Va. Tribes Pay Annual Tax To Governor — With Deer, Turkeys

RICHMOND — Members of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Indian tribes gathered in front of the governor's mansion on Tuesday to present their payment of taxes.

It is the 342nd time the tribes have gathered to present the governor with wild game as payment of their taxes. The custom, begun in 1646, was formalized by the treaty, the tribes give payment in wild game in exchange for the state's protection of their reservations.

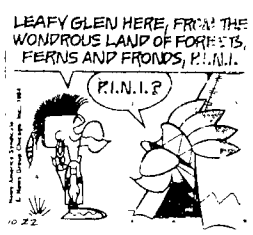
Of the seven original Virginia tribes, only the Pamunkey and Mattaponi retain their reservations.

The Mattaponi gave Gov Gerald L. Baliles a nine-point deer and a 9¾-pound wild turkey. The Pamunkey presented the governor with an eight-point buck.

Meat from the animals was donated to the Richmond Children's Hospital.

Approximately 9,500 Indians live in Virginia, according to the 1980 census.

Source: 11-23-88 Fairfax Journal.



The Recycling of New England

Inside two mammoth warehouses, the recycling of New England is in full swing. Thousands of cans journey up conveyor belts, through an electric eye that registers the total, and onward through crushing units. Workers stack bales of newspapers. Aluminum and other metals, three kinds of glass, and plastics are being processed in other sectors, ready for loading onto 70 trucks or a private rail line.

The headquarters of New England Container Recovery Inc. (CRInc), now in its sixth year of operation, has become the largest reclamation center in the U S , processing more than 50,000 tons of glass bottles and 10,000 tons of other recyclables in 1987. Its story is one of of environmental entrepreneurship, bringing together an unlikely combination of retired military men and members of the "Earth Day" generation to prove that recycling is not only beneficial, but profitable. For each of the past three years, CRInc's total revenues at six different locations have soared to between $18 and $20 million. With about 300 employees including processors and drivers, CRInc now serves more than 5,000 business customers in five New England states.

Richard J. Kattar, CRInc's president, has a simple philosophy: "I think it's irresponsible to consider any solid waste disposal alternative without first considering the hierarchy of decision-making: reduce, reuse, reclaim or recycle waste first, before you burn or landfill it. What we are here is at war — the environment versus garbage." Battle plans for handling the garbage crisis are long overdue. America's daily refuse-newspapers, corrugated cardboard, food scraps, yard waste, plastics, metal and tin cans, cleaning solvents, motor oil and batteries-adds up to 400,000 tons a day, or about 3-and-a-half pounds per person per day.

Landfills, rapidly reaching capacity and often polluting local groundwater supplies, are clearly no longer the panacea. Many regions have turned to mass-burn incineration as an out-of-sight, out-of-mind solution. But both the ash and smoke from incinerator stacks bring residues of poisonous heavy metals and organic chemicals, with lethal dioxins actually created inside the smokestacks. While proponents insist that state-of-the-art incinerators will keep air pollution at a minimum, in one community after another, local citizens have risen up against incinerator plans.

So on a scale not witnessed since World War II, recycling is coming to seem an absolute necessity to an increasing number of people. Most experts say that at least half of the consumer waste stream is recyclable under present technology, if properly separated before mixing to prevent contamination.

Originally, CRInc was the brainchild of a dozen beer distributors, faced with finding some way to cope with mandatory deposit legislation in Massachusetts in 1982. Colonel Richard Kattar was a career military officer with a reputation for fast action. Six months before his scheduled retirement, he was approached by an industry search team looking for a "crisis manager."

"By mid-January 1983," says Kattar, "we were on the road collecting bottles from more than 2,000 retail outlets in Massachusetts. But after a few months, there was a national mood away from alcoholic beverages, and the performance of our business was then based upon a continued growth of beer sales. So I asked the board of directors if we could move into soft-drink containers. This led us into aluminum, glass and plastics. We began to discover we could market our own materials. Small municipalities began looking to us saying they couldn't generate sufficient volume to demand a decent return."

Environmental groups serve to "keep information flowing and soften up the communities so that when CRInc comes in, people already know about the advantages of recycling," says Stephen Katz, CRInc's new head of recycling development. "We're mounting an aggressive program to work with community recycling groups, which are having problems collecting and marketing materials."

Katz studied environmental ethics and ran the University of Denver's recycling plan in college. "The last people I thought I'd ever be working with would be ex-military men. I figured they'd be refugees from a commune or something. But I think CRInc's style is a tremendous plus in the recycling field, where there have been so many loosely run organizations. It's a hard-headed management structure that gets things done — making recycling not only a good idea, but a reality."

