

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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A 1955 Buick and Reruns of 'Highway Patrol' ([link to documentary](#))

One fan of 1950s television has kept the show running



[Gary Goltz, 63, a business development sales strategy consultant](#) from Upland, California with his 1955 Buick Century, which he has outfitted to look exactly like one Broderick Crawford drove in the TV show 'Highway Patrol,' which Mr. Goltz watched avidly as a kid growing up in Pittsburgh.

By A.J. Baime

July 26, 2016

As a kid growing up in the 1960s, I loved the TV show “[Highway Patrol](#).” Every day I’d come home from school, have a peanut butter sandwich and watch Broderick Crawford in that show, followed by “The Three Stooges” and “Popeye” cartoons. “Highway Patrol” was all about good guys winning over bad guys. Watching that heavysset cop in a fedora driving a Buick California Highway Patrol car and ordering people around—there was something mesmerizing about him.



Broderick Crawford getting pulled over on CHiPs in 1977.

When I sold a business in 1993, I decided to indulge myself with a classic 1955 Buick, which I purchased in 1995. It cost about \$25,000 to convert it into a what you see here; a Buick California Highway Patrol car like one of the cars Broderick Crawford drove in the show. Over the years, I’ve added power steering, power disc brakes, air-conditioning and cruise control, and a sound system that’ll knock your socks off, not just internally but externally.

When I want to blare the theme song from the TV show, I want it to sound like it's being played right before you. I also blare the opening narration, spoken by the famous Hollywood pitchman Art Gilmore: "Whenever the laws of any state are broken, a duly authorized organization swings into action."

In 2001, I drove this car across the entire Route 66, from Chicago to the Santa Monica Pier, with Broderick Crawford's son Kelly (who died a few years ago, unfortunately). I also take the car in a parade every year on Oct. 4, to Broderick Crawford's Walk of Fame star near the Chinese Theatre. Why Oct. 4? Crawford is known for the way he barked into his mic at the end of radio messages on the show: "10-4." When we come down Hollywood Boulevard each year on that day, with about 25 classic police cars, we stop all of Hollywood in its tracks.

I've owned this car now for 21 years. Every time I take it out, it still draws a crowd.



Behind the scenes of the 5-hour WSJ Photo Shoot.



Mr. Goltz with his car, photographed not far from his home. Mr. Goltz bought the car in 1995. Those holes above the front wheel aren't bullet holes; Buicks from this era are known for this styling cue. *GREGG SEGAL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*



The car's prodigious nose. There's enough chrome on this vehicle to keep its owner busy buffing for hours. *GREGG SEGAL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*



A peak into the car's interior. The Buick was not a cheap car in 1955, and the interior featured elegant art-deco styling. *GREGG SEGAL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*



Unit 2150 was Broderick Crawford's car number on 'Highway Patrol.' 'Talk to anyone over 60 about that show and they'll get a big smile on their face,' says Mr. Goltz. GREGG SEGAL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



Mr. Goltz even has an ID card for Dan Mathews, the character Broderick Crawford played on 'Highway Patrol.' *GREGG SEGAL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*



Some detail of the policing equipment. The TV show 'Highway Patrol' ran original episodes from 1955 to 1959, according to the Internet Movie Database, with reruns airing after that. *GREGG SEGAL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*



Mr. Goltz checking in the trunk. When he's not out driving his Buick, he is often to be found [teaching judo at his club in Claremont, CA](#). He is a former President of the United States Judo Association. *GREGG SEGAL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*



More detail of the 1955 Buick. It was a slightly odd choice for a police car in the 1950s because it was expensive. 'The Buick was the car doctors drove,' say Mr. Goltz. *GREGG SEGAL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*



The hood ornament and the Buick logo—classic 1950s styling. *GREGG SEGAL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*



The car from behind, showing the 2150 license plate—Broderick Crawford's car number on the show 'Highway Patrol.' 'Growing up in Pittsburgh and watching that show, the cars looked so different from what police drove where we lived,' says Mr. Goltz. *GREGG SEGAL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*



An old highway patrol hat completes the package. *GREGG SEGAL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*



