

A little bit about 1976 Black Diamond Marks



Low production numbers of this Mark IV variant, make it highly collectable.

Black Diamond Luxury – Could it be the rarest diamond of them all? In 1973, Lincoln tried something new for the Continental Mark IV to increase sales and exclusivity: they introduced a limited edition model. Basically, a pre-selected exterior paint color and interior trim package that wasn't available otherwise. There was really nothing special about it that set it apart, other than the unique color combination.

This tactic had worked well for the Mark IV's twin over at Ford Division, the Thunderbird. In fact, it had worked so well that it had been done several times, although the T-bird had offered a few special items to set its special cars apart from the rest, namely vinyl roof colors not otherwise available, engraved dash plaques denoting the car's special status, or distinctive wheel covers and other trim pieces to set them apart. (See 1963 Thunderbird Limited Edition Landau or 1965 Thunderbird Special Landau pages for details.) Going forward, however, the Thunderbird would follow the Mark IV's lead and limit special models to mostly unique color/trim combinations, and special bodyside striping that couldn't be had on other cars.

The **Black Diamond Luxury Group** started off with a basic 1976 Continental Mark IV, painted in a special Black Diamond Fire Metallic paint (code 1L), which was introduced late in the year specifically for this option. Topped by a Custom Landau Black Cayman-grain vinyl roof (code UA) with wide chrome moldings which featured a distinctive Alligator-grain vinyl pattern that came straight from the 1968-1971 Ford Thunderbird, and was still available through 1973 on T-birds without the Exterior Decor Group option. (This same vinyl pattern would also be used on the 1977-1978 Continental Mark V Pucci Designer Edition cars.) This particular vinyl has a shinier finish from the manufacturing process, giving it an almost patent leather look, although not quite that shiny. It does have a higher level of gloss than most automotive vinyls commonly used for vinyl roof installations, however.

A Power Sunroof or Power Moonroof was optional, and could be fitted at additional charge per the desire of the original purchaser. Additional exterior distinction was provided by a Light Silver paint

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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.

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Trivia from the Internet



Mitzi Gaynor - American actress, singer and dancer 1931 -

Mitzi Gaynor (born September 4, 1931) is an American actress, singer, and dancer. Her notable films include There's No Business Like Show Business (1954), The Birds and the Bees (1956), and South Pacific, the 1958 motion picture adaptation of the stage musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein. She is one of the last surviving stars from the Golden Age of Hollywood.

Mitzi Gaynor was born as Francesca Marlene de Czanyi von Gerber in Chicago. Her parents were Pauline, a dancer, and Henry de Czanyi von Gerber, a violinist, cellist, and music director. After her father remarried, she became

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Editors Message

March 2022

Dear friends and gentle readers...

Aside from the snow this past week, it would appear that winter is on the wane. What seems to most people, our two most difficult months to traverse, January and February, are now but memories. We are sure with the days now getting noticeably longer and the average daily temperatures increasing, most folks will feel more comfortable with March than our prior two months. Sure, we may get some more snow and bad weather in March, but we are, for the most part, sure that things, at least weather-wise, will be getting better. We can now daydream about our beloved old cars and getting them out for a nice early spring drive.

Please make note that daylight saving time kicks in early in the morning of Sunday, March 13, at 2 a.m. We have a few weeks to go, so some of you older folks might want to rest up so that when we move the clocks ahead, you could have a little extra sleep banked to make up for what you would lose on that Sunday. By the end of March, local sunset in the Minneapolis area will be at 7:41 p.m.

At least as I was concerned, the highpoint of February was the CCCA sponsored dinner/auction, which the Lincoln club was invited to held this past February 12. As in prior years, it was at the Fire Museum in north Minneapolis. It is the perfect venue for this type of event, neat and clean, and plenty of room for our group. Nice round tables make for good socialization. And a lot of people felt comfortable, even with COVID out and about, to take the chance and come out for a good meal and a large helping of fellowship. The auction went very well. Mostly paper, with Barb Wothe kindly donating a large selection of material from her late husband Roger's collection and an additional amount from the Barney Olson's estate. All of it was pretty good stuff, with top bid going for Roger's collection of Automobile Quarterly books. Sweet Olga tagged along and met and greeted many people that she has met from both clubs over the years. She got a lot of attention, and her tail was wagging continuously all night



Sweet Olga is out spending a little time in the fresh snow. Her dad is calling out to her from the door to come in, but she is having none of that. She is dressed well for the winter weather and really does enjoy being out in it, but not for too long.

long.

The COVID restrictions are slowly diminishing. It appears that the infection rate is, in fact, going down, and with that, the risk of infection also goes down. I think that most of us older folks would feel a lot more comfortable if the overall vaccination rate was a bit higher, maybe in the 90-95 percent range. But, it is what it is, and let us all keep our fingers crossed that the infection rate keeps going down and that a new variant does not come to call. It will be interesting to see what happens to national Lincoln club activities this year, specifically the Western National Meet in California and the 100 year anniversary event this August, at both Detroit and Hickory Corners.

Will the folks come out? Great if they do, if attendance is weak, we might have to consider changes in the way the club does business.

Sweet Olga will be celebrating her 12th birthday, March 21. She is getting right up there with her dad; only she seems to get around a little better than dad. She eats fairly healthy, and I have been feeding her Cosequin, a supplement to help with joint and mobility issues, which seems to be working. If we have somewhat nicer weather on her birthday,

we will go over to the Dairy Queen and get a dish of the good stuff for her. She really likes that. This pandemic has been hard on her, too, as she doesn't get out and about that much either.

Our North Star March event will be at Dangerfield's Restaurant in Shakopee. Their food is good, and we usually wind up with our own private room. The weather should be nice that day; I am guessing the temps will be in the mid-40s by then. The perfect day to celebrate spring in the Midwest. I hope to see you all there Sunday, March 13.

Till next month, David and Sweet Olga, the Samoyed...

Directors Message by Bob Johnson March 2022

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stepsister to anti-war activist Donald W. Duncan.

Her family first moved to Elgin, Illinois, and then to Detroit, and later when she was eleven, on to Hollywood. She trained as a ballerina as a child and began her career in the corps de ballet. At 13, she was singing and dancing with the Los Angeles Civic Light Opera company. She lied about her address so she could attend Le Conte Junior High in Hollywood.

Career - 20th Century Fox - *She signed a seven-year contract with Twentieth Century-Fox at age 17. She sang, acted, and danced in a number of film musicals, often paired with some of the biggest male musical stars of the day. A Fox Studio executive thought that Mitzi Gerber sounded like the name of a delicatessen, and they came up with a name that used the same initials.*

Gaynor made her film debut in a musical, My Blue Heaven (1950); Betty Grable and Dan Dailey starred and she had a supporting role. A college drama Take Care of My Little Girl (1951) followed with Gaynor playing the roommate of Jeanne Crain.

Stardom - Fox then

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The COVID-19 landscape continues to change. Minnesota is now lifting vaccine verification and wearing masks based on higher rates of vaccine coverage and the decrease in new cases and hospitalizations across the county. We are moving in the right direction, and we will continue taking additional steps toward recovery. We will still plan events, and it will be up to you if you want to attend. Our biggest problem may be getting you to get out and do activities after two years of basically doing nothing.

Our February event with the CCCA was a huge success, Jack Fletcher even drove up from Poplar Grove, Illinois, to attend, and he is almost 91 years old. After paying for the catered meal and museum rental, our share of the auction profit was \$1,093.15. Tom Brace did a tremendous job being the auctioneer; thank you, Tom. About 45 persons from both clubs enjoyed the night out amongst friends.

