



1938 FLXIBLE BUICK CARVED HEARSE

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THE PROFESSIONAL CAR



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IN THIS ISSUE: PCS Regional Chapter Activities Roundup
A Treasury Of Vintage Ambulance Photos
Restoring Rusty; 1939 Meteor LaSalle Flower Car
Owner's Pride: 1971 Startin Daimler DS420 Hearse

COVER PHOTO – As we prepared to send this issue of *The Professional Car* off to the printer, the 2005 PCS International Meet was winding down out in Denver, Colorado. Early reports indicate that it was another successful national meet – the farthest west we've ever ventured. The next issue of TPC will include a full report -- in words and photos -- of the 29th Annual PCS Meet. Watch for it....

Our cover photo this time around was provided by Flint, Michigan member Brady Smith, who once worked for the Groves Funeral Home in Flint which owned the 1938 Fixible-Buick carved hearse that graces our cover. Flint – the birthplace of General Motors – was also home to the Buick Motor Division, which had a long partnership with The Fixible Company of Loudonville, Ohio.

Fixible was relatively late getting into the carved-panel hearse market, which had been revived by Sayers & Scovill and A.J. Miller in 1933-34. Instead of the massive carved-drape jobs offered by its competitors, Fixible went its own design direction with its "A" and "AA" carved-panel hearses introduced in 1938. The "AA" version featured art deco carved drapes in the two semicircular arches above the body beltline. The companion "A" model substituted glass in place of the faux drapes. Fixible offered this unique funeral car body style on Buick, LaSalle and Cadillac chassis through the 1942 model year.

BACK COVER – Columbus, Ohio member Stan Ruff found this nifty photo in an antique shop several years ago. The typed notation on the back of the photo indicates that this was a late-model Henney trade-in, perhaps two or three years old at the time. The ivory colored Model 874 straight ambulance on the 158-inch wheelbase 1937 Packard 120CA commercial chassis, has an "F" monogram in the leaded rear side window glass.