



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

FEBRUARY 1992

CONTRIBUTIONS

Donations during December totalled \$1487.00 and during January, \$870.70. Expenses came to \$151.00 in December. The statement for January wasn't ready yet. Our thanks to the following who contributed during the last two months and have given permission to be listed here. (If you aren't listed but should have been, please let us know at 926-7949).

James C. Banta, Winifred Becker, James T. Bertis, Robin M. Bishop, Helen Blackwell, Gretchen Brown, Ualt Caleson, Phyllis Ann Camp, Connie J. Cencilch, Joan G. Chesbrough, James F. Conaty, Jackie Davenport, Harriet F. Davies, Carol L. Ellis, Harriet Evans, Stanley A. Fahlgren, Joan G. Fergin, Dr. W. A. Fernau Jr., Harriet J. Fix, Margaret F. Galbraith, Barbara Garcia, George W. Girvin, Dr. R. Steven Heaps, Sandra Jean Hollar, LeRoy Hook, Marion E. Krauss, Karl Krogue, Shiran Lee, Patrick S. Lettermaier, Helen Lininger, Bill Marchand, Gloria McCuddin, Sally Mickels, Mrs. Roy R. Mills, Carl W. Milton, Helen E. Nelson, Rick Nelson, Joy Peterson, A. Willene Priestley, Tom Rogers, Mabel R. Sackett, Lee M. Smith, Helen Stowell, Spokane Retired Teachers' Association, William K. Steele, Irene Strandberg, Jan Strobeck, Leila R. Swan, Lawrence Thiemann, Jane M. Thrasher, Ed Tietjen, Robert S. Turner, Wanda B. Warren, George Wilson, Jeanne H. Wilson, Mrs. Harold B. Wimpy and Sunni Winston-Mace.

We encourage you to keep up the recycling even though we are unable to pick up as much as previously. Our special thanks to Ed Tietjen, who has taken over much of this, and to John Gardner, who continues to help. If you can, please take them to Spokane Recycling on Main just west of Freya, telling them it is for Dishman Hills and leaving your name. We won't know who left the recyclables unless you can get your receipt to us.

Otherwise use your little blue box. Too bad they won't accept plastic other than P.E.T. bottles, nor aluminum foil. It's still an improvement, however. Maybe some day we will get as smart as Nature and recycle everything, hopefully extending life on earth for some time.

At our January meeting we reelected our board directors and officers and added a board member, Michael Hamilton. Welcome, Mike!

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

Our monthly meetings continuing until Spring will be at Opportunity Elementary School, 1109 South Wilbur the third Monday at 7 P.M. (The February meeting will be on the fourth Monday) You are cordially invited.

Spring is coming on slowly in the Dishman Hills. The wild things are apparently not being fooled by the mild weather. No buttercup flowers have been found yet, but they are showing green leaves, and the slender spears of grass widows are appearing. Mosses on the cliffs are a wonderful emerald and lichens are brightening up. Birds are, as expected, are still scarce. A recent census found only a few red-breasted nuthatches and a raven.

Damage continues to be a problem. On the county land a recent camp with a fire ring was found, with the skull of a spike buck hung from a pine tree. It had been cleared of flesh and part of the bone, quite surely by coyotes. The deer clearly had been killed in the area this fall or winter for there was much deer hair nearby. The area is of course a no shooting area and camps are allowed only in the vicinity of Camp Caro. Whether Spokane County Parks and the Department of Natural Resources will allow horses and mountain bikes on their land is still to be decided. The Nature Conservancy and our organization do not want them on our land. Motorcycles, which none of the owning organizations want, are tearing up the land. Signs are not keeping them out.

We have a committee looking into the possibility of buying key land in the Dishman Hills area. We will keep you informed if anything along this line happens.

We have had several inquiries as to what is going on on the west side of the Dishman Hills. We understand that a person plans to build there. Boulders and dirt have been bulldozed and a rough road built to a high point within about forty feet of our land, where for now it dead ends. We wonder how the owner will pipe water up through the almost solid rock and get the sewage out. It seems that Spokane County Planning Department will allow building almost anywhere as long as the lot size requirement is met, and if there isn't enough soil depth to accommodate a septic tank drainfield, the builder can add a few feet of soil. In the past this has, we are told, resulted in the sewage coming out farther down the slope, since it can't sink away through the rock. It will be interesting to see how this all turns out--or comes out!

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