

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2001

Hello to all. I hope this letter finds everybody doing well. I am writing to give you all some updates on what's happening with the Robertson property. To help see a complete picture, I will highlight activities that have been done or need to be done and then provide some additional information.

**Done:**

- Contact and communication was started with heirs of Jesse Robertson's family
- We came together to get the property out of the courts and keep it off the auction block and in the Robertson family by paying the back taxes and court costs
- A survey by a certified surveyor has been completed
- The property taxes for the year 2000 were paid

One key item that was confirmed by the survey is that the 4.9 acres sold by Great Grandfather Jesse to the railroad on 12/30/1910, was sold by the railroad to another party after the railroad went out of business. The 4.9 acres were sold two (2) more times. It is unknown if the Robertson family had an opportunity to buy the 4.9 acres back after the railroad went out of business before the first party bought it. The 4.9 acres that is owned by someone else separates part of the Robertson property.

**Need to:**

- Investigate the possibilities of reacquiring the 4.9 acres from the current owner
- Continue working to take control of the property by setting up the Jesse Robertson Foundation or another named governing body for the property through the courts
- File legal briefs in court to legitimize the family ownership and management organization
- Work toward positioning the property for development in future projects

In order to accomplish the "Need to's" above, we need legal representation. We do not have the cash flow that would be required to hire an attorney to do the work it will take to organize this property. However, if someone knows of an attorney who will work with us, please let us know. **We can also be really creative.** We don't have the big money to pay for a high level attorney, so what we do is, identify institutions and/or groups that provide or share services in the areas that we need. Colleges and universities teach real estate and probate tax law. Philanthropists are individuals who fund worthy causes with historical implications.

**Colleges and Universities:**

One approach is to look for help from a teacher in the Law Department for Real Estate and Probate issues. The many different, complex and interesting issues surrounding this property may provide them with an excellent case study for a class.

A second approach would be to work through the Law Department for Real Estate and Probate to identify a law student to use our case to write his thesis as a case study. This case would help provide the student with a great topic for his thesis and we would be helped also by receiving legal information from the student that we may be able to file in court ourselves.

If you are a college student or your child is a college student or you work at a college/university, please consider one of the two approaches above. If you need more information before you contact someone, we can provide you with more information. If you contact someone and they want more information, either Letha or I will talk to them to provide more detailed information.

**Philanthropist:**

The idea is to identify a person or group with funds to help needy or worthy causes. We need help and saving this historical property Great Grandfather Jesse bought and willed to his kids is a worthy cause. Letha and I have identified a couple of organizations that we feel may be sympathetic to our cause. We are in the process of writing letters to these organizations requesting assistance to help us. We will let you know how this goes.

**Food for thought:**

We still feel that we did the right thing by contacting all of the Robertson heirs that we could and paying the taxes and court costs. I know many of you don't want to pay money into a black hole or pay money to something where you don't get something for the money you are paying. This is a different type of situation. It is important to remember that owning property is a very big deal. Our ancestor bought the property at the end of or after the slavery days and this property is still in the Robertson family. We got the property out of the courts. To keep it from going back into court, we need to keep the taxes paid up so the taxes don't get that far behind again. The property taxes are less than \$2,000.00 per year and are coming due again this November 2001. If all send in what they can, it will make it easier on everyone. Whatever money we receive beyond the taxes, we will keep in the Jesse Robertson Foundation's account to help pay for attorney fees, mailing supplies and other incidental expenses.

With financial considerations in mind, we will not be able to pull off hosting a family reunion this October as we planned because we cannot afford it at this time. Both Letha and I have had other bills of our own to pay. We need to keep what funds we have to pay the taxes and try to obtain an attorney to help structure and take control of the property. We will try to set up a family reunion for October 2002.

For those of you who would like more detailed information or would just like to talk, please call Letha at her number listed below. There is a lot of information that Letha can share with you in a one-on-one conversation. I encourage as many of you as possible to call Letha for more information in a one-on-one conversation or just to say hello. If each of you place a call to her (instead of her calling all of you), you can share in the telephone expenses and will help keep her telephone expenses down.

Phone number: 480-838-4593 – leave a message with name and number if she's not available

I would like to thank all of you who sent in pledges when we had to pay the large bill. I would also like to thank those who sent in money to help pay the last tax bill in addition to contributing on the large bill. I am also asking you all to send us what you can to continue to help keep current on the property taxes. It is going to take time to clear this property up and contributions will help. We need to pay taxes this November 2001.

**Address contributions to:**

Jesse Robertson Foundation, .....

Besides the financial help, we also need your prayers and all your belief that we will make this property a success.

Thanks and regards,

Melvin Robertson, Jr.