

**I**t's difficult for us enthusiasts to understand how anyone could pass up ownership of a Mustang. Especially a low-mileage vintage pony in excellent condition. George and Ginny Barber of Miami, Florida, were somewhat startled to learn that their Clearwater Aqua hardtop had been traded in for a new foreign sports car. They were even more shocked when, on presenting the car to their daughter, she summarily dismissed the Mustang as being "too old-fashioned." We believe, however, that their shock was quickly displaced with unspoken relief, as the South Florida couple soon found themselves in possession of a well-preserved trophy magnet.

"I spotted the car on a small lot in 1987," George explained, "while visiting my parents

*George and Ginny Barber  
welcomed this '67 hardtop  
when no one would.*

*article by Rob Reaser  
photographs by Tom Corcoran*

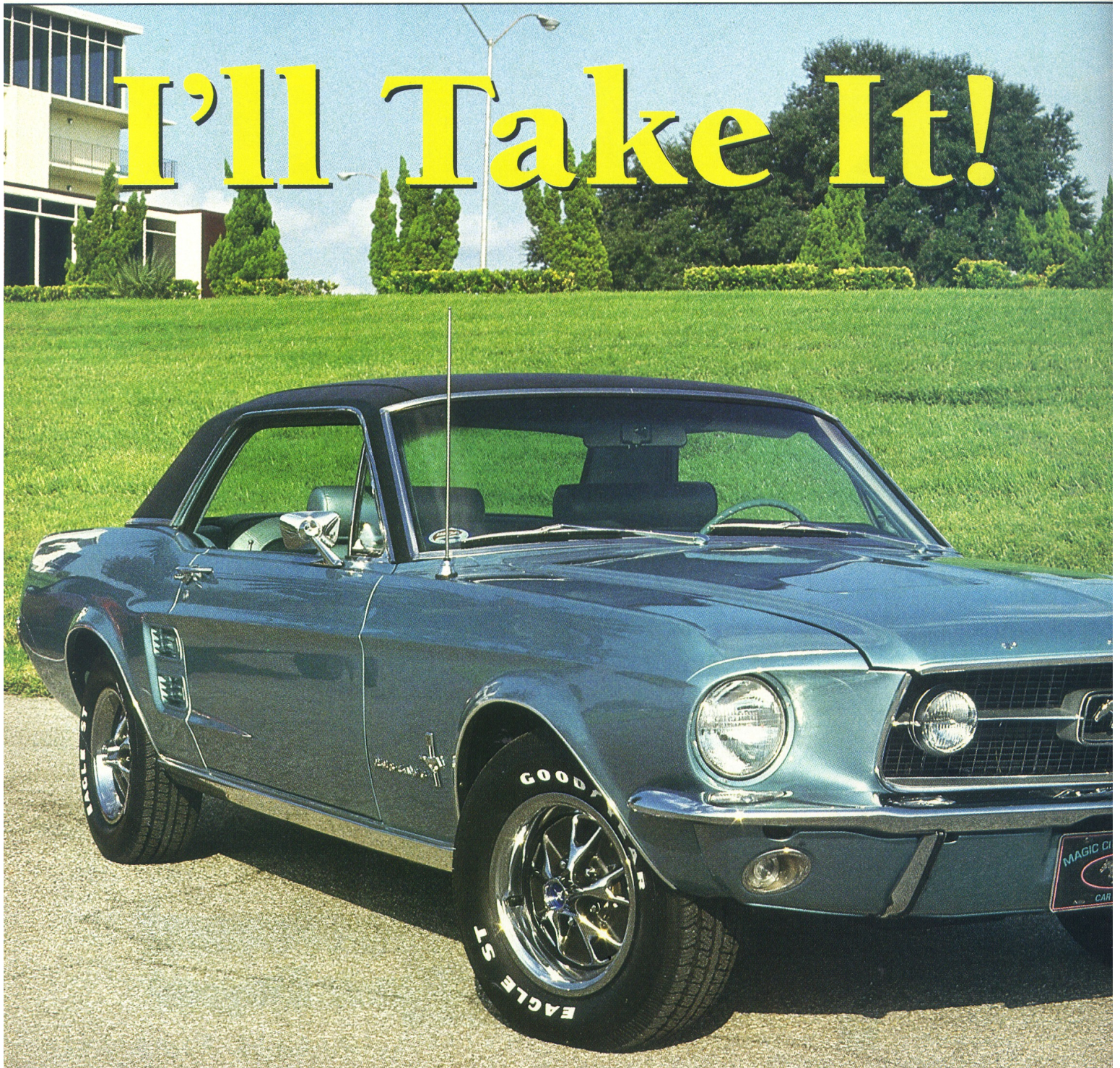
in my hometown of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The dealer told me that the Mustang was a one-owner car, and that he had purchased it from a Nissan dealer who had taken the car in trade for a 300ZX." That, in itself, may seem odd to most of us. But the story becomes even more perplexing: the car had only 22,001 miles on its odometer and was in top condition. "The hardtop was in excellent shape," George continued. "It had all matching numbers, the correct color, and the cor-

rect engine. The original options included an AM radio, power steering, power brakes, an automatic transmission, factory air conditioning, tinted glass, rocker panel moldings and a vinyl top.

"We purchased the Mustang when daughter, Caroline, was in her last year of high school. She wanted a Volkswagen, and I didn't want her to drive a VW, so when I found the Mustang I bought it. But when she explained that the car was too old-fashioned, my wife and I decided to keep it for ourselves."

The Barbers happily and immediately embarked on a restoration effort that would coax the hardtop back to its original condition. Working in their warehouse, George and Ginny took two years to accomplish their

# I'll Take It!







task. Except for the paint and body work, performed by Allen Lee Paint and Body Shop, the couple managed the entire restoration themselves. Their only deviation from the build sheet was the addition of the upper and lower consoles, and the uncommon Rotunda head rests for the car's standard bucket seats.

The excellent original condition of the Mustang combined with the restoration talents of George and Ginny have proven their worth on the Florida show circuit. Since the project's completion, the Barber pony has been racking up trophies throughout the peninsular state, and once again capturing

the spotlight in Ford dealer showrooms. In addition to over 40 First Place wins, including World of Wheels and Autorama competition, the '67 hardtop has lent its ambience to the introduction of the '94 Mustang. Ford executives requested the car's presence at the SN-95 press introduction in Fort Lauderdale, and it recently came off an area dealer's showroom where it helped to prove that the new Mustang really "is what it was."

George and Ginny Barber's '67 hardtop may have fallen out of grace with its first owner, but this couple knew a first-rate Mustang when they saw it. They weren't about to let go.

