

# RRS Event Newsletter

January 09, 2025 – Edition 25-0022

## WHY NOT GO THE EXTRA MILE?

That's the approach Robinson Restoration and Service feels is such an important part of what we're about.

### A Day At Shelby American "Legacy & Race Wins"

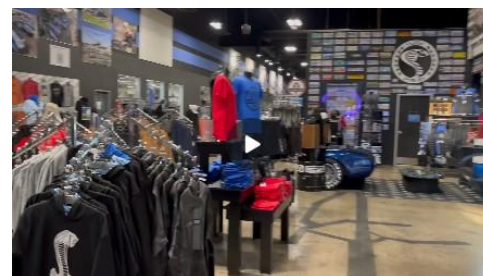
Carroll Shelby  
Heritage Center



You  
Tube



Visit RRS YouTube Show #19 "A Day At Shelby American" for a walk through of Shelby's Heritage Center.



## Carroll Shelby Legacy

**Jan.11, 1923** - Leesburg, Texas. Carroll born to Warren Shelby, a rural mail carrier, & wife Eloise.

**Nov. 1941** - Begins training at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio, TX. On training missions, Carroll corresponds with his fiancée by dropping love letters placed in his flying boots, onto her farm. As a flight instructor, he did not leave the U.S. during WWII.

**Aug. 1945** - Carroll leaves the Air Corps & starts a dump truck business in Dallas, TX.

**1949** - Carroll goes into the chicken raising business. His first batch of broilers nets a \$5,000 profit, but he goes bankrupt when his second group of chickens die of Limberneck disease.

**May 1952** - Norman, Oklahoma, Carroll drives his first road race in an MG-TC, taking 1st place competing with other MG's. That same day racing against Jaguar XK120's, he wins again!

**Aug. 1953** - Hurrying to the track for practice he wears his farm bib overalls. His odd racing attire brings more laughs & publicity than his racing. The striped bib overalls become his trademark.

**Jan. 1954** - Shelby gets the attention of Aston Martin's team manager. Based on his expertise at the wheel of the Cad-Allard, he's invited to co-drive an Aston-Martin DB3 at Sebring.

**Nov. 1954** - Carroll enters the Carrera Pan Americana Mexico. North of Oaxaca, Shelby T-bones a large rock & flips his Austin Healey 4 times. Indians find him & offer strong drinks to ease the pain of his broken bones, cuts, contusions and a shattered elbow.

**March 1955** - Shelby, still undergoing operations to recover, continues racing with his arm in a specially made fiberglass cast & his hand taped to the steering wheel. At Sebring, He co-drives a 3.0 liter Monza Ferrari with Phil Hill.

## Carroll Shelby Legacy (continued)

**1956 & 1957** - Sports Illustrated names Shelby sports car "Driver Of The Year".

**1961** - Shelby pursues another career & opens his "Shelby School of High Performance Driving". Pete Brock, a talented automotive designer, stylist & driver develops curriculum & helps teach.

**Sept. 1961** - Shelby mails a proposal to AC Cars in England to build their chassis for a special Shelby sports car to be powered by an American V8. As yet, he knows nothing of a new lightweight, thinwall-cast, small-block Ford V8.

**Oct. 1961** - AC Cars answers Shelby stating he's interested. Providing a suitable engine could be found in the states. The same month Shelby finds out about a new 221 c.i. Ford small block. He mails Dave Evans at Ford with his idea for a sports car & his need.

**Feb. 19 62** - The 1st 260 Roadster is air freighted to Shelby's shop in Southern Calif. Carroll has a dream revealing to him the name Cobra appearing on the front of his car. "I woke up & jotted the name down on a pad of paper by my bedside - a sort of ideas pad - & went back to sleep. Next morning when I looked at the name 'Cobra', "I knew it was right".

**March 1962** - Shelby American begins operations on Princeton Drive, Venice, CA. He hires Ray Geddes, a Ford finance business school graduate who comes aboard to coordinate the program with Ford.

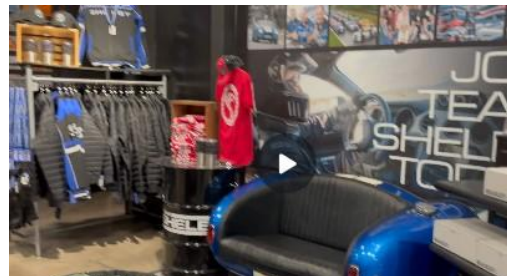
**March 1962** - Shelby creates the original Cobra Roadster. Fastest production car ever made at that time, 0-60 in 3.9 seconds.

