

Vol. 17 No. 4
December 1999

SANTA'S SLEIGH COMES TO THE FOOTHILLS

Mark your calendars for the...
17th ANNUAL MEETING
of the Foothills Rural Association

When: **Wednesday, January 19, 2000**
Time: **7:00 PM**
Place: **Community Center**

Y2K. How did our Foothills community cope with the effects, if any, of this computer glitch as we changed our calendars on December 31? Perhaps this year's Annual Meeting should be billed the "Y2K Survivors Celebration!"

No matter what the effect of Y2K, your presence at the Annual Meeting is important and valued by your elected community leaders. It is a time for reflection on the past year's activities and events as well as an opportunity to look ahead to the coming year.

If you would be interested in serving as an officer or board member for the coming year, please contact one of the current officers and indicate your interest. New faces bring renewed energy and strength to any organization. Please consider bringing your talents and ideas to the Foothills Rural Association. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Thanks!

Bring the kids to see Santa Claus as he visits the Foothills area aboard his decorated vintage fire truck courtesy of Fire District 9 and the volunteer fire fighters of Station 6.

Date: *Saturday, December 18*

- Times: 6:15 Forker & Scribner
- 6:30 Forker & Foothills
- 6:45 Forker & Temple
- 7:00 Forker & Lincoln
- 7:15 Forker & Judkins
- 7:30 Station 6



There will be candy and pop for kids at each stop. Back at the station, there will be cookies, hot chocolate & donuts for all.

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT SETS NEW RECORD FOR 4th CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Membership support for the Foothills Rural Association has increased by more than 60% in the past 10 years. For the 4th year in a row, we set a new membership record in 1999 with 143 paid member households!

Annual dues for the Foothills Rural Association were set at \$20 when the association was founded in 1983. This means that our dues have not increased in 17 years. How's that for fighting inflation?

The officers and board wish to thank you, and look forward to your continued support in the year 2000.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

1999 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Kay Muelrath, President

I can't believe one whole year has come and gone! We have had so much fun AND have gotten many things accomplished. New kitchen windows in the community center were installed by board members Steve Allenberg, Steve Hansen, Mike Britton, Art Tupper, Rich Krenkel, and also Rich Swingle who so graciously agreed to help us. The guys worked so hard from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Once again, I want to thank these wonderful men for the beautiful job they did! Art Tupper also painted the trim and for that we are grateful.

We needed new linoleum in the entryway so Steve Allenberg, Steve Hansen, Sylvia Hansen and I perused the myriad of samples at different stores and finally agreed on one that almost matches the linoleum in the kitchen.

Tom Barker, bless his heart, was kind enough to come up with a way to hold the doors in place which cover the table storage area. Thanks, Tom!

The annual Funwalk/Pancake Breakfast in June was enjoyed by many with Dale Preedy once again flipping the flapjacks with such expertise.

Both the annual Founder's Day BBQ in September and Halloween Chili Feed in October met with great success. Nearly 200 folk turned out for the Chili Feed exceeding all expectations! Many thanks go out to Cheryl Britton and Wende Barker for their scrumptious homemade chili. Yum! It was SO much fun having members of Foothills church join us for this event. We, who were working in the kitchen, would take turns running over to the church hall to sample fabulous pie and marvel at the gorgeous quilts on display! Wow, what an art! (Pat Wolfe, don't give up on me. Someday I WILL learn how to quilt, mark my words!)

And, last but definitely not least, how can we ever thank Jim Wallrabenstein for the hours he has spent writing editing, and formatting the Newsletter?! Jim, we really are

truly grateful for all your time and effort! Thanks also go to Ron & Pat Dexter for preparing the newsletter for mailing and delivering nearly 400 of them to the post office all properly counted, sorted, and labeled! Ron's "Birds of the Foothills" articles are always read by interest by many Foothills residents too!

During this last year, we also hired a new Rental Coordinator for the community center to take over from Flavia Kuebler who handled that important job for seven years. Thank you, Flavia! Eve Carroll has graciously agreed to take on this responsibility. (So if you wish to rent the community center, call Eve at 927-0777.)

And so, as we approach the year 2000, my hope is that more of you will want to become more involved in this most worthwhile association. Your chance is coming up on Wednesday, January 19, 2000 - the date of our next annual meeting and election of officers. We hope to see you all there!

God bless you all and have a marvelous 2000!

MAIL THEFT A RECURRING CRIME

Foothills residents are again warned to be on the lookout for thieves who steal mail from our rural delivery boxes. A number of residents have recently had mail stolen from their boxes. This crime is a felony under federal law. Some residents have had mail stolen so often that they have rented post office boxes.

