

The **PROFESSIONAL** *CAR*



A RARE HENNEY BARN FIND

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IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGE 2	PRESIDENT'S REMARKS – BY TONY KARSNIA
PAGE 5	A RARE “BARN FIND” – BY TOM McPHERSON
PAGE 17	CHRYSLER IMPERIAL PROFESSIONAL CARS – BY WALT McCALL
PAGE 27	15TH ANNUAL MICRO-MEET REPORT – WALT McCALL & GREGG MERKSAMER
PAGE 35	REMEMBERING PAST-PRESIDENT EVAN J. BUTCHERS
PAGE 37	RICH LITTON'S AMBULANCE CLASSICS – PAT PATTERSON PHOTOS
PAGE 39	CHAPMAN BROTHERS CEMETERY MEMORIAL – BY TIM FANTIN
PAGE 41	CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
PAGE 44	THE PCS MARKET PLACE

COVER PHOTO – We've all dreamed of making one of those fabled “barn finds” – a long-neglected, dust-covered classic car, funeral or flower car, ambulance or combination, hidden away in a far corner of a cluttered old barn or garage, just waiting to be discovered. There's an entire series of Tom Cotter books out there about The Corvette In The Barn, The Cobra, the Hemi, etc. As Tom McPherson notes in his lead feature in this issue, most of these tantalizing dreams (but not all) turn out to be big disappointments, and painful let-downs. But the barn-find story Tom shares with us here is real. Alan Gross of Bethlehem, Pa. followed up on a tip he'd received about an old hearse stashed away in a local barn. Alas, it was not the Studebaker he'd been told it was. It had a John W. Henney moto-meter atop its tall, rounded radiator.

It wasn't until Alan snapped some photos of the car and fired them off to Tom for identification that he learned what a startling and important discovery he had made. Alan certainly went to the right source. The author of [The Henney Motor Company - A Complete History](#), published in 2009, Tom is the go-to authority on this make (and many others). When he received Alan's photos, Tom could scarcely believe his eyes. What Alan had exhumed after decades of hibernation was a 94-year-old Henney Model 162 with its unique Meritas body -- quite possibly the oldest motorized Henney in existence and likely the sole surviving example of this model that was produced for just two years in 1925-26. You'll find the whole incredible story in this issue. Alan provided our great cover photo.

CENTERSTRETCH – A fine profile view of Alan's 1925 Henney Model 162 funeral coach with Meritas-Made body as photographed by its owner for *TPC*.

BACK COVER – A rear view of the old Henney with contemporary “landau back” styling introduced on the first-generation limousine funeral cars of the mid-1920s.

COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUE – “The Evolution of the Hightop Ambulance” by Walt McCall, and a Tom McPherson history of the distinctive funeral cars and ambulances produced by the Kissel Motor Car Company of Hartford, Wisconsin in the late 1920s and early 1930s.

- Walt McCall