

A chrome-plated show

By CARL STODDARD

Dave Lukkari of Southfield was there with his ever-so-clean 1947 Crosley.

Robert Gutzke of Farmington Hills was there, too, with a 1927 Model T Ford. Gutzke, in fact, won the Don Riddler Award for the best new show entry.

But Lukkari and Gutzke were not alone. During the three-day Autorama held last weekend at Cobo Hall, exhibitors and on-lookers from all over poured into the giant auditorium.

People came to look at the chrome, the velvet-tuffed seats, the super-charged engines and the razzle-dazzle paint that bejeweled the more than 400 cars at the show.

In all, more than 115,000 attended the show, the biggest attendance ever for the Autorama. And the people showed up in record numbers despite miserable weather, a sagging economy and a \$4 price tag put on most tickets. The crowd was so thick, at times, that the cars were virtually buried under the crush of people.

But few seemed to mind. Bearing cameras and cold drinks, they trooped from car to car, gazing at Corvairs with engines in the front, vans with engines in the middle and machines with no visible means of propulsion.

Some of those eyeballing the chrome appeared to have just time-traveled from the 1950s.



Photographed by Craig Newman