

The personal opinions and views expressed on "The Editor's Page" are not necessarily those of MCA. All MCA members are invited to express their opinions in this open forum.

TV MUSTANGS

Stop the Smashes!

How many times in recent years have you seen a really sharp 1965-73 Mustang on television or in a movie? As Mustangs gain in popularity and become even more collectable, you will no doubt see even more of these beautiful Pony Cars on the tube.

Think about this . . . how many times have you seen a really nice Mustang smashed up in a movie or on a television show? Brings some angry tears to your eyes, doesn't it?

Smashing up Mustangs in chase scenes goes as far back as "Bullitt" in 1968. Most of you, I know, have experienced both the pain and the pleasure of watching that chase scene in which the late Steve McQueen is in hot pursuit through San Francisco of a 1968 Dodge Charger in, what else but, a Ford Mustang (1968 vintage). The chase ends up out in the suburbs with the Dodge Charger plowing through a row of gas pumps, and it's "crash and burn." The Mustang spins out and winds up on the other side of the road, needing front end alignment, not to mention body work.

As you can see, smashing up our Pony Cars isn't anything new, but I feel it needs to stop, as of now. Hollywood has millions of dollars to spend on its various productions and that includes taking fine 65-73 Mustangs and destroying them. Shelys are not exempt from the media's mania for destroying fine automobiles.

The point is, we need to join together as a club to see that this type of destruction stops. Everyone is screaming, "Save the wilderness," "Save the trees," "Save the animals." Why not "Save the Mustangs!"? They aren't building 65-73 Mustangs anymore. Every 65-73 Mustang that is totaled out on TV or in the movies is one less Mustang for us to enjoy. Totaling out a really nice Mustang is a crime, and MCA needs to ban together with other Mustang Clubs to stop this destruction.

Keep a notebook, and write it down every time you see a 65-73 Mustang smashed up on television or in a movie. The type destruction of which I speak isn't just an auto accident, but deliberate destruction written into a script.

It is up to us as a club dedicated to the preservation of Ford Mustangs to make our feelings known to the general public.

Jim Smart

On the Brighter Side . . .

Every notice the many sharp, "with it" regulars on popular TV shows who drive 65-73 Mustangs? Two come immediately to my mind: Nurse "Ripples" Brancuzzi of *Trapper John, M.D.* and Reported Joe Rossi of *Lou Grant*.

It is not by chance that Mustangs were chosen for these cameo characters to drive. The "behind the scenes" staff of TV shows — writers, researchers, directors — spend much time and money creating a personality profile for the supporting regulars on their shows. It's often the careful development of the image of these secondary characters which helps form the fragile network that makes a TV show successful in this fantastically competitive field. In an effort to make the characters real, to make them "come alive" to the TV viewer, every element of their lifestyles is minutely planned and executed . . . down to something as seemingly inconsequential as the dishes on their tables.

Therefore, the Mustang is not a whimsical choice for the popular nurse and the hard-hitting reporter. The TV experts feel the Mustang is just the right vehicle to fit into their on-screen personalities and lifestyles. Upon reviewing what we have learned about the nurse and the reporter in the several years they have been on TV, Mustang enthusiasts must necessarily be complimented by the choice of their favorite car for these two.

Nurse Brancuzzi and Reporter Rossi are both attractive young people of an age that either might have gotten a late '60 or early '70 Mustang as his or her first car. Both are ambitious and hold down demanding jobs that require a wealth of intelligence and energy, yet do not command great salaries. Occasional glimpses into their private lives reveal a clever lifestyle achieved in spite of a low budget.

Brancuzzi and Rossi are good looking, gutsy, thrifty, energetic and persevering. They live life to the fullest and have plenty of heart. Does not their personality profile also describe a Mustang's? Can you think of any other car better suited to them?

Let us hear from you. Tell us about any senseless smashes that smear your screen, any characters (likeable or not) that TV experts have labeled "Mustang types."

Josie Knowles