

May 26, 1977

Dr. Robert E. Kennedy, President
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, California 93407

Dear Dr. Kennedy:

Thank you for your nice letter (January 24) expressing an interest in contributing to the preservation and restoration of Art Beal's unique NitWit Ridge in Cambria Pines.

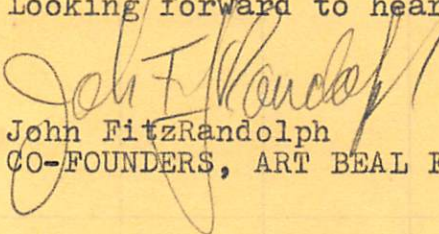
Since we last corresponded, The Art Beal Foundation has raised well over \$2,000.00 (through a flurry of benefit activities the weekend of February 19-20). That brings us within \$125.00 of paying all back taxes on the property, and within \$900.00 of repaying a loan we received in 1975 to settle out of court and return Art Beal's property to him.

Of course, we are thinking well down the road -- beyond merely paying property taxes and repaying loans -- toward the time when we will need to make large investments in the restoration (i.e., a new roof; retaining walls; sewage work; fencing) of Art's fragile landmark. We've taken on the financial responsibility and we intend to see it through; as our beautiful county becomes increasingly urban and populated, it thus becomes all the more crucial that we preserve this monument of conservation, folk art, and ingenuity. Art Beal has, over the 45 years of his work on NitWit Ridge, exemplified Cal Poly's motto -- "Learn By Doing..."

And speaking of Cal Poly, I was impressed with your face-to-face meeting with dorm residents recently, in which several things were ironed out. I subscribe to Mustang Daily, and according to their accounts, the students respected your willingness to hear them out, with a little compromising on both sides. I see you haven't changed since my days as a Cal Poly student. Keep up the good work!

Thank you so much for your interest in the Art Beal Foundation; we understand your policy on not joining groups unless you can actively participate -- but you can make a contribution without becoming an Associate Member.

Looking forward to hearing from you, we remain,


John FitzRandolph
CO-FOUNDERS, ART BEAL FOUNDATION


Vicki Leon