



Terry Knoepp's 1940 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet photographed near his home in Ramona, California.

Western Region Member Owns one of the Earliest Lincoln Continentals

Terry Knoepp, Ramona, California owns 1940 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet 06H56-17 with Serial No. H-92533 that was assembled on December 26, 1939 and shipped to Norfolk, Virginia (one of only three 1940 Lincoln Continentals shipped to that wholesale point on January 3, 1940 recorded on the Assembly Plant record card). The name of the customer who ordered this car is not recorded although "Mr." is written at the upper left as if the man's name was intended to follow, as is the case on other 1940 Lincoln Continental record cards. As built, the car was black with a red leather interior and a tan top, had blackwall tires with chrome wheel bands, a hot air heater and oil bath air cleaner, but no other accessories.

No records have been found of the car's first 14 years, but the January, 1954 Lincoln Continental Owners Club membership list includes Joseph A. Connors, Jr., of 33 Paulus Boulevard,

Raritan Gardens, New Brunswick, New Jersey. The car is listed as a 1940 Convertible which carries the same number 06H56-17.

This must have been the car with which Joseph Connors participated in the 1954 LCOC Dearborn Rallye in October, 1954 and won First Place among 1940 Lincoln Continental Cabriolets and was pictured with several others on the cover of the Special Dearborn Rallye Edition of *Continental Comments*. The car has Rallye Plate #48 on the front

bumper but the New Jersey license plate is not visible. On the sixth page of this special issue another picture appears of Connors accepting the First Place ribbon from William Clay Ford with the car in the foreground and in this picture it has both the #48 Rallye Plate and New Jersey license plate visible.

Connors still owned the car 12 years later. A letter from Jesse Haines dated 2/11/67 in the 1940 Lincoln Continental register book letter file says H-92533 was owned by J.A. Connors, then of 31 Mountain Heights, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. Jesse wrote; "Saw this car. Is all original, not goofed up. Strictly early production. Nothing strange."

Apparently Connors did not keep the car long after this time. A draft of an ad offering the car for sale in *Continental Comments* is on file with a date of May, 1967 showing Herb Wetson, 190 Meadow View Avenue, Hewlett Bay Park, New York as the next owner.

Two years later the car made its first trip to California, being sold to Leigh H. Bernstein, 2985 Mission Village Drive, San Diego.

(Continued on Page 4)



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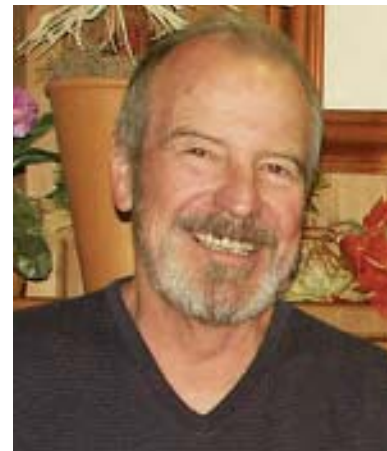
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Director's message



The LCOC-Western Region Board of Director's meeting took place on November 12. The location, selected by Membership Chairperson Mike Cunningham, was the mid-century design Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa. This '50's style hotel is extremely well maintained, and its period correct rooms and restaurant are an architecture enthusiasts' delight. Thanks to Mike for choosing a great venue for the meeting and the extracurricular winery tour and hospitality suite.

I am pleased to report that club membership is stable, the treasury is adequate to cover current administrative costs and that many activities and events all across the Region are planned for 2012, foremost among them the Western National Meet in Concord in September. Other discussion items included National judging practices, and appropriate ways for the Club to memorialize members who have passed on. The Board would appreciate members' thoughts on these issues. Additionally, Board Members Bruce Hutchinson, Bob Reed and Jeremy Sanford agreed to new three year terms, and all officers will remain in their respective positions.

On Saturday, February 11th 2012, we'll "kickoff" the New Year with the traditional Kickoff Banquet at the classic Sportsmen's Lodge on Ventura Boulevard in Studio City. More information on banquet details and hotel room rates appear in this issue and the next issue of the CONFAB. Helen and Bruce Hutchinson have been hosting this event for a number of years, and it's always a treat, and Studio City is almost like Hollywood. We'll also hold our first Board of Director's meeting of the New Year prior to the banquet.

With the New Year comes the time to "pay your dues", and I'm pleased to announce that there will be no increase in annual dues. You'll be receiving your renewal form both electronically or by hard copy in the near future.

As this will be the last issue of the CONFAB 2011 I'll take the opportunity to wish all of the members of the Western Region the happiest of holidays!

