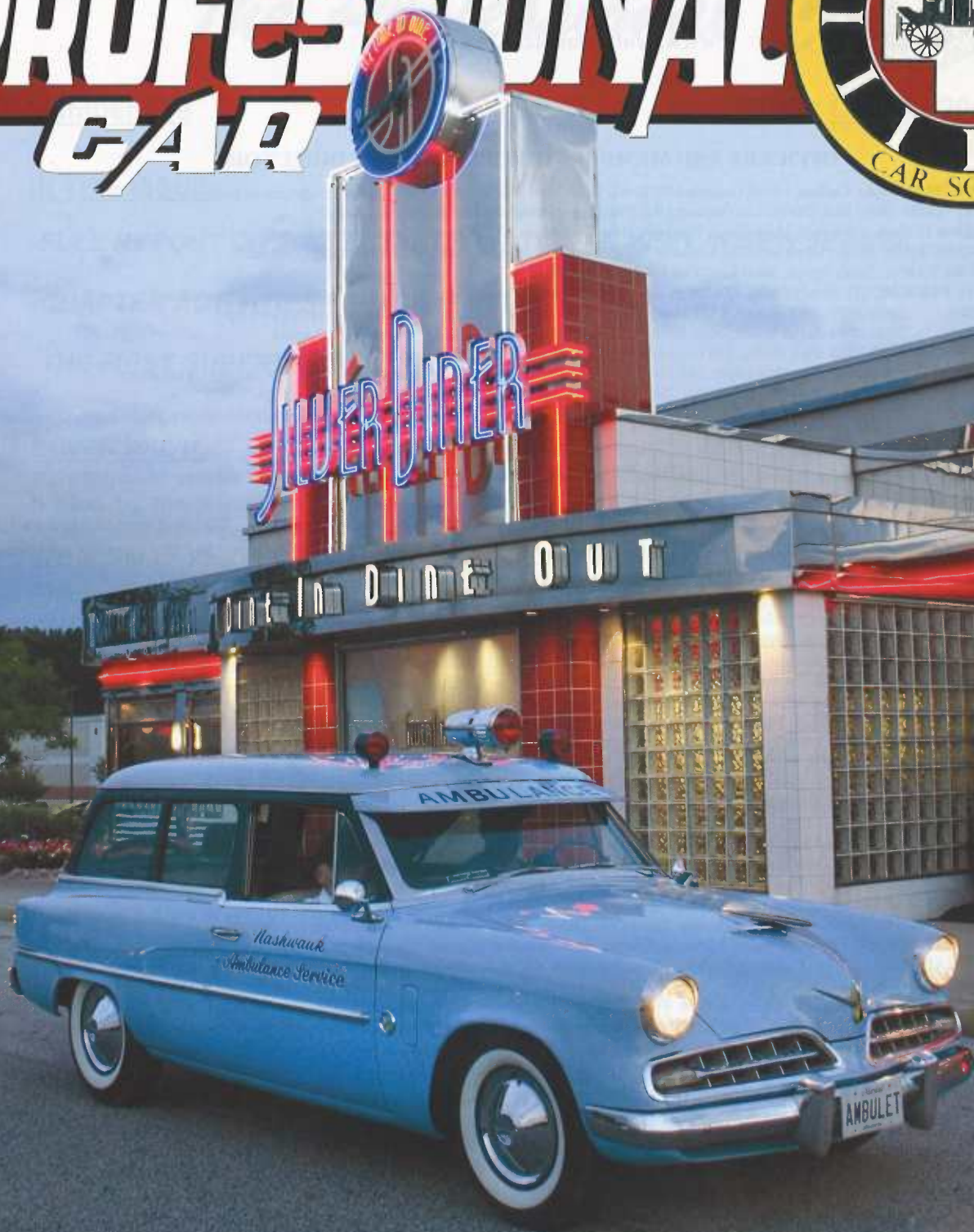


The **PROFESSIONAL** *CAR*



NUMBER 129

3rd Quarter 2008

The Professional Car

Number 129

Third Quarter 2008

IN THIS ISSUE:

-FULL REPORT ON 2008 PCS INTERNATIONAL MEET IN NEW JERSEY

-CHAPTER ACTIVITIES - SUMMER 2008

-THE FIRST SUPERIOR 54XL AMBULANCE

COVER PHOTO – As you may surmise from both covers, the bulk of this issue is dedicated to coverage, in words and photos, of The Professional Car Society's 2008 International Meet hosted by the Society's *Northeast Chapter* in Mount Laurel, New Jersey in early August. Among the more than sixty vintage hearses, ambulances, combinations, livery-type limousines and flower and service cars at the meet were *two* Studebaker Ambulets – Jeff Beyer's '55, which has participated in many previous PCS meets, and Mount Airy, Maryland member Steve Lichtman's recently restored 1954. Steve's baby-blue *Ambulet*, a factory-built conversion of Studebaker's *Commander Conestoga* station wagon – originally saw service in Nashwauk, Minnesota. Steve found this beauty on Ebay two years ago and with the help of *Northland Chapter* member Tony Karsnia hauled it home from Minnesota on a trailer. Steve finished the total restoration of this car only days before the big New Jersey meet. PCS publicity chair and official meet photographer *Gregg Merksamer* photographed Steve's ambulance in front of the appropriately named *Silver Diner* in Cherry Hill, the next town over from Mount Laurel, where we enjoyed shakes and burgers the first night of the meet. This classic diner is patterned after one opened in 1939 with such art deco flourishes as "stacked cube" tile floors, octagon-patterned stools and a chrome-plated cash register. There are 16 *Silver Diners* in Maryland and Virginia. With all that stainless steel and neon, we thought the diner made a perfect setting for Steve's 1950s South Bend-built classic.

CENTER STRETCH – This year's meet report is somewhat unusual in that nearly *all* of the photographs in it were taken by just *one* photographer. As anyone who has ever attended a PCS meet knows, *Gregg Merksamer* seems to pop up everywhere we go. Gregg also wrote nearly all of this year's meet report. Mr. Merksamer took our center stretch and back cover photos from the VIP suite on the top floor of the Windham Hotel as the meet was in full swing Saturday morning.

BACK COVER – Like most of the meets before it, the 31st International Meet concluded with a spectacular *Sound and Light Show* in the hotel parking lot immediately following the Awards Banquet. While one can visualize the spectacle of all those emergency lights flashing, it's impossible to describe the din of dozens of mechanical and electronic sirens simultaneously wailing away. For those of us "of a certain age", ear plugs are strongly recommended!