

A Woman's View

Ladies Making Waves In Pony World

by TRUDY KENT MONTALBANO
For The Mustang Times

Dear Trudy,

I thought you would like to know that my husband, Jack, and I have finally finished our third restoration.

This one is now a beautiful 1965 Mustang.

It was a real challenge, but it will probably be the best job yet for us. It is something we are very proud of.

My husband and I share what we think is one of the most rewarding hobbies there is. We can spend every spare minute together and we have a lot of fun while we are accomplishing something that will last.

We'll never sell this Mustang. I'm so impressed with the Mustang that I want to do another one for my mother.

What do you think?

Maggie
North Carolina

Dear Maggie,

I think you've contracted what is commonly called Mustang fever.

Vintage Mustangs have become "new" again to many people. They are hot, hot, hot! And it's about time. Here we've been tooling around America for 25 years or so and it has finally come to the attention of the rest of the world that this little car has always been big news.

The Ford Mustang ("a personalized sporty car") has come to the forefront — again. A friend of mine, a Mustang Lady, recently told me: "It just doesn't seem that my Dad has had his Mustang for 25 years already."

I'm not surprised. To many of us the Mustang and its spirit have always been around, or so it seems. To many others, it's almost like a "new" revelation. What did they expect? A short-lived overnight sensation?

I am glad you are impressed enough to restore yet another Mustang.

The first Mustang, presented to the public in 1964, caught on like wild-fire. Mustangs went on to flourish in the 1960s, through all the models — the Bosses, Mach 1s, Shelys, past the "on hold" middle

1970s, through the Cobras, the T-Bar roof hardtop convertibles and then hit again with the SVO's and, finally, with the Saleens and the McLaurens and their modern styling.

What fun we all had. Some of us raised our children in a Mustang or two, and some of us weren't even around in 1964 and have only lately fallen in love with the Mustang's classic beauty and its tenacity. That tough little Pony gallops right on.

While we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Mustang we must also make note of something else that has quietly grown.

We are noticing an interesting, inevitable phenomenon. Ladies have arrived in the Mustang world and are beginning to prove themselves everywhere.

We are finding many of the best street-driven and top show cars are owned by ladies. Better yet, we're finding that there are many, many mechanically inclined women who not only polish and clean their own cars but actually "get right to it" and service it. Some are even doing the mechanical and restoration work themselves.

I recently saw a bumper sticker that said: "A woman's place is in the House — and in the Senate, too!" Maybe we should make another one that says, "A woman's place is in the car shows and the family garage as well."

Like you, many of us have discovered one thing for sure: A woman's place is behind the wheel of a classic Mustang!

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