The Rotunda Times

Volume 7 No. 12 The Official monthly Publication of the Ford & Mercury Restorer's Club of America December 2017

JANUARY'S 2018 MEETING WILL BE ON
MONDAY JANUARY 8TH
DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY ONLY JIMMY CAN EXPLAIN!!
REMEMBER MONDAY • JANUARY 8TH • 2018

DECEMBER FEATURE ARTICLE
MEMBER CAR 1987 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL

The last rear wheel drive Lincoln Continental ever made was in 1987. I toured the Wixom plant in 1986 and watched the Town Cars, Mark Sevens, and Continentals come down the line it was about four Town Cars to every Mark or Continental.

I had brand new Continental in 1984 which was a triple blue Givenchy model. In 1986 and 1987 the Continental got the sequential fuel injection which was a huge improvement in performance for all the Lincolns across the entire the Lincoln line-up. The mid size top of the line Lincoln was not selling well at the end of the product cycle and they are very rare to see on the road today with this engine.

The Continental cost four thousand dollars more than the larger, better selling town car but was touted as the high technology option with air suspension, anti-lock brakes, digital dash board, and until the final 1987 model year, real wood on the dash and door panels.

After searching for years for a 1986-1987 Continental, I saw one on Craig's list with only 52,000 miles on Mercer Island outside of Seattle.

The paint on the hood and trunk was coming off, but the interior was excellent. It was black with gray interior, with graphite paint below the trim line. I have had five or six Town Cars from this era, and they are excellent cars, but at this point, most of their vinyl tops are going bad which is prohibitively expensive to repair. None of the Continentals ever had vinyl tops installed, so that makes one less worry when looking at a thirty year old car.

I asked the 81 year old owners son why one of the kids didn't want the car and he said "We just don't have the passion." Most people today don't have a passion for these cars and that's why I ended up paying two thousand dollars for it! I have had the paint restored and replace the heater

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ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

When you hear of a member/spouse's death, please get all the information such as the funeral home and address, viewing times and dates, and the service time and date.

Then contact one of the following people:

Jim Crawford
734.259.8079 or jcrawfo1@wowway.com

Bob Guetschow
248.328.9113 or guetschowr@yahoo.com

These folks will ensure that the membership at large knows of the death.

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FMRCOA

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The Ford & Mercury Restorers Club is a hobby organization whose purpose is to foster and promote the acquisition, preservation and use of all Ford vehicles.

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2017 DECEMEMBER PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello members "HAPPY NEW YEAR"

2017 is coming to an end. First off I would like to thank the board for all their hard work this year for moving our club forward. They have accomplished many things this year. New hats, new sweatshirts even including a hoodie. We will have a new design on our Swapmeet T-shirts for 2018. We will be going back to one of the FMRCOA original designed shirts.

Our Dearborn 2018 car show will also see new changes this year. We have added three new classes to our car show making a total of 10 classes. For our Dearborn 2018 car show the board has approved all profits from our car show to go to Motts children's hospital in Ann Arbor.

Our 2017 Roster also has a new look, it will include the first year each member joined the club. This was something the members voted on a while back and the board was able to accomplish this.

Dinner dance invitations should be on their way to members for our 2017 dinner dance on January 13th at Joy Manor. We have kept the price at $20 per person again this year so come on out and join us for a great meal and entertainment by the Wally Gibson Duo band.

I would like to personally "THANK" our board. Tim Pusilo our vice president will be leaving a board position. Tim has worked tirelessly over the past few years in moving our club forward and I would like to thank him for all his hard work. Stan Miller will be moving to the position of vice president continuing his work on the board. Mark Sapienz will stay as secretary and Cole Grandy and Joe Piziali will also continue their work on the Board as Directors. Thank you gentleman.

