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THE PROFESSIONAL CAR

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

ORDINARILY, THIS ISSUE OF THE PROFESSIONAL CAR WOULD BE OUR ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MEET REPORT ISSUE. IN ORDER TO STICK TO OUR PUBLICATION SCHEDULE, WE HAVE DECIDED TO HOLD OUR INTERNATIONAL MEET COVERAGE OVER TO THE NEXT ISSUE. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT IT TAKES SOME TIME AFTER THE MEET IS OVER TO ROUND UP ALL OF THE PHOTOS AND INFORMATION WE NEED FOR MEET ISSUE, AND IN THE PAST TWO YEARS THIS WAIT HAS DELAYED PUBLICATION OF BOTH OUR THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTER ISSUES. BUT WE PROMISE YOU THAT TPC #78 WILL BE WORTH WAITING FOR. IT'LL BE OUR BIGGEST AND BEST ISSUE OF THE YEAR. WATCH FOR IT....

THIS MUCH WE CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THE 1995 INTERNATIONAL MEET IN FORT WAYNE, INDIANA. IT WAS ONE OF OUR LARGEST AND BEST EVER, WITH MORE THAN 100 PROFESSIONAL CARS IN ATTENDANCE. BUT THE BIG NEWS OUT OF FORT WAYNE WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT DURING THE MEET PCS MEMBERSHIP PASSED THE 1,000 MARK. NOW THAT'S A MILESTONE WORTH NOTING! MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY BEV RUFF JUST COULDN'T WAIT TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT. NEITHER COULD WE....

IN OUR LAST ISSUE WE REPRODUCED A NEWSPAPER STORY ABOUT ONE OF A NUMBER OF "HEARSE CLUBS" WHICH HAVE SPRUNG UP IN CALIFORNIA. MEMBERS OF THESE CLUBS DELIGHT IN PARADING AROUND TOWN IN THEIR VINTAGE FUNERAL COACHES, WHICH ARE ADORNED WITH FUNERAL FLAGS, CASKETS, IMITATION SKULLS AND SKELETONS AND GHOULISH VANITY LICENCE PLATES. MANY OF OUR MEMBERS ARE FUNERAL SERVICE PROFESSIONALS: WE CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT THEY THINK OF ALL THIS. THE PCS IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ABOUT HOW WE PRESENT OURSELVES, AND OUR VEHICLES, TO THE PUBLIC: E.G., OUR "NO CASKETS" RULE. WE ARE STRIVING TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC, NOT SHOCK OR REVULSE THEM. MOST OF US ARE IN THE PCS BECAUSE OF OUR GENUINE ADMIRATION AND RESPECT FOR THESE BEAUTIFUL OLD FUNERAL VEHICLES (AND AMBULANCES AND LIMOS) AND THE COMPANIES AND CRAFTSMEN WHO DESIGNED AND BUILT THEM. LET'S HOPE THAT THIS FAD DOESN'T SPREAD EAST. THE ONE GOOD THING ABOUT THIS SITUATION IS THAT IT'S A POWERFUL REMINDER AS TO WHAT THE PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY IS REALLY ALL ABOUT: A "HEARSE CLUB" WE'RE NOT !

- WALT McCALL