

Exterior Color Hidden Name... Update #3

—Noland Adams

BACKGROUND: Two carloads of SACE members left Roy Braatz's house in Nevada City for a fun trip to a Corvette wrecking yard during the first SACE convention in 1987. None of us knew we were about to discover an important detail which would help owners of 1958 to 1962 Corvettes everywhere.

Through the courtesy of the yard's owner, Lanny Johnson, we were allowed to examine many old Corvette bodies, where we discovered the hidden color names. Early '58's had none; from 1958 through 1960, the name was written in crayon on the right vertical panel behind the trunk cardboard. On 1961 and '62 models, the color name was written on the slightly angled panel behind the passenger seat back (Look both places on early '61's). There will be overspray over the paint name... scraping the area with the edge of a quarter causes the paint to flake away over the paint name, leaving the name in large, green letters.

Some colors are obvious: "Black," "Silver," "Red," "Maroon," "Blue," and "Turq." All white or off-white colors (like Classic Cream) are shown as "Ivory."

In the last issue of "Straight Talk," Rick Campbell settled another: Fawn Beige ('61 and '62) is "Fawn," and Almond Beige ('62) is "Beige."

The new stuff: Rick Campbell is back, here's his latest letter:

Hi, Noland:

After writing you about the '61 & '62 Beige colors, I stumbled onto something I hadn't noticed before. I decided to verify the color of a one-owner, 1960 F.I. 2-top car that my dad acquired recently. Instinctively, I went to the panel behind the passenger seat and began scraping. There were some letters in green crayon, but I couldn't make out any words. Then, I remembered that '58-'60's had the color name written in the trunk, and without much trouble, I

uncovered the word "Ivory." But, what are the markings behind the passenger seat?

I've sent more pictures of cars I know are original, and a pattern began to come together.

The 1960 #9181 is the one-owner car I referred to earlier having both tops. The markings appear to be "HTS."

Car #2896 is an early 1961 car with the word "Black" written in the trunk. This car is also a 2-top car and has the markings behind the passenger seat that appear to read "2THT." The job # is 391.

The next two cars are both original hardtop only cars. On my '62 #1550, I rechecked and found the letters "HT" below the word "Beige" on the panel behind the passenger seat.

The next two cars are both soft-top only cars. The 1961 fawn beige car I described in my previous letter is a soft-top only car and has no markings other than the word "Fawn" written behind the passenger seat. Another car, a 1959 soft-top only, has no markings.

I did check several other undocumented cars. Two 1958's that appear to be original soft-top cars had no markings. Also, two 1957 cars which both appeared to be two-top cars showed no markings. This makes me doubt that the 1957's used this code system.

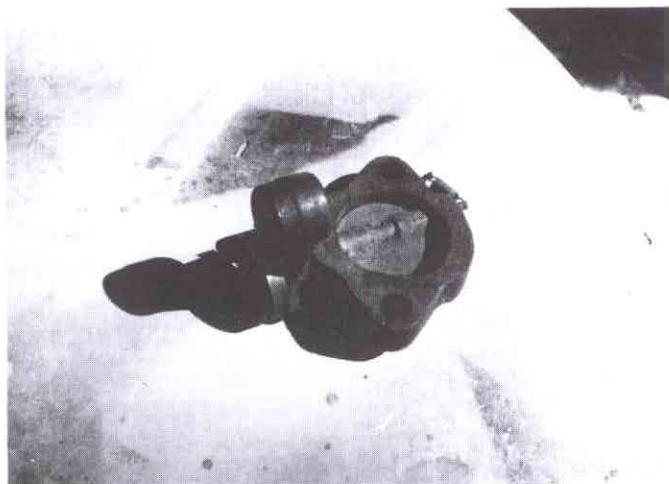
If I find more, I'll let you know. Thanks for your time.

See ya soon... Rick Campbell, Everett Washington

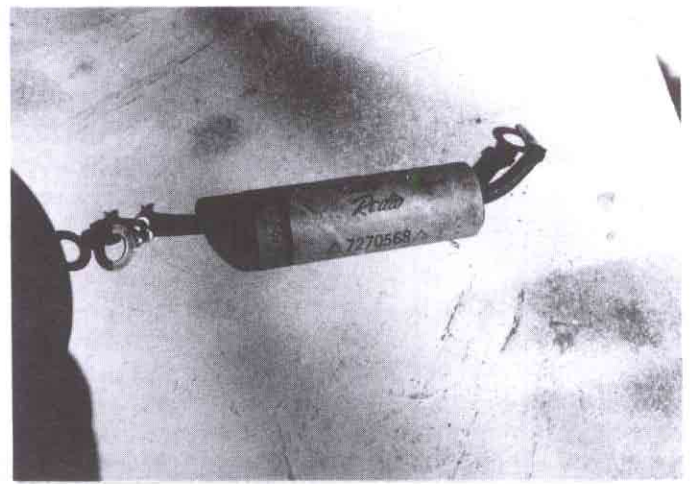
OK, folks, let's solve this mystery. Rick's '61 shows 2T... or is it 29? It could be read either way.

I called Jack Crinnion. His early '61 has "55" and "H%" behind the seat, with the color name in the trunk. His job number is 92, not even close to "55." Frankly, I'm confused... just what are we seeing? Any ideas are welcome.

Later... Noland



Above: This is an original heat risor design for a '56 two-bolt early manifold.



This original Delco Radio Condenser #7270568 was used in '56-'62 models having a radio. It was installed behind the dash at the ammeter.