

# NORTHSTAR NEWS

## My Pride and Joy

### Butter and Licorice

*A two Town Car Tale  
by Jeff Hoffman*



1998 Cartier Town Car - "Butter"

After visiting New York City in February of 2009 I do believe I have seen every kind, color, and style of Lincoln's Town Car fleet that spanned into the hundreds, if not thousands. At the time I still owned "Doc."

Doc was my navy blue colored 1992 Lincoln Continental which ran superb and served me proud, but age was showing in annoying ways. Ways such as the digital messaging system chiming at times telling me to "CHECK DCL," and oil pressure. There was never anything wrong other than a ridiculous computer issue. And if any of my other Brother and Sister Lincoln owners had an early 90's Continental, you don't need me to remind you of all of the wrongs involving the air ride suspension system. Hell, it got to the point I was buying spares two at a time, front and rear, to keep on hand. This was no easy task either! I had to order them up from salvage yards as far south as Louisiana. I was ready to retire Doc over to a family who really needed a good running vehicle or a 16 year old who needed a cheap first car, or maybe even a country boy needing something for a demo derby or enduro race. Either way, all of the Town Cars in New York City convinced me that my 5 years with Doc were done.

On a cold and late February evening just two weeks after my trip home from New York, my best friend Leon called me. Leon was in the car sales game for almost 15 years and still enjoyed car shopping very much. For some reason our intuition told us to try Waterloo, Iowa for our Town Car buying experience. Waterloo is an industrial town and home to major offices of John Deere. I figured former fleet vehicles or executive vehicles would now be back lot beauties somewhere. It's also a city with a great supply of auction inventory that's not hot enough for the larger towns of Iowa. The Waterloo demographic resonated Ford, Lincoln, Mer-

*(Continued on page 2)*

*Welcome to the Northstar News, the monthly publication of the Northstar Region of the Lincoln and Continental Owners Club. We value your opinions and appreciate your input concerning this newsletter and the operation of the club. This is your club.*

### ***This Issue Contains***

Feature Car of the Month	1	Directors Message	4
Club Information Page	2	Northstar board minutes	7
Editors Message	3	Northstar Region Events Calendar	15
Trivia...	3		

# Board Of Directors - 2009-2010

Title	Name	Phone Numbers	email & FAX
Regional Director	Bob Johnson	H(651)257-1715	arborbob41@aol.com
Director at Large	Tom Brace	H(651)644-1716	trbrace@comcast.net
Technical Consultant	Ron Fenelon	H(320)763-4197	r1f8536@gctel.net
Projects Director	Bob Gavrilesco	H(651)488-3878	
Membership	Dave Gustafson	H(952)435-1919	davidwgustafson@att.net
Publications	Dave Gustafson	H(952)435-1919	Fax(952)898-5230 (home) davidwgustafson@att.net
Treasurer	Harvey Oberg	H(651)739-9754	
Secretary	Roger Wothe	H(952)473-3038 O(952)583-5339	rwothe@mchsi.com
Director	Bob Roth	H(763)475-1429	
Sunshine Secretary	Faythe Oberg	H(651)739-9754	

Members and guests are welcome to attend the Board Meetings which are held the *first* Thursday of every month except December at 7:00 PM at Culvers Restaurant, (dine with friends at 6:00PM) I-94 AND RUTH STREET, St. Paul.

Articles and other information for the newsletter should be sent to David Gustafson, Editor, at 308 Brandywine Drive, Burnsville, MN 55337.

## *Pride and Joy continued.....*

*(Continued from page 1)*

cury. We checked every new and used car lot in the Waterloo area. We weren't able to find anything in the \$5,500 range so we had supper and planned our next idea.

The vision of my dream Lincoln is that of a Town Car Cartier Edition, 98-00, black in color with a carriage roof. The odds of me hitting my mark on that wish were terribly rare and unrealistic. Cedar Falls, Iowa is a Waterloo neighbor and has an impressive row of new and used dealerships. We struck out on the first four until we circled into a Ford/Lincoln dealership to find nothing on the front lot. This was in fact a mighty big dealership too. A cold and tired salesman greeted Leon at his window and I explained exactly what I was looking for regarding price and class of Town Car. Scott was his name and he stood freezing with a slightly runny nose and red hair. His leather jacket did no justice in the frigid temperatures as he shivered while the wind blew his red hair.



1999 Cartier Town Car - "*Licorice*"

"You're in luck! We just took one in on trade yesterday from a local who bought it, serviced it, and traded it here. It's a pearl-beige paint job, 98, Cartier Edition and it's in our intake lot on the other side of town.

*(Continued on page 5)*

Trivia from the Internet



Earl "Mad Man" Muntz  
1914 - 1987

*Mad Man Earl Muntz made his start in life in the mid 30's as a used car salesman in Illinois. In the early 40's, Muntz moved his operation to Glendale, California. This was the beginning of the most colorful, outrageously successful merchandising promotion in the history of used cars. Earl Muntz was in the right place (Los Angeles) at the right time (1941). During the war years, he became the biggest used car dealer in the world. By 1947 Earl had continued in his command of the used car market, but had taken on the largest Kaiser-Frazer dealership in the U.S. In 1947 alone he sold \$72,000,000 worth of new and used cars. Muntz sold 22,000 new K-F cars that*

*(Continued on page 4)*

Editors Message

June 2010

It is the fourth weekend in May and we are feverishly working on the Northstar News with the hopes of getting it into the mail on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup>.

