Los Angeles Times

Hollywood parade of police vehicles will be dedicated to Art Gilmore

October 3, 2010

An annual "10-4 Day" parade of classic police vehicles in Hollywood will be dedicated Monday to legendary radio and television announcer Art Gilmore, who died Sept. 25 at 98.

The parade will start at 11:30 a.m. from the fire department museum at 1355 N. Cahuenga Blvd. and head to actor Broderick Crawford's star on the Walk of Fame star at 6901 Hollywood Blvd.

Crawford is best known as the star of the "Highway Patrol" TV series, which ran from 1955-59. Gilmore was the show's narrator for all 156 episodes and was a participant in six previous "10-4 Day" parades, organized by Gary Goltz, owner of a replica of the California Highway Patrol cruiser that Crawford drove in the show.

Among those taking part will be actor Larry Wilcox of the TV show "CHiPs" and radio personality Shotgun Tom Kelly, along with representatives of the city police and fire departments and the California Highway Patrol, City Councilman Tom LaBonge said.

-- Bob Pool

OBITUARIES

ART GILMORE DIES AT 98; ANNOUNCER WAS A FAMILIAR VOICE ON RADIO, TV, MOVIE TRAILERS

'Amos 'n' Andy' on radio and 'The Red Skelton Show' on television were among his many gigs, which also included more than 2,700 movie previews.

October 2, 2010
By Dennis McLellan

Art Gilmore, who launched his more than 60-year career as an announcer in the 1930s and became a widely recognized voice on radio, television, commercials, documentaries and movie trailers, has died. He was 98.

Gilmore died Sept. 25 of age-related causes at a convalescent care center near his home in Irvine, said his nephew, Robb Weller.

"He was one of an elite corps of radio and television announcers, a voice that everyone in America recognized because it was ubiquitous," film critic and show business historian Leonard Maltin told The Times this week.

(Ricardo DeAratanha / Los Angeles Times)

Kelly Crawford at the wheel of Gary Goltz's replica of the 1955 Buick cruiser used by his dad, Broderick Crawford, in "Highway Patrol." Standing is Art Gilmore, the series narrator.

"For at least 20 years, if you listened to radio, watched TV or went to the movies, you couldn't help but hear Art Gilmore's voice," said Maltin. "It wasn't especially deep like some announcers, but it had authority, command and yet also a kind of friendliness. I think it was an all-American voice."

Among the highlights of Gilmore's long and prolific career:

On radio, he was the announcer on shows such as "Amos 'n' Andy," "Dr. Christian," "Red Ryder" and "The Sears Radio Theater."

Moving to television in the 1950s, he was the announcer for "The George Gobel Show," and he began a 16-season stint as the announcer on "The Red Skelton Show." He was also the narrator on the TV series "Mackenzie's Raiders," "Men of Annapolis" and "Highway Patrol," for which he intoned:

"Whenever the laws of any state are broken, each state has a duly authorized organization that swings into action. It may be called the state militia or the state police or the highway patrol. These are the stories of the men whose training, skill and courage have enforced and preserved our state laws."

On both radio and television, Gilmore's voice was heard introducing and concluding "The World Tomorrow," a church-sponsored program with Herbert W. Armstrong and later his son, Garner Ted Armstrong.

Moviegoers also heard Gilmore's voice on more than 2,700 movie trailers, including those for " It's a Wonderful Life," "The Best Years of Our Lives," "Rear Window," "Shane," "Creature From the Black Lagoon" and the original "Ocean's 11."

Among the odds and ends of a career that included narrating children's records and serving as national spokesman for Chrysler: Gilmore was the voice of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1942 movie "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

Weller, a television host and producer, said his Uncle Art served as his mentor, beginning in the late '50s.

"When I was a kid, 8 or 9, I'd go with him to CBS Television City, where he was announcing 'Red Skelton,' and sit right in the booth with him," recalled Weller, noting that Gilmore was a stickler for precise pronunciation and always kept a dictionary by his side.

"Art always said the word tells you how to say it," said Weller. "If it's an exciting word, it's exciting. If it's a morose word, you say it in a lower tone. So when he did [the trailers for] 'It's a Wonderful Life,' it's up and fun; and when he did 'Seven Days in May,' it was down and serious and foreboding.

