



That was then-1957

US President	Dwight Eisenhower	New House	\$12,225
Miss America	Marian McKnight (SC)	Average Income	\$4,594/yr
Indy 500 Winner	Sam Hanks	New Car	\$2157
Daytona 500	Cotton Owens (on beach course)	Average Rent	\$90/mo
World Series	Milwaukee Braves	Movie Ticket	\$1
US Open	Dick Meyer	Postage Stamp	\$.03
Football	Detroit Lions	Sugar	\$.89/10 pds
Stanley Cup	Montreal Canadiens	Milk	\$1/g
NCCA Basketball	North Carolina	Eggs	\$.28/doz
College Football	Auburn & Ohio State	Ground Hamburger	\$.56/pd

Other notables:

- o Virginia International Raceway opens
- o The Wham-O Company produced its first FRISBEES, patterned after a pie pan from the Frisbee Baking Company of Connecticut.
- o Russians launch Sputnik
- o The first US nuclear power plant begins operation in Shippingport, PA
- o In Detroit, MI, Berry Gordy founds Motown Records
- o Dr. Seuss publishes "The Cat in the Hat"

Music:

- o Jailhouse Rock – Elvis Presley
- o April Love – Pat Boone
- o Butterfly – Andy Williams
- o Wake Up Little Susie – The Everly Brothers
- o Chances Are – Johnny Mathis
- o Diana – Paul Anka
- o Round and Round – Perry Como
- o Honeycomb – Jimmie Rogers
- o (Let Me Be Your) Teddy Bear – Elvis Presley
- o That'll Be the Day – Buddy Holly & The Crickets



Movies:

- o The Bridge on the River Kwai
- o 12 Angry Men
- o An Affair to Remember
- o Witness for the Prosecution
- o Sweet Smell of Success
- o Paths of Glory





The Road to Today..

The exact date of club formation is a matter of a little speculation. In 50 years of newsletter articles, various timetables of the club's beginning exist. For example, based on two articles, it is said that the club formed in 1958 (June 1965 & Feb 1971) or 1962 (May 1971 article). The February 1971 article says there are membership records for 1958, with 6 applications and 40 approximate members. Also stated is that the belief is that the club was started prior to that time. So where does the year 1957 come from? It is the best scenario of formation based on a number of items: **1)** Corvette-Cleveland is listed in the first directory of Corvette clubs in *Corvette News* (Vol1#4), which was published in 1957 **2)** A 1959 newsletter is dated as Vol 3, meaning there would be Volume 2 (1958) and Volume 1 (1957) **3)** the 25th Anniversary was celebrated in 1982, which Andy attended and did not dispute the celebration as being a year early!

So as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2007, we provide the following reviews of each year, as best described by newsletter information. While not a comprehensive review, we hope that they will jar fond memories of days gone by. If you have anything to add or correct, please let us know!

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| 1955- | Andy Baumgardner buys a new 1955 Corvette. Starts to look for others with Corvettes to join together. |
| 1957- | Andy comes across more Corvette owners and they join together to form Corvette-Cleveland. A group of about 5-7 guys (Andy, Bob Ruth, Hal Schlemmer, Dennis Litchenstine, Ken Kavalchek and Dick Shea among them) got together and met at various Chevy dealers, mostly on the East Side. After meetings members would cruise and go to local drive-ins and wait for Corvettes to go by and all would hop in their Vettes and follow them in an attempt to get more members. They would also visit Chevy dealers and get the names of people who purchased Corvettes. Corvette Cleveland was listed in the first club directory in <i>Corvette News</i> , Vol 1, #4. |
| 1958- | "THE CLEVELAND NEWS (CORVETTE) is published March 25, 1958, Circulation this issue: 26. "One way to gauge the success of any assemblage is by measuring how much enthusiasm is generated thereby. In prior meetings, CORVETTE-CLEVELAND has been able to count of three types of aficionados, each dedicated in its own way. In reverse order of importance to the nation's economy, are (1) the great unwashed public, drawn as moths to a flame; (2) the Corvette owners, God's gift to women; and (3) our anonymous followers (in more ways than one) behind the municipal wheel. The first day of Spring, 1958, inspired eight aficionados and their guests to gather in our initial meeting held at MG Motor Sales as guests of the Cleveland Sport Car Group (CSCG)." Souvenir badges, plaques, coffee and donuts were distributed, and two movies were shown: "The Experimental Chevrolet Corvette" and "Run for the River", dealing with the Super Sports Corvette and the 1953 Mexican Road Race respectively. The alphabetical firing order of the eight is as follows: Leonard Bade, Andrew Baumgardner, John Clarke, Robert Ference, Dennis Litchenstine, Roger Neff, Jim Raymond, George Stoika, Frank Zigman." |

The FUEL INJECTOR of CORVETTE-CLEVELAND – May 23, 1958
Our entire May 14th operation at Mosher-Lally Chevrolet and Andrus' Drive-In



The Road to Today...

1958 con't. afterwards was closely observed by the combined law enforcement agencies of both Bedford and Maple Heights, not to mention two Civil Defense units and the C.A.P. But their vigilance was to no avail, for our behavior was, as ever, beyond reproach.

CORVETTE-CLEVELAND's FUEL INJECTOR – Friday, June 20th, 1958
Last Sunday, June 15th, on WJW-TV @ noon, the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce organized a debate on PRO and CON (SCCA vs. AAA) about the desirability of establishing a municipal drag strip and closed course for sports car racing in this area. If enough favorable interest is shown, the Chamber of Commerce will adopt this project, and all of us will thereby benefit." [followed by a petition to sign and send in].

A meeting is held in June at Jim Connell Chevrolet on the East Side. Twelve Corvettes attend. The meetings eventually were held the 2nd Wednesday of every month and were held at the GM Training Center. The club toured the Molded Fiber Glass plant in Ashtabula and was the 1st organization allowed to do so.

1959- The club held its 3rd (?) Annual Spring Rally April 5, 1959. Started at Southland Shopping Center. Entry was \$2 for members, \$3 non, limited to 60 Corvettes. The car of Rechnitzer/Tassi won. Income from the rally was \$27, expenses \$23, profit \$4! In newsletter: "WANTED: Open field, parking lot, etc, paved or not; for use as a gymkhana site. Preferably on a Sunday. Also: Hill climb site, speed trial site. Bob Ruth." [ed: some things never change!] Many Corvette Cleveland members were active participants in SCCA road races (Aug-Andy & Bob Ruth are off to Harewood Acres Sports Car Races). For Sale: 1958 Corvette-charcoal in color with red interior-\$2750.
Awards: GM began distributing the "GM Trophy". The award was sent to clubs to give to a member of their choosing.
