

# Chrysler Sundance is fun to drive and a solid performer

Good suspension and gas mileage will surely make it a very popular family car

By **BOB BARNETT**

**WOODBIDGE** — Chrysler has scaled down its LeBaron GTS, borrowed the engine from the Daytona and come up with the Plymouth Sundance and Dodge Shadow for 1987.

The two new cars are designed to compete with the likes of the Chevrolet Cavalier, Ford Tempo and Honda Accord. Starting at \$9,200 for the two door and \$9,400 for the four door and with an extensive list of standard features, they'll compete very well.

The Sundance tested came with a three-speed automatic transmission and the optional turbo engine package. The turbo gives more excitement for an extra \$1,100, but choose the five-speed manual transmission if you want to take full advantage of it. The automatic was fine once the turbo kicked in, but the car was a bit slow coming out of corners or when pulling out to pass.

The transversely-mounted four-cylinder engine has been in production since 1981. Chrysler added the turbo package to the Daytona in 1984, so it's a proven combination powering the new front-wheel drive cars.

The overhead cam motor puts out 146 horsepower and electronic fuel injection is standard on all models.

**SPORT PACKAGE**

The Sundance was fun to drive and went exactly where it was pointed. The turbo comes with a



Chrysler's Sundance may not have all the traditional LeBaron luxury items, but it is a solid, unpretentious car with clean lines. It gives great performance; is fun to drive, and the four-cylinder engine (below) also has a turbo package.

sport package which includes performance tires and exhaust system and a 200-km/h speedometer.

The standard suspension employs gas-filled shocks and sway bars front and rear. This combination keeps the car flat through corners, even at speeds which might upset the OPP.

The Sundance borrows its aerodynamic looks from the

LeBaron. Both cars have gut-terless roofs, recessed door handles and a generally slippery shape to cut down on wind drag and increase gas mileage.

The Sundance, however, is smaller and ignores some of the LeBaron's luxury features in favor of functionalism. There are no digital read-outs or leather upholstery in the Sundance. The back seat, which folds down to

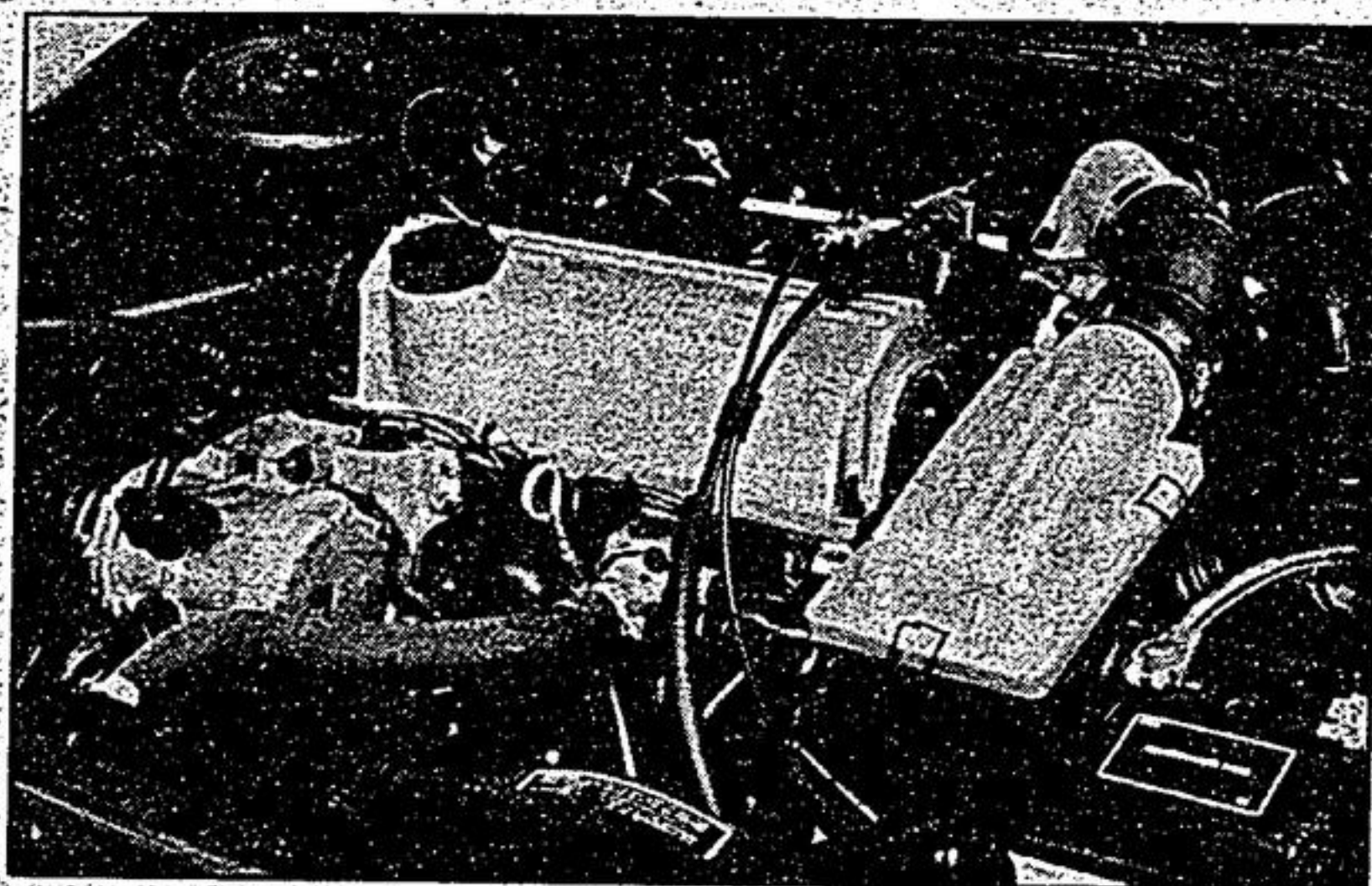
increase storage space, has seat belts for three, but they would have to be small children. One adult would find the leg room a bit tight.

**LOT OF PERFORMANCE**

But this does not detract from the Sundance's overall value. It is a solid, unpretentious car which will provide a lot of performance on command.

The Sundance and Shadow replace the bottom-of-the-line K-car in the Chrysler lineup and will likely prove quite popular among young families. The new cars are in limited supply right now, but can still be factory ordered.

The test car was provided courtesy of Woodbridge Motors on Hwy. 7 in Woodbridge, and the Sundance and Shadow are also available at Sevenview Chrysler in Concord and Sorensen Chrysler in Richmond Hill.



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