



ROAD RALLY

by Lee Mathias

Tight lipped, rigid with tension, they approached the car. Sweaty palms released the doors and fumbled with an extra tug on the seatbelts. The seconds dragged by antagonizingly. Suddenly a paper was thrust at the driver, tossed to the navigator, "go" shouted by the starter. A crunch of gravel, the squeal of tires on blacktop . . . "Right at first light." "Who lives at 3682?" "Left on P-Tree." "Where does the well-driller live?" "What year did Grace Thornton die?" "Where do you buy a Coke?" "Left at blinking light." "How many phone booths are on your right?" "How far is Jasper?" "What interstate did you cross?" "Follow 93 for 6 miles,

right at Jacobs Church' . . .

And so it goes for several hours following directions and answering questions along a scenic, circuitous route laid out by the rally master. A casual Sunday jaunt made up of instructions and questions, some easy and some trick, the basic gimmick rally as practiced by car clubs on several continents for generations. Who wins? The first criteria is to answer all the questions correctly. The answers are found hidden along the route. The second criteria is to cover the prescribed distance in the allotted time. Designed to be run at or below the legal speed limits, you will be okay here if you do

not go back too many times to find answers or get lost . . . Oh yea, lost, you do not have any idea where you are going until you arrive . . . The dreaded PANIC ENVELOPE is handy here. Open it and you will be saved from hopelessness, hunger, fatigue and confusion as it tells you where the end of the rally may be found. Unfortunately you will also be disqualified for arriving with your envelope unsealed.

Usually started with a breakfast or picnic, Mustang clubs call these events Road Rallies. The end is usually followed by another pig-out and much good natured ribbing over mistakes, answers, how lost were you? (How does Alabama sound?). All you need is a car, a driver, a navigator, some pencils, and some food to contribute to the pig-out. Who sets up the course? A volunteer from a previous event, usually the winner. Is it fun? You bet. Will you enjoy it? Definitely. Each event turns up two or three more cars than the last. Isn't it about time you joined the rally crowd? If you can drive a Mustang that's great, if not anything will do but try not to show up in a Chevy, we do have our standards.

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DID YOU KNOW . . .

The Mustang II was originally code named the "Arizona Project."

The Mustang II is 175 inches long, 70 inches wide, has a wheelbase of 96.6 inches and weighs 3200 pounds. The original Mustang is 181 inches long, 68.2 inches wide, has a wheelbase of 108 inches and weighs 2960 pounds.

A styling competition between the Ford, Lincoln-Mercury Advanced Design and Ford's Ghia Studio resulted in the Mustang II's lines. (The Lincoln-Mercury studio's design was chosen).

Changes were made to the Mustang II's pony with its legs no longer in the famous gallop but in a canter.