

## *Jack and Marilyn and their Town Cars*



### Marilyn Fletcher's 1996 Town Car at the Duluth Meet in 2008

*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.*

While spending some time trying to come up with a feature article for the May issue of the Northstar News, I came across this delightful article written some time ago by Marilyn Fletcher, the late wife of Jack Fletcher. Jack and Marilyn were about the best people that you could ever hope to meet. Over the years, they had a number of Lincolns, both old and new, and loved the brand about as much as anyone could. They made it to a lot of shows all over the United States and always drove the car that they planned to show to the meet. Like Harvey and Faythe Oberg, no trailer queens here. The Fletchers would often regale in telling of some of their somewhat exciting experiences traveling to shows with mechanical problems often occurring in out-of-the-way places like Podunk Hollow, Nevada. Quite possibly, Marilyn and Jack were two of the most interesting members of the LCOC and the North Star Region, We miss Marilyn terribly and we know that our somewhat wearisome world was so much better with both her and Jack in it.

This article originally appeared in one of the back issues of the Northstar News and was re-printed in May/June 2012 issue of Continental Comments. So put this read down, go into the kitchen, fill up a glass with something good, and enjoy this article and the rest of the Northstar

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Trivia from the Internet



***"That's All Folks!"***

**Mel Blanc**

American Voice Over Actor  
1908 - 1989

**Melvin Jerome Blanc** was an American voice actor and radio personality whose career spanned over 60 years. During the Golden Age of Radio, he provided character voices and vocal sound effects for comedy radio programs, including those of Jack Benny, Abbott and Costello, Burns and Allen, The Great Gildersleeve, Judy Canova, and his own short-lived sitcom.

However, he became known worldwide for his work in the Golden Age of American Animation as the voices of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, Tweety, Sylvester, Yosemite Sam, Foghorn Leghorn, the Tasmanian Devil, and numerous other characters from the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies theatrical cartoons. He later voiced characters for Hanna-Barbera's television cartoons, including Barney Rubble and Dino on The Flintstones, Mr. Spacely on The Jetsons, Secret Squirrel on The At-

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I think that most of us were fooled by the thought of April being the best weather-wise for the transition from our long-suffering winter. This year, we were really fooled. Yes, I know that we had four, count them, four absolutely beautiful days; the rest of the month, snow, cold, windy, and wet. Just miserable all the way around. I would like to see some nice 60-degree days before we jump to summer. At least, our rain and snow have been sufficient to take care of some of our drought problems and no really severe weather problems, like the tornadoes that have been hitting some of our states to the south. You see the news firsthand and note the widespread destruction of whole towns by tornadoes. A little snow, rain, just small stuff compared to our neighbors to the far south.

I am deeply saddened to report the loss of two long-time North Star members. Kathy Longley and Ted Anderson. Kathy was the beloved wife of Al Longley, and they had been married for over 51 years and had recently passed away after a long illness. Both were very active in the hobby and made frequent appearances at North Star events over the years. Additionally, they attended Lincoln Homecoming events at Hickory Corners, Michigan, and other national LCOC meets and shows. Kathy was a very warm and friendly person, and everyone she met walked away, being her friend. My heartfelt sympathies go out to Al and his family during this very sad time.

Ted Anderson also was a long-time North Star member. Although not recently too active due to the constraints of advancing age. Ted loved the classic Lincolns, especially anything with a V12 engine. He, too, will be missed by his friends in the hobby.

On an interesting note, Lincoln Motor Car Company is planning on building the new generation Nautilus SUV in China and bringing it back to the USA for sale. Also, Buick will be doing the same with their Envision SUV model. It is believed that both companies sell more automobiles in China than they do in this country. At one time, and that was during the 1950s, Ameri-

can automobiles were virtually the very best in the world. They were far better than any of the vehicles that came out of England, like Jaguar, Audi, BMW, and Mercedes from Germany. There was no comparison. Then we lost the magic. It didn't happen overnight, but our manufacturing quality went down, and people started looking at alternatives. The Japanese cranked up their low-cost manufacturing, along with state-sponsored subsidies.

Along with automobiles, we also gave away our tech business, computers and related equipment, chips, all forms of home entertainment, and an endless list of other things that were once manufactured in this country and are now shipped in from foreign countries. Now the big question is... How do we bring this manufacturing back to the United States to create good, high-paying jobs for our young people?

Eventually, we should be getting warmer, dryer weather, and that should encourage us to fire up the old cars after a long winter's hibernation. I only had the Cosmopolitan out a couple of times last year; perhaps we will have some 70-degree days, which is more conducive to cruising

in a 72-year-old vehicle. I think that even Niko would enjoy a ride in that car, especially with the windows down. Summer is short; let's try to make the most of it. Be sure to check out the North Star activities going on this summer. Some good possibilities for good fun, along with meeting some of your old friends and perhaps making a few new ones.

Once again, I make this fervent plea. I need interesting articles to fill up our newsletter. If you have had an interesting car, at this point, it doesn't even have to be a Lincoln; write about it and email it to me. If you have a picture or digital image, all the better. New cars, old cars, it really doesn't matter. If it is a fun story, send it to me so that we can share it with our membership.

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



Sweet Niko is looking a bit unhappy. Whenever Dad gets the camera out, the 100-watt smile disappears. The recent day was warm enough for the both of us to be outside for a little while enjoying some fresh air. Enough of this writing; it is time for Niko to get a treat.



*Directors Message by Bob Johnson**May 2023**(Continued from page 2)*

om *Ant/Secret Squirrel Show*, the title character of *Speed Buggy*, and Captain Caveman on *Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels* and *The Flintstone Kids*.

Referred to as "**The Man of a Thousand Voices**," he is regarded as one of the most influential people in the voice acting industry and as one of the greatest voice actors of all time.

**Early life** - Blanc was born on May 30, 1908, in San Francisco, California, to Eva, a Lithuanian Jewish immigrant, and Frederick Blank, the younger of two children. He grew up in San Francisco's Western Addition neighborhood and later in Portland, Oregon, where he attended Lincoln High School. He had an early fondness for voices and dialect, which he began practicing at the age of 10. He claimed that he changed the spelling of his name when he was 16, from Blank to Blanc, because a teacher told him that he would amount to nothing and be like his name, a "blank." He joined the Order of DeMolay as a young man and was eventually inducted into its Hall of Fame. After graduating from high school in 1927, he divided his time between leading an orchestra, becoming the youngest conductor in the country at the age of 19; and performing *shtick* in vaudeville shows around Washington, Oregon, and northern California.

**Career - Radio work** - Blanc began his radio career at the age of 19 in 1927, when he made his acting debut on the KGW program

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The tale of the 2023 winter is still ongoing. On April 16, at our Sunday Brunch at Dehn's Country Manor in Maple Grove, we had 20 members show up during another late-season snowstorm. Now the snow is finally gone, but now we have to deal with floods that we have not seen in over twenty years. Welcome to the Midwest; wait till next week, and it will be another new weather item to deal with.

