



PIQUA HOMECOMING - JUNE 2004

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MILLER-METEOR REUNION

# THE PROFESSIONAL CAR

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**IN THIS ISSUE - MILLER-METEOR REUNION STORY & PHOTOS  
THE CHANGING FACE OF THE PCS – LOU FARAH  
OWNER'S PRIDE: 1977 MILLER-METEOR LANDAU**

**COVER PHOTO** – In something of a departure from standard practice, this year we are publishing *two* Meet Issues of *The Professional Car*. Our Fourth Quarter issue will, as usual, feature full coverage (with lots of photos) of the Society's 2004 International Meet held in Daytona, Florida in late July. But the magazine you are holding amounts to *another* meet issue. The ***Miller-Meteor Reunion*** hosted by the *Miller-Meteor Chapter* in Ohio in mid-June, resembled a PCS International in many ways. Over three days we visited three funeral coach manufacturers and made pilgrimages to the former factories of two of the great names in the U.S. hearse and ambulance industry – the *Meteor Motor Car Company* in Piqua and the *A.J. Miller Company* in Bellefontaine. These two old-line firms were merged in 1956 to form *Miller-Meteor*, which operated out of both locations for several years before M•M funeral coach and ambulance production was consolidated at the Piqua plant and office complex in 1960.

The high point of the reunion was the Saturday afternoon gathering at the vacant Miller-Meteor plant in Piqua. As shown on our cover, eight vintage Miller-Meteor Cadillacs -- all of them built in the sprawling factory at 125 Clark Ave. -- were lined up in front of the former M•M showroom. From left to right they are: 1961 *Classic Limousine Duplex Combination* owned by Mike Stevens of Springfield, O.; 1966 *Limousine Duplex Combination*, owned by Sarah Snook, Strongsville, O.; 1970 *Volunteer* hightop ambulance, Steve and Gene Lichtman, Mount Airy, Md.; 1974 *Landau Traditional Combination*, Jerry Jacobson, Cleveland, O.; 1976 *Classic Limousine Combination*, Larri Dirks, Sterling, Ill.; 1976 *Lifeline Hightop Ambulance*, John Wurm, Forest Lake, Minn.; 1977 *Landau Traditional* end-loading funeral coach, Jeremy Ledford, Lebanon, Tenn., and the 1979 *Landau Traditional Combination* owned by Chuck Kramer of Prairie du Chien, Wisc.

The photo on our Back Cover was taken from the opposite end of this impressive lineup. **Front and back cover photos taken by PCS member Ted Kalinowski of Windsor, Ontario.**