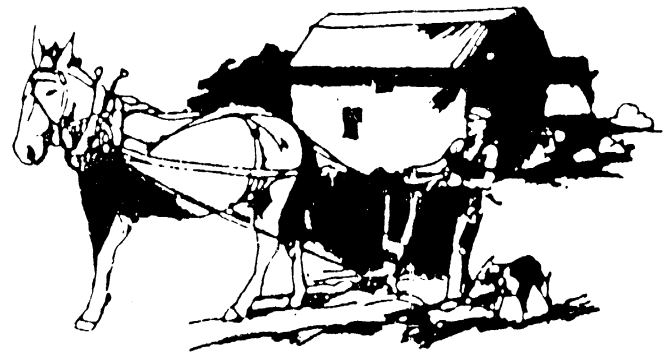




VOL. 16 No. 2
May 1998



FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY YARD and CRAFT SALE

FOOTHILLS FUNWALK '98 and Pancake Breakfast!

- What:** 10th Annual Foothills Fun Walk and Pancake Breakfast
- When:** Saturday, June 13, 1998
- Time:** Starting gun fires at 8:00 AM!
- Where:** Foothills Community Center

Your entry form (and order form for this year's distinctive Foothills design T-shirt) is enclosed with this newsletter. Note that the deadline for your entry form/shirt order is June 2nd!

If you don't want to walk or run, you may still order your 1998 T-shirt and pick it up at the community center on the day of the Funwalk. And, of course, whether you participate in the Funwalk or not, you'll want to bring the whole family and enjoy a **fine pancake breakfast** while visiting with your neighbors. See you there!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCED

Foothills Community Church will be offering Vacation Bible School June 22 - 26 from 9:00 to 11:30 AM daily. All boys and girls from age 4 up to those entering the 9th grade are welcome. There is no cost to enroll, and while pre-registration will help with planning, it is not necessary.

Also, the church will be holding family camp at Farragut State Park the week of August 23-28. Foothills families who are not church members are welcome to share this experience.

For further information, call the church office at 926-4971 (8am to 2pm, M-F).

- What:** 9th Annual Yard and Craft Sale
- When:** Saturday, June 27, 1998
- Time:** 8 AM to 4 PM



The yard sale will follow the same format as last year:

- There is no cost to participate in the yard sale.
- You are responsible for your own signs at driveways and road intersections.
- For members of the Foothills Rural Association, you can have your address and few items listed on a map that will be available at the community center
- For the craft sale, there is no charge to a member for a table at the community center. The charge for non-members is \$20.00. The craft sale is for residents of the Foothills.
- The yard and craft sale will be advertised in the paper for a few weekends in advance.

If you are planning on selling crafts, or would like to have a table at the community center for a fewer number of smaller yard sale items, please contact Rich Krenkel as early as possible. If you are not a member of the Rural Association, this is a good time to join. That way you can be listed on the yard sale map or have a craft table free!

For further information, or to have your yard sale address listed on the map, or to reserve a table at the community center, contact **Rich Krenkel** at 928-6610.



BIRDS OF THE FOOTHILLS

by Ron Dexter

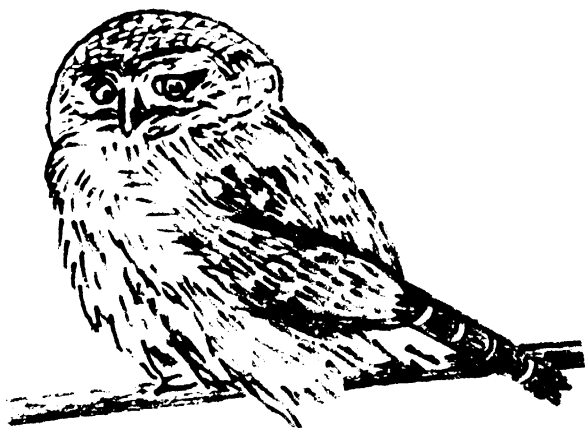
NORTHERN PYGMY OWL

The Northern Pygmy Owl inhabits the forest edges here in the Foothills. This fascinating little owl is only 7" long counting its long tail. That's only a half inch longer than a house sparrow. When sitting on a branch, the height from its feet to the top of its head is only 4 inches.

