

Wise Guy Wednesday

Wise Guy 25-17: Are My Dreams of Going for Gold Gone?

Q: Hey Wise Guy: Six years ago, I bought the Corvette of my dreams. I purchased an accurately restored 1966 big block Corvette, Milano Maroon, 427/425, radio delete, side pipes, and leather! I think the car and the engine look to be very close to how a '66 would have left the factory. It looks great, but the engine never had as much power as you would expect. So, I brought it to an engine shop and then got the bad news - the engine needed to be rebuilt.

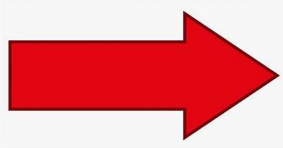


I went ahead and had it done, and they did a great job getting all the power back and keeping all the exterior parts as they were prior to the rebuild. The shop rebuilt the big Holley and made sure to keep it all OEM. They even refinished the intake and manifold with the original finishes.

About six months ago, I had the '66 Maroon at another shop for some minor maintenance and found out that the numbers stamped on the engine were removed when the engine was rebuilt. These guys explained that it is common that the engine pad numbers get removed when the block is 'decked'. I'm devastated because I had always intended to bring my '66 to Bloomington and go *for the Gold!* But now, without the engine numbers, I guess I can't prove the engine belongs in this car! I'm really disappointed and assume my '66 cannot be Bloomington Certified? Am I right? **Drake**

A: Dreamin' Drake: Don't give up on your 1966 dream Corvette! Many of the high-performance engines didn't survive the streets! Even without the original engine stamps, a Corvette can still be eligible for Certification. If you know the original engine stamps are not present, you can register for Certification while declaring the engine to be NON-OEM (not identifiable to be the engine that came with the car when new). Of course, the components in the rest of the engine compartment must appear to be as they left the factory, as well as the components in the other sections of your Corvette. If most of your Corvette is deemed to be accurate as to how it left the St. Louis factory, then you may be on your way to attaining a Bronze, Silver, or Gold NON-OEM Certificate®.

Any questions..... contact Wise Guy guy@bloomingtongold.com



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