Continently yours, *Marv*

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

Valentine's Kick-Off Banquet
Sportsmen's Lodge,
Studio City
February 11

Getty Villa, Malibu
(March) exact date
to be announced

Fabulous Fords Forever
Knott's Berry Farm
Buena Park
April 22

Marin BBQ at Mike
Cunningham's Estate
20 Ayala Ct, San Rafael
April 28

Annual Wine Country Picnic
Winery to be announced
July 28

Fun Ford Sunday
Vallejo
September 9

WESTERN NATIONAL MEET
Concord, California
September 26-30

Visit us on the
World Wide Web Region:
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*2012 Valentine's
Kick-Off Banquet
Back to The Sportsmen's
Lodge!
Saturday, February 12,
2012 6:30 p.m.*



See complete details on this event at the very end of your e-mailing after the classified advertising section, or if you receive the Confab by regular mail see the enclosed flyer.

A Meeting of the Board of Managers of the Western Region will take place prior to the dinner at approximately 2:00 pm.



*The Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa, site of the November, 2011 Board Meeting.
The next Board Meeting will be at the Sportsmen's Lodge. (Jim Ayres photo.)*

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.

(1940 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet Continued)

By this time it was restored and painted Beetle Green with a Tan leather interior. At The LCOC 1969 Western National Meet In San Diego in September Bernstein won a Ford Trophy and Best V-12 with the car. The car is featured on the back cover of *Continental Comments* #98, Fall, 1969, with Leigh and Bunny Bernstein and the trophies the car had won. There are two other pictures of the car on Page 29 of the same issue. The engine compartment of the car was featured on the front cover of *Continental Comments* #106, Fall, 1971.

The car was sold to Gerald Wright of San Diego around 1975. Wright was a longtime member of CCCA and President of the San Diego Region of AACA. He entered the car in the LCOC Western National Meet in Coronado, California in June, 1975 and won a Ford Trophy for Best Primary Pre-War Lincoln Continental. The car is featured on the back cover of *Continental Comments* #122, Fall, 1975. It is again featured on Page 9 of *Continental Comments* 123 and the engine is pictured on Page 10 and the car is pictured with other cars on Page 11. Apparently Wright kept the car until early 1983. He lived to be nearly 100 years old.

The May, 1983 LCOC Membership Roster shows that the car was now back in Racine, Wisconsin with the owner as Bill Thompson who was a new member. By the end of 1987 Thompson had sold the car to Steve Kalcich of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.

In December, 1998 Ken Tibbet of Jamul, east of San Diego, bought the car and shipped it back to the West Coast for a second time. By this time the car had been restored.

In the early 2000s it was sold to Terry Knoepp of Ramona, California who had it again restored over a two or three year period by a restoration shop in Escondido, California. The car is now Beetle Green again with a Tan





Joseph Connors receives a First Place Award from William Clay Ford at the 1954 Dearborn Rallye.

leather interior and a Tan top.

This is car No. 17. Edsel Ford had car No. 20 and Frank Lloyd Wright had either No. 16 or 18. Jackie Cooper had No. 3 which was the first retail car. The first two were show cars. All of these cars were cabriolets, no coupes were built until the spring of 1940.

Terry Knoepp drives the car locally and has entered it in several San Diego area shows but he has never entered it in LCOC national competition.

Terry is a lifetime resident of the San Diego area. His father was a San Diego physician.



The first car in the line at the 1954 Dearborn Rallye Parade is Connors' 1940 Lincoln Continental Cabriolet. The couple in the foreground are Elliston and Henrietta Bell.

Terry lives in a beautiful home in Ramona built on a large lot. Some of the cars are in a large garage attached to his house and others are in a large garage at the rear of the property. Some of his other cars are: A restored 1941 Buick Roadmaster convertible sedan which he serviced as a kid when he worked at a gas station in LaJolla in the fifties, a 1947 low mileage Custom Packard Clipper, a 1955 Cadillac eight-passenger sedan, a low mileage 1953 Imperial Newport which was a special order rumored for Jane Mansfield, a low mileage 1949 Chrysler New Yorker club coupe, a restored 1937 LaSalle coupe, a restored 1950 Ford convertible in Sportsman's Green, and a 1951 Buick Roadmaster with low mileage but fully restored.



Some of the Board Managers at the Flamingo Hotel in Santa Rosa. The next Board Meeting will be at the Sportsmen's Lodge. (Jim Ayres photo.)

A Short History of the Sportsmen's Lodge

The next Board Meeting will be at the Sportsmen's Lodge, February 11, site of the 2011 Kick-Off Banquet. The Sportsmen's Lodge is a hotel located on Ventura Boulevard in Studio City, Los Angeles, California. Operating under various names (including "Hollywood Trout Farms") since the 1880s, the Sportsmen's Lodge is a San Fernando Valley landmark and remains a popular spot for celebrations, dinners and public events. Located in the heart of the Valley's studio district, the Sportsmen's Lodge was a popular gathering spot for cast and crew in old Hollywood, including Clark Gable, Bette Davis, John Wayne, Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall, Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn.

