

Free Wheelin' BY DICK DIMMETTE

GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH unfolds each year at new car showing time. The interest of the American people in automobiles is simply fantastic. Of course, when one considers the percentage of the working force that is dependent on this great industry, it is understandable. Just on the local level, in TORRANCE alone, the payroll of the local dealers, parts houses, service stations, oil refineries, and all the other allied services would reach an astounding figure. Your reporter would hesitate to make a guess but each and every individual, business and institution is benefited by our efforts. It would be an interesting experiment for every firm engaged in any phase of the automobile business to pay all their employees and their local accounts with \$2 bills. I believe this would astound even us in the field if this were done for one full month.

FORD-FALCON-THUNDERBIRD public showing started Oct. 8 and is still under way. Vel Miletich (I have learned to spell his name) reports the best attendance he has ever had in TOR-RANCE. An estimated five to six thousand persons have inspected FORD'S new line at his showroom, Sales of all lines have exceeded supply. The FORD line, as reported last week, is extensively restyled. The Custom line has been replaced with the Fairlane, which will be their lowest priced car with the FORD name. On the top of the line is an all-new STARLINER, this model is available only in a two-door hardtop, and is the ultimate in styling and trim. PRICES, you will be glad to hear, remain the same on all basic cars. Options and equipment show some price reductions on major items. THUNDERBIRD received a nice face lift with some interior styling and trim combinations that will bring stars to the ladies' eyes. Ford has apparently found it unnecessary to make any basic change in this line, a fact that will please owners and maintain the fantastic resale value of these ever-popular cars.

FALCON FLIES HIGH. This newest Bird in the Ford family of cars has this week's spotlight. Conventionally designed and engineered as opposed to its chief competitor's somewhat radical and experimental model, the FALCON is, in the final analysis, a compact six-cylinder Ford with an entirely new body construction. This car is designed and intended for the average driver who is used to reasonable power and performance, but wants greater economy and a smaller investment. We testdrove a two-door with stick shift. This litle car has wonderful handling characteristics and plenty of pep. We feel it will do everything, in the city or on the road, that any reasonable driver has a right to demand, and save him money while doing it. PRICES start at \$2148 for the two-door model and run to approximately \$2600 for a loaded sedan with Fordomatic.

PREDICTION: We predict that, while the pricing on CORVAIR-FALCON-VALIANT has proved as disappointment to many, averaging about \$200 under the cheaper model of the full-sized line, these cars will sell so well that production will be the only limiting factor. We further predict that a real saving, far in excess of the price differential, will accrue to the buyer through operating economy and upkeep, and most important of all, RE-SALE VALUE. These will be solfd-money cars and the wholesale value at the one-year point will be at least 10 per cent better than the regular line of cars.

SOLID FOR SIXTY will be the new slogan for PLYMOUTH. All of us at DeVon Motors are real high on our new product. Extensively restyled and with many engineering innovations, we predict that our share of the market will be greatly improved during the coming months. The only one of the majors using UNIT BODY CONSTRUCTION in their full-sized line, the engineers have promised that we have a car that is, and will remain, rattle-free. Our get-ready boys report that everything fits amazingly well. This is unusual in a really new line. This new car is also completely rust-proofed, undergoing seven sprays and six chemical baths. We have extensively road-tested our new model and agree that SOLID is the best descriptive word. Torsion-Aire ride is retained and improved and there are dozens of new features that will appeal to the technically inclined buyer. These cars are built right, to stay right, for 200,000 miles. . . . At least, that's what they told us. . . . You can always depend on one thing . . . come new. car time: What the factory men lack in objectivity, they make up in enthusiasm. OCTOBER 16 is the official showing date. However, if you slip in quietly and show a copy of this colunm, we just might give you a sneak preview. DeVON MOTORS, 1600 Cabrillo, Torrance, is the place.

VALIANT IS NEXT. We cannot tell you much about Chrysler's new compact, except that we wil handle it and the public showing will be the latter part of this month. Dealers will see the car Oct. 19, so expect some raves after that date. How do I know I will like it? Easy. In the first place, Chrysler is building it, so it has to be good. In the second place, we are selling it, so it had better be good. There is a third reason, YOU will be buying it, so let us pray. Many of the nationally syindicated automobile writers and editors have voted the VALIANT as the outstanding car of the three new compacts. Who am I, a mere amateur, to question the judgment of these professionals? In any event, just remember that we at DeVON MOTORS will have one of the first ones, so come on down and see it.

I AM PLEASED AND PROUD that I have discovered a readership. True, it's small, but I at least know that I am read. What greater reward is there for any writer? I will answer that question, MONEY. So long until next week. If you have any comments or suggestions, see me at DeVON MOTORS or call FAIRFAX 8-6161.



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