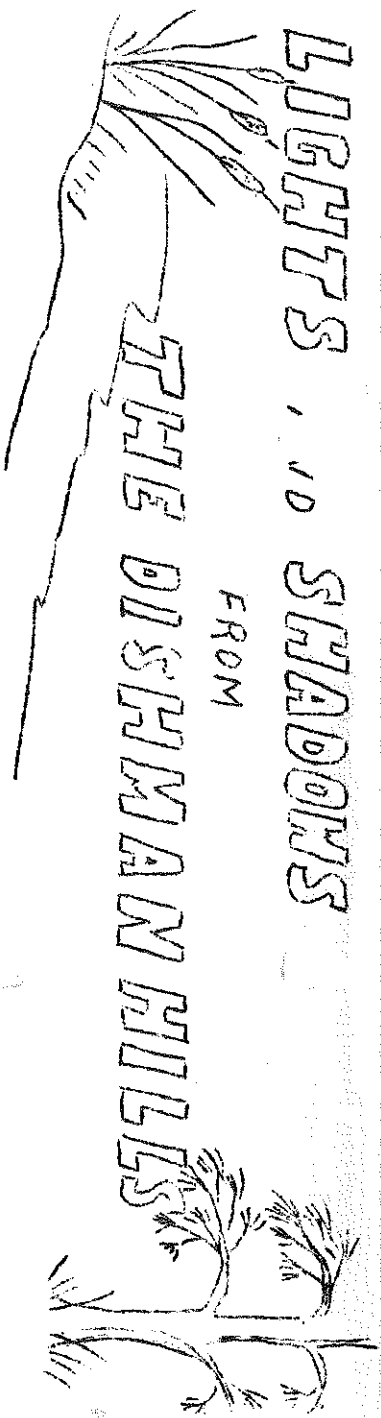


# LIGHTS, 10 SHADOWS

FROM

## THE DISHMAN HILLS



January 78

### MOVE FORWARD IN BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

#### MEETING WILL SET GOALS FOR 1976

We invite you to our regular monthly meeting, Wednesday, January 21, at 7:30 p.m. at Kiwanis Camp Caro., S. 625 Sargent Road (turn south just west of Dishman Theater). We will be setting priorities for 1976 and electing officers and directors. How much can we reasonably expect to add to the land acquisition fund? How can we help people to use and enjoy the Natural Area more? How can we better protect it from abuse? Please come and share your ideas.

#### SCOUTS MAKE NATURE TRAIL IN HILLS

Dishman Hills Natural Area now has a marked Nature Trail, the result of many hour's work by Mike Wade and other boys of Boy Scout Troop 496. You may pick up a guide leaflet at Camp Caro and follow the numbered stakes up Caro Ravine for a ten-station loop of about a half mile. The trail points out trees, shrubs, geological features and some ecological relationships. We particularly invite teachers and leaders of both children's and adults' groups to make use of the trail. It would be well for the leaders to go over the trail in advance.

If you want one of our committee to go with you, just give us a call at 926-7949.

#### NATURAL AREAS, OPEN SPACES KEEP LOSING

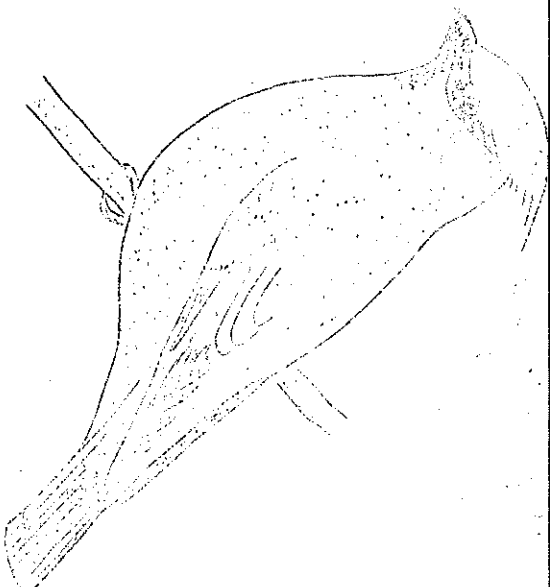
A retired Forest Service friend reports that an area in south Missoula that in 1955 was 75% open space with a children's fish pond is now nearly