The original Sportsmen's Lodge opened in the 1880s before the movie business existed and before Studio City had its name. A history of Studio City published by the Studio City Sun describes the Lodge as an "enduring symbol of lost rural Valley life." The Sun noted that the site has had many owners since the 1880s but was "always a geographic crossroads for

travelers because of its proximity to the river, the canyons, and watering holes created by a natural artesian spring." In the days before freeways were built across the Valley, "all traffic passed along Ventura's two dirt lanes in the sparsely populated Valley, and when people were starting to take road trips, this was an oasis at the end of the road."

In the first half of the 20th Century, the Sportsmen's Lodge was known for its trout-fishing lake where families came to catch and eat their own dinners, cooked courtesy of the lodge's restaurant. In the 1910s, the Lodge was called "Hollywood Trout Farms" and was described as "a ramshackle collection of huts." The ponds were augmented with man-made lakes in the 1920s, and fish were grown and delivered as far as Las Vegas and San Luis Obispo. From the late 1930s until the end of World War II, it was known as "Trout Lakes".

The Sportsmen's Lodge became the place to hang out for cast and crew members working at the nearby Republic Studios. The heart of Republic Studios was its B-westerns, and many western-film leads, including John Wayne, Gene Autry, Rex Allen, and Roy Rogers, became stars at Republic. Movie posters signed by Hollywood cowboys who stayed there still hang on the walls of the Lodge's coffee shop. Some of Hollywood's remaining silver screen cowboys still gather at the Sportsmen's Lodge for the annual Golden Boot and Silver Spur Awards.

In 1945, the property was renamed the Sportsmen's Lodge, and a formal restaurant and cocktail lounge were added. Guests were given rods and bait to catch their fish and make dinner.

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According to one account, the Lodge's trout ponds "drew luminaries such as Tallulah Bankhead, Lena Horne, Bette Davis, and Joan Blondell, who baited hooks with liverwurst and drank martinis as waiters served dinner on white tablecloths. When celebrities such as Clark Gable frequented the Lodge, rates were \$9 for a single room and \$25 for a suite.

A small pier adjacent to the restaurant catered to celebrities who worked in nearby studios. The pier was said to be Clark Gable's favorite fishing spot, and Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall were regulars.

As the San Fernando Valley grew in the years after World War II, the urban sprawl sprung up around the Sportsmen's Lodge and its trout fishing lakes. In 1962, the modern Sportsmen's Lodge Hotel was built adjacent to the original lodge. When the hotel was built, the lakes became home to a family of swans and some of the Valley's first fine dining establishments, frequented by legendary Hollywood stars.

According to the Studio City Sun, the Los Angeles Health Department ended the era of fishing at the Lodge when the 1971 San Fernando earthquake diverted the natural spring.

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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
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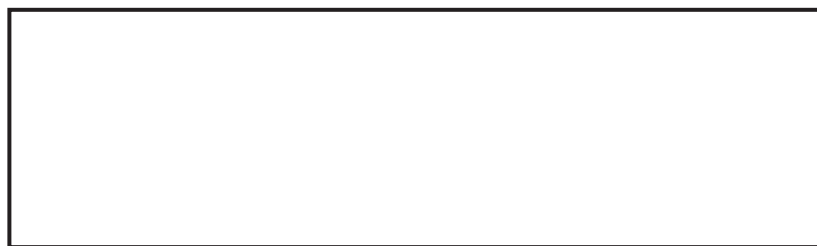
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www.lcoccwestern.org



TO LCOC WESTERN REGION MEMBER:

2680 Park Hills Drive
Sacramento, CA 95821

WESTERN REGION





Kick-Off Dinner 2012

Please Join Us for The LCOC Western Region Valentine's Kick-off Dinner 2012

Saturday, February 11, 2012 6:30 P.M.

Sportsmen's Lodge Events Center & Hotel
12825 Ventura Blvd, Studio City, Ca 91604


Your Hosts: Bruce & Helen Hutchinson



Please return your menu selection
and a check payable to *LCOC
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February 5, 2012 to:
Bruce & Helen Hutchinson
11129 Vanalden Ave.
Northridge, CA 91326

Questions: (818) 360-3865

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Made By Calling:
Sportsman's Lodge Hotel
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Contact: Syed or Charlotte
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A Meeting of the Board of Managers of the Western Region will take place prior
to the dinner at approximately 2:00 P.M.

Entree Choices :

Sliced Tri Tip w/ Mushroom Sauce \$42	X _____	Member Name: _____
Grilled Salmon w/ Dill Sauce \$42	X _____	Guest(s): _____
Vegetarian Lasagna \$40	X _____	_____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____
