



# FULLERTON HERITAGE

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*The mission of Fullerton Heritage is to foster an appreciation of our city's cultural history and to ensure the preservation of our historic architectural resources and environments.*

## Fullerton Fly Girl Vivian Cadman Eddy

by Deb Richey

**A**t the height of World War II, more than a thousand women left their traditional jobs and homes to become the first female pilots to fly for the United States military. Eager to prove themselves, the young women faced danger and discrimination, and although not authorized to serve in combat, 38 gave their lives for their country. Fullerton native Vivian Clair Cadman Eddy (1921-2013) was the only Orange County woman selected to join the elite Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).

The daughter of successful local developer Walter Joseph Cadman (1893-1941), who laid out the expansive Golden Hill residential area, Vivian was born in Fullerton on June 8, 1921. The Cadman family lived within the Golden Hill subdivision, first at 545 West Fern Drive, and then at 865 North Richman Avenue. Vivian attended Ford School, graduated from Fullerton Union High School in 1939, and Fullerton College in 1941. Outgoing and somewhat of a showboat, she loved to write comedy skits that she would then perform at high school and college events. While at Fullerton College, she was elected president of the



Associated Women Students (AWS), and the student newspaper selected her as the co-ed with the Best Personality.

When she was nine, Vivian's grandfather took her to an airshow at Mines Field, now the Los Angeles International Airport, where she saw aviation pioneers Amelia Earhart and Jackie Cochran fly. The experience

ignited a passion for flying that would last her entire life. When the Civil Aeronautics Authority – realizing that World War II was imminent – started a Civilian Pilot Training (CPT) program at Fullerton College in the Fall of 1941, Vivian immediately enrolled, the only woman in a class of 48 trainees (only 50 were allowed). For five months, she underwent an intensive period of ground training and flight instruction at the Fullerton Municipal Airport. She received her pilot's license at the age of 19, when she did not yet have a license to drive an automobile. After her CPT training, Vivian wanted to go further as a commercial pilot, but the head of the program, Russell K. Aldrich, told her she wasn't "beefy" enough to continue.

When World War II started, Vivian accepted a secretarial position (she did not know how to type) at the West Coast Air Corps Training Center in Santa Ana in order to be around airplanes. She received the opportunity of a lifetime in 1943 when she was one of only 1,100, out of an applicant pool of over 25,000, selected to join the recently formed Women Airforce Service

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## New Local Landmarks

By Ernie Kelsey

**F**ullerton Heritage is excited to have four new Local Landmarks added to the City's registry. These nominations take time and effort to prepare. Fullerton Heritage is lucky to have Board Members Debora Richey and Bob Linnell who research and complete the documentation required to submit nominations.

The new Local Landmarks are:



### 1. YMCA Neon Sign (HL-104)

The Mid-Century Modern YMCA building (constructed in 1962) and exterior neon sign were designed by notable local Architect Charles Wickett. Located west of the building entrance overlooking Harbor Boulevard, the red, white and blue neon sign was produced and installed by the Nu-Art Neon Sign Company, established in Fullerton in 1946.

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## New Local Landmarks

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### 2. Charles Kassler II Mural (HL-105)



Located on the west side of the Fullerton Auditorium, the mural was funded by the Federal Works of Art Project (FWAP), it would be the first of three Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal murals installed in Fullerton during the Great Depression. "Pastoral California" is one of the few remaining fresco murals in the nation, and the largest extant FWAP mural created by one person. Whitewashed with beige paint in 1939, the mural was restored in 1997, with

the combined efforts of business and civic leaders, school administrators, teachers, students, alumni, local artists, and numerous volunteers. The restoration project symbolized a strong community spirit, and the respect for tradition and history that are a part of the city of Fullerton.

### 3. Walter J. Cadman House (865 N. Richman) (HL-106)



Built in 1929 this home is a pristine example of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. Although born in Anaheim, Jack Cadman spent most of his life

in Fullerton. He graduated from Fullerton Union High School in 1936, and Fullerton College in 1939. His education was interrupted by the sudden death of his father, which forced him to work to help his family. He then served as a radar technician with the U.S. Navy during World War II, after which he attended and graduated from the University of California, Berkley in 1947, studying technical criminology, now known as forensic science. While at UC Berkeley, Cadman met his future wife, Evelyn F. McDonald (1923-2004). The couple would remain married for 56 years, producing eight children, all raised in Fullerton.

### 4. Otto Evans House (1203 Luane) (HL-107)



This Spanish Colonial Revival was also built in 1929. When Otto Evans moved to Fullerton in 1913, at the age of 20, he began a love affair with the city

that did not end until his death in 1978. A role model for compassion and service, Mr. Evans dedicated almost 60 years of time, effort and talent to improving the lives of Fullerton residents. Called a one-man Chamber of Commerce for Fullerton, he was a member of virtually every booster organization in the city thus earning him the moniker, "Mr. Fullerton". He owned and managed the Evans Candy Shop from 1914-1945, a hub of activity in Fullerton.

