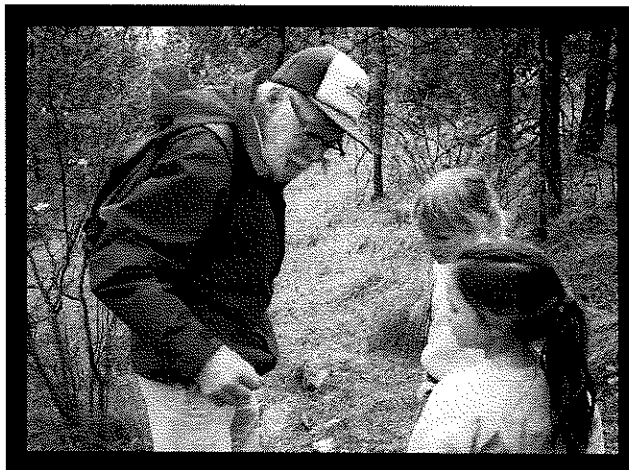




Lights and Shadows from the Dishman Hills, September, 1999



Tom Rogers, 1914 to 1999

Tom Rogers is gone. He passed away at the age of 85 on September 23, the first full day of Autumn. Tom was a founder, past president, and the guiding light of the Dishman Hills Association. His devotion to saving the Dishman Hills was an inspiration for over three decades for citizens working to preserve our Natural Heritage. A memorial service will be held on October 1, 4pm, at Spokane Valley United Methodist Church, 10422 E. Main Avenue.

In a day and age when our society seems to be running short of meaningful role models, Tom Roger stands out as a real 24-career hero. He was a champion of education and science, devoted to public service, and had a burning desire to make the future better for all of us. He never prized materialism, and always avoided attention. He had a passion for nature, a talent for teaching, and an enthusiasm that was inspirational. Tom could see what was happening to the natural world around him, the bulldozer of humanity destroying the environment. It was obvious to those around him that it caused him personal pain to see a forest fall to the ribbons of asphalt and pools of concrete covering our country sides. His rare moments of anger were often tied to a frustration over our stupidity in cashing in natural places for urban expansion.

One of Tom's favourite quotes was by A. Morgan, "What we save in the next few years is all that will ever be saved." By these words he lived, with a vision of a community that cared for its natural areas. He realised that nature needs a protected sanctuary to survive. Tom was not just a man of strong beliefs, but a man of action who devoted much of his life to saving his special place, the Dishman Hills. He took his stand there, a place of awesome natural beauty, a place he felt worth saving for the future generations.

Tom, we will miss you, your excitement on spotting a rare butterfly, your willingness to tour a class of kids through a wonderland of biodiversity, your pointed comments to county commissioners planning more development, and your humorous, friendly nature that revealed how much you really liked people despite our destructive tendencies. Not all of Tom Rogers is gone. Take a hike in the Hills and you will find some of him there. His vision and passion to save the natural world was very contagious and will live on in many of us who had the honour to know him.

The Tom Rogers Memorial Fund

Tom's dream was a new nature area on Tower Mtn; we have started but still owe 93K; share Tom's dream and do what you can.

All donations are tax deductible
and receipts will be provided for
donations \$250 and up or on request

Sent donations to: DHNAA
E. 10820 Maxwell Ave.
Spokane, WA 99206