



Daniel A. Anderson/The Orange County Register

About 3,000 people came to the car show Saturday in Huntington Beach. Proceeds benefit the city library.

OC CULTURE

Classy chassis show is one for the books

By Jeff D. Opdyke
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HUNTINGTON BEACH — The window sticker on John DeMarr's 1967 marina blue Corvette convertible reads \$5,606.35. That was the sales price nearly 25 years ago at a Stewart Van Horne Chevrolet in Yuma, Colo.

Today, the tires alone — original Goodyears from 1967 — are worth twice that.

"I found the front two in Illinois, the back two in Texas," said DeMarr, a Huntington Beach private investigator who spent Sunday afternoon showing off his immaculately restored Corvette at the sixth annual Concours d'Elegance car show.

Like a country song to a cowboy, the love affair between Americans and their cars borders on obsession — the proof is in the pampering. And with Con-

cours d'Elegance, the pampering is buffed into an art form.

Each year, the Huntington Beach Central Library sponsors this show, raising money for library operations. This year, money from the 3,000 people who came to fantasize about owning a classic car will help pay the construction costs of a children's wing to begin this fall.

"Cars and libraries have nothing to do with one another," event chairman Bruce Powers said. "But by bringing them together, people are helping support the library who might not otherwise know we need the help."

At a park adjacent to the library grounds, families reminisced about the era of America's muscle car and owners primped their autos like moms fussing over daughters on prom night.

John Seggie's 1955 Chevy Bel



Corvettes hold little interest for Stephen Figarsky, 21 months old.

Air is as orange as a bottle of Nehi. On Sunday he walked around it, spritzing a little water on, buffing a shine on the paint and chrome.

He's put \$29,000 into this car. Press him on what he'll sell it for, and he draws a blank.

"This is my toy. I don't know if I could sell it."

For the right price, DeMarr will sell his convertible Corvette. It's one of only 2,101 produced; he's put more than two years and \$60,000 into its purchase and restoration.

The car caught many eyes Sun-

day, and one man stopped to inquire about its cost.

"It's pretty expensive," DeMarr cautioned.

"How much?" asked Mark Nakasani.

"Eighty-five thousand." Nakasani strolled away.

"That's really what this is all about anyway — just walking around and looking and feeling that wonderful sense of nostalgia," said Ruth Bailey, two-time Huntington Beach mayor. "And it's a great way to help the library."