

*The*  
**PROFESSIONAL**  
**CAR**



**THE 1951-1954  
HENNEY PACKARDS**

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# The Professional Car

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## In This Issue:

Page 3	The Road to Oblivion: The 1951-54 Henney Packards – By Thomas A. McPherson
Page 29	Grasping At Straws – 1954 Henney Super Station Wagon – Thomas A. McPherson
Page 35	The Last Packard Limousines 1953-1954 – By Thomas A. McPherson
Page 48	Preview of Robert Neal's upcoming book – Packard 1951-1954
Page 49	Out Of The Ordinary – Argentinian 1951 Packard Funeral Car
Page 51	Owner's Pride I – Gene Williams' 1953/54 Henney Packard Senior Ambulance
Page 53	Owner's Pride II – George Hamlin's 1954 Derham Packard Patrician Limousine
Page 55	Owner's Pride III – Royce Baier's 1953 Henney Packard Flower Car
Page 57	Owner's Pride IV – Brady Smith's 1954 Henney Packard Nu-3-Way Hearse
Page 61	Owner's Pride V – George Hamlin's 1953 Henney Packard Senior Ambulance
Page 63	A Moment In Time – Henry Ford's (Henney Packard) Funeral
Page 66	Modeler's Corner – Brooklin's Newest 1954 Henney Packard Models
Page 68	Program for 2014 PCS International Meet in Rochester, Minnesota
Page 69	PCIN—The PCS Information Network

**Cover Photo** – Brady Smith's 1954 Henney Packard Nu-3-Way Landau. Photo taken by Ted Kalinowski

**Centerstretch** – The Baier family's 1953 Henney Packard Flower Car. Photo by Charley Kietzman

**Back Cover** – Gene Williams' 1953-54 Henney Packard Ambulance . Photo courtesy of Gene Williams

**Editor's Note** – The latest in our series of "dedicated" issues, most of the content in TPC #155 is devoted to the Henney Motor Company's 1951-1954 professional cars – the last in this fabled coachbuilder's eventful history. Although Henney's buggy-making roots extend all the way back to 1868, the company's involvement as a major player in the hearse and ambulance industry actually spanned just 38 years -- from 1916, when the Freeport, Ill. firm bailed out of the dying buggy business and switched to motor hearse and ambulance manufacture for survival -- to the end of the 1954 model year. Contributing Editor Tom McPherson's incredibly thorough, richly illustrated story of the company's final chapter might well have been called Henney's Last Stand. The company's last-generation products were based on the John Reinhart/Richard Arbib-styled 24<sup>th</sup> Series Packards introduced for 1951. While more than a few historians attribute Henney's sad decline and eventual death to its sale to industrialist C. Russell Feldmann, the company didn't go out quietly. In defiance of widespread rumors of the firm's imminent demise, Henney mounted a lavish exhibit at the 1953 NFDA convention—the only builder to display 1954 models. Eight months later the company closed its doors. It's all here in Tom's great story. Again, we're indebted to him for this worthy sequel to his equally thorough Henney Junior issue, TPC #145.

**Coming Up:** We've got a BIG surprise for you in our next issue! We can't (or won't) tell you any more other than that it concerns the recent discovery of one of the rarest, most unique professional cars ever made in the U.S. Take it from us...it'll be worth watching, and waiting, for!

Walt McCall – Editor