

Feb. 7, 1990

Dear Seymour,

I am enclosing a copy of the letter I just received from Az. Highways. I'm going to try to write an article for them, Can you believe it? At least they seem to like the photographs. *I'm trying to get the lady who wrote the newspaper article to write for Az. Hwy.*

Councilman Johnson's office had promised an appointment after two weeks. When I called, they asked if I would mind calling back in March! I wrote to another Council person, Mary Rose Wilcox, involved with Historic Preservation. Her office put me off until later this week. Ditto for Deborah Whitehurst. She did not respond to my letter or phone calls after our first phone conversation which was pleasant and gave me the impression that she would work with me.

I'm sending you a copy of a letter I received from the Museum of American Folk Art in New York City. I have discovered that Mrs. Howard Lipman was the founder of the museum, and she now resides in Carefree, just North of Phx. I am trying to write the right letter to her!

Tonight there will be a meeting in Sunnyslope where the City will present their plan for road development in our area. In just the last month a community organization has formed, a non-profit group. The President was over yesterday, and he loved the Garden, and he even liked my idea about a Folk Art Museum/Center. He felt that the Garden would offer the community something to be proud of, and that it is a key to the unification of our community.

I have approached the Principal of Sunnyslope High School, suggesting that there might be some way students could become involved with the Garden. I'll let you know if anything develops here.

There also is a Sunnyslope Historic Committee. I shall attend their meeting later this month.

I have become a walking talking Rock Garden. It has helped me speed up my talk and now I am a little better at getting people fired up. Some of the Sunnyslope people are on the rough side. There is a general feeling that the City tends to "steam roll" the neighborhood, and especially victimizes those who are outspoke.

I'm tempted to deliver my PETITIONS today, but it might be wiser to wait and see what the City says tonight. It wouldn't be too bad if I gave them the petitions next week.

The "Open Houses" weren't too successful. Twelve came in Jan. and then only two in Feb. I think I need to change it into an EVENT. Maybe I'll get people to make Masks. I can put them up, and tell the City that my people are watching them. Won't I be disappointed when the City puts it in writing that they will never bother any of Thompson's Art Work? Then I probably will start pressuring them to help me stabilize the structure.

Even last Friday, Johnson's office was unable to explain to me why the City was taking frontage on my block. I told them that it seemed very mysterious. Actually, it could be that they don't know. What I am aware of is that they are really powerful, and that I really am not powerful, and it brings out some strong emotions.

Thank you, Seymour!
Marion