

# Logging not only for lumberjacks

Logging, defined as the act of entering information in a log book, is done by pilots, fleet operators, the military and virtually anyone to whom vehicle performance and dependability are essential.

Maintaining a log book is a good idea for private owners too, says Car Care Council, which suggests that setting up and maintaining an auto "diary" is a simple procedure.

It's a matter of keeping a pencil and note pad handy to record anything of importance about the maintenance and operation of the car or truck.

Essentially there are six types of entries.

- Gasoline fill-ups and mileage;
- Addition of various fluids such as engine oil, coolant, power steering fluid and at what mileage;
- Maintenance services performed: What, when, by whom and how much it cost;
- Services performed other than routine maintenance, i.e. body repairs or paint, accessories installed, etc.;
- Insurance and/or registration information;
- Basic part numbers and/or specifications which may not be readily found in the owner's manual (belts, hoses, headlamps, spark plugs, filters, etc.).

Most businessmen know the importance of maintaining good records. For them and for others there are these additional considerations:

Keeping a running record of gas purchases vs. distance driven will show a decrease in gas mileage, warning of a malfunction or need for tune-up.

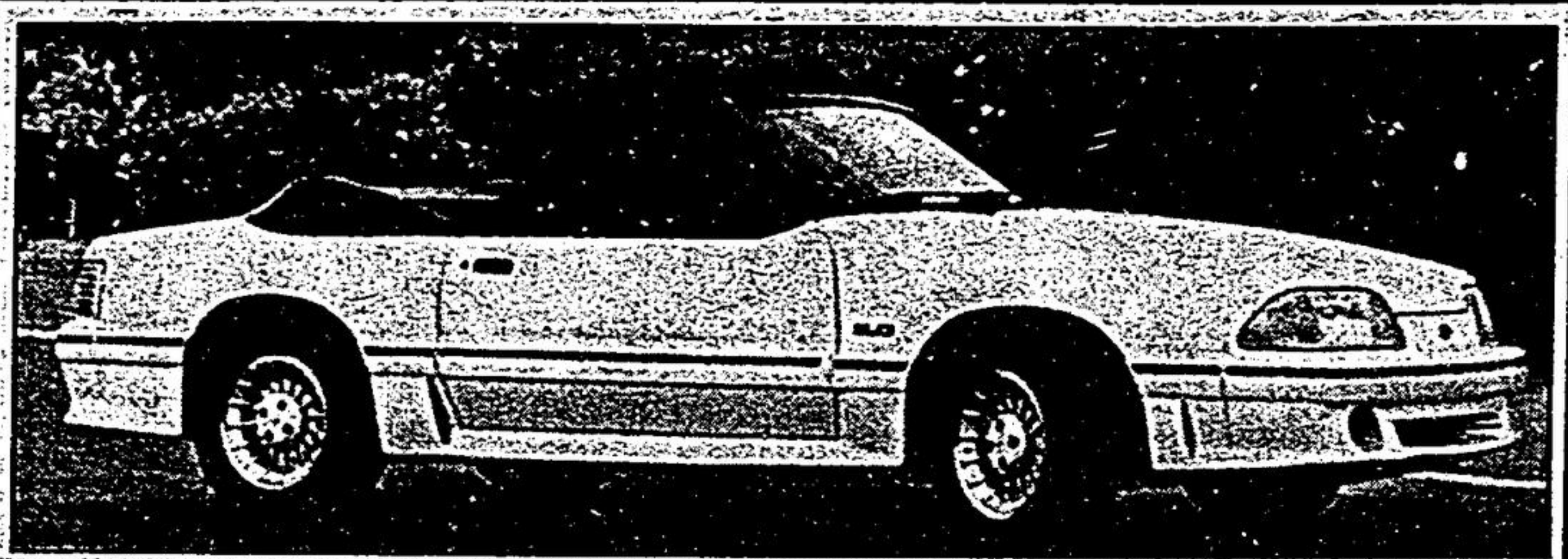
A log book will make you aware of abnormal oil or fluid consumption, which could be the tip-off to a leak or other potential problem. It also serves as a reminder that the vehicle is overdue for an oil and filter change, transmission service or other important maintenance.

When it's time to sell or trade, this kind of documentation can make a substantial difference in the vehicle's saleability. A used-car buyer likes to know what maintenance has been done and when.

