

My Pride and Joy

Our years behind the wheel. As told by Russell Zannger.

When I was 14 years of age in 1936, I got my driver's license. Later they changed the age to 16 before a driver's license could be issued (except for a school permit which stayed at 14.) I had two nephews a year apart and the first one got his license at 14, the other one had to wait till he was 16. That didn't make his day. However, I already had my license and the law was not retroactive. I was lucky!

I had learned to drive on my dad's 1928 Victory 6 Dodge with a 112 inch wheel base that he had inherited from his parents after they died in 1934. My parents had taken the train to California for the funerals and

drove the car home. The Victory six was recognized as the fastest and one of the smartest vehicles in its price class available from any American auto maker at that time. This car was one of the first to offer all steel bodies and internal hydraulic brakes. It had a four spoke wooden steering wheel and wooden spoke wheels. The car weighed 2,785 pounds and cost \$1,030.00 new. It was gray with blue fenders and trim. The 1934 California orange license plates are still on the east wall of my granary garage. It is interesting that my wife Dolly learned to drive a 1929 Standard 6 Dodge that also had a 112 inch wheel base. Both of us learned to drive Dodge cars with a foot clutch and three on the floor three speed standard transmissions. Her folks were still driving that 29 Dodge when I started dating her on 1943.



Russell & Dolly Zannger
Beside their 1981 Mark VI

In 1938 when I was 16 years of age my dad bought a 1932 PA Plymouth 4 cylinder Business Coupe with a 109 inch wheel base and "floating power" for me. This car had a three spoke hard rubber steering wheel and REAL wire wheels. The word "Business" meant that it had no rumble seat, side fender mount spares, nor any of the things that would make it a collector's item in the old car market of today, but it's what my dad thought I should

have. It was blue with black trim and black fenders. There was a yellow pin stripe on top of the wide black trim.

The spare was mounted on the rear, Continental style. My next car was a 1938 Ford "flathead" V8 Convertible with mechanical brakes that were next to

nothing. It was only 5 years old when I bought that in 1943. This car was as black as the ace of spades with a white top and genuine leather seats and side panels. It was Deluxe all the way. The best that Ford had to offer in 1938. I was dating Dolly at the time and drove it 61 miles each way on the nights it was too cold to ride my Knuckle-Head Harley-Davidson motorcycle. Unfortunately the Ford didn't have much of a heater and many times I almost froze solid on those long trips. That car took a lot of oil and didn't give very good gas mileage. So the next year, shortly before we were married, I had a chance to sell the 38 Ford for \$750.00. I took the money and bought a 1938 Chevrolet Business Coupe with

(Continued on page 3)

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	Monthly Meeting Minutes	4
Club Information Page	2	Directors Message	5
Editors Message	3	Preview of Coming Attractions	6
Trivia...	3		

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Members and guests are welcome to attend the Board Meetings which are held the second Thursday of every month except December at 7:00 PM at Whitaker Lincoln-Mercury on South Robert Street just north of Highways 110 and 1494 in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

Presidential Lincolns .. Part Two, continued from the December Issue.

Information for this article provided by Jay White.

The Johnson Car

Between 1964-1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson was frequently seen riding in a 1964 Lincoln Continental Presidential Parade vehicle. This powerful looking car, with its shiny black paint and unique "glass house" roof, began its life as a much different automobile. The Johnson car had been created by completely rebuilding the X-100 – a specially modified 1961 Lincoln Continental four door convertible that had been originally designed for President John F. Kennedy, Johnson's predecessor. On November 22, 1963 Johnson, then Vice President was also in the Kennedy motorcade, but in a different vehicle.

The Quick Fix:

The X-100 was completely rebuilt from the ground up. A permanent hard top was installed and the car's frame covered with titanium armor plating. The president now would ride protected inside a "glass house" of "water white" transparent armor (bullet proof glass). The large glass panel directly over the rear seat was a single piece of curved glass

that weighed 1500 pounds, at that time, the largest piece of curved glass ever made. The windows in the doors and sides of the car were nearly 3 inches thick in some places and were sealed shut. However, a speaker system was installed so that the President could hear what was going on outside the car, and speak to the crowds through a microphone.

Other elements of the Quick Fix included:

1. Replacing the original engine with a hand built, high compression unit with 17 percent greater power.
2. Solid aluminum rims inside the tires to make them run flat proof.
3. A fuel tank filled with porous foam to prevent explosion in case of penetration of a bullet.
4. Removal of the X-100's hydraulically operated rear seat, and installation of a second air conditioning unit in the trunk.
5. Reinforcement of some mechanical and structural components to accept the added weight of the car. Installation of an upgraded 1964 grill and a fresh coat of midnight blue paint.

