

MCCNE trip to Halderman Barn Museum

Tuesday, June 27, 2017



9 Members of the Mustang Car Club of New England (MCCNE) ventured out to Tipp City, Ohio (just outside of Dayton) to see the Halderman Barn Museum and meet Gale Halderman, one of the designer of the original 1964 ½ Mustang. Dave & Donna Brisebois drove their 1965 Blue Coupe that Dave had restored himself; Alan & Alicia McIntyre drove their 2008 Silver GT Convertible; Bill Watkins drove his Red 2011 GT Coupe; Jonathan Woodward drove his 2003 Blue Mach1; and I drove my 2003 Silver GT Convertible. The five Mustangs were able to stay in formation for the majority of the journey. We were met out in Ohio by other MCCNE Members Andy Terraco, his son and Al Muska.

We all woke to a beautiful morning on June 27, 2017, and gathered in the hotel parking lot to find a car wash before heading to the Halderman Barn Museum. After all, it was Gale Halderman who stated in the recent documentary, A Faster Horse, that he would gauge his designs by asking himself the question, "Would I like to wash this car?" Well, all of us enjoyed washing our cars that morning, and wanted Gale to see them in their best condition.

As we drove to the Halderman Barn Museum, we made the last right turn onto Route 40 in Tipp Cuty, and headed east for a few miles through farmland, a white barn with a running pony appeared on the right side of the road. We had arrived! Our 800 mile, two-day journey had finally brought us to our destination. There was Gale Halderman, in the flesh, sitting on the porch with his daughter, Karen, awaiting our arrival.



We were first shown Karen's camera collection. Literally hundreds of different cameras of multiple formats from a variety of manufacturers. After seeing the truly impressive camera collection, we entered the barn that was the inspiration for our journey. Gale and Karen lead us around and answered our questions, as well as offered a few stories to go along with what we were seeing. The walls of the barn are covered with Mustang and Ford memorabilia. There are original renderings/sketches of Ford designs, such as the 57 Fairlane. There were 3 Mustangs in the barn. A 1965 convertible, a 1966 Fastback, and a 2017 EcoBoost. We asked Gale why the 2017 EcoBoost had Michigan plates, and he replied, "It's a company car." Gale asked me if I had ever driven a 2017 Mustang, and I said, "No, I'm afraid that if I do, I want to buy one." Before I knew it, Gale had Karen take the car out of the barn so a few of us could try it out!



After walking around the Museum with Gale and Karen, we were taken to a lounge where Gale told us stories from his days at Ford. Gale also answered questions from our club members. It was great just to sit and talk with Gale.



After Gale had told us most of his Lee Iaccoca and Henry Ford II stories, we went outside and lined up our Mustangs under the running pony for photos.



Gale also agreed to sign some of our cars as well as some memorabilia we had brought with us. Below is Gale signing my engine and dashboard.



Unfortunately, our time with Gale had to end, so we mounted up and began our journey back to New England. This was definitely a trip that we all would remember and head out for our two day journey home.



I know I speak for all of us that went on this trip to meet Gale when I say that any lover of Mustangs needs to see this Barn Museum and meet Gale Halderman. MCCNE may even plan another trip out to Tipp City, Ohio in the next few years!