

All Good Things Come to Those Who Wait

by Teresa T. Vickery
and
Bryan Helms

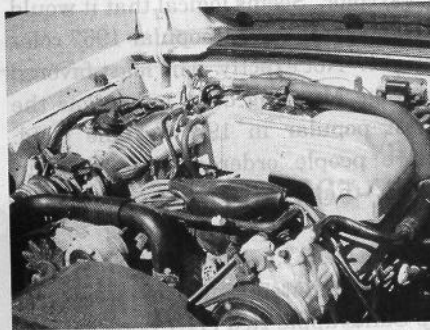
At the ripe old age of 26, North Carolina resident Bryan Helms is no stranger to the world of Mustang. He has owned an A-code 1965 2+2 for 13 years and also owns a 1965 coupe, 1993 LX hatchback, and the 1992 LX convertible featured here. (At one time his stable included a 1969 coupe, 1979 notchback, and a 1990 LX hatchback.)

It took a great deal of patience, however, to add the convertible to his lineup.

He first spotted the tired pony at a Ford dealership in Charlotte, North Carolina, parked in a back row. A closer inspection revealed a year-old Mustang with 12,000 rental car miles on the odometer. Originally a rental unit in Florida, the paint was peeling off both quarters, the door molding was coming off, the drip rails were pitted with rust and the "check engine" light wouldn't go off.

Despite all these shortcomings, the white ragtop appealed to Bryan. He drove it around the block and talked at length with a salesman about the situation. But in the end it seemed that the time just wasn't right so the car was left behind.

Every two weeks or so Bryan would go by the dealership to check on the LX. Finally, all his



stars were in alignment so a deal could be made. The pony went to

a new home in September 1993.

After all the body work, paint, and mechanical problems were remedied, the freshened pony was completely detailed from top to bottom just in time for the 30th Mustang Anniversary Celebration at Charlotte Motor Speedway in April 1994. It placed among the top five in its class and has been receiving awards ever since.

A lot of time, effort, and elbow grease went into returning the former rental car to factory condition. But then all good things come to those who wait. M/T

