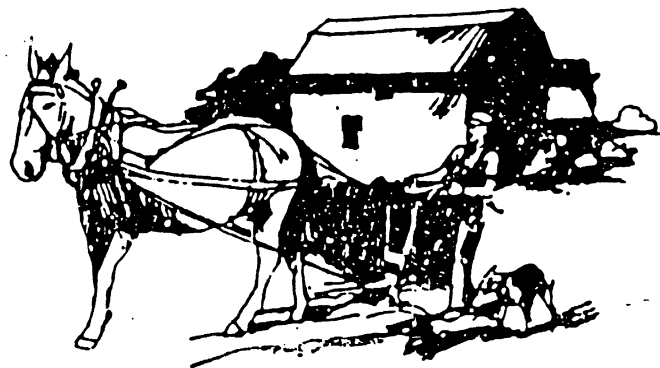




Vol. 15 No. 2  
April 1997



### **FOOTHILLS FUN WALK '97 and Pancake Breakfast too!**

### **FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY YARD AND CRAFT SALE**

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 3, 1997  
**TIME:** 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Bloomsday is almost here and what better way to relax the day before than to participate in the Foothills yard and craft sale. So gather together all the items no longer needed and get ready for the big day!

There is no cost to participate!

You are responsible for your own signs at driveways and road intersections.

Members of the Foothills Rural Association can have their address and a few items listed on a map that will be available at the community center. (Note: If your mailing label does not read "MEMBER 1997", send your dues in the amount of \$20.00 to the return address shown on this newsletter. That way you can be listed on the map and folks will be able to find you and your "fine collectibles" easily!)

The yard sale will be advertised in the paper for a few weekends in advance.

This year, the Tole Fest Club will be at the community center on yard sale day with a great variety of tole painted items. Cheryl Britton is a member. If you haven't seen items painted by her, you are missing something. Be sure to stop by and look at all the talent.

For more information, or to have your yard sale address listed on the map along with a short list of items for sale, contact Rich Krenkel at 928-6610.

**When:** Saturday, June 14, 1997  
**Time:** Fun Walk starts at 8:00 AM  
**Where:** Foothills Community Center

Schools out! That's right, it's the first day of summer vacation for East Valley students, and what better way to celebrate than by bringing the whole family out for the 9th Annual Foothills Fun Walk and Pancake Breakfast!

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 receipt of your entry fees and shirt order is June 4th. So, don't delay, plan on participating in this popular community event.

If you don't want to walk or run, you may still order your 1997 T-shirt. And, of course, whether you participate in the Fun Walk or not, you'll want to "come on down" to visit with your neighbors and enjoy a fine pancake breakfast.

See you there!

### **SPRING CLEAN UP AND SPRUCE UP**

**When:** Saturday, May 10, 1997  
**Time:** 9:00 AM til ??  
**Where:** Community Center

Yep! This is the day that we need all the "worker bees", young & old, male & female, to help us get the community center, cottage and grounds in neat and tidy shape. We'll be putting the finishing touches on the cottage "renovation" work, maybe get a start on wrapping the fascia on the community center (the final task to complete the vinyl siding installation), and do some landscaping work on the yard and grounds. So, bring your gloves, rakes, hammers, shovels, and wheelbarrows! \*\* Lunch will be provided! \*\*

## \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS AGAIN OFFERED

The Foothills Rural Association, in conjunction with the Blue Ribbon Circle, will again award two \$500.00 scholarships to college bound or returning college students. The scholarship is available to any resident of the Foothills area (defined as the boundaries of Foothills Fire Station 6). Applicants are considered on the basis of scholastic merit, participation in school and/or community service, and need. The scholarship may be used at any institution including community colleges, business colleges, and technical institutes which award academic degrees. Payment will be made directly to the institution of choice upon acceptance.

In addition to a formal application, due by May 10, an informal interview with the scholarship committee will be held on a random basis on the evening of May 15. The application for this year's scholarships is included in this newsletter and is also widely available at area public and private high schools. The committee looks forward to visiting with the outstanding young people of the Foothills again this year. It is always a rewarding experience for the committee members.

## FOOTHILLS FIREMEN HONORED

We residents of the Foothills area are fortunate to be served by the dedicated volunteer firemen and EMT personnel assigned to Fire District 9, Station 6. At the recent District 9 Fireman's Banquet, 25 year pins were presented to the following Foothills volunteer firemen with Station 6: Bob Atwood, Don Houschild, Arnie & Bernie Fichtenberg, Terry Peters, Carl Shearer and Walter Wruble. Receiving a 5 year pin was John Roskelley.