Kattar is adamant that reclaiming and recycling is by far the most cost-effective method for dealing with solid waste. Indeed, a study by New York PIRG (Public Interest Research Group) determined that nationwide costs for garbage handling run about $100 a ton for incineration, $90 a ton for landfilling and $40 a ton for recycling. The Environmental Defense Fund notes that an expanded capacity to produce recycled products would create jobs at a rate of 36 per 10,000 tons of waste, compared to six jobs for landfill disposal and only 0.9 for incineration with the same tonnage amount.

Across the country, entrepreneurs are catching on to the possibilities. Subscriptions to Recycling Today magazine, the journal of the industry, tripled last year, from 3,400 to more than 12,000. Chicago's Eaglebrook Plastics turns milk cartons into grist for everything. Tires are crushed into "crumb rubber" at the Tiregator firm in Houston, for use in road pavement or as rubber substitutes. The fiber from shredded polyethylene plastic can be used for insulation in winter jackets. Milk jugs and clear water jugs can be remade into decking and pallets. As for "junk" plastic like detergent and soda bottles, Col. Kattar went to Belgium, where a process called friction extrusion resulted in no harmful air or fluid emissions — and where the plastic was being remolded into Syntal, a synthetic lumber substitute.

The key, ultimately, is citizen participation. During World War II, Americans responded to the resource emergency by recycling more than 11 million pounds of pots and pans into vitally needed aluminum, about 450,000 tons of scrap rubber were collected, and in 1944 alone, 604,000 tons of paper and more than 289 million pounds of tin were reclaimed for use. Since then, of course, the belief that technology could solve everything left most people heedless of the consequences of unlimited consumption. Americans have become accustomed to simply chucking all their trash into one basket, or down the drain.

What must come next are more incentives from government at all levels. "First we've got to overcome people in the waste industry who say the technology is not there," Kattar says. "At the national level we need to establish better health standards, do a technology search worldwide, develop software to go to each state for an array of these technologies. When need dictates, Americans will respond. We have a history of being the ost adaptable people in the world. And thee is clear evidence that when recycling is mandated, it exceeds all expectations. The idea has got to become the reality."

This article is condensed and originally appeared in IN THESE TIMES, 6/88, author Dick Russell — AETF Subcommittee on Solid Waste.

The History of Fluoridation

Bette Hileman

The idea of fluoridating water supplies first arose from studies of dental mottling in areas, such as communities in Texas, where the water supply is fluoridated naturally. In the 1930's, H. Trendley Dean, a dental surgeon at the U.S. Public Health Services (PHS) correlated the occurence of mottling, or dental fluorosis, with the fluoride content of water supplies in 345 U.S. communities. Fluorosis was most common in cities that had the highest concentration of fluoride in their water. He and his colleagues also unexpectedly found a lower incidence of dental caries in areas of endemic dental fluorosis.

Dean concluded that the fluoride content of the drinking water causes a lower rate of dental caries. He also determined that the incidence of mottling was very minor when the fluoride content was 1 ppm or lower but rose linearly at higher concentrations. From this, PHS officials decided in 1943 that 1 ppm was an optimal level at which to artifically fluoridate water supplies in temperate climates. In areas where the fluoride content exceeded 2 ppm, they recommended that fluoride be reduced to a level near 1 ppm.

In 1945, PHS initially planned to conduct 10-year studies of artificial fluoridation in two experimental projects, one in New York and one in Michigan. One city in each state would be fluoridated artificially, and another would serve as a control. PHS officials intended to complete these projects before deciding whether to recommend fluoridation of drinking water as a general practice for all communities.

However, two public health officers in Wisconsin, Francis A. Bull and John Frisch, quickly became convinced of the effectiveness of fluoridation and launched a nationwide campaign to persuade PHS to endorse it. Also, results from the two projects that leaked out in 1950, after the trials had been going on for five years, revealed a sharp reduction in dental caries in the fluoridated cities. As a result of this disclosure and Bull's and Frisch's campaign, PHS officials endorsed fluoridation on June 1, 1950.

Several deficiencies in research by PHS were subsequently aired at Congressional hearings in 1952 and 1957. There had been almost no careful studies to assess the possible adverse health effects of lifelong consumption of fluoridated water. Aside from their dental health, the medical condition of residents of naturally fluoridated areas had been examined superficially, at best. In one of the fluoridation trials, research plans included a study of adverse effects of artificial fluoridation on children, but none on adults. No studies focused on malnourished children or infants, despite a warning in 1952 by Maury Massler, professor of pedodontics at the University of Illinois College of Dentistry, that "low levels of fluoride ingestion which are generally considered to be safe for the general population may not be safe for malnourished infants and children, because of disturbances in calcium metabolism."

