

The **PROFESSIONAL** *CAR*



NUMBER 133

3rd Quarter 2009

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COVER PHOTO – The *Mid-Michigan Chapter* hosted the 2009 PCS International Meet in Flint, Michigan in August. More than 200 PCS members and guests from across the U.S., Canada and overseas participated in the five-day meet chaired by PCS Past-President Brady Smith. In keeping with our usual practice, most of this issue is devoted to coverage of the big meet. Two weeks later, the *Miller-Meteor Chapter* convened its third M-M Reunion in Piqua, Ohio to mark the 30th anniversary of the closing of Miller-Meteor in 1979. We can't remember when we've ever had two major PCS meets so close together. You'll find full coverage of that memorable event in this issue, too. Some 80 professional cars of all types were on hand for the Flint meet -- our highest since the Kingsport Tennessee meet three years ago. The final tally showed 26 funeral coaches, 17 ambulances (12 hightops and 5 lowtops); 13 combination coaches, three flower cars, 13 limousines, 5 horse-drawn hearses and 1 service car. Not all of these vehicles were on the show field on Saturday. Four were in museums on our tour program and several more joined us for the *Back-To-The-Bricks* car show Friday evening. As promised, this year's meet was heavily auto-industry-oriented. Our tours took us to various General Motors, Chrysler and Packard facilities as well as to a fire engine museum -- not to mention the Sonic Drive-In cruise and *Back To The Bricks*. PCS Publicity Chair Gregg Merksamer took our cover photo at the Walter P. Chrysler Museum in Auburn Hills. That's Len Langlois' 1949 Dodge limousine on the left, Paul Steinberg's '63 Pinner-Chrysler ambulance on the right and a bevy of happy PCSers in the middle.

CENTERSTRETCH – Gregg also took this fine portrait of Paul Steinberg's rare 1963 Pinner Chrysler ambulance. The Pinner Coach Company of Olive Branch, Miss. built professional cars from 1960 to 1970. We're indebted to Gregg for his photos and also for his voluminous notes, without which we couldn't do this issue. Thanks, too, to Steve Lichtman for his help in compiling our official car list.

BACK COVER – Just as the car show was winding down late Saturday afternoon, this eye-popping hearse showed up at the Flint Cultural Center. The electric-blue 1936 Silver-Knightstown Packard 120 carved hearse with natural wood drapery panels is owned by members Larry and Sharon Muir of the Muir Brothers Funeral Home in Lapeer, Michigan. Although it has been modernized for daily service, it wouldn't take much to return this coach back to its original appearance as its owners have wisely kept all of the straight-eight powertrain, wheels, sidemount covers, etc.