

**Sunnyslope Rock Garden
Grover Cleveland Thompson Museum
10023 North 13th Place
Phoenix, AZ 85020**

February 16, 1993

Dear Seymour,

Today Reba Wells and Jim Garrison from the Az. State Office on Historic Preservation visited. They genuinely enjoyed the garden and they told me that I keep it maintained very well. They want me to follow through with the application for the National Register. They said they would not submit it to the state committee, and they would ask the Keeper to decide whether the garden is of the caliber to be designated for the National Register.

I asked Jim who the committee and people like Ryden would respect. I asked if he would be more impressed by a man such as Jim Griffith. He said, "yes". Hopefully, I will be able get Jim G. to visit the garden before hot weather starts. Will he be contributing to the SPACES Newsletter?

I felt very optimistic about their visit. Jim explained some things to me about moisture and concrete, and I was able to correct some conditions immediately, and I made a "raincoat" for one of the windmills because it is supposed to rain tonight.

They said they would gather some information about concrete for me. I suppose I will be doing some of the restoration myself until such a time as I can get some funding. I will feel better about it if I actually know what materials are best and the best way to apply them. One guy told me to use form oil, and another told me to use varnish. I don't need to be a genius to know those are bad ideas. But Garrison said that water seal is as good as anything, and that I should be sure not to seal the entire piece; to let it breathe.

Yesterday I went to see Joe Tyler's place in the desert. I think you are right, he is an artist. I took slides, and they will be ready next week. The house was built out of a cotton gin. The interior walls are draped with saguaro skeletons. The front door is about six inches thick. The latch is from a freezer. An anvil is on the inside to pull the door shut.

He built stone pedestals and mounted his iron trees on top. The trees are complete with branches and leaves. He got a little side tracked, I think because people fell in love with his trees, but the cost was greater than they could afford, and so he is now making smaller versions. They are selling like hot cakes, but to me they are watered down and repetitious. It makes me feel bad.

He said that he is a native Arizonan, and that he wanted to build a place which would show the greatness of the state. There is alot of stone work using large bolders. Then the work with wood is remarkable. He used wood from old corals, worn smooth by the animals. Everything fits together so handsomely. Then he learned to weld, and he incorporated huge wagon wheels in his fences He knows where he got all of his stuff. He has built a bandstand and a barb@que and a green house and a large work- garage. The house is large and everything is rustic and then the windows have white lace curtains. Very charming!

If only he had incoporated old tools in his fences like the guy in Oregon. If only he was a little crazy. Maybe Amy will take the time to see his place. I'll have the slides by then.

Well, I guess I have to start on that application. No way to get out of it.

Jim Garrison said something about putting together a study of similar sites in Arizona, and I told him about the SPACES Newsletter. He thought that would be extremely valuable.

When I told them about Ryden, they laughed, and said that if this had been an Indian site, he would have been much more knowledgable, but that this is not his area of expertise.

Also, he was pleased that I mentioned him in the article in Phoenix magazine. So, I will be sure to do it again at my earliest convenience!

Thank you, Seymour, for your help and support through all of these tumultuqs times. Eventually things will take their proper place.

Sincerely,

Marion