



"AMBULANCE ALLEY" AT PITTSBURGH

NUMBER 110 FOURTH QUARTER 2003

27TH INTERNATIONAL MEET REPORT

THE PROFESSIONAL CAR

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ON OUR COVER – In keeping with past practice, our final issue of the year is devoted to extensive coverage of our biggest event of the year – the Society's Annual International Meet. What makes this year's International Meet Issue different is that this time around we're including coverage of *two* back-to-back meets held on opposite sides of the country – the *California Chapter's Go West Meet*, which took place in the Los Angeles area in mid-July, and the Professional Car Society's 27th International Meet which was hosted by the *Tri-State Chapter* the following week near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Pittsburgh meet was our largest in years with close to 100 vehicles on display. Participants included an all-time record *eight* flower cars and six classic service cars. Our Cover Photo was taken by Canadian PCS member Ted Kalinowski who trained his camera on the sea of red and white paint that was the ambulance display area.

INSIDE BACK COVER – Remember those *Real Ambulances Aren't Trucks* bumper stickers that were so popular at PCS meets about 15 years ago? Well, the folks who prepared this 1973 Hess & Eisenhardt Co. ad obviously held similar views when it came to truck-based ambulances. However, the new Federal ambulance design standards imposed in the late 1970s changed all that. Passenger car-based ambulances and combinations -- quick-change coaches that could be used as either ambulance or hearse as required – were regulated out of existence. Today, virtually all ambulances used in North America are based on commercial vans and light and medium-duty trucks. As improved and vastly more efficient as they are, the vans and modular units just don't have the class of the 1973 S&S Cadillac Professional 55" Hightop shown in this fire service trade journal ad.

BACK COVER – It's only appropriate that the last photo in this issue captures the closing moments of the 2003 PCS International Meet in Pittsburgh. The banquet over, all adjourned to the hotel parking lot where car owners were only too happy to (legally) fire up their vehicles' emergency lights and sirens. Ted Kalinowski caught the pulsing, whirling lights -- but not the aural cacophony that officially marks the end of another PCS International Meet.