

Kimball County, Nebraska

Kimball Area Tourism

Volume 22

Photos by Jessica Rocha



LINCOLN HIGHWAY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

The Lincoln Highway, much of which mirrors US Highway 30, has recently been named as a National Scenic Byway. In mid-February, the Federal Highway Administration announced 49 new designations to the America's Byways collection, including Nebraska's 450-mile-long border to border Lincoln Highway Scenic and Historic Byway.

We would like to thank Muriel Clark, Sarah Focke, and Deb Loseke for all of their hard work putting together a nearly 200-page Corridor Management Plan that helped secure the national designation. They spent months collecting data, reviewing histories of the Lincoln Highway, and gathering support from across the state to create the plan. We appreciate their efforts!!

The Lincoln Highway was America's first transcontinental highway. There are a variety of stories of people making the trek cross-country along this byway, including an army truck caravan sent from New York City all the way to San Francisco to show the importance of getting a paved highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In 1913, when the Lincoln Highway was completed, it averaged 20-30 days to complete the drive – that was counting on the average speed being about 18 miles per hour. Today, it would take less than a week, without stops of course. But who wants to drive a National Scenic Byway without stopping to check out the sights??

In Kimball County alone, the eastbound Lincoln Highway takes you through the village of Bushnell, past the beautiful Oliver Reservoir, next to the historic irrigation flumes, past fields of corn, wheat, and sugar beets, through downtown Kimball, travels past the former town of Jacinto, and finds the town of Dix on the east side of the county.



The original Lincoln Highway meandered a little more than Highway 30 does. From the Wyoming border, it followed along US 30 east, then turned north through the two tunnels under the railroad tracks on the west side of Bushnell, through town, out past the Bushnell cemetery, and stayed on the north side of the tracks until it went back under the tracks near the creek just under three miles west of Kimball. It then followed Highway 30 to Kimball, but again veered north onto 1st street near the Kimball cemetery until it turned south on Chestnut Street – bringing it through downtown Kimball. It again turned east on 3rd Street, to follow today's Highway 30 and also included an unpaved, dirt portion of the Lincoln Highway next to the tracks, eastbound to Dix.



There are a variety of articles and books that center around the Lincoln Highway. One book that is special to Kimball, is “The Lincoln Highway: Nebraska” by Gregory M. Franzwa. Mr. Franzwa planned to write a book for each state that the Lincoln Highway passes through, but unfortunately, he passed away before he finished this project. He did, however, publish the Nebraska edition in 1996. While working on this book, he spoke with Kimball’s own Joan Knapp to get information about the Lincoln Highway here in Kimball County. Joan assisted Gregory with mapping of the originally highway through the county. She had mapped out

the path that area old-timers remembered, which helped with his research for the book. She also gave him a book of hers that further assisted in his efforts.

Franzwa also writes about the pride that Kimball took in having the Lincoln Highway come through town. In early 1914, 400 trees were planted along 3rd Street to beautify the route. Several of those trees can be seen on the south side of the highway on the grounds of the Plains Historical Society museum, the former Kimball County High School. Later that year, every fifth telephone post was marked with a Lincoln Highway sign. In 1915, there were rumors that the highway was going to be rerouted at Big Springs to go to Denver, rather than keep the route through Kimball and Cheyenne. Men from Kimball took up a job of ‘logging the road from Big Springs’. They handed out maps and went to Big Springs to direct tourists over the proper route,’ says the 1915 Observer article. ‘The businessmen and the county commissioners also got out their gloves and went out on the road with spades and shovels to knock off the bumps and fill in the small holes.’

The Lincoln Highway has continued to be an important piece of history and tourism for the small towns that it runs through, but with this national designation it will allow a renewed spirit of travel through Kimball County and the entirety of Nebraska.



You can see sunrises and sunsets, as well as moon rises and the milky way arcing above you. You can watch a herd of antelope grazing peacefully next to the highway and a bald eagle majestically floating on the breeze above you. You can hear crickets chirping and meadowlarks singing their melodious songs. You can watch the light creep above the horizon and feel the warmth of the sun gently kiss your skin. You can see storm clouds rolling in for miles and watch the lightning dance to the drumrolls of thunder. You can find peace on the open road, and the Lincoln Highway is the perfect place to start. Drive away your worries on this amazing National Scenic and Historic Byway.

We are blessed to live where this byway intersects our hometowns. If you haven't driven the 450 miles of the Lincoln Highway through Nebraska, I suggest you do – you might just find a hidden gem along the way and make some lasting memories while you're at it.



NEW BUSINESS

Kimball is now home to the 32 Byte Arcade! It is located in the back of the Sagebrush at 615 E 3rd Street. Hours are currently 4-9 pm Monday – Saturday, but may be open later on the weekends. Entry is through the north door or through the restaurant.

