

NORTHSTAR NEWS

Roy Rogers - A True American Icon



The King of The Cowboys drove at least two Lincolns
Pictured above is Roy's yellow 1964 Continental

This article originally appeared in the July/August 1999 issue of Continental Comments and was written by John Malta.

Roy Rogers passed away in 1998 at age 87. For several generations, he was the "King of the Cowboys" and, for many of us, he will always be remembered that way. Beginning in the late 1930s, Roy was in countless movies. From 1948-52, he was the biggest box office draw of all western stars.

He started out as a singing cowboy, and in almost all of his movies, he was the good guy, who defeated the bad guys with his fast horse, his quick wit, and his fists if necessary — and he always got the girl.

From a dirt-poor childhood in Duck Run, Ohio, Roy moved to California as a young man. Almost by accident, he got on the radio, formed his group, which he called *The Sons Of The Pioneers*, and was then hired by *Republic Pictures* as their new singing cowboy. *The Sons Of The Pioneers*, with and without Rogers as its lead singer became famous, but not as famous as Roy Rogers. His first movie was *Under Western Skies*. Gene Autry, another cowboy legend, wasn't available to star in that picture, so the studio discovered Roy Rogers, who had just snuck onto the lot looking for work.

Most fans of Roy Rogers remember him from his movies, his TV show, and comic books. His TV series ran from 1951 to 1957. In addition to Roy, it featured his wife, Dale Evans, Pat Brady, a Jeep named *Nellie Be*, a dog named *Bunn*, Dale's horse, *Buttermilk* and Roy's horse *Trigger*, probably the most famous movie horse ever. During his heyday, two million Roy Rogers comic books were sold every month, and every kid on the block

(Continued on page 2)

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

This Issue Contains

Feature Story	1	Directors Message	4
Club Information Page	2	North Star Board Meeting Minutes	5
Editors Message	3	Northstar Region Events	15
Trivia	3		

Board Of Directors - 2017

Title	Name	Phone Numbers	email	Term Ends
Regional Director	Bob Johnson	H(651)257-1715	arborbob41@aol.com	2041
Secretary	Roger Wothe	H(952)473-3038 O(952)583-5339	rwothe@mchsi.com	2020
Treasurer	Matt Foley	C(612)280-4930	mcfoley@earthlink.net	2019
Activities Director	Jay White	H(952)432-5939	jay@jwhiteandassoc.com	2018
Director	Bob Roth	H(763)475-1429		2018
Publications/ Membership	Dave Gustafson	H(952)435-1919	davidwgustafson@att.net	2019
Director	Tom Brace	H(651)644-1716	trbrace@comcast.net	2019
Director	Bill Holaday	H(763)402-1171	bill.holaday59@gmail.com	2020

Members and guests are welcome to attend the Board Meetings. Our meeting location, unless otherwise specified, will be held at Morris Minnetonka Ford Lincoln in their conference room. Meeting time will be 7:00 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.

Roy Rogers, American Hero continued...

(Continued from page 1)

collected toy guns, hats, clothes, bed spreads, lunch boxes or other Roy Rogers items.

Even though Rogers was a world-famous movie star, his life had its share of problems and some tragedies. After he married Dale Evans in 1947, their first child was born with Down's syndrome and died prematurely, Roy and Dale also adopted several children, two of whom died tragically. Roy and Dale were admired by fans almost as much for the way they handled the tragedies in their life, their faith in God and their strong family life as they were for their fictional life *on the screen*, although even their family life had its trying times. By the time Roy



Roy Rogers 63 Pontiac festooned with all sorts of six guns and steer horns.

died, the Rogers' family had included 16 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren. From the beginning of his long career. Roy decided to try to save as much memorabilia as he could, so there would be something for his grand-children and his fans to remember him by. All of the memorabilia was saved, and even his horse, *Trigger*, which was stuffed after the famous horse died. The memorabilia is on display at the Roy Rogers Museum in Victorville, California. Several of Roy's cars are also on display at the museum, including the Jeep *Nellie Bell*, a 1963 Pontiac Bonneville convertible and a 1964 Lincoln Continental convertible. During most of Rogers' professional life, he drove cars furnished by sponsors of his show, or by manufacturers or dealers who paid him to drive their cars. The '63 Pontiac appears to be one of those cars. It has six-guns for door handles, and shift-lever, six-shooters on the front fenders, silver dollars in tooled leather all over the inside, a steer horn on the front, and it is very gaudy.

As Roy got older and after the peak years of his career, he drove the cars he wanted, and at least two of those

(Continued on page 6)

Editors Message

June 2017

Trivia from the Internet



Betty White
An American Actress

Betty Marion White Ludden (known professionally as **Betty White**; born January 17, 1922) is an American actress, with the longest television career of a female entertainer. Regarded as a pioneer of television, she was one of the first women to have control both in front of and behind the camera; and is recognized as the first woman to produce a sitcom, which contributed to her receiving the honorary title *Mayor of Hollywood* in 1955.

She is known for her Emmy Award-winning roles as Sue Ann Nivens on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* (1973-77) and Rose Nylund on *The Golden Girls* (1985-92). *The Writers Guild of America* has included both sitcoms in its list of the 101 Best Written

(Continued on page 4)

Gentle readers... I am sort of struggling with this issue, working with what I have on hand, trying to get it out before June 1. It looks a little different this month. We normally have a pride and joy article to print, but the well ran dry, and no one stepped up to the plate to write and send us one. Instead of that, I went back in time and got some interesting stuff from the July/August 1999 issue of Continental Comments, and we are reprinting that. Back in the 1990's, Don Weesner opened up his garage, and there was an organized tour of his collection. It was just like traveling back in time. Somewhere I have some pictures (35mm film) of the cars, but alas, they are impossible to find to print in this issue. Perhaps, someday...

Hopefully, we will have an interesting article about one of our member's cars to headline for next month. Chasing people down to write articles is one of my weak points, and unfortunately, I just don't have a lot of time to get everything done.

This coming weekend is the Spring Memorial Day weekend Lincoln car show. I hope that it goes well and there will be a good turnout. I too will keep my fingers crossed for nice weather. We will be at a new location, and hopefully, we can meet some new folks and make some new friends.

