

REVOLUTIONS

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21-50 TO HEADQUARTERS

by Tommy Anderson, March 2014



I want to introduce you to Gary Goltz of Upland, California. Gary is an MBA and entrepreneur specializing in the health care industry who holds a 7th degree black belt in judo (he runs a huge judo program for the City of Claremont and also serves as the President of the US Judo Association).

But the biggest accomplishment that Gary is proud of is being the self-professed number one fan of the "Highway Patrol" TV series from the 1950's. Gary and I share a long-lasting love for this classic show.



Gary was a true fan of Broderick Crawford, who Gary saw as a non-nonsense Chief Dan Mathews; diving a '55 Buick Century patrol car. The series was in production from 1955 to 1959 and is still in syndication. Chief Mathews drove everything from a '54 Olds 88 through a '59 Dodge Coronet; but that '55 Buick personified the character along with his fedora and Smith and Wesson Snub-Nosed 38 revolver.

The television show actually ran with a very low budget with many scenes filmed in the areas north and North West of Los Angeles.

The first patrol cars were actually borrowed from the California Highway Patrol units. The insignia was created for the door that was obviously left the name California off of them as did the badges used by the actors. At the time the California Highway Patrol had the Special 48 coupe body, Century engine, and Roadmaster brakes. These were among the first cars built specifically for police use.

Buick had only built 270 of these Century 68 two-doors, half with three-speed column-shift manual transmissions and half with slushy Dynaflow automatics. All of which were used by the California Highway Patrol.

In 1985 Gary moved to Southern California from Chicago via his home town of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At the time that Gary had arrived here still being an avid fan hadn't planned on actually owning a replica Highway Patrol Car. Since arriving here he had met all of the surviving cast members of the series and the director of the pilot.





In 1995 Gary had met Les Randolph, owner of Classic Auto Restorations in Riverside, California. Les had a complete replication of the Highway Patrol Car from the television series. Les has had so many offers to buy the car he finally put a for sale sign on it with a number so high he figured no one would ever ask again. Well Les had never met Gary, who upon seeing the price pulled out his check book and told Les he was going to buy the car. Les didn't know what to do because he felt that would never happen. Les had told Gary, "I can't sell you my car," and told him the reasoning behind his large sale price.



Gary relented, saying, "I won't make you sell your car, man." But then Les said to him but we could duplicate it. So Gary had Les redo a classic he found through an ad in "Old Car Trader". It was a three tone turquoise white topped 1955 Buick Special with turquoise interior.

Gary took the 1955 Buick Special to Les and his restoration shop to initially do just a paint job. Les knew it wouldn't stop there and actually as the paint job progressed Gary saw the need for completing the transformation totally. So in about 6 months the car was converted into a 1955 Buick Century inside and out. The car was finished but not completed which is ongoing venture. On the last day of the interview on this article Les had just completed installing a

cruise control system in Gary's Highway Patrol Car. It was a collaborated effort orchestrated by Les Randolph who had Richard McPeak reproduce the "Highway Patrol" TV show logo, and Tim Marshall do the painting and color sanding of the car.

So much work has been done on this car that you would never know its original roots. The engine was changed from the 264-cubic-inch version of the Buick V-8 rated at just 188 gross horsepower to Century's 322-cubic-inch OHV V-8 topped by a four-barrel Edelbrock aftermarket carburetor, and updated power steering system, power disk brakes, air conditioning, a super sound system, completely rewired electrical system, and a 240 alternator to keep up with the cars dual battery system.



The only difference after the conversion is that Gary's Buick is a Special 46R it is a pillarless hardtop as opposed to the two-door "post" sedan that the California Highway Patrol actually had. Another change that was made to Gary's Highway Patrol car was that Gary's car was actually a Buick Special which had 3 fender portholes instead of the 4 that were in the Highway Patrol's Century 4 porthole fenders. An easy change was made to duplicate the 4 portholes.



Gary's Highway Patrol Car sports a completely new electrical and sound system. The new electrical system runs off of two batteries and utilizes the 240 alternator system. With one battery that is mounted in the engine compartment and one that is mounted in the trunk. It is all managed through a state of the art management system in the trunk of relays and circuit breakers custom built by Les Randolph. It is needed to run the Whelen Engineering Emergency lights; headlights, headlight strobes, and the state of the art sound system. The sound system is state of the art and professional system inside and out.

Besides the speakers inside there are speakers mounted under the fenders and front bumper. It also has a PA system, CB Radio, Police Scanner, state of the art radio with Sirius. Housing this array of equipment is a custom built console hand crafted out of plastic and metal by Les Randolph. A time consuming effort which involved bending the plastic parts of the console with a heat gun it is second to none and looks like a standard factory produced part. To top it off all of these systems can be controlled remotely through the key fob.

