



The Tailpipe

January 1992

Publication of the Texas Chapter of the NATIONAL CORVETTE RESTORERS SOCIETY

From the President

John Smart, President,
Texas Chapter NCRS

Reflecting back on my introduction to Corvettes takes me back to the seasoned age of 17. A friend of mine that lived down the block, Chick Willson, bought a '58 270 horse car for the grand sum of \$150. The car was dragged home (literally) and after a little CPR it was back on the street. All it took was a few rides with the top down, two four's howling, solid lifters singing and I was hooked! Soon I located a well used '60 model and a deal was made. It was a dechromed ex-race car with nothing original and 1/8 inches of yellow enamel paint. But it was a Vette! (An ex-fuelie with big brakes at that!)

The '60 model went and was replaced by a '63 roadster. Others came and went; a '74, a '73 and then a '66 air coupe which I still own. In 1981 I joined the NCRS. Shortly after in 1982, I went on the NCRS Road Tour to Bend, Oregon and met the greatest bunch of people. Soon came participation in the Texas Chapter and more friends. After that, more road tours, more Corvettes and more good times.

Now that I've told you my story, we would like to hear the details of your

introduction to the Corvette hobby. I just hope your experience with Corvettes and the NCRS has been as memorable as mine.

Next Business Meeting

Houston Expo, Saturday, March 7th
at 2:00 p.m.

Officer Nominations

We are in the process of nominating new chapter officers for 1992. If you have an interest in serving as an officer, please notify me no later than January 15, 1992. Indicate name(s) and preferred position below.

President _____

Vice President _____

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

Judging Chmn. _____

Send to:

John Smart
1251 Whispering Oaks
DeSoto, TX 75115
(214) 230-0739

OFFICERS

Texas Chapter
National Corvette Restorers
Society

President

John Smart
1251 Whispering Oaks
Desoto, TX 75115
(214) 230-0739

Vice President

Dave Ewan
109 Cross Creek Drive
Grapevine, TX 76051
(817) 481-3921

Secretary

Frank Tuttle
11600 Santa Cruz
Austin, TX 78759
(512) 345-6319

Finance Officer

Bruce Knierim
4302 North Hills Drive
Austin, TX 78731
(512) 345-0608

Judging Chairman

Eddie Dolezal
2010 Wagon Gap
Houston, TX 77090
(713) 444-3257

Newsletter

Lee Hagewood
Rt. 1, Box 345B
Springville, TN 38256
(901) 642-7875

Membership in the NCRS is open to persons interested in the restoration, preservation, and history of the Corvette produced by the Chevrolet Motor Division of General Motors Corporation from 1953 through 1977. NCRS is not affiliated with Chevrolet or General Motors.

Membership in the Texas Chapter of the NCRS is open to all members of the NCRS National Organization. Dues payable to the Texas Chapter are \$12 per year, and should be sent to Bruce Knierim, Treasurer, 4302 North Hills Drive, Austin, TX 78731.

From Dave Ewan

Well, our meeting in Wichita Falls is history. They had a lot of nice cars there, in fact, they nearly always have a good turnout. If you have not been to one of their shows, you have missed a good time. They are very nice to let us use their suite for our meeting.

The big shocker in this meeting came when John Smart told us he could not run again as Chairman of the Texas Chapter. Even with several of us trying there was no way to could persuade him to run again. John has done an excellent job as Chairman. With his soft spoken manner, he has calmed the nerves of the most irate members and put on several very good shows. I hope you will help me give him a sincere round of thanks for leading us in the last few years. Let us hope we can get him back in one of the Officer's chairs in the near future.

For you members who would like to run for Chairman, this is the time to let someone know. We all need to get more involved to make our Chapter one we can all enjoy.

**Tailpipe
Schedule**

Mails the 1st week of January, March, June and September. Deadline for input: 15th of the preceding month. Mail articles and want ads (free to members) to Lee Hagewood.

**Annual Dues
Notice**

The new year is here and renewing your annual membership in the Texas Chapter needs to be a top priority. See the back page for the necessary form.

