

IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS

"In Search of Mustangs" is well on the way to its first publication, "In Search of Mustangs Guide, First Edition." This book is designed to be the most informative in your Mustang book collection. As "In Search" is just cresting the 4000 Mustang mark (approximate figure) with 5000 expected by year's end, this book is due for introduction by Spring, 1983.

We want this registry and information guide as flawless as possible. This registry is being done by hand, no computers or fancy 1980's technology. Each and every letter that arrives in the "In Search" Mail Box is received and read by me.

I would like to take this month to cover the history of "In Search of Mustangs," from its beginning up until the present time.

Starting as a "Letter to the Editor" in

the December, 1979 issue of *Mustang Times* (then considerably smaller), "In Search of Mustangs" was born. After that, letters began to fill the mail box at 1094 Elk St., Altus, Oklahoma, a sleepy, quiet town in the far southwest corner of Oklahoma. I soon realized that this project had potential, if only more folks would participate. That first issue brought some 80 Mustangs into the project, the first Mustang being a 1965 fastback. This first batch of mail introduced a 1968 hardtop #8F01J100002 and its owner, Dan Elliott of Georgia. To date, Dan's '68 remains the earliest '68 in the project.

In those early days, we had planned to end this project within a few months with a final listing in the *Mustang Times*. Soon we discovered that a listing of 500 or so Mustangs would not be worth the trouble, because it would

prove nothing, so we have continued our pursuit of Mustangs and their VID info.

In the April 1980 issue, early '64½ Mustangs began rolling in, like 5F07U101176 built on 16 March 1964; its owner is Paul Moore of Arizona. Paul blew our minds many times more with still more information. Among other early '64½ Mustangs, we had 5F08F102836 built on 23 March 1964 and its owner, Ron Gusa of Massachusetts.

With the May 1980 issue, came the issue of "Mustang Security." Some members feared the whereabouts of their Mustangs being known, for obvious reasons. This fear was put to rest by not using the participant's name and locale if they requested such.

As of November 1980, "In Search" appeared to be on the home stretch with 650 Mustangs listed. Still an earlier '64½ early production Mustang made its way into the listing, 5F08F100122, built on 5 March 1964. Its owner at that time was John Cornely of Maryland. John's '64½ Mustang convertible held the title of "Earliest Production Mustang" for quite a long time.

In January 1981, "In Search of Mustangs" received the MCA "Good Garagekeeping Seal of Approval," indicating that MCA fully endorsed this project. Boy, were we happy after months of attempting to get that endorsement!

February 1981 brought to the surface the only prototype Mustang known to exist today: 5F08T383386, built on 15 February 1964. This special pony made its debut just two weeks prior to the start of production in early March 1964. This pre-production Mustang was displayed at the Ford Rotunda at the 1964 New York World's Fair! The proud owners are A. E. Schweitzer and his son, Gary.

As April and May 1981 rolled in, "In Search of Mustangs" was brought to a halt as I separated from the United States Air Force. Once we got settled in Salisbury, Maryland, "In Search of Mustangs" took off once again. A Post Office box was set up after much difficulty finding one.

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"IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS"

Participate today in "IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS," an international register of Ford Mustangs and Shelby Mustangs from 1964½ through 1973. What we need is as simple as fill in the blanks! The information can be found on a metal plate (1964½-69) or vinyl sticker (1970-73), found on your driver's door near the latch. If there is no plate or sticker, just the serial number is adequate. Total information is very important. Feel free to enclose history on your Mustang, every Pony has it's own story. Don't forget those junkyard Mustangs; they need to be counted, too.

Name _____ City _____ State _____

1. Year _____ Is it a GT, MACH I, GRANDE', California Special, T-5 etc? _____

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Warranty/Serial Number _____

Body _____ Color _____ Trim _____ Date _____ DSO _____ Axle _____ Trans _____

3. Year _____ Is it a GT, MACH I, GRANDE', California Special, T-5 etc? _____

Options _____

Original Driveline? _____ Do you wish your name printed? _____

Warranty/Serial Number _____

Body _____ Color _____ Trim _____ Date _____ DSO _____ Axle _____ Trans _____

Thank you for participating in "IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS". Please send all information to Jim Smart, P.O. Box 34 Salisbury, MD 21801-0342. A self addressed stamped envelope will get you a reply!

April 81 brought a production manifest (computer printout) from Zane "Motown" Clark of Oregon. This production manifest from Zane's 1972 MACH I brought out the build date on his Mustang. This was a first for MCA and "In Search," and it has enabled many of us to determine our build dates when the Vehicle I.D. plate is missing or the vinyl sticker shows no date. This production manifest can be found in most Mustangs and for 1964½ through

1968, the usual location is wrapped about the main wiring harness up under the dash. For 1969 and up, it varied from inside the trunk area, under the rear seat (wrapped in seat coils), under the carpet, and even up under the dash! Once again, we advise extreme caution in removing this manifest, most are dry rotted by now, and destruction is certain if you are not 100% careful!

May 1981 brought "In Search" to

nearly 1000 Mustangs. The June 1981 issue covered the T-5 Ford, the Mustang exported to Germany.

As August and September 1981 rolled in, it was decided that "In Search" be extended until more of the Mustang population knew about it. The September 1981 issue covered the ever popular California Special Mustang (1968 only); and its history and development. Another major "In Search" milestone was from Tom Scheerer of

Kansas who submitted nearly 300 Mustangs to the project.

In December 1981, "In Search" was again blessed with still another first, 5F08F100006 built March 5, 1964. Its proud owners are Ed White and Toby Hildabrand of the Peach State of Georgia! 5F08F100006 is the sixth production unit. It had a DSO of 840027 indicating "Home Office Reserve" and was kept by Ford Motor Company for reasons still unknown today.

The January 1982 issue pressed upon the importance of your participation in "In Search." In that same month, a tremendous contribution was made by Richard Matthews of Paoli,

Pennsylvania. A total of 678 Mustangs were submitted by Richard, and "In Search" exploded to nearly 3000 Mustangs!

April 1982 produced the "In Search of Mustangs" application which made a tremendous difference in "In Search" participation, as the count has climbed to 3500! In May 1982, we decided to name this project officially the "In Search of Mustangs" International Mustang Registry and Directory.

In finalizing, please don't forget the "In Search of Mustangs" VID Competition! Can you beat the record of 678 Mustangs submitted?! All information submitted must be legal and authentic!

No frauds, please! All information submitted from private owner Mustangs must have owner permission, usually their name will do. Deadline for this is December 31, 1982!

As always, I solicit all Regional Groups (before the weather gets cold) to participate in "In Search". Let's get them all! Isn't it about time you did your part as a Mustang owner and enthusiast? Even one Mustang from you would make a difference! Let's hit that 5000 Mustang mark before year's end!

Jim Smart



NOTICE

Effective January 1, 1983, there will be a fee of \$1.00 per request for a VID plate breakdown. The fee is necessary due to the rising costs of keeping the Registry going. Your cooperation and continued participation is appreciated.

Jim Smart

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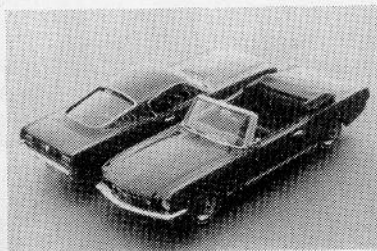
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