

The
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IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Journey Through Time: Saga Of A 1959 Superior Cadillac Crown Royale*
- *Alliance, Ohio Meet Boasts Eight "Fabulous Fifty-Nine" Cadillacs !*
- *Postscript From LA – Notes From The 2007 PCS International Meet*
- *Regional Roundup – Hilton Head & Other PCS Chapter Activities*
- *Out Of The Ordinary – 1940 Meteor LaSalle Woodie 8-Door Wagon*

ON OUR COVER: As you will no doubt notice, much of the content of this issue is devoted to those most iconic of all 1950s professional cars, the 1959 Cadillacs. That was the year American auto styling reached its pinnacle of excess, as immortalized by the 1959 Cadillac with its soaring rocketship tail fins. The principal feature in this issue charts the life of one of those `59s – a Superior Crown Royale that led a nomadic existence after it passed out of the hands of its first two owners. This Crown Royale was the first `59 your editor ever saw, and it made a truly indelible impression on him one spring day in 1959 -so much so that when it was traded in on a new hearse 11 years later, Walt bought it. How this coach ultimately found its way into PCS President Brady Smith's garage in Michigan more than three decades later is the subject of our main feature. Our cover image of this fabulous car was captured by Ted Kalinowski.

CENTERSTRETCH: That's our name for the two-page color spread included as a bonus in every issue of *The Professional Car*. *Tri-State Chapter* member Chuck Snyder scaled a fire department training tower to take this remarkable panoramic photo of no fewer than *eight* 1959 Cadillacs artistically lined up in a park in Alliance, Ohio.

BACK COVER: International President Brady Smith and Steve Lichtman had a *great* time lining up all those `59 Cadillacs for photos during the Ohio Tri-States Chapter meet in Alliance in August. Among the group shots they choreographed was this irresistible row of sixteen dagger-tipped tailfins -- and twice that many bullet taillights -- on the rare gathering of 1959 Cadillac funeral coaches, ambulances, limousines and one flower car.