



1937 MILLER PACKARD TWELVE CARVED HEARSE

NUMBER 87 FIRST QUARTER 1998

T. CRIBB & SONS AND THE HORSE-DRAWN HEARSE

THE PROFESSIONAL CAR

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ENGLISH HORSE-DRAWN HEARSE
NEW/OLD STOCK: AN AMBULANCE ON ICE**

ON OUR COVER - In 1934, the A.J. Miller Company of Bellefontaine, Ohio introduced its all-new "Art Model" funeral coaches. Combining streamlined body styling with an updated revival of the carved-drape hearse of an earlier era, Miller's Art Models were offered in two styles. The "Art Carved" model featured large carved drapery panels framed within an artistic three-panel arch. The companion Art Model retained the arch motif but substituted plain metal sides with beveled plate glass windows above the beltline. Miller's industry-leading Art Models were produced through the 1930s on a wide range of chassis including Packard, Cadillac, Pierce-Arrow, Nash, Hudson, Dodge and at least one Willys. As evidenced by our cover, A.J. Miller mounted at least one of these Art Model Carved bodies on a Packard Twelve chassis. Now owned by the Canton Classic Car Museum in Canton, Ohio, this imposing funeral car rides on a gargantuan 172-inch wheelbase. This hearse was built for a funeral home in the small town of Vermillion, Ohio near Cleveland and was acquired by the museum about 20 years ago.

INSIDE BACK COVER - Yes it's hard to believe, but three decades have passed since the Hess & Eisenhardt Co. of Cincinnati, O. ran this ad for its 1968 S&S Cadillac ambulance line in Fire Engineering magazine. This ad also appeared in several funeral service trade journals. All three 1968 S&S ambulances are shown: the standard head-room S&S Parkway; the raised roof S&S Kensington and the premium high-headroom S&S Professional High Body. Unfortunately, few examples of these classic ambulances seem to survive.

BACK COVER - T. Cribb & Sons of London is widely known in the United Kingdom for the high quality of its horse-drawn hearses. The firm, established in 1881, has maintained horse-drawn equipment through the years and has recently been adding equipment to the inventory. The quality of the firm's horses is equally high and there are several awards attesting. Cribb & Sons are now establishing a museum dedicated to the British funeral industry and will include some motor hearses as well. The equipage shown on our back cover is a 19th-century hearse driven by Cribb's own coachman and drawn by black Friesians or Belgian Blacks.