

RESTO RESOURCE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TYSON HUGIE

I clearly don't watch enough TV, because somehow I missed the fact that a local Phoenix area junkyard was the set of a Discovery Channel TV show back in 2011. The series, *Desert Car Kings*, was filmed at Desert Valley Auto Parts (DVAP), on 7th Avenue between Pinnacle Peak and Happy Valley Roads, north of Deer Valley Airport, in the northern reaches of Phoenix. I haven't been able to find any episodes online but there are a handful of short clips on YouTube and it looked like a pretty cool series.

The desert is indeed a great place to look for vintage cars and parts. While interiors, dashboards, rubber and vinyl trim pieces age and crack terribly, usually the fundamental body parts—frames, panels and engine components—stay remarkably rust-free and preserved. I frequently visit the local junkyards for that reason, but the ones I've been to have much newer cars in them and sometimes aren't very well organized. DVAP was laid out in a very orderly fashion, by make.

Desert Car Kings lasted for just one season and 10 episodes, but one of the things they did during the show was restore cars from the junkyard. That's always sort of been a fantasy of mine: plucking a car from the path of imminent destruction (the crusher), giving it new life, and putting it on the road.

We visited DVAP on a Saturday morning and got more than our \$2 admission worth wandering around and checking out the inventory. In the end, we didn't make any purchases. At least not yet. ■