Our March event is the rescheduled Sunday Brunch at Dangerfield's Restaurant March 13 at 11:30 a.m., at 1583 1st Avenue East, Shakopee, Minnesota. Dangerfield's has one of the best buffets in our twin city area. Please RSVP to Bob Johnson. 651-257-1715 or email arbor-bob41@aol.com by March 10, 2022.

Our own Dave Gustafson once again has received the Lincoln and Continental Owners Club 2021 MASTER EDITOR AWARD as editor for our North Star News. Dave has edited and produced our newsletter since June 2001. This March Issue will be his 250th issue. Please come to Dangerfield's to help us celebrate this great milestone. I will state that our newsletter is the best in LCOC. To review old newsletters go to: northstarlco.org and click on "publications." Thank you, Dave, for over 21 years dedication to our North Star region and LCOC.

Our highlight of 2022 will be a four-day road region trip to Harley Davison Museum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 12-15, 2022. A road trip to Milwaukee PDF email was sent to all members Wednesday, February 16, 2022. Please reserve your hotel room now if you plan on attending. Because of COVID, there will be some addition and subtractions as we get closer to May 12, 2022. This will be a great trip; please try to attend if at all possible.

Our 14th Annual Bloomington Lincoln Car show will be Saturday, June 11, 2022, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bloomington Lincoln, Bloomington, Minnesota. Free lunch and awards at 2 p.m.

On February 17, David Schultz, Chairman and CEO of the Lincoln Motor Car Foundation said, "the registration form should be posted in about two weeks. John Talbourdet and Paul Temple are assembling the final details right now." The 2022 Lincoln Centennial Homecoming is August 7-13, 2022. **LOOK FOR UPDATED REGISTRATION INFORMATION** on the Lincoln Motor Car Foundation website: lincolncarmuseum.org/.

Our Facebook presence with likes is now 510 persons. Please check our Facebook page. Jay White and Dave Herren have reported problems with posts disappearing, and we are looking for HELP to solve this problem. If you have any helpful suggestions about correctly using Facebook, please let Jay White know.

Again, I will say it; we need to get out and recruit new members. **For 2022 only, we have a reduced LCOC Membership rate of \$25; let's use it to get some new members and friends for the LCOC and the North Star Region.** Now can we get you to call persons you know who love Lincolns? We need them as members! Your call is the best way to get a new member; please call anyone you know interested in the Lincoln brand. This is a plea that I have made for the last 20 years; we need to be more active and get out and recruit.

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

Bob and Mary Johnson

Board Of Directors - 2022 - 2023

Title	Name	Phone Numbers	email	Term Ends
Regional Director	Bob Johnson	H(651)257-1715	arborbob41@aol.com	2023
Secretary	Chris Struble	(952)679-0342	cgstruble@fedex.com	2023
Treasurer	Matt Foley	C(612)280-4930	mcfoley@earthlink.net	2022
Activities Director	Jay White	H(612)559-3219	jay@jwhiteandassoc.com	2023
Director	Bob Roth	H(763)475-1429		2023
Publications/ Membership	Dave Gustafson	H(952)435-1919	davidwgustafson@att.net	2022
Director	Tom Brace	H(651)644-1716	trbrace@comcast.net	2022
Director	Bill Holaday	H(763)402-1171	bill.holaday59@gmail.com	2023
Director	Jeff Eisenberg	(612)521-3537	Jeff.eisenberg@libsontruck.com	2023
Director	Dave Heeren	(952)469-3647	dheeren41@hotmail.com	2022

Members and guests are welcome to attend the Board Meetings. Our meeting location, unless otherwise specified, will be held at Bloomington Lincoln in their conference room. Meeting time will be 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month, except December.

Articles and other information for the newsletter should be sent to David Gustafson, Editor, at 308 Brandywine Drive, Burnsville, MN 55337. email: davidwgustafson@att.net

More on the 1976 Mark IV

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stripe, which graced the body sides of the car and contrasted very nicely with the paint, vinyl roof, and interior color.

Inside, a choice of Black Velour or Black Leather was available, both with Black Patent Leather Cross Straps. A few cars were reportedly built with either Dove Grey Versailles Velour or Dove Grey Leather and Vinyl, which were the same interiors used in the Cartier Designer Edition, but they used a different sew pattern, and did not feature the unique cross straps on the seats. The sew style used on the seats was the same as that in the other Luxury Group interiors. Even the luggage compartment was detailed with dark gray carpeting, side panels, and spare tire cover.

The Black Diamond Luxury Group was announced late in the year, so the production run was a short one, which makes this a rarely seen option today. In fact, many may not even be aware of their Mark IV's special status, since this beautiful color combination is very understated when compared to some of the others available in 1976. In fact, as recently as a year ago one of these cars was offered for sale locally, advertised as "triple black with leather seats." The seller of the car, who just happened to be the original owner, had no idea as to its special status, or had long ago forgotten about it. Tucked inside the glove compartment, was the original window sticker for the car, which indicated the Black Diamond Luxury Group option, priced at \$552.

We are going to tack on some more interesting information about the early Mark series as this was a very important period for the Lincoln brand. The Marks were coming into their own, had unique styling and were very profitable for the Ford company. While filling the bill of a true "Halo" car, the Marks were immediately loved by their owners and far outsold anything else like it in the marketplace. Read on, we hope that you enjoy this somewhat long narrative.

The **Continental Mark series** (later **Lincoln Mark series**) was a series of personal luxury cars that was produced by Ford Motor Company. The nomenclature came into use with the Continental Mark II for 1956, which was a successor to the Lincoln Continental of 1939–1948. Following the discontinuation of the Mark II, Ford continued the use of the Mark series on Continental branded vehicles from 1958 to 1960. Following a hiatus, Lincoln-Mercury relaunched the Continental Mark series during 1968 and would produce six successive generations through the 1998 model year.

Serving as the flagship vehicle of Ford Motor Company for its entire production, the Mark series continued the use of Continental branding positioned above Lincoln after the Continental Division was discontinued



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gave Gaynor a star part, in the musical biopic *Golden Girl* (1951), playing Lotta Crabtree. It was a mild success at the box office. Gaynor was one of several stars in the anthology comedy *We're Not Married!* (1952), then she was top billed in the musical, *Bloodhounds of Broadway* (1952), which made \$2 million.

Fox put her in another biopic, *The I Don't Care Girl* (1952) and she played Eva Tanguay. The film made \$1.25 million. Gaynor starred in *Down Among the Sheltering Palms* (1953), playing a South Sea island girl. She was the female lead in a Western, *Three Young Texans* (1954). Gaynor's most popular film in her time at Fox was *Irving Berlin's There's No Business Like Show Business* (1954). She was billed after Ethel Merman, Dan Dailey, Marilyn Monroe, Donald O'Connor and Johnnie Ray.

Jack Bean - Gaynor married Jack Bean, a talent agent and public relations executive for MCA, in San Francisco on November 18, 1954. Their home was on North Arden Drive in Beverly Hills, Cali-

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Northstar Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2022

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

The meeting was called to order via a conference call by Regional Director Bob Johnson at 6:31 p.m.

Board members attending the conference call were Bob Johnson, Dave Gustafson, Tom Brace, Bill Holaday, Jeff Eisenberg, Dave Heeren, Bob Roth, and Chris Struble. The Board members not present were Jay White Matt Foley. There were no visitors. The minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda of this meeting were approved.

