



ks Dept.

Lights and Shadows from the Dishman Hills, November 2000

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 had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived" *Henry David Thoreau*

It was a little over a year ago that we lost Tom Rogers, founder and touchstone for our Association. A year later we are still on track to complete the work Tom started and in this time of thanksgiving, we have a lot to be thankful for: such as the support of so many committed and generous people, and the fruits of our successful labours of over three decades of conservation efforts in the Dishman Hills. The following is a remembrance of Tom Rogers written by Helen Lininger, one of those who have been involved from the beginning:

Tom Rogers took his biology class to the ponds in the Dishman Hills and conceived of the idea that they should be preserved for the education and enjoyment of future generations. He felt that a "grass roots" movement, wherein the ordinary people would buy, own, and care for the land, keep it as natural as possible, and not just use it for a playground, was a possibility.

He called a meeting in March, 1966. Fifteen people met and passed the hat for postage. That fifteen dollars put the plan in motion. The first two parcels of land acquired proved his faith in people and kept the "grass roots" concept alive and well through donations, bake sales, car washes, and other activities from people of all ages. Tom started a recycling program twenty five years before others got on the band wagon.

He was impressive in his tenacity, determination, commitment to the project, and his singleness of purpose. Through those years his first priority was his family. The only thing that excited him more than being able to make our payments was a backpack hike, bicycle race, fishing trip, or his marriage, his grandchildren, and his understanding wife. Rare glimpses into his private life revealed his basic philosophy and it carried over into his public image. All who knew him will remember him in their own way. For the most part, he will have added something positive to each life he touched.

WINTER TIME

"Over the Hill and through the woods"

The winter season is more than holiday shopping, roasting turkey, and quiet evenings around the fireplace. To find more of what is winter, you will have to abandon the warm, comfortable life and get out on the trail to meet the season face to face. Dress warm, pack a thermos, and don't forget the gloves. To discover the many "moods"

of the season in the Hills, try a dark grey day, then a deep blue, crispy-cold day, or how about a snowstorm. Solitude seems to be abundant and may be what strikes the winter hiker first. The subtle sounds of wind and moving water stand out. Views from the trail penetrate deeper into the woods through leafless shrubs. Now you can see those little birds that hop along the tree branches and along the ground. Mosquitoes, ticks, and chiggers are not a problem. Ever notice how snow looks different at different temperatures. Magnificent icicles form on rock cliffs where ground water seeps from fractures and frost builds a crystalline fir on pine needles. The forest floor is covered with a media (snow) ready made to preserve tracks of animals we are usually not patient or quiet enough to see. The slumber of a winter forest seems to cleanse one of the frantic holiday schedule, and with a new perspective, the better aspects of the "season" seem to raise to the top.

ORGANIZATION NEWS

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have any questions. We have a monthly meeting the third Tuesday of the month at Opportunity Elementary School, in the teacher's lounge, S. 1109 Wilbur, 7pm.

The following are our October donors that have consented to be listed: James Berry, Helen Cook, Stanley Fahlgren, Don Griffiths, Henry Hagen, Dianne Huggar, Helen Lininger, Bernadine McClincy, Beth Miller, Carrol Orcutt, Joy Peterson, Jane Rogers, Lois Smith, Spokane Mountaineers, Jan Strobeck, Barney Wilson, and five anonymous donors. Thank you one and all!

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