

Subject: 1953 #211/1955 #1399 History Timeline | NASCAR Corvettes – “The Untold Story”

1955

Bowman Gray Stadium | Martinsville Speedway | Raleigh Speedway
Drivers: Thomas Brothers: Herb and Don Thomas, Ralph Liguori, Johnny Dodson, Junior Johnson, Gwyn Staley, Jimmy Massey (race #'s 55, 62 & 92) Probably owned by NASCAR/Bill France at this time and possibly “King of Jazz” Paul Whiteman (#1399). Hubert Westmoreland maintained the cars.



Fall 1955

Chevrolet Engineering | VIN #211
Four photos of VIN #211/Race #62 at Chevrolet Engineering in the fall of 1955 – Pre-rebuild by Chevrolet Engineering



November 3, 1955

Chevrolet Engineering Work Order #17395-1 (Experimental Shop)
Subject: Rebuilding of NASCAR Corvettes for stock car racing, serial numbers: E53F001211 and VE55F001399
Special Instructions: Order 1956 Parts as Required.
Completion Date – January 1, 1956
Reason: stock car racing program as requested by management
Requested By: Mauri Rose, GM Engineer and 3-Time Winner of the Indy 500
Probably owned by NASCAR/France at this time.

CHEVROLET ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
BUILD ORDER

TO: Experimental Shop DATE: November 3, 1955 ORDER NO. 17395-1

FROM: W. B. Postma SUBJECT: Rebuilding of NASCAR Corvettes for Stock Car Racing

CHARGE TO: STOCK CAR RACING (P)

NO. OF UNITS: 2

WORKING TO BE ACCOMPLISHED:

Rebuild Corvette cars, Serial Numbers E-53F001211 and VE-55F001399, to incorporate special W/D screws, aluminum components, right side shields covers and members as designed and fabricated by body group. Repaint cars all white on completion of engine, chassis and body work.

Finish both cars with 1956 engines to latest 1956 Corvette specifications with dual carburetors and 4-speed floor ratio transmissions. Engines to have modified relief in pistons, streamlined lighter valves (20-100 lbs) 21 1/2" and bore to 4.00" overcast service pistons. 1956 Corvettes with tachometer drive, cables and instrument beads. Exhaust system to have 1956 manifolds with no mufflers - each at 1956 body exhaust outlet with 3/4" dia. pipe. Fit to two independently stock car racing 2 1/2" assemblies to be shipped to event. Mount base to apply axle assemblies for wheels to fit in Corvettes. Finish building of Corvettes to have 1956 Corvette 2 1/2" axle ratios per V. O. 1212-1. Install new front axles equipped and new front wheel bearings and front ends as required. Use new front hubs and springs as now on cars. Car No. E-53F001211 will require new body and fender moldings from new service stock - 1956.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Order 1956 parts as required. Completion date - January 1st, 1956.

REASON:

Stock Car Racing Program as requested by Management.

HAS SOURCE BEEN CONTACTED: P.O.

PRESENT SOURCE STATUS:

SHIP TO: Per Mauri Rose VIA CHARGE:

DATE	PREPARED	REWORKED	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL

January 25, 1956

CHEVROLET ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
BUILD ORDER **COMPLETION DATE** FEB 9 - 1956

TO: Departmental Shop DATE 1-25-56 ORDER NO. 17725-21
 DIST: 7-4-C-7 SUBJECT: Delivery Order of Four (4) Corvettes to Daytona Beach, Florida.

UPC 15 WHERE USED
 CHANGE TO Stock Car (21) EXP. CAR #
 NO. OF UNITS 4 FUTURE PROGRAM DESIGN ORDER NO.

WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED
 (Leave issue a Purchase Order for \$107.15, 120000 estimate @ \$3.92 per Car & 35 Federal Tax to -)

McNell Transport, Inc.
 4201 S. DuPont Road
 Detroit 13, Michigan
 Attn: Mr. C.D. Spencer
 Telephone - Diderbrook 2-8720

EST. COST
 To cover shipping by loading of four (4) Corvettes (#6903, #6905, #62 and #92) to Daytona Beach, Florida.

