

Appalachian Alternatives

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AMERICAN INDIAN CONNECTION (Part 3)

ASPI has been awarded a grant from the Cambridge Center for Social Studies (U.S. Jesuit Conference) for developing materials on Appalachia's American Indian heritage. Tim Collins, a graduate student in rural sociology at the University of Kentucky, is helping us again this season ('87 summer intern). He is completing a literature review of all research conducted on Native American in Appalachia.

Martha Bond and Georgie Brock have plotted the county-by-county census data of Indians in the region. Warren Brunner is giving some precious time and enthusiasm to capturing the lifestyle of the Appalachians of Indian descent. A report will be prepared by Al Fritsch, program director, during 1989 and the "Simple Lifestyle Calendar" of 1990 will feature the region's Indian connections.

One of the goals of the program is to awaken those of Native American descent to the need to protect a rapidly disappearing heritage--rock carvings, grave sites, settlements. Our region stands to lose a rich treasure it hardly knows exists. ASPI is hoping to extend its citizen monitoring programs to include archeological protection.



*Tim Collins doing research on
the American Indian Connection*

THE DROUGHT OF '88

Appalachia suffers with the rest of the nation from lack of rain. The gardens are wilting, corn leaves are curling, and the trees are coming under heavy stress. We are now some 70 inches behind in rainfall during the 1980's. A number of towns and cities are beginning to restrict use of water on lawns and other outdoor activities.

We all are wondering whether this is an environmentally-induced phenomenon as some experts are suggesting or just a repeat of the early 1930's. Maybe we are experiencing the "greenhouse effect" caused by too much fossil fuel combustion. But our ever deepening concern should not paralyze us for taking constructive conservation measures.

Maybe this dry spell may afford the opportunity to change our household practices:

- * Think about building a cistern to collect rainwater;
- * Install compost toilets and save at least half of the household water consumption;
- * Survey the house for leaking pipes and faucets and have them fixed;
- * Install lower volume showerheads;
- * Encourage "army style" showers;
- * Recycle gray water and use condensate from dehumidifiers for houseplants;
- * Mulch garden plants to reduce evaporation losses;

....and many more ideas from the 1989 Simple Lifestyle Calendar.

N.B. DON'T MISS OUR "SUMMER BULK
SALE ON ASPI NOTECARDS

SEE THE ENCLOSED FLYER