



# SIDETRACKED

## HOW VINCENT BRUNO FOUND A '68 COBRA

Text and Photos by Bob Egleston

**I**t is funny how you can get sidetracked when searching for a vintage Mustang. Often times, well-thought-out plans are simply abandoned after becoming distracted by the allure of another model. In this hobby, the choices are much too plentiful. The results can lead to distraction and a change in plans. So goes the story with Vincent Bruno of Birmingham, Alabama. An avid collector of vintage

Ford products, mainly Mustangs, Vincent owns 1965, 1966, and 1968 Mustangs as well as a 1962 T-Bird roadster and a Model A replica. These are in addition to the rare convertible you see here.

The story of this Mustang begins like many other stories. Vincent was searching for a 1968 fastback. He connected with a dealer who indicated that he had one coming in. While waiting for the mystery fastback to show up, which never did, Vincent's son, Paul, found an intriguing 1968 convertible in

Arkansas. The fascinating thing about this Mustang is that it was a one-owner, rare, 428 Cobra Jet GT convertible. Now, that will stop you dead in your tracks and cause you to rethink your plans!

By 1968, Mustang convertible production was becoming less of a priority or perhaps less of a desire for the buying public. Convertible production had been steadily decreasing since the peak year of 1965, when 13 percent of all Mustangs produced were convertibles (73,112 units). In 1968, that figure





# SEARCH

## COBRA JET CONVERTIBLE

dropped to 8 percent, or 25,376 units. The '68 Mustang was still honest to the car's original styling. But that was about to change in 1969. The choices in '68 were numerable. In addition to the long list of available options, you could also choose from six different power plants, culminating with the 428 Cobra Jet.

Vincent was able to procure the Mustang only to find out that it is one of only 34 convertibles with the 428 Cobra Jet engine. The car was originally sold by Velde Ford in Vero Beach, Florida, and







now has a mere 29,000 miles showing on the odometer. Having been fortunate enough to get a short ride in Vincent's convertible to the photo shoot location, it was quickly apparent the power this Mustang possesses. A turn of the key and the big block roared to life. The C-6 automatic transmission was smooth and the exhaust note was to be savored.

One can be quickly transported back to 1968 Florida, cruising down AIA in this powerful muscle car convertible. You would surely be the envy of the town.

The original red paint shows its age well, and is nicely complemented by the standard black interior. There are relatively few options, such as tilt wheel, AM radio, GT equipment group,

styled steel wheels, C-6 automatic transmission, and the 428 Cobra Jet ram air engine. Vincent enjoys showing the car and is a member of MCA and AACA. Since he's retired, he has plenty of time for his hobby. And to be sure, this car will remain in the family for a long time, especially since his son, Paul, is also an avid Mustang enthusiast. **MT**







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