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### Regional Club Charter Committee

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### National Show Committee

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If you're a Mustang owner, have you ever noticed how non-owners seem to think of you as an expert on Mustangs? And then, sometimes with a little bit of facts, have you noticed that you even begin to think you are an expert?

Having said this, I hope I haven't set myself up for a fall.

I want to tell you another story, but not as an expert. As it is with most stories, there are always holes in the story line. That is what makes the story flow. After all, if it was a perfect story, where would the magic be? That's what makes a story line flow.

It all began with a '66 Shelby Hertz, owned and driven by Jim Chism. He allowed me to join him on a couple of runs down the drag strip about four years ago. I'd helped him tighten a few screws, and I think he was thanking me. But what was happening was that my admiration of this Hertz Shelby was beginning to grow.

On the first run, Jim was 'brow beating' himself because he thought his shifting was too slow—I thought it was great. And, the ride was breathtaking. I suggested that he try it again, and by the end of that trip my admiration for both the car and the driver was really growing.

Fast forward to September 2007! Nancy and I had arrived at the Lahina Airport on the Island of Maui, Hawaii. I was at the Hertz counter trying to swap the mini van I'd been assigned, for anything. "Let's try a Mustang," I said. "I'm sorry, sir" the Hertz representative said. "There's a two-week waiting list for Mustang convertibles." Then I found myself asking a crazy question. "Do you have any of the Shelby Hertz cars for rent?" "Only a convertible and we have one on the lot." "How bad is the cost?" I asked. She went to work on her computer and I had visions of pricing on the New York Stock Exchange.

Now, as I am waiting for the 'cost shoe' to drop, you've got to visualize Nancy pacing back and forth out front, wondering what is taking me so long.

Then comes the answer. "With your applicable discount, it is about twice what you'd pay for the mini van," she said with a flourish, giving me a questioning eye as if to say 'What does an old guy like you want with a car like that?' Little did she know that a 'love affair' with a Shelby Hertz had started years ago.

"I'll take it" (and spend half our vacation cash at once).

So, began a learning experience, which is what a love affair is.

You don't just jump in and go. First the manager comes out with a Concours-looking stack of papers, and checks for every bump and scratch, and then verifies the VIN and makes sure the blower is intact. By the way, I understand that there is a cable that makes it really difficult to remove and exchange the engine. Then the manager said that the car is a little dirty, but I talked him out of another washing. Daylight was burning.

- You learn really fast how to justify your actions to a wife who has been very patient, up until this moment.

- Luggage: I forgot how small the trunk is. Oh well, we need to put the top down anyway.

- After departing the lot, the best mileage signs say 55. That is hardly the limit you want with a Hertz Shelby.

- Everyone looks at you...actually, they are looking at the car.

- So, you think you want to by one? Hertz ordered 500 of the 2006-2007 models, but several have already bit the dust. After 10,000 to 13,000 miles, the cars are brought to Los Angeles and auctioned to Ford Dealers.

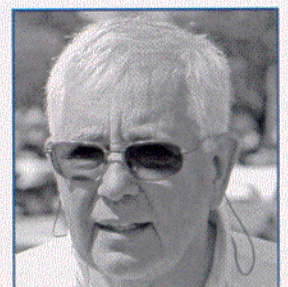
- Cost: They range from \$40,000 to \$100,000 each, but watch out for anything cheaper.

"So", you ask, "what is the conclusion?"

We had a ball. Nancy loved it. It is a great ride. Everything worked. It even has Carroll Shelby's signature on the dash. I am far from being an expert on the Shelby Hertz, but I'm here to tell you that the love affair is really in bloom.

*Bill Johnson*

WILFRED "BILL" JOHNSON  
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