MAY VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

August 2001
Volume 1, Issue 4

The Naked Fish

We dare to print the naked truth!

May Valley Day Huge Success!

The first annual *May Valley Day* was held Saturday, August 4, 2001. From 10 AM to 4 PM, the west end of May Valley at 148th Ave NE was closed to thru-traffic (with local access only) all the way to west end of 164th Ave SE near the old May Valley School.

The horseback riders were out promptly at 10 AM and rode the length of the road for about two hours. Next came the bicycle riders and walkers. Whole groups of kids and their bicycles pedaled up and down the asphalt; sometimes leaning their bikes against the guardrail and hitching a ride on one of the two wagons

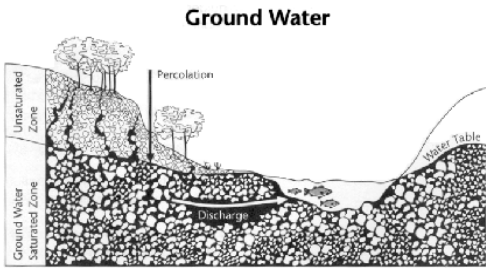
(Continued on page 3)

Humans Without Resources

by **Rodney McFarland**

Part III

Water is the second most important resource to humans and fish. Without it we die pretty quickly; only lack of oxygen kills us faster. While many of us take water for granted, those with too little or those with too much tend to get focused on it in a hurry. Here in May Valley, we have too much. When it invades our homes and businesses, our septic systems or our pastures and blueberry fields, all we can think of is how to get rid of it.



What is this substance called water? Chemically, it is a compound made

(Continued on page 2)

Humans Without Resources—Part III

(Continued from page 1)

up of two of earth's most common elements. Two atoms of hydrogen are bonded with one atom of oxygen, thus the commonly recognized symbol H_2O. Water is a very good solvent[1] so it is rarely found as pure water. It occurs in nature with varying amounts of other substances (often salts) dissolved in it. Pure water is colorless, odorless, and tasteless. People put pure, distilled water in their iron but pay outrageous amounts for foreign water with just the right mix of minerals in it to add flavor. Most of the water on earth has so many dissolved salts in it that it is unsuitable for use except by the marine plants and animals that have adapted to the ocean environment.

There is a lot of hydrogen and oxygen so there must be a lot of water, right? Worldwide there is 326 million cubic miles of water at any given time, plus or minus a few cubic miles. A cubic mile of water is more than one trillion gallons. Your share is 58,000,000,000 (yes, that is 58 billion) gallons. You'd think there would be enough to go around.

The following table shows the actual storage areas for our water.[2]

Water Sources	Water Volume, in cubic miles	Percent of Total Water
Oceans	317,000,000	97.2400%
Icecaps, Glaciers	7,000,000	2.1400%
Ground Water	2,000,000	0.6100%
Fresh-water Lakes	30,000	0.0090%
Inland Seas	25,000	0.0080%
Soil Moisture	16,000	0.0050%
Atmosphere	3,100	0.0010%
Rivers	300	0.0001%
Total	326,000,000	100.0000%

Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink. Of the 326,000,000 cubic miles of water out there only 0.3% is directly usable by humans. That doesn't count floating your boat, of course. Most of the water that humans use comes from rivers which account for about one ten thousandth of one percent (0.0001%) of the available water[3] which is why people panicked when sparks from a train started the Cuyahoga River near Cleveland on fire in June 1969. Until recent times the public waterways were considered a legitimate disposal site for industrial and municipal waste.

Congress passed the "Clean Water Act" (CWA) in 1972.

Congress passed the "Clean Water Act" (CWA) in 1972. CWA's goals were to return all waterways to fishable and swimable conditions by 1983 and to eliminate discharge of all pollutants by 1985. Richard A. Halpern in an article entitled "Where Have All The Nutrients Gone?"[4] states, "In its conception, the Clean Water Act was the child of panic. As a rational, measured act to protect the health of the environment, it was equivalent to performing bypass surgery on everyone in the country because someone in Ohio died from a heart attack."

By 1992 taxpayers and the private sector had spent $540 billion on technologies to fix our water, broken or not, while government had spent a pathetic $33 million on monitoring water quality. "After all this time and money," a team of USGS water quality specialists reflected recently, "it would be desirable to know whether the [Clean Water] act has worked. Is the water cleaner than it would otherwise have been and have the environmental benefits, however they may be counted, exceeded the costs?"[5] Unfortunately, the answer is that no one knows.

