

Mr. Big Block by Terry Brim

Most of us know Jerry Michaels as Mr. Big Block. Jerry loves those cubic inches and horsepower that comes along with the Chevy big block engines.

It wasn't always that way with Jerry however. If we go back in time to when he was just a young'un in high school, we would find Jerry driving a Chevy six banger. That's right, Jerry's first car was a 57 Chevy six cylinder. It didn't take him long however to drop a 283 V8 into that puppy, this coming from a Bel Air station wagon donor car he had bought. Not exactly a big block, but it was a start in the right direction.

Jerry drove the 57' all the way through college until as he put it, he got a real job making real money. Upon graduation, he bought his first real big block, a 67' super sport Chevelle, 396 with a 4 speed! Although the 67' was a big block, Jerry wasn't satisfied. He promptly "built it out to the maximum" and used it to drag race. Friday nights on RT 725 in Miamisburg between around 10PM and 2AM

must have been quite the scene back in the early 70's. At \$50 a throw and with the cops watching, Jerry says the only thing that ever beat him was a 67' 435 Corvette coupe.

Needless to say after that, Corvette's had his attention. Problem was about that time family came first and the Corvette had to take a back seat for awhile. Not for long however because in 1974 Jerry and another guy bought a 65' 396 Corvette big block

If we go back in time to when he was just a young'un in high school, we would find Jerry driving a Chevy six banger.,

the car because it had side pipes....imagine that! They sold the vette to a guy in West Carrollton and Jerry

says that Al Katona thinks the lucky guy still has the car. Jerry says he would love

to find the guy and go see the car again, so if any of you know of someone who has a red/red 65' 396 side pipe vette convertible, send him Jerry's way.

Gee, I wonder how many red/red 65' 396 side pipe convertible vettes there are out there.

Jerry only kept the 65' about a year.....was the time of the first energy crunch, big blocks weren't very popular and nobody, not even Mr. Big Block himself thought they would last in popularity. After that along came a series of "detuned" vettes (mid to late C3's) and Nova's, many of which he bought new, kept for a couple of years and then sold.....sound familiar?

When Jerry's "overhead" went down in the late 90's....translated means kids grew up, got married and moved out of the house, his interest turned once again to those old big block cars of yesterday.

His first purchase during this time was a blue/blue 66' BB vette

convertible which he found in Columbus. After restoring this baby back to original specs, according to Jerry, some guy came

red/red convertible. At the time, Jerry says he didn't really like

At \$50 a throw and with the cops watching, Jerry says the only thing that ever beat him was a 67' 435 corvette coupe.

Continued on page 2

Mr. Big Block (con't) by Terry Brim

Continued from page 1
along from Alberta, Canada
of all places and made him
an offer he couldn't refuse.
Jerry's next vette was the



red/red 66' BB convertible
which he just finished re-
storing to NCRS standards.
What makes this beauty so
special is the power guide



transmission of all things.

Only 20 of these
66' BB vettes were
made with the
"girlematic trans"
and Jerry believes
that he has the
only red/red con-
vertible with this
option. Speaking of
options, of the 15



options offered in 66,
Jerry's baby has 14 of
them, the
only one
missing
is air
condi-
tioning.

Jerry
bought
this car off of a lady in NJ
whose husband had passed
on. He was put in contact
with her via another cor-
vette owner who had been
trying to buy the car for
some time and had given
up....seems as though she
didn't want to part with the
car for sentimental reasons.
When Jerry first contacted

the lady,
he was
told the
same story
as the
other
guy....she
had no in-
terest

in selling the car. Unde-
rterred, Jerry made a wise
decision
at the
time, he
asked
her if he
could call
her peri-
odically
to inquire
about the



car. Once given the green
light, Jerry says that he
called her
3-4 times a
year. After
about 4
years, he
received a
call one
day from
the lady

stating that she was get-
ting remarried and asked
Jerry if he was still inter-
ested in that "old car"?
Needless to say, sight un-
seen, he was on his way
with Greg Gorniak's trailer
in tow almost the next
day.....that was four
years ago.

After about 4 years, he re-
ceived a call one day from
the lady stating that she
was getting remarried and
asked Jerry if he was still
interested in that "old car"?

Jerry has
recently
added to
his stable
of big
blocks...
yup an-
other 66'
red/red BB
vette convertible along



Continued on page 3

Mr. Big Block (con't) by Terry Brim

Continued from page 2
with his BB white 68'
Chevelle convertible.



Plans for the future include
a Duntov for his rare 66,
restoration for his other 4
speed 66' vette along with
restoration for his caddy.

Jerry says when he bought
his 4 speed 66' vette, his
intention was to make a
driver out of it but getting a
top flight for his girlomatic
must have given him the
bug because he now doesn't
have the heart to just do a
driver.

We wish Jerry success,
after seeing his rare 66' at
our recent Chapter judg-
ing meet, I have no doubt
that we'll soon have a sec-
ond red/red Duntov car in
our chapter.....what's with
all these red/red vette's
anyway!!

Good Luck Jerry, we'll see
you on the judging field!

Rounding out his stable of
classic cars is a 96' grand
sport Corvette and a rare
caddy convertible. Accord-
ing to Jerry, these cars are
investments, not
toys.....yeah right Jerry!

