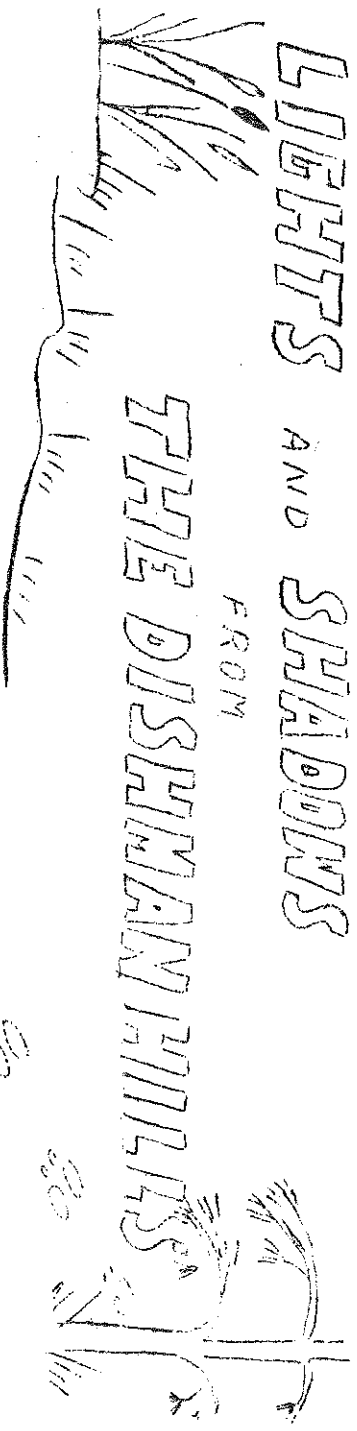


# LIBERTS AND SHADOWS

FROM

## THE DISHMAN HILLS



January 1978

MANY GROUPS ENJOY DISHMAN HILLS,

SEE SLIDE SHOWS IN 1977

During the last year we had the pleasure and experience of leading ten hikes into the hills for elementary school children, garden clubs, the Sierra Club, Audubon Society and the general public (the Buttercup Hike). Equally enjoyable was the giving of eight slide talks on the hills and on birds, primarily to garden clubs but one for a school class, one for Senior Citizens at the YMCA and one for Welcome Wagon. We also hosted a meeting of the Inland Empire Chapter of The Nature Conservancy at Camp Caro.

If you would like us to lead a walk or present a slide program or both, we suggest you make a reservation early. Call 926-7949 and ask for Tom Rogers Sr.

The financial statement for 1977 will be ready for the March bulletin, Dave Lentz, our treasurer, says. He estimates we more than achieved the goal of raising \$1000 from recyclables alone.

Many thanks to you who contributed paper, cans, bottles, etc. and who sent money for the land fund!

ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 25 AT CAMP CARO

Our annual meeting for the purpose of electing officers for the coming year and about half of the board of directors for the two-year 1978-79 will be held Wednesday, January 25 at 7 p.m. at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman. All members and friends of the association are cordially invited, as to all meetings. The coffee pot will be on. If you wish to become more active in the work of saving the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area, this is an excellent time to start. See you there!

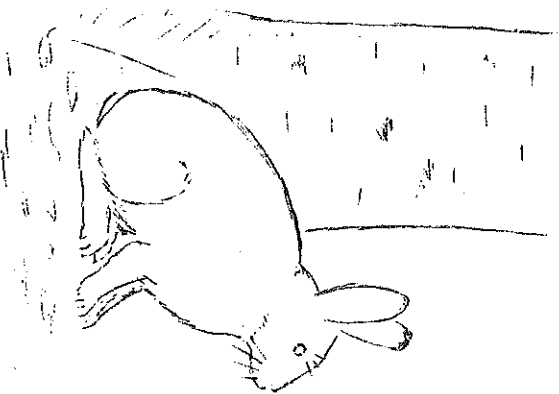
We are in the annual process of revising our mailing list. If you do not re