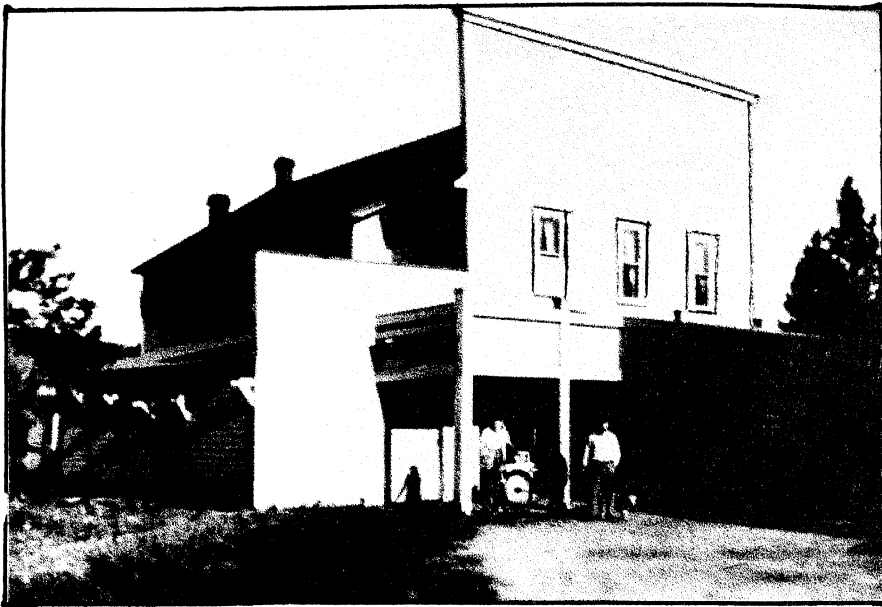
If you witness any suspicious persons or vehicles tampering with mailboxes, notify the police immediately! Get a description of the vehicle, a license number if possible. End of the month mail deliveries when social security or other government checks are normally delivered are especially attractive to mail thieves.

If you have been a victim of mail theft, or find your box empty when you normally receive mail, notify the post office. Mail in our 99217 zip code area is delivered through the Hillyard Station, 3117 E Olympic.

FOOTHILLS AREA HISTORY
THE FOOTHILLS GROCERY STORE
& GAS STATION

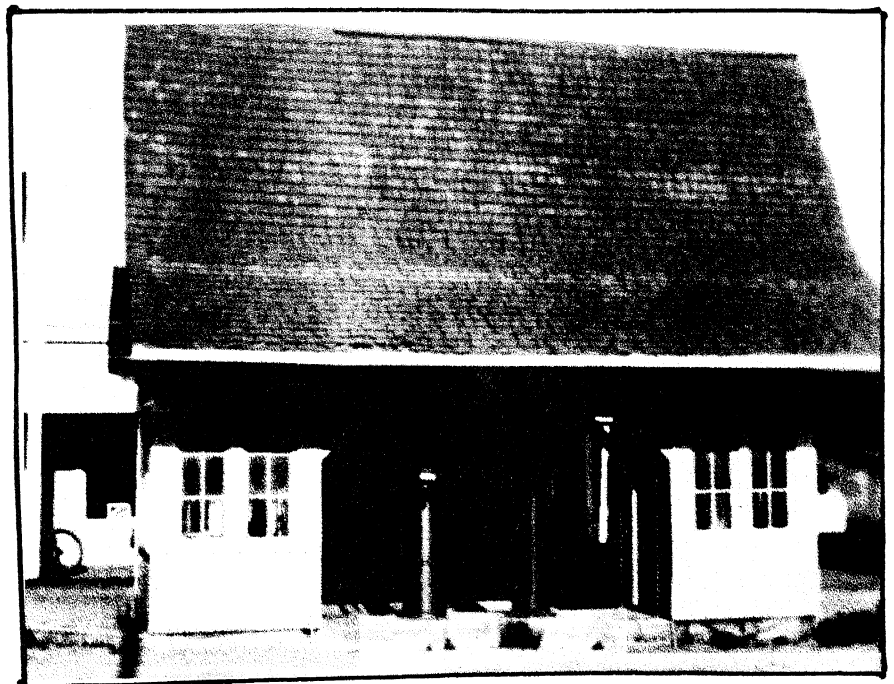
In addition to the General Merchandise store which once stood at the south end of the trestle bridge on Forker, there was another store and gas station in the Foothills earlier this century. Just north of Foothills Church on Peck Road stood the Foothills Grocery Store and Gas Station.

