

2 sisters speak Italian
 Individualist Independent. ^{Wanted to tell the world that he was here}
 always puttered around a somethy - ^{to this was what he was} rshories to tell, ^{Somebody to say} somebody to say
 why did he start collecting hub caps? ^{his name & designs in the driveway} .. do they mean anything?

EMANUELE "LITTO" DANONTE: HUBCAP RANCH
 concrete curb alongside driveway

BIOGRAPHY

1892 February 2, born in Arenzano, near Genoa, Italy ^{mother had grocery store in Italy}
 Helped father do marble and mosaic (terrazzo) floors. ^{marble man - Stanford Chapel grand father}
 Wanted to be a priest. ^{Alter boy - activities centered around minor seminary}
 1907/1911 Moved to U.S. with his mother and sister. The boat took 16 days to New York ^{father - I sent him to work on Stanford Chapel father got mosaic}
 followed by a 6 day train ride to San Francisco, Ferry Building. ^{Golden Gate Concrete Co}
 1920's-40's Worked as a cement contractor in San Francisco ^{what kind of jobs}
 1941 ^{May} ^{Run depressor} Worked 6 days a week - 10-12 days a week. ^{worked in Daily City has long}
 1942 Litto retired. He hated paying taxes and so moved to Pope valley where there was no taxation. He started to build on his property. - ^{did he build the houses/sheds?}

~~1947~~ Litto started his collection of hubcaps. - ^{Why hubcaps?}
 He constructed a barrier of cement, old tires, rock posts and hubcaps to prevent motorists from turning around in his driveway and scattered gravel hauled from the local quarry. Later neighbors began bringing him their unwanted trash. He built wishing wells and bird houses. Washing machines and toilets were incorporated in his environment. ^{Family look for a place in the city to buy. All went up weekends. spent more time here after he retired.}

1954 Litto's wife, Elizabeth, died.
 1957 ^{mid 50's started collecting. hung a couple up. People gave him some. (collected) them along road then people wd buy him more.}
 Started to hang hubcaps (according to Smithsonian Magazine article. Check)

1981 May. Hubcap Ranch was nominated as California Registered Historical Landmark #939. ^{bird houses from reg crates}

1984 3,000 hubcaps (estimate) (source unknown check)
 Died June 11 1985 ^{Thouse = there & a couple Red trees. show people what he did - all bare around.}

1985 Hubcap Ranch was allocated a plaque by the State Historical resources Commission. ^{show people what he did - all bare around.}
 Litto has 3 sons and 4 daughters; 24/25 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.
 93rd birthday - still had annual birthday party at school. ^{always left trademark of his wk. driveway - star of insignia that he put in.}
 Litto has been on Bay Area TV Stations 3, 4, 5 and 7.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Michael - Litto's grandson (Emanuele N. Danonte's son) still lives here. = custodian of the property.
 CREASE, Robert and Charles Mann
 1983 The Transformed Trash of Untrained Artists. *Smithsonian Magazine* (Aug) Vol. 14, No. 5. pp. 82-91. ^{majority his own / Almost entirely.}
 CURTIS, Robert
 Litto's Hubcap ranch ^{Merced Independent}
 HILLINGER, Charles
 1980 Collector is a Big Wheel in Hubcaps. *Los Angeles Times* (Aug. 8) Part 1, p. 3.
 KIRSCH, Jonathan
 1978 Four California Visionaries: Lost and Found Art. *New York* Vol 13, No. 10. pp. 229-33
 PENNY, Lynn
 1974 Litto "Collects" and Makes It Art. *The Register*. (Nappa Valley) (Dec. 7) pp. 1-2.
 Pope Valley Man Loves Unique Folk Art. p. 3. (Newspaper--source unknown)

Every body else wd show away. ^{family thys that everyone else wd show away.}
 started to swing a wheel them too - people wd save them for him. Used hubcaps thys that cement = embedded in house - bare dirt full cement or white. Brand new full top soda on 5 cart him with?

sm: "Disneyland north"
 people don't connect + name Danonte - but many people know + hub caps.
 D. did it for his own satisfaction. Amused & proud of his notoriety.

? 1984 Ripley's believe it or not Hub-a-Hubba

ROSEN, Seymour

1979 *In Celebration of Ourselves*. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

STERN, Jane & Michael *Amazing America*, New York Random House 1977

THOLLANDER, Earl

1971 *Back Roads of California: Selected Trips and Solo Roads off California's Major Highways*. Menlo Park: Lane Magazine and Book Co.

WAMPLER, Jan

1977 *All Their Own: People and the Places They Build*. New York: John Wiley and Sons.

WELLS, Bob

Pope Valley Yard a Head Swiveller. (source unknown)

EXHIBITIONS

1976 *In Celebration of Ourselves*. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

?? *Dreambuilders*. Chevron gallery. San Francisco.

SOURCES

Emanuel M. Damonte (Sm) 415/588-6645
442 Zamora Drive
South San Francisco, CA

Office of Historic Preservation

Albert L. Hurtado prepared historic resources inventory 10/4/77.
P.O. Box 2390 Sacramento, CA 95811.
(916) 445-8006

Saint Helena Star (closest local newspaper)

Pacific Union College, Angwin, CA. (nearest local college) = 5 miles from Pope Valley

Albert Hurtado
Office for Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento 95811
916 445 8006

John Tuteur - president of the Napa Valley Foundation in Napa, CA.
wrote article on Napa Valley in Place (vol 5 #5 may 1985) (magazine publ by
Partners for Livable Places.

7th Day Adventist



and International will

ORDER 25A0000