

Message #11 (16 is last):
Date: Wed Oct 13 10:26:47 1999
From: orange@insync.net
Subject: Re: Conservation of The Orange Show
To: as768@lafn.org

Dear Bud,

Thank you for your fax and the letters you've written already! I am unaware about an emergency situation declaration about the drought, but perhaps it did pass me by. It's wonderful that you are following up on it.

I just discovered that the location for the talk does not have video. We have a small (13") monitor. Will that work for you? Or should we drop video from the presentation?

On to your questions. When The Orange Show was acquired from McKissack's heirs in 1981, Barry Moore undertook the initial restoration. I can send you the notes he prepared. They were more oriented toward descriptions of what that initial crew did than analytical. He did work with a structural engineering firm and I will locate those notes as well. About our annual restoration -- we work with a team of sculptors each year to assess what action is necessary to keep the orange show safe and secure. Last year, the artist Ed Wilson supervised and I'm sure he would love to meet with you. Until last year, the restoration was supervised by Chris Thompson for a number of years, but now Chris is in graduate school in Baltimore. Eren Johnson, our current site manager, has been on the crew for three years. Each of these people are graduates of the University of Houston Art Department.

Since the initial restoration in 1982, we have closed from Mid-December to Mid-March for this work. Besides cosmetic work like cleaning the awnings, replacing the flags, etc., we remove rust, repaint, patch concrete, and do whatever else seems critical. That's ranged from termite treatments and repairs to taking intricate mosaics apart and putting them back together tile by tile. We've had tiles fabricated to replace original tiles. We also work with an engineering company to caulk cracks with elastomeric caulking.

The most serious work our crew has done over the years has been to add metal supports to all elevated areas. In 1982, a series of steel beams was installed outside the south wall to add support to that wall, and another series of steel channels was added to the interior, supporting the ceiling of that structure. Each year, we've added steel supports to different elevated areas to ensure the integrity of the elevated surfaces. These have been designed by our restoration crew working with an engineer friend, Gus Kopriva.

page 2 October 13, 1999

We've not had a specific report on the safety of The Orange Show for visitors. We know it is not on a foundation because the dirt is directly underneath the thin concrete/brick floor.

Would you like me to overnight the original restoration report to you? Or would you like to see them when you get here. Who besides Eren Johnson and myself would you like to spend time with while you are here?

Thanks so very much.

Susanne