

THE LINCOLN LOG



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Hoosier Region**

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Indiana LCOC Board of Managers 2020

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Table of Contents

Page 2 *Notes from the director*

Page 3 *Hoosier Region Founding Member
Marilyn Pecsok 1929-2020*
by Darren Klingler

Page 4 *A Classic Couple— Jack and Marilyn
Pecsok* by George Maley

Front cover: Jack and Marilyn Pecsok's 1940 Lincoln-Zephyr Continental Cabriolet at the Riviera Club in Indianapolis. **Back cover:** Down the road a piece with the Jack and Marilyn.
Photos by Jeff Shively

Notes from the director

2020 is coming to an end. The Hoosier Region of the Lincoln and Continental Club has survived and we look forward to 2021. We hope all is well with you and yours and may the promise of a new year bring us a chance to pursue our car culture in proper fashion. Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, & Happy New Year.

Continentially yours,
Joe S. & Eleanor Columbe



This issue of the *Lincoln Log* is dedicated to a couple who were key to the founding and long-term health of the Hoosier Region, Jack and Marilyn Pecsok. Members will remember Jack's green 1940 Lincoln-Zephyr Continental Cabriolet. We lost Jack in 2014 and Marilyn just passed away in December. Darren Klingler wrote a wonderful tribute and I found an article that ran in the Indiana CCCA *Hoosier Horn* just before Jack passed away. I think that this will be a fitting tribute to a couple who did so much for all of us.— Ed.

Hoosier Region Founding Member Marilyn Pecsok 1929-2020

By Darren Klingler

It is with deep sorrow that I must report that long-time LCOC member and founding member of the Hoosier Region, Marilyn Pecsok, passed away on December 15, 2020.

Marilyn Pecsok and a select few passionate national LCOC members founded the Hoosier Region in 1983. I joined the Hoosier Region that year as a charter member and remember meeting Marilyn and Jack Pecsok. They were the nicest, most welcoming, warm couple to a (then) young guy just joining my first classic car organization. Jack was the founding Hoosier Region Director and Marilyn was our first "first lady." The new "small membership" Hoosier Region was bold enough to offer hosting the Eastern National Meet of the LCOC. In those days, there were only Eastern and Western Meets. In addition, we proposed making it a joint meet with the Lincoln Zephyr Owners Club (LZOC). Larry Hanlon was the meet chair. They called for "all hands on deck" to plan the meet and to coordinate with the Zephyr members. Hosting a meet, or any large event like that, gives you an opportunity to get to know your fellow host committee members pretty

well. A lot of people worked very hard to put on that successful meet in 1985 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Speedway Motel. I became



closer to Marilyn and Jack during the planning and execution of that meet and for years afterwards.

Marilyn was born in Indianapolis. She earned her degrees at DePauw and Butler universities. She was a member of various organizations that helped fellow citizens. Marilyn was also an IPS teacher and influenced the minds of future adults. She was also a member of the Riviera Club and was a great swimmer, winning awards. She was

a member of Milestone Car Club and Classic Car Club of America and was national president of one of those clubs. But what was more than her life as a teacher, leader, and helping others, she was a dear friend and mentor. With all of her recognitions and many titles, the one she was most proud of was "citizen." She made you feel proud to be an American and proud to be her friend. Once you met her, you were her friend for life. She was always there to help out at all the meets the Hoosier Region hosted, and she was always there to help a friend in any way she could. She would encourage you when you needed it and recognize you when you did well, and when you failed, she was there to pull you up and make it better. She still came to Hoosier Region events over the years. She will be missed as a founding member, first lady, and dear friend.

Our thoughts are with her family and friends. I know Jack met her at the Pearly Gates with open arms, and a new Lincoln Continental!

Darren Klingler is an LCOC member from Indianapolis

A Classic Couple

Jack and Marilyn Pecsok

By George Maley



Jack and Marilyn Pecsok are as Classic as the prestigious automobiles of the late 1920s through the late 1940s that are the heart of the Classic Car Club of America. Marilyn Wiegand, now Jack Pecsok's wife of over fifty years, met for the first time in the cradle department of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, at least according to Jack. Marilyn doesn't quite remember that event of her early years. The two of them grew up quite separately. Jack went off to the University of Cincinnati in the late 1940s to study architecture. Marilyn went to Shortridge High School and then on to DePauw University, graduating from both institutions as valedictorian of her class. Marilyn

majored in languages, focusing on Spanish and French. She started her career as a school teacher in the primary grades in the Indianapolis Public School system at the then-newly constructed School 90, just east of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. She continued her education at Butler University, earning a Master's Degree in Education.

