

Lincoln and Continental CONFAB

Western Region Lincoln and Continental Owners Club Publication Volume 40 No 1, January, 2011



Tim's Town Car south of Bakersfield on a previous trip.

Sentimental Journey back to San Francisco

By Tim Howley

This is the issue for trips in Nineties Lincoln Town Cars. Also see Ken and Donna Cairns' story on page 6. Coincidentally, LaVonne and I made a recent trip in our 1994 Town Car back to Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco where my California career began in 1968, now 43 years ago. (That same year LCOC had a Western National Meet on Fisherman's Wharf.)

After spending a few years with Chicago advertising agencies I took a job with Gross, Pera, and Rockey Advertising in San Francisco in the summer of 1968 and motored along the old Lincoln Highway and Interstate 80 in my 1959 Ford Thunderbird. GP&R handled PSA, the airline with the smiling planes, and many other interesting accounts. In the early Seventies that agency was swallowed up by a Chicago agency which eventually lost Toyota and everything else on the west coast.

I had not seen what remained of my San Francisco co-workers for 25 years or more, but in mid December our

creative department gathered at Caesar's Restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf to renew old friendships and memories. Sadly, about half that creative department has gone to that great advertising agency in the sky, and those of us who remain here have gained more than a few gray hairs over the years, but it was great to be back on the old stomping grounds.

Getting back to the LCOC 1968 Western National Meet on Fisherman's Wharf, it was held September 27-29 and had a record of 33 early Lincoln Continentals entered. The show was held on Pier 45B provided by Redwood City Lincoln-Mercury. Meet headquarters was the Travelodge on Fisherman's Wharf. There were several national officers present. This was the first Western National Meet attended by Dr. Erwin C. Ruth who spoke briefly at the banquet. (The Dr. Ruth Trophy had not yet been established.) Sadly, this was the last meet Dr. Ruth attended. He died not long after the event. This was the first LCOC National Meet which was held jointly with the newly established Lincoln-Zephyr Owners Club. There were 10 Lincoln-Zephyrs entered.

Awards were presented at the banquet at Sabella's Restaurant where now famed Ford Motor Company stylist L. David Ash was the guest speaker. Best of Show and the Cowgill Perpetual Trophy went to Bob Phillipi's Continental Mark II from Oakland, California.

(Continued on Page 7)

LaVonne on Hyde Street Pier in San Francisco.



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director's message

"PLEASE ALLOW ME TO
INTRODUCE MYSELF..."

Immortal words from the
world's greatest rock and roll
band.

I'm Marv Wendt, and I'm the
proud Director of the Lincoln
and Continental Owner's Club –
Western Region for 2011. Since
I've been a member of the

Western Region, three fine gentlemen, Bruce Hutchinson, Mike Gribble, and Norm Hoskins have been Directors. I am pleased to call these men friends, and will endeavor to uphold the values and commitment they made to this fine institution.

I come to this position with, like most of us, considerable "car cred". My first car was a '54 Mercury Monterey, lowered in the front, cut-outs, chrome exhaust tips dropped down over the rear axle, '60 Ford hubcaps, and, naturally, tuck and roll. My "hoodlum friends" and I were more like a gang than a car club, but I can't imagine a cooler Southern California adolescence. The Merc was replaced with a Rocket 88 Oldsmobile, then back to FoMoCo and big "total performance" Ford Galaxies. Thunderbirds, and Corvettes followed, and in the late '70s my first Lincoln, a 1969 Continental Mark III. I never looked back, and there's been a Lincoln in the stable ever since. My wife, Jan McNiel and I are fortunate to have the time and resources to enjoy the collector car hobby and actively contribute to LCOC – Western. We love the cars, the socialization, and the dedication of the members to the organization, but mostly the fun.

We are a wonderful group that reveres an American classic, the Lincoln automobile in all its iterations. We are dedicated enthusiasts, who have labored since the '50s to enhance, publicize, and preserve the mystique that is Lincoln. This year, in the Western Region, you'll find a Board of Director's that is an amalgamation of new faces and veteran talent. We have an active membership of over 200 Lincoln enthusiasts, and grand plans for many fun statewide events, beginning with the Kickoff Banquet on February 12, as well as participation in national gatherings.

We are the Lincoln and Continental Owners – Western Region, and we're more than a car club!

Continentially, *Marv Wendt*



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.

