

# MEET BILLY BIGGS

*"I CHALLENGE ANYONE THAT HAS NOT JUDGED BEFORE TO TRY IT. IT'S SUCH A GOOD FEELING FOR SOMEONE YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW TO SAY 'THANKS' FOR ANSWERING A QUESTION THEY HAD ABOUT THEIR MUSTANG."*



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I'm Billy Biggs from Jacksonville, FL, by way of South Carolina. We relocated to Jacksonville eight years ago as a result of a transfer with the Winn Dixie, Inc. food chain. My home is Columbia, SC. My wife, Kathy, is from LA (lower Alabama). I graduated from high school in 1965. That's when my fascination with the Mustang began.

When Kathy and I married in 1992, we settled in Greenville, SC. Once, while riding through the North Carolina mountains looking at fall leaves with my Mom and wife, I spotted a 1975 Mustang GT Coupe. I commented that the GT looked a little sportier than other Mustangs back then. Kathy said to go back and look but that I didn't need the car. Mom spoke up and said, "We're not in any hurry, why don't you go back and check it out?" I did a 360 and headed back to check out the Pony. It was Raven Black with GT stripes and the fog lamp kit. I was so excited that I wrote the phone number down wrong and couldn't get in touch with the owner that night. The next morning I went back hoping that the GT would still be there or show up again. Around 8:30 a.m., the Mustang pulled up. I spoke to the owner, told him I wanted to see the GT, and the following day I bought it.

The GT was in pretty good shape but had been in storage for six years and needed much work. When I had the seats reupholstered, I asked at the upholstery shop if they knew of anyone who worked on Mustangs. Albert Ellison in Greer, SC, was the name given to me. They said if anyone could help, it would be him. His nickname was Mr. Mustang. I called and met Albert and his wife, Ruth. Boy, did we hit it off! Albert knew everything about Mustangs and started to teach me. He was a charter member of MCA; his number was 217. He introduced me to the club in 1995. We began getting together nearly every Saturday and spent many hours over and under my coupe. Every time I would go for a wrench or socket, I would pass his show car, a '66 GT Fastback. After four years of working on Mustangs together, Albert sold me his Candyapple Red '66 Fastback. That was in 2000; I've shown the Mustang ever since. It's won numerous Gold Awards in Concours driven and trailered and the MCA Grille Medallion. What brought Albert and Ruth and Kathy and I together was a Pony car. But, what developed was a love affair with the Mustang, and a friendship that has lasted ever since. Albert has since gone to be with the Lord. If you have a copy of the April 2002 *Mustang Times*, please read an article I wrote entitled, "Thanks, Albert." What a guy!

My Mustang journey took a different turn while showing the '66. I got to know several Gold Card Judges. Each Sunday at a show I would ask one of them to pick my car apart. I took notes as they pointed out anything they saw that needed to be fixed. I was fascinated with their knowledge and wanted to know more. When asked if I would like to help judge, I said sure, if I could be with one of them for guidance. I judged with them during the next several years and became more interested in judging and sharing information with other Mustang enthusiasts. Albert had given me many hours of his time and shared all his knowledge with me, now it was my turn to pass along and share what I had learned with others, too.

All I have attained in MCA is due to friends and judges who helped me. They all played a part in the success of my '66 Mustang. After becoming Certified and assisting at many shows, I finally earned Gold Card Status for '64-'66 Concours. Recently, Wally Short appointed me Assistant National Head Judge for Daily and Occasional Driven.

I know you've experienced excitement when you get a package from NPD or one of the suppliers in the mail and can't wait to tear it open and install or paint it. You're fixing up a car you love and enjoyed doing it. Well, how about judging? You're really doing the same thing you did with your Mustang. All participants are trying to win a Gold award. But, they also want to learn what they can do to make their Mustang a little better. I challenge anyone that has not judged before to try it. It's such a good feeling for someone you don't even know to say "thanks" for answering a question they had about their Mustang. After you have placed your Mustang in position at one of our shows and finish wiping her down, stop one of the MCA judges and ask what time and where the judges' meeting will be held. We'll be glad to pair you with a team member in the class you feel most comfortable. You'll be surprised at how receptive car owners will be. After all, you are giving their car recognition by judging it. They wouldn't be there if they didn't want their Mustang noticed.

I look forward to meeting with you at future shows. I promise to help you any way I can.

*Billy Biggs*

**BILLY BIGGS**  
Asst. Head Judge  
Daily & Occasional Driven

