

Mustang Production Guide Still Inching Forward

By **JIM SMART**
With **Jim Haskell**

In Search of Mustangs appeared for the first time 13 years ago this month in *The Mustang Times*. So much has been unearthed about Mustang production since then.

Discoveries have been made through correspondence received from thousands of Mustang enthusiasts around the globe, research at Ford Motor Company, and contact with Ford employees who were fortunate enough to be there at the time.

Sometimes startling discoveries are made simply thumbing through old copies of magazines and newspapers, or a tire kicking session with a retired Ford dealer-owner.

Valuable information for this registry and census has been sourced many ways. Without each of you who has called and written, the continued success of this project would not have been possible. For that, we thank all of you.

As with most spare time projects, *In Search of Mustangs* has struggled with staying in the forefront of the hobby. There are factors, such as career and personal demands, that have kept *In Search of Mustangs* cursed with inconsistency. If you've been following this project with any regularity, you know there have been countless vanishing acts in 13 years.

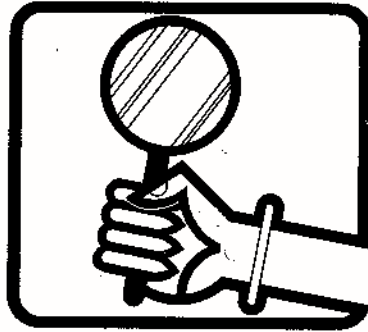
Despite the project's absence in the media, Jim Haskell and I have been at work behind the scenes refining and researching. What's more, we've been adding more and more Mustangs to this census, with numbers of Mustangs surpassing the 50,000 mark quite some time ago. That's 50,000-plus serial numbers, vehicles and owners from around the globe, and the numbers continue to increase.

Where's The Book?

All this research is pretty useless if no one gets to see it. That what the *Mustang Production Guide* is all about. We want the *Mustang Production Guide* to be the most valuable book in your Mustang reference library, which is exactly why it has been a slow crawl to completion. We're still fine tuning this book because accuracy is very important.

The *Mustang Production Guide* we've promised you on several occasions is still in the development and production stages.

Creating a publication of this magnitude takes a lot of grueling research, because we want it to be accurate. In a sea of Mustang books published since the mid-1970s, there have been plenty of inaccuracies that have sometimes become law in the hobby. We



In Search Of Mustangs

By **JIM SMART & JIM HASKELL**

IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS

We encourage your participation in "IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS," an international census of Ford Mustangs and Shelby Mustangs 1964 1/2 through 1973. Data from over 40,000 Mustangs are already included in the census. Make sure yours is in there too!

From this project you'll see monthly updates in the *Mustang Times* that hopefully will answer your particular concerns or questions on Mustang production facts and other interesting tidbits about our ponies. In addition, a series of full-length Mustang production reference books called the *Mustang Production Guide(s)*, are currently in the writing stage.

All you need to do to participate is fill in the blanks below. The information can be found on a metal plate (1964 1/2-69) or vinyl sticker (1970-73), found on your driver's door near the latch. If there is no plate or sticker, just the serial number is adequate. Total information is very important. Feel free to enclose the history on your Mustang(s).

Name: _____
Address: _____

Mustang # 1. Year _____ Is it a GT, MACH 1, T-5, etc. _____

Warranty/Serial Number _____

Body _____ Color _____ Trim _____ Date _____ DSO _____ Axle _____ Trans _____

Mustang # 2. Year _____ Is it a GT, MACH 1, T-5, etc. _____

Warranty/Serial Number _____

Body _____ Color _____ Trim _____ Date _____ DSO _____ Axle _____ Trans _____

Mustang # 3. Year _____, Is it a GT, MACH 1, T-5, etc. _____

Warranty/Serial Number _____

Body _____ Color _____ Trim _____ Date _____ DSO _____ Axle _____ Trans _____

Thanks for participating in this project. If you desire a reply, please enclose a SASE. Send all information to:

IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS

Jim Haskell
P.O. Box 883
Annandale, VA 22003

or

Jim Smart
P.O. Box 31425
St. Louis, MO 63131

owe fellow enthusiasts unending accuracy — and that has been our philosophy since the beginning.

As we've told you before, *The Mustang Production Guide* will be published in two volumes for 1965-73. Volume One will be 1965-66 and Volume Two will be 1967-73. Research continues on 1974-present Mustangs, with Volume Three planned, but not scheduled for publication any time soon.

Life After 1973

Two years ago, we announced that *In Search of Mustangs* was being expanded to include 1974-present Mustangs. We invited letters and comments from 1974-78 Mustang II, and 1979-present Mustang owners who want to help this part of the project grow and who want to learn more about Mustang production beyond 1973.

