

The
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FRONT COVER – Those of us who attended the 2003 Professional Car Society International Meet in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, may remember seeing Martin Shepherd's 1958 Eureka Cadillac flower car there. Parked off to one side of the vehicle display area, it was a work-in-progress then - a tad rough in appearance, mostly in primer and with absolutely no chrome or brightwork on it - definitely in the "great expectations" category. Well, look what happened! After years of determination and countless hours of hard work, Martin successfully restored this rare beauty to its original appearance. Compared with Superior and Miller-Meteor, the Eureka Company of Rock Falls, Illinois built very few flower cars, typically fewer than half a dozen a year. Mr. Shepherd, of Springfield, Virginia, photographed his '58, impressively banked with flowers, during a local newspaper shoot. A big fan of 1958 Cadillac professional cars, he also owns 1958 Eureka and Superior Cadillac hearses and a matching '58 Cadillac Fleetwood Seventy-Five limousine.

CENTERSTRETCH – The Griffin Funeral Home in Chicago was well known for its distinctive 7UP green fleet of hearses, flower cars, and limousines. When the Griffin family closed its funeral home a few years ago, they sold their two flower cars and a Cadillac six-door limousine to Baines Professional Vehicles of Chicago. The flower cars were 1992 and 1996 Eagle Cadillacs. The '92 was the first flower car built by Eagle Coach Co. of Amelia, Ohio, and the only one the company built on the chunky 1990s Cadillac chassis which was produced with very little change from 1980-1992. The much more aerodynamic 1996 was typical of standard production Eagle Cadillac Coupe de Fleurs built between 1993 and 1996. Both cars had color-keyed tonneau covers which buttoned into place over their stainless-steel flower decks. The '96 was later sold but Baines reportedly still has the '92, which has been repainted black. We're grateful to Tony Karsnia who photographed these beauties not long after they were acquired by the dealership.

REAR COVER – 7UP green 1983 Eureka Concours Classic flower car, also built for the Griffin Funeral Home in Chicago. Thomas A. McPherson provided this lovely photo.