

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



August 26, 1994

Dear Friend:

Yes — yet another crises. **Salvation Mountain.**

This time a gentle man named **Leonard Knight** who spent eight years in sculpting and carving and painting a 100 foot high by 300 foot wide by 200 foot deep adobe mountain in the desert upon which he professed his belief in God. It is in Niland, in Southeastern California — Imperial County.

The painted bas relief message is there for you to read but he doesn't try to talk you into anything or sell mementos.

Local politicians want to improve the area by cleaning up an 600 acre abandoned army base Slab City - which has been attracting 7,000 "snowbirds" a year for lots of years.

Improvement means charging fees and limiting access and duration of stay and bulldozing the Mountain. They say it is because Leonard used some old donated leaded paint.

Rather than just scrape off the offending paint they want to level Salvation Mountain.

If you could write a letter of support for the site and fill up the petition it would help greatly in protecting this gem.

The sense of the letters so far is that the site is great art and could be a cultural asset to the community and / or draw in tourists to an area where you have to be committed to go to. We would like to let them know that there is national interest in the site.

Copies of the letter / petition sent to SPACES would be of great use, since we are dealing with both County and State government.

Send your letter to

Robert C. Hight - Executive Director
California State Lands Commission
1807 13th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Yes — we need it soon before the next Commission meeting. Feel free to duplicate the petition form.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Seymour Rosen
Director SPACES