

The **PROFESSIONAL CAR**



**THE EVOLUTION
OF THE
HIGH TOP
AMBULANCE**



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COVER PHOTO – One of the last vehicles to emerge from the Eureka Company plant in Rock Falls, Illinois before the company closed its doors at the end of the 1964 model year was this stunning Eureka Cadillac *Hi-Boy* ambulance built for the Papillion, Nebraska Fire Dept. This beauty is owned today by Rock Falls, Illinois member Joseph McDonald, who brought it to the 2013 International Meet in Milwaukee, where Steven B. Loftin painstakingly posed and photographed it.

CENTERSTRETCH – *Hightop Heaven!* During the 1998 PCS International Meet in Burr Ridge, Illinois, Tony Karsnia rounded up four 1974 Miller-Meteor Cadillac *Criterion* hightop ambulances for this amazing portrait. What are the odds of having four Miller-Meteor *Criteria*s at the same meet -- all the same model year? The photo was taken by Windsor, Ontario PCS member Ted Kalinowski.

BACK COVER – The 1960-62 Miller-Meteor *Guardian* is the “holy grail” of hightop ambulances. Not many were built, and very few, if any, survive – none as far as we know in restored condition. New Jersey member and ambulance buff Rich Litton provided this Angelo (Pat) Patterson close-up view of the distinctive “covered-wagon” rear end of a 1962 Miller-Meteor *Guardian*.

EDITOR’S NOTE – During the postwar boom that saw exponential expansion of America’s Interstate Highway System, ambulance operators demanded larger vehicles that could transport more than one or two patients. Although a few raised-roof ambulances were built in the ‘30’s and ‘40s, most were custom special order jobs. In 1950-51, Miller, Eureka, and S&S introduced new, standard hightop models that could transport four or more patients. The 1960’s and ‘70s were the golden era of the hightop, which fell victim to new government standards and vehicle downsizing. Our sincere thanks to Tom McPherson, Rich Litton, Steve Loftin, and Tony Karsnia for their contributions to this issue.

COMING UP – Full coverage, in words and photos, of the 2019 PCS International Meet in South Dakota. Watch for it.

– **Walt McCall, Editor**