

The **PROFESSIONAL** *CAR*



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FRONT COVER, CENTERSTRETCH AND BACK COVER PHOTOS – The “Salon Subject” in this issue is a 1961 Flxible Buick *Flxette* short-wheelbase landau combination funeral car/ambulance owned by Cooperstown, N.Y. funeral director Peter A. Deysenroth. This attractive, totally original compact combination coach is a perfect fit for the principal feature in this issue -- Tom McPherson's superb retrospective piece on the 1961-1962 Flxible Buicks. Peter had his '61 Flxie professionally photographed especially for this issue by Milo Stewart, Jr. Our thanks to both for a truly outstanding cover -- and centerstretch -- subject.

EDITOR'S NOTE – The 1950s saw the rise of an entirely new *genre* of hearses, ambulances, combinations, and service cars built on unaltered original-wheelbase passenger-car chassis. While OWB Chevrolet and Pontiac sedan-delivery conversions were popular first-call car and economy ambulance conversions in the late 1940s and early '50s, Henney upped the ante with its raised-roof 1952-54 *Henney Junior* series on a 127" chassis. For 1959, Flxible introduced its short wheelbase, high-headroom Buick *Flxette*. Cotner/Bevington countered with its compact Oldsmobile *Seville* in 1960 and National, Memphian, Pinner, and Weller also charged into the OWB coach fray. Industry leader Superior was late to the party with its 1961 Pontiac *Consort*. Tom McPherson covers all of these in his information-packed secondary feature in this issue.

Coming up in *TPC #165*; a full report, with photos, on the 2016 Flint Micro-Meet and a complete history of LaSalle professional cars.

– **Walt McCall, Editor**