

NORTHSTAR NEWS

*Our Pride and Joy*

MY ACCORDION CAR – 1961 LINCOLN CONVERTIBLE

By Gordy Jensen

I am currently restoring a 1961 Lincoln Convertible that was hit very hard in the left rear corner of the car in California in 1973. It was hit so hard that the insurance company immediately totaled the car and it was towed to a scrap yard.

The left rear quarter was pushed into the left rear door. The left rear door was pushed into the left front door. The floor of the passenger compartment and the trunk floor

were badly crunched, and the drive shaft was jammed into the rear differential. So we call this car the Accordion Car.

*“We call this car the Accordion Car”*

You might wonder why I am restoring this wreck. Would not it be easier (and cheaper) to simply pick another 1961 Convertible.

Yes. But this car is one VIN number lower than the 1961 Lincoln Convertible I restored and showed in the St. Lois, Missouri LCOC show in the fall of 2000

where we won best of show. Perhaps you have seen my yellow 1961 Convertible with black top and interior. The accordion car and the yellow 1961 convertible are connective VIN number cars.

I found the car in California by responding to an ad by Don Pepper, a LCOC member in central California. He had accumulated some 65 1960's Lincolns over a long period of time. He sent me a list of the VIN number's. I could not believe

my eyes. He had one car for sale that came down the assembly line right in front of my yellow 1961 convertible.

I bought the car and sent it to Baker's Auto in Putnam, Connecticut. They stripped the car and we sent the shell to Richard Liana in Trout-

ville, Virginia.

I had Richard send it to a body shop, which had a frame straightening machine (the rack) and someone who was very good at using it. They determined the left rear corner of the accordion car was four inches to the right, four inches high, and three inches forward.

They pulled and measured, and pulled and measured again. The car went back to the frame straightening shop three times. Finally it was square.

Richard began drilling out the spot welds of the many damaged panels. The 1960's Lincolns are all unibody cars so the welded body panels make

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SLIGHTLY DAMAGED 1961

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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# Board Of Directors - 2001-2002

Title	Name	Phone Numbers	email & FAX
Director	Bob Johnson	H(651)257-1715	arborbob41@aol.com
Activities Director	Jay White	H(952)432-5939	jaywhite1@prodigy.net
Technical Consultant	Tim Purvis	H(651)459-6176	
Projects Director	Bob Gavrilescu	H(651)488-3878	
Membership	Dave Gustafson	H(952)435-1919	davidwgustafson@att.net
Publications	Dave Gustafson	H(952)435-1919	Fax(952)898-5230 (home)
Treasurer	Harvey Oberg	H(651)739-9754	
Secretary	Roger Wothe	H(952)473-3038 O(952-933-9981	rwothe@environmentsinc.com Fax(952)473-0244(home)
Sunshine Secretary	Faythe Oberg	H(651)739-9754	

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

## On the Lighter Side.....

How many things can you remember about 1957?

- (1) "I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, its going to be impossible to buy a weeks groceries for \$20.00
- (2) "Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long when \$5,000 will only buy a used one."
- (3) "If cigarettes keep going up in price. I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous."
- (4) "Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?"
- (5) "If they raise the minimum wage to \$1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store."
- (6) "When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we'd be better off leaving the car in the garage."
- (7) "I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying damn in "Gone With The Wind", it seems every new

movie has either Hell or damn in it".

- (8) "I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas."
- (9) "Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday that they will be making more than the President."
- (10) "I never thought I'd see the day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric type writers now."
- (11) "I'm just afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot of foreign business."
- (12) "No one can afford to be sick anymore, \$35 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood."
- (13) "The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on."

