



## **The Bunny Museum**

*By Shirley S. Shin*

It started with...a bunny

PASADENA, Calif.—People express their love in a variety of ways. Some buy flowers, others buy jewelry. And some...give bunnies. Shirley Shin met a couple whose bunny-loving courtship and marriage led to the world's first and only bunny museum.

It started off like any good old-fashioned love story. In 1993, Steve Lubanski gave his then-girlfriend, Candace Frazee, a white plush bunny on Valentine's Day. "It was an expression of love," said Frazee, who calls Lubanski her "Honey Bunny." "I returned that love with a porcelain bunny on Easter."

At first, they gave each other bunny gifts on holidays and special occasions. But impatience got the best of them. "Steve couldn't wait for the holidays so he would say, 'I want to give it to you, I want to give it to you! I'm so excited!'" said Frazee. "He'd be asking me for days and finally I would give in."

Before long, they were giving each other bunnies every day. Today, the now-married couple have amassed more than 22,000 bunny paraphernalia in their Pasadena home, including seven real bunny pets, landing them in the Guinness Book of World Records.

With all of these bunny items, what's the next logical step? Open a museum of course! Frazee and Lubanski converted their home in 1998 into The Bunny Museum. So far, nearly 12,000 visitors from all over the world have come knocking on their door to get a peek at their collection

Bunnies, bunnies everywhere! It may seem overwhelming at first glance, but every bunny is organized by category. There's an international section with bunnies from Sweden, Mexico, China and Canada. There's a famous bunny section, home to Bugs Bunny, Peter Rabbit, Thumper, Roger Rabbit and the Energizer Bunny. And there are even bunnies carved from cow dung, aptly named poo doo and zoo doo.

Perhaps the most unnerving part is that they can only display half of their collection at a time. They're running out of room! With no plans to stop their bunny craze, Frazee and Lubanski hope to move to a larger home within the next decade.

"Just imagine a big mansion with a bunny gift shop next door and then a bunny restaurant, and a bunny parking lot," said Frazee.

Cute? Yes. Creepy? Perhaps. But the longer I spoke with the couple, I realized they were just two people in love who found a creative way of showing it.

“People always ask if we’re ever going to stop collection and we say ‘No!’” said Frazee. “We’re showing how much we love each other. It’s a love token.”