

Tucson Auto Museum



CLASSIC AND RESTORED CARS

April 2022 Newsletter



Tucson Auto Museum

(520) 207-5715
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Tucson, AZ
Tucsonautomuseum.com

New Cars in the Museum

We have Two new cars on the floor!

1948 Davis Divan

We have acquired two Davis Divan's in the museum. We now have two of twelve in the world. Come visit the museum and see these interesting and rare cars.

The Davis Divan is a three-wheeled convertible built by the Davis Motorcar Company between 1947 and 1949. The brainchild of used-car salesman Glen Gordon "Gary" Davis, it was largely based upon "The Californian", a custom three-wheeled roadster built by future Indianapolis 500 racing car designer Frank Kurtis for Southern Californian millionaire and racer Joel Thorne. After building two prototypes in 1947, Davis embarked on an aggressive publicity and promotional campaign for the car, which included numerous magazine appearances, a lavish public unveiling at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, and a promotional trip across the United States.

At the company factory in Van Nuys, employees worked frantically to build Divans, although the model was never put into mass production. Despite raising \$1.2 million through the sale of 350 dealerships, the Davis Motorcar Company failed to deliver cars to its prospective dealers or pay its employees promptly, and was ultimately sued by both groups. The company's assets were liquidated in order to pay back taxes, while Gary Davis himself was eventually convicted of fraud and grand theft and sentenced to two years at a "work farm" labor camp.

Only 13 Divans (including the two prototypes) were ever built, of which 12 have survived. The car featured aircraft-inspired styling details as well as disc brakes, hidden headlights, and built-in jacks.

Upcoming Events

Pipes 'N' Paws Car Show
April 23, 2022

Tucson Classics Car Show
October 15, 2022



Recent highlights

- We are now on TripAdvisor as well as Yelp! If you have visited us in the past, we would love it if you could leave us a 5 Star review.
- Our last Saturday open for the season will be April 30th! We are still available for private tours as well as event booking. Please contact Museum Manager Courtney Carr with any private tour questions.

Our next area of focus

We are looking for volunteers! We have several opportunities available for people looking to get out there and fill their free time with some fun volunteer opportunities within the museum.

Homefront: Museum Liaison for the Homefront area. Answer questions about the cars, know about the historical background on the various vehicles.

Information Desk: Greet and count visitors entering the Museum. Direct visitors to areas around Museum. Answer general questions.

Vehicle Restoration: Dust off vehicles, clean windows, direction from the museum's mechanic for any other restoration help.

Please reach out to the museum manager if you would like to volunteer within our museum.



