SPACES

April 5, 1989

Gregg Blasdel
RFD #1 Box 7910
Poker Hill Road
Underhill, Vermont 05489

Dear Gregg,

As you'll see from our latest newsletter, which we've enclosed, SPACES is facing a distressing problem. Many of the visionaries responsible for folk art environments are getting older, and some have recently died. In addition to being extremely unfortunate, this makes our job a lot harder, as the creators are the primary sources of information and documentation about the environments. Also, as a result of the artists' advanced ages and deaths, the sites are disappearing or are being destroyed. Thus, we're intensifying our efforts to gather information and compile it into our archives.

To that end, we're working on timelines for the artists for whom we have any biographical information. While Clarence Schmidt has been dead for awhile, we do have quite a bit of material on him--mainly the result of your efforts. Your excellent monograph doesn't provide a lot of biographical information, though, and we wonder if you would mind sharing what biographical information you may have. Specifically, we need the exact dates of his birth and death, and information about his marriage and children. Are any children still alive? We've enclosed a draft of the timeline, in which your research played an invaluable role. Please feel free to comment on the timeline, and make any amendments it needs.

In a more general realm, do you know of any recent deaths, or have any other information about environments across the country? We're worried that if we don't identify and document environments soon, their creators' imagination and visions will not be acknowledged, and their contributions to society lost.

We're looking forward to hearing from you. Seymour wants to know if you've heard from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art--they were supposed to contact you.

Sincerely,

Terri Hartman
Researcher