



# BOUGHT \$IGHT UNSEEN

*This '65 Mustang Turned Out To Be a Winner*

By Ron Vignone

I have always been interested in classic cars but didn't get serious about owning one until I retired a few years ago. My wife, Ellen, and I moved from New Jersey to beautiful Pawleys Island, South Carolina, in 2006 and I began my search for a classic car. Not being mechanically inclined, I was looking for a restored car. Each month I would scour the pages of *Auto Trader Magazine* and check the Internet almost daily for the right car. I was particularly interested in a classic Mustang.

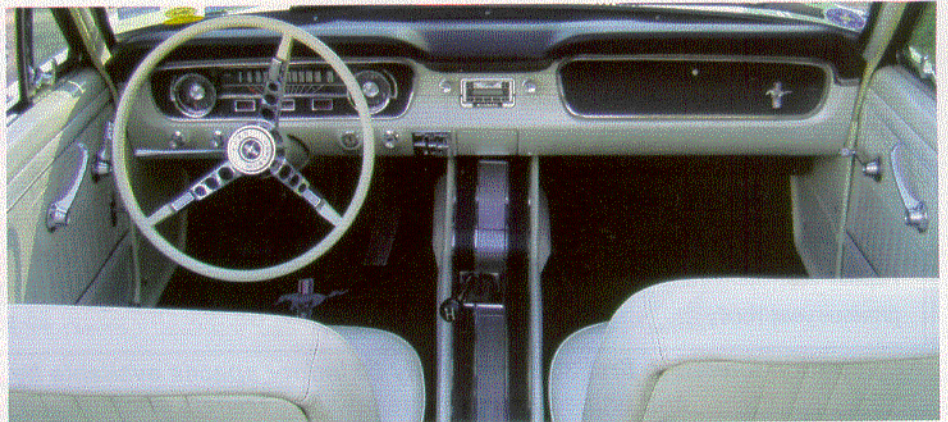
In October 2007, a 1965 Springtime Yellow Mustang convertible jumped off the pages of Deals-on-Wheels. It had a standard White interior and manual White top. Described as a restored "creampuff" with a rebuilt, original 289 and 3-speed manual transmission, the car was for sale from a dealer in Holland, Michigan. There were many pictures on the Internet and my mechanic and I asked for and received more before discussing the car in detail with the seller over the phone. I decided to buy the car sight unseen rather than travel to Michigan to look at it and drive it. I guess it was a little risky, but when it arrived via enclosed carrier, the car far surpassed my expectations. It was gorgeous!

I had been told that the owner who had the car restored was afraid to drive it much and possibly spoil its beauty. It had only about 100 miles on it since the restoration several years before. My mechanic checked it over, replaced U-joints, changed the oil and filter and it was good to go. At first it was a bit tight, particularly the 3-speed, but after a few hundred miles or so it drove beautifully. Without power steering or brakes, it took some getting used to. But it's well mannered in traffic, cruises smoothly at 70 mph and feels like it wants to go well beyond that.

I joined the Mustang Club of America, the Yellow Mustang Registry, and a few local car clubs, then started bringing the car to regional Mustang club and

other shows, including Mustang Week in nearby Myrtle Beach. The first trophy came at the inaugural Carolina Open Car Classic in Charleston, SC. I've been fortunate enough to get many more since then, including the Best Mustang 1964-1984 trophy won at the Made in the Shade show last summer in Elizabethtown, NC. Since acquiring the car, I've made some cosmetic upgrades to freshen it up, including a new shift knob, front bumper, tail light and dash bezels, and Ford tooling door handles. These relatively low-cost items really sharpened up the look of the car and I'm sure saved me points at shows.

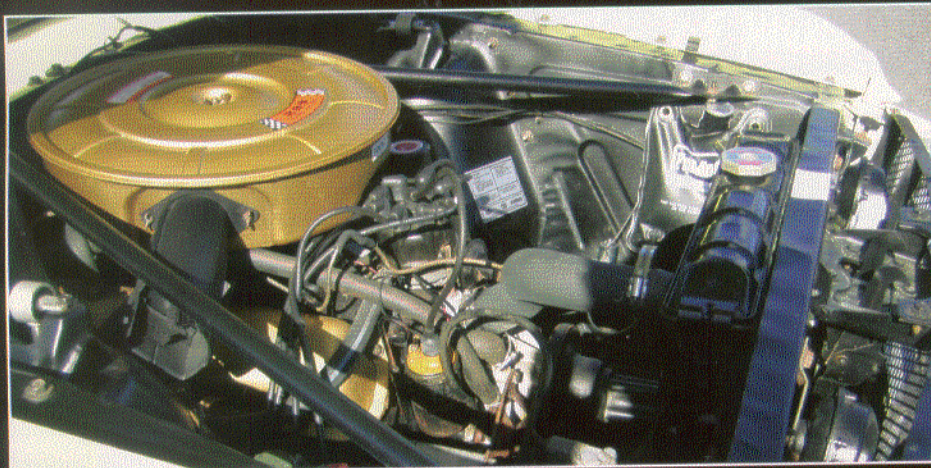
My daily driver is also a Mustang, a 2006 V6 convertible, True Blue with Gray interior and Gray hood stripes. **MT**



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'65



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