

Great Texas/California

A GT/CS THAT IS
SPECIAL ENOUGH
TO MAKE
CARROLL SHELBY
PAUSE

text and photography
by Jerry Heasley

Ford's ad blitz for the Mustang GT/CS boasted "California Made It Happen," but this special California Special was actually shipped to Dallas in 1968. The Texas sales district wanted its own California Special version and though that never happened, Jerry Flowers, who lives in Dallas, was lucky enough to get this GT/CS.

According to Jerry's research, his beautifully restored '68 Mustang was sold new at Lee Jarman Ford in nearby Carrollton. He has talked to a salesman there who remembers selling a new Candy-apple Red California Special with black stripes and powered by the big-block 390-4V GT S-code engine. Jerry feels that, in all likelihood, this is the same car.

Jerry's GT/CS is not a "California transplant," but a native Texan that was sold at one point to the Mustang Parts Corral in Grand Prairie, Texas. A lady who worked there had an eye toward restoring the pony, but when she gave up on the project idea, the business began selling the valuable GT/CS parts. Those parts included many rare pieces—the deck lid, fiberglass rear quarter panel extensions and rear wiring harness.

The '68 then sat forlornly in the yard for five or six years before a friend of Jerry's spotted the sad Mustang. A deal

was struck and the hardtop went from the Corral to this fellow's stable—for a time. After stripping the car down to its bare sheet metal, and giving careful consideration to the fact that he already

owned a primo pony, the new owner called Jerry.

Jerry owns a restoration business called The Mustang Man (767 N. Britain, Irving, TX 75061) and he knew what a

