

Mustang Romance Stories:

DALE & LINDA BOWES

by Linda Bowes

Even Cupid could have never figured out why so many people were attracted and have held near and dear to their hearts, the love of a Ford Mustang. For us it began some 20 years ago with the purchase of a '67 GT FB . . .

Although we show a '65 GT Coupe, I drive a '67 convertible and Dale drives a '64 Ford Fairlane 500, our most cherished and memorable Mustang is a '67 Lime Gold GT FB.

I met Dale right after he purchased his FB and I have always joked that after we were married I inherited the payments. Little did we know then that 20 years later, we would be looking back and digging out the old pictures wishing we had taken more.

While dating, we went everywhere together in that car, day trips to the Jersey shore, Saturday nights at the drive-in, parking at the Rug Factory and endless trips back and forth between our parents' houses. We went from dating to going steady to engaged and then on our honeymoon.

Although Dale had had a '64½ Coupe which he bought right off the showroom floor, the '67 meant more to him because he had the opportunity to pick out the options he wanted. The car had a fold down rear seat, GT Group, posi-rear, 289 4-speed, heavy duty suspension and his favorite Lime Gold color.

I, on the other hand, received my first and last speeding ticket in it, nearly froze to death when the heater core broke one cold zero degree night, had to sit on a little, awful pillow between the two buckets and while out on a date one night slid on some snow, hit the curb and bent the wheel at a 45° angle. And I will never forget that every afternoon at 2:15 as Dale was on his way to his second shift job, he would drive past my place of employment and my whole 4th grade class



Easter Sunday 1968 before "the big day".

Dale & Linda leave in style for their honeymoon.



would go to the window and wave.

Progress as it is, we stupidly traded it in at a local Ford dealer on a '71 Maverick Grabber. Hindsight, we have always regretted that move.

Several years ago while we were updating our insurance on the Coupe, we noticed that our Insurance Agent had a list of all the cars that we had ever owned. Couldn't believe that he had listed the serial number for that car. Had the car traced and found that the last owner listed still owned the car and lived in Philadelphia.

We found our car rusting away with 4 flat tires, painted a GM blue, interior cut to pieces, cheap GT lights in place of the originals, an added roll bar and a different engine. Even the Lord couldn't have saved that car!

We came away with very heavy hearts and an overwhelming feeling of sadness for a part of our lives that had

meant so much was now gone. And yet on the other hand if it wasn't for this "crazy" love of the Ford Mustang, we would never have met so many

wonderful people and shared so many wonderful and meaningful experiences.

MT

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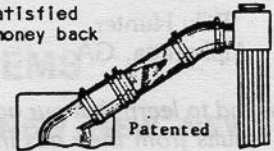
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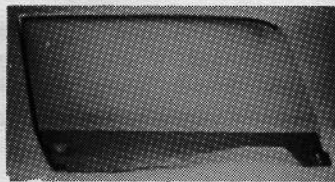
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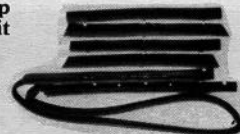
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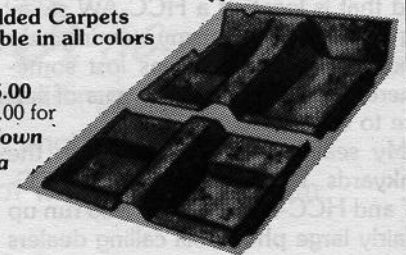
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