

Corvette of the Month Article – From Jerry Leman



B. J. and I own a 1978 Silver Anniversary Corvette Coupe C-3 (Two-Tone Silver and Gray) that we drove out of the dealership new on March 20, 1978. I was employed by GM at the time and employee discounts on Corvettes were hard to come by. I put my name in a Corvette lottery pool and luckily my name was drawn for the purchase. The final price for this beauty with the GM discount was \$9,799.08. I still have the new car price sticker!

Just after we purchased it, we moved to California for a year on a GM assignment. I had the car shipped to California by rail (as a new car) and put around 12K miles on it in the foothills of California near and around San Francisco. At the end of that year, we were ready to return to Michigan. Again, not wanting to run up the mileage, we had it put into the moving van right along with our furniture on an upper level ramp built in the van.

1978 was the first year with the fastback design rear floor space and wrap around backlight. In those days, we would put our 2 young sons in the back (no seats, no seatbelts) and take them to their various sports practices and games. There were no seatbelt laws then and looking back on this practice, we were not really good conscientious parents, but those were different times. Of course, we only drove the Corvette from May thru October in Michigan and very little at that.

From 1980 thru 1991 we put very few miles (about 3K) during the summers and stored it in our garage most of the other time. It was summer of 1992 and my oldest son needed a car for summer school at Central Michigan. Being a member of his fraternity and the good dad that I am, I gave my son the Corvette for the summer. It came back in great condition with a couple added fraternity decals on the windows, but also an additional 5K miles. We then again drove it for a few years in the Woodward Cruise and to various shows around the area.

Sometime around 1996, my younger son needed a car to get himself back and forth to work. Can't remember what happened to his car or why exactly he needed another one. In any event, being the good dad that I am, I gave my son the Corvette for 4 months that

summer. It must have worked out for him as he met his wife (now married for 11 years) by impressing her with the car. It came back in great condition, but had again been driven a few more miles (another 4K).

Since that time B.J. and I have mostly had it in storage and have sparingly driven it by taking it to the Woodward Dream Cruise, Back to the Bricks, local road rallies, ACC trips, car shows and one long trip to the Bloomington Gold in Indianapolis. A highlight of this trip was the laps that we were able to take on the Indy 500 Track. We have also taken the Corvette to the Mattek Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix Caravan and was able to complete several laps on the Grand Prix track.

Everything on my Corvette is still original and she still looks pretty good for a driver with 26K miles on her today. I would love to have a new C-7, but I just can't part with my original dream car I bought new 41 years ago this month. I might just wait for a C-8!