

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments

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Telephone: 213/463-1629



August 6, 1982

William L. Fox
Deputy Director
Nevada State Council on the Arts
329 Flint Street
Reno, Nevada 89501

Dear Mr. Fox,

After our meeting in Reno, I visited Rolling Thunder in Imlay, Nevada. The site is more extensive and improved from my last visit in 1974. The needs and problems fall into four parts.

1.) Relationships with the community are very poor. I found no one who personally knew Thunder, or who had visited the site. All just passed along very negative stories about the site and Thunder.

Some p.r. and an open house could rectify the problem.

2.) Thunder claims to want to give the site away. It consists of five acres (no incumbrances), 1,000 feet of highway frontage, and approximately seven structures that can be used to live, work or meet in. Water and electricity are on-site. He would like it to be in the hands of some person or agency (Nevada State Museum?) who would respect the site--open an Indian museum, or center for Indian studies, or... He suggested that some commercial activity, such as a restaurant or shop, could be opened to defray costs. It is a natural for a museum.

3.) Materials and equipment: with the proper equipment and materials, Thunder believes he could finish the project in six months. He needs a bulldozer (D-5 or D-8), a backhoe, an undetermined amount of cement, and minimal hardware (rebar, etc.) and, if possible, some funds for his time (which would be minimal). He says he is a non-profit organization.

Your agency has the potential to requisition a bulldozer or backhoe from Nevada State surplus. Materials and funding can come from private sector donations, especially given your advocacy.

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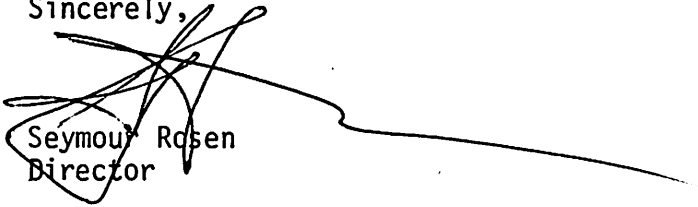
4.) A site plan is needed for an historical record, and Thunder should be interviewed and taped as he identifies and discusses the various figures, tableaus, etc., that he has built.

Any of the above could move the project ahead. Thunder Mountain is an important body of work, and I feel something substantive can be done with help from your office.

I hope that this is enough information for you to go forward. If not, please call us. And please keep us informed.

It was nice meeting you.

Sincerely,



Seymour Rosen
Director

SR/ss