First of all, I dig because I enjoy it and am challenged by it. I enjoy the awesome intellectual and physical challenge of being in the forefront of a field of inquiry which demands tremendous imagination and knowledge on the one hand, and tremendous scientific discipline on the other. It is as if my whole education were in a sense predestined to prepare me for this quest. Never did I dream that I would be using practically every high school, college, and graduate school course I ever had, and wishing that I had had more! For one must be anthropologist, historian, physicist, chemist to measure it, botanist, climatologist, zoologist, geologist, and soil scientist to identify it; artist, photographer to portray it, writer to describe it—all this is part of the demanding discipline of archaeology.

I also enjoy the challenge of finding where an ancient people once lived when there are so few above-ground clues. I enjoy sharing the excitement of discovery with our teams of excavators. Each stroke of the trowel may expose an artifact never touched by human hands since it was lost or discarded centuries ago. Each stroke of the trowel may also expose an artifact, firepit or dwelling plan never before seen by modern archaeologists, and may thus shed new light on the mystery of ancient man.

Finally, I dig because it is a manifestation of my philosophy of life. I dig because I am truly committed to the fact that the legacy of modern man is closely tied to the past, that any break in the historical continuity is a tragedy of great proportions for all mankind. Ancient man must be allowed to speak to modern man, to share with him his successes and failures, the web of his daily life, so that modern man may learn and perhaps profit from ancient man's life experiences. Since the northeastern American Indian had practically no written means of communication, it is only through the steadily improving science of archaeology that these secrets can be unlocked. Hence archaeological digs become almost the sole avenue of discovery. And discover we must, for these people lived for thousands of years on the land we now call our home. The lessons they learned and the mistakes they may have made in learning to live in harmony with nature here may not only be instructive but may also offer viable cultural alternatives for use in this time of great ecological stress.

At the very least we are discovering our past, over 10,000 years of largely unknown American Indian prehistory; at best, we may discover some lesson that may insure the survival of man.

Thus digging to me is not only a great enjoyment, but a profound responsibility...a beacon of hope as well.
Some of these appeal to students in the early grades—we have class visitors as young as age four, with preschool groups coming from as far away as Brooklyn Heights, New York.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Using information acquired by our staff through research and archaeological excavations, our Education Department provides a wide variety of learning opportunities.

We have the facilities and the interested personnel to work with high school students planning Independent Study Programs. Such expertise continues on through college and graduate school levels.

Other experiences appeal to the emerging scientist at high school level...

We have programs, and can organize custom-styled plans, to aid teachers with their own development as well as to supplement social studies courses for their classrooms.

Approximately 3000 students visited our Center during the first year of the Educational Program.
RESEARCH

The American Indian Archaeological Institute is the only Regional Resource Center of its kind on the east coast. Through the discipline of archaeology we have uncovered far earlier dated evidence of man in New England than any other organization. Members of our Research Department are working on projects not only in Connecticut but all over the New England states. Recently, the Institute has been contracted by the Connecticut Historical Commission to survey the entire Housatonic River Valley Watershed as part of a Connecticut Cultural Resource Management Program.
AS A MEMBER
you support this Regional Resource Center...

AS A MEMBER
you in turn receive these benefits:

You receive quarterly and other publications—interesting reading and an opportunity to keep abreast of coming events;

You receive advance notice, and opportunity for first refusal of limited-enrollment craft classes

You may participate in excavations of AIAI sites;

You receive a member discount on purchases at our Gift Shop, with new items frequently added;

You are invited to special events open to members only, including our Annual Meeting, our Founders' Day ceremonies, etc.

You are entitled to reduced prices for college-credit courses;

And you participate in uncovering the mystery of man dating back over 10,000 years.

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AMERICAN INDIAN
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