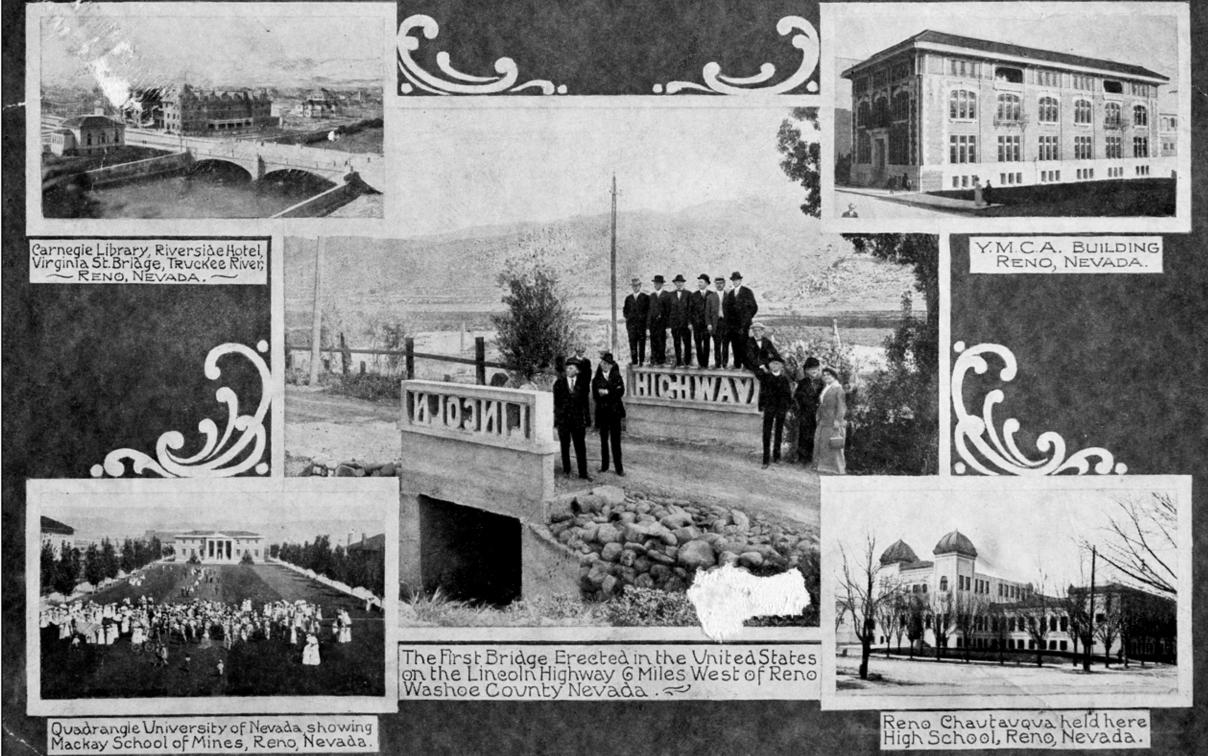


## THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY BRIDGE RAILS

hese are the first Lincoln Highway bridge railings ever built on the nation's first transcontinental highway. The Abraham Lincoln Memorial Highway ran from Times Square, New York, to Lincoln Park in San Francisco during 1913-1927.



local landmarks. At the center is the Lincoln Highway bridge with its unique carved concrete railings. Photo courtesy of the 4th Street/Prater Way History Project.

City

prings

Towns all across the nation were anxious to have the "Main Street of America" pass their way and went all out to advertise the route. Washoe County, Nevada, had been criticized for not marking their part of the route. So in 1914, while building a new culvert about 0.9 miles east of this location, contractor A.F. Niedt took it upon himself to mark the highway with these unique bridge rails.



Above Donner Lake, California taken in 1915 by Austin F. Bement, Secretary of the Lincoln Highway Association, and Henry B. Joy, President of the Lincoln Highway Association. Donner Lake is located approximately 33 miles to the west. Photo courtesy of University of Michigan Lincoln Highway Digital Image Collection, accession no. —lhc0008.

H.E. Frederickson (pictured), Counsel-at-Large of the Lincoln Highway

Association, was so impressed with the rails that he proposed this design for all Lincoln Highway bridges across the country. Only one other such set of bridge rails were ever built in 1915

The "Coast to Coast" Lincoln Highway.

in Tama, Iowa. Photo taken in 1914 of H.E. Frederickson, Counsel-at-Large for the Lincoln Highway Association, and Washoe County Commissioner J.O. Sessions. Photo courtesy of Jim Bonar. WY Franklin Grove Chicago Bridger Missouri Sidney Heights Ft. Wayne Kearney Cheyenne Cedar Clinton Rapids Lancaste Salt Lake Mansfield East/ Pittsburgh In later years, riladelphia when the

Lincoln Highway mileage sign west of Hazen, Nevada, 1915. Photo courtesy of University of Michigan Lincoln Highway Digital Image Collection, assessing no. —lhc0697.

Later view of the bridge railings,

Photo courtesy of Jim Bonar.

Francisco

ocated 0.9 miles east of this location.

Austin

CA

NV

highway numbering system replaced named highways, this route became U.S. 40 and was eventually realigned.

During the early 1970s, when Interstate 80 replaced U.S. 40, the Nevada Department of Transportation salvaged the old bridge rails from the longabandoned Lincoln Highway and displayed them here.

**Sign Sponsors: Bill Watson** Geno Oliver Nevada Chapter of the Lincoln Highway Association