In case of mechanical trouble, especially with an older vehicle, it may be useful to report to a mechanic exactly what work has been done.

If yours is an import car, you may want to jot down not only the original numbers for basic parts but also the conversion numbers from among the readily available domestic brands. This can be a big time saver when a crisis occurs far from a major source of auto parts.

Acquiring the logging habit can pay big dividends.



The Mustang Cobra GT packs a lot of power into a 5-litre engine. You can test drive this slick convertible at Cotter Ford & Mercury on Hwy 48 north of Dickson Hill.

## Mustang GT has power

By PAULA CROWELL  
Community Editor

If you're looking for a sporty car with power reminiscent of the muscle cars of the early '70s, the Ford Mustang GT Cobra at Larry Cotter's Ford and Mercury dealership will fit the bill.

This car has the look of an aerodynamic, modern machine with an air dam which wraps itself around the bottom of the car and a little spoiler on the trunk. It sits a little higher in the back making it look as fast as it drives. I tested a convertible, but declined to take the top down in chilly weather.

Eight cylinders are packed into a 5-litre engine in the GT. The power is impressive. I cruised at 130 km/h on the highway with no shake or rattle and the speedometer goes to 180 km/h.

And while it has the power and sleek styling of a sports car, it features the ride of a sedan. The car is much heavier than Japanese or European counterparts. Handling on corners was exceptional despite the larger size.

The only trouble with driving a car like this is that I felt cruel driving it in town. A car like that loves the open road and to drive it in traffic is like keeping a Greyhound dog in a pen. However, the admiring glances of other drivers sitting at red lights, eased my feelings of guilt.

Enough said about the exterior. The interior is comfortable and luxurious. Leather seats, upgraded carpeting and a feature I was especially fond of — automatic lumbar support for the lower back.

The instrument cluster is easily visible and simple to operate. And North American auto manufacturers have thankfully learned the importance of a decent sound system.

The one in the GT I testdrove was an AM-FM cassette with graphic equalizer.

Trunk space, because of the convertible top, was minimal, although it shouldn't be an issue with this car. This is the ultimate toy, and has fun written all over it.

However if you're in the market for a woman's car, Larry Cotter has a beautiful grey Mercury Sable. The Sable was designed with a woman in mind from the rounded corners on the dash to prevent panty hose snags, to the gas pedal which was adjusted to prevent wear on the right shoe heel.

You can check out both cars at the dealership on Hwy 48 north of Dickson Hill on the right side.

And while you're there, congratulate Larry and the boys on two recent awards. They earned the 1986 Distinguished Dealer Award and the Top Territorial Delivery Record for their sales zone.

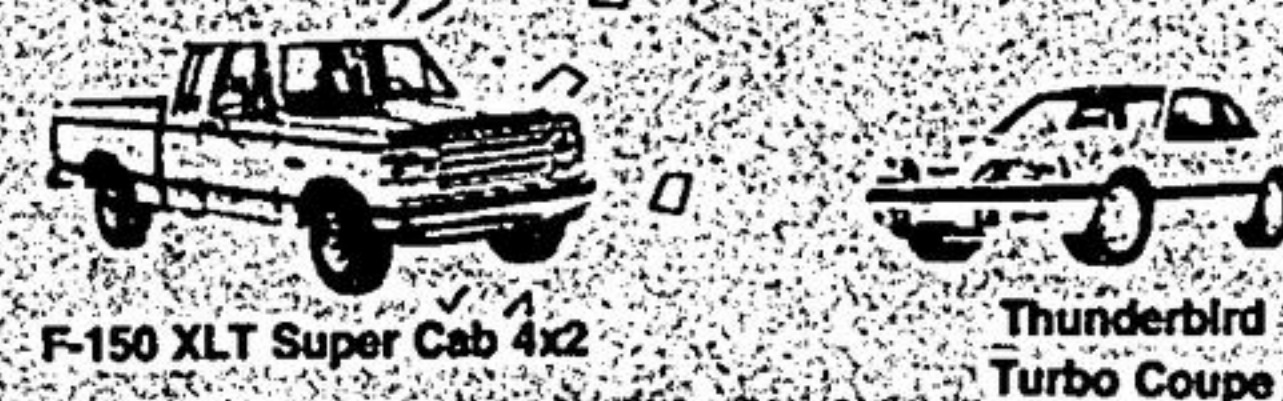
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