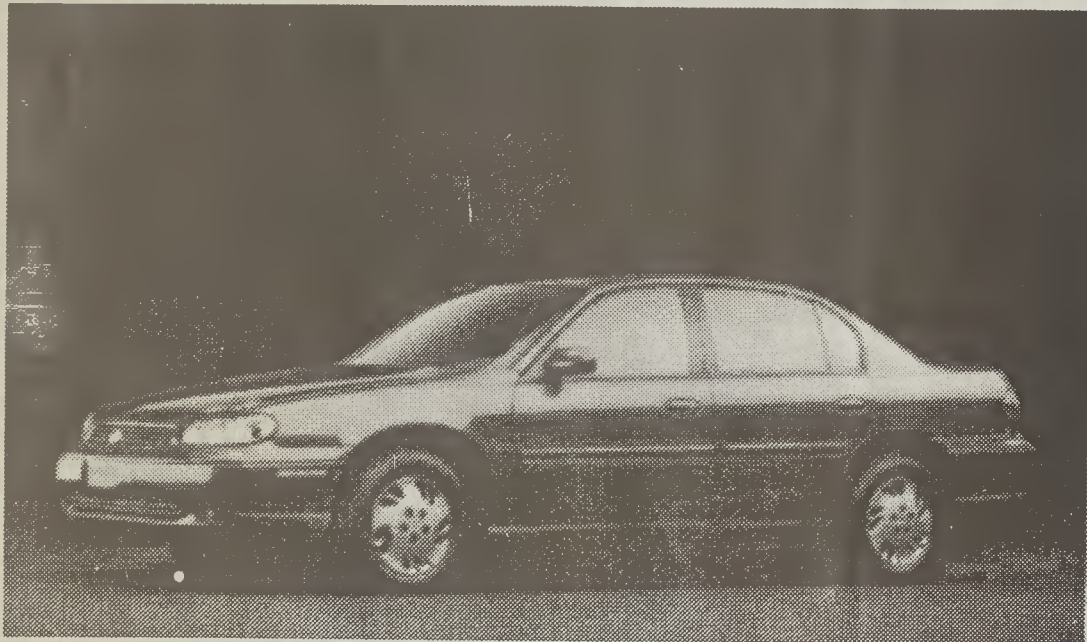


Detroit Auto Show features new models by Plymouth, Chevrolet



'97 Chevrolet Malibu

By Brian Sakre
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT - The Motor City kicked off the U.S. auto industry's centennial celebration Saturday by opening the North American International Auto Show, its premier display of the world's latest automotive technology.

Thousands of people jammed Cobo Hall downtown for the city's 80th annual exhibition of cars and trucks, a 10-day show featuring more than 700 models from 40 manufacturers in nine countries.

Among the cars drawing the biggest crowds was the purple 1997 Plymouth Prowler, an aluminum-framed, retro hot rod. It's unlike anything ever to come out of Detroit's Big Three automakers.

Among its admirers was Dave Haus, 50, of Mechanicsburg, Pa.

"There's a perfect market for this among people our age," Haus said. "When we were teen-agers, we'd build those kind of cars."

Don't expect the Prowler to be easy to buy, however. Chrysler Corp. plans to produce only 3,000 of the wedge-shaped speedsters in 1997, and dealers can be expected to

add a hefty markup to the \$35,000 price tag.

Other cars luring showgoers were German automaker BMW's sexy little Z3 roadster - first seen by many in the new James Bond movie the Mercedes-Benz AAV sport utility vehicle prototype, and just about every other SUV.

Jeff Kaminski, a city recreation employee in Warren, was eyeing a luxurious Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited. He had the reaction of many others when he checked the sport utility's \$34,696 price tag.

"It's kind of hard to afford a new car," Kaminski lamented, noting his spending limit was around \$15,000.

Some window stickers clearly implied, "Look, don't touch" their bottom lines fatter than the cost of most houses in Detroit. Among them: the \$150,000 Aston Martin DB7 Volante, the \$200,000 Dodge Viper GTS-R, and the \$250,000 Lamborghini Diablo roadster.

Haus and his wife, Peg, were looking over a bright red, four-wheel-drive 1996 Oldsmobile Bravada. They plan to trade in their '94 Bravada soon; like a lot of Americans, they're sold on sport utilities.

"We ski in the wintertime, we tow our boat in the summer-

time, so we need a vehicle like that," he said. "We also drive a Cadillac, but we leave the Cadillac in the garage in the winter and use this."