(Continued on page 4)

Great Trivia.....

Russell and Dolly's 1981 Mark VI was an award winner in it's class this past August at the Mid-America Meet in Red Wing, MN. In addition to their Mark VI rolling off the line, other significant events occurred. Some of them are as follows:

Iran frees 52 hostages held in Teheran since 1979. The hostages were welcomed back in the US on January 25th. Pope John Paul II was wounded by a gunman on May 14th. Anwar Sadat, president of Egypt is assassinated by Islamic extremists during a military parade in Cairo on October 6th.

Ronald Reagan takes the oath of office as the 40th President on January 20th. Serving with him as Vice-President is George Bush. On March 30th, President Reagan is wounded by a gunman along with his press secretary and two law enforcement officers.

Regan nominates Judge Sandra Day O'Connor, 51, of Ari-

(Continued on page 4)

Editors Message

Happy New Year. We all hope that you enjoyed the holiday season, and you received some automobile related items under your tree.

Our first event of the 2003 season is rapidly approaching. Brunch at Guldens, 2999 North Highway 61 over in Maplewood. Further directions and a map will be mailed to you with this newsletter. I have been to Guldens and their food and service are good. We should have a nice time. See you on January 19th at 12:30 PM. Modestly priced at \$13.95 per person.

We are digressing somewhat this month in our car of the month. This month it not so much about the car, as it is about the owners. Russell and Dolly Zannger who live in Larchwood, Iowa own a pair of Mark VI's. They love their Marks and consider them to be some of the best cars they have ever owned. They have made their way up to the Twin Cities each fall to attend the Northstar Picnic. If you have had a chance to visit with Russell and Dolly, you will find they have had extremely interesting lives as owners of an airport and operators of a flying service for about 50 years. We are pleased to include some excerpts from letters that we have received from them. We are fortunate to have the Zanngers as members.

I have spent some time at home this holiday season, administering to the needs of our beloved Alexander (a Samoyed) who has had a successful cataract operation and an intra-ocular lens implanted. During this time, I have been doing some research on future newsletter projects. The Internet has proven to be a good source of information and is only limited by the time that you can devote to cruising it. Harvey Oberg also was kind enough to loan me his book of Lincoln pictures and drawings which I have scanned into the computer. If you have any pictures or other information that you might care to share, please let me know. I hope to eventually fill up a CD and make the copies available to others who may have a need.

We also need information for our feature car each month. Please send us your story and a picture for the newsletter. We all would love to hear about it. Till next month....

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Our Pride and Joy Continued.....

(Continued from page 1)

a valve in head six cylinder engine for \$750.00. This Chevrolet was as standard as they came. It didn't even have a tail light on the right side like the Sport Coupe had. Nor did it have a radio like the 38 Ford had. It was the 38 Chevrolet Coupe that we drove on our honeymoon and we sang together and had a lot of fun. (Too bad we didn't have a video tape of that.) One thing that Chevrolet did have was hydraulic brakes. I had been used to hydraulic brakes on my 32 Plymouth and couldn't understand why Henry Ford didn't have than on his cars before 1939? WHAT WAS HE WAITING FOR? It was obvious that Lee Iacocca wasn't working for Ford at that time or he would have fixed the weak brake problem in short order, you can bet on it!

Little by little I began to develop an appetite for the finer things in life. I was beginning to realize that even if it cost a little more to buy the top of the line, it's well worth the extra cost. You soon forget what you pay for something. But if it isn't what you really want it is a thorn in your side from then on. As the years went by we bought other cars and would have several at once. I remember how I bought a nearly new 1947 Dodge red club coupe but only had it a few months because it really wasn't what I wanted. I advertised it in the paper and sold it. What I wanted was a convertible, So In 1948 we traded our gray (not very exciting) 1938 Chevrolet Coupe for a new 48 Fluid drive, Dodge Convertible. Now we had the top of the line! It had everything including a spotlight. It was red with a black top. Very nice, but again, it took a lot of oil and VERY POOR gas mileage. (less than twenty).

In July of 1949, one week after our son was born, I bought a new light green Chev. three quarter ton pickup from the Chevrolet Dealer in Larchwood, for \$1,600. But again, as luck would have it, I wound up with the standard model. So in 1951 I traded that truck for one just like it (same color) for only \$200.00 to boot. I factory ordered this one to be built just the way I wanted it, with the deluxe cab with the rear corner windows, the wing vents, over-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)
 zona, as the first woman on US Supreme Court on July 7th. The Air controllers strike, disrupting flights beginning August 3rd, and on August 11th, the government dismisses the strikers. Life expectancy is now 74.1 years, and the population is now 229,465,714. Federal spending is now \$678.25 billion. Federal debt, \$994.8 billion. Unemployment is 7.1%. First class stamp begins in 1981 at 15 cents, on March 22, it increases to 18 cents, and on November 1, it is raised to 20 cents.

