

The **PROFESSIONAL** *CAR*



THE 2017 PGS **INTERNATIONAL MEET**



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COVER PHOTO – The tallest, most prominent landmark in many small towns and cities across the central and western U.S. is the municipal water tower, which typically bears the town’s name and perhaps a local tourist attraction. Gregg Merksamer posed two classic 1950s professional cars – James Onnen’s 1957 Eureka Cadillac ambulance and Jim Barron’s 1956 Superior Cadillac flower car – at the base of the sky-blue water tower in Lebanon, Missouri – site of the 2017 PCS International Meet.

CENTERSTRETCH – Because it can be really hot in the Show Me State in July, 2017 International Meet host Ken Howe providentially arranged to have the meet’s main event – the Saturday car show – held in the air-conditioned Cowan Civic Centre, out of the oppressive 100+-degree heat. Here’s what the car show looked like from the stands. Gregg Merksamer photo.

BACK COVER PHOTO – Instead of our traditional hotel parking lot sound and light show meet finale, the Lebanon meet had a different ending. After the Saturday night banquet, everyone piled into the cars and headed for the Lebanon I-44 Speedway for a few under-the-lights laps of the dirt oval. Gregg took the bucolic twilight photo of the convoy, taillights aglow, wending its way down legendary Route 66 to the track.

EDITOR’S MESSAGE – Welcome to the first-ever Gregg Merksamer Issue of The Professional Car. Not only did Gregg take our cover and centerspread photos and nearly all of the meet activity photos, he also wrote the Annual Meet story as well as a report on PCS participation in the prestigious Hemmings Motor News Concours d’Elegance in Lake George, N.Y. in September. Steve Loftin and Ed Renstrom also contributed meet photos for this issue. Coming up: a Mopar-themed issue featuring a Tom McPherson story on Superior’s little-known, ill-timed 1948-49 Chrysler, Dodge, and DeSoto funeral cars and ambulances. Watch for it.

– Walt McCall - Editor