

# It's all about the NUMBERS.....

How many 1968 Hurst/Olds' are still out there? You can pick any year of H/O, and that same question has been asked. The other part of that question is, how many of a particular year are owned by members of the H/OCA?

The second question is easier to answer. Each February members receive the Membership Reference Manual. Our Membership has assembled this manual to help all of us answer questions like that. This information comes from YOU, the members of the H/OCA, when you renew your membership. If you fill out the section on the renewal form with all the H/O's you currently own, that information will be listed in the MRM. You can look at the listing for a particular year and see how many are owned by our members. I hate to be the one to tell you this, but not all Hurst/Olds owners are members of the H/OCA! What's up with that?

Now to the first question.... How many 19\_\_ H/O's still exist. Karl Sarpolis and Kurt Karch both maintain detailed registries for 1968 and 1969, respectively. They have been diligent in their pursuit of locating these 2 model years. They will also be the first to tell you: 1. Not everybody on their registry is a member of the H/OCA; 2. Not every 1968 (or 1969) Hurst/Olds still existing is on their list.

I personally know of a 1968 H/O sitting in the weeds less than 2 miles from my house. The owner bought it new. He is not a member of the H/OCA. The car has not had license plates in over 20 years. The owner will not discuss why the car is sitting out there or anything else about the car.

How many cars with similar histories are there? I was told about 15 years ago about a guy in Colorado who buried a 1979 H/O in the backyard when it was almost new. His



1968 HURST/OLDS in the weeds.

son had had an accident with it. I recently heard of 2 -1969 H/O's in Minnesota. One is perfect, but the owner never takes it out of the garage and he won't sell it. The other is a complete car but would be considered a "parts car", also not available for sale. None of these cars is on a registry. And so the stories go.

Getting back to the question..... There are several companies that advertise in trade publications and on the Internet, that they can tell you how many of a particular year and model are still out there. They do this for a fee, of course. How do they know? That is the real question. **The answer is they don't!!!!**

These companies may check car club registries, they may factor a percentage some how or they may check with State agencies. State agencies register a vehicle with a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). 1968-1975 Hurst/Olds cannot be identified with only the VIN. 1979-1984 H/O's can be identified by the VIN because of exclusive use of the engine installed in the Calais body. ("R" for 1979 and "9" for 1983-84.) The "catch" here is REGISTER. In most states, if your car has not been registered within the last 10 years, it will not appear on their lists. I personally have 6-H/O's that have not been registered in the last 10 years.

These cars will not appear on the State of Michigan registry of cars. Therefore these companies would not know they exist even if they could be identified from the VIN.

Let's consider the percentage system. Karl's list of 1968 H/O's is nearly 140 cars. There were 515 built. He knows of 27% of the 1968 H/O's. Kurt's list of 1969 H/O's numbers 319. There were 906 of those built, so he knows of 35% of the 1969's. If we apply an average percentage (say 30%) to the 3001 1983 H/O's built, that would mean 900 survived. WOW!!! Where are they?



Hundreds of completed 1983 H/O's at Cars & Concepts waiting to be shipped!

So with that said, the answer to "How many exist?" really is..... **nobody knows**. The information you would receive from these companies is an educated guess. Save your money. If you want to get information about a particular year of Hurst/Olds you can order a packet of information from the H/OCA Research Library. It won't tell you how many H/O's are left, but you will learn a lot of interesting information.