

VINTAGE CORVETTE CLUB



OF AMERICA  
1953-54-55

NEWSLETTER

VINTAGE CORVETTE CLUB OF AMERICA NEWSLETTER

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HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The idea of starting the Vintage Corvette Club of America originated in June, 1968, by Ed and Jean Thiebaud, charter members of Corvettes of Fresno, Inc., who have a ranch on the West side of Fresno, California.

The Thiebauds purchased their first Corvette in 1963; a red, 1963 Stingray, which they still have. In May of 1967, they attended the 2nd Western States Corvette Council Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, and saw their first restored "Vintage" Corvette. Needless to say, in June, 1967, they purchased their first 1954 Corvette. To date, they have owned seven "Vintage" Corvettes - five of which they still own. They include one 1953, three 1954's, and one 1955.

Their pride and joy is a 1954 "Concours" Corvette restored to mint condition, including originally repainting every nut and bolt in the engine. This car won first in its class at the Western States Corvette Council Pre-Convention held in Fresno, California in April, 1968; first in its class at the Western States Corvette Council Convention held in Portland, Oregon in July, 1968; and first in its class at the Vintage D'Elegance held in Napa, California in October, 1968.

After advertising three of their "Vintage" Corvettes for sale in the May issue of "Road & Track", they received dozens of letters from all over the country inquiring about parts, etc. They thought it would be a good idea to make an attempt to form a club so that people could communicate between interested enthusiasts and help in parts locating, and to locate other vintage owners. The first Club ad appeared in "Road & Track" in September, 1968. As you can see from the roster, the Club now has forty-five members, representing twenty states.

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V.C.C.A. JACKET PATCH AND EMBLEM

The full-color design for the jacket patch and emblem is near completion. It is being designed by Fresno artist, Jeff Tweedie, and Ed Thiebaud. We have also ordered samples of racing style jackets for the patches. We hope to have complete data on both patches and jackets in the next issue.

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## ADVERTISING

Because of the numerous adds for items wanted and the anticipated growth of our classified section, we are going to require some organization and guidelines to go by. We will list three sections: (1) For Sale; (2) For Sale or Trade; (3) Items Wanted. Adds up to and including twenty-five words will cost members \$1.00, non-members \$5.00. Any additional words will cost 4¢ per word for members and 10¢ per word for non-members.

Any member who wishes a quick sale on a car or item may send the "for sale information" photos, etc. (enough for each member to receive one photo) to V.C.C.A. Upon receipt of the add, the club will immediately print a "Flash" add and send it to all members. The cost of the "Flash" add will be \$10.00 up to fifty words and 4¢ for each additional word.

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## COMING ATTRACTIONS

1. General Motors Restoration project of a 1953 Corvette.
  2. Negotiations are under way between V.C.C.A. and General Motors to allow V.C.C.A. to reproduce the original parts Catalog and Dealer Price Schedule Effective 1 July 1955 for 1953-54-55. A copy of this Catalog was donated to the club by Nolan and Sharon Adams of Kerman, California. This catalog can be used as a reference - the pictures in it are excellent. It is also a collector's item.
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## INFORMATIVE READING MATERIAL

We just received a letter from John Ferro, a club member from Oakville, Connecticut. He states:

"I discovered an excellent magazine of the vintage Corvette. It may be purchased from Parkhurst Publishing Company, Box 20220, 745 West 3rd Street, Long Beach, California. Order the 'Enthusiasts Guide to America's Only Sports Car', copyright 1968, enclose \$1.25 to cover cost and handling. This magazine is by far the most accurate and informative survey that I have ever purchased. I am sure you will feel quite rewarded if you purchase it also."

(Editor's Note: We have two copies of this magazine and enthusiastically suggest that you purchase it.)

