

Some Things You Just Know by Terry Brim

Some Things You Just Know and such was the case with Joe DeLapp. The year was around 1986 and Joe was a senior in high school outside Chicago. What was it that Joe knew? He knew that he wanted, a C1 Corvette! Most of us don't know that un-

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til much later in life and even then most of us want a particular corvette body style because either we had one growing up or it was our first corvette, or we knew someone who had one. None of these reasons fit Joe. After all, in 1986, the C1 body style was already at least 23 years old, older than Joe and yet it was definitely what he wanted.



However, the Corvette would have to wait. After high school, Joe went to the Air Force academy and then to pilot training in Texas. Still Joe would have to wait.....after completing his pilot training, he was assigned overseas duty. During all this time however, the C1 corvette was

never far from his mind. As Joe put it, he saved his pennies and when he came back states side he began to look for what he knew he

always wanted.....a C1 Corvette. Joe finally found this beauty in 1998 in Arizona. Joe has also made some smart decisions along the way. His first smart decision was to buy an extended warranty from the dealer where he bought the car. Turns out there were

problems with oil pump which caused the engine to throw a rod, but luckily the whole thing was covered.

Like most AF brats, the car has moved around. After leaving Arizona, Joe was stationed in South Carolina and then on to Korea for a year. While in Korea, the car remained states side in South Carolina however.



Upon his return to the states, Joe was stationed at Ft Campbell, Ky for two years prior to coming to WPAFB. Needless to say,

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Joe does not find a lot of time to drive the car, but he

says he is working on that! In the 7 plus years since owning the C1, Joe has only put around 3,000 miles on it.

Joe recently had some work done to strengthen the windshield frame resulting in a replacement windshield being installed. Prior to that, he did the usual suspension work, replaced the clutch and heater core along with replacing some electrical wiring. All typical things for a 45 year old car! Joe is expecting yet another overseas assignment to Italy or Germany coming up in June 2006 so it

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looks as if the miles won't pile up soon. By the way, Joe will be looking for a place to store his baby while he is gone. If you have or know of such a place contact Joe, I'm sure he would like to hear from you.

Roman Red, the car looks beautiful. Down the road however, Joe does harbor thoughts of maybe an NCRS restoration.



The car is a basic corvette equipped with a 283/230hp engine, wonderbar radio and heater.

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Joe has no plans to sell the car, although he didn't say so somehow, I got the feeling it is keeper for "Little Joe" Already at the tender age of 4, he feels very comfortable in his dad's vette. Take a good look, and you will see the next generation of Corvette owner! For the immediate future, Joe would like to just drive the car and enjoy it. The car is mechanically sound and looks good.



Although painted Honduras Maroon, Joe believes the original '59 color was

