

## **Big-Brake 1961 Corvette Fuelie**

**VIN: 10867S105505**

I purchased this car in 1999, and February 13, 1961 was its projected build date. The previous owner was from the Traverse City, MI area, and he had purchased it around 1980 and only driven around 4,000 miles.

While checking the brakes I discovered it was a big brake car, of which only 233 were made. I immediately contacted my friend and NCRS member Dale Pearman who was very knowledgeable on the C1 Corvettes, who confirmed it. Dale was very surprised the original brake backing plate covers were still on the car. Dale came to visit me and suggested I do a full body-off restoration.

I took the car down to the bare frame and had it sandblasted and painted. The frame had no rust holes; it was solid even in the rust-prone dog leg area. All suspension bushings, tie rod ends, etc. were replaced, and I also had the steering box rebuilt.

It had been repainted black with white coves at one point before the Roman Red. And the auxiliary hardtop was supposed to be red but was mistakenly painted white.

The 283 engine was rebuilt to its original specs by Performance Engineering in Grand Rapids, MI, a race engine builder with a great reputation. The fuel injection system was rebuilt by Jack Podell and it runs perfectly. The transmission was inspected and found to be good. I had the rear end rebuilt, and the 4.56 gears were replaced with correct 4.11 gears. The odometer was set to zero at this time.

Dale went through the entire car with me and all numbers match and are correct: engine block, heads, Rochester fuel injection system, distributor, coil, generator, starter, rear axle...even the jack and jack tools are correct. Dale wanted me to have it certified Top Flight by the NCRS as he believed it would pass, but he got sick and passed, and I never had it judged.