

Throughout the 1960's, Chevrolet had a little-known method for obtaining special combinations of options on high-performance cars. This was known as the COPO method. Around 1968, the COPO method took on an entirely new meaning when Chevrolet dealer, Fred Gibb, who also sponsored a race car, wanted a '68 Nova equipped with an L78 engine and Turbo 400 tranny. The short version is that he and Chevrolet's Vince Piggins solved Gibb's dilemma by using a COPO order which, until then, was used for fleet orders of taxis and delivery vehicles, rarely for a single vehicle, although that was possible.

Not many people knew of this way to get a performance car with customized options. Don Yenke was one of the few who persuaded Chevrolet to add special high-performance options to his order of Camaros.

If you plan to buy a new Mustang to show in Concours only, how would you like to be able to order one from your local dealer, with the options you prefer, and have it concours-ready? By that I mean, no fluids in the engine, no gas in the tank, no water in the radiator, all tags in place, prepared for shows only! This suggestion had been sent to Ford management some time back and now, Ford Motor Company has devised an ordering process for just such a vehicle.

Knowing how enthusiasts feel about specialty Mustangs, it was a good move on the manufacturer's part. You'll be able to special-order your Mustang from your local Ford dealer and when you pick it up, bring your trailer, because it will be show-ready!

Now, we know that ordering a new car this year will not benefit you in Concours-Trailered for a few years. However, many of us have kept our First Generation Mustangs since the 1960's without driving them. So, think of this as an investment in your future. Judging rules for the 2005 Mustang have been posted on the MCA's website for this year's shows. So, it won't be that long before a 2007 or 2008 will be ready for its own set of rules.

This is purely an experimental process on Ford's part. If this program is well received within the MCA, there's a good possibility it will continue in the future. It's not widely known, and it won't be widely publicized.

Before you go rushing off to your local dealer to order this special-optioned Mustang, or before think I've completely lost my mind, please do yourself a huge favor! Take a good look at the cover date on this issue. If you're new to *Mustang Times* and/or haven't figured out how my slightly warped brain works, or you don't understand my extremely strange sense of humor, and/or for some other reason you haven't figured out how to go about ordering your concours special-order Mustang, please send me an email and I will explain it to you.

I want to be sure to explain the newest change in *Mustang Times*. In our events listings, we've always included the driving events in with the regular MCA regional shows. Also, we've sometimes included non-MCA events in the magazine listings as well. In order to give everyone a chance to find the show or driving event they're looking for, we've listed the driving events first, then the MCA Regional shows next. As for non-MCA events, they will not be in *Mustang Times* unless space allows for them. Currently, they will still be listed on our website. But, at this time of the year, there are numerous pages of events, more than we have room to print. To keep you abreast of the events in a timely manner, you will find events for the following two-three months. This will give you a chance to plan ahead.

Let us hear from you. Send your letters by email (address below) or US mail to 2920 Drane Field Road, Lakeland, FL 33811.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at one or more National shows this summer!

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