

MOUNTAINS TO *Sound*

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The Greenway community of Preston has made a successful effort to preserve open space and rural character in the historic logging town just east of Issaquah. The driveway on the left marks the last piece of recent, public land acquisitions that are part of the community's Preston Vision Plan. See story page 2.

Preston “Vision” Becomes Reality

East of Issaquah, beyond the new Sunset Interchange, the ‘gateway’ forests of Tiger Mountain and the Grand Ridge Open Space flank both sides of Interstate 90. Only occasional houses can be seen for five miles until the Preston Industrial Park comes into view.

In the late 1990s, local citizens, state and county land agencies and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust began working to assure that when those private ownerships on the edge of I-90 came on the market, there would be public funds to buy the lands and keep a permanent, forested connection from the Sunset Interchange east to the state forest lands above Preston. Citizens of the unincorporated rural town of Preston highlighted these goals in a document

called the Preston Vision. They urged King County, the Greenway Trust and others to protect a variety of small land parcels constituting the “Preston Edge.”

“We knew these smaller parcels along I-90 could be the hardest to protect,” says Greenway Trust president Sally Jewell. “It’s easier to find funds for big chunks of working forest land. But we could win those big battles and still lose the war if people traveled I-90 and saw scattered, small scale development all along the way.”

King County Secures the Final Piece

In May of this year, King County, working with the Trust for Public Land (TPL), purchased the final parcel among five connecting pieces of the Preston Edge. The 6-acre Wickersham property north of I-90 was protected by an option secured by Kent Whitehead of TPL and then sold to the County Department of Natural Resources and Parks. Funds enabling this County purchase came from the King County general fund and other grants from both the Federal Forest Legacy Program and federal Transportation Enhancements grants.

“We at the County have been committed to helping build the Greenway,” says King County Executive Ron Sims. “Then along came the Preston Vision identifying a variety of community needs and ideas that also fit the Greenway goals. One element of the vision that has attracted broad interest is a proposal for an arboretum on some of the Edge parcels. The County thought that was a good public, rural use that fit the Greenway goals too,” Sims explains. “So one by one, with combinations of funds including the Federal Forest Legacy Program and transportation funds, we’ve been able to secure 167 acres – 5 private

ownerships – along the Preston Edge. Wickersham finishes the protection of the Edge properties.”

Citizens’ Plan Made a Difference

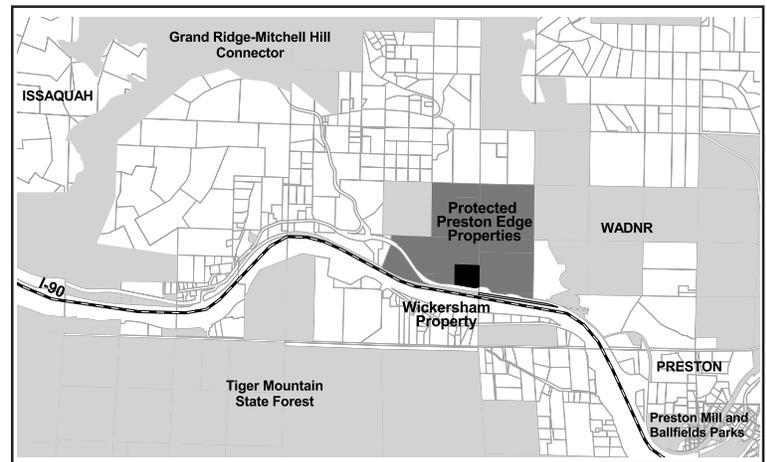
The Preston Vision plan, produced by local residents in the mid 1990s, listed five areas of private ownership that local people hoped to protect as public open space. They were: the Grand Ridge-Mitchell Hill Connector, the Edge Properties, Preston Historic Mill and River Park and the Preston Ballfields.

“The efforts in Preston have been contagious,” says Sims. “I’ll bet if you’d asked Preston residents in 1990, when the industrial park was building out, if they had any hope for keeping the rural character of the place, they would have been pretty pessimistic. So our success with saving these open space parcels

today just goes to show what a committed community effort can accomplish.”

