

Father and Son Both Strike GOLD!!



Early in August 2007 while digging through thousands of Internet web pages and auto adds searching for a 1998 purple metallic Corvette. Mike Sr. ran across and ad for a Gold purple corvette. At first wondering if GM had ever built any 1998 he called Mike Jr. Both not sure they had to consult the corvette black book and found that GM made only 15 in Aztec Gold code 58U. The very next day Mike Sr. found another one. Both Mikes absolutely shocked that Mike Sr. found not only 1 but 2 of the rarest corvettes in 1998. After some short negotiations with the owners, both cars where purchased, one by Mike Sr. and the other by Mike Jr.

After both cars where shipped to their new homes, questions about the real story behind why GM only painted 15 cars arisen. The timing could not be more perfect, Mid America Motorworks was hosting 2007 Funfest in Effingham IL where Will Cooksey (Plant Manager), Tom Wallace (Chief

Engineer) and Dave McLellan (Ex-Chief Engineer) are special guests. As Will and Tom were going to see the sights they stop off to see their old project. Will, Tom, and Dave were kind enough to stop and answer our questions, sign the cars and take pictures with us. Will explained to us that in 1998 GM experimented with a high metallic paint "Aztec Gold Metallic" for the 50th Anniversary in 2003. GM first took 5 cars and painted them. Then Will and his team noticed that in certain light and angles the car looks like a different color from neighboring body panel. Then Corvette took 5 more cars and some advice from DuPont and tried again. With the same results Will Cooksey had an expert from DuPont fly out and try again with 5 more. The first series was painted on 10/22/1997. The



second series was painted on 11/17/1997. The final five were completed on 11/26/1997. The paint results on all 15 corvettes were the same. All the body panels where removed from the cars and inspected. Then panel-by-panel each corvette was hand assembled with the panels that closely matched. It is said that no 2 Aztec Gold corvettes look the same, but if you where not looking for the differences you would never see it. GM has a high standard for consistency, so the project was cancelled for "Aztec Gold". All 15 prototypes cars were shipped to the GM Tech Center in Warren Michigan. There was a private auction only open to GM Executives and limited number of dealers. 3 Convertibles where made, 12 where coupes for a total of 15. After more research it turns out that Mike Jr. got car number 5 and Mike Sr. got car number 10. Each one of them got a car from the end of first and second series of the project.

Both cars have very low miles and have been well taken care of. Car number 5 was out of Arizona and number 10 was out of Texas. They are both well option cars.

