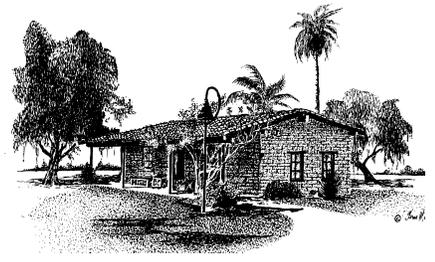


# Fairview Register

Monthly publication of the Costa Mesa Historical Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3)

MEMBER: CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES, NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY



VOL. 49 NO. 4 · APRIL 2019

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## Society President Dances Through 90th Birthday

On March 9, Historical Society President Dave Gardner celebrated his 90th birthday surrounded by friends and family at the Newport Harbor Elks Lodge.

The festive affair included dinner, “roasts and toasts,” and seductive dancing by the Society President. Oh, and there was a belly dancer, too!

Despite (or because of) his “questionable attire choices,” endless antics, and lifelong fondness for pranks, even the roasts were full of love for this “caring, carefree man” and “true gentleman.” Speakers noted Dave’s courage, gratefulness, and above all, his ever-present sense of humor.

Dave has been president of the historical society since 2016, his second stint in

that role. He has served on the society’s board and volunteered for even longer. He is also the most recent recipient of the society’s Living Memorial Award.

It’s the perfect role for a man who has been a colorful part of Costa Mesa since the 1930s. In that time, he’s... well, let’s save the details for another article

After the speeches, the cake, and the dancing, Dave took to the podium to extend his gratitude to his daughter, Pamela, and to all the family and friends who made the night possible. As he looked out over the tables, he said, “It really gets me. That’s for darn sure.”

He concluded his speech with a sentiment shared by all of the attendees.

“Let’s all meet up 10 years from now.”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Stanley Paher on the Ghost Towns of SoCal Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m.

Don’t miss out on this rare opportunity to see noted author Stanley Paher. Paher has published 20 books on the Old West, including the landmark *Nevada Ghost Towns & Mining Camps*. Topics will include amazing photographs, Nell Murbarger, and yes, ghost towns! **Note: this event will be held at the Costa Mesa Downtown Recreation Center, 1860 Anaheim, next to the museum. See flier for more.**

### Mobile Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Don’t miss a chance to honor our veterans at a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Running in Balearic Park April 11-14th, 24 hours/day, rain or shine, special events include an Honor and Remember Ceremony, at 10 a.m., April 13, and a Closing Ceremony, at noon April 14. Volunteers are needed April 10 to help set up. Contact Linda at [megellenw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:megellenw@sbcglobal.net) for more info.

### SAVE THE DATE: Early California Days

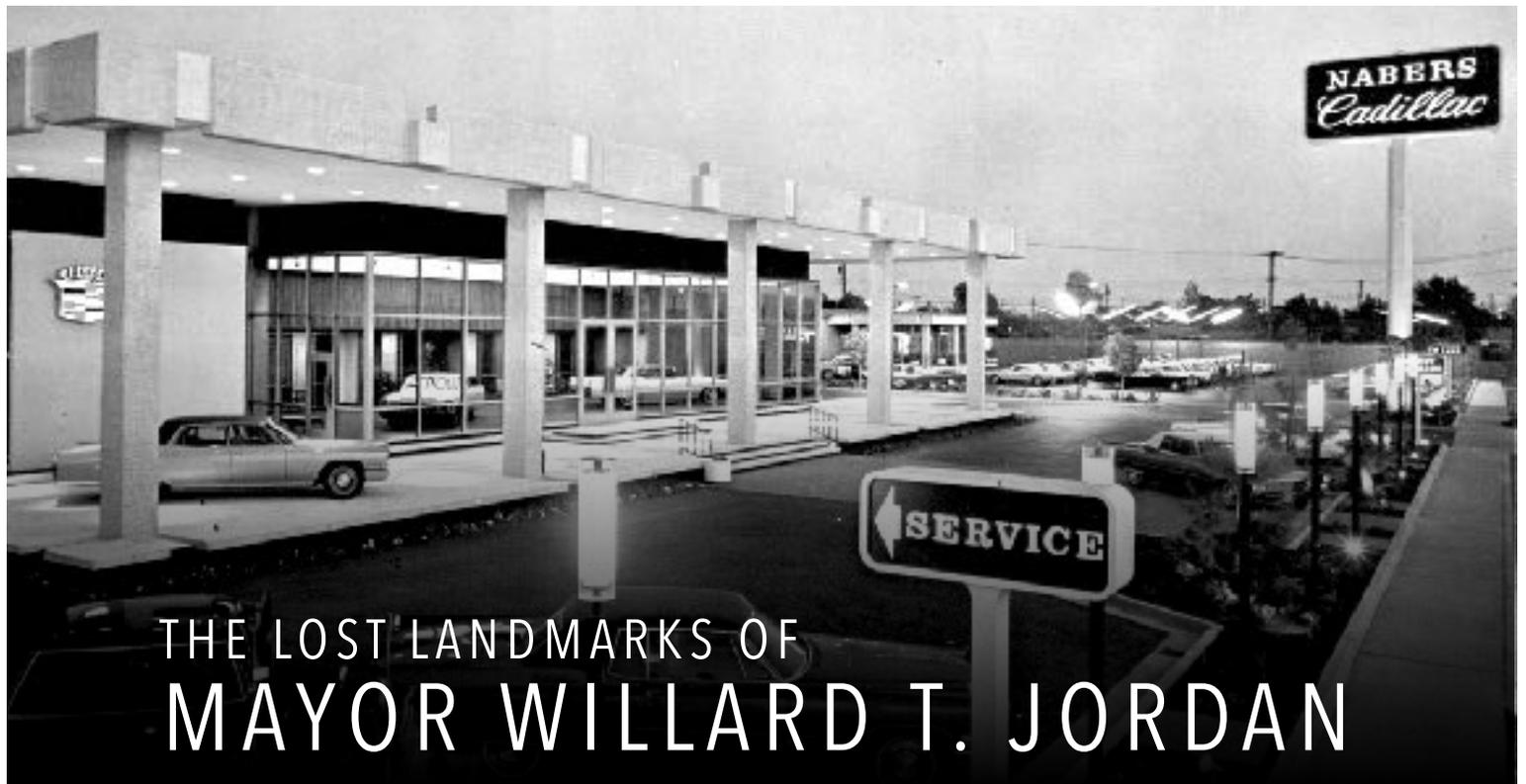
Join us at the adobe 12-3pm, Saturday, June 1, as Phil Brigandi speaks about the 250th anniversary of Portola’s Expedition through Orange County. Coffee Bean will supply beverages and a mobile recreation van will entertain the kiddos. Bring the whole fam!

