



SportsRoof Simplistic Beauty

by Teresa T. Vickery
photos by VTC & Co.

In many situations, it's the unexpected that you seem to notice most. The person who speaks in a soft tone while in a noisy room seems to demand the most attention. Or perhaps the person who wears one single gem among a host of brilliantly sparkling individuals seems the most appealing. At a time when bedecked and bedazzling 1969-70 Mach 1s are center stage within the show circuit, the presence of a standard SportsRoof is like a breath of fresh air.

Mustang received a major styling change for 1969 becoming larger, more muscular, and more powerful. With an emphasis on horsepower and large cubic inch

engines, the new he-man style seemed appropriate. And the birth of the Mach 1, whose name summons images of speed, was a perfect way to play up the new styling. Heck, even a top-down convertible portrays a muscular stance despite the fact that it may be outfitted for luxury cruising.

The same bulging lines were retained for 1970 with minimal changes taking place. Gone, however, was the quad headlight setup. Taking its place was the traditional two-light arrangement, this time with the lamps tucked neatly away in the front grill. Front fender extensions with the appearance of air inlet scoops replaced the previous out-

board lamps found on the 1969 models. The simulated side scoops of the previous year were deleted and the rear panel became flat with recessed tail-lights.

Engine choices ranged from the 120 horsepower 200 cid six-cylinder to the outrageous 375 horsepower Z-code 429 found in the Boss 429. Once again, the Mach 1 accounted for a large portion of fastback (SportsRoof) sales.

Attend any show today and you'll find that the 1969-70 fastback class is dominated by Mach 1 and Boss models. Stripes, spoilers, Shaker hoods, rear window Sports Slats and brilliant colors vie for attention from spectators.



Engine choices for 1970 ranged from the 200 cid in-line six-cylinder to the awesome 429 found in the Boss 429. The F-code 302 2V, as shown here, was rated at a substantial 220 horsepower.

But on occasion, nestled amongst the array of fully dressed performance machines can be found a stunning example of SportsRoof beauty at its best.

Ned Bellinger of Bellevue, Washington, owns such an example.

The Medium Lime Metallic sloped-roof pony is equipped with a 220-horsepower 302 2V power plant coupled with a three-speed manual transmission. The Ivy-colored interior features the twin-pod dash design, standard high-back bucket seats, and AM radio.

The options list is very short but this Mustang is long on looks. Owner installed dual exhaust accentuates the performance sound of the 302 while Mustang script fender badges and a base wheel cover, which is brushed aluminum and features a black outer edge and 16 simulated air slots, adds a bit of class.

The most surprising aspect of Ned's car is the odometer reading. It registers just over a mere 43,000 miles!

Did he search for years from



With little more than 43,000 miles of wear and tear, this standard Ivy interior remains original. A twin pod dash design was carried over from 1969. However, high-back bucket seats became standard fare. And the ignition switch was relocated to the steering column

one end of the country to the other before locating such a low-mileage original? Was the first owner reluctant to sell and hard to deal with? While we're not sure of the answer to the second question, the first question receives a short answer of "no". Ned purchased the pony from his sister.

Well aware of the history of his new acquisition, Ned also knew that it wouldn't take a lot of work to bring the SportsRoof up to show status. A smattering of body work and fresh paint were handled by Darroll Hicks and B & H Body Shop in Bellevue, Washington. Bel-Kirk Mustang, also of Bellevue, provided a revamped engine compartment.

The results are an undefeated judged show winner having received Best of Show at an event in Vancouver and Sponsor's Choice from a show in Walla Walla.

Ned readily admits that he loves this body style and that the car is fun to drive. But best of all he enjoys the thumbs-up reactions from those he passes on the road.

Clean lines, a not-so-ordinary color, and a simple approach to beauty makes this 1970 SportsRoof a winner every time. MT