Only 36% of the nation's river miles are scientifically monitored.

We no longer have any burning rivers but 40% of our water is still listed as unfit for swimming

(Continued on page 3)

May Valley Day 2001

(Continued from page 1)

provided by MVEC.

Here is our intrepid newsletter editor, Kathy Jones, "personing" the barricade at 148th Ave SE.

Members of MVEC stood by the barricades at each end of the road, directing traffic and answering hundreds of questions. The overwhelming response to the road closure was positive and most hoped that MVEC would repeat the event. In a post-event recap, the following ideas were presented for next year:

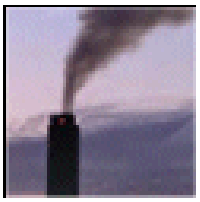
- begin the event with a kids parade where wagons, bicycles and dogs would be decorated
- include 'history stations' where full-size text and pictures would be placed along side the road illustrating areas of May Valley history and ecology
- have a 'vendors area' where local artisans and craftspeople could present their products
- have more food and beverages available

MVEC welcomes input from the community. Please call Kathy Jones at 425-227-0271.

Humans Without Resources—Part III

(Continued from page 2)

or fish. One major problem we have, of course, is that we have no idea how much of the water was unsafe for swimming or fishing before man began dumping "pollutants" into it. The CWA specifies arbitrary levels of substances permitted in the water that may have no logical basis. I have friends that mine gold in Alaska. They use water from a stream that passes through their claim. There are no humans or human activity upstream of them, yet the water entering their property is considered polluted by the CWA bureaucrats. In order to use the water for their mining, they must return it to the stream considerably cleaner than it was originally!



Where is the harm in that, you ask? "Clean water" is a relative term. To the chemist it is a liquid comprising H_2O and nothing else. To the bottled water snob it is Perrier with its dissolved minerals (see sidebar.) To the person hiking in the woods or having a picnic in the park, it is water clear enough to see through and spot a fish or two. To the marine biologist, it is water so saline that it is toxic to the biologist. Can water be too clean?

Water Analysis of Perrier Bottled Water
Milligrams per liter (mg/l)
Calcium 147.3
Magnesium 3.4
Sodium 9.0
Potassium 0.4
Chlorides 21.5
Bicarbonates 390.0
Sulphates 33.0
Silica 9.9
Fluoride 0.1
pH 5.9

Try this experiment. Replace the water in your aquarium with distilled water intended for your iron. Do not add any other substance for a few months and then check on your fish. Oops! Died of starvation, didn't they?

Died... didn't they?

There is nothing to eat in clean water! Salmon and other fish are fairly high up on the food pyramid. The base of the pyramid consists of basic nutrients that include nitrogen,

(Continued on page 4)

Humans Without Resources - Part III

(Continued from page 3)

phosphorus and potassium, the main ingredients in that bag of fertilizer that Bert the Salmon doesn't think you should put on your lawn. It takes large amounts of these basic nutrients to feed the simple microscopic plants that manufacture their food from sunlight and these nutrients. Simple animals, insects, etc. feed on these plants and in turn are eaten by the fish. Salmon are unique because their death after spawning helps return these nutrients to the stream. If the salmon fail to return to spawn, it starts a downward spiral of ever fewer nutrients in the stream.

In nature, nutrients come mainly from excrement and dead plants and animals. On land, those sources are easily reprocessed back into the life cycle. In the ocean, excrement and dead plants and animals drift to the bottom before decaying thus their nutrients are unavailable for use. Recovering the nutrients from deep ocean water depends on the surface water cooling to a temperature of about 43º F. At this temperature, the water column becomes unstable and some of the nutrient rich water is forced to the surface where the fish are. In winter, this occurs where the California Current crosses the Pacific (about latitude 50º north). In the late 1990's, nitrates became undetectable in the California Current.[6] As the planet continues to warm due to the sun's increasing heat and radiation cycle[7] the upwelling will move north causing further decrease in salmon populations here in the southern portions of their range. Without adequate amounts of these nutrients, salmon and other fish at the top of the pyramid begin to lose weight and die. From 1970 to 1995, the average weight of pacific salmon caught decreased by 25 percent.[8] Sardines, anchovy, hake, saury, mackerel, tuna, sole, shrimp and oysters are all declining. Ocean feeding birds and whales are starving.[9]

> The water column becomes unstable.

