



The Western Region Girls with Joan Crawford's 1933 Cadillac V-16 Town Car.

We Visit the Lou Webb Collection

On Saturday, March 7, members of the Western Region visited the Lou Webb collection in Aliso Viejo, California. Lou Webb once owned a number of car dealerships in Southern California. After he sold the dealerships he bought this facility and filled it with Classics and other desirable cars from the pre World War II years. LCOC member Ron Hitter took us through the collection.

Lou Webb's success story is a classic rags to riches saga. He was born in West Virginia at the height of the Great Depression and was one of nine children. His father died when he was three. His wife was the daughter of a coal miner. They migrated to California in 1954 in a 1953 Chevrolet 210 two-door sedan. They landed in Long Beach with \$80. He got a job in a Texaco gas station. After a year he got a job driving a bulk truck for the Texaco Oil Company. After a couple of more years he and one of his older brothers opened their own Texaco station in Los Alamitos. His station was open 24 hours and he sold used cars

at the station. In addition, he had a franchise for parking at the Los Angeles International Airport.

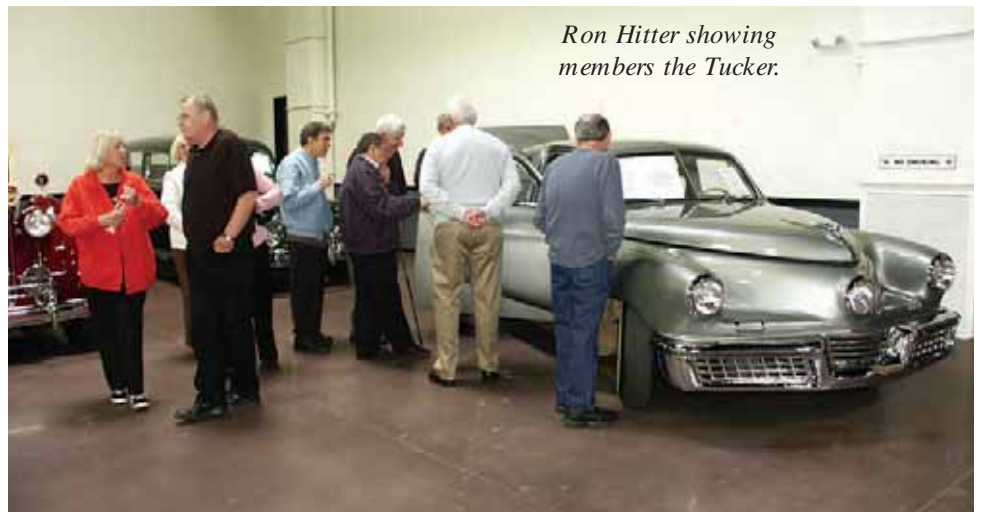
He opened his first Toyota franchise in Bell Gardens in 1975. Ultimately, he moved the franchise to Cerritos and was part of the development of the Cerritos Auto Square. Then he came down to southern Orange County, opened more dealerships, and helped develop the Irvine Auto Center and opened more dealerships in Long

Beach. It wasn't long before he had eight dealerships and 1,100 employees. In 1996, he sold all the dealerships to Auto Nation. That's about the time he started collecting cars which are mostly luxury classics from the golden era.

The oldest car in the collection is a 1919 Model T Ford center door sedan. The star of the collection is Joan Crawford's 1933 Cadillac V-16 Town Car. There is a 1937 Cord convertible with 9,400 original miles. The original owner of that car hit a little girl on a bicycle and she ultimately died. He never drove the car again and it sat until 1953 when he died. It still was driven very little and came into Lou Webb's collection two years ago with very low mileage.

The Tucker is Number 29 of 50 built. The original owner was Winthrop Rockefeller who paid \$5,000 for the car. It came to California in 1956 with the buyer then paying \$1,000. There are a lot of Packards and Rolls-Royces. Three of the Rolls-Royces were made in the United States. They were made in Springfield, Massachusetts, from 1921 to 1931, thus the name Springfield Rolls.