With the Morrie's all Lincoln car show next Saturday, we felt that it would be nice to get a reminder out to all our members to get your Lincoln out and spend the day visiting with friends. Faithie will be on hand to meet and greet all who attend. She will shake hands and give free kisses.

Speaking of Morrie's, your editor paid a visit over there two weeks ago, more for the purpose of gathering some information on the MKT. Spent some time with John Aretz and Luke Hoffmann. A demonstration drive was offered, which I accepted and we took a MKT out for a test drive. The color white was right, but the interior was "canyon" sort of a light brown color, that was not too high on my list of favorites. The car did drive superbly, driving much like a Town Car in some respects. A good heavy feeling. We talked some more and they had another white one with a black interior, that they offered to let me take home to show Marion and Faithie and gain their approval. After a couple of hours, I found my way back to Morrie's, worked out a deal that seemed to be satisfactory to both parties, and at

4:00PM I was on my way home with a new MKT. An absolutely delightful car to drive, sort of a cross between a locomotive and a Boeing 727. This is one of "new" Lincolns and Alan Mulally and his team got it right.



Ch. Faithie is going to ride in style in her dad's new MKT to the Morrie's all Lincoln car show on May 29th.

Later on in June, the club will be motoring up Highway 35 to Barnum, among other things, the home of Dorothy and John Palmer. Dorothy and John have invited the club to attend

the big car show in Barnum on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, and see their very interesting car collection. Most are Lincolns, but all are exceptional cars in all respects. Some of us will be going up on Friday, socializing a bit that evening and getting up early to get to the show by about 8:00AM. More information on the back page.

In July, the club is invited to Ray and Jeanine Nelsons home, up near Princeton. We've been there before, and Ray and Jeanine are some of the most hospitable folks in the club. Ray has assembled a very fine collection of Lincolns over the years. He also has a few Fords too. All in the "You should be so lucky to own one like this condition." This is something that you can't miss, and afternoon of fun, friends and food. What can be better.

Till next month, David, Marion and Sweet Faithie, the Samoyed...

(Continued from page 3)

year, which is really impressive when you stop to think, the total K-F output for 1947 was only 147,000. That's 1 in 7 cars. The "Madman" aspect of his personality gained nationwide attention when Earl hired a young advertising man by the name of Mike Shore. Shore started a flamboyant radio and billboard campaign in L.A. that has never been surpassed. Such quotes as "I WANT TO GIVE THEM AWAY, BUT MRS. MUNTZ WON'T LET ME.....SHE'S CRAAAZY.....I BUY 'EM RETAIL, SELL 'EM WHOLESALE - MORE FUN THAT WAY." ..... "" YOU TOO CAN BE A WEALTHY PEDESTRIAN." ..... "JUST SOUND YOUR HORN, WE PAY BY EAR."

An interesting sideline about Muntz was that his real love was not even cars. Muntz was a hell of an inventor, and his true interests were with anything that had to do with electronics...hence the Muntz T.V.

In the late 40's Muntz designed a set that was much simpler than his competitors. Since he

(Continued on page 5)



May weather finally turned warm at the middle of the month. The one good thing is all the wet stuff we received, 3 inches here did not turn to snow. We had our 69 Mark III to a local car show on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, and the weather was terrific, it is now the season for driving and showing your Lincoln.

*Dave Gustafson still needs "My Pride and Joy" Lincoln articles about your car, every Lincoln has a story, please tell us yours. Thankfully New Region member Jeff Hoffman wrote an article about his Town Car, just one week after joining our Region. Way to go Jeff, Ford agrees with you and will continue to build the Town Car model for a few more years.*

Detailed coverage, replete with pictures of our car show, at Morrie's, will be in the July Newsletter because of it's being held after the publication of the June Northstar News..

The club will attend the Barnum Car Show, Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, We will visit John and Dorothy Palmer's car collection after the car show. This is a public car show open to all models for a modest fee. We have 11 rooms reserved for Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12, at the Northwoods Motel in Barnum so you can enjoy the whole weekend in the great North country. Room rate is \$74.00 for seniors and \$79.00 for youngsters, please call 218-389-6951, please call now and ask for theNorth Star Lincoln room rate now, as rooms should go fast. If you like Casino action, we are 20 miles south of Black Bear.

Ray and Jeanine Nelson have again invited us to their home in Princeton, MN, for a Summer picnic. This grand picnic will be held on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 till 3:00 PM. We have been to Nelson's before and they have a beautiful home and great car collection. The big change at Nelson's is that they took out their indoor swimming pool, and Ray now has his Model A sitting in its place. Their hospitality is second to none and this is a can't miss summer event.

Details on our Bismarck or Bust tour and car show, are located else where in Newsletter. **If you plan on going, please make your hotel reservations now.**

Our Year End Sunday Brunch on November 14<sup>th</sup>, will be at the same place we went in April, Spasso, 17523 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka.55345. The 31 members who attended thought this was a terrific restaurant, with very good food, reasonably priced and with a beautiful private room. Spasso's private room will hold more people, with better seating, at round tables than Al Baker's. We will return to Al Baker's for our January brunch.

