



1920 AND 1922 SAYERS & SCOVILL FUNERAL FLEET

NUMBER 75 FIRST QUARTER - 1995

THE PROFESSIONAL CAR

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FRONT COVER - Every funeral home has a history. In many cases, long-established funeral firms have served their communities for generations, some for most of this century. Inasmuch as image-conscious undertaking establishments regularly replace and update their motor equipment, the typical funeral home has purchased many hearses, ambulances, combinations, service and flower cars, limousines and other vehicles over the years. One such firm is the Berry Funeral Home of Knoxville, Tennessee. With roots that go back to 1928, Berry Morticians has bought a lot of vehicles since then. PCS member Jeffrey B. Berry has kept careful track of the professional cars his family's firm has used over the years. The list is impressive: 13 Henneys, including twelve Packards and one Oldsmobile; a dozen Superiors; four S&S and two (latter-day) Eureka's. The principal feature in this issue is a photo album of the professional cars Berry Morticians has used over the years. Including predecessor firms, the list includes nearly forty vehicles, and that's not even counting the dozens of family and passenger cars, vans and trucks used by the company from year to year. Taken in 1922, our cover photo shows two of the vehicles used by the Weaver-Sallings-Mikels Funeral Home, where Ralph L. Berry worked for before starting his own firm. On the left is a 1920 Sayers & Scovill Combination Pallbearers' Coach and Ambulance. Parked behind it is the WSM's new 1922 Sayers & Scovill "Corinthian" Eight-Column Carved-Panel Hearse.

INSIDE BACK COVER - The Berry Funeral Home was mightily proud of its first Henney Ambulance, so the newly organized firm took out this full-page ad in the May 10, 1936 issue of the Knoxville News Sentinel to tell the community all about it. The 1936 Henney Packard was finished in an attractive sand color with maroon fenders and dual sidemounts, with a maroon leather interior. Even Federal got a plug for its siren. The spelling of cotmaker Baumgartner's name is interesting to say the least.

BACK COVER - Ralph L. Berry, left, founder of the Berry Funeral Home, poses with George R. Weaver and the Weaver-Sallings-Mikels Funeral Home's 1923 Sayers & Scovill "Kensington" Ambulance. Ralph Berry later started his own funeral firm which is still in business in Knoxville today. This photo was taken in about 1926. Ambulances and hearses of this vintage were tall!