**"New" Corvette
Memorabilia**

Well, it seems like there is just no end to the commercialization of our favorite hobby, Corvettes. Just when I thought we had reached an end to a whole world of collection of cars, promotional models, jackets, T-shirts, jewelry, mugs, glasses, shorts, panties, ties, sneakers, shoe laces, Christmas cards, checks, neon signs, clocks, and baseball type cards - now we have another one.

Hallmark has just introduced their 1991 Collectors Series of Christmas ornaments - red and white 1957 Corvettes. It is called a Keepsake Collectors Series Ornament, and it is the first of their New Classic American Cars Series. It seems that they are capitalizing on America's romance with the automobile and will bring out a different car each year, "authentically modeled after the original classic".

It is very gratifying to know that they picked the Corvette for the very first one, and it was extremely satisfying to me as 1957 is my favorite year. Guess that will get the mid-year boys in an uproar, probably even be a lot of complaints to Hallmark that they should have made the first one a Big Block '67.

The car comes complete with a Christmas tree in the passenger seat compartment, but I guess Hallmark was trying to keep it clean! Hallmark must have also failed to consult Nolan Adams on the authenticity of the '57 as they put a luggage rack on the back of it complete with Christmas packages. The interior has two-tone beige and red seats, which was not an option in 1957 - you could have one color or the other, but not both. It is not a fuel injected model as it does not have the emblems.

Having bought several of these to go on my Christmas tree, it turns out that there are two different colored Christmas trees in the passenger compartments, green and brown. Now the rush is on to determine which is the most rare and desirable of the two so we can jack up the price.

Merry Christmas to all our NCRS members and hope 1992 is a little easier on us all.

Dave Ewan

Austin, Texas

Our annual chapter meet in Austin promises to be the biggest and best so far. Lots of cars and vendors!

This will be a good meet to bring the wife (or husband) and kids to. There's lots to see and do in Austin, a great time of year weather wise, and the car show and hotel are within walking distance of each other.

And by all means volunteer to help. It will give you something to do rather than standing around looking nervous while your car is being judged. Eddie Dolezal explained about the "Observer Judge Program" in our last issue. It should be noted that this program is not limited to car owners or men. No experience is required to volunteer for judging, tabulating or helping with registration. And besides, it's fun!

Please Note: The price of the Sunday brunch (\$10.00 per person) was left off the registration form. If you plan to attend, please add the brunch cost to the form and include it on the "Total Enclosed" line.

Also note that if you renew your Texas membership on this form it is not necessary to complete the form on the back page.

Clocks

Dear Corvette Enthusiast:

On the preceding page you will find a flyer showing an exciting new product designed specifically for the Corvette lover! Classic Car Clocks are large Corvette dashboard illustrations complete with functioning quartz clocks! The beautifully detailed black and white lithographs feature museum-quality framing, and are ideally suited for home or office.

Designs currently available are the 1966 Corvette, and the 1961-62 Corvette. (Please note that the flyer inadvertently identifies the 1961-62 as a 1959).

These large wall clocks feature deep aluminum framing, warp-free wood substrates, battery-operated quartz movements, and plexiglas glazing.

Special introductory pricing of only \$125.00 each is currently in effect. Shipping is included with prepaid orders. For COD orders, customer pays shipping.

More Information on Shipping Parts

From: Lee Hagewood

In the last *Tailpipe* Eddie Dolezal wrote about freight damaged parts and related problems. Over the years, Rich and I shipped a lot of parts and learned a few things that might help you.

First of all, if you're shipping expensive and irreplaceable parts pick a shipper you trust. We tried several and always went back to UPS. That's not to say we never had problems with them, just the fewest.

About a year ago, UPS changed their policy requiring signatures on packages at the point of delivery.

