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## Think pink

%%headline%%Mopar muscle's softer side is on display

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**BY BARRY FOX**  
Of The Patriot-News

Chrysler can take the credit (or blame, depending on your perspective) for making pink a manly color.

Thirty-seven years ago, at the height of the muscle-car era, Chrysler introduced the High Impact Paint color "FM3 Panther Pink/Moulin Rouge."

Cars painted that color are now a rare find.

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Nick Taylor, a San Diego Chrysler enthusiast, started PantherPink.com and helped organize a collection of factory FM3 vehicles that will fill Building Y at this week's Carlisle All-Chrysler Nationals:

Q: Why Chryslers?

A: In 1975, I got my first car, a used 1964 Chrysler 300. Ever since then, I've been hooked on Mopars. I've had many of them over the years, and while I've tried out other makes, I always come back to Mopar.

Q: What is it about them that has held your interest?

A: I just like the designs of them as well as the engineering. Plus you weren't seeing hundreds of your car at shows like you do with more common cars like Mustangs or Camaros. I eventually ended up working at an all-Mopar wrecking yard that specialized in muscle cars, which helped feed my addiction.

Q: Panther Pink must have added a new dimension to that "addiction."

A: I knew that Chrysler had made cars in that color, but you hardly ever saw one at a show. I just happened to stumble across mine in 1986 at a huge car parts swap meet in Pomona, Calif. My friends and I found a 1971 Dodge Charger R/T that had been spray-painted black everywhere except the inside of the trunk. The owner and his wife were packing it in for the day, and if they hadn't had the trunk open, I would have never seen the car.

Q: It sounds like a car in that color is a rarity.

A: After getting the car, I tried to find information on how it came to be. Unfortunately, Chrysler had lost all the records for cars made during the

muscle-car era, so they were of no help. I contacted experts in the hobby, and none of them had heard of anything like it before. There were other cars that were special-ordered in different colors, but my car was unusual.

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