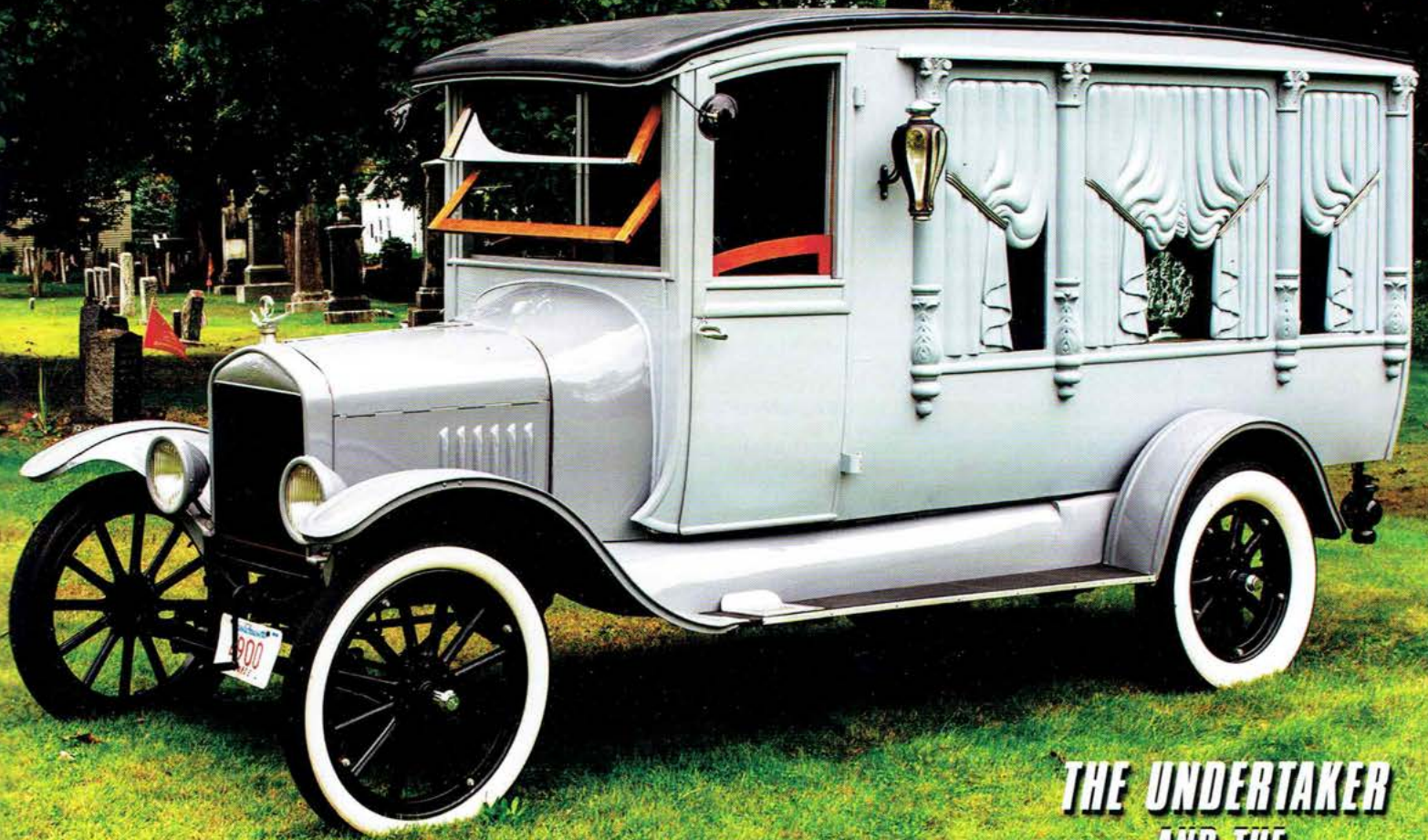


# *The* **PROFESSIONAL** *CAR*



**THE UNDERTAKER  
AND THE  
MODEL T FORD**

**NUMBER 186**

**3rd Quarter 2020**

# The Professional Car

Issue Number 186

Third Quarter 2020

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**COVER PHOTOS** – The car that graces the front and back covers of this issue, as well as the centerstretch, is a 1923 Model T Ford carved-panel hearse owned by funeral director Stuart D. Mulhane of Millbury, Massachusetts. Contributing Editor Tom McPherson arranged with Mr. Mulhane to have the car professionally photographed for *The Professional Car* by local photographer Edd Cote. The 1923 Model T chassis was made in the Ford Motor Company of Canada plant in Walkerville, Ontario (now part of Windsor). The eight-column carved body was constructed and mounted on this chassis by the Mitchell Hearse Company of Ingersoll, Ontario. Tom also wrote the “Owner’s Pride” feature on this very nicely restored antique funeral car.

**EDITOR’S MESSAGE** – In this issue we pay homage to the most famous car of all time – the Model T Ford. Henry’s simple, inexpensive “Tin Lizzie” changed the world. The first one was built in Ford’s Piquette Ave. plant in Detroit in late 1908. The last of 15,007,033 Model Ts came off the line at the Ford Rouge complex in June, 1927. As chronicled in this issue, it didn’t take long for the undertaking trade to adopt the Model T, initially as a business runabout, then for casket wagons and hearses. We cannot thank Tom McPherson enough for his huge contribution to this issue, especially so many of the photos we needed to illustrate the story.

It is with sincere regret that we also include in this issue Gregg Merksamer’s report on the 16th -- and last -- PCS Micro-Meet, which Brady and Janet Smith hosted at their Garaj Mahal in Flint, Michigan in late February. The first Micro-Meet was held at the Plumb-Smith Funeral Home in 2005. A few years later the popular midwinter model show moved into the ultimate man-cave behind the Smith’s home. The Micro-Meet was more than just a model and toy car show: on the PCS calendar it was second in importance only to our International Meet. The winter board meeting, in fact, had been part of the Micro-Meet program for years. PCS members from no fewer than a dozen U.S. states and the Province of Ontario attended this year’s meet. Our sincere gratitude to Brady and Janet for staging this unique midwinter event for so long. February just won’t be the same without it.

**COMING UP IN OUR NEXT ISSUE** – A history of Oldsmobile professional cars from 1933 through the demise of Cotner/Bevington in 1975. Watch for it.

– Walt McCall