Now if they are delivering a package to your home and no one is there, it's up to the delivery person to determine a safe location where the package can be left and no signature indicating the package was received is required. Also, there is no indication on the package of value, so the delivery person doesn't know if it's worth \$5 or \$5000, which doesn't help matters. We lost a set of \$1500 seat belts when the package was left on our doorstep in a neighborhood full of small children who loved to cut through our yard. I just know there's a kid in Plano with our saddle seat belts strapped to his bicycle.

At any rate, we learned our lesson. When we were expecting a package we left a note saying where to leave it, preferably with a neighbor. When we shipped we always tried to ship COD, if only for \$5.00. Then the delivery person had to obtain a signature and the buyer got a chance to inspect the package before accepting it. If we couldn't ship COD we tried to ship to a person's place of business where someone could inspect the package before signing for it. The point being that we wanted the package actually put in the hands of the buyer and we wanted the buyer to have a chance to see if the package was damaged before accepting it. If the package was damaged we expected the buyer to bring it to the delivery person's attention. Then if the contents were damaged at least UPS knew up front that the damage probably occurred in shipping.

Another nice thing about shipping COD is if you ship for the full value of the part and it is damaged the mail service can hardly deny it's value since the buyer was willing to pay the COD amount.

UPS also has packaging guidelines which I'm sure can be obtained by contacting UPS. The main rule seems to be that there has to be three inches of packing material

(they seem to prefer plastic peanuts) around all four sides of whatever you are shipping. Also note, plastic peanuts have been known to scratch some surfaces and get stuck in nooks and crannies so its a good idea to wrap the part before adding the peanuts. Richard liked to use old bath towels for big parts and paper towels for small parts. It's also a good idea to ask the UPS clerk who takes your package if they think its packed properly. Explain the contents and the value, give them every opportunity to help you.

And by all means, insure the package for it's real value. It adds to the shipping cost but it's worth it.

There are also services like Mail Boxes Etc. which will pack your parts and ship them via which every mail service you desire. This is nice if you want to make someone else responsible for packaging the part correctly but make sure you explain up front the value of the part. Also check out the fine print on their receipts. Some of them will not be responsible for damage and some will not be responsible if you package the part.

How do you prove the value of a damaged part? This can be tricky but not impossible. First of all, you have to explain to the agent why the part cost so much. This is hard for people not in the business to understand. Show them a copy of "Vette Vues" and have them look at the prices. We found comparing the part to a rare antique worked best. Then give them the names and numbers of several professional parts vendors to verify the price. The business card section of "Vette Vues" is handy for this. J.T. Piper unknowingly did us a favor one time when we had an agent call him to inquire about pricing on an NOS 64 console. J.T. was asking about \$300 more for his and did such a convincing sales pitch the agent didn't even argue with us over the price. (Thanks J.T.)

The Tailpipe

c/o Lee Hagewood
Rt. 1, Box 345B
Springville, Tennessee 38256

It's time to renew your membership

Texas Chapter
of the
National Corvette Restorers Society

Please Note: Membership in the National NCRS is required as a condition for Texas Chapter Membership. Your national NCRS identification number is on the mailing label of this newsletter.

National NCRS membership ID: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Corvettes: _____, _____, _____, _____

Dues for Texas Chapter Membership are \$12.00 (U.S) per year and expire on December 31.

Please make your check payable to: **Texas Chapter NCRS** and mail to:

Bruce Knierim
4302 North Hills Drive
Austin, TX 78731

TEXAS CHAPTER 8th ANNUAL MEET MARCH 27-29 1992 AUSTIN, TEXAS



The Texas Chapter NCRS will hold their annual event in centrally located Austin, Texas at the indoor Palmer Auditorium. Lodging will be within walking distance at the Hyatt Regency on beautiful Town Lake. With Austin being the State Capitol, there will be many activities available for the whole family. Don't delay, register now!

