

**1971 Pontiac LeMans Sport Convertible**  
**Ray and Lenita Franklin**  
(as related to Steve White)

Ray needed a car and purchased the 1971 Pontiac LeMans Sport Convertible in 1973 from his step-father, who happened to be a used car dealer. The 23,000 miles then showing on the odometer was about right for a two-year old car. Ray was the second owner of the car, which was originally purchased at Blank Pontiac in Washington, D.C. Although Ray always liked cars, this was long before he became a serious hobbyist.

There were 3,865 1971 Pontiac LeMans Sport Convertibles produced by Pontiac. When new, the base price was \$3,359, but the following options raised the price to a whopping \$4,964.51:

350 2BBL V8 engine; G78X14 WW FG tires; rear speaker; outside mirrors - driver remote; side moldings; power disc brakes; luggage lamp (trunk); Turbo-Hydramatic; am/fm radio; front console; Rally 2 wheels; power steering; power windows; rear glass; air conditioning; and electric clock.

Now, fast forward to 1974 when the Pontiac became community property following Ray's and Lenita's marriage. Appropriately, their honeymoon was a driving trip to Tennessee in their precious car. Then, it continued its service as a daily driver until 1987. Through those years, Ray and Lenita developed an increasing interest in the car hobby and eventually decided to restore the aging car.

The Pontiac was still in fairly sound condition with no structural rust, but some panels needed replacement. It was a frame-on restoration done by a local body shop and Ray. The engine was also rebuilt. Then, Ray did some other upgrades and performance enhancements, including electronic ignition; dual exhaust; under hood light; Edelbrock 650cfm 4BBL; Edelbrock aluminum intake. Some chrome-plating of various parts of the engine was also done. The car was driven during the early part of the project, but was taken off the road in 1994 for completion of the restoration.

The car retains its original appearance, with a Cameo White exterior and black interior. The wheels are also original equipment.

The project was completed in 1996. Since then, the car has been enjoyed on cruises, shows, and pleasure driving ever since. The odometer now shows 140,000 miles, 32,000 miles since restoration.

We often hear it, but in this case it was true: This car was meant to be driven!





