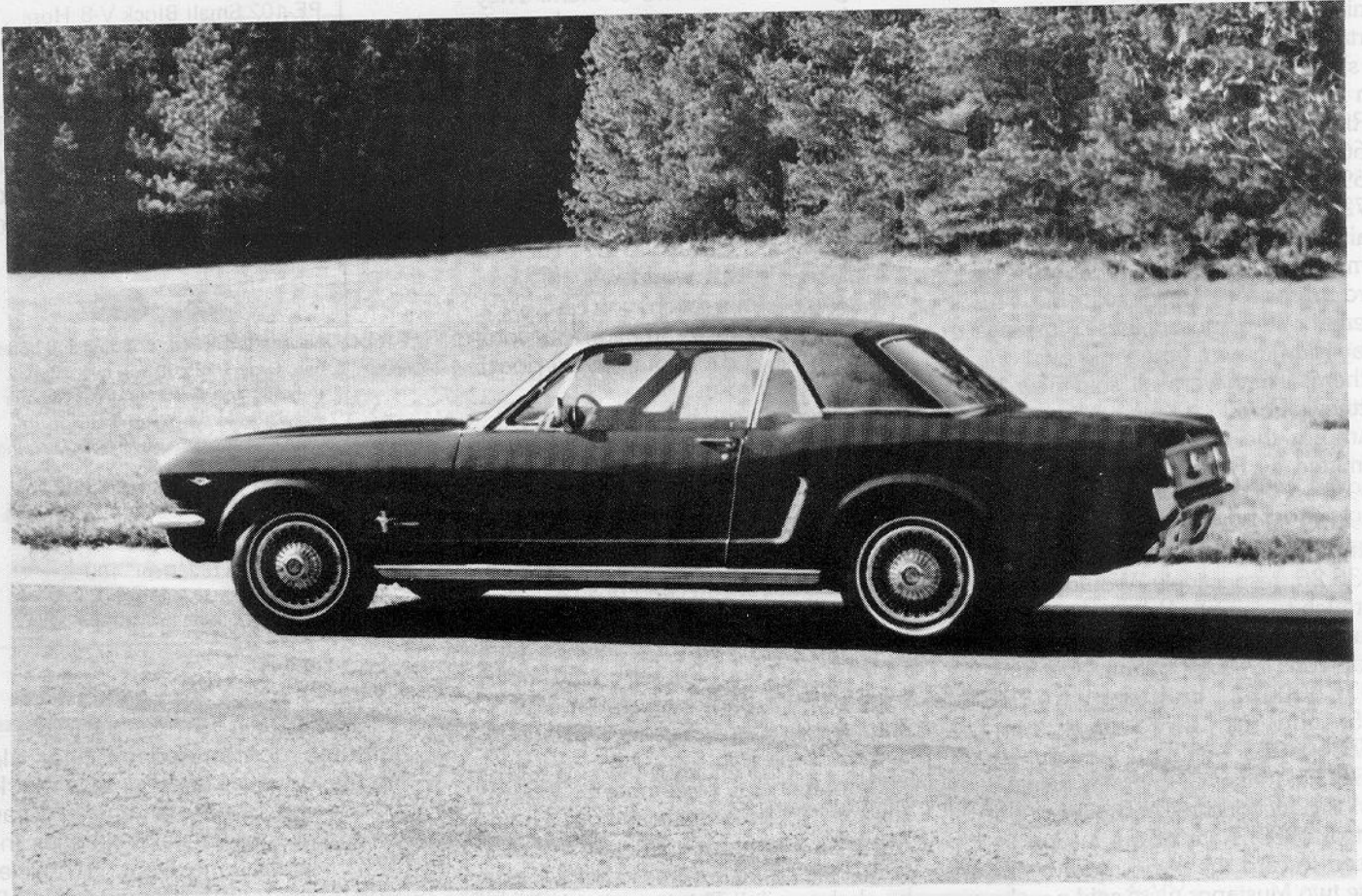


Think all the "Good Finds" Are Gone? Read On!

KEN STANGE'S "LIT'L OLE



The classic story, we've all heard. You know, the one about the "lit'l ole grandma" who drove her Mustang only on Sunday, to and from school (a teacher, at that), and up to the corner grocery store, if the weather were nice. Come winter, she puts the car away until spring. We've all dreamed of such a find. It had to happen . . . and did, to Ken Stange of Belleville, Illinois.

This is a *true* story of such a find and proves that there may still be a few near perfect original Mustangs left somewhere out there in garages of this over-picked land.

The story begins with Ken reading the classified ads in the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* one early March morning in 1980. How many times have we all scanned those printed lines? Through sleepy eyes, he ran across this ad:

"1965 Ford, V8, automatic on floor, power steering, air conditioning, bucket seats, original owner, phone no."

Ken Stange, an Illinois computer salesman who enjoys golf along with his Mustanging, wrote this story.

