



February 19, 1988

Letters to the Editor:

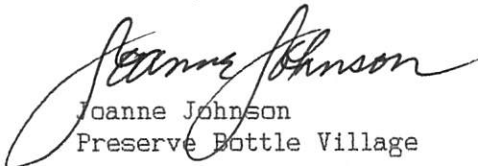
Oh sage educators, designated protectors who hold in covenant the young minds and shield the decadence of dance hall girls and offensive tombstone inscriptions from innocent youthful gaze. Have you seen MTV lately?

In your omnipotent wisdom, oh do enlighten my insipience about "high quality art." Would you, in your quest for quality, spurn a gift from Schnabel, Kienholz, Chicago, Segal, Hanson, Hockney or Gehry? Yes, art may be in the eyes of the beholder but to look a gift horse in the mouth [no pun intended] and send another California Historical Monument galloping out of town is truly myopic.

I applaud Bruce Kanegai's efforts, share his vision and empathize with his rebuke by the powers that be. Yes, I'm one of those "Bottle Village People" and I have a dream... Simi Valley with three folk-art environments: Bottle Village, Old Trappers Lodge and-- there's a backyard in Eagle Rock looking for a home; it's filled with a whimsical collection of fairytale figures and storybook characters fashioned in cement and delicately painted. So here's the plan. What better place for Old Trappers Lodge than the already western Hopetown? Childhood tales would come alive in the backyard of the library if Bernadine Lodge's fairyland were there to enthrall the imagination. Sorry Ken Ashton, Bottle Village stays on Cochran St. ...And the people of Simi Valley lived happily everafter, secure in the knowledge of their forethought about the quality of art in their community, entertaining visitors from far-off lands and merrily listening to the ringing of cash registers in their once slumbering village. Known long ago as a boonyburb of LA, Simi Valley with its varied perspectives on folk-art and three nationally recognized landmarks has joined the ranks of other esteemed cultural meccas: Santa Fe, Carmel and Ojai. Highlights of this summer's "FolkAmerica-ArtFest" are the gala opening of the Murray Harris Museum and the unveiling of the recently restored Matt Mahurin mural at Apollo High... [shake me or wake me; is this for real?]

Reverie aside, hats off to you Enterprise; thanks for the superb article and delightful photo. I can't believe Bottle Village front and center with nary a quibble of controversy involved. Just some happy-face volunteers celebrating the birthday of a favorite lady. Nice touch Steve and Jonathan, you too, Tom and Wayne.

Sincerely, [IM4BV]


Joanne Johnson
Preserve Bottle Village