



1958 NATIONAL BUICK MINUTEMAN AMBULANCE

NUMBER 118      FOURTH QUARTER 2005

DENVER INTERNATIONAL MEET ISSUE

# THE PROFESSIONAL CAR



# THE PROFESSIONAL CAR

Number 118

Fourth Quarter 2005

---

## 2005 PCS INTERNATIONAL MEET REPORT ISSUE

**COVER PHOTO** – Mid-Michigan Chapter member Brady Smith took this fine color portrait of Frank Lyle's stunning 1958 National Buick *Minute Man* long-wheelbase ambulance during the Saturday afternoon photo session at the 2005 PCS International Meet hosted by the Society's *Cotner/Bevington Chapter* in Denver, Colorado in early August. The Denver meet wasn't the first for this extremely rare professional car. Like some ghost ship, this same '58 Buick straight ambulance rolled into the hotel parking lot one night during the 1999 PCS International in Lancaster, Pa. Word of its presence spread like wildfire, and everyone rushed out to the parking lot for a look. Alas, it didn't stay long. The big white and red Buick sped off into the night whence it had come. The National Buick was at the *Buick Centennial* celebration in Flint, Michigan at the very same time the 2003 PCS International was under way in Pittsburgh. Another missed photo op. But Frank Lyle of Colorado Springs recently purchased the 1958 Buick from its former owner in Pennsylvania and brought it to the Denver meet – where we could *finally* properly photograph it!

The Flixible Company of Loudonville, Ohio built hearses and ambulances on Buick chassis from 1925 through 1952 and again from 1959 through 1964. The National Body Mfg. Co. of Knightstown, Indiana built a small number of Buick professional cars during Flixible's hiatus from 1954-1958. When Flixible exited the funeral coach and ambulance business for good in 1965, Knightstown picked up Flixible's professional car tooling and designs.

**INSIDE BACK COVER** – Sayers & Scovill of Cincinnati, Ohio built most (but not all) of its 1938 and 1939 hearses and ambulances on the 156"-wheelbase LaSalle commercial chassis. Shown in this funeral service trade journal ad is the 1939 S&S LaSalle *Masterpiece Carved-Panel Hearse* Now a division of Accubuilt, Inc. of Lima, Ohio, S&S still uses the *Masterpiece* name today.

**BACK COVER** - New Jersey PCS member Leo Maren sent in this neat photo of a 1974 *Miller-Meteor Cadillac Criterion Ambulance* operated by the Bernardsville, N.J. Fire Department. What makes this ambulance interesting is the chrome fire apparatus bell mounted in front of the grille – not uncommon for New Jersey fire company rescue squads.