

# MEAN GO GRE

A WILD COLOR AND POTENT 429 MAKE THIS MACH 1  
A ROCKIN' PACKAGE OF POWER

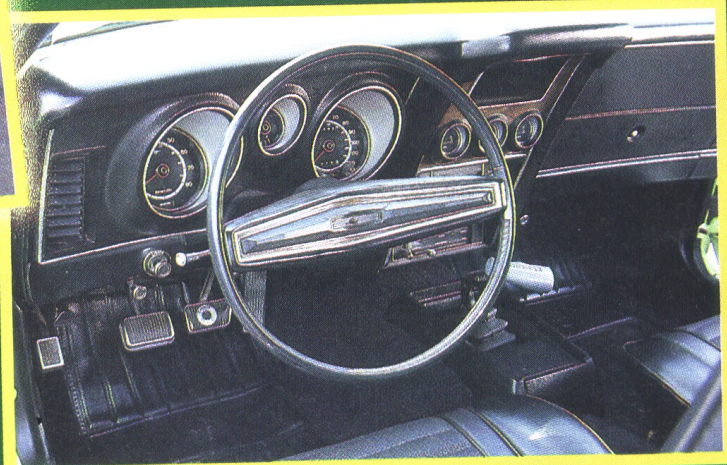
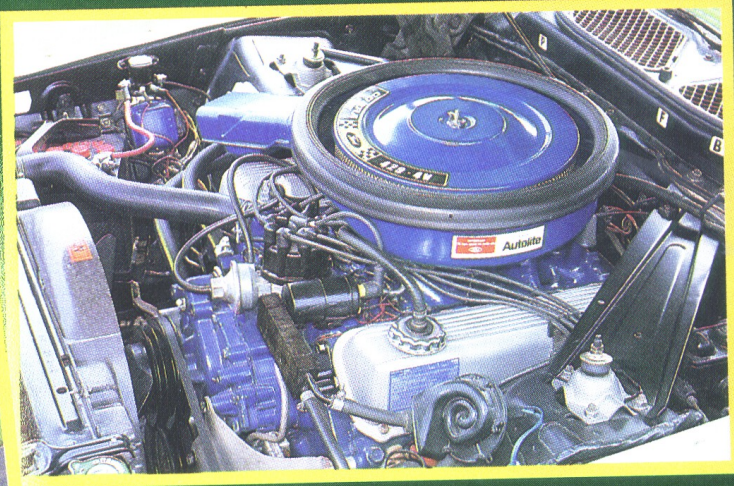
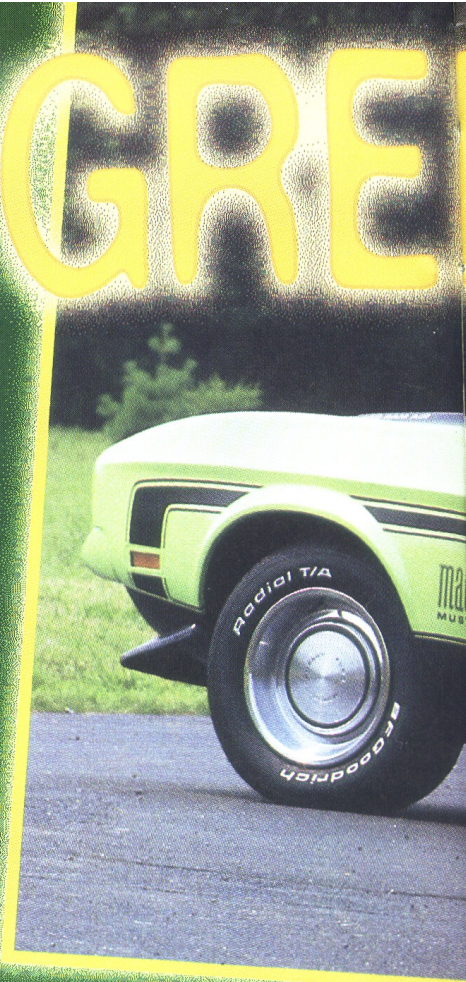
text by Jeff Ford • photography by Bill Erdman

**T**hree-point-nine-one gear plus seven hours at 55 mph equals fun! OK, maybe not fun for many Mustang enthusiasts. However, for Miles and Jayne DeCosta of Moores Fork, New York, this is music of the big-block kind. This music rolls from their 429 Super Cobra Jet's solid lifters and 2¼-inch exhaust system. To add to the fun, Ford included a four-speed and Hurst shifter. Of course, with these gears, you know cruising is not the car's specialty—it was

featured a '71 Mach 1 hauling a 13.40 at 105 mph—with a C6. The C6 is, of course, better for drag racing because it is more consistent, but the four-speed makes for better fun when the go-pedal is pressed. An SCJ can lay thick, gooey tracks of rubber in First and Second gears, and even spot some in Third and Fourth. Ah, the tire manufacturers' dream and the tire owners' nightmare. These potent ponies are rare—even compared to a Boss 351—because a scant 611 (estimated) 429 SCJs

tasty bits that make a 429 SCJ a powerful "statement car." Whether the car was a victim of chance ordering or skillful finagling by an owner or dealer, it is set up for maximum impact. The first thing to assault your orbs is the Grabber Lime paint. Combined with the optional body-side tape stripe and 15-inch trim rings and caps, it gives the Mean Green

SportsRoof  
a business and pressure



definitely built to live life one quarter of a mile at a time.

In 1971 terms, that translated to an article in *Sport Car Graphic* that

were built—and for only one year at that. As of 1972, Ford decided to pull the plug on the big-inch engines in the Mustang. Miles' car sports all the



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attitude—the kind of pressure applied by the authoritative and legendary Mean Joe Green of the Pittsburgh Steelers' defensive line. Just as Green is capable of

punching holes in the opposition, so is this Mach 1.

The exterior is as authoritative as the interior is downright comfortable—

though Spartan. The options inside amount to black Deluxe interior and gauge package (an option even on these cars), and it is a perfect place from which Miles and Jayne can call the

“plays.” Under the hood, you can see other components that are almost a necessity on a big-inch car such as this one: power steering and disc brakes. Though standard equipment with the four-speed, the full competition suspension gives the Mach 1 the ability to do some fancy footwork on the “field.” Outside of these hi-po parts, the only item of flair is the rear deck spoiler. This flat wing, designed by Larry Shinoda, complements the Mach 1's aggressive look.

Yes, Miles and Jayne have a rare piece of Ford iron that expresses the can-do attitude of the 429 SCJ. Amazingly, they drive to shows—3.91 gear and all. This is why we call it Mean Go Green—as well as the fact that the car is blistering fast.

