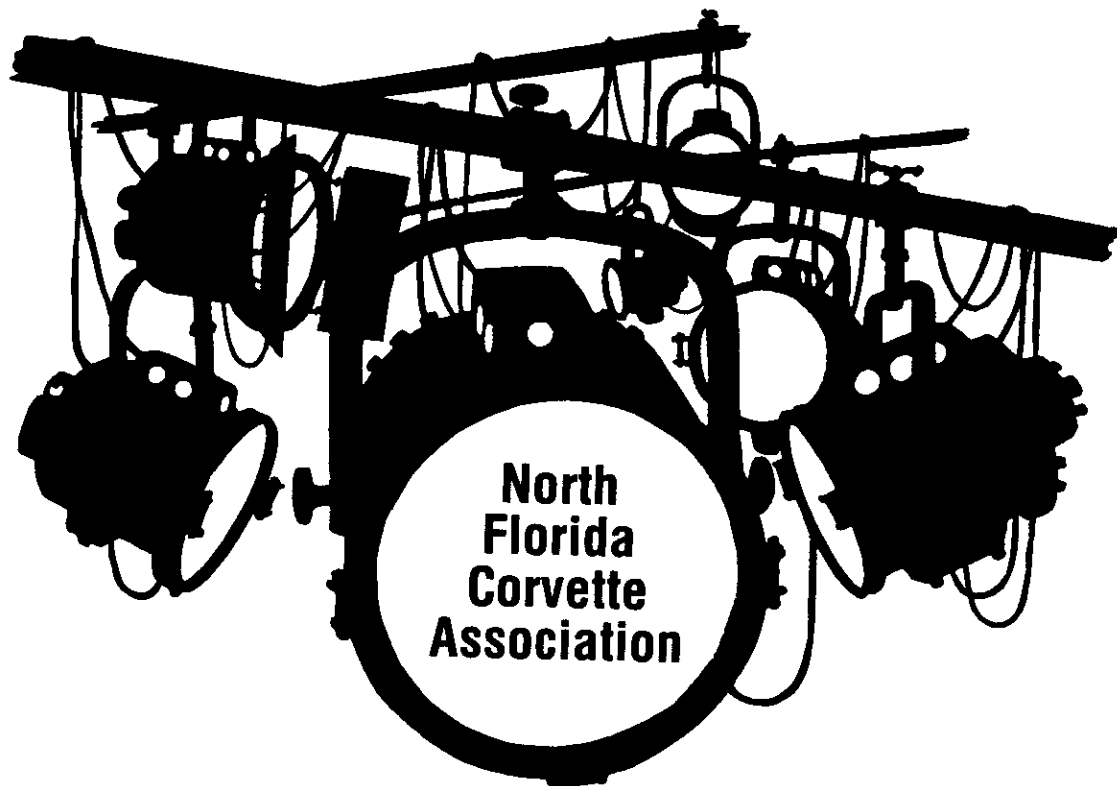


NCCC SPOTLIGHT CLUB



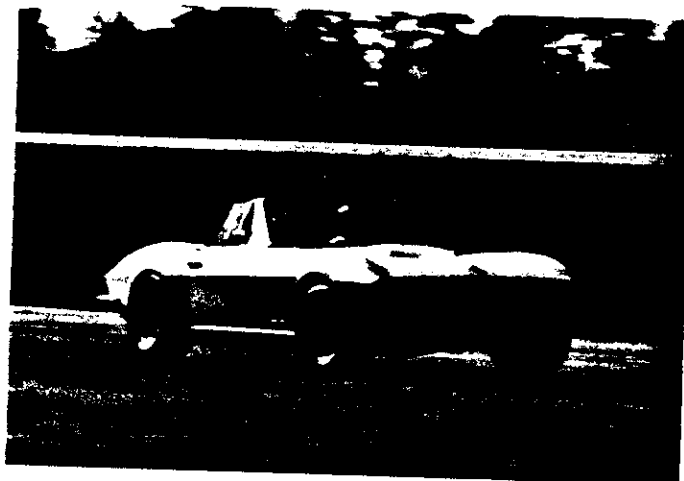
In the summer of 1964 a small group of northern Floridians with a common love for Corvettes decided to make their hobby official. From this rather quiet beginning sprang the North Florida Corvette Association, Inc. (NFCA) of Jacksonville, Florida.

