



The Criterion

NEWSLETTER of the NORTHEAST CHAPTER of the PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

Second Quarter 2004 - Ted Collins, Publisher - Gregg D. Merksamer, Editor

President Urges a Big Lahaska Meet Turnout

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hi, everyone, and welcome to that special time of year we all live for! If you haven't already gotten your professional car out of winter storage, it's definitely time, especially since our Third Annual Charity Car & Truck Show is taking place at Peddler's Village in Lahaska, PA on Sunday, June 13th! It is not too late to pre-register for this event at a cost of just \$10, saving you \$5 on a day-of-show registration, and the proceeds will benefit the Bucks County S.P.C.A. Since our show field will be open to all kinds of vehicles,

I certainly encourage you to photocopy the flyer we've enclosed in this issue and get the word out at other shows and car club meetings that you're planning on attending in the coming weeks. You should also mark Saturday, August 21st on your calendar, as we've scheduled a picnic at the Millington, NJ home of Paul and Donna Vickery; the fun starts at 4 pm, and there will be a rain date, so if you have concerns about the weather be sure to check with Dan McCann at (732) 292-2770 or give me a call at (201) 342-4871.

In other business, ballots for the national PCS Board of Directors election will be in the next issue of THE PROFESSIONAL CAR and our own Mary Hookway has been nominated for the Board. Having been our secretary for over ten years, Mary is an invaluable member of the Northeast Chapter and I would like to encourage you to consider her for your vote - I think she would be a real plus on the Board!

On a sadder note, I recently learned of the death of Elaine Schofield, the wife of Marlton, NJ Chapter member Harvey Schofield. Elaine was a nice lady and she will be missed by her many friends in the PCS. On behalf of the Northeast Chapter I would like to extend our condolences to Harvey - our thoughts and prayers are with you.

One final thought to keep in mind as you show your professional car at various events this summer. As PCS members, I feel strongly that it is our responsibility to show ourselves and our cars in the best possible light. Remember that, for the public at large, most of their encounters with funeral cars and ambulances did not take place at happy times! It is up to us to be as courteous and informative as possible, and represent our cars in ways that help people dispel their negative conceptions about these vehicles. When we take pride in the PCS and handle our procars in the right way, we can win people over to the idea that these vehicles warrant accurate preservation and restoration. - *See You Soon, Bill Marcy*



Some of the pro cars spotted by member William Deegan Jr at a "very used car lot" near Reading, PA

Salvage in Stairville, PA yielded a 1972 or 1973 vintage International Travelall V-8 ambulance with a raised roof and a wheelbase stretch, on top of which the body, glass, interior and "what lights are on the vehicle" all appeared to be in solid shape. The body builder could not be positively ascertained in the absence of exterior badges, but the Springfield Equipment Corporation of Springfield, OH is a likely candidate as it completed many similar vehicles. William also reports that Engler's yard contains a pair of Cadillac ambulances from 1963 and the 1950-6 period, though he advises "those two cars are pretty beat."

For those of us in search of a wholesome alternative to online porn, one of the most alluring aspects of the Internet is that it allows you to peruse hundreds or even thousands of cars from the comfort of your own home in an astoundingly short span of time. One professional vehicle that beckoned to Your Editor's from cyberspace was a battered but remarkably unmolested 1953 Chevrolet extended-wheelbase ambulance, constructed by the National



Offered at \$4,995, this highly original 1953 National Chevrolet ambulance is being sold by the Classical Gas Station of Eaton, Colorado.

Body Manufacturing Company of Knightstown, Indiana and offered at just \$4,995 by Classical Gas of Eaton, Colorado. Faint lettering from the "Columbus Ambulance Service," which the sellers believe was in Nebraska, is still visible above the side windows, and the car also features new radial white wall tires, a 235 cubic inch "Stovebolt" six linked to a three-speed manual transmission, a reupholstered front seat and a well-preserved patient compartment with a sliding partition and built-in supply cabinets. Further information on this rig, given stock number 1407-CGS, is available by phoning 1-800-453-7955 toll-free, (970) 454-1365 direct or logging onto www.classicalgasstation.com.

