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Garner

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ran from 1974 to 1980, helped propel Garner to stardom and put Malibu on the map, showing off beautiful landscape around Paradise Cove.

And, in the days since his death, news accounts have resurfaced that detail Garner playing a pivotal role in helping preserve areas of the Santa Monica Mountains.

In addition to "The Rockford

Files," Garner lit up the small screen on the long-running "Maverick," and starred in dozens of movies. Young people will probably remember him best as the elderly Noah in 2004's "The Notebook."

But according to those who knew him, Garner was much more than an actor.

Reports by the *LA Times* this week dug up a story from a Los Angeles City Council meeting that took place 50 years ago this month, during which Garner went toe to toe with Councilman Karl Rundberg over conservation of the Santa Monica Mountains.

According to the original article, which is available on the *LA Times* website, Garner was with a group of other concerned citizens, including notably Steve McQueen and Eva Marie Saint, who approached Rundberg after a meeting in July 1964.

As recounted in the *LA Times*' July 30, 1964 edition:

"Garner then edged in from the fringe of the group and asked Rundberg if he represented the 11th district, which includes much of the mountain district.

Rundberg said he did. Witnesses said the actor, raising

his voice, moved toward Rundberg and accused him of not representing the district and of being personally interested in 'certain developments' in the mountain area.

The councilman whirled in his chair.

'You're a liar,' he shouted, his face blanching. 'I will not be intimidated.'

Stepping still closer, Garner said, 'I am not a liar and I am bigger than you.'

'In height, weight or stature?' the 65-year-old, 6 ft. councilman retorted, leaping from his chair.

Garner, the words tumbling out, said, 'Remember, we are the people.'

'You're an actor,' Rundberg shouted.'

According to Los Angeles County Supervisor and longtime friend of Garner's, Zev Yaroslavsky, this is hardly where Garner's environmental activism ended.

"If there was an environmental cause, James Garner was there," said Yaroslavsky, who went on to praise his work against oil drilling off Will Rogers Beach in Los Angeles in the 1980s.

"Jim Garner was the man who did the television commercial for it on our side against the oil drill-

ing," said Yaroslavsky, "It was a 25-second commercial that won the election for us, we were able to repeal the Occidental Oil permit."

According to Stephanie S. Pincetl's 1999 book "Transforming California: A Political History of Land Use and Development," Garner also was instrumental in founding a group called Friends of the Santa Monica Mountains.

But that information was not backed up by spokespeople at the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC), who said there is no record of such a group.

"I don't know what that group did," said Dash Stolarz, spokesperson for the SMMC, adding, "even internally, we don't know."

However, Yaroslavsky said it is likely Garner stayed involved in conservation of the Santa Monica Mountains.

"I was not aware that he was involved, but it does not surprise me at all because he cared deeply about the environment," said Yaroslavsky.

Garner is survived by his wife of nearly 58 years, Lois Clarke, their daughter Greta and Garner's stepdaughter Kim.

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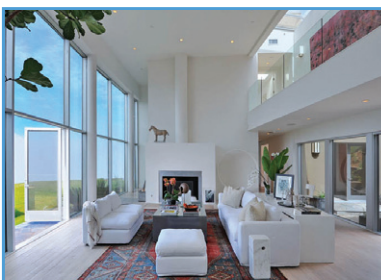
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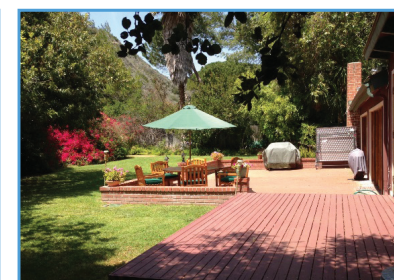
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Poison Free

From page A1



Members of Poison Free Malibu visited Pepperdine for Earth Day to educate students and staff on the dangers of rodenticide.

die, they actually exit the boxes and start the chain of death."

Poison-Free Malibu formed in early 2013 and includes five members, all Malibu residents. Recently, according to member Wendi Werner, they achieved official 501(c)3 nonprofit status.

In 2013, PFM worked with the city to pass a resolution urging "businesses in Malibu to no longer use or sell anticoagulant rodenticides," along with urging "all property owners to cease purchasing or using anticoagulant rodenticides." At that time, the City of Malibu also pledged to no longer use anticoagulant rodenticides.

"After we educate the public, their main reaction is, 'We want nothing to do with these poisons.'"

**KIAN SCHULMAN
POISON FREE MALIBU**

In addition to help from the City and grassroots footwork inside Malibu, PFM has also made an impact on rodenticide use all across the Santa Monica Mountains region, inspiring groups in Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Moorpark, Ojai, Westlake Village and Whittier to work to eliminate the poisons in their communities.

According to experts with NPS, a lack of understanding has made halting the use of rodenticides more difficult.

"Most of the people who are using these anticoagulant rodenticides are not aware that the poison works its way up the food chain and is impacting the wildlife," said Kuykendall.

PFM members added that the more community education there is, the more people cut out rodenticides.

"After we educate the public, their main reaction is, 'I want to have nothing to do with these poisons,'" said Schulman.

Bob Stallings, City of Malibu Parks and Recreation Director, has been working with the group since 2013 to spread awareness over the dangers of anticoagulant rodenticides.

"[We] put together an education program and reach out to these shopping centers and owners and say we've got some ideas we'd like to share with you [to] improve the overall health and safety of the animals in our community," said Stallings.

The outreach project has so far been a success, according to accounts on PFM's website.

The site lists local businesses

that have pledged not to use these pesticides: Nobu, Vintage Grocers, Nikita, V's and Starbucks, as well as Pepperdine University.

"There's really not that big a need for [anti]coagulants — start with a broom and a mop," said Vintage Grocers general manager Eric Fuchser.

"It's a horrific death and no animal should have to go through that," added Fuchser, who said that his own dog was a victim of rodenticides and died after eating a poisoned rodent. "I know pests are pests, but I think there are other ways of dealing with them and poison is just a lazy way out."

Pepperdine confirmed that it no longer uses rodenticides, following PFM outreach this past Earth Day, in April 2014.

Wendi Werner, another founding member of PFM, described the alternative pest-control method encouraged by PFM and the City of Malibu.

"Our motto is 'clean up, seal up, trap up,' to protect the animals in the Santa Monica Mountains," said Werner.

What this essentially means is, store- and homeowners can avoid the need for bait boxes if they make sure to keep their property clean and dry, making it much less tempting to pests.

According to Werner, the businesses that have complied with PFM's request for poison removal have not complained of rodent issues.

"They keep everything sparkling clean, so it's great, they don't need to use a bait box," Werner said.



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