

## FAREWELL HELEN

The thin green line, those in the front lines of natural space conservation, just got a little thinner with the passing of Helen Lininger on October 26. She will be greatly missed by us at the Association, and by the multitudes of people she helped in many parts of our community. Helen was there in the late 60's at the start of the Dishman Hills Association and worked continuously with us as a volunteer for over 35 years! Please take a moment to read on and reflect on her life of public service and commitment.

Helen came from humble roots, growing up in the small town of Rae, Missouri, just north of Kansas City. Her father ran construction machinery and did a little farming, and her mother raised the kids and ran the home. Her family taught her to work hard, serve people, and respect the natural environment, and that's what Helen did all her life.

Her education, a degree in Medical Technology, provided her with the tools to complete forty years of service as a laboratory technician from 1947 to 1987. She took a short break from her profession to serve our country in the Marine Corps during the Korean War, serving in the supply division. The military introduced Helen to the beauty of the West. Training was in California and her duty station was in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The West was now her home.

After the war Helen resumed her career, working in Santa Barbara, CA. Her energy and sense of adventure got the best of her and she decided to head for Alaska, the frontier, to start a new life. Travelling north brought her to Spokane, where she paused a little too long and the place started to grow on her; besides her funds were low, so she got a job with the Spokane Blood Bank, to get just enough to head north again. Twenty six years later she retired from the Blood Bank.

Back in the mid 1960's Helen started to look at the hills and mountains surrounding our fair city and decided to take a hike. The Dishman Hills had some trails and Helen started to check it out. She not only found a beautiful natural area, but other people who felt as she did, that something should be done to save this piece of Spokane's Natural Heritage. In 1966 Helen was one of the original founders of the Dishman Hills Association. She was also very involved in the Spokane Hobnailers, a hiking club devoted to conservation.

Her energy and willingness to "jump right in" and participate kept her active in conservation groups over the last three decades, serving as President, Program Chairman, and Editor of the Hobnailers, and Treasure and Secretary of the Dishman Hills Association. While not one for showy public exposure and high profile, when a job needed to be done Helen was there volunteering to shoulder the work and the responsibility. She applied her energy and intelligence to complicated issues when backing down would be the easy thing to do.

The conservation community was very lucky to have a person like Helen as a member. It's people like Helen applying so much continuous devotion, ability, and energy that make a group of volunteers succeed. Her desire to give more than she took has made Spokane a better place to live for the generations to come. She was a gal from the "Show Me" state who showed us what being a good citizen was all about. It was a good thing that Helen got stuck here on the way to Alaska, a good thing for her, for us, and for Spokane's future.

*Nothing is a miracle.....or everything is. — Albert Einstein*

## TRAIL MARCHES ON

The Dream Trail group, that started last spring with with an idea and a lot of enthusiasm, met this month to review the summer's progress and plan on how to proceed. The group, consisting of the Association, the Spokane Mountaineers, and interested citizens, wants to built a trail that will connect the Dishman Hills with the Rocks of Sharon nature area about 2.5 miles to the south. This summer the group covered the territory between the two natural areas with a series of hikes to "cover the ground" along possible routes. At this month's meeting a trail design with options was presented, and the group moved forward with the task of obtaining the means and resources to establish the trail over private land (no small task!).

Fortunately, you citizens had the foresight to vote us in another five years of Conservation Futures tax (Hip, Hip, Hurray), providing funds for public open space. The group plans to present a proposal to the County Parks people to use this fund for public passage easements for the Dream Trail. First we must design an easement that will win over land owners, then convince the Park people that the cost for easements is a good deal for the community. A lot of what needs to be done now will be "plowing new ground" in developing new tools for outdoor recreation projects.

## 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 meet every other month on the third Tuesday at Opportunity Elementary School, S. 1109 Wilbur, in the teacher's lounge, 7pm. Our next meeting will be January 20. This will be our annual meeting to elect officers.

The following are our October donors that have consented to be listed: June Foote, Frieda Foth, Lila & George Girvin, Hobnailers memorial for Mary Ellis, Dianne Huggar, Camille Kovarik, **Helen Lininger**, Marilyn Miller, Stephen Peterson, Norma Rosenberger, St. Mary's Garden Club, Betty Stratton, Robert & Darlene Turner, Jeanne Wilson, and two anonymous donors. Thank you in a time of Thanksgiving.

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