

# ART and ANTIQUE *Adventures*

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## California honors Santa Rosa's fairy- tale kingdom

In May, relatives, friends and neighbors gathered to see the 20-year creation of John Medica named state landmark No. 939. His Castles and Gardens are Sonoma County's first landmark under the category of Folk Art Environment.

Medica, 87, came from what is now Yugoslavia to work as a logger in the northern states and later as a chicken breeder during the Depression. He bought 100 acres adjacent to Howarth Park which contained the remnants of a 19th century rock quarry from which San Francisco's cobblestones were made. In 1955 he began putting the remaining rock together in a miniature environment of castles, towers, grottos, bridges, wells and pathways.

The four-acre site was planted with native plants and cacti, creating a unique garden.

During the 60's, visitors came regularly to John Medica's Castles and teachers brought their students to sketch in the garden. Seymour Rosen, Executive Director of Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments (SPACES) included Medica's work in his exhibition, "In Celebration of Ourselves" at San Francisco's Museum of Modern Art in 1976.

For information, call 579-ARTS.



*This castle is part of the fairyland John Medica built on his Santa Rosa property, a site now honored as a landmark by the State Historic Resources Commission.*