



**LIGHTS AND SHADOWS**  
From the  
**DISHMAN HILLS**

FEBRUARY 1996

**ENGINEER STILL WANTS VALLEY ARTERIAL**

Dennis Scott, the engineer in charge of Spokane County's Public Works Department, met with a group from Spokane Valley Business Association February 9 to hear opinions about the proposed South Valley Arterial which would be parallel and two blocks south of Sprague Avenue. He seemed willing to consider alternatives, though still supporting the idea of the arterial. Members of the association continue to oppose it. Dick Behm of the Business Association read off the names of the other local environmental associations which have also opposed it-- our thanks to them! Our association believes it would impact the Dishman Hills area with increased carbon monoxide and other pollutants, noise and difficulty of public access.

Alternatives proposed seemed mostly those which would divert autos to other routes, but some consideration was given to decreasing the use of the private auto. Tom Rogers pointed out that the auto is, obviously, the source of the problem, that a bus could take the place of twenty or thirty autos. Making it easier for people to drive their cars will never get them out of them and into mass transit. Basically, the problem is based upon our love of the auto. We want to drive where and when we want to. The early conservationist Aldo Leopold (in the Sand County Almanac) said in the thirties " The modern dogma is convenience at any price." That is just as true today. When one considers the amount of our taxpayer money spent on highways to make it possible to drive more and faster, one must wonder. People want government to spend less, but what are they willing to give up?

**WHAT OF THE RECENT FLOODS?**

The floods that are devastating the Pacific Northwest give us reason to reflect. While floods have occurred many times in the past, has human activity made them worse? Much of our construction of buildings and highways has been on flood plains, since they provide level ground, easily accessible.

Then there are land use practices. Have road building, farming and logging contributed? The river through Pullman is brown with mud, presumably from runoff from farmland. Is salvage logging after the fires in the Cascades--with environmental regulations set aside--adding to the erosion and runoff? Perhaps we aren't doing a very good job with being in harmony with Nature, which penalizes us for our mistakes. We're not as much in control as we like to think.

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

**LAND PAYMENTS PROGRESSING WELL**

Contributions received during January amounted to a good \$1058.00 (for bulletin expense, \$6.00; membership dues, \$160.00; memorials; \$25.00 and land purchase fund, \$867.00). Interest on our land fund was \$12.11. Operating expenses were \$159.50 for administration; bulletin postage, \$78.44; and property tax \$17.50.

Our Board of Directors has unanimously approved the sale of the 5.62 acres of land in the Dishman Hills which was donated to our organization a few years ago as a tax break for the donor. This little piece of land close to the big water tank on the east side of the Hills narrowly touches our land at only one spot and we do not consider it important to the natural area.

We have received \$17,500.00 less closing costs \$658.35 for \$16,841.65 plus a \$2,500.00 donation, or \$19,341.65 total cash for it. This enabled us to make a payment February 9, of \$19,402.74 on our contract for the 170 acres in the Rocks of Sharon-Tower Mountain area. (In 1995 we paid \$19,937.48 on the principal and \$12,700.42 interest so it is obviously to our advantage to pay off the balance of \$12,592 as fast as possible!)

Many thanks to you loyal boosters who donated in January and have given permission to be listed here: Robin Bishop, Brad/Jane Blegen, Robert/Mary Burroughs, Carol L. Ellis, John/Mary Gardner, The Hobnailers, Glen W. Kivett, Mrs. Roy R. Mills, Don/Gloria Nicol, Marion Pillsbury, Frank/June Potter, Ambrose/Willene Priestley, Tom Rogers, Dr./Mrs. George Schneider, Lee M. Smith and Lois/Dennis Smith. If we missed listing you please let us know at 926-7949. Again, THANKS!

**HILLS CALL TO ANNIVERSARY HIKE**

Join us for the thirtieth anniversary Buttercup Hike into the Dishman Hills Natural Area, Sunday March 10 at 1:30 p.m. at Camp Caro, South 625 Sargent Road, Dishman. We expect the buttercups and grass widows to be in full bloom and the tree frogs croaking at the ponds. Come and enjoy an afternoon in the invigorating out-of-doors. Stay as long as you like but we do expect to be back by dinner time.

Please use this form when sending **CONTRIBUTIONS** (Contributions are income tax deductible) Account No. 06514  
**SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: DHNAA**  
205 E. SELTICE WAY, SUITE F  
POST FALLS, ID. 83854

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.