

Let's Involve Teens In Our Mustang Shows

It's generally believed by many people in the Mustang hobby that 1991 may bring the last of our beloved Pony cars off the lines at Ford Motor Company.

While we all hope for a fourth generation of Mustang — and a continuation of the good times and fond memories it has come to represent to thousands of us — it seems inevitable that the end of Lee Iacocca's brain-child can't be postponed indefinitely.

With that in mind, it becomes increasingly important to me to get more young people involved in our hobby.

At the Greenville National MCA Show over Memorial Day Weekend, the Foothills Mustang Club, of which I am a long-time member, did something interesting and, I think, exciting.

They included a "Student Class" in the Southeastern National, and allowed young folks — many of whom are just getting into the Mustang hobby — to compete for those coveted trophies we all like to take home with us during the show season.

Having travelled the country from coast to coast over the past two-and-a-half years taking in Mustang Shows from Orlando to



Charles Hampton

Hollywood, I have noticed a growing number of students pitting their prized Ponies against some of the best in the country.

Make no mistake. Some of these young people have Mustangs that can compete with the best the older generation has to offer.

But the fact is that many more students simply don't have the money or the experience to build a show car that can hold its own with some of the outstanding cars on the circuit.

Maybe one day, after college or come experience in a career, they will be financially able to build the show cars of tomorrow.

In the meantime, we ought to make a place for them in our shows — our local

shows, regional shows, and national shows.

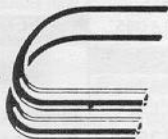
When these kids get back to school with their sparkling trophies from a Mustang show, they are in a position to be some of our best sales people. The more friends they show those trophies to, the more potential members we have. And the more young members we have, the smaller the chance is that the Mustang hobby will die out as the rest of us grow too old to crawl around under our cars.

By including a "student division" in our shows, we open the door for future Mustangers to get a taste of the fun, fellowship and good-natured competition that we have enjoyed over the years. That's good for them, that's good for us, and that's good for the future of our sport.

I hope more and more regional groups will consider adding this class to their shows in the months and years to come. It's really fun seeing these young people smile when they win, and it's a far better way for our children to spend their time than many others we, as parents, can imagine.

I hope your club will think about it!

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