



View looking across Lincoln Highway and east along C. & N. W. tracks

Unique Highway Crossing Signals Solve Traffic Problem

By J. A. Peabody

Signal Engineer, Chicago & North Western, Chicago

THE city of DeKalb, Ill., in conjunction with the Chicago & North Western has an unique installation of crossing protection signals at a point where two streets intersect at right angles with each other and at approximately 45 deg. with a crossing of the railroad. The main east and west street carries the heavy automobile traffic of the Lincoln Highway while the double track main line

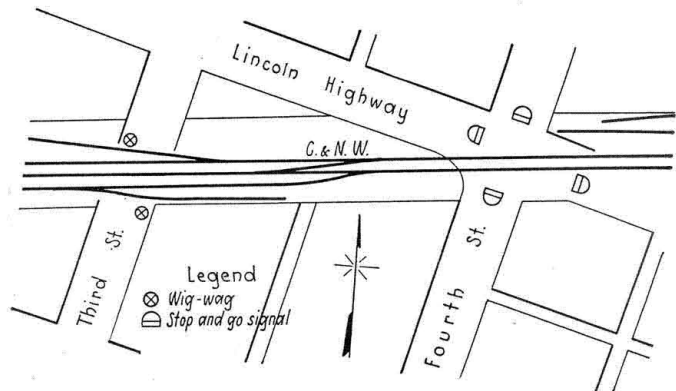
with the Lincoln Highway but was unable to solve the problem of automatic control of automobile traffic where Fourth Street crosses the Lincoln Highway on the railroad crossing on account of the railroad traffic introducing added complications. Crossing gates were not satisfactory at this point because the automobile traffic was so heavy that often the gate-man could not lower the gates for fear of injuring automobiles or shutting cars in between the gates. A flagman was, therefore, required in addition on the ground, but all of this protection did not prevent the confusion between the heavy traffic on the two highways.

An agreement was therefore made between the city and the railroad to remove the crossing protection in service at the several crossings, including



Third Street looking north showing that wig-wag banners can be seen over cars parked at curb

of the Chicago & North Western handles about 80 trains a day in addition to switching movements in this growing industrial town. Crossing gates had been in service at the Lincoln Highway railroad crossing in addition to a flagman on the ground. The city of DeKalb installed automatic electric traffic signals at all of the crossings of the streets



Track plan of special layout, DeKalb, Ill.

gates at some crossings and flagmen at others, and to install wig-wags at all such crossings, except at Lincoln Highway, where a special arrangement was

