

Special Find

by Teresa T. Vickery
photos by Bill Gorman



Some folks just know how to live. Take New York resident Bill O'Gorman as an example. He has always managed to find a way to treat himself to a classic or antique car. His passion for older vehicles began back in the mid 1980s when he and his brother "earned" a 1968 Mustang as payment for building a garage for a friend who just happened to own numerous classic cars. The payment was a GT fastback equipped with a 289/three-speed combo.

Fast forward to May 1997 when Bill decided it was time to own another Mustang. He visited a show sponsored by the Syracuse Shelby Mustang Club, but alas, nothing screamed "take me home." Bill indicated that he was extremely disappointed as he hoped to have his new toy in time for his birthday in June.

"I drive over 65 miles each way

to work," he told us, "and a few days before my birthday I took a different road and behold ... I had to have that car!" What he stumbled across was a 1968 hard-top wearing a vinyl roof and Corporate Yellow paint powered by a 302/four-speed combo.

When Bill finally reached the seller on the phone he discovered that the car had been placed out for sale that same morning.

True to his wish, Bill drove his new acquisition home on his birthday.

A great deal of work had been undertaken by the previous owner, such as new sheetmetal, paint, interior, etc., when the project stopped. Bill said, "Love ... it can finish or kill a car project and this one was sold for marriage!" A few pieces here and there and the coupe was ready for show and go.

A very interesting aspect of this pony is that it is a part of a little-known group of Mustangs known as Gold Nugget Specials. During his research Bill contacted our own Tony Garcia and learned of the car's unusual status. He followed up on this



information by contacting Kevin Marti of Marti Auto Works where he learned that his '68 is one of 481 Gold Nugget Specials produced. In keeping with Ford's attempt to open up the pony car market even further with the California Special, High Country Special, etc., the Gold Nugget Special originated in the Seattle DSO for a special promotion pony to be built at the San Jose Assembly Plant. These cars were produced during January and February 1968, have a DSO code of 74-1111 and wear specialty badges.

Bill is continuing his research of these unusual cars and has established a Gold Nugget Special registry. (He may be contacted at wogorman@clarityconnect.com.)

Additional details have been added to the yellow beauty netting Bill a first place award at a Syracuse Shelby Mustang Club show. The same event where he began his pony car search.

Finding a Mustang that really speaks to you is a special find indeed.

MT

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