



Certainly one of the most distinctive Civvie Street Mustangs of the late 1960s/early 1970s was Leroy Penhall's P-51D-25-NA 44-74012 N6519D. Last seeing service as RCAF 9243, the aircraft was obtained by Penhall in 1968 and moved to his new Fighter Imports hangar at Chino, California, where the company was engaged in rebuilding ex-RCAF F-86s and T-33s. In 1974, the Mustang was damaged in a forced landing and went through several owners. It is now with James Smith of Fortine, Montana. The yellow and orange Mustang was photographed at Chino during January 1974.



Sometimes Civvie Street owners picked some odd color combinations. We can understand the overall white paint, but the extensive trim of "Easter Egg Purple" leaves one wondering. P-51D-30-NT 45-11586 sold at McClellan as N5423V and when photographed at Friendship Airport, Baltimore, Maryland, on 20 May 1964 it was owned by early Warbird pilot Wally Oakes. Over the years, it went through several owners with different registrations including N51HA, N13LF, and N51HT. It was well and truly destroyed in an airshow accident that killed the owner on 1 July 1990 at Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Today, the identity lives on with a Mustang flying in Texas.

CIVVIE Street

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



Another McClellan auction veteran, P-51D-25-NA 44-72942 became N5427V after being sold for \$750. It was eventually acquired by Robert Fulton — a direct descendant of Steamboater Fulton and an inventor in his own right and perhaps best known for the Fulton Extraction System. Photographed at Danbury, Connecticut, during July 1971, the Mustang was receiving a bit of *al fresco* maintenance — very few Mustangs of the time period having the luxury of being hangared. Today, the aircraft is owned by Dr. Anthony Buechler of Waukesha, Wisconsin. Buechler has flown the plane since 1985 and put well over 2000-hours on the aircraft.

Long-time southern California Civvie Street Mustang resident was P-51D-20-NA USAAF 44-72035 N5411V. Sold from the famed McClellan AFB auction, the aircraft was purchased (for \$1100) by Whiteman Enterprises and flown to its new home at Whiteman Airpark in Pacoima. While based at Whiteman, N5411V went through several different schemes including this one with overall maroon with gold trim. In 1981, the aircraft was flown to Bogota, Columbia, by Lyle Shelton for a new owner who registered the P-51D as HK-2812X. In 1988, it went to France as F-AZMU before traveling to Great Britain to become G-SIJJ. The British owner has attempted to fabricate a history for this machine, claiming it flew combat with the 332nd Fighter Group — the Red Tails. This is completely untrue but is an unfortunate example of how some owners are attempting to manipulate history in order to increase the value of their aircraft. N5411V was photographed at Whiteman Airpark on 26 December 1967.