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Ron Hitter showing members the Tucker.

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director's message

Greetings Lincoln Lovers,

On Saturday, March 7, approximately 22 members met at Lou Webb's auto collection in Aliso Viejo, California. Club member Ron Hitter, who works at the collection gave us a tour and some interesting background information on the cars and previous owners. The cars and the company were superb. As the event was free, it's too bad more members didn't attend. After the tour, the Board held our Spring Board Meeting at the Newport Rib Restaurant in Ladera Ranch.

Here is a HOLD THE DATE news flash Steve Erler, our illustrious member from Pasadena, has secured the date of September 12, 2009 to tour the Peterson Auto Museum in Los Angeles. The museum is featuring a "What were they thinking" exhibit with many of the off-beat cars of the past (think Edsel, etc.). The exhibit seems appropriate given today's auto crisis. Admission is \$4 - \$6 per person. There is also a new "Johnny Rocket's" restaurant at the museum for lunch. We do need to RSVP to let the museum know how many of us will attend. We will have special parking for our Lincolns on the top floor of the garage. We will furnish more details on this fantastic tour in the next *Confab*.

I hope you have all made your reservations for Reno in June

Nominations for the Board of Directors Three spots will be open for the Board of Directors. If you would like to be nominated, please contact Assistant Director, Marv Wendt at (760) 375-5337 or e-mail marvnjan@iwvisp.com.

Continental yours, Norm

CANDIDATES FOR THE WESTERN REGION BOARD OF MANAGERS

If you have an interest in running for the Western Region Board for a three year term beginning on January 1, 2010, please contact Marv Wendt at 760-375-5337 or via e-mail at marvnjan@iwvisp.com The Ballot will go out to the membership in mid summer with the results of the Election announced at the Annual Meeting in mid November.

The Continental Confab is published and mailed every six weeks. Dates are published annually. The deadline for submitting articles and ads is 20 days prior to the planned mailing date. All articles and ads should be submitted in writing to: 1780 Iris Way, Escondido, CA or e-mail t.howley@cox.net.

Western Region dues are \$30 a year; add \$10 for Western Region membership outside the U.S. (Canada or Mexico). All dues are payable in U.S. currency to Western Region Membership Chairman, 9318 Chaparral Road, Canoga Park, California 91304-1206. Membership in the Western Region of LCOC is open to all parties interested in Lincoln Continental automobiles. Ownership of a Lincoln automobile is not necessary to join LCOC. You must, however, be or become a member of the National LCOC to be eligible to join the Western Region. Dues are in addition to Region dues. The Continental Confab is the official publication of the Western Region LCOC. It is distributed by First Class Mail to Western Region Members. Material contained in the Confab is intended to be as factual as possible, but neither the Western Region nor the editors assume any responsibility for the correctness of the material or its sources. Nothing in the Confab may be reproduced without the written permission of the editors and the Western Region Board of Managers. Car-related marketplace ads are free to members, except those conducting a commercial enterprise. Ads will run for three issues. Advertisers must contact editors to extend or modify ads. Non-member ads are \$10 per issue, with a three issue minimum. We request you notify editors when vehicle or parts are sold. All free ads are subject to editing and space availability. The deadline for submission of articles or ads is the 20th of the month prior to the issue requested. All article contributions may be submitted in writing to: Confab, 1780 Iris Way, Escondido, CA 92027.

Coming Events

Southern California

June 11-14
Western National Meet
Reno, Nevada

Sunday, July 26th
Annual Picnic
Yorba Regional Park
Yorba Linda, California

Saturday, September 12th
Petersen Museum Outing
Los Angeles, California

Saturday, November 14th
Annual Meeting
Central California
Specific Location
To Be Announced

Visit us on the
World Wide Web Region:
www.LCOCWestern.org
National:
www.lcoc.org



FABULOUS FORDS FOREVER **Knotts Berry Farm Buena Park, California** **Sunday, April 19, Lincoln Display and Breakfast**

Lincoln participation in the annual Ford conclave at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park was just held with a good turnout for the Lincoln section. We had a Champagne Breakfast for members of the Western Region. This was held at the Chicken House Buffet Restaurant.

