

The
PROFESSIONAL
CAR



Number 124

Second Quarter 2007

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COVER PHOTO: C'mon, admit it. We've *all* done it. You know, you're driving through a town you've never been in before and you make a deliberate detour down a side street to scope out the local funeral home -- perhaps even being so brazen as to peer through the garage doors to see if there's some hidden treasure parked in there, like a vintage, long-unused hearse, limo or combination.

That's what Iowa funeral director Chad Oolman was doing when he was visiting a small town in neighboring Nebraska a few years ago. Cruising by a local funeral home, Chad recognized the unmistakable front end of a 1941 Cadillac through an open garage door. Curious PCS'er that he is, Chad wheeled into the parking lot for a closer look. Expecting to find perhaps a Sixty Special sedan or Fleetwood Seventy-Five limousine, imagine his astonishment when he came face-to-face with a classic *carved-panel* Eureka hearse! Mr. Oolman's voyage of sweet discovery is well documented in this issue. You just never know what's gathering dust behind the doors of that old funeral home garage. Mr. Oolman's stunning six-panel carved-drape hearse was built by The Eureka Company of Rock Falls, Illinois. Eureka built its first carved-panel hearse ca. 1935, its last in 1942.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Over the years, Past National President *John Ehmer* has acquired an impressive collection of professional cars – 18 according to his listing in the current PCS roster. Occasionally, John rearranges the cars in his crowded shop and garage facility near Pittsburgh. On one such recent occasion, John lined up some of his cars on the street. The lineup includes, from left to right, a 1963 *Flxible Buick Premier Limousine Combination*; 1963 *Flxible Buick Premier Landau Funeral Coach* a 1964 *Cotner/Bevington Oldsmobile Nine-Passenger Limousine*, and his white 1968 *Superior Cadillac Flower Car*. Just visible at the far end of the line is his rare 1960 *Flxible Buick Flxette Service Car*. We've attended PCS meets with *fewer* cars....