

## Finding the car you bought new 46 years ago

Chad Parrish - Missoula, Montana

In 1965 I bought a new Dodge Coronet 500, red with black vinyl top with a 426 street wedge/4-speed from Dodge City in Spokane, Washington. That car was sold to a Spokane disc jockey when I ordered a new '69 Super Bee from the same dealership. In 2005 I set out to find my original '65 Coronet. I found the disc jockey that I sold it to in Birmingham, Alabama and discovered that he had sold it to "some guy in Oakland" when he left the Bay area in the 80's. After checking the web sites of various Bay area Mopar clubs, I found this photo from the San Jose Mopar Alley 2005 summer rally.



Mopar Alley's president identified the person in the photo as John Winslow from San Jose, and gave me his phone number. I called John, and told him that I thought his car might be my old Dodge. He sent me the VIN, and we sent it off to Chrysler Historical.

Sure enough - John's car was sold new at Dodge City, Spokane, Washington. It was one of 729 '65 Coronet 500's built with a 426 street wedge and 4-speed. It turned out to be the same car that I bought new in '65. John now had the complete history of his car. His son bought the car for him as a Father's Day gift in 1994 from "some guy in Oakland". John has since turned his car into a Super Stocker and races throughout the west. The old Dodge has made a lot of mid-10 second trips down the drag strip as "Grandpa Gone Wild". Racing this car is John's passion.



So, obviously John was not interested in selling his Coronet. He did, however, help a great deal in locating another '65 in Novato, California. I bought the all-red car in 2006. It was a 361/auto car with the same black and silver interior that John's car has. With a lot of help from my son in Las Vegas, we recently completed a rebuild of this Coronet.



Here's what it looks like today.



The Coronet now has a rebuilt '69 vintage 440 with a 4-speed, and is a lot closer in performance to the original street wedge car. The car now has a black vinyl top. It came from the factory with a white vinyl top when delivered new to El Paso. The factory air blows cold and adds a level of comfort that the original Coronet did not have. This car has many parts from John's car. The Hurst shifter - console top - 426 Wedge air cleaner and valve covers - and bellhousing all come from John's car and were on the car when I bought it new in '65.



It's a story of two mid-60's guys – one from California, the other in Montana, who have become friends and have one thing in common - red and black 1965 Mopars.