We are **now in car show season!** First car show, Saturday, May 13, Wisconsin Dells at Mark Platt's Collector Car Garage. You still can reserve a room at the Ambers Inn, 608-253-2623. The second car show will be Saturday, June 17, in Bloomington, Minnesota, at Lincoln of Bloomington, and our third car show is Saturday, July 29, at the Blacksmith Lounge, Hugo, Minnesota, and will be the First Annual Lincoln and American Collector Car Show; there is a \$10 entrance fee, please register now. Email me if you need a registration form.

We have the best region or chapter newsletter anywhere in the old car hobby. Dave has been passionately doing this for 22 years. Please send him your Pride and Joy article for us to feature in our newsletter to help Dave keep up the great work that he has done all these years.

Dave and Tammy Heeren completed the 2023 North Star Region directory with pictures. I emailed the completed PDF to all our members on Monday, April 17, 2023, for your use. We will have printed 2023 Directories at our car shows as door prizes. Your North Star Board of Directors is very proud of Heeren's fantastic achievement. Thank you, Tammie and Dave.

Our Facebook presence continues to grow, with likes of over 1300. Please check our Facebook page and contact Jay White if you have any suggestions about more items for Facebook. We are posting our North Star Region Car Show flyers on Facebook to let other Lincoln Owners know about our car shows to help gain attendance at car shows. Please use our correct Facebook page, which is **North Star Lincoln Continental Car Club**.

We have over 78% of our North Star annual membership renewals back. Please send in your North Star membership renewal now so we know you will be a member again in our North Star region. This renewal is separate from the LCOC annual membership, and both need to be done each year. Except for new LCOC members who also get the first year North Star Region membership free.

Fellowship Plus Friends Equal Fun in the LCOC! WE NEED YOU TO RECRUIT ONE NEW MEMBER IN 2023. It is up to you. Can you recruit just one member for LCOC in 2023?

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

*Bob and Mary Johnson*

# Board Of Directors - 2023 - 2024

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	068690@gmail.com	2023
Treasurer	Matt Foley			2025
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	2025
Director	Tom Brace	H(651)644-1716	trbrace@comcast.net	2025
Director	Tina Zimpel	612-298-3632	tinajzim@gmail.com	2025
Director	Jeff Eisenberg	(612)521-3537	Jeff.eisenberg@libsontruck.com	2023
Director	Dave Heeren	(952)469-3647	dheeren41@hotmail.com	2025
Director	Ernie Christensen	651-500-0179	ernobc@yahoo.com	2025

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

## Fletchers love of Town Cars continued...

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News.

Marilyn Fletcher's Pearl Essence 1996 Lincoln Town Car was driven to all three National Meets in 2011, which is a feat in itself. But this is only part of the story. For six years, Marilyn had been in passionate pursuit of the Douglas Mattix Trophy, which the car finally won in Redmond, Oregon. Here is Marilyn's own story of the car as it originally appeared in *Northstar News*, the North Star Region newsletter.

"In the fall of 1996, I drove my husband, Jack Fletcher to Van Dam Lincoln-Mercury in Oak Park, Illinois to pick up a red 1997 Town Car that he had special ordered to use in his business travel. While waiting for Jack and Sales Manager, Doug Dykema, at the time Assistant Director and Activity Chairman of the Lakeshore Region, to complete the paperwork, I wandered

onto the showroom floor and noticed a slightly used 1996 Pearl Essence PGA Edition Town Car that was for sale. I fell in love with the color and the car. I asked Jack to switch and buy the '96 instead. Doug was amenable to making the deal on the low-mileage used car, but Jack was not. Over the years, every time I saw the Pearl Essence Town Car I wished that I had one.

In the fall of 2003, Jack replaced the red '97 as his daily driver with an '04 Navigator. I inherited the '97 as my daily driver. A year later, Jack was surfing on eBay and came across my dream car. It was for sale in Boston, a '96 PGA Tour Edition, Pearl Essence, with parchment interior and blue trim. Just before bidding closed, we placed our bid - \$4,200 -BINGO; we were the high bidder. However, the bid was below the reserve. After several phone calls, the seller decided to let us have the car for \$300 more than our bid. A



Marilyn and Jack with their 1996 Town Car, picture perfect!

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*The Hoot Owls*, where his ability to provide voices for multiple characters first attracted attention. He moved to Los Angeles in 1932, where he met Estelle Rosenbaum (1909-2003), whom he married a year later before returning to Portland. He moved to KEX in 1933 to produce and co-host his *Cobweb and Nuts* show with his wife Estelle, which debuted on June 15. The program played Monday through Saturday from 11:00 pm to midnight, and by the time the show ended two years later, it appeared from 10:30 pm to 11:00 pm.

With his wife's encouragement, Blanc returned to Los Angeles and joined Warner Bros.-owned KFWB in Hollywood in 1935. He joined *The Johnny Murray Show*, but the following year switched to CBS Radio and *The Joe Penner Show*.

Blanc was a regular on the NBC Red Network show *The Jack Benny Program* in various roles, including voicing Benny's Maxwell automobile (in desperate need of a tune-up), violin teacher Professor LeBlanc, Polly the Parrot, Benny's pet polar bear Carmichael and the train announcer. The first role came from a mishap when the recording of the automobile's sounds failed to play on cue, prompting Blanc to take the microphone and im-

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## Northstar Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2023

### BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

The meeting was called to order at Bloomington Lincoln by Regional Director Bob Johnson at 6:35 p.m.

Board members attending the meeting were Bob Johnson, Dave Gustafson, Tina Zimple, Chris Struble, Matt Foley, and Dave Heeren, Tom Brace, Bob Roth. The Board members not present were Ernie Christensen, Jay White, and Jeff Eisenberg. Visitors present were Tammie Heeren and Dave Sandels.

The minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda of this meeting were approved.

#### Director Reports:

Our next activity will be a Sunday Buffet, on April 16 at Dehn's County Manor, 11281 Fernbrook Lane N, Maple Grove, Minnesota, at 11:30 a.m.

May Road Trip to Mark Platts Collector Car Garage, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin Saturday, May 13, two or three-day road trip (Friday and Saturday) or (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, your choice)

Dave and Tammy Hereen gave an update on the 2023 North Star Region Club Directory with your picture as a new feature.

Matt Foley reports that we currently have \$5423.86 in the treasury with all bills paid.

Jay White informed us that Facebook now has over 1300 likes. Please use the correct Facebook page, which is **North Star Lincoln Continental Car Club**.

Membership and Publications: Dave provided an update on the 2023 North Star Region Membership renewals are at 78%. Articles from our members would be much appreciated. Our newsletter is so very much better with original content. Send something to your editor when you have some time.

Projects: Ernie Christensen suggested doing a Club Window Cling. We have an LCOC window cling for \$3.50. This would be a good region project and should be cheaper in volume.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Next Meeting to be held at ---Bloomington Lincoln, Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Struble



## Fletchers continued...

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provide the sounds himself. The audience reacted so positively that Benny decided to dispense with the recording altogether and have Blanc continue in that role. One of Blanc's characters from Benny's radio (and later TV) programs was "Sy, the Little Mexican," who spoke one word at a time. He continued to work with Benny on radio until the series ended in 1955 and followed the program into television from Benny's 1950 debut episode through guest spots on NBC specials in the 1970s.

