

Nutz Letter

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 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: April 15th, 2004



Sharp looking cat in it's blue metallic paint and white vinyl roof.

New Cat In Town

Tom and Gail Wood's 1969 Cougar XR-7 428 CJ 4 speed
Story by Heather Whitaker. Photos from Tom Wood.

Long-time Fordnutz member Tom Wood has recently added another rare car to his collection. As in so many of these stories, Tom acquired this beautiful blue metallic 69 XR7 through convoluted means. The story began when a west coast aerospace firm executive ordered the car with all the bells and whistles: 428 Cobra Jet Ram Air, four-speed transmission, power steering, power disc brakes, AM 8-track, white vinyl roof and styled steel wheels. I'm sure if air con-

ditioning had been available on the 428 4-speed, that would have been ordered too, but it was not. The vehicle was assembled on November 15th, 1968 at Ford's San Jose California assembly plant to the owner's specifications, but after he had put a few miles on it, he decided he didn't like the shifter. He must have been a man of some influence as he convinced Ford to replace the factory shifter with a Hurst unit. Obviously this was a positive change, as in 1970 Hurst shifters came as standard equipment in all 428 Cougars. The cat was driven for a year or two, logging about 40,500 miles, when it developed some engine problems. At this time a brand new 428 CJ was installed to replace the original

engine. As the owner's firm routinely replaced vehicles every two years, a new one was obtained and the cat sat in the company parking lot, basically forgotten. It was seen and later obtained by another Ford enthusiast then continued to change hands several times over the years, being restored along the way with all NOS parts. The vehicle ended up in the hands of an owner in Albany, New York which is where it resided when discovered by Tom. He contacted the owner, made an offer which was accepted and arranged for the car to be transported to his home in Chilliwack, BC, where it arrived in the third week of February, 2004. The odometer reads just over 56,000 miles and is one of only 139 produced with this engine and transmission combination. Tom says the only thing he's done to it so far is

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The "claws" behind this cat is a 428 CJ

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wash it and that the car is “spectacular”, and could be driven anywhere and take first place. It is hoped that Tom’s manufactured home business in Chilliwack continues to prosper so he can bring more beautiful cats into his care to join the collection of other rarities. His current collection includes a 69 Cougar convertible 428 CJ automatic which is one of 16 and several other very rare 428 CJ vehicles which are all former factory Ford drag cars. None of his vehicles has more than 60,000 miles, one as few as 800 original miles. Hopefully Tom will have time away from his love of golfing to bring out this latest acquisition for the rest of us to enjoy this summer.



The blue leather interior and the Hurst shifter ready for action.