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SPECIAL TO DETROIT NEWS
SHELBY GT 500, CORTINA
GT, COBRA 3/23/67

SPECIAL TO THE DETROIT NEWS

SHELBY GT 500

The world first knew Carroll Shelby as a colorful sports car competitor who preferred to do his driving in a pair of farm coveralls. It knows him now as the head of Shelby American, Inc., a race-bred firm that turns out high performance machines for both the street and the track.

The latest offering from Shelby American is the 1967 GT 500. Based on Ford's popular Mustang it is a high performance grand touring machine in the European tradition. It will be on display at the Detroit Sports Car Spectacular May 3-7 at the Lightguard Armory.

Shelby American has offered the GT 350 since 1965. Powered by a 289-cubic-inch engine, it is a popular favorite with the performance buff. For 1967 Shelby has added the GT 500 which features a "LeMans" 428-cubic-inch engine that develops 355 horsepower.

Several distinctive styling touches distinguish the GT 500 from the Mustang. The fiberglass hood is three inches longer with a sculptured air intake. The deeply inset grille contains a pair of highbeam lights. An air spoiler across the rear deck gives the GT 500 a race-car look. Air extractors for the driver's compartment and air scoops for rear brake cooling also are derived from race cars.

Standard equipment on the GT 500 includes an integral roll bar that meets competition standards; an inertial reel shoulder harness that permits slow movement but locks in place securely when jerked and wide-path nylon tires similar to those used by the Ford GT at such tracks at LeMans.

The natural handling ability of the Mustang is enhanced in the GT 500 by a computer-designed suspension system, 11.3-inch disc brakes and a 16 to 1 steering ratio. Buyers have a choice of a four-speed, all-synchromesh transmission or Ford's SelectShift Cruise-O-Matic.

The GT 500 is sold through a network of 90 Ford dealers who have been franchised to handle Shelby American products.

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