

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments  
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2 September 1986

Ms. Sandra J. Elder  
Assistant Executive Secretary  
State Historical Resources Commission  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Sandy,

We have heard from Emanuele Damonte, Jr., who tells us that Fall 1986 is a good time for the installation and dedication of the plaque for Emanuele "Litto" Damonte's Hubcap Ranch in Pope Valley (Napa County), Landmark #939. We are aiming for the 3rd or 4th week in October for the celebration. Can the plaque be manufactured by then? Are state funds available to pay for the manufacture of the plaque? I enclose a text for the plaque, which we worked out with Litto's son, Mr. Damonte, Jr.

We also wish to request a plaque for John Medica's Garden, Santa Rosa, Landmark #939. We are trying to hammer out a trust with John and his lawyer for the perpetuation of his site. A plaque and the installation ceremony may help us galvanize the local community to support the site in this crucial early stage. As always, thank you for your assistance.

Best,



Seymour Rosen  
Director



Jocelyn Gibbs  
Associate/Consultant

encl.

cc: Emanuele Damonte, Jr.  
John Medica

PLAQUE FOR LITTO'S HUBCAP RANCH - text

HUBCAP RANCH

Emanuele "Litto" Damonte (1892 - 1985) began collecting hubcaps in the 1950's. By 1981 over 2,000 hubcaps and carefully arranged license plates, bottles, and pull-tops decorated his site, now called Hubcap Ranch. Over a period of more than 30 years "Litto" built over two hundred birdhouses which also decorate this site. All around Hubcap Ranch are constructions and arrangements which proclaim that "Litto, The Pope Valley Hubcap King" was here and made this place one of America's exceptional folk art environments.

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDMARK NO. 939

PLAQUE PLACED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN COOPERATION WITH SPACES (SAVING AND PRESERVING ARTS AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS), A NON-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL CORPORATION.

version #2

Over a period of more than 30 years, Emanuele "Litto" Damonte (1892 - 1985) built over 200 birdhouses, and with the help of his neighbors, collected more than 2,000 hubcaps. All around Hubcap Ranch are constructions and arrangements of hubcaps, bottles and pulltops which proclaim that "Litto, The Pope Valley Hubcap King" was here and made this place one of America's exceptional folk art environments.

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 939

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