

My Car Story

By John Tenuta

My Story is going to start off like I hear so often at a car show when someone comes up to me while looking at my car, "That was the first car I had, a 1965 Mustang...". Of course, then the conversation goes on from there. Well, that is the situation with me, my first car was a 1965 Mustang. I had come home on leave after spending time overseas and I had a few weeks off before I had to report back to Ft. Bliss TX. I was living in Chicago then. I did not have a car, so I went shopping. Now this was 1970, and I did not have a lot of money for a car being in the service.

A used car was what I was looking for. Well, there

it was on a used car lot, a 65' sedan Arcadian Blue with blue and white interior. It was a 6 cylinder with 3 speed. It was a good-looking car. It was inexpensive and fun to drive. At the end of my leave I decided to take the car down to Texas. I choose to drive Rt 66 as much of the way as possible down to Texas. Now the sad part of the story. When I was discharged, I drove the car back to Chicago and a short time later the block cracked and well, that was it for my first car. Role the clock forward, I retired and was looking for "hobbies". I started going to car shows and talking with various owners. I learned of their love for their cars and some very good hints on what to look for in a classic car. So, this leads me to my search in 2011 for a classic car. Living in Florida I drove to many classic car dealers in the state, looked at private sales, and kept my eyes open on the web for sales. Then one day, on eBay, was this Mustang, its color was so attractive I dwelled on the site looking at all the pictures and material that were available. I wrote the owner to learn more. He was in the Air Force and was being transferred back to Europe, he had a home outside St. Louis MO. He did not want to leave the car up on blocks and let it sit so he wanted to sell it. We exchanged many emails and finally came to a price. I don't have a lot of background to this car except for what little I learned from the seller. In its previous life it had been a track car. I was able to verify it when I got it and started to do work in it. Rear traction lift bars, a fine sounding CAM, and under the carpet and dashboard more wiring for gauges than you would find in a space shuttle. So here I am today with a fine-looking sedan that I have really enjoyed taking to car shows and sharing stories with the many visitors, "whose first car was a 65' Mustang".