Pygmy Owls are brown. They have a white breast and belly heavily streaked with brown. They have a speckled head and their eyes are yellow with black pupils. They also have fake black eyes on the back of their heads which probably protects them from some predators. As you all know, a strange dog won't usually try to bite you until you turn your eyes away.

Pygmy Owls nest in Woodpecker holes in trees. They hunt at dawn and dusk and sometimes during daytime. They feed on almost anything that moves such as insects like grasshoppers, and beetles, mice, bats, salamanders and birds up to and including Quail. The Millers and Hoopers on Forker road have witnessed Pygmy Owls killing Quail that are nearly twice their size. They say it was a tremendous battle each time!

Hal and Barbara Hooper watched the struggle in their yard and called me while the Pygmy Owl was feasting. I rushed down to photograph the event. It would rip out feathers throwing them left and right. Then it would rip off small bits of meat to swallow. After a while, it would leave and, according to the Hoopers, it returned several times over the next day or two to dine.



Pygmy Owl
(1/2 size RLD)

The Pygmy Owl's normal call is a low pitched "toot" repeated at two to four second intervals, but sometimes a single "toot" just once in a while. If you hear a very fast "tooting" that

goes on for a half minute and much longer, that would be a Northern Saw-whet Owl which we also have in the Foothills. The "tooting" is to claim their territory or to contact their mate.

Pygmy Owls are most often seen in the winter when most of their food supply is covered with snow. They are thus forced to move more into the open along roads or around homes where the ground is more exposed and prey can be found.

I have seen Pygmy Owls perched on power lines and fence posts on Forker road, apple trees on MacMahan road, bushes on Cooper and Madison roads, and a number of other places in the Foothills. If you haven't seen one to date, I think you are really missing a treat.

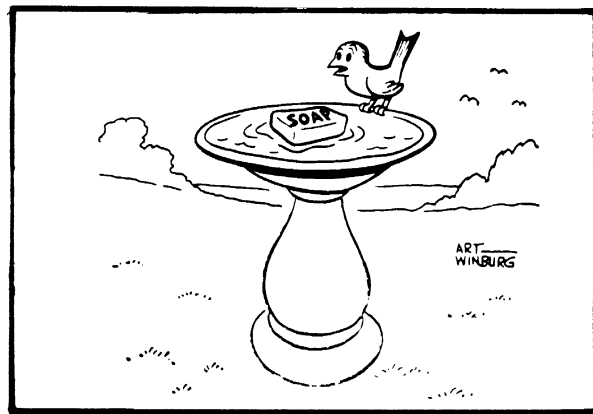
In December of 1996, I watched a Pygmy Owl perched on a hay rake. There was 3-4 inches of snow on the ground. The Owl was twisting its head back and forth looking straight down. Suddenly, it dropped straight down like a rock and the ground seemed to explode!

I was 20 feet away and couldn't see what the owl had caught, but looking through the spokes of the hay rake wheel, I could see it tumbling around. I walked over to the wheel as the tussling stopped.

I peered down to find the Pygmy Owl staring straight up at me with what seemed like very large, excited eyes. It had in its grasp a large short-tailed Vole. The owl's wings were spread out on the ground to brace itself upright and to cover its prey. It was clearly saying, "This is mine!"

You would think that this little 7" owl would have been frightened looking up at a human towering over it, but it wasn't about to let go of its meal. Instead, it jumped forward flapping its wings, dragging the Vole across the ground for several feet before raising it off the ground. The Vole was so heavy that the Pygmy Owl could only get 2-3 feet off the ground as it flew into the brush.

Become aware of the birds and animals around you and try to identify them and study their behavior. Nature is a wonder provided for us to enjoy and it's free.



FOOTHILLS AREA HISTORY THE LOG CABIN ON PIPER ROAD

by Jim Wallrabenstein

If you have ever driven on Piper Road, you probably noticed the weathered log cabin which stands in the wheat field just off the road on the north side about 1.2 mile back from Forker. Last summer, while I was trucking wheat for Dick Kaelin (who has farmed the land around the cabin for the past eleven years), I asked if he knew anything about its history. The following is what I learned from Dick and also from speaking with Fred McConahy who's cousin, Louise Rudy, currently owns the land on which the cabin sits.