Please remember to donate to the Lincoln Motor Car Museum, by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, any amount will be greatly appreciated, and if we all work together, this fine project will achieve realization. All Lincoln Clubs are participating to meet a \$300,000 challenge grant from Jerry Capizzi and Chris Dunn. If you can, please donate to the Lincoln Museum building project.

As always, keep the journey continuing in our marvelous Lincolns.

*(Continued from page 4)*

*sold millions of them cheaper, fortunes sky-rocketed. Meanwhile, Muntz had a falling out with Henry Kaiser and decided to look into building a car of his own. In 1950 he answered an ad on a Lincoln for sale by a man named Frank Kurtis. Frank was a leading builder of Indianapolis and dirt track race cars. What Muntz ended up buying was a very interesting sports car that Frank had been playing with for the past several years. Muntz was so impressed the he ended up buying the tools, dies and assests of the Kurtis firm. Kurtis stayed on with the project and he and Sam Hanks redesigned the original car to make it more acceptable to a greater number of buyers. Muntz named his car the Muntz Road Jet. 1954 was not a good year for the Mad Man. His T.V. company had not prepared for the advent of color and was failing. He had also purportedly lost \$1000 on every one of his Jets. He went into Chapter 11. Five years later,*

*(Continued on page 6)*

## *Pride and Joy Continued...*

*(Continued from page 2)*

Would you fellas like to look at it?" We took the short drive to the giant intake lot and there she was. My test drive proved that this Lincoln was no disappointment and needed nothing. It had an impeccable service record and the interior was the most gorgeous buttercream leather color I have ever seen. Scott made a dealer folly when telling me that they would want between \$5,000 and \$6,000 for the car. We drove it into the detail shop as I offered \$5,000 and Scott verified the offer with the Sales Manager. The offer was accepted and after completing the sale she was shiny and clean waiting and warm.

"Butter" was my first Lincoln Town Car and for the next 7 months I would enjoy all that she had to offer. I had to replace a water pump and alternator during my time with her and considered myself fortunate. On a very late evening in August of 09' I was traveling west to Mankato, MN when a buck had shot out of the ditch and gave me no time to brake. There was a crippled Butter now needing a headlight assembly, hood, fender, grill, and bumper cover. After processing my claim with the insurance company, I had no idea that even after market Lincoln parts were so expensive. My claims representative was totaling my car but giving me full book value for it.

As disappointed and downtrodden as I felt, I made \$1,200 on the loss and started yet another Town Car shopping experience. I checked nationally for my dream Town Car and was willing to fly out if I had to. Remember that black dream Town Car I referred to? I found one in Illinois, and one in Tennessee. The Illinois dealer told me it was sold but took my information as sales do fall

through. After more digging I found my dream Lincoln being sold for \$5,500 in Anoka, MN. I called the gentleman and told him, "You have my dream car! If all is cool on it I want to buy it and I will get the loan tomorrow!" Jerry was the sellers name and he sold insurance for a living. Jerry told me he had never sold a car to someone without seeing it first but did declare that he was being honest and fair with me about its spotless maintenance record.

Jerry said, "I bought it brand new in Nebraska in 1999. I have used synthetic oil in it ever since and it needs nothing but a good owner like yourself. I have two other new Town Cars and this one just sits in my garage. If the car means that much to you, give me \$4,000 cash and it's yours." I was on my way to meet Jerry two days later to check out this gorgeous tuxedo with tires. Everything on it worked and was in great operating condition during the test drive. While on the test drive, the dealership in Illinois told me that their sale fell through but I was happy to decline the offer. This was the happiest purchase I have ever made in my lifetime and I cannot count my house because that wasn't fun to buy.

"Licorice" is a 1999 Cartier Edition Town Car with a carriage roof and black in color. It has gray colored leather interior and the original Ford factory cellular phone inside the arm rest. My girlfriend at the time and I spent that Friday evening driving through the North Metro with the windows down and the sunroof open. So many memories of our time together traveling exist in that car even though

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Testing the 1999 Lincoln Town Car

*(Continued from page 5)*

however, Muntz invented the 4-track tape player and went on to make yet a second million. All-in-all, Muntz made and lost 3 fortunes. He often said that "I never minded losing a fortune, 'cause it was so damn much fun making the next." His later ventures included Muntz Motor Mansions, Muntz Motorcycle Park in Simi Valley, and of course Muntz big screen T.V.s. When Muntz purchased the assets of the Kurtis Company in 1950, he also got Frank Kurtis' genius in the deal. Muntz, Kurtis and race car driver Sam Hanks put their heads together to redesign the car to give it a broader base of appeal to the buying public. During this time 29 two-passenger cars were produced from aluminum. They were basically unchanged from the Cadillac powered Kurtises except for the gadgets Muntz added. Muntz, along with Mike Shore, used their advertising genius to promote the car way beyond its prominence. A 1950 road test of the Muntz Jet published in *Sports Cars* magazine had this to say about the "Road Jet": "When

*(Continued on page 7)*

As written by Tom Strongman in the Kansas City Star on September 29, 1998... From the internet.

Squint your eyes when you look at Lincoln's Town Car and you can see hints of a classic Jaguar sedan in its mouth-shaped grille, sharply rounded roofline and curved taillights.

