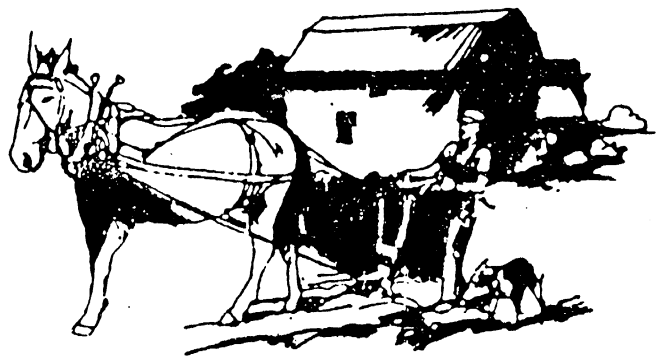




Vol. 17 No. 3
September 1999



RENTAL COORDINATOR SOUGHT FOR COMMUNITY CENTER

4th ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY BARBECUE GATHERING

WHEN: Saturday, September 25, 1999
TIME: 4:00 - 7:00 PM
PLACE: Foothills Community Center
FEATURING: Genuine Longhorn BBQ Ham,
Turkey, & Beans
Salad Bar & Dessert Too!

Marking the ninety-fourth anniversary of the opening of the Foothills School, now our Community Center, the Founder's Day BBQ has become an annual family event. There's no hidden agendas, no need to bring anything, and no need to get all dressed up! This year the emphasis is purely social. Bring the kids, enjoy the food, meet and visit with your neighbors. Eat hearty, sit back and linger awhile, and make room for dessert! Enjoy a relaxing evening close to home. No dinner to prepare, no dishes to do, and wonderful fellowship to boot!

DON'T MISS IT!

MEMBERSHIP

Hooray! We did it again. We have set another new membership record with **141** paid memberships for 1999! This includes **13** new, first-time, members and 11 returning members. Check your mailing label. Does it say "Member 1999" after your name? If so, **thanks for your support!**

A "take charge" person, energetic and customer-oriented, a "hands on" type of manager! Convenient location! Meet your neighbors! Make new friends!

One of the best benefits of membership in the Foothills Rural Association is the opportunity to use the Community Center for family gatherings, parties, receptions, or other events! We are seeking a person willing to serve as contact person and rental coordinator. Most of the responsibilities can be handled right from your home. They include:

- Maintaining a rental calendar - knowing what dates the Center is in use or is available.
- Having each user sign two (2) copies of the Rental Agreement (one for our records, one for the user)
- Collecting the rental fee (non-members), utilities fee, and refundable deposit.
- Issuing key(s) to the user and insuring their prompt return after use.
- Making a physical check of the Center after each use to make sure all requirements of the agreement have been fulfilled.
- Insuring that the Center is thoroughly cleaned after each use, or at least once-a-month.
- Dealing tactfully with user complaints or concerns.
- Reporting any need for Center supplies or maintenance to the appropriate board member.
- Making sure all collected funds are given to the treasurer for deposit.

Many thanks to Flavia Kuebler, who has served as our Rental Coordinator for the past seven years.

If you would be interested in serving as our rental coordinator, and live in relative proximity to the Community Center - for your own convenience as well as that of Center renters, please contact Kay Muelrath at 891-8315. A stipend is paid for Center cleaning.

FOUR SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FOR 1999

In 1992, the Blue Ribbon Circle offered for the first time an education scholarship to a Foothills student. This scholarship was funded through investment income generated by a bequest to the Circle through the estate of Foothills resident, Jess Kronquist. In 1994, the Foothills Rural Association, using investment income from a similar bequest from the Kronquist estate, offered a second scholarship. In 1997, the Rural Association supplemented its investment income to offer two scholarships in addition to that of the Blue Ribbon Circle. This year, the Foothills Rural Association was pleased to award three scholarships. Still, according to Joyce Roskelley who chaired the scholarship committee, it was a difficult choice with nine well qualified applicants.

Selected to receive the \$500 Blue Ribbon Circle scholarship was **Katie Lancaster**, daughter of Greg and Jean Lancaster of Farwell Road. Receiving \$600 scholarships from the Foothills Rural Association were **John Coburn**, son of Dave and Janice Coburn of Scribner Road, and **Charlyn Johnson**, daughter of Lynn and Sherry Johnson of Lincoln Road. Receiving a \$300 scholarship from the Foothills Rural Association was **April Jacobson**, daughter of Mark and Carol Jacobson of Kronquist Road.

With a degree in elementary education as her goal, **Katie Lancaster** will be starting studies at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho. At East Valley High School, Katie served as Vice-president of the Honor Society, and participated in the Education Outreach Program at Skyview Elementary during her senior year. For the past four years, she spent 10 days each summer in a vacation Bible school ministry in McCall, Idaho. In addition to her school and church activities, Katie has studied tap dance, jazz, and ballet for nine years.

