

* When he first arrived, there was nothing here. He started to bring rocks from a nearby cliff for + driveway. However when people turned their cars around here, the rocks would get knocked over. To prevent this (1)

From Emanuele "Lito" Damonte was born in Arenzano, near Genoa

Italy. He helped his father do marble + mosaic floors

Lito wanted to be a priest.

In 1907 (or 1911) Lito ~~wanted~~

took + left the U.S. with his mother + sister; took the boat to NY + then + where they settled in + grew, Italo-American ^{community in San Francisco} P. train to San Francisco. Lito worked as a cement layer and tile cutter in SF and worked in Daly City. He began collecting all kinds of junk in the early 1940's, often incorporating designs in + concrete. (when ready-mix cement came in)

Upon his retirement in 1942, Lito moved to Pope Valley, in St Helena in Napa County to keep horses

because he hated paying taxes and there was no taxation there. He wanted a place to keep horses + soon had goats, sheep, pigs + cows too. He acquired 60 acres and

He started to build on his property. His hubcap collection

began in 1943. (1) Lito constructed a barrier of cement, old

tires, rock posts + hubcaps. Motors no longer turn around, - and this was the beginning of his creation. (2)

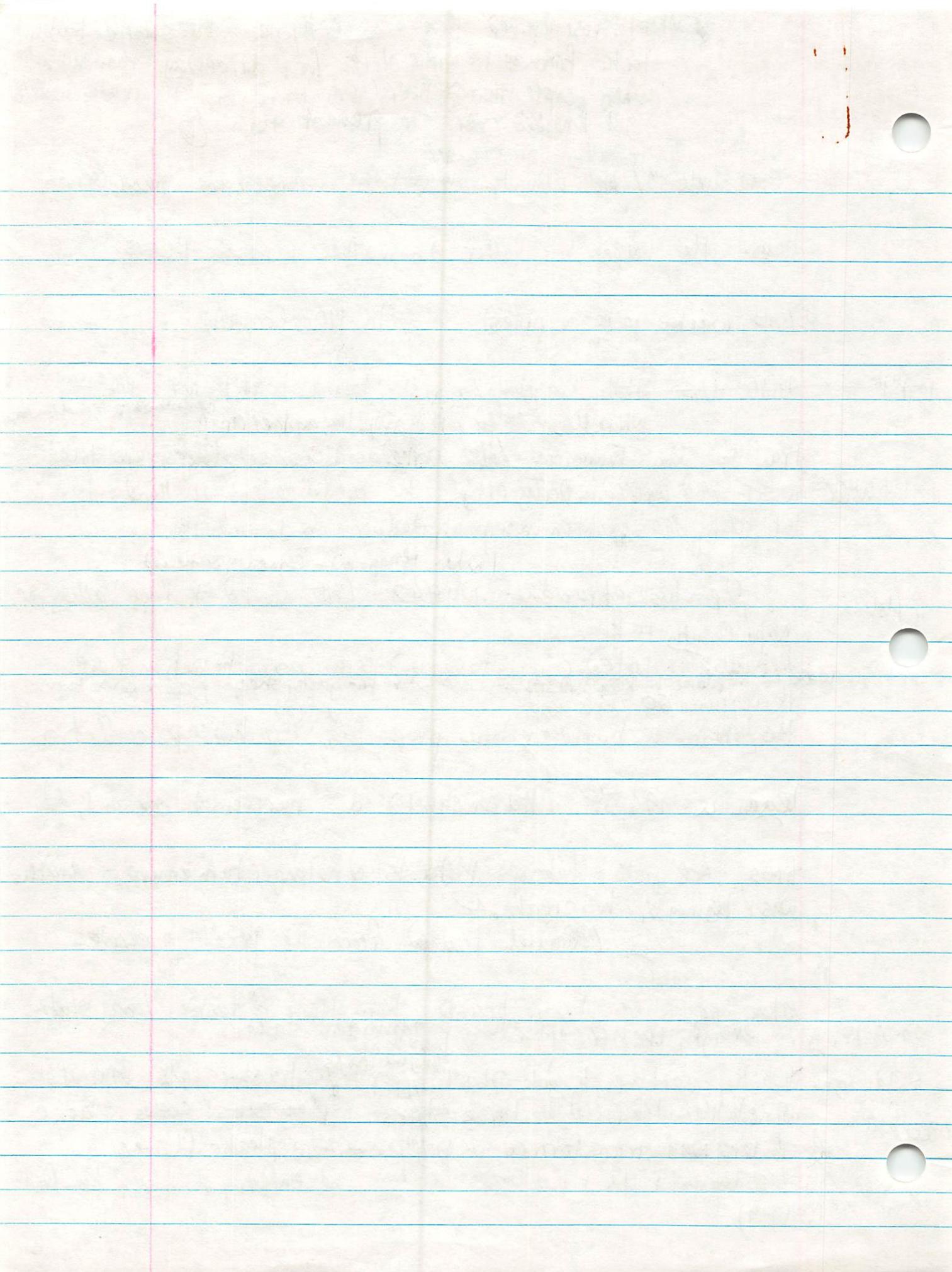
in his driveway. (3) Bravel hauled from the local quarries made wishing wells.

Later neighbors began bringing him their discards. Local clubs would bring him empty beer cans after their ^{immage} sales. + bird houses.

Road signs Washy machines + bicycle wheels + pop toys, tractor seats, animal skins, engine parts, wine bottles, perfume dolls, horse shoes, spray cans, kettles, plastic piggy banks

A Toilets was transformed into planters for plastic flowers.

Lito began building + bird houses for him, and ended up over 2 hundred (in 1979)



miniature castles rock grottos gold mine & railroad.

mother had store

junior boy - was in seminary life centred around ch.

Golden Gate Concrete Co in SF Standard bld,
did driveways, basements & foundations
in war. He retired.

Dec 41 war broke out - already had place -

June 41.

May 1944 lost bro in war -

Pope Valley. Lito bought it, family wd go up there weekends.

late

mid late 40's moved up there

← birdhouses 1st - boxes, crates

mid 50's

star = trademark re Sunset district

most = his own dog.

1972 Hollander visited made sketches -

(from then on many people came by
changed)

- pull tops started wear, them tog

garage & door of + toolshed - come on tree
some on front & then on S side., fences progress

~~★~~ licence plates 20-30 diff states -

Your sister Grace
daughter

wked 6 days a week 10/12

school & school children - ←

Individual Independence
This is mine I am

10 children Triplets died in influenza epidemic
good family life -

Everythg was done n a purpose & plan -

built concrete curv alongside driveways -