The Town Car is classically American, too, and much bigger than any Jag would ever be. It uses a full-perimeter frame, separate body, single-overhead-cam (SOHC) V8 engine and rear-wheel drive.

Last year it underwent a complete redesign and was cloaked with a body that is a vast departure from the upright and angular look of its predecessor. Some traditionalists may miss the old car, with its pillow-soft ride, gargantuan trunk and a nose that bobbed over bumps like the bow of a ship at sea, but most folks will find the new car's youthful look and tighter handling more appealing.

The redesigned Town Car is one prong of a three-product strategy aimed at attracting younger buyers. The Navigator SUV and the mid-size Lincoln sports sedan, due for debut later this year, are the other two. Since the entire car was reworked last year, upgrades to the Town Car for 1999 have been incremental, with one exception: Side airbags are now mounted in the front seats.

On the Executive series, door panels get wood trim and the front armrest contains a storage bin. Rear armrests have cup holders. Power seat controls are now on the door instead of the

seat, and a two-tone paint scheme is offered.

Our test car was a refrigerator-white Cartier model, with bone colored leather seats and wood grain trim on the dash. The wood grain trim adds liveliness and warmth to the broad, flat expanse of the instrument panel, which has very little sculpting in order to preserve the three-across capability of the front bench seat. The instrumentation was a jarring combination of white-on-black gauges and bright-green digital readouts for fuel and odometer. The electro-luminescent, round-gauge panel from the Continental would seem more appropriate for a car in this price category.

The radio is located high in the center of the dash, a long reach for me, but auxiliary controls on the steering wheel made change stations or volume a simple move of my finger on the wheel.

Six can sit inside the Town Car, although most folks won't squeeze themselves quite that tight very often. The seats, both front and back, are broad and accommodating. The trunk has 20.1 cubic feet, but taking full advantage of it is tricky because the spare tire partially blocks access. With careful packing it will hold a reasonable amount of luggage, just don't plan on carrying a large box back there.

Mirroring the change to a more youthful exterior, the Town Car's driving dynamics have undergone a similar transformation. The ride is

*(Continued on page 9)*

*North Star Board Meeting Minutes*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Regional Director Bob Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM at Culver's in Maplewood. Board members present were Bob Johnson, Harvey Oberg, Dave Gustafson, Bob Gavrilesco, Bob Roth, Tom Brace and Roger Wothe. Other members present were Mary Johnson, Brian Carlson and Faye Oberg. The minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda of this meeting were approved.

DIRECTORS REPORTS

Regional Director Bob Johnson distributed Region shirts to those present who had ordered them. The remainder of the shirts plus extras will be available at the Memorial Weekend car show at Morrie's in Minnetonka. The new Region license plates have arrived and will be available at all club functions. Those who plan on attending the Mid America Meet September 15 – 19 in Lincoln, Nebraska, should contact the Meet hotel at 402-476-5353 as soon as possible and ask for the Lincoln and Continental Owner's Club rate of \$89.00 per night. About 75% of the funds for the matching grant for the Lincoln Motor Car Museum have been raised. The Marriot Hotel in St. Louis Park has been investigated and may qualify for the August 2012 Mid America Meet.

Secretary Roger Wothe showed the roster for the 7 Hi Cruisers Club which has pictures of each member and some of their cars. It would be a possible project for the future.

Treasurer Harvey Oberg reported the treasury balance to be \$2,483.35 with all bills paid.

Membership and Publications Director Dave Gustafson reported that we have lost seven or eight members, but gained two new ones. He is also looking for more "My Pride and Joy" articles.

Activities: are listed in the newsletter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM. The next meeting will be at Culver's in Maplewood on Thursday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Roger Wothe.

*(Continued from page 6)*  
 we test-drove car #6 we used a stopwatch for the pickup figures. Example: 0 - 80 in 9 seconds. On the turn-pike, 125 with still a little left to go. The car rides well, corners well and stays on an even-keel. Finish, is high-quality throughout and the instrument panel has everything by way of dials. After the initial 29 were built, the company moved to Evanston, Illinois where Muntz, Hanks and Kurtis unveiled their "new improved" model. They lengthened the car 13" to accept a rear seat, thus the first "sports car" which would seat 4. Because of typical General Motors arrogance towards small auto companies, Muntz was unable to sell his car with the Cadillac engine unless he disguised it. Luckily, Muntz had a special relationship with Benson Ford and was not only able to buy parts from Ford, but Ford also agreed to allow new Muntz cars to be serviced by local Ford Dealers. The revamped Muntz now came with a flathead Lincoln engine and

*(Continued on page 8)*

***NORTHSTAR LCOC WELCOME WAGON***

*(Continued from page 7)*

*"Hydramatic" transmission as well as Ford suspension, windows and many other items.*

*Muntz might have had an in with Ford since he gave Ford a new Muntz.*



Lincoln Powered Muntz Jet

*It was rumored that Ford got a lot of ideas from that Muntz for their upcoming sports car, the Thunderbird. Many of the other innovations Muntz placed on his car were unheard of in the American auto industry at that time. Each car was equipped with a padded dash board and seat belts (unfortunately affixed to the seat.). Survivors of the company say that, "The seat belts were strictly a gimmick, since if you were going to name a car a jet, you better have seat belts." Muntz had a few innovations of his own. He invented a console between the front seats and placed a Motorola radio in it. He actually*