The store opened about 1904 and was operated for various periods of time by the Cramer, Powell, Worthy, and Boswell families. The final owners and operators were Jim & "Ole" Olinger who operated the store until 1954. Jim was a machinist for the Milwaukee Railroad. In addition to minding the store, Ole also drove the Foothills school bus.



I believe that is Jim & "Ole" Olinger shown in front of the store in this photo. When the store was finally torn down, some of the lumber was used to build the home where Brian and Carey Olinger now live on the same site.

Here is a photo of the gas pumps which stood directly in front of Foothills Grocery Store. There were two pumps - one for ethel, and one for regular. They were Y2K compliant too! You had to turn the crank to pump gas. Both pumps are still in the Foothills, but it's a secret where!



BIRDS OF THE FOOTHILLS

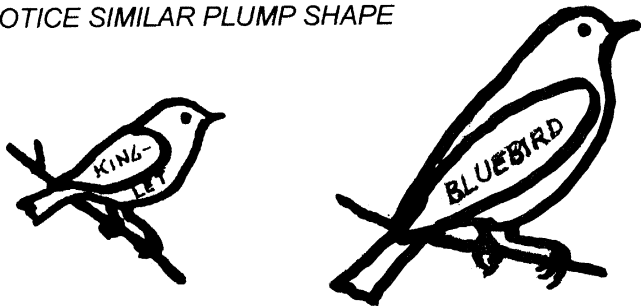
By Ron Dexter

THE THRUSHES

Everyone knows at least one of the thrushes - the American Robin- but how many of you know that we have 9 of the Robin's close cousins living here in the foothills? The Robin is the largest and most numerous thrush. All thrushes love berries and insects.

The scientific name for the family of thrushes is Muscicapidae. I know you've all been dying to know that. Washington State has a total of 12 species. We have 10. They include the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and the Golden-crowned Kinglet. These 2 species are the smallest birds we have next to the hummingbirds. Even smaller than the chickadees and nuthatches by a little. You can't believe how cute kinglets are.

NOTICE SIMILAR PLUMP SHAPE



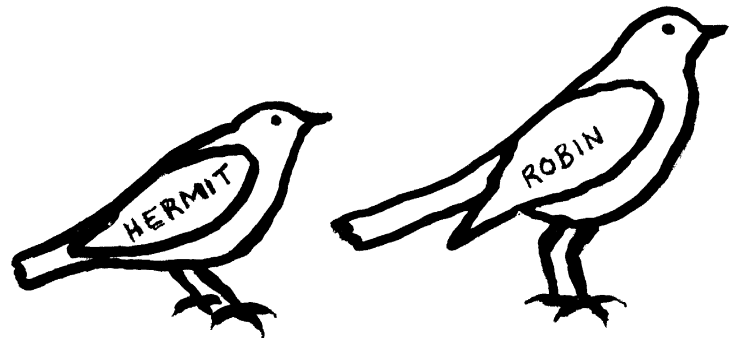
I see them during migration in the spring and fall preening the trees and larger bushes along Forker Rd. for insects. But, during breeding season, I go to Mt. Spokane to find them feeding on small insects and insect eggs high in the conifers. I usually hear their calls long before I actually see them.

The song of the Golden is soft and very high pitched. I call the Ruby "the bird that stutters" because its call sounds like it is saying "I'm a Ruby, Ruby, Ruby-crowned Kinglet". Teaching yourself little phrases like this will help in identifying bird songs.

The other 8 thrushes are much larger. The next 2 that you all recognize are the Western-bluebird and the Mountain-bluebird. The male Western is recognized by the reddish breast, similar to the robin's red breast. The male Mountain has a blue breast.

Then there is the Varied Thrush that is often mistaken for a Robin. The difference is the dark band across the breast and orange stripe behind the eyes of the Varied Thrush and the fact that the Varied requires a different breeding habitat found only higher up on Mt. Spokane or farther north in Washington or Canada. They require moist, dense woodlands. I run across them on many of the criss-crossing trails on the mountain. Some of you have seen them feeding on the ground around your feeders during migration.

The Townsend's Solitaire is a secretive bird that I occasionally find in small clearings in wooded areas here in the foothills. They prefer higher coniferous forests. Their favorite food is Juniper berries. Only once have I seen more than one at a time. That was during breeding season. Perhaps that is why they are called solitaires. Townsend's look like a cross between a Robin and a Mourning Dove. They are gray with a buff patch on their side and a long tail. Their song is similar to a Robin's but is longer and more melodic.



