

**Sunnyslope Rock Garden  
Grover Cleveland Thompson Museum  
10023 North 13th Place  
Phoenix, AZ 85020**

March 10, 1994

Dear Seymour,

I have survived the marathon of the S.O.S. workshop on preservation of sculpture. There were people from California, New Mexico, Tucson and Baltimore/Washington. About 35 attended.

I learned that the same man did the Last Supper in Tuscon and St. Joseph's Garden in Yarnell. I gave Dawn Starr- Croather Gus Brethauer's name & phone number. I hope she'll be able to include him in this preliminary survey.

(S.O.S. Coordinator for AZ.)

There were two conservatores at the workshop and both said that they knew nothing about concrete and suggested that I contact people working on Watts Towers. I thought that was great!

They gave us a resource book which weighs fifty pounds.

It seemed like an eternity sitting inside, often listening to aspects which are boring to me; but maybe I gained in knowledge, and some of the people were terrific.

I'll be watching for the review of the Folk Art Show at the Phoenix Art Museum, and I'll send you a copy.

Let me know what the guy who's working on the towers thinks. Do you suppose he'd make the trip to Phoenix?

I've made a rain coat for the Space Needle which I anchor on the flag pole. If it is windy, I loosely attach the corners at the bottom with chord. Very spiffy!

Dennis Montagne, from the Forzestry Department was there. I told him about the Space Needle, and asked him what I should do, and he said "Sell it." Not exactly what I wanted to hear. But now I can say, "Come see the garden while it is still standing." I think Thompson's daughter might assist me in conservation / reconstruction. I will talk to her this weekend.

I'm looking foreward to hearing from you.

*Marion*

*P.S. Thompson's daughter offered to assist financially. Let me know what's possible.*

Oh, Seymour, there isn't a square inch of lawn that doesn't have a weed in it. I've been upside down all morning trying to get them, but I guess it will take a week.

But then the porch is covered with dust, as is the house. I guess its like that for a while and then it gets worse. Everything needs to be swept, raked and dusted.

Theysay it will rain today.

I am so glad that you were able to be here while I had the open house. Next trip you'll have to go to the Boise Thompson Arboreum. It is about a hour East of the Valley toward Globe. Also, the Phoenix Botanical Gardens are beautiful. They sell plants also.

I have heard that the man who built Mystery Castle, Gulley, built some sort of castle next to the St. Joseph Shrine in Yarnell. I've been to the shrine, but not the castle, which supposedly is in ruin.

Outside of Punkin Center there is supposed to be a place built by an old man. One of the structures described to me is a "rain house" out of cactus skeletons, I think.

The place I described in the North-western part of the state, the rustic place is Oatman. That would really be an ideal setting for the garden. Just as rough and rocky as you could imagine.

There is a guy who's place is half way to Wickenburg. He makes life size trees out of steel. Evey branch and stem and leaf is on there. He has become semi-commercial and has reduced his scale to a point where people can afford his work. Last year he made a trip to Japan. Also, he has done pieces for malls. So you might say he is a commercial artist, but from speaking with him, he is untrained .

The interior of his house is encrusted with saguaro skeletons, beautifully fitted together. For being a young man, it is amazing how much work he has done!

He is also into country music. He plays with his band weekends. His name is Joe Tylor and he works as a grounds keeper at A.S.U. in Tempe. He might have a more impressive title. he is knowledgable about trees & plants, and is responsible for the variety which inhabit the A.S.U. campus.

I've procrastinated enough. Now I have to face the dust & grime.

*Phoenix Home & Garden June 1993 p 30*  
It will be on Spring Break for one week starting next Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> through Sun. April 3<sup>rd</sup>.