*The Year 1961.....*

*World Events:  
US breaks diplomatic relations with Cuba on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. 1,200 US sponsored anti-Castro exiles invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The attackers are all killed or captured by Cuban forces. East Germany erects the Berlin wall between East and West Berlin to halt flood of refugees on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The USSR detonates 50 megaton hydrogen bomb in the largest man-made explosion in history, October 29<sup>th</sup>. There are now 2,000 US military advisers in South Vietnam. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is formally constituted.*

*In the US:  
John F. Kennedy was inaugurated on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Lyndon B. Johnson was the Vice President. The population of the United States was 183,691,481 and the life expectancy*

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## *Editors Message*

Sunday evening, September 22, 2002... Marion and I have just returned home from the annual Northstar picnic. As in prior years it was hosted by Roger and Barb Wothe at their beautiful facility on Baker road. It was well attended with over 50 LCOC members enjoying the good company and very fine picnic fare. We had some long distance travelers, Ray and Arlene Schmit from the St. Cloud area, Don and Donna Peterson from Winona, and the long distance award to Russell and Dolly Zangger, from Larchmont, Iowa, which is about 20 miles south of Sioux Falls. The Zanggers are very interesting people. Russell is a long time flying instructor and has had a lifelong interest in cars. The weather was nice and sunny and many members were able to drive their older Lincolns to our end of the year picnic. At some point in the future, we would like to do a book which includes pictures of our members and their favorite car.

In addition to the great food, we had a short membership meeting. Director Bob Johnson talked a little about where the club is today and where we are going. We are fortunate in that we have good members that have been able to contribute their skills and organizational abilities over the years and our organization today is the sum total of all of this effort. The club is growing at a slow but steady rate. Many of the same members that we had when we started up are still with us today. I would like to think that this is because our members recognize a good value in their membership. Our yearly dues are among the lowest of any club, yet we are able to return much of that back to our members. We have had some nice events this past year, and we have two more to go. Jay White has tried to find a mix of different events that would appeal to as many members as possible. We have had good club attendance at our events and we look forward to the Arboretum driving tour in October, and the Hunt Club brunch in November. Also, if you have any ideas for events next year, please call or email Jay White or any of the other board members.

As usual, the auction was a success. Many of us brought our old treasures and we went home with new treasures. There were good values and many of the buyers realized that. Tom Brace worked the crowd hard to get the best

prices. He was assisted by Harvey Oberg and Bob Gavrilesco. Bob Fitzsimmons did the record keeping. We thank them all. Even better yet, our treasury grew almost \$800, thanks to all of your efforts.

We are pleased to have an article this month about one of Gordy Jensen's 1961 Continental Convertibles. This car is currently undergoing restoration, and will be finished sometime in 2003. All of Gordy's restorations are of the highest quality, and this one should be no exception. Because of the unibody design, these are not the easiest car to work on or restore. A lot of people tend to think of a restoration as a Maaco paint job and a new set of wide white wall tires. Gordy Jensen's Continentals are some of the best examples on how to properly restore one of these cars.

Please send me pictures and information about your car. We would all like to see it in a future issue. We have a lot of really great cars out there and it would be fun to share the story of your car with other club members. We have over a hundred members and we have over 95 stories yet to be told. Many of our members have more than one Lincoln, even more stories. Help me fill the newsletter with interesting information.

I received some favorable feedback on the last issue. Most people enjoyed the color. With the rapid advances in printing technology, we look forward to the day when costs for color will be only a very little more than black and white and we can do every issue in color. Until that time, most issues will have to continue on in black and white. Hopefully, we can have a few more pictures in each issue.

The dark season is rapidly approaching. We have crossed the line where we have more darkness than sunlight. It would be nice to have a few days into November to drive our older ones, but at this time of the year, you just never know. I usually wait until the last moment to rearrange all the cars in the garage to get my daily driver inside. Several years, Marion and I have been out there with the snow starting to come down trying to park three cars in a row intended for two. One can never have enough garage space. Till next month..... -30-

*(Continued from page 3)*  
 was 70.2 years. The homicide rate was 4.7 per 100,000. Federal spending was \$97.72 billion. Federal debt was \$292.6 billion. Unemployment was 5.5%. The cost of a first-class stamp was 4 cents. The first US astronaut, Navy Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard, Jr., rockets 116.5 miles up in 302 mile trip on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Virgil Grissom becomes the second American astronaut, making the 118 mile high, 303 mile long rocket flight over the Atlantic on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

*In sports:*  
 World Series, the New York Yankees defeated Cincinnati (4-1). The NBA Championship had Boston over St. Louis Hawks (4-1). Stanley Cup, Chicago over Detroit (4-2). The Kentucky Derby was won by Carry Back.

