

When a Legendary Car Meets a Legendary House

By Judy Szablak

Some stories begin at the closing table. Others begin with a handshake.

This one began on an ordinary afternoon with the owner of an extraordinary car.

I was out driving with my friend Chuck Schoendorf—one of those friends whose definition of a “special vehicle” isn’t a luxury badge or a high-performance trim level, but something far more rarefied.

We were talking cars, as we always do, when he casually mentioned something that made me hit the brakes—not literally, thank goodness, but figuratively hard enough that my brain fishtailed.

Knowing that I am a REALTOR® specializing in upper end properties in Fairfield County CT, he said, “You know, Briggs Cunningham’s house is on the market.”

The house where the legend lived. 92 Beachside Avenue in Westport, CT. The place where ideas were drawn, engines were tuned, and dreams were quite literally engineered. The place where the idea was born for his C-3.

For those who aren’t aware of these automobiles, just 36 were built, 35 are still in existence and eight of those were built as race cars. Twenty-five chassis were sent by vessel to Italy and finished in the Vignale shop in Turin. His 1952 C-3 is rarer yet, as there were only five cabriolets. A true preservationist, this car has never been rebuilt or glamorized.

THE Briggs Cunningham—the American sportsman, racing driver, entrepreneur, and visionary who built those improbable, beautiful, roaring machines my friend loves more than some people love their children.

I felt my eyebrows rise.

My friend kept talking, probably assuming this was just another item of car-world trivia conversations. But my mind was already shifting into gear.

“Well,” I said, almost offhandedly, “let me see if I can get you in there.”

I don’t know why I said it.

Actually, I do.

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So while he talked about chassis numbers and race histories, I was already drafting a plan. I knew the listing agent, Cyd Hamer of William Pitt Sotheby’s in Westport. I knew the significance for Chuck and understood the marketing boost that this could give the listing agent. And I knew what an opportunity for me as a connector of both the cultured car world and the luxury real estate sphere could mean to my business, and future clients.

After all, how often does a Cunningham owner get the chance to stand inside the home of the man who created them? And to enter through the gated driveway and park his Cunningham in front of the house?

Not often.

Maybe not ever.

And I knew I could make it happen.

The Call That Started Everything

The moment I got home, I called Cyd. She picked up—professional, polite and curious, probably expecting a routine showing request.

That is not what she got.

I said, “I’d like to show the property... and let me tell you why.”



The car, the history, the house, the present moment—somehow it all braided together. And I got to be the one who tied the ends.

The Quiet Role of a Connector

Some jobs you choose.

Others choose you.

I’ve always been “the Realtor with Drive”—part humor, part branding, part acknowledgement of my lifelong love of cars, as well as my passion for real estate. I market homes with horsepower and houses with storylines. I can talk square footage or carburetors with equal fluency, but this moment clarified something for me:

I’m not just selling properties.

I’m connecting passions.

There’s a unique category of clients—collectors, preservationists, automotive historians, people whose relationship to their cars is emotional, intellectual, and generational. These clients don’t just buy houses. They buy chapters of their own story.

And because I live in both worlds—real estate and car culture—I understand how to match the structure to the soul.

A rare car deserves a home worthy of it.

A collector deserves spaces that honor their legacy.

And sometimes, if you’re lucky, a house and a car meet each other again after decades apart.

That’s what this day was, and I was honored to be a part of it.

Why This Story Matters

In real estate, we often talk about numbers—square footage, days on market, comps, cap rates, upgrades. But behind every home is a human story waiting to be honored. Behind every collector car is a lifetime of admiration, mechanics, memories, and pride.

When those worlds intersect, something rare happens.

Something that can’t be captured on an MLS sheet.

You can make history feel alive again.

You can summon the past into the present.

You can give someone a moment they didn’t even know they needed.

And sometimes, you can make a legendary car feel—just for a second—like it found its way home.

Many Thanks to Cyd Hamer of William Pitt Sotheby’s in Westport and the Sellers of this magnificent property.



Submitted by Judy Szablak, Realtor® and unapologetic automotive aficionado.