

permit violations that the County clings pointlessly to. I invite you to disengage from that folly and join in the effort to restore things that should never have been destroyed...a beautiful "Little River"...parts of several fine homesteads...and equal to all other concerns, a once-thriving salmon run. If you choose to pursue some enforcement action, you are simply going to have to change targets. It is King County which has systematically done the damage.

I will be quick to provide you with the evidence and witnesses from two or three generations of local families that make this conclusion indisputable. My work simply forces the recalcitrant employees of King County to get with the program, as mandated by the King County Council. The Amended Basin Plan is the "law in this matter." The Executive Mr. Sims, himself, has tacitly agreed.

Before I close, I want to add a few observations that put the whole matter in best perspective. Let's begin with a brief history of our "Little River" and its better days.

The May Creek Ditch was dug by settlers in the late nineteenth century to facilitate agriculture to the reach of May Valley above the then existing May Creek, joining the creek roughly where 148th Ave SE crosses the valley today. Aerial photographs show the Ditch clearly placed in a long, straight line on the common property line of the several farms in the valley. The Ditch was, and remains, the private property of the landowners in May Valley. Agriculture, including produce and dairy farms, flourished for more than a half century well into the 1960's. Even today, horse and cattle operations as well as berry and vegetable farms remain. No governmental entity has ever purchased or otherwise compensated any of these property owners for any easement or other public use of the Ditch or adjacent land, until

King County purchased the Muncie property (Pioneer Park) two years ago. That is the property along 164th Ave SE where I began work. King County obtained this property at half price after it was flooded into ruin at their hand.

In the late 1930's, the Ditch was stocked with excess fingerling salmon from the Issaquah Hatchery. The fish thrived in the superb environment inherent to the Ditch, a Ditch that was before then, and then later, maintained by members of the community. This focused on constant maintenance to achieve a clear, free-flowing waterway which was kept free of silt and debris, mitigated flooding and kept the natural gravel base clear for the spawning return of the fish. A remarkable complement to nature, even in a time when a growing population and suburban sprawl was having a very negative impact on other less fortunate local environs. All was well.

In the 1960's, the same riptide of governmental regulation hit May Valley as it did the whole country. Suddenly, "environmental scientists" of every sort descended upon the land and hapless landowners. These regulations formulated land use regulations that defied Constitutional and common sense alike. Passion approaching hysteria drove the "enforcers" into a frenzy. Landowners were forced to abandon use and maintenance of "sensitive," and not-so-sensitive, areas of private property to satisfy the agenda of outsiders. Intelligent estimation of environmental reality be damned - the true believers would brook no opposition. I am not going to protract the point here; suffice it to say that history and the tide are turning.

With the imposition of "sensitive area" setbacks, and the prohibition of cleaning of the waterways by mechanical means, siltation and invasion of noxious weeds soon strangled the May Creek Ditch. By the mid 1970's, flooding and pollution became