

January 20, 1977

Dear Seymour

We had intended to write sooner but we wanted to go to S.F. to see your show first. We couldn't go during the holidays because it was necessary to be at the Gardens while they were open. Little did we know we would not be able to go in January due to being fog-bound. We both feel we missed a treasure. We have heard a lot of very favorable comments about your show. Due to your show and the Chronicle article, we've decided to open the Gardens again. We ~~got~~ borrowed some money to get us through these dark months. After reading Beth Loffel's article on you, we felt ashamed at giving up. We hadn't realized there were others who felt as we do. - It just became too heavy of a struggle.

There are some people coming in February to discuss what about the Gardens I don't know. Dr. Ephraim Smith at Fresno State University

Called and wants to set up the meeting. Evidently, some one up north had contacted him. Could this have been through your efforts? I don't know this Dr. Smith and although he has lived in Fresno for a long time has never been to the Gardens. I just hope they are sincere. I'm tired of fast-buck phonies.

Jon Wampler's book, "all Their Own" (People and the places they build) is now out. I tried to find one at the book stores in town so I could send you one, but so far none of the stores have them, so I'm going to write the Schenckman Publishing Co. in New York and order some. I thought you might be interested because he has Roman Gabriel's / Art Beale works. If the Gardens ever gets on its feet, we will not forget places like Roman Gabriel's.

We are thinking of selling our home in Byron and make an underground home at the Gardens, all our children but one <sup>will</sup> be gone by then. By doing this we hope to hold out against "progress" as long as possible. At least we will know we did everything possible short of com-

promising the Gardens.

We had not meant for this to be so wordy but we wanted to thank you for your efforts not only for the Gardens, but other out works of this nature also. If it weren't for you, this type of preservation would go down the drain. You've lit the candle in many hearts, and as I said if the Gardens ever gets on its feet I shall not forget the other places in your showing.

Sincerely,

Lorraine & Rick

Foster