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LOTS MORE AMERICANS have been finding out that it's fun to drive. As a result, many manufacturers have designed cars for the young-at-heart — cars with especially sporty styling and performance. A recent addition to the back-to-fun-driving movement is the Barracuda, a four-passenger sports coupe designed around Valiant components.

The Barracuda shares Valiant's 106-inch wheelbase and engine/transmission options. The newly introduced 273-cubic-inch V-8, teamed with Chrysler's four-speed, floor-mounted manual transmission and a Hurst competition shift linkage, should prove popular on the Barracuda. For those who lean more toward economy and ease of driving,

the Barracuda will also offer Valiant's Slant Six engine, either in 170- or 225-cubic-inch form, with three-speed manual or TorqueFlite pushbutton automatic transmission.

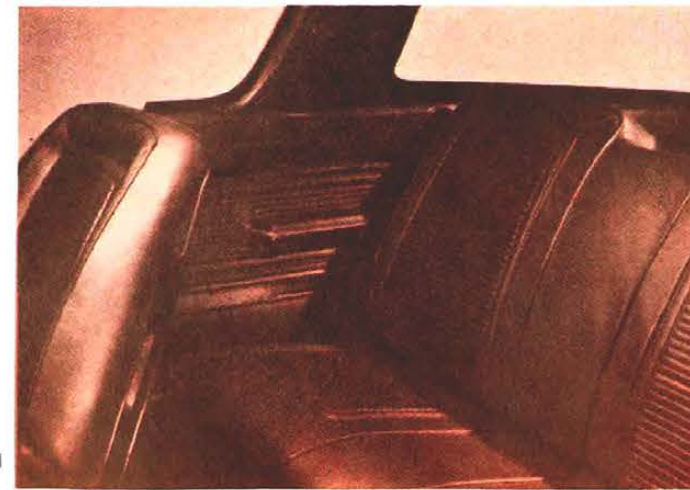
Barracudas will make their first appearances in dealers' showrooms during the first week in May, although they were announced and shown to the public early in April. The sports coupe, with its huge rear window, is the only model announced at this time. It sports a fully vinyl-covered interior, with Valiant's comfortable bucket seats up front and a bench seat in the rear for two extra passengers. The rear seat can be folded forward for increased luggage space when only one passenger is in the car. And with the back seat folded, the luggage area is fully carpeted. An assist handle on the back of the seat serves as a luggage stop with the seat down. There's also a lockable trunk.

Distinctive styling sets the Barracuda

apart from other Valiants. Special simulated racing wheel covers, a simulated wooden three-spoke steering wheel, and center console — these are options in the Barracuda. Backup lights have been designed as part of the tail light assembly.

The Barracuda's fastback styling should make it even faster than the standard Valiant, which is quite a performer (*MT road test, March, 1964*), while its four-passenger capacity makes it a natural for the sports-car-loving family with children. It's not often you can have your cake and eat it too, but the combination of sports styling and Valiant's proven good handling and performance should make the Barracuda a very desirable automobile. As a first car for the one-car family or a second or third car in a larger family for the man, woman, or child who likes distinctive transportation, Chrysler's new Barracuda should fill the bill. /MT

BARRACUDA!



1) Full vinyl upholstery, folding rear seat make for durability and usefulness. There's room for four plus lots of luggage.



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Fleet fastback on Valiant chassis

(BELOW) CLEAN, FLOWING LINES, SPORTY STYLING HAND BARRACUDA LONG, LEAN, RACY LOOK, SHOULD GIVE MORE THAN 100-MPH TOP SPEED.

