

DUKE CAHILL

BIOGRAPHY

1920

July 30. Duke Cahill born in Sacramento.
Choirboy
Merchant Service (Marines). Travelled a lot.
Boxer

Plasterer. Started with his elder brother who was established.
Cahill moved into swimming pools, first plastering them. Later he moved to fiberglass (went to Kansas City to learn about fiberglass pools). For the first ten years he lost money, then he perfected the technique. Duke pioneered fiberglass swimming pools. On days when his men could not work, Duke had them build a clubroom.

1960's early

Duke and Franses bought a farm to convert into a restaurant. They had a problem with zoning. Duke wanted to build a big restaurant and call it the Ad Room. He wanted to display the collection of Ads and posters he had collected, where the public could see and enjoy them.

His property had been a chicken ranch. Duke first used it as a construction yard because he could not afford anything else when he started.

1966

Began building statues and fences. Duke was helped by Ray Whysnig (sp??) a master machinist with Campbell Soup. Ray Helped put together the fences and took care of all the welding. He was with Duke for about 20 years.

Duke was responsible for the signs sandblasted from wood.
The Martian characters came from Duke's imagination.

1966/67

The Bottle POPP (? old panther piss) was the first construction.

EXHIBITIONS

1976

In Celebration of Ourselves

PUBLICATIONS

ROSEN, Seymour

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

Duke Cahill

Life History Info. Anything with dates. Find out about parents, wife etc. Schooling b. July 20 1920. Find out dates for when he was in the merchant service, a boxer, when he started to work for his brother as a plasterer and when he started up the swimming pool business. fibre glass etc. Find out about his travels, where he has been, what seen etc.

Bought his property early 60's for restaurant. Find out what the property was, why, the zoning problems he ran into, what he was going to put into it (Ad collection)

1966 Started building site. Helped by Ray (sounds like "why snig") find out out his collaboration and the collaboration of his workers. What was built first. Get chronology for site.

Find out about antique collection, and collection of other stuff (may be touchy subject because of robbery)

Bibliography. All we have is in celebration. Any others, newspaper articles etc. Get copies.

He is supposed to have been/ is interested in literature and poetry . . . Has he written anything. What is he interested in etc.

Detailed site description and *Chronology*.

Community attitude to site.

His attitude to the community and their reaction to him.

What exhibits has he been in other than in Celebrations.

Why did he start building.

Life philosophy

Has anyone else interviewed him . . . other sources we could go to.