Observer & Eccentric

## CAReport

Grand Am's new powertrain gives it some giddy-up

Pontiac is adding a little more excitement to the 1995 Grand Am by blessing it with General Motors' pride and joy, the Quad 4 engine. This 4-cylinder 16-valve 2 3-lites dual courband cam

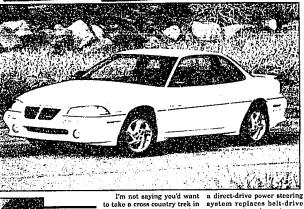
2.3-liter dual overhead cam 2.3-lifer dual overhead cam Quad 4 engine justifies the Grand Am's competition— namely the Ford Probe GT, Nissan Altima and Honda Accord.

Now, you may say, "What's the difference between the 2.3-liter engine that was in last year's Grand Am?" It's the difference between passing a 45-mile-per-hour Escort and a 5.0-liter Mustang going 65 in the fast lane.

the fast lane.

Last year's Grand Am,
though a respectable vehicle,
just couldn't muster enough,
Mr., to pass that Mustang. The
new 150-horsepower Quad 4
can Fasily.

And just go ahead and mate this baby to the stan-dard 5-speed manual transmission and you've got the



**Road Test** By Anne Fracassa

cutest, fastest, sportiest small coupe and sedan on the road

today. There are four models you can choose from in the new Grand Am — SE coupe, SE sedan, GT coupe and GT sedan.

This car is fun to drive. Lots of pep, sporty looks, inte-rior styling and instrumentation that's smart and easy to understand and enough room for anyone to travel.

I'm not saying you'd want to take a cross country trek in the Grand Am, but to a few weekend trips it will go, go, go.
Optional on the Grand Am again this year is the 3100 V6 engine that delivers 155 horsepower. The Quad 4 does the job well, efficiently and with a lot of style. But if you really need that extra 5 borses really need that extra 5 horses

As for exterior styling on the new Grand Am, it's basically the same as last year. Since its introduction in 1985, the Grand Am has had only one major redesign. It's about due for another.

The new engine isn't the only thing that's new with Grand Am, however. Lots of tweaks have been made, including variable effort steer-ing (available on the GT only):

seat passengers, and results in a smoother, quieter ride. There's a new color for Grand Am this year, medium dark purple metallic.

wheel hub. GM officials said

moving the spring reduces the effects of potholes and other road jolts, especially for rear-

Of course, Grand Am has a driver's-side airbag, anti-lock brakes and automatic brake/transmission shift interlock that won't let you shift from park unless the brake pedal is depressed. Other safety features include Other safety features include an energy-absorbing steering column; child comfort guides in rear sent safety belts, allowing a better fit for kide; a power-window lockout switch (on the sedan only); and rear door child safety locks. Speaking of kids, they'll fit fine in the rear seats, whether in car seats, boosters or just

in car seats, boosters or just by themselves. The rear scats have a generous area for adults as well.

The Grand Am is a sporty

little number that's great for anyone with kids and provides just a little more excitement in your everyday life. Consider

If you'd like to see a partic-ular model tested or if you have a car question, send Anne Fracassa a message at AVAN-T11054, Avanti's America Online mailbox. Or comment through the Internet at AVAN-TI1054 Gaol.com.

Anne Fracassa is senior editor

## Vehicle Often Safest Port in a Storm

Driving after dark through a violent thunderstorm can be a nerve-racking experience. Even with the heat of headlights, defrosters and wind-shield wipers, it's best to get off the road.

off the road.
Unless you can find shelter
in a well constructed building
you'll probably have to stay in
your vehicle. The danger of
being struck by lightening
still looms. What to do? Park in an open area, if possible, away from trees and power lines until the storm passes

over.

If you're on the shoulder of
the road turn on your emergency flashers. Because you're
shielded by metal, your vehicle is one of the safest places
in an electrical storm. If lightpring does strike you may ening does strike you may have the scare of a lifetime but you probably won't be injured.
Your car may need a new

paint job, however, and more! If hailstones don't damage the finish, the lightening can sear the paint right off the metal, not to mention what it can do to the various electronic components.
Another hazard: downed

power lines. If one should hit your car, starting a fire, open the door and jump as far as you can from the vehicle.
NEVER TOUCH THE
GROUND AND THE CAR
AT THE SAME TIME. If there is no fire, your best bet is to stay in your vehicle and wait for help.

## **Pontiac Grand Am**

power steering; the cruise-con-trol system is new; 15-inch cast aluminum wheels replace

16-inchers: there are some new wheelcover designs, and this year there are some new

tire options. Built in Lansing, Mich.,

the Grand Am's rear suspen-

sion has been improved for 1995 by relocating the spring to be in-line with the rear

Vehicle class		Compact
Engine	4-cylinder	16-valve, 2.3-liter Quad 4
		21 city/31 highway
		Lansing
Base price	\$13	,399 coupe, \$13,499 sedan
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