

## Uncle's Ford Showroom Was Beginning Of His Dream

Even when your uncle owns a Ford dealership and you can expect to negotiate a really good deal, you can't always have that coveted Mustang that would make your life heaven on earth!

Joe Norris of Wisconsin Rapids, WI did have the good fortune in 1964 to have an uncle who was the co-owner of Norris-Vernier Ford in Tomah, WI.

And on the showroom floor sat this breathtaking, Honey Gold Mustang coupe with a white interior. It was the stuff dreams are made of.

But when you're nine years old, money isn't the only thing that stands between you and a classic car.

"I was too young to worry about what equipment was on the car. I don't even know what engine was in it. All I knew was that I loved that car. I'll never forget that first meeting," Norris says.

It would be another seven years before Joe (MCA #26672) would be old enough to get a driver's license, but it was a lot longer before he finally got to own his first Mustang.

"I followed the Mustang's development throughout the 1960s and '70s. I loved the car and I knew that sooner or later I would have one."

But it wasn't until 15 years later that he finally realized his dream.

"I went back to my uncle's dealership in 1979 and found a '79 Indy Pace Car replica sitting on the showroom floor. This time I took that Mustang home."

The Pace Car was equipped with a 302 and four-speed and over the next eight years Joe babied it, polished it, and showered it



Joe Norris Came Across His 1970 Boss 302 Only Two Hours From His Home in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. "I finally had my dream car," he says.

with tender loving care. In 1987, when he sold the Mustang, it still had only 18,000 miles on the odometer.

"I spent the next five years playing around with a couple of foreign sports cars, but the Mustangs kept calling me. That voice kept getting louder, and finally I had to come back to the Pony car."

In the spring of 1992, Joe found that he could no longer resist temptation.

"I sold my German toy and started looking for a Mustang. This time, though, it

would be a first-generation Pony, preferably a 1969 or 1970 Sportsroof, ideally a Boss 302."

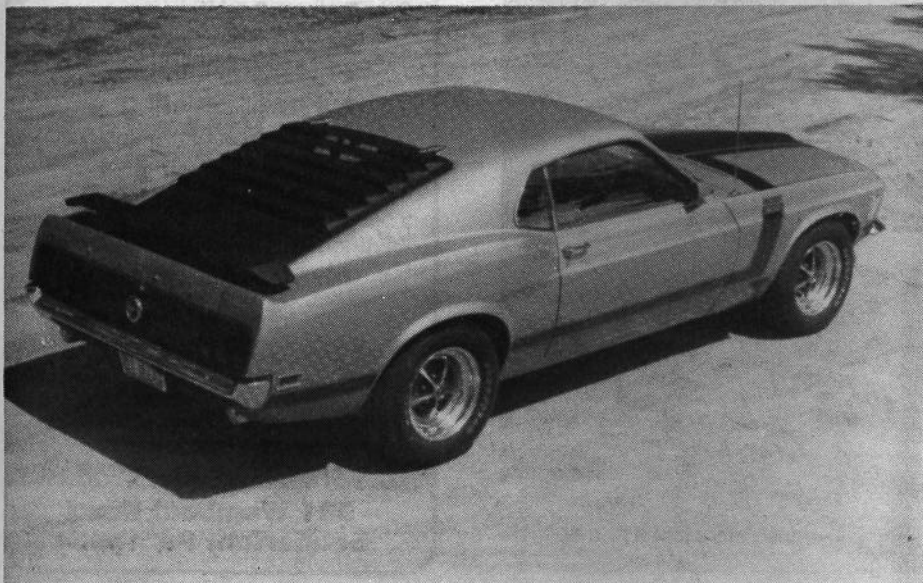
Norris poured over "every Mustang and Ford magazine I could get my hands on, as well as *Hemmings* and other speciality car publications. I kept looking for that perfect Mustang. I called on many, and went to look at a few, but still the search continued."

Last July Joe's lucky day finally arrived.

"I came across a 1970 Boss 302 for sale right here in Wisconsin, only two hours from my home. The Mustang was owned by Bob Karcz, who owns the Ford dealership in Pulaski, WI. His personal collection includes a beautiful 1966 Shelby, a DeTomaso Pantera, and an Autokraft Cobra. He was ready to part with the Boss, and a deal was made. I finally had my dream car."