Director reports:

The first part of the meeting consisted of conversations between our members regarding the current status of the Covid 19 pandemic and their experiences. The club continues to exercise caution regarding Covid 19 when scheduling events.

Activities report:

Chairperson Bob Johnson reviewed club activities.

February 12, 2022- Dinner at the Firefighters Museum. Catered meal at 5:30 p.m. Lincoln items from the estates of Roger Wothe and Barney Olsen will be auctioned.

March 13, 2022- Sunday Brunch at Dangerfield's Restaurant. 11:30 a.m.

April 2022- TBD.

May 12- 15, 2022- Trip to Milwaukee to visit the Harley-Davidson Museum.

June 11, 2022- Annual Bloomington Lincoln Car show.

July 2022- Researching car show with other luxury brands.

August 7-14, 2022 Annual Lincoln Homecoming

September 2022 Jax's Café, Minneapolis

October 2022 Morrie's tour- TBD

National Board approved a one-time special membership of \$25 honoring the 100th anniversary of the Lincoln motor car.

North Star Region yearly membership renewals were sent out this week.

Bob Johnson stated that Treasurer Matt Foley reported the treasury balance is \$4510.00, with all bills paid.

Membership and Publications Director Dave Gustafson stated no new members were added last month.

A discussion was held regarding the issues surrounding the Facebook page.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. via a conference call from Bob Johnson.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Struble

Mark IV continued...

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fornia. She had just been released from Twentieth Century-Fox (before the start of *There's No Business Like Show Business*) with four years left on her contract and decided with the time off to get married. The union was childless. After their marriage, Bean quit MCA and started his publicity firm called Bean & Rose and managed Gaynor's career.



Paramount - In 1956, Gaynor appeared in the Paramount remake of *Anything Goes*, co-starring Bing Crosby, Donald O'Connor, and Zizi Jeanmaire, loosely based on the musical by Cole Porter, P.G. Wodehouse and Guy Bolton. Paramount cast her in another remake, *The Birds and the Bees* (1956), playing the role originated by Barbara Stanwyck in *The Lady Eve* (1941).

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following the 1957 model year (distinct from the 1961 and onward Lincoln Continental); it was marketed and serviced by Lincoln-Mercury. To eliminate the branding confusion, the Mark series adopted the Lincoln name from the 1986 model year onward. In line with both the 1940s Lincoln Continental and the Continental Mark II, most versions of the Mark series were produced as two-door coupes (personal cars); at various times through its production, various body styles have also been offered for the model line. With the exception of the nearly hand-built Continental Mark II, the model line has shared chassis underpinnings with other Ford or Lincoln-Mercury vehicles, with model-specific interior and exterior body panels.

Derived from the original Lincoln Continental, the continental tire trunklid design feature was adopted by each generation (in various forms) from the Continental Mark II to the final Lincoln Mark VIII. The Lincoln four-point star emblem is a design feature that was introduced by the Continental Mark II.

After the 1998 model year, Lincoln ended the Mark series with the Mark VIII, as the division shifted away from personal luxury cars to concentrate on four-door sedans and SUVs. From 2007 to 2020, Lincoln introduced a visually-similar "MK" prefix for its sedans; the nomenclature was phased out in favor of conventional names (or model lines dropped altogether).

From 1958 to 1998, Mark series vehicles were produced alongside Lincolns by Wixom Assembly at Wixom, Michigan.

Background - Prior to the Continental/Lincoln Mark series, within Ford Motor Company, the Continental nameplate began life in 1939, following the design of a custom-built Lincoln-Zephyr convertible commissioned by Edsel Ford. Modified extensively over a production vehicle, the personal car had a lowered hoodline, a relocated passenger compartment (requiring an external-mount spare tire), and deletion of the running boards. Upon taking delivery of the car in Florida, Ford discovered the vehicle generated a high degree of interest from potential buyers; renamed Continental by Ford, the name reflected European styling influences for its design. At the end of the 1930s, Lincoln was transitioning away from the exclusive Lincoln K-series and moving towards the more contemporary and affordable Lincoln-Zephyr coupes and sedans. As a flagship, Edsel Ford wanted to revive the popularity of the 1929–1932 Lincoln Victoria coupe and convertible with an updated approach, reflecting European styling influences.

Continental Division - For 1949, the Lincoln Continental was discontinued, as Ford sought to introduce post-war model lines for all three of its divisions. In 1952, the company commenced design work on a successor model line; following the 1953 introduction of the limited-production Cadillac Eldorado, Buick Skylark, and Oldsmobile Fiesta, Ford also sought to create a competitor, aiming to make a model line as exclusive as the 1930s K-series.

As its new model line was to be one of the most exclusive and expensive automobiles in the world, Ford chose to create a stand-alone division positioned above Lincoln in 1955, the same year Chrysler introduced the Imperial Division. The namesake of the 1940s Lincoln Continental, the Continental Division named its model line the Mark II. Along with aligning it as a successor to the pre-war Lincoln Continental, the Mark II designation was a convention used by European industry; along with automobiles (i.e., Jaguar Mark 1), similar nomenclature was used to identify versions of artillery, tanks, naval vessels, and aircraft.

In July 1956, Ford integrated Continental into Lincoln-Mercury, which marketed Continental as a marque positioned above Lincoln; the Mark II was withdrawn after the 1957 model year. From 1958 to 1960, Continental remained in a similar role, replacing the Mark II with the Mark III, Mark IV, and Mark V as flagship vehicles above the Lincoln sedan line.

For 1961, Lincoln-Mercury consolidated the Lincoln model line with a singular Lincoln Continental replacing both the Continental Mark V and both Lincoln lines; the division would serve a single line of sedans through the 1976 model year.

Continental Mark revival - In response to the introduction of the two-door Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow (later renamed the Corniche) in the United States, Ford vice-president Lee Iacocca directed Ford vice president of design Gene Bordinat to "put a Rolls-Royce grille on a Thunderbird" in September 1965. Not branded a Lincoln, the all-new model line was effectively a reboot of the Continental Mark series, adopting the Continental Mark III nomenclature as a direct successor to Continental Mark II (leaving the 1958–1960 Mark series aside). In line with the design directive, the Mark III adopted a large radiator-style grille and was a large two-door coupe (using the frame of the four-door Thunderbird). While no longer intended as a functional feature, the Continental spare-tire trunklid made its return as a styling feature to further distinguish the model line.

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Even more about the Mark IV

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amount was *The Joker Is Wild* (1957), a biopic of Joe E. Lewis starring Frank Sinatra, in which Gaynor played the female lead. In 1957, Gaynor appeared in MGM's *Les Girls*, directed by George Cukor, with Gene Kelly and Kay Kendall.



Mitzi Gaynor starred in *South Pacific*.

South Pacific - Her biggest international fame came from her starring role as Ensign Nellie Forbush in the film version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*. For her performance, she was nominated for a Best Actress Golden Globe Award.

Gaynor followed this with a comedy at MGM, *Happy Anniversary* (1959) opposite David Niven, and the United Kingdom production *Surprise Package* (1960), a musical comedy thriller directed by Stanley Donen. Her co-stars were Yul Brynner and Noël Coward. The film's

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the standard model. The Cartier Edition ex-

While less expensive than its Rolls-Royce design inspiration, the Mark III competed against premium luxury coupes from American manufacturers, including the Imperial Crown Coupe and the Cadillac Eldorado; the latter two model lines formed a model rivalry lasting through multiple model generations.

