

Caveman Story

Hello Corvair fans.

By Jan Bradley

I would like to share with you the story of my recently acquired 1960 caveman car. I'll start with the car specifics. It is a 1960 700 four-door sedan with virtually no options, and just over 26,000 original miles. It is unrestored except for one repaint some time ago. How did this awesome piece of history get into my possession you ask?



Read on. Late summer/fall of 2018 I decided I would like to have an early four Door Corvair. The search was on. These cars are not particularly collectible, so finding a nice preserved unit is not easy. People just didn't save these. I wanted to keep my budget under \$3000 so that took out the few restored beauties. I didn't really want that anyway. I wanted minimal rust, driver quality car with a little patina. My first choice was a 1961. I was not looking for a 1960 mainly because of the many unique parts. I wanted something that parts were readily available. I wasn't having much luck finding anything but I knew something would eventually become available. Then one day around Christmas time I looked at the Hemmings online ads and found an ad with no picture that was posted nearly a year earlier. "1960 corvair four-door, new paint, no rust, low miles".

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10-DAY PERMIT FOR USE OF DEALER PLATE
SECTION 1. TO BE COMPLETED BY SELLING DEALER WITH PEN AND INK, VOID IF ALTERED.

I, the undersigned, a licensed dealer in the State of North Carolina, do hereby state that the vehicle described has been sold to the purchaser as designated, that the necessary fees for title and license have been collected, and that the dealer plate indicated is loaned for a period not to exceed 10 days from the date of issuance of this permit.

Purchaser Julia P. Simpson
Address 2223 Circle Drive Raleigh, N.C.
Make of Vehicle 1960 Chev. Motor No. None
Serial No. 20769W245161 Date of Sale 5-26-60
License and Title Fee Collected \$ _____ Dealer Plate No. 35204
Date of Issuance of this Permit 5-26-60 Hour 4:00 P.M.
J.M. Chew, Co., Inc. (Dealer) Zebulon, N.C. (Address)
[Signature]
(Authorized Representative)

SECTION 2. TO BE SIGNED BY PURCHASER WITH PEN AND INK, VOID IF ALTERED.
I, the undersigned purchaser of the vehicle described, hereby declare that there is in effect as of the date of issuance of this permit an owner's policy of motor vehicle liability insurance that covers the vehicle above described.

Name of Insurance Company David Fort-Ins. Agent
Signature of Purchaser Julia P. Simpson

Notice to Dealer and Purchaser: A vehicle sold by a dealer may be operated for a period not to exceed 10 days from date of sale by the purchaser thereof with a dealer's demonstration plate, provided the purchaser has in effect an automobile liability insurance policy which covers the vehicle being operated. The purchaser must also have in his possession a 10-day permit from the dealer upon which the dealer has certified that the necessary amount of money to pay for title and license has been paid by the purchaser to the dealer, to be forwarded to the Department of Motor Vehicles, either direct or through one of its branch offices. THIS PERMIT CANNOT BE RENEWED. ONE PERMIT ONLY IS PERMISSIBLE.

Form 37 (Rev. 9/59) North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles

That's it. And a phone number. I called the number listed and someone answered, mumbled a few words and then hung up on me. Well that's odd. I called back again and the gentleman answered the phone. When I told him I was calling about the Corvair, he apologized for hanging up on me as he didn't recognize the number on the caller ID and thought it was a solicitor. As it turns out he's an older gentleman at 87 years old and his hearing isn't very good. I had lots of questions about the car but it was difficult to hold a conversation when he couldn't hear me very well. He agreed to send me some pictures of the car in the mail. You read that right, in the mail. No computer. After receiving a few pictures in the mail and looking them over, I gave him a call again. More questions, even less information, more communication difficulties.

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continued



I decided the car was worth a look. It's winter, I don't know much about the car, and it's 350 miles away in Wisconsin. I made some arrangements with the seller, grabbed a trailer, a buddy and some cash and made a whirlwind trip to Wisconsin.

Once there I met the owner, Dr. Lindgren. He wasn't nearly as demented and out of it as he sounded on the phone. He just couldn't hear me very well. He is a very with it, smart 87-year-old retired radiologist. And knows his Corvair's. We went to look at the car which was in a pole barn about 30 miles away from his house.

I knew when I saw it, that it had potential, but likely would need a lot of mechanical work. It had been started regularly but not driven in quite some time. Maybe as much as 15 years. He owned it for 32 years and put less than 2000 miles on it.

We were able to get it started and I drove it around the yard. Barely. Sticky choke and almost no brakes. We agreed on a price and I drove it on the trailer. We then made the trip home in snow/sleet/rain 350 miles. I think we got home about 1 AM.

Now the fun starts. I spent the next two months going completely through the brake system, fuel system, new tires, fluid changes, some gaskets and a bit of final tuning from Dan Brizendine. So, just in time for spring, it is a great running dependable driver!

At this point I decided to look into the history a little bit. Some of the paperwork that came with the car had the original purchaser's application for temporary tag. I found her on the 1940 census. Same address as her temporary tag application! Her name was Julia. I wasn't able to contact and speak with Julia because she is probably has long since passed on. Or she's still alive and 131 years old. She was 72 years old when she bought this car new in June of 1960! This car was truly the little old lady drive to church car. There is also a hand written receipt to Dr. Lindgren from when he bought it 32 years ago.

I was able to track that lady down as well. She is 85 years old and still living in Raleigh North Carolina. Her name is Margaret. I talked to her on the phone and it was awesome. She was very happy to get my call and wished I lived closer so she could take a ride in the car! What a cool lady. It's been great fun working on the car and digging up the history. Now it's time to put some miles on the old lady!

Look for the car at the next Circle City Corvair gathering!

