

Feature Article

I've Got a Secret by Terry Brim

Let me give you a hint... somewhere in never never land, there is a 28K mile 66' Big Block roadster with 2 tops, AC, PB, PS, PW, and telescopic steering wheel that hasn't seen the light of day for more than 30 years! First of all, why never never land? Why not Dayton, or Centerville, or Kettering, or Beavercreek, or Spring-

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boro, or any other place?

Because Don Groves

would rather not reveal the location of his baby... and why not you ask? Believe it or not, Don has had two other mid-

years stolen out from under him and he's not about to take any chances with this one, who can

blame him!

Let's turn the clock back almost 40 years to 1965. As Don tells it, "when they made the Stingray, that's the first one he fell in love with"familiar story? Anyway, in 1965, Don bought a 65' roadster with only 1,000 miles on it.

Don and his wife enjoyed the vette and drove it everywhere. Then around 1968, his wife and her mother were downtown at a play and someone stole their baby....ugggg. Don says they eventually found the 65' vette unfortunately, it had been striped. The fenders were busted out where they pulled the engine. The interior was all busted up, he said it looked like they took a crow bar to get the radio out.



friend of his. Now why do you suppose his friend was selling his 66' Big Block,.....

well you would never guess... turns out his friend had had his hard

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top stolen 3....yes count'em 3 times! Don says his friend had had it and "was not messing with it anymore". Don drove the 66' for a couple of years and what do you think happen.... Yep, you guess it, it was stolen literally right out from underneath him... Well right in front of his house anyway...ouch! Again, they found the car this time however, it had been stripped by professionals. Don still has the hard top from that vette however, still brand new according to Don, never been on the car!

Fast forward to around 1972/1973, someone told Don of another 66' roadster that NCR had

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repossessed. Trusting guy that he is, Don bought the car sight unseen.....guess the price was right!

Don said when he called

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the guy, he was told there were some "problems" with the engine and that they were going to take it to a guy and have it "fixed" As it turned out, having it "fixed" meant they pulled the Big Block and replaced it with a non-corvette 327 engine. When he went to pick it up, Don said he was a little upset but he figured he would "fix it up and do something with it"

However about that same time, Don's son was 5 or 6 years old and the vette kinda got pushed to the background.....well we all know how that goes!



Finally 30 years later, Don is back at it, true to his word, he is finally getting around to "fixing it up". A couple of years after he bought the car, Don found a Big Block engine to put in the vette, but it too has been sitting in storage for almost 30 years.

Don's biggest problem now



is that when they pulled the Big Block 30 years ago, they virtually removed everything from the firewall forward, so all the AC brackets, hoses, etc. from the Big Block are all missing. Don is undeterred however, he says that he has met many knowledgeable guys since joining our club and is getting lots of help and advice.

Don's intent is to restore the car, but not necessarily "by the numbers". He wants to make a nice driver out of it and just enjoy the car.

For example, it now has the wheel wells cut to allow for big tires, Don is undecided as to whether or not he is going to leave as is or restore the wheel wells to original.

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In either case, he is planning on a body off approach to the restoration process. Don has already got some good advice and contacts from fellow club members Pete Tank and Jerry Michaels

The interior of the vette looks good. It is a beautiful beige and is all there. When Don does get this vette restored, it will be a knockout!



We wish Don well in his adventure in bringing his

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baby back to life. When finished, he will have a vette that will turn heads and make us all proud I'm sure.

gress in future issues of our Vette Gazette, so stay tuned.....more to come.

We will track Don's pro-



See follow up on next page

Remember the "I've got a Secret" Article

By Terry Brim

How many of you remember the feature article in the March 2004 Issue of our Vette Gazette, that's Volume 2 Issue 1 for those of you who keep track of that sort of thing.

Title of that feature article was "I've got a Secret" In this article, we featured Don Groves 66 Corvette roadster located somewhere in the Dayton area. If you're old like yours truly, you may need a memory refresher about Don's car. Don was the one who has had two mid years stolen out from underneath him. Hence, he wanted to keep the location of this baby a secret.

The other thing you may not remember about Don's 66 is that it's a Big Block roadster with only 28K miles. It comes well

Looks as if seeing all those neatly restored mid-years in our NCRS chapter has finally got to Don. Yes, he has set about to do a body off restoration of his baby!

Don essentially had everything from the frame disassembled from the cross member forward. He was hard at work removing the rear suspension the day I took these

pictures.

When I last saw Don, he had the body off the frame and was diligently working on removing everything from the frame and chassis.



Note the AC ducts on this Big Block Mid Year.

When Don got the car, someone had removed the original BB and was running a small block in it. Don has located a BB to put back in the car although it is not a matching numbers block.



Don intends for this beauty to be a driver when finished and who can blame him.



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Don is not one to be denied as evidenced by all the hammers lying around inside the cockpit of the 66...ouch! I hope he uses them wisely.

Time table for Don to complete his baby is sometime in 2005. We'll be watching Don....should be a sight to behold!