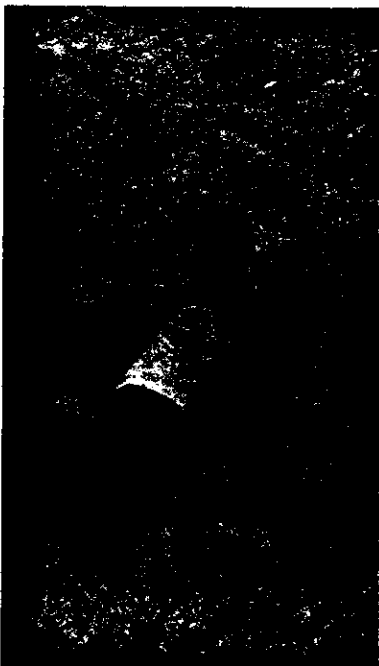
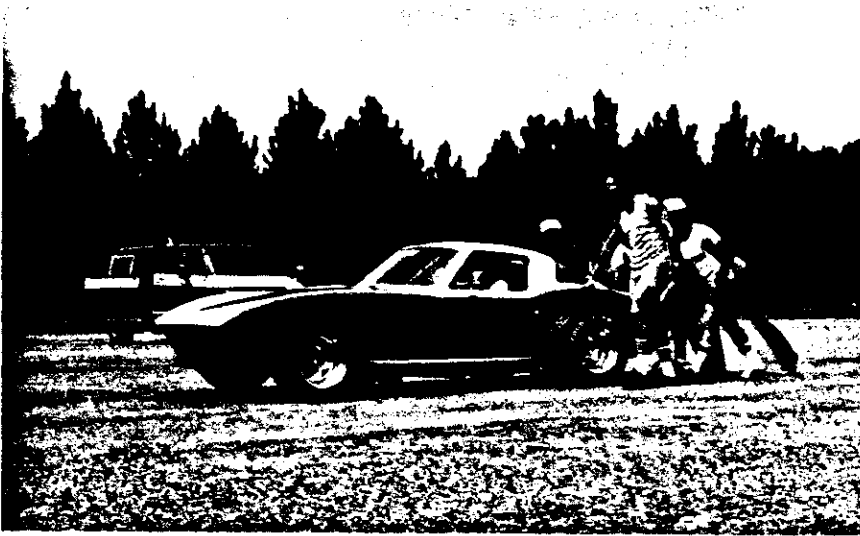
Once the idea formulated to organize, the group sought a financial backer for their worthy endeavor. They found sponsorship in the form of John Deihl Chevrolet, and the two had a lasting union—or so it seemed.

Along came Gordon Thompson Chevrolet with such a generous offer they couldn't refuse. After much discussion the decision was made to make the change to GT. The decision later proved to be a wise one when the original sponsor changed ownership.

During NFCA's early years membership and interest grew hand in hand. Soon word filtered down from the "north country" of a national organization of Corvette Clubs. At this early stage NFCA members could not foresee any real benefits from an alliance with a national body. However, upon reading in CORVETTE NEWS of an upcoming Corvette convention, Cliff Payne (our resident Governor) decided to take the plunge. He joined NCCC as a member-at-large and attended the 1966 Convention in Baltimore. His favorable reports and attention-getting photos prompted NFCA to reconsider NCCC. In late 1966 NFCA joined the National Council of Corvette Clubs, becoming the first Florida club to seek NCCC affiliation. Due to the immense distance between NFCA and other NCCC clubs, Florida was designated as a new region.

In 1967 several NFCA members attended the National Convention in Louisville. They were so enthusiastic about the festivities that the club bid for and won the 1969 convention, the first convention awarded to a club outside the "core" area. To stir interest in the forthcoming Florida event, twenty NFCA cars and their owners





