

GT/CS CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

GALPIN AUTO SPORTS HOSTS THE CELEBRATION

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On April 19th, Galpin Auto Sports hosted the 40th Anniversary celebration of the California Special, and a better host couldn't have been chosen. Opening their vast dealership to the more than 50 California Specials in attendance, they even provided a barbecue lunch.

Casey Hill, Assistant Registrar of the GT/CS Registry, presided over the event. Emily Hill, Casey's daughter, helped in the registration tent and with photographing award presentations. The GT/CS Registry is a web-based group of owners who gather yearly, but most converse on the web. It was so nice to observe them talking face-to-face to people they only get to visit with online.

After mingling with GT/CS owners, and admiring their beautiful Mustangs, lunch was served inside one of Galpin's buildings. The Southern California weather cooperated beautifully and the day was highly enjoyable.

Onsite is a collection of Mustangs and Fords that would rival any car Museum. From early model Mustangs, to early model Shelybs, a few GT40s and Ford GTs, a Saleen S-7, and some really cool vintage Fords, there was something to appeal to any automotive enthusiast.

After lunch, each participant received an Award of Recognition and had their photo taken with Paul Newitt, GT/CS Registry and author of two books, 1989 GT/California Special Recognition Guide & Owners Manual and the 1996 GT/CS Registry, and yours truly. What an honor for me, to be invited to this event, to meet Paul Newitt, and to be part of the presentation to the participants.

One special award was planned, but was a surprise for most in attendance. Beau Boeckman presented Paul Newitt, aforementioned author and Registrar, with the Lee Iacocca Award. To say he was surprised would be a huge understatement. Receiving this prestigious award visibly moved Paul. And, he's a perfect recipient. Here's a portion of Paul's Newitt's bio, written by Casey Hill:

Paul Newitt has written Mustang articles

for many magazines (Shelby American, Mustang Monthly, Mustang Times) about the California Special Mustang. He is also the discoverer and researcher of the "Green Hornet"—probably the most rare Shelby built—now in Craig Jackson's personal collection. He has been the enthusiastic leading voice for the California Special Mustang for more than 30 years. This special Mustang was only built in one year, 1968 1/2, and was a limited to less than 4,000 made at the San Jose factory. Mr. Iacocca, after conferring with Mr. Grey and Henry Ford II, made the final decision to build this "California only" Mustang in 1968 to help give California a special edge in the Mustang market (along with the 60's Southern California creative culture). In 2007, with consultation from Paul, Ford began making a new version of the California Special Mustang; it's done so well that Ford continued making them in 2008, and 2009. These new California Special Mustangs are available for sale at nationwide dealers—not just California this time.

After the presentation of the Iacocca Award, a few gallons of race fuel were given to the long distance participant who drove from Canada. Additionally, there was a silent auction for a signed GT/CS diecast and a show banner, signed by all in attendance; proceeds went to The Iacocca Foundation.

With all presentation done, owners and spectators mingled for a while longer, each seeming to not wanting the day to end. The atmosphere and camaraderie was plentiful and we fully understood how they all felt.

We thank Paul Newitt, Casey Hill, and the members of the GT/CS Registry for being so kind and generous to us, and to Galpin Auto Sports for being such a fantastic host. **MT**



A rare Cobra Jet GT/CS.



Several late model GT/CS Mustangs were on display. It was a nice contrast in design.



A work in progress! I'm so proud of people who bring their project cars to shows. You can learn so much, and get so much helpful advice.