



Napa County Museum Association

473 MAIN STREET, ST. HELENA, CALIFORNIA 94574, (707) 963-7411


CURATOR'S STATEMENT: "A TRIBUTE TO LITTO",
POPE VALLEY'S HUBCAP KING

The first time I drove past Litto's place I was thrilled, dazzled by the glitter and shine of a fence full of aluminum hubcaps, strongly contrasting with, yet somehow enhancing the rural setting. Here was something unusual and unexpected, something worth stopping for ... I had discovered Litto.

He was a strong individualist, a unique personality with a powerful sense of himself, but he didn't consider himself an artist, and certainly not a "folk artist". During his lifetime, Litto collected more than 3,000 hubcaps, as well as a vast array of signs and other items which most people would have consigned to the refuse heap. Instead, he shaped them into his own creation, arranging them as he saw fit. As he himself said in an interview with "Smithsonian Magazine", "This is my place; Litto's place. It's nobody's but mine. You can travel all you want (and) you don't see no hubcap ranch, no hubcap king."

Our "Tribute to Litto" represents a small part of his hubcap/artwork collection, as well as many personal items; photographs, ties, and other mementos of a long and productive life. It also includes a photographic tribute to Litto, his ranch, and life as recorded by seven local photographers.

To me, Litto's creative character represents the essence of art, a purity of purpose and vision that typify the true artist, regardless of what he may call himself. Through the encouragement of admirers and working with his family, Litto became a vital part of his community, and never lost sight of his goal. Hubcap ranch exists because, for Litto, it had to.



CLINTON HULSE
GALLERY CURATOR

LITTO EXHIBIT CREDITS

CURATOR: Clinton Hulse

ADVISORS: Bonnie Hammond & The Damonte Family

DESIGN ADVISOR: Jerry Warman

VIDEO PRESENTATION: Dan Damonte

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Renee' Austin
Faith Echemeyer
Sharon Geyer
William Miller
Becca Smith
Al Ventimiglia
Thea Witsel
Ron Zak

DRAWING COURTESY OF Earl Thollander

WRITING: *STAFF* → Sheri Carter - P.R.
↳ Peggy Klick - BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Meri Vahl -

STAFF ASSISTANTS: Kendra Hillis
Lesley Warner

ELECTRICIAN: Jay Cooke

WINE COURTESY OF Jean and Cody Kirkham, Casa Nuestra Winery
1985 Tinto Red Table Wine

VIDEO RECORDER COURTESY OF Steve Fraire, Madrone High School



NAPA COUNTY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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THE NAPA COUNTY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION, a nonprofit cultural organization, presents exhibitions, programs and special events that recognize and celebrate the unique historical, artistic and environmental heritage of the region of Napa County.

Each year the Napa County Museum Association provides a wide variety of high-quality educational opportunities for the people of Napa County and its visitors. At the same time, the Association continues to increase its efforts to reach the goal of a permanent museum facility in Napa County.

New and exciting programs are planned regularly. Your membership contribution entitles you to immediate benefits including:

- * Notices to lectures, classes and all other cultural and educational activities
- * Invitations to special events
- * Discount on gift shop purchases
- * Discount on Association bus trips to museums, theater performances and historical sites
- * A year's subscription to the Napa County Museum Association Quarterly

And . . . your contribution helps support the traveling Trunk Museum program enabling hundreds of school children and others each month to learn more about the cultural heritage of Napa County.

Join now and help us grow! When you check your membership category please give as much as you can. Thank you.

Membership contributions are for a period of one year and are tax deductible.

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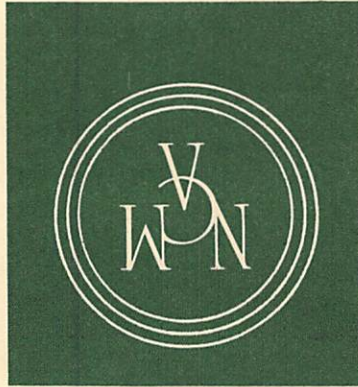
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Make checks payable to Napa County Museum Association and mail to the Association office, 473 Main Street, St. Helena, CA 94574.

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ST. HELENA, CA 94574

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