*(Continued on page 9)*

by Francis J. Kalvoda , Willmar, MN 320-235-5777  
[fjk@charter.net](mailto:fjk@charter.net)



The Spring weather is perfect for getting the Welcome Wagon back out on the road again. The Willmar Car Club's May 16th, 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show was the biggest

ever, over 350 show cars. I was pleasantly surprised to see LCOC members Brad & Carole Yoho from Stillwater (with their beautiful '79 Town Car) and John & Dorothy Palmer at the show. I was even more surprised by what the Palmers drove in – a stunning 1937 Packard 115 Sedan. I am including a picture of the Palmers and their pristine Packard for you to admire. You are invited to see the Palmers' entire collection after the June 12 Show at Barnum, Minnesota



Ryan recently purchased a 1967 Lincoln Continental Convertible in Beverly Hills, CA. This is his first venture into the 'classic car' world. I think all of the Northstar LCOC members would unanimously agree that Ryan made an EXCELLENT choice! In my opinion, the photo of the southern California Pacific beach is greatly enhanced by the presence of Ryan's Lincoln convertible!!

Perhaps you will see our newest members and veteran members at MORRIES ALL LINCOLN SHOW on May 29. Our newest member is **Ryan Feider**, 1632 Independence Drive, Northfield MN 55057. You can welcome Ryan at 612-384-8487 or [ryan.feider@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.feider@gmail.com).

Another new Northstar LCOC member is **Jeff Hoffman**, 701 Center Avenue South, Hayfield, MN 55940. Welcome Jeff at 507-319-8598 or email [hoffy629@hotmail.com](mailto:hoffy629@hotmail.com). When Jeff is not enjoying his Lincoln, he is working as the Sheriff's Deputy with the Dodge County Sheriff's Department.



*(Continued from page 8)*

*affixed the speakers in both kick panels.*

*Other options were as weird. Many cars came equipped with wire recorders (tape was not yet being used) or telephones. The weirdest option of all was, without a doubt, the liquor bars built into the huge rear armrests. One of the armrests is actually an ice box.*

*Muntz, being a flamboyant character, attracted that type of clientele. Most of the cars he sold were to the Hollywood crowd. Each tried to outdo the other with a more outlandish Muntz than their friend's. The rare Muntz is one that is a sedate color and interior. Pink, heliotrope, chartreuse, purple and bright lemon yellow were accented with such interior fabrics as snake skin, emu, alligator, leopard and many others. The final absurdity came when a radio personality in Chicago who had a boat fetish, had Muntz "deck" over the back seat area with mahogany planks, just like his boat. The car was then finished in a*

*(Continued on page 10)*

## *Welcome Wagon Continued*

*(Continued from page 8)*

Jeff did a great job of introducing himself in this month's Pride and Joy article. You did not have to read too far into the article to know that Jeff is a true Lincoln enthusiast. Pre-owned Lincolns usually have been well cared for and are a great value. Lincoln looks and Lincoln reliability are hard to beat. My favorite Lincoln slogan from the 1970's said it best: THE STANDARD BY WHICH OTHERS ARE JUDGED. Jeff's black 1999 town car is a dream come true. As LCOC members, may we continue to enjoy our dream rides!

## *Still More Pride and Joy*

she is not with me anymore. Licorice has taken me to very far places to see incredible people. I love owning a car that turns heads and makes friends think they're executives. I dropped my Brother off at the airport once and his waiting friend said, "You got a Limo?" I am happy to be a member of the Lincoln Owners Club with my pride and joy. Licorice will appreciate being with his family.

Editors note: We will be looking forward to meeting and visiting with Jeff at one of our Northstar events this summer. This model Lincoln has been in production for about 12 years and many of our club members have owned them over this period of time. These are incredibly comfortable cars to drive for long periods of time and capable of delivering highway economy in the 24 - 25 MPG range. They are also very reliable, with many of them easily providing 200,000 miles with minable problems. 2000 and older models are now eligible for judged LCOC events.

## *More 1999 Town Car*

*(Continued from page 6)*

still plush, but it feels more controlled, and less floaty, now. Lincoln says the Watt's Linkage rear suspension improves straight-line tracking and counters the tendency for the vehicle to squat under acceleration and dive under braking.

Steering improvements are noticeable, but it still feels over-boosted at slow speeds.

Mechanically, the Town Car is almost identical to the Crown Victoria and Grand Marquis. The 4.6-liter, V8 engine puts out 205 horsepower in standard form, but a dual exhaust system on the Cartier and Signature Touring Sedan models bring that to 220. This engine has adequate power and performs smoothly, even though it has to haul around about 4,000 pounds.

Of course, the transmission is automatic, and the lever is mounted on the steering column. Shifting out of overdrive for more power is done by punching a button on the end of the lever.

Last year's redesign of the Town Car was dramatic. This year's addition of side airbags fixes one of the shortcomings and should improve its safety.

### **Price**

The base price of the Cartier model I drove was \$42,825. The premium package (power moonroof and trunk-mounted compact disc player) brought the sticker price to \$45,090.

