

## **How did I get all this Buick stuff?**

To give you some history on how I came to own all of this literature, I need to turn the clock back to the early '60s.

My Father, Joe Gatta, got a job as a mechanic at a new Buick dealership in Bayside, New York, which was several miles from our home. In addition to work at the dealership, my father repaired Buicks at our home on the weekends, and sometimes during the week, after work, for some extra cash.

I was always looking at a Buick or sometimes standing on a milk box watching my Father work. As I got older, I offered to help, and sometimes Dad would let me change some wires and remove the sparkplugs.

When I was old enough to drive, he would send me out to pick up the parts he needed at the local auto parts store. I learned how to order parts by part number and how to read a parts manual.

After school I would visit Dad at the showroom. That was my chance to look at NEW Buicks.

We *never* had a new Buick! We always had Buicks that were around 10 years old. My father always picked out the best used Buicks that came in for a trade in. They were low mileage, clean and generally one-owner cars.

In the early 1980s, my grandfather gave me his low mileage 1965 Buick Special that was equipped with a 225 V6. I enjoyed driving that Buick so much that I wanted more!

I started collecting literature on the 1965 Buick Special and on other Buicks. Then I was told about a magazine called *Hemmings Motor News*. I ordered it and there was no stopping me! I also joined the BCA, ROA, and GSCA and started collecting Buicks and Buick literature. I also began attending local and national Buick meets.

I would tell my father to bring home any Buick literature that he could get at work. I also kept all the service manuals that my father used over the years.

After 30 years of working on Buicks, my father retired around 1990. The dealership where he worked closed soon after that.

Dad always enjoyed his retirement. He was willing to take a ride to a Buick show, take a trip to a National Meet or just lean over a fender and watch me work on my Buicks.

Now it has been 30 years since I started collecting Buick and Buick “stuff” and I see no end in sight. However, I need to thin out what I really don’t want to make room for the next Buick ad that I don’t have.

I consider myself a second generation “Buick Man”, and I hope my children will carry on the tradition.

Oh, and I still own the ‘65 Buick Special!

Anthony Gatta  
Whitestone, New York