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Clean-up trip to Ape Cave -- by Bill Halliday

On Saturday April 23, Homer Ward took Tumwater Boy Scout troop 333 to Ape Cave for a clean-up project and I took Ira Spring along to photograph them, and Ross accompanied us to dig (he made another $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet).

Quite a load of debris came out of the cave's lower 4500 feet; not quite everything but most of it. A pile of rotting wood still remains at the bottom of the ladder but should easily come out on the next trip. Wire brushes should be taken along for names on the walls.

Almost at the end, with everyone wet, cold and tired, a bunch of teen-agers came in, smelling strongly of beer. Since we had just picked up 3,684,221 $\frac{1}{2}$ pieces of broken beer bottles, they got one lecture from Homer upstairs and another from me downstairs. All but one seemed reasonable; that one had a bottle with him when he came down and did not have it when he returned - presumably there is more cleaning up to be done up-tube a few dozen feet., which is as far as they went.

Stopping at the Reese's later, we heard the sequel. Tearing down the damside hillside, this same bunch heaved a bottle at a group investigating a wreck and almost got Bill Reese; a clearcut mistake. Bill overtook them even when two piled out of the car and tried to hide in the woods; the car was full of beer and the kids underage. It seems doubtful that they will be smashing any more bottles in Ape Cave or anywhere else for a long, long time.

We posted a Good Outdoors Manners Assn. poster in the alcove near the sinkhole ladder. Even with 18 inches of snow still on the ground, large and small parties were flocking to the cave.

The McBride Lake road was still closed by snow but the Ape Cave road was adequately plowed.

Homer Ward stayed on overnight and located Beaver Cave: was rather impressed by the 40' drop 200 feet inside. Who has the grotto ladders?

Lopez Island field trip - at the April grotto meeting, Don Dilley reported on a recent trip to Lopez Island, searching for a deep fissure cave reported as a rumor by a Bellingham informant. With the aid of 20 cordial natives, the search was on, but only a small hole was found in basalt. However, Don and Bill Simpson found a littoral cave about 60 feet long which proved to be inhabited by a sea otter and two young. The mother resented spelunkers and gave Bill Simpson the start of his life when she lunged at him. This is now listed as Sea Lion Cave.

Don also reported on two additional Mt. Adams field trips in March and April. Visited were Cheese Cave and four new caves near Trout Lake: David's Den, Bitter End, Angel's Hair and Pillars of Fire caves. details later.

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Dr. Arthur Watts of Bellingham has reported three sinkholes at a rock face near Lake Whatcom. Can someone check with him soon? And report?

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Anyone going to Oroville? A rumor of a Meat Storage Cave near there.

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Fissure cave reported near Fisher's Chimneys.

Members of The Mountaineers have reported a cave with a 4-foot mouth located in a well-known climbing area, about 10 feet above climbers' route to "Winnie's Slide" and about 100 feet below that landmark. It is reported to drop off precipitously after 10 or 12 feet.

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Luurt disclaims anything to do with it, but the Wall Street Journal sub-headlined the recent student evaluation of University of Washington professors:

'Could learn more in a cave'.

From what we know of certain Washington Caves and certain Washington professors, we agree whole heartedly!