Many thanks to these and the other volunteer fireman with Station 6 for making our community a better and safer place to live!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCED

Foothills Community Church will be holding Vacation Bible School June 23 - 27 from 9:00 am to noon daily. Boys and girls from age 4 up to those entering the 9th grade are welcome. All children are welcome, whether or not they normally attend Foothills Community Church.

If you have questions, call the church office at 926-4971.

## NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following new officers and board members elected at the 14th Annual Meeting of the Foothills Rural Association held on January 22.

President-	Steve Allenberg
Vice-president-	Mike Britton
Secretary-	Wende Barker
Treasurer-	Don Tucker

Board Members-	Steve Hansen ('99)
	Rich Krenkel ('99)

Board members continuing for the coming year include:

Dale Preedy ('98)
Pat Wolfe ('98)
Glen Anderson ('97)
Joyce Roskelley ('97)

Twenty members, constituting a quorum, attended the Annual Meeting. Outgoing president, Mike Britton, offered a review of the year's activities and projects including the yard & craft sale, fun walk/pancake breakfast, Founder's Day celebration, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training class, and awarding of college scholarships. As the installation of vinyl siding on the community center nears completion, attention will be focused on needed repairs to the cottage, the rental of which is a major source of income for the Association.

Jim Wallrabenstein reported that a new membership record was established in 1996 with 125 paid members. This represents approximately 1/3 of the households in the Foothills area.

With the publication of the January issue, Cliff & June Balcom "retired" after 14 years of handling the printing, preparation, and mailing of the Foothills Rural Association Newsletter. Since the first one-page newsletter was distributed in December 1983, there have been 50 issues published and either distributed by hand or mailed to Foothills residents. Over the years, the number has grown to nearly 375 copies of the most recent issues. Additionally, June was responsible for the typing and layout of the newsletter for the first several years. In appreciation of their years of service, a \$30.00 gift certificate from *Giovanni's Italian Restaurant* was presented to the Balcoms.

Regular board meetings, held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7 PM, are open to all residents. Meetings are held at the community center.

## BIRDS OF THE FOOTHILLS

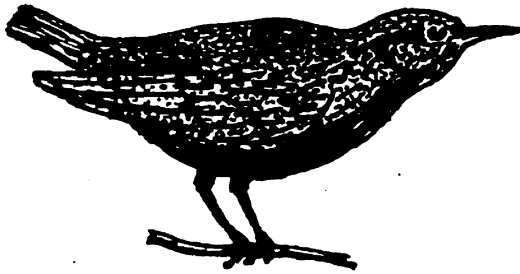
by Ron Dexter

In past articles, I have told you about some of the good birds here in the Foothills. I would now like to focus your awareness of a bad bird that continues to threaten the future of many of our favorite songbirds.

There are approximately 425 species of birds in Washington state. Only three of these are bad birds and it is legal to kill them because of their destructive habits. The three are the European Starling, the House Sparrow, and the Rock Dove. House Sparrows are usually found around chicken yards or in thick shrubs around suburban or city buildings. Rock Doves are wild pigeons, the type you see around railroad yards or city parks (not the kind that people raise in pens).

Of these three birds, the one that affects the songbirds in the Foothills is the Starling. It is not a native bird. In 1890 and 1891, 120 Starlings were introduced into New York in an apparent attempt to control certain insects. Billions of starlings now cover the entire United States, Canada, and Mexico.

You've heard the saying - you mustn't fool with mother nature! Well, the Starling is a prime example. They had no natural enemies here in the U.S., such as predators or disease, to control their numbers. As their numbers increased, they needed more food and nesting sites, so with their natural aggressive behavior, they drove other birds out of their habitats.



### STARLING

Starlings may gather in large numbers and will gang up on larger birds such as Flickers or Wood Ducks to take over nesting holes or food. I have witnessed this and have had people tell me of incidents where the Starlings have destroyed nests with baby birds or eggs, even when they were not interested in the nest site for their own use.

The three species of Bluebirds in the United States were nearly exterminated by the starlings and the House Sparrows by taking over nesting cavities in trees, fence posts, old buildings, etc. Starlings can get into any hole

1 5/8" diameter or larger. That's why Bluebird box holes must be smaller (1 1/2" to 1 9/16" diameter). Holes smaller than 1 1/2" may keep Bluebirds out.