Radio Daily magazine wrote in 1942 that Blanc "specialized in over fifty-seven voices, dialects, and intricate sound effects," and by 1946, he was appearing on over fifteen programs in various supporting roles. His success on *The Jack Benny Program* led to his own radio show on the CBS Radio Network, *The Mel Blanc Show*, which ran from September 3, 1946, to June 24, 1947. Blanc played himself as the hapless owner of a fix-it shop, as well as his young cousin Zookie.

**Animation voice work during the golden age of Hollywood** - In December 1936, Mel Blanc joined Leon Schlesinger Productions, which was producing theatrical cartoon shorts for Warner Bros. After sound man Treg Brown was put in charge of cartoon voices, and Carl

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day or two later, we hooked up our car hauler behind the Navigator and off to Boston we went. We picked the car up on a Monday morning. It was more beautiful than I expected. Physically and mechanically, it was near perfect, and it had a new battery and four new tires.

The original buyer was a retired gentleman living in Florida. When he passed away, his daughter brought the car to Boston but decided it was too cumbersome to drive and park in that metropolitan area, so she listed the car on eBay with a \$6,000 reserve.

The '97 Town Car, now with over 200,000 miles (some original - most duplicate), was given to our youngest son. The '96 became my daily driver. It was so nice and clean - I never parked it where it could get door dings, etc., and kept it washed and detailed regularly. It was used to haul groceries, flowers, plants, and everything else that a homemaker uses her car for. It also became a backup car for Jack's travels when the high-maintenance Navigator was in a shop. (Would you believe that Lincoln put three rear ends in the Navigator under warranty?)

I had no intention of showing my '96 in any LCOC National Concours, however in 2006, the National Board established the Mattix Trophy in recognition of Doug Mattix, who had served as National President for eight years and made a host of outstanding contributions to the club, including modernizing judging and concours procedures (which Jack worked on implementing as Mid-America Chief Judge). My '96, now ten years old, was eligible to compete for this trophy. Jack and I were long-time friends of Doug and his wife, Carol. I thought that it would be neat if our trophy display housed a "best of show in class" trophy with Doug's name on it. Little did I suspect at that time that the road to the Mattix Trophy would take more than five years, a lot of work, and quite a few dollars.

In 2006, I showed the car at Indianapolis. It needed to win a Lincoln Trophy in the Primary Class before it could enter the Senior Class and compete for the Mattix Trophy. The '96 tied for first with one of the late Jerry Flanary's beautiful '95 Town Cars but did not get the champagne bucket - Jerry's car did. In 2007, the car was shown at Itasca. Then it also tied for first with Patti Nawrot's spectacular green '97 garage kept low mileage Signature Series. Patti got the champagne bucket (the

Lincoln Trophy), as she should have. In 2008, the car was shown in both the MANM in Duluth and the ENM in Columbus. What's new! Again it tied for first at both meets, but no Lincoln Trophy. In Duluth, Paul and Deb Andahl's white-on-white, perfect in all respects '94 Town Car took home the prize. In Columbus, for reasons unknown, the car only placed second. The first-place winner was Ed and Kimberly Hilton's 1996 Cartier Town Car. Hilton's car was awarded a Lincoln Trophy, as it should have. The Hilton's '96 is the only '90s vintage Town Car Jack, and I have ever seen that came from the factory with lighted vanity mirrors for the rear passengers. Little did I know at the time that I would come up against Hilton's car again in the future. (In 2008, we did not take my '96 to the Western National Meet in Irvine, California, as we took our '71 Lincoln Continental, that ended up as the trip from hell - major electrical problems both ways.)



Fletchers 1996 Town Car undergoing mechanical inspection at Redmond, Oregon meet.

Still seeking a Lincoln Trophy, so I could get the '96 in the Senior Class, we drove the car to the Western National Meet in Reno in 2009. There the car was up against a quite similar looking '95 owned by Jim and Carol Higgs. Again, a tie for first, with Higgs going home with the champagne bucket. My '96 and Higgs' '95 were very close in all judging details that needed to be taken care of. This proved to be a wise decision because on the trip I was disappointed that I did not come away with a Lincoln Trophy after driving halfway across the country, but I knew in my head and heart that the Higgs' car was the better car.

In 2010, the single National Meet we attended was Lincoln, Nebraska. We only took our '71 Lincoln Continental to this meet because we were scheduled to be the wagon masters on the driving tour across the Lincoln

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## More on the Fletchers

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Stalling became music director, Brown introduced Blanc to animation directors Tex Avery, Bob Clampett, Friz Freleng, and Frank Tashlin, who loved his voices. The first cartoon Blanc worked on was *Picador Porky* (1937) as the voice of a drunken bull. He soon after received his first starring role when he replaced Joe Dougherty as Porky Pig's voice in *Porky's Duck Hunt*, which marked the debut of Daffy Duck, also voiced by Blanc.

Following this, Blanc became a very prominent vocal artist for Warner Bros., voicing a wide variety of the "Looney Tunes" characters. Bugs Bunny, as whom Blanc made his debut in *A Wild Hare* (1940), was known for eating carrots frequently (especially while saying his catchphrase "Eh, what's up, doc?"). To follow this sound with the animated voice, Blanc would bite into a carrot and then quickly spit into a spittoon. One often-repeated story is that Blanc was allergic to carrots, which Blanc denied.

In Disney's *Pinocchio*, Blanc was hired to perform the voice of Gideon the Cat. However, it was eventually decided to have Gideon be a mute character (similar to Dopey from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*), so all of Blanc's recorded dialogue was deleted except for a solitary hiccup, which was heard three times in the finished film.

Blanc also originated the voice and laugh of Woody Woodpecker for the

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highway on Sunday and Monday following the meet. We didn't want to be burdened with two cars, with all of the other stuff ended up in something akin to herding cats with almost all of the cars in the group of 14 being scattered all over Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa as a result of several wrong turns by some of the participants. (But that's another story.)

For 2011, we decided that we were going for the gold for real. At the end of April, the '96 was retired from everyday use. It now had 98,000 miles on the odometer. It was placed on one of our hoists, where the undercarriage was cleaned and repainted by Jack and our son, Bill. All of the previous score sheets were collected, and every "gig" was checked out and corrected. The engine compartment was detailed - to the extent that the alternator was replaced, even though it was in perfectly good working condition because it was severely pitted and detracted (stood out like a sore thumb) from the other detailing that was done.



Marilyn and Jack with the sought-after Mattix Trophy at Redmond show.

Off to Laconia, New Hampshire in June for the first of the 2011 National Meets. Bingo, I came home with my Lincoln Trophy, the car was now a Senior, and I could go for the Mattix. (On the way home, we blew out the left front tire, but that, too, is another story.)

The next stop in the run for the Mattix was Pontiac, Michigan at the end of July. Here the competition was tough - 30 years of attending meets has taught us that Senior cars are judged "harsher" than Primary, as they should be. My main competitor in Pontiac was Hilton's '96, the car that beat me out for a Lincoln Trophy in Columbus in '08. Again the two '96s were tied for first at the end of the judging on Saturday, but who gets the Mattix? The Hiltons. While Ed and Kimberly kept saying that they thought my car was the better of the two, I

knew when I first saw their car again that my car would not beat theirs.