Following the Mark III, Ford developed five successive generations of the model line. During the 1970s, the Mark IV and the Mark V shared a chassis with the Ford Thunderbird through 1976; the Mark V was a substantial revision of the Mark IV. The 1980 Mark VI was the first model to undergo downsizing, adopting the full-size Ford Panther platform; a four-door sedan was offered for the first time since 1958–1960. The Mark VII was downsized further for 1984, sharing the Ford Fox platform with the Ford Thunderbird, Mercury Cougar and Lincoln Continental sedan; the model was offered only as a coupe. The Lincoln Mark VIII grew slightly in size for 1993, derived again from the Ford Thunderbird and Mercury Cougar.

First generation Mark II; 1956 – 1957 Introduced for the 1956 model year, the Continental Mark II served as the inaugural product offering of the flagship Continental Division. A two-door personal luxury car, the Mark II was developed as the successor model line for the 1939–1948 Lincoln Continental. Essentially hand-assembled, the \$10,000 (US\$95,190 in 2020 dollars^[3]) model line was the most expensive American vehicle sold in 1956, competing against Rolls-Royce in price (or two Cadillacs); air conditioning was the only option offered.

The Mark II returned the long-hood, short-deck exterior design of its predecessor, reviving its rear spare tire design feature as part of the trunklid (the design was partly functional, as the trunklid closed around the vertically-mounted spare tire). In contrast to many American (and some European) vehicles, the exterior was highly conservative, limiting chrome trim to the grille, window trim, bumpers, and badging.

During 1956, Continental was integrated into Lincoln, leaving the Mark II coupe as the only model line of the Continental Division. In spite of its status as the most expensive vehicle sold in the United States, the high cost of its assembly led Ford to lose over \$1000 for each Mark II produced, leading to its discontinuation after the 1957 model year. In response to the Mark II, Cadillac released the Cadillac Eldorado Brougham; while far different in design, the Eldorado Brougham was the first Cadillac to rival the model line directly, leading to a rivalry that would last through the 1998 Lincoln Mark

VIII.

Successors – Mark III and Mark IV - 1960
Continental Mark V - Following the integration of Continental within Lincoln-Mercury in July 1956, Ford sought for ways to bring its flagship brand to profitability. After the 1957 model year, the hand-assembled Mark II was discontinued and replaced for 1958 with the Mark III branded as a Continental which was positioned above the Lincoln brand with higher trim sharing all new bodies that were built at the new Wixom Assembly Plant.

As part of an ultimatum to continue the brand, Continental underwent a US \$4,000 (40%) price reduction (\$35,880 in 2020 dollars), giving the all-new Continental Mark III a market position against the highest-trim Cadillacs and Imperials. To facilitate the price reduction, the Mark III was assembled in the same factory as the Ford Thunderbird, Lincoln Capri and Lincoln Premiere. Distinguished by its reverse-slant retractable "Breezeway" rear window on all models (including convertibles), the Mark III was one of the first Ford Motor Company vehicles to feature unibody construction (and one of the largest) also shared with the Thunderbird. In other firsts, FM radio joined AM radio as an option; "Auto Lube" automatically lubricated the entire car (through an oil reservoir kept full by the owner). The 1958–1960 Mark III–V has the distinction of being the only Continental Mark series vehicles offered as a convertible.

The 1959 Mark IV introduced two formal sedans, the Continental Town Car and Limousine. The Town Car/Limousine replaced the reverse-slant window with a forward-sloping rear window (moving the rear seat several inches rearward); the Limousine has a rear-seat partition. Other options include dual air conditioning units and a padded vinyl top; both versions were offered only in black. 214 Town Cars were sold and 83 Limousines were sold, making them the rarest Mark series variants.

The 1960 Mark V was restyled slightly, receiving a larger grille and new "dagmar bumpers".

Superlatives 1959 Continental Mark IV Town Car (formal sedan) - In terms of standard production sedans without an extended wheelbase, the 1958–1960 Continentals and Lincolns are some of the largest automobiles ever made. The Continental Mark III, IV and V are the longest cars produced by the Ford Motor Company without federally mandated 5-mph bumpers. The 1959 Mark IV and 1960 Mark V Limousines and Town Cars are the heaviest Ameri-

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Still more about the Mark IV

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theme song was composed by Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn, music and lyrics, respectively. Dancing and singing in a duet with Noël Coward, Gaynor performed this song in the film. Her last film role was *For Love or Money* (1963), starring Kirk Douglas.

Later career - Following her film work, Gaynor performed in other media. She appeared between two sets by The Beatles when they made their second appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show* on 16 February 1964. She performed for a nine-minute segment from the stage of the *Deauville Hotel*, in Miami Beach, separated by one commercial break. She sang "Too Darn Hot" and a blues medley. At the 1967 Academy Awards ceremony, she sang the theme from the film *Georgy Girl*. Gaynor later added the number to her concert repertoire. Through the 1960s and 1970s, she starred in nine television specials that garnered 16 Emmy nominations.

During her nightclub years, Gaynor developed and rehearsed her routines at *The Cave*, a club in Vancouver. She became fond of the city and frequently made guest appearances on

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can standard-wheelbase sedans built since World War II. 1960 is the only model year that a Mark series vehicle is mentioned as a *Lincoln Continental* in brochures and advertising. While designers of the model line are related to a number of contemporary significant styling achievements, the launch of the 1969 Continental Mark III (and its relaunch of the Mark series nomenclature) has led to the term "forgotten Marks" in relation to the 1958–1960 generation.

Second generation Mark III; 1969 – 1972
Mark III - Introduced in April 1968 for 1969, the Continental Mark III was developed for Ford to re-enter the personal luxury segment, competing against the Cadillac Eldorado for the first time since the discontinuation of the Mark II. The Mark III name was a revival of the Mark series nomenclature; along with making the new model line a true successor to the Mark II exclusively as a luxury coupe, it also effectively skipped the 1958–1960 Lincoln-based Continental Mark III, IV and V. As before, the Mark III was branded a Continental, but was sold and serviced by Lincoln-Mercury dealer networks.

Sharing its chassis with the Thunderbird four-door, the Mark III was a two-door coupe. Sharing design elements similar to the Lincoln Continental, the Mark III was distinguished by its lack of vent windows, its radiator-style grille, hidden headlights, and spare-tire trunklid (which no longer covered a spare tire). Several of these elements would find their way into the Continental as part of its 1970 redesign. Debuting in the Mark III, the 460 cubic-inch V8 would see use in multiple full-size, intermediate, and light-truck model lines.

For 1970, multiple functional changes were made. For the first time, a vinyl roof was standard equipment and the windshield wipers were now fully concealed. Several upgrades were made related to safety, including a locking steering column (with a rim-blow-horn replacing the horn ring) and three-point front seatbelts. In a first, the Mark III became the first American-brand vehicle sold with radial tires as standard equipment.

For 1971, automatic climate control became standard and Sure-Track anti-lock braking (ABS) was introduced as an option.

Third generation 1972 – 1976 Continental Mark IV - For 1972, the Continental Mark III was replaced by the all-new Continental Mark IV two-door coupe. Sharing a chassis, powertrain, and body with the Ford Thunderbird, to further lower its production costs, the two model lines shared a common roofline and inner body stampings; the Mark IV received its own

bodywork below the windowline.

The success of the Mark III would lead to Ford retaining multiple design features for the Mark IV, including the spare-tire trunklid, an enlarged radiator-style grille, and hidden headlights. In contrast to the Mark III and the Lincoln Continental, the widely flared wheel openings were the same size for both front and rear wheels (skirted rear wheels were not offered). To further distinguish the Mark IV from the Thunderbird, an oval opera window was introduced as a C-pillar design feature; offered as an option for 1972, the design became standard for 1973.

