



GARY BITNER RUNS THE BITNER GROUP, a highly regarded public relations and integrated communications firm, Bitner/Hennessy, with offices in Fort Lauderdale and Orlando, Florida. He's also an aficionado of "Mid Century Modern" (MCM) style and design, a term typically used in conjunction with the fifties era. And because one thing connects to another, Gary writes about his taste in music:

Henry Mancini, MCM maestro. Musical mastermind behind Peter Gunn, The Pink Panther, Breakfast at Tiffany's and most other works by Blake Edwards. I salute Mancini's hometown of Aliquippa every time I fly into Pittsburgh and head to Ohio via I-376, when I'm usually listening to my Pandora station set to Peter Gunn. We need to find out if Mancini drove a '59 Sport Fury like Peter Gunn, too.

AND THAT, FOR GARY, is the connection to his love for the '59 Plymouth.

I was watching Hemmings for a '59 for more than a year. It's a Peter Gunn thing, plus the house needed a '59 Plymouth parked out front. The neighbors

all think I'm crazy... wackos like me who buy cars made famous on '50s TV shows to park in front of their MCM houses. Okay, I can tell some of the serious car guys are rolling their eyes about now, but we're talking serious potential Plymouth price appreciation here and they'll come around in time.

GARY ADDS:

I've gone twice to Modernism Week held in late February in Palm Springs and it's amazing: 75,000 people hooked on everything MCM. I'd love to truck the Plymouth out there for a spin or two down Palm Canyon Drive.



GARY FOUND AND BOUGHT HIS BELVEDERE in the summer of 2017 from Hank Davis, co-owner of "The Car Guys" <<http://gotocarguys.com>> outside of Mansfield, Ohio. Says Gary:

Hank thought he was the third owner and the car was a barn find from near Grand Rapids. The odometer shows 57,000 miles, which I suspect to be real. I got lucky when he decided to sell his one-and-only Plymouth with a 318 engine and Belvedere two-door sport coupe body style, as you can tell. The hardtop roof is in the original white (now off-white) but the body is a decent repaint over the original blue. The interior has period seat covers that may have been put on when the car was nearly new; I have yet to inspect the original seats. The engine compartment is cleaner than expected. I owned a '69 Dodge Charger in college with a 318 engine, so I know how the engine should sound. (I'm wishing I still had that car!) I divide my time between Florida and Ohio and spend more time in Ohio (with the car) when the weather is better. When in Florida, I'm in Pompano Beach, just above Fort Lauderdale.

GARY FOUND A MECHANIC in Youngstown, Ohio, and set about getting work done in preparation for the car's odyssey to Carlisle: a carburetor rebuild, new master brake and brake job, gas tank leak fixed, differential seal replaced, headlight switch replaced, valves adjusted, tune-up, oil change and countless



other mini-fixes.

This baby is purring. And all to get ready for the three-hour drive from Youngstown to Carlisle in July. Upholstery redo and new paint will be post-show, but if you want to hear a 318 engine like it just rolled off the line, this one is it.

GARY'S HARD WORK and investment in his Belvedere paid off. It successfully made the expedition to Carlisle and back. And Gary amused us all!

For your added entertainment, I'm bringing a portable DVD player and Peter Gunn DVDs, especially Season 2, Episode 21, The Hunt, in which Gunn's '59 Sport Fury convertible is the real star of the show.

— Dan Morton

