

In today's ever-changing society more and more individuals are turning a passion, interest, curiosity, or hobby into a way of supporting themselves and their family. No doubt 20 years ago folks would have sworn a person was making a very poor choice if he/she wanted to open a Mustang parts or restoration business. Now we pretty much take these types of companies for granted.

As the world of Mustang continues to grow we see more and more enthusiasts "turning professional" and becoming vendors, restorers, advisors, or entering the oft times misunderstood and criticized world of journalism.

If you really think about it, journalists carry a lot of weight in the world. We tend to put a good deal of credence in their opinions and recounts of situations. Those who report on the cars and activities within the Mustang hobby can help make or break a vendor or restorer. More often than not, however, the guys and gals who keep us up to date on our favorite vehicle shoot straight and give us as accurate information as is possible. And sometimes that isn't very easy as authorities, and enthusiasts in general, learn more and more about the cars themselves, strive to perfect techniques which breathe new life into aging sheet metal, and find ways to produce quality reproduction parts when original equipment is no longer available. What's new today could be replaced with something better in less than a month which means that writers and editors must stay on their toes.

The main duty associated with editing this magazine is to bring you the most information possible whether it concerns a member's car, news within the hobby, new products offered by vendors, or who are the newest members in MCA. One of the perks garnered through the gathering of such

information is a glimpse into the world of the regional groups.

A good portion of the MCA chartered clubs forward copies of their newsletters to National Headquarters on a "for your information" basis. Eventually they are forwarded to me so I may glean tidbits of information, possibly pick up on articles that would be of interest to the entire MCA membership, and generally see what's happening in other cities around the nation. It's a bit like visiting other locales without taking the pony out of the garage.

**"One of the perks
garnered through
the gathering of
such information
is a glimpse
inside the world
of the regional
groups."**

Styles vary from simple, straight forward news to works of art that make me want to raise my hand and ask "would you teach me how to do that?" In general most reports cover meetings, car shows and other events recently attended, information on upcoming activities, and the time and place for the next club meeting. There are quite a few publications that expand on this general format and include articles, stories, and photos from members. (This is where the fun really comes in for yours truly.) There have been accounts of caravans to large events held in other parts of the country where at least one member's Mustang

broke down several times before the destination was finally reached, reports of a driver inadvertently leaving his spouse behind after stopping with his group for a rest break (law officials had to chase down another Mustang in the entourage to get word to this husband that he left his wife behind!), the antics of fun-loving members at shows, articles on little known or rarely seen Mustangs, and the highlights from some very interesting trips. Of great interest during the past few months has been reading "first-hand" the opinions and impressions of those who attended the Mustang Club of America's 20th Anniversary Celebration last year. And it has quickly become obvious that there is a great deal of enthusiasm and a desire to help in an effort to make project Mustang Museum a reality.

No matter how much good-natured ribbing takes place, the one point that always comes through loud and clear is that most people who become involved and stay involved in this hobby, do so because of the pure enjoyment. In fact many times it seems as if the cars come in a distant second to the fun and comradery that goes along with such involvement. Despite the fact that we are from all walks of life from all areas of our nation, we are still one huge family dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of America's pioneer pony car. Whether your taste runs toward vintage or newer, stock or modified, there is a place for you in this hobby and in the Mustang Club of America.

If your group does not currently exchange newsletters with other clubs take the time to suggest that such a swap be initiated. You'll be amazed at the information you can pick up. And if your club has not included MCA headquarters on your mailing list, please add us. We'd love to hear from you!