

The

PROFESSIONAL CAR



*THE 1942-1948
FLXIBLE BUICKS*



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2012 PCS INTERNATIONAL MEET PROGRAM PREVIEW

FROM THE EDITOR – With this issue we commence a three-part series by noted author Thomas A. McPherson on the Buick-chassised professional cars built by The Flxible Company of Loudonville, Ohio in the eventful decade between 1942 and 1952. The first installment features the style-setting 1942 Flxible-Buicks and their postwar successors, the 1946-47-48 models which carried over the same basic styling. Part II will focus on the dramatically new '49s, and Part III, Flxible's 1950-1952 models.

Because of the Korean War and the company's booming bus business, Flxible ceased funeral coach and ambulance production at the end of the 1952 model year. Following a six-year hiatus, Flxible charged back into the hearse and ambulance market in 1959. Tom plans to chart the final chapter (1959-1964) as well as Flxible's prewar models, in subsequent articles. Again, we're pleased and honored to have a professional car historian of Tom's stature writing these incredibly well researched and documented articles for TPC. The series will include many previously unpublished factory photos and other historical information not found in the Flxible book (*Flxible Professional Vehicles: The Complete History*) Tom published in 1993.

FRONT COVER – The car on our cover is a 1942 Flxible-Buick Model B72-5L Premier landau funeral coach. This heavily airbrushed advertising photo came from Tom McPherson's substantial Flxible photo archive, which he rescued in 1974 – just one step ahead of the dumpster – after the Rohr Corp. bought the Flxible Company.

CENTERSTRETCH – Tying in nicely with our principal feature, Steve Lichtman's 1947 Flxible-Buick Model B-22-747 Premier ambulance is the subject of the Owner's Pride article in this issue. Steve hastens to point out that the accessory "mouse holes" on the Buick's bullnosed hood (which have been airbrushed out of our centerstretch photo) were there when he bought the car.

BACK COVER – 1942 Flxible-Buick Model B72-6 Ambulance advertising photo, also from Tom's collection. This pleasingly two-toned straight ambulance was photographed in front of Babcock Hall at Ashland College in Ashland, Ohio – which is not far from Loudonville.

A REMINDER – Please send all material for this publication, including photos, to The Editor, 2281 Victoria Ave., Windsor, ON, N8X-1R2, Canada. TPC items sent to the membership office incur delays which may preclude them from getting into the next issue - plus additional expense when they have to be packaged and remailed. Thanks in advance.

Walt McCall