

Tony Harrah Military Museum in Sparks Nevada

There's no web site. No signage. No foyer. A Google search will hardly acknowledge it's existence. Having toured the facility I have more questions than answers. We had no tour guide.

However most of the military vehicles had placards identifying their age, use, and rarity. While the collection is focused primarily on vintage military vehicles, there are displays of ordnance, communications equipment, and other military hardware.

For a museum operating under-the-radar, they have a number of interesting and rare items. Of particular interest to vintage car enthusiasts are an early Bantam BRC40 and a three wheeled Davis.

When the Army Quartermaster Corps invited 135 companies to submit bids to produce a 1/4 ton reconnaissance car only Willys and Bantam submitted bids.

Bantam's came closest to meeting the Army's goals and Bantam produced a few variations including the BRC40 (most of which apparently were shipped to Russia).

Ultimately Bantam was deemed to small to satisfy the military's demand and the contract to build what became the Army's Jeep was switched to Willys (in the end, even Jeep could not keep up with demand and an additional contract went to Ford).

Bantam was relegated to producing trailers and did not return to car production after the war.

The three wheeled Davis on display is one of three produced by the Van Nuys California company, maker of the Davis Divan 3 wheeled car, in an attempt woe government business.

This museum appears to be a well kept secret.



American Bantam BRC40. The original "Jeep".



Bantam BRC40 detail



274A5 Mule



1944 Cushman Model 53



1949 Three Wheel Davis



That's the same Davis that built the Davis Divan 3 wheel car



GMC M-211 2 1/2 Ton 6x6



WWI Artillery



1949 - 1960 Dodge WC-52



1943 Ford GPA "Seep"



M38A1



P-170 1967 Mine detector



1941 British MMC