As a young girl, Marilyn took up swimming at Highland Country Club and the Riviera Club in Indianapolis. She swam under the tutelage of Bud Sawin, who led the Club to the national swimming championships (AAV) in 1941, 1942, 1943, and 1944. Marilyn swam the butterfly stroke and won the National Junior Championship. She con-

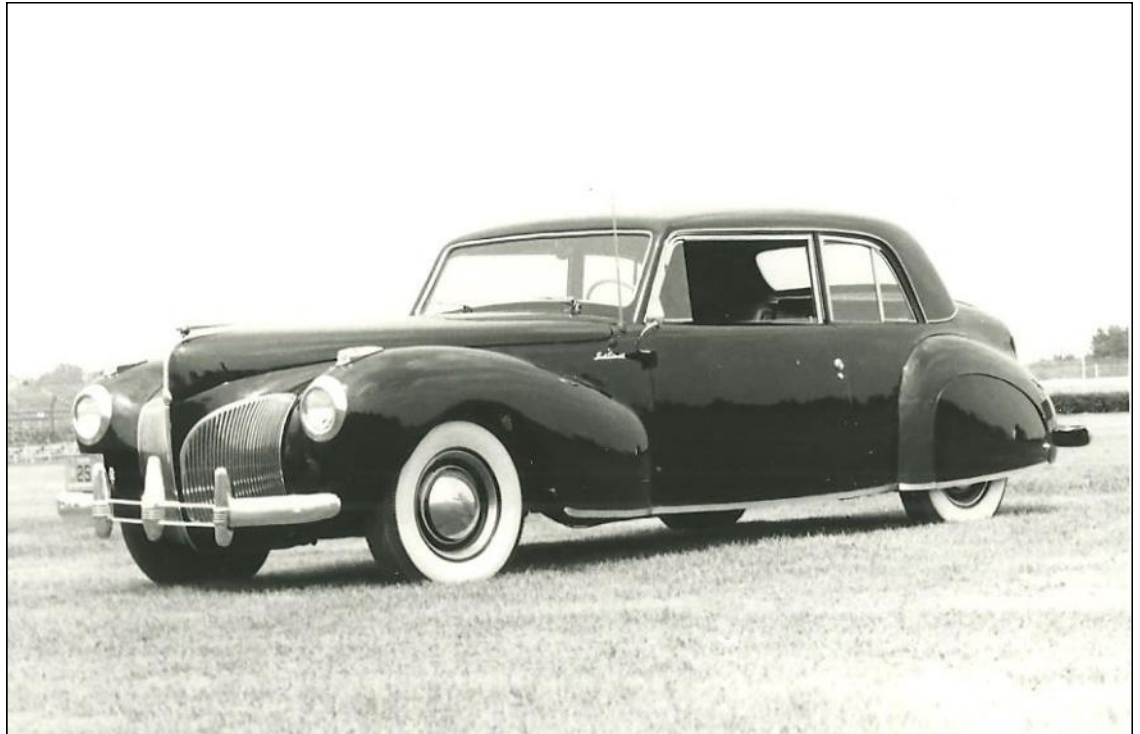
tinued competitive swimming through her college years.

As for Jack, after receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from the University of Cincinnati, he entered the United States Air Force as a Second Lieutenant. He was called up for active service in March 1955, serving at Fort Bragg in North Carolina and then at Bunker Hill Air Force Base (now Grissom Air Reserve Base) near Peru, Indiana. In both cases, he served as an Installation Engineer. After serving his Air force commitment, Jack started up his own

The article originally appeared in the May-June 2014 issue of the Hoosier Horn, the official magazine of the Indiana Region, Classic Car Club of America. Photos courtesy of the CCCA and the editor.

Facing page: Jack and Marilyn Pecsok at the Garrison in Indianapolis during a CCCA annual meeting

Right: Jack purchased his second Lincoln Continental, a 1941 Coupe, in 1969.



architectural firm in Noblesville. He also bought his first house, the oldest house in Noblesville, built by Judge Earl Stone in 1849. Jack left the structure original except for making the second floor compatible for modern living purposes. In the course of time, he partnered

with Jack Jellop, a fellow architect. As the firm started to take off, the two men moved it to Indianapolis in 1964. Shortly after Jack moved to Indianapolis, he met Marilyn Wiegand again. Two years later, they were married in the same church where they had been in

the cradle department many years earlier.