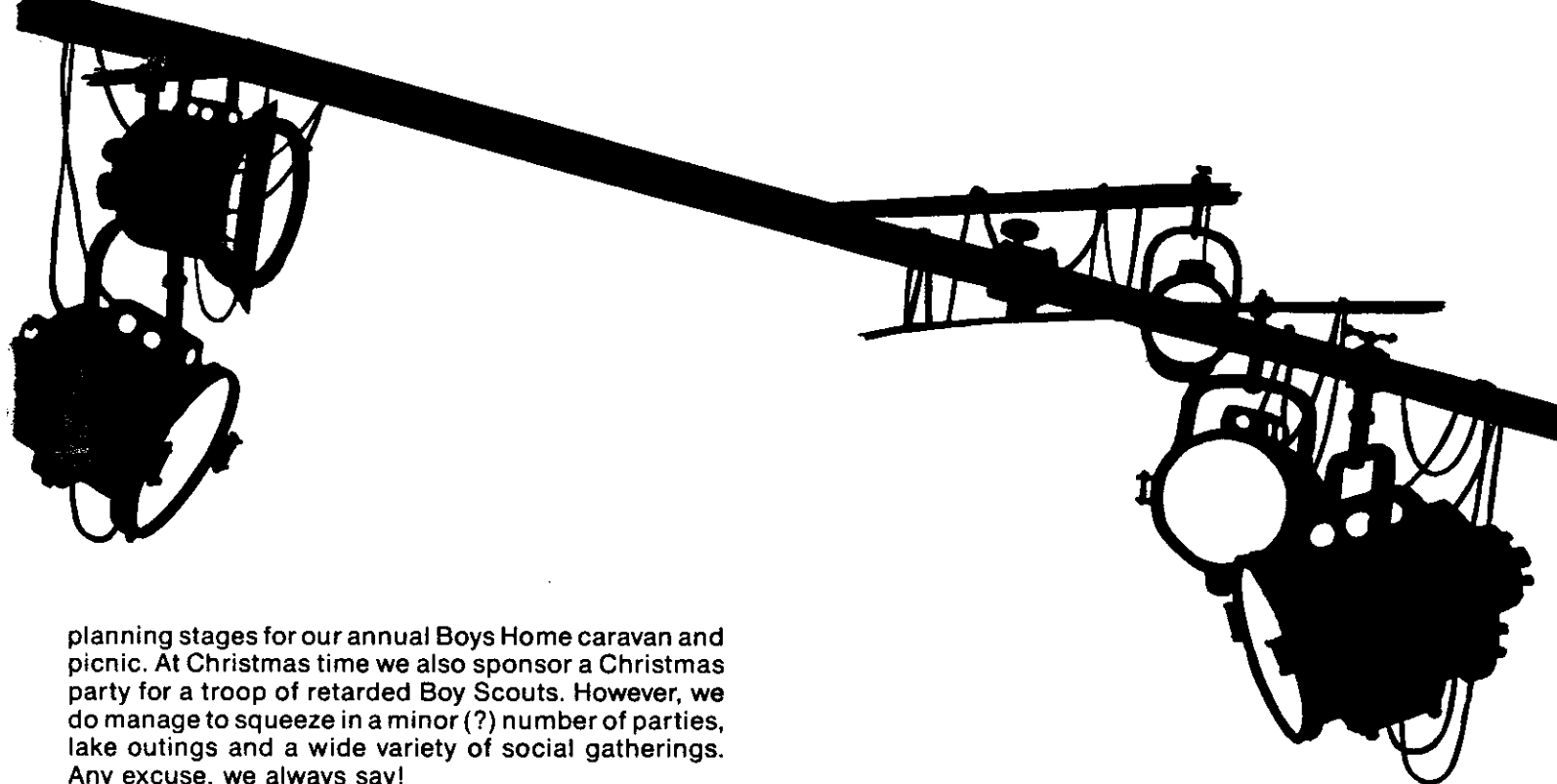
trekked to Michigan for the 1968 National Convention. If the Floridians could travel that far north, surely the northerners could travel that far south!

Since racing facilities in Jacksonville are slim to none, the site chosen for the '69 Convention was Daytona Beach, with NFCA hosting the affair. Because of the large numbers expected for the racing at Daytona Speedway, the club decided to divide the participants over a two-day period and extend the convention from 3 week days to 4. Their judgment proved correct when over 650 people attended the convention, a record-setting figure at that time. As a result of this success, NFCA received the annual Recognition Award as the most outstanding club in NCCC for 1969.

In the years to follow NFCA remained active in National and in the growing Florida Region. In 1974 our monthly publication VETTE GAZETTE brought recognition to

NFCA as the winner of the annual NCCC Newsletter Contest. But the high point in the club's history also came in 1974 when NFCA finished as the number two club in the nation. Total club membership has dwindled somewhat since then, with present members numbering 46, but NFCA remains a strong contender in the competition scene, as evidenced by our 10th place ranking nationwide in 1978.

Community involvement has been a key factor in the longevity of NFCA. Scholarship fund raffles and annual outings for our primary charity concern, Boys Home of Jacksonville, are a tradition. Coupled with our efforts for Spina Bifida, these activities keep our schedule busy. At this writing we are currently five days away from a Spring Rally for Spina Bifida, mid-point in our annual raffle for our J. Allen Reed Memorial Scholarship for a deserving Boys Home youth and in the



planning stages for our annual Boys Home caravan and picnic. At Christmas time we also sponsor a Christmas party for a troop of retarded Boy Scouts. However, we do manage to squeeze in a minor (?) number of parties, lake outings and a wide variety of social gatherings. Any excuse, we always say!

Our most recent social endeavor was a President's Reunion. Nearly 100 past NFCA officers and members traveled from various parts of the country to join the current membership in celebrating the club's 15th anniversary at a backyard bar-b-que. Good food and fellowship abounded into the late hours, and discussion is already underway for a 20 year reunion.

Socializing and fund raising are only a part of NFCA activities. The brightly colored orange shirts of "Thumbs Up Racing Team" from NFCA are a common site at events statewide. Many may remember catching a glimpse of the Thumbs Up crowd at the '78 Convention in Charlotte. We were the rather boisterous group with the towering plastic skyscraper at the wine and cheese party. For those who missed that eventful episode, we left a lasting impression at Carnival night with our Sunbird drinks and our "delicate" placement of "Thumbs Up Stickers. Those tiny embroidered "Thumbs" have become a true collector's item among convention goers.

If you are among the few who do not have a "Thumb" in your possession, don't despair! NFCA is planning a massive invasion of Colorado Springs for the '79 Convention, armed with plenty of Sunbirds and Thumbs Up stickers. And of course we'll be waiting here in Florida for you at the 1980 Convention, too. Come on down and have a drink with us—the North Florida Corvette Association. See you then.

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