

My Car's Story

by Kathy Parrish-Wear

My Dream (Finally!) Car. Oh, the grand search that ensued for that elusive Dream Car.

When I was a very young child, I fell in love with Ford Mustangs. More specifically, I adored the body styling and engine capacity of the 1968 - 1973. Sleek, elegant with just the right amount of aggressive: gorgeous. All that horsepower, at the pedal, and under the hood. As far as I was concerned, that was heaven on four wheels!



I clearly remember the conversation with my dad, Edgar Parrish, telling him I was going to get a Mustang for my car. Our family car was a beautiful bronze brown Ford station wagon (among several other vehicles), and were driving home from visiting his brother and family. My uncle Leroy Parrish had just purchased a 1969 Ford Mustang Grande'. Yes, my entire family was Ford People. :)

That car was stunningly beautiful; Pacific Blue with a white landau top, spoke hubcaps, wood grain accents, Sleek, elegant with just the right amount of aggressive: gorgeous. Daddy smiled, but advised that I had a long time to go 'til I was old enough to drive, and Ford might make something else by then that I would like even better. I thought about that blue car again and just shook my head; my mind was settled. I was always going to get a Ford, now I had it narrowed down to MUSTANG, and I knew what to look for. "Daddy, I really love the Mustang."

Over the years, even through the pull of practicality and economic uncertainty, I have been able to feed my Pony hunger with some wonderful daily driven Mustangs. But they were just that: daily drivers, usually new-ish or brand new. But I never had the opportunity to find one that now would need to be essentially a "show car" due to the age of the vehicle (AACK!! Where did the years go?!) And truly, I still longed for that one Mustang which was, in my opinion, the perfect car. One that would represent family, both past and present, for me. Eventually, my husband Ken and I managed to save up enough extra funds to feed a extra Pony...and the hunt was on!

Let me say here and now, unless you have unlimited funds, looking through Mecum Auctions either online or via catalog can be an exercise in either self-abuse or self-control. mmmGHAAAAH!!!! (Bangs head against wall.) Trying to narrow down the field with the filters of : Personal preference / convertible wanted, Price, Availability, and Quality / Condition Add to that knowing jack-zip about the auction process...*yeah*With the auction approaching, I made up my list of several vehicles to look over. We enlisted the help Matt Cannizzaro and with his expertise with automobile appraisal, antique automobile experience, and the auto auction process he not only absolutely saved the day but made the day a fantastic experience. We had gone over one car in particular, a nearly pristine 1973 convertible, when a gold Mach 1 caught my eye. It wasn't on my list / wasn't a convertible, so I kept moving on...Roved all over the field finding the cars on my lovely (aka infernal) list, and kept passing the gold Mach 1...The last car on the IL (Infernal List) took us right by that gold Mach 1...so I gave in and took a look. And fell Absofreakinlutely in LOVE. I FOUND MY DREAM CAR. She's a 1972 Mustang Mach 1 with a 351 Cleveland -H converted to a four barrel. Some original, some

restored, some new. Glow Gold G4 paint. She had some flaws. But who doesn't? She needed some work and attention. But who doesn't? She still looked good and ran well after all these years. That's what makeup and doctors are for! Yay! Poor Ken. "I thought you wanted a convertible?", he asked in confusion. "Not anymore!." I declared with a huge grin. He just shrugged, smiled, and went with the flow. We managed the auction process fairly well, even for newbies, and the next day I drove home my official Dream Car. Her name is Gloria (that's an inside Star Trek reference only my best friend understands). She's a 1972 Mustang Mach 1 with a 351 Cleveland -H converted to a four barrel.

And when I am driving, windows down, I can feel my family with me...