The past 20 years of Mustang production is a new frontier yet to be discovered. We want to hear from you.

About Build Dates

Because there has been quite a demand for build dates and other missing codes for missing vehicle warranty plates and body back tags. *In Search of Mustangs* is again offering this service to fellow enthusiasts. The fee for this service is \$10 per request. Write us with your vehicle identification number and we can provide your build date code. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request.

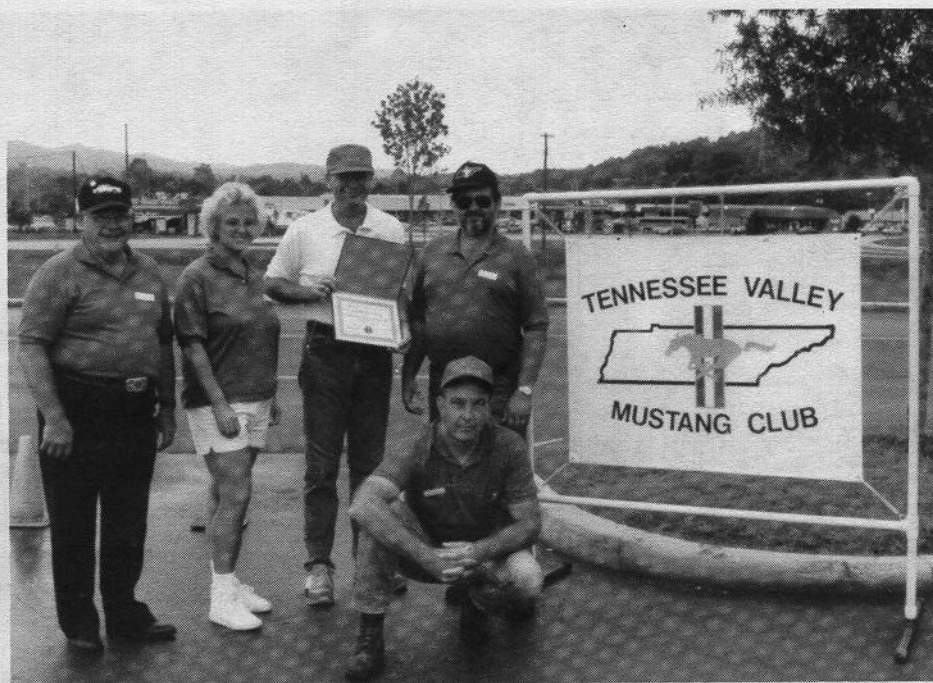
Staying In Touch

If you would like to be added to our *Mustang Production Guide* mailing list, just drop us a letter (self-addressed, stamped envelope, please) or post card with your name and address so we can notify you when publication is scheduled in 1993. Our first print run will be limited to 5,000 copies, and they'll go fast. If you want your copy, we need to hear from you as soon as possible.

Finally, *In Search of Mustangs* is becoming more accessible to the hobbyist, without the dreaded wait for a response by mail. Now you can call *In Search of Mustangs* as a means of seeking the answers you need for your Mustang. The Mustang Help Line is (901) 642-0064. If we don't have the answer, we can direct you to someone in the hobby who does. The best time to call the Mustang Help Line is during evening hours between 6-11 p.m. Central Time. Sorry, long distance calls cannot be returned.

For more information on *In Search of Mustangs* and *The Mustang Production Guide*, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: *In Search of Mustangs*, P.O. Box 727, Paris, TN 38242.


The Mustang Times/December, 1992



Tennessee Valley Club Wins President's Award

The Tennessee Valley Mustang Club of Oak Ridge, TN won the 1992 MCA President's Award for its activities this past year. The award was presented to the group at the Oak Ridge National Show held in September. MCA President Bill Dillard made the presentation. Above, left to right, Bob Herrington, treasurer; Diane Burnett, secretary; Dillard; and Jim Reynolds, club president. Kneeling is group vice president Rudy Weigel.

**OFFICIAL
MCA**



**1964½-73
MUSTANG
IDENTIFICATION PLATE
DECODER**

JUST PUBLISHED!
1964½-73
**Mustang Identification
Plate Decoder**

The Mustang Club of America is pleased to announce the availability of a pocket-sized, official Identification Plate Decoder for 1964½-73 vehicles.

The decoder is a convenient 3½-by-6-inches — small enough to fit into your pocket.

It is available from MCA for \$5.00 plus \$1.00 shipping and handling. Send your check or money order today to MCA Official ID Plate Decoder, P.O. Box 447, Lithonia, GA 30058.