John Coburn graduated from Mead Mt. Spokane High School where he was in the National Honor Society. Last month, John started his freshman year in biology at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon where he plans to continue as a pre-med student. At Foothills Church, John was a member of the Praise & Worship Choir and participated in

two mission trips to Mexico. In 1997 he was selected to serve as a Washington State Senate Page. Additionally, John has been an active member of the National Ski Patrol at Mt. Spokane.

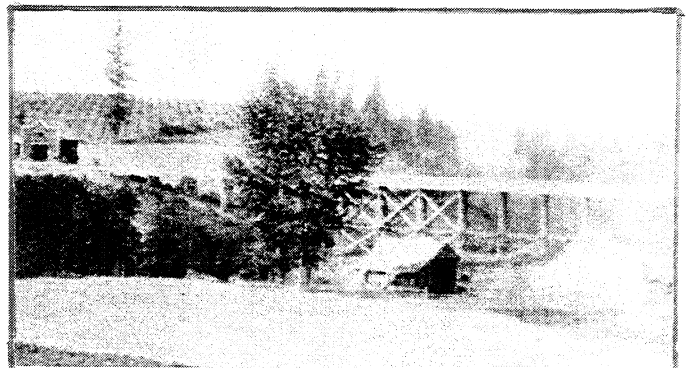
A 1999 Valedictorian at East Valley High School, **Charlyn Johnson** is looking forward to studies at the University of Washington with a possible major in psychology and minor in Spanish. Charlyn was the first student from East Valley named as a Spokane Scholar in the area of Foreign Languages. Along with her studies, Charlyn organized Spanish classes at East Valley along with other schools including Spokane Falls Community College to write little Spanish books for children. These books were sent to Honduras.

As she also heads off for the University of Washington, **April Jacobson** has her sights set on a career as a pediatric nurse. A fine young musician, she hopes to also minor in music continuing her piano studies. This past year she received a gold medal in the Romantic (piano) division of the Spokane Allied Arts Festival. While at East Valley, April participated two years in both the All-State Choir and All-Northwest Choir. Active as a cheerleader for three years, she was on the varsity squad her junior year. Through her church, April also made two mission trips to Mexico.

Congratulations to all of the 1999 scholarship recipients!

LET'S TRY THAT PHOTO ONE MORE TIME

In the April issue, the photo of the wooden trestle bridge on Forker Road apparently went unnoticed by the printer resulting in a very poor image. Here it is again, albeit smaller in size.



FARMING ERA IN FOOTHILLS ENDS FOR THE FICHTENBERG FAMILY

From 1945-1999, there have been Fichtenbergs farming on Pleasant Prairie. Earlier this year, the land was deeded to Charitable Remainder Trusts through their church. The land was sold through auction on September 2nd. Another auction on October 7th will sell off the equipment as well as Arnie & Marilyn's household items. For now, Bernie will stay on 20 acres of the home place, until he decides what retirement will mean for him.

Arnie & Marilyn plan to move into a motor home and travel full-time. Much of their time will be spent working with Christian groups, building or remodeling churches, schools, and campgrounds throughout the US, Canada, and Mexico. Along the way they will visit friends and family from Saskatchewan, Canada to Chihuahua, Mexico; from New Jersey to Arizona; and from Alaska to Florida.

In December 1945, Helen & Reiny first moved from Oregon with their two older sons, ages one and two. Bernie was the first born in Spokane, January 1946. Arnie was born just one year later. All four boys attended Pleasant Prairie School and graduated from West Valley High School. After military service, Arnie & Bernie returned to the family farm. Over the years they purchased additional land and worked several rented pieces, totaling at times nearly 1,000 acres. In addition to farming, they were charter members of the volunteer fire department at Station 6 in the Foothills when it was opened in 1972.

After 23 years with Northwest Airlines, Marilyn has been a familiar face in the Spokane County Library District most of the last decade. She began volunteering at the Argonne Branch before being hired as a Library Clerk II. As Regional Circulation's Supervisor - North Region, she was based at the North Spokane Library. After taking a part-time position at Zion Lutheran Church in Millwood, she continued as a Library Assistant Substitute working in all nine county libraries.

Retirement sounded promising, after meeting with Margie Fiedler, from the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) synod office in Spokane. By deeding the land to Charitable Remainder Trusts administered

by the ELCA Foundation, it was possible to designate gifts to many ministries of the church and other charities, and have a retirement income, and tax relief, too. For the Fichtenbergs, it feels a bit like the "feeding of the five thousand" we read about in the Bible - MIRACULOUS!

