

Art. Inc.  
T-T fees.

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

May 11, 1977

Jim McGlynn  
9330 Balboa Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92112

Dear Mr. McGlynn:

In response to your letter of May 2, we'd be delighted to provide more information on the Art Beal Foundation.

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, California, 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 will not be 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.

Art Beal originally bought the property in 1928 and began building his "castle of cast-offs". Years later in 1962, he lost title to his property, deeding it away under the mistaken impression that it was a security instrument for a personal loan. When he went to redeem the loan, he discovered that the other party did not intend to return the property to him under any circumstances.

In April, 1975, the small group mentioned above held a fund-raiser which netted \$1,003.76, enough to begin the legal battle which culminated in an out-of-court settlement by the putative owner of \$2,500. Another fund-raiser on February 20, 1977, netted \$2,073, which paid off the delinquent back taxes (owed by the former owner) and the present property taxes --- a total of \$1,929.63. The Foundation at this moment still owes \$900 (owed to a private individual who made a no-interest loan for the original \$2,500 out-of-court settlement) and an estimated \$600 for this year's property taxes. In addition, repair work on "Nitwit Ridge" is sorely needed. We estimate that it will take \$600 to do needed structural work on the roof, build a fence and retaining wall at the top of the Ridge and to do needed landscaping.

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We plan another fund-raiser in the summer, to be held locally. We also are working to generate funds in other ways, by soliciting donations from the public at large, and by offering Associate Memberships in the Foundation. The Associate Memberships, as called for in our Bylaws, are honorary and advisory positions only. They do not entail voting or attending meetings. They do 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 debts mentioned earlier.

The Art Beal Foundation recently received its state tax-exempt status and now awaits its Federal exemption. The law corporation of Duenow, Burke and Smith of San Luis Obispo has done all legal work from the original legal battle to the incorporation, free of charge. We have barely gotten started on the recruitment of our Associate Membership, but we are proud to say that our Associate Members include Dr. and Mrs. Linus Pauling and Danny O'Keefe, well-known environmentalist and West Coast musician.

Associate Members 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 (see Articles of Incorporation).

Please let us know if any of this interests you, and if so, to what degree. We hope you will join us in preserving Nitwit Ridge, surely one of the most original artistic statements on the West Coast.

We welcome further questions, and hope the enclosed material will explain our goals further. We attempt to respond as quickly as possible to requests such as yours, but our work on the Foundation is on a voluntary, part-time basis only.

Sincerely,

Vicki Leon  
Co-Founders,  
The Art Beal Foundation

John FitzRandolph

Enclosures