Neither PHS nor anyone else had investigated potential carcinogenic effects, effects on pregnant women, or effects on people with chronic kidney impairment or other chronic diseases. Even in the early 1950's, enough was known of fluoride's toxicity profile to identify these as important topics to investigate. From the beginning, the movement to fluoride water was conducted more like a political campaign than a scientific enterprise.

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According to researchers at the New York State Bureau of Dental Health and the U.S. Public Health Service, topical fluoride is practically ineffective in reducing tooth decay. Additional warnings of danger to gum tissues have been raised. At a symposium sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, it was pointed out that "there should be continuing concern and control with fluorides in all forms that are now becoming individually administered for home care (tablet, mouthwash, gels, toothpaste, etc.). The high concentrations of some products may be neither biologically desirable nor clinically necessary.

Fluoride Mouthrinse Programs. Teachers in many schools are now administering fluoride mouthrinses to children. This involves diluting in water 3- to 4-gram packets of fluoride (enough to kill two to five children) and dispensing the rinse to the students. Teachers who are not licensed to practice medicine, dentistry, or pharmacy are violating laws that prohibit the compounding or dispensing of drugs without a license. Additionally, those who do not notify parents about the warnings on the fluoride packets — "Amount is poisonous if swallowed. Keep away from children" and "Warning: Do Not Swallow" — are violating laws that require the terminal distributor to inform parents of any dangers involved.

Fluoride Toothpastes. Fluoridated toothpastes usually contain 1000 ppm fluoride. A family-sized 7-ounce tube of fluoridated toothpaste contains enough fluoride to kill a child weighing less than 20 pounds. While most children will not consume an entire tube of toothpaste, they do consume smaller amounts, and this can pose a health hazard. Four to six year olds, for example, have been found to consume 25 to 33 percent of the toothpaste on the brush. Swedish scientists concerned about this added intake have issued the following warning: If preschool children living in a naturally fluoridated area (artificial fluoridation has been banned in Sweden) brush their teeth with fluoridated toothpaste, they should only be allowed to brush once a day, and then only with a peasized amount of toothpaste and under the supervision of an adult.

Dr. Milton A. Saunders, a physician in Virginia Beach, Virginia, reported that acnelike eruptions can result from the mere contact of fluoridated toothpaste with areas around the mouth. He noted, "I requested that these patients switch, on a trial basis, from their fluoride toothpastes to a non-fluoride toothpaste. Within a period varying from two to four weeks, approximately one half of the patients thus observed cleared of their previously persistent acne-like eruptions. Several of the patients were then allowed to resume use of a fluoride toothpaste. Without exception, each developed the same distribution of acne-like eruptions that had previously occurred." The findings of Dr. Saunders have since been corroborated by United States Army physicians who "gathered clinical and historical data implicating fluoride dentifrices as an important etiologic factor in the dermatosis."

The Solution

The ultimate solution to the fluoride problem is to have it removed from public water systems throughout the country. Many opponents of fluoridation consider the practice a violation of our individual rights to freedom of choice and an imposition of medication on the public through the water supply. It has been proven in court that fluoridation creates a public health hazard. However, the courts have made it quite clear that relief must come through the legislative process. Fluoridation must therefore be stopped through political means. And there is no question that the legislature does have the legal authority to forbid the addition of fluoride to public water supplies.

According to the Washington Bureau editor of *AGD Impact*, the publication of the Academy of General Dentistry, fluoridation has been voted down in about 60 percent of 2,000 United States referenda since 1950. Since 1983, in over half of the referenda in 60 communities across the country, the majority of people voted against fluoridation. Encouraging referenda on health issues such as fluoridation is a way to ensure individual participation in community decision making.

CLASSIFIEDS

"Welcome Home Mona Benedict" Do Something Useful For Yourself! and Have a Merry Christmas! har, har, har.

Calling Michigan — Hi! Donna, Hope you and your family had a wonderful Xmas and the start of having a wonderful New Year. We all miss you and love you all. WRITE or better yet, come and visit! **ALSO,** To Art Tabu in Michigan, we all miss you and yours, hope you had a nice Xmas and will have a very healthy and prosperous New Year! Love from your family — the Tarbells, Beros, Bigtrees, Terrances, Hernes and many friends.