

An Original Member of the Midwest Early Corvette Club Celebrates His 100th

December 21st is a very special day. First in 1918 when Ben Blair was born and on Friday, December 21st, 2018 when Ben celebrated his 100th birthday. A dozen MECC members went to The Plattsmouth Care Center to celebrate with Ben. Among us were three other original members of the Club: Don Peers,



Karman Schmitz, and Chuck Garber. Jack Smith and Rex Stacy, who have passed on were also original members. A few of them had belonged to a local Corvette club, but didn't like how they were treated. Some, mostly the moneyed group looked down on us Solid Axle Corvette owners because they could afford to buy new corvettes. Karman had the idea to start a new club just for the '53 thru '62 "solid axle" cars. (Now referred to as C1). We put an ad in the paper and several corvette owners responded and the club was formed in 1972. At the time, the club was limited to '53 thru '62 corvettes. That's why the name Midwest Early Corvette Club was selected.



Ben is one of the original members of the Club. He owned a total of 4 corvettes: A 1957, a 1963 Split Window Coupe, a 1967 Coupe and a 1975 convertible.



When we arrived to his birthday party at the Care Center, there was entertainment in the form of a singer who accompanied himself playing 4 various instruments. He was singing traditional Christmas carols and everyone participated in the sing-a-long. Following the entertainment, cake and ice cream was served.

We also found out that chocolate was Ben's favorite. Last, but not least, we presented Ben with cards and small gifts.



Ben's memory is good and he still has a sense of humor. His wife, Eunice, and two of his daughters were also present. They expressed much gratitude for the Club members being there.



Ben was also honored by a few of the members from the local Veterans Club. All in all it was a heartwarming experience.

Special thanks to Don Peers. It was his idea to help Ben celebrate this milestone birthday and Don coordinated the event with the Care Center. When he called me, I was "all in" and Jo Anne and I made all the contacts with our members.



A footnote: According to a recent club roster, there are seven C1 Corvettes ('53 thru '62) owned by our members. There are also seven C2 Corvettes ('63 thru '67). I don't see anyone "looking down" on Midwest Early Corvette Club anymore!

Submitted by Chuck Garber