

Duke Cahill Biography

1920 July 30 born Sacramento

choir boy
merchant service (marines) travelled a lot
boxer

Plasterer (started out with his elder brother who was an established
Moved into pools - 1st plastering then fibreglass (learned about that in Kansas City)
early 60's - bought farm/foreign ?? to potentially turn into restaurant.
Had problem with zoning. Wanted to build a big restaurant
and call it the Ad Room. Wanted to display the collection of 42's
posters he'd collected, where the public could see & enjoy them.

Property had been a chicken ranch. Duke first used it as a
construction yard because he couldn't afford anything else when he
started.

* 1966 Began building statues and fences.

Helped by Ray Wysnig (sp) a master machinist with
Campbell soup. Ray was with Duke for about 20 years.
Helped put together the fences and took care of the welding.

Martian characters came from Duke's imagination.

1966/67 Bottle "POPP" "___? old panther piss" was the first construction.

Cahill pioneered fibreglass swimming pools

* First thing built was the bottle. POPP
↓ lost money for the first 10 years, then perfected it.

Biography 2

Duke & Francis had planned to build a restaurant
bought the foreign (?) school to convert.

According to Linda Allen, Duke wanted to call the restaurant
the Ad Room because he had a big collection of old ads,
posters etc which he's collected for probably 40 years.
The restaurant would be a place where he could put them and
the public could enjoy them.

Duke = responsible for the signs sandblasted from wood.

1976

In Celebration of Ourselves

Duke Cahill bibliography

1979. Rosen Seymour In Celebration of Ourselves.
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art 1979

Site

Had his men build a club room on the days when they couldn't work.