Cars did not need to be "show quality" to enter. They were displayed together. There was a separate display of Mark VIIs with the Mark VII Club. A full report on this event with photos will be in the next issue of the *Confab*.

Continental Confab Conversion to E-Mail

This is the second issue of the Continental Confab in color for those of our members who receive it by E-Mail. If you still receive it by regular mail it will remain in black and white.

It is expected that about half of our members will receive this edition by e-mail with the balance getting theirs via regular mail. IF YOU RECEIVED YOUR EDITION BY REGULAR MAIL AND HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE NOTIFY ONE OF THE MEMBERS LISTED BELOW. YOU CAN SAVE US MANY PHONE CALLS BY CONTACTING US.

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Western Region Members with Ron Hitter at the Lou Webb Collection tour in Aliso Viejo, California.



Above, 1923 Springfield Rolls-Royce Piccadilly Roadster.
Below, 1937 Cord 812 Supercharged Phaeton.

1929 Duesenberg J convertible sedan with Murphy body.

There is a 1929 Duesenberg J convertible sedan with red spotlights. The original owner was head of the Singer Sewing Machine Company. He had an estate in Pasadena that was one city block square. He owned two 1929 Duesenbergs. He had the red spotlights on this one because he was an honorary police chief in Pasadena. Murphy of Pasadena built the bodies for both cars. This car has a siren and Atwater Kent police radio. This car has turning headlights.

There are two Cadillac V-16s, a 1930 which was the first year of the Cadillac V-16 and the Joan Crawford 1933 Town Car. The Joan Crawford car and the Brunn ruby Packard came from Otis Chandler before he passed away. Joan Crawford was 29 years old and at the height of her fame when she bought that Cadillac. She had just divorced her first husband who was Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. She was carrying on an affair with Clark Gable. In 1935 she married Franchot Tone. The Cadillac deteriorated but at least was saved until it was restored in the Seventies. We would love to know the back seat stories that car knows!

Back against the wall are two very unique Toyotas. The yellow one is the most desirable and expensive Toyota of all. It is a 1967 Toyota 2000 GT. Toyota only built 337 world wide and only 54 came to the United States. Actually, the car was built by Yamaha for Toyota. Then Toyota stopped producing this car to allow struggling Nissan to introduce the 240Z. Lou

Webb recently paid \$250,000 for this car. Next to the 2000 GT is a replica of a 1936 Toyota, the first Toyota.

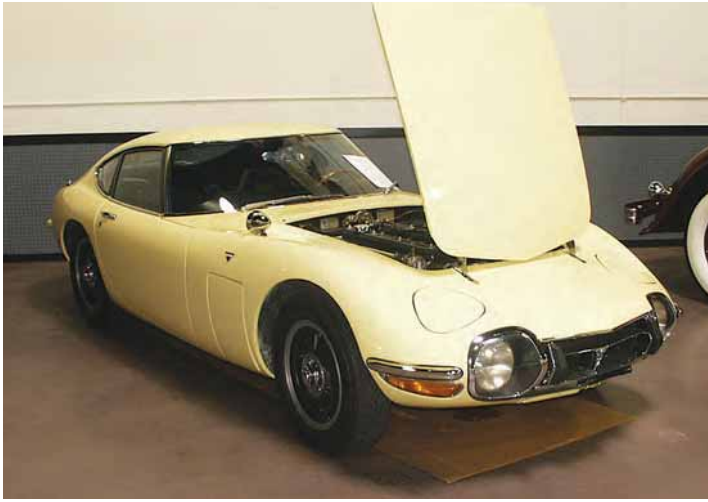
This car was more or less a copy of the Chrysler Airflow, but smaller. From the very beginning, Toyota was very good at copying American cars. In 1995, Toyota built 50 of these replicas. With his involvement with Toyota dealerships we can understand why Lou Webb owns these Toyotas and we only wish he had a few more.



