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*Detroit Auto Show • Winter Park Concours d'Elegance
Exceeding Expectations • Daytona Rolex 24 • Cavallino Classic
Lane Motor Museum • Keeneland Concours • In Our Headlights*



Susan Lane

Lane Motor Museum Nashville, Tennessee

Article by SUSAN LANE, Curator
Photographs provided by Lane Motor Museum



Microcars on display are always a favorite, they are just so Micro-cute



A museum with something for everyone including military vehicles

Nashville, Tennessee is known as the Country Music Capital of the World and the Athens of the South. It is the home of President Andrew Jackson and the Grand Ole Opry. Here you will find Southern Hospitality, sweet tea, and a collection of European cars unlike any other in the United States.

Jeff and Susan Lane founded the Lane Motor Museum in 2002 when they donated their private collection of 100 vehicles to the Museum's Foundation. The Lane Motor Museum, which unveiled its collection to the public in October 2003 and became the home of one of America's most remarkable car collections.

Lane Motor Museum is located at the site of the former Sunbeam Bakery, a well-known Nashville landmark, where bread was produced and distributed from 1950-2002. Today, the ovens, mixers, and racks have been replaced with a unique collection of vintage automobiles: more than 50 different makes of vehicles originating in Asia, Europe, and North and South America, from 1922 to 2003. The collection features: microcars, amphibious vehicles, competition cars, alternative fuel vehicles, military vehicles, motorcycles, one-of-a-kind vehicles and prototypes.

As soon as you enter the Museum, you will notice it isn't like some car museums you may have visited. Most notable is the lack of stanchions. The floor is filled with rows upon rows of cars. The sheer volume may catch you by surprise. The collection has been carefully assembled to include over 300 rare and unique examples not typically seen in this country. More than 150 unique cars and motorcycles are on display at one time. You can walk between the cars as if you were on a car lot and peek in a window for a closer look at the dash. But don't ask about buying one.

As your eyes scan the 42,000 square feet of exhibit floor, you see that the majority of the collection is arranged by country. First to greet you are cars made in former Czechoslovakia. Lane Motor Museum has the largest collection assembled outside the Czech Republic, and you will be treated to rare examples of Aero, Jawa, and Skoda. Not familiar with Hans Ledwinka's streamlined, air-cooled, rear engine Tatra?

In the Germany section you will find a 1932 BMW 320 cabriolet, a pre-war Adler, and a 1967 NSU Wankel-Spider, the first rotary powered production car.



LANE MOTOR MUSEUM features a unique collection of mostly European automobiles, housed in a former 132,000 sq ft bakery.

Step into the French section for examples of Citroëns from the early 1924 5CV "Trefle" to the powerful BX4TC—a four-wheel drive, turbo charged production car of the 1980s. Displayed along with the Citroën and Renault collection are two rare Georges Irats, a Deutsch-Bonnet HBR5 and a Voisin C28.

A stroll through the Italian section will find an exotic 1975 Maserati Bora, a special bodied 1939 Fiat 508C Balilla 1100 and a stunning 1932 Lancia DiLambda.

Examples of British vehicles include a three-wheeled 1948 Morgan "F" Super, a leather bodied 1931 Trojan RE, and a 1955 MG TF-1500—the car that started the collection. Jeff Lane restored this car as a teenager and then took and passed his driver's examination in it.

Lane Motor Museum also offers a substantial collection of microcars from the more common Fiat 500 and Subaru 360 to the obscure Peel P50, Rolux, Toyota Sport 800 and Zundapp Janus 250.

Maybe you like military vehicles. You will find a tiny AMC M422 "Mighty Mite," a twin-engine Tempo G-1200, and a 100 ton, amphibious LARC-LX. If competition cars are more to your liking, there are examples from a post-war 500cc Simca Gordini Type 5 to a present day 650 hp IRL racecar. Two-wheels attract you? How about a Fuji Rabbit Scooter, a Wankel-powered Hercules WR-2000 or a Polish built Gazela SHL-17.



The Lane Family getting ready to take to the streets

Even the American cars exhibited are rare examples. Nowhere else will you see a 1928 Martin Aerodynamic Car, a 1934 McQuay-Norris Streamliner, or a 1946 Hewson Rocket.

Looking at the collection, you will notice that most cars have current license plates. Lane Motor Museum is not a static display. It is the mission of Lane Motor Museum to maintain the vehicles in working condition. Some cars are in showroom condition, while others represent typical aging. One full-time restorer manages the 4,000-foot restoration shop. On any given day, a different Lane Motor Museum vehicle can be spotted on the streets of Nashville! When a Museum vehicle is invited to a Concours d'Elegance, you can expect to see it on the event's tour. The Lanes enjoy the sight of a vintage car on the road and participate in rallies throughout the United States, as well as abroad.

Lane Motor Museum is a collection of the rarely seen, the unusual, and the historic. The collection is a testament to the philosophy that unique moments of automotive history should not be lost—but rather preserved.

If you are planning a trip to "Music City," check the Museum Calendar of Events. Plan your trip around a special event day when a "Behind the Scenes" or "Basement" tour is offered. Maybe, if you're lucky, you will visit on a day when rides are offered!

Lane Motor Museum
 702 Murfreesboro Pike
 Nashville, Tennessee
 Days Open: Thurs. through Mon.
 Times: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Admission: \$5 for adults
 \$3 for seniors (55+)
 Free for Children
 17 and under
 Telephone: (615) 742-7445
 Website:
www.lanemotormuseum.org



1937 Tatra T-98 and 1947 Tatra T-87 Saloon, part of the Czechoslovakian collection



1932 Lancia DiLambda, winner of the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance Road & Track award



Susan Lane in a Rallye 1956 Ford Thunderbird



1965 Peel Trident with top speed of 45 mph