

The Weather Forecast

By Dee Ketchum

One cold, blustery fall day the chief of the Delaware Tribe told a tribal member, "I think we're going to have a bad winter." Naturally, the man told others what the chief had said, and the word got around that the chief could foretell the weather.

As winter approached a group of Delawares went to the chief and asked if it was going to be a bad winter. By this time he had forgotten his earlier prediction and was wondering why they thought he would know. He said, "I'll tell you tomorrow." After they left, the chief called the man at the local weather bureau and asked him if it would be a bad winter. The weatherman said, "Oh, yes."

A couple of weeks later more Delawares went to the chief and asked if it was really going to be a bad winter. Again he said, "I'll tell you tomorrow," and after they left, he called the man at the weather bureau and asked him. The weatherman said, "Oh, it really will be bad."

Several more weeks went by and even more Delawares went to the chief and asked if it was truly going to be a bad winter, and they got the usual reply, "I'll tell you tomorrow." Once again he called the man at the weather bureau and asked him. The weatherman said, "Oh, it is going to be the worst in years!"

By now the chief was curious, and he asked the weatherman, "How exactly do you know this?" The weatherman said, "Well, I've been watching these Delaware Indians. They have ways of knowing these things, and they've been chopping wood like crazy for weeks!"