

# John Giudici's CA PEDRO

## California

- 1887 \*born Giovanni Giudici, March 4, 1887 in or near Castellanza, Italy (near Milan)
- 1911 \*married Ernesta Luigia Ceriotti, November 20, 1911 at Castellanza, Italy
- 1912 \*came to America (possibly direct to Alameda, CA)
- 1914 \*first of six children born in America
- |           |          |               |
|-----------|----------|---------------|
| Josephine | 6/15/14  | in Alameda    |
| Joe       | 2/10/18  | in Alameda    |
| Mary      | 11/19/21 | in Mayfield   |
| Sylvia    | 6/9/25   | in Palo Alto  |
| Frank     | 6/22/30  | in Menlo Park |
| Carlo     | 1/20/33  | in Menlo Park |
- ? worked on the San Francisco Exposition, in a brick yard, made cornices for buildings and worked in the ship yards
- 1928 \*Traded property in Palo Alto for Menlo Park property, lot size is approx 50 by 150  
During this period he worked as a janitor and a gardener, including taking care of President Hoover's garden at Stanford
- 1932 started landscaping his house (from National Register nomination form)
- 1936? his son Carlo fell into a two foot deep fish pond in the backyard of the house. John panicked and filled the pool with cement and started doing some construction which was embellished with items from the 5 and 10 cent store as well as other donated gifts from the family and friends.
- 1960-70's small articles in local newspapers (from Mary) and visits by local school children, and others brought by Tony May from San Jose State University
- 1976 newspaper articles in the
- \* Menlo Park Atherton Recorder - June 2, 1976
  - San Francisco Examiner - September 12, 1976
- 1976-77 \* prominently included in the exhibition "In Celebration of Ourselves" at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
- newspaper articles in
- \*California Living Magazine - San Francisco Examiner - December 12, 1976
  - Palo Alto Times - December 16, 1976
- John dies - after seeing exhibition
- 1977 \*Nominated to the National Register of Historic Places by the California State Office of Historic Preservation
- 1979 \*Capedro is prominently included in "In Celebration of Ourselves" the book, which includes 34 other CA folk art environments and other California popular culture.
- 1981 \*Nominated and accepted as California State Landmark #939 by the State office of Historic preservation. (this designation was given to 10 California sites all under the 939 number)
- 1987 \*exhibition - "Documenting Capedro" at San Jose State University

We have copies of a number of early documents in Italian which needs to be translated.

During her life daughter Mary lived with and took care of John - she was estranged from the rest of the family whom she felt ignored the old man. She refused to give us their phone numbers or locations when we were doing research. When we attempted to interview her on tape she remembered very little. The family (Mary?) discouraged publicity about the site partly because of John's ill health and eventually hers.

We hope to do a more thorough photographic documentation of the site and fill in the gaps of John's life. Now we will be able to talk to still living children.

As of this date we have not been able to get funding to accomplish the above.

\* = have primary information - prepared by Seymour Rosen (last altered 12/88)