

## Neither Rain Nor Sleet Nor Harsh Words

*The following letter was received by Tony Garcia, Publisher:*

I am writing to you with regard to comments that you made in the Publisher's Corner article (March 1997), relating to "mail service" and delivery of *Mustang Times*.

As a subscriber of this publication and a rural letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, I found your remarks regarding postal employees' commitment to deliver second class mail "whenever they felt like sending it" not only inaccurate, but clearly irresponsible and unfounded. For your information, second class mail, which accounts for virtually every major publication mailed through the Postal Service, is delivered the same day it is received at local offices. In fact, local management is mandated to do so, with severe penalties for delayed delivery of this class mail.

As a person with the title Publisher, I would think you would be a little more careful to check the facts before you print something in your publication that has no truth to it. The credibility of any publication rests primarily on the publisher, and as such, I would think you would show just the slightest bit of integrity and not merely "spout off at the mouth", voicing your own opinions, however uninformed they may be.

With regard to mail being damaged in the mail stream, may I suggest you contact your local Postal District Office. Their number can be provided by your local postmaster. They have a Consumer Affairs Office, and a Business Center, which are both staffed with personnel who can investigate and resolve any problem that you may be encountering.

As a further suggestion, in the future, rather than alienating other Club members either in the Postal Service, or any other organization you should decide to degrade by using your publisher's position to grandstand

your own uninformed opinion, you may want to employ the same goal that the Postal Service always strives to maintain.....act professional!

June Bleakley, #33236

*Geez, June, I certainly did not mean to infuriate you or any other members who might have ties with the post office. Contrary to what you mention in your letter, I have been working with the local post office for many months trying to resolve delayed deliveries and damaged magazines. I have contacted many different people and departments with very little or no success in resolving the problems we have been experiencing. Some never return messages while others pass my calls from one person or department to another. Seldom do I get any answers or resolutions and each month seems to bring about a new challenge.*

*Our office manager receives far too many calls from members who have not received their magazine. This information gets passed to me and I do my best to investigate why magazines are running late. Based on certain information, I can determine if the problem stems from the postal service or from some other part of the delivery chain. I have a long list of names and departments within the Postal Service with whom I have been in contact.*

*You mention local management in your letter. Is it possible that this is where the problem lies and not with the Postal Service as a whole?*

*Your harsh words about grandstanding and degrading organizations are not commensurate with my comments to which you are referring. Contrary to your opinion, my position on the problems that I am dealing with each month are very informed. I make every effort to ensure commentary is based on fact and not intended to be slanderous.*

*The fact is, we do have a problem with the delivery of the magazine.*

*As a member of the MCA and an employee of the Postal Service, could you be a part of the solution and help me get corrective actions taken to*

*resolve this problem? I would welcome your help and I know there are some members out there who would thank you too.*

---Publisher

## Numbers Don't Lie

This is in response to Bob Evans' question in the December 1996 issue of *Mustang Times* concerning how many 1978 King Cobra Mustangs were produced.

In late January of 1978 I picked up my new Bright Red, T-topped King Cobra from Rice & Holman Ford in New Jersey. Later that year, I sent a letter to Ford Motor Company asking how many 1970 Torino Cobras and 1978 King Cobras were produced, both of which I owned at the time. (I am now the proud owner of a 1989 SSC Saleen Mustang.)

Ford sent me a letter, of which I am enclosing a copy, which stated that 4,971 King Cobra Mustangs were produced in the 1978 model year.

Rich Faix, #36016  
Philadelphia, PA

*Thank you very much for the copy of this very important letter. It is dated August 24, 1978, and states in part, "Thank you for writing Ford Motor Company. In response to your first inquiry, the company produced 7,675 Fairlane Torino Cobras during the 1970 model year. Unfortunately, though, because our production records are broken down only by body types, we are unable to tell you how many of those were equipped with a 429 Super Cobra Jet engine. In addition, 4,971 Mustang II King Cobras have been manufactured during the current model year."*

*There you have it folks, straight from the horse's mouth. This is probably about as "official" as you can get.*

---Editor