

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments
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Telephone: 213/463-1629



December 6, 1989

Susanne Demchack - Director
The Orange Show Foundation
PO Box 13528
Houston, TX 77219

Dear Susanne,

We've received a letter from the Houston Center for Photography about their proposed exhibit on folk art environments. "It will feature art photographs depicting folk art environments and their creators. The Orange Show Foundation has expressed an interest in co-sponsoring some related events with us, such as a film series or a symposium on the documentation of environments and the issues involved with the restoration of spaces after the death of the creator." It sounds interesting and only slightly confusing to me.

People who photograph anything for the sole purpose of creating "photographic art" seem to be at odds with documentary photography and the issues of restoration. Perhaps it is something like a collector stating they just bought those 40 pieces from somebodies yard, at \$3.00 ea solely for the purpose of preservation.

However, we will offer them as much help as we can as well as names of some film makers and photographers who have been concerned with this subject over the years.

I just returned from a week in Arizona, doing some photography, giving a few lectures and doing some consultation. Some real good stuff there. I visited a most wonderful environment in Tucson by George Phar Legler called the Valley of the Moon. Legler like McKissack built performance spaces and gave shows for kids. They moved apart about food since Legler drank tons of condensed milk, not oranges. The volunteer group trying to restore and maintain the site are going through the same kind of growing pains you went through with the Orange Show. They are doing great work, but I felt they could benefit from some contact with you.

If you could add them to your mailing list it would be most useful to them and to the cause. I'll ask them to send you some material for your archives. If you don't mind they will probably be in contact with you.

The George Phar Legler Society 2544 E. Allen Road Tucson, AZ 85716
Dir. Alan Stead (602)884-3519

Your last matter/calendar was a killer. Keep up the good work.

I hope this finds you well.

My best.

Seymour Rosen
Director