“It’s kind of miraculous,” says Faith Roland, King County Open Space Acquisitions Supervisor. “We did it through a variety of funding partnerships and conservation programs, but the end result depended completely on hard work by people - the Preston citizens, their honorary Mayor Doug McClelland, Susan Bond with her exciting concept for an arboretum at Preston, Ken Konigsmark of the Greenway Trust, the staff at TPL and Gene Duvernoy of the Cascade Land Conservancy. And of course Ron Sims and members of the County Council. This is a great testimonial to patience and positive thinking.”

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-Sally Jewell, Greenway Trust President
”



Mountains to Sound Greenway Land Maps Published

“Building the Mountains to Sound Greenway,” public land acquisition maps detailing each of 81 separate transactions over the past 12 years, are available on the Greenway Trust web site, <http://www.mtsgreenway.org/projects/lands.htm>. Printed copies of the 11x17-inch book are also available by contacting the Greenway office.

TAKING IT EASY ON MT. SI? IT'S POSSIBLE

The 4-mile trail up Mt. Si, near North Bend, is strenuous enough that it's become a famous 'workout' for climbers and athletes. But a new trail opened on Mt. Si last year to offer some choices for hikers on the icon mountain.

The Mt. Si Loop Trail provides a lower elevation hike for people who want a mountain experience but not the taxing longer hike, says Kelly Heintz, manager of the Mt. Si Natural Resource Conservation Area for the State Department of Natural Resources. "It's a nice diverse experience," she says. "It leads through a lush Douglas fir forest and crosses the kind of rocky talus slope that you usually find higher up. And from the trail, there are some great views up the Middle Fork Valley."

Marker signs will be going up soon, Heintz says, but hikers can find the loop by starting up the main Mt. Si trail for 1.3 miles (1.7 miles from the parking lot). Just before reaching Snag Flats, the Loop Trail veers off to the right and carves a path that leads back to the main trail at a lower elevation. The trail is shown on the most recent Green Trails map for Mt. Si. It was built by young volunteers and Americorps workers with the Washington Conservation Corps, Heintz says. Funding came from the State Department of Natural Resources.

"We estimate that about 75,000 people a year climb Mt. Si or parts of it," Heintz says. "As people get to know that the loop trail is there, I think many more people will be using it for a quick mountain hike, close to the city."

Mt. Si is a public recreation area and natural preserve today because of the work of Frances North, who was a North Bend city council member, a State legislator and a founding Greenway Trust board member. She died this past Spring and on April 19th the State Department of Natural Resources (WADNR) honored her work with a sign at the Mt. Si trailhead. Helping unveil the sign are, from left, Kelly Heintz, WADNR; State representative Cheryl Pflug; a member of the North family; North Bend Mayor Joan Simpson; Iron Goat Trail advocate Ruth Ittner; Greenway Trust founding president Jim Ellis and State Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland.



Talus slope on the new Mt. Si loop trail.



New Trail to Rattlesnake Ledge Open



Volunteers have donated over 20,000 hours to build a new trail from Rattlesnake Lake to Rattlesnake Ledge. Just south of North Bend, the new Ledge trail will climb 1200 feet in two miles, replacing an old trail that Greenway trail specialist Mike Stenger says was, "too steep in spots and eroding down the hillside." He expects the new trail to be fully completed by the end of this year.

Anti-Mudding Campaign Wins National Award

The public/private campaign to end the practice of "mudding" in Kittitas County forest and wetlands has earned national recognition for Cle Elum District Forest Service Ranger Catherine Stephenson, her staff and a variety of partners. "Mudding" is the environmentally-damaging activity of showering off-road vehicles with mud by driving through wet areas.

The partnerships, programs and video production were recognized earlier by the regional Forest Service and described in the May issue of this newsletter. The newest award for the program comes from the Chief of the US Forest Service Dale Bosworth. It comes with a prize of \$5,000 to be used for projects on National Forest land.