In addition to the authentic Highway Patrol Car, Gary help establish a website which has become the official "Highway Patrol" website. A link to this and other links will be at the end of this article. In August of 2001, Gary was very honored to

compete in the Chicago to LA Route 66 journey with other classic police vehicles. Gary had his Highway Patrol car shipped to Chicago and he and his special passenger Kelly Crawford (the son of Broderick Crawford) set out on a two week journey across half of the United States. It should be noted that Gary's Buick was the only vehicle that completed the trip under its own power.



Gary has also been in numerous car shows, calendar shoots, radio broadcasts, charity events, and even a participant in the famous Hollywood Christmas Parade. There's even an event that has going on for over 10 years created by Gary and Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge known as 10- 4 Day held each October 4th. It involves as many as 30 classic police cars parading down Hollywood Boulevard to Broderick Crawford Star on the Walk of Fame. There Gary and many well-known celebrities from Hollywood Christmas Parade. There's even an event that has going on for over 10 years created by Gary and Los Angeles City Councilmember Tom LaBonge known as 10- 4 Day held each October 4th. It involves as many as 30 classic police cars parading down Hollywood Boulevard to Broderick Crawford Star on the Walk of Fame. There Gary and many well-known celebrities from

television cops shows such as Erik Estrada, Kent McCord, Larry Wilcox and others give speeches supporting the efforts of law-enforcement officers.



The latest event Gary's Highway Patrol Buick was used for was the Make a Wish Foundation this past February of 2014. On this occasion Les Randolph to pick up a little girl who was flown in to Orange County from Wisconsin who has Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham's Disease (LGD) a rare lung disease that results in a proliferation of disorderly smooth muscle growth throughout the lungs. Her wish was to come to California and go to Cars Land in Anaheim. Les and his wife picked up Brooklyn at John Wayne International Airport in Santa Ana, California with lights and sirens blaring and took her to Disneyland.

Gary is also a member of Nate Truman's Star Car Central and is involved with other movie car activities.

A special "Thank You!" to lovely model Teresia Mercer.

For more information check out these sites:

- Gary Goltz: <http://garygoltz.com>
- Highway Patrol Website: <http://highwaypatroltv.com>
- Les Randolph, Classic Auto Restoration: <http://www.larscars.com>
- Nate Truman's Star Car Central: <http://starcarchentral.com>

Highway Patrol Trivia:

1. A ruggedly handsome young actor named Clint Eastwood made his television debut on *Highway Patrol in Season 1, Episode 27: Motorcycle* which aired on April 2nd, 1956. To watch the full episode visit the following link: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0601495/>. Another bit of trivia: this episode was filmed in the hometown of magazine co-owner and editor Cindy Nunn.
2. In Season 1, Episode 28: Mental Patient, the screenplay is given credit to a Robert Wesley. What many do not know is that this was a pseudonym for Gene Roddenberry who wrote several other episodes.
3. ZIV Television Programs explicitly forbade the portrayal of juvenile delinquents and kidnapping scenarios involving minors. This decision was based on a desire to avoid any accusations of child exploitation.
4. Broderick Crawford was born as William Broderick Pendergast on December 9th, 1911, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His parents were Lester Crawford Pendergast and Helen Broderick, who began their careers as vaudeville stars, billing themselves as Crawford & Broderick, later moving into acting.
5. Broderick made his first stage appearance at age 8 months. He attended Harvard University for three months before dropping out to work as a stevedore on the docks of New York.
6. On December 6th, 1940, Broderick, along with his wife and parents, sailed from Honolulu, Hawaii on the S.S. Lurline, arriving at Los Angeles Harbor on December 13th, 1940.
7. On November 23rd, 1942 he enlisted in the United States Army under the name of William B. Crawford.
8. Lorraine Del Wood, who played the part of a dispatcher in the show, is now a professional artist, which was her first love before life got in the way all those years ago in the heyday of Hollywood.
9. Terry Frost, who played Sgt. Morris, continued acting until his career waned in the late 1960's. At this point he taught drama, worked in regional theaters throughout the United States, and authored a guide on the art of acting. His desire to see new places drew him all over the world, eventually visiting every continent.
10. Two former cast members, Ron Foster (Officer Garvey*) and Wayne Heffley (born Arnold Heffley, played the part of Officer Dennis) ended up with parts in long running television soap operas. Foster played Dr. Grant in *The Guiding Light* and Heffley played Vern Scofield in *Days of Our Lives*.
11. Stuart Whitman (Sgt. Walters) attended over twenty schools while growing up, due to his parents traveling frequently. In 1958, for the movie *The Decks Ran Red*, he kissed the face of Dorothy Dandridge, making movie history with the first interracial kiss in a film.
12. Jay Douglas (Officer Douglas) was born Douglas Patrick Joseph Jay in London, England on March 23rd, 1907. Educated at Winchester and New College, Oxford, he also served as Labour MP for Battersea from 1946 to 1983, making him an elected British politician at the same time he was playing the part of Officer Douglas on *Highway Patrol*. In 1987 he was created a Life Peer, with the title of Baron Jay of Battersea. His son is economist Peter Jay, former British Ambassador to the United States.

*(Officer Garvey was also played by Jon Locke during Season 1)