

READY OR NOT, HERE THEY COME

At the May 13th Board of Directors meeting the most pressing business was the final vote on acceptance of the 1974 and up Mustangs into our Club. The Board voted by over a 2/3 majority to accept the late models.

This has been a touchy subject with many people for over a year now and, of course, everyone has their own opinion on the subject. I'm glad the matter has finally been settled.

Many people have been opposed to the idea simply because they dislike primarily the Mustang II's and don't consider them true Mustangs. I can certainly understand this since I'm not overly fond of the Mustang II's, but these cars do bear the Ford Mustang name. I'm sure there were numerous folks at one time or another who did not like the early Mustangs. There is, of course, another side to the issue — more than like or dislike.

Whether we all realize it or not this hobby of ours is also in many ways a business. When an organization deals with approximately 6,000 people around the World, matters must take on somewhat of a business attitude. Looking at this matter through a business point of view tends to shed a different light on the subject.

We (the Board of Directors) have tried for several years now to recruit new members and avoid an increase in membership dues while at the same time offering more benefits to the groups and members. By this time the MCA should have a membership of 10,000 or more. Several different "programs" were tried; discounts for senior citizens, contests for recruiting the most new members, trophy sponsorships and "give-aways", door prizes for shows, insurance coverage for shows, establishing a MCA National Headquarters office for assistance, further improvement of the judging rules and the *Mustang Times* and the avoidance of dues increase from 1980 until 1986 despite increasing expenses incurred by MCA.

In return for our efforts we received little support from members and regional groups. When our own regional

groups will not support us with 100% MCA membership in the groups, we have to look at other ideas. One such idea was the acceptance of the late model Mustangs, but the issue was defeated the first time around. That left the next best alternative which was a dues increase to cover the MCA's ever-increasing expenses (postage, printing, etc.). Our membership, however, has not substantially increased.

By accepting the late model Mustangs we are opening our doors to thousands of new members and a tremendous storehouse of information. By increasing our membership we will be able once again to offer more benefits and further improve many of our current membership benefits. This is not to say the transition is going to be easy. The only way this will be successful is if all of us work together. It has taken MCA ten years to get where we are today in terms of judging rules, knowledge of the first generation Mustangs and publishing the *Mustang Times*. The work will be hard and sometimes painfully slow in learning about the second generation Mustangs, but this can be done with everyone's support. Many regional group members and friends probably own new Mustangs, so recruiting these people for MCA should now be easy. This alone will greatly increase our membership.

At long last we have the right to demand, not ask for, recognition from Ford. Now we truly are The Mustang Club of America not only the 1964½-1973 Mustang Club of America. If we can receive backing from Ford we will enter a new and exciting world in terms of opportunities and publicity.

MCA has done well for itself in ten years and the difference from day one until now is amazing. There is a new breed of Mustang owner out there waiting for a quality club to come along that will accept their new GT or SVO. The Mustang Club of America is it — no doubt about it.

Teresa

REGIONAL GROUP NEWS

Group news for publication in the *Mustang Times* should be submitted in typewritten or legible handwritten form and marked as regional group news. The MT Editor will not be responsible for selecting or editing material from regional group newsletters. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.



MUSTANG CORRAL
65-73 PARTS - SUPPLIES NEW-USED.
VISIT SHOP AND SHOWROOM
MONDAY - SATURDAY 9-5
1-270 6 ILL. 157
PARTING OUT OVER 80 CARS

ATT. MO - ILL - ARK - IND - KY
"YOUR ONE-STOP PONY SHOP"
★ THE MIDWESTS BEST ★

MUSTANG
Corral

CATALOG \$2.00 (618) 656-5428
RT. 6, BOX 242, EDWARDSVILLE, IL 62025
WE SHIP UPS PREPAID. COLLECT OR CHARGE

1987 NATIONAL SHOWS

Now is the time to plan for the 1987 show season. Any regional groups interested in hosting a National show in 1987 should contact National Headquarters as soon as possible for the necessary petition forms. Deadlines for submitting petitions are July 1, 1986 for Grand National petitions, and August 1, 1986 for other National shows.

COMING UP IN THE MUSTANG TIMES

- ★ Valerie Whitman's 1965 Fastback
- ★ Two Guys and a Car Go West
- ★ Small Block Parts Interchangeability Part II
- ★ How to Buy a Mustang
- ★ National Shows

PLUS

More Group News, Horse Show, Letters, Horse Sense, New Products, and other MCA member stories and photos.