

## Johnny & Debbie Grellhesl's 1977 Coupe

October 5, 1998 was a very special day in my life because it was the day I bought my first corvette. I looked high and low before I found one I could afford, which was a 1977 in very sad condition. I took it home and right away started taking it apart, and labeling all the parts and hardware.

I first started on the chassis, cleaning years of grease and painting and replacing all parts. Next the engine and transmission had to be rebuilt. I added a set of aluminum valve covers, aluminum intake, set of headers, and all the chrome parts I could afford to put on the engine. Then I rebuilt the brakes and put on new tires and wheels. Next I stripped all the coats of paint that was on the body and a friend of mine painted the car magnetic red metallic (a 1999 corvette color). Then with a new set of glass t-tops and new emblems put on, the body was complete. The interior was the last thing I did and was probably the hardest to restore because of the number of electrical problems. With the help of a good friend, Ronnie Martin, we worked them out one by one. I had the seats recovered and new trim put on the door panels. Finally, a new padded dash, carpeting, a new radio, speakers and a number of new plastic parts were installed to complete the interior.

Finally on July 4, 2001 my car was ready for its first show at the annual Allen Samuel's corvette show. I know I put a lot of T.L.C. (time, labor, and currency) in the car, but I enjoyed restoring it as much as I enjoy driving and showing it now.