HISTORIC AMBULANCES HEADING TO ALBANY

Your Editor recently received a letter from New Paltz, NY Chapter member Myron Gittell, who has been hard at work on an exhibit of historic ambulances that is scheduled to run at the New York State Museum in Albany from November 20th, 2004 through September 11th, 2005. While preparations are "moving along," he reports, "we don't have an early 30's ambulance to fit between the 1926 Cunningham that we're borrowing from the Towe Museum (in Sacramento, CA) and the 1939 Pontiac Superior" from the N.Y. State Museum's own collection, which served the Adirondack Mountain towns of Blue Mountain Lake and Long Lake until 1962. "Robert Cosgrove's 1932 Nash," bodied by A.J. Miller of Bellefontaine, OH, "would have been almost ideal as it's a beautiful rig and saw service in New York State," Myron asserts, "But he's gone South with it and it was For Sale for \$175,000 last year and contact with him was lost." Any reader who can help ascertain the car's current whereabouts should e-mail Myron ASAP at Myrongit@yahoo.com. Another lead he's looking into involves a comparatively-rough but no less rare 1932 Cunningham ambulance that was owned by a PCS member named Mark Carlson in the late 1980s and sold at a 1996 Kruse Auction for \$1,300. "Kruse Auction results are easy to find on their website," Myron adds, "especially for a Cunningham as that ambulance was the only Cunningham listed as sold on their site which goes back maybe a dozen years."

As the exhibit will have space for fifteen vehicles chronicling the evolution of patient transport in the Empire State, there are several other vehicles on the Museum's wish list. Car-based ambulances from the 1930-55 period, ambulance/funeral coach "combinations" and early truck-based ambulances from the 1970s or early 1980s are still being sought, especially ones where the chassis or coachwork was constructed in New York State; notable examples include Pierce-Arrow cars from Buffalo, Rochester-built Cunninghams, and modular ambulance bodies from Medical Coaches of Oneonta or the Franklin Body and Supply Company of Brooklyn. Ambulance squads and individuals with period photos, uniforms, first aid manuals and medical equipment are also encouraged to contact New York State Museum curator Geoffrey N. Stein at (518) 473-3810 or gstein@mail.nysed.gov. Assuming it will serve as an incentive, all borrowed objects will be insured and the Museum plans to pay for the transportation of borrowed materials to and from Albany. A large turnout can be expected for the exhibit as the Museum attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and the display's opening will coincide with the dedication of an EMS memorial in Empire State Plaza.

YOUR PASSPORT TO PCS DAYTONA

Anyone in the Northeast Chapter still contemplating how they're going to get their show car to Daytona Beach, Florida for the PCS International Meet this coming July 27th-31st? Passport Transport may have a solution with its new "Take Your Car on Vacation Program." The company's fully-enclosed tractor-trailers, manned by specially trained drivers and equipped with sophisticated real-time tracking technology, can be configured to transport vehicles as big as a vintage fire engine, so a comparatively-diminutive funeral coach, ambulance or flower car should present no special challenge. Further information or a rate quote is available by phoning 1-800-325-4267.

POLICE RECEIVE EMT TRAINING

The paramedic movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s marked a great leap forward in the history of emergency medicine, saving hundreds of thousands of lives each year through the realization that more Americans would survive heart attacks, accidents and other severe traumas if urgently needed care was brought to the patient instead of the other way around. While firefighters and rescue squads have traditionally rendered this assistance, the Town of Montgomery, NY recently arrived at the so-simple-it's-brilliant conclusion that police officers should receive emergency medical technician training on the grounds that they are usually the first people to arrive on an accident scene. "Cops are the logical ones to have EMT training, because they're already out on the road," explains Joseph Poptanich of the Ulster County Ambulance Association, which has already put two Montgomery police officers through a six month course and expects to have all seven of the department's full-time officers trained by early 2005. In the four months since he became the first Montgomery policeman to complete the EMT program, Alex Landolina has provided life-saving medical assistance on two dozen different occasions, doing everything from administering drugs to an asthma attack victim to stabilizing a critically-injured man whose ATV crashed into a tree, overturned and hurled him against another tree. "As a police officer, my job is not just to prevent crime but to assist the community," Landolina told reporter Alice Kenney for an article published in the April 16th issue of the Middletown, NY TIMES HERALD-RECORD, adding that "It's a nice feeling to show up on an accident scene and know how to help."



This 1951 Superior Cadillac, converted into a camper, was one of the vehicles spotted by William Deegan, Jr.

CRITERION CLASSIFIEDS

PCS Northeast Chapter Patches now available for sale. \$5 each including postage. Make checks payable to PCS Northeast Chapter and mail to Treasurer/Membership Director Jeff Hookway, 201 Glenside Trail, Sparta, NJ 07871-1249. For further info phone (973) 729-8083 or e-mail hookjch@ptd.net.

1927 Henney Hearse Ambulance Combination. Six-cylinder Velie engine with just 6,111 original miles. Restoration needs completion but straight sheet metal with no rust., See article, page 2..