MEET REGISTRATION: (note: you must be a current National NCRS member)

Name _____ Spouse/companion _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone () _____ NCRS membership number _____

____ Yes, I want my car flight judged: year ____ cpe ____ cv ____ eng. ____

____ Yes, I would like to judge: (division) _____

____ Yes, I would like to help tabulate: (name) _____

____ Yes, please send info on vendor space.

Family registration (postmarked after 3/1/92 add \$5.00)..... \$ 20.00

Flight judging fee (\$10.00 per car)..... _____

I would like to join the National NCRS at this time: (\$25.00).... _____

I would like to join/renew Texas Chapter: (\$12.00)..... _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED..... _____

Sunday brunch awards presentation: number attending _____

Make checks payable to: Texas Chapter NCRS

Mail: Bruce Knierim, 4302 N. Hills Dr., Austin, TX. 78731 (512) 345-0608

LODGING INFORMATION:

Hyatt Regency Austin, 208 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX. 78704 phone (512) 477-1234. Rates are \$79.00 per night. Be sure to mention NCRS.

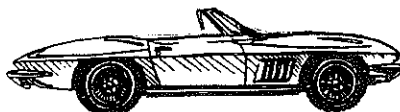
HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I agree to insure my vehicle and property against loss, damage and liability and to provide proof of such insurance to NCRS at time of registration. I agree to assume risk of any and all damages or injury and to indemnify and hold harmless NCRS, its officers, directors, agents, employees and chapters for any acts or omissions which may result in the theft, damage or destruction of my property or injury to me or others occurring during, or as a consequence of, this meet in Austin, Texas.

