



Indiana Arts Commission

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Thanks! - a great addition to our grotto files -
we can tell you about others.

*I'd appreciate any info. available on other
environments in Indiana.*

Dear Mr. Rosen: *Yes!*

I thought SPACES might like to know about Pastor Alan Moody's "Garden of Memories", a religiously-oriented environment created by the pastor of the Walnut Grove Community Church in Thorntown, Indiana, and some of his flock. The garden was built as a result of visions received by Pastor Moody and his wife, Jewel, through which the Moodys were commanded to build a beautiful garden. Church member, Dick Birge, who originally owned the land on which the garden stands, received a vision from Jesus commanding him to sell the land to the church for the construction of the garden. Mr. Birge is also responsible for some of the wood carving which decorates the garden, most notably the central wooden cross with the figure of Christ crucified.

As the accompanying slides show, the garden is mainly of stone set in concrete, with a small chapel with stained glass windows, a grotto containing a shroud stained with "blood", decoupage biblical passages, and pools of water.

May we keep the slides... or duplicate them?
The Garden of Memories is located along U.S. Route 52, near the Clinton/Boone County line. Though I have not yet found the time to track down Pastor Moody and talk with him about the garden, I hope to in the future. Let me know if you are interested in additional information.

By the way, is "folk art environment" really the best term to use for these rather eccentric phenomena? *Most folklorists hate the term - we have asked scholars*

Sincerely, *to come up with a better term... but as yet nothing that works as well in the field - enclosed is our definition of what it is we are interested in. This, unfortunately, was not enclosed.*

Geoff Gephart
Folk Arts Coordinator *Knowledge of other sites would be appreciated.*

Can you be our contact person at your agency? Do you have issue #1 of our newsletter "California Environments"?

Thanks for your interest!
Our best!

Seymour

Have identified another religiously-oriented environment, Weston Gardens, in LaPorte Co., Indiana. (over)

Try all yours!

Yes
No

Heston Gardens is a 20-25 acre wooded area with paths, clearings, and unusual plants & trees maintained by a Polish Catholic priest. He has dedicated himself to rescuing artifacts -- statuary, decorative stone carving, ~~the~~ altars, fountains, gates, etc. -- from churches marked for demolition. He also retrieves artifacts from his native Poland. Some nice things, a lot of junk. He uses his rescued treasures to decorate his house, a small chapel, and the various altars and grottoes placed ~~the~~ around the grounds. The gardens are open to the public and are very well kept up.

I haven't had a chance to copy the slides yet. When I do, I'll send you a set.

Keep in touch.

Geoff Beyshart

P.S. Once I get a better idea of the limits of your organization's purview, perhaps I'll work on suggested alternatives to "folk art environment".