1939 Flxible Buick Funeral Coach. A great project car with very few miles. Ready to paint. Needs a good home! Asking \$7,250. Telephone (404) 520-2100 (Georgia).

1939 Superior Buick Special Funeral Coach. Rare vehicle is not running but super straight, extremely solid and very nearly complete. Recently reduced to \$4,975. Reasonable delivery available. For further info log onto www.bhantiqueauto.com or phone (605) 749-2224 (South Dakota).

1953 Chevrolet Ambulance by National Coaches. Highly original survivor with 30-inch wheelbase extension, rooftop tunnel lights, National fender emblems, new radial white wall tires, \$4,995.00. See article, page 4..

1959 Pontiac Catalina Ambulance. Very rare 63,000-mile example from National Coaches of Knightstown, Indiana. Strong 389 V-8, straight body, air conditioning, division window, jump seat, lights and siren. Check it out on your way to PCS Daytona! Price recently reduced to \$2,950 firm. Telephone (727) 847-1615 (Tampa, Florida area).

1967 Cadillac hearse wanted: In black to match my '67 Fleetwood. Jim Loseth, Proudfoot Architectural Acoustics, (203) 459-0031 or 800-445-0034 days.

1967 Miller-Meteor Cadillac Citation Landau Hearse. Sable Black with matching crinkle finish roof. Ran when parked last year, interior in exceptionally good condition, extra exterior and interior trim pieces included. \$2,000 or best offer. Contact Joe or Mary Habermann, 23 Beatty Road, Washingtonville, NY 10992, (845) 496-7033.

1980 S&S Cadillac Victoria Funeral Coach. Blue with blue interior, pull-out casket table, 55,000 miles, beautiful condition! First \$5,500 cash. Phone (717) 935-2748 (PA).

CRITERION CALENDAR

June 13th, 2004 (Sun.), Lahaska, PA: PCS Northeast Chapter's 3rd Annual Charity Car & Truck Show at Peddler's Village, junction of U.S. 202, PA 263 and Street Road. Open to all vehicle types. Pre-registration \$10, day-of-show \$15. Make pre-registration checks payable to PCS Northeast Chapter and send to Bill Marcy, 349 Lookout Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601. For further info call Bill at (201) 342-4871.

June 17th-20th, 2004 (Thurs.-Sun.), Piqua, OH: Miller-Meteor Reunion sponsored by PCS M-M Chapter at Comfort Inn. Itinerary features Thursday tour of Accubuilt manufacturing facility in Lima, OH, Friday visit to Eagle Coach in Amelia, OH, retired employee-guided "last chance" tour of old Miller-Meteor plant at 125 Clark Avenue in Piqua, OH on Saturday. For further info contact Tony Karsnia at (651) 278-2421, tcriterion@prodigy.net, or 344 West University Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103.

July 11th, 2004 (Sun.), Rhinebeck, NY: Tentative date, driving tour to Rhinebeck Aerodrome sponsored by Lower Hudson Region Cadillac-LaSalle Club. For further info contact Dave Rubin at (914) 993-9498 or e-mail SJZR5@Optonline.net.

July 17th, 2004 (Sat.), Cascade, MD: All vehicles welcome to Pen Mar Picnic co-sponsored by Mid-Atlantic Packards and Chesapeake Bay Region CCCA at Pen Mar Park, off highway 140. Box lunches from Heavenly Ham can be pre-ordered for \$10 (make checks payable to M.A.P.) from Dwight Heinmuller, 16529 Dubbs Road, Sparks, MD 21152. For further info e-mail dwightpac@cs.com or phone (410) 329-3022.

July 27th-31st, 2004 (Tues.-Sat.), Daytona Beach, FL: 28th Annual PCS International Meet at the Hilton Oceanfront Resort. Itinerary features Kennedy Space Center bus tour and a professional car convoy to Daytona International Speedway. For registration info contact Bill Wright at (386) 255-4704, Fantafuss1@aol.com or 364 Aleatha Drive, Daytona Beach, FL 32114.

August 5th-8th, 2004 (Thu.-Sun.), Pottsville, PA: 11th Annual Great Pottsville Cruise sponsored by Pottsville Lions Club. Features all-new 10.4-mile, 2-way cruise route, light and sound contest, "muffler rap," car stereo contest, dance contest, \$300 cash giveaway for registered cruisers. For further info phone event sponsor Losch Internet Services at (570) 385-7600 or log onto www.pottsvillecruisenight.com.

August 6th-8th (Fri.-Sun.), Macungie, PA: 41st Das Awkscht Fescht sponsored by Ontelaunee Region AACA at Macungie Memorial Park.