The show for me will be a bit bitter-sweet, as my much-better-half, Marion will be unable to attend. This past March, she was diagnosed with untreatable/ inoperable pancreatic cancer, which has

spread to her liver, ribs, spine and hips. She is in a hospice facility near our home in Burnsville. Olga and I are spending a lot of our time there, providing comfort as best we can during the last part of her journey through life. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. It will be much appreciated.



Marion with her brother, Harvey Bur-ski, who lives near Duluth. Harvey came to visit Marion and to also spend some time with Sweet Olga. Harvey is a member of LCOC and the North Star Region, courtesy of his brother-in-law. He is a real car guy and is especially enamored with Corvettes. Olga thinks he would look good in a nice older Mark IV or V.

I saw a new 2017 Lincoln Continental South of the River in Burnsville last week. This is the first sighting of a new Continental for me. It was black, and it looked good in motion. They are now at your favorite Lincoln dealership. If you have not seen one up close, please take some time to do so. This is Lincoln's flagship model, and I think it is every bit as good style wise as some of the iconic models of the past. Plus, it is loaded with technology that makes driving it all day long a real pleasure. Lincoln is not trying to compete with BMW, Mercedes or even Cadillac in the luxury car field. Lincoln will

perform great, look nice and provide an excellent driving experience for those who prefer to "go the road less traveled." Lincoln is a car that needs to be driven before buying. You really need to spend some time behind the wheel, and once you do, you will fall in love with their new models.

Take some time to visit with your friends and relatives. Life is so terribly short and don't let the good moments pass you by.

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

*Directors Message by Bob Johnson**June 2017**(Continued from page 3)*

TV Series Of All Time. In a career that has spanned more than 75 years, she has received eight Emmy awards in various categories, three American Comedy Awards, three Screen Actors Guild awards, and a Grammy. She also has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, is a Television Hall of Fame inductee (class of 1995), and a Disney Legend (class of 2009).

Betty Marion White was born in Oak Park, Illinois. She has stated that Betty is her legal name and not a shortened version of Elizabeth. She is the only child of Christine Tess (née Cachikis; July 25, 1899 - November 11, 1985), a homemaker, and Horace Logan White (May 30, 1899 - November 16, 1963), a lighting company executive. White's family moved to Alhambra, California and later to Los Angeles, during the Great Depression. To make extra money, her father would build radios and sell them wherever he could. Since it was the height of the Depression, and hardly anyone had a sizable income, he would trade the radios in exchange for dogs.

She attended Horace Mann School Beverly Hills and Beverly Hills High School and aspired to become a forest

(Continued on page 5)

Rain and more rain has been the rule for May so far. The big news for May was The Lincoln Car Raffle was finally approved, and all four Lincoln Club members were mailed raffle brochure/letters with information. The drawing for the lucky winning ticket will be in Kalamazoo, Michigan, August 12, 2017, at Saturday night banquet. Please buy one or more tickets as the proceeds go to support out beautiful Lincoln Motor Car Museum and you might be the winner of a 2017 Continental Sedan.

Our April Sunday brunch was April 23, at Paradise Landing, Balsam Lake, Wisconsin, and 30 members enjoyed the drive and brunch at this beautiful restaurant. The new owners were a bit unprepared, to say the least, but we all enjoyed our fellowship with the best of people, our North Star Region members.

Our May Monthly Board Meeting was held at a new location on May 4 at Bloomington Lincoln, in the upstairs conference room. Dave Nixon, General Manager, welcomed all Broad members and was very happy to be our host for our future board meetings. All region members are welcome to attend, and our June meeting will be Thursday, June 1, and we would like your input.

We hope you were able to attend the Ninth Annual Memorial Day weekend car show, Bloomington Lincoln, Bloomington, MN, Saturday, May 27. Maybe we will get a break and have a sunny day for a change.

No June activities are planned as there are so many car shows around the area, especially the Back to the 50s, we hope to see you there

Please join us, Friday 7/21 thru Sunday 7/23 for our three-day road trip to Tyler, MN, for our 15th Annual out State Car Show, hosted by the other Bob Johnson. Leave Friday morning, and we will stay in Marshall, MN, then on Saturday, we will attend the Car Show and Parade in Tyler. On Sunday we may be able to tour a nearby Mustang restoration shop and afterward, leave for home. Our hotel is in Marshall. We have 10 Rooms reserved at the Sleep Inn and Suites, Marshall, at \$100 a night for Friday 7/21 and Saturday 7/22. Call 507-401-2042 and ask for the "Lincoln Club rate." Rooms are King or King suites.

Update about the 2017 LCOC Grand National Meet at the Lincoln Motor Car Museum during August 7 to 14, 2017; we now have over 100 Meet Registrations with an additional 75 persons with hotel reservations that have not yet registered. The North Star Region has 14 members already registered with several more thinking about attending, please join the fun and attend this grand event. This Meet looks to be the biggest meet since the 2003 Ford 100 year Centennial celebration in Dearborn. ***The Lincoln Motor Car Museum website has the 2017 Meet Registration packet PDF which is being updated weekly with tour and activity information to use, go to lincolncarmuseum.org to download, or you can type into it directly then save and then email or mail to Meet Registration, Bob Johnson.*** Plans for 2017 include a special event, Three days touring Dearborn, Michigan, and Ford World Headquarters August 7-9, 2017. This will be the LCOC Grand National Meet; the only LCOC National meet for 2017 celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Lincoln Motor Incorporation, at the Lincoln Motor Car Foundation Museum at Hickory Corners, Michigan, August 9 - 13, 2017. There is a welcoming article on the Lincoln Motor Car Museum website explaining our Dearborn and Hickory Corners activities; you do not have to attend the whole week, you can pick and choose what you want to do. ***Again remember that the hotels and tours***

(Continued on page 12)

Northstar Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 4, 2017

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Regional Director Bob Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm at Bloomington Lincoln, Bloomington MN. Board members present were Bob Johnson, Dave Gustafson, Jay White, Matt Foley, Bill Holaday, and Roger Wothe. Other Regional member present was Mary Johnson. The minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda of this meeting were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

