

# Ellen Davis Trail

by Steve Jones

My wife and I hiked the Ellen Davis Trail today and I knew a little about her because she was an early member of the Chinook Trail Association. My wife asked "Who was Ellen Davis?" The following information was written by one of the Chinook Trail Association founders, Don Cannard.

Ellen and her husband Charles settled in Vancouver in the 1940's. A charter member of the over50-year-old Minnehaha Garden Club, Ellen held many offices and never missed a meeting unless out of town. She was also a charter member of the 50-year-old Minnehaha Social Club, an organization with the purpose of generally spreading good cheer and fostering camaraderie among its community, which it does to this day. Her flower arrangements and displays gathered from her own backyard were well known in all her circles and she participated in many district shows and meetings.

As a member of the Ptarmigans, a Vancouver based outdoor club, Ellen went on many of the outings. She rafted, canoed, backpacked and hiked through many of the noted places of the Northwest. She continued these outings even as she entered her 90's, and similarly enjoyed the Parks and Recreation Department's "Wildemess Wanderers" program outings. Ellen was also an active member of the Vancouver Audubon Society. Ellen enjoyed both the overnight birding trips as well as the day trips to local places, appreciating the available outdoor sites and discoveries. She did not let her advancing age preclude her attendance at any of the organizations in which she participated.

As a member of the CTA, Ellen helped construct the trails on Silver Star and worked on other trails, most notably the one that would bear her name – The Ellen Davis Trail. This trail

goes from Minnehaha and St. James streets to I-5.

Although Ellen was not the type whose name one finds on a list of who's who, those she touched in her quiet and effective ways regarded her to be a "Woman of Achievement." She made an impact on all who knew her and marveled at her spryness, alertness and interest in the world around her. Ellen passed away in 1999 at the age of 95.