To comply with federal regulations, the Mark IV received 5-mph front bumpers for 1973, requiring a larger front bumper and smaller front grille (placed above the bumper). For 1974, the rear bumper was redesigned in a similar fashion, with the taillamps moved from inside the bumper to above it. The updates added 8 inches of length to the body and nearly 400 pounds of weight, with the Mark IV outgrowing the Cadillac Eldorado in size.



1976 Mark IV Black Label edition

Special editions - In line with its status of a personal luxury car, the Mark IV offered a greater degree of customization over its Mark III predecessor. The Luxury Group option (introduced in 1973) was a higher-trim version of the Mark IV, offering color-coordinated exterior, vinyl roof, and interior; the color offerings were revised yearly.

In what would become a long-running tradition for the Mark Series (and later Lincoln), the Designer Edition series was introduced in 1976 as a similar color-coordinated version of the Mark IV, using fashion designers to create a specially-coordinated exterior and interior combination; Ford offered Designer Editions, named after Cartier, Bill Blass, Givenchy, and Emilio Pucci; the opera window received the name of the selected designer (alongside badging near the glovebox).

Continental branding has been a source of confusion for its entire production run (similar to the confusion between Imperial and Chrysler Imperial). The Continental name started as a

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More on the Mark IV

(Continued from page 8)

local television for inter-views. "Mitzi's back in town" became an annual slogan when Gaynor would come to the city for a number of weeks each year to develop her *Las Vegas* routines.



Mitzi Gaynor with husband Jack Bean.

Gaynor recorded two albums for the Verve Records label, one called *Mitzi* and the second called *Mitzi Gaynor Sings the Lyrics of Ira Gershwin*. She is thought to have earned more from the record royalties on the *South Pacific* soundtrack album than her salary for the movie. She also recorded the title song from her film *Happy Anniversary* for the Top Rank label. For several decades, Gaynor appeared regularly in *Las Vegas* and at nightclub and concert venues throughout the United States and Canada.

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Lincoln model for 1939 through 1948 model years. When the Continental was resurrected as a personal luxury coupe for 1956, it was manufactured within its own Continental Division given the full nomenclature *Continental Mark II* denoting Continental as the make and Mark II as the model and version.



Mark IV parking lamp

The Continental Mark series became the most distinguished within the Ford Motor Company divisional hierarchy clearly positioned above the Lincoln brand. Following the discontinuation of the Continental Division in July 1956, the Continental brand was absorbed and marketed

as a separate marque above Lincoln within the Mercury-Edsel-Lincoln Division (MEL) dealer structure (which later became Lincoln-Mercury after the Edsel brand was dropped early in the 1960 model year). However, the vehicles themselves were not badged as Lincolns, nor did their identification plates, VINs, and factory paperwork bear the Lincoln name.



These distinctive oval shaped windows, with the Lincoln star were part of the rear sail panels

Mark series vehicles were formally referred to as *Continental Mark* not *Lincoln Continental Mark* nor *Lincoln Mark*. As the Continental Mark series became more popular, the Lincoln name became colloquially but improperly affixed although the Lincoln nameplate did not appear on Continental Mark series vehicles nor did *Lincoln Continental Mark* appear in official Ford Motor Company marketing, brochures, advertising or window stickers. The only exception to this was the referral of the 1960 Mark V as a *Lincoln Continental* in brochures and advertising in preparation for the Continental nameplate to become a sole model series under

the Lincoln brand for 1961. However, the Lincoln name never appeared on any Continental Mark series vehicle. Continental was often not properly registered or recognized as the make of Mark Series vehicles by dealerships or state motor vehicle departments.

When the true successor to the Continental Mark II was introduced for 1969, it was purposely given the full nomenclature of *Continental Mark III* without the Lincoln name attached as it resumed its previous position as a Continental branded flagship vehicle placed above Lincoln within the Lincoln-Mercury division structure. This remained so for all Mark series vehicles through the end of the 1985 model year. Since 1968, Continental Marks were sold alongside the separate Lincoln Continental series of sedans further adding to the Continental branding confusion. Ford Motor Company often advertised the two separate series of vehicles together as "The Continentals".

Before the 1981 model year, there was no indicator in vehicle identification numbers for the vehicle make or manufacturer. The VINs only had indicators for the model year, assembly plant, body series (which represented only the vehicle model name and body style type), engine size and sequential production number.

Beginning with the 1981 model year, all vehicle manufacturers were required by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to use a 17-character VIN-code with more detailed information. The first three digits is the World Manufacturer Identifier which indicates the country of origin and make of a vehicle. 1981-1985 Continental Mark VI-VII and 1982-1985 Lincoln Continental 4-door sedans have the separate VIN-code 1MR which designates Continental as the make instead of 1LN as Lincoln (as is the Town Car).

For the 1986 model year, the confusion of Continental branding was clarified by Ford Motor Company marketing as the Continental Mark VII was renamed the Lincoln Mark VII (the Mark VIII was always sold as a Lincoln). At this point all Lincoln Continentals and Mark VII's were assigned the 1LN VIN-code to designate Lincoln as the make in place of Continental. 1986 was the first model year ever that the Lincoln nameplate appeared on a Mark Series vehicle.

Continental star - When the Continental Division was integrated into the Lincoln-Mercury Division after the 1957 model year, its four-point star logo - the "Continental Star" - was brought with it. As of current production, the emblem (in various forms) has remained in use on both Mark-series and Lincoln vehicles

(Continued on page 10)

We are nearing the end of the Mark IV stuff

(Continued from page 9)

During the 1990s, Gaynor became a featured columnist for the newsmagazine *The Hollywood Reporter*.

On December 4, 2006, Jack Bean, Gaynor's husband of 52 years, died of pneumonia in the couple's Beverly Hills home, aged 84. A producer and personal manager, Bean guided Gaynor's career.

On July 30, 2008, Gaynor - along with Kenny Ortega, Elizabeth Berkley, Shirley MacLaine, and the cast members from *High School Musical*, *So You Think You Can Dance*, *Dancing with the Stars*, and other performers - appeared on the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences *TV Moves Live*, a celebration of 60 years of dance on television. Gaynor appeared performing the final few bars of "Poor Papa", a song-and-dance number from her 1969 TV special, *Mitzi's 2nd Special*. Four months later, on November 18, 2008, City Lights Pictures released *Mitzi Gaynor Razzle Dazzle: The Special Years*, a documentary celebrating Gaynor's annual television specials of the 1960s and 1970s.

The film, which was broadcast on public television and released on DVD, includes moments from the original specials (digitally remastered in

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(Continued from page 9)

Lincoln MK naming scheme - During the 1990s, American luxury brands such as Lincoln lost market share to German and Japanese brands. As Lincoln and Cadillac began modernizing their lineups during the early 2000s, they both began to adopt alphanumeric naming schemes used by their competitors. At Lincoln, this started with the 2000 LS, which created some objections by Toyota, the owners of Lexus. As the LS and the Continental were both discontinued in the mid-2000s, the division introduced a new alphanumeric naming scheme that would partly revive the Mark Series. From 2007 to 2015, all newly introduced Lincolns would wear the "MK" designation; the lone exceptions were the Town Car and the Navigator. With the "MK" designation, it was originally intended to be pronounced "Mark" followed by the vehicle model letter as in "Mark S", "Mark T", "Mark X" or "Mark Z". Once the new naming convention reached the initial public, "MK" was commonly mispronounced "em kay" and it was decided by Lincoln marketing to officially pronounce it that way instead. After the 2011 model year, the Navigator became the sole non-MK Lincoln as the Town Car sedan was discontinued. However, for 2017 Lincoln discontinued the MKS and brought back the Continental name for its all-new flagship sedan. Since then Lincoln has brought back conventional names for successive model replacements.



