

May 27, 1977

Robert and Peggy Clark  
Cardiff Drive  
Cambria Pines, California

Dear Robert and Peggy,

Our benefit activities in February for the Art Beal Foundation brought us just over \$2,000.00! That brings us to within \$125.00 of paying all Art's overdue taxes (dating back to 1973) and within \$900.00 of repaying the private loan we received in 1975 to settle out of court and return Art's land to him.

We wanted to bring you folks up to date; we're quite proud to have come as far as we have come, and Art's spirit is obviously soaring much higher now that most of the financial mess is getting cleaned up. He -- even though not personally responsible for Owen Garrity's failure to keep the taxes paid the 13 years Garrity held title to the land -- has been deeply embarrassed and even remorseful regarding the indebtedness.

Of course, we are thinking well down the road -- beyond merely paying current and future taxes and repaying the \$900.00 loan -- toward the time when we will need to make large investments in the restoration (i.e., a new roof; retaining walls; sewage work; fencing) of Art's fragile landmark. We've taken on the financial responsibility and we intend to see it through! As our pastoral, pristine county becomes increasingly urban and begins to have the scent of San Jose type sprawl, it thus becomes all the more crucial that we preserve this monument of conservation, folk art, and ingenuity.

A couple weekends ago, we organized a work party of 15 people and did quite a lot of cleaning and pruning. Art, pleased with the fact that so many would volunteer to come up and help him, was his old self. And, by the way, he asked about you folks, and urged us to contact you for him; he'd really like you to pay him a visit, if you find a free afternoon.

We now have four Associate Members in the Art Beal Foundation: Kit Walling of Morro Bay; Dr. and Mrs. Linus Pauling; recording star Danny O'Keefe; and Mrs. Katherine Allen of Los Angeles, the woman who purchased Robert's portrait of Art. We would be very grateful to you if you would contribute the \$100.00 Associate Membership fee -- but whatever you feel you would like to do would be welcomed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

John FitzRan