Coming Events

All California

February 12
Valentine's
Kick-off Banquet
(See article
on this page)

April 29-May 1
Western Region Spring Meet
Morro Bay, California
(See article on next page)

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

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 will 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.

2011 Valentine's Kick-Off Banquet

Back to The Sportsman's Lodge!

Saturday, February 12, 2011

6:30 pm.

Mark (as is in Continental) your calendars for the return of the Kick-off banquet to the iconic and newly remodeled Sportsman's Lodge in Studio City.

Hosts Helen and Bruce Hutchinson and George and Shirley Richards promise a wonderful Valentine's Day

themed dress-up event at this magnificent, historic venue which has been a favorite of Hollywood celebs for decades, and mentioned by famed Western author

Larry McMurtry in his latest book as "one of his favorite places".

If you and your valentine are coming from any distance and need to "get a room" for Saturday night (or longer) contact Charlotte Robertson directly at (818) 769-4700. information@slhotel.com

Room rates range from \$115.00 to 145.00, which is more than tolerable for this popular locale. Registration information for the banquet is listed below.

Please return your menu selection and a check payable to LCOC Western Region no later than February 6, 2011 to: Bruce and Helen Hutchinson, 11129 Vanalden Avenue, Northridge, CA 91326
If you have any questions call (818) 360-3865

The Sportsmen's Lodge is located at 12825 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, CA 91604

A Meeting of the Board of Managers of the Western Region will take place prior to dinner at approximately 3:00 pm.

Entree Choices:

New York Steak w/Mushroom Caps \$41 X_____

Grilled Salmon w/Dill or Citrus Sauce \$40 X_____

Vegetarian Pasta \$37 X_____

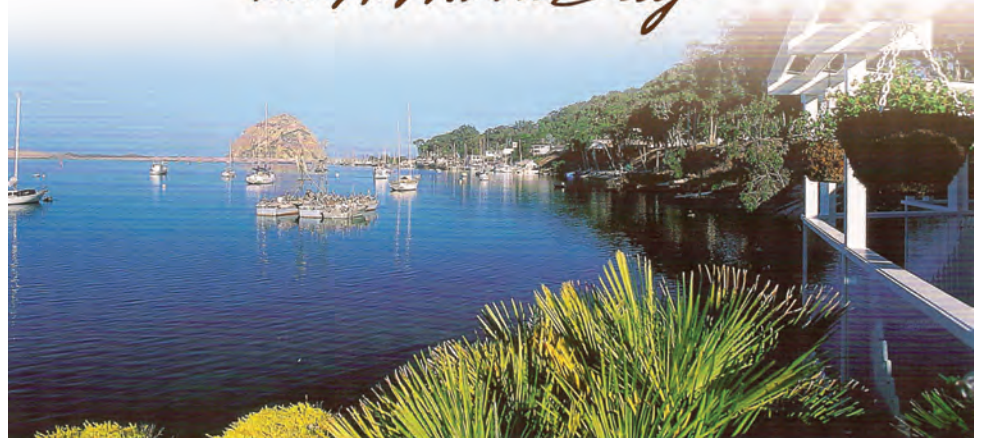
Total Amount Enclosed X_____

Member Name: _____ Guest(s): _____

The Western Region is now accepting display advertising in *The Confab*.

Business card size ads are \$50 for six issues or a full year. Double business card size ads are \$75 for six issues or a full year. Send your checks payable to LCOC Western Region to Bob Reed at 7026 Deering Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91303. Send your ads to *The Confab* at 1780 Iris Way, Escondido, CA or e-mail them to: t.howley@cox.net

Inn At Morro Bay



The view from The Inn at Morro Bay.

Meet Me in Morro Bay for the LCOC Western Region Spring Meet

The Western Region's Spring Meet will be at the incredible Inn at Morro Bay, actually located in Morro Bay State Park. Festivities begin on Friday April 29 with a hosted hospitality suite followed by the car show on Saturday, featuring "people's choice" or peer judging of your Lincoln, your Continental, your Lincoln-Continental, or your "Henry's Other Lady". On Saturday evening the awards banquet will be held at the Inn. On Sunday morning there will be a brief board meeting over breakfast, with the general membership invited, as always.

