

## \$50,000 Is Bid For '69 Shelby GT

Auction totals reached about \$3 million at the 12th annual Greater Houston Collector Car Auction in August at the Astroarena. Nearly 40 percent of the 281 units changed hands, resulting in sales of \$1 million at the Kruse International auction.

Sports and muscle cars appeared to be the most popular with the bidders. A 1980 Lamborghini Copuntach captured the highest weekend bid at \$100,000. A 1984 Ferrari 308 GTS fetched \$60,000 and a 1969 Ford Shelby GT 500 convertible was bid to \$50,000.

"We plan on building next year's event to twice the size," said Mitchell D. Kruse, president of Kruse International. "We had a phenomenal assortment of cars and a spectacular attendance."

About 10,000 car enthusiasts visited the Astroarena during the auction.

## Electrical Problems Sidetrack Saleen

After qualifying 22nd for the Texaco-Havoline 200 at Road America in Elkhart Lake, WI in September, the Saleen/Auto Express team was poised for its first top 10 finish of the CART/PPG Indy Car season.

However, after a strong effort at the start of the race, electrical problems forced Steve Saleen to retire the No. 59 racer on the 10th lap.

"With cold temperatures and driving rains through the first two days of qualifying, Road America was better suited to ducks than Indy Cars," Saleen said. "But Friday and Saturday's dark clouds gave way to sunshine and mild temperatures for the start of the race."

When the green flag fell, Saleen pushed his Mustang from 22nd to 18th in just two laps. But only 10 laps into the race, the Cosworth engine developed an electrical glitch that quickly ended Saleen's hopes of a top 10 finish.

"The car was working well through the first part of the race," Saleen said. "It had excellent balance and I could easily run with most of the cars around me."

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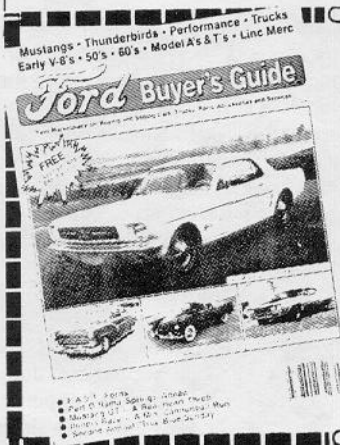
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