

# LIGHTS and SHADOWS

from the  
Dishman Hills

September 2007

## FALL, MINUS 30

The temperature is dropping, daylight is shorter, school's in, and everyone talking about what to expect for winter weather. Fall has arrived in the Hills and the forest and those things that live there are making the changeover from a season of growth and reproduction to a season of hibernation and survival. It's a time of change and, for some, a time for more reflection than expectation. Here's what was going on in September, 1977, 30 years ago as reported in the Lights and Shadows for the month, summarized under each article title.

**MORE LAND IN HILLS STILL IN OFFING** - The Association was looking to acquire more of the open land south of the southern border of the existing "Conservancy" parcel, the present southern side of the Natural Area. Spokane County was approached for help and had informed us that there was no money available for purchase, matching money, or appraisal. Member were urged to meet at Camp Caro to decide what to do next.

**PARTS OF TOWER MOUNTAIN LOGGED** - Four areas on Tower Mountain were logged during the summer, destroying valuable ecological space in exchange for a poor lumber harvest. The Association had already set it's sights on acquisition of the land there and commented on the effect of opening the area to motorcycles, silting up Iller Creek, and the removal of habitat. It was noted that the one western red cedar escaped as did a patch of scarce squawberry.

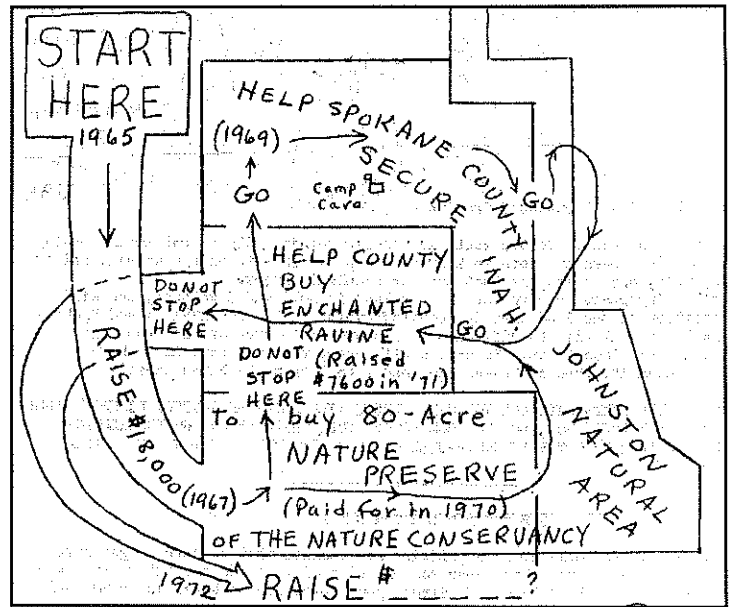
**STUDY OF COUNTY'S PLANTS, ANIMAL UNDERWAY** - Spokane County had embarked on a study of the principal plant and animal communities, with emphasis on natural areas as part of an updating of the County's Comprehensive Plan. The survey could highlight special areas of habitat for growth planning.

**HILLS HAVE RESISTED DROUGHT WELL** - The dry spell in 1977 was not affecting the Hills too much other than one of the ponds filling with grass, the loss of some of the fall flowers such as the gentians and yampahs, and the poor pine cone crop which could affect pine squirrels, crossbills, and nuthatches.

**DO WE CARE FOR AMERICA'S LAND** - Tom Rogers, the current newsletter editor, never failed to comment on the importance of natural land conservation in our county and our neighborhood. He states "Our basic, most crucial environment is not our cities, highways and buildings, but the land, water, air and sunlight which supports them and all life on earth. Destroy them and we are all through."

**RECYCLING** - The Manito Garden Club was collecting recycle products for the Dishman Hills land fund. Recycling was a substantial part of fund raising then. It was a win-win program, saving natural resources while providing funds for land acquisition.

As we can see, much of what is going on now in the Hills and the community has deep roots based in the efforts of those of 30 years ago. The Association is still working to save more land south of the Natural Area, and has made its first purchase there several years ago. The Tower Mountain Natural Area is a reality, but still a work in progress. Spokane County has embarked on a conservation land program to save those special places, and it is still very dry. America, however, seems to have wandered from a commitment to place its environment on the top of our national "to do" list. We still see it more important to rebuild the bridge than to protect the water over which it crosses, and these priorities are coming back to bite us, big time. Tom Rogers knew what he was taking about!



Flow chart from the 1970's

**Don't forget the future,  
Conservation Future Vote that is in November**

## ASSOCIATION 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 questions. We meet every other month on the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm, at Opportunity Elementary School, S. 1109 Wilbur. Our next meeting will be November 20th.

The following are our August donors that have consented to be listed: Nancy Cashion, Joseph Collins, Don Griffiths, Stephanie Lambert, Sharon Murphy, William Sylvester, Jeanne Wilson, and one anonymous donor. Thank you for your support during a very slow season for donations.

*I would feel optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving he can outwit nature and more time tasting her Sweetness and respecting her seniority— E.B. White (1899-1985)*

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