The week after Pontiac was the memorial service for Art Whitmire. I knew that John Talbourdet, Chief Judge, would be coming to Illinois for that service, so I asked him to bring my judging sheets (rather than mail them later as he usually does) in order that Jack and Bill would have additional time to correct the items that caused a deduction in Pontiac. These sheets were a real revelation - I wouldn't call it nit-picking, but every box on all three sheets, except "convertible top" contained a remark. I have to admit the three guys that judged this car were tough but honestly fair. What were the deductions? Non-Motorcraft ignition wires, torn hood insulation, stone chips on the front clip, faded grille chrome, ding in the trunk, front, and back bumper scratches, wear on the driver's seat, scratches on the mirrors, etc. We had been searching nationwide for a NOS replacement hood insulator. There simply are none available. One day our son Bill called. He had found a '97 Town Car for sale in Rockford, Illinois, checked it out, and noticed that it had a near-perfect hood insulator. The asking price for the car was \$2,800, or the best offer. Jack met Bill at the seller's place and ended up offering \$1,200, which was accepted. The insulator and grille were removed from the donor car and placed on my car - an immediate improvement in noticeable defects. (Bill is now driving the donor car; it runs perfectly and has four brand-new tires. Also, after it was cleaned up, it looks quite nice.)

Next, my car was sent to the paint shop, where the bumpers, front clip and the trunk were refinished. Pearl Essence paint is a three-step process, quite time consuming, and I was concerned that the job would not be done on time. I got the car back three days before we were to leave for the Western National Meet in Redmond, Oregon; it looked great. As far as I knew, everything that had been the cause of a deduction or comment in past judging had been corrected, if possible.

At Redmond, my competition was the Higgs' car that had beat me out for a Lincoln Trophy in Reno in 2009. The two cars now in competition for the Mattix Trophy were both fine, well-preserved vehicles. Higgs' car had been driven up from southern California, mine 2,030 miles across the great plains and

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## Marilyn, Jack and their Town Cars

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theatrical cartoons produced by Walter Lantz for Universal Pictures but stopped voicing Woody after the character's first three shorts when he was signed to an exclusive contract with Warner Bros. Despite this; his laugh was still used in the *Woody Woodpecker* cartoons until 1951, when Grace Stafford recorded a softer version, while his "Guess who!?" signature line was used in the opening titles until the end of the series and closure of Walter Lantz Productions in 1972.

During World War II, Blanc served as the voice of the hapless *Private Snafu* in a series of shorts produced by Warner Bros. as a way of training recruited soldiers through the medium of animation.

Throughout his career, Blanc, aware of his talents, protected the rights to his voice characterizations contractually and legally.

He, and later his estate, never hesitated to take civil action when those rights were violated. Voice actors at the time rarely received screen credits, but Blanc was an exception; by 1944, his contract with Warner Bros. stipulated a credit reading "Voice characterization(s) by Mel Blanc."

According to his autobiography, Blanc asked for and received this screen credit from studio boss Leon Schlesinger after he was denied a salary raise. Initially, Blanc's screen credit was limited only to cartoons in which he voiced *Bugs Bunny*. This changed

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through the mountains. I hoped that I was not going to lose again. My car breezed through the mechanical judging process with a perfect score. When Higgs' car was being checked for mechanicals, they were missing a tape cassette. The mechanical judge asked Jack if Jim Higgs could borrow one of mine so he wouldn't lose a full point in this category. Jack said, "No," commenting that Higgs was in direct competition with my car. He was joking, and we did give Higgs a tape, so his car would receive a perfect mechanical score. Who had the better car would now be decided on Saturday on the judging field.



Glenn Kramer presenting the Mattix Trophy to Jack and Marilyn Fletcher at the Redmond, Oregon meet.

On Saturday, on the show field, judging was early and quick. Higgs' car was judged first. Mine next. Paul Andahl was the captain of the judging team. After the team completed its early inspection of my car, Paul came over and said that he had some bad news, my car had a Gates serpentine belt instead of a Motorcraft belt, and the oil filter was generic. I had to sign off on the non-authentic items on the judging sheets. Jack and I were devastated. How did we miss these? We recalled - as an afterthought when the car came out of the paint shop, Jack, in passing, asked that the oil be changed. It never occurred to him or our mechanic to replace the Motorcraft filter with another Motorcraft filter. With regard to the Gates belt, it must have been installed when the alternator was changed and apparently went unnoticed when the car was judged in Pontiac.

We were sure that these two defects in the "Authenticity" category would cause me to miss out on the Mattix. All day long, we said, well, we are from the Chicago area.

Like the Cubs, wait until next year.

At the awards banquet Saturday night, we didn't expect to receive the Mattix Trophy. We were sure because, among other things, especially the time the judges took going over the car, that the best we could get would be a first but not score as high as the Higgs' car. As many of you know, when the winners are announced, the Primary car awards are announced first, with Senior cars being last. The field for the show was small, so the wait wasn't as long as it could have been. When the Chief Judge called out the winners for Class 309, the last class on the list, he announced that the Higgs' car received second place and my car received first. I almost cried. Finally, I was going to take home the coveted Mattix Trophy - the best Senior 1990 Lincoln or newer Town Car, Navigator, Aviator, Blackwood, Lincoln LS, and 1988-2002 Lincoln Continental. My \$4,500 daily driver was the best of show in this class. Wow! (But Jack has reminded me that \$4,500 was just the initial investment.)



Two wonderful people, Marilyn and Jack Fletcher with their award-winning Town car.

This car has since been retired from competition and has already been relegated to the status of grocery hauler and errand-runner. And NO, it's not for sale at any price. If anyone asks, they will get a flip-side answer to one that Jack has been asked if his '61 is for sale - "You'll have to ask my heirs."





## Lincoln's plan to regain 'mojo'

(Continued from page 8)

in March 1945 when the contract was amended to also include a screen credit for cartoons featuring Porky Pig and/or Daffy Duck. This, however, excluded any shorts with the two characters made before that amendment occurred, even if they were released after the fact (*Book Revue* and *Baby Bottleneck* are both examples of this). By the end of 1946, Blanc began receiving a screen credit in any subsequent Warner Bros. cartoon for which he provided voices.

**Voice work for Hanna-Barbera and others** - In 1960, after the expiration of his exclusive contract with Warner Bros., Blanc continued working for them, but also began providing voices for the TV cartoons produced by Hanna-Barbera; his roles during this time included Barney Rubble of *The Flintstones* and Cosmo Spacely of *The Jetsons*. His other voice roles for Hanna-Barbera included Dino the Dinosaur, Secret Squirrel, Speed Buggy, and Captain Caveman, as well as voices for Wally Gator and *The Perils of Penelope Pitstop*. Blanc also worked with former "Looney Tunes" director Chuck Jones, who by this time was directing shorts with his own company Sib Tower 12 (later MGM Animation/Visual Arts), doing vocal effects for the *Tom and Jerry* series from 1963 to 1967.

