



The Criterion

NORTHEAST CHAPTER-PROFESSIONAL CAR SOCIETY

Issue No. 11

Summer, 1989

SPRING ACTIVITIES

Several Chapter members have managed to keep themselves busy during this past Spring season. The Jasts, along with Don Myers, made their annual trek to the English-town Swap Meet and Car Show, with their '55 Superior Cadillac and '73 C-B Oldsmobile ambulances, respectively. There was no judging per se, merely a People's Choice type award. Two new members were signed up for PCS and Chapter membership, as can be seen elsewhere in this issue.

In mid May, Phil and Don journeyed with their cars to Yorktown's 1st annual swap meet, and were joined by Dave Csimbok in his '67 M-M Landau Traditional. Tony Cutrone was also on hand. Turnout was rather sparse, with only a handful of participants, however.

Leo Maren and Paul Vickery made the 4th annual Edison, NJ Car Show, with both of Paul's ambulances, the '40 Flexible Buick and the '56 Miller Cadillac.

On the parade circuit, Phil and Fran motored over to neighboring Belmar, where that Fire Dept observed its anniversary. The Jasts walked away with a Best Appearing Limousine Ambulance trophy.

A few weeks later, several members participated in the Butler, NJ 1st Aid 50th Anniversary parade, which included a limousine ambulance class. It was the Northeast Chapter all the way, making a clean sweep of the category...Dan McCann garnered 1st Place, Limousine Ambulance with Kearny's '78 Superior Cadillac, while Craig Stewart followed in 2nd Place with his '74 S&S Professional. He also took the "Early Bird" trophy, arriving at 7:30am. (!) Both Leo and Fred Goerlitz were awarded Merit Plaques, Leo in the Vickery Miller Cadillac, and Fred with his own '76 Superior Cadillac.

If anyone else out there in professional car land has participated in an activity that we have not reported on, please advise us so we may include it in a future issue of The Criterion. Remember, this is YOUR organization.

OWNER'S PRIDE

From time to time, we are pleased when we receive photos of Chapter member's cars. LANCE ALFIERI happened across his 1959 Amblewagon Edsel Villager station wagon literally sitting in a field of red clay and dirt in Arizona. The year was 1979, and the car was the typical 'basket case' that most of us are familiar with! Even the desert critters consumed much of the car's interior. The ambulance was shipped back to the confines of Long Island, where Lance underwent a total body-off restoration. This was complete by 1983. The car was originally built by the Automotive Conversion Company, a small firm located in Birmingham, Michigan. They specialized in station wagon conversions and finally ceased operations circa 1974. This car was originally built for Hays, Kansas Sheriff's Office. Marketed under the name "Amblewagon", the firm ripped out the rear seats supplementing a 1-inch plywood covering to the entire rear floor. This was then covered with a large mat. A single jumpseat was kept in place. As evidenced by the photo on the following page, the tailgate was replaced by a door, which was hinged on the left side, allowing easier curbside loading (a feature also used by S&S). There is no partition and there are two small cabinets over the rear wheel wells for first aid supplies. These were covered in Formica.

Other ancillary medical equipment includes an original Washington cot, first aid kit, and 5-lb fire extinguisher. The car has air conditioning and heat, both front and rear, power steering and brakes, and tinted windows. Headroom is obviously quite limited. The ambulance is finished in white over black. Interior appointments are camel in color.

Warning devices include the Federal model 17 Beacon Ray, with red lens and the C-6 siren-light unit, with red Solaray lens, mounted on the passenger fender. The car also contains a low-band whip antenna, mounted on the rear fender. The high beam headlamps have been replaced with red lenses.

CONTINUED. . . .





Note New York personalized license plate: EDEL A.