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THE REAL COST OF A CORVETTE

May 1-8	Expenses for old auto while shopping for Corvette.	22.91
May 8	Flowers for wife to introduce subject to bargain Corvette.	12.50
May 8	Evening at O'Briens Bar after argument	14.75
May 9	Dinner for wife to lure her to look at Corvette	17.75
May 10	New hairdo for wife after demonstration ride	14.00
May 10	BOUGHT CORVETTE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!	3,250.00
May 11	Bought scarf for wife so hair wouldn't blow.	.65
May 12	After dramatic scene, traded scarf on special hardtop	100.00
May 13	Friend who claimed to be expert demonstrated speed shifting, new third gear.	63.65
May 14	Wife bought sweater to match Corvette.	25.00
May 18	Raced with Cobra on way to work. Speeding citation.	25.00
May 19	Wife bought slacks to go with sweater on May 14.	29.95
May 20	Had car modified, solid lifters and cam. Raced same Cobra on way to work. Speeding citation and modification	245.00
May 21	Neighbor's kid drew crayon pictures on upholstery and doors. Cleaning	20.50
May 22	Settled out of court for clobbering neighbor's son	150.00
May 23	Wife bought shoes to go with slacks which went with sweater that matched car	16.95
May 24	Expert friend showed me how to adjust carburetor, Replace eight burned pistons and 16 valves	252.95
May 25	Evening at O'Brien's after argument resulting from returning handbag wife bought to go with etc	14.75
May 26	Raced 350 GT on way to work. Speeding citation.	25.00
May 27	U.S.A. plates, badge bar, badge starter set, misc.	50.34
May 30	Had car modified to fuel injection	275.00
June 10	Added all above figures. Told wife to economise.	
June 15	Evening at O'Briens after argument	14.75
June 15	Expert friend demonstrated proper cornering technique	
June 16	Repair right front fender	39.00
June 16	Bought racing tires and shocks and mag wheels,	350.00
June 19	Party to placate expert friend and my wife after heated discussion. Gin, vermouth, canapes	19.10
July 1	Taught wife to drive Corvette. New clutch	79.00
July 2	Gave wife second lesson. Evening at O'Briens	14.75
Aug. 1	Wife raced Cobra Super. Speeding citation	25.00
Aug. 2	Expenses while shopping the lots for "GOOD DEAL" 427 Corvette	31.75

\$5,200.00

Aug. 9 427-425 Corvette full race equipment . . . . . \$5,200.00

(It isn't the initial cost or even the upkeep that flattens the bank account of the Corvette owner, instead it's those hidden costs. The first entry was written in a firm, sure hand.)

PARTS WANTED

- E53F001231-17 (1) 53-54 steering wheel (2) hub caps (3) shift knob.  
- 8 (1) 54 side curtains.
- E54S001706-28 (1) 54 side curtains (2) hardtop.
- E54S002530-20 (1) two rear latches for top (2) spinners for hub caps  
(3) two chrome trim pieces between door jamb & lid behind seats  
(4) lower half of hinges inside door panels.
- E54S003601-23 (1) two front lower, outer bumper bars (2) gear shift knob  
(3) screw for side curtains (curled thumb screw)  
(4) complete shifter & linkage for powerglide 6 cyl.  
(5) two exhaust extensions.
- E54S002815-3 (1) carburetor rebuilding kit
- E54S003658-32 (1) name emblems - fenders & front (2) four wheel covers  
(3) front bumperguard license holder  
(4) side chrome behind door - both sides.
- E53F001040-10 (1) original three carburetor set up (2) hardtop  
(3) catches that lock back part of side curtains  
(4) clear plastic cover for license plate.
- E54S002931-13 (1) shift lever (2) cloth top (3) trunk mat & rugs  
(4) rear license plate plexiglass.
- E54S002300-4 (1) one piece chrome behind right door (2) one set hubcaps  
(3) three-piece rear chrome bar with bullet.
- E55S001144-6 (1) original carpeting (2) chrome screens for headlights.
- E55S001198-9 (1) bows supporting convert. soft top (2) hardtop.  
(3) side curtains.
- E54S003172-21 (1) one set side curtains (2) Selector Radio (3) heater  
control (instrument panel knob & bowden cable (4) outboard  
mirror (5) chrome-plated top hold-down fitting which is  
affixed to deck lid covering rag top well.
- E54S002818-19 (1) red trunk mat (2) chrome radiator cap (3) locks on  
side curtains
- E54S001732-18 (1) rear-end bumper.
- E54S003900-27 (1) motor mounts (2) license ring (3) one tail light  
(4) temperature gauge, tach & drive (5) hubcaps  
(6) complete carbs & manifolds.
- 1A (1) 1956 inner section for trunk

PARTS FOR SALE

- E54S002931-13 (1) '54 complete rear end from rear door edge to end of car, including trunk, but not lid (2) '54 right front fender (3) '54 rear axle assembly (4) '54 complete front-end suspension (5) 1 set 4-7:10x15 Pirelli Radial ply tires.
- 33 (1) 1953 for sale - near complete, original, extra tires, ~~\$1,600~~ hardtop. (2) 1954 body for sale, including new grill - \$850.00. Will sell both for \$2,200.00.
- 1A (1) '56 steering wheel & horn button assembly (2) '56 radio (3) '56 1 pair heavy duty front springs (4) 1 pair door-release knobs (5) 1 clock for dash.
- E54S002133-1 (1) '54 - one pair side curtains, ex. condition - \$175.00 (2) '54 - one set hub caps, excellent condition - \$175.00 (3) '53-'55 hardtop, excellent condition - \$250.00.
- E54S001602-2 (1) headlight buckets.

CLUB PARTS OFFERED FOR SALE

- (1) Carburetor Kits (1953-55) - \$6.00 per kit, includes postage & handling.
- (2) Idle adjusting screws (1953-55) - \$1.00 - includes postage & handling.

WE WILL SOON BE OFFERING THE FOLLOWING PARTS FOR SALE

- (1) Ignition Shielding.
- (2) New, original gear shift knobs.

