Catching both the automotive industry and the American motor- public by surprise, Ford released the new Mustang in April, 1964 to unprecedented success. Its smaller, two door profile along with its long hood/short rear deck design made a lasting impression on everyone who saw it.

Stunned by the sales numbers the Mustang was racking up, it took until 1967 for General Motors to bring its competitors to market. Chevrolet unveiled the new '67 Camaro in the fall of 1966. Among the available options was the "SS" ™ package that included the new 350 cubic inch engine. In a classic example of corporate competition, Ford offered its 390 engine in the Mustang for '67 which of course spurred Chevy to release its 396 big block V8 as a mid-year Camaro option.

The 396 Camaros burned up the drag strips across the country, but fans also knew that Chevy had an even larger 427 cubic inch V8 in its arsenal. When initial requests for the factory to install the 427 into the Camaro were turned down, enterprising Chevrolet dealers started ordering the engines by themselves and swapped the big motors in. Don Yenko was one such dealer. Owning a large Chevy dealership in Pennsylvania, Yenko used his connections within the GM management to convince Chevy in 1969 to write what was known as a "COPO" order, which stood for Corporate Office Production Order. These were used for special combinations of options that were not generally available.

Don Yenko grabbed up 201 of the special 427 powered '69 Camaros for his dealership. All of the Yenko cars came equipped with the 450 horsepower version of the iron block 427, high-rise intake with Holley 4 barrel carb, power disc brakes, the L2L cowl induction hood, posi-traction rear end with 4.10 gear and the customer's choice of a 4 speed manual transmission or GM's M40 Turbo-Hydramatic automatic transmission which in this case came with Hurst's dual-gate linkage. Yenko's staff added the horizontal body stripes and headrest graphics after the cars arrived at his dealership.

Today, original Yenos are among the most sought after Camaros ever built.