

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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Fordnutz is affiliated with the Cougar Club of America and The Classic Cougar Network.

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Please send your articles for the Nutz Letter C/O the club address.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: June 15th, 2002



Above, Elaine with Catbalu and one of the many awards the car has won.
Below, the concourse detailed interior.

Catbalu The Pinkertons' 1968 Cougar

Story written by Scott Ferguson, photos by Elaine and Jim Pinkerton

Elaine and Jim's 1968 Cougar is affectionately called Catbalu, no doubt in reference to the 1965 Oscar winning movie called Cat Ballou about a railroad employee's daughter who rights the wrongs of a railroad company owner. Ed Shapp was a railroad engineer who bought the new cat from Hartz Motor Company and used it as his regular transportation to his job at Southern Pacific Railroad in Sacramento, California, where he lived. This was the second new car that Ed ever bought, the first being a 1936 Ford Convertible. He loved the Cougar and it served him well over the next twenty years until his passing. Elaine inherited her father's

car and moved it up to the Seattle, Washington, area where Jim and Elaine pondered the car's future. They knew that they wanted to keep the car, but were not sure of how to proceed. One day the Pinkertons read a notice in the local paper about a Cougar event being hosted by the Cascade Cougar Club. They decided to take the Cougar to the Can-Am Cougar Picnic in Ferndale, Washington and never regretted it, joining the club that

very day. They met many interesting fellow Cougar owners and aficionados and found one of the premier Cougar experts, John Benoit of Cascade Classics. John got the nod to do the work on the car in October of 1993 and finished it in July 1994. Elaine says, "We started out to just give her a new paint job and it turned into a restoration. The most expensive phrase I have ever heard (from my husband) is, 'While we're at it we might as well...'" The car is one of the finest examples of a showroom restoration and has won several awards, including Gold in concourse

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judging at several events including; a Mustang Club of America National Show, in Bellevue, Washington, which celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Mustang, the CCOA West National Show in Concorde, California in 1995, and the CCOA West National Show in Bellevue, Washington in 1997, which celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Cougar.

Catbalu was built in San Jose, California with a scheduled build date of February 9th, 1968. It was equipped with a 302 2V engine, C-4 automatic transmission, Nordic Blue paint, light blue vinyl interior, and air conditioning.

The Pinkertons have supported Fordnutz since the beginning in 1997, holding Fordnutz membership number 9. They have attended many Fordnutz events, including every Claw In, even though they live more than 120 miles South of where we hold the majority of our functions. They have a great collection of vehicles and they are always willing to show them and answer the questions of interested and curious people. I, like many others, am looking forward to seeing what they bring to the Claw In this year. Maybe we will be privileged to view Catbalu, Cougar 1, or even a '34 Ford Hot Rod, just to mention a few of the possibilities.