Most experts pay little attention to ocean conditions in salmon recovery because they think that humans can do little about those conditions. But the basic nutrients that flow down the rivers into the ocean are already in molecular form and will stay on the surface available to fuel ocean life. Billions of tons of these precious nutrients are presently being removed from our streams and rivers by the Clean Water Act, and stored where they are inaccessible to the life cycle. This splendidly illustrates the Law of Unintended Consequences at work in so much of government regulation.

Turbidity[10] is also absolutely forbidden by the CWA. According to the CWA you (or a deer or elk) can cause excess turbidity by walking across a stream. While walking in the stream certainly causes increased turbidity, it also stirs up the nutrients we have been talking about which encourages life in the stream. Emerging science indicates that turbidity may be an important component in the estuaries that shelter salmon smolts as they transition to the ocean. It helps to hide them from the many predators (especially birds) that await them as they leave the rivers.

> The bureaucrats in power can only see part of the problem.

Wetlands are the CWA's current filter of choice to clean up any nutrients or sedimentation that might be headed for our streams. Wetlands are religiously promoted and vigorously protected. They are actively created where none

Humans Without Resources - Part III

have been before to "mitigate" for the city-dweller's destruction of their own wetlands. Residents of May Valley are being flooded out by ever increasing swamps as King County and the State of Washington offer our homes and land as sacrifices to the Clean Water Act gods. It is extremely frustrating to be forced to destroy our valley because the bureaucrats in power can only see part of the problem. After years of dumping industrial waste into the water, we finally figured out that burning rivers were bad. How long will it take to figure out that starving our streams and purposely flooding our land is equally bad? And how much productive land will be needlessly sacrificed in the process?

Water is just as necessary to the plants that we eat as it is to humans and fish. Irrigation has helped make it possible for American farmers to feed us as well as create a surplus so large that we often pay them not to produce food. When disease, drought, insects or political stupidity wipes out crops in other parts of the world, we use our surpluses to bail them out. Irrigation water can be pumped directly out of the ground but, in many cases, it is easier to store the water behind a dam during the rainy season for use during the summer growing season. Storing water behind a dam also lets us use that water to generate electricity, one of the main energy sources of our modern world. Instead of burning fossil fuels that take eons to recreate and pollute the air we breathe, hydroelectric generators use the water that will be returned to us during the next rainy season.

The current controversy over dams and their effect on salmon is a large enough subject that I will cover it in its own article. For now, just ponder the impact on humans as more and more of the water that is crucial to our survival is foolishly diverted to protect the salmon fishery. Recently, four firefighters may have died needlessly because they couldn't use water from a river to fight the forest fire since it is habitat for endangered species. Firefighters Tom L. Craven, 30, Karen L. Fitzpatrick, 18, Devin A Weaver, 21, and Jessica L. Johnson, 19, burned to death while cowering under protective tents near the Chewuch River, home to protected species of salmon and trout, while Forest Service personnel attempted to talk a biologist into letting them use water from the river. Twenty-five acres burned while the bureaucrats debated. I wonder if any spotted owls perished in those acres?

Four firefighters may have died needlessly.

Water is a resource that humans must have. We have used it to our benefit from the day we set foot on this earth or before that if you are an evolutionist. Perhaps too many among us have lost sight of what is necessary for our survival in their quest to feel good about promoting other species. Our need for water increases as our population grows and the rest of the world seeks to attain the standard of living that we take for granted. The Clean Water Act's promotion of swimming and fishing, while initially well meaning, may be making things worse for the fish while denying humans our traditional uses of water and land resources. Like any other living organism, humans without resources are simply dead.

---

[1]--***n.*** a substance, usually liquid, that dissolves or can dissolve another substance

[2]"Where is Earth's water located?", http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/earthwherewater.html

[3]"Where is Earth's water located?", http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/earthwherewater.html

[4]R. A. Halpern, "Where Have All The Nutrients Gone?", http://www.cgfi.com/new_detail.cfm?Art_ID=151

[5]R. A. Halpern, "Where Have All The Nutrients Gone?"

