

Glazier's Mustang Barn

INC.



Tales in the Mustang Barn

A T-Bird comes back to life in the Mustang Barn

Between recent Mustang restoration projects, we were asked to work on a 1957 Thunderbird. We've done T-Birds before so we took on the assignment.

However, we were not expecting the 'Bird to arrive in five very large boxes. A woman — who had always dreamed of owning an original T-Bird — had discovered the car in that condition after it had suffered several unsuccessful restoration attempts.

However, our body specialists got busy and started sorting out the pieces. When most of the main body parts were together, we made an interesting discovery. Nothing fit. Earlier episodes in the car's life had gotten everything just a bit out of line.

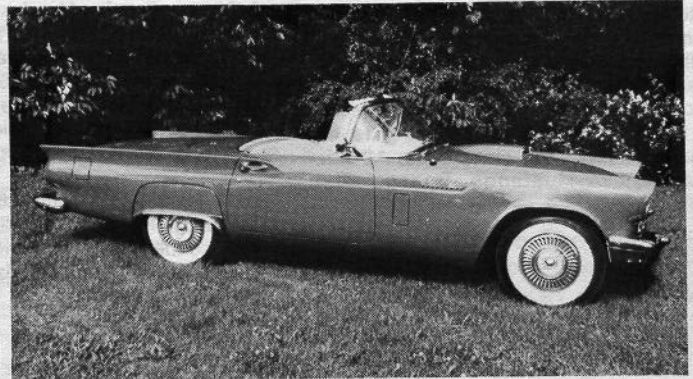
So we ended up by refitting and readjusting every major body component by hand. It took four full days, for example, to get the back bumper to fit. The hood posed a challenge — it just didn't want to settle down between the front fenders. So we had to reform the hood by hand and make all the necessary adjustments to both front fenders in order to achieve a good fit.

Then we turned to the tattered interior. We located high quality reproductions for the upholstery and trim. The search went on for weeks to get all the proper bits and pieces.

It all turned out happily. Today, the proud owner has a coral-colored T-Bird with perfect white interior and correct wide whitewalls that looks spectacular on the street and can score very well at any show.

While Mustangs are our specialty, we enjoy getting all kinds of fine cars back into first class condition. In another column, I'll tell the story about rebuilding one of the Mustang's fire-breathing "cousins."

Frederick R. Glazier, Jr.
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GLAZIER'S MUSTANG BARN, INC.

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