

**ROMANO GABRIEL
BIOGRAPHY**

1415 Pine

- 1888 Born in Mura Italy
Worked with his father as a furniture maker.
- 1913 Romano emigrated to the United States.
Served in the U.S. Army World War 1.
- ? Moved to Eureka.
Worked as a carpenter, lumberyard worker, and gardner.
Romano travelled to Italy and Switzerland.
- c.1940 -1970 Romano started to build a wooden garden because the climate in northern California was too poor for growing flowers (salty air and no sun). He used scrap boxes and lumber, ends of fruit boxes. At first he only used a hand saw; later a small electric saw. He stopped constructing when he had filled his 30'x60' site and boxes began to be made of paper instead of wood. Some of the sculpture and signage in the site was a commentary on religious and political events, for example: the statement "Italiani facisti poce robe Assasini" caricatures, including the Pope and other contemporary people and events such as the astronauts Lovell, Swigert and Haise. A number of the pieces were animated by motors.
- 1966 Romano finished work (according to KGAA news 1/1983)
- 1977 March 19, (or March 3 re letter June 14 from Stan Dixon Public Conservator)
Romano died. On the same day, the garden received its first official recognition from the California Arts Council.
- The garden was purchased by Dolores and Ray Vellutini for \$500. and restored by their son Ray. All pieces were repainted in their original colors. It was photographed in its entirety and then dismantled.
- 1978 The Garden was offered to the City of Eureka with the stipulation that it be placed in "Old Town". Eureka Heritage Society raised \$80,000 for a permanent home for the gardens.
June. Seymour Rosen spoke at the Humboldt Cultural Center (Eureka Heritage Society)
- 1982 April 3. The Sculpture Garden was dedicated at noon at 315 2nd Street in "Old Town", marking the culmination of 5 years of community effort. The structure in which the Garden is now housed was built by the Eureka architectural firm of Trump and Sauble. The site was provided by the Eureka Redevelopment Agency.

SOURCES

Humboldt Cultural Center: 422 1st St., Eureka CA 95501. (707) 442-2611
Eureka Heritage Society
Humboldt Area Foundation
Humboldt County Convention and Visitors Bureau: 123 F. St., Eureka CA 95501
(707) 443-5097

Ted Wimmer P.O. Box 617, Arcata CA 95521
Italian American Museum 678 Green Street. (415) 398 2660

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Times-Standard 1/10/71
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