

# Data Helps Answer Color Questions

By JIM HASKELL

For The Mustang Times

One of the more popular conversation topics among Mustangers, in one way or another, involves the color of their and others' ponies.

Some conjecture as to the most (or least) popular color Ford first sprayed on Mustangs for their favorite model year. Others are more concerned about repainting their Mustang with a different color, but one that would still be "correct" for that year. Still others can't even find their color code listed in any of the literature produced by the Mustang hobby or by Ford itself — or vehemently disagree with what is published.

Now, thanks to the sizeable and still growing database of the "In Search of Mustangs" project, some of those questions can be answered, or at least statistically estimated. This month we'll cover the color codes for the 1964½ through 1966 Mustangs; although you'll see how the 1967 color lineup impacts interpretation of the 1966 codes.

At first, we thought it would be very easy to show the widely known color codes for each year, total Mustang production for each year, and then just simply estimate the percent representation of each color by dividing the total with color information from the database into the number for each color code.

Simple, yes?

No way!

The problem was with the published color codes. Yours truly took out the Ford Shop Manuals, representative samples of Mustang Parts Suppliers' lists of color codes, the most popular versions of Mustang Decoder Guides, restoration guides, "paint yours" books, and any other information I could find on color codes for these three years; and none of them matched!!

Sure, they all had "A" for Raven Black, "M" for Wimbledon White, etc., but for the lesser known colors, and some that are quite popular, the published data did not agree, contained the wrong code, had the right code for the wrong year, or omitted the code altogether.

Back to square one.

In this case, square one is all the data plate and sticker info sent to "In Search of Mustangs" over the years. Except for an occasional misprint, or inability to decipher a number or letter, the data is the best evidence available on what the actual color codes really were and are. It contains the in-

formation that was stamped on our Mustangs 23-25 years ago and is now part of the record.

In short, that information is the final word. If a large number of ponies in the database have a color code of "9" for a given model year (that's a "made up" color code, folks), color code "9" represented a color for that year regardless of what all the books might say.

Just a few examples of color code problems associated with the published literature that have plagued some Mustangers from time to time — and which can now be answered, thanks to "In Search."

**Question:** My 1965 has a color code of "F" and I can't find it listed anywhere. I know "F" was Guardsman Blue for the 1964½'s, but mine is a late model '65. What gives?

**Answer:** Color code "F" for 1965 should

be Arcadian Blue, a 1966 color. All three Mustang assembly plants — Dearborn, San Jose and Metuchen — turned out Arcadian Blue Mustangs the last few months of the 1965 model year. This is true of other 1966 colors too, but apparently to a lesser extent.

**Question:** My data plate decoder book says color code "U" is correct for Sunlight Yellow in 1964½. My Mustang is Sunlight Yellow but the data plate clearly shows a "V" for color. Who's right.

**Answer:** You are. The right code for Sunlight Yellow is "V." There's not a single 1964½ or 1965 Mustang in the registry with a "U" color code, but lots of "V's" as we'll see shortly.

**Question:** I've got a 1966 with a color code Y7, but it's not listed anywhere. It's lighter than the normal Ivy Green for 1966. What do I have?

1964 1/2 - 1966 EXTERIOR COLOR CODE FREQUENCY

from

The IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS Registry

1964 1/2		1965		1966		
Code	Color	%	Color	%	Color	
A	Raven Black	8.5	Raven Black	5.4	Raven Black	4.1
B	Pagoda Green	2.0				
C	Pace Car White	*	Honey Gold	4.7		
D	Dynasty Green	1.8	Dynasty Green	2.4		
F	Guardsman Blue	6.5	Arcadian Blue**	2.7	Arcadian Blue	4.1
H	Caspian Blue	7.4	Caspian Blue	10.4	Sahara Beige	2.4
I			Champagne Beige	1.1		
J	Rangoon Red	15.6	Rangoon Red	10.0		
K	Silver Smoke Grey	2.2	Silver Smoke Grey	2.5	Nightmist Blue	8.6
M	Wimbledon White	22.9	Wimbledon White	14.7	Wimbledon White	14.0
O			Tropical Turquoise	1.5		
P	Praire Bronze	8.7	Praire Bronze	4.3	Antique Bronze	2.7
R			Ivy Green	10.6	Ivy Green Met.	10.3
S	Cascade Green	4.5				
T					Candyapple Red	14.5
U					Tahoe Turquoise	6.1
V	Sunlight Yellow	2.9			Emberglo	4.9
X	Vintage Burgundy	5.8	Vintage Burgundy	7.9	Vintage Burgundy	5.8
Y	Skylight Blue	5.4	Silver Blue	7.8		
Z					Sautern Gold	5.9
3	Poppy Red	3.8	Poppy Red	3.8		
4					Silver Frost	3.5
5			Twilight Turquoise	3.8	Signalflare Red	2.7
7	Phoenician Yellow	2.2	Phoenician Yellow	2.2		
8			Springtime Yellow***	3.3	Springtime Yellow	7.8
Other***		2.0		1.0		2.6
Totals		100.0		100.0		100.0

\* Less than 200 Mustangs received color code 'C' in 1964 1/2.

