

# CIVVIE Street

MUSTANG COLOR SCHEMES BEFORE TODAY'S MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR RESTORATIONS  
BY DOUG FISHER



Mustangs with sun-burst wings always have a nice appearance and that was particularly true of P-51D N311G. This aircraft, USAAF 44-72145, was photographed at Chicago's Midway Airport during June 1962 and had last seen service with the Minnesota ANG and New Mexico ANG's 188th Fighter Squadron. As with the majority of surviving ANG Mustangs, the aircraft were flown to McClellan AFB where, after much deliberation, they were put up for auction. When 44-72145 was parked on the McClellan ramp, the airframe had recorded 1873.40-hrs while the Merlin had 486.20-hrs and 17.45-hrs since the last overhaul. The P-51D was auctioned for \$1121.11 to Haber Aircraft and was registered N2686D. In 1963, it became N311G and is currently airworthy as N51PT.



One of the most colorful of Unlimited Air Racers was the late Jimmy Leeward. On his P-51D N55JL *Cloud Dancer*, Jimmy often changed color schemes, names, and markings. In this view, he was participating in a demonstration air race at the Yankee Air Museum's annual airshow on 9 August 2003. Jimmy was a big supporter of the show and would either bring his Mustang or fly one of Jack Roush's P-51s. The ancestry of this aircraft is a bit unclear but it appears to be an ex-Israeli Air Force machine that showed up crated at Chino Airport during the mid-1960s. The aircraft was registered N7099V with the serial 44-84615 and in 1969 it became N9LR then N55JL in 1974. Today, the Mustang is owned by Phil Petrik of Montana.