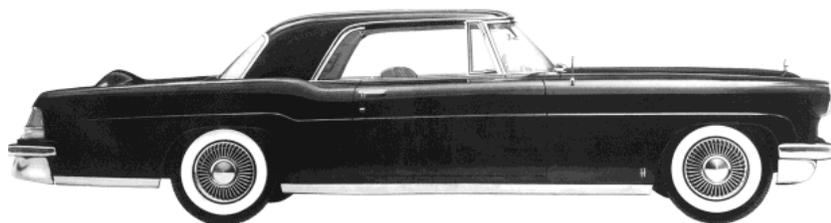
Regional Director Bob Johnson has signed the host hotel contract for the July 2018 Mid America Meet to be held at the Minneapolis Marriott, 9960 Wayzata Boulevard, St. Louis Park MN. Bob discussed with the group some of the events to take place at the meet. One or two driving events and visits to one or two private automobile collections were suggested. Our Memorial Day weekend car show will move this year from Morrie's Minnetonka Ford/Lincoln to Bloomington Lincoln. The Board was introduced to Dave Nixon, the very enthusiastic manager. He has welcomed our weekend show with open arms. He also planned to advertise the show on his Facebook page. Bob also reviewed the Outstate Car Show to be held in Tyler MN on July 21-23. Details may be found in the *Northstar News Letter*. Bob also suggested that we examine the possibility of having John Walcek prepare a poster to include about twenty-five of our members' Lincolns and make it available to Lincoln owners.

Treasurer Matt Foley reported the treasury balance to be \$2,609.81 with all bills paid.

Membership and Publications Director Dave Gustafson has again been awarded a Golden Quill Award for his outstanding newsletter. He has distributed the 2017 membership roster. He also reported no new members this past month and the membership stands at about one hundred forty renewed members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. The next meeting will be held at Bloomington Lincoln at 7:00 pm on June 1 at 7:00 pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Roger Wothe.



(Continued from page 4)
ranger. However during this time women weren't allowed to become rangers. Instead, White pursued an interest in writing. She wrote and played the lead in a graduation play at Horace Mann School and discovered her interest in performing. This is where she decided to become an actress.

White made rounds to movie studios looking for work, but was always turned down because she was "unphotogenic". So then she started to look for radio jobs where being photogenic did not matter. Her first radio jobs included reading commercials and playing bit parts, and sometimes even doing crowd noises. She made about five dollars a show. She would do just about anything, like singing on a show for no money, or making an appearance on the local game show.

White began her television career in 1939, three months after high school graduation, when she and a classmate sang songs from *The Merry Widow* on an experimental Los Angeles channel. White found work modeling, and her first professional

(Continued on page 6)

More Roy Rogers

(Continued from page 5)

acting job was at the Bliss Hayden Little Theatre. White's career was disrupted immediately, as World War II broke out, causing her to join the American Women's Voluntary Services.

In the 1940s, she worked in radio, appearing on shows such as *Blondie*, *The Great Gildersleeve*, and *This is Your FBI*. She then got her own radio show, called *The Betty White Show*. In 1949, she began appearing as co-host with Al Jarvis on his daily live television variety show *Hollywood on Television*, originally called *Al Jarvis' Make-Believe Ballroom* on KFWB radio and on KLAC-TV in Los Angeles.

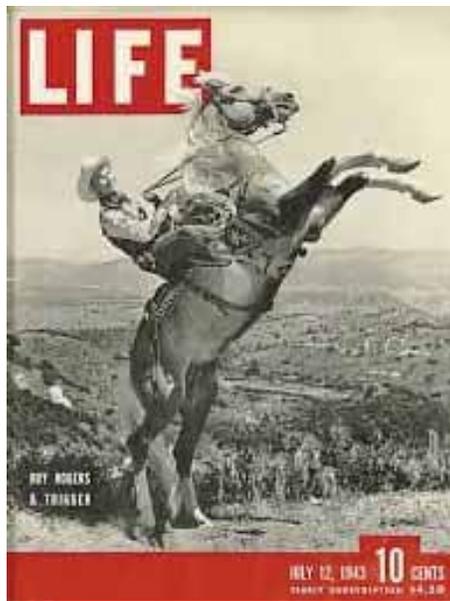
White began hosting the show by herself in 1952 after Jarvis' departure, spanning five and a half hours of live ad-lib television six days per week over a contiguous four-year span altogether. In all of her various variety series over the years, White would sing at least a couple of songs during each broadcast. In 1951, she was nominated for her first Emmy Award as "Best Actress" on television, competing with such legendary stars as Ju-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 2)

years were Lincolns.

Last January, after Roy's death, Cal Beauregard was asked by the Rogers family to appraise two of Roy's cars. Since the cars were Lincolns, Cal asked me to tag along to the Roy Rogers' Museum in Victorville, California. Roy and Dale's oldest daughter, Sheryl, showed us a '64 Lincoln Continental convertible. Roy really liked that car and drove it over 100,000 miles before retiring it to his museum. The car is straight and in good shape, but it's painted a bright yellow. It looks like the white interior is original. After examining the car, it was obvious that it had originally been painted light blue, but was repainted with the top up, because the package tray area is still light blue as are the door jams. We were told that Roy had asked "Uncle" to repaint it, and didn't find out until after it was done that "Uncle" was colorblind! No one could find the keys to the car so that we couldn't look under the hood.



Every boy's hero, Roy Rogers

We were then taken to the Rogers' ranch to look at the second Lincoln, which is a 1979 *Collector's Series* Mark V. Roy's son, Dusty (Roy Rogers Jr), told us that it was Roy's last car. It was parked in the ga-

rage and hadn't been run for some time, but it looked to be in pretty good shape, although it was very dirty. It is white with light blue trim, a blue pinstripe, and a gold grille. The paint looks to be original and is in good shape, as is the rest of the car. The interior is royal blue and also looks to be in good shape. The Mark V has about 75,000 miles on it. Dusty told us that when Roy first got the car, it was too long to fit in the garage, so he rammed the back end of it into the back wall of the garage until it fit just enough to close the garage doors. Sure enough, when we went to the rear of the garage, the bumper guards on the car lined right up with two indentations in the sheet-rock! I guess that's cowboy ingenuity for you.

