

## *Feature Article: "My Corvette Story" by Ken Jelley #35642 A Friend for Life...*

On October 20, 1965 I heard of a recently traded-in slightly used 1964 Silver Blue Corvette Convertible at Dickey Chevrolet/Buick Inc in Grove City, PA. I was 18 years old at the time and wanted a Corvette more than anything.

Unable to resist, I went to the dealership and persuaded the salesman to let me take it for a test drive. I can remember the intense look on the salesman's face as I "TESTED" the performance of the 327 C.I. 365 H.P. engine and close ratio four speed with 4:11 differential. I knew he wanted to ask me to slow down, BUT he didn't want to jinx the sale.

A tentative deal was struck, but only being 18, I needed my father's approval and signature to complete the transaction. That's when the real negotiations started. I was somehow able to convince my father to at least go look. In the end the 1964 Corvette came home that day.

The car has been a part of my life for 57 years. It went with me during my U.S. Air Force days. It brought my newborn daughter home from the hospital. I used this car as intended during those days: drag racing, autocross, and Nelson Ledges Road Course time trials with Corvette Cleveland. It was the only car I owned, at that time, which meant I drove it year- round. It traveled many miles on studded snow tires and baby moon hubcaps.

After much driving enjoyment, the Corvette was parked in 1981. Life got in the way. In 2009 I started a four- year restoration project that included a complete nut, bolt, and screw body off. April 2014 was the first drive in my now NEW 1964 Corvette to a local all Corvette show at Quaker Steak & Lube in Sharon, PA. Using the internet, I was able to locate the original owner (Bill Reznor) and invited him to the COMING OUT party. He was able to attend and we reminisced our shared ownership. *Photo below taken at the Cleveland IX Center. Ken*

**History since restoration:** 2014 Carlisle 50th Anniversary 1964 Corvette display, 2015 NCRS Top Flight Award, 2015 Cleveland IX Center display, 2016 Corvette Year Book recognition, 2017 AACA award, 2019 Carlisle NCRS Gallery display

