



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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GEORGE LATIMER
MAYOR

February 6, 1978

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

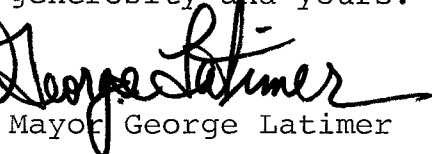
One of the great needs of our society is to provide entertainment and diversion for those who find it difficult, if not impossible, to enjoy the amenities of life that so many of us take for granted.

These are the patients in our medical hospitals, sick children who need some diversion from an illness they cannot comprehend, or people with long-term illnesses who need some interruption from the monotony of their existence. These are the residents of our nursing homes, or our senior citizens living in high-rise apartments, often unable to enjoy the mobility of the average American. These are the mentally ill, or the inhabitants of homes for the retarded, too often isolated from the variety and liveliness of the outside world.

The bearer of this letter, Mr. Pat Bettendorf, has dedicated a large share of his young life to providing these people with wholesome and humorous entertainment. In late 1969, on a purely volunteer basis, he and several others have formed the Duck Soup Art Players, a small theatre company, to perform various comic works for the ill, the aged, and the lonely throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area and the entire State of Minnesota. This commendable effort brought happiness and enjoyment to thousands during the six years that the Duck Soup Players gave performances. Slightly more than two years have past since the last performance of the Duck Soup Players, a loss sorely missed by our citizens.

Mr. Bettendorf states, "Non-existent funding from apathetic organizations is what killed us." Pat has redesigned and refined the Duck Soup Players in preparation for a new season. It's a full time job and then some.

In view of new and exciting funding programs recently available, any assistance that you could give to Mr. Bettendorf and his troupe would be personally appreciated by me and, much more importantly, by the many people less fortunate than we who will benefit directly from their generosity and yours.


Mayor George Latimer