NEWS ALONG THE GREENWAY

BICYCLISTS GLIMPSE 'SECRET' TRAIL LINKS



Bike Tour organizers, from left, were Barbara Culp, Bicycle Alliance of Washington; Paul Cooke, Greenway volunteer; Dennis Neuzil, bicycle advocate; and Nancy Keith, Greenway Trust. They are sporting new, black Mountains to Sound Greenway t-shirts, which will be available to anyone who joins as a "Friend of the Greenway" with a tax-deductible gift.

Fifty-four people joined the Alps-to-Arboretum Bike Tour in the Mountains to Sound Greenway in July, honoring the centennial of Seattle's Olmsted park system. King County Executive Ron Sims gave a kick-off speech in the shadow of the Issaquah Alps and Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels welcomed the group at the Washington Park Arboretum at the end of the 18-mile ride.

"One day, we hope to have a fully connected, off-road trail from the heart of the city to the John Wayne Pioneer Trail at North Bend," explains Greenway Executive Director Nancy Keith. "But even now, there are trails most people don't know about that, coupled with a few road shoulders, make the trip interesting."

The event was sponsored by the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and the Bicycle Alliance of Washington. Planning and logistics were developed by two volunteers: bicyclist Dennis Neuzil and Greenway member Paul Cooke. REI supported the event and Montake Bicycle Shop provided on-the-scene technical support.



The Alps to Arboretum bike tour followed regional bike trails and some roads, including this I-90 overpass in Bellevue.

Ken Konigsmark, long-time Boeing loaned executive to the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, has returned to work at Boeing.

Konigsmark served as Special Projects Director for the Trust for nearly 10 years, working full time on the Greenway while continuing to receive a salary and benefits from Boeing. One of his most famous contributions was the 10th Anniversary Mountains to Sound March in 2000, a 10-day, 130-mile group hike across the Cascades that he conceived, organized and led.

"Boeing's support through the loan of Ken has been an enormous boost to this project," says Greenway founding president Jim Ellis. "Without Ken's intelligence, energy and creativity, we would not have the protected, connected green space corridor we have today. Ken's natural bent as an outdoor explorer has given him detailed knowledge of most of the lands along I-90. He maintains a wide communication network among landowners and government agencies and when a parcel in the Greenway would go up for sale, Ken already knew it, had maps of it and would be bringing the right people together to get it protected. He has helped build the Greenway in a big way."



King County Executive Ron Sims, left, presented Ken Konigsmark with the Earth Hero Award in July, 2000.

Among many projects he initiated, Konigsmark came up with the idea of removing abandoned logging roads from the I-90 viewscape; he led the public education effort to gain broad support for the Biosolids Forestry Program and he was instrumental in public land acquisitions such as the Mitchell Hill Connector near Preston, the Trillium property on the Raging River and parcels around Lake Easton State Park in Kittitas County. Over a period of several years, he also

advised the development firm, Intracorp, to make sure that Greenway environmental goals were part of the Talus housing development in Issaquah. The housing project received a regional planning award this year. In 2000 Konigsmark received King County's Earth Hero award, recognizing his many Greenway and personal volunteer activities on behalf of environmental stewardship.

"Ken is the kind of person who puts 200% of himself into anything he does," says Trust Executive Director Nancy Keith. "Boeing's loaned executive program helps many regional non-profit organizations and most people don't know how valuable it is. Ken has left such a visible legacy in the Greenway, we'll always be saying 'Thank you Ken' and 'Thank you Boeing.'"

Adventures...

The Boeing Company has generously reprinted 15,000 copies of "Greenway Adventures," the brochure that details what to see and do along the I-90 Mountains to Sound Greenway corridor. Contact the Greenway office at 206-382-5565 or info@mtsgreenway.org for a copy.



Photography...

Are you a photographer who likes to spend time outside in the Greenway? If so, please send us your scenic photos for use in this newsletter, brochures and the web site! We are looking for stunning scenic shots, with or without people in them, to showcase the scenic grandeur in the Mountains to Sound Greenway. You will be given credit for any photos used in publication. Printed photos may be returned to you. If you send a scanned photo, it would be helpful to have tiff files at 300 dpi, in approximately an 8x10 size, on a CD or zip disk.

Education...

