

Spotlight on Burt Franks

Life after Azusa High School

After graduating high school Burt Franks attended Citrus Junior College and Mt. San Antonio College where he majored in Police Science.

Work

Burt began his career with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and was in the Police academy when the Watts riots broke out. Shortly after he was joined by two of our former classmates, Tom Johnson and Steve Dobrick.



Burt and Carol Franks – AHS 45th Reunion

Burt's first area of assignment was in East Los Angeles where the main problems were gangs, burglaries, and lots of drugs. His next area of assignment took him to South Central Los Angeles in the 77th Division, which included Watts. This was the busiest area in the city of Los Angeles. 77th Station led the entire city in homicides year after year plus every other type of crime you could think of.

After three years in 77th Burt returned to the east side and was again transferred back to South Central where he worked vice - prostitutes, gamblers and Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) violations and sat in bars drinking on Secret Service funds.

In 1978 Burt was transferred to Hollywood Division where he continued working a radio car but also worked the Hollywood Blvd. Footbeat. As Burt put it, "Hollywood is a very unique area. Lots of pimps, prostitutes (male and female), lots of drugs and runaway teens. There's probably is no other place in the world like Hollywood, good or bad." His longest vehicular pursuit was 20-25 miles in length and ended at the Pacific Ocean (Sunset Blvd/Pacific Coast Highway) and yes, he did get his man.

He worked several off-duty jobs his entire time on the LAPD but his favorite was working at filming locations for the motion picture studios. "I wore my LAPD police uniform and rode a police motorcycle. We worked traffic control, which can get out of control very quickly. When I first started I worked on the sets of *Moonlighting* and *Highway to Heaven*. I have probably worked several hundred movies, TV shows and commercials."

Burt retired from LAPD in 1992 but continued working for the studios.

Play

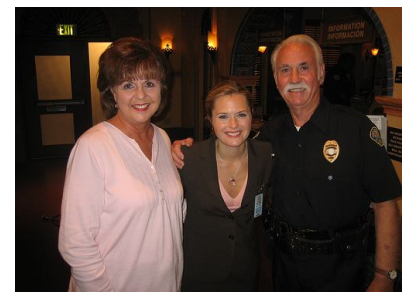
In the early '80s Burt became interested in off-roading, building his own dune buggy and spending time on the sand in Glamis and Pismo beach. Other hobbies now include fresh water fishing, woodworking and genealogy.



Sierra Nevada Home

In 1993 Burt and his wife of 46 years, Carol, purchased a lot in the Sierra Nevada mountains, located approximately one hour south of Mammoth Lakes. They started construction the summer of 1994. "It is a beautiful 1800 sq ft mountain home, elevation 8500 ft, great water, clean air and a zillion stars every night. There are three beautiful lakes surrounded by granite boulders less than 20 minutes away. This area is known for its fishing but is also popular with backpackers and hikers. We moved up there full time in 2004 and during our first winter we had 17' of snow. We used to enjoy camping until a bear came into our camp and raided our ice chest. Needless to say we do not tent camp anymore."

Burt and Carol have been to Hawaii and twice to the Southeastern United States where they discovered some great BBQ Joints, Civil War Battlefields and Graceland in Memphis Tennessee. They flew to Nashville, drove to Savannah, Georgia, Charleston North Carolina and the Outer Banks Island. "We visited Kitty Hawk N.C. where Wilbur and Orville Wright flew for the first time in 1903. What an amazing feat. Made us proud to be Americans." Last year they flew to Vancouver B.C. to see their son, Steve, direct the first episode of his TV show *Psych*, which airs on the USA network.



Psych Set

Burt and Carol live near San Diego to be close to their children and grandchildren who live in Palm Desert and Huntington Beach.