America has changed much in 200 years. We have become a nation of city dwellers. Yet many signs indicate we are not really satisfied with this trend. Cities are often not all that lovable; in fact some, including Spokane, are losing population. The other side of the picture is that urban sprawl threatens to engulf our open spaces, our farm land, our wild places. Those who can afford it buy ten-acre lots and the rest of us are stuck in the city with few nearby places to escape to.

1976 is a little anniversary of our own efforts to help stop this trend. In ten years with the help of many people we have been able to set aside about 300 acres of wild open space for people to enjoy. But we must secure more, before that already acquired becomes overcrowded. A wild area is not a playground that can absorb heavy use without being destroyed. So in this bicentennial year we urge that you "invest" in some of the little bit of wild America that still exists. We expect 1976 to show a substantial addition to the wild land saver in the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area. The land fund is approaching \$12,000 but several times that much will be needed this year.

In this bicentennial year we look back at our nation's accomplishments. Yet the athlete who looks back too often is apt to lose the race. Let us move forward into the continuing battle for a quality America with some of the dedication of the founding fathers who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor for a free America. We ask you to begin, continue or increase your effort to save a little bit of that fast-dwindling wild America. Please use the blank on the other side when sending in your tax-deductible donation. Thanks!

Bohemian Waxwings are often our most spectacular winter bird their flocks often numbering in the thousands as they eat the red mountain ash berries. The crest, the soft gray color with black face markings and yellow tail band identify them as waxwings and the yellow and white wing markings, gray underside and chestnut-brown under tail coverts distinguish them from the Cedar Waxwing of summer. The name "waxwing" comes from the red, waxlike tips on some of the wing feathers. The birds arrive on the average about Nov. 3 from their nesting areas in the coniferous forests in Canada, searching for winter food, and normally heads back north about Mar. 20. In late winter they will eat other fruits, particularly old apples.



Bohemian Waxwing  
(About 1/2 natural size)

#### DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSOCIATION INC.

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

Helen F. Liningger, President  
Thomas H. Rogers, Vice-pres. & editor  
William F. Marchand, Secretary  
David E. Lentjes, Treasurer

Directors (in addition; to officers)  
George Allison Daniel Knierim  
Omar Carrcli Alfred Moe  
Bernice Hahn Ambrose Priestley  
Warren A. Hall

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

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Natural areas keep losing (cont.)

excavation material. Melita Island in Flathead Lake, long used as a Boy Scout camp, has been sold for summer home development. A wildlife marsh at Boulder City, Nev. has been filled to make a golf course. More and more we see the truth of the remark, "All that will ever be saved will be saved in the next few years."

#### NATURAL AREA HAS WINTERING BIRD CENSUS

Dishman Hills Natural Area is now the site of a wintering bird census, conducted by your editor. About a 25-acre tract is being visited once or more a week. So far these fourteen species have been counted: Common Flicker, Black-billed Magpie, Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, American Robin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Bohemian Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill. Most of these are year-round residents but the waxwings and redpolls migrate in from Canada and the creepers, kinglets and crossbills drop down from nearby mountains such as Tower Mt., and the magpies wander in from adjacent lowlands. The completed census probably will appear in American Birds, published by National Audubon Society. A continuing census of this kind over the years can show how changes in an area affect the bird life. Indications are that ponderosa pines are becoming more numerous and on the average, larger, in some areas and that in other places Douglas fir will replace the pines. Thus birds such as Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills, preferring larger trees with heavier seed crops, should increase. As dead trees increase so should woodpeckers now uncommon. Douglas fir, should also increase. Human use may also affect the bird population.

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#### KEEP THE RECYCLING GOING

Newspaper is up to \$10-12 a ton at Spokane Recycling on Main west of Freya.

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Please use the form below when sending in your tax-deductible contribution to save the Hills.