

IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS

by Jim Smart

This month I'll devote to the facts at go into the creation of IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS. I'll also uncover the things that have made IN SEARCH a very special part of my life.

You know, there are some beautiful people out there, people like Dennis Lavens of Clemmons, North Carolina. Dennis submitted information on quite a few Mustangs in his area, including his own. Dennis said some pretty nice things in his letter, as many of you have. It is truly the warmth and kindness from the majority of you that has kept me . . .

kept the project going. Take Dennis for example, you can tell from his thoughts in my paper, what he is made up of. I would like to quote him. "Jim, we wish you the best in your undertaking. I know there must be many like myself that greatly admire your initiative, but we're ultimately lazy when it comes to writing our thanks and our participation. I am 43, my son is 18. The Mustang Mania which we have enjoyed together is probably the most significant thing that we have enjoyed . . . together! I highly recommend it to other fathers who are looking for a fun way to strengthen relationships with their children. Sorry to ramble — but there are a lot worse things a kid can do these days than get involved in Mustangs. My son is off to college and we miss being able to tinker on the Mustangs . . . together." Now isn't that a beautiful quote? Friends, that is truly one of the nicest letters that I have ever received. The world needs more fathers and mothers like Dennis who believe in that basic element called "family." Our own Mustang Club of America is founded on this theory. As a famous singer once said, "Love will keep us together."

Though we all love our Mustangs and value them greatly, it is the basic need for each other that brought most of us to the MCA in the first place. We get together once, twice, maybe three times a year at the National meets. We

compete, sometimes we win, sometimes we don't. Win or lose, let's never forget that basic respect for each other. The little something extra that shows you care. Treat that fellow next to you (and his Mustang) the way you would like to be treated. A smile and a warm handshake are the key to everlasting friendships. Isn't that what this whole thing is all about?!

Out on the quiet, semi-dusty northern plains of Nebraska exists a couple, George and Kimiko Hall. They have quite a collection of Mustangs, these Mustangs are being stored until the 1990's when they will be sold. Most are, as George put it, "Good ol' dependable Mustang fun cars." I've never seen a Mustang that wasn't fun, unless it was embedded in the rear of a tractor trailer! George is, however, responsible for the submission of 72 Mustangs, 64½ through 73, to the registry — most are scrapped. That's okay, we want them all! Thank you George for sharing them with us!

A few of the Mustangs submitted by George Hall are worthy of mention. Not all 72 of the Mustangs are in his collection, but George saw fit to submit other Mustangs from his area. Let's look at 6F08C100648, this early 66 was assembled on August 24, 1965 at Dearborn. Then there is 3F01H100253, assembled in August of 72, needless to say, this is a 73.

Other interesting facts have surfaced. Did you know that in 1968 and 69 that San Jose began production for those two years on July 4th?! 1968 Mustang production at San Jose began on July 4, 1967. 1969 production began on July 4, 1968! Mustang production at San Jose on those dates was very limited and we are still not sure why. One such Independence Day Pony is 9R03F100015 with a date code of 04G and a DSO of 89 meaning Transportation Services. Its owner Alex Hart of California submitted this Mustang to us

nearly a year ago. Due to busy year, I have not followed up on this unique Mustang. In the July issue of *Mustang Monthly*, this unique Mustang convertible appeared in an article written by Barry Brazier. This Mustang was shipped south to Los Angeles where it was driven by Burt Reynolds in the movie "Hunters Are For Killing." I have to question the origin of the MACH I dash panels and truly wonder if Ford was responsible or if they are an afterthought by an owner along the way. Ford Motor Company obviously supplied the vehicles for that movie and there are, no doubt, other Ford vehicles that were used in that movie with a DSO of 89. Thank you Alex for sharing such a unique Pony Car with us.

Do you ever wonder about those Mustangs used in . . . THE FBI . . . IN COLOR! Each model year, a special Ford was used for the lead being driven through the streets of Washington, D.C. to add that Federal flavor! In 1968, they used a 1968 Mustang convertible. Can anyone tell us more about these Mustangs viewed widely in the 1960's?