I would like to thank Jerry Worful for stepping up and filling a board position that was vacated this year. I would like to thank Gerald (Mr Magoo) Murphy for his hard work in his board position and all that he continues to do for the club. Thank you Gerald.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Terry Worful; for Terry's 10 years as Membership Secretary for our club. Thank you to Jack Vongerichten, Greg Petrovich, Roger Hodyka, Wally Wigand, Laurel Gottlieb, Don Steinhagen and Bob Topping for your continued dedication to our club.

I would also like to welcome to our 2018 FMRCOA board Dale Levasseur our new Treasurer and Bill Timoszyk as our new Director.

I would like to thank our members for supporting our board this year without our dedicated members we would not have a club.

Have a Happy and Safe New Year.

YOUR PRESIDENT,
JIM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

6TH - 7TH • NOVI SWAP MEET

8TH • CLUB MEETING

20-28TH • NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CAR SHOW

13TH • DINNER DANCE AT JOY MANOR

FEBRUARY

6TH • CLUB MEETING

MARCH

2ND - 4TH • AUTORAMA

6TH • CLUB MEETING
"SHARE YOUR HOBBY"

APRIL

3RD • CLUB MEETING
SPRING CLEAN CLUB AUCTION

THE FMRCOA MEMBERSHIP ADVANTAGE!!!!

Your Board officers and editor take extra effort to bring you FREE classifieds and schedule of events found within your monthly newsletter. Take advantage of these benefits your membership provides. Post your schedule where you can refer to it easily. Submit your ads at a meeting or mail to:

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P.O. Box 2938 • Dearborn, MI 48123

For more information on becoming a member go to FMRCOA.org or write to the above address

YOUR CAR!

The Rotunda Times would like to feature your old car or truck in an upcoming issue. We are interested in how you came about finding your vehicle of choice, and what you have done to enhance its beauty, and/or mechanical condition. Simply mail or email us your article accompanied with a photo to:

TIM PUSILO
313.278.1325 • dean35aw@gmail.com

Our monthly club meetings are held at

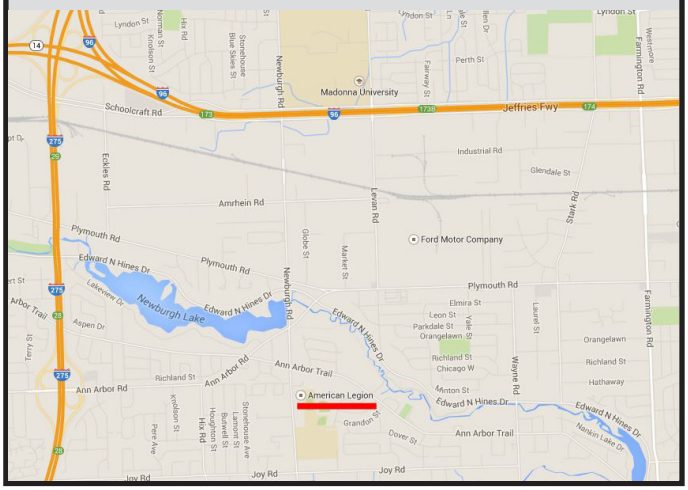
AMERICAN LEGION POST 32

9318 Newburgh Rd. • Livonia, MI 48150
Between Plymouth and Joy Roads

This is a great facility where we had our last dinner dance. It has large parking lot (to the south) enabling club cars to easily park together.

Meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month and begin at 6:30pm with a snack.

DO BRING A FRIEND!



