

Third Generation News

From Third Generation Gold Card Judges Stewart Jones and Terry McCoy

The 1990 Mustang

"To survive in the world of automobiles, you need to be strong. You need to provide what the driving public demands or you won't last very long. After 25 years, Mustang is not only still around, but is as strong and as popular as ever," states a 1990 Ford Mustang sales brochure.

The 1990 models were indeed strong and very much in demand by the public. The 5.0L power plant was really turning into a high performance rage. After surviving 25 years of changes, Mustang still demanded respect. The name Mustang meant a combination of power and style in the early days.

This legend continued in 1990.

A quick glance at the exterior of the new models revealed no significant changes. However, eight new colors were added with one available only on the LX 5.0L convertible Feature Car, which would be the first in a series of four.

Some of the primary changes were the addition of a driver's side air bag restraint system, knee bolsters, and rear passenger manual lap/shoulder safety belt system. A leather wrapped steering wheel was available on the LX 5.0L as well as a

driver's side foot rest. Map pockets were added to the door panels and the center console/arm rest was deleted. Three new interior colors were



1990 GT convertible owned by Bill & Lois Rettig.

As Strong and Popular As Ever

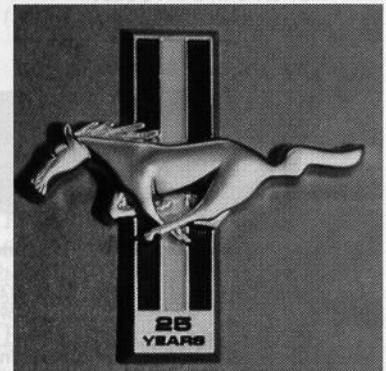
Crystal Blue, Titanium, and black. Tilt steering disappeared from the third generation models but would reappear in the 1994 models.

The most overlooked change was very minor but holds a significant place in Mustang history. Until sometime around May 1990, Mustangs in that pro-

duction phase as 25th Anniversary models. The 25th Anniversary dash medallion previously used was changed with the deletion of the words "25 Years". This occurred sometime during May 1990.

The Mustang LX 5.0L Sport had been introduced the previous year and was an immediate success.

Over 44,850 LX 5.0L models were produced in 1990 while the GT line yielded 34,435 examples. This would also mark the beginning of the Feature Car series with an Emerald Green version. This variation will be covered in our next installment. MT



Did You Know? Topic: 1990 Mustang

1. First year for the air bag restraint system in Mustang.
2. First time that the center console/arm rest was deleted.
3. Black interior, not available since 1983, once again made an appearance.
4. The tilt steering wheel was deleted.
5. Map pockets were added to the door panels.
6. This would be the first year for the LX 5.0L convertible Feature Car.

If you would like to see your third generation pony featured here, send photos along with your name, address, MCA number, VIN, and build date to Stewart Jones, 923 Raleigh Rd., Palm Bay, FL 32909 or phone (407) 984-1125 (phone/fax).

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers from last month's issue.

1. 1981 was the last year for the Ghia Mustang.
2. 1980 was the first year for Halogen headlights on the Mustang.
3. 1992 was the last year for the seven-band equalizer.
4. 1993 was the first year for insulated convertible tops.
5. 1990 was the last year for the 16-spoke mags.