



1937 METEOR CADILLAC V16 AMBULANCE

1992 INTERNATIONAL MEET INFORMATION

THE PROFESSIONAL CAR

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**IN THIS ISSUE: THE ULTIMATE AMBULANCE: A V-16 CADILLAC
A GALLERY OF BELGIAN/AMERICAN AMBULANCES
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ON OUR COVER - This has to be the ultimate in classic era American ambulances. This custom-built, one-off Cadillac was designed and built for the Detroit Fire Department. Possibly the only Cadillac V-16 ambulance ever built, it was a gift to the D.F.D. from Detroit Fire Commissioner and lifelong fire buff Paxton Mendelssohn. This truly impressive ambulance was built on a 1937 Cadillac Series 90 V-16 chassis. The standard Series 90 chassis had a 154" wheelbase, which was stretched even further to accommodate the special six-window limousine ambulance body built by the Meteor Motor Car Co. of Piqua, Ohio. The 1937 Cadillac Series 90 was powered by a 452-cubic-inch V-16 engine which had been introduced in 1930. Warning signals included a standard 12" fire apparatus bell and a set of whirling Buckeye Roto-Rays mounted above the extra-high windshield. When the '37 Cadillac chassis began to show its age, Commissioner Mendelssohn had the vehicle completely rebuilt, with a new Cadillac front end, in 1951. This ambulance served the Detroit Fire Department for a total of 32 years and was retired in 1969. See the feature story in this issue. (Photo Courtesy Of Matthew Lee, Plymouth MI).

INSIDE BACK COVER - For many years, the Superior Coach Corp. of Lima, O. offered two separate families of funeral coaches, ambulances, combinations and service cars. The flagships of the Superior product line were the regal Cadillac-chassised hearses and hightop ambulances. But for the budget-conscious funeral director, Superior offered a lower-priced companion line of professional cars built on a stretched Pontiac chassis. Superior's Cadillacs and Pontiacs were seldom shown in the same ad. This one, published in the February, 1968 issue of The American Funeral Director, shows the 1968 Superior Cadillac Crown Royale Landulet and the '68 Superior Pontiac Landulet.

BACK COVER - This is a news photo of the Detroit Fire Dept.'s custom-built Cadillac ambulance -- now on the 1951 Cadillac V-8 chassis -- in action at a five-alarm fire in the Motor City in the early 1960's. The red cross flag flying from the roof marked the location of the ambulance on the fireground as the emergency medical post. The ambulance responded as "Car 300" to all Detroit multiple alarm fires. The other vehicles visible are Proctor-Keefe (left) and Gerstenslager-bodied D.F.D. rescue squads.