

The
PROFESSIONAL
CAR



HEARSEMANIA
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FRONT COVER PHOTO – While some readers of *TPC* will surely question Your Editor's decision to encapsulate The Spirit of Hearsemania '25 by featuring a non-stock hearse on the cover of this issue, PCS Life Member Mike Riefer's intricately carved 1934 Sayers & Scovill Olympian from Owensville, Missouri, has spent more years as a modified vehicle than a hearse in active funeral service, given how it was turned into a clown car by the Muscatine, Iowa Kaaba Shriners Temple sometime in the 1940s. Mike noted its now-departed previous owner, Michael Rogers of Willoughby Hills, Ohio, "was thinking of restoring it as a hearse but decided in the end it was too cool the way it was."

BACK COVER PHOTO – PCS Past President John Ehmer, being a self-described "Buick-Olds guy," was thrilled to at long last acquire this 1957 Comet Oldsmobile flower car for restoration about five years ago and show the end result of his efforts while co-hosting Hearsemania '25 at the S&S/ Superior Coach Company's Lima, Ohio headquarters. "Forty-two years I waited from the first time I saw it and fell in love with it," he told us, detailing the previous owner was a funeral director who got it from the original owners at the Kraeer Funeral Home of Fort Lauderdale and Pompano Beach on Florida's East Coast: "It's not always about money when a car like this comes up - you've got to be in line and be ready to purchase when you get the chance."

CENTERSTRETCH – The intricately carved 1938 Packard town car hearse on the left owned by Marietta, Ohio funeral director William Peoples was a one-off built by A.J. Miller to show Packard what it was giving up by giving all of its professional-car business to Henney after 1937. It's claimed John W. Henney expressed his displeasure by leaving 1939 Cadillac sketches in his office where his Packard liaison would not miss them! Aesthetics aside, this car's very survival is a miracle, as it wound up hauling chickens on a ranch in Mexico before returning to the U.S. for a West Coast restoration in the early 1980s. Honest-to-goodness carved oak was used to create the exterior drapes of the Bellefontaine, Ohio-built 1938 A.J. Miller LaSalle shown on the right by the local Chiles-Laman Funeral Home and Crematory of Lima. Bob Laman recalled "we acquired this when we bought the Lewis Memorial Funeral Home on Bellefontaine Avenue in the 1950s. For a time we donated it to the Allen County Museum where it sat in a Quonset hut for 40 years before we got it back and fixed it up 25 years ago."

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