**May 1962** - Shelby promotes his Cobra by offering test drives to the automotive press, who respond with superlatives. The May '62 issue of Sports Car Graphic describes its acceleration as explosive!

**Aug. 1962** - Shelby American submits homologation papers for the Cobra as a GT III car in the eyes of the FIA, Federation Internationale de L'Automobile. They homologate the Cobra on Aug. 6 in the over 2-liter class for the FIA Manufacturers' Championship.



Watch our YouTube Show #19  
"A Day at Shelby American"



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# Shelby American Race Wins!

1955 - 1965

**July 1955** - Shelby wins at Torrey Pines, CA in a 4.1 liter Mexico Ferrari, over Phil Hill.

**Nov. 1957** - Shelby, in a V8 Maserati single seat racing car, wins a 100 mile race at Riverside, CA

**June 1959** - Carroll & Ray Salvadori drive an Aston Martin DBR1/300 to win th 24 hours of LeMans.

**June 27, 1960** - Shelby takes 1st place at Continental Divide Raceways + wins the USAC driving Championship this same year.

**January 1963** - Dave MacDonald & Ken Miles take Shelby Cobras to 1st & 2nd at Riverside, CA over the Corvette Stingrays.

**Sept. 1963** - Dan Gurney wins the Bridgehampton 500KM in a Cobra, becoming the 1st American driver to win an FIA race in an American Car

**Nov. 1963** - Cobra beats the Corvette winning the SCCA A-Production National Championship.

**Dec. 1963** - Cobra wins the USRRC (United States Road Racing Championship).

**March 1964** - The Cobras, for the 1st time, beat the Ferrari GTO's at the Sebring 12 hr. Race.

**June 1964** - The Cobras & Shelby wind the 24 Hours of Le Mans. The Cobra is 4th overall & 1st in GT, defeating Ferrari.

**Nov. 1964** - The 289 Cobra again wins the SCCA A-Production National Championship.

**Feb. 1965** - Shelby Managed Ford GT-40 racing program, painted in Shelby Guardsman Blue with 2 white stripes wins its 1st race at Daytona..

**Feb. 1965** - Shelby Mustang GT350 wins it's 1st race, at Green Valley, Texas.

**March 1965** - Jo Schlesser & Bob Bondurant take the Cobra Daytona Coupe to 1st overall in the Sebring 12 hour race.

**April 1965** - The Cobra team of Bondurant & Grant are 1st at Monza, Italy in the Daytona Coupe.



We're passionate about Classic, Antique, Collector, Historical  
& Vintage Car Restoration & Service

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story.



# Shelby American Race Wins!

1965 - 1968

**May 1965** - Oulton Park, England: Sir John Whitmore takes 1st in GT class in a Cobra Daytona Coupe.

**July 4, 1965** - Shelby American, racing Cobras at the 12 Heures De Reims in France, scores enough points to claim the FIA World Championship for GT cars, wresting the title owned by Ferrari for more than a decade.

**July 1965** - Shelby's Daytona Coupe, the only American car ever to win the FIA World Manufacturer's Championship for GT cars, beats Europe's best; Porsche, Ferrari, Jaguar & Aston Martin.

**Nov. 1965** - GT350 Mustang again wins SCCA National B-Production Championship with Jerry Titus.

**Feb. 1966** - The Ford GT-40 Mark II wins at Daytona.

**June 1966** - Henry Ford II watches proudly 3 GT-40 Mark II's cross the finish line at Le Mans, 1-2-3!

**Sept. 1966** - Jerry Titus wins at Riverside & Ford wins the Trans-AM Manufacturer's title.

**June 1967** - Ford again wins at Le Mans with it's Mark IV GT-40.

**Oct. 1967** - Shelby American takes the '67 Trans-Am Manufacturer's title for Ford.

**June 1968** - Shelby GT-40 takes 1st place at LeMans.

**May 1968** - Lime Rock Park; Trans-Am series, Sam Posey drives a Shelby team car to the company's last Ford victory.

## Ford vs Ferrari

FORD v FERRARI, is based on the true story of visionary American car designer Carroll Shelby and fearless British-born driver Ken Miles, who together build a revolutionary race car for Ford Motor Company and take on the dominating race cars of Enzo Ferrari at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France in 1966



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