Are you a King County teacher, student or parent of a student in 5th-12th grades? Do you know about the Mountains to Sound Greenway Environmental Education program? An educator will teach your class about recycling, salmon and the importance of keeping forests on the edge of the city through in-class lessons and field trips to Tiger Mountain State Forest. For more information go to <http://www.mtsgreenway.org/enviroed/education.htm> or contact Sally Kentch at 206-524-1665 or skentch@uswest.net.

Greenway Project Wins National Award

The work of hundreds of young people to remove abandoned logging roads in the Mountains to Sound Greenway has caught national attention. In May, the Greenway Trust's annual summer volunteer program won one of eight national awards for Best Practices for Byways at the National Scenic Byways Conference in New Mexico.

Greenway Field Programs Director Doug Schindler and Volunteer Coordinator Kelly Kirkland accepted the award for The Re-greening of Zorro Mountain: Erasing the Scars.

The new award is sponsored by the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials, the Federal Highways Administration and America's Byways Resource Center. The project was lauded for "valuing the view from the road, recycling resources, thinking creatively, empowering volunteers and promoting stewardship of the forest landscape and water quality."



Pictured from left to right are: John Chell, Director of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission; George Schoener, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U S Department of Transportation; Doug Schindler, Greenway Trust, Kelly Kirkland, Greenway Trust; Paula Connelly, Scenic Byway Coordinator, Washington State Department of Transportation; and John Horsley, Executive Director, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

Zorro Project Grows from Biosolids Forest Recycling Program

The 1997-1998 Zorro project was just a phase of the Compost Re-greening Program which began in 1995. To date, approximately 25 miles of logging roads have been restored to natural slopes and vegetation, sometimes with a trail. The program is funded by King County's Wastewater Treatment Division. Funds come from transportation savings realized by King County through an agreement with the Weyerhaeuser Company to use biosolids on their local tree farm and eliminate trucking costs to transport biosolids to Eastern Washington for application on farms. Youth groups that completed the restoration are organized and managed cooperatively by the Greenway Trust and the non-profit environmental restoration group EarthCorps.

Biosolids are the highly treated end-products of the sewage treatment process and the Greenway Trust played a role in encouraging their use as a forest fertilizer on both public and private forests in King County.

Compost re-greening continues this summer as over 60 young people from a variety of youth service groups participate in week-long work camps high on Bessemer Mountain and in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley.

There are a number of members of the weasel family found in the State of Washington. Although their habits vary, they are all predators. The smallest member, our common weasel (*Mustela frenata*), ranges in almost all altitudes and types of terrain. In the summer, its coat is reddish brown on the back and creamy white on its underside. In the winter it changes to snow white ermine. The black tip on the end of its tail never changes. About one in eight have soft sliky fur but never turn white in winter. Their backs become chocolate brown and undersides become pure white.



ANIMALS

For its size, its aggressiveness is unsurpassed. They have been known to kill full grown chickens. I once witnessed a weasel capture and kill a golden mantle squirrel. Another time, while I was cruising timber, a snowshoe hare passed me with a weasel chasing it. A short time later they passed me again with the weasel closer to the hare. I didn't see the outcome but I would bet on the weasel. An old trapper once said if weasels were as big as a fox, no human would be safe in the wilds. Nevertheless, the lowly weasel becomes the beautiful white ermine in winter. Their soft fur and black tipped tails once adorned the robes of kings.

- Morris Jenkins

Greenway People:

Former Greenway Special Projects Director Ken Konigsmark contributed the following biographical comments at a memorial celebration honoring nature photographer and conservation advocate Ira Spring, on June 19. Ira died on June 5, and left tangible legacies in the form of 64 published hiking and trail guide books and a trust fund to support the maintenance of hiking trails. The Spring Family Trust for Trails has and continues to support trail work in the Greenway corridor and throughout the mountains of Washington state.

Ira Spring lived a life of adventure and travel with enough interesting experiences to fill his autobiography, "An Ice Axe, a Camera, and a Jar of Peanut Butter."

