



THE CAR CLUB

PROUD OF YOUR WHEELS?
SEND IN A PHOTO!



BY EVERETT BENNETT
Assistant Inspector,
Public Works/
Contract Administration

Gentleman Jim

Before I get to this month's subject, I want to share a story about my subject back in February: Street Services Investigator Louie Fee and his motorcycle. While leaving a Van Nuys Boulevard cruise in May, he and his bike were cut off in traffic. Not having any time or room to avoid the accident, Louie hit the passenger side of the car, ejecting him from the bike and throwing him completely over the car. Luckily for a helmet and a rabbit's foot in his pocket, Louie survived. Louie and his bike were loaded into my '51 Suburban and driven to the hospital, where he stayed the night. Now, a month later, he is back to work, and his crippled bike is being rebuilt and will soon be roadworthy. To all of our two-wheeled friends, please be safe and pray to the motorcycle gods before you start that engine.



Now, onto this month's feature. Trucks have come a long way since first rolling out of Gottlieb Daimler's garage in 1896. Nowadays, they come equipped with as many options as cars and are just as popular. Owners range from the housewife to the construction worker to the business type. Trucks have become as popular as cars in the custom world, with folks building ground-hugging vehicles or monsters that you need a ladder to get into.

In 1975, General Motors was at the forefront of truck manufacturing and wanted to change the associations that came with owning one. GM introduced the nation to two "brother" trucks that year, Gentleman Jim and Beau James. Jim and Beau were supposed to change the face of the truck from a rough and tumble teeth-rattling work machine to a practical everyday vehicle that was stylish and luxurious. With both trucks being a limited edition design, they were sure to be a hit. Gentleman Jim saw a production number of only 1,000, and Beau a production number of 4,000. Gentleman Jim had the same body as other models but was wrapped in black and gold paint with "Gentleman Jim"

decals on the bed rails. Bucket seats were installed in the cab with a plush center console. To make sure the owner and friends were comfortable in summer, there was air conditioning and an AM/FM stereo with an 8-track tape player. Custom "Gentleman Jim" floor mats gave your feet comfort, and tilt and power steering made it easy to steer around town. With tinted glass, gold-painted rally wheels and a gold grille bringing up the front, it was sure to help you find a date for the weekend.

Pete Steur has been a Park Ranger with Rec and Parks since 1990 and a truck lover all his life. Pete met his true love back in 1975 while riding in his mom's car past Gianera Pontiac/GMC (later Foothill Nissan)

in Glendale. "I remember seeing a black and gold pickup truck that caught my eye as we passed by. I asked my mom if we could stop and look at that truck after school, and she said 'yes.' I was a kid in a candy store that afternoon. Being as small as I was, my mom had to pick me up so I could see the interior of the truck through the windows, which to me was work of art. Just by walking around it I thought that was the coolest truck on earth and I remember saying that one day I was going have one."

A couple of years ago, Pete decided it was time to either find a Gentleman Jim edition truck or restore one to look like it. With help from a high school friend, they found two that resided in South Dakota and Minnesota. After a phone conversation with Jim from Sauk Rapids, S.D., Pete was on a redeye flight to the North Star State to perhaps purchase his life-long dream. Jim and his wife, Ginny, picked Pete up at the airport and drove him to their home, where Pete would meet the other Jim (the truck). Jim the owner was the second owner of the truck and restored it back to its 1975 glory. After a quick



paper transaction and a handshake, Pete and Gentleman Jim were on their way back to Southern California.

After some minor work like changing out hoses and belts and wiping off all the bugs from the drive, Pete and Jim began attending cruise nights and shows. Pete wants to thank everyone involved in helping him acquire his truck, including his mom for stopping that one afternoon to introduce him to Gentleman Jim. After all, isn't that what moms are for? I would like to thank Pete for introducing me to a truck I didn't know existed and adding one more car to my wish list.



Send in a photo of you and your car, and we might publish it!

Send us your information, too - name, title and City department, a phone number (we won't print it) and a paragraph or two about why you love your car, what kind of car and year it is, and maybe some fun details of how you got it, how you restored it, etc. Send it all to: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Don't Just Take
Our Word For It



MEMBER FEEDBACK

>> I was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of Breast Cancer. After the diagnosis, I called the claims department at The City Employees Club, and in just two weeks I received \$50,000. Having this policy pay as quickly as it did brought me a tremendous amount of relief, and eased much of the stress I was experiencing. Because claim was paid as cash, I used the money to spend a week in Hawaii and bonded with my sister.



April Hoff
Sr. PSR I,
Communications
LAPD

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