[6]L. A. Hobson, "Primary Productivity of the North Pacific Ocean, A Review," *Salmonid Ecosystems of the North Pacific*, 1980.

[7]S. Baliunas, "Hot Times or Hot Air: The Sun in the Science of Global Warming," 1998, http://www.cei.org/CHBReader.asp?ID=541

[8]V. C. Kaczynski, "Comments on the Potentially Critical Habitat," 1994.

[9]D. Dodds, "What We Can Do About Saving Salmon!", http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/endangered/Htms/DonDodd.htm

[10]**tur-bid** (turbid, -bd) ***adj.*** [[L *turbidus* < *turba* , a crowd < IE **turb-* < base **twer-* , to stir up > OE *thwirel* , stirring rod, churn handle]] **1** muddy or cloudy from having the sediment stirred up

Critter Report

by **Mick Zevart**

Did you know that between 1890 and 1990 there was only one recorded beaver dam in May Valley? I had thought there were none.

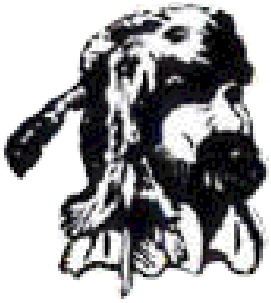
At a meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) in the mid-1990s, I brought up the beaver problem in May Valley and addressed what little the King County Surface Water Management Department was going to do for us residents besides take our money.

At one meeting of the CAC the late John Affholter of May Valley Co-op told us that a beaver dam had been built below the bridge in 1954, but it was removed. Officials were concerned about aggravated flooding and disruption of the hatchery-spawned silver salmon run to Cabbage Creek and the north and east forks of May Creek. John stated, and I quote, "They quarter-sticked them. A quarter stick in the dam, and a quarter stick in the lodge." (A "quarter stick" means a quarter stick of dynamite.) I had not known about these beavers, because at that time I was serving my country in the armed services.

They quarter-sticked them.

During the late 1980s more cattails and spirea, or buck brush, started to take over more land. At this time I was still the Surface Water Foreman for the City of Renton. I believed that the increased growth was caused by a blockage somewhere. In 1995 two beaver dams were found on the Harlow Bonn property below the bridge at 164th. Three more were discovered above that, on the Kirkpatrick-Kohler and Welker-Koler property, now owned by Dave and Ann Mary Dahlin.

This blockage caused by the beavers was super-saturating the ground and causing septic tank failure. At this time Surface Water Management told property owners to leave the beaver alone. What's interesting is that while SWM was trying to protect beavers in May Valley, in 1996 the Department of Fish and Wildlife declared beavers a nuisance on the Issaquah Plateau.



Thanks to the stubbornness of the late Dennis Kirkpatrick and a few close neighbors, a trapper was hired to take the beaver pests out of May Valley. Todd Johnson of KOMO TV was present with Mr. Jensen, the trapper, for the first removal of beavers from the traps. Neighbors For a Drier Neighborhood went door to door to raise funds to defray the cost to Kirkpatrick, Koler, and Bonn. They collected $800. Locals believed the pests had been relocated here from elsewhere, especially since the dams had all been built so close to the bridge at 164th.

For more about the May Valley beaver, call me on 425-255-5690.

Join MVEC!

The May Valley Environmental Council meets every Monday night at 7 PM at Leonard's Grill. Our organization is dedicated to restoring and preserving the historic May Valley ecosystem. Our newsletter, The Naked Fish, publishes sound, scientific data in language that everyone can understand. Help us keep tabs on King County government by joining MVEC. Call 425-656-9401.

May Valley Musings — One Man's Opinion

by **David Dahlin**

When I came out here from Chicago in 1973, I was amazed at the wondrous amounts of trees and clear running streams. I was struck dumb by the beauty of Lake Sammamish and the access to the ocean by way of the locks in Ballard. Driving from house to house in this new area, gave me a wonderful perspective of my new home. From Redmond to Renton and Bellevue to Snoqualmie Pass is a most gorgeous and wonderful place to live. I was, and still am, amazed at the variety of wildlife virtually at your back door and the easy access to remote areas within a short drive.

