

## WEEKENDER

## ROADTEST

ADVERTISING FEATURE

## HYUNDAI STELLAR

By Stuart Blower

It's a bit on the heavy side in the steering department, but the new luxury Pony performs well on the highway.

In fact, the ride is very smooth, reasonably quiet and, despite the small engine, the car can keep up.

The car feels heavy, much like an old Bentley or Mark 3 Jaguar. It is not a sports car, but the ride and steering feel fine on the highway. There is a feeling of solidity to the Stellar that inspires confidence. And normal highway commuter speeds are not a problem.

Even over dirt roads and railway tracks the suspension literally soaked up the worst of what was thrown at it and delivered a comfortable ride. Relaxed cruising seems to be the word to describe the driving experience of the Stellar. The car seems equally relaxed when hitting bumps and potholes. The suspension has a long travel that can handle rough rides.

Acceleration is a bit slow; it has a small engine (1600 cubic centimetres), but the transmission was always commented on by passengers. It has one of the smoothest, most positive gearboxes I've tested so far.

Driving the Stellar is quite an experience. It has to be one of the most affordable luxury cars around. Outside styling is very modern. The car can easily be mistaken for something a lot more expensive. Interior finishes are well co-ordinated and include seat coverings that reminded me of a living room chesterfield, and the rest of the interior was carpeted. The seats are soft and contribute to the pampered feeling.

The car comes fully equipped, with such niceties as electric mirrors and Michelin tires that are factory installed. And there's a host of standard items that include tinted glass, mud flaps, anti-corrosion treatment, child-proof door locks, rear defroster and 36 others that will be easier to explain by men-



## Stellar GLS

tioning that the only things optional are automatic transmission and the air conditioning and metallic paint.

There is even a separate heater outlet for the rear passengers to keep warm.

Dash controls are well laid out with clean white on black. The heating unit is a bit con-

fusing until you realize the labels on the vent controls refer to above and below.

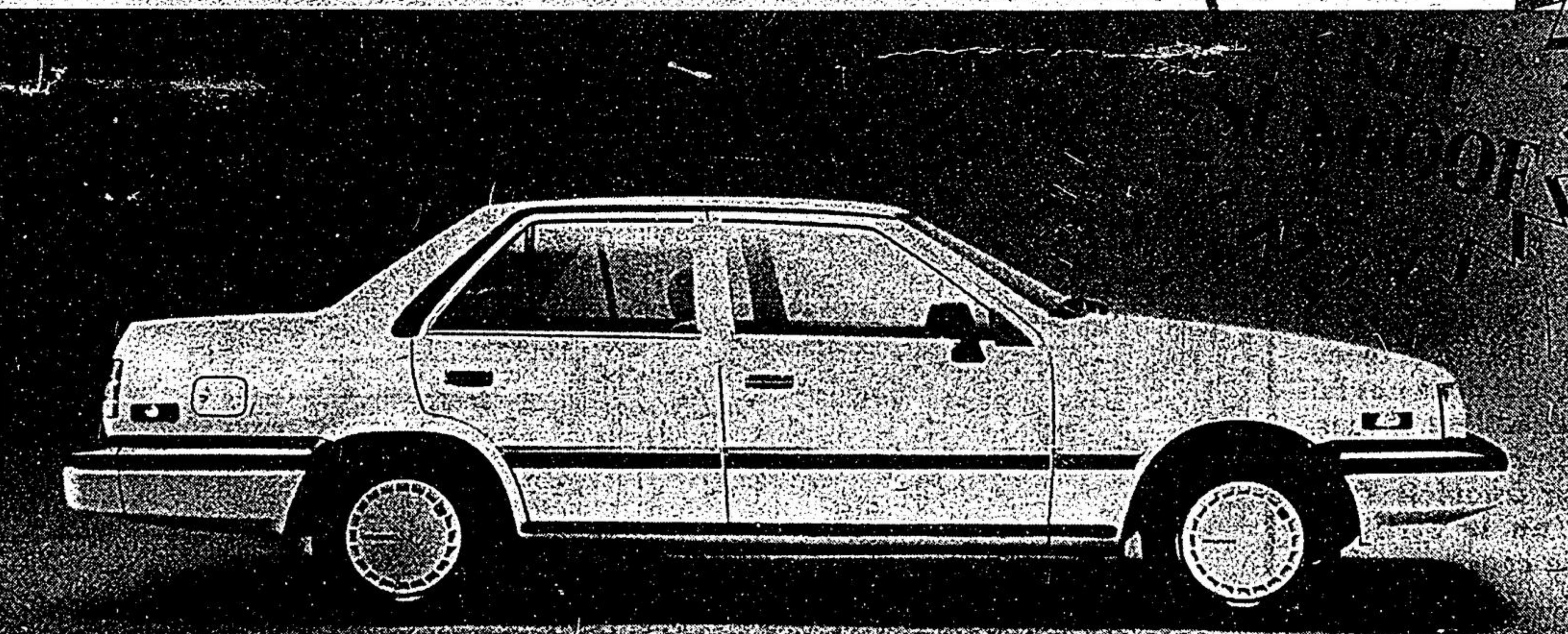
Unique features on a car of this price are its power door lock systems, which lock the doors and the trunk automatically.

As an aid to customer satisfaction, the Hyundai Auto Canada corporation offers a

complete repair or replacement warranty policy for 12 months or 20,000 kilometres. There is a further 12 months or another 20,000km warranty on the transmission, drive shaft and final drive components. And finally, a 36-month anti-perforation warranty.

## STELLAR

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