



1957 EUREKA CADILLAC AMBULANCE

RESTORING A 1957 EUREKA  
MORE AND MORE MINIATURES

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# THE PROFESSIONAL CAR

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COVER PHOTO - When The Eureka Company of Rock Falls Illinois announced that its 1957 professional cars were "all new", that claim was no hollow advertising slogan: they really were! The 1957 Eureka's were the company's first built with all-steel bodies. Eureka had finally abandoned the wood-framed body construction it had used since the company started building hearses and ambulances away back in the 'teens. Even the Cadillac commercial chassis on which the company mounted its hearse, ambulance, combination and flower car bodies was completely new this year. The all-new Cadillac Series 57-86 commercial chassis featured a new "X"-frame design instead of the usual box/perimeter frame. Our cover photo is of Mount Lebanon PA member John R. Schmidt's rare 1957 Eureka Cadillac Ambulance, which has just metamorphosed from a rusting basket case into a truly spectacular showpiece. Read the feature story about it in this issue.

INSIDE BACK COVER - The war was over, and U.S. funeral coach and ambulance manufacturers were scrambling to meet pent-up demand for new hearses and ambulances. It was a seller's market. The Meteor Motor Car Company of Piqua, Ohio ran this striking black-and-white ad which featured a unique aerial view of three limousine-style coaches, in funeral service trade journals. The coach lamp mounted on the upper front door was a Meteor coach trademark from 1941 until 1953. In late 1956, Meteor merged with the A.J. Miller Co. to form Miller-Meteor. (From the Walt McCall Collection)

BACK COVER - The 1977 model year was an epochal one for the U.S. professional car industry, which "downsized" all of its cars in line with the auto industry downsizing mandated by new government fuel economy standards. Superior, Miller-Meteor and S&S all introduced significantly smaller hearses and ambulances this year. The "Owner's Pride" subject in this issue is Michigan PCS member Warren Waterman's 1977 Miller-Meteor Cadillac Lifeline Hightop Ambulance. Downsizing eventually killed off the classic passenger car-based ambulance -- and Miller-Meteor, which went out of business at the end of the 1979 model year.