

A "Tool Around" Vessel



Text by Barbara Hernden
Photos by Steven Hernden

About three years ago, Steven mentioned that he'd like to get a classic car to "tool" around in and make into a retirement investment. He spotted an import and when he asked my opinion, I told him it looked like a tank. If he wanted a classic, then GET a classic!

A couple of weeks later, he asked if I'd like to take a ride and look at a car he saw. When I saw what type, he just said a Mustang. I asked him if it was the silver one we'd seen at the edge of town; if so, I said, "Let's go." To make a long story short, we went to take the Mustang for a test drive, inquired about the price, and quickly put money down on the car.

This was a great sentimental piece for both of us as I graduated in 1966 and Steven acquired his driver's license in 1966. My graduation tassel and class ring now hang from the rear-view mirror.

We brought the Mustang home a few days later and Steven's quest

to detail his new, prized possession began. When we completed the purchase, the seller gave us a packet of paperwork that he said went with the Mustang. Can you imagine our surprise when we opened the envelope and found the original Bill of Sale, the insurance papers, and more than seven years of maintenance receipts from the original owner?

Our 1966 Silver Frost Mustang was built at the Dearborn Assembly Plant and has remained in Michigan for over 43 years. It rolled off the assembly line on September 14, 1965. It's a 200cid in-line 6 with 120hp. And, it had only 60,000 miles on the odometer when we made our purchase.

The Mustang's interior was original and it had been already repainted with the original Silver Frost color.

Steven began to restore the Mustang bit-by-bit, handling all the work himself using either NOS parts or concours-approved parts. The first winter we had the Mustang, he changed a few cosmetic items under the hood and in the trunk. He then began to attend a few area car shows where he met several other Mustang

enthusiasts who helped guide the restoration in the right direction. He has even won several trophies with the Mustang that first year.

We joined the local classic car club, The Street Legends of Charlevoix, and made several new friends. We also joined the Mustang Club of America and learned much more about judging and how to show our Mustang. In the Fall, we ventured "downstate" to our first sanctioned show hosted by the Mid-Michigan Mustang Club, and took a 2nd place in our class.

The second winter, the interior was updated with replacement seat belts, new carpet, steering wheel and bezels, knobs, door panels, kick plates, arm rests, window and door handles. The engine compartment got a new oil filter, Autolite battery and alternator. The engine compartment was repainted. The following summer, we greeted old friends and made even more new friends. We also brought home more trophies and plaques.

Returning downstate to the Mid-Michigan Mustang Club show in the fall, we came home with a 1st place trophy in our class.

ALUMINUM TRAILERS

- **Ultra Lightweight**
Maximum fuel economy
- **Rust-Free Durability**
Higher resale value
- **Detail Driven Design**
For car enthusiasts



Canfield, OH

Toll Free: 1-800-282-5042

www.trailex.com



Last winter, the exterior got priority with several new chrome pieces. A close friend who professionally refinishes vehicles, asked if he could "bring the paint to life." Just how he accomplished this is a total mystery to me, but when we arrived to pick up the Mustang, the finished looked like a mirror. It was that bright and deep. At the first show we attend this year, the Silver Frost won "Best Ford." What a surprise. My job requires me to work weekends, but I was fortunate to attend that show with Steven. One lady at the show told me that the Mustang looked as if it had just rolled off the assembly line. I think Steven has accomplished his goal.

We've been totally excited about how well the '66 has presented in shows this year. Steven took Best Stock Engine at the Central Lake show, a huge show in northern lower

Michigan. We traveled downstate to Novi, Michigan for the Mustang Owners Club of South Eastern Michigan's show early in August and took a 2nd place in our class. Steven drove to Traverse City for the 1st Annual Classic Car Show On the Bay and came home with "Best in Show." He was approached at one show and offered twice what we have into the Mustang, but Steven turned down the offer. We're just having too much fun!

This spring, I spotted a 2001 Mustang GT convertible that was for sale. After a test drive, I told Steven I just had to have it. So, we are now a two Mustang family.

We've got the convertible for cruising and the 1966 for shows and short cruises. It just doesn't get any better than this.

We're enjoying our second childhood ... our way! **MT**