

At Last, The Presidential Pony Mystery Solved!

At last, the mystery is solved! The Presidential Pony is a 1967. No doubt about it.

For several weeks after pictures appeared in national magazines showing President Bill Clinton sitting behind the wheel of his classic Mustang, debate swirled as to the vintage of the convertible.

Experts at first judged the Mustang to be a 1968, but others quickly disagreed. So the national media got busy trying to figure out just what model Pony the President possessed.

USA Today went to what it thought was the highest possible source, Lee Iacocca, the father of the Mustang. Iacocca told *USA Today* he owns the same car that Clinton has, a 1964½ Mustang.

Not.

David E. Davis Jr., editor of *Automobile* magazine, told the newspaper he heard it was a '68. He called it "uniquely American," then added, "I've also heard it was a '66, which did not have emission controls. Al Gore should take a whiff of that tail pipe!" Davis quipped.

Not.

Ford spokeswoman Barbara Mansfield told *USA Today* she didn't know what model the Mustang is, but suggested the newspaper check with well-known Mustang expert Jerry Heasley.

"I don't know, I don't know," Heasley moaned. He referred *USA Today* to Bud Ward's Antique Cars in Little Rock, a shop Heasley had heard worked on the Mustang.

But the shop was not much help.

"We had it in here for upholstery work and a new top," restorer David Wright told the national newspaper. "The guy who worked on it would know, but he left, lives somewhere in California now. Me? I think maybe a '65."

Not.

MCA National Treasurer and Office Manager Bill Koivu also got a phone call from *USA Today* inquiring into the vintage of the Pony.

"The car is definitely a 1967," Koivu told the newspaper. "We're trying to make President Clinton an honorary member, but he hasn't written us back."

As it turned out, Koivu's answer was the only correct one. The Presidential Pony has now been determined by a number of sources, including several MCA Gold Card Judges, to be a '67.

But while the mystery of the vintage of the Presidential Mustang has been solved, another has developed.



President Bill Clinton's Mustang Has Now Been Positively Identified As A 1967 Model

Now Mustang watchers are wondering what will become of the Pony while Clinton serves as president the next four years.

Max Parker, Clinton's deputy press secretary, was quoted by *USA Today* as saying, "I doubt it will stay in Little Rock."

But it is also not likely the Mustang will wind up in the White House garage.

Sean Walsh, an aide to President George Bush, said, "Well, there isn't a garage per se. The Secret Service has space for its cars, so I suppose he could park it there. But I can't see him hopping in it to tool around like a mile of driveway."

President Clinton, however, can't expect much sympathy from the Secret Service. Last June, during the presidential campaign, the Secret Service told Clinton he would no

longer be allowed to drive the Mustang convertible. The open car posed too many security problems, agents said.

So while the vintage of the President's Mustang has finally been nailed down, where he will keep it, and whether or not he'll ever get to drive it, remains to be seen.

But the national uproar over the model year of the Mustang was had one beneficial side effect.

"It certainly stirred up a great deal of interest in the Mustang as a collector car, and it had our phones ringing off the hook for several days. There are certainly quite a few more people aware now that MCA exists than there were before this whole thing started," Koivu said.

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