Allowing my mind to wander, other TV Mustangs come to light. How about that bright red 67 Mustang convertible used in the popular 60's sit-com "THAT GIRL." This Mustang mostly appeared in the New York scenes. I'm sure that they probably had an identical 67 convertible on the Hollywood sets as well. Another convertible was the 70 Mustang driven by Rossi in the recently cancelled "Lou Grant" series. Do you remember Mary Tyler Moore in her own series? She drove a 1969 Grande! Both "Lou Grant" and "Mary Tyler Moore" were produced by MTM Productions. Did you ever get the feeling that someone at MTM likes 69 and 70 Mustangs? By the way, for those uneducated on the finer details in life, MTM stands for Mary Tyler Moore. Somehow that little kitten should have been

replaced by a horse "Winnie"!

Some "Bullett" facts. The late great Steve McQueen terrorized the streets of San Francisco in not one, but TWO 1968 Mustang Fastbacks. One of the 68's had a small block (V-8) for the jump scenes, where an identical big block Stang was used for the pursuit scenes. Did you notice in Bullett that the Mustangs had no emblems? Why? Because it was not a Ford sponsored flick!

Does anyone remember the "Dick Van Dyke Show"? How about that Mustang (a 65) that Rob and Laura had in their garage for one episode? That was the episode when Richie's babysitter had a crush on Laura and of course Rob just had to have a talk with him about women. Well, the babysitter and handyman was doing some work on the 65 Hardtop Coupe that was minus the Pony and Corral and any emblems. There again, not Ford sponsored. The babysitter leaves after constructive advice from Rob Petrie. Rob (Dick Van Dyke) looks under the hood, and while gazing at the air filter says, "I wonder what this is?" Keep your eyes peeled for that Van Dyke rerun, take notes and write to yours truly!

More up-to-date Mustang appearances include, "Knots Landing" last season, where a certain young lady in a 66 convertible that is huffing and puffing and remarks to her guy, "Classic or not, YOU need a new car!". OOOOOOH, don't you just love it?! I believe there is a writer at Lorimar Productions that has a soft spot for the "classic" ol' Ponies. The next scene, they roll up in a new 1982 Mustang GT, oh well!

Lorimar Productions is pretty sharp as they used a Springtime Yellow 1965 convertible in "Dallas." The "right purdy" 65 drop top lasted until Lucy's husband split the scene folks! Wouldn't you know they wrote it into the script that both he and the Mustang went to "Atlanta"!!! By the way, I didn't like those big dumpy fog lights on the front of it either?

While watching late night TV a short time ago, I watched them demolish a Caspian Blue 1965 hardtop with vinyl top. "Police Story" was the name of the late night series and a chase scene led to the "wham-bam" of what was a

really nice 65 hardtop. Drew a few tears as they clipped a concrete column smashing the right headlight and bucket and various trim pieces went flying. We've gotta stop this nonsense!

Mustang smash-ups are few if non-existent anymore due to the rise in the value of these 60's Ponies. The Dukes of Hazzard did waste a 67 hardtop last season, however!

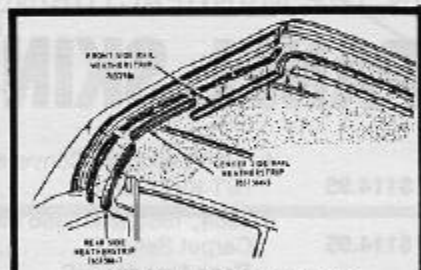
This season, "Two Marriages" is the latest production to utilize a classic Pony, a 66 convertible. Hey, somebody get me that tag number, eh?

'Til next month!

Do you have access to Mustangs in the TV and Movie Media? Please take the time to make an effort to submit them to IN SEARCH OF MUSTANGS! You'll be glad you did!

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