Although production records for Amblewagons are sketchy at best, we were able to trace the Edsel Villager 9-passenger wagons. Designated model 71E, the car weighed in at 3930 pounds and retailed for \$3055 in 1959. With a 118-inch wheelbase, only 2133 were made. Lance's particular car is powered by a 361 cu. in. 305 hp V-8

Destined to become a scapegoat of sorts in American motordom, the Edsel saw production from the fall of 1957..September 4 to be exact..until November 19, 1960. Although not the intent of this article to ascertain just what went wrong with Ford Motor Company's Edsel, suffice it to say that the car is revered by its owners today. many of whom are member of the Edsel Owner's Club. Lance has owned several Edsels, including a 1959 Corsair convertible as well as a 1958 Amblewagon ambulance. In 1983, our feature car was awarded a first place honors in Dearborn, MI at an Edsel Owner's Club convention. And we certainly hope to see some of this at our PCS events, too!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

At the Spring meeting of the Chapter's Executive Board, it was voted on to streamline the dues structure: If a new member joins in the months of Dec/Jan/Feb, he will pay \$5.00, with expiration on June 1 (Our year runs from June to June); Mar/Apr/May, \$12.50; Jun/Jul/Aug, \$10.00; Sep/Oct/Nov, \$7.50. Hopefully, this will permit our Treasurer to keep a more accurate account of our books. And our books are now open, ready to receive the 1989-90 dues.

"WE HEAR YOU KNOCKING!!"

Our pleas have been heard! After years of haggling with the Antique Automobile Club of America, they have finally, and officially we might add, recognized professional cars. In their January-February, 1989 publication, ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE, our cars will be admitted onto their show fields. Their classification numbers will be 22a and 22b. The only stipulation here is a limit to pre-WW II vehicles, however. But it is a start!

And in that same issue, we note our own BOB COSGROVE to have taken Second Junior winner in Class 22b with his 1932 Miller Nash 990 ambulance...a real nice way to let the folks at AACA realize that we, too, have some quality machinery out there.

AMBULANCE DISPLAY AT NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

Member MYRON GITTELL has been named Co-curator at the New York State Museum in Albany, NY. Together with the staff, Myron is planning to exhibit various passenger-car based ambulances, including the only known Cunningham, a 1926 model. Also hopeful is the loan of a horse drawn unit presently on display in the lobby of NYU Medical School, located at 30th St and 1st Av in Manhattan.

The only problem, Myron advises, is that the proposed display will take time... lots of it, months or even years until the Museum Committee can work out the logistics. That just gives us something to look forward to.

MARKETPLACE

From up New England way from Carl Ham comes this:

FOR SALE: 1973 Superior Pontiac 'Consort' landau hearse. 454 engine; 47K miles; gray & black, w/ vinyl roof; Good condition, has dent in right rear fender; Presently in service, photo on page 349 of AMERICAN FUNERAL CARS & AMBULANCES SINCE 1900. Price: \$1695. CONTACT: Tom McGibey, c/o Barber & Lanier Funeral Home; 139 Main St, Montpelier, VT 05602. Telephone 1-802-223-5414.

WANTED: Need rear bumper assembly (2-piece, split) for 1972 Superior Cadillac ambulance; also complete engine for 1964 S&S Cadillac Professional ambulance; These are for two, in-service volunteer NJ ambulance units. CONTACT: Leo Maren, 350 Morris St, Stirling, NJ 07980. Phone 201-647-3738.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. . . .

Dan McCann, Jr
54 Patterson St
Kearny, NJ 07032
201-998-9362

Patrick F. Halloran
45 Lexington Blvd
Clark, NJ 07066
201-381-1768

David A. Wurfel
1007 Philadelphia Av
Pt Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742
201-899-7447
1963 Kutz-Chevrolet C-30 ambulance

. . . AND DON'T FORGET: 1989 PCS International Meet, Aug. 15 to 19. . .

MORE MARKETPLACE. . .