## MUSEUM & EVENTS

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
Museum			Adobe			Speaker

Promoting and preserving Costa Mesa’s history is our mission

FAIRVIEW REGISTER, FAIRVIEW, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, MARCH 2, 1889



# THE LOST LANDMARKS OF MAYOR WILLARD T. JORDAN

Willard Jordan, AIA, called Nabers Cadillac at 2600 Harbor Boulevard "as good as I have ever designed."

*Willard T. Jordan (1913-1981) is perhaps best known for his public service, both in politics and in philanthropy. Not only did he serve as mayor from 1966-68 and as councilman for a decade, he received, among other honors, the OCC's Outstanding Citizen's Award for Distinguished Community Service and Man of the Year awards from both the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce and the City of Santa Ana.*

*"I never heard anybody say anything but the very best about him," said local historian and friend George Grupe. "And that's hard to happen to you if you're the mayor of the city."*

*With such an illustrious public reputation, it's easy to forget that privately, Jordan, AIA, was a prolific architect. But he designed many Costa Mesa landmarks over the course of his 30-year career.*

*In a 1978 interview with the historical society, Jordan was asked which of his buildings he was most proud of. Sadly, developers haven't been kind to his legacy. Much of it is now lost. Let's find out what has befallen the favorite projects of this significant Costa Mesa architect.*

## **330 West Bay Street**

This award-winning facility served as the home of the *Daily Pilot* for nearly six decades. But after the newspaper moved to the *LA Times* building in 2004 the structure was demolished to help 'revitalize' the area, as was said at the time. It is now the home of a housing development, the Bungalows of Bay Street.

## **2803 Royal Palm Drive**

Built in 1961, Fire Station No. 1 once served as the headquarters for the Costa Mesa Fire Department. In 2017 it was determined the structure — by then aging, cramped, out of date, and out of code — would be cheaper to rebuild than to renovate. A new \$10-million, 11,740-sq. ft., state-of-the-art station opened in the summer of 2018.

## **2850 Mesa Verde Drive East**

Jordan designed this medical, dental, and professional building in the early 1960s. In 2017, the Costa Mesa Planning Commission determined the site was "not an efficient use of land and really no longer functional". The building was demolished to make way for 11 new houses in phase 2 of the Miraval housing development.

## **2600 Harbor Boulevard**

The iconic Nabers Cadillac earned Jordan an "Award of Honor" in 1968 for its creative, functional, and dramatic use of concrete. "Nabers Cadillac is probably as good as I have ever designed," said Jordan in 1978. In 2014 the building was demolished by Orange Coast Buick GMC Cadillac and replaced by a "state-of-the-art dealership with 32 indoor service bays and two 'Internet-driven' showrooms."

