

## 1965 PONTIAC GTO Factory Lightweight- Keith Seymore

Written by Double Dragon

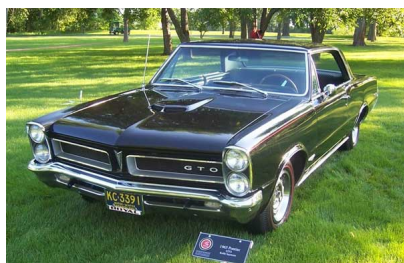
Thursday, 22 May 2014 21:23 - Last Updated Monday, 30 June 2014 13:19

---

### 1965 PONTIAC GTO Factory Lightweight- Keith Seymore

oneownercollectorcar.com

Writing copyright D. S. Brown, photography courtesy and copyright Keith Seymore



Keith Seymore's 1965 GTO draws quite a lot of attention at shows nowadays and in the past it was well known when his father Van ran it on the drag strips. This GTO came through Royal Pontiac direct from the factory equipped with lightweight sheetmetal. This was Van's third Pontiac and the one that didn't get away. He lost his first two Pontiacs and held tight to this one.



Van Seymore was born September 22, 1935 near Kennett, Missouri. He married Patricia Barnes April 26, 1956 and had two kids: Keith and Jenny. Van started with General Motors in 1955. He completed a long stint as a die maker at the Chevrolet Flint Manufacturing Plant before moving up to 'Advanced Manufacturing'. Aside from making fuel tanks, radiator grills, oil pans etc. Van made experimental parts for exciting projects such as special rocker arms and air cleaners under the direction of 'the Father of the Corvette' Zora Arkus Duntov. Van contributed

## 1965 PONTIAC GTO Factory Lightweight- Keith Seymore

Written by Double Dragon

Thursday, 22 May 2014 21:23 - Last Updated Monday, 30 June 2014 13:19

---

many components to the original Mark II "Mystery Engine".

At the Chevrolet-Pontiac-Cadillac "Advanced Manufacturing" group Van campaigned for the use of laminated steel, the adhesive bonding of aluminum components and 'space frame' construction on experimental Corvettes and Fieros. Van shares the GM patent for the press apparatus for hydroforming a tube which was issued Aug 10, 1993. This process created the all-aluminum frame rails used in the 2014 Corvette Stingray. Hydroforming provides greater strength, torsional stiffness and durability. Car testers commented on the better ride, world class racetrack handling, and even better MPG due to lower weight.



Van retired in 1988 after 35 years at GM but remained a lifetime member of the Widetrackers Chapter of the Pontiac Oakland Club International and the Royal Pontiac Club of America. His black 1965 GTO was registered in his name until the day of his death aged 70. Van died Nov 12, 2005 from the aftereffects of a heart attack at Grand Blanc's Genesys Hospital. Van owned his lightweight 1965 Pontiac GTO for 40 years and 2 months which was more than half his life.

The Lightweight GTO remains in the Seymore family with Van's son, Keith. This GTO is special to Keith primarily because of its connection with his father and because this was the 'Queen of the fleet' of racecars that Van campaigned. The unique history of this GTO is of great interest to vintage racing historians, those who are fascinated by 'time capsule' low mileage survivor cars and of course all the fans of mean black Tri- power GTOs with red pinstripes.

# 1965 PONTIAC GTO Factory Lightweight- Keith Seymore

Written by Double Dragon

Thursday, 22 May 2014 21:23 - Last Updated Monday, 30 June 2014 13:19



1965 CAR BUILDING ORDER  
 PONTIAC MOTOR DIVISION GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

LINE NO.	0521	POD1563	237375A														
BROADCAST DATE	0918	AAA 3 R 5	3 R 87 679 99889														
38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
2	2	4	7	2	2	5	3	7	4	5	5						

NO. 65-19  
 August 17, 1965

Attention: Dealer Parts Manager

SUBJECT: Air Scoop Package, Part Number 984716

Pontiac has released a new combination air scoop and cleaner, which is designed to take advantage of the already existing air intake in the hood of the GTO models only.

The scoop is designed for use only with the option 3-2 666 engine released for the GTO models.

The package includes the air scoop complete with gasket, which seals against the underhood panel, a replacement hood ornament, and detailed instructions.

This package, part number 984716, is available for immediate shipment. The price is \$70.00 suggested list, \$52.50 dealer net.

Orders should be mailed direct to the Pontiac Motor Division, Parts and Accessories Sales Department, Pontiac, Michigan.

Direct to the dealer from the factory system can be seen below in this photo Keith took of his GTO



# 1965 PONTIAC GTO Factory Lightweight- Keith Seymore

Written by Double Dragon

Thursday, 22 May 2014 21:23 - Last Updated Monday, 30 June 2014 13:19

VAN K. SEYMORE  
STK.# 4048  
JESSE  
*No Co's*

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Vehicle Certificate of Title

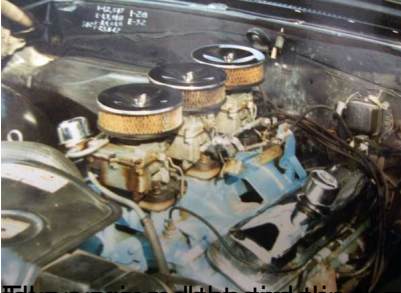
Year	1965	237375P
Make	Pontiac	
Type	Limous H.T.C.	
Color	Red	
Weight	3970	
Make	GM	HW 1031
Owner	VAN K. SEYMORE	
Address	3117 Thon	
City	Flint, Michigan	
State	Michigan	
Exp. Date		
Class	None	
Rate		131.00

Issued October 7, 1964

I, James M. Hare, Secretary of State of the State of Michigan, do hereby certify that this vehicle certificate of title has been issued upon application to the person or persons named herein who are according to the official records of my office, the legally registered owner or owners of the vehicle described on this certificate of title. I further certify that the application for this certificate of title shows that at the date of its issuance the vehicle here described was subject to the liens and encumbrances as shown hereon. In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature.

*James M. Hare*  
Secretary of State

**IMPORTANT**  
ADDITIONAL FEE OF \$5.00 REQUIRED FOR FAILURE TO APPLY FOR NEW TITLE WITHIN 15 CALENDAR DAYS FROM DATE OF NOTARIZATION ON REVERSE SIDE OR ON DEALER REASSIGNMENT FORM



The engine should be and the 1960s that the GTO received white and black steelies were