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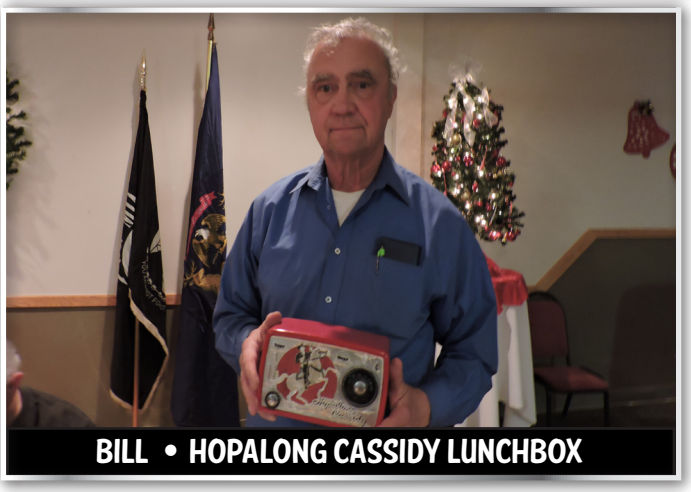
DECEMBER 2017
FMRCOA MEETING MINUTES
December 5, 2017

- Guests were from Toys for Tots. Our members again filled the tables with donated toys. In addition the Club matched $400 in cash donations.
- Next, Jim detailed Dinner Dance plans to the membership.
- Jim and Stan met with the Fairgrounds signing a contract for Dearborn 2018. Discussion ensued about the Car Show and Swap Meet issues such as fliers, vendor costs, food tickets, pipe payment, T-shirt {voted Blue by members}.
- President Jim addressed resolving Board issues from last month's meeting. VP Tim was given a round of applause for his many years of service to the Club on the Board. Tim said a few words as well as thanked the Membership. Stan gave our financial report.
- Incoming Director Bill represented our Club at the Motor Muster Function at the Henry Ford. Bill reported local car clubs were asked to meet with and discuss improvements/ problems to better future Festival / Muster Weekends.
- Show and Tell was again Bill who brought recent finds Hopalong Cassidy lunch box and gun belt. Cole Grandy showed new car related Christmas ornaments.
- Car talk was short is duration speaking of Estate car sales and RJ Miller and the 10 Whiz Kids.
- We held a $25 dollar drawing for toys donators and gave away four grab bags donated to the Club by Gerry aka Mr Magoo.
- 50/50 8:50 Adjourn.

DECEMBER MEETING PICTURES

MEMBERSHIP

JIM WITH SHOW AND TELL • LUNCHBOX


BILL • HOPALONG CASSIDY LUNCHBOX

COLE GRANDY'S • CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

DECEMBER 2017

FMRCOA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- President Jim went through Dinner Dance plans to the Board. Biggest changes are an expanded menu and different musical band. He next tackled resolving the internal Board differences.
- The Board approved 200 Roster Books from the printer. VP Tim designed Dearborn 2018 Flyer and Tshirt which will be forwarded to printers. Fairgrounds contract was signed. The Club agreed to share 50% cost of the food vendor tickets. Jim will contact Motts Hospital and maybe get invovlement from them in car show area.
- Jim will send out email detailing Transition Dinner: plans TBA. Jim said webpage close to being redsigned and up working.
- The Board choose Generator Award Winner. Toys for Tots all set for Club Meeting.
- March Club meeting theme will be "Share your Hobby" { Coins, Stamps, Golf, Woodworking, Dust Collecting, Volunteering, ETC} April Meeting will be a Spring Cleaning Auction.

TOYS FOR TOTS PICTURES

ANOTHER CHARITABLE YEAR FOR FMRCOA

JIM RECEIVING THANK YOU LETTER

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Girls and Boys
Thank You to all that donated!!!!!

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ROVING REPORTER

by

Lou Ironside

Not much to report this month as November and December are months where the swap meets are few and far between. But, we can look back on 2017 as a good year for swap meets, in most instances the weather was good on the outdoor meets, and there were plenty of bargains to be had. After the first of the year the swap meets will be starting up, and those of us who have had "swap meet withdrawal" will get some relief. We have the small meet in Jackson in mid-January, and the Saginaw meet the following weekend. Then, the big Kalamazoo meet the first of February, often a couple Mustang meets that same month, and the East Side A's meet in March. Once April hits, the meets will be coming at us fast and furious, and I for one can hardly wait !!

