

There Was Only One; Amazing Shelby GT500 To Debut At MCACN!

In the collector car world, especially when it comes to Muscle Cars, there are many vehicles that claim to be "one of one." Perhaps the car was the only one built with a left remote mirror, the biggest engine and side moldings or maybe even the only one built in a particular color combination. In the Shelby world, there are a handful of cars that are "one-off," but few that share the pedigree and history of Brian and Samantha Styles 1967/68 G.T. 500 convertible.



This 428 cubic-inch dual quad ragtop was assigned directly to Carroll Shelby, and later became the '68 styling prototype and photographic car. Yep...this is the actual car you saw in those cool magazine ads! This Shelby has an amazing list of one-off features including a hand formed fiberglass hood and rear lower bumper valance, a unique single piece front end, a prototype kamm-type trunk lid, modified front fenders, fiberglass brake scoops and it is one of the first three big-block equipped Shelby Mustangs built. Other features include a white power top, power steering and power disc brakes, air conditioning, an AM radio and more. It appears that Shel liked to ride in style!

Along with being assigned to Mr. Shelby as his personal driver, the car also saw occasional use by various Ford employees. It is also rumored that the car was not returned in a timely manner at some point and reported stolen. 36 Years later in a December 4, 2003 interview, Carroll Shelby indicated "he remembered the car well, although the actual details of its use and disposition are fuzzy after all these years." Carroll laughed about the "stolen car" story and said that was the public story, and then started to relate the true circumstances. He stopped and said... "it's better to let a sleeping dog lie." Rumors say that the car actually was not stolen and was subsequently returned and some compensation was tendered...

Today, the car is undergoing a complete body-off rotisserie restoration by Jeff Yergovich of R&A Motorsports under the guidance of Peter Dishar, Bob Perkins, Bob Gaines, Kevin Marti and many others. Project Manager and de-facto Historian Brian Styles and his wife Samantha are the current caretakers. They will be presenting this machine, freshly restored, at the FNB NY Muscle Car & Corvette Nationals on Saturday, November 19. This will be the premiere showing of this car after several years of research and restoration. Be sure to allow plenty of time to view this incredibly interesting automobile and talk to Brian and Samantha about its interesting history and the many stories that were uncovered during their research. If you remember this car, and can add to its history, please share your insight with Brian and Samantha at the show. In the words of Brian, "This car and other special pieces of automotive history should long outlast us for future generations of enthusiasts to enjoy and learn from. That is our job; that is what we're trying to do here; please help us with it."

For a preview of this unique automobile, please check out www.1967shelbyconvertible.com. We would like to thank the Brian and Samantha, who will also be showing a Boss 429 Mustang and a Hemi Cuda.

