We're 25!

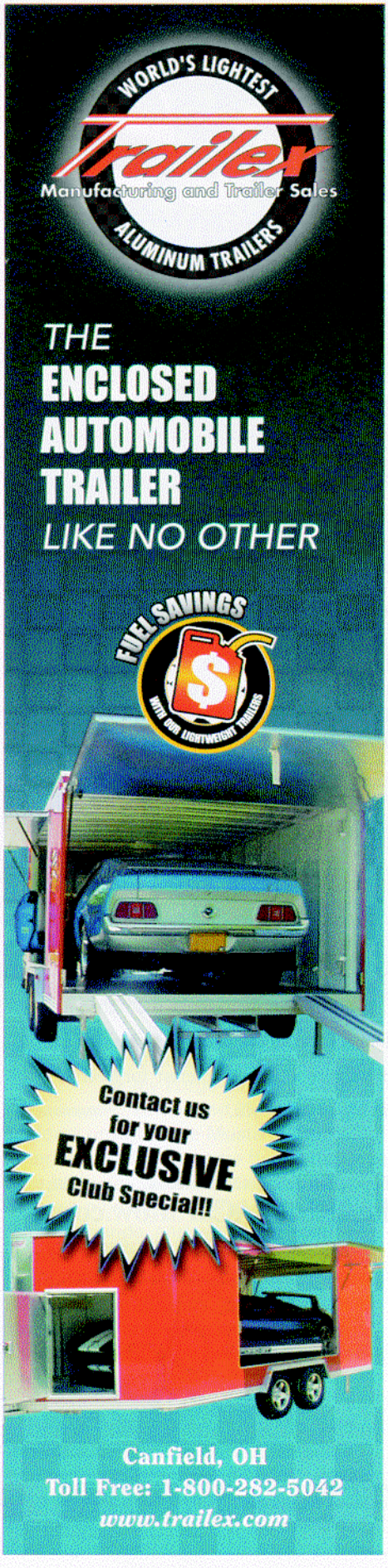
by Jim Aberts

Oh, to be 25 again. On October 13, 2006, the Valley Forge Mustang Club celebrated 25 years as a Regional group of the Mustang Club of America. We did the same things that we have been doing for a quarter century. We ate a nice dinner, we shook hands with old friends, and we talked about our beloved Mustangs.

But. Oh, how the conversation has changed over 25 years. We don't ask how the kids are, we ask, "How many grandchildren do you have?" Yes, some of our members have been in the club that long! It's that kind of club.

Thanks to the hard work of three-time president, Betty Shingle, and founding member, Natalie Gomez, the dinner was something that all who attended will remember when the tenth-generation Mustang is built.

Three of the eight founding members (left-right): Natalie Gomez, Jim Aberts, Phil Souders.



25th Anniversary Planning Committee: (left-right) Natalie Gomez, Jim Aberts, Betty Shingle, Cathy Dube'.

Guest speaker, Chuck Cantwell, former Shelby and Penske Engineer from Phoenixville, PA.

Founding member Jim Aberts (r) presents a gift to our guest speaker, Chuck Cantwell.

Could the small group that met in Dick Matthews' basement that summer night in 1981 ever have imagined that, 25-years later, the Mustang would be a national icon with its own postage stamp?

We were talking car shows with our first generation and fox-body Mustangs back then. Today the discussion is all about superchargers and seven-second time slips. Sure, some things have changed, but the enthusiasm we feel for the Mustang has not faded. It's just passed along to the next generation.

The highlight of the evening was a talk by former Shelby engineer, Chuck Cantwell. The members sat spellbound, like children listening to a storyteller, as Chuck proudly weaved a tale about the early days of Shelby production and racing.

All too soon, it was time to cut the anniversary cake and begin the next 25 years of the Valley Forge Mustang Club!

Visit us on the web to see photos of our car shows and cruise nights at www.valleyforgemustang.org MT