TRIVIA

FORD OF IRELAND WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1917 WITH THE INTENT TO PRODUCE WHICH ITEM?

A: FORDSON TRACTORS
B: MODEL IS
C. AIRPLANE ENGINE
D: TRANSMISSIONS

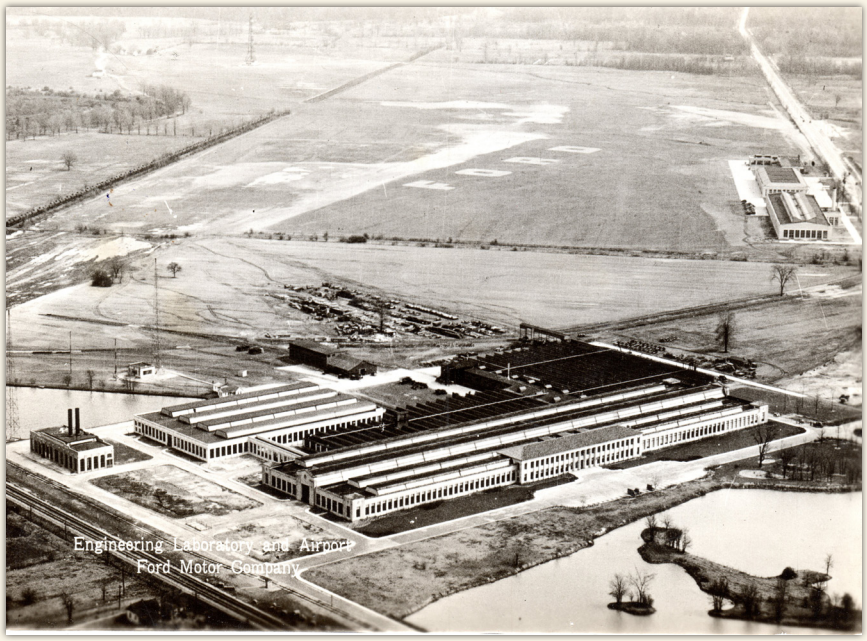
Answer: A ... Henry Ford and Son Ltd. was established in Ireland to manufactures Fordson Tractors, the first of which rolled off the lines at Cork plant in 1919. Ford of Ireland is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Visit @FordOnline for more coverage.