Everyday I'd come home from school, have a peanut butter sandwich and watch Broderick Crawford in ['Highway Patrol'], followed by 'The Three Stooges' and 'Popeye' cartoons,' says Mr. Goltz. *GREGG SEGAL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*



'I've had the car for 21 years,' says Mr. Goltz. 'Every time I take it out, it still draws a crowd!' *GREGG SEGAL FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL*

Original Online Article - [A 1955 Buick and Reruns of 'Highway Patrol'](#)

Original Print Edition - Follows

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What's News

Business & Finance

Apple said its quarterly profit fell 27% as it grappled with the first prolonged slump in iPhone sales since the product was introduced in 2007. **A1**

◆ AB InBev raised its offer for SABMiller, as it sought to assuage shareholders' concerns after the British pound's plunge. **B1**

◆ Analog Devices agreed to buy fellow chip maker Linear Technology in a \$14.8 billion cash-and-stock deal. **B1**

◆ Moblley is ending a supply agreement with Tesla in the wake of a high-profile traffic fatality. **B1**

◆ Twitter's revenue rose 20%, its smallest gain and eighth-straight quarter of declining growth. **B3**

◆ Some investors aren't convinced the Fed will raise rates this year, data on bullish dollar bets indicate. **C1**

◆ KKR reported better-than-expected earnings, helped by a so-called dividend recapitalization deal. **C1**

◆ The Dow fell 19.31 points to close at 18473.75 on a busy day of earnings reports for the index. **C4**

◆ McDonald's sales lost steam in the latest quarter, and investors are looking for the firm's next big move. **B3**

◆ Caterpillar said it doesn't anticipate a rebound this year for its equipment and pared its profit forecast. **B7**

World-Wide

◆ Clinton becomes the first

Clinton Wins Historic Nomination



Hillary Clinton addressed the Democratic convention via video feed late Tuesday, topping off a string of speakers that included her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

After Tough Battle, A Landmark Moment

By PETER NICHOLAS
AND BYRON TAO

PHILADELPHIA—Hillary Clinton became the first female presidential nominee of any major party on Tuesday, a historic milestone that sets the stage for a battle to prove to voters that she is someone they can trust in the White House.

The second day of the Democratic National Convention was designed to offer reassurance to an electorate that has watched her on the national

stage for more than two decades as first lady, then U.S. senator and secretary of state.

The validators tapped to send that message ranged from her vanquished primary challenger, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, to her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

Late in the evening, Mrs. Clinton briefly addressed the convention via a video feed, appearing after an animated pane of glass shattered. "I can't believe we just put the biggest

Please see DNC page A4

★★★ DNC ★★★ PHILADELPHIA 2016

Messages on state of the economy reveal tensions, A4

Speakers address issue of violence and police A4

Democrats achieve an uneasy détente, A5

Kaine runs left on social issues, A5

Obama to play central role at convention, A6

Clinton opposes vote on trade pact this year, A6

For Some Women, Gender Isn't Enough

By COLLEEN MCCAIN NIELSEN
AND JANET ADAMY

The nomination of Hillary Clinton marked a step forward in the fight for equality in post-war America that illustrates the strides made by women since the former first lady was born in 1947.

The irony—and the problem for Mrs. Clinton—is that such progress has become so widespread that some women voters appear indifferent to another glass ceiling shattered. More

women graduate from college than men. They are the main breadwinners in four of 10 U.S. households. They run General Motors Co., PepsiCo Inc. and IBM Corp.

Mrs. Clinton, who was formally picked Tuesday evening as the Democratic nominee, has struggled to lock up support from middle-aged white women. And some younger women see little urgency to crash barriers they haven't encountered.

While 52% of registered fe- Please see WOMEN page A6

CARS

A 1955 Buick Revives 'Highway Patrol'

Gary Goltz, 63, a health-care industry sales consultant from Upland, Calif., on his 1955 Buick Century California Highway Patrol enforcement unit, as told to A.J. Boime.

MY RIDE
As a kid growing up in the 1960s, I loved the TV show "Highway Patrol." Every day I'd come home from school, have a peanut butter sandwich and watch Broderick Crawford in that show, followed by "The Three Stooges" and "Popeye" cartoons. "Highway Patrol" was all about good guys winning over bad guys. Watching that heavyset cop in a fedora driving a Buick California Highway Patrol car and ordering people around—there was something mesmerizing about him.

