

Project 58

—Max Brockhouse

In this installment of rebuilding our '58 'Vette, I'm shifting gears a little from rebuilding to evaluating reproduction parts.

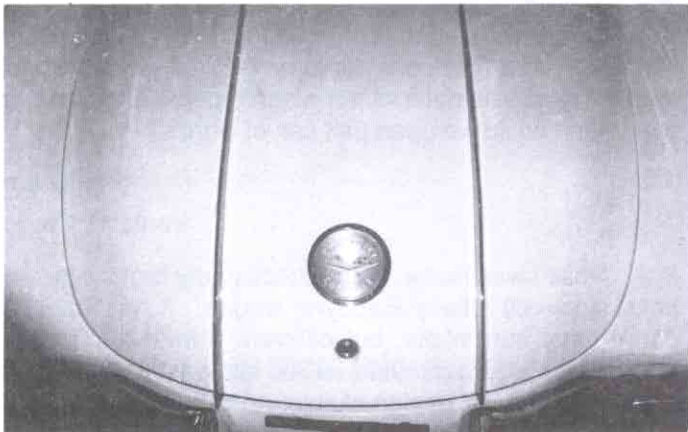
Mary Rae decided that I needed the trunk irons for the 'Vette for Christmas this year. She went through quite a bit to put them under our tree. She found the ad I had circled in 'VETTE VUES for "Buzz Repro" trunk irons. (We had talked about needing them and had discussed the fact that original ones are around \$1,200.00). So, ad in hand, on October 20, she called Buzz... Yes, he had them available - no, they weren't extremely heavy - and yes, he could ship them UPS right away. She decided to hang onto the \$425.00 a while longer, since they seemed to be readily available.

The next week, "Buzz Repro" called her to say he hadn't received her check, could she go ahead and mail it if she really was interested. (She should have guessed then that this was not the thing to do). Anyway, the check dated October 27 was mailed. Thanksgiving came and went... no trunk irons. So, she called (You must call him at night, otherwise you get the pleasure of his female companion, who doesn't know what is going on). Yes, he realized they were a Christmas gift, but the chrome wasn't good, he'd sent them to be rechromed. He'd send them to her soon. To make a long story short, she called weekly and finally pinned him to a mailing date of December 15. They arrived December 21, and were gratefully put under the tree! I don't know who was more disappointed when I opened the box on Christmas Eve... Mary Rae or myself.

The castings are rough and the chrome is really pitted. In my opinion, this product is 3rd rate. Granted, we didn't pay \$1,200.00 for them, but they sure aren't worth \$429.00, either.

Mary Rae wanted to call "Buzz" and ask for a refund to cover the replating that would be necessary.

I am grateful for individuals who take the time and invest their personal money in order to reproduce old car parts to



"Buzz Repro" Trunk Irons

fill a void that exists. However, of all the repro parts I have used, until now they have been identical to original parts, and sometimes even better.

In the case of "Buzz Repro," they are very sub-standard. He includes brass stove bolts to use in mounting them to the trunk lid. I had to cut the heads off to make the studs and install them.

The only plus I can say for this deal is: #1) The studs lined up with the holes already in the lid. #2) The '58 sure looks 100 times better with trunk irons.

If you plan to order trunk irons from Buzz, be aware of the problems we had and don't lose his phone number. I guarantee that you'll need it.

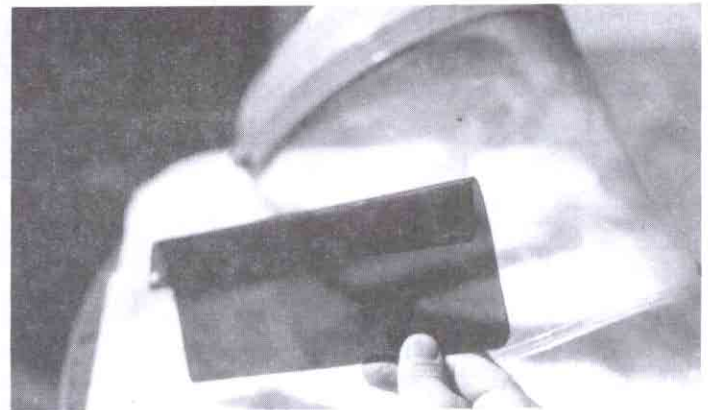
Night Blindness

—Tony Catalano

On the few occasions that I have driven my '59 Corvette at night, I have found that the lights from the cars behind me really are a dangerous distraction. Their lights glare into the rear-view mirror without any way of dimming the brightness. Our solid axles have no rear-view mirror day/night adjustment.

This has always seemed to be a bigger problem with the solid axles than with standard autos. I am not sure if it's because the car is lower to the ground, or mainly that the back window is clear plastic with no tint, or if it's a combination of the two.

Being determined to solve this problem, I found a relatively easy solution. At the hardware store, I found a tinted, plastic replacement visor, used for light welding or pipe soldering. It is used in the helmet face visor (see background of photo). I cut the tinted plastic sheet to the size of the rear view mirror, allowing enough at the top to be folded over. Folding the plastic sheet over at its top will allow you to hang it over the top of the rear view mirror and have the effect of dimming those lights from behind. The plastic can be cut with a pair of scissors and folded over at the top by the use of a ruler and heating the plastic by way of a hair dryer or lighter.



The visor pictured above may be used in lieu of a day/night adjustment on the rear-view mirror of straight axle Corvettes as described in "Night Blindness."