

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

<S>
FORM 4
[] CHECK THIS BOX IF NO LONGER
SUBJECT TO SECTION 16. FORM 4
OR FORM 5 OBLIGATIONS MAY
CONTINUE. SEE INSTRUCTION 1(B).
RESPONSE.....0.5

<C>
UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

<C>
OMB APPROVAL
OMB NUMBER 3235-0287
EXPIRES:SEPTEMBER 30, 1998
ESTIMATED AVERAGE BURDEN
HOURS PER

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act
of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of
1935 or Section 30(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(PRINT OR TYPE RESPONSES)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Issuer	2. Issuer Name AND Ticker or Trading Symbol	6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) (specify Chief Executive Officer
Owner		
Other below)		
Smith, Ollen Bruton	Sonic Automotive, Inc. -SAH	See (1) and (2) below

(Last) (First) (Middle)	3. IRS Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (Voluntary)	4. Statement for Month/Year 10/98
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5401 E. Independence Blvd.

(Street)

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)	7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
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Charlotte, NC 28212

(City) (State) (Zip) TABLE I-- NON-DERIVATIVE SECURITIES ACQUIRED, DISPOSED OF, OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
Title of Security (Instr. 3)	Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	Trans- action Code (Instr. 8) ----- Code V	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) ----- Amount (A) or Price (D)	Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 3 and 4)	Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	Nature of Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)

Class A Common Stock	10/8/98	P	12,700	A	\$14.3701	12,700	D
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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. *If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, SEE Instruction 4(b)(v)

(Over)
SEC 1474 (7-96)

POTENTIAL PERSONS WHO ARE TO RESPOND TO THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FORM ARE NOT REQUIRED TO RESPOND UNLESS THE FORM DISPLAYS A CURRENTLY VALID OMB CONTROL NUMBER

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

FORM 4 (CONTINUED)

TABLE II -- DERIVATIVE SECURITIES
ACQUIRED, DISPOSED OF, OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED
(E.G., PUTS, CALLS, WARRANTS, OPTIONS, CONVERTIBLE
SECURITIES)

11.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
	Nature of Title of Indirect Derivative Beneficial Security Ownership (Instr. 3) (Instr. 4)	Price of Derivative Security	Conversion or Exercise Date (Month/Day/Year)	Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 6)	Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	Price of Derivative (Instr. 5)	Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)	Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>

Explanation of Responses:

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations.
SEE 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a)

/s/ O. Bruton Smith

November 10, 1998

** Signature of Reporting Person
O. Bruton Smith

Date

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed.
If space is insufficient, SEE Instruction 6 for procedure.

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Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

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FORM 4 (ATTACHMENT)

REPORTING PERSONS:

ISSUER NAME:
MONTHLY PERIOD:
<TABLE>
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ALL REPORTING PERSONS:

Name and Address of Reporting Person	Issuer Name and Ticker	Statement for Month/Year
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<S>	<C>	<C>

</TABLE>