## 2021 Election of Officers

Fullerton Heritage Board of Directors has reluctantly decided not have a formal 2021 Annual Meeting. We are hoping to have an abbreviated meeting at one of Fullerton's most prominent historic sites in the near future.

The following serves as the ballot. Please email your vote to [info@fullertonheritage.org](mailto:info@fullertonheritage.org) or call the Hot Line at (714) 740-3051 by July 24, 2021. Votes not received will be assumed to be votes in favor of the Board's recommendation, and will be voted by the Board by proxy.

The following candidates are recommended to serve as directors of the Corporation for two years:

- Maureen Burton
- Terry Galvin
- Ann Gread
- Ernie Kelsey
- Noelle Rossi
- Joan Wolff

I vote for the candidates listed above

Write-in candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

The following continue to serve on the board: Jordan Byers, Jennifer Harris, Bob Linnell, Deb Richey and Ray Sly

## Eddy

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*Cadman in 1943*

Pilots. At the time, thousands of newly manufactured fighters, bombers, and transport airplanes needed to be moved from factories to air bases and for shipment overseas.

With male pilots needed for combat duty, there was a severe shortage of pilots at home, necessitating the hiring of female pilots. The only woman selected from Orange County, Vivian and her fellow fly girls test piloted experimental aircraft and ferried planes all over the nation. Flying seven days a week, they logged over 60 million miles in every type of airplane developed during World War II, eventually delivering 12,650 aircraft. They also trained men to fly and towed aircraft targets for ground and air gunner anti-aircraft practice – with live ammunition. A qualified pursuit pilot, Vivian flew 17 different aircraft, including the P-51 Mustang, her favorite. Her sense of direction was so superb that male pilots often followed her home.

After her training at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, Vivian was posted to Dallas, then to Palm Springs. Although the women pilots were performing a unique and valuable wartime service, they faced continual hostility, bias, and discrimination. Male pilots often resented the women's presence in a traditionally male military setting. When the WASP were placed with the Third Tow Target Squadron at Camp Davis in North Carolina, every man in the squadron requested immediate transfer. Male pilots told the Long Beach WASPs to go home and that their organization should never have been formed. Many male pilots and commanders believed that the women did not have the judgment to fly heavy planes or that they could not handle the strain of their responsibilities. For a time, the women pilots were grounded by male commanders during their menstrual cycles (ten days

a month) because of the widespread belief that they were less efficient during menses. Women performed exactly the same tasks as the male civil ferry pilots, but received two-thirds of the pay of the men they replaced (the women were paid \$250 a month). One of the most egregious examples of discrimination the WASP encountered was the failure of the military to grant them veteran status. Because the women pilots were considered civilians, the Army did not pay for funeral expenses. When one of them was killed, the others pitched in to have her remains returned home, and then helped with funeral expenses. The American flag could not be draped over the coffins, but the families and the women pilots did it anyway. The women were also responsible for their own transportation costs to training sites, dress uniforms, and room and board.

Vivian returned to regular life after the WASP were unceremoniously disbanded on December 20, 1944, as male pilots began returning home in growing numbers. She was told to buy her own bus ticket home. Even though Vivian was licensed to fly commercial airliners, there were no jobs for professional women pilots at the time, and so she took the only position that would keep her in the air: she became a stewardess for American Airlines. She reconnected with her high school, college, and CPT classmate, Lt. Howard B. Eddy (1921-2016), a naval aviator. The couple married on September 22, 1946, producing three daughters. Howard Eddy's tours of duty took the family to Washington, D.C.; Pensacola, Florida; Barber's Point, Hawaii; and Point Mugu, California. The couple eventually retired in Coronado, California. Over the years, the Eddys purchased a string of single-engine Piper aircraft and began flying cross country and as far south as central Mexico. Vivian remained very active. She was a member of the Sea and Air Women's Golf Association; belonged to the Coronado Republican Women's Club; served as president of the Coronets, the Coronado Playhouse auxiliary; and was elected board member and later president of the Coronado Playhouse Board of Directors.



*Cadman in later life.*

The contributions and accomplishments of the women pilots remained unrecognized by the military for over 30 years. In 1977, after decades of intense lobbying in Washington, D.C., the unsung heroines were finally recognized as veterans and granted benefits. Long overdue credit was finally given on March 20, 2010, when the surviving WASP, then in their eighties and nineties, were presented with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor that Congress can bestow. Vivian, in a wheelchair, proudly accepted her medal, posing for photographs outside Capitol Hill. She passed away at her home in Coronado on April 29, 2013, at the age of 91. Her remains were interred with military honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on May 25, 2013. Vivian and her brother, Jack Cadman, a legendary forensic scientist, are both listed on the Fullerton Union High School Wall of Fame, the only siblings to be so honored.