*In entertainment:*  
 Academy Awards Best Motion Pic-

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## Monthly Director's Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at Whitaker Lincoln Mercury by Regional Director Bob Johnson. Board members present were Bob Johnson, David Gustafson, Tim Purvis, Jay White, Bob Gavrilesco, Harvey Oberg, and Roger Wothe. Other members present were Jim Jacobsen, Faythe Oberg and Gaye Purvis. The minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda of this meeting were approved.

Director's Reports

Regional Director Bob Johnson reported that the 2002 Mid-America meet was a success and had received many compliments from those attending. There are pictures of the meet posted on both [www.classiclincolns.com](http://www.classiclincolns.com) and [www.michiganlcc.org](http://www.michiganlcc.org). There followed a brief discussion on things to improve for a future meet; registration and hospitality together and open all day, a golf cart with a cooler of refreshments to patrol the field, change the registration sheet and place more emphasis on the auction.

Membership Director David Gustafson reported that we have received some new members since the meet and the membership is now about one hundred ten.

Treasurer Harvey Oberg reported that the treasury balance was \$3,260.85 with all bills paid.

Meet Finance Director Bob Gavrilesco reported that the 2002 Mid-America Meet should net the chapter around \$1,800.

Activities Director Jay White reported that there will be a Fall Color Tour with the Big Birds Club on Sunday, October 13, 2002. There will be a brunch on Sunday November 10, 2002 at the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club. Jay will show videos of the Mid-America Meet.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM. The next meeting will be at Whitaker Lincoln Mercury on October 10, 2002 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Roger Wothe.

## Fall Leaf Tour to Arboretum

On Sunday, October 13th, the Club will be touring the Lake Minnetonka area with an eventual destination at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. It is an interesting place and full of fall colors. Bring your camera, you will not be disappointed. Here is a little more information about the arboretum.

Since its inception in 1958, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum has blossomed into an international research center and cultural destination that contributes to the horticultural, economic and intellectual lives of people around the world. Named in 2000 as one of the "10 great places to smell the flowers" by USA Today, the Arboretum boasts 14,500 members, 1,400 volunteers and nearly a quarter-million visitors each year. With 1,030 acres, 22 display and specialty gardens, 42 general plant collections and more than 5,000 plant varieties, the Arboretum has become one of the premier horticultural field laboratories and public display areas in the country, reaching out as a living, vibrant extension of the University of Minnesota.

Faced with a substantial need to develop plants suitable for growing and surviving in a rugged northern climate, in 1956 the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis approached the Minnesota State Horticultural Society with an idea for an arboretum. An option was taken on 160 acres of land west of the Twin Cities, and with the help of a gift from the Lake Minnetonka Garden Club, the land was purchased in 1958. Today, the Arboretum is implementing a master plan that will allow it to grow in the years ahead.

## We Welcome The Following New Members.....

Rod Johnson, 18949 South Highway 69, Albert Lea, MN 56007

Rod has a nice collection of Lincolns from the 70's and the 40's.

John Naughter, 1955 West Kenwood Drive, Maplewood, MN 55117.

Ron Fenelon, currently of 12652 Wilmington Avenue, Roscoe, IL 61073. Ron will be relocating to the Alexandria, MN area in the near future.

We hope to see these new members at some of our club events in the near future.

*Our Pride and Joy Continued...*

*(Continued from page 1)*

up the frame of the car. We replaced the floor pan, the trunk pan and some lesser panels in the left rear of the car. After the third time on the rack the replacement panels fit perfectly. Since these replacement panels were from other cars, this was the true test of how straight the car now is. The result is truly a masterpiece.

It is not finished yet, but it hopefully will be in 2003. The



Above and below ....Completed body work on Gordy Jensen's 1961 Continental Convertible.



bodywork is all done and the car is all white except for the exterior. The doorjambs, the underside of the trunk and hood, the engine bay, the passenger compartment is all painted. We paint the outside of the car last. The top ribs are painted black and the top ribs fit perfectly.

Look for it next year. It is white with a red and white interior.

Editor's note: We are all looking forward to seeing this fine car completed. It will be an award winner.

