



REINCARNATION OF JOHN LITTLE'S SHOP

HENNEY PACKARDS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

THE PROFESSIONAL CAR

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IN THIS ISSUE - CHATHAM, ONTARIO "THE PLACE TO BE IN '93!"
- FUTURISTIC FUNERAL COACHES
- OWNER'S PRIDE: 1968 SUPERIOR CADILLAC ROYALE

COVER PHOTO - Our cover photo is a 1991 re-enactment of a photo taken half a century earlier. Blenheim, Ontario PCS member Stan Uher designed the exterior of his Classic Coachworks shop in Blenheim as a replica of John J. Little's SuperTest Service Station in Ingersoll, Ontario. Between 1939 and 1957, John Little built many funeral coaches and ambulances for Canadian funeral directors in the shop adjoining his service station. One of his customers was Chatham funeral director Russel Needham, who commissioned Mr. Little to custom-build him a gothic-panel carved hearse on a 1941 Cadillac coupe chassis. The side-servicing hearse (with Henney table) was the most elaborate creation to roll out of Mr. Little's shop. Mr. Needham later moved his business to London, Ontario. A few years ago, Mr. Needham's son, Lloyd, found the remains of the carved hearse in a field near Kingsville, Ont. He had the car painstakingly restored to original with the help of Mr. Uher, who was working at RM Restorations in Chatham prior to starting his own vehicle restoration business. The two people in this remarkable photo are John Little's daughter, Mary, and Lloyd Needham, who runs the Needham family's funeral home in London. We're grateful to Stan Uher, who provided the photos used to illustrate our Pre-International Meet story, including our cover photo.

INSIDE BACK COVER - For many of us, the lusty wail of a coaster siren is but a memory. Many modern-day EMT's, in fact, probably have never heard one. A stylish chrome siren on the roof was the sign of a well-appointed ambulance for many years. This page from a West Coast siren manufacturer's sales catalog promotes B&M's high-styled "Super-Chief" siren. The ambulance shown in this ad is a 1955 Superior Pontiac.

BACK COVER - In TPC #63, we featured a series of photos of Belgian ambulances on American passenger car chassis sent in by Dutch PCS member Henri Guerts. Henri recently sent in this photo of a 1956 Buick Roadmaster which was converted into an ambulance in the Netherlands. The blue roof beacon was added later. This photo was taken two years ago.