Additional Information on Vivian and the Cadman family will be found in the Local History Room of the Fullerton Public Library. Vivian also sat for an extensive interview in 2003 in Palm Springs for the Veterans History Project, which can be viewed online (<https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.16743/mv0001001.stream>).

## Fullerton High School Auditorium Update

By Terry Galvin

The Fullerton High School Auditorium is currently under construction to bring the building up to seismic standards and implement other safety requirements. Fullerton Heritage has been able to visit the site regularly and is very pleased that the Project Manager is preservation minded and welcoming.

The addition to the east side of the auditorium required massive footings even though it is only one story high. The footings become part of the seismic strengthening for the auditorium since the addition is connected to it. Thirty-eight vertical concrete encased thirty-foot long reinforcing steel bundles, called caissons, are set into the ground around the outline of the addition and are connected by a foundation of horizontal caissons. According to the Project Manager, this should support a small skyscraper. Due to the mass of the auditorium, earthquake shaking is a major concern, so this is the engineer's solution.

On the west side two buttresses are required at the midpoint of the auditorium wall. They will be supported by four vertical and horizontal caissons at the end of the covered walkway from the Administration Building. The covered portion will no longer attach to the auditorium. The buttresses will be about 13 feet high to connect to the wall of the auditorium over the roof of the arcade and will



*Ariel view of eastside construction.*

avoid the historic Kassler mural below the roof. Construction of the addition on the east side should be underway by the time this newsletter is published.

Work on the interior will be more visible. Initially, the interior work has involved removal of unused conduits and other items in the basement to make way for the new construction.

New electrical conduit has been placed on the interior of the auditorium to allow for installation of required smoke and fire related warning systems which must be in sight and hearing of the audience. The conduit is small and has been kept within the acoustic panels where possible. It will be painted the color of the wall where it is visible.

Potentially, the most destructive work will be the reinforcement of the columns. A thin seismic material must wrap around each column. Decorative capitals at the balcony floor level cover the connection of the columns to the floor above. They are a plaster material and will probably not survive being cut for removal. A firm that makes molds for this type of problem has been contacted to review the situation. It is hoped that molds can be made so the decorative plaster can be recast.

The project is on schedule for an early 2022 completion.

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## The Old Fullerton High School Gymnasium (Sorta) Lives On

by Terry Galvin

While the new \$8 million gymnasium is an impressive improvement for those who work there and use the facility for sports activities, many users of the old gym were saddened when it had to be replaced. The decision to accelerate the planned replacement was based on the severe structural condition that caused the State to prohibit occupancy of the old building.

As matters of historical interest and value, some of the artifacts and features of the old gym were incorporated into the new building along



*Gymnasium Lobby*

with state-of-the-art equipment and electronics.

The entrance to the building is a full width lobby that is like a museum of Fullerton High School athletic events. The side walls show a photographic collage of student athletes. Display cases line the wall that provides entry to the gym floor and seating. Over the cases are the letters spelling GYMNASIUM from the front of the old gym. In the cases are historic trophies and uniforms, and the 1974 wood carv-

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## President's Corner

### Summer 2021 Edition

by Ernie Kelsey

Greetings and Happy Summer Everyone.

It's so nice to see the days getting longer and people returning to their own version of normalcy. Like they said in the past, happy days are here again!! Fullerton Heritage has kept busy and continues our mission of preserving our past so future generations of Fullertonians can enjoy it as much as we do today.

Our efforts with the City to find qualified Mills Act candidates continues. This is the first round of applications and we're working with the City to iron out any wrinkles in the various processes that take place during the application period. This is another great example of the partnership Fullerton Heritage shares with the City of Fullerton.

We've also been spending time reviewing plans for any Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) being constructed in Fullerton's Historic Districts. In partnership with the City, Fullerton Heritage reviews the construction plans to ensure they complement the neighborhood. The State has mandated Cities to allow ADU construction and since alleys support ADUs well, a lot of new ADUs are being built in our Historic Districts. This is something we need to relentlessly monitor.

We wrote a letter to the Historic Theater Foundation Board reaffirming our commitment to preserving the Fox Theater while supporting new development ideas that would ensure the buildings

are open to the public again. We can't have another generation miss the joy of being in the Fox.

