

25th Anniversary Year Now History

It's hard to imagine that the year-long celebration of the Silver Anniversary of the Ford Mustang is now history.

It seems like a matter of weeks ago that we all were gearing up for the most exciting year in the history of the Pony Car.

When we all got together for the first MCA National Show in Pensacola back in March, the arrival of the American Pony Drive and the proliferation of 25th Anniversary memorabilia kicked off a 12-month-long celebration of the introduction of the Mustang.

The Anniversary theme dominated throughout the season, and everywhere we went we saw various displays comparing that first 1964½ Pony with the latest edition.

Many of us still wonder why Ford Motor Company failed to relish the anniversary year with the same enthusiasm that MCA members showed from coast to coast, but the Ford folks were generous in their support of local and regional clubs who staged events to wish the Mustang a happy birthday.

It was good to hear a Ford Motor Company executive tell participants assembled for a banquet at the Western Grand National in Tulsa, OK in September that the automaker plans to continue production of a rear-wheel drive Pony car into the foreseeable future. The rumors we heard to the contrary off and on during 1989 were disturbing, and we hope his remarks put those fears to rest.

Now we learn that Ford does indeed plan to take official note of the Mustang's birthday with a limited production anniversary edition in 1990. While most of us die-hard Pony lovers are firmly convinced that the Mustang was born in April, 1964, Ford still appears to view 1965 as the "introductory year" for the Mustang. (In fact, even in its literature announcing the arrival of the Mustang, Ford always referred to it as a 1965 car).

Their plans for some anniversary hoop-la next year just gives us all an opportunity to celebrate a little longer!

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Well, with 1989 fading into history, and a whole new decade of Mustanging on the horizon, most of us will be spending the next few winter months on various projects as we get our Ponies ready for the coming season.

The tremendous success of the twin MCA Grand Nationals in Tulsa, OK and Winchester, VA during this past season was enough to convince the Board of Directors to do it again in 1990.

The board has approved a dual grand national for Labor Day Weekend, with the Eastern portion hosted by the Valley Forge Mustang Club in Easton, PA and the Western grand national being sponsored by the Rio Grande Mustang Club in Albuquerque, NM.

Considering our club's nationwide membership, this has proven to be an excellent idea.

Most importantly, it gives Mustangers on both sides of the continent an opportunity to participate in a Grand National Show without driving thousands of miles to one coast or the other.

Both groups are experienced and energetic and we're confident that the Valley Forge Club and the Rio Grande Group will put together excellent Grand National Shows to close out the 1990 season.

And while we're at it, we might once again offer our thanks to the Green Country Mustang Club of Tulsa, OK and the Shennandoah Valley Mustang Club of Winchester, VA for the outstanding job they did in hosting our 1989 dual Grand Nationals.

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It's election time at local and regional Mustang clubs all over the country, and this means that many groups will be getting some "new Mustang Times/December



blood" for the coming year.

As a service to our readers across the country, *The Mustang Times* publishes a quarterly listing of all regional groups, their presidents, and their national representatives.

To help us keep this list accurate and up-to-date, we need your help!

We're asking regional groups across the country to send us information on your newly-elected officers. We'll not only give them some recognition in our Regional News section, but we'll also be able to update our Regional Group Listing for coming months so that all our members will have an accurate listing of Mustang clubs throughout the nation.

Just send a copy of your newsletter listing your club election results, or simply drop us a postcard and let us know who your new president is for the coming year.

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Speaking of elections, the MCA Board of Directors is now in the process of nominating officers 1990. A committee has been formed to provide the board with recommendations and results of these elections will be included in *The Mustang Times* in an upcoming issue. New MCA officers and board members will be installed in January.

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And finally, on behalf of the staff of *The Mustang Times*, MCA's national officers, and its board of directors, I'd like to wish all our MCA members a happy and safe holiday season.

—Jack Yeager

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