Signature: _____ date: _____

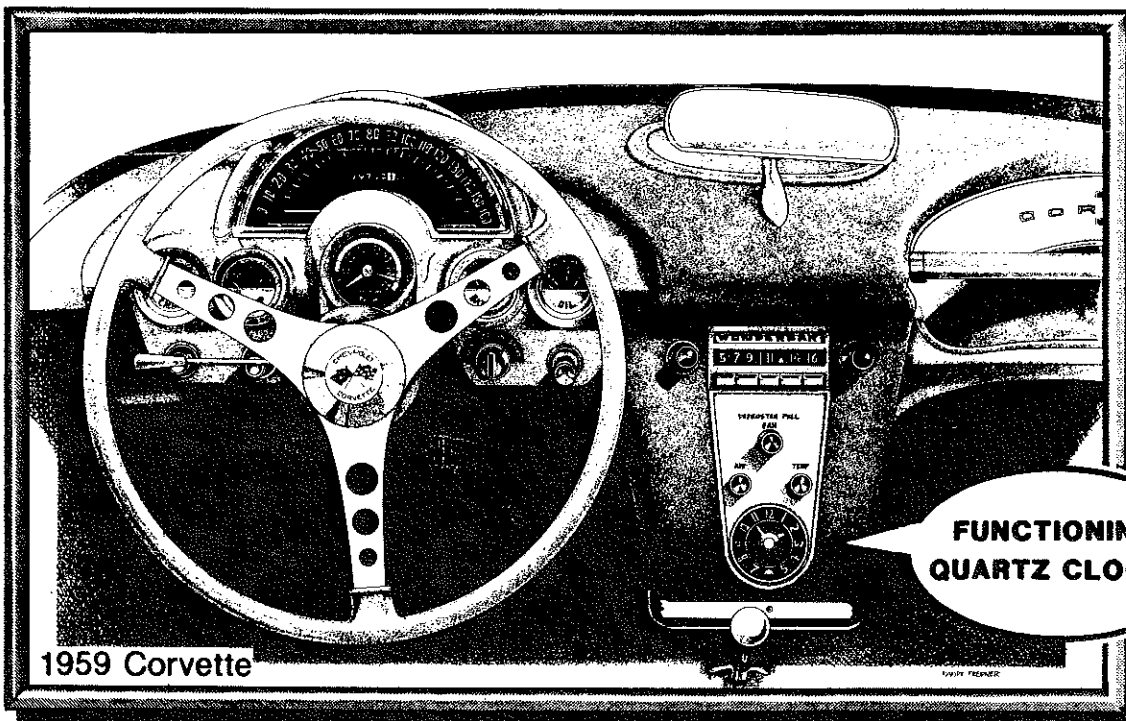
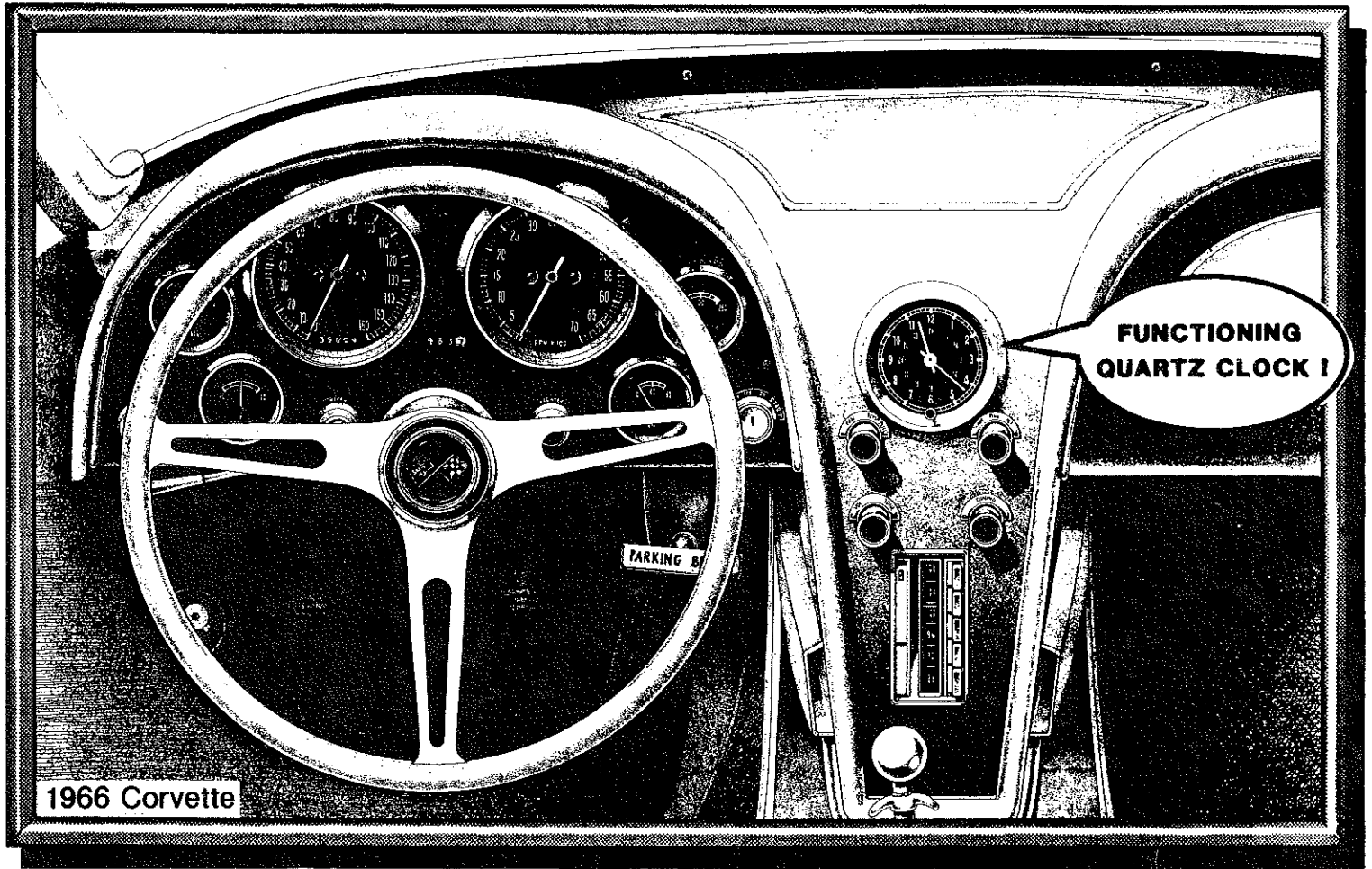
Auto insured with: _____

Policy number: _____ expires: _____



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