1965 Shelby Cobra Replica built by Ron Butler Racing

In 1964, Butler took a job with Carroll Shelby in the upstart Shelby American, Inc. as a mechanic and fabricator, moving to Venice, California. Soon after, Butler became Carroll Shelby’s shop manager responsible for much of the design and fabrication work in the shop. For the next six years, Butler worked on the original Shelby Cobras, Daytona Coupes, GT-40s, and the Trans-Am Mustangs. During this time, he was a crew chief for Shelby’s racing teams and went to the 24 Hours of Le Mans race five times as a member of Shelby’s “over the wall” crew.

According to Dan Gurney, Butler was instrumental in the GT40 win at the 1967 Le Mans race that Gurney and A.J. Foyt won. “Luckily, one key member of the team was our mechanic, Ron Butler. Ron set high standards for himself and the car, and he was a racer, so he wasn’t trying to bamboozle the drivers. If we could figure out ways to improve things, he was up to it,” said Gurney in a June, 1997 issue of Road & Track magazine.

Butler left Shelby in 1970 to open his own shop in Culver City, California. Butler purchased the Shelby Cobra tooling and patterns from Carroll Shelby and began building Butler Cobras. He eventually built 104 of these Cobras with either a 427 or 351 Windsor engine. These Butler Cobras are as valued and cherished as the original Shelby Cobras today.

This spectacular Ron Butler Cobra features:

Original Ford cast-iron 427FE high performance engine 4-speed manual top loader transmission Custom Jaguar E-type rear end with Dana Locker [3.54:1 ratio]

Interior: Moto-Lita hardwood-rimmed steering wheel, Black upholstery with black carpet, Stewart- Warner gauges Leather wrapped dash Lucas toggle switches

Suspension & Brakes: MG front suspension with rack and pinion steering Koni adjustable coil-over shocks Inboard disc brakes