LH sign sponsorships have been approved by the cities of Livermore, San Leandro, Dublin and Stockton. Norm Root mentioned that replica 1928 concrete markers are available for \$500 each. Myron Gershensen reported that the E. Clampus Vitus project in Hayward is still on hold awaiting completion of repairs at A St. and Foothill Blvd. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm. Mike Kaelin, having made prior arrangements , led the group down the street to tour the historic Hotel Stockton.



Kinst photo



Brigan photo

California Chapter "Movers and Shakers" solving the Worlds problems -  
One highway at a time.

Back row standing from left to right; Mike Kaelin and Jim Lin.  
Seated left to right; Bob Dieterich, Paul Gilger and Norm Root.  
Photo was taken in the upstairs Ballroom of the hotel.

11316. The Stockton. New \$500,000 Hotel built in Stockton, Cal. Showing Auto Party starting for run over the new County roads costing \$2,000,000.



Hotel Stockton 1925 Intersection of Weber and Center

## Other Happenings

Some trivia I came across while researching the Lincoln Highway from Sacramento to Vallejo.

Construction of the first State Highway through Solano County began in 1912 and was completed in 1915

The State Highway Commission bowed to lobbying efforts of Vacaville promoters , in 1913, and agreed to route the main San Francisco to Sacramento Artery through town.

Main Street in Vacaville was paved in 1914

In March of 1915, State Division Engineer Caruthers ordered that the State Highway from Fairfield to Vacaville and Fairfield to Cordelia be completed immediately.

With the completion of the State Highway in 1915, Vacaville counted 100 cars/day coming through town.

The Vacaville Reporter of March 10, 1916 reported that Boy Scout Troup 1 will plant trees along the highway between Vacaville and Suisun as their "Community Good Turn" for spring.

The Nut Tree opened in 1921 on the State Highway.

Lincoln Highway markers were installed along the State Highway beginning September 13, 1928. Boy Scouts from Fairfield posted signs from "My Place" to Chadbourne Lane. Suisun Scouts posted signs from Chadbourne to the Benicia intersection at Cordelia.

It was very interesting to note that at no time, until the article appeared in the 1928 Vacaville Record, was the name Lincoln Highway mentioned. It wasn't mentioned when the Yolo Causeway opened in 1916 nor when the Carquinez Bridge opened in 1927. Newspapers on the pioneer route through Stockton and over the Altamont Pass reported the desire for the Lincoln Highway to pass through their towns as early as 1913.

## Eye on the Bay

I was approached in October 2010 by a producer from CBS -5 KPIX Television in San Francisco in regards to a segment he was putting together for the weekly program called "Eye on the Bay" which airs at 7:00 pm. He explained that they were filming a show called "North of 580" which would cover the Altamont Pass, The Summit Garage and Mountain House. He was also aware that these locations were on the Lincoln Highway. I was asked to join in the filming and add historical commentary of the area. Unfortunately I was in the middle of selling my home and wasn't able to participate, but I was able to spend approximately 3/4 of a hour on the phone telling him the history of each location and the overall importance of the Lincoln Highway. The segment was scheduled to air on November 8. About a week later he called and reported that the segment had been put on hold. Another producer e-mailed in January and asked if I could provide either film or photos. I was able to furnish approx. 20 photos of which he was able to incorporate a half dozen. The episode aired on February 7 and although it only ran about 10 minutes, out of the 30 minute program, it was well produced and did The Highway justice. To watch the program go to [www.sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/category/eye-on-the-bay](http://www.sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/category/eye-on-the-bay).

# MARK YOUR 2011 CALENDAR

Saturday **APRIL 2**  
12:00 noon

State Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced

**NOTE: Check the Chapter Website prior to April 2 for Location**

Saturday **APRIL 30**

Tour # 1 Central Valley 1913-1927 Route  
Sacramento to San Francisco  
Via Altamont Pass

**JUNE 20-24**

19th Annual LHA Conference  
Lake Tahoe California and Nevada

Saturday **JULY 30**

Tour # 2 Sierra Nevada Southern Route  
Sacramento to Lake Tahoe  
Via Echo Summit

Saturday **JULY 9**  
12:00 noon

State Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced

Saturday **AUGUST 27**

Tour # 3 Sierra Nevada Northern Route  
Sacramento to Verdi, NV  
Via Donner Pass and Dog Valley

Saturday **OCTOBER 1**  
12:00 noon

State Chapter Meeting  
Location to be announced

Saturday **OCTOBER 29**

Tour # 4 Central Valley Route  
Sacramento to San Francisco  
Via Carquinez Strait



Tour # 3 Donner Summit

## 2011 Lincoln Highway California Cruise-and-Tours - Registration

We are now taking reservations for the 2011 Lincoln Highway **California Cruise and Tours** !  
 This is a new approach for 2011 which allows you to participate using your own vehicle  
 For more information please contact Paul Gilger

Please include payment with your registration, in the form of a check or money order, payable to *Lincoln Highway California Chapter*. Mail your registration to:

Lincoln Highway Association  
 California Chapter  
 P.O. Box 2554  
 Fair Oaks, CA 95628-2554

Tour (all start in Sacramento)	Self-Guided Cruises			Guided Tours		
	Number of cars	Price per car per cruise	Price	Number of passengers	Price per passenger per tour	Price
(1) 04/24: Central Valley 1913-27	_____	× \$25	\$ _____	_____	× \$40	\$ _____
(2) 06/19: Sierra Nevada, Southern	_____	× \$25	\$ _____	_____	× \$40	\$ _____
(3) 08/28: Sierra Nevada, Northern	_____	× \$25	\$ _____	_____	× \$40	\$ _____
(4) 10/30: Central Valley, 1927-28	_____	× \$25	\$ _____	_____	× \$40	\$ _____
	Cruises Total: \$ _____			Tours Total: \$ _____		

*All event participants agree that the Lincoln Highway Association, the California Chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association, its officers, directors and agents, shall have no responsibility or liability, in whole or in part, for any loss, damage, or injury to person or property, or any act of omission resulting from, arising out of, or occurring during any activity, program, tour, meeting, meal, or other service or facility furnished or supplied in conjunction with the tours.*

All participants must sign and date below:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach more dated signatures, if applicable.

## Order Lincoln Highway Driving Maps for California now!

We have received hundreds of orders from all over the United States for our very popular Lincoln Highway Driving Maps for California. They are essential for exploring the Lincoln in California.

Please fill out order form below and mail with check or money order made out to  
"Lincoln Highway California Chapter", to:  
Lincoln Highway Association California Chapter, PO Box 2554, Fair Oaks, Ca 95628-2554

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of map sets: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_  
Packaging and postage + \$6.00  
TOTAL: = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SILVER & GOLD**



**2011**



Mark your Calendar for June 20-24 for the California / Nevada Conference to be held at beautiful Lake Tahoe. Check out the National website for a slide show of what you can expect to see and do while you travel the Historic Lincoln Highway and enjoy the breath taking scenery.