What could this be? A Fairlane Sport Coupe or Galaxie XL 500 would match this description; but so would a Mustang! With hope but realistic skepticism, Ken placed the call to find an elderly lady with a tough stance.

"Everyone wants to buy my Mustang for \$400 or \$500, but I won't sell it for one penny less than \$2,500!" she exclaimed. "Don't come by unless you have the full amount."

Was she senile or sharp? Who cares? It was an original owner Mustang, so off Ken went, testing the distribution of radar cops along the 25 mile trip.

GRANDMA'S" COUPE

He arrived to find an all original Ivy Green Metallic Coupe with wire wheel covers (the usual curb scratches), power steering (with the usual leaks), air conditioning, a near perfect interior and NO RUST or body damage. This last item was the key since most mid-west ponies have rusted fenders, floors, quarters, etc. Other than a dirty engine and some parking dings and paint chips, it was a beautiful unrestored Mustang. Mileage was 40,972!

The car was kept in a heated garage from November to April of each year since new. The owner claimed the Mustang had never seen snow, salt, or ice and its condition supported her. It was purchased from McMahon Ford in St. Louis on March 19, 1965.

Trying to catch his breath and speak without stuttering from shock, Ken undertook some dickering and paid \$2300 for the car. Then came the real surprise: the owner asked if he might want "this box of stuff." The "stuff" was a shoe box full of the following: original bill-of-sale, original window sticker (showing \$3333 total cost), the original owner's card and owner's manual, *all* maintenance records and receipts, and every Missouri State Inspection Certificate with certified mileage since 1965!! Seldom does one find an original Mustang so well documented.

The car was used by Ken's wife, Mary, for three months before he decided to undertake a restoration. Very few chrome and interior parts had to be replaced. The original enamel was stripped and nine coats of hand-rubbed Ivy Green Metallic lacquer were applied. NOS original equipment 3T Diamond Goodyear 6.95 x 14 WSW tires were added, as well as a set of NOS wire spinner wheel covers. The engine, trunk and undercarriage were



