

My Car's Story

Thomas Keup - Original Owner

In Mid May 1987 I had read in the daily newspaper that one of the local dealers had become a dealer of the Saleen Mustang and they had one on the show room floor. I decided to go look at the car after I mowed my lawn which was a Saturday morning chore. It started to rain halfway through the mowing so I told Cindy I was going to look at the car. Her comment was that the way I looked they probably wouldn't let me near the car.

At the time we were living in rural Memphis, TN and the dealership was in Collierville, TN a suburb of Memphis. I drove the 3 miles to the dealership and walked in. I was greeted by a young man who asked if he could help me. I stated that I was interested in the Saleen Mustang. He said sure so we went over and checked the car out. The number on the car was 07. He explained that the number represented the sequence in which it was built. It looked good to me so I asked if I could drive the car. I had noticed that the GM was watching us. The salesman hesitated and then checked with the GM who also hesitated. I explained that I would go home and clean up and get my wife. They agreed to have the car outside when I got back.



We were back within a half hour and the car was ready for the test drive. As we moved down the road it was apparent to me that this car was very road worthy. The Racecraft Suspension was the same as Steve Saleen used in his race cars. I knew the road and was aware that there was a 45 MPH curve up ahead. We took the curve at 90 MPH. The salesman asked me how fast we were going. When I told him 90 he immediately put on his seat belt. That was the fastest we went during the test.

I purchased the car that morning but it required that the salesman follow me home to collect the check. At my house he told us it was his first day on the job and ultimately his first sale. Not bad considering it was the most expensive car in the lot.

I was asked to bring the car to a June car show at the dealership. The local Mustang Group was holding their annual show at the dealership and they wanted to show the Saleen since the next one would not be at the dealership for another 2 weeks. It was the cars first show and it has either taken a first or gold at every MCA show since including two Golds and Platinum awards at MCA Grand National Shows.

It was at that show that I found out that 87 - 07 was the first car sold to the public and that it was test driven by John Phillips of Automobile magazine. The article is in the July 1987 issue.

Highlights of the car:

1987 Saleen Mustang Special Edition, 21,000 original miles, never trailered

1987 - 07 The First Customer Car Sold

1987 - 07 Purchased from Currie - Peterman Ford Collierville, TN

1987 - 07 Unmolested Benchmark Original Used by Other Owners as Guide to Restore Their Cars

1987 - 07 1 of 246 Hatchbacks

1 of 280 total, 1 Coupe, 33 Convertibles and 246 Hatchbacks

1987 - 07 Test driven by John Phillips III of Automobile Magazine. The Article is in The July 1987 Issue

1987 - 07 Thought to be One of The Three Cars Used in The 1987 Saleen Brochure
Features Include: Racecraft Suspension, Racecraft Suspension, Performance Enhancements, Air Management Design, & Styling and Interior Upgrades

