

# Romano Disk: Romano RPT

THIS WILL BE A REPORT SENT TO 25 OR SO PEOPLE IN EUREKA

MOST PEOPLE WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ROMANO GABRIEL IS INTERNATIONALLY, EUREKA'S MOST WELL KNOWN FIGURE - CERTAINLY IN THE ART WORLD.

THE PUBLIC INSTALLATION OF HIS SCULPTURED GARDEN ON SECOND STREET IN THE "OLD TOWN" REDEVELOPMENT AREA, BROUGHT GREAT HONOR TO ROMANO AND TO THE CITY.

THE 'OLD TOWN' PRESENTATION OF THE GARDEN IS WONDERFUL -UNFORTUNATELY THE "OFFICIAL" FACTUAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON ROMANO IS CONTRADICTORY OR NON EXISTANT.

IN JUST 3 DAYS OF RESEARCH IN EUREKA I FOUND BIRTH DATES OF 2/16/1887; 1888; 1889 AND 2/15/1896; - AND DEATH DATES OF 3/3/1977 AND 3/19/1977.

A NEWLY RELEASED BROCHURE FROM THE EUREKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LISTS ROMANO'S DEATH AS BEING IN THE 1970'S. IT GIVES THE INSTALLATION DATE OF HIS WORKS ON SECOND STREET AS 1977. ROMANO DID NOT DIE TILL 1977 AND IT WAS FIVE YEARS BEFORE THE EUREKA HERITAGE SOCIETY RAISED THE MONEY AND BUILT A STRUCTURE TO HOUSE A PERMANENT INSTALLATION. THE OFFICIAL OPENING WAS APRIL 3, 1982

THE CHAMBER'S BROCHURE ALSO STATES THAT ROMANO SPENT 30 YEARS ON THE PROJECT. IT IS COMMONLY THOUGHT THAT HIS WORK STARTED IN THE 1940'S - HOWEVER HIS FRIEND, LOUIS ROLANDELLI, THINKS IT HAD TO BE THE MID FIFTIES (EVEN MORE SPECTACULAR CONSIDERING THE AMOUNT OF WORK PRODUCED)

MY CURSORY RESEARCH THROUGH COUNTY GRANTOR RECORDS - SHOWS NO ROMANO GABRIEL OWNING ANY PROPERTY AT 1415 PINE BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1953. A ROMANO GABRIEL BOUGHT AT LEAST 7 PROPERTIES UP TO 1957 - AND, ACCORDING TO LOUIS ROLANDELLI, DEVELOPED THEM (E.G. BUILT HOUSES). MOST REFERENCES TO ROMANO CALL HIM A LABORER, CARPENTER AND GARDNER - YET HE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MORE OF A DEVELOPER AND ENTREPRENEUR

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY FILE ON ROMANO CONSISTS OF AN OUTDATED FACT SHEET AND A FEW NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS - THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FILE CONTAINS JUST 1 COPY EACH OF A BROCHURE, A PHOTOGRAPH, A PRESS RELEASE AND THE SAME FACT SHEET. THE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAUS WERE AS HELPFUL AS THEY COULD BE, BUT HAD LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION AVAILABLE.

WE KNOW THAT A PLAN WAS MADE OF ALL THE PIECES IN THE GARDEN BEFORE IT WAS DISMANTLED, BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW OF ITS WHEREABOUTS. . . DO YOU? ALSO WE NEED TO FIND OUT THE ICONOGRAPHY OF THE PIECES WHILE THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE IN EUREKA WHO REMEMBER THE STORIES.

COMPILING AN ACCURATE AND INFORMATIYE LIFE HISTORY OF ROMANO WOULD REQUIRE NO MORE THAN THE INTEREST AND COMMITMENT OF THE CITY AND CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS. THIS HISTORY COULD BE A CLASS PROJECT AT ONE OF THE LOCAL COLLEGES, OR A PROJECT OF ONE OF THE HISTORICAL OR ART GROUPS. A FEW WEEKS OF INTENSIVE RESEARCH AND ORAL HISTORIES COULD DRAW ALL THIS INFORMATION TOGETHER AND HAVE THE REAL HISTORY OF EUREKA'S MOST FAMOUS CITIZEN. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS BE DONE NOW, WHILE THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE AROUND WHO REMEMBER ROMANO AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GARDENS.

SPACES WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU WITH THE INFORMATION WE ALREADY HAVE DISCOVERED. WE CAN ALSO GIVE SUGGESTIONS OF WHAT OTHER INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE GATHERED, AS WELL AS POTENTIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

PLEASE LET US KNOW OF YOUR INTEREST.

*(these changes have been made on the disk!)*