Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

# EALPINER 335

January ▲ February ▲ March ▲ 1997 Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

### President's Report: Change Is Coming to The Alps

Ken Konigsmark

appy Holidays! 1997 looms as a year of change in the Issaquah Alps. The Grand Ridge devel opment is already well underway with clearing efforts above the gravel pit. With the next dry season, we can expect major construction efforts on roads, infrastructure, and perhaps even the first home sites getting built upon. Ultimately, 352 acres of Grand Ridge forest will be replaced by 3250 homes and 3 million square feet of office and commercial buildings. The good news is that 1400 acres is left as public open space, on which trails and wildlife will continue to exist. IATC is proactively suggesting a trails planning effort for the future protection and public use of this open space.

East Cougar Village, a 1600-home project proposed for the lower east bench of Cougar Mountain, will be finalized in 1997 and move on a fast track to ground breaking. Intracorp, the project proponent, has thus far proven to be extremely cooperative, seeking to understand and respond to IATC concerns, and adapting their preliminary plans to acommodate them. Todd Hausman is representing IATC in a citizens' panel that is involved in reviewing all aspects of

### Annual Meeting -January 27, 1997 7 P.M.

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club Annual Meeting has been scheduled for January 27, 1997 at 7 p.m. at Fire District 10 Headquarters at 175 Newport Way NW. All members are encouraged to attend.

As is the custom, the first part of the meeting will be the formal annual meeting during which Board members and Officers are elected and club operations and finances are reviewed. Following this annual meeting, a normal Board meeting takes place at which current issues of interest are discussed. Members who would like to comment on club activities are encouraged to attend and speak, or to write a letter with your thoughts and comments to the club at P. O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027.

The Board has nominated five candidates for three positions. The membership present at the meeting will elect three Board members for three year terms. The candidates are: Bill McFerren, Maryanne Tagney Jones, Bill Longwell, Todd Hausmann, and Christina Jackson. Club officers, except Treasurer (Barbara Halverson is retiring), are each re-nominated for their respective positions. Officers are listed in the "Apparatus" on page two.

# These Green Hills? Why I Joined the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

**Christina Jackson** 

started hiking the Issaquah Alps when I first moved to Seattle four years ago. Love at first sight.

Those smooth rolling wooded hills reminded me so much of Vermont where I grew up. Tiger Mountain was my quick, close solace from the city. As soon as I could, I moved to Issaquah.

Even during the short duration that I have befriended these hills, I have wondered from the beginning if they would be swallowed up by development and if Issaquah would become just another suburb. One scenic drive up Cougar Mountain my first few months here put me in a state of shock as I realized that Issaquah's development has superseded anything I have ever witnessed in Vermont. I wondered: Is there anyone keeping tabs of this? Is anyone opposing these massive development efforts that could make Issaquah look like the hills above Factoria (Newport Hills???)?

Shortly afterward, on one of my Tiger Mountain outings, I ran into a table staffed by the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. At my first board meeting, Ken Konigsmark held up his trusty map: preserved areas in green, areas slated for development in pink, and areas we are working to save in yet another color. They knew what was going on in every area in question. There were hearings and meetings to attend, letters to the editor to write, public officials to contact, and they were right on it.

I had found my home. To me alone, the problem seemed incomprehensible. If we work together, we can make a difference.

If you have ever for a moment thought that your \$15 dollar investment in the IATC was not giving you much, reconsider. The IATC is your Issaquah Alps watch dog! And next time you are out with a friend hiking Tiger Mountain, ask them if they've joined the club. If it wasn't for the IATC, we might just be hiking on pavement.

### The Apparatus

President: Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839 VP, Operations: Marilyn Moon • 392-1732

Treasurer: Barbara Halverson • 255-4642 Secretary: Pam Wallenstein • 392-7813

**Board of Directors:** 

Harvey Manning, Chairman • 746-1017

Bill McFerren • 641-1853 Ted Thomsen • 454-8643

Brenda Running • 432-2038

Chauncey Wenner • 313-0577

George Comstock • 392-7249

Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839

Maryanne Tagney Jones • 222-7615

Bill Longwell • 222-6775

#### でMBmdalfivingStone 0292-7455

Hikes Coordinators: Fred and Ann Weinmann • 392-

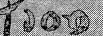
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Membership Records: Connie Hinton • 391-6830