*(Continued on page 10)*

*(Continued from page 9)*

*bright chartreuse. Besides these decor items, many customers ordered their new cars with even hotter engines. Multiple carburation, aluminum heads, hot ignitions and 3/4 race cams were added as "soup up kits". Later cars were affixed with the new 317 cu. in. Lincoln overhead motor with the dual range Lincomatic (Hydramatic) transmission. These cars were incredibly fast.*

*Unfortunately Muntz purported to have lost over \$1000 on each car for a grand total loss of \$400,000 during the car's four year stint. In late 1954, Muntz dismantled the entire manufacturing process and destroyed all the tools and dies. His claim of 394 vehicles produced has never been substantiated, but rather, 198 according to extensive serial number research. One count or another, it's a very low production. What is amazing is how well this vehicle is remembered. I guess we need to give the credit to Muntz, Shore and the car that makes you smile.*

*From the internet...*

## Still More 99 Town Car

### Warranty

The standard warranty is for four years or 50,000 miles.

**Point:** While the Town Car has not drunk fully from the Fountain of Youth, it now acts much younger than it used to. The ride is firmer, the styling more contemporary and the engine is smooth.

**Counterpoint:** Some folks won't like the new styling or the firmer ride. The steering could use continued improvement for better feel, and the large trunk is hard to load efficiently.

### SPECIFICATIONS:

ENGINE: 4.6-liter, V8  
 TRANSMISSION: automatic  
 WHEELBASE: 117.7 inches  
 CURB WEIGHT: 4,015 lbs.  
 BASE PRICE: \$43,825  
 PRICE AS DRIVEN: \$45,090  
 MPG RATING: 17 city, 24 hwy.

More comments on the 1999 Town Car:

The 1999 Lincoln Town Car is not sexy, but it provides enough room to start a family. Heck, it offers enough room to house one, too. You can seat six adult bodies in a Town Car. You can squeeze two into a Ferrari, assuming that they aren't overweight.

The Town Car comes with modest engine -- a 4.6-liter, single-overhead-cam, electronically fuel-injected V-8 designed to produce 220 horsepower at 4,500 rpm and 290 pound-feet of torque at 3,500 rpm. That's still more power than most of us will ever use. But it's more psychologically accept-

able -- which brings up the matters of stress and excitement.

You get no stress and virtually no excitement with the Town Car. It's a big, comfortable, rear-wheel-drive automobile with a lighter-than-air steering feel and a four-wheel-independent suspension system that seems to make bumps, potholes, ruts and other roadway annoyances disappear.

You can park the Town Car in almost any decent lot or garage. No one will disturb it. People see it as just another executive car -- "a cab for Wall Street lawyers," said a Wall Street lawyer who thinks that "Town Car" is a synonym for "limo."

**Complaints:** Those memory power seats. Hate 'em! They're always rearranging themselves when you turn off the engine or key the ignition. Like they're operated by a poltergeist. I want simple-to-adjust seats. Okay?

**Praise:** The Town Car is the Love Boat on wheels.

**Ride, acceleration and handling:** The Town Car is for people who like to float. If you're into floating, there's no better car.

**Head-turning quotient:** The Town Car got raves from 55-year-olds.

**Safety:** Aces for passive safety. Side-impact air bags are now standard.

**Mileage:** About 24 miles per gallon on regular unleaded for the Town Car. Not bad at all for a full-size family sedan.

## *This Coming August, Bismarck or Bust*

Bismarck or Bust will include a four day driving tour, starting Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. We will hold our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Out State Lincoln Car Show, on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, at Eide Ford Lincoln Mercury, 800 E Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND, 58504.

Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM, meet at Morries, Minnetonka, leave at 9:00AM to begin tour.

Thursday August 12<sup>th</sup>, we will visit car collections of North Star Members, Francis Kalvoda, Pennock, MN and Charlie Hanson, Correll, MN. Pennock at 11AM to see Francis Kalvoda's collection and a bathroom break (at the PIT STOP Convenience Store across the street)

Benson at 12:30PM to eat. The restaurant next to Country Inn and Suites will do a buffet for us.

1:45PM at Charles & Pam Hanson near Correll

3:00PM at Ortonville Museum to see Charles' world acclaimed waterfowl and animal mounts and many other items (also bathroom stop)

5:45PM reach Fargo to see two collections, eat, arrive at the hotel, get fuel.

Thursday afternoon, visit John Trandem car collection plus another car collection. Thursday night, we will stay in Fargo.

Friday morning drive to Bismarck, where we will stay on Friday and Saturday nights, tentative visit Lyman Keim, car collection in Jamestown on the way. Friday Afternoon, visit Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park/ Custer Home, and the Fort Lincoln Trolley ride. Friday night, Julia and Jack Vanatta have a daughter that works at the Mysteria Dinner Theater, Restaurant and Bar, in Mandan, ND and they recommend this as a possible place to go on Friday night. Please check out web site <http://www.mysteriatheater.com> and call Bob Johnson, if interested in attending. (651-257-1715)

Saturday, 10:00AM, 8th Annual Out State Car Show, Eide Ford, Lincoln, Mercury, Bismarck. Saturday, after Eide Car show, Paul and Deb Andahl will have us out to visit at their home for food and refreshments. Sunday, Visit Local North Dakota Historical Heritage center and possible visit to another car collection.