"I think his ability to vary his reads and give the studios what they wanted was his key to doing so many of these trailers."

Gilmore was born in Tacoma, Wash. on March 18, 1912. While studying speech at what is now Washington State University, he became an announcer on the campus radio station. He left school in 1935 and became staff announcer at KOL in Seattle.

Moving to Los Angeles in 1936, he became a staff announcer at KFWB and soon went to work at the CBS-owned KNX.

After serving as an officer in the Navy in the Pacific during World War II, Gilmore resumed his career, which included serving as the narrator of the Joe McDoakes comedy shorts starring George O'Hanlon. He also occasionally worked as an actor on "Dragnet," "Adam-12" and other shows.

Gilmore served as the national president of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists from 1961 to 1963 and was the founding president of Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters.

From 1973 through 2005, Gilmore volunteered reading textbooks for the Los Angeles unit of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic and served as a board member from 1980 to 1984.

A resident of Sherman Oaks for 65 years, Gilmore moved to Irvine five years ago. His survivors include his wife of 72 years, Grace; his daughters, Marilyn Gilmore and Barbara McCoy; two grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 600 St. Andrews Road, Newport Beach.

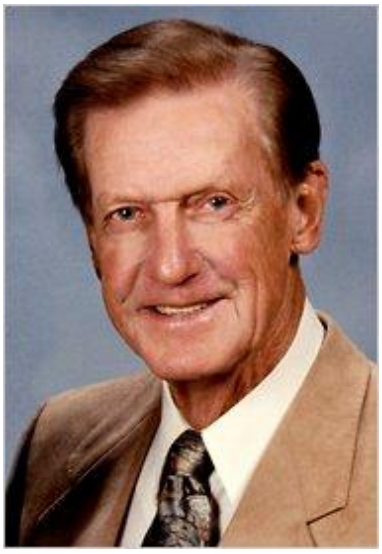
The New York Times

Art Gilmore, the Voice of Coming Attractions, Dies at 98

By Bruce Weber
Published: October 2, 2010

Art Gilmore, whose disembodied voice, introducing television shows and narrating hundreds (if not thousands) of movie trailers, was a trademark of Hollywood's self-salesmanship from the 1940s through the 1960s, died Sept. 25 in Irvine, Calif. He was 98.

He died of age-related causes, said his wife, Grace.



Art Gilmore

Mr. Gilmore actually did some acting on television, playing full-bodied parts in shows like "Dragnet," "Emergency!" and "Adam 12." But for most moviegoers and television watchers of a certain age, Mr. Gilmore was a star without a name or a face; he was even cast as a never-seen radio announcer in several episodes of "The Waltons."

His voice — crisp and articulate, just a tad piercing, cagily pitched to the subject matter and inflected with a precisely calibrated measure of enthusiasm — was as recognizable as a theme song.

Among many other television appearances, Mr. Gilmore was the announcer on "The Red Skelton Show" — "Live! From Television City in Hollywood!" — from 1954 to 1971. He was an announcer of the mid-1950s dramatic anthology series "Climax"; he narrated all 39 episodes of the late 1950s western series "Mackenzie's Raiders." And from 1955 to 1959, he narrated the crime series "Highway Patrol," which starred Broderick Crawford.

"Whenever the laws of any state are broken, each state has a duly authorized organization that swings into action; it may be called the state militia or the state police or the highway patrol,"

Mr. Gilmore intoned at the start of each weekly episode, sounding much the same notes that the voice-over specialist Steve Zirnkilton would hit decades later, introducing the shows of the "Law & Order" franchise.

"These are the stories of the men whose training, skill and courage have enforced and preserved our state laws."

As the narrator of countless movie trailers (his wife estimated he did 3,000), Mr. Gilmore was an especially effective pitchman, delivering the language of hype with masterful conviction. Comedies, thrillers, romances, musicals, animation, documentaries — it didn't matter.

Among the films Mr. Gilmore promoted as coming attractions were "Dumbo," "A Place in the Sun," "Roman Holiday," "Shane," "Born Yesterday," "Rear Window," "South Pacific," "War and Peace," "Ocean's 11," "White Christmas" and "Bye Bye Birdie."