Special Events: Carolyn Graham • 885-0224

Book Sales/Distribution: Marty Hanson • 392-2458

Volunteer Coordinator: Open







Alpiner:Barbara Johnson •

Issaquah Advocate: George Comstock • 392-8929

Cougar Advocates: Harvey Manning • 746-1017

and Ralph Owen • 746-1070

Squak Advocate: Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839 Tiger Advocates: Larry Hanson • 392-2458

and Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839

Grand Ridge Advocate:

Melinda Livingstone • 392-7455

Raging River and Preston Advocate:

Maryanne Tagney Jones • 222-7615

Rattlesnake Mtn. and Taylor Mtn. Advocates:

Ted Thomsen • 454-8643/Raiph Owen • 746-1070

Chief Ranger: Bill Longwell • 222-6775 MTS Greenway: Ted Thomsen • 454-8643

Legal Advice: Tom Lucas

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#### Changes, From page 1

the development plan. If the currently proposed conceptual plan moves ahead without significant change, IATC will be a strong supporter of this effort, believing it to be the best option possible for the inevitable development of this land. Intracorp plans a clustered "village-type" development which would leave 250 of the 572 acre site as public open space, providing a broadened connective corridor between Squak and Cougar mountains.

The Manke parcel at the headwaters of Issaquah Creek remains an unknown. Virtually everyone wants to see this land remain undeveloped and protected, yet the funding has not been found to acquire it. (Editor's note: King County

has approved funding of the Manke property.) Clearly, any development of this 1700-acre parcel, located between the Seattle City Watershed and Tiger Mountain State Forest, would be an enormous loss. 1997 will be the telling year for this land.

In the midst of these and many other challenges, IATC will establish goals and priorities for the coming year (which will be reviewed at our Annual Meeting on January 27th) and remain a voice for the protection of the environmental, scenic, and recreational qualities of the Issaquah Alps. If you'd like to help in these efforts, please join us at a Board meeting or otherwise let us know of your interest.

### **HELP! Get Involved! IATC Needs YOU!**

#### **Marilyn Moon**

Thank you, Connie Hinton! However, we're still working on a time-effective way of getting you involved. Some of you indicated an interest in a particular area, but until now, didn't have an idea of exactly what that category meant. Hope this makes it clearer! Listed below are specific jobs that the club needs volunteers for now. Just call Marilyn Moon (392-1732) and she'll connect you with the appropriate person in IATC to give you an orientation and put you to work. Remember: you can be involved as little or as much as you like. But we need your help NOW. Thank you.

Club Mailings: about 2-3 hours about once per quarter, gathered in home to label envelopes and stuff letters for membership renewals.

Volunteer Coordinator: about 1 hour per week to phone/contact new members about their interest in volunteering; could hold new member orientation meeting once each month to introduce individuals to others and needs of the club

Trail Maintenance Coordinator: about 46 hours per month; involves organizing trail maintenance hikes and contacting trail maintenance volunteers to participate in Trail Maintenance days sponsored by IATC and/or cooperative agency.

Trail Maintenance Volunteer: from one day per month to minimum—of one-day per quarter; participate in day-long

IATC trail maintenance hikes. Beginners welcome; training and tools provided.

Special Events Coordinator: about 4-6 hours per event, including arranging volunteers for early spring Annual Potluck, Return to Newcastle event in June, and Salmon Days Booth in early October.

Issaquah Alpiner Data Entry: about 2-4 hours once per quarter to input handwritten articles in computer format for Alpiner editor; Mac-compatible preferred.

Alpiner Assistant: about 2-4 hours once per quarter to gather articles/information for editor on write up. Involves calling IATC board members seeking information.

Publications Assistant: about 2-4 hours per week to fill maps and book orders from members and others; some basic record-keeping involved.

IATC Hotline: less than 1 hour weekly; involves retrieving messages from the (voice mail) hotline, sending out IATC information/*Alpiner*, and phone follow-up when necessary.

Alpiner Distribution: about 3-4 hours once per quarter; involves picking up Alpiner from printer and delivering to Hotline volunteers.

Hike Leaders: lead your favorite hike once or more per quarter.

