

Harry and Cookie Dunmire of Deland, FL say they're preserving their '89 Mustang GT convertible as a future classic, but they don't let it sit in the garage. "We love to drive it and we love to show it," Harry says.

## Late Model Mustangs Find Their Own Lovers

Harry Dunmire of Deland, FL knows how those owners of early model Mustangs feel about their classics, but he says they are no more enthusiastic about their Pony cars as late model owners are about theirs.

"I've talked to early model owners who don't think much of the later model Mustangs, but we're just as enthusiastic about our cars as they are about theirs.

"And we spend a great deal of time getting our cars ready for the shows. I clean mine three times for every show: once before I leave home, once when I get to the show, and again when I get back home. It's a lot of work, but I really enjoy showing my Mustang."

Harry's Mustang is a 1989 GT convertible, and it is his prized possession.

"My wife, Cookie, and I don't have any children. So our Mustangs are our babies."

Harry and Cookie ordered their Anniversary Mustang from the factory, and Harry didn't give the salesman a lot of grief over the options.

"I just told him I wanted everything on it but the automatic transmission. I wanted a five-speed."

And he got it "all the way."

Options include the standard things like air and tinted glass, but he got much, much more: 3.08 traction lok rearend, deluxe lighting group, deluxe power locks, premium

The Dunmire's have won a number of trophies, including two first place awards at MCA National shows and a second place at the Atlanta Grand National in 1992.

sound, power windows, power Lumbar suspension, special lock group which controls the gasoline cap, doors and trunk from inside, power mirrors, and a number of other upgrades that made the car the absolute top of the line.

"One thing about the GT convertible that's unusual is that it has a black top. The vast majority of the '89 GTs had white tops, but this one came with a black top. It's not rare, but I haven't seen too many around. I'd say at least that the black top is unusual.

"I had been wanting a Mustang GT convertible since 1985," Harry says. "By 1987, I was definitely ready to buy one. But a friend of mine suggested that I wait for the Anniversary Edition in 1989, 25 years after the introduction of the Mustang. He talked me in to waiting, but it was tough. It was a long wait."

Harry, an MCA Gold Card Judge for Late Models, says his Mustang isn't all that different than the originals introduced in 1964.

"The wheel base is the same, and the body

style is very similar. It has maybe 25-30 horsepower more than the original, but it's very much like the 64½s."

Harry says the later model Mustangs might represent "the longest running body style in automotive history. Since 1979, there have only been cosmetic changes, no real structural changes. The first real change in body style will be with the '94 Mustang coming out later this year."

Dunmire bought the Pony strictly as a collector car.

"My wife drove it to work for two years, but then we decided to take it off the road as a daily driver. We now have a four-cylinder '84 Mustang we use as a grocery hauler."

But that doesn't mean the '89 GT stays in the garage.

"It doesn't just sit in the garage. We love to drive it and show it. It's not a museum piece, but we are careful. We don't just run up the mileage indiscriminantly."

The odometer now shows 33,000 miles, Harry says. But he doesn't let that deter him from driving to shows when he can.

"We meet a lot of really nice people at every show we go to. I have a great time at the shows, and I really enjoy talking Mustangs with the other participants."

His '89 GT convertible already has an impressive list of trophies. Harry and Cookie



won first place at the 1991 MCA National held at Sea World in Orlando, second place at the 1992 Grand National in Atlanta, and first place at the MCA National held in March in Pensacola.

In addition to those trophies, we have two Gold Awards from Cocoa Village, FL and a Gold Award from the well-known Cypress Garden show.

"I plan to take it to the Grand National in Greenville Labor Day, and I'll try to make as many shows as possible in 1994."

One show he knows for sure he'll be attending is the 30th Mustang Anniversary Celebration planned for Charlotte Motor Speedway in April of next year.

"I'm really looking forward to the 30th Anniversary Show. I think that's going to be the biggest event in Mustang history, and I certainly want to be a part of it. I'm very excited about that show," Harry says.

Head carpenter for a construction firm in Deland, Harry hopes to expand his stable of Mustangs in the near future.

"I'm in the market for a 1985 GT convertible or a 1986 SVO," he admits.

A real late model enthusiast, Harry says he is "glad to see the late models finally getting the respect they deserve. Late models make up about 50 percent of the cars in a lot of shows here in Florida, and I'm glad to see more of them competing in National shows. Believe me, late model owners love their Mustangs just as much as the '64½ owners. And I'm very happy to see more and more of them participating."

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## Two New Show Classes Created For 1993 Season

Two new classes — Street Driven (Occasional Driver) and Daily Driver — were created at the 1992 MCA Judges' Meeting held in Tulsa, OK in 1992.

Street Driven (Occasional Driver) Class includes cars that are driven on weekends, special occasions or to and from shows.

Daily Driven Class includes cars which are driven to work daily and used on a regular basis.

Judges are needed for both these new classes.

Since cars in these classes are not judged for authenticity, but solely on cleanliness and workmanship, no special knowledge is needed to become a judge in these classes.

MCA members interested in taking the judging test for these two new classes are encouraged to contact one of the following people:

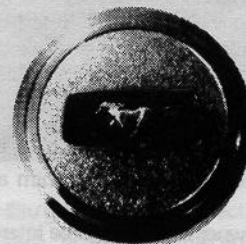
For Street Driven (Occasional Driver) write Bob Stone, 32 Robin Hill Lane, Belleville, IL 62221 or call (618) 277-6838.

For Daily Driven Class contact Jack Penn, 6231 S. Richmond, Tulsa, OK 74136 or call (918) 496-2753.

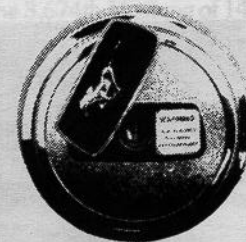
MCA members who plan to compete in these classes are invited to address questions regarding these two divisions to the appropriate judge listed above.

Both Stone and Penn will be available at most National Shows during 1993 to administer the tests to prospective judges.

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