

# IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS

*Body*      *Color*      *Year*      *Date*      *DSO*      *Area*  
 65-6      J      66      02T      31      1-6  
 5F07 R 744984

A serious problem has been brought to my attention concerning this project. As of this writing (December 10, 1980) our count stands at about 650 participants, still below what we want for a final count. The problem I speak of is fear, the fear that people have of their Mustang or Shelby's whereabouts being known by lots of people (including not-so-honest people). This I fully understand. People also fear their information getting into the *wrong hands*. Other complaints ask why no VID information has been published yet. I intend to answer all these questions right now!

The first problem: fear. As I have said in several previous articles, you have nothing to fear. I know, you're thinking, "Sure, sure, sure." To be blunt and to the point, not many seem to trust this project or me. This I can understand as no one knows me from a rusty fender bolt. There is really not much I can say or do to get your trust in me except to ask you to "Please, trust me!" All information received to date (your letters) has been shredded and now resides at the bottom of a nearby landfill. The only information that I have retained is your VID number, DSO, date, and your name and area in which you live. I have no addresses. I have made a change in the final listing; it can go either of the following ways. I need your opinion and feedback on this.

## Idea #1

5F08F100122 5 March 64 Conv.  
 DSO 17 Washington D.C.  
 J. Cornely, Washington, D.C. area  
 5F08U123456 15 April 64 Conv.  
 DSO 65 Oklahoma City  
 J. Doe Tulsa area

## Idea #2

5F08F100122 5 March 64 Conv.  
 DSO 17 Washington D.C.  
 Located: Washington D.C. area  
 5F08U123456 15 April 64 Conv.  
 DSO 65 Oklahoma City  
 Located: Tulsa area

In idea number one, your initial and last name only are used and the general area in which you live. If you don't want your name in this at all, then Idea number 2 is for you. This gives everyone an idea of where most of these Mustangs are now, but no specifics of the exact location. There are going to be those that just plain don't like either idea and won't participate. There is a project going on in the SAAC (Shelby American Automotive Club) just like this one in MCA which involves compiling Shelby Mustang and Shelby Cobra serial numbers. They have had some success with this project. Our project can be very successful with your help. I need your help MCA. This is *our* project, not just my own. With your trust and participation, we can say, "We did it!" If I get a lot of protest on *not* using names, I'll use names; if I get protest on *using* names, I'll not use any names. It is up to the MCA as a whole. Will I hear from you on this? The more people that participate on this project, the more successful it will be. The more VID numbers and the more chances of finding a VID number close to yours, plus you can see Mustang production, start to finish, 1965-73. For those that lack a VID plate and wish to know the date their Pony was produced, you can look at the listing and see where yours fits in, thus being able to determine your date more easily. There are tons of advantages to participating. If you value your Mustang highly, as I assume 100% of you do, you keep it under lock and key anyway. Common sense prevents theft. Your VID information only will not encourage theft, let me assure you. Most motor vehicle administrations in most states will not give out information. If you give them the tag number (license plate), sometimes they will in a case where a crime has been committed. Maryland will not give out any information except to the police departments. I have attempted to trace the ownership of several cars I have

had back to the original owners and the MVA would not release the information to me. This is common practice in most states. Other states like Illinois, Oklahoma, Texas and Hawaii won't either. Those I have had dealings with and none will release information. Check with your local motor vehicle administration to verify this.

Upon completion of this project, I will forward all VID information to MCA for printing in the *Mustang Times*. MCA may wish to have lists printed up for distribution to members at a certain fee. This is merely a suggestion. I cannot give out any information to those that write to me. I'll gladly answer your letter (please send SASE for reply) and tell you what you wish on your *Mustang only!* I cannot release anyone else's VID information to you. This is now my policy on this project.

For those with unique Mustangs or Shelys, if you want it mentioned in the *Mustang Times*, please so state. I'll gladly write about your Mustang if you desire and if it deserves mention.

This is the best I can do on this project in regard to keeping the whereabouts of your Mustang from being known. It is now up to you, the MCA member, to participate. If response is slow during the next two months, I'll end the project before the April 1, 1981 deadline. If you are just "putting it off", don't. You are only hurting yourself if you do. I'll begin the final listing very soon and get it in the *Mustang Times* as soon as possible. I'll start with the prototype Mustangs (1964½) and cover all the 1965-66 Mustangs. Next issue will no doubt cover 67-68 and so on. 1971-73 owners will be disappointed, the turnout of 1971-73 Mustangs has been slow.

**REGIONAL GROUPS** — I'm begging for your participation!

Jim Smart  
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 Altus, Oklahoma 73521