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LAPO,
Fills out

1 April 64

Stewart Udall, Interior Secretary
 Department of Interior
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir;

I have been disabled all my life by an insatiable desire to make this country, in which we live, a better country. For many years now I have devoted all my spare time to this project.

It took many turns. For the first few years after the war I took in convicted J.D.'s, built youth programs and other such do-goodie causes. However, by 1952 my own family had grown to such an extent I had to curtail these activities and since have supported junior police groups (made up primarily of so-called pre-delinquents) and authenticated museums. This latter with the belief that the more children can know of our heritage and feel, if not understand, the motivation and dreams of our pioneers, Indians and all who have influenced this country, rightly the more secure we would all be.

At any rate, two years ago, I went over board, I shut down the business with which I was supporting these ventures, and of course my family of ten and opened two museums. One folded completely. The other is now an established incorporation (non-profit) and I hope it will remain an important educational institution. However, these broke me entirely.

Now the life history out of the way. I have over forty truck loads of artifacts. California Indian and early historical California. I have purchased a few acres of an old abandoned saw mill town on the Middle Fork of the Cottonwood, State Route 36, County of Shasta. The buildings are built in the early style. There are three Indian village sites on the property. Excellent for demonstrating the Indian culture, its influence on ours, and the need for preserving such sites as part of our natural resources which are rapidly being depleted by construction work and "pot-holers".

My family and I have been working since last July putting foundations under the old building, attempting to ready them for viewing.

Desperate! Is there any way this program can fit into yours? There is ample room here for campgrounds if thought advisable? Any help you can give in anyway will be greatly appreciated.

For reference please feel free to call on Francis Kiddle, State of California, Archaeological Interpreter, Vinson Brown, "Whose Who in the West" author, Healdsburg, Calif. Superior Court Judge John Nauck, Lubec City, California and some of your employees manifest interest in these projects.

Perhaps if you can not help you can refer this to another
~~who~~ can. I do not want to put all this material, and hopes
on an auction block.....

Very truly yours,
Frank Van Zant
Frank Van Zant
Platina, California

L58

L 58
J. Peterson

April 23, 1964

Stewart Udall, Interior Secretary
Department of Interior

Mr. Frank Van Zant
Platina, California

Dear Mr. Van Zant:

Secretary Udall has referred your letter of April 1 to the National Park Service since it is this agency which is charged with administering those historical and archeological sites under the care of the Department of the Interior.

Your project is indeed an interesting one, and we wish you every success. Unfortunately, the National Park Service has no authority to expend funds for assistance in the development of museums or historical or archeological areas not included in the National Park System. In order to qualify for inclusion in the System, a site or building must be of outstanding importance to the nation as a whole, and this we fear would not be the case with the area which you have selected.

We are sorry to be of so little help on a project which we realize is of the greatest importance to you. We wonder, however, if you have discussed this with the staff of the California Division of Beaches and Parks in Sacramento. This organization is one of the very best in the nation. Since they act upon a state level, it might be more likely that they could visit you and perhaps assist you than could the National Park Service.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)
Harold L. Peterson
Acting Chief, Division of
Interpretation and Visitor Services

cc:
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for reference please feel free to call on Francis Middle, State of California, Archeological Interpreter, Visalia, California. "Those who in the past, author, publisher, and superior court judge John Rauch, and others, California and some of your employees manifest interest in these projects.