

Having It Our Way

by Ray and Alicen Hebert

As Mustang enthusiasts, we began restoration on a 1966 coupe in 1991. Time and money, as many car enthusiasts know, were the major factors that determined the speed of our project, taking six years to complete.

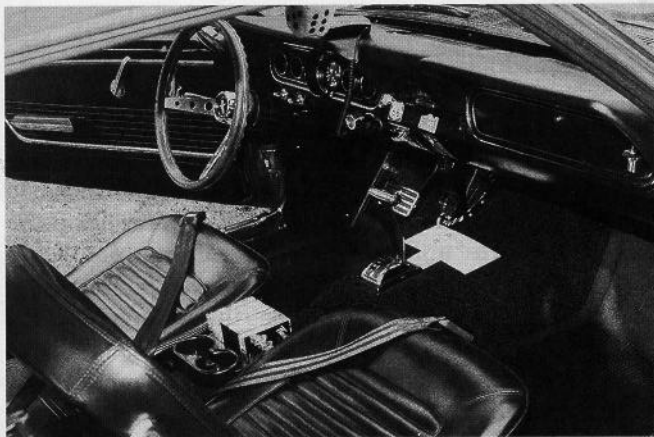
Our adventure began when we found this Mustang on a back road. It was sitting on a pedestal in a used car lot. The price in the window was just too good to be true! We wondered what was wrong with the car. Inexperienced as we were, we felt the need to have experts examine our find. The first five places we visited discouraged us, but a helpful person at the fifth establishment did give us the

name of a nearby Mustang specialist - Mike Henchey of Westmoreland, New Hampshire. Mike truly loves Mustangs as evidenced by the 50 restorations he has completed. To know Mike is to appreciate his expertise and true love of the inherent nature of the car. His views certainly matched ours and his encouragement and honest opinions helped us achieve our dream car.

In the beginning our main goal was to ensure that the car was roadworthy. Once that was accomplished, we were off to participate with our local car club, Twin State Cruisers. We went to shows, and various swap meets, and got our fill of looking at show cars. During those two years,

however, we noticed that fast-backs, convertible, and all-original coupes were the norm. We saw very few customized coupes. This realization decided our course. We set out to do a personalized coupe featuring our favorite parts of the Mustangs we had viewed over the years. However,





we did not want to compromise the car by overdoing the customization. We decided, instead, to focus on the little details.



The features added to our car include:

- GT lights, hood, and side scoops
- modified Cragar wheels which carry a Mustang center cap and match the color of the car
- a 1950s touch by adding "blue dots" to the taillights
- replacing the headliner, carpet, dash pad, instrument bezel, walnut steering wheel, and door panels in the black standard interior
- upgrading the engine with a Edelbrock 289 performance kit including four barrel carburetor intake and cam
- Pertronix electronic ignition
- braided hoses and

Mustang valve covers.

The drivetrain turned out to be solid and required minimal refinement. It remains stock. A portion of the throaty sound can be attributed to a set of dual Walker glass packs.

The winning feature of the car was the hardest one for us to agree on - the paint. Our color inspiration came from a friend's Candy Brandy Wine street rod. Our Mustang sports 13 coats of this color. The painter was Leo Marquardt of Enfield, New Hampshire.

We began showing the coupe in June 1997; twelve shows, 12 first

place trophies.

We received first place honors at two shows sponsored by the Mustang Club of New Hampshire. The coupe also placed first at the 18th Annual Summer Auto Show and Sale at Mustangs Unlimited in Manchester, Connecticut, which was sponsored by the Mustang Car Club of New England. A wonderful honor was having the 1966 hardtop placed among the top 50 favorites out of 1,400 cars at the Adirondack nationals in Lake George, New York.

What continues to surprise us is the universal appeal the Mustang car holds. Our car has generated interest from kids ages seven to 70. Our true enjoyment at the shows continues to be the people we meet and a common love of classic cars.

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