

Nutz N' Boltz News

Fordnutz Cougar club is dedicated to the preservation of all Cougars and "Orphan" Ford and Mercury Vehicles

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Please send your articles for the Nutz Letter C/O the club address.
NEXT NEWS LETTER DEADLINE IS: August 15th, 2001

Photos by Scott Ferguson

BELOW:

FENDER EMBLEM



The Feature Feline: Our '68 4-Speed 428 / Cobra Jet/ Ram Air XR-7 GT-E

By Elaine and Jim Pinkerton



ABOVE RIGHT: INTERIOR

BELOW: JIM PINKERTON AT THE 97 PROWL/CCOA NATS



ABOVE LEFT:
ENGINE COMPART-
MENT

We are very fortunate that this member of our Cougar-family has been featured in several magazines, and that plans are afoot (apaw ?) to film it in August for a future showing on the My Classic Car television show. Assuming that all this comes about as



currently scheduled, we'll let you know the intended "airing date" in case you want to catch it on the tube.

Anyway, this car with only 47,000 original miles was ordered by a Lincoln-Mercury dealer principal for himself. We speculate that while under his ownership it received the 3.91 Detroit Locker rear gears (decal still in glove box), as well as the XR7-G left mirror. The dealer had it for several years before selling it to his parts manager, who likewise owned it a short time before selling it to Hank and George Huisman, of Walled Lake, MI (these brothers were heavily involved in GT-ES at that time). We bought the car from George back in 1994.

Only three GT-Es, all of them 428s, were produced with 4 speed transmissions (you couldn't get, and they didn't make, any 427s with 4 speeds). The "other two" 4 speed GT-Es were Boston district sales office orders and have not surfaced to date –not surprising given the salt on the roads in the east. Finding both of the missing cars in the future seems highly unlikely.

What you see is basically what you get here. Original paint (spot painted for nicks over the years), original interior, etc. etc. It does have a key scratch in the right rear quarter, the victim of a party-crasher prior to our owning the car. I have had several expert paint folks look at this damage and no one will touch it, short of repainting the entire quarter, and even then trying to get black cherry paint to blend to an original door, etc. is quite chancy. So, we have left it un-restored and most likely will continue to keep it this way.