

Larry,

I tend to get carried away with my "brilliant" writing and "deep passion." The letter however is not for me to pontificate, to attack, but to get these people on our side. Does it work ? Please blue pencil as much as you want.

Dear

SPACES is a national organization concerned with people of tenacity and vision, generally untutored in the arts, who for a variety of reasons have created large scale sculptural environments on the landscape.

One of the finest sculptures, Salvation Mountain in Niland, California - Imperial County is in jeopardy.

SPACES has identified over 600 sites in the United States. One, Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts has been declared a National Monument, seven other sites are listed on the federal National Register of Historic Places (this includes Desert View Tower in Jucamba, Imperial County). The California State Office of Historic Preservation declared some ten sites as California State Landmarks in the 1980's.

This art form has been acknowledged in hundreds of museum exhibits ( internationally), in thousands of books, catalogs, magazine articles, films, as well as in untold newspaper articles and TV spots.

Niland, is point of destination for the "snowbirders" and because of Leonard Knight's Salvation Mountain. It needs to be protected for the future enjoyment of the public.

Currently the California State Lands Commission is in negotiation with Imperial County to lease the land so the County can improve a 600 acre area known as Slab City as a "primitive campground" for the yearly influx of "snowbirds."

Improvement includes bulldozing the three story by 100 foot handmade adobe mountain. Part of their decision is based on Mr. Knights' use of donated paint - some of which contained lead. That can be resolved if Mr. Knight is given a chance to do so.

I have heard that over XX people (from the East Coast) have already let the County know that they consider Salvation Mountain to be an important asset and should not be destroyed.

THE REST OF THE LETTER WILL VARY - DEPENDING ON WHO IT IS DIRECTED TO

#### For the CA Lands Commission

We hope you allow this nationally known landmark to stand and prosper.

#### For the Members of the Assembly and Member of the Senate

We hope you can let the CA Lands Commission know that Salvation Mountain has positive potential for the County and protection of the site should be considered.

#### Imperial County Tourism Bureau

Mr. Knight is a gentle and cheerful man, when dealing with the many people who stop by all year. He is a asset to the community, not selling any artifacts or message. The potential for tourism is great - the Mountain already has a national reputation.