Roy Rogers was apparently a lot different in person than his on screen personality showed. In person, Roy was a very private person, and he did not easily display affection, even to his children. He was very concerned about his children, and he and Dale tried to raise them as normal children, with regular household chores to do. As teenagers, they worked, and the money they earned had to be saved until they were 18, and they didn't get fancy clothes.

Dusty also told us about some of Roy's "adventures" in the Mark V. It seems that Roy only knew one way to drive, and that was with the speedometer pegged. In other words, he liked to drive fast, wherever he was going. One day in the mid-1980s Roy was driving the Mark V over Cajon Pass on Interstate 15 heading toward San Bernardino on his way to the Los Angeles area. He was going his "normal" speed, with the speedometer pegged, when he was pulled over by a California highway patrolman. The officer got out of his car and walked up to the driver's window. Roy put the window down, and the officer asked for the usual license, registration and insurance papers, which Roy handed him. Next, the officer asked Rogers to get out the car. Roy was a little puzzled, but he got out of the car. It so happened that the officer was a very tall, burly highway patrolman, much

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

dith Anderson, Helen Hayes, and Imogene Coca (the award went to Gertrude Berg). This was the very first award and category in the new Emmy history designated for women on television.

She made her feature film debut as Kansas Senator Elizabeth Ames Adams in the 1962 drama, *Advise & Consent*. Although her performance was well received, it would be her only big-screen appearance for decades.

Through the 1950s and 1960s, White began a nineteen-year run as hostess and commentator on the annual Tournament of Roses Parade broadcast on NBC (often co-hosting with Lorne Greene), and appeared on a number of late night talk shows and daytime game shows. White made many appearances on the hit game show *Password* as a celebrity guest from 1961 through 1975.

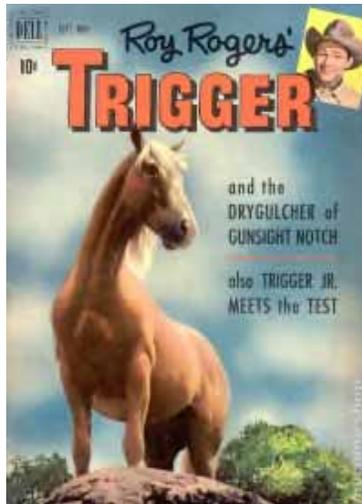
In 1973, White made several guest appearances in the fourth season of the CBS sitcom *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. As a result of this appearance, she landed the regular role of the sardonic, man-hungry Sue Ann Nivens, "The Happy Homemaker", on the show. White would receive her second and third Emmys from her

(Continued on page 8)

More Roy Rogers

(Continued from page 6)

bigger and taller than Rogers, who was of slight build. Without warning, the officer grabbed the stunned Rogers, picked him up off the ground, and hugged him in a big bear hug of an embrace. After Roy was safely back down on the ground, the officer told him that he had wanted to do that since he was five years old and watched Roy on TV! The excited officer went on to tell Rogers that he wouldn't dare give him a ticket because if the guys at the station house found out that he had given a citation to Roy Rogers, they would run him out of town. Rogers sort of recovered his composure thanked the officer, got back into his Mark V, and drove off very slowly, at least until the officer was out of sight, and then he pegged the speedometer again.



Since hearing that story, every time I hear the theme song from Roy's TV show, *Happy Trails To You*, I picture Roy driving down the freeway in his Continental Mark V, the speedometer pegged, with a California Highway Patrol officer in hot pursuit. And, after a surprised Roy gets "hugged" by the officer, instead of getting a ticket, I can just see Roy calling out to the officer as he speeds away, "Good bye, good luck, and may the Good Lord take a liking to you!" Well, if he didn't say that, he sure should have!

Don Weesner

One of the first Lincoln collectors in the country was a gentlemen by the name of Don Weesner. He truly loved cars and was in a position to afford anything that stirred his interest. Tim Howley, editor of the LCOC Comments interviewed him in 1992. The story that follows appeared in the July/August 1999 issue of Comments.

In 1992, while attending the Mid-America National Meet, the first LCOC National Meet held in Minnesota, I visited Don Weesner at his home and the late Dick Larsen. Gordy Jensen and I drove him out to his building at Lake Minnetonka so that I could photograph the cars. The Donald Weesner story, "A Collector's Collector... Since 1928" appeared in *Special Interest Autos* #136, July-August, 1993. Acquiring the Calvin Coolidge Lincoln in 1928, it is fairly safe to say that Don Weesner was the world's first Lincoln collector. Collecting Lincolns for 70 years, he was also the world's longest term Lincoln collector. While Don belonged to both The Classic Car Club of America and The Lincoln Owners Club, he never joined LCOC, probably because his Lincolns were older Classics, and he never saw his 1963 Lincoln as an old car. By the time our National Meets came to the Minneapolis area Donald was too old and feeble to attend car meets. He was not in the best of health for the last decade or so of his life.



Don Weesner

With the permission of *Special Interest Autos*, and *Barney Olsen* we are re-printing the Donald Weesner in-

terview portion of the 1993 SIA article on Don and his cars. As Don told me then in the quiet of the living room of the home his parents built in 1915, here is the story in Don's own words.

"My father was one of the founders of the Wabash Screen Door Company. They

(Continued on page 8)

Don Weesner, Collector Extraordinaire

(Continued from page 7)

part on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. White considers her part as Sue Ann in the show one of the highlights of her professional career.

A running gag was that Sue Ann's hard-edged private personality was the complete opposite of how she presented herself on her show. "We need somebody who can play sickeningly sweet, like Betty White," Moore herself suggested at a production meeting, which resulted in casting White herself. White won two Emmy Awards back-to-back for her role in the hugely popular series.

White appeared several times on *The Carol Burnett Show* and *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson* appearing in many sketches, and began guest-starring in a number of television movies and television miniseries, including *With This Ring, The Best Place to Be, Before and After*, and *The Gossip Columnist*.

In 1985, White scored her second signature role and the biggest hit of her career as the St. Olaf, Minnesota-native Rose Nylund on *The Golden Girls*. The series chronicled the lives of four widowed or divorced women in their "golden years" who shared a home in

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 7)

made screen doors, chairs, ironing tables, wash boards and stove boards (those are the boards they put under wood and coal-burning stoves to keep the ashes from going on the floor). They started in 1884 and at one time had plants in Minneapolis, Chicago Heights and Memphis. But they didn't diversify and were left on the sidelines.