For those who have Internet access, Arnie invites you to stay in touch down the road by Email: AMFic@aol.com. To read more about the upcoming equipment auction, log on to www.bookerauctions.com.

EDITORS NOTE: Foothills residents will be happy to learn that more than half of the farm land sold at auction on September 2nd was purchased by other Foothills area farmers and will remain in agricultural production for the foreseeable future.

FOOTHILLS AREA HISTORY THE GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORE

At the south end of the trestle bridge which spanned the creek on Forker Road near Moffat from 1905 to 1922 stood the General Merchandise Store. Located on the west side of the road, the store was built around the turn of the century and stood until it burned down in a mysterious fire in August 1920.



General Merchandise Store

The store was operated in succession by the Allison, Boswell, Judkins, Pipgrass, and Jackson families. Many old-timers remember it most fondly however as the Pipgrass Store.

Wouldn't it be nice if we still had such a neighborhood "general merchandise" store in the Foothills?

BIRDS OF THE FOOTHILLS

by Ron Dexter

The Farmers Friend - The Barn Owl

A family of Barn Owls will eat 3,000-5,000 rodents in a five month nesting season. They may nest twice a year. Barn Owls eat gophers, voles, field mice and rats. They also eat bats, reptiles and large insects like moths. They don't eat cats, poultry or game birds as do Great-horned Owls. Crop damage from vole, gopher and field mouse damage has grown at an alarming rate in some areas.

Unfortunately, this helpful species has been disappearing from the inland northwest for many years now. There's only a scattered few left in Spokane County. Barn Owls are a medium sized owl, with heart shaped white faces and white fronts. Their backs are a golden brown. They are much smaller, and don't have the ear tufts on top of their head like the Great-horned Owl.

Barn Owls historically nested in hollow trees that were plentiful. As farms and ranches stretched across the United States, the big trees with the hollows were cut down for firewood. However, large wood barns were built and the owls moved into them for nesting. Wise farmers recognized the value of these owls and added platforms high up at one end of the barn for them to nest.

In more recent years, these old wooden barns have been falling down and are replaced

by enclosed metal buildings. Some farmers didn't like the droppings the owls left in their barns, so they shut the owls out. This is cutting off your nose to spite your face. Pigeons leave far worse messes and can legally be killed in Washington State.

Another major factor in the decline of Barn Owls is the expanding range of the Great-horned Owls that kill the Barn Owls. Many Barn Owls have been shot by farmers or ranchers who were blaming the owls for killing their cats, poultry, quail or pheasants. It is the Great-horned Owl or coyotes doing the killing, not these fascinating white Barn Owls.

Barn Owls make strange hissing, clicking and creaking sounds. Many old houses, churches or lighthouses that were thought to be haunted turned out to have Barn Owls in the attics or belfries. Barn Owls hunt primarily by sound and can catch mice in 100% darkness or under weeds or snow.

Barn Owls usually have 4-7 young, however they may have more if there are lots of rodents around. A pair in Texas had 27 eggs that all hatched and all the young fledged. Now, that's big time rodent control. Voles are their favorite food. That's those fat, black field mice with the short tails that make the tunnels in the grass and under snow.

I recently learned of a nest-box design for Barn Owls that has proven very successful. Farmers in Grand Ronde valley in Oregon have increased the Barn Owl population from just a handful to hundreds in just a few years by installing this design. The man who told me about this program and I have decided to start a similar program here. We have free plans available for anyone who would like to build one or more of these nest-boxes.

We have found similar programs (on the Internet) being used around the country that are very successful at curtailing the rodent damage in orchards and vineyards. If you have Internet access, check it out.

The nice thing about these boxes is that they can be mounted on the outside or inside of any building you choose. For copies of the plans with instructions, call me at 468-2555. If by any chance you have actually seen Barn Owls, please call me. You may qualify for a free nest-box. Later on I will have a design that can be mounted on a post and placed outside anywhere you choose.

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 (20), Morrison Road 922-2344
Crystal Bertholic (16)
Julie Bertholic (14)
Suzie Bertholic (12)
Experienced Babysitting

Heather Bitterman (17), Forker Road 891-5231
Experienced Babysitting, feeding animals

Stephanie Boorman (15), Madison Rd 926-1157
Stacy Boorman (14)
Babysitting - responsible, experienced!
House cleaning, pet sitting, yard work

Mike Nilson (13), Moffat Road 922-1103
Animal feeding, yard work (mowing,raking)
Odd jobs

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

Holly Weiler (20), Adams Road 926-9144
Babysitting, **house-sitting**, tutoring

Joe Weiler (18) 926-9144
Rodent trapping (gophers, moles
weasles), yard work, odd jobs

Daniel Wood (11), Moffat Road 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@ior.com

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Type of work you're interested in doing:

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

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