

MY FIRST CAR....By William Petty

I got my first car in July 1968. I was working at a local engineering firm the summer after my freshman year at NC State and I was driving my parents 1966 Buick Riviera to work every day. My dad had a city car he drove but my mom was stuck with no car so I think they finally decided it was time for me to get one for myself. (I had been campaigning for one since I got my driver's license almost four years before).

My dad and I went down to Holt Buick on Pacific Avenue at the Beach, (he and Herb Holt were old friends), and went in the office and he told Mr. Holt that we wanted to order a new Buick Special Deluxe coupe "with nothing on it but paint". That was the cheapest Buick at the time. Mr. Holt turned to me and asked me, "you want something on it don't you?" I did manage to get full wheel covers, a tinted windshield and chrome trim around the windows. We ordered it in blue with a white vinyl interior and it cost \$2800. It had rubber floor covering, a straight six with manual three speed on the column, manual brakes, and manual steering.

I drove it to college for four more years and commuted to 21st St. in Norfolk, when I started working at Williams & Tazewell Architects.

I traded it, in late December of 1972, for a new Olds Cutlass.

Our office was one block down from Charlie Falk Used Cars and the parking lot entrance was on 22nd St. Not too long after I got the Cutlass, someone tried to steal my car from that lot but I had replaced the original door lock buttons with tamperproof ones and they failed to steal it, but there were three chips at the top of the window. They succeeded in stealing Brad Tazewell's Datsun 240Z, complete with his golf clubs in the back, from his personal parking space right in back of the building and we joked about it, saying that they probably already had it next door at Charlie Falk's, repainting it that afternoon.

In 1988, after having seven Oldsmobiles, I got my first Cadillac. At the time, I had a 1984 Olds Delta that I had been driving for four years, Aileen had an '87 Toronado and we had an '80 Datsun pickup that was giving us trouble. I went up to Phillips Olds thinking about trading the Datsun for something and they had an blue/dark blue '86 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz that a doctor had just traded on a Mercedes. Long story short, I wound up trading both the Datsun and the '84 Olds on the Cadillac. Three years later we did get one more Olds, a '91 Toronado that Aileen drove and we inherited an '88 Olds Custom Cruiser for a total of nine Oldsmobiles.

And now, here we are, nine Cadillacs and four Chevy SUV's later.....