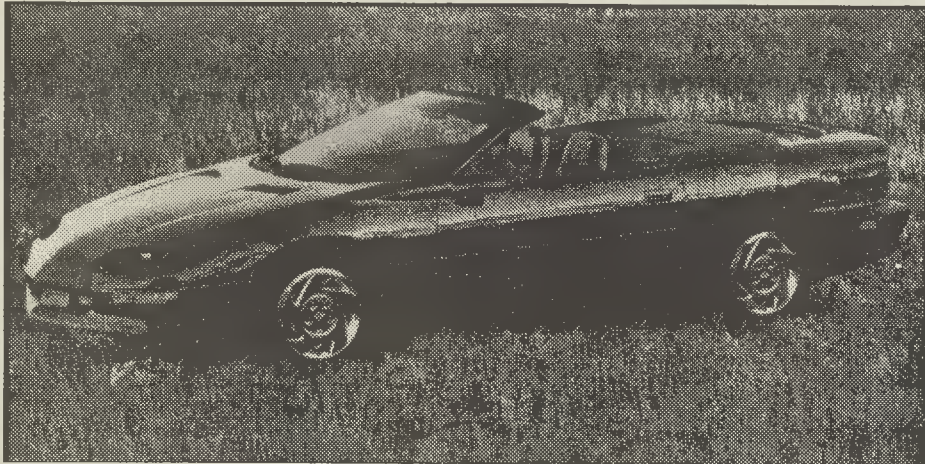


## Camaro needs bandage for top



'96 Chevrolet Camaro RS

WINFRED CROSS

### Test Drive



Ever wonder what happens to all those convertibles during the winter months?

Most people simply stick them in a garage and drive a second car if they are lucky enough to have another.

But if they don't, they drive them with the top up. Most convertibles are air-tight and leak-proof, so the elements aren't a problem.

Unfortunately, Chevy's new Camaro RS convertible isn't as weatherproof as it should be. Nice car, but you might get rained on, even with the top up.

The RS differs from other Camaro convertibles by being distinguished by a tacky ground effects package. It looks like a bad after market job. It's also very flimsy. The front air didn't fare very well when it barely brushed a curve.

Otherwise, the RS isn't bad looking. I'm not crazy about the Camaro's redone body, but it's growing on me. It's quite a looker with the top lowered and not bad with the expensive feeling top raised. I still don't understand the recessed headlights.

The interior is well done, but tight. The drop top takes up most the trunk space and much of the rear seat area as well. Head room is lacking, but you solve that by opening the roof.

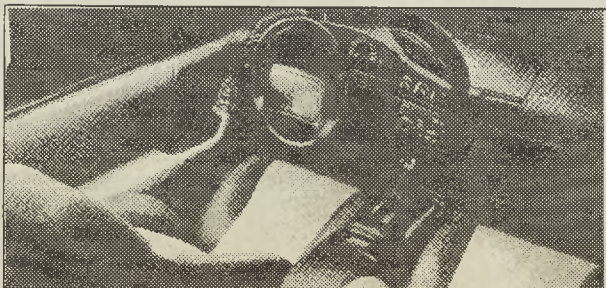
The instrumentation is well done. The gauges are easy to read and can be accessed at a glance. The controls feel a bit cheap due to a low-grade plastic used. The compact disc/radio unit was placed low, enabling the driver to fiddle with it without taking his eyes off the road. Unfortunately the player didn't work very well. It skipped like mad and refused to work at times.

in the dead of winter. There was a nice spring thaw which took the temperature into the 70s. I got in a couple of hours of top-down driving before the rain set in. It's a pleasant car with the top down, though the wind does whip around in the cabin a bit.

But Camaros are known for driving, not music systems. The RS gets the venerable 3800 V6 which GM puts in everything but a Cavalier. The engine has been massaged to deliver 200 horsepower, only 15 short of rival Ford's lusty 4.6 V8 used in the Mustang GT.

The 3800 is relatively smooth in operation. It doesn't

Speaking of rain, this is not the car I would want to get caught in a heavy downpour. The top leaked on both sides where it attached to the windshield. A fair amount of water was dumped in my lap and in the front passenger's seat, which was empty. This may have been a problem with only this car. I've driven Camaro convertibles that didn't leak.



have snap, but it moves the car around quickly. It nearly sneaks up on you. Press the gas pedal and the car pulls cleanly to 60 in about 7.0 seconds. Not startling, but quick enough for a V6.

The convertible's road manners are good. Handling is nearly as nice as the hard top. The car corners without a lot of fuss.

The car is sprung a little too tight, however. The ride is jittery, especially on bad pavement. Hit a bump and the car gets antsy.

There was also a fair amount of cowl shake with the top down. Yes, I put the top down

The RS is still a good value despite the few flaws. The base price was \$22,720. A preferred equipment package which included fog lamps, power windows and door locks, keyless remote, cruise control and remote trunk release was \$1,231. Other options included auto transmission (\$790), leather seats (\$499), power driver's seat (\$270), CD player (\$226), body side moldings (\$60) and rear floor mats (\$15).

