

May 7, 1976

Woody Laughnan
"Around Here" Editor
Fresno Bee


Dear Mr. Laughnan:

With regard to your telephone conversation with John FitzRandolph this morning, I am sending you some materials on the events leading up to the formation of the Art Beal Foundation. As you will see by the attachments, Art deeded his land away in 1962; in April of 1975, we held "A Day on Nitwit Ridge", the first fund-raiser to establish the Art Beal Foundation. The first priority was of course to get clear title to the property for Art, who then deeded it to the Foundation so that Nitwit Ridge will survive after his passing.

After a lot of legal maneuvering (which cost us about \$150 in filing fees), the putative owner backed down short of a lawsuit and settled out of court for \$2500. We had about \$850 in the Art Beal Foundation account at the time, and we made up the difference by borrowing over \$1600 in interest-free loans from two individuals in the community. We filed for incorporation in January; we are still working on the tax-exempt status (since our lawyer works for free, it tends to be a leisurely process). We should have our corporation tax-exempt number soon.

We are planning another fund-raiser and are shooting for this summer as a date, but as you can see, we would welcome donations of any kind to pay back the loans. We can provide you with a great deal more material on Art, since we know him extremely well, if you would care to run another article on him and/or on the Foundation and its goals, etc. Please note that we have a NEW bank account for the Art Beal Foundation: it is #01---00-17453, at Santa Barbara Savings, 1020 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo CA 93401. Any assistance you can offer will be most gratefully received. Judging by Art's comments, you are already an "aficionado" of Nitwit Ridge!

Cordially,


Vicki Leon and John FitzRandolph

Attachments

Attach:

1. Sac. Union article
2. Coulman article
3. "Day on Ridge" invitation
4. Jan. 10 letter -
 thank you to nearby list
5. Talcott letter
6. art. of Incorp.
7. grant deeds (3)
 - Beal > Garrity
 Garrity > Beal
 Beal > Foundation
8. Owenow letter
 offering to settle
 out of court.