

# MCA And The Information Age

It all began around a year and a half ago when some MCA members from around the country and I were wandering the parking lot late on Saturday night after the fall Cherokee Regional show. The main topic, of course, was Mustangs, but we were also talking about how MCA could do a better job of spreading information about the club to our members. We also were searching for a way to get more information into the club from all regions of the country. It was decided that a national BBS (Bulletin Board System) would be the best way to accomplish these goals.

So, we started looking around at ways to get a national system up and running. Since we had no money or official approval at the time, it was kind of tough going. We looked into setting up our own forum on a system like CompuServe or America Online. The cost of doing this was much too steep for us to manage, so the search continued. I was finally able to get the Engineering Department of Georgia Public Television to help us out. Since I work for GPTV, MCA was allowed to set up a service on the Learning Link system that GPTV and PBS operate around the country. This came with a few stipulations though. One, I had to be the Sysop or administrator for the service. Two, members who wanted to call into the new service had a toll free 800 number to call, but they were locked down to a very slow access speed. And they had to deal with all the menu pages on Bell South's Technical Gateway just to get into GPTV's Learning Link System. At that point they could fill out another online questionnaire for GPTV and then gain access to the MCA service.

Sounds like fun, eh? This system worked for a while - helping us to get started in this electronic odyssey. But it was apparent that if MCA truly wanted to join the information age, major changes would have to be made. A search began to find a BBS package that would work for MCA and carry us into the future.

After trying out about two dozen packages, the Wildcat BBS package was settled on as the best software for the new BBS system. It didn't hurt that the software was written by Mustang Software, Inc. either!

With the help of Brian Wilson of the Midwest 5.0 Club, Rob Royster of the Heart of Georgia Mustang Club, Cliff Watson of Tennessee Valley Mustang Club, and my friend Mike Ellenberg the new system started taking shape. Our friends at GPTV Engineering donated a computer to the cause, and John Drummond of the Tara Mustang Club found a loaner modem to get started with.

We made attempts to gain some corporate funding for the phone lines, but here at the end of the year we were unable to get any corporate support. I finally made an appeal to the Board of Directors at their October meeting and was given enough funding to put **MCA ONLINE** on the air with one line. They agreed that this service was needed.

*continued on page 28*



Albert Benning (MCA# 33127) sent us this shot of his '66 Mustang along with an Owner's Info Sheet. The good news is this bright red convertible is gorgeous, and quick too since it runs a 289 with a 4-barrel. The bad news is we'll probably never get to see it since Albert is from the Netherlands. He's also a member of the Mustang Club of Holland. Yes friends, this is a far reaching hobby.

## MCA INFO AGE

The Directors also told me to continue seeking corporate sponsorship to expand and improve the service.

**MCA ONLINE** is officially operating at 404-472-0575. The BBS is the voluntary effort of a lot of people dedicated to seeing the MCA grow and to improve its members' enjoyment of the classic car hobby. The MCA is a family oriented club, BBS will be that way also. Call us with any comment as to changes you feel would make **MCA ONLINE** more appealing and useful to our callers.

Future plans include additional lines, Internet access and fax capabilities, along with live online discussions. Remember that we are operating on a limited budget. However, with the equipment we have upgrades and additions to the services and features are well within reach. What is needed is for you to call in and try us out. If you like us, tell a friend about us. If you don't, tell me and I will try to fix it. While you're at it, if you like us and would like to see our features and services expanded, please feel free to send in a donation to the BBS fund.

Andy Richardson  
MCA# 20350  
404-477-1632 home  
404-756-4700 GPTV  
404-472-0575 BBS



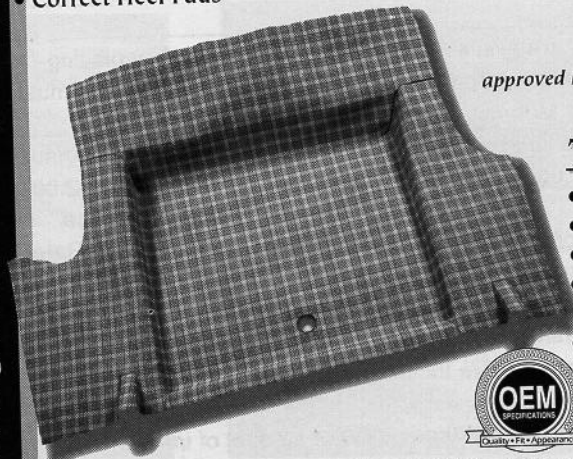
# AUTO CUSTOM CARPETS, INC.

## MOLDED CARPET

- Heat Molded to Original Specifications
- Perfect Fit & Easy Installation
- Original Materials & Colors
  - All ACC carpets are made from the original materials and meet or exceed original manufacturer specification for quality, fit and appearance.
- Original Felt Padding Underlay Molded to Carpet
  - For soft thick cushion and insulation from heat and road noise.
- 1,500 Styles From The 50'S To The 90'S
- Correct Heel Pads



The World's Leading Manufacturer of Quality Automotive Floor Coverings



approved by

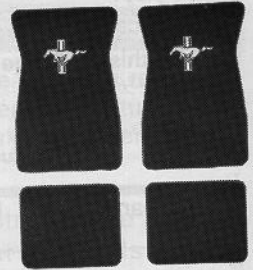
## TRUNK MATS

- Die-Cut / Molded
- Perfect Fit
- Original Materials
- Original Colors & Print Patterns
- Over Forty Original Patterns



## CARPETED FLOOR MATS

- Protects Your Carpet
- Made From Original Equipment Carpet
- Color Matched To Your Carpet Color
- Grip Lock Nonskid Backing
- Available With Over 200 Logos or Custom Lettering
- Over 1,500 Styles Available



Order Toll Free  
24 Hours

**1-800-633-2358**

ACC, Inc. • P.O. Box 1350 • Anniston, AL 36202

**FAX # 1-800-516-8274**

## One Year Before The Mustang

In 1963, before the Mustang was dropped on an unsuspecting public, the stage was set for big things to happen. Ford was celebrating the 100th anniversary of Henry Senior's birthday, and the 60th anniversary of the Ford Motor Company.

They tried to buy Ferrari, Ford truck sales reached a post war high, car production exceeded 1.5 million, the 271/289 and 425/427 were introduced as part of the company's new "Total Performance" theme. The Mustang was the icing on the cake.