

Annual Meeting Of Tucker Automobile Owners At Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino



Historic photo of nine Tucker automobiles in front of the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino at their June, 1985 convention. Tucker owners and others interested in the rare car met once again at the Imperial Palace.

A very exclusive group of automobile owners congregated at the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino in June. They are owners of Tuckers, one of the most controversial cars ever built.

Only 51 cars were ever assembled at the Chicago plant leased by Preston Tucker. They were all produced in 1948.

The Tucker was ahead of its time. The car had a central headlight that turned with the front wheels, a "safety dashboard" with instruments and controls grouped under the steering wheel, and several other safety and convenience features that were radically new.

After completing only 51 cars, Tucker was forced out of business by a Securities and Exchange Commission fraud investigation. Although Preston Tucker was found not guilty, the public had lost all faith in his ideas. Whether or not

fraud played any part in the demise of the Tucker is still controversial.

Last year's convention (also at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas) brought nine Tuckers and 100 devotees of the auto together. It was said to be the most Tuckers lined up fender-to-fender since 1948 in Preston Tucker's Chicago factory.

Of the 51 Tuckers built, 48 are still viable, occasionally changing hands at auctions for as much as \$100,000. The other three have been traced by the Tucker Automobile Club of America and it was found that one was hit by a train, one was lost in a fire, and one is in Brazil (owner unknown). The one that was "lost in a fire," Serial No. 23, wasn't really lost. The owner has the pieces in Orange Park, FL., and he's going to rebuilt it.

Tuckers brought by their owners to the convention were on display in a special annex to the Imperial Palace Auto Collection which features antique and classic autos. It is located on the fifth floor of the hotel's parking facility. Also on display was the Tucker with Serial No. 8 which is part of the Imperial Palace's famous collection. The auto collection has more than 200 autos on display and is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Membership in the Tucker Automobile Club is open to anyone who is interested. One need not own a Tucker to join the club to to have attended the convention at the Imperial Palace. Registration is through convention host Richard Jones, 315 Aurora Blvd., Orange Park, FL 32073. Call him for information at (904) 272-5982.

8th Annual Rhythm N' Blues Awards At Bally's Grand Hotel

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA — Bally's Grand Hotel (formerly the MGM Grand) will be the location of the 8th Annual Rhythm 'n' Blues Awards Show on Wednesday, June 25.

The show will be videotaped beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Ziegfeld Theatre, next to the casino, and will be aired on a number of stations around the U.S. beginning in July.

Among the many performers from Atlantic, CBS, Electra and Asylum Records who



The Sahara Hotel Space Center was the site of "Keys To A Cure," recently. This first ever musical benefit for Muscular Dystrophy proved to be an outstanding afternoon of family entertainment. By far the high point of the afternoon was a special appearance by Sammy Davis, Jr., who delighted young and old with a touching rendition of "Candy Man." Hosts Walt Reno and Gary Waddell were joined onstage by Las Vegas' best including: Ronn Lucas, Mario and Daniel, Cook E. Jarr and the Krums. George Dare and a rousing chorus of Clark County School District children sang the 1986 MDA Youth theme "With A Little Bit Of Love." Thirty-two young pianists prepared by the Las Vegas Music Teachers Association played well-known popular and classical pieces. There were clowns, men on stilts, a Kodiak bear cub and Las Vegas Fire Department Company #4 with their hook and ladder -- all for Jerry's Kids.

will be appearing are: Sister Sledge, Aleem, Leroy Burgess, Steve Arrington's Hall of Fame, Jenny Burton, Jean Carne, Durrell Coleman, Johnny Gill and the D.C. Connection, Nu Shooz, Shannon, and the System.

Other names are expected to be announced, and the four-hour show will feature about 25 performers.

The show will be open to the public, and free tickets will be available at the casino cage beginning at 9 a.m. on the day of the show. They will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Persons outside of the Las Vegas area who may be coming for the show and staying at Bally's may call (702) 739-4441 to have tickets held in their name.

The 8th Annual Rhythm 'n' Blues Award Show is being produced by WAQT Productions, New York, and videotaped production is by Sanford International Entertainment Inc., Las Vegas.

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