Just in from Wisconsin PCS member Bob Hedges is his June 1st inventory:
He can be reached at 3229 North 83rd St, Milwaukee, WI 53222, telephone 1-414-444-3006

AMBULANCES:

- 1978 Superior Cadillac hightop; orange & white; dual air; Twin Sonic 32K miles \$6000.
- 1977 M-M Cadillac; orange & white; dual beacons; suction; overhead backboard compt; 128K miles; \$3200
- 1975 Superior 51" Cadillac; red & white; beacon; dual air; 60K miles; car is in Denver; \$2500
- 1973 S&S Cadillac Professional; Two-tone brown; dual air; 44K miles; NJ car; needs paint; \$2500
- 1972 Hi-top; red & white; dual air; dual 176 Beacons; PA/Siren; 20K miles; Nice Nebraska car; \$2800
- 1971 S&S Cadillac 50"; red & white; air; So-So condition; \$2000

COMBINATIONS:

- 1966 M-M Landau; black/black crinkle; dual factory air; AM-FM radio; model 28 coaster siren; Beacon; 71K miles; \$2800
- 1968 M-M Limo; dual air; AM FM radio; white double-tone coaster siren; beacon; very sharp Nebraska car w/ no rust; 73K miles; \$3500
- 1970 M-M Landau; white/black roof; dual air; AM FM radio; underhood coaster siren; Beacon; 40K miles; Southern Illinois car; \$2200
- 1970 Superior Cadillac white w/ black landau roof; dual air; So Carolina car, no rust; \$1800
- 1974 S&S; white w/ black padded roof; landau panels & plastic 'Ambulance' signs; dual air; AM FM radio; casket rack; 184-D beacon; PA-20 siren; needs paint, 91K miles; interior mint; \$2200
- 1965 C-B Oldsmobile; silver/black; dual air; radio; casket rack; landau panels; Car is in Montana, very nice; 61K miles; \$2300
- 1963 Flxible Buick Limo; black, new tires; interior good; needs paint; \$3000

LIMOUSINE:

- 1967 Cadillac 75 Sedan; green w/ blue interior; air; AM FM radio; good body; Original Montana car; 71K miles; \$2800

HEARSE are listed on next page.....

THIS JUST IN:

For Sale: 1955 Superior Rescuer Cadillac ambulance; red; body restored, mechanically sound; includes 4 roof tunnel lites, Federal Beacon Ray, Federal C-6 siren/light combo; wide whites; \$16,000. CONTACT: Phil Jast , 201-280-1499, after 6PM.

HEARSEs:

- 1965 S&S Victoria Landau; black/black; silver/black interior; Very nice original from Penna; 35K miles; \$3000
- 1964 M-M Cadillac Landau E.L.; black; car is in Washington state; 70K miles; no rust; \$2500
- 1963 Flxible Buick Flxette (short wheelbase) Service Car; black; needs body work; Car is in Penna; 61K miles; \$1500
- 1966 Superior 3-Way Electric Limo; with Levelizer; black; Original Montana car, no rust; Car still in Montana; 58K miles; \$2500
- 1966 M-M Cadillac Olympian Landau, 3-Way; black; Wisconsin car; 66K miles; \$2200
- 1971 S&S Victoria; green w/ black roof no air, very clean; 50K miles; \$1800
- 1975 Superior 3-Way Manual; black; Air; Wisconsin car; AM FM radio; needs some body work; runs well; 71K miles; \$2000
- 1976 M-M Cadillac 3-Way Manual; black w/ red interior; 60K miles; \$1000
- 1972 M-M Cadillac Landau E.L. black; air; \$1100

Bob further advises that he will be in Gaithersburg for the International and will have an assortment of lights and sirens. Bob further requests that you let him know what you are looking for in professional cars, as he travels quite extensively across the country.

A REMINDER FOR OUR AMBULANCE TYPES:

Our friends in the fire service are sponsoring their 37th Annual Muster and Trade Show, to be held in the New Jersey Meadowlands in Secaucus. Among their planned activities is an extensive display of emergency vehicles of all sorts, including our passenger-car based ambulances and combinations. This static display will be held on Saturday, July 22, from 10AM to 3PM, on the property of Panasonic Corp on Meadowland Parkway in the town of Secaucus.

The site is easily located from the Route 3 exit for MEADOWLAND PARKWAY. For those interested in motorcading to the site, members can meet at the Stewart's by 9AM for "coffee and..". They are only 20 minutes from the site. For more info, contact Craig at 201-438-1757 no later than July 15th.