Sunday afternoon leave for home, no planned stops

**We have reserved 20 rooms at each hotel for your use; room block will be released on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Please reserve now. Ask for North Star Lincoln Club rate.**

We will have special hotel rates in Fargo on Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Fargo-West Acres, Holiday Inn Express, 1040 40<sup>th</sup> Street South. The room rate is \$104, which includes full breakfast. Call 701-282-2000 to reserve your room now. Ask for the North Star Lincoln Club rate.

We will stay in Bismarck, on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at Best Western Ramkota Hotel, 800 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Room rate is \$84. Hotel has Season's Café and Lounge plus several establishments close by. Call 701-258-7700, to reserve your room now. Ask for North Star Lincoln Club rate

You can tag along for what ever part of the tour you want to participate in, or enjoy just the weekend in Fargo/Bismarck. There are many places to visit while in North Dakota, you might want to stay longer and take in many other attractions.

*Great Stuff*



For Sale: 1979 Mark V. Low mileage (43,500) with good interior. Never driven in winter, needs some TLC to make it look nice again. Paint faded a little and could use a re-paint. Owner doesn't have the time to do the work required and would like to find a nice home for this Mark V. The wife says it must go and it is for sale at \$1,200 or best offer. With a little work, you could have a fine car. Call Dave at 952-474-1688.

**Wanted**

Any year complete Lincoln V-12 engine; stuck is OK.  
Virgil Schwanke, Willmar, 320-979-1409

**For Sale - 1955 Lincoln Capri**

Four Door Sedan, with a Blue/White exterior and a Dark Blue Interior  
This is a one-owner car with 33,000 miles. One re-paint, car needs a little TLC. Bob Gavrilesco has seen the car believes it to be a good value for the asking Price of \$6,500 or best offer. Being sold for the owner by Lynn at 612.861.5546.

I am loosing my storage, and I do need to part with a few of my Lincolns. The following are offered for sale at this time. All are in above average condition, look very good and are very sound mechanically. Affordably and realistically priced at or below current market value. All reasonable offers will be considered.

1988 Mark VII LSC  
1974 Mark IV

1978 Mark V  
1967 Continental Convertible

Call Dick Serwat at 651-554-0716

We need your help. Tell us about your favorite Lincoln, new or old and what makes it so very special to you. Personal stories are always so much better than stuff from the internet and help make this publication personal to our club members. Send them in to the editor today.

**For Sale**

1984 Chevrolet El Camino, Super Sport, with most available options. 74,000 miles, Light Blue over Dark Blue, excellent condition. Also known as an Arizona pickup.

Call Harvey Oberg for more details at 651-739-9754      Own this unique car for \$8,500

## Great Automotive Buys...

### For Sale Mark II



In last stages of restoration, this Mark II, remains unfinished due to the passing of it's owner, Bill Reese.

Elizabeth Reese would now like to sell this "Gem in the Rough", to someone in the Lincoln Club who will complete the small amount of the work necessary to restore it to it's once proud beauty.

Elizabeth is open to offers and may be reached at 952-471-9467

### For Sale

1988 Town Car, with 45,000 miles. Has new tires and battery, and looks like new. Gray with gray soft half-top, rectangular opera windows and side lights.

Fairly price to sell at \$5,000.00

Call Don Peterson at 507-454-3010, 507-429-0476 or 507-454-5231, Winaona, MN

Email: dop@mwsco.com

### For Sale

#### 1979 Mark V Cartier Edition

Light Champagne, Matching leather interior Equipped with 400 CID engine and fully equipped. Mint condition, inside and out. Low Mileage - 38,300 Miles.

**\$9,000 - Best Offer**

**Call Ray at 612-722-9966**

### Wanted

Continental Wheel Hump Style Trunk Lid for 1977 Lincoln. (some limo's had these)

Call Francis Kalvoda, Willmar 320-235-5777



I need a new home. I am a 1969 MK III with only 103,000 miles and I am green with a like new green interior. Front windows need some work. Call Rich at 715.321.1938 Best offer will own me.

### For Sale: 1966 Continental Convertible.

Black with black top. Full white sidewall tires. Electrical system recently upgraded. Runs and drives great. Always stored in heated garage and in top condition.

Call Irwin Pentel

952.380.0606 or cell 612.743.8765.

*Great Cars For Sale..... Other Stuff too....*

**For Sale**

**1961 through 1967 Lincoln Continentals, complete and mostly complete cars, Sedans and Convertibles. I need to thin out my collection and if you need one of these cars either to restore or to use in your existing restoration project, please give me a call.**

**Gordy Jensen 612.819.2107**

**For Sale**

1957 Lincoln Premiere Two door hardtop



Frame off restoration, with everything either rebuilt or replaced by a long time Ford mechanic. It has been done right and the car is probably in better condition than when it left the factory in 1957. Body work and paint done by a well known area shop. It is absolutely beautiful, and would easily score close to 100 points at any LCOC meet. Over \$41,000 restoration costs. This Premiere has all of the accessories, with the exception of air conditioning. If you want one of the finest 1957 Premieres, **please call John Boegeman at 952.445.3004.** Remember, you cannot buy and restore one to this condition for less than my asking price.

