

Feature Vehicle

Rod Barker, London, Ontario

1969 Beaumont Convertible

BEAU TIE.....What's in a name?

My first new car was a 1969 SS 396 Chevelle coupe in Monaco orange. That car is long gone, but my memories of it remain crisp. I had long thought it would be fun to revisit the thrill, but I had harbored a hankering for a convertible. The solution was obvious and the quest was on. I had traveled from London, Ontario as far west as Gurnee, Illinois, and east to Portland, Maine. In both cases, I returned empty handed and disappointed. One day a friend, who was aware of my search, called and told me that a 1969 Chevelle convertible was for sale just on the edge of town. What luck!



The preliminary examination went well except that, while it was a '69, and a convertible, and for sale, it was not a Chevelle but a Beaumont, a marquee quite familiar to Canucks. My friend Ron accompanied me on the second visit, donned his brown coveralls, and did most of the hard work under the car. After a test drive and some dickering, a price was agree upon

and the car was delivered to my driveway.

My "new" convertible was a 307 Glide in a shade of green unique to Beaumont (I believe it is called Midnight Green and is basically green with some black mixed in). She is the Custom model meaning that it is the sport bucket seat interior with floor shift automatic and console. The vehicle was in very good condition throughout. It is appraised as a survivor car with one repaint. I have been able to trace the



history of the car back through four owners, and I believe this assessment to be correct. Despite a nice white top and parchment interior, her overall appearance has begun to lose some luster. The paint has begun to dull with age and the color can appear a bit dismal in all but the most favorable light. The pure survivor status is in jeopardy.



I have exchanged the convertible top for a new one in the same color, but bigger changes are in the works for Beau Tie. She is scheduled for a repaint in the spring, probably a bright blue metallic, though not necessarily Le Mans blue.

She will also be sporting a new GM performance crate engine, possibly and upgraded automatic transmission, appropriate posi third member and Pontiac wheels. The engine, I have. The rest is still "out there."

Beau Tie has been to NCG Niagara in 2004 and 2006. Some of the faithful may recall her, well camouflaged, squatting modestly along the grassy strip in front of the Holiday Inn. Hopefully, she will return in 2007 in a shiny new coat and with a very perky attitude. We'll be looking for you.

Rod Barker

Additional pictures can be seen at:

http://www.leverfamilysite.com/Rod_Barkers_1969_Beaumont.htm