#### Other Volunteer Opportunities:

- Club Treasurer apprentice
- advocates to attend committee meetings

### **Chronicles of Bellybumper: Where He Danced**

#### **Harvey Manning**

E arly on he had learned that politics is less a matter of telling the truth than calculating how far over the line you can step and not get caught. The epiphany on which he built his career was the revelation that the farther you go, the less the risk; the biggest lies are the most readily gulped. Accepting the invitation thus was not bravery but sheer, serene, professional gall.

His opening self-celebration of life-long adherence to the social philosophy which does not use "liberal" as a synonym for "Satanism" would have been ingratiating had his liberal audience not witnessed his recent flip-flop when the other side made a good offer. His fulsome praise of Cougar Mountain would have been appreciated had he not been addressing mountain residents who knew he had been hired by the Money as Chief Fixer in the scheme to implant a brand-new city atop the peak.

Attention to the prologue having been polite, he proceeded qualmlessly to the picture show. On tree-shaded boulevards, cars were outnumbered by bicycles. In forests, trails were thronged by walkers and horses. Tucked in sylvan nooks were affordable cottages. Ringing the Village Center were condominiums, seniors playing shuffleboard and tennis, sunning by the pool. Sheep grazed the common. Thrifty gammers sat on benches in front of the shoppes knitting sweaters, which tourists were admiring and buying. There was, of course, a golf course.

So good-humored was the audience, all smiles with never a titter much less a snort, he complacently invited questions. They came:

"Where are your ski tows?"

"The outdoor ice rink?"

"The sleds? The snowmen? The snowballs?"

So shaken that his sincerity mask cracked a bit, he countered, "Winter is winter everywhere. I grew up on Queen Anne Hill and it's higher than Cougar and we had no problems."

As it happened, this big lie had gone unchallenged before both the King County Council and the Bellevue City Council. But a member of this audience flourished U.S. Geological Survey maps and read from them: "It says here the summit of Cougar is 1595 feet and Queen Anne about 450. I make your Village Center to be something like three

times that."

As it sometimes must to all Fixers, he had been booby-trapped. Those smiles as he showed the pretty pictures. Crocodiles! Now, snap snap snap went the jaws.

"Schools."

"Metro busses."

"Fire department."

"Ambulances."

"Right now, only a few of us live at the elevation of your new city, and we all have 'winter cars' with four-wheel-drive and snow tires. Traffic is so light that when we do get stuck there's plenty of pull-out space to park and walk home. How are your thousands of new people going to get down the hill in morning, home at night?"

Tale after tale. Grins and chuckles and guffaws. As if he were one of the Three Little Pigs surrounded by laughing wolves, he spun on his heels. Dripping grease from every pore, he squealed:

"Don't worry about the snow! I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!"
The room fell silent. Visions danced in every head of the
Fixer alone in the pre-commute night, in the blizzard, shoveling, shoveling. And then, at the Pearly Gates, going for
the Big Fix, bumping bellies with St. Peter.

The silence erupted.▲

### In Memoriam Annie 1983-1996

An early member of the club, this gallant little dog hiked with us, swam the lakes, romped through mud, begged for snacks, napped in the sun. She knew well the by-ways of the Alps in the old days when IATC was young and such things were possible. Annie disappeared near Fifteen Mile Creek on November 12. Faithful guardian of Connie Dow, she's gone now into the mists of the mountain she loved. May she ever rest in peace.

Connie Dow Leahy

### Some Statistics to Ponder...

### Ken Konigsmark

"A Day in the Life of Washington State (from DNR Spring 1996 Newsletter)

- 217 babies are born
- 113 people die
- 157 people move in (net migration)
- 261 net population increase
- 63 children join K-12
- 138 new homes are built
- 55 acres are annexed by cities
- 100 acres of private forest land is converted to other uses (development)"

Amazed? Then consider that in the Issaquah Alps area the pressures are even greater than the "average" statistics above indicate. Given the latest economic boom and job growth locally, there is even more pressure and growth now than when these statistics were gathered. Elected officials need to know of your concerns about the loss of forestland, trails, habitat, water quality, and open spaces, and the need to contain sprawling growth per Growth Management Act mandates. Keep aware and keep involved, or risk losing much of what we value in this area.

