

Everything Cunningham

Recognizing the life and achievements of a great American sportsman

Briggs Cunningham - American Racing Tradition - Tale Of An American Sportsman

BRIGGS CUNNINGHAM
AMERICAN RACING TRADITION

CUNNINGHAM

TALE OF AN AMERICAN SPORTSMAN

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- Cunningham - Friends of BSC Email List
- Cunningham C-3 Articles
- Cunningham Articles
- The Old Motor Articles
- "The Quail" Documentary: 1960 Le Mans Corvette #3
- 100th Birthday Celebration at the Quail
- Cunningham C4R1 Continuation Cars
- A Brief Biography

CUNNINGHAM C-4RK

Click the image above to order Stance & Speed's new book about the *Cunningham C-4RK*.

Recent Updates

Race History
Over 100 additional individual race entries have been added, with the total now over 800.

Car Register
"2011 Supplement"
Recently completed research to update records from 1982 to 2011.

Cunningham Sports Cars
The Le Mans Era
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"An event early in Briggs Cunningham's life helped shape his lifelong passion for autos and auto racing: As a youngster after World War I, he went street racing with his uncle in a Dodge touring car powered by a Hispano-Suiza airplane engine.

"Yes, I guess you could say my uncle influenced me towards automobiles and racing," he told author Dean Batchelor for his book *Cunningham*." - more

Quick Facts

URL: www.briggscunningham.com

Type: Informational, historical, registry

Focus: The life of Briggs S. Cunningham and his cars

Registration: Not required

Family rating: G

Hemmings rating: ★★★★★

his interest in cars to an uncle who liked to briskly drive a creation based on a Dodge chassis and stuffed with a Hispano-Suiza aero engine. You have to think that inspired him when he was creating his eponymous post-war sports cars, most notably equipped with Chrysler 331 Hemi power. Before World War II, Cunningham got into racing at the urging of his college classmates, the American road-racing pioneer Collier brothers. Cunningham raced a slew of American imported cars, including a fabled pair of Cadillacs, one with aircraft-type bodywork, which he took to Le Mans in 1950. But it was his own sports cars, the C-2Rs, C-4Rs, C-5Rs and C-6Rs of 1951 through 1955, that brought him his enduring fame.

In that spirit, Larry started out the website by tracking the more recent Cunningham continuation cars, built by a variety of craftsmen, one of whom is Briggs Cunningham III. Cunningham is a cattle rancher in Kentucky, and also runs a winning ARCA stock car team with former USAC Midget driver Alex Bowman in its seat.

From there, it evolved into a repository of Cunningham racing history, era by era, plus Mr. C's—his eternal nickname—career in the America's Cup, a registry of Cunningham cars, a list of Cunninghams in scale, a bibliography, plus photos. Through the website, Larry also organizes Cunningham reunions along with author and historian Tom Cotter of North Carolina, who owns a barn-find Cunningham coupe, and Chuck Schoendorf, a Connecticut-based collector and historian who owns two of the original 25 Cunninghams.

"Somebody nicknamed us the 3C Musketeers," Larry quipped. 🏆

BY JIM DONNELLY

We're not sure if America produces individuals like Briggs Swift Cunningham very often anymore. Before Cunningham came of age, the term "sportsman" was most often a euphemism for a professional gambler, a big-stakes horseplayer. Cunningham, born of privilege in Cincinnati, reinvented that definition, becoming a world-regarded yachtsman, an international racing star, and a builder of exceptionally powerful American sports cars. He made the cover of *Time* magazine.

A huge legion of Cunningham admirers existed long before he died in 2003 at age 96. It was around that time that one of them, an insurance adjuster from Newton, Massachusetts, named Larry Berman, founded a website to recognize Cunningham's lifetime of accomplishment in a celebratory and yet dignified manner. Briggs Cunningham: American Racing Tradition is his visually handsome online gathering place.

Some brief background on Cunningham, the man, is appropriate. He traced