



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

AUGUST 1989

WHAT ABOUT THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT?

The six hottest years on record have all occurred in the last decade, causing much concern about the "greenhouse effect", the result of the increasing release of heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere. The most important of these gases is carbon dioxide, released by the burning of coal, oil (principally gasoline and diesel fuel) and natural gas. Other gases contributing importantly are methane, nitrous oxide and chlorofluorocarbons. Even a small increase in the earth's temperature is expected to raise the oceans' levels, causing coastline flooding and erosion, destroying wetlands essential to fish reproduction and contaminating water supplies with sea water. The interiors of the continents are expected to become drier, with disastrous results for agriculture, forests and wildlife.

What can we do to slow down or prevent this global warming? Clearly, the answer is to quit or decrease the dumping of the culprit gases into the air. Substitutes should be found for the chlorofluorocarbons (used in refrigerators, air conditioners, insulating foams, aerosol sprays and as solvents). Fossil fuel use should be reduced. Transportation produces about 30 percent of carbon dioxide emission, which can be reduced by improving fuel economy and by switching from the private auto to mass transit wherever possible. Homes and buildings should be constructed for greater energy efficiency.

What are we doing on the local level to reduce emissions of these "greenhouse" gases? Apparently not much. A spokesman for Spokane Transit Authority recently predicted that our mass transit system will not provide more than five percent of people moving-- a self-defeating prophecy? While we have a good network of bus service, people who don't want to stand on the street in all kinds of weather are expected to drive miles to "park and ride" centers, since there are scarcely any shelters along the bus routes. What do the people do who are too young or too old to drive, or who don't have a car? A reduction of the bus fare from 60 cents would help. (STA is sitting on a big surplus, gained from an increase in the sales tax--a greater increase in ridership probably would occur with a fare reduction and shelters along the routes than by construction of big, expensive buildings as is now being done.) The state and local government policy of ever making it easier to drive private autos, by building more and wider streets, certainly works against the bus service and the reduction of carbon dioxide. (Ironically, the auto emission test deplors carbon monoxide but wants high levels of carbon dioxide release!) ...continued on column 2

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: Larry Thiewan Secretary: Helen Lininger
Vice-President: Tom Rogers Treasurer: David Lenten
Board members (in addition to officers): Doris Allgood,
Gary Brewster, Omar Carroll, Margaret Haggin, Francis
Potter, June Potter, and Ray Staley.

Our monthly meetings starting September 18 will be in the new lodge at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman. Time is 7:30 p.m. Our meetings will be on the third Monday of each month there. You are cordially invited.

For further information call 928-4365 in the evening (Larry Thiewan), or 926-7949 (Tom Rogers).

DONORS FOR JULY LISTED

Donations to the Dishman Hills Natural Area Project amounted to \$617.22 in July. Recycling accounted for \$145.22 of this. Expenses for the month came to \$309.98 (includes \$92.46 for data processing forms). Our thanks to those listed below who have donated and given permission to be listed here. If we have omitted your name, please let us know by calling 926-7949. Kathryn Bernard, Marilyn Bertis, Margaret V. Bloom, James F. Conaty, Charles V. Cornell, Jackie Davenport, Dee Davis, Verna Dolphin, Helen I. Engard, Herbert J. Erickson, John Gardner, Sue Godfrey, Dorothy Harting, Isabel Hawkins, Ken Hendrix, Blanche Holsten, Mary Holz, Alfreda Krause, Helen Lininger, Jack/Alice Malone, Mary McCoy, Florence Miller, Frank M. Mogan, Barbara Mann Morkill, Frank/June Potter, Ambrose Priestly, Bonnie/Oren Randles, Milt Rawlings, Thomas H. Rogers, Dennis L. Sanders, Helen Stowell, Alice Tiffany, Jane Van Meter, Leona Widner, Mary Ann Wilharm, Jeanne H. Wilson, Paul Winkelman and Mrs. Owen Wylie.

Contrary to a newspaper report, old newspaper is still saleable, so please keep on saving it.

Open house at the new lodge at Camp Caro is being sponsored by Spokane Valley Kiwanis from 5 to 7 p.m. September 21. Refreshments will be served. Meanwhile reservations for group use of the lodge are now being accepted. Call Spokane County Parks Dept., 456-4730 for this.

A Volksmarch in the Dishman Hills will be held this Saturday, August 26, from 7 a.m. to noon. It will be about a 10 km. walk, starting at Savage House Pizza Parlor, S. 700 Dishman Road. The walk is open to anyone.

...continued from column 1

Last but not least, the "waste to energy" plant about to be built can hardly be expected to help the situation, promising to pour many tons of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and other gases into the air.

Please use this form when sending contributions
(Contributions are income tax deductible)

Account No. **13080**

\$ _____ 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.

Please make checks payable to Dishman Hills Natural Area Association and mail to the Treasurer, P.O. Box 14141, Spokane, WA 99214-0141. Many thanks!