Ira was inspired to a life of outdoor adventure by others and, in turn, throughout his life he worked to pass the inspiration on so others could explore and find their own adventures. In particular, he had a passion to engage young people in the outdoors and to build a love of wild places in them and in "green-bonded" masses of constituents who would protect and preserve the natural wonders he enjoyed.

Spring was born on Dec 24, 1918 and he said that his parents inspired his life of outdoor adventure, taking him and twin brother Bob on frequent canoe and camping trips from their home base in Shelton. Ira had his first overnight camping experience in 1929 at High Divide in the Olympics. It was a transforming experience that caused him to "replace his paddles with hiking boots."

Surprise Gift Inspires a Life

He said that the things that shaped his desire for adventure as a youngster were school, his stamp collecting hobby, his parents urging him to dare to be different, and a free camera. As a 12-year old, Ira was an eager recipient of a free Box Brownie camera, given to children by Eastman Kodak to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. The wonders of photography and being able to capture the magnificent scenes he experienced in the wild outdoors began to captivate him. His experiences as a Boy Scout further cemented his growing love of outdoor adventure.

Ira graduated from high school in 1937, and began two summers of work at the Paradise Inn at Mt. Rainier where, he says, he worked 8 hours each day, spent 12 more hours hiking and taking pictures, and slept when the weather was bad. He was in awe of the majesty of Mt. Rainier. His work involved sprinting ahead of visiting tourists to the ice caves, capturing them on photos, rushing back to develop them, and having them ready for sale by the time the tour group returned. Interestingly, one of the tour groups he photographed included a girl who would later become his wife, although neither knew it at the time.

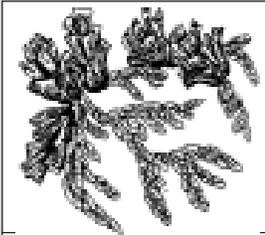
The twin brothers Ira and Bob Spring went to Central Washington University because it was the only college offering photography classes. After two years Ira had run through the photography classes and dropped out to take a job with Rayonier Timber and a photo shop in Shelton. He climbed Mt. Rainier for the first time in 1940.

But, it was being drafted into WWII that set the dream of worldwide travel and adventure into motion. Ira was drafted in the spring of 1942 and sent to the South Pacific as photographer for the Army Air Corps. That firsthand experience of new environs and new cultures proved to him that to see the world, you must get out and hike it, up close and personal, and meet the local people.

Ira returned from the war with two goals: to work with his brother to become free lance photographers and to get a wife.

Ira's first photography job was a contract with the Seattle Times to

Mycorrhizal fungi colonize the roots of nearly all the earth's plant species, symbiotically exchanging nutrients with the plants. The mycorrhizae act as an extended and more powerful root system for plants and trees, extending far into the soil, dissolving hard-to-capture nutrients such as phosphorous and iron, and supplying the dissolved nutrients to the plants. As the plants receive the usable forms of nutrients from the fungi, they, in turn, supply the mycorrhizae with energy in the form of carbohydrates, or sugars.



FORESTS

The most common group is the arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, which lives symbiotically with 90% of plant species and has co-evolved with plants for over 500 million years. They penetrate the plant roots and form branched, feathery lobes within them called *arbuscules*, which are thought to be the site of nutrient transfer.

Mycorrhizae not only benefit the individual plants they colonize, but the biotic community as a whole, because they encourage plant diversity, which encourages biodiversity in general. The mycorrhizal filaments permeate the soil and make up a massive network that links together many plants within a community and effectively shares resources throughout. Young seedlings can essentially 'plug' into the network of mycorrhizae, which facilitates their establishment and encourages plant diversity.

- Rebecca Bailey

IRA SPRING



Ira Spring

photograph a 1946 Mountaineers Summer Outing around Mt. Rainier. As for a wife, Ira had strict criteria. She must love hiking, mountain climbing, and skiing. He was still looking when he met Pat Willgress at a Mountaineers meeting. They were married on July 30, 1949. For a honeymoon, they went backpacking to Upper Lena Lake followed by two weeks of photographing near Glacier Peak.

Mountain Family

Children came soon thereafter with the birth of John, then Vicky. Pat continued to do rugged hikes even while pregnant. As Ira stated, "My kids never knew any life other than the mountains. My work kept me there, and I kept Pat there, so they had no choice."