DISPOSITION OF FINISHED MATERIAL:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
 Cars are to be picked up February 1, 1956 A.M. and covered in loading with covers.
 Reason: Stock car activity.

Has Source Been Contacted: Yes, by Mr. R. F. Spivey P.O.
 Present Source Status:

SHIP TO: Daytona Automotive Service
 957 N. Beach Street
 Daytona Beach, Florida

VIA CHARGE

DATE	FABRICATION	REQUIRED	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL

Chevrolet Engineering Haulaway Delivery

of Four (4) Corvettes to Daytona Beach, Florida,

Order #17725-21 Corvettes to be shipped (#6903, 6905, 62, and 92)

[Chevrolet referring to the '53 and '55 by their stock cars numbers (62 & 92)]

Special Instructions: cars to be picked-up February 1, 1956

Reason: stock car activity

Ship To: Smokey's Automotive Service, 957 N. Beach St., Daytona Beach, FL

February 1956

Promotional photos with the two cars and Bill France on left and Joe Hawkins on right. 1953 Corvette VIN #211 on left and 1955 Corvette VIN #1399 on right. *Prior to stripes, numbers, and sponsor decals*



February 12-26, 1956

Annual Winter Daytona Beach Classics

7th Annual International Safety and Speed Trials and Stock car Races

1953 #211 dressed-out with stripes, #27 and sponsor decals

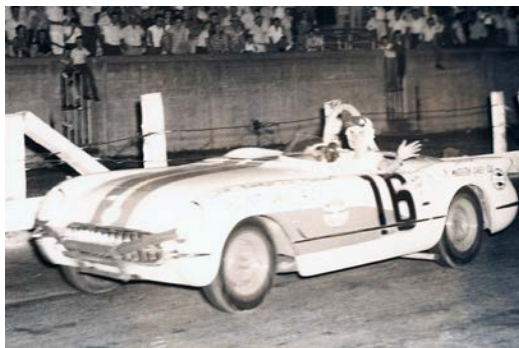
1955 #1399 dressed-out with stripes, #16 and sponsor decals

Drivers unknown



Summer 1956

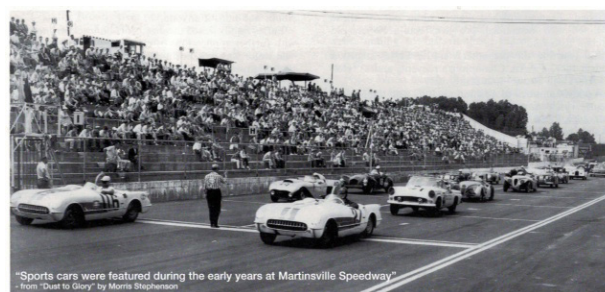
Both cars raced at Bowman-Gray Stadium their home track by Pee Wee Jones, Bobby Myers, Gwyn Staley, Junior Johnson and Jimmy Massey: Race numbers #3, #16, and #27
Hubert Westmoreland had something to do with these Corvettes possibly masking ownership for NASCAR or maintaining the cars.



Other Tracks 1956

Martinsville Speedway and Raleigh Speedway

Drivers: Pee Wee Jones, Bobby Myers, Gwyn Staley, Junior Johnson and Jimmy Massey. 1953 Corvette VIN #211 on left and 1955 Corvette VIN #1399 on right.



1958



Alvin or Jack Hawkins/NASCAR sells 1953 #211 to Leslie Gray Tuttle (Clinton, NC). Mr. Tuttle helped me identify the bones of #211. He received a GM-MSO given to NASCAR and became the first titled owner of what is believed to be "The earliest known competition Corvette race car."

October 2014

Photos of Gray Tuttle and Chocolate Myers at RCR Racing Museum in Welcome, NC



October 2014

Photos of Junior Johnson and #211 at Hendrick's Motorsports in
Concord, NC



The above information came from 3-1/2 years of research and is available for peer review, additions, and/or corrections. *Author/Researcher: Terry Michaelis • terry@proteamcorvette.com • cell: 419-392-2701*