Blanc was the first voice of Toucan Sam in *Froot Loops* commercials. Blanc reprised some of his Warner Bros. characters

(Continued on page 10)



Dianne Craig  
President, Lincoln  
Motor Car Company

After three years of declining U.S. sales, the brand's new president says a smaller dealer network is needed to be successful. Lincoln's new president, Dianne Craig, is working to galvanize the luxury brand's stalled revival by shrinking its dealer network, refocusing its electrification

strategy, and updating its products to spark interest from new and returning customers.

"We have to get our mojo back," Dianne Craig told *Automotive News* this week in New York as Lincoln introduced the redesigned Nautilus, a product she hopes will be key to that plan.

Lincoln executives spent much of the past decade working to make the brand relevant again in an increasingly crowded luxury market. Their efforts succeeded to an extent — U.S. sales topped 112,000 vehicles in 2019, a 12-year high — then flatlined when the pandemic hit.

Craig, who succeeded Joy Falotico in December, now vows that Lincoln will grow again. "It's really very straightforward — great products, great service," she said. "That will define the future of the brand." Many of Lincoln's retailers, however, may not be part of that future. Although Craig called the brand's dealer network a "strategic advantage," she said it must get smaller. Lincoln had 637 dealers at the start of 2023, according to *Automotive News*' annual dealer census. "We have too many dealers," Craig said. "If we're going to be a successful luxury brand, we need brand-exclusive facilities. Most of the dealers we have are still dual. We love them as our Ford partner, but we need to focus on having that brand-exclusive experience."

As of late last year, Lincoln had about 145 standalone stores. It has been asking dealers in the top 120 markets to invest in new single-brand showrooms. Craig declined to say how many stores the brand should have but suggested it could be around 356, the number of dealers who have signed up for Lincoln's electric vehicle certification program. "At the end of the day, all I know is we have too many," she said. "As we evolve

to EVs with the dealers that signed up with our EV tenets, it's probably in the right snap bracket to where we ultimately need to go, and we'll work really closely with the dealers to get there."

A Lincoln spokesperson said the company will work with dealers individually to address their differing needs "as this is not a one-size-fits-all approach." Craig said company officials were having discussions with "all of our dealers" about remaining with the brand. "I've had many conversations with dealers over the last four months, many that are my personal friends, that don't want to give up the brand because they love the brand," she said. "But ... if there's not an industry there to serve, does it really make sense for them to go on this next evolution with the investments they'll have to make for EV? Or just focus on Ford? We want to do the right thing for them as business partners."

**New EV focus** - Lincoln has lagged much of the industry in rolling out EVs, which is particularly problematic in a luxury market that's now dominated by Tesla and with major competitors offering multiple EVs. Craig has indicated she may be taking a different approach than the brand's predecessors, saying she will not specify how many EVs or what year they might arrive. "When I'm ready to make a declaration about when we're ready to come to market with our first EV or second EV, it will be when we're really ready to talk about it," she said. "The most important thing I'm focused on is to make sure we have EVs that we bring to market that are irresistible."

Lincoln has said that it plans to launch three EVs globally by 2025 with a fourth coming in 2026, and that 90 percent of its U.S. volume will be from electrified products by 2030.

Craig did not reaffirm that plan, which was established by past leaders. "No declarations on how many or confirming what was stated in the past," she said. "It's not my focus. My focus isn't on the timing or how many; it's making sure we get the EVs right."

**Modified EV program** - As part of that new focus, Lincoln tweaked the company's EV certification program for dealers by deferring the timetable for adding EV chargers. "As the market and EV adoption continues to evolve, we have modified the program to allow for a slightly longer grow-in period for Lincoln retailers to account for future energy

(Continued on page 10)

*More on Lincoln's future plans...*

*(Continued from page 9)*

when the studio contracted him to make new theatrical cartoons in the mid-to late 1960s. For these, Blanc voiced Daffy Duck and Speedy Gonzales, the characters who received the most frequent use in these shorts (later, newly introduced characters such as Cool Cat and Merlin the Magic Mouse were voiced by Larry Storch). Blanc also continued to voice the "Looney Tunes" for the bridging sequences of *The Bugs Bunny Show*, as well as in numerous animated advertisements and several compilation features, such as *The Bugs Bunny/Road Runner Movie* (1979). He also voiced Granny on *Peter Pan Records in 4 More Adventures of Bugs Bunny* (1974) and *Holly-Daze* (1974), in place of June Foray, and replaced the late Arthur Q. Bryan as Elmer Fudd's voice during the post-golden Age era.

**Car accident and aftermath** - On January 24, 1961, Blanc was driving alone when his sports car was involved in a head-on collision on Sunset Boulevard; his legs and his pelvis were fractured as a result. About two weeks later, one of Blanc's neurologists at the UCLA Medical Center tried a different approach than just trying to address the unconscious Blanc himself: address his characters. Blanc was asked, "How are you feeling today, Bugs Bunny?" After a slight pause, Blanc answered, in a weak voice, "Eh ... just fine, Doc. How are you?" The doctor then asked Tweety if

*(Continued on page 11)*

*(Continued from page 9)*

demands, product and infrastructure investment," the company said in a recent memo to dealers.

Among the changes: Dealers are no longer required to install a Level 2 charger in the new-vehicle delivery area, while the first deadline to install chargers has been deferred from November 2024 to March 2025. In addition, a second deadline to add a Level 3 public-facing charger has been deferred to July 2026, and the program now covers three years, from 2025 to 2027, instead of the original two.

"Our dealers, who are working with their local providers, are saying there's a lot of confusion out there amongst them as well," Michael Sprague, Lincoln's North America director, told *Automotive News*. "Let's take a little step back and give everybody a little breathing room."

He said Lincoln will reopen the certification program for those dealers who did not originally sign up but now want to. The estimated price remains unchanged; the brand is asking dealers to spend up to \$900,000 on the program.

**Sales growth** - Despite the industry's pivot to EVs, Craig said gasoline-powered and hybrid models will continue to play an important role for the brand. "As much as we're finally seeing EVs take off, we've been talking about it for 20 years," she said. "And for as many entries that came in, it was never more than 1 or 2 percent of the industry. But 75 percent of customers are still choosing gas or hybrids. Take the next few years; it only goes from 75 down to 65. For the foreseeable future, we're going to see the majority of folks still going for gas and hybrids."



The all new 2024 Nautilus

The 2024 Lincoln Nautilus crossover is an example of the type of product that Craig and other executives hope will lead the brand

to a sales rebound.

Lincoln's U.S. volume has declined in each of the past three years amid the pandemic and inventory shortages. Its portfolio has shriveled to just four nameplates after dropping sedans from this market. COVID-19 made the brand's once unique services, such as pickup and delivery, ubiquitous even among mainstream makes. And even its "quiet flight" mantra that inspired Lincoln's award-winning interiors has lost some meaning in a luxury market increasingly filled with silent all-electric powertrains.



Inside the Nautilus cabin.

The Nautilus cabin is what Craig and other executives call the "evolution" of that quiet flight theme. It includes a new 48-inch display screen and comes with an optional Lincoln Rejuvenate mode featuring lights, sounds, and smells designed to create a peaceful environment. "We're taking these interiors to a whole new level," Craig said. She said Lincoln must also work to differentiate itself from competitors with new services. "Customers want convenience on their terms," she said. "We have to be uberconvenient to do business with."



