



## ONCE IN A LIFETIME BY BRUCE SMITH #873C



While attending the Hurst showcase in Carlisle, Pennsylvania in 2019 I was asked if I would drive Linda Vaughn around the show in the back of my 1972 convertible Hurst/Olds. Of course I replied with a very positive yes. So I drove Don Glover, retired engineer from Hurst Performance, in the front and Linda on the rear deck in the back. It was great!

After the show Linda and I met and were able to talk. I told her about the first time I met her at Indianapolis Motor Speedway Memorial weekend. I gave her all the details of that meeting; I remember it like it was yesterday. I was a young guy in his early 20s walking around Gasoline Alley in 1974. I was at the Dayton-Walther garage when I saw Linda and the Hurstettes coming down the aisle. She was fascinated how I would remember all the details of that day! I was awestruck and that day got burned into memory.

Back to the story, so after the 2019 show at Carlisle, Linda's assistant Brenda asked if I would bring both my Hurst/Olds (my 1973 that I bought new in June of 1973 and my 1972 convertible) to the Ridgely Maryland Show in September. Brenda wanted to have the cars for a Saturday night banquet and for the show on Sunday. I agreed. Sunday I was asked to drive Linda around at that show where we followed Richard Petty in his Superbird. It was another great day. Linda and I stayed at the same hotel and were actually able to spend time talking about things that we liked and what we liked to do. We became instant friends.



During the next couple of months Linda and I talked or emailed each other every week. During one of our conversations, Linda asked if I would like to attend the Motor Sports Hall of Fame Induction dinner, in Daytona, Florida, as her guest. The event was to take place in March. I absolutely said yes. With that Linda contacted George Levy the President of the Motor Sports Hall of Fame Museum who contacted me and asked if I would display my Hurst/Olds convertible in the museum and if they could use the car for the induction ceremony. The H/O needed to be there the week before the Daytona 500 on February 16, 2020. Unfortunately I couldn't get the car there before

race week but it was there 2 days later, and then to be used in March for the induction festivities.

Well the rest is all about the coronavirus. The ceremony was postponed and the car is still in the museum until the ceremony can be rescheduled. I have to say meeting the people at the museum, like George Levy, was great. They are great down to earth people. And yes, what an honor to have my car front and center on display with my mannequin of Linda Vaughn standing next to the car in a jump suit that Linda gave me. It is amazing how many people that have seen that car at the museum and say they have seen it before at other shows!

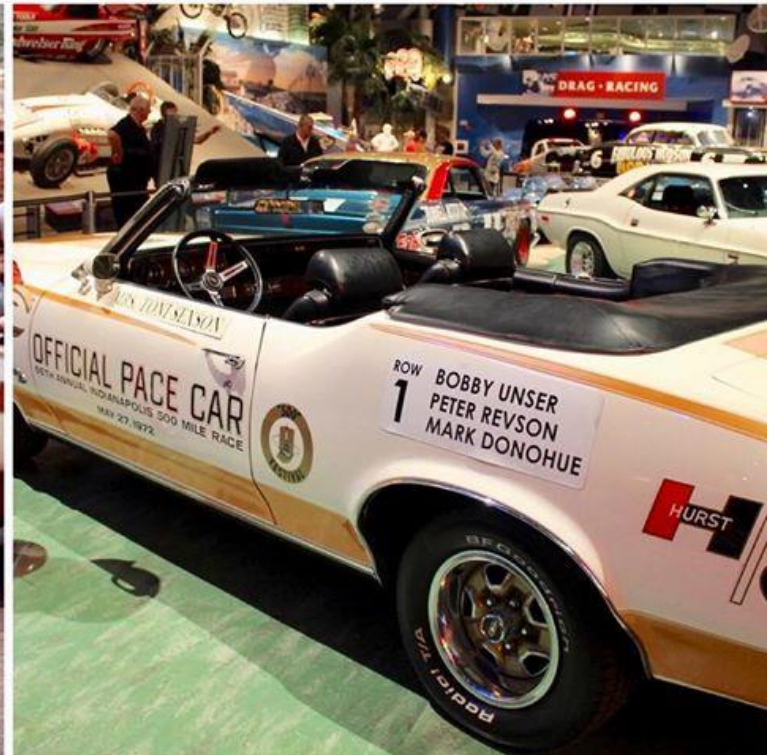
Now all I can do is wait until this madness is over and life can resume to some normalcy, and the Induction dinner can take place.



Photos taken at the Motorsports Hall of Fame Museum  
Daytona, Florida

## ONCE IN A LIFETIME, continued

This photo collage and announcement were posted on the Motorsports Hall of Fame website and Facebook page.



Just after the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America (MSHFA) said farewell to Todd Werner's No. 43 Richard Petty (MSHFA Class of 1989) 1970 Superbird, another iconic car from the same generation has arrived! The Hurst/Oldsmobile was the Official Pace Car of the 1972 Indianapolis 500 and 42 of the rare convertibles were used at the race. No. 37 arrived at the MSHFA Thursday and carried a trio of Hall of Famers in the 1972 500 Festival Parade. That year's race winner Mark Donohue (MSHFA Class of 1990), three-time 500 winner Bobby Unser (MSHFA Class of 1994) and 1971 Indy 500 pole winner Peter Revson (MSHFA Class of 1996) rode in Oldsmobile No. 37 while Miss Hurst Golden Shifter Linda Vaughn (MSHFA Class of 2019) made numerous appearances throughout that year's Month of May atop a platform fixed to the trunk lid of another Hurst/Olds convertible.