Jack's architectural specialties were fraternity houses, churches, and libraries. In Indianapolis, he was the architect of St. Luke's Catholic Church and St. Pius Catholic Church. Jack received awards for his designs on both of these churches. He also made a connection with the Disciples of Christ Church, headquartered in Indianapolis. Over time he consulted with 350 parishes of the "Disciples" in 32 different states. In 1982, he was awarded the distinction of becoming a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects. Jack's award is only given to approximately two percent of practicing architects throughout the country.

Jack, as an authority in church architecture, was required to travel throughout the country on business. Marilyn kept herself busy by being engaged in a





variety of civic activities. She is a past president of the Children's Bureau of Indianapolis, a Past President of the Day Nursery Association, a former V.P. of the Junior League, Past President and Vice President of Tri Kappa, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a member of the American Red Cross. She worked on the Red Cross's campaign against cystic fibrosis in 1970. Marilyn has been honored by both DePauw and Butler as an outstanding alumna.

How did the couple find their way to the world of Full Classics®? When Jack was just a youth, the owner of the Willow Brook Golf Course lived in the

area and drove a 1936 Cord sedan back and forth to the golf course. This Art Deco design Cord was different than anything this lad had ever seen. As time passed, Jack eagerly awaited the new issue of Fortune magazine with the back page ads dedicated to the Lincoln line of automobiles. Those images of sleek Zephyrs and Continentals fueled dreams of owning a pre-war Continental that followed him into adulthood. In 1969, he bought his first Lincoln Continental from John Delamater, who dealt in specialty cars in the Indianapolis area. His second car was a black 1941 Lincoln Continental Coupe, followed by a third, a 1948 Lincoln Continen-

tal Coupe. In 1970, he purchased his ultimate dream, a dark green 1940 Lincoln-Zephyr Continental Cabriolet, which he

Above: Jack confers with Hugh McKnight, the owner of the 1941 Lincoln Continental Coupe, and John Madden at an Indiana Region CCCA outing to the Monon Connection Museum in Monon, Indiana, in 2007.

Facing page top: Jack and Marilyn in their younger days, accepting one of the many awards they received during their long service to several car clubs.

Facing page bottom: One more picture of the happy couple!

owns to this day. To have the 1940 Continental brought up to CCCA judging standards, he found a young mechanic at the Strickland Lincoln-Mercury dealership in Indianapolis who told Jack that he would be happy to work on his Lincoln. Thus started a long relationship with mechanic John Cocheron. Then it was time to join the "Club." Long time Indiana Region member Bloor Redding invited Jack and Marilyn into the CCCA in 1969. Marilyn was not an old car enthusiast early on, even though her father drove a 1930 Marmon Roosevelt. Once she saw her husband becoming interested in the car hobby, she made it her business to study the great cars of the past. Since Jack was doing a great deal of design work for libraries, she would accompany him to the evening meetings where she could browse in the stacks of the libraries reading up on antique cars.

After the couple joined the Classic Car Club of America, both of them jumped into the hobby. Jack became the Director of the Indiana Region in 1974 after going through the "chairs." Marilyn followed her husband in the same direction. She wrote articles for the *Hoosier Horn*. She had contacts with the Indianapolis Star newspaper, including Social Editor Kathleen Van Nuys. Every time there was a CCCA event, Marilyn made sure that the Star gave the Club plenty of good publicity. She served as the first female Director of the Indiana



Region in 1985, after serving on the Board of Managers three times, as secretary three times, membership chair twice, and treasurer once.

Asked about the changes over the years in their sojourn in the Classic Car Club of America, there were several things that stood out in their collective memories. In the 1970s, events focused more on driving the Classics and partying. Today's traffic patterns make it more dangerous for Classics to compete with modern cars. Leadership is much better in the Club today, but Full Classics® are now more often pampered museum pieces rather than "drivers." More expensive restorations result in more exotic classics bringing big money. Yet, the nostalgia for the great cars of the past is still there.

Jack and Marilyn have been enriched over the years by the many friends, some living and

some deceased. Phil Headback, Cordy Purdie, Jim Dougherty, Fred Kohlmeir, and Bill and Carolyn Greer were the backbones of the club early on. Don and Bev McCallum, Bloor and Molly Redding, and Helen Vogel are still living and are all special friends. It has been a great ride.

George Maley is a long-time member of the Classic Car Club of America and lives in Indianapolis.



Happy trails,



Jack and Marilyn!