



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS?

FROM

THE DISHMAN HILLS

May 1975
DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSN., INC., E. 10820 MAXWELL AVE., SPOKANE, WA. 99206

SAVE SOME FREEDOM FOR BICENTENNIAL

HIKE WITH US SUNDAY

Since the weather wants't very kind to us on the annual Buttercup Hike, discouraging all but a few sturdy hikers, we have scheduled another hike into the Dishman Hills (a Mayflowers Hike?) for Sunday afternoon, May 18 at 2 p.m. Won't you join us then at Kivanis Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road (south of Dishman Theater)? We'll try not to have any snow storms and many spring flowers should be at their peak, plus a good array of summer birds. Bring the family!

A Little About Wrens

Among our songbirds the wrens are possibly the spriteliest. Five species may be found in the Spokane area--if you know where to look for them. Most people know of the house wren, that energetic little fellow that builds its cluttered nest of twigs in a bird house or a crack in a building, or almost anywhere that suits its fancy. In the Tower Mountain area the bird is a common nester around farm houses. Several pairs also nested in old woodpecker holes and other cavities in dead trees on a ridge that was burned over a few years ago.

Less well known is the rock wren. One of the best places in eastern Washington to see this unusual bird is the Dishman Hills. Its exotic song can be heard starting in May, from the higher parts of the hills, where it hides its nest in crevices in the granite cliffs.



Much less well known but at least as enjoyable is the winter wren. Yes, it stays around all winter. Never far from water, it usually

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Recently I perched on a mossy ledge on a ridge of Tower Mountain near Spokane and swung my gaze from the still-snowy mountains of Idaho south past Steptoe Butte and on to the unbroken western horizon and recalled some words from Expo '74's closing ceremony, "All good things must come to an end." Yes, Expo did, but what about the big, beautiful world before me? Hardly. This year and next, the bicentennial years, celebrating freedom, why not dedicate ourselves to the saving of an old, old freedom, the freedom of wild forest and mountain, where we can sometimes be free of mass living, mass amusement, mass spectatorship? That freedom disappears a little every year, with each new explicitation in the name of progress and comfort, which inevitably takes us more dependent upon the affluence that engulfs us.

We need places where we can prove to ourselves that we are not utterly dependent upon civilization. Yet herein lies a great danger, that so many of us are intent upon escaping to prove ourselves, that we cannot escape but find ourselves trapped in a vast crowd trying to do the same thing! This is already happening, in full camp grounds,

So far this year we have raised \$1172 toward our \$5000 land fund goal. We'll need to move faster than this to make it!

crowded beaches, overused trails and camp spots in the hills. With this in mind, we can never have too much wild space--we can only hope we can have somewhere nearly enough. That is why we of the DNMWA want to save a mountain--a mountain close to home, a mountain too good to waste and if once wasted is forever lost.

Our mountain-saving fund now has something over \$6000 in it, only a start. We set a goal of \$5000 more this year. Probably we should have set a goal of five times (please turn page)

is found along a chattering mountain stream in deep, shady forest. In winter it drops down into the lowlands and may be found along the edges of lakes or ponds. They have been seen in the Dishman Hills in the autumn and last summer a pair raised a brood along the little creek that flows north from the east side of Tower Mountain. Just now they are singing their lively, bubbling notes that blend with the tinkling of the stream.

Even less well known is the canyon wren, also a year-round resident. Although one was seen in late summer last year on Tower Mountain, it is not known to nest there. They presumably nest among the cliffs along the Little Spokane River and in Deep Creek Canyon of Riverside State Park.

The last of the five wrens is quite common but is seldom seen because it nests among the cattails and bulrushes of marshes. The long-billed marsh wren weaves one or more nests but uses only one of them. This bird may be found at Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge south of Cheney and in other marshy areas.

MANY THANKS TO YOU WHO HAVE ALREADY GIVEN to the current fund drive. And here's a thought: have you considered giving part or maybe all of your coming income tax rebate to the land fund to save the mountain? We think it would be a wise investment in America, in a part of America right at our doorstep.

Our next meeting is Wed., May 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Camp Caro. We expect to have new color slides of the Tower Mtn. area. Do join us there.

Dishman Hills Natural Area Association, Inc.
A non-profit organization

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that much--wouldn't it be great if that much came in? Now is the time to save the mountain--a few years from now will probably be too late. We will have lost another of our freedoms. Please help all you can! We invite you to make your gift in the name of a loved one, as a living memorial that will last forever.

Please send your "freedom gift" to our treasurer, David E. Lentjes, E. 514 Fairview, Spokane, Wa. 99207. And don't forget, come next April, that your gift is TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

Please clip and use blank at bottom of page. Thanks!

How's Your Recycling?

What are YOU doing for the RECYCLING effort? We need more than ever to stop waste and help prevent inflation in doing so. Our association took in nearly \$465 last year by recycling, for the land fund. Aluminum is still one of the best sources of cash. Kaiser's Can-Do center downtown on South Division takes all-aluminum cans and also foil and TV trays, etc. Reynolds Aluminum on E. Trent takes these and also other scrap aluminum. B and B Distributors besides taking Lucky Lager and Heidelberg bottles, also takes aluminum cans. All aluminum is now 15¢ a pound.

Spokane Recycling on E. Main just west of Freya takes newspaper at \$5 a ton and mimeo, ditto and other good quality white paper at \$20 a ton. Last we heard they were not taking cardboard of any kind. If you wish, they will credit your paper directly to us. Please give them your name on the slip so we will know whom to thank and credit it to on our books.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF COEUR D' ALENE, which last week dedicated Tubbs Hill above its downtown waterfront as a natural area for recreation. This beautiful, 135 acre area was saved by gifts from citizens, money appropriated by the city government and matching funds from the Federal Government. The area gives a fine view of the lake and has many of the plants and animals that are present in Dishman Hills Natural Area.