

Judges' Corner

by Jeff Speegle, Assistant National Head Judge

When the magazines - or another new book - doesn't answer a question, where do judges, restorers and researchers go for solutions? One problem with any printed material is that once in print a theory can become fact in one swift instant. After that others quote the reference and the misinformation takes on the air of correctness. Because of this, many use only original factory documentation and thoroughly researched personal material. Though mistakes can plague both types of resources, the chance is reduced since they are rarely the work of a single person and should be confirmed by using original cars. In this article I thought I'd include some of my favorite places to look for answers. I hope that by posting these I can, in some way, help someone else find their way through the sea of material out there. Of course, none of the following should be used as a sole source for a decision, but only part of the puzzle.

Illustrated Ford Master Parts Catalog:

(Out of print, published in paper form yearly until May, 1975.) Very large. It includes two basic sections, diagrams and part numbers. Diagrams show exploded views of most sections of all Ford products built during the years covered in the particular manual. The part number section may include descriptions, casting numbers and superseded numbers occasionally. Many later versions contain replacement part numbers, so be careful.

Registries:

Most of these represent the grass roots movement of this hobby. These are started when one or more persons decide to research and document an option or specific model of Mustang. Many publish their findings in reports, newsletters, or books. Some of the more outstanding efforts have been SAAC's Shelby American Registry, the Boss 302 Registry, In Search of Mustangs, the California Special Registry, and the Horse of a Different Color Registry (which deals with Mustangs ordered with special exterior colors). Each is a gold mine of information for those so inclined.

Assembly Manuals:

(Currently being reprinted.) They include part numbers and exploded views of many parts and assemblies that make up our Mustangs. Each of these books was assembled from pages collected by the printer in an

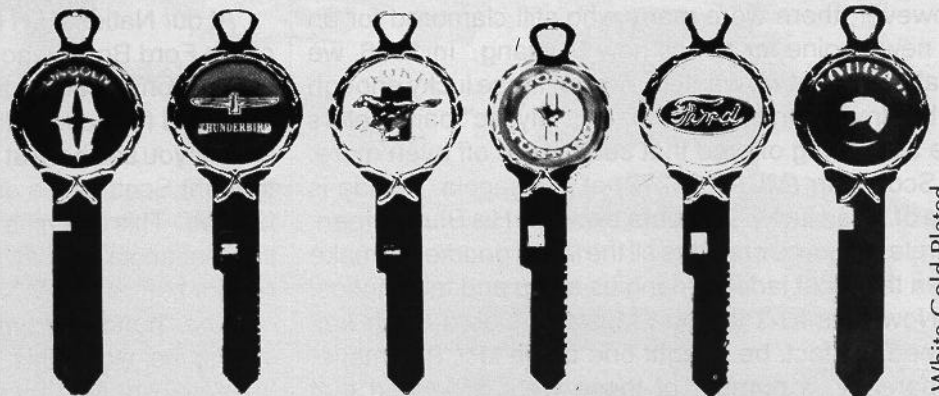
organized form of publication. Most of these pages represent a change in production or part. Because of this, information on each page should be examined on its own merit and not combined with information from another page. Some pages represent the order of how an assembly should be put together while on the other pages the workers were shown, as a general guide, what should be done. But the processes included were not always followed to the letter. One example is the application of the sound deadener to the outer engine panels. Though the drawings show the complete area being covered, it is widely accepted that the workers did not follow these directions in many cases. These books offer a new look into the process of how Mustangs were built and at the same time stimulate further discussion and research.

I will save some more examples for another time. Remember to look around at swap meets for literature. A great source may be waiting to be discovered at the next meet.

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