

THE TALK OF THE TOWN!

Sidelights

EIGHTY-NINE years ago Detroit got a taste of its first automobile show and things haven't been the same since.

Credit for the event can be attributed to the energy and enthusiasm of Detroit's William E. Metzger, a wholesale bicycle merchant in the early 1890s who had the distinction of becoming the first auto dealer in Detroit.

With Seneca G. Lewis of Fletcher Hardware Co., he formed the Tri-State Sportsmen's and Automobile Association and leased the Light Guard Armory for the showing of sporting paraphernalia and automobiles.

CHAIRMAN OF this year's event is Ken Meade,



owner of Dodge, Pontiac, Chrysler, Plymouth, Pontiac Isuzu, Pontiac Jeep Eagle and Meade Leasing.

When Meade, 44, opened Pontiac Dodge in 1971, he became the youngest Dodge dealer in the country. Another one of the Meade Group's business ventures is Commercial Lighting Specialist Inc., a company involved in the marketing of new ideas in energy-saving lighting for commercial use.

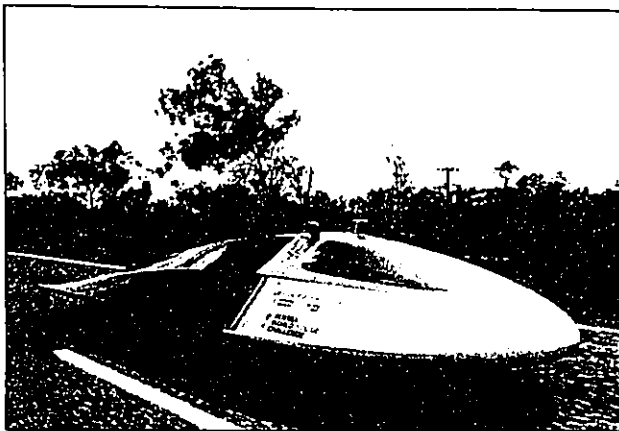
THE FIRST attempt at an auto show back in 1899 took in more than 100 cars of which there weren't very many anyway. The show consisted mainly of fishing tackle, firearms, bicycles and hunting equipment. An exhibit of big-game trophies bagged in Africa was included for the specific purpose of attracting the public. The crowd numbered a mere 200.

Because of the success of that show, the event was repeated the next two years with dog shows providing the added attraction.

PROBABLY ONE of the most beautiful exhibits in auto show history came in 1917 when the interior of the Billy Sunday Tabernacle, where the show was held that year, was designed to resemble a Japanese garden.

Fir trees and imported Japanese lanterns lined the walkways leading up to the

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Beam me up, Scotty

General Motor's Sunraycer, winner of the 1,950-mile World Solar Challenge race across Australia, will be displayed at the Detroit Auto Show in Chevrolet's exhibit area. The 390-pound, futuristically shaped vehicle is covered with 7,200 Hughes solar cells and is propelled by a single direct-current, eight-pound motor that is no larger than a coffee can.

In gear

Auto show events revvin' up

SATURDAY IS D-day at Cobo Hall — D for the number of cars and trucks making their debut at the Detroit Auto Show opening Saturday in Cobo Hall.

For the annual nine-day auto show, Cobo Hall will house over 500 new cars and trucks, many of which are making their Detroit and U.S. debuts. In addition, show-goers will see many concepts and specialty vehicles, new high-tech displays, video productions, a 3-D movie theater and music and dance performances.

The show is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 10:30 p.m. and weekdays 2-10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4.75; children under 12 with a parent are free. Senior citizens are also admitted free.

Here are some of the things you can expect to see at this year's extravaganza:

- **BUICK**
 - U.S. debut of the Reatta and Reatta convertible.
 - New Regal convertible and exciting 1988 models.

- Engine display and trim display for the Reatta and Regal.

CADILLAC

- U.S. debut of the concept vehicle Voyage, a four-door ultra-luxury touring sedan.
- Five-screen video presentations throughout the exhibit and an automated light program.
- Narrators will be wearing outfits designed specifically for the show by international designers Vicki Teal of London and Isabelle Allard of Paris.

CHEVROLET

- GM Sunraycer, the solar-powered vehicle, which won the World Solar Challenge in Australia last November.
- Detroit debut of the Chevrolet Venture, a concept sedan designed by Cadillac-Pontiac-GM of Canada.
- Detroit debut of the GMT400 Magic truck accompanied by the magic of Mark Sweet.

- Blazer XTI concept vehicle, with four-wheel drive, four-wheel steering and adjustable suspension.
- Special showing of the USA Monster Truck "Car Crusher."
- Entertainment by the "Heartbeat of America" singers and dancers.
- Dancing by the "Footlockers," winners of Ed McMahon's "Star Search."
- Drawings for pedal trucks and gas-powered miniature Corvettes.

DODGE

- Detroit debut of Dodge Dynasty.
- Full lineup of Dodge cars and trucks.

FORD

- Detroit debut of the 88 1/2 Escort.
- Detroit debut of the HFX (High

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\$1 parking along People Mover route

City parking officials and officers of the Detroit Auto Show have come up with an innovative way to make downtown parking easier during the event which begins Jan. 16 — \$1 parking along the People Mover route.

As five city parking lots located near People Mover stations, show-goers can park for \$1 weekdays after 5 p.m. and anytime on Saturday and Sunday, and ride Detroit's new elevated train to within a block of Cobo Hall. The five city lots are lighted and patrolled by Detroit police.

Map of People Mover route — turn to Page 14.

Participating parking facilities include the Foster Winter Garage near the Greektown People Mover station; the 121 Monroe lot (former Crowley's site), at the Cadillac Square station; the 1451 Broadway lot, at the Broadway station; Grand Circus Underground Garage, at the Grand Circus station; and the Trolley Plaza Garage,

at the Times Square station.

THE TROLLEY PLAZA and Foster Winter garages are open 24 hours, Monday through Sunday. The other lots have extended their hours to accommodate those going to the show, and will be open until midnight throughout the show's nine-day run.

The Michigan Blue Cross Garage will also offer \$1 parking Jan. 16-24 on weekdays after 5 p.m. and anytime Saturdays and Sundays. The Blue Cross Garage is near the Bricktown People Mover station.