SNOW MAKES THE HILLS BEAUTIFUL BUT NEW ROADS, LOGGING, MAR TOWER MOUNTAIN

The early January snows have dropped one to two feet of the white blanket over the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area, making it picture postcard country. Two events have marred the scene on Tower Mountain, however. Logging was resumed this winter along the little creek above Miller Pond and on the east face of the mountain a loop road was dozed across the steep slopes. In addition, near the lower end of the creek a massive earth fill was thrown across the creek for a road gouged out of the steep ridge to the east, in preparation for a housing development. The good news is that this latter project has been withdrawn by the developer, we presume because of the up to 30% slopes--county recommendations are for no development on anything over 15%--and the problems of getting water and electricity up into it and the sewage disposed of without contaminating the creek and the aquifer in the valley below. Maintaining such a road and plowing it out in winter probably was a factor also.

The new loop road farther up causes us to wonder about the motive behind it for it appears that very little cuttable timber was along it. Can it be that this area is to be proposed for housing also? It seems to bad that such projects cannot be stopped before gross damage is done in the form of deep road cuts, exposing soil to erosion and making an eyesore of the place, only to find development infeasible. Of course such roads open up the area to unwanted vehicular use, littering, trash dumping and greater danger of man-caused fires.

We still hope we can acquire the area before further damage occurs. Nature will heal it slowly and if we can save it the Spokane community will be glad it has such a beautiful area so close by. Although the saving of the lower Dishman



The Snowshoe Rabbit or Varying Hare

Tower Mountain is the home of a small population of snowshoe rabbits. Usually all one sees of them is their tracks, those of the large hind feet even larger because of the spreading fur which makes "snowshoes" out of them. The rabbits are usually nocturnal but if you are lucky you may rouse one and get a glimpse of it in its white winter coat, which in summer it exchanges for a brown one that matches the forest floor. The home range of an individual is said to be about ten acres. Young may be born any time from April to August.

DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSN., INC.  
E. 10820 Maxwell Ave., Spokane, WA 99206  
Phone (509) 926-7949

DISHMAN HILLS AGAIN CONTRIBUTE  
TO ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of some of the natural environment of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from.

Helen E. Lininger, president  
Thomas H. Rogers, vice-pres, & editor  
Bernice Ammons, secretary  
David E. Lentes, treasurer

Directors (in addition to officers)  
Omar E. Carroll Daniel A. Knierim  
Greg Evans William F. Marchand  
Bernice Hahn Ambrose Priestley  
Warren A. Hall

We invite you to join personally in the work of the organization. Donations and membership dues are tax-deductible.

Monthly meetings are at Kiwanis Camp Caro, South 625 Sargent Road, Dishman. Board meeting is at 7 p.m. and general meeting is at 8 p.m. the fourth Wednesday. You are cordially invited to attend both the board meeting and the general, which usually includes a slide program on the out-of-doors.

CAMP CARO--for supervised children's groups.

To reserve Camp Caro, Call Spokane County Parks and Recreation Dept., 456-4730 a few days ahead. The lodge offers day or night use space for a small group and camping space above the lodge is ample for larger ones. Adult groups may reserve the camp but the kids come first.

The Spokane Valley part of the Christmas bird count of the National Audubon Society yielded forty-two species January 2, the highest number ever. One team, led by Dan Knierim, covered the Dishman Hills and added nine species not seen elsewhere in the Valley. They were the rough-legged hawk, common raven, mountain chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, pygmy nuthatch, varied thrush, golden-crowned kinglet, evening grosbeak, and red crossbill. The rough-legged hawk was the first ever on the valley portion of the Spokane count, which is conducted by Spokane's chapter of the society.

DISHMAN HILLS WINTERING BIRD CENSUS  
ENTERS THIRD YEAR--and with new species

The wintering bird census of the lower Dishman Hills, carried on by your bulletin editor, has so far this winter turned up thirteen species, three of which did not appear on the censuses of the previous two years. These are the downy woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, and pine grosbeak. Most consistently seen are red-breasted nuthatches. Weekly counts will be made between December 15 and February 15. Results are published in American Birds, as are those of the Christmas counts across the nation.

Those tracks on the other side, under "LIGHTS AND SHADOWS", in case you didn't