The other three thrushes are the Swainson's Thrush, the Hermit Thrush and the Veery. These three are so similar that I can't tell one from the other when I see them in the woods because they hide and peek out from shaded areas. They all have speckled breasts that remind me of a juvenile robin.

I have learned to identify them by their calls. If you go out in the summer evenings, you will hear their eerie, breezy, flutelike calls coming from the woods. Check your bird books to see what they look like and if interested, you can purchase tapes or CDs to learn their songs as well as all the bird songs and calls.

Happy birding and Happy Holidays.

A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Jim Wallrabenstein, Editor

A recent business article in *Successful Farming* offers food for thought in considering the importance of the Foothills Rural Association. The article was written by Peter Reese, author of a book entitled, *The Agri-Preneur's Prosperity Manual: New Hope for Family Farms*.

According to Reese, when a sense of community is not present, five things happen.

1. People feel isolated
2. Crisis magnifies the self-interests of most people.
3. Past becomes irrelevant.
4. Future is seen as uncertain.
5. Insecurity replaces confidence.

The common theme in most community adversity is change. A community in which there is no strong sense of "we" - but only a sense of "me" and my self-interests - is highly susceptible to problems. Reese offers a few examples of change which often creates community adversity:

- > Land use or zoning changes that transform rural acreage into residential or light industrial areas.
- > Environmental regulations that limit future use or require current residents to alter their practices.
- > Economic hardship that appears to penalize one group of citizens or businesses with little immediate damage to others in the community.
- > Political or social forces that polarize whole families and encourage them to focus on differences and set aside similarities.

Reflect for a moment on the purpose of the Foothills Rural Association as stated in the Bylaws:

To organize the property owners and/or current residents within the boundaries of Fire District 9, Station 6.

To protect the area from environmental depredation.

To provide a forum by which the property owners and/or current residents may assist governmental agencies in better

planning the use of resources of the Foothills area.

To preserve and protect the rural agricultural environment.

These purposes would seem to establish boundaries, standards, and expectations. Does this mean everyone in our community would agree on all issues? Hardly. Once again, according to Reese, setting reasonable standards for land use, zoning, community appearance, and public behavior requires a basic level of unity and self-denial to which some may strongly object. Indeed, we are often our own worst enemies. While we seek boundaries, standards, and expectations for the community as a whole, we argue against them when our own self-interests are threatened. Victimhood becomes the norm and self-denial, for the sake of the greater community, vanishes along with concern for our neighbors.

Busyness of life leads to isolation from others. Time to listen and learn is forfeited in a push to work, play and live harder. It is this very phenomenon that makes the existence of the Foothills Rural Association all that more important for all of us! It is important that we not focus solely on problems and pain, but neither should we ignore them entirely.

Community events sponsored by the Foothills Rural Association serve to draw our community together. They provide an opportunity to get to know your neighbors. Like any other, ours is a diverse community. Some families have roots in the Foothills going back several generations including pioneer settlers in this area. Others have chosen to make their home here only in recent times, drawn by the beauty and serenity of the rural agricultural community.

The Foothills Rural Association offers a forum for sharing and listening. While change may seem to conspire against us, it does not have to leave us feeling as victims. We should take time to make our feelings known, and listen to the feelings of others. By so doing, we can guide change in a manner which brings us together rather than leading to our fragmentation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Don Tucker, Treasurer

Nineteen ninety-nine has been another fiscally successful year for the Foothills Rural Association. Member dues were up to \$2,780 and having the cottage rented out all year brought in \$350. each and every month. In total our receipts will go over \$9,000. this year, while only \$8,600. was budgeted. Total expenses were well under budget target. Therefore, instead of ending the year with a projected \$750. deficit, we will show a surplus of approximately \$1,900. Added to last years ending total cash balance of \$19,376.89, that means we will end the year with well over \$21,000! The most exciting thing we were able to do with this additional cash was to increase the amount given in college scholarships to our area's youth. It was our single highest expenditure for the year at \$1,500. A financial summary is shown below.