*The All New 1961 Continental*

In 1961, Lincoln offered only one model, and it was called the Continental. It was offered as a four door sedan and a four door convertible. This was the first four door convertible offered in production quantities since before WWII. Kaiser-Fraser offered one, but it had only a very limited production run.

The 1961 was all new. It appeared to be much smaller, and in some dimensions it actually was. It was about 15 inches shorter, and about an inch and a half narrower. Weight was some 350 pounds lighter. It was still a heavy car.

Some comparisons between the 1960 and the 1961 are shown in the chart below.

The Continental was the really new car in 1961. It was the car

	1960	1961
weight (sedan) lbs	5272	4927
Length inches	227.2	212.4
width inches	80.3	78.6
wheelbase inches	131.0	123.0
price (sedan)	5,272	6,067
total production	24,821	25,164

to own in 1961. It was the darling of the press, and received fairly good reviews. In spite of the good press, the 1961 Lincolns only sold a few hundred more units than the previous year. The competition in 1961 was limited. The Imperial (Chrysler) sold 12,258 cars, about half of what Lincoln did. It was a nice car, but lacked the simplicity of style that was featured by the Continental. Cadillac was the 800 pound gorilla with about 138,000 cars sold, about five times as many as Lincoln. The Continental did have the largest engine with a displacement of 430 cubic inches. The Imperial featured 413 inches and the Cadillac had 390 inches. Car magazines of the era reported that Lincoln could reach 60 miles per hour in the 12.5 to 13 second range. The others could do a bit better, about a second and a half. Most attribute the leisurely acceleration to the installation of a two barrel carburetor and 2.89 final drive ratio. This combination was supposed to enhance fuel economy, however mileage for any of these luxury cars was in the neighborhood of 10-13 miles per gallon. With gasoline priced at around twenty cents, perhaps no one cared at the time.

Cost comparisons indicate that the Cadillac Fleetwood with most accessories had a list price of \$6,233. An equivalent Imperial LeBaron model had a bottom line sticker of \$6,434.

Most people will agree that classic beauty and superb engineering combined for the most satisfying Lincoln since the prewar K and Continentals and one of decade's most memorable cars.

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*ture, The Apartment. Best actor, Burt Lancaster in Elmer Gantry. Best Actress, Elizabeth Taylor for Butterfield 8. Record of the Year, Moon River by Henry Mancini. Best Rock and Roll Recording, Let's Twist Again, by Chubby Checker. Best Rhythm and Blues Recording, Hit the Road Jack, Ray Charles. Nancy Fleming from Montage, Michigan was crowned Miss America.*

*Born this year:*

*Julia LouisDreyfus, Wayne Gretzky, Boy George, James Gandolfini.*

*Those who left us included:*

*Lee deForest, inventor of the Vacuum tube, Whittaker Chambers, Charles Coburn, Gary Cooper and Dashiell Hammett.*

*From the Internet*

## *Directors Message*

*By Bob Johnson*

The Fall picnic was a resounding success. Once again, THANK YOU to Roger and Barb Wothe, for sharing their beautiful facility and cooking a fabulous meal. Roger and Barbs indoor lunchroom was again invaluable, with the cool temperature and brisk wind outside. The sunny day did bring out 22 beautiful classic Lincolns, and Brian Carlson was able to get a picture of every one of them for some type of club directory to be done as a future project. About 55 members were able to attend this seasons picnic.

Our annual auction totaled \$789.00, and was a lot of fun.

Russell and Dolly Zangger, were our long distance members driving their White Mark VI from Iowa. We had several first time picnic attendees, Carol Ann Homstad, (Floyd is married, not just a rumor) Jack and Julia Vanatta, Stef Bailis, Bob and Avis Bliss, Lyle and Carol Summer, Jerry Loberg and Ray and Arlene Schmit. the cars they drove to the picnic were just beautiful to see and appreciate. Thanks for sharing them with us, if only for a day.

A short General Membership Meeting was held. I announced how we did financially at the Red Wing Meet. We should clear over \$1500. I presented special appreciation awards to the members that Chaired the key positions or contributed in a significant way, thus enabling the Northstar Region to put on a first class National Meet this summer. Thank you to all that attended the meet and helped make it as great as it could be. I did make the comment that in Six years the Region will be celebrating its 25th year, and we should hold another National Meet. I didn't get shot, so I take that as a possible event for us to under take again in 2008.

