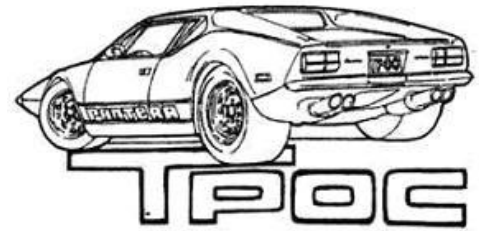




Rubel Castle



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December 2016

Rubel Castle was the playground of our very own Larry Stock. His youth was filled with adventure and he shared some of those fun filled times with us during our November 19 tour of the Castle in Glendora. His story is why we gathered among the river rock encasement made from the ruin of an old reservoir. The story actually begins with the dreams of a little boy fascinated by the tales of old fortresses. So many of us recall building these little hideaways during our formative years but the young Rubel could only dream big. His vision was to construct a castle of his own, a place of refuge from the tyranny of those who would govern him. Thus, the saga begins as the abandoned 1,000 foot reservoir was slowly converted with the help of others. His first retreat was the small structure called the bottle house. Its walls of glass allowed light to enter while holding outside the troubles of the day. The tiny room topped with a tin roof made an excellent escape for him. He gathered nearby natural materials and soon accepted whatever donated objects he could find or was given as the stories of his endeavor spread amongst the neighbors. Many of the abandoned and some simply ill gotten items found their way into the walls and structures there. A motorcycle appears to enter and exit a wall about 14 feet above the ground. Rails and ties from old lines along with downed telephone poles provided support, as did field pipes. Anything with a price of zero was used as either decorative pieces or made into functional items. Bridges, balconies, pulleys and lifts were formed from everyday objects.



It is this environment that we find young Larry. He is among an army of workers to fetch the river rock, cement the walls and construct the tower that will eventually house a real Seth Thomas 1870 clock that still functions today. Some neighbors object to the sound of its bell while others appreciate it. Rubel fed his crew in the lodge where entertainment was often a reward for hard work.

The graveyard startled me. There I found the tombstone belonging to Larry. Yes, it is there. Its inscription simply reads, "Tunnel disaster '65, only one made it out alive." He is listed as one of ten. I shake at the thought and wonder what is the story but I could not bring myself to ask Stock to tell it. How fitting that such a ghoulish tale may be at hand so close to Halloween? I have no stomach to ask Larry. Do you?

He did tell us of the contribution of his VW head for the wall. I even took a picture of it. The opposite wall held an empty rear axle housing for no apparent reason. Did you know that he drove a VW bus in those days?

The packing house with its two cooler rooms was used for parties in support of local and LA celebrities. Its overnight guests feared being locked in the coolers as part of the mystique. The antiques held there covered periods from the turn of the 19th century. Modern marvels of the 1920s and 30s occupied every corner. Its raised dais was certain to be the focal point of any speaker or performer. And yet, the large building has plenty of room for many intimate conversations in quiet settings throughout.

The central building held a complete workshop replete with wood and metal machinery including some belt driven ones. A small boy worked to fashion some trinket to sell, perhaps a bottle opener from a railroad spike. It was difficult to see as he buffed it to a fine finish. Both tools and completed products hung from its ceiling functioning as either display or storage.

There are five apartments to provide a limited income. We are cautioned not to disturb the tenants.



The castle is completely self-sufficient. It is served by a series of natural springs from the hillside. Generators on site easily create electricity. One is formed using an old ship's diesel engine whose exhaust was once piped into the city's sewage line to reduce its exhaust note before the city heard complaints about gaseous smells. The kids quickly rerouted it, so said Larry. Another is the one-ton single piston reed engine found in a small shed next to the birdbath. These were often used in farms and anywhere where stationary power was needed. Its self-governing feature produces a unique melody as the rpms rise and fall. Some may recall the song made at our miniature museum trip a few years back. Self-sufficiency was born of necessity as the City tried for years to unplug the site. Its "historical" standing now avoids such misguided attempts including those for "code violations".



Various out buildings contain a multitude of early trucks, cars and tractors. International, Buick, Chevrolets, Fords and Willys are among them. Brand has no hold on this group. The old tractor I found had an unusual 30s aero look to it. Reason for doing so escapes me. Then too, the same goes for the CJ2A Jeep with its snowplow. The big find is the Mercedes-Benz of Charles de Gaul. The armored car appears ready for the once President of France. Remember, he became President of the Fifth Republic in 1959. Ask Larry how it got to the castle. He also has a lengthy story behind the transportation of the little red caboose to its current home and how the CHP tracked its route.

Larry hosted us all to a chicken, pulled-pork and tri-tip BBQ in the central courtyard. Here, tales of various exploits were shared amongst friends. Thank you so very much.

Sam Rosen worked on this site many years ago too. It would have been nice to hear his stories as well. He always held my attention but didn't ever get to his experiences at the castle. We all miss him.

TPOC Badges was the topic in a recent encounter with an associate member. She was not told that both members and their associates are entitled to a free badge. We do acknowledge that there will always be those who feel, "we don't need no stinkin' badges." Simply ask a Board member for one if you want one.

General Meeting see opanteras.com web site for location. 17th St Bar and Grill is to be our general meeting place. It is at the site of the old Zitons at 17320 E 17th in Tustin, located near the 55, 5 and 22 fwys. We normally order our food at 7PM and begin the meeting promptly at 7:30PM on the third Wednesday of each month except December. Scott is likely to have a video treat for us all.

Get the message? Without your current email on file, you are not getting all the communiqués that your membership dues warrant. Send Judy jpoca2@hotmail.com your latest email address for the file.

Picture of Your Car is needed for our web site. Email one to Greg Ford at tpocwebmaster@gmail.com.

Reminders: from rkunishige@hotmail.com. Everyone with an interest in DeTomaso cars is always welcome.

Dec 11 **Christmas Party** Gayle Huff & Bob Singer 714 960-2323.

Dec 17 **Gondola Cruise** Bob Singer 714 960-2323.

Weekly Events: Saturday: HB Donut Derelicts, Cars & Coffee OC Fairgrounds.

Sunday: Woodland Hills Supercars, Topanga Canyon & Erwin St 7-11am.

Ads. Submit your ad via email. We thought about raising our price but decided free is still a good one.

Jonathan Barlow of Barlow Insurance offers American Modern Classic Car Insurance at (800) 558-7772, E-Mail: barlowjb@pacbell.net. You may recall his presentation at our meeting a while back.

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