



1933 CUNNINGHAM SILVER CATHEDRAL TOWN CAR HEARSE

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IN THIS ISSUE – A SHORT HISTORY OF THE AMBLEWAGON NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY; 2002 UNITED-CADILLAC OWNER'S PRIDE: 1989 EUREKA-CHEVROLET LIMOUSINE

COVER PHOTO – Look no further. You *won't* find a feature story on the James Cunningham, Son & Co. of Rochester, N.Y. in this issue. It's just that, at a recent flea market a good friend of ours handed us this photo of an extremely rare classic funeral car. We thought it would make a great cover – even if we did use a different photo of this same car on the cover of this publication quite a few years ago. The car is a one-off 1933 Cunningham "W" Series Eight-Column Carved Cathedral Hearse. This stunning silver hearse was the centerpiece of the Cunningham exhibit at the 1933 National Funeral Directors Association Convention held in the company's home town that year. Following the NFDA the car was sold to the firm of A. R. Orłowski in Buffalo, N.Y. Note the weatherproof cover buttoned into place over the chauffeur's compartment. Wonder whatever happened to this beautiful hearse?

INSIDE BACK COVER – The principal feature in this issue of *The Professional Car* is a short history of the Automotive Conversion Corporation of Birmingham and Troy, Michigan. ACC specialized in ambulance and hearse conversions of standard station wagons and small vans. The company's ambulance conversions were advertised as *Amblewagons*. Hearse conversions were called *Arlingtons*. The landau hearse conversion in this 1958 ad is based on the big '58 Mercury Colmmuter station wagon. Dave Lee's story was originally published in *The California Collector*, the excellent publication of the Society's Southern California Chapter.

BACK COVER – Somewhere between the hospital and the funeral parlor was the municipal morgue. Most big cities had such facilities where the bodies of homicide, indigent, drowning and accident victims were taken for autopsy and cold storage until they were released for burial. Morgues often operated their own removal and transport vehicles which were sometimes known by the grim nickname of "*Dead Wagons*". The Rochester, N.Y. Municipal Morgue used this 1928 Cadillac. Note the "Morgue" nameplates on the door. Limousine style bodies for these Cadillac "Custom-Built" hearses and ambulances were made for Cadillac by the Meteor Motor Car Company of Piqua, O. from 1926-28.