

Blue Bars

50 YEARS
1959 - 2009



THE NCCC FAMILY Est. 1959

Official Publication of the National Council of Corvette Clubs, Inc.

Winter 2009

A SPECIAL DELIVERY -- 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING

On June 23, 1958, twenty-two year old Jerry Craig became the proud owner of a brand-new Corvette, his first. The convertible was Tuxedo Black with a white soft top. The original invoice –which he still has among his mementos- showed a purchase price of \$3,341.46 including options. On June 23, 2008, fifty years to the day, Jerry and his wife Armynta celebrated the golden anniversary of his first Corvette purchase when they took delivery of their new 2008 Black Convertible at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY.

Jerry and Armynta are long-time members of the St. Louis Corvette Club, as well as lifetime members of the National Corvette Museum. More than 50 club members traveled to Bowling Green from St. Louis to celebrate the Craigs' car delivery with them. The Craig children, daughter Peggy Craig and son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and Patty Craig, were also on hand to celebrate with their parents. The younger Craigs are all following in their parents' footsteps as Corvette owners, members of the St. Louis Corvette Club and the NCM. Peggy owns a '98 Red Coupe, and Jeff and Patty own a '98 Sebring Silver Convertible, as well as a 1978 25th anniversary Silver Coupe.

Also sharing in this unique family event were Jerry Craig's brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Cathy Craig, from Ankeny, IA. They own a 1972 War Bonnet Yellow Coupe and a 1986 Red Coupe. Other family members and Corvette owners on hand for the delivery event were Armynta's sisters and brothers-in-law, Conita and Dick Shoulders, from Vincennes, IN, owners of a 1993 40th anniversary Ruby Red Coupe; Pam and John Corrora, also from Vincennes and owners of both '91 and '99 Red Convertibles; and Jane and Mike Neal from Atlanta, GA, owners of a 2004 Commemorative Convertible.

St. Louis Corvette Club members celebrated with the Craig family at a congratulatory dinner held at *Mariah's Restaurant* in Bowling Green on Sunday, June 22. Special guests included retired Corvette Plant Manager and current National Corvette Museum Board Chairman Wil Cooksey and his wife Liz. Other special guests included "Captain Joe" Jakub, of the Warren County, KY Sheriff's Office and his wife Bernice; Museum Delivery Manager Gary Cockriel and his wife Torie; and Corvette IT Manager (Knowledgebase) Ruth Park and her husband Wayne. Several members of the Boone Trail Corvette Club of St. Charles, MO also attended. Special event t-shirts commemorating the Craigs' delivery were presented to attendees.

St. Louis Corvette Club members toured the Corvette plant on June 23. The Craigs were welcomed to the plant by current Plant Manager Paul Graham who congratulated them on their special anniversary car delivery. Club members then toured the Museum and gathered for the Craigs' car delivery at 1:00 p.m. The club celebrated the Craigs' delivery in grand style by participating en masse in the NCM Xperience on June 23. All cars on display in the Museum on that day were owned by St. Louis Corvette Club members!

Jerry Craig's love affair with the Corvette goes back to 1953 when the sports car first made its appearance. He has owned 18 Vettes at various times during the last half century in addition to racing some of the early models. One special Corvette purchase was that of a used '86 that sported an estimated odometer reading of 190,000 miles. Jerry and his son Jeff painstakingly restored the '86. Their restoration efforts were rewarded when the car was chosen as the 1986 representative in the June 2002 Historic Motorama that celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Corvette. The '86 and its restoration were recently featured in the July 2008 issue of *Corvette Enthusiast*. Jeff Craig presented his father with a special framed copy of their *Corvette Enthusiast* magazine story at the weekend celebration dinner. Jerry's brother, Paul Craig, is the current owner of the red 300,000 mile coupe. He and his wife drove the '86 to Bowling Green from Iowa for the delivery celebration, a fitting tribute to his brother Jerry and the Corvettes he loves so dearly.



Jerry Craig's new 2008 and his original 1958



A young Jerry Craig racing a 1959 Corvette



Corvette Plant Manager Paul Graham congratulates Armynta and Jerry Craig on their 2008 car delivery on June 23, 2008



Jerry and Armynta Craig outside the National Corvette Museum on June 23, 2008, along with family members and fellow members of the St. Louis Corvette Club. All participated in the Museum Xperience.