Another view of the Nautilus cabin.

Ultimately, Craig expects Lincoln sales in the U.S. to turn around, especially as inventory levels return to normal, although she declined to offer a sales target. "We're going to grow," she said. "That's our plan."



## April Brunch

## Nautilus & China

(Continued from page 10)

he was there, too. "I tawt I taw a puddyy tat", was the reply. Blanc returned home on March 17. Four days later, Blanc filed a US \$500,000 lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles. His accident, one of 26 in the preceding two years at the intersection known as Dead Man's Curve, resulted in the city funding the restructuring of curves at the location.

Years later, Blanc revealed that during his recovery, his son Noel "ghosted" several Warner Bros. cartoons' voice tracks for him. Warner Bros. had also asked Stan Freberg to provide the voice for Bugs Bunny, but Freberg declined out of respect for Blanc. At the time of the accident, Blanc was also serving as the voice of Barney Rubble in *The Flintstones*. His absence from the show was relatively brief; Daws Butler provided the voice of Barney for a few episodes, after which the show's producers set up recording equipment in Blanc's hospital room and later at his home to allow him to work from there.

**Later years** - In the 1970s, Blanc gave a series of college lectures across the US and appeared in commercials for American Express. Mel's production company, Blanc Communications Corporation, collaborated on a special with the Boston-based Shriners' Burns Institute called *Ounce of Prevention*, which became a 30-minute TV special.

Throughout the late

(Continued on page 12)

This past April 16, at our Sunday Brunch at Dehn's Country Manor in Maple Grove, we had 20 members show up during another late-season snowstorm. The hardy members that attended were Bob and Mary Johnson, Tina Zimpel, Dave Gustafson, Ken and Bonnie Kaseforth, Dave Heeren, Gene Wendt and Kim Miller, Bob Gavrilescu, and Dave Sandels. Matt, Katy, Margaret, and David Foley. Jeff and Wendy Eisenberg, Tom and Joan St. Martin, and Chris Strubel. We had over 10 members cancel due to road conditions. The group enjoyed very good food and conversation as usual, but the best was our 2023 North Star Region Directory with member pictures (if submitted), as a new feature was displayed for the first time. Tammie and Dave Heeren have finished the new 2023 Region Directory and presented four copies as door prizes for those in attendance. The directory winners were Jeff Eisenberg, Dave Sandels, Gene Wendt, and Tina Zimpel. With the cost of color printing, you will need to print on your own system or call me. The directory can be downloaded to your system. The directory printable file was also sent out to our members on April 17 as an email attachment. It is also available on our northstarloc.org website.

Tammie and Dave Heeren volunteered to do the 2023 Region Directory last year. One of the new features is the inclusion of a picture of the member with their favorite Lincoln, if available. Tammy and Dave have been working on this for the past six months, and your North Star Board of Directors is very proud of their fantastic achievement. Thank you, Tammie and Dave. Your effort is really beyond the call of duty; again, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!

They realize that many items need to be corrected or added. Please email any changes to them that you have to add a photo or to change a photo. Dave will be adding a file that will detail all Lincolns that you own. Please send changes to them at [dheeren41@hotmail.com](mailto:dheeren41@hotmail.com), or [tammieheeren@gmail.com](mailto:tammieheeren@gmail.com). Updates will be done throughout this year, and new members will be added to the end of the directory for the rest of 2023.

The new Lincoln Nautilus has a display that Lincoln executives boast is the largest in its competitive class. Lincoln unveiled a redesigned version of its Nautilus SUV, which it says will have the largest display screen of any competitor and a selection of built-in scents to create a more relaxing atmosphere.

But perhaps the most notable change is where the car will be manufactured: **The new model will be imported to the United States from China** when it goes on sale here early next year, a Lincoln spokesperson said. Lincoln is Ford's luxury brand and currently the Nautilus is built for the North American market in Ford's factory in Ontario, Canada. But Ford plans to shift that plant to produce electric vehicles and EV battery packs starting in 2025. The new Nautilus will be gasoline-powered, as are the current versions.

The Nautilus will certainly not be the only Chinese-made vehicle sold in the United States. General Motors' Buick Envision SUV is produced in China and Volvo's S90 full-sized sedan is also imported from China. The current generation Nautilus is already produced in China for that market, where the Lincoln brand is popular. With the Canadian plant being repurposed for electric vehicles, the decision was made to simply build the SUVs for the United States in China as well, a Lincoln spokesperson said. The timing of Ford's decision to build the Nautilus in China comes at a delicate moment, amid heightened tensions between the US and China. At an unveiling event in New York City, however, most of the focus was on the vehicle's features and how it can help Lincoln recover from a sales slump that Lincoln president Dianne Craig blamed on computer chip shortages. "This year we're so excited because it's time to grow again. We need to grow again," she said in an interview with CNN. "Nautilus is going to be a huge catalyst to do that."

"We believe the tranquility that you can actually experience in your car, whether it be the display, whether it be just the senses all around you, [sound], sight smell, that it's going to make for a really unique experience for our customers," Craig said.

Prices for the new Nautilus will start at about \$50,000 and at around \$74,500 for the top-level Black Label models.



## Hail and Farewell

(Continued from page 11)

1970s and 1980s, Blanc performed his "Looney Tunes" characters for bridging sequences in various compilation films of Golden Age-era Warner Bros. cartoons, such as *The Bugs Bunny/Road Runner Movie*, *The Looney Looney Looney Bugs Bunny Movie*, *Bugs Bunny's 3rd Movie: 1001 Rabbit Tails*, *Daffy Duck's Fantastic Island*, and *Daffy Duck's Quackbusters*. His final performance of his "Looney Tunes" roles was in *Bugs Bunny's Wild World of Sports* (1989). After spending most of two seasons voicing the diminutive robot Twiki in *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century*, Blanc's last original character was *Heathcliff* from 1980 to 1988.

On January 29, 1962, Mel and his son Noel formed Blanc Communications Corporation, a media company that produced over 5000 public service announcements and commercials, which remains in operation. Mel and Noel appeared with many stars, including Kirk Douglas, Lucille Ball, Vincent Price, Phyllis Diller, Liberace, and The Who.

**Personal life** - Blanc and his wife, Estelle Rosenbaum were married on January 4, 1933, and remained married until his death in 1989. Their son, Noel Blanc, was also a voice actor.

**Death** - Blanc began smoking cigarettes when he was 9 years old. He continued his pack-a-day habit until age 77 after he was diagnosed with emphysema. On May 19, 1989, his family

(Continued on page 13)



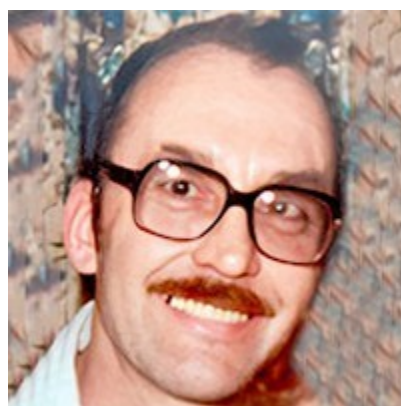
Kathy Longley

We are saddened to have to report the passing of Katherine (Kathy) M. Longley, beloved wife of husband Al Longley, on April 15, 2023, after a long illness. Al and Kathy were married for over 51 years and made their home in Dayton, Minnesota.