In the early part of this century, the Packer family owned 160 acres of land on the north side of Piper Road from Forker on back. Elmer & Cora Packer, and their family, lived in a home close to where the log cabin is situated.

Sometime around 1920, Elmer Packer died leaving his wife, Cora, to raise their family. Unfortunately, not too many years later, the family home burned leaving Cora and her children homeless. They moved into a root cellar near the site of the burned home and took up residence.

It was not a very satisfactory situation and, taking pity on them, neighbors living in the vicinity, including the McConahys and Lindells, built a simple log cabin above the root cellar to provide a somewhat better home for the widow Packer and her children. It wasn't anything fancy, but it was sturdy and included a 2nd floor attic loft for sleeping quarters.



Years later, after Cora and children were gone, the cabin was rented out for awhile, but was not found to be really suitable rental property. Thus this log cabin, once built by neighbors for a widow and her children, has stood vacant for nearly half a century!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Readers who are members of the Foothills Rural Association, may have noticed a letter in parenthesis on the line which reads "MEMBER 1998" on their mailing label. A letter "C" indicates that you are a continuing member having renewed your membership from the previous year. A letter "R" indicates that you are a returning member, having been a member in the past, but not the previous year. A letter "N" indicates that you are a new member. New members may be new residents to the Foothills or long-time residents who have not been members of the Association in the past. (Of course, if your mailing label does not include the line, "MEMBER 1998", you have not paid dues for the current year and we are eager to hear from you!)

We currently have 126 members for the current year, including the following 15 new members:

Matt & Kimberly Anderson	Norman Road
Richard & Sharon Bonwell	MacMahan Road
David & Yabing Fisher	Brevier Road
Paul & Miriam Fredrich	Frederick Road
John & Dolores Grissom	Forker Road
Craig & Jeanette Haase	Judkins Road
Bill & Susan Kreider	Foothills Road
Reynold & Betty Jo Mildes	Jacobs Road
Ed & Susie Morgan	Forker Road
Doris Mustoe	Lincoln Road
Bob & Bertie Sallee	Jacobs Road
Doug & Erin Schwartz	Lincoln Road
Walter & Anita Simer	Brevier Road
C.G. & Kristine Starling	Chrisalan Lane.
Les & Marge Stone	MacMahan Road

COMMUNITY CENTER VINYL SIDING PROJECT COMPLETE AT LAST!

It was back on the week-end of September 9-10, 1995 that community volunteers began the task of installing new vinyl siding on the community center. The project met with almost immediate set-backs when structural wood rot discovered along the north side of the building required some serious restoration work.

As months (yea, even years) passed, work continued at a sporadic rate until all that remained was some very difficult and tedious facia and trim work.

Recognizing the limitations of the volunteer effort, and the special equipment and skill needed to finish the job, this final facia and trim work was completed by Alpine Construction in April. Enhanced protection and appearance of the building was achieved!

MAIL THEFT STILL A PROBLEM

Two years ago, Foothills residents were advised of incidents of outgoing mail being stolen from mail boxes. Apparently, mail thieves are still around as there have been recent mail thefts reported throughout the Foothills area. Moffat, Pleasant Prairie, and Temple Road mail boxes have been entered illegally on several occasions. Residents in other areas have also been victimized. Some residents have resorted to renting post office boxes for receipt of important first class mail.

Apparently, leaving outgoing mail in your box with the flag up may actually attract the mail thieves. To avoid having important outgoing mail stolen, it is best to deposit such mail, especially when mailing bill payments, in drop boxes at the post office. Since it is possible for thieves to chemically erase the name of the person or company to whom the check has been written, you may find that not only does your bill go unpaid, but someone using a phony name has cashed your check.

Be on the alert for anyone seen accessing a rural mail box. Jot down the license plate number and get a description of the vehicle as well as noting the time of day that you witness such suspicious activity. This information can be very helpful to postal officials.