The Western Region thanks Lou Webb for opening up his collection to us and special thanks to Ron Hitter for such a fascinating and informative tour.

1937 Lincoln K Seven-Passenger Panel Brougham by Willoughby.





1967 Toyota 2000 GT.



Replica of the first Toyota in 1936.

Spring Board Meeting, March 7, Ladera Ranch, California

Following are highlights from this meeting:

Treasury - Bob Reed was unable to attend and sent data for Mike Gribble to present. We have approximately \$10,000, mainly from proceeds of the Western National Meet in Irvine. In order for the region to remain solvent it is necessary to get the Confab on e-mail and to schedule another Western National Meet.

Membership as of this Board Meeting is 227 paid, up from prior reports. It was noted that many new member applications came via the Internet.

Bruce Hutchinson's report on the National Annual Board Meeting in January is basically covered in the March-April issue of *Lincoln and Continental Comments*.

Steve Erler has an excellent DVD showing the cars on the field at the Irvine Western National Meet in October. Steve and the region are looking into it's potential as a region project.

New Activities:

There will be an outing to the Petersen Museum in Los Angeles on Saturday, September 12th. Steve Erler will coordinate this event.

The region is evaluating holding a Fall Meet in 1909. Plans will be finalized by the time of the Western Region National Meet in Reno in June.

The region's Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 14th in

Central California. The location will be announced.

Den Fenske is looking into potential locations and chairpersons for a 2010 Western National Meet. He will make a report at Reno National Meet in June.

Three Western Region Board of Managers seats are open in 2010 and Marv Wendt will work with current Board Members and prospective candidates. Ballots will be mailed in mid summer with results announced at the Annual Meeting in November.

Unanimous praise was given to Mike and Janet Gribble for their excellent job done with the 2008 Western

National Meet in Irvine last October. Mike presented the final report, a net profit of \$4,500 and an organizational and social success. He outlined the importance of the auction on Friday night.

The *Confab* will continue the drive to convert to e-mail distribution. Favorable reports on receiving a color copy via e-mail were numerous. Also, it was voted to return to nine issues per year immediately. Beginning with the April issue, the *Confab* will come out every six weeks.

Mike Gribble agreed to organize the Advertising Program for the *Confab*. This was a welcome way to end the meeting.



1926 Springfield Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost Tilberry Sedan.



2009 Western Meet Reno, Nevada, June 10-14

The 2009 Western Meet at the spectacular Sierra Hotel in Reno, Nevada is close to every member in Northern California. It is a little over 200 miles from the San Francisco Bay area, less than that from Sacramento, and it is actually closer than last fall's Western Meet in Irvine.

The registration desk opens Wednesday for early arrivals and participants in the driving tour. You'll see multi-million dollar estates, the Lake, and breathtaking views that you'll long remember. Lunch is scheduled at a restaurant along the way.

Friday is Mechanical Judging and a tour to the National Auto Museum. some 200 cars, most of them from the original Harrah's Automobile Collection. This is one tour you will not want to miss. It is a leading attraction in Reno located right downtown and it is one of the best collections of its size in the world.

Saturday will be judging at the hotel and the gala Awards Banquet. The Meet will be held on the grounds of the hotel, so other than the driving tour, there will be no need to drive your show car once you've detailed it for the Saturday judging.

Reno's hotels and casinos offer plenty of optional activities for your free time and you are encouraged to book your hotel room for a few days before or after the Meet to fully explore and take advantage of a great

vacation area. Our host hotel offers tastefully decorated, clean and comfortable rooms at a price below most major chains.

The Reno Airport is nearby and the hotel has a free shuttle bus available for our members. For those who attend Meets in a motor home, there is an RV

facility with complete hook-ups available on the hotel's property. Information on the RV facility will be in the Meet Packet. Complete details of all activities and the schedule will be in the Meet Packet.

