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# Worth the Wait

MCA's 30th Anniversary Stampede  
came and went in the blink of an eye!

*Where do you begin to describe the best Mustang Club of America anniversary ever? We've had parties marking milestones in the MCA, but the 30th Anniversary Stampede tops the list! Knowing that it wasn't possible for all of our members to attend, we will try our best to report on this spectacular event to give you the feeling that you were there yourself!*

Steven McCarley, Executive Director, Steve Prewitt, Assistant Executive Director, Jeanette Herndon, registrar, Richard Wait, treasurer, Randy Cunningham, President of Magic City Mustangs, Larry Kilgore, Track event supervisor (or Head Track Pirate as he's been referred to lately), and many many more volunteers, have worked for more than 18 months to get this Celebration put together. All in all, you can't sum up the work they did in one paragraph. However, the end result was a successful, well-attended, fun weekend event. That, itself, speaks volumes. Just a little interesting bit of trivia about the Magic City Club—they were formed in 2001! they are only five years old, yet their members

handled this show like seasoned pros! Congratulations to Randy and his member. Your efforts were most appreciated. What a fantastic job you did!

This celebration had it all—opening ceremonies with a local high school band participating, road course laps, thousands of fantastic Mustangs, wonderful vendors, attendees from all over the world, a cruise-in, street party with an outstanding band, birthday cake, and the most wonderful venue—Barber Motorsports Park. I'm sure you get the idea!

We plan to give you extensive coverage of this event. For the next three issues of *Mustang Times* (beginning with this one), we will have articles about the Stampede.

Thursday, August 31st, was not of-



# MCA 30th Anniversary

officially considered the first day of the 30th event. However, the track was open, Mustangs were on track, vendors were setting up, and Mustangs were also in place on the show field. The requisite detailing had begun.

The History Channel is doing a special on the 1960s, which we all know wouldn't be complete without including the Mustang. Their producers made arrangements prior to the event. The camera crew could easily be spotted during the show for three days. More on them later.

At 5:00 p.m. on Thursday evening, the line for the Pony Trail into Homewood for a Block Party sponsored by Gil Cormaci of Vortech/Paxton formed at the exit out of Barber. There were 203 Mustangs in a caravan lead by several Special Service Mustangs. The local police allowed drivers of the Special Service Mustangs to use their sirens and lights. What a site it was when they arrived. Somewhere along the way the caravan gathered 22 more Mustangs than they began with.

The members of the Magic City Mustang Club were already in Homewood waiting to park all the Mustangs quickly and orderly on the streets that the city allowed to be blocked off especially for this event.

Homewood's mayor, Barry R. McCulley, warmly welcomed everyone, fully displaying that charming Southern hospitality!

At least two of the local television stations sent crews to the block party to cover the event. It was great to see coverage on the evening news. The Fox station spent time with MCA first lady Wanda Whitsell. With her outgoing personality and highly positive attitude, Wanda is one of the best ambassadors for the MCA.

The local NBC affiliate has an anchor who recently purchased a new Mustang. With the colorful network logo displayed in his windshield it was easy to understand why their crew was filming his Mustang for inclusion in their 10:00 p.m. news broadcast.

Actually, all the local affiliate television stations had coverage of the 30th Anniversary event on their evening news on Thursday and Friday nights.

The Flashbacks, a band from Huntsville, Alabama, played live in the center of Homewood's Historic district. They were outstanding, keeping everyone entertained, with many in attendance actually dancing in the streets.

Businesses along the sidewalks stayed open, welcoming the Mustang enthusiasts with open arms. Some even stayed open later to accommodate the Mustangers.

Look for more coverage in the November issue. *MT*



Michael Finn from Columbus City Stangs gave the invocation to open the MCA's 30th anniversary celebration.



The Leeds High School marching band played the National Anthem, and then the festivities began.



With various statues and castings of animals, insects, and flowers displayed all around Barber, the outstanding landscaping is something you won't see at many race tracks around the USA.



Standing on the roof of the timing building gave this wonderful view of the beautiful, tiered show field. There actually was one more lower tier not shown in this photo.



The History Channel was on site for three days filming a special on the 1960s which will include the Mustang.



The segment host spent time with Steve Prewitt and Richard "Mo" Mozeleski talking about the Mustang, its style, its aura, and its popularity. They discussed Mustangs of every generation.





Steve McCarley, Executive Director of the 30th Anniversary Stampede, gets his beautiful '66 coupe ready to be displayed in the Mustangs Plus booth.



The view from the roof of the false grid as one of the groups of Mustangs prepare to go out onto the track.



Preparations were underway in Homewood for the soon-to-arrive Mustang caravan. This area will be the stage for the band, The Flashbacks.



The caravan begins to arrive in town led by several Special Service Mustangs, sirens sounding, lights flashing. It was quite a site!



National Board Director, Richard "Mo" Mozelewski drove his beautiful 2005 GT in the caravan.



Members of the Magic City Mustang Club parked many gorgeous Mustangs along the downtown streets.





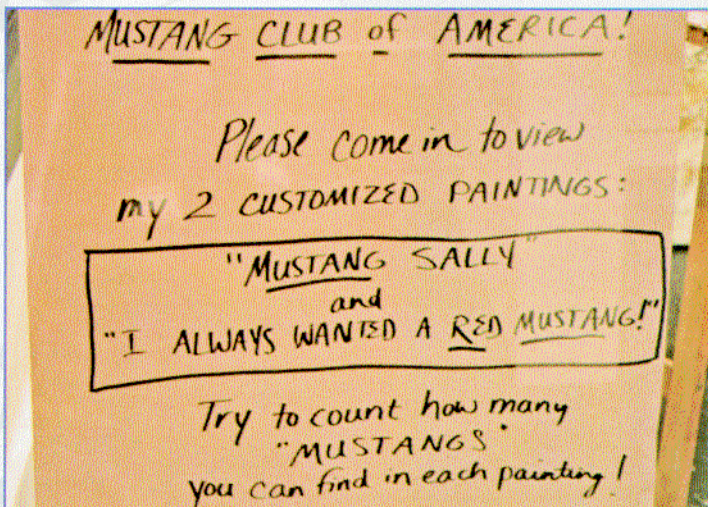
What a beautiful sight, Mustangs lined all the downtown streets of Homewood.



One of the news anchors of Channel 13, the local NBC affiliate, recently bought this new Mustang. Of course, his camera crew was sure to capture the car on tape for the 10:00 nightly news.



The Fox news cameras were focused on the interview being conducted with Wanda Whitsell, the MCA's first lady.



Local artist, Jennifer Harwell, had this sign in the front window of her gallery. She has a relative who lives in California who serves as a Regional Director.



Entitled "I Always Wanted a Red Mustang," this is one of three paintings from Jennifer Harwell.



The Flashbacks entertained the crowds late into the evening. It's hard to imagine that anyone who was a part of this party not having a good time during this fun-filled evening.