Paynes Point – Stillman Loop

With the exception of a short steep hill at the start and finish of this loop, the terrain is through open fields and scattered pastures on roads which are flat to slightly rolling. You will experience a true sense of the expansiveness of rural farming where green meets blue on the distant horizon.

Travel 3rd Street from the Depot to Washington St., then right across the Rock River. Turn north onto Daysville, then right to face Brick Road Hill; a test of strength, but there’s no shame if you walk the short distance to the top.

You’ll quickly reach the last remaining 1915 brick pavement built on the Chicago-Iowa stagecoach trail 1. Soon you’ll be at the tiny town of Paynes Point and turn to travel toward Stillman Valley. A left turn onto Pershing Road into Stillman takes you through quiet neighborhood streets. You may want to explore a bit further while here. The town has several nice eateries and service stations for refreshment. Two blocks left on Maple St. will take you to the town library 2.

A remarkable piece of frontier history is memorialized in Stillman and is well worth a side trip. Here you can find the 1902 memorial to the 1832 Blackhawk Indian War 3. Major Stillman fought the first battle at this site and was soundly defeated. The militiamen who died are buried at the foot of this memorial. A 23 year old Abe Lincoln was one of the soldiers who helped with this task. Also serving in the same militia were two other future presidents: Zachary Taylor and Jefferson Davis.

Leaving Stillman Valley returns you to open roads across the countryside. At the corner of German Church Rd. a right turn would take you on a short side trip to the base of the nuclear plant cooling towers 4. A left continues your journey toward Oregon.

Pleasant Grove Rd. will bend to the left and become Daysville Rd. If you see Park Rd to the right you may want to take a short side trip to Lowden State Park 5 and the “Blackhawk” statue overlooking the valley with Oregon below. Continuing on Daysville brings you to the top of “THE HILL” - providing a fast and thrilling finish to Route 64 and into Oregon.
To see all of our routes, and to download Garmin turn by turn instructions, go to: www.bikeogle.org.

All riders need to be familiar with bicycle safety and rules of the road. Cyclists are encouraged to visit http://rideillinois.org/safety/adults/ for this information.