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LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

FEBRUARY 1990

Our income for December came to \$3,026.93 (\$2,000.00/for memorials from a donor in Federal Way). Recycling furnished \$153.93. Interest income on our land fund came to \$34.55. Expenses totalled \$187.94.

Our thanks to the foli wing Dishman Hills boosters who have contributed money, recyclables and/or services to our land project and have given permission to be listed here: Kathryn Bernard, Jim/ Marilyn Bertis, Leta Chapman, Cheryl Craig, Steve Davenport, Harriet F. Davies, Ida Dolphin, Verna Dolphin, Jincy Engle, Reece Ennesh, Gil/ Mert Erickson, Stanley/Bernice Fahlgren, Joan G. Fergin, John Gardner, Sue Gregory, Charlene A. Hagen, Dorothy Harting, Ivy/Ken Hendrix, Ruth A. Herrington, Blanche/Mel Holsten, Emma Jacklin, Lynn M. John, Patrick S. Lettenmaier, James R. Loudermilk, William/Sandra McMillan, Florence Miller, Aroa A. Ohme, Neal A. Pattison, Irene N. Peyton, Robert M. Phillips, Ambrose/Willene Priestley, Tom/Trudy Rogers, Tom Rogers Sr., Blanche Sarver, Bill Schuh, Martha F. Spohn, Spokane Retired Teachers Association, Al/Phyllis Stagman, Larry Thiemann, Alice Tiffany, Shirley Wihlborg and Jeanne H. Wilson.

Washington State Department of Wildlife has for many years been accumulating information on wild animals of the state, primarily on vertebrate animals but also on some insects, principally butterflies. We have been able to supply some data for Spokane County and a few other localities in eastern Washington.

The city of Spokane has established a Wetlands Task Force to inventory ponds and streams within the city and to advise how to protect them and the life they contain. The task force is meeting twice a month through May. Tom Rogers, our vice-president, is a member of the task force. It is gratifying to us to see that this action is taking place.

We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural areas of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from.

President: Larry Thiemann Secretary: Helen Lininger
Vice-President: Tom Rogers Treasurer: David Lenten
Board members (in addition to officers): Doris Allgood, Omar Carroll, Margaret Haggin, Francis Potter, June Potter and Ray Staley.

Our monthly meetings from now on are at University Elementary School, 16th and University in the Spokane Valley, at 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of each month. A slide program on Tower Mountain will be shown at the January meeting. You are cordially invited. For additional information call 926-7949.

Because of the holiday for Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, our January meeting had to be postponed until the following Monday, the 28th, since University Elementary, our present meeting place, was not open. We still plan to have the slide show on Tower Mountain. See you then!

WHY DIVERSITY?

Biologists believe that a diversity of plants and animals is needed to assure a relative stability in an area. Thus if one species declines or even disappears, there is a possibility that some other species may increase and fill in the gap. Yet each time a species disappears, this reduces the ability of the area to remain stable. Of course there is no such thing as complete stability. Numbers and even species change with the seasons. Forest fires change things drastically, yet even here the biological system works back to the relatively stable situation that existed before--until another fire starts the process all over again.

In human economic systems also, diversity tends to produce stability. Spokane's economy avoids violent ups and downs because it depends not upon one or a few enterprises, such as coal or oil or mining or lumbering or aircraft production, but instead has various sources of income.

Human-made systems almost invariably reduce species diversity greatly, with the result that these systems require constant effort to maintain these systems. Croplands must be cultivated, fertilized, sown and often treated with insecticides and herbicides. (Natural controls, for example insect-eating birds, are generally eliminated.) Special means must be used to prevent erosion on hilly ground. Cities are the ultimate in changing biological systems. Native species are usually eliminated in favor of exotic ones often requiring special care, or nuisance ones, for example rats, mice, starlings, earwigs, aphids, and a variety of weeds. Air, water and soil pollutants accumulate, causing more problems. We must try to work more with nature's rules instead of defying them. Gradually we are beginning to realize this. Hopefully we are not too slow or too late.

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Account No. **09310**

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- \$ _____ Land purchase fund
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_____ Check here if you do NOT want your name listed as a donor.

Please make checks payable to Dishman Hills Natural Area Association and mail to the Treasurer, P.O. Box 14141, Spokane, WA 99214-0141. Many thanks!