

# Great Texas/California Special

Shelby Nationals, where we saw the car on display. Carroll Shelby, also intrigued with the hardtop, sat down for a 15-minute visit with an enthralled Jerry.

As GT/CS aficionados know so well, the California Special was based on a Shelby hardtop prototype called "Little Red." We wondered if Carroll recalled for Jerry this history. According to Jerry, "Carroll did bring [it] up. He said Shelby American built a couple prototypes



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using the hardtop. He went on to explain that they said no to the hardtop, then they did go ahead and build and market one in Mexico. This hardtop came with extensions that made the roofline look like a Sports-Roof." Carroll

further explained that what Jerry has is as close to a GT-500 "hardtop" as you could get, outside of the Cobra Jet California Specials.

Jerry seized the moment with Carroll. He donated \$25 to the Lena & Carroll Shelby Children's Foundation, and Carroll signed the glove box door on Jerry's Shelby look-alike. Does that make this GT/CS a Shelby now? No, but it does make a Texas-bought California Special a bit more special.