"The screen jumps for joy with Glendon Swarthout's inside story of those uproarious Easter vacations," Mr. Gilmore pronounced in the trailer for "Where the Boys Are," a 1960 comedy about college girls on the make.

"Never before has any film contained such a full measure of the joy of living," he asserted in the trailer for Frank Capra's life-affirming small-town tale from 1946, "It's a Wonderful Life."

For the 1953 science-fiction thriller "The War of the Worlds" he declared: "This could be the beginning of the end for the human race!" And in a virtuosic bit of melodramatic recitation, he described Alfred Hitchcock's loopy and masterful psychodrama "Vertigo" (1958) as "the story of a love so powerful it broke through all the barriers between past and present, between life and death, between the golden girl in the dark tower and the tawdry redhead that he tried to remake in her image."

Arthur Wells Gilmore was born in Tacoma, Wash., on March 18, 1912. His father was a bookkeeper and an insurance man who had moved west from Massachusetts with his wife shortly before his son was born. Young Arthur attended Washington State University where he worked at the campus radio station. Later, he worked at a commercial station in Seattle before moving to Los Angeles in the 1930s and becoming a staff announcer for KFWB in Hollywood. Later he moved to KNX, which was owned by CBS.

Before the era of television, he announced radio shows like "Amos 'n' Andy," "The Sears Radio Theater" and "Red Ryder." He served in the Navy during World War II. For a time in the 1960s he was president of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, the labor union.

In 1964, on behalf of the Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater, he introduced a political advertisement consisting of an address by Ronald Reagan, a speech called "A Time for Choosing," that is often cited as a factor in establishing Reagan's influence in conservative politics.

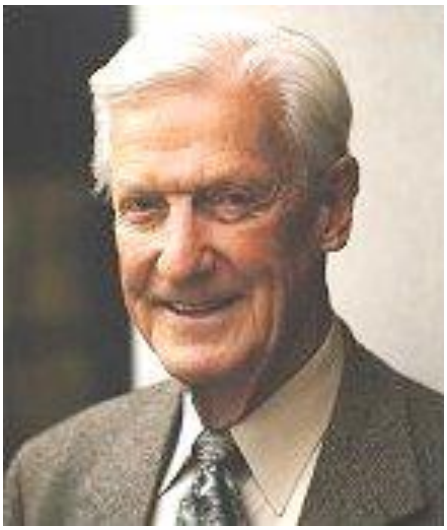
In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Marilyn Gilmore, of Irvine, and Barbara McCoy, of Rockford, Ill., two grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore, 97, met in high school and were married 72 years.

"They dated for eight years before that," their daughter Marilyn said.

ACESHOWBIZ
The Ace in Entertainment Zone

Celebrated Actor Art Gilmore Died at 98

October 2, 2010



Celebrated American actor and radio announcer Arthur 'Art' Gilmore has died, aged 98. Gilmore a World War II veteran, died of natural causes on September 25 in Irvine, California.

He started his lengthy career as a U.S. radio announcer for hit shows including "Amos 'n' Andy", "The Sears Radio Theater" and "Red Ryder", before turning his attentions to TV and film. On the small screen, he lent his voice to programs including "The George Gobel Show", "An Evening With Fred Astaire" and "Highway Patrol". He also appeared on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show", "The Waltons" and "Dragnet".

His film career took off in the 1950s and '60s, when his voice could be heard in trailers and documentaries including "It's a Wonderful Life", "Rear Window", "Vertigo", "War of the Worlds", "Bye Bye Birdie" and "White Christmas".

Gilmore served as the national president of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists from 1961 to 1963 and helped found the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters. He taught announcing at the University of Southern California and co-authored Television and Radio Announcing.

Art Gilmore is survived by his wife of 72 years, Grace, two daughters, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The service for Art was held on October 8, 2010 in Newport Beach

Arthur "Art" Gilmore

Arthur "Art" Gilmore (March 18, 1912) 98, pioneer narrator, radio and television announcer died of natural causes on September 25,2010 in Irvine, CA. Art was born and educated in Tacoma, WA. During World War II, he served as a Navy flight director in the Pacific.

Radio broadcast credits include: KOL, KFWB, KNX, Dr. Christian, Red Ryder, and Amos 'n' Andy. Television shows included: The George Gobel Show, the Red Skelton Show, and Highway Patrol.