In sports: The Super Bowl, Oakland defeated Philadelphia (27-10), World Series, LA Dodgers over the NY Yankees (4-2). NBA Championship, Boston defeating Houston (4-2). Stanley Cup, NY Islanders over Minnesota (4-1). Pleasant Colony was the Kentucky Derby Champion this year. NCAA Football, Clemson with a 12-0-0.

Entertainment: MTV goes on the air running around the clock music videos. Pacman-mania sweeps the country.

(Continued on page 5)

Monthly Director's Meeting

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

No board meeting scheduled for December.

. The next meeting will be at Whitaker Lincoln-Mercury on 9 January 2003 at 7:00 pm.

Presidential Lincolns... Continued...

(Continued from page 2)

The Quick Fix returned to the White House in May 1964. However, President Johnson refused to ride in the car unless it was repainted. A major newspaper had ran a story under the headline, "Johnson to Ride In Kennedy Death Car" and LBJ did not want that kind of attention following him every time he went for a ride. Midnight Blue was a color associated with JFK. Johnson wanted his presidential limousine painted black. The car was repainted and the "Quick Fix" rejoined the White House fleet. The car was used by Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter before being retired in 1977.

The Quick Fix Today:

When the Quick Fix was retired from active duty, Ford Motor Company donated the vehicle to the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan. In addition, to the Quick Fix, the museum has several other presidential parade vehicles on display: The 1939 Lincoln V-12 convertible (the Sunshine Special) used by Franklin D. Roosevelt; the 1950 Lincoln Cosmopolitan (the Bubbletop) used by Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, and the 1972 Lincoln used by Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan and Bush.

The Reagan car is the last presidential vehicle that will be given to any museum. The U.S. Secret Service will destroy all future presidential vehicles in tests so that the complex electronic and security devices will remain confidential.

To Learn More: Contact the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, 20900 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn, MI 48124. www.hfmgv.org.

Our Pride & Joy continued...

(Continued from page 3)

load springs, heavy duty radiator, radio and four on the floor. It's the most miserable thing I have ever driven! And so help me, I still have it some 50 years latter.

Editor's note: We will be continuing the story of Russell and Dolly Zanner, their cars and airplanes in future issues of the Northstar News.

For Sale....

1971 Mark III, Rebuilt Motor, Bad Transmission, restore or for parts, little rust. \$500. Call Dennis at 763-682-3172

1983 Lincoln Mark VI four door. White with white top and white leather interior. All options except a sunroof. 302 cubic inch engine with automatic. The car was purchased in Florida in 1995 with 105,000 miles and has been driven only 3,000 miles in the last seven years. The car is in excellent condition. Please call Paul Pedersen at 952-473-1386 or cell phone 612-670-3547. A chance to own tomorrows collectable at today's prices.

Set of 4 Blizzak radial tires 225/70 – 15 inch mounted on new FOMOCO wheels with OEM Lincoln covers. Like new, with only 1500 miles, excellent winter tires, from a 1999 Lincoln Town Car. Price secondary, to use by Lincoln owner who appreciates the package. Call Frank at 952-929-8959

For Rent....

Garage for rent in St. Paul, near Highland Park. Available from now until 4/30/03. \$65/mo. Contact Jerry Loberg at 651-224-6612 for details:

If you have something you want to buy or sell, please let us know. We will be glad to include your ad in the newsletter. Call, write, email or fax the Editor today.

(Continued from page 4)

Movies this year included Raiders of the Lost Ark, Chariots of Fire, On Golden Pond, Reds, and Atlantic City. Best Picture, Ordinary People. Books: Rabbit is Rich by John Updike. Song of the year: Sailing by Christopher Cross. Miss America, Susan Powell from Oklahoma.

Emmy Awards; Outstanding Drama Series, Hill Street Blues. Outstanding Comedy Series, Taxi. Academy Awards, Best Picture, Ordinary People. Other noteworthy pictures included Coal Miner's Daughter, The Elephant Man, Raging Bull, Tess.

The FDA approves the use of the artificial sweetener Aspartame, commonly known as Nutrasweet. IBM introduces the first personal computer running the Microsoft Disk Operating System. Expensive machines costing in the vicinity of \$4000 when first introduced.

Those who left us included Joe Louis, Bobby Sands and Bill Haley.

From the Internet.