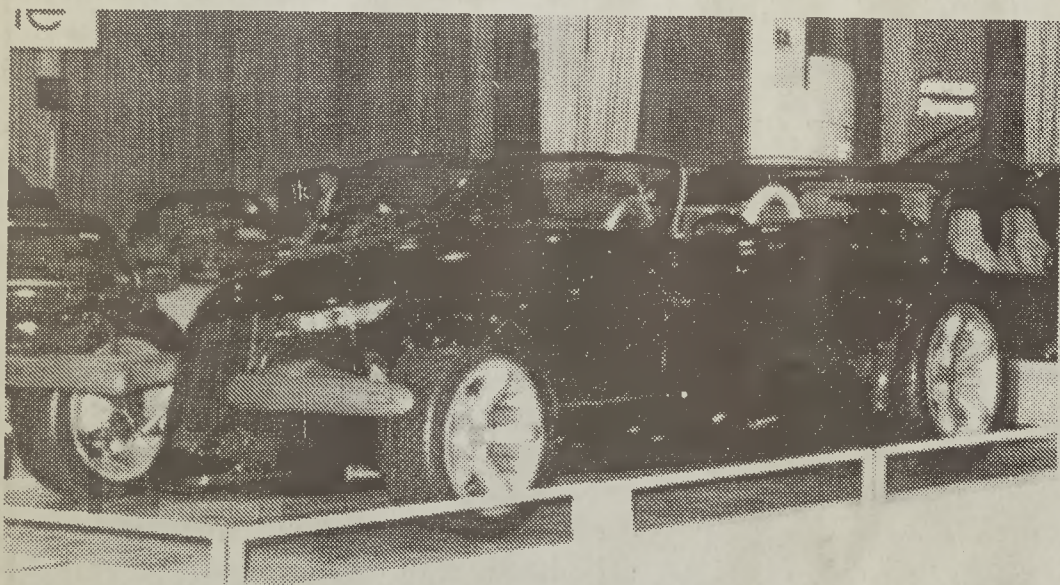
Several new models that will reach showrooms later this year or in early 1997 also were attracting a lot of ogles, including the redesigned Ford F-Series pickup, the imported Cadillac Catera and the new Chevrolet Malibu.

1996 is the 100th anniversary of the industry, which began when brothers Charles and J. Frank Duryea produced the first volume run of automobiles in Springfield, Mass. Events planned to mark the centennial include the opening of the Automotive Hall of Fame museum next to the Henry Ford Museum in suburban Detroit.

James Griffin of Lansing, touring the show with his 11-year-old son, Terrell, said the show's many concept cars boded well for the auto industry.

"It seems like it's got a bright future," he said. "They've got a lot of new ideas."

Organizers expect the show's attendance to match or exceed last year's record of 693,569. The show runs through Jan. 15.



PHOTO/WINFRED CROSS

The Plymouth Prowler will finally see the light of production in '97. An automatic will be standard.

Prowler going into production

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORWALK, Ohio - Mayflower Vehicle Systems Inc. will assemble the body for a new Plymouth sports car at its plant in this northern Ohio community, the company said Tuesday.

The sports car is the Prowler, Plymouth's answer to the Dodge Viper.

The project will create 25 to 30 new jobs when production begins early next year, said Gene Denney, Mayflower executive vice president and chief operating officer.

Body panels will be stamped and trimmed at the company's Shadyside plant. Parts will be shipped to Norwalk, where they will be assembled using a new rivet construction process being developed by Mayflower,

Denney said.

The Norwalk plant will produce 3,000 to 4,000 bodies a year.

After assembly, Prowler bodies will be given a primer coat with a new paint process and shipped elsewhere for assembly. Whether that destination is a Chrysler Corp. plant or another supplier is undecided, Denney said. Plymouth is a Chrysler subsidiary.

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Thrifty Maid Sweet Peas

Each.....3/\$1.08
Half Case.....\$3.98
Full Case.....\$7.88

29 oz. can
Thrifty Maid Peaches or Pears

Each.....98¢
Half Case.....\$11.48
Full Case.....\$22.88

16 oz. can
Thrifty Maid Tomatoes

Each.....2/98¢
Half Case.....\$5.58
Full Case.....\$10.98

14.5 oz. can Thrifty Maid French Cut or Regular Cut
Green Beans

Each.....3/98¢
Half Case.....\$3.78
Full Case.....\$7.48

14.5 oz. can
Thrifty Maid Mixed Vegetables

Each.....3/\$1.08
Half Case.....\$4.08
Full Case.....\$7.98

15 oz. can
Thrifty Maid Green Lima Beans

Each.....2/\$1.08
Half Case.....\$5.98
Full Case.....\$11.88

15 oz. can Thrifty Maid
Pinto Beans or Blackeye Peas

Each.....3/98¢
Half Case.....\$3.78
Full Case.....\$7.48