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

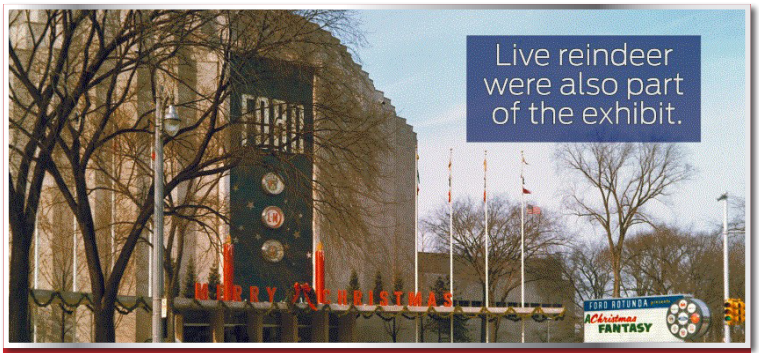
by

Lou Ironside

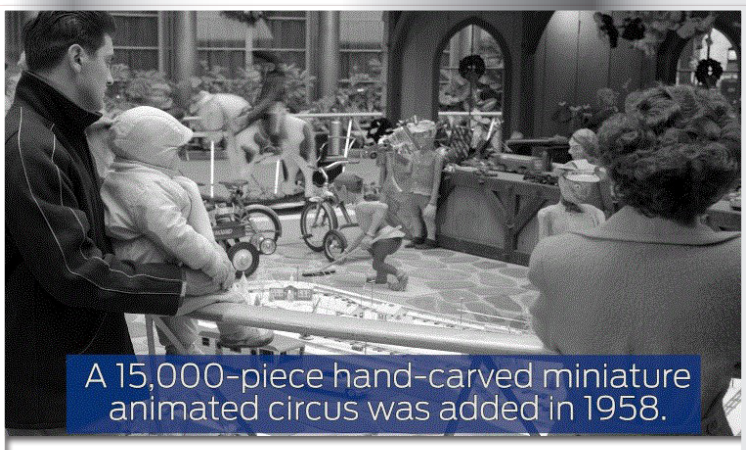
This month we have another postcard from the collection of FMRC member Bob Griffith. This card is an airplane view of the Ford engineering Laboratory, and the Ford Airport. Although the card is not dated, it is probably from the early 30's as are the other cards in the collection. The back of the card reads as follows: Dearborn Engineering Laboratory and airport located in Dearborn, MI. In the foreground is shown the Engineering Laboratory where all experimental work on Ford and Lincoln cars is carried on. In the rear may be seen the Ford Airport where the Ford tri-motored air transports are manufactured. It is always interesting to look back over 80 years and see the changes that have taken place, things are certainly different there now. As always, I thank Bob for his generous donation of these cards.



FORD ROTUNDA PART 2 PICTURES



MORE THAN 500,000 VISITORS ATTENDED EACH YEAR BEGINNING IN 1953.



DECEMBER FEATURE ARTICLE

MEMBER CAR 1987 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL CONT.

core and had the AC converted to 134 and it works fine. Like the Lincoln mark 8, there is a lot of old technology on these and technology does not age well. I had to replace the right front air suspension bag, but I did that in the garage will the help of my friend Jim, and it was pretty simple. The air bag cost about $92.00 and was available at the local parts shop.

The mid size Lincoln runs and handles well, and stops very well. The 302 is only rated at 140 horsepower, but it more than keeps up with traffic. There was an 86 in the pull a part yard, and I took everything off I could before they crushed it. The President of the North West Chapter Lincoln club recently bought an 86, and there is an 86 Givenchy that comes to the Local cruise- in now. Both of them have to Taupe with black sides, a very striking combination (PHOTO). Maybe these under loved Lincolns are finally getting the attention they deserve in the old car hobby!

BRIAN'S TIP
Odds 'n Ends

I didn't have any new ideas for this month, so I thought I would write about some little known concepts. We can hardly live without A/C in this day and age, but back in the days when it was rare we loved it, but us, our parents, and grandparents couldn't afford it. Our excuse for not having that pricey option was that we didn't want to give up fuel economy and performance because of the power it took to run the system. For our older cars that do have A/C, the system should be checked out every two years, and really should be evacuated and recharged as recommended by the manufacturer. If there are any signs of moisture in the system during the evacuation, a drying agent should be added. All too many A/C systems go south because they sit without being used. It is best to run the system year around at least once a month to prevent deterioration of the seals that will shorten the components life. There is also a high pressure and low pressure side on an A/C system, so in order to relieve the pressure within the system, it should be turned off at least a minute before shutting the engine off to allow the high and low pressure sides to equalize, thus taking the pressure off the seals within the system. When the system is evacuated there is a lubricant that can be installed, and a dye that you can see with a black light if your system has developed any leaks.

You can not overlook your fuel system during the off season either. I know I've mentioned it's best to fill the tank to the top prior to storage to prevent condensation in the tank. You can also add what we call dry gas, or a product like Stabil. If you burn the nowadays pump gas, then you need to buy the Stabil made for ethanol fuel, which is identified by a little yellow star on the bottle. Your neoprene fuel lines usually last about three to five years, so make sure you continually look for cracks because that for sure indicates deterioration. Your fuel filter should be changed every year, and maybe your vehicle even has a sediment drain to get rid of sediment. Many times the fuel hoses begin to deteriorate inside the hose, then particles break loose potentially plugging the fuel system. Some fuel filters have a bypass that allows fuel to get around the filter, but then that sediment can get to the carburetor shutting you down, or causing an expensive carburetor rebuild. Another good idea for older vehicles is to install another, and really good. fuel filter. Consider a filter with a drain and putting it close to the tank as you can. If you do this, you need to make sure it's away from heat so it won't act as a heat sink causing vapor lock.