If you feel your mail has been tampered with or stolen, be sure to notify the post office so that they are made aware of the situation. Reporting such incidents to the our Community Crime Log (924-6590) may also help in tracking the extent and prevalence of this criminal activity.

A VISIT TO THE COUNTRY

A city visitor asked an old farmer about his cows. "Why," he asked, "do some of them have no horns?"

"There are three cases," the farmer said. "Some are born without horns, some are dehorned and some knock their horns off fighting."

"And what about that one in the corner?" the visitor asked.

"Ah," said the farmer. "That is a fourth case. That is a horse."

A farmer was talking taxes with a business acquaintance at a meeting. "We're a non-profit organization," he said. "We didn't mean to be, but we are."

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@on-ramp.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: **Flavia Kuebler, Rental Coordinator**
Ph. 926-2919

1998 Board Directory

President	Steve Allenberg	926-4111
Vice-President	Kay Muelrath	891-8315
Secretary	Wende Barker	924-3127
Treasurer	Don Tucker	924-9105
Board	Mike Britton ('00)	922-1494
	Joyce Roskelley ('00)	928-2587
	Steve Hansen ('99)	926-6357
	Rich Krenkel ('99)	928-6610
	Dale Preedy ('98)	466-6172
	Pat Wolfe ('98)	924-1412

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!

Diana Bertholic (19), Morrison Road 922-2344
 Crystal Bertholic (15)
 Julie Bertholic (13)
 Suzie Bertholic (12)
 Babysitting, house cleaning

Heather Bitterman (15), Forker Road 891-5231
 Babysitting, feeding animals

Stephanie Boorman (14), Madison Rd. 926-1157
 Babysitting - responsible, experienced!

Alyson Mahan (14), Forker Road 921-0700
 Typing, flyers, tutoring math K-7

Mike Nilson (12), Moffat Road 922-1103
 Mowing, yard work, animal feeding

Kira Starling (16), Foothills Road 924-9012
 Babysitting, yard work, elderly care

Dawn Starling (14) 924-9012
 Babysitting, yard work, pet care

Danae Starling (13) 924-9012
 Yard work, pet care, odd jobs

Joshua Tucker (16), Foothills Road 924-9105
 Math tutoring, algebra 1 or 2,
 geometry, trigonometry

Stephanie Tucker (15) 924-9105
 Math tutoring, algebra 1 or 2
 geometry, trigonometry; animal care

Holly Weiler (19), Adams Road 926-9144
 Babysitting, **house-sitting**

Joe Weiler (17) 926-9144
 Rodent trapping (gophers, moles
 weasles), yard work, odd jobs

Tom Wood (18), Moffat Road 922-2473
 Roofing, painting, heavy outdoor work,
 milking goats, scuba diving, cashier

Daniel Wood (10) 922-2473
 Yard work, pet care, sell/trade non-hybrid
 seeds, 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@on-ramp.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:

Foothills Rural Association
 16630 E. Foothills Road
 Spokane, WA 99217-9433
 FAX: 924-3665
 E-Mail: jmw@on-ramp.ior.com



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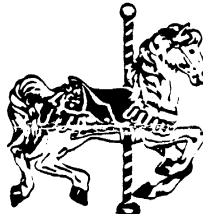
Hay Delivery

Farm Implements

BART and SONS
 Feed & Supply Co.

Bart - Matt - Paul Bertholic
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 Spokane, WA 99217

(509) 922-2344
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Spokane, WA

Cheryl Britton

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 Hand Painted Items
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 Wood Items, Etc.

(509) 922-1494

Freas Farm and Orchard

Acres of inexpensive, good, healthy family fun!

TREE RIPENED

peaches, cherries, grapes, apples, pears, apricots

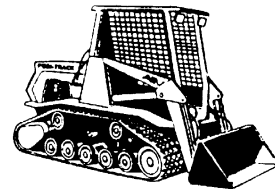
U-PICK or PICKED

10502 N. Morrison Road

924-0584

JTF POSI-TRACK SERVICE

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- * SITE PREP & CLEANUP
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