



Dr. Steven Dixon
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 Spokane, WA 99207

Lights and Shadows from the Dishman Hills, October, 1999

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it has to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

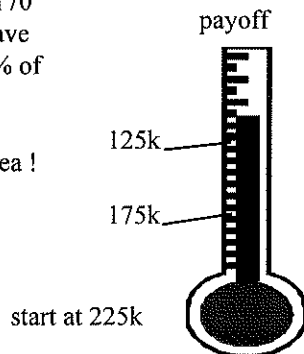
- Henry David Thoreau
 at Rogers memorial service

Tom Rogers, our founder, was laid to rest last month with a memorial service of friends, family, and associates. We sent him on his way with praise, recollections, and a spirited chorus of the "The Happy Wanderer". It wasn't a sad event as much as a affirmation of how much Tom had done for us in his life.

A memorial fund was started to help pay off our Tower Mtn. land purchase, one of Tom's dreams, the Rocks of Sharon Nature Area . The fund is approaching 10K and climbing, the response is truly wonderful. A sincere heartfelt thanks to the following: Abacus Office Machines, Ted Brandt, Evonne & Roy Chapman, J.R. & Victoria Charbonneau, Shirley Casite, Lillian & David DeLine, Myrtle Erickson, Robert & Golden Facs, Walter & Alice Fernau, Susan Gadfrey, Don & Inga Griffiths, Larry Grossman, Lindell Haggin, Michael Hamilton, Ruth Hammack, Lloyd & Janet Hannink, Tim & Susan Henderson, Beverly Hinton, Hobnailers Inc., Leroy & Shirley Hook, Rebecca & David Knapp, Richard and William Lentes, William Mann, Gregory Mathews, Linda Martin, Ruth & Brian Miller, Margaret & Edward Millsap, Barbara Morkill, Ruth Ownbey, Joy Peterson, W. & O. Pollin, Francis & June Potter, Edward & Janet Reynolds, William & Cythia Rogers, Luella Rowberg, Marjorie Rozell, Susan & Terrence Sawyer, Berverly Sherwood, Lois & Dennis Smith, Holly Sonneland, Spokane Audobon Society, Spokane Mountaineers, Spokane Mushroom Club, Keith & Shirley Sturtz, St. Mary's Garden Club, Debra Watson, Pam Wilcox, Barney & Jeanne Wilson, Beatrice & Robert Wilson, and Howard & Mary Lou York. **Thank You!**

Our original purchase was for 170 acres at \$1,323 per acre. We have paid off almost 110 acres or 65% of the contract for this land.

Buy an acre for the Rocks of Sharon Nature Area !



A NEW MILLENNIUM

Let everyone rest assured that everything in the Natural Area is Y2K compliant. We have throughly checked rocks, trees, and fauna, and are confident that the turn of the millennium will not result in immediate chaos in the forest. All kidding aside, the advent of a new millennium is a good time for the Dishman Hills Association to reassess its goals, assets, and methods.

We are already in a transitional period with the continuing loss of those individuals who started and supported the Association over the last three decades. The thin "green line" of people that stand between development and natural areas is getting thinner, and the problems of urban and rural sprawl are getting bigger. Who should shoulder the burden of saving and managing Spokane's natural areas: government, neighbourhoods, special taxes, businesses, or citizens? Can just the generosity of individuals carry the day as it has in the past?

There seems to be a pervasive pessimism that natural areas in our community will eventually fall to roads, homes and businesses, if not just to over use. Our community assets are being put into development that compete with natural area. For every \$10 put in development, there is one penny for conservation. It's volunteers against full-time professionals, big government against small conservation organizations, and a social tradition of western expansion against new ideas and thinking such as urban growth boundaries.

There are conversations on these matters in the various organizations around town, and in what is left of the century, several articles will explore some of these topics. The future of the Hills may depend on how well we adapt to the new century.

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