Last month when I recapped the Northstar Region major awards at Red Wing, I missed one first place winner. Byron and Alis Olsen, won first place with a 1935 K three window sedan, in the 1921-1940 Lincoln L, KB, KA and K Pre-Primary class. This car was driven to the meet and averaged over 10 miles to the gallon. A picture of Barney's car is in this newsletter.

Our next event will be Fall Leaf Tour - Lake Minnetonka, with the Mini-Birds on Sunday, October 13th.

Jay White needs to know how many will be attending so he can schedule a Police escort. Please contact him at 952-432-5939 or Email Jaywhite@frontiernet.net.

As always keep the journey continuing in our marvelous Lincolns.

Bob Johnson

### *Barney Olson's Award Winning 1935 K Three Window Sedan*



When the list of award winners was put together last month, Barney Olson's 1935 three window K was unfortunately overlooked. It is a beautiful car and deserves to be recognized in our newsletter. An original car, with only 20,000 miles, just barely broken in. It placed first in the pre-primary class (101).

Now if we can just get Barney to write a little more about his car so we can feature it in one of the future editions of the Northstar News.

### *You are welcome....*

To attend the monthly Northstar LCOC board meetings held at Whitaker Lincoln Mercury on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. Participate in your club and contribute to the decision making process. See you there.

## Highlights of The Annual Northstar LCOC Picnic



Our auctioneer, Tom Brace and Harvey Oberg with a print of a 1961 Continental Convertible. One of the many fine auction items. A handsome addition to any collection.



Shades of the Fifties....The gang examining Floyd Homstad's sparkling Continental Convertible. Who wouldn't like to own this one.

Below...Bob Johnson and Harvey Oberg holding up the Red Wing banner as it was being auctioned off by Tom Brace.



Above - Lyle and Carol Sumner's 1979 Town Car. An absolutely beautiful original. Below - Russell and Dolly Zangger's 1981 Mark VI.



Our Hosts, Roger and Barb Wothe's newly restored 1942 Continental Cabriolet. We look forward to seeing Roger driving this car to future Northstar events.

## *Preview of Coming Attractions*

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

- October 5 The Third Annual Shafer - Franconia Fire and Rescue Charity Car Show. 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in beautiful downtown Shafer. 35 North to Forest Lake exit, Highway 8 exit. Go east 16 miles to Shafer, or drive the scenic highway 95 along the St. Croix river to Highway 8, and west 2 miles to Shafer. Cool days, cool cars. Take a beautiful fall drive and bring your classic Lincoln to this charity car show. Dash plaques, Division trophies, and other trophies and door prizes. \$5.00 entry fee and all proceeds to the Fire and Rescue Department for new equipment, maybe even a new Dalmatian. See where Bob Johnson hangs out. Come join the fun.
- October 13 The Lake Minnetonka Ramble. Our Fall Leaf Tour will begin on Sunday, October 13, at 8:30 AM. The tour will leave the starting point at 9:00 AM. Assemble at the North west corner of Highway 7 and Highway 101 in Minnetonka. This is the Target shopping center parking lot. The tour will take us into Wayzata and past the Lake Minnetonka mansions as well as the Lafayette Country Club grounds and will end with brunch at the Minnesota Arboretum in Chanhassen. There is an admission fee at the Minnesota Arboretum. There are plans to have a police motorcycle escort which will add to the pleasure of the event. Please call Jay at 952-432-5939 or email him at [jaywhite@frontiernet.net](mailto:jaywhite@frontiernet.net) to register your attendance. Plan on attending this great fall event. The colors should be great.
- November 10 Year-end wrap up at the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club. Sunday Brunch. More details in the November newsletter. The last event of the season.
- December No club events planned for December. The board will also take a vacation, and not meet until January. Save your money to pay your dues. Buy tools, car books, or other car related items for your wife and children for the holidays. Something that you can use.
- January Sunday Brunch, location to be determined.
- February Evening at Ellingson's. Pot luck dinner with the CCCA. More information to follow.

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