Bea Haase with her Lincoln Mk IV Continental Cartier edition

Classic Car Show features massive 'Land Yachts' that focus on 'smiles per gallon'

By Alison Burns

It's time to "show up and show off" – which is how the invitation to Orinda's Classic Car Show was worded when vintage car owners were invited to display their cherished vehicles at Orinda's upcoming 19th Annual Classic Car Show, at and around Orinda Motors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9.

And who could resist, especially when this year's theme is Land Yachts — those outrageously massive vessels with their huge engines, cushy interiors and enough torque to captain a 3-speed transmission, so

prized back when gas averaged 30 cents a gallon. One such car is Bea Haase's treasured Mk lV Continental Cartier edition.

The car, bought for \$7,900 in 1972 by Haase's fa-

ther, who promptly named it "the Black Widow," still has less than 50,000 miles on the clock. That's because it was mostly used on high days and holidays and cosseted in the garage the rest of the time.

One problem with a 50-year-old vehicle is locating a mechanic who understands autos that pre-date the computer, but Haase has found herself a highly skilled "Lincoln Whisperer," whose own Lincoln carries license plates that wittily read "Mary Todd."

Haase is not a tall woman but she handles this behemoth with great panache. She misses the cup holders and charging ports that come standard on 21st century vehicles but laughs to think that the amenities we now take for granted weren't even on the horizon 50 years ago when her parents purchased their brand new "Black Widow." What the car does have aplenty,

though, are redundant ashtrays at every seat. Who knew that drivers would ever demand coffee-on-the-go, or that smoking might prove so unwholesome?

Haase's mom and dad always thought they would be passing their elegant automobile onto one of their grandchildren but they could never have anticipated the rocketing cost of gasoline or the trend toward smaller cars. And so it has come to Haase.

"My dad would be so pleased that I love it," she says, "and take good care of it."

Also at this year's car show, Phil Toy will be highlighting a true Land Yacht: the white 1959 Cadillac Convertible, Series 62, that he's owned for over 40 years. At 19.5 feet long, it features power seats, power steering and still has its original paint.

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EBMUD conducts extensive illegal trash dumping cleanup near **Upper San Leandro Reservoir**

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Photo Vera Kochan

A crane stands at the edge of the ravine while pulling up tons of trash from the watershed.

By Vera Kochan

When it comes to the fairly remote

area of Canyon, the drive from Moraga to Oakland via Pinehurst Road sports some amazing views of Upper San Leandro Reservoir. There are even a few turnouts for people to pull over and enjoy the beauty of nature. However, for years some nefarious individuals have taken advantage of the secluded surroundings and steep valleys to turn the area into an illegal dumping

The East Bay Municipal Utility District, which owns the land in question, has spent more than \$280,000 since July 2021 to clean up the trash along the East Bay watershed which eventually runs into the USLR. According to an EBMUD press release, "Cleaning trash is costly and dangerous. Rate payer dollars that should go toward water service are instead spent on cleaning garbage. Crews who clean these sites risk their safety to reach the trash that falls down the steep embankments."

EBMUD points out that garbage on

the watershed – an area of land that drains or 'sheds' water into a specific water body - can have a negative impact on the quality of drinking water as well as the environment. The trash can release various types of hazardous materials into the water and land thereby killing fish, birds and other animals, in addition to damaging trees, native grasses and other natural East

"It takes several months to coordinate this type of project," EBMUD Public Information Representative Nelsy Rodriguez explained. "There's the danger of fire threat, and we have to coordinate with the East Bay Regional Park District's rangers, who are already short on personnel."

A cleanup in July yielded eight vehicles which were discovered in one section of the watershed.

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