

THE ART BEAL FOUNDATION \* P.O. BOX 1738 \* SAN LUIS OBISPO CA \*

yes  
-T-T  
Focus-

May 11, 1977

Ava Helen Pauling and  
Dr. Linus Pauling  
385 Golden Hills Drive  
Portola Wajley CA 94025

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Pauling,

I apologize for the tardiness of this letter; we went to Spain on a working vacation March 28 (I am a travel writer/photographer) and didn't receive your kind letter and check until our return yesterday.

Thank you so very much for your interest and generosity. Your support means a great deal to us. There are altogether too many people about who like Art and who mean well, but whose idea of "helping Art" or "saving Nitwit Ridge" is all talk and no action.

Let me give you a little update on what has transpired since our letter to you January 16. Our Feb. 20 fund-raiser netted \$2,073. (\$1,400. on the raffle, \$188. on a film about Nitwit Ridge, \$185. on a whale trip and \$300. or 10% of gross sales from the 16 shops in The Network, a San Luis Obispo shopping mall) With that we paid off all back and present taxes, a total of \$1,929.83. We also made a start in paying off the two no-interest loans that were made by two individuals for the out-of-court settlement.

Just before we left for Europe, we received word that the state tax-exempt status for the Foundation had been approved. That paves the way for Federal tax exemption approval, hopefully in the not-too-distant future.

With yourselves included, we now have five Associate Members in the Foundation; our goal is ten.

This weekend we have planned a Nitwit Ridge repair and cleanup day, to undertake some of the structural and landscaping needs of Art's place. Recently, a local graphics shop made a handsome series of signs for Art's place, some to warn off trespassers and a special one which says, "Here in the western section of Cambria Pines, California, stands Nitwit Ridge, a castle created out of cast-offs by Art Beal. Art, also known locally as "Captain Nitwit" and "Doctor Tinkerpaw", has been putting together his unique habitat since 1928. Art's castle is also his home: please respect his privacy and DO NOT TRESPASS. Nitwit Ridge is under the legal protection of the Art Beal Foundation, a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation of this fragile and



page two

beatifal piece of folk art. For further information, contact the Art Beal Foundation, P.O. Box 1738, San Luis Obispo, California 93406."

I am enclosing a local Telegram-Tribune article on Art Beal and Nitwit Ridge which we arranged for just prior to the Feb. 20 fund-raiser. In addition, Michael Seiler from the Los Angeles Times has exhibited interest in doing a Nitwit Ridge-Art Beal Foundation feature story and will be up here the end of May. We hope that he follows through, because ' that kind of article raises a great deal of interest and in some cases, the fall-out is monetary. We are still over \$900 short of our goal, and of course that figure does not include the 1977-78 taxes.

But at any rate, we plan more fund-raisers and we are most encouraged by the sensitivity and generosity that you and others have exhibited.

Thanks again. You will be hearing from us on a regular basis from now on.

Cordially,

Vicki Leon  
Co-Founders,  
The Art Beal Foundation

John FitzRandolph

Enclosures: