

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

January 16, 1977

Woody Laughnan
"Around Here" Editor
Fresno Bee

Dear Mr. Laughnan:

After our flurry of communication back in May, we are sad to note that we did not hear from you again. But we'd like to get you up to date with our progress.

To recap: 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, 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's reasons for doing this 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. 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 (see attached) 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. is back and present taxes, and \$1,600. in personal no-interest loans 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 in 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 (we sent you the Articles in May, but I enclose another copy, so you may see the Foundation's goals and priorities).

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 to be one of our 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.

Please call if you have further questions, to 805/543-1021.

Cordially,

Vicki Leon
Co-Founders,
The Art Beal Foundation

John FitzRandolph