

Dear Seymour,

John and I just spend hundreds of hours each during November and December, putting together a 700-name mailing list, designing and preparing 700 mailers for a direct-mail donation drive for Nitwit Ridge.

Net result: a disheartening \$387. in contributions. That represents only 17 people out of 700! Plus John and I put quite a bit of our own money into the project, buying stamps, etc.

As you can see by the enclosed, we have two major priorities:

1. pay off the lady who loaned the Art Beal Foundation \$1000 in 1975 to help get clear title to the property. We had paid her \$100, and now with \$400 more from the direct mail drive, we only owe her \$500.
2. money to build a fence around Nitwit Ridge, repair the roof (which is falling in dangerously in the living room area, rendering it unusable and unsafe), repair the stairways and archways. We can undoubtedly get together the volunteer skilled manpower to do most of the work: carpenters, masons, etc. But we need money for the raw materials, which are very costly. Fencing alone could run in the thousands. But the needed repairs are vital for the Ridge's preservation. Art isn't always there, which leads to vandalism. And when he is there, he no longer does any repair, maintenance or building.

Even though we may seem more organized than some of the other folk art environments, we really aren't. And in terms of money support, we have almost none.

Hope all the enclosed information helps --- let us know if you need more information.

Art has had health problems with his leg recently. We just took him to the doctor and he had his first acupuncture experience. The doc said it was an inflammation of the nerve behind his hip.

All for now,

Cordially,



Vicki and John  
The Art Beal Foundation