PARTS LOCATED

- E54S00 -8 (1) windshield glass & chrome - \$35.00 (2) dashboard, less gauges. (3) passenger door, less upholstery. (4) driver's side front fender. (5) firewall with heater & clutch panel. (6) complete steering column & gear, less steering wheel (7) complete floor pan. (8) door hinges. (9) complete rear end, including rear deck, trunk & fenders

1951 POWERGLIDE

Make and Type-----Ovm, Semi-elliptic  
Material-----Chrome Carbon Steel  
Length and Width-----51 x 3  
Spring Clips-----4; 3 clinch type; 1 bolt type  
Spring Covers-----None  
Number of Leaves-----4; embossed for full length liners  
Thickness of Leaves-----1, 3 & 4, .282; 2, .315  
Average Design Load at Camber Height-----545-605 lb.  
Camber Heights at Design Load-----1.58 neg.  
Average Rate of Deflection-----115 lb/in.  
Spring Liners-----3, Wax impregnated fibre board

REAR AXLE

Same as Powerglide except Hotchkiss Drive.

4-12-54

CHEVROLET 1954 SPECIFICATION-PASSENGER

CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE (Model 2934) 53

ENGINE

The Corvette engine is basically the same as the Blue Flame-125 passenger car engine, with the following exceptions and characteristics.

Tappets-----Mechanical  
 Timing Gear-----Aluminum  
 Carburetor-----3 side draft  
 Carburetors with manifolds and air ducts to suit design  
 Compression Ratio-----8.0:1

ADVERTISED MAXIMUM ENGINE PERFORMANCE

Gross Horsepower-----150 @4200 RPM  
 Net Horsepower-----140 @ 4200 RPM  
 Gross Torque-----223 ft. lb. @ 2400 RPM  
 Net Torque-----216 ft. lb. @ 2400 RPM

ADVERTISED CAR PERFORMANCE

Based on curb weight plus 300 lbs. for 2 passengers  
 Performance weight-----3150  
 Pounds/gross horsepower-----21  
 Pounds/cu. in. displacement-----13.38  
 Gross horsepower/cu.in. displacement-----.64  
 Power displacement (cu. ft./mile)-----180.9  
 Displacement factor (cu. ft./ton mile)-----114.86

CARBURETOR

Number Used-----Three  
 Make and Type-----Carter, side draft  
 Main venturi size, throat ID-----1.312  
 Choke-----Manual

AIR INLET

Number Used-----Three (one for each carburetor)  
 Type-----Chrome plated metal housing with  
 screen covered openings.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Generator-----Delco-Remay 1102793  
 Voltage and Current Regulator-----Delco-Remay 1118827  
 Distributor-----1112314  
 Coil-----1115394  
 Spark Plugs-----AC 44-5 or 45-5 Commercial  
 Shielding - Spark plugs, wires, distributor and coil  
 are completely enclosed by a metal shield.

TRANSMISSION

Same as Powerglide except that the selector lever is mounted in floor at right side of driver.



Notchkiss drive with one propeller shaft with a U-Joint at both ends

FUEL SYSTEM

Fuel Tank-----Two stamped pans, seam welded  
 Capacity-----17.25 gals.  
 Mounting-----Supported by two straps attached to under  
 body behind seat.  
 Filler-----In body left side to rear of driver's  
 entrance door.

EXHAUST SYSTEM

Type-----Dual  
 Muffler-----Two  
 Type-----Diffusion and resonance, reverse flow  
 Size-----16 x 5-1/16 x 7-5/16 Oval  
 Manifold-----Split with each exhaust pipe serving 3 cylinders  
 Exhaust pipes-----Two  
 Tail Pipes-----Two  
 Both exhaust and tail pipes are welded on seamless steel  
 tubing whose diameters are 1.75 OD and 1.65 ID.

COOLING SYSTEM

Capacity-----17-3/4 quarts  
 Radiator, Make and Type-----Harrison, Cellular  
 Material-----Copper  
 Size-----.20 x .560 x 2  
 Frontal Area-----393.48 sq. in.  
 Pressure Cap-----4 pound, located in aux tank  
 Auxiliary water supply tank-----Located in engine  
 compartment on right side at cylinder height.

RADIATOR HOSES

Function	Inlet	Outlet	Supply Tank
Material	Fabric reinforced rubber		
Location	Cyl head to Radiator	Radiator to water pump	Aux tank to radiator
Quantity	1	2	1
Shape	Compound Curve	Elbow	Straight
I.D.	1-1/4	1-1/2	1-1/2
Length (Developed)	12-1/2 Approx.	6-3/4 Each	10-1/2 Approx.

STEERING

Steering Gear Ratio-----16:1  
 Steering wheel Diameter-----17-1/4  
 Turning Diameters:  
 Right wall to wall-----38.58  
 Left wall to wall-----38.99  
 Right Curb to Curb-----36.55  
 Left Curb to Curb-----36.93  
 Toe In-----0-1/8