**For Sale**

1996 Continental, extremely well maintained, very nice car, 140 K, \$5000.  
Call Bud Bloomquist, 320-220-4667.

**For Sale**

**For Sale \$850.00 OBO**

1939 Lincoln Zephyr 4 door sedan sheet metal only! This car has been completely disassembled and stored for over 50 years and left in a small garage in South Minneapolis. This car was sanded and primed years ago and was the unfinished dream of a fellow Zephyr admirer. I would like to sell Fords first unit-body car with sub frame, four doors, hood, deck and fenders. I have many other parts. After January 1, 2009 I will offer all above parts and many more Zephyr parts not listed above, individually at a fair market price. If you are restoring a Zephyr or building a Zephyr street rod and need this sheet metal, please call or email.

*Karl Flick cell 612-961-9705 or email  
karlflick@charter.net*

**150 - LINCOLNS - 150**

I have over 150 1960's Lincolns now, mostly parts cars. More than I will ever use. I have now decided to sell my extra parts; sheet metal, trim, whatever...

If you are restoring a Lincoln of this era and need parts, please contact me now. I may have what you need.

Just Arrived! New windshields that fit 1961 through 1969 Continentals.  
Available Now.

*Please call Gordy Jensen at 612.819.2107*

**STORAGE AVAILABLE**

Safe, Secure Storage for your classic now available Southwest Metro Location

Contact Connie **952-835-4148**

# Preview of Coming Events

- June      **Barnum Car Show, Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**. 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, We will visit John and Dorothy's car collection after car show. This is a public car show open to all models. We have 11 rooms reserved for Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12, at the Northwoods Motel in Barnum so you can enjoy the whole weekend in the great North Country. Room rate is \$74.00 for senior and \$79.00 for youngsters, please call 218-389-6951, please call now and ask North Star Lincoln room rate now as rooms should go fast. If you like Casino action we are 20 miles south of Black Bear.
- July      **Summer picnic**, Ray and Jeanine Nelson's, Princeton, MN, **Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**, 11:00 till 3:00 PM. Once again Ray and Jeanine have invited the club to their home near Princeton, MN for a summer picnic. Lots of fun and very good food will make for a fun way to spend a Saturday. Ray and Jeanine have a great car collection which you really need to see. Don't miss great event. Map and directions in the July issue.
- August    **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Out State Lincoln Car Show, Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>**, at Edie Ford Lincoln Mercury, 800 E Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND. This will include four day tour, starting **Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**. We will visit North Star Member collections also on Thursday August 12th, Francis Kalvoda, Charlie Hanson, and John Trandem. Paul and Deb Andahl will host us at their home and are planning other activities.
- September    **Northstar Potluck Picnic**, Morries Conference Center in Long Lake.  
**Sunday, September 12th**  
LCOC Mid America, Lincoln, Nebraska, **September 15 - 19th**.  
Info and meet packet at: [www.lcoc.org/documents/Meets/2010\\_MANM\\_Package.pdf](http://www.lcoc.org/documents/Meets/2010_MANM_Package.pdf)

Please note: *The Northstar Lincoln and Continental Owners Club* board meetings are open to our members. We do invite you to attend and value your input in the club governing process. The directors would like your comments and suggestions on how we may improve the club and how we can make it a better experience for all of our members. We do recognize there may be an event that could be fun for us to participate in, or a tour to some little known byway or a new dining place that may just make a great experience for all to share in. Call write or email your directors today.

BACK ISSUES OF THE NORTHSTAR NEWS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE  
NORTHSTAR LCOC WEB SITE.

[www.northstarlcoc.org](http://www.northstarlcoc.org) Click on publications.

Issues are in PDF format and may be printed on your color printer.

## North Star Activities



### **Morrie's Minnetonka Ford Mercury Lincoln Spring 2010 All Lincoln Show Saturday, May 29, 2010 10:00AM to 3:00PM**

Join us for our Northstar Spring car show. Bring your favorite Lincoln, old or new and plan to spend a nice spring day visiting with many of your old friends and making some new ones too.

**Again, All Lincolns are welcome, regardless of age or condition. We will even be glad to see a Mercury or two. We are an equal opportunity Lincoln Club. Lunch is planned and the Northstar club will be furnishing dash plaques and door prizes. Faithie will be visiting and will pose for pictures, shake hands and will also give free kisses to the first fifty people she meets.**

**See you at Morrie's Minnetonka Ford Lincoln Mercury on May 29rd, 13400 Wayzata Boulevard. Just before Hwy 494. Invite anyone you know who owns a Lincoln to join us at this show.**

It's Barnum, Minnesota on June 12, 8:00AM - 4:00PM, for the Nifty 50 Cruisers Car Show at the Carlton County Fair Grounds.



There is a block of rooms reserved for the Northstar Region at the NORTHWOODS MOTEL, 3716 Main Street, Barnum, MN. For Friday night, June 11th and Saturday night, June 12th. Room rates are \$74 for us senior club members and \$79 for the younger generation. Call 218-839-6951 and ask for the North Star Lincoln club rate.

There will be club members going up on Friday, spending the evening with club members John and Dorothy Palmer and attending the show on Saturday. After the show, we have been invited John and Dorothy's car collection.

It's an easy drive up I 35 to Barnum and a pleasant way to spend a Friday evening and a Saturday seeing a lot of great cars. We will see you there.