Ira and Bob both quickly became renowned outdoor photographers with photos appearing in *Life*, *Time*, *Saturday Evening Post*, other national publications, and, of course, the local newspapers. His photography and zeal for travel took the Spring family around the world.

The photography work led naturally to the idea of hiking guide books. Thus began the long history of publications that are hugely popular to this day. More than anything, these books let Ira achieve his passion for introducing people to our wilderness lands and trails. And, he achieved a second goal of building a constituency of green-bonded citizens who would protect these places for future generations to enjoy.

Mountain Politics

With a growing reputation came growing influence and Ira became a champion for trails and wilderness areas. When Ira spoke, people listened. He was often up against powerful, well-funded interests, but his passion and persuasion were a force to be reckoned with. That passion led Louise Marshall and Ira to create the Washington Trails Association, primarily as an advocacy group for hiker interests. Ira was a leader in WTA since its founding in 1970.

Most recently, Ira, with the support of his family, founded the Spring Family Trust for Trails, into which he directed the royalties from his books, his social security checks, and other interests. His purpose was to create an independent fund to help pay for much needed trail projects and to offer opportunities for continued engagement of today's youth in outdoor activities. He was recognized for this with the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Award in 1992 by President Bush. Whether by formal awards, or simply the love we all feel in our hearts for Ira, he has touched each of us.

- Ken Konigsmark

This spring and summer I have been enjoying weekly outings into the mountains along the Greenway. Mounts Si, Granite, and Washington are all in their prime, and Snow and Gem Lakes have never looked better. Each trip brings rich rewards; I recently got my first glimpse of a cougar in the wild. But nothing I had ever seen or experienced in the Greenway, or anywhere else for that matter, prepared me for the performance that was given me on the top of Bandera Mountain. It was enchanting and puzzling.



HIKING

It was June 24, a fairly gray overcast day in western Washington. If you have been to Bandera recently, you understand that this mountain

tackles your sense of ethics. After ascending a very good trail, you are presented with a choice. Do you proceed up the old trail following gullies that go straight up, or do you walk on the new, wide, properly designed trail that looks inviting but has a sign which states "Keep off, trail still under construction?" On the way up I passed the ethics test, but on the way down I flunked.

Bandera is like Granite Mountain and several other peaks in the Greenway, the first half of the climb is in the woods. On the second half you are totally exposed on a south-facing slope. Very hot when the sun is out, but knock-out views when you turn around and look down. In the spring, with the wild flowers out, it's walking through mountain meadows, but at a 30% grade.

I made it to the top of the boulder field on Bandera and sat down to enjoy some gorp, water, and a view. The view down the I-90 valley was clear, and the Greenway never looked better. At a little over 5,000 feet some patches of clouds were almost at my level, but visibility was still good. I had the whole top of the mountain to myself. I was there about 10 minutes, and just getting ready to start back, when it happened.

