

Limo

Mandel's 'jinxed' car for sale

By David Michael Ettlin

MANDEL'S LIMOUSINE Exc. cond. Low mi. Selling because its still unlucky at Race Track. Call 301-479-0397.

Denton (Special)—It's hard to tell whether Ken Wood is completely serious when he calls his 1973 Lincoln Continental a jinx.

In the last year or two, though, he's had a good horse go lame and generally bad luck with his Longshot Stables entries at the Rosecroft harness track in Prince Georges county, Mr. Wood says.

Since buying the Lincoln from WW Motors in Towson, which in turn bought it the state, Mr. Wood says he has used it to haul horse trailers—and friends—to the track from his home outside Denton.

Mr. Wood, who also operates the Lifetime Well Drilling Company here, said the

limousine—like another he bought from the state of Delaware—hauls more people and is cheaper for hauling horses. Besides, he said, "we have a lot more fun with them."

The car bears no indications, he says, that it was used by former Governor Marvin Mandel—whose racetrack luck was affected more by federal prosecutors and courts in his conviction on corruption charges than by lame horses or the quirks of the turn into the stretch.

The car does come equipped with a television, a bar cabinet, AM-FM stereo in front and a tape deck in back, separate fore and aft air-conditioners, light blue matching seats and floor mats and—believe it or not—"a contoured shotgun rack."

It gets about 12 miles to the gallon carrying people, and 9 or 10 hauling horses, Mr. Wood said.

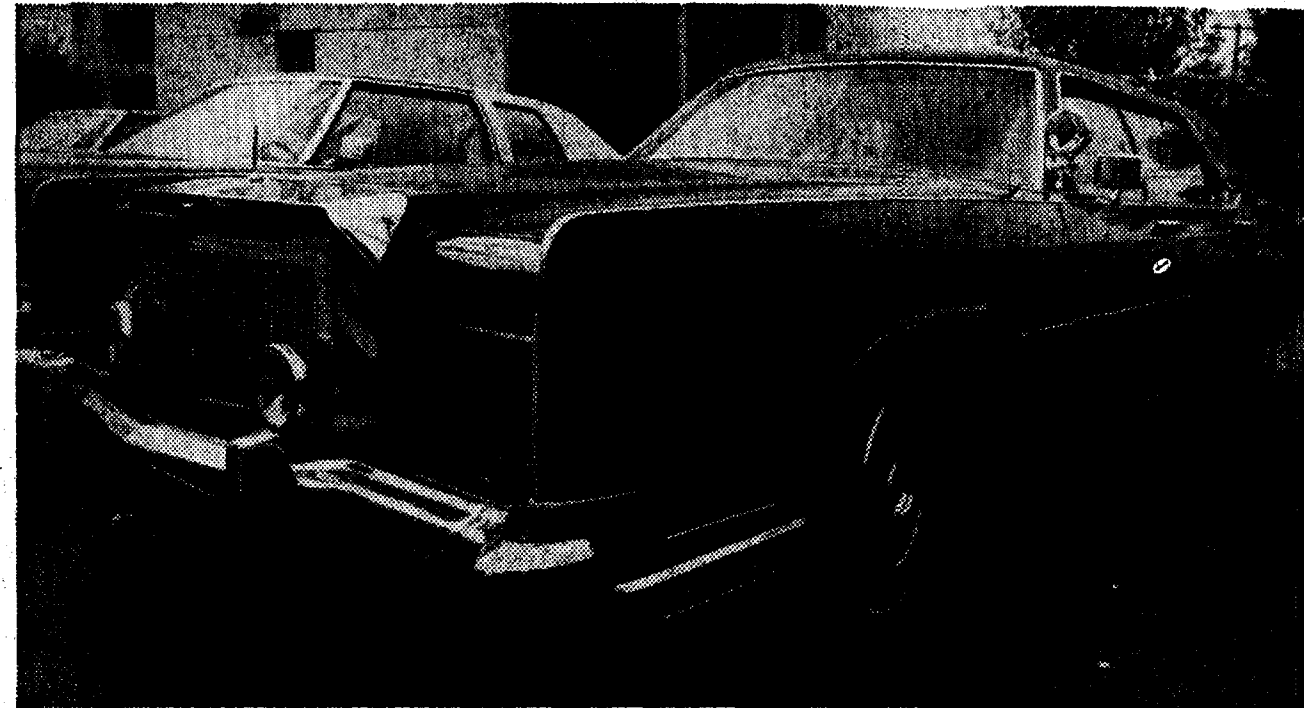
The state had leased the car for four years and had an investment of \$18,000 in it before buying it in April, 1977, from a Bethesda dealer. Statehouse sources said at the time that it was used to drive the former governor and his friends to Baltimore Colts football games.

Mr. Mandel was convicted of federal mail fraud and racketeering charges in August, 1977, and the state sold his limousine to William O'Rourke, the owner of WW Motors, four months later for \$7,000.

"I've had my fun out of it," Mr. O'Rourke said when he put the car up for sale in October, 1978.

He also said then that if Mr. Mandel won his appeal, "this car will be worth plenty. I'll go right down and pick him up in it."

Mr. Mandel, who did not win his ap-



Former Governor Marvin Mandel's limousine is for sale again—this time by a horseman who calls the car a jinx.

peal, passed his first anniversary in federal prison Tuesday, and Mr. O'Rourke sold the car to Mr. Wood for \$8,500.

"I turned down a big profit for it when I bought it," Mr. Wood said. "I guess his [Mandel's] story was hot and heavy then."

How much does he want now? "I'm asking \$7,000, but I'll take \$6,000 for the damn thing."