The Mark IV carried forward the "spare tire" outline as in earlier Continentals.

George W. Walker, known for his contribution to the development of the original Ford Thunderbird, was Vice-President in charge of Styling at Ford during this time. Elwood Engel, famous for being lead designer of generation four of the Lincoln Continental and for his work as chief designer at Chrysler in the 1960s, was Staff Stylist (and consequently roamed all of the design studios) at Ford during this period, and

worked very closely with John Najjar in developing not only the 1958, but also the 1959 update.



Note the very stylish and well integrated tail lamp and backup light integration on this Continental Mark IV. These cars just looked great!

After John Najjar was relieved of his responsibilities as Chief Stylist of Lincoln in 1957 he became Engel's executive assistant, and the two worked closely together in the "stileto studio" in developing the fourth generation Lincoln Continental, which won an award for its superlative styling. After Engel left Ford in 1961, Najjar became the lead designer of the Ford Mustang I concept car, which later gave birth to the Ford Mustang. Don Delarossa, who succeeded Najjar as Chief Stylist of Lincoln, was responsible for the 1960 update, and went on to become chief designer at Chrysler in the 1980s. Alex Tremulis, who was Chief Stylist at Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg in the mid- to late 1930s and known for his work on the 1948 Tucker Sedan, was head of Ford's Advanced Styling Studio during this period. It was his Ford La Tosca concept car, with its oval overlaid with an "X" theme, that gave the "slant eyed monster" nickname to the 1958 Mark III front end. Perhaps most ironically of all, L. David Ash was Lincoln's Executive Exterior Stylist when Najjar was in charge of Lincoln styling, the same L. David Ash who would later play such a prominent role as Chief Stylist of Ford in designing the 1969-1971 Continental Mark III, which helped cause Marks of this vintage (together with a marketing decision by then Ford Executive Vice-President Lee Iacocca) to be called the "forgotten Marks".

Current events from 1976

(Continued from page 10)

5.1 stereo) along with newly taped interviews with Gaynor colleagues, friends, and admirers, including Bob Mackie, Carl Reiner, Kristin Chenoweth, Rex Reed, Tony Charmoli, Alton Ruff, Randy Doney, and Kelli O'Hara. Gaynor's one-woman show, *Razzle Dazzle: My Life Behind the Sequins*, toured the United States and Vancouver from 2009 thru 2014, including a two-week engagement in New York City.

Honors - On October 14, 2006, the *NY Alumni* "adopted" Gaynor as an official "New Yorker" at Beverly Hills High School. New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg issued a proclamation paying tribute to her distinguished career as a singer, dancer, actress and writer.

On April 10, 2007, she was honored by the Museum of Television and Radio in Los Angeles with a special evening celebrating her television specials of the 1960s-1970s. The sold-out event, *Mitzi Gaynor Razzle-Dazzle!: The Special Years*, featured a screening followed by a panel discussion with Gaynor, designer Bob Mackie and director-choreographer Tony Charmoli. In conjunction with the event, the museum also fea-

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List of 1976 significant News Events in History

1. Apple Computer Company is formed by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak.
2. Isabel Peron is deposed as the President of Argentina by a military coup.
3. The CN tower in Toronto, Canada is completed and is the the tallest free standing structure in the world.
4. The first commercial Concorde flights take off during January of 1976
5. The popular film "Rocky" is released in the United States
6. Jimmy Carter wins Presidential Election
7. NASA unveils the first space shuttle, the Enterprise.
8. Nadia Comaneci wins 3 gold medals at the Montreal Olympics with seven perfect scores.
9. Tidal Wave in Philippines kills 5,000 First Legionnaires Disease affects 4,000 delegates in Pennsylvania.

Major News Stories include NASA unveils first space shuttle, Fidel Castro President of Cuba, \$2.00 bill Issued, Notting Hill Carnival Riots, Cod Wars between Iceland and UK, United States Bicentennial celebrations, First Legionnaires Disease.

1976 Inflation continues to be a problem around the world. Concorde enters service and cuts transatlantic flying time to 3-1/2 hours. One year after Microsoft is formed, Apple is formed by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. Nadia Comaneci scores the first ever perfect score in Gymnastics. In South Africa, riots in Soweto on June 16 mark the beginning of the end of apartheid. In music, the first of the Punk Bands appear The Damned.

Apple Computer Company is formed by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak.

The Apple Computer Company was established by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak during April of 1976. Jobs and Wozniak created their company with the intention of developing small, easy to use computers that could be used at home or in offices, what would

later become known as the personal computer." Apple Computers emphasized graphics, portability, and a simple user interface. While their very first product, the Apple I, was not exactly the ideal machine for their cause, they were able to improve the design in subsequent models and accomplish their goals. The company struggled to stay relevant between the mid-1980s and mid-1990s, a time period which saw the departure of Steve Jobs. Jobs' return and a partnership with Microsoft in 1997 marked a return to innovation for the company. The early 2000s saw Apple increase its standing in the tech world with the creation of the iMac, iPod, iTunes, and iPhone. In the early-2010s the company became the largest tech company in the world having been valued at over \$700 billion.

Isabel Peron is deposed as the President of Argentina by a military coup.

The President of Argentina, Isabel Peron, is overthrown by a military coup on March 24, 1976. Isabel Peron was the third wife of Juan Peron, who had been the Argentine president during the 1940s and 1950s, and again from 1973 to 1974 after having been in exile for 18 years. She was his vice president and took office after his death in 1974, making her the first female president in the world. While she was in power the economy suffered high levels of inflation. She was also accused of sanctioning political murders and was suspected of being responsible for the disappearance of hundreds of political dissidents. She initially tried to flee the coup, but was detained until her eventual exile in 1981. She went to Spain where she has remained since, despite efforts to extradite and charge her for human rights violations by Argentina.

The CN tower in Toronto, Canada is completed and is the tallest free standing structure in the world.

1. The CN Tower opened in Toronto, Canada during June of 1976.
2. It took over 3 years of construction to build the 1,815 foot tower.
3. The CN Tower held the title of the tallest free-standing structure in the world for 34 years.
4. It has featured several unique entertainment options throughout the years such as rides, the 360 restaurant, and various shopping opportunities.

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More current events...

(Continued from page 11)

tured a month-long gallery exhibit, *Mitzi by Mackie*, featuring Bob Mackie's Emmy-winning costumes from her specials along with a selection of costumes from Gaynor's legendary stage shows and concert appearances.

On March 8, 2009, Gaynor was honored with the 2009 Boston Youth Moves lifetime achievement award, presented by Chita Rivera at Swellegance, the Boston Youth Moves annual fundraiser in Boston.

On November 7, 2009, Gaynor was honored with Chapman University's lifetime achievement in the arts award during the 28th annual American celebration gala night at Chapman University in Orange, California. On July 10, 2009, she was honored with the Tremaine 2009 entertainer of the year award from the Joe Tremaine dance competition nationals final gala in Orlando, Florida.

On April 13, 2010, she was honored with the Bob Harrington Lifetime Achievement Award at the 25th annual Bistro Awards in New York City.