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Gary Goltz, 63, a health-care industry sales consultant from Upland, Calif., with his 1955 Buick Century, which he has outfitted to look exactly like one the actor Broderick Crawford drove in the TV show 'Highway Patrol,' which Mr. Goltz watched avidly growing up.



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Comments:

Gary McNally

Jul 26, 2016

Gary is a good man doing a good service for all his law enforcement friends, from charitable events helping to raise funds for good organizations, to parades and rallies that bring communities together with the men and women that protect us! His positive personality, humor, and kindness is infectious. He also teaches Judo, and his students have a great respect and admiration for their "Sensei". It's an honor to call him friend...10-4

Michael Brauss

Jul 26, 2016

Big, bold, 100% pure American! Love it.

Don Jacobson

Jul 26, 2016

I love the show--I have the whole series on DVD, and I am under 60, 10-4!

Gary Goltz

Jul 26, 2016

I remember when I had to collect them all on video tape. Even had to go to the University Wisconsin Film Library (where all the Ziv shows are held) to watch several missing episodes from my collection! My book on the show should be out by next year...10-4.

Don Jacobson

Jul 29, 2016

10-4, Gary. I look forward to the book.

To make sure I get, I'll set up road blocks here...here...and here.

Kevin Spencer

Jul 27, 2016

Actually, the total number of vents was always the number of cylinders, until recently when the 4 cylinder models stayed with 6. Also remember there were both straight and "V" engines.

[Richard Blumenthal](#)

Jul 27, 2016

I believe you are mistaken . . . By example, all 1957 and 1958 Buicks has V8 engines, regardless of the number of vents.

[Gary Goltz](#)

Jul 27, 2016

You are correct Richard...

[Richard Blumenthal](#)

Jul 27, 2016

Now that's interesting, Mr Goltz . . . I never knew the port holes actually represented the engine sizes (although it makes sense) . . . All I knew was that the 'Special' and 'Super' had three portholes (with the smaller V8 engine), and the Century, Super, and Roadmaster had four portholes (with the larger V8 engine).

And . . . I never knew that Buick called them "Ventiports" rather than, as we referred to them in New England, "portholes". Would you know whether the number of portholes also applied to the pre-V8s introduction? In other words, were there two flat head eights prior to the introduction of the V8s in the fifties?

[Gary Goltz](#)

Jul 26, 2016

Correct and having four vs. three indicated the 322 vs. 268 CI V-8...

[Robert Harper](#)

Jul 26, 2016

The holes on the side: Referred to by Buick as "Cruiserline Ventiports" at one time. I'm embarrassed to admit knowing that. I also know the MK VII on Lincolns translated to Mark 7. Lincoln should be embarrassed not to know that. I'm not sure what Roman Numeral Z (MKZ) is supposed to refer to on the new models.

[Clay Contouris](#)

Jul 26, 2016

Hey Gary Goltz, nice pic! This reminds me I have to renew my USJA membership.

[Michael Pate](#)

Jul 26, 2016

I remember the show well. Interesting that the car's a two-door - where do they put the miscreants?

[Gary Goltz](#)

Jul 26, 2016

They had hooks on the rear floor to put their cuffs in. I remember one old retire CHiPie told me he would always place the drunk's fedora in their lap and tell them if you puke you better do it in your hat!

[T. Tatka](#)

Jul 26, 2016

Some trivia: in 1955, Edmond G. "Pat" Brown was governor of California. He had an in-law who owned a Buick dealership in Sacramento, the very dealership from which the state bought all of those Buicks. A minor scandal ensued. Buicks were, thereafter, no longer the official CHP vehicles.

[Gary Goltz](#)

Jul 26, 2016

That's an amazing story, thanks for sharing it! They actually bought 268 of them (half with standard transmission and the other with the Dynaflow automatic) and said it was because they were the fastest cars Detroit offered that year. The model was a basic Special coup #48 but with the Century engine and Roadmaster brakes so it was renamed model #68, 10-4!

