

John Medica tape #1 (July 21, 1982)

App - Counter	Comment or question
053	When I left the old country, 1922...
064	How I came to Eureka; logging background
076	Why I left Yugoslavia for Eureka
090	Going into the turkey business; the Depression
112	WW II improves the economy and the chicken business
118	1943 buys 103 acres
128	When did you start doing your work here?
142	Where did you get your training?
163	What was the first thing you built?
176	When did the walkways and castles start?
185	Did you have any plans or drawings?
194	"His whole life was his rock work!"
206	"That's when he begged me..."
215	How about the cactus and plantings--when did those start?
224	Were the castles modeled after places in Europe?
231	Any formal schooling?
239	Were there many people living around here when you came?
256	Talking about rock quarries
285	Are the bridges reinforced concrete, or is there metal in there?
317	Did you have any help doing this?
325	Was Luther Burbank around here then?
330	Are the giant cactus from this area?
366	HELPING to build a stone windry
371	Now you're down to four acres?
390	Are you religious?
410	Medica sounds Italian, is it?
415	Brothers or any other relatives?
428	Did you ever travel much?
448	"He depends upon me for everything"

John Medica

Tape #2

July 21, 1982

Side One

Counter

Comment or question

011 Your relationship to the neighbors and city--
you tried to give the city your property once?

038 Do people like what you've done here?

046 You tried to make a park out of this?

085 The man owns half the bridge...

092 Did you tell the city that you were leaving your
property to them?

104 The people who come here--how do they know about you?

122 Did the castles used to light up at night?

146 "I'm losing my sight, my eyes aren't so good..."

153 How'd you get the time to take care of these 4 acres?

166 His operations

175 "His whole life is the garden; to me, it's not worth it."

198 Do you have a name for this place?

204 When did they name the road after you?

211 When did the park come in?

237 Did you use any heavy equipment?

254 Building a rock wall and a bridge

266 The bridge collapses

285 We built a wall near a half-million-dollar house

306 Wall collapses

326 When did you give up the turkeys?

334 When did you two meet?

384 Tell me again when the castles and bridges were started

392 You mentioned that one of your cornerstones is very
strong and has your name on it

411 Did anyone else take any film here other than the t.v. folks?

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John Medica tape 2, side one and side two

Counter

comment or questions

424 The Santa Rosa post office has a bear sculpture
427 Did you build any castles for anyone?
436 Will you eventually sell this place?
447 If you were 55 again, what would you be doing?
475 "He took a college course..."
H

TAPE TWO, SIDE TWO

005 When did you stop working?
023 A castle moved to Redwood City
042 Any chance of the city keeping it the way it is?
061 We hired an attorney
090 END OF TAPE

Notes for tape Medina 21 July 1982

July 21, 1982

Astoria, now Yugoslavia, ^{20 mi. f.} small town Trieste
parents Yugoslavian
father - ~~ran a business~~ for a living - subsistence
began building fence, etc. 1945
when materials came avail. after the war
1st built 1 house on site -
torn-down
on new devel. land

then his house, then guest house
palm-wares, castles, etc. - beg.
no plans - only in his head
married 1955, nothing there in 1955
used to graze sheep,
mr. "I invent everything, it's all in
my imagination"
"just grammar school"
now living up in that sect
of land,

⊙

He found shipped rocks from quarry
that had been discarded after blasting

bridges - reinforced - some have rods
(usually used ~~for~~^{steel} pipe)

some built against solid stone
on other side, not reinforced
no cracks on bridges

help - very little "99% I did myself"

Luther Burbank died 1926 - in S.R.,

plants came from - friend in nursery

randomly business gave them cactus - ~~for~~ ~~Burbank~~
~~was~~ all plantings in after 1955,
prickly pear cactus 1^{1/2}

Stone winery ^{nearby} & repaired by John Medica

no children.

John Medica - went to church every
Sunday until his hearing - Catholic

neighbors - Medica doesn't want to talk about
not friendly - some like, maybe, the
property

② ^{they} some time had in Will, to give
to city - + tie in to Howard Park
+ Spring Lake,
never told the City this
that Will has been changed.

2
yrs. ago, used to bring kids a lot,
lights - ever completed? (not by J. M.)

"His whole life is this garden." - his wife

"Medica's Place" - John says its called
road named after him c. 1950
Howard Park started - (city bought land
from Johnson water Co. +
donated land to a park)

c. 1950
designed + built house
(1st bridge built not on site,
collapsed.)

bridges + water started 1900-01 or 02
to film + PD articles

Santa Rosa P.D. - bear sculpture - did John do it
Robert Gold - dropped the sculpture for a
rock of Medica's property

Tape - (cont.)

stopped working on site -
did work in 17 years,

built & moved a castle to Redwood City
didn't build anything since his
heart surgery 6 yrs prior to 1982
of 10 acres - other owner, owns $\frac{3}{4}$ of the road &
bridge to the Medina property,