With only 24,500 miles on the odometer, Joe says the Boss was in excellent condition. "The paint and interior are original, except for the carpeting, which has been replaced.

"The engine compartment is in good shape, but the rev limiter and smog equip-



Joe Norris was only nine years old when he fell in love with his first Mustang at his uncle's Ford dealership. It was quite a few years before Joe had his own Pony. After a spell of tinkering with off-brand sports cars, he's now got another Mustang in his corral.

## FEATURE CAR

ment have been removed and a 289 HiPo air cleaner has been substituted for the original non-shaker unit. Also, a few Motorcraft parts have replaced the Autolite originals. But, with a little work, all these things could be rectified."

Norris says the Boss includes few options, "but it does have sports slats and a rear spoiler. The interior is standard. The dash holds the standard instruments, but is unusual in that it has the woodgrain inserts of the deluxe trim. Functional options include the 3.50 traction-lok axle and power steering."

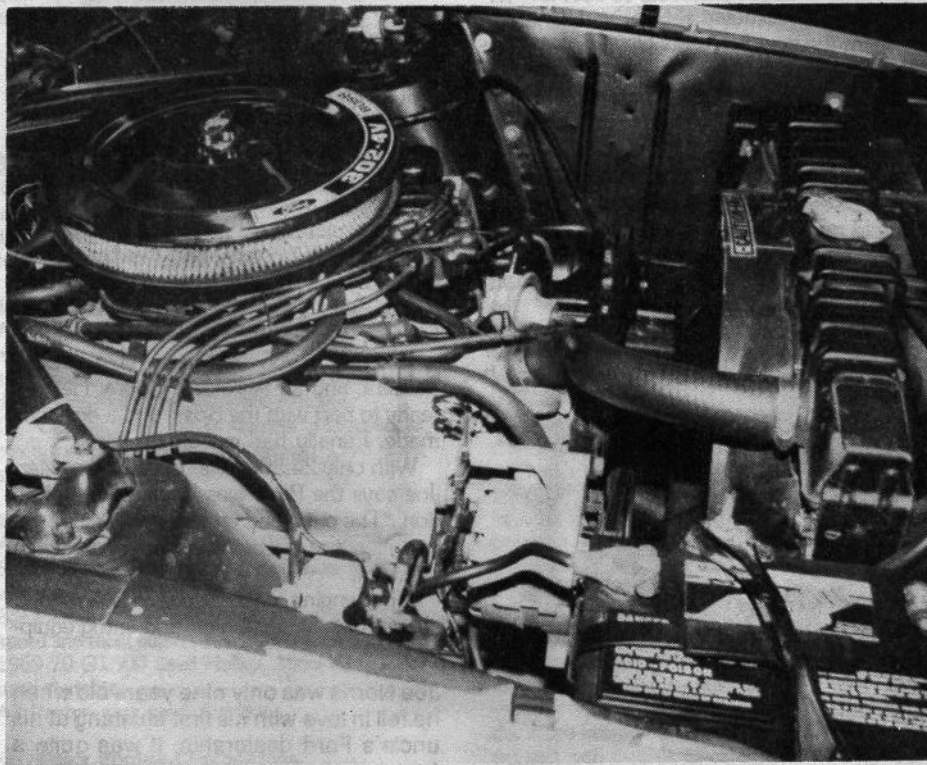
Joe is in the process of researching the history of his Boss.

"I have the original invoice, but no build sheet. I'm going to try to contact both the previous owners and the selling dealer. Hopefully, I'll be able to establish the complete history of this car."

He's in the process of replacing all the missing and aftermarket parts with original items at the moment, and "I'm planning to keep the car as an occasional driver. I believe one misses some of the fun of the Mustang hobby if one doesn't drive the car. I look forward to attending some shows with the Boss, and I hope to make it to some of the big Mustang shows this summer."



Joe Norris is still working on his Boss and hopes to have it ready for competition this summer.



Norris says his Boss includes few options, but it does have sports slats and a rear spoiler. The interior is standard. It also has power steering.



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