[Broeck Oder](#)

Jul 27, 2016

Actually, in 1955, Brown was California's attorney general, as he did not become governor until '59. Your larger point, however, is more than valid!

[Grant Miner](#)

Jul 26, 2016

I remember watching the show on Saturday nights in about 1956 or '57, but I recall it as having been set in Nevada. I even recall references to the state capital in Carson City.

[Gary Goltz](#)

Jul 26, 2016

Nope Grant, they were definitely CA but, on the show, they wanted to keep it generic which is why they covered the CHP logo with one that just said Highway Patrol

[Grafton Cook](#)

Jul 26, 2016

You are in a great place in your life-enjoy! I used to love hearing the opening narration on the show.

[Gary Goltz](#)

Jul 26, 2016

Amen to that...10-4! I recited the whole thing at Art Gilmore's funeral to the delight of all in attendance, FYI.

[Angela Luft](#)

Jul 27, 2016

I am a big Dragnet fan and got into Highway patrol because of the similarities, William Boyett appeared quite frequently, he was in Adam-12. And to top it off there is a Star Trek connection of Gene Rodenberry and Leonard Nimoy.

[Gary Goltz](#)

Jul 27, 2016

There's a lot of crossover between Dragnet and Highway Patrol that will be covered in the book I'm almost finish writing. William Boyett Was a great guy. I got to know him and still keep in touch with his wife.

Gene Rodenberry wrote several episodes both having science fiction themes. Per his autobiography, Gene decided he would cast Leonard Nimoy as an alien someday after first seeing him in Highway Patrol. He also said that writing for Ziv motivated him to do his own production as he was annoyed the way they changed his scripts.

[Angela Luft](#)

Jul 28, 2016

I'll buy your book when your finished writing it, maybe WSJ will do a review of it when the time comes.

[Roland Newark](#)

Jul 28, 2016

Additionally, to that was his comic flat footed way of moving fast....one could not say he could run, could you?

[Gary Goltz](#)

Jul 27, 2016

That's because he often wore tennis shoes...really!

[Broeck Oder](#)

Jul 27, 2016

YES! A fellow fan of "Highway Patrol"! And you got the car, too! You da man, Gary! :-)

[Richard Blumenthal](#)

Jul 27, 2016

He was brilliant in "All the King's Men" as Governor Willie aka Huey Long! How well I remember playing 'Cops & Robbers' with two my brothers when we were around ages 8 to 10. We had those AMT model cars to copy the show's story lines with (I had a 1958 Buick), and would 'make believe' on the kitchen floor of our home. Being the oldest, you can guess who got to be Dan Mathews . . .

[Michael Pasqua](#)

Jul 27, 2016

Great article Gary...congrats!

[Daniel Palmer](#)

Jul 27, 2016

What a beautiful silhouette. The other unusual thing about the car, besides being a Buick, is that it is a 2 door. I would have expected most Highway Patrol cars to be 4 doors. What engine is in it?

[Gary Goltz](#) :

The CHP didn't go to two-door cars until 1960, Daniel. The engine is the standard Buick 322 V-8

[Tom Mack](#)

Jul 27, 2016

Beautiful! You lucky dog, Gary...enjoy!!!

[Frank Tabata](#)

Jul 27, 2016

10-4, 10-4!

[Theodore J. Harvatin](#)

Jul 27, 2016

Fairly certain Santa got me a battery powered version (on a cable) of this circa Christmas 1961.

[Dennis Southey](#)

Aug 22, 2016

I have fond memories of Highway Patrol and Buick Roadmaster. My family had a 58 Buick Roadmaster and when I was able to drive in 1965 it was referred to as our airport car, my dad was a pilot for TWA flying out of JFK.

[Ray Hull](#)

Aug 23, 2016

"Crawford is known for the way he barked into his mic..."

I remember how...my father would walk into the room when I was watching this and say two words: "gobble" mocking the bluster (and perhaps the jowls) of Crawford.

It probably would have lasted ten more years except for the fact I loved dropping the car from drive to low. Many times, I went thru low and ended in reverse. One day as my father was heading home to Syosset the transmission failed and that was the end of our Buick. I knew what caused the failure but until now I kept it a secret.
but until now I kept it a secret.