At the same time, however, I was astounded at the attitude of the local residents toward any planned growth. There was a total resistant attitude and denial of any forward thinking. Everyone was positively against growth! Having grown up in the Chicago area during the "suburban" 50's and 60's, I was able to see the potential demand for such remarkable habitat and predict the future for this area with 100% accuracy. I was incredulous that no comprehensive coordinated growth plans were envisioned for one of the most beautiful areas in the world.

As I traveled about, I stumbled on a small hideaway known as May Valley. What an amazing place! Obviously in the middle of a burgeoning East Side, it was so remote and yet so accessible at the same time. What a wonderful place to live! Farms and small horse ranches filled the valley and set a wonderfully pastoral setting worthy of any artist looking for a beautiful subject to memorialize on canvas. Winding May Valley Road revealed an unexpected country flavor. The small, sudden driveways surprised me with access to some very lofty homesteads. I thought, "If only I could live here. I could live and work from my home in a most wonderful and accessible place."

I stumbled on a small hideaway know as May Valley.

The years went by and though my life changed so many times, I never forgot May Valley. To this dream, I did aspire. But as fate would have it, I became blind and disabled as a result of severe injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident. I lost most everything and suffered through many months of recovery and adjustment. But, somehow, I never lost "sight" of my dream.

One day, in February of '99, a realtor friend of mine, called to tell me of a property that had come on the market in May Valley. My dream come true! But I couldn't see! How could I manage? The words of the song…"we get by with a little help from our friends" came to mind. "I'll do it!", I decided.

Soon I became a resident of May Valley, and as of June 1999,a neighbor to all who live here. My first encounter with neighbors was very pleasant. Dottie from the east, and Dale and Barbara on the west were ecstatic to see someone cleaning up a property which had become an eyesore.

One day, my pleasant musings were interrupted by a surprise visit from a brusque sounding woman who identified herself as a King County Code Enforcement Officer. Whaaat? What was she doing here? She told me that I had to have a permit to clear off my land and that she was red-tagging this site for illegal fill. Again, whaaat? Was she kidding? I was cleaning up

(Continued on page 8)

May Valley Musings (con't)

(Continued from page 7)

the land and smoothing it out so I could navigate safely and she was telling me that I had to have a permit? What kind of nonsense was this? This was a little farm! Do farmers have to get a permit to till the soil?

I then I heard the most chilling words since my days as an Illinois State Policeman. The Code Enforcement Office said, "I make the determination of these issues! " Whaaat? A code enforcement officer that makes up her own laws? Who died and made her God? What happened to separation of powers? Who let this one loose on the citizens? Was this legitimate? Now I knew why the valley had become such a disaster! Not in MY back yard, you don't! TO ARMS! Throw the bums out! Easier said then done, I found out.

Illegal code enforcement activities is just one of the many challenges that lie ahead of us. The formation of the May Valley Environmental Council has focused the community energy toward resolving our problems. As long as we tenaciously hold on to our unity and resolve, we will continue to roll back the overwhelming agenda of the King County Executive and his minions. As long as I have breath and the support of the fetching Mrs. Dahlin and my dear friends, I will be at the forefront of any Valley survival issue that I am invited to, and some that I am not. "Don't Tread On Me!"

Science: Fact or Fantasy?

by Douglas Bandelin

When I took science back in the stone ages of the University of California system, one thing that stuck in my mind was the "science fact verses theory" argument. I was always amazed at how few facts there really were as compared to how much theory. For example, in physical anthropology, I was told that there was one fact things change and

Science: Fact or Fantasy (con't)

that everything else was theory. But I believe nothing illustrates the problem more than a debate that took place around 400 BC in Athens.

Two very prominent philosophers were diametrically opposed as to the location of the center of the universe. On the one hand was the famous father of geometry, mathematician Pythagoras. Some of you may remember the Pythagorean theorem which forms the basis for mechanical engineering; the whole field of trigonometry is based on it. But it was not triangles that were being discussed; it was the very nature of the physical universe.

Pythagoras believed that the sun was more important than the earth. He argued that the sun was the giver of life, the sustainer of life and thus was more important than the earth. Being more important would give it the status to be the center of the universe.

The sun was more important than the earth.

The other protagonist in this discussion was none other than the equally brilliant Plato, the student of Socrates and the author of many books including *The Republic*. Before I give you his view, a little digression is in order. If you did not know already that Columbus did not prove the world was round you might as well hear it now. In 1492, knowledgeable people including the bishops of the catholic church not only knew the world was round but had globes of it and knew its approximate size. The Greeks had figured all this out hundreds of years before.

