

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments

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February 2, 1988

Mr. Robin Hall
Director of Design and Planning
Knotts Berry Farm
8039 Beach Boulevard, P.O. Box 5002,
Buena Park, California 90620-9985

Dear Mr. Hall;

Mr. Tom Kelly and some of his fellow concessionaires at Knotts Berry Farm thought you might be interested in the following.....

Enclosed is some information about a Southern California artist named John Ehn, whose works have been honored by the California State Office of Historic Preservation as State Landmark #939.

Mr. Ehn died in 1981 and the family is being forced to divest themselves of a large tract of land, in Sunland, which includes the Landmark. Although valuable as a commodity, the family would like the collection of works to be held together and available to the public. They would like to donate the sculpture to a established and stable institution to insure that their fathers' efforts are seen by the largest amount of people in a safe and sympathetic environment.

John Ehn was a professional trapper and the theme of his works is the Old West. Since Mr. Ehn was in part inspired by Knotts Berry Farm and the theme of the work fits into your activity, the family believes a relationship between them and your organization could be of mutual benefit. Simply put, they hope you would have an interest to display Mr. Ehn's work as an attraction at your facility and thereby saving an Historic Landmark, keeping it in the Los Angeles area and making their fathers' vision available to the public. In the short range Knotts would receive immediate national publicity for saving a major work of art and a State Landmark from destruction. In the long range you would have a popular attraction that would need only minimal upkeep and would receive continued notice as the home of this environment.

The sculpture itself is acknowledged as a masterwork of its genre and the site is highlighted in the current issue of The Clarion, the magazine of the Museum of American Folk Art in New York.

The property is in escrow and we have just a few months to find a proper home. I will call you the first of the week to see if there are any questions I may answer. We invite you or a representative to visit the site and we would be most happy to visit you and discuss the matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Seymour Rosen
Director