The Inn is offering an attractive room rate for this popular destination of \$99.00 for the event, as well as three days prior to and three days following

the meet, should you want to spend more time on the scenic Central Coast of California. Call the Inn at (805) 772-5651, and ask for the LCOC room rate. Be sure to make your reservations no later than March 28, 2011 to take advantage of this excellent rate.

A registration form is included on the next page of the CONFAB. You'll notice there is no charge for entering your car(s) in the show, but the awards banquet will cost you, but obviously not much.

Make your room reservations with the Inn, but send your completed registration form and your good check payable to:

MARV WENDT, 2348 WEST RIDGECREST BLVD.
RIDGECREST, CA 93555

If you have any questions call Marv Wendt or Jan McNiel at 760-375-5337 Or E-mail at marvnjan@iwvisp.com

The Inn registration deadline is March 28, 2011 and the meet registration deadline is April 19, 2011. So be sure you don't get left out, and make your registrations early!

See you there! Where? Magnificent Morro Bay, of course!



Carol Reniger

TEL: 805-526-1598 • FAX: 805-520-3887
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REGISTRATION FORM
LCOC WESTERN REGION SPRING MEET 2011
MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA

Member Name _____ Guest _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ email _____

Friday evening – Hospitality Suite
How many will be attending? _____

Saturday Show – Inn parking lot
People's Choice Judging

Registration per person x _____ = \$ 0 registration fee waived
Registration per auto x _____ = \$ 0 registration fee waived
Year _____ Model _____ Body Style _____
Year _____ Model _____ Body Style _____

Saturday evening – Awards Banquet at the Inn

Your choice of Grilled Chicken Breast for \$38 x _____ = \$ _____
Crab-Stuffed Sole for \$40 x _____ = \$ _____
Vegetarian Pasta for \$34 x _____ = \$ _____
For a total of = \$ _____

Sunday Board Meeting
How many will be attending? _____

LIABILITY INSURANCE AND RELEASE

Liability Insurance Carrier: _____
Policy Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

The undersigned Lincoln & Continental Owners Club Member signing for and representing spouse/guest, in requesting to enter the above Western Regional Meet, does HEREBY release the National Club and sponsoring Region for any and all liability connected with this meet.





Ken and Donna Cairns' 1991 Lincoln Town Car enroute.

Cross Country Trip in a 1991 Lincoln

by Ken and Donna Cairns, LaVerne, California

My wife and I needed to go back to Hubbard, Ohio (near Youngstown) for a memorial service for her mom who passed away at age 93. After considering flying and renting a car, we decided to drive, and we could make several stops along the way to visit some points of interest. Now my Cartier Towncar has over 177,000 miles on it and has never had the engine or transmission rebuilt. The Michelins had over 63,000 miles on them and still had a fair amount of tread left, but not knowing what kind of weather we might encounter I bought a new set of tires. I also carried a full size spare along with the doughnut spare. I also bought some tools and, of course, a roll of duct tape, just in case.

After breakfast in Barstow we headed out along I-40 thru Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. We then picked up I-44, then I-55 and stopped in Springfield, Illinois to visit the Abraham Lincoln Museum. Then we proceeded onto I-80 outside of Chicago and while in the area we went to the Studebaker Museum in South Bend, Indiana.

The next stop was the famous Gilmore Museum in Hickory Corners,

Michigan. There are so many beautiful automobiles to admire and we took many pictures, including the stone Lincoln pieces that will adorn the new Lincoln Museum when built.

The next stop was the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn. One could spend several days here as it is huge with so many interesting displays, and not all Fords. There are antique bicycles, motorcycles, trucks, presidential limousines, a replica of a drive-in movie theater with a live picture show

and several cars pulled up to it. There is a round aluminum house of which only two were built in 1946. There was also an enormous steam locomotive that weighed 600 tons.

We arrived at our destination in Ohio and spent two days with family and friends and attended the memorial service. At this point we decided to go on across Pennsylvania into New Jersey where we spent two days with my family. While there I had the Lincoln serviced. We then headed south into Delaware and Maryland and over and under the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel. Then on to Norfolk and into Williamsburg, Virginia. From there we picked up I-81 south to Knoxville, Tennessee and picked up I-40 across Tennessee, Arkansas, and back thru the states where we had started from, and finally home.

