

The **PROFESSIONAL** *CAR*



CUNNINGHAM **PROFESSIONAL CARS** **PART 2**



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COVER PHOTO: Well-known funeral director, funeral-home owner, and professional-car collector Buck Kamphausen of Vallejo, California, arranged to have his magnificently restored 1935 Cunningham W-1 eight-column carved hearse photographed especially for the cover of this issue of *The Professional Car*. The photo was taken at daybreak by professional photographer Josh Voss in the Skyview Memorial Lawn Cemetery.

CENTERSTRETCH – As noted in one of our Owner’s Pride stories, Tom McPherson arranged for a TPC crew to photograph the Howe-Peterson Funeral Home’s rare 1929 Cunningham eight-column carved-panel hearse at the Dearborn, Michigan funeral home a few weeks before the car was put up for sale at the 2017 Spring Auction in Auburn, Indiana. Windsor, Ontario PCS member Ted Kalinowski took the portrait that graces our centerstretch, as well as the close-up detail photos in Owner’s Pride II.

BACK COVER – Peter Cunningham, great-great-grandson of James Cunningham, founder of carriage-trade coachbuilder James Cunningham, Son & Co. of Rochester N.Y., arranged to have his one-off 1937 Cunningham Ford open-front town-car – the last Cunningham vehicle produced – photographed exclusively for this issue. The artistically staged photo taken by Bill Mallard and Greg Goodsell has the visual texture of a painting rather than a photograph. Also owned by Mr. Cunningham, the 1926 Cunningham W-5 ambulance on the right was featured on the covers and centerstretch of TPC #178.

EDITOR’S NOTE – The principal content in this issue is Part II of Contributing Editor Tom McPherson’s comprehensive history of the funeral cars, ambulances, and bespoke luxury passenger cars produced by the famed Rochester, New York coachbuilder in its latter years. In this installment, Tom documents the company at its zenith in the gilded Roaring Twenties, and its sad, stunningly swift demise during the devastating Great Depression. The company built its last professional cars in 1936 just two years shy of what would have been its centennial.

Coming up: complete coverage, in words and photos, of the 2018 PCS International Meet in Detroit. Watch for it.

– *Walt McCall, Editor*