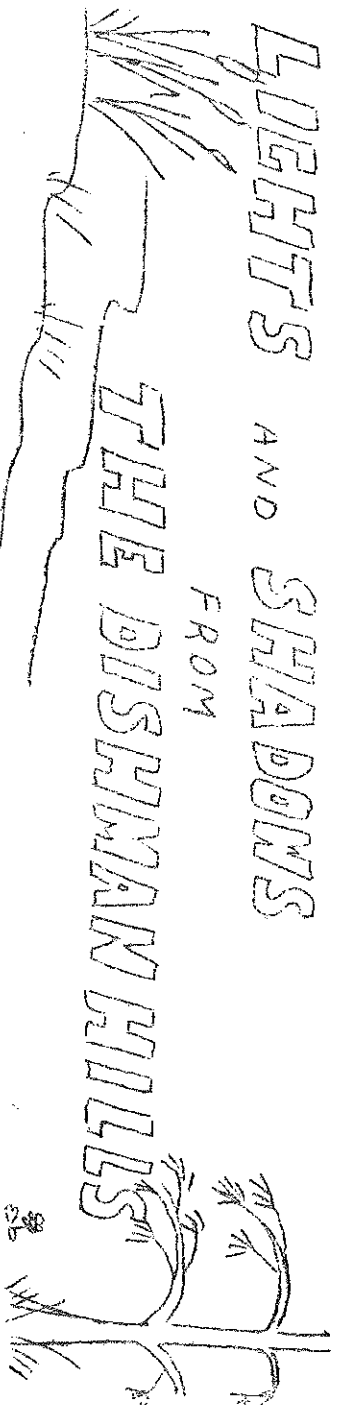


# GOERTTS AND SHAADONS

FROM

## THE DISHMAN HILLS

SB



March 1977  
DISHMAN HILLS NATURE CENTER, INC., P.O. BOX 10720, SPOKANE, WA 99205

### ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER HAS BECOME REALITY

### SPRING IS HAPPENING IN THE HILLS

We humans are likely the most wonderful and awesome creatures ever to roam the earth. Wonderful for our ability to reason and understand, to have compassion for each other and other living things, to enjoy beauty. We strive for our power to destroy, almost at will, other creatures and even ourselves, and to alter the earth's environment, supposedly for the better but often for worse, endangering or extinguishing many a living thing.

Spokane's Center for Environmental Understanding, apparently the first of its kind in the U. S., is attempting to bring about a better understanding of humans in relation to the earth and its other inhabitants. Goals include a coordination of environmental education beginning in the Spokane area, a modern building in Inverfront Park with classrooms, displays, laboratory and work space, a small library, a small auditorium and stage, meeting rooms and office space. Plans for the building are being formulated and funding is being sought. See the Mar. 13 Spokesman-Review, page 1. We hope you will support the C. E. U.

### BUTTERCUP MIKE IS MARCH 27

Our annual Buttercup Mike into the Dishman Hills is set for Sunday, March 27 at 2 P.M. starting from Kivanis Camp Camp, S. 525 Sargent Road. Return south off Sprague Avenue just west of Dishman Theater, on Sargent Road. See you there!

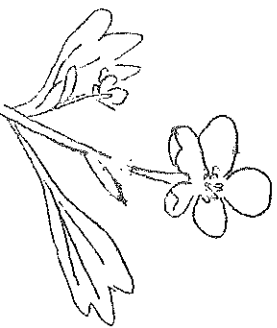
### WANT TO COLLECT? GO WEST IN SPOKANE

The Nature Conservancy's Inland Empire Chapter is planning an April meeting in Spokane, probably on a Saturday morning. We expect a good film and reports on its preservation projects, of which the Dishman Hills Preserve is one. Watch for newspaper announcements for time, place

We are accustomed to think of robins and buttercups as the first signs of spring but the tiny mosses and lichens started growing long before, as soon as temperatures rose above freezing and the thawing snow moistened them. On trees, rocks and soil usually too dry in summer, they take advantage of late-winter and spring moisture to grow spores that will reproduce their kind. Mosses send up slender, inch-high stalks tipped with pointed capsules and lichens break out with a variety of cuplike structures. Either group of plants would, if larger, probably be held in great esteem by gardeners and plant fanciers. As it is, they inconspicuously lead their tiny lives and the rock-dwelling kinds slowly build soil from the rock, soil which makes it possible for more conspicuous and useful plants to thrive. Only then can the more familiar heralds of spring, buttercups, grass willows, pepper-and-salt, and whitlow grass, find a foothold. Close to the warming soil, they blossom and set seed while larger plants are just beginning to leaf out. Thus they avoid both summer's drought and the competition for light. A few shrubs and trees don't wait for leaves, however. The pussy willows and quaking aspens and alders with their furry or drooping catkins announce spring with their own unique kind of flowers.