They figured the size of the earth by using alternate interior angles: a geometric theorem. The shape was also derived from this theory but there were other proofs as well. One of them being the shadow the earth cast against the moon. The shadow was always curved. The only shape that will always cast a curved shadow is a sphere; aside from the geometry, there was another and, I think, more interesting proof. It was the core of the scientific proof offered by Plato.

The Greeks determined that the universe was composed of 5 things that were found in varying

(Continued on page 9)

Science: Fact or Fantasy (con't)

(Continued from page 8)

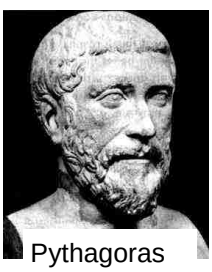
degrees and relationships in all 'stuff'. These 5 elements were [in order of weight] earth, water, air, fire and quinessece [or the glue/force that held the other four together]. This belief is not far from our recent belief in 4 element or 4 particle universe. proton, neutrons, electrons and atomic glue [yep, atomic glue or at least that's what one physicist at UC Berkley called it]. Now there are a couple more particles but still there are only a handful of primary building blocks.

So the Greeks knew the world was round and, of course, their children had the same problem as we did. If the world was round how come people on the other side didn't fall off. We all know the answer to be gravity but have you ever asked what was the answer before Newton. Children were told all the way up to Newton that "heavy" is what made things stay on. They believed, and were taught, that the earth was "heavy" and "heavy", by definition, fell to the center of the universe. Therefore, the earth was a ball of "heavy" at the very center of the universe. Fire on the other hand "fell up". Notice a bonfire and the flames reach upward to the heavens. The hot sun was fire and the Greek science dictated that fire falling up and away from the center could therefore not be the center.

> "Heavy" is what made things stay on.

Now back to the debate. When Pythagoras gave his reasons for the sun being the center, they were philosophically-based or belief-based. In short, by believing the sun was more important to life and that life was the main purpose of the universe, logic dictated that the sun be given the most important spot (assigning rank to a physical object is a philosophical argument). Upon hearing this, Plato was confidant of victory.

Plato saw the error in Pythagoras theory; he simply pointed out that Pythagoras was unscientific by saying something like "you can not use religious (philosophical) ideas to prove scientific facts". In short Plato pointed out that the sun-centered theory was bad science; that, in fact, it was not science at all but religion. Plato won the argument because even in 400 BC science was king.



Pythagoras

Now what can be learned from this famous debate. One thing is that science, even factual science, is sometimes not true. Things fall down alright and people do not fall off the round ball and now we tell our children it is gravity, not heavy . But understand, that someday, this notion might seem as quaint as the "center of the universe" science of the Greeks. So then, when listening to folks like Larry Fisher or habitat evangelists claiming science is on their side, remember Plato and Pythagoras; both brilliant men, both terribly mistaken about the center of the universe. In closing, I would say that how you fancy your facts depends a whole lot on what you believe.

Plato

$$c^2=a^2+b^2$$

DUH!

by **Ann-Mary Dahlin**

Well, there I was listening to our latest MVEC reports when it suddenly struck me that reason I hadn't been aware of what goes on daily in this country was because it didn't apply to me …. or so I thought.

Let me explain. Back some thirty years ago, I took a class in college and the professor made a statement that I somewhat understood, but really didn't think about at the time. He said, "Everybody is for something, until it applies to them". We were discussing law and society and how , as individuals, we really think we want a law or rule until we apply it to ourselves. A simple analogy is we are for traffic laws until we are pulled over for a speeding violation and then we wonder why the officer isn't out capturing

(Continued on page 10)

DUH! (con't)

(Continued from page 9)

the real criminals; the bad guys. We, after all, are good citizens or so we think.

I still think of myself as a good citizen but what I failed to realize is that changes are being made everyday to laws that govern our rights as citizens and property owners.

I have, for the most part, been part of the mainstream urban living. I lived in the city and maintained my property by mowing, planting and keeping up appearances. I took the beautiful countryside for granted and I assumed the people, who provided such visual delights, did the same things as I. I never thought about the fact that, by being a city dweller, I fell into a completely different set of standards. I was an urban citizen and posed no particularly additional work for the city, county of state that I lived in. Because I moved, all that has changed.