The Longleys were members of the Lincoln and Continental Owners Club and their local affiliate, the North Star LCOC. They were active members and came to many of our North Star activities over the years. They also attended many events connected with the Lincoln Motor Car Heritage Museum in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and other LCOC national meets and shows. In addition to the LCOC, they were both active in the Upper Midwest Region of the Classic Car Club of America. Kathy was a delightful person and could make friends with any of our members. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Kathy was preceded in death by her two sons, Greg and Brian, and her parents, Frank and Dolores Eastman. She is survived by her husband Al, and her three grandsons, and her many, many friends who will miss her remarkable and joyful personality.

Memorial services were held at the Revive Church, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, this past May 1, 2023.



Theodore Anderson

Theodore (Ted) R. Anderson, Age 94, of Brooklyn Center, passed away on February 10, 2023. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Pauline, youngest son Byron, and brothers Peter and Dale. He is survived by sister Esther (Karl), brother Warren (Mary), children Raymond, Paula, Jolene, Michael, and Robert, and several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and friends.

Ted was a long-time member of both the Lincoln and Continental Owners Club and the North Star affiliate club. Ted was especially fond of the first-generation V12-powered Lincoln Continentals and had owned a Continental Coupe. Ted was an interesting person who truly loved talking about anything Lincoln.

Memorial services were held on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at the Cornerstone Church of Crystal, Crystal, Minnesota.



## The Welcome Wagon

By Francis Kalvoda, Willmar, Minnesota.  
320.235.5777 fjk@charter.net



The R&J Tour Coach which Francis Kalvoda has borrowed for short term use as the Welcome Wagon.

Welcome to May, good weather and the beautiful colors of clean Lincolns on the road again. Once again, I have borrowed a new member's beautiful 'wagon' for my Welcome Wagon. The Luxury Coach can haul several dozen travelers in Lincoln-like comfort to interesting destinations. To make it even easier for Micki and I, our new members are from the Willmar area.

This month we welcome **Ralph and Jan Engel**, 8873 North Shore Drive, Spicer, Minnesota 56288, 320-212-9171, and email re@rjtoursonline.com. When I first visited with Ralph a few weeks ago, he said he would like to find a clean original Lincoln or two from the '70s, '80s, or '90s. A stop at Unique Classic Cars in Mankato, Minnesota, quickly fulfilled that request. Ralph and Jan selected a white 1977 Mark V with only 15,000 miles and a dark cherry 2007 Signature Series Town Car with ivory trim. The Town Car has only 50,000 miles. Both Lincolns are BEAUTIFUL. About an hour after Unique Motors staff delivered the Lincolns

to Ralph and Jan near Spicer, the 2007 Town Car was pressed into service. They had a comfortable trip to the MSP airport to pick up their daughter. On the return trip, everyone was enjoying the comfortable, quiet ride until...BAM. While stopped in a line of traffic on Hwy 55, an inattentive driver slammed into the rear of Engel's five-hour-old 2007 Town Car. At first, Ralph did not even want to see the damage. When he got out, he saw the damaged front end and crumpled fender of the other car. Ralph and the other driver inspected the Town Car and found a slight abrasion and a minute wrinkle in the flexible rear bumper. The inner rear bumper structure took the brunt of the abuse. Ralph felt pretty good about being a Lincoln owner. If you know of a clean, original low, mile '80s through '90s Town Car, let Ralph and Jan know. Now for a little information about Ralph and Jan from their R&J Tours website.



Jan and Ralph Engel

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 12)  
checked him into Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles when they noticed he had a bad cough while shooting a commercial. He was originally expected to recover, but when his health worsened, doctors discovered he had advanced coronary artery disease. After nearly two months in the hospital, Blanc died on July 10, 1989, at Cedars-Sinai of complications from both illnesses. He was 81. He is interred in Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Hollywood. His will specified that his gravestone read "That's all folks"—the phrase with which Blanc's character, Porky Pig, concluded Warner Bros. cartoons from 1937 to 1946.

**Legacy** - Blanc is regarded as the most prolific voice actor in entertainment history. He was the first voice actor to receive on-screen credit.

His death was considered a significant loss to the cartoon industry because of his skill, expressive range, and the sheer number of the continuing characters he portrayed, whose roles were subsequently assumed by several other voice talents.

As film critic Leonard Maltin observed, "It is astounding to realize that Tweety Bird and Yosemite Sam are the same men!" Blanc said that Sylvester the Cat was the easiest character for him to voice, because "[he's] just my normal speaking voice with a spray at the end"; and that Yosemite Sam was the hardest because of his loud-

(Continued on page 14)



### For Sale - 1979 Town Car

Linda Fenelon has decided to sell the car that she and her late husband, Ron, enjoyed for 20 years. The rust-free California Town Car has 106,000 miles. It is mechanically sound and has a nice interior. The clear coat paint is fading. The tires are nearly new. For a personal inspection or more information, contact Linda Fenelon, Alexandria, Minnesota, 320-763-4197 or 320-491-4484. \$6000/offer.



(Continued from page 13)

ness and raspiness.

After his death, Blanc's voice continued to be heard in newly released productions, such as recordings of Dino the Dinosaur in the live-action films *The Flintstones* (1994) and *The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas* (2000). Similarly, recordings of Blanc as Jack Benny's Maxwell were featured in *Looney Tunes: Back in Action* (2003). More recently, archive recordings of Blanc have been featured in new computer-generated imagery-animated "Looney Tunes" theatrical shorts; *I Tawt I Taw a Puddy Tat* (shown with *Happy Feet Two*) and *Daffy's Rhapsody* (shown with *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island*).

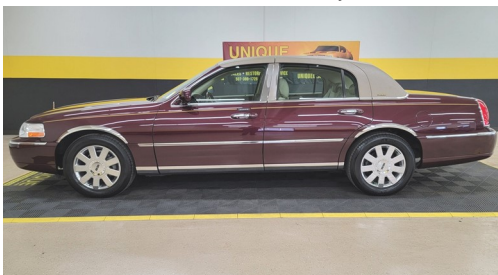
For his contributions to the radio industry, Blanc has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6385 Hollywood Boulevard. His character Bugs Bunny was also awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on December 10, 1985.

Blanc trained his son Noel in the field of voice characterization. Noel performed his father's characters (particularly Porky Pig) on some programs but did not become a full-time voice artist. Warner Bros. expressed reluctance to have a single voice actor succeed Blanc, and employed multiple new voice actors to fill the roles since the 1990s, including Noel Blanc, Jeff Bergman, Joe Alaskey, Greg Burson, Billy West, and Eric Bauza.

From the internet...

