

Pinkie



Text by Horace Collums & Mary Jean Wesche • Photography by Mary Jean Wesche

When Horace Collums' children turned 16, instead of buying them a new car, he bought vintage Mustangs, restored them and gave them to the kids. Some of his children's first cars are still in the family.

The newest Mustang addition to the Collums family is a 1967 Mustang that Horace dubbed Pinkie.

In April 2007, Horace's son was surfing on eBay looking at vintage Mustangs for sale. He came across a listing for a 1967 Playboy Pink Mustang with a 390 big block.

When Horace read the listing he was intrigued, but he actually found the story difficult to believe. However, he did buy Pinkie for a whopping \$8,700.

Horace tells his story:

"The trip from Houston, Texas, to Sonmish, Washington, where the Mustang's owner lived, was a very long drive. All I remember seeing when we pulled into the driveway of the seller's home was a really, really pink 1967 Mustang shell on a rolling dolly. We were expecting a completed car. After introductions I asked the seller, Michael Penick, what else came

with the Mustang. He pointed to his two-car garage and said everything in the garage goes with the pink Mustang. I can tell you there were more original Ford parts in unopened boxes than I have seen in a long time—Ford-stamped fenders, hood, dash cluster, and much more. Michael Penick was a former employee of the Wild West Mustang Ranch in Monroe, Washington, when he came across the pink Mustang while parting out several hundred Mustangs, which were headed to the crusher. Michael found a pink bolt under the dash and under the front seat. Then



THE LITTLE **PINK** MUSTANG WITH A REALLY BIG MOTOR

he looked at the VIN and knew that the S code meant 390 V8, typically a GT big-block Mustang. The Wild West Mustang Ranch was closing its doors after many years and all of the old Mustangs had to go. Michael went to his employer and told him that he may not want to crush this one particular car. To make a long story short, Michael personally bought the Mustang for \$2,000 from the Wild West Mustang Ranch as a restoration project for himself. He took the Mustang to West Coast Restoration in Monroe, Washington, and had Randy Sargent restore the body back from near death.

Michael invested \$15,000 in restoration work and parts while he owned the Mustang. He also spent countless hours researching the Mustang's history and never found another one like it with a 390ci. According to the Marti Report, of the 472,209 Mustangs sold in 1967, Pinky was one of one ordered with 14-inch Wire Wheel covers, one of four with a Parchment Deluxe interior, and one of 34 with special paint and trim. One other thing that makes this Mustang very rare and unique is that fact that the options list stated this Mustang was painted Playboy Pink per customer order. The

dash was signed by Lisa Baker, Playboy's 1967 Playmate of the Year.

The factory invoice shows that the dealer paid an upcharge fee of \$158.08 for the 390ci over the base 289ci. My wife, Pam, and I have shown the car in several local shows including the Yellow Rose Classic in Fort Worth, Texas, and at the Pensacola, Florida, and Mustang, Oklahoma, MCA National shows this year. It always draws a tremendous crowd, everyone is interested in the history of the car. Most of my time at these shows is typically spent sharing Pinkie's story."



While Pinkie didn't place at the Pensacola, Florida, National, Horace got busy making corrections, working off the judging report and talking to several MCA judges. His hard work and tenacity paid off. Pinkie earned a Silver in Concours Trailered at the Chisholm Trail National in Mustang, Oklahoma, in June.

When I asked Horace to photograph his Mustang in Oklahoma, he actually drove it from its spot on the show field. As far as I know, Horace trailers Pinkie everywhere, never driving the Playboy Pink beauty. Traveling with Horace and his lovely wife, Pam, was their grandson, Hudson Smith. When

it was time to clean Pinkie or just dust her off before judging, Hudson was right beside his grandfather, with a cleaning cloth in hand. Many people would have thrown up their hands after not placing at all at their first show, but not Horace. He has the best attitude, and one that should be a model for anyone entering their car into a judged show for the first time. He wanted to know what he needed to do to Pinkie to restore her to Concours condition. He consulted with several judges and at the Chisholm Trail National, he even helped with judging. Being partnered with Marty Rupp was a stroke of luck for Horace. Marty is one of

many Gold Card judges that is more than willing share his knowledge and assist Mustang enthusiasts.