Robins are at best an uncertain sign of spring in our area, for, as in the winter of 1951-76 they may stay all winter, though probably they were migrants from Canada. Even meadowlarks aren't reliable for they seem to winter regularly in the fields north of Saltase Marsh in the Spokane Valley. However, when robins begin to sing, along with song sparrows, junco and house finches, and chickadees give their whistled "fee-bee", it's time to think about spring fever. In the ponds the tree toads raise their chorus

Yellow-White also:



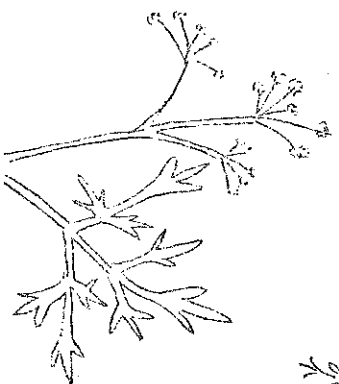
*Ranunculus glaberrimus*



White  
*Draba verna*



White  
Pigeon Wheat Moss  
(*Polygonum*)



Pink  
Grass Willow  
(*Sisyrinchium iridatum*)



Pink  
Pepper-and-Salt  
(*Lemnium germani*)

DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSOC., INC.  
INCOME STATEMENT FOR 1976

Income:	
Memberships	\$ 500.00
Donations	3300.00
Recycling	273.20
Interest on Savings Acct.	736.65
Total Income	<u>\$5409.85</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 300.44
Net Income	\$3101.41

BALANCED SHEET FOR 1976

Current Assets:	
Cash in Banks	\$
Checking account	61.72
Savings accounts	16,213.69
Total in Banks	<u>\$16,275.41</u>
Cash on hand	341.93
Total current assets	16,617.34
Fixed assets:	
Fire Patrol radios	250.00
Total assets	\$16,867.34

Retained Income:	
Ret. Income, Dec. 31, '75	\$11,765.93
Net income for 1976	5,101.41
Total Retained Income	<u>\$16,867.34</u>

Note: This statement is somewhat condensed. The complete statement is available from the Association upon request.

DISHMAN HILLS LAND APPRAISAL UNDERWAY

Appraisal of land in the Dishman Hills, with a view to possible purchase, is expected to be completed in April, according to A. D. (Sam) Ingove, Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department director. The land, adjacent to the Nature Conservancy Preserve, consists of

DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSOC., INC.

A non-profit organization

- Helen E. Svinger, President
- Thomas W. Rogers, Vice-Pres. & editor
- Bernice Armons, Secretary
- David E. Lentz, Treasurer

Directors (in addition to officers):

- Oscar E. Carroll Daniel A. Kalerin
- Greg Evans William F. Marchand
- Bernice Kahn Ambrose Priestley
- Warren A. Hill

SPRING IS HAPPENING (cont. from page 1)

On sunny days when the temperature reaches the high fifties or more, a few butterflies take wing. These are the hibernators, emerged from their pupas the summer before. Most striking are the big deep brown mourning cloaks, with yellow-bordered, blue-dotted wings. Before long they will be laying their eggs in bands around willow and aspen twigs. Then there are the angle-wings, ragged-looking but lively with bright-orange-brown spotted with black, and the larger but similar California tortoiseshells. The angling wings lay their eggs on nettles and the larvae of the tortoiseshells eat the dockbrush leaves. The first butterfly to winter as a pupa is the diminutive spring blue, which breaks its case in April and may gather by the hundreds on moist soil along woodland paths.

Volunteers are needed this spring to repair damage done by motorcyclists--illegally present--in the Dishman Hills Natural Area. This work