On April 18, 2010, Gaynor won the 2010 National Academy of Television Arts and Sci-

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5. The Tower is also functional in that it is used for radio, television, and cellular data transmission.

6. In 1995, it was categorized as one of the Wonders of the Modern World.

How Much things cost in 1976

Yearly Inflation Rate USA 5.75%

Year End Close Dow Jones Industrial Average 1004

Interest Rates Year End Federal Reserve 6.25%

Average Cost of new house \$43,400.00

Average Income per year \$16,000.00

Average Monthly Rent \$220.00

Cost of a gallon of Gas 59 cents

A few More Examples

Plymouth Arrow \$3,175.00

Polaroid Camera \$28.00

Mens Sports Jacket \$37.15

Zenith 25" Color TV \$599.00

CB Radio \$147.00

Micro Wave Oven \$169.00

Saint George, Utah

Perfect Home 4 bedrooms , living room with fireplace, large family room dining room , laundry, 2-1/2 baths on large plot \$36,500

The first commercial Concorde flights take off during January of 1976 as regular passenger service began.

There were two simultaneous flights, one from London to Bahrain and another from Paris to Rio de Janeiro. The Concorde aircrafts could carry about 100 passengers and flew at much faster speeds than the typical aircraft. Its cruising speed was about 1,350 miles per hour and could travel between London and New York in just under three hours, cutting the travel time in half for most flights. The Concorde aircrafts were retired in 2003 as interest in the service declined due to safety concerns.

The popular film "Rocky" is released in the United States during December of 1976.

It was written by Sylvester Stallone, who also starred in the title role. The cast of "Rocky" included Carl Weathers, Talia Shire, Burgess Meredith, and Burt Young. The plot of the movie revolved around underdog boxer Rocky Balboa and his high profile match against champion Apollo Creed. It was a huge hit film, earning over

\$200 million at the box office and it was critically successful, too. "Rocky" was also nominated for several Academy Awards, winning Best Picture, Best Directing, and Best Film Editing. "Rocky" was so popular that Stallone turned it into a franchise with six sequels and counting.

Jimmy Carter wins Presidential Election

1. The U.S. Presidential election between Democrat Jimmy Carter and Republican incumbent Gerald Ford takes place in November of 1976.

2. Ford had the distinction of being the only U.S. politician to serve as the Vice President and President without having been elected to either office, rising to power after the resignations of Spiro Agnew and Richard Nixon.

3. In a nation embroiled in political scandals, Carter, a one-term Governor and peanut farmer from Georgia, emerged as the ultimate political outsider and won in one of the biggest political upsets in the history of United States elections.

4. The results were extremely close with Carter winning with just 50.1 percent of the popular vote and 297 electoral votes.

NASA unveils the first space shuttle, the Enterprise.

NASA unveiled the first space shuttle, the Enterprise, to the public during September of 1976. The Enterprise was only a prototype created to conduct test flights and the official launch of the Space Shuttle Program did not occur until April of 1981 with the launch of the Columbia. The Enterprise weighed about 150,000 pounds and cost nearly \$10 billion to create. While the first space shuttle never actually made it into space, it did become the first of the space shuttles to fly during a test in the following year after it was unveiled.

The United States launches the LAGEOS-1 satellite.

NASA launched the LAGEOS-1 (Laser Geodynamic Satellite) during May of 1976. The nine-hundred pound satellite was launched from the Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. It measured about two feet in diameter and resembled a giant aluminum golf ball. Its mission was to measure geophysical activity using laser beams, resulting in extremely accurate measurements. The launch of LAGEOS-1 was successful and it was put

(Continued on page 13)

Current events continued...

(Continued from page 12)

ences - *New York Chapter Emmy Award for Outstanding Entertainment Program/Special for her public television musical documentary "Mitzi Gaynor: Razzle Dazzle! The Special Years"*.

On September 10, 2016, Gaynor was honored with the inaugural "Legend Award" from Nigel Lythgoe's Dizzy Feet Foundation.

On September 30, 2017, Gaynor was inducted into the Great American Songbook Hall of Fame, which celebrates lyricists, composers, and performers who helped to create "the soundtrack of our lives" with their contribution to American Popular song, by its founder Michael Feinstein.

Television Specials - *On October 14, 1968, Gaynor starred in her first television special, Mitzi. In specials including Mitzi - The First Time and Mitzi ... Zings into Spring she showcased the talents she had first used as a theatrical performer, then in films like There's No Business Like Show Business, Les Girls, and South Pacific, and finally as a concert performer.*

From the internet...

(Continued from page 12)

into Earth's orbit where it continues to study the shape of Earth and tectonic plate movement associated with continental drift.

Cod Wars between Iceland and United Kingdom.

Iceland and the United Kingdom come to an agreement over fishing rights in the North Atlantic during June of 1976, ending a series of conflicts known as the "Cod Wars." The first Cod War took place from 1958 to 1961, the second from 1972 to 1973, and the third and final from 1975 to 1976. The outcome of the wars proved to be positive for Iceland but somewhat devastating for British fishing communities. The terms of the agreement stated that fishing enterprises from the United Kingdom would have to stay specific distances away from Iceland's fishing regions and would be excluded from using some of the best fishing regions in the North Atlantic.

Nadia Comaneci wins 3 gold medals at the Montreal Olympics with seven perfect scores.

Fourteen-year-old Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci wins 5 total medals in gymnastics at the Montreal Olympics. She became the first female gymnast to be awarded a perfect ten score for her uneven bar routine and went on to garner a total of seven perfect scores throughout the rest of the games. Comaneci also went on to win medals at the 1980 Olympic Games held in Moscow.

Landing Vehicles from the US Spacecraft Viking I and Viking II set down safely on Mars.

NASA's Viking 1 Lander arrives at Mars during July of 1976. The two-part space probe had been launched during August of the previous year and it consisted of an orbiter and a lander. The Viking 1 Lander's mission was to land on the Martian surface in order to conduct scientific experiments and take photos. Many of the lander's experiments tested the atmosphere, soil and looked for signs of life on the planet. The Viking 1 Lander remained operational until November of 1982 when contact with it was lost by NASA.

More News and Key Events From 1976

Argentina Peso, British Pound and Italian Lira

all lose value against the US Dollar
Eccentric American billionaire Howard Hughes who had been a recluse for 20 years dies at the age of 70

Earthquake in Tabgshan China on July 28 News Events kills 655,000
Earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale strikes in North Eastern Italy

Tidal Wave in Philippines kills 5,000
The First Commercial Concorde Flights take off

Worst Drought on record hits **Britain** forcing the use of Standpipes
First Legionnaires Disease affects 4,000 delegates in Pennsylvania on July 23rd from a chapter of the American Legion

Soweto riots in South Africa mark the beginning of the end of apartheid

In New York City, **the "Son of Sam"** pulls a gun on July 29th and begins a series of attacks that terrorized the city for the next year.

The United States celebrates 200th birthday of independence from British Rule.

Three Gunmen abduct a school bus with 26 children and the driver near Chowchilla, California (all children and driver are saved after they dig a tunnel out of the quarry they were buried in.)

The \$2.00 bill Issued

Two passenger jets collide over Zagreb, Yugoslavia due to air traffic controller errors
The world's first recorded Ebola virus epidemic begins in Sudan on June 27th

Palestinian extremists hijack an Air France plane in Greece with 246 passengers and 12 crew. They take it to Entebbe, Uganda, where Israeli commandos storm the plane freeing the hostages.