Reservations can be booked starting February 1st by calling: Sierra Hotel, Toll Free Number: 1-800-648-5080. Ask for the: Lincoln Continental Owner Club Reservations -- Special Rate: \$95 per night plus tax. Choice of two Double beds or one King Size.

Meet Registration Packets will be available about March 1st on the www.lcoc.org web site, or by writing, calling, or emailing: Carol Whitmire, LCOC Registration, 4358 E. Falcon Drive Byron, IL 61010. Phone 815-275-3079. Email: carol-lcoc@comcast.net

For other questions regarding the Meet contact Art Whitmire, Meet Co-Chairman, (same above mailing address). Phone 815-234-5155. Email: art-lcoc@comcast.net

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roof covering. It has chrome wheels, leather seats, and even floor mats with the Mark VIII insignia.

The Hoskins drive it frequently between their house in Yorba Linda, California, and their house in Arizona, and it now has over 57,000 miles. They get 24 mpg on the road in automatic overdrive.

The car won a Primary 2nd in Irvine. It lost a few points for slight wear on the trunk carpet, the driver's seat, a few scratches on the paint, and not having a Motorcraft battery. All of these items are being corrected. The car will again be shown at the 2009 Western National Meet in Reno.

Norm and Nancy Hoskins' 1996 Lincoln Mark VIII

*Photographed at the
2008 Western National Meet,
Irvine, California.*

Lincoln Mark VIIs are becoming more and more popular all the time in LCOC. Now we are seeing more of them than Mark VIIs at our national and regional meets. The prices are getting down to the point where the cars are very attractive to Lincoln collectors, but it is not easy to find one with low miles.

Norm and Nancy Hoskins entered a triple black 1996 Lincoln Mark VIII at the 2008 Western National Meet in Irvine, California. The car is especially unusual in that it has a black cambria roof covering. Very few Mark VIIs were so equipped.

They bought the car in February, 2008 primarily because they wanted a newer car that they could drive to meets and other club events. Their 1956 Continental Mark II is in show condition and they want to drive it as little as possible.

Norm admired George Walker's 1995 Mark VIII and he also found that these cars are very fast. He went to the internet looking for one and found out that there are tons of them, but all have over 100,000 miles. He found this car in the San Fernando Valley and it had 56,000 miles. It was bought new at Ray Fladeboe in Glendale. It was a one owner car with every conceivable extra including the cambria



marketplace...

1969 Continental Mark III. 113k miles, second owner for 20 years. Always a Northern California car. Rare burnt orange metallic with white top and white leather interior. Mostly unrestored and still very nice. Runs and drives perfect. All available options. Cold air-conditioning. Serviced and road ready. \$5,500 or best offer. Paul Borgwardt, Walnut Creek, California. (925) 947-2937 or e-mail pborgwart04@aol.com

Collection Reduction. Long time Member in Southern California Bob Gee is starting to reduce his collection of 17 cars and an extensive inventory of parts, most of which are for '65 and '66 Convertibles. The cars are: 1967 4 Door Lincoln Continental - was running well when stored \$2,000. 1968 4 Door Lincoln Continental - 460 Engine - was running well when stored \$1,000. 1977 4 Door Town Car - 460 Engine - was running well when stored \$750. 1979 Mark V - Original Paint - Runs. Needs work \$750. 1976 4 Door Town Car - Given to Richard Nixon by Ford Motor Co. \$3,500.

Contact Bob Gee at (951)571-3319 regarding the above and the parts list.

POLICY: Ads will run for three issues. 50 words maximum!! The advertiser must contact the Editor to extend or modify ads. Ads are NO CHARGE for Western Region members; non-member ads are \$10.00 per issue, with a three-issue minimum on the initial ad. Photo ONLY if space permits. We request that you notify the Editor when the advertised item is sold. Thank you.



TO AN IMPORTANT MEMBER

**Western National Meet,
Reno, Nevada, June 11-14**

