

LIGHTS - AND SHADOWS FROM

THE DISHMAN HILLS

June 1970 --- 2nd Edition

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WELL, WE FINALLY MADE IT! The Spokane community now has a beautiful Nature Preserve in the heart of the Dishman Hills. The enthusiastic response of people like yourself has made this possible. Again we say THANKS! for both our association and for THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, without whose help the project would have been impossible.

If you haven't already seen the Hills, we hope you will soon. They abound in wildflowers and birds right now. Camp Caro, at the south end of Sargent Road in Dishman, is a handy entrance but you may also enter through the mobile court on the east side (cross the railroad from Dishman-Mica Highway at 8th and turn south to 12th and park at "Chipmunk Crossing." On the west side, enter by continuing east on 8th across Park Road and leave your car at the foot of the hill. Don't try to drive up! If you need any help give us a call.

We still have a lot to do to save the rest of the Dishman Hills. One tract of land just recently was sold to a private buyer, thus apparently dooming our idea of an outdoor education center in the Hills. Other owners are interested in selling and we don't want to lose any more land. Come to our meetings and help! The next one is Wednesday, July 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Camp Caro, 625 South Sargent Road.

CAMP CARO FOR CHILDREN IS ACTIVE AGAIN

Camp Caro, nestled in the north end of the Dishman Hills, is now open for use by children's groups and their leaders. Mrs. Bernice Oglesbee is full-time caretaker, living in the little newly painted green cottage. The paint job and other improvements were made recently by Don Adams, Sr., Cal Graedel, Don Ball and Ray Lampi of East Spokane Kiwanis, which sponsors the camp.

Many young people's groups have used the rustic lodge this spring for indoor camping. At one end is a fireplace and at the other, a sink and running water plus a wood cookstove. There are tables and benches. Picnic tables and campfire spots are outside close by. A well-used trail leads into the main Dishman Hills.

To make reservations for the camp, please call Mrs. Oglesbee at WA 4-6545. To reach the camp take Sprague Ave. to a point one block west of Dishman Theater where Sargent Road will take you south past Redeemer Lutheran playground to the camp, 625 S. Sargent, at the road's end. Please be sure to register at the caretaker's cottage, even if just hiking through.

FINANCIAL PICTURE LOOKS GOOD --- AT PRESENT

The 30-acre Nature Preserve appears to be in reasonably good financial shape now. Donations exceeded the amount needed to complete payments on the land so that now \$1457.44 are on hand, held in a special Dishman Hills account by THE NATURE CONSERVANCY. This account will be used for expenses of operation and protection.

Dishman Hills Association maintains a separate account from which operating expenses of the organization are paid. \$434.94 are now in this account. Such items as postage, materials for duplicated information on the project and for this news letter are paid for from this. Quite possibly some of this account will be used to buy additional land in the Hills. Camp Caro is now for sale and other owners are thinking of selling. We are working closely with Spokane County in the hopes that no more land in the Hills will be lost. Once sold and developed, it can NEVER be restored. Then where do your children go?

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY WIELDS --- AND DESERVES --- NEW MEMBERS

Without the help of THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, the Dishman Hills Nature Preserve would be just another lost dream. (Please turn page.)

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY made the payments on the 80 acres until we could raise the money. The Inland Empire Chapter of THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, with headquarters at Pullman, bought two acres for us out of its treasury. Its chairman, Dr. George Hudson, personally paid for two more acres and a member, Dr. Marion Umbeys, paid for one. Other members contributed personally.

It is embarrassing to us here that in the entire Spokane area only about 25 persons are members of THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, while about ten times that number are members in the Pullman-Moscow area. We don't think it is because people here don't care to help, but rather that THE NATURE CONSERVANCY and its work are not well known here.

The first project of THE NATURE CONSERVANCY in this area was to assist the U. S. Forest Service in obtaining several hundred acres on Upper Priest Lake. The land was about to be developed for private use but thanks to THE NATURE CONSERVANCY it is available for public use.

Shortly afterward, the Inland Empire Chapter of THE NATURE CONSERVANCY bought Idler's Rest, 6 miles northeast of Moscow, Ida. for use as a children's camp and Nature Preserve.

We urge you to find out more about this important organization--and join! If you would like a brochure on THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AND ITS WORK, please call us at WA 6-7949 or WA 4-6545 and we'll send you one right away. If we've already convinced you, send your dues (\$5 a year) to George E. Hudson, Chairman, Inland Empire Chapter, Route 1, Box 75, Pullman, Wa. 99163 or we can send them in for you. The chapter meets four times a year, usually in Pullman. Next meeting is in July. Some of us will be going down--get in touch with us.

A little space like this is supposed to be occupied by a "filler" but we propose to use it to say we hope you enjoyed this first attempt at a news bulletin. If you don't like it, maybe you have some better ideas. Here's one: how about a little "art work"? Any artists among the readers? Meanwhile expect another one of these in September, with the autumn leaves.

BOUQUETS TO SPOKANE VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

and to Senator Henry M. Jackson for the very fine luncheon honoring the Dishman Hills Project recently. It took a lot of work and planning by Chamber President Joe Olson and his group.

Bouquets also to the excellent coverage of the event by all news media.

MRS. INA H. JOHNSTON'S MOST GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION

toward land acquisition in the Dishman Hills, although now "old news" certainly should not be forgotten. The 30,000 she gave was used by Spokane County Board of Commissioners and Parks and Recreation Department to obtain a like amount of state Interagency Committee funds and \$60,000 of Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation money. The County is working strenuously to complete transactions on land in the Hills adjacent to the Nature Preserve.

WE REGRET THE RECENT PASSING

of John Goldback, one of the persons from whom we purchased the 80 acres, and extend our sympathy to his family. John loved the Hills and wanted to see them preserved as they are. We propose that the spring above "Chipmunk Crossing" be called GOLDBACK SPRING and hope that it will soon become part of the larger Dishman Hills project.

AN OFFER OF A FREE SURVEY JOB

of the Nature Preserve has been made by a local engineering firm. Of course, we gratefully accepted the generous offer.

Our job now is to protect the area and to prepare it for use by visitors. Several of our members will act as a committee of THE NATURE CONSERVANCY to study the area and make careful plans for it. Uppermost must be the obligation to give the area the most protection possible and yet to have it available for public visits.

Trail plans should fit in with those for adjacent areas, some of which are being acquired by Spokane County for recreational use, others which we expect will eventually be acquired. Several trails already exist, some of which must be relocated. Possibly others should be added. After plans are completed we will welcome volunteers to work on the trails.