



# Blue Bars



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# The Hanners' Great Adventure

From start to finish, Delora and Doug Hanner were on hand to witness the perfect way to celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and Doug's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. The couple traveled to the Corvette Assembly Plant in Bowling Green, KY to watch production of their 2013 Grand Sport Coupe. Members of the Corvette Club of Illinois and NCCC since 1973, they enjoy an everlasting love of Corvettes.

Doug quietly went about making plans for the new car as a surprise anniversary present for Delora. He mapped out specs, which include a White Exterior, Titanium Gray Interior, Two-Tone Seats, 3LT Preferred Equipment Group, Chrome Aluminum Wheels, Six-Speed Paddle Shift Automatic Transmission and Red Calipers. On March 24<sup>th</sup>, which was the first day you could order a 2013, he placed the order without Delora having any idea about what he had done. Finished with the arrangements, it took him another month to tell his wife what he had done. Her first reaction was *Fear* that turned to *Happy* as soon as she realized this was not a dream.

Their great adventure began the evening of May 17<sup>th</sup> when they departed their home for the drive to Bowling Green in order to be at the Corvette Plant by 12:00 noon on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, to start their personal plant tour. Delora states: "We both had goose bumps, because this was our First NEW Corvette. We could not wait to see the car come to life right before our eyes." The Corvette Museum assigned them a guide for their personalized Plant Tour, so they knew when and where their car which was "No. 852" would start its assembly process. Each new vehicle has the Serial Number printed on build sheets positioned on the front of the frame, which insures that the cars have the right options when they come off the assembly line. Their guide knew exactly where their Grand Sport was when he greeted them at the Plant. The couple was ecstatic about the serial number for the new model. Something else that is special is that the number combines both of their birthdays. Delora's birthday is August 12<sup>th</sup>, (8) and Doug was born in 1952; hence, the last three numbers are 852. They both feel it is inevitable that they are the proud owners of this Grand Sport.

On hand to see their dream become a reality, they watched a stripped down Tub Assembly coming down the assembly line. By the end of the first day, the car was complete with interior parts and body panels. The second day started at 7:45 am with the installation of the top and taillights. Next, they watched as the engine was stamped with the serial number. After that, the car traveled overhead so that it could be married to the chassis. On the third day, Delora started her Vette for the first time while it was still off the ground. Once the quality control checks were complete, Delora again started #852 and received her car's Birth Certificate. After that, the vehicle moved to the chassis dyno where Delora got to ride along at 80 MPH. The last time they saw her Vette during the building stage was during the water test, which all vehicles undergo before completion.

When it was time to pick up their car, two of their fellow club members drove them to Bowling Green so Doug and Delora could enjoy the ride home in their new Corvette. They arrived at the National Corvette Museum to see #852 in front of the Corvette Store. They went to the NCM at 7:45 am on Monday for a Personal tour of the Plant and behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum. Then about 1:00 pm, they had a personal Hands-On Tour of her Vette. After that, they were out the door and homeward bound. It was almost dark by the time they returned home to Oakwood, Illinois. As they turned on to



their street, it looked like there were several children playing in the lane near their home. Much to their surprise, members of their Corvette Family were standing in the road welcoming the delivery of the new car otherwise known as their "Baby." Friends had decorated their garage with balloons and banners to greet the new arrival.

Doug always wanted a C2 "Grand Sport" Replica. He found his dream car, a "1964" Grand Sport Replica Coupe, in June, 2010 outside Philadelphia, PA. It took him two weeks to convince his wife to go on a road trip to see the GS. For that reason, the "2013" Grand Sport is Delora's. To prove the car is hers, Delora proudly displays a personalized Illinois license with her name inscribed on the plate. They both drive the "2013" and always have fun every time the "852" hits the road.

Something both recommend to anyone planning to order a new Corvette is to do the Corvette Buyers Tour, purchase the Photo Album of the Build and do the Museum Delivery. They feel this combination is well worth the investment. The couple refers to their experience as the "Great Journey" to see their Grand Sport built, taking delivery at the National Corvette Museum and finally having the time of their life enjoying their new Grand Sport.



Living in central Illinois, they drive the car on sunny days and even in the rain sometimes! As a couple, they attend area events with members of the Corvette Club of Illinois. Doug has served CCI as their club president since 1974. The couple considers the club their "Family" and looks forward to many years enjoying life with their beloved Corvette friends.

By: Pat Clark ©2013