

“Countdown to Gold...”

the

1953 through 1957

Chevrolet Corvette

50th Anniversary

BY

Kenneth W. Kayser

Copyright @ 2005 Kenneth W. Kayser

All Rights Reserved

Number Thirty Four in the Series

**The Corvette VIN 001 Phenomena
Part II**

Corvette 1955 VIN 001



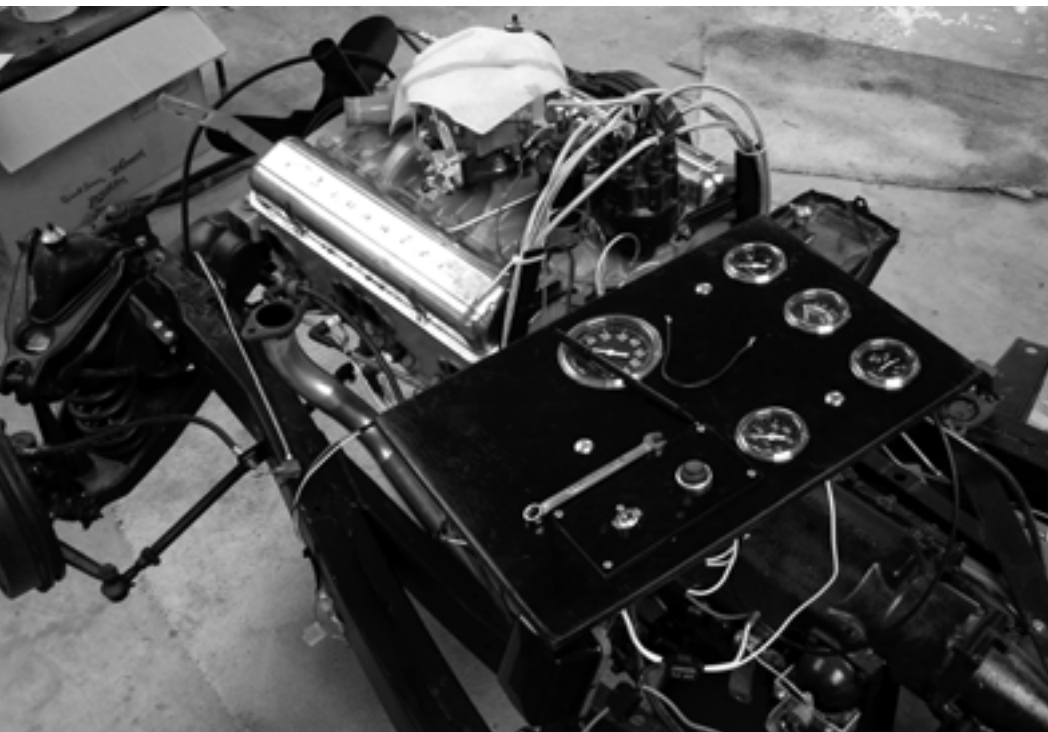
Say you saw it in

Last Month we took a glimpse at 1955 Corvette **VE55S001001** under restoration by the current owners and long time friends; Gene Morton and Jerry Kennedy of Prescott, Arizona.

Gene recently informed me that 1955 #001 is now being final trimmed on the outside and that Al Knock is doing the interior work.

See additional photos of the 1955 in Restoration - the engine in the chassis ready for firing up.

Corvette 1956 & 1957 VIN 001's



The 1956 and 1957 Corvette VINs 001 will both require similar lengthy and costly restorations as did the 1955 Corvette #001.

Previous surveys of the 1956 and 1957 Corvette model years indicate that the Pilot Car Assembly runs for both years did something very unusual... the cars for each year were all painted Cascade Green!

It is not know why the Pilot cars were all painted the same color for both

Say you saw it in

years. The most plausible reason is that they could be quickly identified and tracked through the St. Louis Assembly plant as a group, provided that no regular production cars were scheduled in the same color at the time of build.

1956 Corvette #002 was factory painted in a two-tone paint scheme where the side cove was a darker shade of Cascade Green. The car was loaned to author Karl Ludvigsen for an article in one of the more popular car magazines of the day.

Restoring 1956 Corvette VIN 001

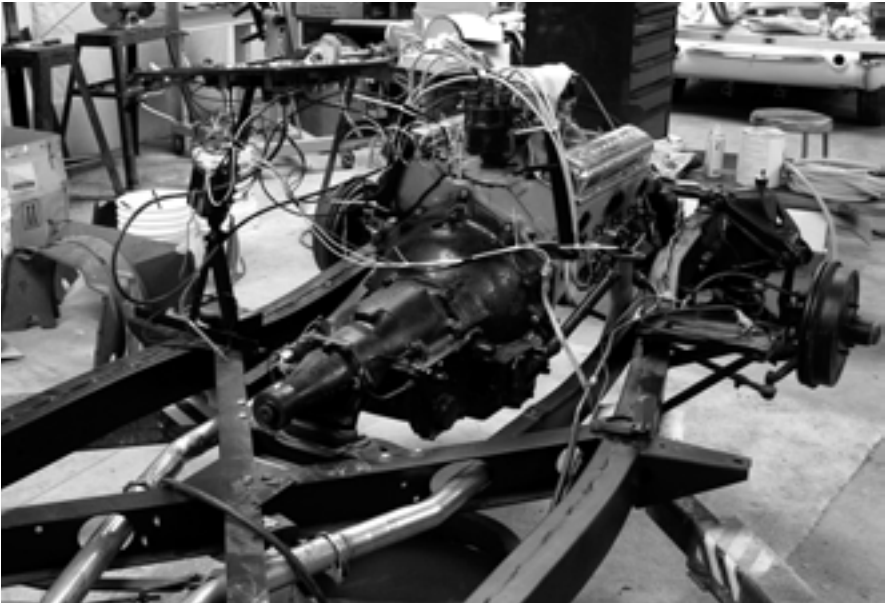
Restoring the 1956 Corvette VIN #001 as "numbers matching" should be very straight forward. The 1956 Corvette production run at St. Louis did not start until mid January 1956 so finding parts with correct dates is doable. For example find a 3720991 engine block cast prior to January is not difficult because it went into production for Chevy passenger cars back in August 1956.



Say you saw it in

Restoring 1957 Corvette VIN 001

Restoring the 1957 Corvette VIN #001 as "numbers matching" could be more challenging. The 1957 Corvette production run at St. Louis started October 1st 1956 at approximately VIN #025. The Pilot 1957's from VIN #001 through about VIN #024 were assembled in early to mid August 1956, so finding parts with correct dates is much more limited. For example find a 3731548 engine block cast prior to August 15th 1956 is quite difficult because it predates the wholesale changeover at the Saginaw Foundry that supplied Flint V-8.



See photos of the 1957 today - the chassis with body removed and the frame stamped E57S100001.

Corvette 1956 & 1957 VIN 001's FOR SALE ?

Gene Morton and Jerry Kennedy are not quite sure if they are up to the task of restoring both the 1956 and 1957 VIN's #001 before their respective 50th Anniversaries roll around.

If you're a serious buyer for either car why not give them a call?

Who Knows... you may be as successful as they were back in 1983 prying them away from Tom Harmer!

Say you saw it in