## Welcome Wagon continued...

*The story of R&J Tours began in 1990 when Ralph & Jan Engel, along with two of their teenage daughters, Michelle and Mary, had stacks of papers and computers surrounding them on their dining room table. Their vision was to get a coach full of eager travelers together to experience a great destination through a quality tour where the travelers could step back and let the Engels do the planning, booking, and executing. Thus, R&J Tours was born when they took their first tour to Branson with 19 passengers! These happy travelers returned, spread the word of their great tour adventure, and soon the telephone was ringing with requests for more tours! Gradually R&J Tours added destinations to the Canadian Rockies, Washington DC, Wisconsin Dells, and even went internationally to places like Australia & New Zealand, Scandinavia, and Germany.*



Ralph and Jan's Town Car

*Soon after, Ralph realized that if they really wanted to put the needs of their travelers first, they needed to figure out how they could pick each traveler up right at their own front door – and that's just what they did! Home front door pick-up, high-quality planning, attention to detail, and enthusiasm became the benchmarks for every R&J Tour.*

*Now thirty years later, R&J Tours employs over twenty employees and plans vacations all throughout the United States, as well as Canada, Europe, China, and more! It is the philosophy of putting the needs of their travelers first that has brought R&J Tours to where they are today, and this is just the beginning!*

To see a list of tours the Engels have planned for 2023 and 2024, contact them at [www.rjtoursonline.com](http://www.rjtoursonline.com) R&J Tours, 1408 Willmar Ave SE, Willmar, Minnesota 56201, or (800) 758-6877.



The Engle's Mark V



Ralph and Jan's Mark V features an almost near perfect interior. This is a great looking car and should be a joy to drive.

We look forward to meeting Ralph and Jan at North Star Lincoln and Continental Club events this year. Enjoy those Lincolns!

Editors note: Thanks to Francis Kalvoda for putting this fine feature together for our newsletter. It is much appreciated.

## Wanted



Full set of extremely nice or NOS luxury wheel covers for a 1969 Continental Sedan. Please contact John at 701-729-6839 or email [Jtrandem@gmail.com](mailto:Jtrandem@gmail.com)



# North Star LCOC events

- May      **Road trip and car show** at Mark Platts Collector Car Garage, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin  
**Saturday May 13**, two to three-day road trip (Friday through Sunday)
- June      **Saturday, June 17, 2023.** 14th Annual Lincoln Car show at Bloomington Lincoln,  
Bloomington, Minnesota 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Free lunch and awards at 2 p.m.
- July      **Saturday, July 16, 2023.** Maple Grove Days Car Show, Breakfast 8 a.m.,  
Car show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Saturday, July 29, 2023.** 1st Annual North Star Lincoln and American Collector Car Show.  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All American made collector cars welcome, stock or modified.  
At the Blacksmith Lounge, 17205 Forest Boulevard, (Old Highway 61) Hugo, Minnesota
- August    **North Star Picnic. Sunday, August 27, 2023**, 11:30 a.m. Carlson Park picnic area.  
Please bring your own picnic basket and refreshments. We will enjoy fellowship with our  
North Star members, and you are invited to bring anyone that would be interested in our  
Lincoln cars and club activities.

## Annual Bloomington Lincoln Car show Saturday, June 17, 2023

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. There will be door prizes and Bob Johnson will be there to give out "hearty handshakes" to all who attend. It will be a fun day, see you there on Saturday, June 17.

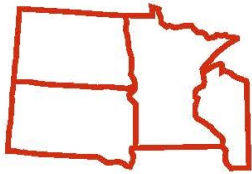
**Road Trip and Car Show** at Mark Platts Collector Car Garage, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. Leave the Twin Cities Friday, May 12, car show Saturday, May 13, and return home Sunday May 13. This will be a lot of fun over three days. We have hotel rooms reserved at the Ambers Inn and Suites, 1113 Broadway, Wisconsin Dells for Friday and/or Saturday night (Friday 5/12 and Saturday 5/13 at \$84.20 per night with tax included). This rate is good until April 12, 2023. Hotel phone number is 608-253-2623. Call Bob Johnson, 651.257.1715 for more detailed information and he will email you a complete pdf.

BACK ISSUES OF THE NORTHSTAR NEWS ARE ALWAYS 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.

# The Back Page



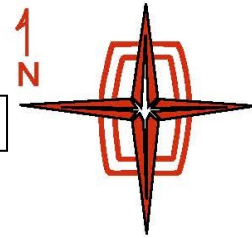
North Star Region  
of the  
Lincoln and Continental Owners Club  
Invites you to the

**17th Out of State Lincoln Car Show**

**Saturday May 13, 2023 9AM to 3PM**

**Mark Platt's Collector Car Garage**

**301 RACE ST, WISCONSIN DELLS, WI 53965**



***ALL local Lincoln car clubs and Lincoln car owners are invited to this FREE LINCOLN CAR SHOW.***

Welcome to our 17th Out State Lincoln Car Show ***This event is focused on our Lincoln brand, of any model year, stock or modified.*** Come and share your passion with other owners of these distinctive Lincoln cars at this beautiful and unique location across the street from the Mark Platt's Collector Car Garage, in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, food and refreshments are provided.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Out State Car Show will also be a Road Trip to Mark Platt's Collector Car Garage, Wisconsin Dells, WI on Friday May 12, two or three day road trip (Friday and Saturday) or (Friday, Saturday and Sunday, your choice) or just drive on your own on Saturday to car show. We have hotel rooms reserved at the Ambers Inn and Suites, 1113 Broadway, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965 for Friday and/or Saturday night (Friday 5/12 and Saturday 5/13 at \$84.20 per night with tax included) This rate is good until April 12, 2023) Hotel phone number is 608-253-2623, call now (Thursday thru Sunday) (due to winter staffing may not be answered immediately so leave a message). Hotel is less than a mile from Mark Platt's car show area and collection.

Friday, 5/12, for Driving Tour, meet at McDonalds, at top hill on I94 in Hudson, 2411 Crest View Dr. 54016 WI at 10 AM, begin Caravan to Wisconsin Dells, arrive about 2:30 PM, check in to Motels about 3:00 PM. Do the river tour in Dells Army Duck Boats, meet at 1890 Wisconsin Dells Parkway. The Ducks have been one of Wisconsin Dells' most popular Wisconsin Dells attraction for 70+ years, and they provide a sightseeing experience unlike any other. Discover sandstone rock formations that are over 14,000 years old such as Grotto Island, the Twin Ink Stands, Sugar Bowl, and Lone Rock. Two Splash Downs into Sasquatch Lake and use the Duck's sixwheel drive capabilities to traverse Dell Creek. The 55 minute, land-and-water Duck rides has been the most unique and original way to experience the Wisconsin Dells for over 70 years. Friday night Dinner at a place to be decided.

Saturday, 5/13, Free Car show begins at 9:00 AM. Saturday night dinner at place to be decided

The 17<sup>th</sup> Out State Car Show will be across the street from the Mark Platt's Collector Car Garage

Dash Plaques to First Fifty Lincolns  
Awards Ceremony at 2:30 PM  
Best of Show Award  
Top 10 Lincolns receive award  
Free Lunch

Door prizes at Award Ceremony  
Spectators free  
For sale signs okay  
People's Choice Voting  
Register Day of Car Show Only

Sunday, 5/14, on your own. Checkout and depart on your own time table

For more information call Bob Johnson 651587-1212