

## Ned Scudder SAAC Cobra Registrar

CSX3018. Unpainted/black interior. Billed to Shelby American on 1/26/65. In California, CSX3018 was assigned work order # 15073, opened on 3/1/65. An order for a full comp 427 Cobra was received from Jack Loftus Ford (Hinsdale, IL) on 11/18/65, and 3018 was completed on 3/8/66 to fill that request. The car was invoiced on 3/8/66 to Jack Loftus Ford, Inc. as "1 Competition Model Cobra, CSX3018" at a cost of \$9,650.00. Its purchaser, Richard H. Messersmith (Wilmette, IL), traded CSX2525 on the 427. He picked up the car at the factory and used it at the the Carroll Shelby School of High Performance Driving. He put into practice what he learned at driver's school later that summer, racing 3018 in the SCCA's Chicago region at tracks such as Meadowdale, Lynndale Farms, and Road America. Photos of the car at the time show it was originally equipped with 6.5" FIA Halibrands at the front and 9.5" Halibrands at the rear. Its side pipes, originally black, were later chromed by Messersmith. It was reported that the Cobra sustained minor front-end damage at Elkhart Lake in '66, when Messersmith tapped the car ahead of him and spun into the grass. Minor dent removal, an engine rebuild, and mechanical upgrades were accomplished over the following winter. After three seasons of competition, Messersmith offered the Cobra for sale in the spring of '69: "Cobra 427 Competition. Shelby road racing specifications. Blue, black interior. Licensed, titled, with street equipment. Cobra in excellent condition. \$6500 or best offer." Chuck Mollica (Milwaukee, WI) beat a path to Messersmith's door and bought the Cobra. Over the next several years he proceeded to dismantle it for a planned restoration that never took place. Available for sale in '76 at a price of \$80,000, the car was acquired from Mollica in pieces by Bill Kemper (Barrington, IL). It was finally restored in the '90s, appearing at SAAC-20 (Atlanta, GA) 7/95 in Guardsman Blue, with 7.5"/9.5" Halibrand wheels, a chromed roll bar, chromed quick-jacks and black side pipes. The car received a Silver Award in the concours Cobra class, and was pictured in The Shelby American, #64, p. 28 (top right, mis-identified as 3015). CSX3018 came on the market in early 2018.