A Hijacked Sabena Boeing is stormed by Israeli soldiers releasing 100 hostages
Princess Margaret announces Separation from Lord Snowdon (Antony Armstrong-Jones)

Hurricane Belle Hits US East Coast

32 Black African Nations **Boycott Montreal Olympics** in protest to continued sporting links between New Zealand and South Africa.

In Guatemala and Honduras

(Continued on page 14)

Current events continued...

(Continued from page 13)

ras an earthquake kills more than 22,000.

Fidel Castro becomes The President of Cuba

Popular Films

- One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
- All the President's Men
- The Omen
- Taxi Driver
- The Outlaw Josey Wales
- Rocky

Popular Musicians and songs

- Bay City Rollers
- Barry Manilow
- Diana Ross
- Paul Simon
- The Four Seasons
- Paul McCartney and Wings
- Elton John
- Rod Stewart
- Queen
- ABBA

Popular TV Programs

- The Six Million Dollar Man
- Kojak
- The Jeffersons
- All in the Family
- Maude
- Good Times
- M*A*S*H
- The Carol Burnett Show

Born This Year in 1976

- Colin Farrell May 31st
- Reese Witherspoon March 22nd
- Jennifer Capriati March 29th
- Melissa Joan Hart April 18th

Technology

Concorde operated by Britain and France enters service **cuts transatlantic flying time to 3 1/2 hours**

First laser printer introduced by IBM - the IBM 3800

An American Panel warns that **CFC's** Chloro-fluorocarbons used in Aerosol Cans damage the **Ozone layer**

The **Olympics**, broadcast from Montreal, Canada, **draw an estimated one billion viewers worldwide.**

Matsushita introduces the **VHS home video cassette recorder** to compete with **Sony's Beta max** system.

Hail and Farewell



Ronald Fenelon
1939 - 2022

Ronald Hugh Fenelon was born December 13, 1939, in Rockford, Illinois the son of James and Coila (Lucas) Fenelon. His younger years were spent in Rockford. When he was a teenager the family moved to St. Louis, Missouri where he graduated from high school. He furthered his education and received his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Arizona.

Ron started his career working for Deutsch Connectors as an Engineer and then for Ford Motor Company, Steiger Tractor, Glenwood Manufacturing and Warner Electric. He traveled extensively

throughout the World.

On June 11, 1960, Ron was married to Linda E. Schuette. To this union four sons were born: Geoffrey, Michael, David, Robert. Ron was a wonderful teacher to his children – he loved teaching them about cars, was a Troop Master for the Boy Scouts and was instrumental in getting the first indoor Hockey Rink in West Fargo. He was his sons’ best hockey fan. He also had a love for aviation – Ron had his own plane for several years and enjoyed flying. He enjoyed attending the EAA Air Venture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin checking out the different types of planes.

Ron had been a member of the Lincoln and Continental Owners Club and also a member of the LCOC Northstar Region club. Ron had a lot of knowledge of 1970 and 1980 era Lincolns, especially the mechanical aspects of these fine cars. He was a gifted conversationalist and could go on for long periods of time talking about the various differences in the model years of Lincoln automobiles.

While working at Glenwood Manufacturing, Ron met Linda Heike Schroeder and the couple was united in marriage January 18, 1986 at Glenwood Lutheran Church. After their marriage the Fenelons moved to Rockford, Illinois. The family enjoyed vacations back to the Alexandria area where they rented a cabin on Lake Andrew. When Ron and Linda retired, they returned to the Alexandria area and bought a home on Union Lake where they have lived since 2005.

Ron will be remembered as a family man who immersed himself in everything that he did. He and Linda tried to make all the different events that the kids were involved in. He was also very active in his community during his retirement years. He was on the board for Let’s Go Fishing, Hudson Township Supervisor, and on the Sewer District Board. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Ron died at his home Sunday, January 30, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Linda; children: Geoffrey (Jody) Fenelon, Michael (Jan) Fenelon, David (Amy) Fenelon, Terry (Wanda) Schroeder, Stephanie (Donny) Court; 10 grandchildren: Nathan, Brandon, Maura, Colin, Kyle, Emma, Sean, Claire, Devin, Dylan; great grandson, Ethan; brother, Robert (Carol) Fenelon; sister, Karen (Dennis) Darnell, sister-in-law, Jan Fenelon. He was preceded in death by his son, Robert in 2017; parents, brothers: Gerald, Kenneth (Duke).

Services were held in Alexandria this past February.

Preview of Coming Events

For 2022

- March **Sunday Brunch, Dangerfields**, Shakopee, Minnesota **Sunday, March 13**. Details on back page.
- April The April event, will be a lunch/brunch. We are still working out details, which were not available before press time. As soon as we have this firmed up, Bob Johnson will be sending out an email with more details. And all the information will be available in the April newsletter.
- May **05/02/21 Bill Holliday trip to Harley Davison** in Milwaukee, May 12 - 15. Specific details will be included in next month's newsletter. **Please RSVP** to Bob Johnson 651-257-1715 or email arborbob41@aol.com **by May 9, 2022**.
- June **Annual Bloomington Lincoln Car show, Saturday June 11, 2022 at Bloomington Lincoln**, Bloomington, Minnesota. 10 p.m. to 2 p.m. Free lunch at noon and awards at 2 p.m. For those who say there is no such thing as a free lunch, you are wrong. Bloomington Lincoln will serve up lunch and it will be the best.

If you have any great ideas for brunch places or other events that we can do, please contact one of the board members. We can always use some help and new ideas from our members.



For Sale

1967 Continental Convertible Two owner car with only 85,000 miles. Service records since 1977. Arctic White with newer correct leather interior and ivory top. Always pampered and maintained with original 462 V8. Stainless steel exhaust and top mechanism works fine. Award winner in Touring/Original at 2012 and 2018 Mid-America National Meet. **\$39,000 Call Jon Cumpton at 612-859-1483.**

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

www.northstarlcoc.org Click on publications.

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

North Star LCOC events

Rescheduled from January

Sunday, March 13, at 11:30 a.m.

Dangerfields Restaurant,
1583 First Avenue East, Shakopee, MN

Please RSVP to Bob Johnson no later than Thursday, March 10.
Operators are standing by awaiting your call 651-257-1715
Or email: arborbob41@aol.com

We have been to Dangerfields before and everyone had such a good time, we thought it would be nice to go there again. It will be a great day, with a little sunshine and maybe, just maybe, nice enough to take out one of the classic Lincolns for the last run of the year.

Sun Newspapers rated Dangerfield's amongst the top restaurants in the Twin Cities area. Their brunch menu is quite extensive with great choices for everyone. Come on out and enjoy the day with your friends from the Lincoln club.

We were hoping to have a nice event for April to show in this display box. But, alas, we could not firm it up by the time we had to get the newsletter in the mail. Look for some great stuff for us to do in the next issue of the Northstar News.

April The April event, will be a lunch/brunch. We are still working out details, which were not available before press time. As soon as we have this firmed up, Bob Johnson will be sending out an email with more details. And all the information will be available in the April newsletter.

May **05/02/21 Bill Holliday trip to Harley Davison** in Milwaukee, May 12 - 15. Specific details will be included in next month's newsletter. **Please RSVP** to Bob Johnson 651-257-1715 or email arborbob41@aol.com **by May 9, 2022.**

June **Annual Bloomington Lincoln Car show, Saturday June 11, 2022 at Bloomington Lincoln,** Bloomington, Minnesota. 10 p.m. to 2 p.m. Free lunch at noon and awards at 2 p.m. For those who say there is no such thing as a free lunch, you are wrong. Bloomington Lincoln will serve up lunch and it will be the best.