Electricity came to the farms, air conditioning came in. Ironing tables, wash boards and stove boards all went out. They went out of business in 1968. My father retired in 1935, and then he was on the board of directors of the first National Bank of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce.

"My father and I usually went down to the auto show every year. There was a difference of 43 years in our ages. I had two sisters, and the youngest was 19 1/2 years older than I. With plants in three states and a sales organization in Detroit, my father was always busy with the company. He wasn't home very much except for the month of August when we would go up to our summer home in Annandale. Then in the winter-time he and my mother would go to Florida, Texas, or Arizona, but I never went with them. So we never got to be too chummy.

"We did have this one thing in common, cars, and both my father and I liked to putter. My father liked cars, and he liked to drive, although we had a chauffeur. He came to work for us when I was six months old and he stayed with us for 53 years. My father drove right up until two weeks before he died. That was 1949 when he was 83 years old. The last car he drove was my 1932 Lincoln KB.

"My father's first two cars were Stevens-Duryeas which he bought from John P. Snyder. Snyder married into the Pillsbury family. The garage was just kind of a hobby with him. (Editor's note: Snyder and his wife were among the survivors of the Titanic disaster, 1912.)

"Then my father bought two Buicks. He traded his second Buick in on one of the first Leland Lincolns in Minneapolis, but he kept his second Stevens-Duryea, a

1913 model. The Lincoln was a 1921 Opera Coupe. He almost bought a Lafayette which was also a V-8, very similar to the Lincoln. Glueck Hennessy was the Lincoln agent here. It was right next to the Minneapolis Club where my father would go for lunch. He could leave the Lincoln there for service.

"We turned the 1921 Lincoln in on a 1927 Lincoln Club Sedan. It had two spare tires on the rear, a trunk, the false landau bars, and artillery wheels. It was close-coupled, and that was the nicest car. It had about 90,000 miles on it when he turned it in on a blue 1936 Lincoln sedan with skirted fenders and yellow wire wheels. In my opinion, the '36 wasn't quite as nice looking as what he turned in. During World War II we turned that in on a Lincoln Zephyr which was underpowered and rusted out even though the chauffeur washed it just about every other day.

"My father wouldn't trade cars very often. He could never see trading just for the sake of keeping up with the Joneses. Keeping things and taking good care of them was just the attitude of a good German family.

"I have had my 1928 Locke Sport Phaeton for 64 years. My father said he would buy it for me if I would take care of it. Today, 64 years later, it still has the original paint on it. It has one nick in the right front fender. I've replaced the top and the leather upholstery, and have replaced the tires once or twice.

"The car was originally owned by the Ford Motor Company. They shipped it to St. Paul in early August 1928, and it was driven up to the Brule in Northern Wisconsin (near Duluth, Minnesota). It was used by President Calvin Coolidge at his summer White House. He came up there every summer for about three weeks. I can't say that he ever drove the car. He may have had a staff person drive it. I found a hat in the door pocket. Abercrombie & Fitch. It must have been the president's from a fishing trip. When they were through with the car they brought it back to St. Paul to the Ford Motor

(Continued on page 9)

Don Weesner continued...

(Continued from page 8)

Miami.

In December 2006, White joined the soap opera *The Bold and the Beautiful* in the role of Ann Douglas (where she would make 22 appearances), the long-lost mother of the show's matriarch, Stephanie Forrester, played by Susan Flannery. She also began a recurring role in ABC's *Boston Legal* from 2005 to 2008 as the calculating, blackmailing gossip-monger Catherine Piper, a role she originally played as a guest star on *The Practice* in 2004.

White appeared several times on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson* appearing in many sketches and returned to *Password* in its latest incarnation, *Million Dollar Password*, on June 12, 2008, (episode #3), participating in the Million Dollar challenge at the end of the show. On May 19, 2008, she appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, taking part in the host's Mary Tyler Moore Show reunion special alongside every surviving cast member of the series.

A Betty White calendar for 2011 was published in late 2010. The calendar features photos from White's career and with various animals.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 8)

Plant and then put the car up for sale. The car had only 900 miles on it when we bought it. Now it has 77,000 miles.

"In September, 1928 the Lincoln salesman came up to Annandale and wanted to know if we would be interested in this Sport Phaeton. I had a 1926 Chrysler roadster at the time which was quite a contrast. Apparently I looked as though I wanted it, and I think my father knew that I would take care of it. We turned in the Chrysler and the 1913 Stevens-Duryea. We got \$200 for the Stevens. The original cost of the Lincoln was \$4,850, but I don't remember what my father paid for it. I was 21 when he bought me that Lincoln. I was so excited that I slept in the car for the first three nights.

"I never sold the car. I kept buying more. The next was my 1932 Lincoln KB Convertible Coupe with a LeBaron body. That belonged to the King family in Winona, Minnesota. They had the Owl Agency which was the Winona Lincoln dealership. The car was down at the Lincoln service place one day in April, 1934 for \$1,600. My father bought that one for me, too. That car now has 66,000 miles on it.

"My third Lincoln is a 1963 Lincoln Continental demonstrator. My niece was going to be married that year, and she wanted me to use my 1942 Packard open-front Town Car. I was worried that it might rain; so the salesman told me to take home this Lincoln Continental demonstrator and use it in the wedding if it rained, and if I didn't like it, bring it back. He said I might like it and decide to buy it. Well, it didn't rain, so we used the Packard in the wedding. But I liked the Lincoln so much I decided to keep it. It had 5,000 miles on it when I bought it, and it now has 7,000 miles. My fourth Lincoln is a 1979 Town Car which I bought when it was 11 months old. It now has about 50,000 miles.

"My mother always had Cadillacs. We had a '39 Cadillac that was all rusted out, so John Myres sold my mother the 1942 Packard Town Car. There were only six of these made. I think that the government had them

made and sold them to the army for the Generals.