## **Mitchell Hurwitz Named New Costa Mesa Notable**

The Costa Mesa Historical Preservation Committee has recently named Mitchell Hurwitz as a new Costa Mesa notable. Hurwitz co-created *The Ellen Show* and contributed to *The John Larroquette Show* and *The Golden Girls*. He is best known, however, for *Arrested Development*. That show's deliciously accurate satire of the Harbor Area clearly grew out from his experience growing up here. After all, Hurwitz graduated from Estancia High School and worked at the Balboa Fun Zone (though not at a banana stand). Locals may also be familiar with another one of his creations. While at Estancia, he founded the "Original Show," an ensemble sketch show now in its 39th year.



## Craig MacDonald on "Trailblazing Women of the Old West"

On a gorgeous Saint Patrick's Day, historian Craig MacDonald enlightened the historical society with a talk on "Trailblazing Women of the Old West." The talk, coinciding with Women's History Month, aimed to introduce attendees to a variety of little known but fascinating women of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

This included Sarah M. Aram, who found gold in the Yuba River two years before James W. Marshall's epoch-making discovery; Olive Isbell, "California's first public school teacher," who drew lessons on the ground because she had no writing materials; and the fascinating Ina Coolbrith, an abused woman, librarian, and California's first Poet Laureate.

We learned about Gold Rush entrepreneurs like Julia Shannon, California's first female photographer; Eliza Elliott, a hog farmer and hotelier in Auburn; and Luzena Wilson and Mary Jane Capes, who both won fame and fortune with baked goods. MacDonald also discussed California's first woman dentist, a female pioneer of the singles ad, and Margaret Frink, whose pioneering use of the water bed ought to earn her the title of "godmother of glamping."

MacDonald's talk also touched on a philanthropist, a sheriff, a copper tycoon, an outlaw, a teetotaler, a stage coach driver, a mail carrier, and Jessie Benton Fremont, the woman who advocated for the perseveration of Yosemite Valley years before John Muir. As MacDonald said, the hardest part of the talk was narrowing it down!

Pulitzer-prize nominee Craig MacDonald is the author of 24 books on the Old West. A member of the history honor society Phi Alpha Theta, MacDonald has presented at conferences, colleges, and historical societies. He and his son are also, along with society volunteer Sid Hallburn, co-founders of the Forever Young band, "America's Oldest Act of Professional Entertainers." To learn more about Craig and his books, go to [www.goldrushglimpses.com](http://www.goldrushglimpses.com).

### Share Your Story

We'd love to hear your Costa Mesa stories. Many changes have taken place and we want to hear from those who lived through them. Write the memories yourself or come to the museum and we'll transcribe them for you. It's that simple!

### Temporary Parking Instructions

Entry to the historical society parking lot is currently limited to Anaheim Avenue, but this is subject to change. If Anaheim is closed, try Park Avenue. There is no estimated completion date at this time.

### Make a Difference – Volunteer

We're looking for a volunteer to **set up refreshments** at our monthly programs as well as members to sit on two committees: the **Newsletter Assembly Committee** prepares the newsletter for mailing, while the **Adobe Committee** recruits volunteers to plan an event, become a docent, or work on exhibits. Committees meet monthly and are chaired by board members. Interested? Visit [costamesahistory.org/volunteer](http://costamesahistory.org/volunteer). Isn't it more fun to work as a team?

### Donate Online

The Costa Mesa Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization that depends on support from people like you. Visit [costamesahistory.org/donate](http://costamesahistory.org/donate) to make your tax-deductible contribution today. Thank you for helping preserve local history!

### Shop with us on Amazon

Every time you start your order with Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate to the Costa Mesa Historical Society – at no cost to you. Visit [costamesahistory.org/smile](http://costamesahistory.org/smile) before making your next purchase. You can use your existing Amazon account.

### Dues Overdue?

Make sure your dues are up to date by looking at your **dues expiration date** on the address label to the right of your name. If your dues are due, renew online at [costamesahistory.org/membership](http://costamesahistory.org/membership), mail in a check, c/o Susan Weeks, Treasurer, or drop it off on a Thursday or Friday from 10am to 3pm. Membership dues are listed on the back page.

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Open 12-4 p.m. Every 1st and 3rd Saturday\*

Explore centuries of history when you visit one of Orange County's oldest buildings in its gorgeous setting at Estancia Park.

**Costa Mesa Historical Society Museum**

1870 Anaheim Ave.

Open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Every Thursday and Friday\*

View a mind-boggling array of artifacts from 5,000 years of Costa Mesa history – from the first peoples to the City of the Arts.

\* Or schedule an appointment at 949-631-5918.

I N S I D E

Stanley Paher on Ghost Towns, Dave Gardner's 90th, Willard T. Jordan's Lost Landmarks, Craig MacDonald Recap + more

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	<b>Annual</b>		<b>Lifetime</b>	
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