

THE Gold Standard

OFFICIAL SHOW GUIDE

WELCOME BACK TO BLOOMINGTON!



June 25-28, 1998

SCHEDULES
EVENT DESCRIPTIONS
AUCTION INFORMATION

bloomington
GOLD
Corvettes USA

\$5.00

1969 L-88 – 6,429 Mile Roadster
Owned by: Chip and Judy Miller
Carlisle, Pennsylvania

In 1969, John VonSprecken of Ludington, Michigan, decided he had to have the ultimate Corvette – an L-88. He located a new one in Toledo, Ohio, and purchased the white car on March 19, from Jack Lownsbury Chevrolet for \$6,500.

Soon after, John got married. The newlyweds trailered a boat behind the L-88 on their honeymoon. Once, while pulling the boat and trailer from the water,

John slipped the clutch excessively. Into the garage went the L-88, parked next to the boat on the trailer. There they all sat for about ten years. The L-88 had a mere 6,205 miles on it!

John didn't subscribe to Corvette magazines, but in 1980 he picked one up at the newsstand. Fortunately for Chip Miller, the magazine featured his 1953 Corvette. John called information, got Chip's phone number, and offered his car to Chip, thinking it would be the perfect mate for Chip's low mileage '53.

Chip purchased the car sight unseen. What a treat it was when he picked it up! For all practical purposes, the car was brand new (clutch excepted). Every bit of paperwork was there: window sticker, shipper, order form, protect-o-plate, registrations, insurance cards, work receipts, everything...period. Quite the find!

Under Chip's ownership the car has traveled only an additional 224 miles. Most of the miles were added in June of 1981, in Bloomington. Each night the team of Ken Heckert, Bill Landis, and Chip cruised the streets making appropriate deposits of rubber from the original Goodyear F70x15's. On Sunday of that weekend, the car was Bloomington Gold® Certified. Chip brought the car back to Bloomington for the Special Collection V in 1988. It is with great pride (and maybe a few more rubber deposits) that Chip returns the L-88 to Bloomington Gold just as Bloomington Gold returns to Bloomington.



1969 L-88 – 2,531 Mile Coupe
Owned by: Werner Meier
Farmington Hill, Michigan

This Riverside Gold coupe was originally purchased by Raymond Butler from Les Stanford Chevrolet in Dearborn, Michigan. As a member of the Corvette Club of Michigan, he entered the car in various competitions, including autocross, slalom, and drag events. It was also displayed at the annual Concours d'Elegance sporting the Butler family crest on both sail panels. It was

through participation in these events during the summer of 1969 that the car accumulated the bulk of its current mileage.

Butler's efforts at autocross were anything but successful; brute torque multiplied by a 4.56:1 axle ratio was tough to apply to the pavement via the stock F-70 Speedway rubber. It was difficult for the car to know whether the front or rear end should exit turns first. The car was a bit more successful at the drag strip, turning a respectable 11.70 in the quarter mile with open headers and slicks (and another club member at the wheel!). Tire marks are still apparent on the front edges of the rear wheel openings where the slicks would make contact during hard runs.

The Corvette bug wore off after one brief season and the car was simply garaged for the next couple of years until offered for sale in 1972. Dave Davies, a 21-year-old Corvette enthusiast bought the car for the sum of

Hall of Fame continued...

HALL OF FAME

Meier '69 continued...

\$5,000, with plans of entering the car in IMSA competition. In retrospect, it is interesting to note that Dave sought out and ignored the counsel of Werner Meier, a high school friend and fellow enthusiast, who insisted that no '69 Vette would then or ever be worth five grand, even if it did only have two thousand miles on it. The advice was worth what he paid for it – nothing.

Dave drove the car only once during his three year ownership and succeeded in attracting enough attention from the Redford Township Police Department (unsafe start, speeding, reckless driving, no car insurance, incorrect plates, etc.) in one trip, to motivate him not to press his luck further on the street. The body was removed from the frame in order to modify the chassis and drive train for competition.

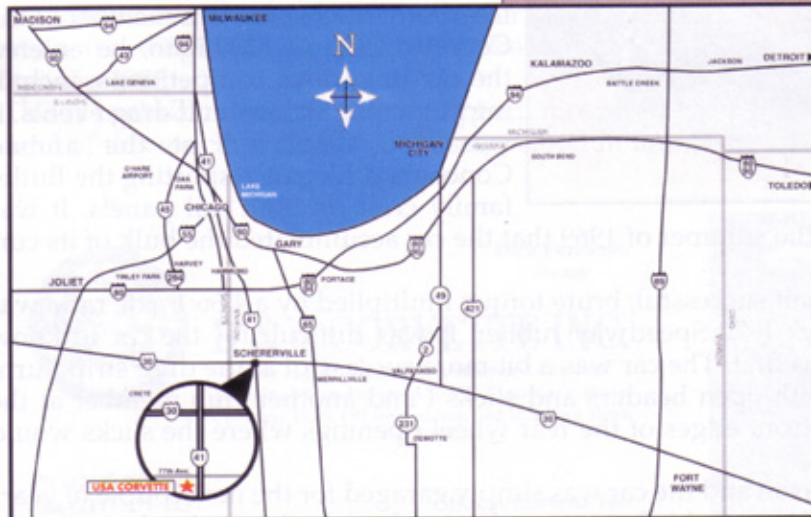
The project never reached fruition before lost interest, and the car was sold disassembled to Werner Meier in 1975. Having other Corvettes, a jet boat, and shortly thereafter a wife and family to dominate his spare time, the car was left "in baskets" for the next twelve years. Desire to be a part of the "Earthquake 88" celebration finally provided the impetus to reassemble the car. It was there that the car was driven in the nine-mile L-88 Parade from the Bone Student Center to the McLean County Fairgrounds, the only use the car has seen since 1972.

Since that time, the car has been on display at the Domino's Farms Museum (now closed) and the Gilmore Classic Car Club Museum, still featuring its new car smell.

In the automotive world there are very few men who fully understand the theory of automobiles in an engineering sense and who can drive them right to the limits of their capability. Germany had Rudolf Uhlenhaut at Mercedes-Benz, England had Colin Chapman at Lotus, and America (and the Corvette enthusiasts of the world) was very fortunate to have had Zora Arkus-Duntov!

USA CORVETTE

2412 Indianapolis Blvd. (U.S. 41)
Scherverville, IN 46375
(219) 864-8600



FROM THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTE 30 & 41: 1 mile south on U.S. 41

Come in & visit our showroom!

The search is over if you're trying to find that particular year, color and style of Corvette you've been longing for. As Northwest Indiana's only all Corvette dealership, we provide only top quality used Corvettes.

Dedicated to customer satisfaction, we always have more than 40 Corvettes in stock. USA Corvette buys, sells and trades all models of quality Corvettes. Our promise to you is, if we don't have it, we will find it!

BUY • SELL • TRADE

Hours: M - F 9:00-7:30; Sat. 9:00-4:00
(Summer hours may vary)