



Indiana Arts Commission

32 E. Washington Street, 6th Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Telephone 317/232-1268

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

July 16, 1985

Seymour Rosen, Director
SPACES
1804 North Van Ness
Los Angeles, CA 90028

Dear Mr. Rosen:

I thought ^{Yes!} 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. *Yes!*

By the way, is "folk art environment" really the best term to use for these rather eccentric phenomena? *Most folklorists hate the term - that works as well in the field*

Sincerely,

Geoff Gephart
Folk Arts Coordinator

we keep asking for scholars to come up with a better term - but as yet nothing enclosed is our definition of what it is we are interested in.

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"?