A friend on Holcomb Road told me about coming home from work in the evening on cold days and finding his wood stove filled with live Starlings that had come down the chimney during the day for warmth. He would kill them and dispose of them by the sackful. The next evening, the same thing would happen until he modified his chimney so that the Starlings were not attracted. I told him he should have left it the way it was. He said it was a real nuisance and messy.

Starlings are approximately 8" long and blackish with a long yellow bill that turns brownish in the fall. Their spring colors vary from a dark green to purple and turn to brown in the fall with white speckles all over their bodies. They have a short square tail which is most noticeable in flight.

Starlings have many call notes - some are very melodic and pleasant. They eat many insects which demonstrates that they aren't totally corrupt. But, remember that they are out of place here in North America. In Europe, natural controls had developed over thousands of years to balance their numbers.

Starlings are real gluttons and can will eat just about anything. They are intelligent and very hard to outsmart. It is very difficult to trap them. A retired Central Valley biology teacher built a large wire screen trap with the help of a student. An ingenious trap door was devised and quite a number of Starlings wound up inside. However, from a distance, the two trappers watched one Starling squeeze as far as it could through the wire mesh.

Then several other Starlings would start ramming it until they forced the stuck one through. Of course, the first two or three Starlings forced through died of injuries, but the remaining escaped.

I once saw a Starling trying to get into a Bluebird house. After several tries to force its way in, it flew in the a circle and tried to ram through the opening. On the 2nd try, it got stuck at its wings and its legs were just dangling in space. It was funny. It wiggled loose before I could get outside to help it. I've often wondered how it planned to get out from inside since it couldn't get a flying start.

I encourage you to do all you can to rid our Foothills community of these noxious pests. Remember, it is legal to kill them and by doing so, you may see the return of native songbirds that have been driven out or reduced in numbers.

**FOOTHILLS FIRE STATION #6**  
**ALARM LOG**

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>
01/01 1519	Brevier/Forker	Possible Explosion
01/21 1722	7200 N Forker	vehicle accid.
02/02 0128	12324 E Piper	EMS
02/05 1358	15026 E Judkins	EMS
02/07 0004	15626 E Scribner	EMS
02/07 1905	13918 E Mt Spokane	Chimney Fire
02/11 2046	5500 N Forker	vehicle accid.
02/22 1248	13908 N Downing	Leaking Propane Tank
02/24 2038	12426 N Forker	Chimney Fire

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

Membership in the Foothills Rural Association is constantly changing! Each year we lose some members, but gain some new ones. Welcome to the following new members for 1997.

John & Deborah Crossley	Moffat Road
Roger Dike	Forker Road
Jake & Tami Flugel	Foothills Road
Claire & Ginney Labrosse	Lincoln Road
Keith & Michelle Largent	Foothills Road
John Lemke & d'Anne Meyer	Webster Road
Paul & Suzan Mihara	MacMahan Road
Doris Mustoe	Lincoln Road
David & Karen Shill	Francis Ave.
Kevin & Marcia Spradlin	Norman Road
Jim & Judy Stewart	Judkins Road
Jeff & Jennifer Sund	Forker Road

We currently have 105 paid members for 1997. We set a new record with 125 members last year. Can we top that? Does your mailing label read "MEMBER 1997" on the 2nd line? If not, please consider sending your dues in the amount of \$20.00 to the return address shown on this newsletter. Thank you!

**DRIVER CAUTION APPRECIATED**

While area farmers make every effort to avoid creating traffic hazards, they must often use the roads to move large equipment from field to field. Please be patient when you encounter farm equipment on the road. Slow down. Don't follow too closely. Use extreme caution if attempting to pass - space may be very limited. If you see large equipment coming toward you, slow down, and, if possible, pull over to the side of the road (or pull into a driveway) until the equipment has passed.

**Thank you very much!**

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 for which the corporation is organized 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 with 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 99207-9433  
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

**1996 Board Directory**

President	Steve Allenberg	926-4111
Vice-President	Mike Britton	922-1494
Secretary	Wende Barker	924-3127
Treasurer	Don Tucker	924-9105
Board	Steve Hansen ('99)	926-6357
	Rich Krenkel ('99)	928-6610
	Dale Preedy ('98)	466-6172
	Pat Wolfe ('98)	924-1412
	Glen Anderson ('97)	926-0214
	Joyce Roskelley ('97)	928-2587