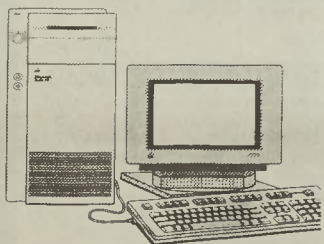
With destination charges, the as-tested price came to \$26,316. That means the Z28 version may top \$30,000. That makes the V6 version look even better.

**The 1950  
Cadillac  
Deville  
Cost A  
Mere  
\$3,654**

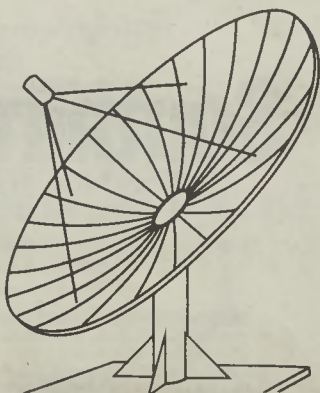
**The First  
Gasoline  
Powered Car  
Was Sold In  
The U.S.  
100 Years  
Ago - February  
1896.**

## The Charlotte Post Online

E-mail us with your comments, story ideas, stories, or just whatever



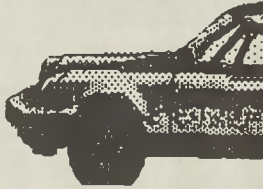
Soon you will be able to log on your computer and communicate directly with The Charlotte Post. The Post will be online through Internet, Compuserve and America Online. We will be offering segments of The Post online as well. Stay tuned for more details.



charpost@mindspring.com



If You Have Any Questions About The Automobiles Tested In **TEST DRIVE**. Please Feel Free To Call **Winfred Cross**. He Will Be Glad To Help You With The Information You Would Like To Obtain. (704)376-0496



**READ** It's Your Most Important Source For Forming An Opinion.

**PUT YOUR BUSINESS IN THE STREETS WITH  
The Charlotte Post!**

Come home to Charlotte's African American newspaper

Subscribe to The Charlotte Post at 376-0496

**THE EXCELSIOR**  
921 Beatties Ford Rd. • 334-5709

WEEKLY FEATURES:

- Tue. "FISH NIGHT" All you can eat \$5, DISCO following
  - Wed. R&R
- Thur. "KARAOKE NIGHT" w/Swing Low Productions
  - Fri. & Sat. DISCO with C.C.
  - Sunday - LIVE MUSIC or DISCO



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**SUPER HERO'S**

Sporty Jeralds (Center), Director Of The Super Hero's Program, Takes A Time Out With Students AT The Reading Enrichment Assistance For Dalton Youth Program.

### "IT'S A SHOOT-OUT!"

Nabisco Presents The 4th Annual Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Graduate Chapter Basketball Tournament on Feb. 2nd and 3rd From 7:00p.m. - 10:00p.m. at Cochrane Middle School. The Cost For The Event Is \$3.00 For 1 Night, Or Attend Both Nights For Only \$5.00. This Event Serves As A Unifying Event The Predominately African-American Fraternities. For Additional Information, Contact Darryl Tyson 554-0375.

### "A WAY OUT OF NO WAY"

Emery Kerr Productions, Inc. Association With The Black Professional Coalition Of Charlotte, The Black Womens Caucus, And The Mecklenburg County Women's Commission Presents, "A Way Out Of No Way." A Powerful Drama Of Gospel, Poetry and Dance, Highlighting The Accomplishments Of Women Who Have Made A Way Out Of No Way. Performances Are On Friday, Feb. 2nd, 8:00p.m. And Saturday Feb. 3rd, 3:00p.m. and 8:00p.m. At The Booth Playhouse, Located At 130 North Tryon Street. For Further Information Call 335-0999 or 336-3210.

### "GIVE YOUR CREATIVITY A CHANCE"

Hey Kids! If You Are Between The Ages Of 6 And 10, Give Your Creativity A Chance At Collage Creations On Sunday, February 18th From 2:30 p.m. At The Marion Diehl Center. Register January 22 Through February 11. Pre-Registration Is Required. Call Beth Brooker At 643-3405 For More Information.

### "ENTERING THE SPECTRUM"

If You Are Looking For A Power Packed Event Filled With Film, Theater And Inspiring Gospel Music, Then You Wouldn't Want To Miss "Entering The Spectrum", An African Cultural Heritage Series. The Series Opens on Friday, February 16th, And Concludes On Sunday, February 18th. All Events Are Scheduled In The Attic Theater At The Afr-American Cultural Center. For Additional Information, Please Call 374-1565.

### "HERE'S HOW YOU CAN BE CONNECTED"

Submit, in writing, on your organizations letterhead, the title of your event, date, location, contact person and telephone number for your activity to:  
COMMUNITY CONNECTION  
P.O. Box 31487, Charlotte, North Carolina 28231 Attn: Johnna Snell • Phone: 553-4944 • Fax: 553-4910  
If you are interested in the Coca-Cola Community Music Van appearing at your non-profit event call: 553-4944 • FAX 553-4910



**REFRESHMENT TIME**

Students From The Super Hero's R.E.A.D.Y. Program Take A Break From Class To Enjoy A Cold Coca-Cola And The Community Connection Music Van.