In addition, we've continued our efforts to keep the Amerige Brothers Realty Office in tip top shape. We're monitoring the construction at the Fullerton Auditorium while keeping up with our outreach efforts with City Staff. As you're aware, there is some turmoil in City leadership at the moment, but Fullerton Heritage is keeping in touch with key associates to ensure preservation is always considered when making decisions.

The global pandemic has impacted our membership renewal rates because so much has been going on in our lives. Now that things are looking better, what a better time to renew your membership if you haven't already. You can renew online (<https://fullertonheritage.org/join.php>) or contact the Hotline (714) 740-3051 to request a renewal form. Your involvement is instrumental to the success of this impactful organization.

Thank you for your ongoing support and enjoy your summer!

With warm regards,

—Ernie

### Welcome New Members:

Wendy Bessel, Loren DuPuy, Justin & Connie Hansen, Amy & Ron Michelotti, and Tim Ream

## Hunt Library Update

by Ernie Kelsey

The Hunt Library is full of life as the City prepares to take this local treasure to its next chapter. With the leadership of Arts Orange County, the community has been involved in deciding what the Hunt will become so we all have to stay tuned for that. In the meantime, under the excellent historic restoration tutelage of Thirtieth Street Architects, restoration and maintenance plans have been drawn up and approved. A grant has been awarded by the state to assist in the restoration. As part of the grant money stipulation, there must be a library component in the Hunt. This has been defined and people will be able to have abbreviated library services at the Hunt, as well as a reference section providing resource materials related to William Pereira, the Hunt Complex architect, the life of Norton Simon, and the history of Hunt-Wesson in Fullerton. Fullerton Heritage is excited to see all this begin. We have been watching the Hunt for years and are enthusiastic with the prospect of enjoying the inside of this local treasure again.

## Historic District Signs

by Ray Sly

By now you may have noticed new signs around the neighborhood welcoming you into a Historic District. These signs, a collaboration between City of Fullerton and the Fullerton Heritage, were placed near the entrances of several neighborhoods designated by the city as Historic Districts. The signs bring awareness to these neighborhoods, and the homes that have been carefully preserved by property owners. Phase 1 placed signs in the 10 districts that are also designated as Preservation Zones. Phase 2 is in the works and will place similar signs in the 6 remaining Historic Districts by end of year.



## Johnson House Listed on National Register

By Ann Gread

The Hugh Edgar Johnson House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on February 4, 2021. In addition to being the 23rd place in the City listed on the National Register, it is also designated a Fullerton Local Landmark. Located at 444 W. Brookdale Pace, the property is associated with Fullerton News Tribune editor/owner Hugh Edgar Johnson, who along with his wife Mildred, had the home constructed in 1928 by notable local building contractor Evan J. Herbert. The construction cost was \$15,000, an enormous sum at the time.

The home is located on the southeast corner of Brookdale Place and Richman Avenue. It is situated in Brookdale Heights Preservation Zone. Originally promoted as an area of superior housing and attractive views, Brookdale Heights was a focal point of residential



construction in Fullerton from 1926 to 1930.

The striking dwelling is a one-story plus half basement, wood-frame, Spanish Colonial Revival that has Mayan Revival influences. The residence is the only Spanish Colonial Revival building in the city that has Mayan and Aztec decorative features on the exterior and interior. The home's dramatic temple-like entryway,

decorative windows, columns, ziggurat porch posts, and interior fireplace surround - produced by California Clay Products—are unique to Fullerton.

The current owners, Al and Maureen Burton, have done an outstanding job preserving, restoring, and loving this remarkable Fullerton treasure.

## Fox Theater Update

By Ernie Kelsey

Work slowly continues on the Fox including the Tea Room and various other small projects. Detailed plans have been completed and resources are always being explored. The Historic Theater Foundation Board (HTFB) is currently updating bids to gain a complete understanding of the overall budget it would take to get the Fox open to the public again. Meanwhile,

there has been some interest from developers that the City and HTFB have been exploring. The next phase of the Fox will more than likely involve “adaptive reuse”. This means that the theater component would remain, but other activities would be designed to be enjoyed in the Fox. During this process of discovery and ideas, Fullerton Heritage is committed to preserving the Fox and looks forward to enjoying it when it opens again in any capacity.

## FHS Gym Lives On

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ing the school's Indian mascot.

The lobby is also the concession area. Since no food is allowed inside the gym, stand-up tables are provided along with television monitors. The table tops are made from sections of the floor from the old gym, and the metal pedestals have been fabricated to include the school logo at the bases.



Tabletops made from the floor of the old gym.

The Alma Mater sign contributed by the Class of 1975 has been refurbished and mounted by the scoreboard in the gym. The gym floor was constructed similar to the original gym floor in appearance with a minimum of painted surfaces.

Fullerton Heritage applauds the High School District for its recognition of the historical value of its older facilities when faced with changes for future needs.



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