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AUTONAPS

PAMPERS CLASSIC, COLLECTIBLE VEHICLES



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Kelly Olivier's dream car, a 1966 Corvette coupe, inspired a new business that keeps his and other prized vehicles sheltered from South Dakota weather.

Kelly is the owner of Autonaps, a Sioux Falls business that opened last year.

"It's really for anyone who has a vehicle they don't drive in the wintertime. Our facility is set up for cars and motorcycles for the most part," Kelly said. "It's not designed for motorhomes. We really focus on classic cars, muscle cars, luxury cars — things people don't drive in the wintertime."

Autonaps is a climate-controlled storage facility that's monitored by video 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It's an open-bay facility where customers can drop off their vehicles in the late fall or early winter.

The Autonaps staff photographs each vehicle and keeps a record of it.

"Customers sign a disclaimer and we maintain the battery of their vehicle all winter long. They call us to pick it up in the spring, and they're ready to enjoy it again," Kelly said. "In the summer, we have a lot of space ... and we do have customers who store with us year-round."

"There's not really anything else like this in Sioux Falls," he said. "There's nothing that really puts the customer's desires at the forefront as far as having a business dedicated to storing cars."

Kelly said his 1966 Corvette is Autonaps' number one customer.

"I have some other cars, and young sons and I didn't want them to play in the garage where they could ride their trike by and

WRITTEN BY TANYA MANUS • PHOTOGRAPHY BY JONATHAN KRUGER



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scratch my Corvette," Kelly said. "I looked for this (car storage) service in the area and didn't find it. It's the kind of business that seems to be needed."

Growing up, he and his brother learned to work on cars at an early age, and Kelly particularly always liked midyear Corvettes from 1963 to 1967. Kelly's 1966 mosport green Corvette is a car he'd long dreamed of owning.

"Mosport green was only made for one year. I always said I wanted a specific Corvette and

so when I went to get my own, it had to be a 1966, it had to be a coupe and it had to be that color," Kelly said.

His Corvette's mosport green color is original. In 1966, 2,311 mosport green Corvettes were produced. About 70% were convertibles and 30% — between 700 and 800 cars — were coupes.

"I've always been attracted to that year of Corvette and especially the coupes. They have a lot of style. It's a time when we

were going to the moon and you look at the car and it looks like a spaceship," Kelly said. "It's a cool representation of that time."

Beyond its style, Kelly calls his car a "very plain Jane" Corvette with no power steering, power brakes or air conditioning.

Kelly found his dream car in Florida in 2020. Kelly purchased the car from a physician who had the car restored. Kelly discovered the Corvette has a storied past.

ADDITIONAL



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"It's very original and it's restored," Kelly said. "I'm a big history nerd. It's very cool to me to trace the ownership of something like this, and Chevrolet has the records for where their cars went if you have the VIN."

Kelly discovered the car was first shipped to a dealership in Texas, but there's no other information about the car's first six or seven years. Then, Kelly traced the car to an Air Force officer who bought the Corvette during the Vietnam War.

Another officer within the officers' club, referred to as the O club, bought the car in Okinawa, where he was stationed at the time.

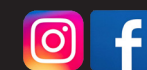
"It has been quite a world traveler," Kelly said.

Kelly tracked down the Air Force veteran, who told Kelly about decades of the Corvette's history.

"He owned it for over 30 years. We talked for over an hour the first time I called him," Kelly said. "It was pretty cool. He bought it in 1973 for \$2,000. ... He obviously had a lot of memories with it."

"When you see the car, you would never know it has over 250,000 miles on it because it's completely restored," Kelly said. "It's the kind of Corvette I want to own because it's a working man's Corvette. ... It's not like a museum quality car that never sees the road. It's definitely a car that gets driven."

To learn more about Autonaps, visit autonaps.com. To reserve a spot for a vehicle, email kelly@autonaps.com or call/text 605-574-1984.



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