"Mrs. Gilbert Walker of the Walker Art Center (Minneapolis) and the Red River Lumber Company bought this car during World War II. We used to buy tons of lumber from their company. Anyway, she put the car up on blocks in case her other car would go bad. It sat on blocks for four years. Mrs. Walker died in 1950. Then John Myres bought it and had it for about a year or two. He was head of the Hoerner-Waldorf Paper Company in St. Paul. When my mother died in 1954 I bought the car from the estate and I have had it ever since. It now has 21,900 miles.

"I also have three Rolls-Royces that I bought in the fifties and sixties. I have a 1929 P1 Rolls that was originally owned by J.P. Morgan, a 1932 P11 Rolls Henley coupe and a 1924 Rolls Silver Ghost that was built in Springfield, Massachusetts.

"People ask why I have kept my 1928 Lincoln for so long. Well, every year I would look at the new cars and look at the lines on my 1928 Lincoln touring and say, well, maybe I'll trade it next year.

"So I just hung onto it. Of course it was polished every week and I never let it sit out in the rain. I hated to see it sold, and that's why I hung onto it."

After listening to Donald for more than an hour, I had to say, "Yes I can understand all of this, but how did all of these cars stay so nice and original for so many years?" His answer, without hesitation was, "Well, if it looked like rain I would walk or take a cab."

Postscript. Gordy Jensen greatly admired the low mileage 1963 Lincoln sedan when we visited Donald Weesner's collection in 1992 in preparing the above article for *Special Interest Autos*. Fortunately, Gordy was able to buy this car at the Christie's auction. We do not know who bought the 1932 Lincoln KB or the 1928 Lincoln L touring because Christie's as a matter of policy does not divulge the names of buyers. Perhaps some of our members know who bought these two cars. Both would be worth featuring in *Continental Comments*.

Weesner estate sells cars.

(Continued from page 9)

She also launched her own clothing line on July 22, 2010, which features shirts with her face on them. All proceeds go to various animal charities she supports.

White also starred in the Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation of The Lost Valentine on January 30, 2011. This presentation garnered the highest rating for a Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation in the last four years and according to the Nielsen Media Research TV rating service won first place in the prime time slot for that date.

In 1945, White married Dick Barker, a U.S. Army Air Corps pilot. The marriage was short-lived. In 1947, she married Lane Allen, a Hollywood agent. This marriage ended in divorce in 1949.

On June 14, 1963, White married television host and personality Allen Ludden, whom she had met on his game show Password as a celebrity guest in 1961, and her legal name was changed to Betty White Ludden. He proposed to White at least twice before she accepted. Allen Ludden died from stomach cancer on June 9, 1981, in Los Angeles. They had no children together, though she is stepmother

(Continued on page 11)

This article was written by Barney Olson and appeared in the July/August 1999 issue of Continental Comment.

Donald Weesner was a car collector and Lincoln enthusiast who died last fall at the age of 91. He lived all but the first seven years of his long life in the same house on the shores of beautiful Lake of the Isles in one of the very finest neighborhoods in Minneapolis. Unencumbered by the need to work, Don spent his life accumulating whatever toys took his fancy. Sometimes it was railroad related, whether it be memorabilia or models, sometimes it was other interests, and often it was automobile related. Don accumulated toys, automobile books, automobile literature, and, most importantly, some significant automobiles. They have now all been sold off and have gone to new owners who, at the moment, are largely unknown.

Don was never known to have sold any of his various acquisitions. He was fond of saying "The Weesners are buyers, not sellers." He meant that and ignored all hints, suggestions, and requests to sell any of his cars or other artifacts. I sensed that early in our friendship and never bothered to ask.



1928 Lincoln Model L Locke Phaeton

Don owned some significant Lincolns, all of which had been in the family almost from the time they were new. The oldest Lincoln was a 1928 Model L Locke body Sport Phaeton which was bought only slightly used in the fall of 1928. Previously, Ford Motor Company had lent this Lincoln and several other cars to the staff of President Calvin Coolidge for their use during the summer of 1928. President Coolidge spent the summer on the Brule River in

Northern Wisconsin, near Superior. A plaque on the Superior Courthouse lawn today memorializes that summer when the Superior County Courthouse became the summer executive mansion.

Don and his dad embarked for Florida in February 1929 in the Model L. Without the benefit of any heater and protected only by side curtains; the two made it through howling blizzards to sunny Florida. Over the years, Don drove the car up to 77,000 miles and often showed up at Classic Car Club events with it.



1932 Model KB LeBaron Roadster

Another of his favorites was a 1932 Model KB Convertible Roadster, body by LeBaron. Bought used from the King family of Winona, Minnesota when only two or three years old, Don spent a lot of time in the '30s and '40s with the top down, cutting a rakish figure around the lakes west of Minneapolis. That car accumulated 66,000 miles and today is a good, sound, presentable used car. The dark blue lacquer body shows some cracking and peeling. The chestnut colored leather seats show a fine patina of age and use, but generally the car still looks serviceable.

Don bought a new 1963 Lincoln Continental sedan which, for reasons he never explained to me, was never used much. When sold at auction on April 24, the car showed only 7,000 miles. The engraved nameplate stating "this car built for Donald Weesner" was still fixed to the dashboard. The car is black with beige leather seats and lacked only air conditioning.

Other cars in the Weesner entourage included three Rolls Royce's—a 1924 Spring-

(Continued on page 11)

Weesner car sale continued.

(Continued from page 10)

to his three children from his first marriage, when his wife had died. White has not remarried since Ludden's death. In an interview with Larry King, when asked whether she would remarry, she replied by saying "Once you've had the best, who needs the rest?"

White is a pet enthusiast and animal health advocate who works with animal organizations, including the Los Angeles Zoo Commission, the Morris Animal Foundation, African Wildlife Foundation, and Actors & Others for Animals. Her interest in animal rights and welfare began in the early 1970s while she was both producing and hosting the syndicated series, *The Pet Set*, which spotlighted celebrities and their pets.

According to the Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Garden's *ZooScape Member Newsletter*, White hosted "History on Film" from 2000 to 2002. White donated nearly \$100,000 to the zoo in the month of April 2008 alone.