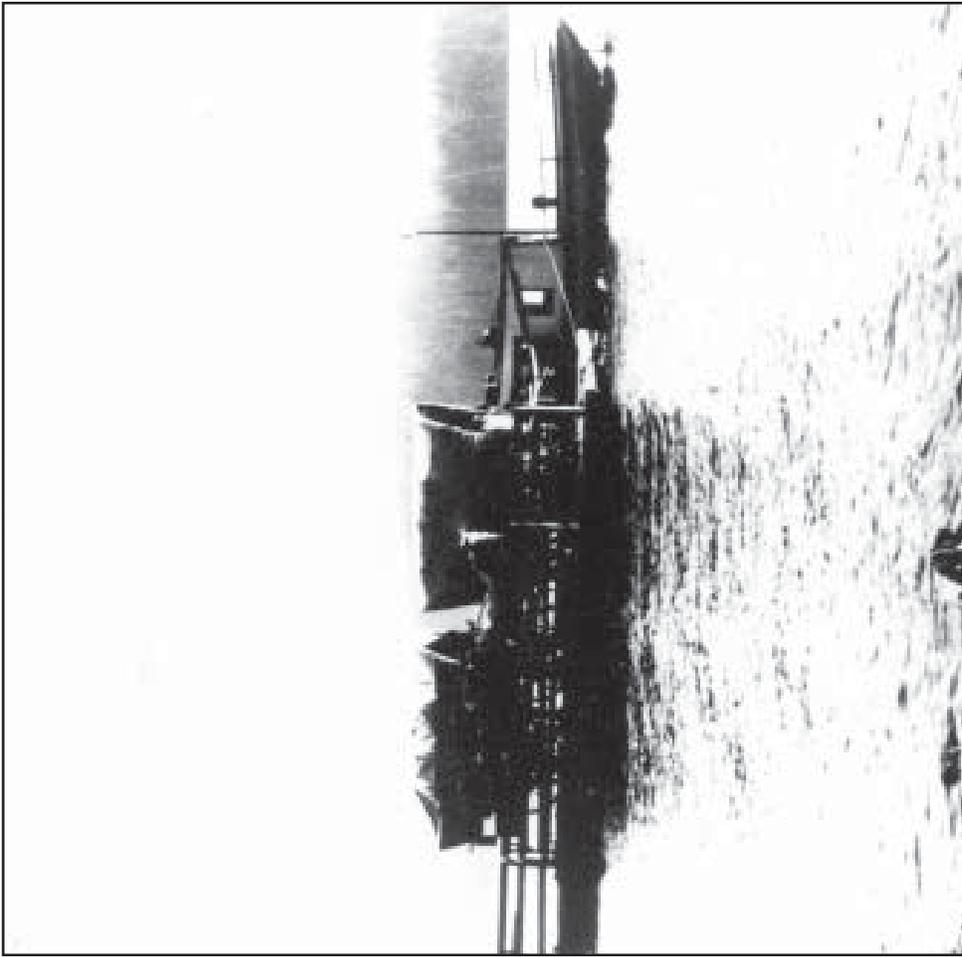
A small brown bird, larger than a junco and smaller than a gray jay, landed on a rock about 15 feet from me. I thought that was a little strange, can't he see me? Then the bird started to sing. It was a great little warble, maybe 4 or 5 different notes. So I tried it. To my amazement, he didn't fly away, he warbled again. So I tried it again, and I thought I sounded better. He did a little variation of the theme and I tried it too. Then he did a trill (sort of like the double R in Spanish) and I tried it. He trilled again and so did I. Then I did a different kind of warble and I got the distinct impression from a sudden silence and a head cocking, that he was not interested in learning anything from me. He went back to his warble and trilling and I tried to follow as best I could. We kept this up for about 8 to 10 minutes, and then he flew off.

It wasn't as if he was after any food, like the gray jays on Mount Si or Tiger Mountain, he just wanted to sing to me. Why? Boredom? Practice? Confusion? If there is anyone out there with a possible explanation, I'd sure like to hear it.

A few days later I told this story to a birding friend of mine, and described the bird as best I could. He thought it was a Townsend's Solitaire. By the way, if you want to try the challenging hike to Bandera Mountain, take exit 45 on I-90, turn left and cross back over the freeway, then turn left and follow road 9031 until it dead-ends at the Mason Lake Trailhead. The path to Bandera Mountain is well marked. Look for a warbling brown bird.

- Paul Cooke, Greenway volunteer

MOUNTAINS TO SOUND



In 1912, Sidney Finch ran the ferry Wakiakum across Lake Keechelus as an easier alternative to the difficult wagon ride across Snoqualmie Pass. Lake Keechelus was not even easy to walk around, so loggers, miners and travelers were ferried across as early as 1858 in order to avoid the steep, old Indian trail. Photo courtesy of the Snoqualmie Valley Historical Society.

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Mission: Protect and enhance a 100-mile corridor of permanent open space lands along Interstate 90 from Seattle to Central Washington. The Greenway embraces city parks and trails, wildlife habitat, working and protected forests, recreational opportunities in nature, local history, scenic beauty, tourism and educational activities that promote a sustainable balance between population growth and a healthy environment.

www.mtsgreenway.org

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