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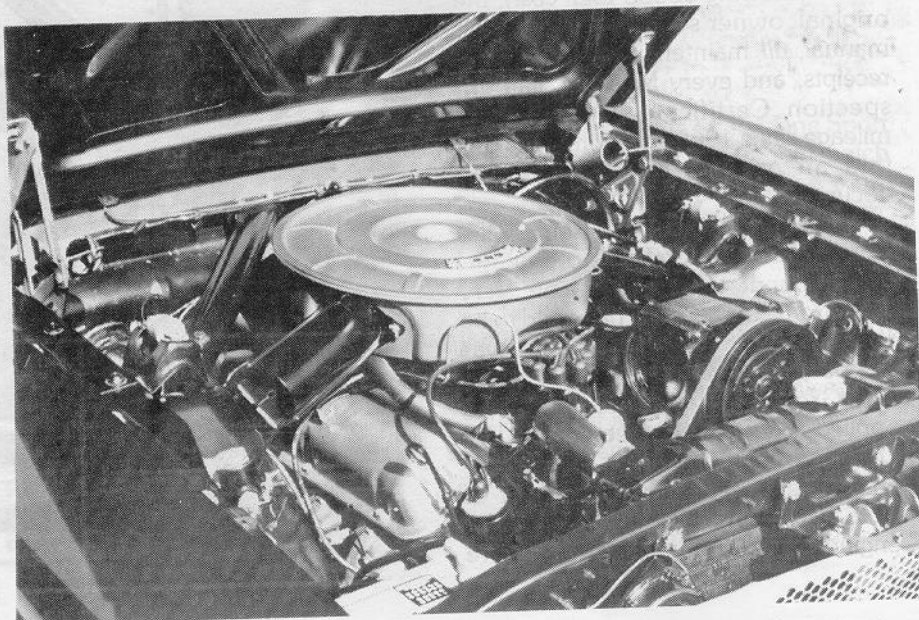
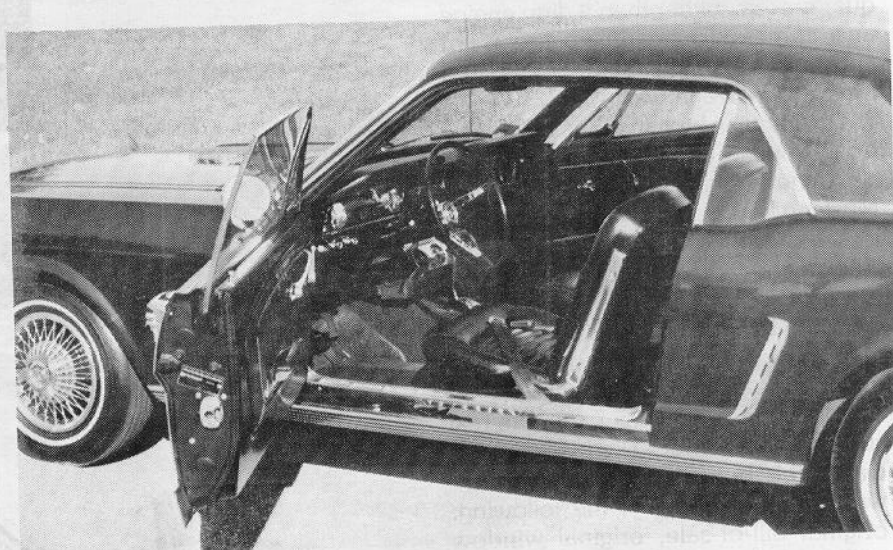
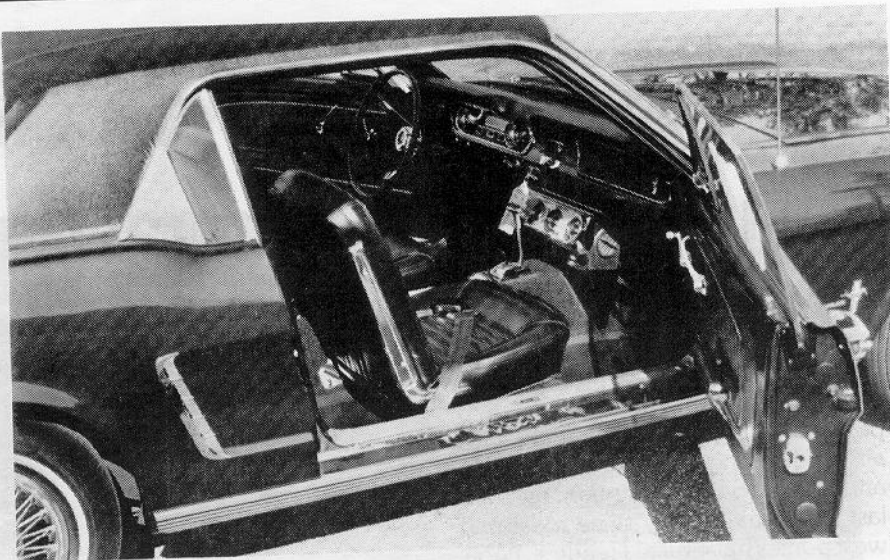
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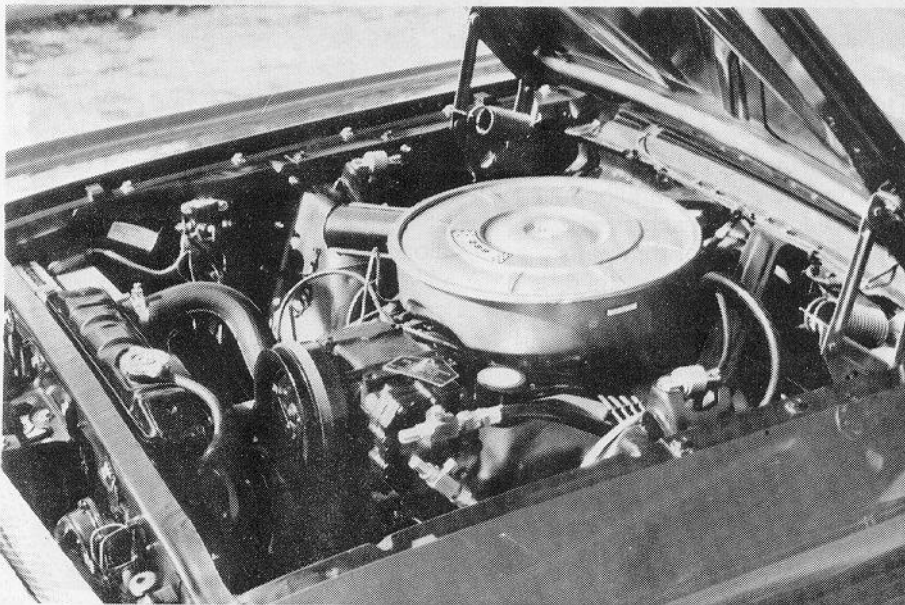
**On The Cover:
Ken Stange's
"Lit'l Ole Grandma's" Coupe**

meticulously detailed. Then, he headed for the show circuit in September '80.

Since then, "Ivy" (Mary named the car after the paint color) has won twenty-two trophies, including two Best of Show, three People's Choice, two Judge's Choice, and twelve First Place in Class. Ivy recently scored 279 out of 280 possible points at a major Regional Mustang Show. Judging from Ivy's past performance and appearance, she certainly has to be one of the best original '65 Coupes around.

So for all of you who think the good finds are gone, Ken recommends the following: keep the faith, respond to even the most obscure classifieds, and try not to show your excitement while you are wrestling the title away from the original owner.





"Ivy" has won 22 trophies in 12 months, enjoys being a display car at Roberts' Ford and at the Shopping Mall in Belleville. Ivy has a 289-2V V-8 C original stock engine and a C-4 automatic transmission. Photos courtesy of Dr. Dan R. Jones.