The American Veterinary Medical Association awarded White with its Humane Award in 1987 for her charitable work with animals. The City of Los Angeles further honored her for her philanthropic work with

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 10)

field Silver Ghost Phaeton, a 1929 Phantom II Touring Car, and a rakish 1934 Phantom 11 Rumble Seat Coupe with a Brewster body. All of the Rolls-Royces were acquired in the 1950s, and none of the collector cars received much use after the decade of the '60s.

Demonstrating that he remained a kid at heart all his life, Don also had acquired a 1920 Ahrens-Fox Fire Engine and a mid-'50s London taxi cab. He restored the fire truck and was known to have driven it from time to time.



1942 Packard open front town car with body by Rollson. First owned by the Walker family of Minneapolis.

Another unique car in the Weesner collection deserves note. Sometime around 1950, the Weesners acquired a 1942 Packard all-weather cabriolet with body by Rollson. Translated from the Packard, this means an open front town car. A member of the Walker family, one of Minneapolis' more illustrious families, bought the Packard at the beginning of World War II as a backup car in case her then current set of wheels could not be replaced if the war dragged on too long. This brings hoarding to a new level. The Packard showed only 19,000 miles and was in generally good condition at Don's death.

In the early '60s, Don had a building constructed at Lake Minnetonka primarily to house his automobile collection. This was no pole barn, but rather a reinforced concrete, heated year around permanent structure with offices in the front part of the building. To the end of his life, Don delighted in opening the doors to car clubs and other interested groups to show off his cars. Once the cars were moved into the newly completed building,

few ever emerged again. The classics were put up on jack stands or blocks, and there they sat for 30 some years.

The executor of the Weesner estate hired Christie's, the international auction company, to market the collector cars. A whole entourage of Christie's staff arrived one day at the Weesner garage with boxes of camera equipment, photo backdrops, and other paraphernalia. Several days of pumping up tires and moving the cars around the garage to place them in position for photographing for the auction catalog followed. Amazingly, all of the ancient tires held air. The cars were cleaned up only enough to look good in a catalog photograph.

The Christie's auction was held in Tarrytown, New York on April 24. All of the cars, including the fire engine, were trucked off to New York for the sale. However, no effort was made to start any of them. They were sold in non-running state with the condition of the engines essentially unknown. Nevertheless, several of the cars brought substantial prices.

Christie's currently holds an auction at Tarrytown every spring and gathers car fans from all over the eastern part of the country for the event. Approximately 80 cars were offered including the Weesner collection, and the sales rate exceeded 80 percent. This is a high rate for a collector car auction, but Christie's consistently achieves that level of sales. More significantly, most of the cars in the auction sold for within or close to the range of Christie's auction catalog estimates.



1963 Lincoln subsequently purchased by North Star member Gordy Jensen.

The Weesner estate representatives were concerned that the cars were being of-

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

animals in 2006 with a bronze plaque near the Gorilla Exhibit at the Los Angeles Zoo. The City of Los Angeles named her "Ambassador to the Animals" at the dedication ceremony.

On November 9, 2010, the USDA Forest Service, along with Smokey Bear, made Betty White an honorary forest ranger, fulfilling her lifelong dream. White said in previous interviews that she wanted to be a forest ranger as a little girl but that women were not allowed to do that then. When White received the honor, more than one-third of Forest Service employees were women.

In October 2011, White was awarded an honorary degree and white doctor's coat by Washington State University at the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association's centennial gala in Yakima, Washington.

A 2011 poll conducted by Reuters and Ipsos revealed that White was considered the most popular and most trusted celebrity among Americans, beating the likes of Denzel Washington, Sandra Bullock, and Tom Hanks.

From the internet...

More Weesner

(Continued from page 11)

ferred at the very end of the auction and might lose some interested potential bidders. Although two of the cars, including the 1963 Lincoln, sold at moderate prices, the rest of the collection showed well.

The 1963 Lincoln sold for only \$4,000. For that price, the bidder, Gordy Jensen got a virtually brand new 1963 Lincoln, a desirable year. However, that price, and to all the bid prices in this article must be added a 15 percent buyer's premium. Thus, the bidder for the 1963 Lincoln actually paid \$4,600.

Bids on the Rolls-Royces ranged from \$70,000 to a whopping \$290,000 for the 1934 Phantom II. Called a "Henley", this was truly a one of a kind body style. The 1928 Model L Lincoln Locke crossed the block for \$50,000. This is probably within range, although considering its non-running status for 30 years, must be regarded as a strong price.



Partial view of the Weesner collection.

There were other surprises. Several detachable trunks and other automobile accessories of Weesners were also sold by Christie's. One of the trunks drew a bid of over \$3,000. A wicker picnic hamper complete with china, silver, and other accessories were bid to \$1,400.

On Saturday, May 22, the remains of the Weesner automobile and railroad memorabilia collections were sold at the final estate sale. Thus, the accumulated collections of a 91-year lifetime were disposed of in three short months.

More Bob Johnson

(Continued from page 4)

have limited space so register early to get your choice. The early bird will get the worm or in this case the choice that you want.

We always need "Our Pride and Joy" articles about your Lincoln. Please take the time to write that article about your car that you keep putting off during the summer because you were too busy.

Please share your story about your car with all of our members; we would like to know how you got it, what you enjoy about it, what you have done to it or have left to do. Please send your article to Dave Gustafson; he can only do the newsletter with material that you send him, so get busy.

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

Bob and Mary Johnson....



For Sale - 1980 Mark VI



1980 Mark VI Signature Series, Bill Blass coupe. Power steering, windows, and seats. A/C needs charge. Blue leather interior in very good condition. White vinyl top replaced 5 years ago and looks like new. Stored in a heated area. \$5500 OBO. You can't find another car like this at this price. Bob Roth 763.475.1429

For Sale All Good Lincolns



FOR SALE: **1997 Lincoln Town Car** - Signature Series. Show Car - 1st Place 2012 LCOC Mid-America National Meet. Pearl White ext. Lt., Gray interior. Absolutely looks and drives like new. 76,000 miles. In heated storage, rust free. \$9,450
Call Rolland Toenges, 952 938-6200 or email: rptoenges@aol.com



For Sale 1948 Lincoln Continental Coupe
\$12,500

New paint, rebuilt V12

*****Sold*****

chrome replated, engine, new brakes and tires, new exhaust. This is a full CCCA Classic and would be a great car for touring next

Radiator and gas tank reconditioned, trunk carpeted, absolutely no rust. Car is equipped with overdrive. Call Ted Anderson 763.561.8143.
Also have V12 Radiator, front grills for 46-48 Lincoln, fairly priced.