The 32 Byte Arcade offers a variety of 'old-school' arcade games, such as Sky Shark, Boom-a-Rang, and Attack from Mars.



While you are at the Sagebrush, check out their Lounge and Restaurant!!



WONDERFUL VISITORS!

Another great month of visitors! Even though numbers have continued to be low, we appreciate each and every person who walks through our doors. We had a local couple stop in while they were out for a drive in their snazzy Firebird. Other visitors enjoyed checking it out and asking lots of questions! Another couple from Virginia flew in to Denver and made their way to the High Point and then came in to get a certificate for climbing it. They were headed to Kansas and Oklahoma to knock those off their list as well.

We also received a great letter from a young man in Encinitas, California who is writing a report on Nebraska. He wanted to know about monuments in the state, what the state animal is, and if there are any famous foods from Nebraska. I of course had to gush about all the wonderful things Nebraska has to offer, plus letting him know that Kool-Aid, Spam, and Runzas are pretty famous here in Nebraska!!

PHOTOS FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA



We had some pretty incredible frost this past month. Days in a row where it was FREEZING (30 below for a couple of days...) – but just too pretty to pass up the chance to get some photos!

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS:

March: (due to COVID-19, some of the following events may be postponed or cancelled)

- Spring Birding Season begins!
- 1st – Chadron, NE – ‘Somewhere West of Wall Street’ Watch Party at the Bean Broker
- 6th-7th – Gering, NE – Wyo-Braska Metaphysical Fair at Gering Civic Center
- 12th – Gering, NE – Southern Fried w/Dave Wiatroluk at Oregon Trail Roadhouse
- 13th – Bushnell, NE – Bushnell Fire Dept’s Annual Chili Feed
- 20th – Bayard, NE – Nite on the Town at the American Legion
- 20th-21st – Scottsbluff, NE – Spring Craft & Vendor Show at Discount Fireworks

April: (due to COVID-19, some of the following events may be postponed or cancelled)

- 3rd – North Platte, NE – 2021 Tanking Race at Buffalo Bill State Rec Area
- 10th – Sidney, NE – Sidney Shooting Park Rocky Mtn Oyster Dinner/Fundraiser
- 14th-30th – Nebraska – Lyrids Meteor Shower (peaking on April 22-23)
- 19th – May 28th – Nebraska – Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower (peaking May 6-7)
- 27th – Nebraska – Supermoon visible!

THE GOODHAND THEATER PRESENTS:

Goodhand Theatre
Friends of the Goodhand Theatre presents:
Blithe Spirit PG-13
Showing at 7PM
March 5 & 6
Sunday Matinee
At 2 PM
March 7
Admission
Adult (12-older) \$3.00
Child (2-11) \$2.00
Children under 2 Free
MOVIE SPONSORED BY
Brown Pump and Septic &
Brown Construction and Irrigation
A spiritualist medium holds a seance for a writer suffering from writer's block but accidentally summons the spirit of his deceased first wife, which leads to an increasingly complex love triangle with his current wife of five years.

Goodhand Theatre
Friends of the Goodhand Theatre presents:
Raya and the Last Dragon PG
Admission
Adult (12-older) \$3.00
Child (2-11) \$2.00
Children under 2 Free
Showing 2 Weekends!
Showing at 7 pm
March 19 & 20
Sunday Matinee at 2 pm
March 21
Showing at 7 pm
March 26 & 27
Sunday Matinee at 2 pm
March 28
Movie Sponsored by
Highpoint Spine and Joint Center
Long ago, in the fantasy world of Kumandra, humans and dragons lived together in harmony. However, when sinister monsters known as the Druun threatened the land, the dragons sacrificed themselves to save humanity. Now, 500 years later, those same monsters have returned, and it's up to a lone warrior to track down the last dragon and stop the Druun for good.

Our gift shop is open and full of amazing locally-made items for that perfect gift for the hard to shop for person!! We also have great Nebraska souvenirs!



We are still welcoming donations to Kimball Area Tourism to assist in keeping our Visitor Center open and helping with new projects.

We are currently working towards getting a trail made from the main road to the Tri-State Marker where Nebraska, Wyoming, and Colorado meet. Anything helps! Thank you!

Please contact Jessica for more information on how to donate.

Please check out our Facebook page to see more events. www.facebook.com/KimballCountyVisitorCenter

You can also look at our website to get more information about Kimball County: www.visitkimball.com

Come visit us!! 204 S Kimball Blvd, Kimball, NE 69145 ~ Exit 20 off of I-80

Give us a call at 308-241-0573 if you have any questions.

#highpointofnebraska #highpointwelcomecenter #kimballcountyvisitorcenter