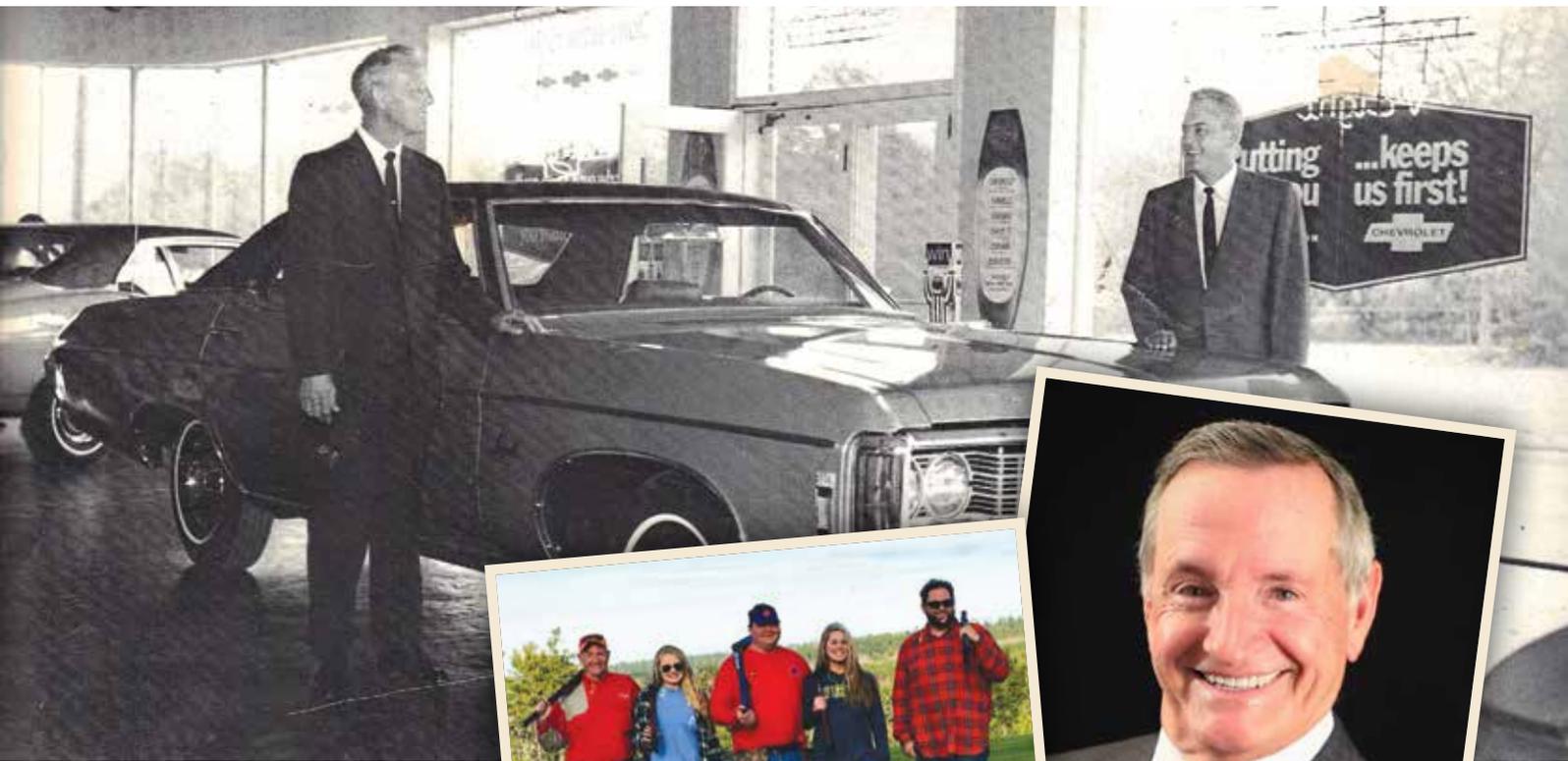


by Jackie Perrone



David Herndon

David Herndon calls his arrival in Lexington at the age of 16 a “culture shock.”

“My father bought the Chevrolet dealership from Harold Looney in 1968. We moved from Greensboro, N.C., a community of 100,000, to Lexington, which had a population of an official 2,000 at the time. This high school boy had to adjust.”

Now Herndon welcomes the sea-change those 50 years have brought in the fast-growing and forward-looking community he lives in. Like many of his neighbors, he sings the praises of a town, which has come a long way from the one drug store and one grocery store of the 1960s. “It’s a wonderful place to raise a family.”

Herndon graduated from Lexington High in 1970 and the University of South Carolina in 1975. Herndon Chevrolet is now in its fiftieth year, and the son is carrying on the traditions of his father Buck. The dealership likewise has changed with the times: In its original location, it was spread across several spots downtown; the dealership where Rush’s now stands, new cars displayed at what is now Wells Fargo, and the trucks’ display is now McDonald’s. As the business

grew, they were able to obtain 11 acres “way outside town at Highway 6 and 378” and have been adding space since 1984. Herndon Chevrolet went from selling about 40 cars a month in 1968 to the present pace, which last month sold 193 vehicles. In 1968, there were fewer than 20 employees; today, that number is 80.

Herndon Chevrolet supports a wide variety of community activities, including Lexington Dixie Baseball and the Chamber of Commerce. As for its owner, David Herndon has served as president of the Lexington Civitan Club (no longer in existence), Lexington County Gamecock Club, and state-wide, the South Carolina Automobile Dealers Association. In 2015, he was featured as Dealer of the Year in the Time Magazine Quality Award.

The family tradition continues via son Luke, employed as general manager at Herndon Chevrolet. Daughter Brantley works at Nephron Pharmaceuticals, Nick is in the West with the U.S. Forestry Commission, and Cassidy is a senior at the University of Tennessee. Three grandchildren complete the family tree. ■