



Marv Wendt's 1947 Lincoln Continental Coupe.

A Lincoln Continental Story

By Marv Wendt

A few years back there was an auction in Pampa, Texas of the many Lincolns and Continentals, as well as other cars, which were part of the estate of a West Texas Lincoln dealer, radio station owner, and, I'm sure, oilman. It was reported that this was the largest collection of Lincoln Continental Mark IIs in existence, and I wanted one of them badly. I boned up on my Mark II research, and Jan and I headed for Pampa with the most miserable head colds we'd had in years. Sick as I was, I still crawled all over every Mark II, studied VINs and made a list, ranking the cars best to worst. Auction day arrived, and as it turned out, the Mark IIs that I deemed worthy sold for more than I cared to pay.

While I was completely engrossed with Mark IIs, and had been for years, I also took note of '52 through '54 Lincolns which are among my favorites (I've had three), and yet another series of Continentals kept catching my eye. I've always admired

the first Lincoln Continentals (and Zephyrs), but have never been terribly enthusiastic about flathead engines. A number of them went through the auction, and I thought; "Wish I knew a little more about these cars, they're really appealing, but I just don't feel sufficiently educated on them."

We came home from Pampa, checking account intact, and I found a nice

Versailles to occupy my time. I kind of drifted away from my Mark II search; thinking that, like '56 Mercurys, this may be a car that forever eludes me. That whole "time and space" thing and the planets just refusing to align.

I sold my big '70 Lincoln and my hotrod Cougar, and holes started appearing in the garage. I got to thinking; "I've never had a car from the '40s, and what's up with that?" "Forty Fords" have been among my preferred cars of that decade, so I began a casual search for one, as well as considering Cadillac and Buick Sedanettes, but I really wanted another Lincoln.

Now, boys and girls, we have to go way "back in the day" to the late '60s and a younger Marv, fresh out of the Army and the jungles of South Vietnam, who needed a removable hardtop for his recently acquired '57 Thunderbird. In a roundabout way, this was my first exposure to Lincolns and LCOC. I don't recall how I made the acquaintance of the late (and great), long time LCOC member, L.F. "Smitty" Schmidt. Smitty was a T-bird enthusiast as well, and he had a T-bird hardtop for sale, and a deal was made.

(Continued on Page 6)



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director's message



Jan and I recently returned from a 4132 mile road trip to New Orleans to attend the LCOC National Board meeting. We made New Orleans in three days, taking advantage of Arizona and New Mexico's 75 mile an hour speed limit, and an exhilarating 80 on I-10 in West Texas. We visited author Anne Rice's former home in the New Orleans Garden District, paid homage to the legendary Janis Joplin with a side trip to Port Arthur, Texas, and spent a delightful couple of days on the San Antonio river walk, lodging at the impressive La Mansion del Rio hotel.

This was my first National Board meeting, and I was mightily impressed with the dedication and professionalism of the National Board members, not to mention their unanimous cordiality and sterling wit. I'll give a more complete report on National issues after I receive an approved copy of the board minutes, but the highlights included membership issues (a slight decline), budget considerations, judging standards (including a new class), expansion of regions to include states that are not represented by a region, Lincoln Foundation funding, the (underutilized) website, and upcoming national events. The Michigan region demonstrated their particularly impressive presentation that will soon be appearing on the National website promoting their 2011 National meet.

I greatly enjoyed representing the Western Region, providing the Board with a synopsis of our 2010 Ventura meet as well as the initial details of our upcoming 2012 Concord meet.

As you'll read in this issue of the CONFAB we have many fine events in the works for this year, so plan on keeping the Lincoln dusted off and road ready so that you can attend and enjoy many or all of them.

LCOC - Western Region – "It's more than a car club."

Continental, *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.

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.

Coming Events

All California

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

Southern California

March 12
Mullin Automotive Museum
(See article
on this page)

Northern California

(See Page 5)

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

Some suggested hotels:

Mandalay Beach Hotel
3231 Peninsula Rd.
Oxnard
805-985-1100
Embassy Suites
2101 Mandalay Beach
Oxnard
805-984-2500
Best Western
1156 S. Oxnard Blvd.
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805-483-9581

Directions to La Dolce Vita:

Start at 1421 EMERSON AVE, OXNARD
going toward PACIFIC AVE
Turn Left on PACIFIC AVE - go 0.2 mi
Turn Right on STATHAM BLVD - go < 0.1
mi
Turn Right on OXNARD BLVD(CA-1 N) -
go 1.0 mi
Bear Right on S OXNARD BLVD(CA-1 N)
- go 0.2 mi
Turn Left on W 9TH ST - go 0.1 mi
Turn Right on S B ST - go 0.1 mi
Arrive at 740 S B ST, OXNARD, on the
Right

