

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

Art of Inc.
poster
ticket
1st fundraiser
- Cambria
- ticket
- Jan 10 letter
- Sac Union
- LA Times.

January 16, 1977

Dr. Linus Pauling
2700 Sand Hill Road
Menlo Park CA 94025

Dear Dr. Pauling:

Although I doubt you will recollect such a small incident, I spoke to you on the phone last September on behalf of the Oregonians for Nuclear Safeguards group. At that time, I mentioned in passing that I was also working on the preservation of Art Beal's place. I'd like to fill you in on what we are doing.

Two years ago, a small group of local people decided to take steps to insure the preservation and protection of Nitwit Ridge in Cambria Pines, CA, the creation of one Art Beal. Today that dream is becoming a reality.

The property of Nitwit Ridge has been restored to its rightful owner (Art Beal), who in turn deeded it to the non-profit Art Beal Foundation in January, 1976. (Art has been squatting on his own land since 1962, when he deeded the property away under the mistaken impression that the deed was a security instrument for a loan. When he went to pay back the loan, the putative owner denied any such arrangement.) Art's reasons for deeding the land to the Foundation are to insure that his creation is not bulldozed down once he is gone, and to prevent any individual from profiting through the ownership or sale of the land. (As you no doubt know, land speculation is fierce in Cambria right now.) Art Beal himself has a life estate in the property and no longer has to worry about being evicted, paying rent or paying property taxes.

A fund-raiser in April, 1975, raised \$1,003.76, enough to begin the legal battle which culminated in an out-of-court settlement of \$2,500. Another fund-raiser is planned for this Feb. 20. Its events include music, a Nitwit Ridge film, a "Junk into Beauty" art contest and a raffle. We hope to clear between \$1,000 and \$2,000. Total money owed by the Foundation at this point is \$3,624. (\$2,024. in back and present taxes, and \$1,600. in personal no-interest loans that were made by two individuals for the out-of-court settlement).

The Art Beal Foundation itself is in the process of getting its Federal and State tax-exempt status. Jim Duenow and Dave FitzPatrick of Duenow, Burke and Smith of SLO are donating their time and legal services, which means the process is a little more leisurely than usual. The Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws have been filed with the Secretary of State (Articles are enclosed).

Now we are at the point of putting together the associate membership for the Foundation, as called for in the Bylaws. It will be comprised of a select number of people of some standing and stability in the community who also know and respect Art Beal and the creation he has labored on for over 40 years.

We would very much like for you, or your wife, or both, to be associate members. The position is honorary and advisory only. It does not entail voting or attending meetings. It does require a contribution, as stipulated in Article II, Section 3 of the Bylaws, which we have set at \$100. This is a one-time fee only, and it will go toward the \$3,624. in debts mentioned earlier.

Associate members will receive regular fiscal reports and newsletters on the Foundation's business. They will also be contacted on a regular basis for their valued opinions and input into the Foundation's projects and priorities.

Please let us know soon of your decision. We hope you will join us in preserving Nitwit Ridge, surely one of the most original artistic statements on the West Coast.

I'm sure that Art would want me to pass along his hellos and best wishes. He always speaks of you as "one of the finest men I've ever met", and Mrs. Pauling as "that gracious lady".

I'm enclosing materials about Nitwit Ridge and the Foundation; if you'd like more detail, please call us at 805/543-1021.

Cordially,

Vicki Leon
Co-Founders,
The Art Beal Foundation

John FitzRandolph