August 15th, 2004 (Sun.), Millville, NJ: Tentative date, emergency vehicle muster and flea market at Wheaton Village. For further info contact Joel Bain at (856) 742-7685.

August 21st, 2004 (Sat.), Millington, NJ: PCS Northeast Chapter summer picnic at home of Paul & Donna Vickery, 1434 Long Hill Road, starting at 4pm. For further info phone Dan McCann at (732) 292-2770 or Bill Marcy at (201) 342-4871.

August 21st, 2004 (Sat.), Dupont, PA. Cadillac, LaSalle show at VFW Hall, 401 Main Street. For further info contact Stanley Sipko Sr. at (570) 654-0891.

August 28th, 2004 (Sat.), Lancaster, PA: PCS Mid-Atlantic Chapter summer picnic at home of Jim & Eula McKay, 2236 Bob White Lane. For further info phone (717) 569-8801 or e-mail choirboy@desupernet.com

Sept. 9th-11th, 2004 (Thurs.-Sat.), Wildwood Crest, NJ: "Packards at the Beach" sponsored by Mid-Atlantic Packards and Packards East at Regal Plaza. Itinerary includes Thursday tours of Wheaton Village and Museum of American Glass, Friday visit to Cape May Airport Museum, choice of dolphin boat excursion or Cape May Victorian house trolley tour on Saturday. For further info contact Bob Teller (908-233-2486 or rgteller29@aol.com) or Dwight Heinmuller (410-329-3022 or dwightpac@cs.com).

Sept. 11th, 2004 (Sat.), Milford, CT: 33rd Annual Engine 260 Antique Fire Apparatus Show and Muster, 10am-5pm at Eisenhower Park off state highway 121. Raindate Sunday, September 12th. For further info phone Engine 260 at (203) 874-2605.

Nov. 20th, 2004-Sept. 11th, 2005 (Sat.-Sun.), Albany, NY: Exhibit portraying history of Emergency Medical Services in New York, 9:30 am - 5 pm daily at the New York State Museum, Cultural Education Center, Empire State Plaza. For further info, or to loan photos, uniforms, period medical equipment and ambulances built or used in New York State, contact curator Geoffrey Stein at (518) 473-3810 or gstein@mail.nysed.gov.

Car and Truck Show
All Cars and Trucks Are Welcome To Enter
Third Annual
Spring Meet Antique Auto Show
Sponsored By Northeast Chapter of the Professional Car Society
at
PEDDLER'S VILLAGE
 Routes 202 & 263, Lahaska, Bucks County, PA



Sunday, June 13, 2004 (Rain or Shine)
 Registration: 9AM to 11AM
 Popular Vote Judging: 11:30AM to 1:30PM ~~~ Awards: 3PM
 All Vehicles Wishing to Be Judged Must Be On the Show Field By 11AM

Dash Plaques to First 100 Vehicles Registered ~ No Pets or Alcoholic Beverages Permitted

Pre-Registration by June 1 ~ \$10.00 per car ~ Day Of Show Entries \$15.00

Proceeds To Benefit Bucks County S.P.C.A.

Mail This Portion To:

Bill Marcy, 349 Lookout Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$10 per vehicle) payable to Northeast Chapter, PCS

Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Name of Car Club _____

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY TYPE

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	BODY TYPE

I, the undersigned, do hereby state that my vehicle(s) currently carry liability insurance and further agree to hold harmless the Professional Car Society, its officers, the Northeast Chapter, its officers, and Peddlers Village for any accident, property damage, injuries, or theft which may occur to myself, my guests, or my vehicle(s) while attending or otherwise participating in this show.

Signed _____ Date _____

THE PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

"Dedicated to the restoration and preservation of vintage ambulances, funeral cars & livery vehicles"

NORTHEAST CHAPTER

www.geocities.com/MotorCity/Garage/1074

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Membership in the national organization of the PCS is a prerequisite to membership in any of its regional chapters. Details on joining can be obtained from Natl. Membership Secretary David Petke at (423) 288-3454, writing him at 5405 Heritage Lane, Kingsport, TN 37664 or by accessing the official PCS home page at <http://www.professionalcar.org>.

THE PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

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**NEWSLETTER of the NORTHEAST CHAPTER
of the PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY**



Unseasonably warm weather attracted a large number of new and veteran Northeast Chapter members to a fantastic brunch at the Grand Chalet in Wayne, NJ on March 7th. Following the brief business meeting in the parking lot, the group posed with David Sabonjian's 1963 Superior Cadillac Rescuer ambulance. New members Peter & Skeeter De Mattia bought the late 1980s Dodge Caravan "first call" coach seen in the background.