French Curves and More! Mullin Automotive Museum Saturday, March 12th, 2011

The LCOC Western Region invites you and your guests to tour the Mullin Automotive Museum, (<http://www.mullinautomotivemuseum.com/>) in Oxnard on March 12th. The museum is home to Peter Mullin's 'French Curves' collection which includes some of the most beautifully styled and amazingly engineered French-built cars covering several decades: Bugattis, Delages, Delahayes, Hispano Suizas, Talbot-Lagos and Voisins.

Many notable cars in this collection have won prestigious awards at concours d'elegance throughout the world. In addition, a number of the race cars have been past winners of historic races, such as the Grand Prix de Pau and Le Mans.

The museum also houses examples of furniture, decorative art and photography from the "art deco" period.

Personal photography is allowed, but no commercial photography or tripods. They have a small gift shop where they sell books, jackets, berets, cards, etc.

Following the museum tour, we will be dining at La Dolce Vita for lunch. A five minute drive from the museum, La Dolce Vita is a Mediterranean style restaurant located in an old house in Heritage Square where other historic buildings are located. This is optional.

WHERE: 1421 Emerson Ave., Oxnard, Ca. 93033
(see directions below)

TIME: Check-in at 10:30AM, entrance to the museum as a group 11AM
Lunch at La Dolce Vita begins approx. 1PM

INFO: 949-689-8471

Directions to the museum:

From the north or south on the 101 Fwy, exit onto Rose Ave., Exit 61 and head south for 3 miles. Turn right onto Emerson Ave. and go .2 miles. The museum is the last driveway on the right, just before the stop sign.

Please print out the Registration Form below, and mail with your check for the total amount to the address indicated on the form.

Name _____

Names of guests _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

e-mail and phone no. _____

Please indicate the number of entree choices for your party below.

Caesar Chicken Salad Chicken Picatta Italian Sandwich

Vegetable Lasagna Caprese Sandwich

Museum Tour _____ \$10 per person

Lunch (optional) _____ \$20 per person

I am RSVPing for _____ people. TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Make checks payable to LCOC Western Region and mail to :
Jim Ayres, 381 Hamilton St. C-203, Costa Mesa, Ca. 92627

PAYMENTS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 3

Welcome New Member

Bryan and Terese Woll of Valley Center, California They have a 1961 Lincoln Continental convertible.



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 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.

There's still time to reserve your spot at the LCOC – Western Region Spring Meet in magnificent Morro Bay. A registration form is in this issue of the CONFAB, which provides you everything you need to join with fellow Lincoln friends for what is shaping up to be a swell event. A number of Lincoln enthusiasts have already registered, and the Meet is almost three months away. So, don't be left out. Break out the checkbook and send your registration and all your money to: MARV WENDT 2348 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST, CA 93555

Make your room reservations (only 99 bucks) directly with the Inn at Morro Bay at (805) 772-5651 and don't forget to mention that you're with LCOC – Western to take advantage of the special room rate.

Got questions about the event? Call Marv at (760)375-5337



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MEET APRIL 29-MAY 1 MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA

2011 LCOC Western
Region
Northern California
Events

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

•May 22. Niles Canyon Railway Excursion. We will meet at the Sunol Depot, 6 Kilkare Rd. Sunol, CA 94586 at 11 am. The excursion train is a 75 minute ride to Fremont and return through the Niles Canyon on historic rolling stock.

•June 25. Sutter Gold Mine Tour. Sutter Gold Mine offers a comprehensive look into the gold mining process and its historical progression from gold panning and hydraulic mining to hard rock techniques. Besides that, it's just plain fun to go underground and see what's usually only seen by miners: the inside of the Earth. Members will meet at 10:30 am. in Sacramento and enjoy a scenic drive up into the historic Mother Lode. Bring a pot luck picnic lunch! 13660 Highway 49, Sutter Creek, CA 95685.

•August 20. 4th Annual Wine Country Picnic. Location TBA.

•September 11. Fun Ford Sunday Vallejo. This is an annual event held the second Sunday in September at the Solano County Fairgrounds, it is open to all Ford produced automobiles. Clubs stake out their own areas when they arrive.

