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Vintage '55 Buick brings back memories of 'Highway Patrol'

by Pat Biby Teeters

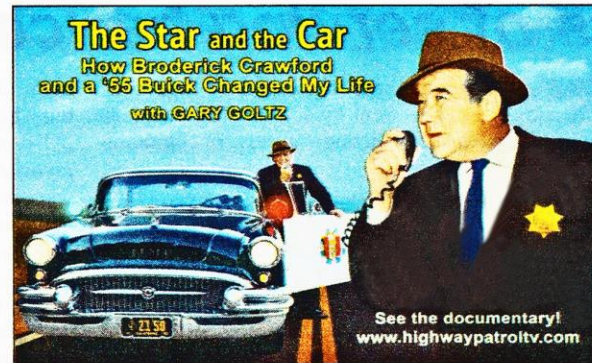
When Upland resident Gary Goltz recently drove his black-and-white '55 Buick California Highway Patrol (CHP) car into the parking lot at a Past Pleasures Car Club show in Yucaipa, all eyes turned his way.

"He probably stole it from Broderick Crawford," said car club member Lynn Chapman, and then he chuckled.

No, Goltz didn't steal the car from Mr. Crawford. He did get the inspiration for his car, however, from the popular '50s TV series, "Highway Patrol." The program starred the late Broderick Crawford and ran on TV from 1955-60.

"I was just a crazy kid who loved that show," Goltz said. "Now I'm a member of the CHP's 1199 Foundation. My life membership number is 2150, which was Crawford's number on the show."

When a '55 Buick later came up for sale, Goltz bought it, and six months later he had "a fully decked out replica of Crawford's car."



Above photo courtesy of Gary Goltz

"I actually drove across country on Route 66 with Crawford's late son, Kelly Crawford," Goltz said. "We had a blast."

Goltz now has a documentary, "The Star and the Car, How Broderick Crawford and a '55 Buick Changed My Life," on YouTube and on his website, Garysbuick.com.

Goltz and his '55 Buick have also been featured on the TV station CNN, the Wall Street Journal and in Motor Trend magazine.

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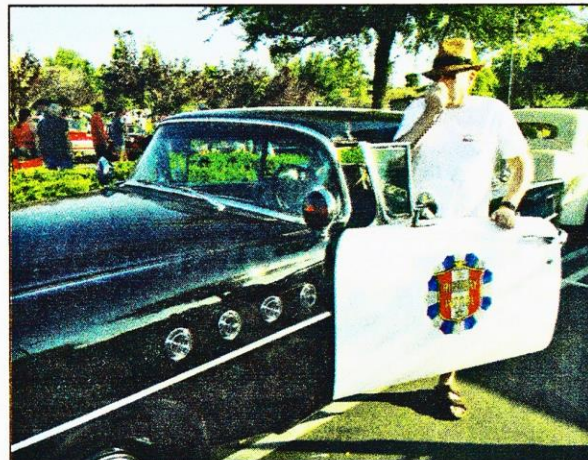
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Since that time, he has attended charity events for the CHP's 1199 Foundation, other worthy causes and fund-raisers.

Photo by Pat Biby Teeters



Yucaipa visitor Gary Goltz demonstrates his two-way radio while showing Past Pleasures Car Club show attendees his restored '55 Buick modeled after the late Broderick Crawford's car used in the '50s program 'Highway Patrol.'

He also has a book coming out this year on the Highway Patrol.

"My story ranges from the fab '50s to the 21st Century," he said. "It's a great ride."

"The Star and the Car" can also be viewed on highwaypatroltv.com along with other information about "Highway Patrol."

"10-4, good buddy."