For Sale.... 1937 Lincoln K 2 window sedan. This car is one of three known and has been a show winner and a very reliable tour car. It has a high speed rear end and has been completely restored to a very high standard. It has won the Edsel Ford trophy and has been a runner up to the Bell award. I am offering the car at \$59,500 and am looking for good home with someone who will enjoy it as much as I have. If you are interested, please call Tom Brace at (651) 644-1716 or email: trbrace@comcast.net



For Sale: 1978 Mark V. White with blue, full padded top. Blue leather interior. Excellent condition, both inside and out. Smooth running 460 makes it a pleasure to drive. Air blows very cold. Truly would be a joy to own. 54K miles, they just don't get much better. Fairly offered at \$9,950.

Call Dennis Owens at 612.269.6482 to talk more about this Mark and the price.

You May Be Interested in these Items for Sale

Wanted.... Car club badges and patches. New and Used.

Call Harvey Oberg, 651.739.9754

For Sale - 1965 Lincoln Continental Convertible



This beautiful fully restored 100 point car (Lincoln show standards) is now available. Equipped with the whisper-quiet, smooth 430 V8, rare silver blue bucket seats and steel belted radial tires. Stainless exhaust system and detailed engine bay and undercarriage. Drives perfectly. Call John Palmer at 218.389.6189 or 218.380.3239.



1994 Lincoln Town Car Executive loaded with options. The car has two air bags, keyless entry, air suspension, moon roof, four wheel disk brakes, cassette tape player and 1 1/8" white wall tires. Second owner since 1999. Car gone over by Lincoln dealer. Rare gold color with matching interior. Must see to appreciate. Asking \$9,500. Call Richard at 651.351.2855.



Northstar Region grille badges are now available. To obtain yours, contact Harvey Oberg at 651.739.9754

Now Available - Lincoln Caps and Shirts
Mens shirts with pockets, Ladies without.
All Sizes, one price \$25, Caps, \$10.



Call now, operators standing by. Bob Johnson
651.257.1715, email: arborbob41@aol.com

Preview of Coming Events

- June **Back to the Fifties, June 23-25, 2017**, Minnesota State Fairgrounds, St Paul
All Ford Show, June 3rd, Dunwoody Plaza, Minneapolis, MN
- July **Maple Grove Days Car Show, Saturday, July 15, 2016**
14th Annual Out State Lincoln Car Show, Saturday, July 22, 2017 at Tyler, MN
during Aebleskiver Days. Three day event. Stay in Marshall. Details to follow.
Sunday, July 30th, the 10,000 Lake Concours d'Elegance,
Excelsior MN 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- August **Lincoln Motor Car Museum, Grand National Meet**, Fourth Annual Lincoln Homecoming, Hickory
Corners, MI, **August 7-13, 2017**, All Lincoln owners, 100 year Anniversary Lincoln Incorpora-
tion, LOC will be hosting. More details in future newsletters or visit www.lincolncarmuseum.org
- September **10th Annual Luther North Country Lincoln Car Show, Saturday, September 9th,**
2017, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- October **Annual North Star Potluck and Auction** at Morries in Long Lake, MN,
Sunday, October, 15th, 2017.
- November **Year end Sunday Brunch at Dangerfield's** in Shakopee.
Sunday, November 12th, at 11:30 a.m.

Know some other event that may be of interest to members of the North Star Region. Let us know and perhaps we can work it into our event schedule for this year. Do you have a special burger place that we can cruise to some evening. Tell us about it. Maybe we can do it. Good friends and nice Lincolns make for some fun times.

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

www.northstarlcoc.org Click on publications.

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

North Star Activities



Our 14th Annual "Out State" Car Show

We are taking our show on the road this July 21 through July 23. Our destination is Tyler, MN, home of the world famous Aebleskiver and the equally famous (the other) Bob Johnson. Departing from the Twin Cities Friday morning and travelling to Marshall, Mn where we will be spending two nights at the Sleep Inn and Suites. We have ten rooms reserved and the rate is \$100 per night. Phone 507.401.2014 for reservations. The car show will be on Saturday in Tyler, along with a parade later in the day. Come take in all the fun in Tyler, and get your fill of those wonderful Aebleskivers. Sunday, we may be able to tour a Mustang restoration shop and then make the trek home. For more information, call Bob Johnson at 651.257.1715.



Make your plans now to attend the **2017 LCOC Grand National, August 7-13**, the only national LCOC judged meet this year. Full details are available on the Lincoln Motor Car Museum (Lincolncarmuseum.org) and click on download the 2017 Registration packet. You may also contact our very own Bob Johnson at 651.257.1715 or email: arborbob41@aol.com for more information. Hotels are filling up fast, the host hotel,

The Four Points is already full, but rooms are still available at three other nearby hotels. Tours are starting to fill up so get on line and complete your registration today. This event is celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the founding of the Lincoln Corporation. It is anticipated that well over 150 cars will be on the field for judging and exhibition. Many of which will be appearing for the first time. Do not miss this this great opportunity to take part in one of the most significant Lincoln shows ever. Make your hotel reservations now and complete your registration materials today.

FALL LINCOLN SHOW, SATURDAY, September 9, 2017

North Country Ford Lincoln

Join us at North Country Ford Lincoln, 10401 Woodcrest Drive, Coon Rapids, for our fall All Lincoln Car Show. 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

We look forward to meeting some new Lincoln owners, seeing some old friends and just having a lot of fun. There will be prizes and lunch will be served by North Country. Set this date aside now. Lets get those Lincolns out for one last time this year. Unlike last year, we will have great weather and good times for this last car show of the season. Lets do it again this September 9. See and drive all the new Lincoln cars. Best part, we will be served lunch.....

FALL NORTHSTAR LCOC Pot luck and Auction

Sunday, October 15, 10:00AM to 3:00PM

Morrie's Conference Center

2605 Wayzata (Old Hwy 12) Boulevard, Long Lake, MN

Details to follow in future issues