

In 1968 I was twenty-four years old working in Bismarck as an apprentice electrician. Having been that age, and looking like I was sixteen, the car dealers didn't take me serious about ordering a new car. So probably in late April, I and my girlfriend (now wife/Sheila) drove to the 'West End Shop' in Hazen. The dealer sat down with his dealer books with options, body styles and the prospective customer. The '68 GTX was ordered and arrived about mid May. In October of '69 we got married and sold the GTX to a friend from my home town for what I had left to pay on it (a little over \$1,700). We kept my wife's car, a '67 Chevelle with a 307 ci., and moved to Tucson, AZ.. In mid '70 we moved back to Bismarck. In July of 2000, I was thinking that It would be fun to see if I could locate the car again. A search of vin numbers was done at the ND DOT. A further search to surrounding states showed that the person I sold it to was the last entry of records. Upon contacting him, he had sold it in '91, but didn't remember the person's name or any other information regarding the transaction.

Thus began my personal search of states in July of 2000. In 2003, I discovered that the vin number turned up in 'R-11 Classic Auto Sales, Inc.', in Sturgis, Michigan. Not only did he buy and sell classics, he had a museum with 350 cars, some of which have been featured in movies. The owner of the museum also owned a scrap iron business. When I contacted him, the conversation was very short. It was apparent that he had no time for me. At the time, metal prices were on the decline and he needed to liquidate some of his automobile museum inventory. I called the museum to inquire about possibly making a purchase directly from the museum. They told me that the owner had just trucked several transports of cars to Auburn, Indiana for a Labor-Day Classic Car Auction. Several days before the auction was to begin, I looked at the web page and found what might very well be my old car. There was no description and the picture was very small. I was making plans to go to the auction when the small picture suddenly disappeared. In the meantime, I am always searching the web in my spare time.

In early 2006, the car turned up at 'TNT Classic Cars & More', in Valparaiso, Indiana. It was advertised as completely redone, rotisserie restored, at an asking price of \$80,000. Now this was not in my budget! In June of 2006, a search of the vin number, showed that it was sold in Palm Beach, Florida, at a 'Barrett-Jackson Auction' for \$45,100. That is a great distance from the previous asking price. Apparently it was not the completely redone, rotisserie restored condition that the classic car dealer had stated that it was. In August of 2010 the car turned up on the 'Chequered Flag International' website in Marina del Rey, California. Again their asking price I thought was too high. So I watched the website every few days and the price dropped some. Now, I've been chasing this car for ten years. Am I going to let it go this time just because the price is still too high or bite the bullet and send them a check. My brother-in-law lived in the area, so I sent him to look at the car. He stated that this clearly was my old car with a few cosmetic conditions but otherwise looked good.

I called Chequered Flag International and told them that I was headed to the bank and would wire them a deposit for the car. I did not tell them that I was the original owner. Only after the deal was made, did I find out that the car was being sold on consignment by a Hollywood connected individual which turned out to be David Arquette. Arquette was married to Courtney Cox (of the television show 'Friends') at the time of the sale. I have kept a copy of the California title with Arquette's signature. In California it was registered to 'Kids Gone Bad Inc.', which when researched appears to be a production company operated by Arquette. It is possible that the car may have appeared in one of his movie productions, but I have not seen any of his movies, nor do I know anyone that has because they mostly cater to younger viewers. There have been some parts omitted from the story. If anyone really needs to know the rest of the story, I would be the guy to fill the gaps. Good luck to you car hunters!!

Note: We would LOVE to hear your 'car story' ... please submit your story to Don Roloff at rolnon@bis.midco.net and we will publish in the newsletter as soon as we are able! Thank you!