

Third Generation News

From Third Generation Gold Card Judges Stewart Jones and Terry McCoy

Time Flies When You're Having This Much Fun!

It's really hard to believe that one year has passed since Third Generation News first appeared on these pages. During this time we have met a lot of great people and wish to thank everyone for their assistance. This is a very exciting project for us and we enjoy bringing as much information as possible to the members of MCA on the third generation Mustangs.

We wanted to bring you an overview of the articles published during our first year —

Our first article was on the 1979 Mustang. This was the first year of the third generation Mustang and the second time that Mustang was designated as the pace car for the Indianapolis 500.

Many of you probably noticed that we skipped over 1980-81. This was necessary due to the lack of sufficient documentation. We are continuing our search, however.

After a 12-year absence the GT returned in a bold statement bringing with it the 5.0L H.O. The Boss was back in 1982 setting the stage for years of excitement.

1983 saw the return of the convertible and the introduction of the Holley four-barrel carburetor in the GT. This was the only year (1979-93) that the GTs did not have fog lamps (also 1984s built before January).

After 20 years of creating a legend, Ford produced its only anniversary Mustang. The SVO made its debut in October 1983 as a sophisticated street racer. Since few 1983 Turbo GTs were built, 1984 proved to be the last time we saw this particular configuration.

In 1985 Ford unleashed the roller cam in the 5.0L Mustang. Ford could not build enough 5.0Ls in any combination to satisfy demand. This was also the last year of the Holley carburetor.

Special Note: In the discussion of 1990 Limited Edition convertible collectibles in our May column, we mentioned various 7-UP items as well as a "pole topper", "shelf talker" and baseballs. That should read basketballs rather than baseballs as this promotion was tied into the NCAA College Championship Playoffs.

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).

1986 introduced the 5.0L Sequential Electronic Fuel Injection system to an already bad-boy power plant.

The GT for 1987 looked like something from the future with the aero-style headlights and louvered taillights combined with a unique lower body treatment. The interior also received a substantial update.

The 5.0L motor, which had been standard on GT and optional for remaining models, would now move to the standard-equipment list for certain Mustang versions. In another change, the T-top option was discontinued after 1988.

Mustangs produced from May 1989 through April 1990 celebrated the 25th anniversary of the line with a special dash emblem. All 5.0Ls were now equipped with mass air and the speedometer was calibrated up to 140 mph.

1990 saw the inclusion of more safety features such as rear lap belts and a driver's side air bag. The use of the air bag resulted in the deletion of tilt steering, but this would return in 1994. Although not available on models produced early in the year, the armrest reappeared midway through production.

We were able to obtain a great deal of information on the 1990 Limited Edition Mustang as well as the Feature Car lineup that followed.

We have some terrific articles planned for the coming months which include Cars and Concepts as well as American Sunroof Corporation (ASC). We are nearing the end of our project and will soon be able to make all the information available to you.



1990 Limited Edition convertible owned by Natalie Gomez

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers from last month's issue.

1. In 1986, electronic AM/FM stereo with cassette was required to get Premium Sound. The words "Premium Sound" were displayed along with the Ford Oval in the lower right corner of the radio. This was standard on SVO.
2. The 1985 1/2 SVO was the first Mustang to receive aero head lamps which had the capsule-type Halogen bulbs. These head-lamps were constructed of high-strength Lexan plastic which is resistant to breakage.
3. The 1985 convertible trunk area was completely carpeted. Before this, the convertible well was exposed with no padding.
4. 1993 convertibles all had the convertible top insulator padding as standard equipment. This was first seen on the 1992 Vibrant Red LX 5.0L convertible Feature Car.
5. In 1992, the four-way power driver's seat was an option on all Mustangs.