

CIVVIE Street

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

Here is N5436V back at Aero Sport during February 1974 with a new paint scheme and smaller registration. After the plane was sold in 1978, it went through a number of owners that were heavily involved in the Warbird movement of the time. In 1978, it was obtained by Ted Contri who changed the registration to N51TC. In 1986, it went to Bob Pond as N251BP. It then went through several owners and today is flying as *Buzzin' Cuzzin*.



During the 1960s, Les Grant based his Mustang at Santa Barbara, California, but would often have it in for maintenance at Aero Sport at Chino Airport where it was photographed during July 1973. Built as 44-84753, the aircraft would serve with the 31st Fighter Squadron at March Field, before going on to the 131st Fighter-Bomber Wing with the Strategic Air Command, and then to the 165th FBS of the Kentucky Air National Guard. It was sold at the 1957 McClellan AFB auction and became N5436V. It was acquired by Grant on 26 July 1964.



It is not often that we can illustrate a "Civvie Street" Mustang in its original markings, but here is N5436V with extra-long-range tanks, probably with SAC.

Ed Weiner liked his Mustangs distinctive — as evidenced by P-51D N3350. Photographed at Meadows Field, Bakersfield, California, on 17 July 1958, this Mustang started life as 44-63788. Sold surplus at the 1957 McClellan AFB auction, the aircraft became N6172C but was quickly resold to Weiner who changed the registration to N335J before going to N3350. Weiner applied the spectacular paint scheme but kept the plane for only a year. It went through several other owners until purchased by George Whipple in 1968 who applied a new registration of N166G and a new paint scheme. It then went through several other owners before being obtained by Dave Zeuschel in 1978 and transferred to Doug Great Britain. The aircraft arrived at Blackbushe Airport on 11 November 1979. The Mustang had a USAAF style scheme applied along with new registration G-PS1D. In 1987 it was purchased by Stephen Grey and used in the film *Empire of the Sun*. In 1988, it went to France as F-AZFK and in June 1998 was completely destroyed in a fatal crash.

