

American Muscle BLOG My First Car Contest 2008 - 1st Place

I fell in love with the 1967 Mustang Fastback when I first saw it in a magazine ad. I was a freshman in high school. I was mowing lawns, delivering newspapers, and working in the local grocery store to earn money for college, and there was no way I could afford a car while in high school. When I graduated from high school, I convinced my dad that 'reliable' transportation was crucial for me to go to college.....and he agreed! I spotted my Mustang when I was still a block and a half from the Ford dealership used car lot. I was initially disappointed that it was white, but I grew to love the color. It had a black interior, a 289 V-8, and a 4-speed transmission. And it had factory gauges including a tachometer. I added a Holley, dual bowl, double pumper carburetor, a shower-head air cleaner, and straight pipes with Thrush mufflers. The second summer I had her I added the slotted chrome wheels and the Mickey Thompson tires. I had to add extended leaf spring shackles and air shocks to provide wheel well clearance for those big tires in the rear. The final touch was painting the undercarriage black and the cover on the differential white.

As much as I loved my 'first true love' (the Mustang), it was her who helped introduce me to my life-long love, my wife, Kathy. Kathy was introduced to me one evening in my freshman year in college. Her sister brought her over to meet me and my roommates. It wasn't too long before I was telling Kathy about my 'first true love'. For some reason that I couldn't have comprehended at the time, I asked Kathy if she want to drive my Mustang. My roommate was aghast. I didn't let other people drive the Mustang, not my roommate, not the other girls I had dated, no one. Kathy picked up on this and decided to decline my offer, pointing out that she didn't know how to drive a manual transmission. I then replied, "I'll teach you!" My roommate dropped to the floor in feigned conniptions. Kathy DID drive my Mustang that evening, and she did a fine job with that stiff clutch and the 4-speed transmission. In hindsight, it was proof positive that I had fallen in love with Kathy at first sight. She 'claims' it was love at first sight for her, also, but she doesn't have the proof that I have, demonstrated by my willingness to let her drive the Mustang.

Two years later I married Kathy, and a year after that my 'first true love' was stolen from my apartment parking lot. In the years that followed, Kathy and I raised 5 sons, each of them able to identify a '67 Mustang Fastback from the age of two when they could see out the windows of the car. We spoke often of when I would have another Mustang, preferably a '67 Fastback. With 5 sons to haul around, that wasn't likely to happen soon. It finally did happen, however, in 2006 when I ordered my NEW Mustang; white, black interior, V-6 engine, 5-speed transmission, Pony Package, and a few other niceties.

As a side note, one of my sons, Ben, also purchased a Mustang the summer he graduated from high school. Just like my first Mustang, it was 3 years old when he acquired it. Her name is Stella.