



# Time Traveler

It almost seems that time has stood still for Troy Giles' '70 GTO

Text and photography by Thomas Glatch

Remember the '60s TV show "The Time Tunnel?" Every week James Darren and Robert Colbert were transported to yet another adventure in a different time and place, accidentally trapped in the super-secret government experiment called Project Tic-Toc.

Troy Giles' 1970 GTO Judge looks as if were transported by "The Time Tunnel" from the day it was built in March of '70 to 2006. That's right, it's 99 percent factory original. What's amazing is the Judge has had six different owners in as many states, and had 50,246 miles on the clock when we photographed it, yet it is an unbelievably well preserved automobile.

Rudy Phillips of Mount Juliet, Tennessee, ordered the Judge through Barnes Motors, Inc., in nearby Kingsport. From the Baltimore plant the Judge was deliv-

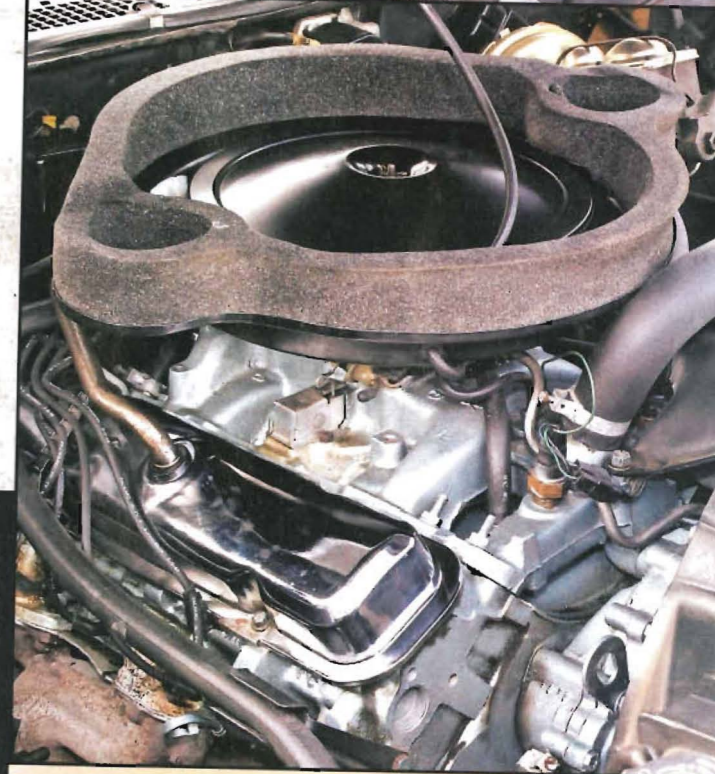
ered to the dealer on the lower level of a transporter and the car above dripped a little brake fluid on it. Barnes Motors did a fine job of repainting a small area of Baja Gold at the base of the driver's side windshield post. That's the only touch-up the body has seen.

Rudy drove the Judge 29,901 miles before selling it in May 1980 to Steven J. Hillebrand of Massachusetts. The car was later sold to a gentleman in Connecticut who kept the vehicle in storage and unlicensed for nearly eight years. It was then sold to a State Patrol Officer

in New York who continued the tradition of caring meticulously for the car. The car was sold to a dealer, Don White, and subsequently purchased by James Latare with 36,483 documented miles in 1995.

In 1998, the car was purchased by Henry Bessler of Flat Rock, Michigan, at 36,972 miles. Shortly after buying the Judge, Mr. Bessler videotaped the car inside and out with the intention of selling it. Instead, he had to use it as almost a daily driver, and in four years about 13,000 miles were put on the car. Then in 2002, with around 49,000 miles on the odometer, Troy Giles of Pewaukee, Wisconsin, bought the Judge.

With such an original automobile, you



## The Reference Point

Preserved, original muscle cars are rare these days. The few that exist are the perfect reference point for restorers looking to duplicate the original factory components and finishes. We photographed Troy Giles' immaculate Judge outside, inside, and underneath for *PE* readers to study and enjoy.