Now, I live in rural King County and there are more laws governing what I can do and, maybe more importantly, what I can't do than I ever imagined. There are more laws for rural property owners that any one person could possibly read, let alone understand. I can not plant what I want, I can not get rid of what I want, I can not make improvements just because I'd like to. There is rule after rule and agency after agency that applies to me. The one rule or law I haven't been able to locate is the one called Common Sense!

Into The Valley of Mud

by **Bert Fisherman**

Into the valley of mud
Rode the mad duo
Slinging silt to the left of them
Trees to the right

They dug and dug
With all their might
And then slipped away in trucks
Not as fast as the speed of light

The deed ! it was done
Yes done at last
We can only hope
They have not dug their last

Virtue and Energy

by **Reggie Hopper**

There once lived a man who became very concerned about energy. He realized that there was only a limited amount; so he decided that it was better to conserve the limited supply instead of wasting it. He decided all this and then went to sleep.

The next morning while he was driving to work. He noticed that he was driving a big car. He knew that big cars used much energy and so he thought it would be better to sell his big car. And so he did. He bought a small car and he felt better.

One day he noticed that the public bus had several empty seats. He thought that perhaps he should sell his small car and use the bus and that would save more energy. And so he did and he felt better.

By and by the bus became crowded and he knew that soon there would have to be two buses. Not wanting to be the one who caused another bus to be added, he decided that he would save energy by walking. And so he did., he felt better and lost weight too.

Then the man became very concerned about energy use in his home. At first he tried to use less energy by turning down the thermostat. Then he conserved even more energy by not heating his house at all. He got rid of all his appliances too and he would go to bed at dark so he wouldn't have to use energy to see with. He said he felt better.

Then other things became a problem. Processed foods used too much energy to make so he began to use raw foods; cooking of course was out of the question. He also began looking for clothing that didn't take energy to make and soon his personal appearance was so bad that he lost his job. But even that was okay because he had used lots of energy on his job and his goal now was to save energy. Besides, now he needed more time to spend looking for food and clothing that didn't take energy. He said he was ecstatic.

But still, he admitted, that there was a problem. The man was still using energy and even though it was a very small amount he knew that eventually he would use up all the energy. He then decided that he would kill himself and that way he could use no energy. And so he did. He did not say how he felt.

The Defining Problem

A panda walked into a bar. He went up to the bar and said, "I'd like a steak and kidney pie and a Coke please." So the barman took his order and the panda went to sit down. Soon a waiter brought over his meal. The panda ate it up, thanked and tipped the waiter and paid the bill.

All this seemed pretty normal until the panda pulled out a gun from the depths of his fur, pulled the trigger and BANG! shot the waiter.

The barman came over and said "Wha.. wh.. You just shot my friend!!!" the panda calmly replied. “Do you know what I am?" "Why yes," the barman answered. "You're a panda." "Good," the panda nodded "Now go home and look up 'panda' in the dictionary." And with that, the panda walked out of the bar.

The barman was a little unsure, however he was very eager to be enlightened on the subject of his friend's murder, so he went home to find his dictionary. After a while, he found 'panda' and quickly read the definition:

PANDA: 1. A black and white bear native to China. Eats shoots and leaves.

A Message from the President

"**In the 1920's and** 1930's", says MVEC President Rick Spence. "the ditch/creek averaged six feet wide by three feet deep, and the fish were plentiful. Moreover, flooding was of limited duration and localized around the ditch/creek. There was no "ponding." A major reason for this was that every four to five years a man with a horse and plow would remove silt from the ditch/creek and cut down the brush that had grown up on both sides. The regular silt removal was a boon to the salmon population, because gravel deposits lay at the bottom of the ditch/creek. In addition, the removal of the brush ensured that the ditch/creek would not be choked off and would remain navigable for the fish. I invite everyone to visit our website at www.maycreek.com to read the full history of May Valley.

"What worked for the early settlers", Rick said, "will work for us here. The ditch/creek must be kept cleaned in order for the salmon run to return. Join MVEC and help turn that goal into a reality!"

The Naked Fish, a publication of the
May Valley Environmental Council
Editor: KP Jones
15125 SE May Valley Road
Renton, WA 98059
(425) 656-9401
Email: mvec@mayvalley.com

Protect Historic May Valley!