Directors Message

By Bob Johnson

The Holidays are past, and it was barely a White Christmas, again this year. The weather was good for traveling to Mary's mothers in Emmetsburg, Iowa. It is great to be able to see family during the holidays and share a unique bond that family's have. We had a great holiday, and really enjoyed the grandchildren.

I want to again thank everyone for making 2002 such a special year for the North Star Region. The Mid-America National Meet was great. All our monthly activities are one of the strongest areas of the club and was very special because of the work of Jay White. The Monthly North Star News written by Dave Gustafson, is the best of the best. Dave's monthly "My Pride and Joy" member car articles give insight as to why we are Lincoln Nuts. For 2003 we will need more members to do an article on their car and why it is special. If you are not sure as to how to write it, please give Dave a call, he will be glad help you.

I will be attending the LCOC Winter Board of Directors Meeting, Saturday, February 1st, 2003 in Clearwater Beach, Florida. I have submitted two agenda items for this meeting. First, why Exhibition cars are not allowed to be parked with cars to be judged on concourses field on day of judging. Second, problems with person handling LCOC membership questions and answers. Complete write up on agenda items are else where in newsletter. LCOC is trying to solicit ideas and fix problem areas and the keep the club in tune with member needs. If you have any suggestions or ideas that can make club better please contact me before January 15th, 2003.

The 2002 increase of 19 new members in North Star Region was again due to a great newsletter and fun activities along with hosting a National Meet. During 2003, we will not have a National Meet to stir more interest in getting new members, so I'm asking every one to think of a friend or a person who is a Lincoln nut, to invite to our meeting and activities. Please remember to join our Region, a prospective member also is required to join the National LCOC, owning a Lincoln car in NOT a prerequisite.

If you are a old car nut, Fords Centennial Celebration, is one event that you will want to attend. LCOC Mid-America National Meet is during the week, Tuesday, June 10th and Wednesday, June 11th, and Ford Centennial Celebration, Thursday, June 12th thru Monday, June 16th. Monday is stockholders meeting. Ford is planning on 10,000 collector cars being in Dearborn, Michigan, during this event. Look in your latest Continental Comments magazine for registration information. Register early, hotel rooms will go fast.

Our first event of 2003 will be a Sunday Brunch at Guldens Restaurant in Maplewood on Highway 61 on Sunday, January 19th at 12:30 PM. Please call Jay White if you are planning on attending. We need a accurate headcount for the restaurant. Bring a friend that is a Lincoln nut.

As always keep the journey continuing in our

Jackets....Jackets.....

Director Bob Johnson has made arrangements with Linda Goulet of Custom Outfitters of Centuria, Wisconsin for Northstar LCOC club jackets.

The jackets will be available in two styles, a Satin Baseball Award Jacket and a Oxford Coaches Jacket. The Baseball Award Jacket features a knit collar, cuffs and waistband and the Oxford Coaches Jacket has a laydown collar, knit cuffs and a draw cord at the bottom.

The jackets will be available in a variety of colors. The National LCOC emblem can be applied to the back of the jacketed if desired. The Northstar Region emblem may be applied to the front upper left side.

Prices will vary depending on the style of jacket ordered, the type of lining desired and configuration of Club emblems.

With spring just around the corner, it is now time to order these great jackets. Ordering information was mailed out with the December issue and will also be included in the next issue.

Preview of Coming Attractions

The following are the scheduled club events, please call Jay White at (952) 432-5939 for information and directions.

- January Guldens Restaurant in Maplewood. Sunday brunch on January 19th at 12:30 PM. 2999 Highway 61. Map and directions in January newsletter.
- February Evening at Ellingson's. Pot luck dinner with the CCCA. More information to follow. February 8th This is always a fun event and a great chance to get together with all of our friends in the CCCA. Bring some food to share and something to auction off. 5PM at Ellingsons. Plan on attending.
- March Brunch at Picadillies, date to be determined.
- April Tobey's by the Lake, April 27th, 11:30 AM. Our annual visit. Great place, great food.
- May Whitaker Lincoln-Mercury annual car show. Get your cars ready for May 17th (tentative date)
- June Back to the Fifties. Ford Centennial at Dearborn, MI June 9, 10, & 11th.
- July Downtown St. Paul on Kellogg Boulevard & tour to Woodhead's Ford collection.
- August Cruise to the Creamery in WI and Elmer's toys.
- September Annual Picnic....Where has the summer....
- October Brunch/Lunch to be scheduled.
- November Cruise to LaCrosse, WI. Novemberfest?

If you have any ideas for future club activities, please let your board members know, or call or email Jay White. We welcome your suggestions for future events.

We invite you to become involved in your club. The monthly Board of Directors meetings are open to the membership. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at Whitaker Lincoln Mercury located in Inver Grove Heights. Your participation is invited.