**UPPER RIGHT:** The engine compartment contains the original hoses and belts, but the spark plug wires were replaced with correct OEM items. The engine is very clean, yet all paint and chrome is original.

**MIDDLE:** The pristine interior included the original floor mats. The mats are much too brittle for use, so Troy substitutes a set of reproduction mats.

**LOWER RIGHT:** These are the original Goodyear Polyglas G70-14 tires. Troy mounts modern rubber for the few times a year he drives the GTO.

would expect it to be a treasure trove of documentation. In fact, Troy found two buildsheets in the car. He also found an unused time card for Baltimore plant employee Charles W. Hutchins. All that is missing is the Protect-O-Plate and dealer paperwork—a previous owner possesses it, but so far Troy has been unable to purchase it at any price. Look anywhere on the car and all you'll see are factory original parts with their original finishes beautifully preserved.

For Troy Giles, owning an immaculate, original GTO Judge is not enough. He believes a thoroughbred like his Judge needs regular exercise, and, with modern tires mounted, he and his family enjoy its beauty and performance for around 200 miles each year.

Great minds like Albert Einstein and Steven Hawking believe time travel is possible, and they have done the experiments to prove it. But experts agree it may be hundreds of years before we have the technology to actually travel back in time. Until then there is Troy Giles' Judge. Climb aboard and twist the key: Suddenly...it's 1970!

## Troy Giles' 1970 GTO Judge

WT1 The Judge  
M21 Close Ratio 4-speed  
3.90:1 Safe-T-Track Differential  
Rally Gauge Cluster  
Custom Seat Belts  
Visor Mirror  
Power Brakes  
Power Steering  
Front & Rear Floor Mats  
Door Edge Guards  
Luggage Compartment Lamp  
AM/FM Radio  
Soft Ray Glass  
Heavy Duty Radiator

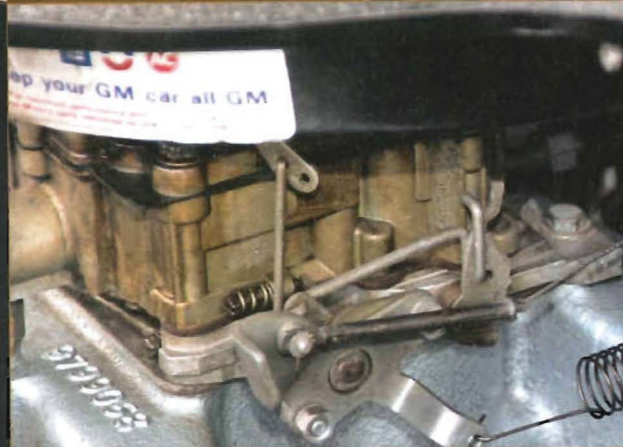


ABOVE: The undercarriage is almost as clean as the rest of the car. Note the differential tag.

UPPER RIGHT: Under the original paint near the Ram Air scoop are two raised strips. They look like two pieces of tape embedded under the paint, but GTO expert Paul Zazarine has no explanation for their existence.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Three of the headlights are the original Guide T3 units. Somewhere in the car's past the fourth light was replaced with a 1971-era T3.

RIGHT: The 7040273 Rochester carb was used on all RA III, RA IV, and 454 GTOs in 1970.



UPPER LEFT: Troy found two buildsheets in the car. He also found a time card from a Baltimore plant employee.

LEFT: All carpeting is original, as this tag shows.

LOWER LEFT: Troy found a number of these moisture-controlling desiccant bags stuffed under the seats. These were put there on the assembly line to protect the interior during shipment.

UPPER RIGHT: The GM paint paste came with the car to touch-up the Endura front bumper. Troy Giles also has some GM aftermarket items to go with his original Judge, including a 45-rpm record that is a rare promotional recording by Paul Revere and the Raiders. The jacket is a Pontiac original from 1970. Check eBay—what these jackets are worth today is shocking. ■