



*Carryover Owners Group: Owner Spotlight*

## Robert (Bob) Leimone – 6S194

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**Age:** 82

**City / State:** Magnolia, TX

**Year Purchased:** 1982

**Total Years of Ownership:** 38 years



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### *Bob's pride and joy: 6S194!*

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**COG:** Do you have a nickname? If so, how did you receive that nickname?

**LEIMONE:** I've never been given a nickname. But, if I had one, it would probably be, "RPM" – I love the sound of RPMs! Side note: I normally shift between 5,500 and 7,000 RPM.

**COG:** Where did you grow up?

**LEIMONE:** I'm originally from Burgaw, NC. My grandparents were from Italy and Hungary, and once they moved to the US, they started a farm. I grew up on that farm. From there, I moved to Virginia and got my degree in Mechanical Engineering. I eventually lived in several different places, but I finally settled down in the Houston area. I've been here since 1974.

**COG:** What do you do for a living, or what did you do before retirement?

**LEIMONE:** As a mechanical engineer, I started in the nuclear field. I worked in the nuclear facility in Bay City, TX for several years and then changed industries. I now have over 55 years working in refineries and chemical plants. I'm happy to still be working!

**COG:** What is your favorite childhood memory, regarding cars?

**LEIMONE:** I started out racing a 32 Ford Coupe on a dirt track when I was younger. We raced what they call "Carolina Style". This is where you run your car wide open (from zero to wide open throttle on a highway!). Good times!

**COG:** What car was used when you first learned how to drive?



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**LEIMONE:** I started driving in a 1948 Mercury 4 Door.

**COG:** What was your first car?

**LEIMONE:** I had a 1962 Ford Galaxy 500 Convertible with the 390 engine.



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***LEFT: Bob's 1989 Mustang GT 302 Race Car***

***RIGHT: Bob's 2003 Mustang Mach 1 with 80K miles***

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**COG:** How did you first become interested in Shelbys?

**LEIMONE:** I had a wife and 2 kids back in 1965 when the Shelby GT350s first came out. During that time, I went to the local Ford Dealership and I saw a brand new 1965 Shelby GT350 on the showroom floor, and I loved it! My wife was with me, and the first thing she noticed was that the car had no back seat (of course, it just had the package tray with the spare mounted on top). I tried to convince my wife that I could strap the kids seats to the package tray (after all, I WAS a mechanical engineer!), but she wasn't convinced. So, we passed on that car.

**COG:** What was your first Shelby?

**LEIMONE:** My Carryover

**COG:** How did you come to purchase your first Carryover?

**LEIMONE:** In 1982, I went to the Houston Autorama. At the time, they had an auction that coincided with the Autorama. While I was there at the auction / Autorama, I saw a Shelby that was to be auctioned: 6S194. It turns out that 6S194 had been purchased by a dealer from Arkansas prior to the auction, and this dealer brought 6S194 to flip the car for a tidy profit. During the auction, bidding on the Shelby eventually went up to \$9,000, but the car didn't sell. Afterwards, I spoke to the dealer (who was selling 6S194). Coincidentally, the dealer mentioned having seen a Mustang in the parking lot – that Mustang was 1 of 2 I currently owned (the one in the parking lot had been built up by myself to 500HP). After the dealer realized I owned the Mustang he saw earlier, we discussed my Mustang and his Shelby. To make a long story short, I ended up throwing in my second Mustang and some cash, and we ended up striking a deal for 6S194! Who would have thought that I would end up trading both Mustangs plus cash to get 6S194?

**COG:** What is one of your favorite car related stories / memories?

**LEIMONE:** I was going to Tulsa for Mid-America with my Shelby 6S194 for the first time. A good friend and I (he had Shelby 6S209 and a 65 Mustang built for racing) decided to make the trip. I needed to tow 6S194 (on an open trailer), but I didn't have a truck to tow the car. So, I barrowed (what was at the time called) a Houston Oiler's (as in the former NFL Team) Special Chevrolet Pickup Truck. Needless to say, the truck leaked oil like crazy (as most Chevys do – ha!) But,



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the fun REALLY started as we got near Conroe, TX. It started to rain cats and dogs! The rain didn't let up until we got the Oklahoma State line. That's a trip I'll never forget! And, that was the first and last time 6S194 ever saw rain under my watch. Afterwards, I purchased an enclosed trailer.

**COG:** What is a humorous experience you've had that's car related?

**LEIMONE:** One day, my son and I were driving back from a local car show. It was about 11pm at night, and my son was driving the Carryover (which has open side pipes...yes, my neighbors know me well!) and I was towing my other (at the time) 66 Shelby GT350 in an enclosed trailer. Well, we passed a patrol officer, and he pulled my son over. So, of course, I stopped as well. The officer was talking to us about the volume of the Carryover's exhaust when he stopped and asked what was in my trailer. As soon as I opened the trailer door for the officer to see, he said, "Wow. Just take these cars home and put them in the garage!" My son ended up getting off without even a warning!

**COG:** What do you love the most about owning your Carryover / classic car?

**LEIMONE:** The overall driving experience. The car handles incredibly well given the ride setup. You can feel the road more in the Carryover than you can in newer cars. The Carryover just feels rawer – even more than the non-carryover 66s, such as the black 1966 Shelby GT350 (non-Carryover) I had. You just become part of the car as it's going down the road. It's an amazing feeling!



*6S194 with Bob's Son-in-Law's GT500KR  
Shelbys run in the family...even extended family!*

**COG:** What are your future plans for your Carryover?

**LEIMONE:** Hang on to it and enjoy it!

**COG:** What is your personal moto / credo - this could or could not be car related?

**LEIMONE:** "Do unto others as you would like done until you." Oh, and, my Mother used to say, "Even fresh fish begin to stink after 3 days". In other words, don't ever visit someone at their home and stay longer than 3 days. You'll have worn out your welcome by that time!



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*An artist rendering of 6S194*