

A HEART FOR TUSTIN: REMEMBERING PHIL COX



JULY 11, 1937 - JANUARY 4, 2025

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EVENT

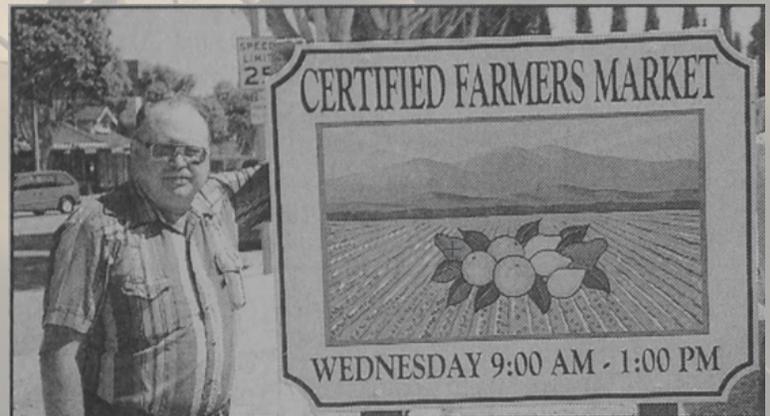
Guided Residential Walking Tour

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 PM | Start: Tustin Area Senior Center | 200 S. C. St.

Join us for a stroll through Tustin's history on a guided walking tour featuring Old Town homes with an emphasis on military history.

Phil Cox was a longtime Tustin resident and historian who continued his family's legacy of preserving Tustin's early history. Cox Market Plaza, located on the southeast corner of El Camino and Main, was originally built in 1926 and was managed by Samuel Tustin and overseen by Ed Kiser. The plaza was first home to Kiser's Tustin Café and later became Preston and Cox Market, established by Phil's parents Ed and Leola Cox in 1936. It was later renamed Tustin Food Center, Tustin's only market at the time.

IN TRIBUTE



(Photo by Mindy Schauer, Orange County Register/SCNG)

Phil Cox added to the Plaza and created the mini-museum within a small internal space to display historic artifacts, including farm equipment, gas pumps, a syrup canister, a smudge pot, and the original safe from the Tustin National Bank. Behind the building, remnants of Tustin's early irrigation system, operated by the Santa Ana Valley Irrigation Company, and a wooden boardwalk can still be seen. Phil Cox was a key figure in preserving the City's agricultural history and has left a lasting legacy in Old Town Tustin.

Want to learn more about Phil's life?
Watch Tustin Area Historical Society's
Video: "[A Chat with Phil Cox](#)"



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