

Meeting Shelby Is An Unforgettable Experience

After all the years I have spent tinkering with the muscle cars he created, I finally had the distinct honor of meeting the man himself, Carroll Shelby, in Charlotte at the Shelby Convention in late June.

Considering his status as a living legend in the automotive world, you might expect that the years he has spent in the limelight would have made him wary of exuberant Mustang enthusiasts, but not so.

He is still the down-home, polite, Texas gentleman who took Ford's classic Pony car and muscled it up enough to terrorize the tracks back in the middle sixties.

He's quick with a smile and a handshake and greets people with a genuine sincerity that belies his lofty position in the world of mechanical ingenuity and automobile racing.

Shelby, in fact, honestly seems to enjoy attending events where his creation is idolized and several generations of sports car lovers share the thrill of owning one of his collector's items — even if they are quick to swarm around him wherever he goes.

Despite the fact that he underwent heart transplant surgery last year, he looks fit, trim and healthy. His ordeal has, apparently, given him a whole new lease on life.

The legendary Shelby sat for hours signing everything from literature to engine parts at the Charlotte convention — collecting \$10 each time he put his pen to work.

But Carroll Shelby's no Pete Rose. Every dime raised as a result of the autograph seekers went to benefit the Cedars Sinai Medical Center.

Meeting Shelby was an experience I will never forget and I, too, stood in line to get an autograph.

Now, the next time I take out my tools and start monkeying around with my Shelby the fun will take on a whole new dimension.

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Regional groups across the country are seeing more and more of MCA's board members show up at various events as your directors make an effort to improve communications with our far-flung membership.

MCA Vice President Bill Dillard and Assistant National Head Judge Ricky Simmons went to Cincinnati recently to attend the Tri-State Mustang Show.

Director Bruce Weiss was in Springfield, IL and Indianapolis, IN earlier this summer for two shows — one an MCA National and the other a highly successful regional show held at the Indianapolis Speedway.

I think our affiliated regional groups should be aware that these board members make these trips on their own. MCA doesn't pay



**Jack Yeager
Publisher
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their expenses or subsidize their trips. They pay their own way and then return to our monthly board meetings with some excellent insights as to what our regional groups are thinking, what they want from MCA and what we can do to make our organization better.

MCA does, of course, pay the expenses of the president, the national head judge, and the editor of *The Mustang Times* to attend National and Grand National Shows — and an occasionally a *Times* staff member is sent to large regional event. But the "fact finding" tours of our board members don't resemble those enjoyed by Congressmen and Senators. They pay their own way, and their conversations with officers and members of these clubs can go a long way toward making MCA a more responsive organization for all our members.

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The 1992 MCA Calendar is now available and I think you will agree that this edition is the best ever.

Mustang Times Assistant Editor Kitty Wilmot was in charge of production of the 1992 calendar and she has done an outstanding job selecting some of the most representative classic and late model

Mustangs in the country.

I'd also like to thank Board Member Teresa Vickery for her contributions to the calendar. She provided three outstanding color photos for the project.

The 1992 calendar is available by sending \$8.00 plus \$2.00 for shipping (first class mail) to: Calendar, Mustang Club of America, P.O. Box 447, Lithonia, GA 30058.

The calendars make excellent birthday and Christmas gifts, too.

We also extend our thanks to the MCA members whose cars grace the pages of the full-color 1992 calendar.

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Last call!

This month is your last chance to respond to the on-going readership/membership survey being conducted by the MCA board.

Questionnaires appeared inside the back cover of the mailing wrapper of the June and July issues of *The Mustang Times*. If you haven't taken a few minutes to sit down and complete this questionnaire, I hope you will do so today.

The opinions gathered in this survey will have a direct impact on some major issues facing the board of directors and the questionnaire is our way of attempting to get a consensus of opinion from our members on your club magazine and some of the questions facing MCA.

All questionnaires must be postmarked no later than Sept. 1, 1991. If you haven't mailed yours yet, do it now! We value your opinion and want you to share in making the critical decisions facing our club in the next few months.

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