In all, we covered 6,554 miles in 19 days and averaged 22.4 mpg often driving 70-75 mph with the a/c on. The only problem we had was when the inside rear view mirror would be swaying in front of me until I could find a glass shop open. It took about 20 minutes and \$10 to fix it and it has been fine ever since. The Towncar now has over 184,000 miles and still runs perfect. I added one quart of oil in Indiana and another in Arizona (plus the oil change in New Jersey) and that's all I did for the entire trip. Before starting out some friends said I



was crazy to drive across the country in and “old” car with high mileage, but I had all the confidence in the world in my Lincoln because I’ve been driving Lincolns for over 30 years with few problems.

(Sentimental Journey to San Francisco continued.)

This entire LCOC event took place practically right out my window at Gross, Pera, and Rockey and I knew nothing about it. I was not an LCOC or LZOC member at the time and had not yet established myself as an old car news reporter. That came a few years later. I believe the 1968 event was organized by the late Gene Babow who would soon become a driving force with LCOC in Northern California. A couple of years later I bought Babow’s 1947 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet. The first LCOC event I covered was the LCOC Western National Meet in Los Gatos, California in 1973 and that was for *Old Cars Weekly*, then *Old Cars Monthly*. Sad to say, half the LCOC people at Fisherman’s Wharf in 1968 are no longer with us. So many are deceased and others are no longer in the club.

LaVonne and I made the trip in our 1994 Lincoln Town Car which averaged 22.4 mpg, used not a drop of oil, and turned 120,000 miles on that 1,000 mile round trip. We left Escondido mid-afternoon on a Tuesday, stayed one night in Buttonwillow, and spent Wednesday in the old home town of San Rafael where I once had a collection of 16 old cars in little old garages all over town. It was San Rafael where I began writing *Somewhere West of Laramie* for *Old Cars Weekly* and told of my many old car adventures in the San Francisco Bay area. I only have one of those cars left, a 1956 Lincoln Premiere sedan which I originally bought in Berkeley in 1972. Long gone are the 1947 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet, 1938 Lincoln-Zephyr Convertible Sedan, 1947 Ford Woody, 1947 Cadillac Convertible, 1961 and 1962 Lincoln Continental Convertibles, 1955 Lincoln Convertible, and 1956 Lincoln Convertible.



Tim’s Town Car parked at the Northpoint building on Fisherman’s Wharf. That’s the former offices of Gross, Pera, and Rockey in the background.

After the reunion, LaVonne and I hurried back to San Diego Thursday and Friday, hoping to beat the big California rain in our Town Car. We hit the Toule Fogs in the valley and the beginning of the rains but the Town Car never missed a beat. Our final stop was “The Wreck” in Lake Elsinore. (See photo right.)



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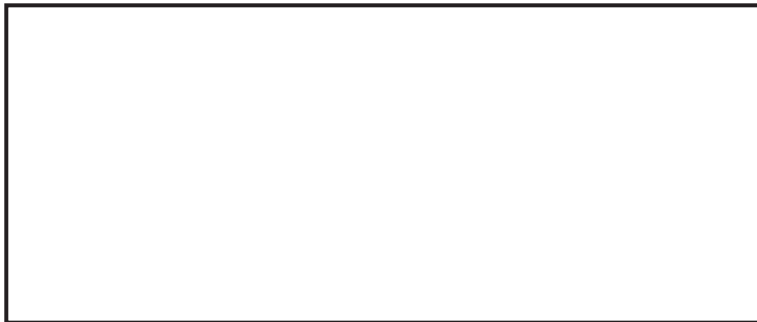
Still trying to sell my 1988 Mark VIIs. One is a white LSC in near show condition. The other is a blue Bill Blass in good driving condition. All reasonable offers will be considered for both cars. Tim Howley (760) 739-0332 E-mail for photos and further information: t.howley@cox.net

Lincoln Continental Mark IV '73-'75 black dash excellent condition-\$200; black door panels-\$100 each; plus shipping. John Walcek 714-528-1860, email john.walcek@earthlink.net"

1987 Lincoln Town Car. One-owner (garaged). Original Silver with gray leather interior, original pin striping, Landau top (excellent condition). Serviced regularly and stored in garage, no dents and never wrecked! Current smog, clean registration. 159,000 original miles, VIN:1LNBM81F8JY612248. Minimum bid \$2,800. Inspection by appointment in Coalinga, CA. Contact: Dan Hernandez Ph: 831/917-0907

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TO AN IMPORTANT MEMBER