Ever wonder what rear gear is in your vehicle? Looking at the door tag may not be the answer because it may have been changed. Looking for the tag on the pumpkin may not work because the wrong tag could have been left on, or it's completely missing. If you have a front wheel drive vehicle, forget checking it out. For rear wheel driven vehicles with exposed driveshafts, you can check the relationship between the rotation of the wheel compared to the rotation of the propeller shaft. Once the vehicle is properly and safely secured off the ground, you can check to see if one revolution of the wheel causes the driveshaft to rotate say 3-1/2 turns to easily figure out you have a 3:50 rear gear. It gets a little trickier when you're trying to find out if you have a 4:11 or a 4:30 gear in the rear end, so make sure you have all the slack taken up, then make your marks, and instead of just doing one rotation, do three, four or five and divide by three or four or five for more accuracy.

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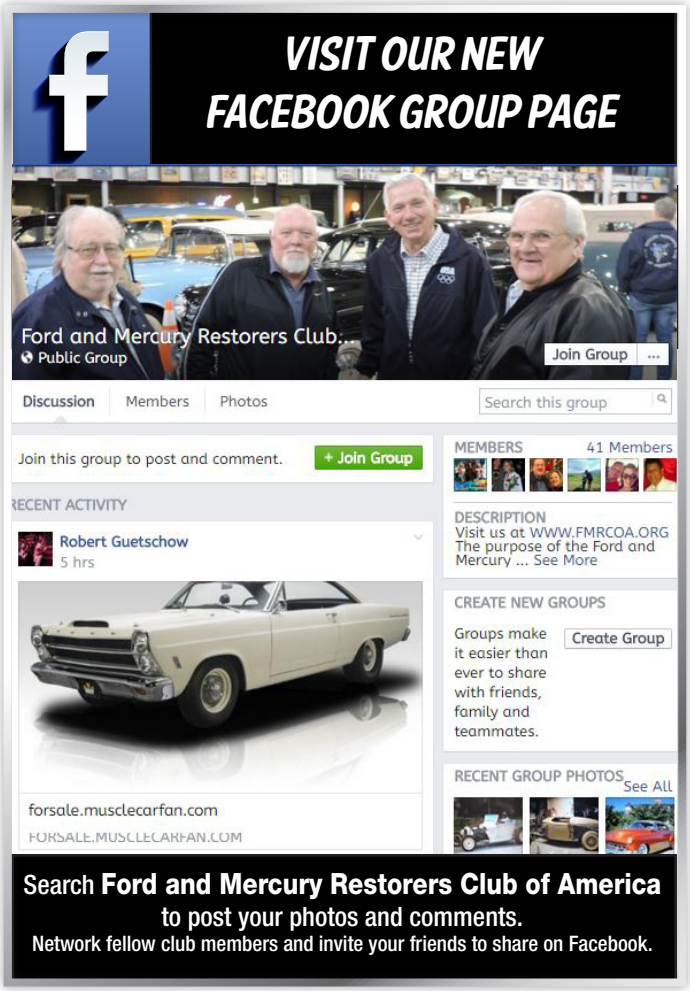
Waste Oil for John Miller

FMRCOA Historical items for Club's Archives. Newsletters, Pictures. See Club Secretary Mark S.



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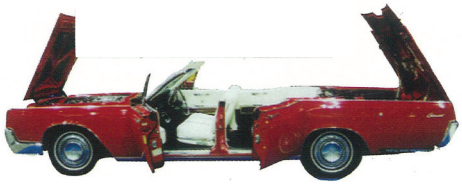

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