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AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER

October 20, 1987

Dear Sirs:

I read with great interest the article "Paradise Garden Gift to County?" in The Summerville News, July 9, 1987. The idea of the county receiving Howard Finster's Paradise Garden as a gift and assuming responsibility for its future maintenance is an excellent idea, and it is not a moment too soon to begin planning for it in all its particulars.

I have known Howard Finster for many years, and I am one of the many visitors from throughout the country who have seen Paradise Garden firsthand. It is an awesome creative accomplishment, and I freely predict that in years to come it will be the site for which Summerville is best known. But first we have before us the task of insuring that it survives into that future.

Howard Finster would be the first to point out that neither his remaining years nor his available energies and resources are unlimited. Paradise Garden requires professional maintenance now, when the world is making many simultaneous demands on Reverend Finster's energies, and it will require attention in years to come when he is no longer with us. It would be both a tribute to him, and a responsible step for the city of Summerville itself, for the city to take charge of the Garden and initiate steps to preserve it for the long-range future. Paradise Garden is already part of Summerville's public heritage; now is the time to begin taking steps to preserve that heritage for posterity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan Jabbour".

Alan Jabbour  
Director

The Chamber of Commerce  
Summerville, Georgia