



NUMBER 89 THIRD QUARTER 1998

CARVED HEARSES

THE PROFESSIONAL CAR

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1998 PCS INTERNATIONAL MEET - A tip of the PCS stovepipe hat to *Gene Dybinksi* and his hard-working Illini Chapter committee for a most successful and enjoyable 1998 PCS International Meet. *Windy City Ninety-Eight* -- held in Burr Ridge, Ill. just west of Chicago August 12-15 -- was one of our largest meets ever with nearly 100 funeral cars, ambulances and related vehicles registered. In keeping with past practice, our Fourth Quarter issue will be devoted almost exclusively to coverage of the 1998 International Meet. You had to *be* there...

ON OUR COVER - It's been a long time since we've featured a horse-drawn vehicle on our cover. We've long admired this 1876 engraving and thought it would make a great cover subject. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the introduction of one of the most unique funeral vehicles ever built in America. Crane & Breed's "Full Draped Car" marked a sharp departure from the columned, glass-sided hearse and sparked the imitation carved wooden drapery style which quickly dominated horse-drawn hearse design and continued well into the motor era. The revolutionary Full-Draped Car was *not* designed by a hearse manufacturer. It was conceived and built to order for an influential Pittsburgh, Pa. funeral director named Hudson Samson. Tom McPherson traces the history of the Crane & Breed Full-Draped Car starting on Page 7.

INSIDE BACK COVER - The 1954 Cadillacs -- including the Series 86 commercial chassis -- were totally redesigned. The 1954 professional cars were introduced to the trade early in the 1954 calendar year. The A.J. Miller Company of Bellefontaine, O. featured its entire model lineup in this March, 1954 trade journal ad. From top to bottom, Miller's offerings included the "Special" hightop ambulance; the "Standard" low top ambulance; the Landau Funeral Coach with its distinctive "porthole" window; sleek coupe style Flower Car and the Miller Limousine which was available as a funeral coach or versatile Combination Funeral Car/Ambulance.

BACK COVER - What's this, a Sayers & Scovill *fire engine*? No, the Cincinnati factory never built fire apparatus, but more than a few retired hearses were converted into fire engines by budget-conscious small town and village fire departments. This 1922 S&S pumper is in a private museum collection in Lawton, Oklahoma.