



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS
From the
DISHMAN HILLS

OCTOBER 1995 - 2ND ED.

ELECTION QUESTIONS, NOVEMBER 7

What will happen to the Tower Mountain-Rocks of Sharon project if City-County Consolidation (Freeholder Charter) is approved? This would put the entire county under one government, in which Spokane city would have the biggest voice. Would the bigger government be as eager to acquire the Rocks of Sharon area as the County Parks Department? Would Wyn Birkenthal's (of that Department) valiant efforts to secure that beautiful wild land go to naught? (All but one of the owners of a large tract on the mountain have agreed to sell, and the State of Washington and our County Commissioners have agreed to fund the purchase).

Another issue of concern is Referendum 48, passed by the last Legislature, also on the November 7 ballot because concerned citizens gathered twice the required number of signatures to put it there so we could vote on it. If again passed, it would require taxpayers to reimburse landowners if laws to protect the public good decrease the value of their lands. The law was heavily financed by lumber companies, developers, even farmer organizations and truckers. Referendum 48 gives us taxpayers a chance to vote down this measure, which, if allowed to remain law, would cost all of us taxpayers a lot of money. Environmental laws don't worry our association for we don't intend to do anything with our land to harm the public. On the contrary, we are buying land in the public interest.

SOME FUNDAMENTAL FACTS

The fundamental fact of ecology is that everything is connected to everything else. Plants and animals interact, thus assuring that life on earth continues. (Though extinction has occurred many times in the past, disappearance of species is now occurring thousands of times faster than ever before in the earth's history due to human activities.)

We humans are part of that system, even though we tend to forget it. We need to do a better job of educating people, particularly our leaders, especially our politicians, at this time, when many are pushing anti-environmental agendas which jeopardize the health of the earth and thus our own health.

Planting a tree is a fine idea. It gives shade, provides a windbreak and beauty and helps clean the air. It's even better not to cut down a tree unnecessarily. But one or a few trees alone provide only a little habitat for wildlife. To protect a species, we must protect enough habitat to support it - and not fragmented. Our preserves in the Dishman Hills and on Tower Mountain provide such. They don't need any tree planting. New trees spring up without our help. Just enjoy them.

ORGANIZATION PURPOSE STATEMENT

We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural areas of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from.

President: Michael Hamilton; Vice-president: Tom Rogers; Secretary: Helen Lininger; Treasurer: David Lentes; Board members (in addition to officers): Omar Carroll, Francis & June Potter and Ray Staley. All serve without pay and we have no paid employees. We strive to keep expenses at a minimum.

Monthly meetings are held Opportunity Elementary, South 1109 Wilbur on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. **You are cordially invited.**

CONTRIBUTORS, INCOME, EXPENSES

September brought in \$1596.28. \$525 of this was for memorials, \$70 for membership dues and \$51.17 for recyclables. Interest on our land reserve fund came to \$33.94. Our expenses were \$6470 for our quarterly payment on the 170 acres in the Tower Mountain-Rocks of Sharon area. \$123 for bulletin printing and mailing, \$48 for administrative expense and \$156.70 for property tax. It seems strange that while we are providing a public service with no monetary gain to ourselves that we have to pay taxes, but that's the law. We need about \$2157 a month to keep up our land payments. Hopefully the donations will increase at the end of the year.

Our thanks to the following who contributed to our land fund in September and have given permission to be listed here (a few persons didn't give permission nor did they leave their names when dropping off recyclables): Bertha B. Booth, Rita M. Cencich, James F. Conaty, Ruth G. Cunningham, Robert W. Downing, Corinne Y. Gillingham, Dr. Kenneth Gudgel, Jeff S. Halstead, Gertrude J.G. Hansen, Isabel Hawkins, Vernon E. Krebs, Helen E. Lininger, Bettie Maron, Rick Nelson, Frank/June Potter, Avis E. Ray, Janet D. Reynolds, Tom Rogers, Mabel R. Sackett, William K. Steele, Michael J. Sullivan, Shirley Wihlborg and Jeanne H. Wilson. **Again, many thanks!**

LONG-TIME BOOSTER PASSES

We are grieved by the passing of Gary Brewster, who died while hiking in the Idaho wilderness. As a member of our board of directors, he worked long and hard to raise money for the Dishman Hills project in its beginning. He will be remembered as a person dedicated to preserving some of our natural environment.

NEWSLETTER LATE AGAIN!

WE HOPE TO BE BACK ON SCHEDULE IN NOVEMBER!

Please use this form when sending **CONTRIBUTIONS** (Contributions are income tax deductible) Account No. **09310**

Your Name: _____
Please put your account number on your check.

\$ _____ LAND PURCHASE FUND

\$ _____ MEMORIAL FOR _____

\$ _____ ANNUAL DUES (\$10) NEW? _____ RENEWAL? _____

\$ _____ STUDENT OR LIVING LIGHTLY (\$5)

\$ _____ TO COVER BULLETIN EXPENSE (\$2)

_____ CHECK HERE IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR
NAME LISTED AS A DONOR.