INCOME:	YTD	BUDGET
Member dues	2,780.00	2,400.00
Rent-Comm Ctr	620.00	500.00
Rent- Cottage	3,850.00	4,200.00
Fun Walk/Breakfast	394.50	600.00
Interest/Dividends	916.60	900.00
TOTAL INCOME	8,561.10	8,600.00
EXPENSES:		
Bank charges	21.50	30.00
Legal & Filing Fees	0.00	50.00
Insurance	688.00	800.00
Postage & Printing	872.70	1,500.00
Supplies	134.08	100.00
Electric-Center	973.71	1,200.00
Maintenance-Center	950.07	1,500.00
Grounds-Center	113.75	300.00
Electric-Cottage	0.00	100.00
Maintenance-Cottage	582.01	800.00
Halloween Chili Feed	164.12	200.00
Founders' Day	457.81	500.00
Fun Walk/Breakfast	308.78	600.00
Yard Sale	0.00	50.00
Scholarships	1,500.00	1,500.00
Gifts	21.60	120.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,788.13	9,350.00
NET CASH FLOW	\$1,772.97	(\$750.00)
BALANCES:		
Horizon Share Draft	703.23	
Horizon Cash Key	8,302.80	
Kronquist CD	12,143.83	
TOTAL CASH	\$21,149.86	

The **Foothills Rural Association** was established as a non-profit corporation under section 502(C)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code on December 12, 1983. The purposes of the corporation are: to organize the property owners and/or current residents within the boundaries of Fire District 9, Station 6; to protect the area from environmental depredation; to provide a forum by which the property owners and/or current residents may assist governmental agencies in better planning the use and resources of the Foothills area; to preserve and protect the rural agricultural environment.

Voting Membership in the Association is open to any property owner or current resident within the Foothills boundaries. Membership dues are \$20./year. **Non-voting Membership** is available to others through payment of dues. The Association is governed by elected volunteer officers and a board of directors.

The **Newsletter** is published 4-6 times a year by the Foothills Rural Association. It is mailed to all known resident addresses in the Foothills. Address additions/corrections should be sent to:

Jim Wallrabenstein, Editor

16630 E. Foothills Road
Spokane, WA 99217-9433
Phone: 924-4406 FAX: 924-3665
E-Mail: jmw@ior.com

A **Community Crime Log** has been established in an effort to increase community awareness about crime occurring in our area. The crime log will be published in the newsletter. Residents are encouraged to report **all** crimes to the police. After making a police report, call:

Chelle Spaulding, Crime Log Recorder
Ph. 924-6590

The **Foothills Community Center**, located on Forker Road, adjacent to the Foothills Fire Station, exists as a result of community efforts to save and renovate the former Foothills School Building. The Center, used for many community activities, is maintained and supported by the Foothills Rural Association. It is available for use by members of the Foothills Rural Association for a nominal utilities charge and by non-members for a reasonable rental fee. The community center includes complete kitchen facilities. For information or to reserve a date, call:

Eve Carroll, Rental Coordinator
Ph. 927-0777

1999 Board Directory

President	Kay Muelrath	891-8315
Vice-President	Steve Allenberg	926-4111
Secretary	Wende Barker	924-3127
Treasurer	Don Tucker	924-9105
Board	Lester Lea	('01) 892-1211
	Art Tupper	('01) 924-1067
	Mike Britton	('00) 922-1494
	Joyce Roskelley	('00) 928-2587
	Steve Hansen	('99) 926-6357
	Rich Krenkel	('99) 928-6610

NEED HELP? CALL FOOTHILLS YOUTH!

Are you in need of some eager, able-bodied assistance? These Foothills youth are ready to help and waiting to hear from you!

Crystal Bertholic (17), Morrison Road 922-2344
Julie Bertholic (15)
Suzie Bertholic (13)
Experienced Babysitting, house-cleaning.

Stephanie Boorman (16), Madison
Stacy Boorman
Babysitt
House cl

Mike Nilson (14),
Animal fee
Odd jobs

Jess Pace (13), Scribner Road 466-8393
Babysitting, housework, pet care, yard work

Dawn Starling (15), Foothills Road 924-9012
Danae Starling (14)
Babysitting, yard work, pet care, odd jobs

Holly Weiler (21), Adams Road 926-9144
Babysitting, **house-sitting**, tutoring

aniel Wood (11), Moffat Road 922-2473
Yard work, pet care, barn cleaning, snow
clearing, teach beginning sign language

.....
If you are a Foothills youth who would like to be listed in the next newsletter, send this information to:

Foothills Rural Association
16630 E. Foothills Road
Spokane, WA 99217-9433
Fax: 924-3665 E-mail:jmw@ior.com

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Type of work you're interested in doing:

"MEMBERS ONLY" CLASSIFIED ADS

Call your neighbors first. Ad space is provided FREE to members. Send ads to:
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Spokane, WA 99217-9433
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