

Larry and I have been members of the Mustang Club of America since 1977 as evidenced by our membership number of 869. We joined after purchasing our 1973 convertible for the *second time*.

It all started 24 years ago in May 1973 when Larry purchased a new Mustang convertible. He sold his 1972 convertible to his sister, Pat, who in turn sold her car to my mother. When Pat delivered her old car to my mother, Larry followed in his new ragtop.

shifter, power front disc brakes, white power top, and knitted vinyl bucket seats. Additional goodies included power steering, center console, Decor Group (which consists of lower body side paint with a bright molding along the upper edge, honeycomb grille, and deletion of the standard rocker panel and wheel lip moldings), Convenience Group (which includes items such as lights for the trunk, underhood area, glove compartment, and one for map reading, automatic seat back

Despite my warning that he would later regret it, my husband sold the Mustang. It was sold at a dealers auction, so we had no idea who purchased it.

In 1976 we moved into a new house and decided to look for another Mustang as a summer car. One day while reading the paper, a classified ad caught my attention. It was for a 1973 Mustang convertible with a 351 4V and four-speed transmission. We called the number and decided to take a look at the car since it was

Better the Second Time Around

by Starr Kennedy

The very first time I met Larry was when he pulled in my driveway with his Bright Red convertible. The car was beautiful and when asked if I'd like a ride in it, I quickly said yes. Of course my younger brother had to go with us because he thought the car was really cool.

This gorgeous machine was equipped with a 351C 4V, dual exhaust, four-speed with a Hurst

release, glove compartment lock, etc.), Instrumentation Group, and forged aluminum wheels shod with raised white letter tires. The pony was built on March 29, 1973 and delivered to West-Herr Ford in Hamburg, New York.

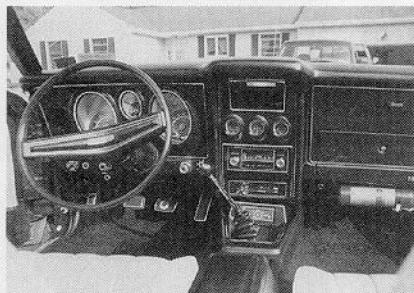
After six months of dating, we married and bought our first house. Several months later Larry decided it was time for some home repairs and a Ford truck.

only a short 15 miles away.

As we approached the advertised car we both stared in disbelief. Despite the fading and abuse, we immediately recognized our old Mustang.

A closer examination revealed the thin blue and white pinstripe that adorned our car as well as the red brake drums. But the clincher was the teeth marks of our St. Bernard puppy on the Hurst





shifter. We had to buy the car back no matter what the cost. A deal was struck and we took it home the very same day.

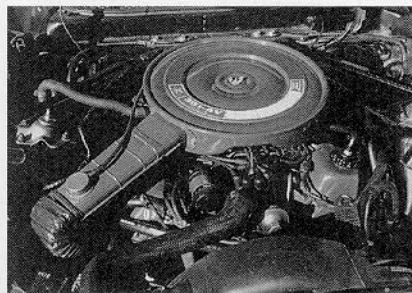
Undercoating had kept the body solid, but the interior was in bad shape. The white upholstery was no longer white, the door panels were ripped, and the convertible top had been slashed by a knife. Even though the mileage was still relatively low, Larry knew he had a great deal of work before him to bring the once-proud droptop back to a factory-fresh

appearance.

Nearly every spare moment was spent on the refurbishment. Once our friend, Don Kelly, refreshed the Bright Red exterior, Larry knew all the hours were well spent.

We participated in an all-Ford show and received a second in the Mustang class. This just wasn't good enough, so Larry disassembled the car and started all over again.

Everything possible, such as the engine, hood, fenders, gas

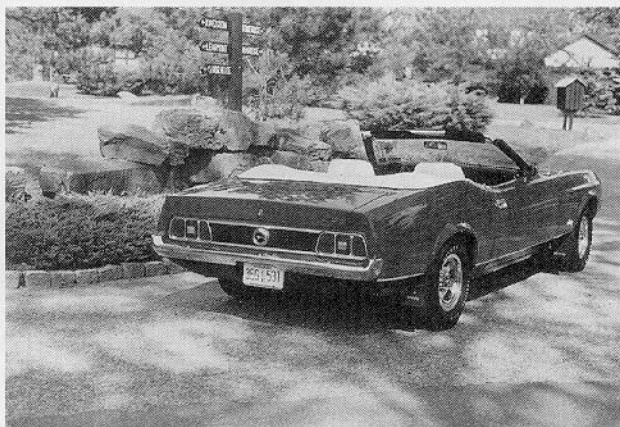


tank, and transmission, was removed and either cleaned, rebuilt, or replaced. All of the undercoating was tediously removed. New door panels and carpeting brought new life to the white cockpit. But the crowning glory was a new white top.

Since that restoration project was completed we have taken home numerous awards including some in the MCA Concours Trailered class.

Ownership only gets better the second time around.

MT



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