He also narrated thousands of movie trailers. They include: White Christmas, Roman Holiday, Bye Bye Birdie, and It's a Wonderful Life.

Civic and professional credits include: National President of American Federation of Radio and Television Artists, founding president of Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters, Board Member and Reader for Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, and Deacon at Bel Air Presbyterian Church.

He loved to fly, boat, travel and play golf. Art was a friend of all and a man of great faith. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Art lived in Sherman Oaks for 65 years. For the past five years, he lived at Regents Point in Irvine.

Art Gilmore is survived by his wife of 72 years, Grace, daughters Marilyn Gilmore, Barbara McCoy (Jeff), grandchildren Maggie Geyer(Will) and Will McCoy (Elizabeth) and four great grandchildren John and Gigi Geyer, and Anna and Caroline McCoy.

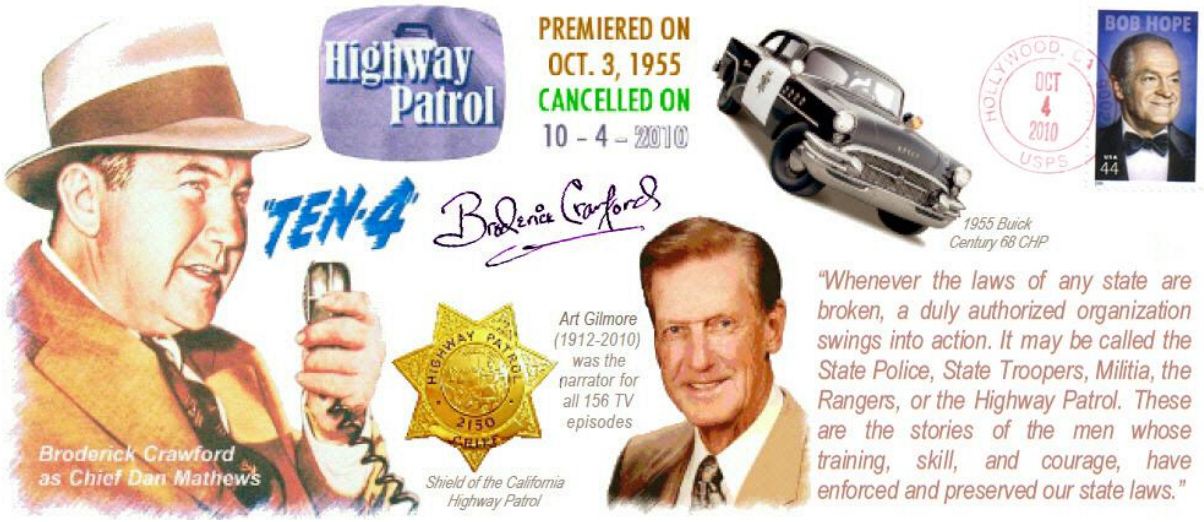
Memorial Service

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

October 8, 2010	***11:00 A.M.***
Organ Prelude	*Grace Marestaing*
Prayer of Invocation and Welcome	*Dr. Richard Todd*
Solo "How Great Thou Art"	*Drinda Frenzel*
Remembrances of Art	*Dr. Richard Todd, Pastor*
	Jeff McCoy, Son-In Law
	Robb Weller, Nephew
	John Harlan, Friend
	Jack Scott, Friend
Solo "On Eagle's Wings"	*Drinda Frenzel*
Scriptural Reflections by His Daughters	*Marilyn Gilmore*
	Barbara McCoy
Psalm 23 - Page 435	*Congregation*
Scripture, Meditation and Pastoral Prayer	*Dr. Richard Todd*
Solo "The Lord's Prayer"	*Drinda Frenzel*
Benediction	*Dr. Richard Todd*

You are cordially invited to a reception immediately following the service in Dierenfield Hall .

Note - Gary Goltz spoke for a few minutes on behalf of Art's fans worldwide.



The family of

Arthur Gilmore

thanks you sincerely for your

kindness and sympathy

at a time

when it was deeply appreciated

Dear Gary –

Thank you for attending my dad's service. Your comments were appreciated.

The first day covers of 10/4 Day will be a lasting memory of his Highway Patrol connection. Thanks for all of your emails with article references.

Yours truly,

Marilyn