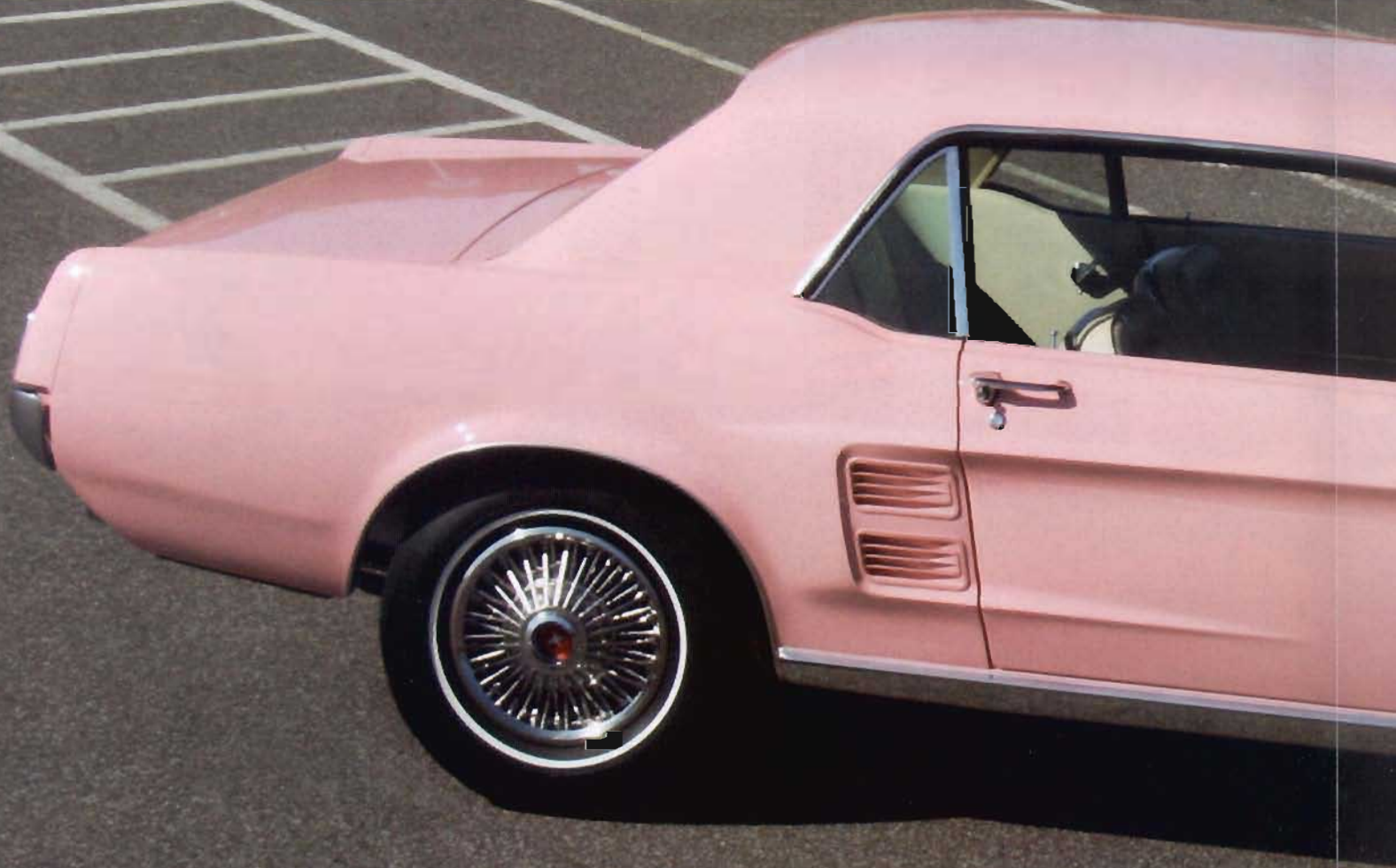
It was exciting to see Horace receive his Silver award. I'm sure we'll see Pinkie on the show field for many years to come. She's awfully pretty and hard to miss.

Horace said his entire family looks forward to making preparations for an MCA show in the future and plans to try for Concours Gold. **MT**

(Editor's Note: Although the color of Horace's car is Playboy Pink [Ditzler #71617] it was not the actual car presented to Ms. Baker. In 1967, she was awarded a Plymouth Barracuda.)



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HORACE COLLUMS

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