The Western Region is
now accepting display
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**(Continental Story,
continued from Page 1)**

He had a lot of cars, and among them was a somewhat scruffy white '47 Lincoln Continental that was a Minnesota "barn find". I recently learned that Smitty drove the car from Minnesota, towing a little Thunderbird behind! Smitty and I would bump into each other over the years, mainly through our Thunderbirds, and I recall our attending a joint gathering of Thunderbirds and Continentals at the long-gone and greatly missed Riverside Raceway.

Fast forward to 2007 and a LCOC Western Region seasonal meet in Bakersfield where 26 Lincolns and Continentals showed. Included among them were the late Jack Cassan's '40 Lincoln Continental, Allen Jones' '47 Cabriolet, and an absolutely stunning dark blue '47 Lincoln Continental Coupe owned by member John Crawley and driven from Sacramento. I spoke with John, and expressed my appreciation of his '47. In our conversations he informed me that he had purchased the car from Smitty Schmidt! This was the same car that I had knowledge of for almost forty years. I really fell in love with the car, and its history, and when I lost track of John (he never attended another meet, and is no longer in

LCOC) I regretted that I had not expressed my desire to own the car should he ever want to part with her.

Jump ahead again to September of '08; the Lincoln Continental appears on E-bay Motors, having been consigned to the Towe Auto Museum to sell for John Crawley. I followed the car's progress through the auction, and again, cheapskate that I can be, found the bidding to be out my comfort zone. I assumed that such a nice example would surely go to a collector "back east", and put the car out my mind. I bid half-heartedly on a '47 Cabriolet at an auction in Palm Springs and made an offer on a '48

Lincoln Coupe in Riverside, but they really didn't "grab me", and I consoled myself with other projects.

In the summer of 2010 (see the CONFAB of September, 2010) LCOC/Western region board member, Jeremy Sanford hosted a wine-tasting/picnic event in the Napa Valley. The word "wine" always makes an impression with us so we disturbed our Mark VII's slumber and headed for the wine country. As we drove into the parking lot of the Blackstone Winery (where Jeremy's sister Emily is the P.R. and marketing honcho), a few Lincolns were in attendance including Smitty's/John Crawley's and now LCOC member Tom Marshall's 1947 Lincoln Continental coupe. WITH A "FOR SALE" SIGN IN THE WINDOW. After a week of deliberation, I decided that I wasn't going to let her get away again, and the car was mine. Jan and I drove north again In August, spent a pleasant evening as guests of the Marshalls and took two leisurely days driving home in a 63 year old car.

I haven't done much to her since August, as she doesn't need much. A few improvements are planned, hopefully in time for Morro Bay, which will be only her third LCOC function since restoration was completed in 2007.

Photos by Marv Wendt.



I just can't end the Continental's story without telling you why she's so appealing to me other than the obvious good looks of the original Continental. (PURISTS, READ NO FURTHER) I've always been intrigued by early engine conversions having done one to a '56 Ford pickup, and way, way back in the '50s my Continental received a transplant. What must have been a nearly-new 1953 Cadillac engine, along with a four-speed Hydramatic transmission, and a completely revised and well engineered Cadillac rear-end and suspension were installed, along with "Traction Masters" (I hadn't seen these in years) to prevent rear-end wind-up. Over the years additional mechanical modifications have been made including conversion to a 12-volt/alternator electrical system, power brakes, electric fuel pump, remote oil filter and an enlarged radiator and dual exhausts.

An AM/FM radio has been nicely integrated into the original opening, and multiple speakers and a power antenna have been added. Interestingly, she retains her hydraulic window lifts and manual steering.

As part of the lengthy restoration the car was stripped to bare metal, revealing not a speck of rust and she came with a wonderful album of photos documenting the restoration process. Owner Tom Marshall made even more upgrades during his ownership.

The part of this story that is so enjoyable is the cast of characters, who preserved, treasured and enjoyed this wonderful automobile. I'm greatly indebted to them all, and especially to Smitty's son, Brad, who provided much of this history. If anyone has additional information on this car, I'd be more than grateful to have it. As always, it's more than just the cars that make Lincoln ownership so pleasurable, it's the folks who own and love them.

Jan and I look forward to participating in future LCOC events with this special Lincoln Continental, and we're fairly certain that you'll enjoy seeing her.



Marv's new baby in his garage/shop.



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1993 Lincoln Town Car. Dark blue, gray leather upholstery, sheepskin front seat covers, Pirelli w/ws, Executive model, power everything. All records and service manual, beautiful condition. Always garaged 150k miles, runs great! Passed smog in January. \$3,000. Call Jean at 650-964-0561.

Still trying to sell my 1988 Mark VIIs. One is a white LSC in near show condition. The other is a blue Bill Bliss 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

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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