

Making a Decision White or White by Terry Brim

They say people who can't make a decision on a car color buy white cars. This is not the case with Tony Ninnotti. Although Tony has two white Corvettes, it is not because of any indecision on his part. In fact, Tony had an option on both of his Vette's to repaint them a color other than white. He opted for white/red in both cases!

Mike Glaunsinger and Karl Clauss recently completed a full body off restoration on Tony's split window 63'



coupe. Greg Gorniak is in the process of completing a full body off restoration on Tony's 54' More about these later.

Like many of us, Tony's first experience with a Corvette was as a 7 or 8 year old kid growing up in Michigan. Tony's family lived across the street from a doctor who owned a 57"

black/red with silver covers (sound familiar, maybe it's the one that Joe Kolek now Owns).

For the rest of his childhood years, although Tony claims not remember saying this, his mother told him later in life that he always said "I'm

going to have one of those someday" That "someday" finally came in the fall of 1968 when Tony was in college, he bought a 1964 Daytona Blue with Dark Blue interior radio delete roadster from his mother's business partner.



In the fall of 1974 Tony bought a silver/black 68" small block convertible. Tony says it was an early car, so early in fact that the interior rear quarter panels had "pilot job" stamped on

them.

In 1977, Tony sold the 68' to buy another 64' roadster. That 64' was also Daytona Blue with a blue/white interior but says Tony, according to the trim tag, it should have been "white". I guess Tony and white just attract each

other, must be his clean living! Although it was pretty rough when he bought the car, Tony says it did come with the original dealer invoice paperwork. After he got the body work done and had it repainted of course back to the original color of white, Tony drove the car for 20 years.

Around 1997 was when Tony acquired his 54' He traded the 64' plus an undisclosed amount of cash for the 54. Tony says the 54' sat in parts from the early 80's until the mid 90's (kind of like it is now jokes Tony).

When Tony got the car he said the steering was a little "squirrely" as he put it, but

Continued on page 3

Tony had an option on both of his Vette's to repaint them a color other than white. He opted for white/red in both cases!

Making a Decision White or White (con't)

Continued from page 2

he didn't give it a great deal of thought. A couple of weeks later, he was driving down I-75 when someone cut him off. As Tony hit the brakes, he says the rear end kind of skidded and the steering wheel jerked to the left. Before he knew it, the 54' had started to move into the center lane and was hit by another car in the left front wheel/fender.

After the accident, Tony took the car to Jeff Bernhardt's Restoration Station to be fixed. Couple of days later, Tony said he got a call from Jeff asking him to come down to the shop

that he had something he wanted to show him, but wouldn't tell him what it was over the phone. When Tony got to the shop the next day, the 54'

was up on the lift and Jeff proceeded to show him that the bolts holding the bracket for all the steering linkage had rusted and broke off at the bottom. When the car was on the ground, what remained of the bolts would go down into the holes and

from the top, everything looked fine. Tony says that's why the steering felt a little squirrely.....WOW!

After Tony took the car to Greg's for the body off restoration work to begin, he started looking around for another Vette to drive while the 54' was being restored.



Jay's son had a silver/red split window coupe for sale. Yep, you guessed it, trim tag said car should have been white not silver. By now you know Tony and white Corvettes.

Enter Jay Kellogg. Jay's son had a silver/red split window 340hp coupe for sale. Yep, you guessed it, although the car was

silver, the trim tag said car left the factory white. By now you know Tony and white Corvettes. Needless to say, he bought the 63' and last year he had Mike and Karl restore it to it's beautiful white/red original colors.



One final note to show you "us guys" don't know everything, Tony said he was sitting at a stop light in his 54' one time and this young couple pulled up along side of him and the girl proceeds to ask Tony what kind of car that was. After he tells them it's a 54' Corvette, Tony says the young girl shouts out to her boy friend/husband "see I told you, you owe me \$10 bucks"!

When I asked Tony if he was going to sell the 63' after he gets the 54' back on the road, his reply was nope going to keep them both although he may look for another "white vette".... Just kidding Tony.

Tony's 54 Body Off



Tony's 54 Body On (Almost) Painted Body at Least



Tony's 63 Body Off



Tony's 63 Body On

