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## *In Memory of Ron Lambdin by Terry Brim*

Many of us have heard the old cliché “life is to short”. That was certainly the case with one of our NCRS Chapter members, Ron Lambdin. Ron left us long before he should have, but he also left us much richer for the time he spent with us.

Before I continue, I want to thank Ron’s wife Carol and his son Scott for allowing me the privilege, of interviewing them for this article. When I first called

Carol to ask if she would do the interview, I was not quite sure what her response would be, but I found her to be a very warm and gracious lady.

Thank you Carol and Scott for sharing Ron’s story and for giving the us a little insight into the person that Ron was and will always be in our hearts.

Ron was an only child born and raised in a little town in southern Indiana, Paoli, Indiana to be specific. Paoli is about 2 hours south of Indianapolis, which puts it just about a suburb of French Lick, Indiana. I should have asked if Ron

knew Larry Bird, who knows, they might have been close to neighbors!

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After graduating from High School, Ron was accepted at Purdue in their Mechanical Engineering program. No small feat as most of you know, Purdue is one of the top engineering schools in the country.

top engineering schools in the country. While at Purdue, Ron met his future bride to

be Carol. After graduating from Purdue in 1965, Ron went to work for Delco Remy in Anderson, Indiana. Like most of us, Ron grew up interested in cars, but it was his time working for Delco that really brought this interest to a head, especially his interest in Corvettes. It was while working at Delco that Ron purchased his first Vette, a red/black 66’ 4 speed 327 convertible. Ron only owned that 66’ for a short period of time however as he decided in 1967 to join the Air Force as an OTS candidate.....He hated to sell the 66’ but remember, this was at the peak of the Viet Nam war and again like most of us Ron’s age, more

times than not, our draft number dictated our future.

Upon graduating from Officer Training School in Texas, Ron was stationed here locally at WPAFB for his first 4 year assignment. In 1970 Ron and Carol were married and she joined him here in Dayton to start their life together. After his 4 year commitment, Ron left the Air Force to start his civilian career working for the Air Force in the same job as when he was a “blue suitor”. During this time, Ron also earned a master’s degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Ohio State University.

Fast forward to 1989, it had been 22 years since Ron owned a Corvette, but apparently the Corvette Bug had already bitten. According to Carol, Ron had wanted another Corvette for some time and as luck would have it fate intervened. One day in 1989, while driving in Kettering, Ron spotted another red/black Corvette on the corner of Woodman and Stroop. This time however, the Vette was a 72’ coupe. Carol says when they went past the 72’ sitting on the corner with a for sale sign on the car, she said Ron

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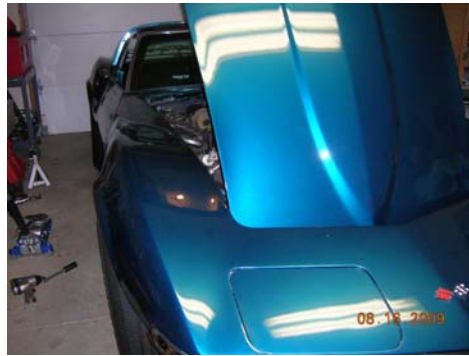
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really wanted to look at the Corvette. Ron made the guy an offer and the deal was done, Ron was now the proud owner of his 2<sup>nd</sup> Corvette after 22 years!



Ron drove the 72' for 5 years before he decided to "redo" the Vette. We've all been there on

Carol recalled on one occasion, she was helping Ron install new carpet in the 72' and the meticulous guy Ron was, they sat in the car all afternoon getting it "just perfect".

"seems like every little thing they did to it took a long time and lots of

that one! Ron had the engine rebuilt, but most of the work he did himself with support from a fellow chapter members Craig Egbert and Nick Kammer. Sometime during the course of events, Craig and Ron realized that the 72' had once been owned by Craig. Of course this comes as no surprise to those of us who know Craig, he has probably owned most Vettes in the Dayton area at one time or another....:) Ron actually stripped the car himself and had Craig re-spray the Vette back to it's original color which was Bryar Blue.

money". She sounds like an ole pro at doing Corvette restorations!



The Vette has been undergoing the "redo" now for almost 15 years. As Carol stated during the interview

Much of Ron's time during this period however was spent not redoing the 72', but rather working to grow his computer business. Just about the time Ron started restoring the 72', he also started working at starting a computer business in the evenings. He was still working at WPAFB during the day and doing the upstart

computer business at night. It's no wonder Ron had little time to devote to the 72' restoration. In 1999, Ron retired from WPAFB to devote full time to the computer business, but like most anyone who has been on the ground floor of a startup company knows, it takes a lot of one's personal time to make it go. During this time however, Ron did manage to find some time to work on the Corvette. Carol says it was his way of relaxing and getting away from the stress of the computer business.

Carol said Ron did most of the work himself and once in awhile she would try to help. Carol recalled on one occasion, she was helping Ron install new carpet in the 72' and the meticulous guy Ron was, they sat in the car all afternoon getting it "just perfect".



Most of the restoration on

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the 72' is complete except for the interior. Scott intends to finish the car however at the same time; he is taking over his dad's computer business working at night. *It might be nice for members of our chapter to volunteer to finish the interior of Ron's 72'. Anyone interested, let me know and I will approach Carol and Scott on the idea.* Both Carol and Scott intend to keep the 72' in the family and maybe someday pass it on to Scott's son.



Ron's second Vette is a beautiful red 98' 6 speed convertible that he and Carol purchased in 2006 from Bud's in St Mary's, Ohio on according to Carol "one of the coldest December nights she can remember". The 98' only had 18K

miles on the car when they bought it in 2006. Carol says the odometer currently shows a little over 20K miles as Ron drove the car sparingly in the 3 years they have owned it.

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When I asked Carol what Ron enjoyed most about our NCRS chapter, her re-

sponse was immediate.....the Tuesday night meetings with the guys along with the annual judging meet at Carillon Park and the Jeff Bernhardt's annual October road tours. Sounds like most of us doesn't it? Ron brought Scott to a couple of our Tuesday



night meetings; maybe we can talk Scott into joining our Chapter to carry on the Lambdin NCRS tradition. On a personal note, the thing I remember about Ron was his willingness to help. I recall at one of our judging schools, I was having difficulty getting my laptop to drive the external display projector and Ron was the first to jump in there and give me a hand....Thank You Ron, we miss you!

