

Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments  
 1804 North Van Ness Los Angeles, California 90028  
 Telephone: 213/463-1629



April 23, 1986

Mr. and Mrs. George Smolak  
 103 W. Sunset  
 Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

Dear Katherine and George Smolak,

Thank you so much for your letter, and for your willingness to share information about "Legs Inn." We are delighted that you want to help us. Any information you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

SPACES is a nonprofit arts organization which gathers information about unique handmade projects and shares this information with others. We are currently finding out about projects in Michigan. It is our intention to bring honor to the creators of these projects.

There is much that we would like to know about Stanley Smolak and Legs Inn. I will describe some kinds of information that we are interested in, so that you can get an idea of the kind of research we like to do. Please don't think that we expect you to send everything! We don't want this to be a burden on you!

We are interested in copies of newspaper articles, photographs, and other printed material. We are especially interested in biographical material, including such basic information as Stanley Smolak's birth and death dates, and the dates he worked on the carvings. Did Stanley Smolak build the Inn as well as make woodcarvings? When was the Inn built?

Anything you can tell us about Stanley Smolak's life would be useful. Did he carve as a child? Who taught him to carve?

We are very interested in descriptions of the actual work. What is the subject of the carving around the door in the postcard you sent us? What kind(s) of wood did he usually use? The snake creature seems to be painted. Were most of his carvings painted? With what kind of paint? Are there woodcarvings in other parts of the Inn, or just in the lounge? Did Stanley Smolak create carvings out-of-doors?

If you know of any other sources of information about Stanley Smolak, or any other people who are knowledgeable about his work, we would appreciate it very much if you could send us names and addresses. These are some questions we have. If we have left out anything that you think is important, please let us know.

We will be happy to reimburse you for postage and copying. If something is not reproducible, difficult to reproduce, or costly to reproduce, please simply tell us what kind of information exists and where it is. If you would like us to keep your home address confidential, we will be happy to do so. We will make information available to interested individuals and organizations--scholars, students, historians, and the media. We hope that we will be able to help to spread the word about Legs Inn and the wonderful creations there.

Again, thank you so much for your time and help. It would be a pity if information about the life's work of your uncle was lost or could not be made available to people who would enjoy it (we are not a commercial agency). We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Elaine Wintman  
Assistant Director

Seymour Rosen  
Director