\*\* 1966 color.

\*\*\* Includes those receiving special order paint, blank color codes, and other miscellaneous color codes.

**Answer:** Dark Moss Green, a 1967 color. Near the end of each model year, Detroit often offered next year's colors as a year-end deal for current models. Since it is important to let body shops, dealers and owners know it was a 1967 color, a "7" was added to the color code (Dark Moss Green has a code of "Y" in 1967). We have some 1966 Mustangs with Brittany Blue (Q7), Clearwater Aqua (W7), and other 1967 colors, but Dark Moss Green appears most often.

**Question:** The color code on my 1964½ is a "C" which is not listed in any of the books. I wrote the world's authority on Mustangs and he tells me it's supposed to be Honey Gold. That's hard to believe because it was white when I bought it new. Besides, the trim code is 42, which may not look all that good with Honey gold paint. What do I have?

**Answer:** A very limited edition Indy 500 Pace Car coupe. According to Ford's Technical Service Bulletin No. 20004, dated June 22, 1964, "The 1964½ Mustangs built for the Indianapolis 500 promotional program have a special order exterior paint. The paint is acrylic enamel as opposed to the alkyd enamel used on conventional Mustang units. These special units will be identified on the Warranty plate as a color "C." The special order paint is designated as AR-60-1525C."

Since the primary purpose of this update is to show the frequency of Mustang colors, it's time to get on with it. The table that accompanies this article illustrates each Mustang color for each of the three model years and the percent of total (total being the number in our database with information on color) that specific color represents for that particular model year.

The "other" category near the bottom of the table deserves a short explanation.

The Y7 color code mentioned above would go in that category since Dark Moss Green is a 1967 color. So would those with a special order paint such as "Playboy Pink," a Thunderbird color, etc. that resulted in a blank color code (these often have special order DSO's also).

Then there are a handful of color codes we haven't figured out yet. Some might be misprints or were simply misread. Others may really mean something that hopefully we or someone else will discover in the future. In any case, those go into the "other" category also.

Finally, there are a few seemingly correct color codes (a "Z" for Chantilly Beige in 1964½ for example) that would not even account for a quarter of one percent of those in the data base. These went in the "other"

category too, at least for now.

The data pretty much speaks for itself, so little further comment is necessary. Suffice it to say that Wimbledon White was obviously the most popular color in 1964½-65; but appeared to be overtaken by Candyapple Red in 1966.

We say "appeared" since the difference of some one-half percent is not significant given the number of Mustangs in the database with information on color as compared with the total number produced.

## Gulf Coast Club Issues 'Little Theatre' Challenge

By JUNE RAYBON  
Gulf Coast Mustang Club

The Gulf Coast Regional Mustang Club of Pensacola, FL, wishes to express its appreciation to all the Mustangers who helped make our National Show March 24-26 such a success.

Our club had a great time putting the show together, and we sincerely hope all our visitors enjoyed the festivities.

Chuck Proskie of Morristown, NJ, was the winner of the raffle car, and \$15,000 was raised for our three local charities — Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, Shrine Burns Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House. We wish to thank everyone who supported this project.

We are now beginning to plan next year's show, hospitality party and Little Theatre production. However, our group is running out of ideas for the Little Theatre production and our star performers are also running out of nerve.

Therefore, we would like to extend an invitation to all clubs planning to attend our 1990 show (March 30-31), to prepare a five-minute skit and help us with the Little Theatre production.

First, second and third place prizes will be given for your efforts.

Those of us in the Gulf Coast Regional Group get a lot of year-round fun out of putting together these skits for our spring show. (Or at least, everyone but Dixie Meador does. She must work the entire year putting the hospitality party together!)

All clubs brave enough to accept this invitation should contact John Cavanaugh, 615 Baublits Street, Pensacola, FL 32507 and tell him of your plans. He will send you additional information. We will report to the *Mustang Times* periodically concerning our 1990 show plans and will provide updates

There's still some data plate and sticker information to be entered and more are coming in each day; so the percentages could change by small amounts.

If you haven't yet registered your Mustang with "In Search," there's still time to participate. Just send the codes and numbers from your warranty plate (1964½-1969) or sticker (1970-73) to me at P.O. Box 883, Annandale, VA 22003, or Jim Smart, P.O. Box 31425, St. Louis, MO 63131. Thanks in advance for your input.

on the clubs accepting our Little Theatre Production Challenge.

We would like to thank everyone who attended our 1989 show and we sincerely hope you can make it again next year. If you missed the show, please make plans to be on hand March 30-31, 1990. We have come to think of our spring show as a family reunion and we truly miss our old friends when they cannot attend.

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