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### Kudos to Salmon Days' Volunteers Marilyn Moon

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the IATC Salmon Days booth such a success. With almost one-quarter of a million people attending, it was our biggest event ever! We sold tee-shirts, publications, maps, and memberships and more importantly, introduced lots of folks to the club and the Issaquah Alps. Our volunteers deserve all the credit and you did a terrific job. Thank you.

### Our Apologies Marilyn Moon

For those of you who tried to attend the October 18 Station Master's open house, we're sorry that it didn't happen. At the last minute, IATC got word that the house was not complete and we would be unable to have our event there. We will be planning an open house event for later. We'll keep you posted. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

### Issaquah Alps Trails Club Hikes and Events

January

Thursday January 2
Cougar Mt. Wilderness Peak
from Wilderness Cr. trailhead
2B 5 mi. 1000 ft.
9:00 am Fred Zeitler 882-3435

Saturday January 4
Lower Mt. Si loop
Old forest trails and mossy
vistas at a relaxed pace.

2B-7-Mi-1300 ft 9:30 am Ralph Owen 746-1070

Sunday January 5 Tradition Plateau: Natural and Human History 2B 10:00 am Dave Kappler 392-3571

Tuesday January 7
Twin Falls: two falls and old growth forests.
2B 9:30 am
Al Blalock 746-4155

Thursday January 9 Little Si and George's Bakery 2B 5 Mi. 1200 ft. 9:00 am Peggy Owen 746-1070

Saturday January 11
We jide of Tradition Plateau
2B 00 am
Steve Cavit 271-7780

Suit January 12
Twin Falls and ancient forests.

1B 3 Mi. 400 ft.

1:00 pm Bob Gross 529-2139

Friday January 17
Squak Mt. to central peak,
Bullitt fireplace and more.
3C 9 mi. 1700 ft.
9:00 am Fred Zeitler 882-3435

Saturday January 18 Tiger Mtn. Nook Loop 2B 9:00 am Trudy Ecob 232-2933

Sunday January 19
Upper Cougar sites and trails
2B 5 Mi.710 ft.
10:00 am
Bert Drui 746-0709

Monday January 20 Squak Mt. Loop 2C 9:30 am Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday January 25
Iss. History Walk/Drive:
Iss. (1 mi), High Point (4 mi);
Rails, logs and mines.
2B 8:30 am Bill Longwell
222-6775

Sunday January 26
AJ's Water Tank/Surprise Creek and Shangri La loop.

2A 3hr-1000-ft 10:00 am Harvey Manning 746 1017

Monday January 27
Annual Meeting
7:00 pm
"New Clubhouse" 1st and Bush

Tuesday January 28 Lake Tradition 2A 9:30 am Al Blalock 746-4155

February Sunday February 2

Lake Traditon Plateau 2A 5 mi. 500 ft. 1:00 pm Bob Gross 529-2139

Saturday February 8
Cougar Mt. East-West traverse on seldom seen trails.
3C 10 mi. 2200 ft.
8:30 am Ralph Owen 746-1070

Sunday February 9 East Cougar/West Tibbets Gorge 3B 10:00 am Dave Kappler 392-3571

Tuesday February 11
Twin Falls: two falls and old growth forests.
2B 9:30 am
Al Blalock 746-4155

Saturday February 15 Tiger Mt. trail to RR grade 2B 9:00 am Trudy Ecob 232-2933

Sunday February 16 West Tiger RR grade loop 3B 6 Mi. 1500 ft. 10:00 am Bert Drui 746-0709

Monday February 17 Cougar Mt. trails 2B 9:30.am Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday February 22
Hoof trails of Griffen Highlands
Explore little known routes
north of Fall City.
2-3A 8:00 am Bill Longwell 222-6775

Sunday February 23
Cougar mt.- Far Country Creek
to Far Country Lookout via
Trog Swamp.
2A 3 hr 800 ft. 10:00 am
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Monday February 24
BOARD MEETING
7:00 pm
"New Clubhouse" 1st and Bush

March

Saturday March 1
Newcastle Beach/Mercer Slough
loop: Explore two Bellevue parks in
the Mountains to Sound
Greenway.
2A 6 mi. 100 ft.

Sunday March 2
Cougar Mt. 10 mile loop:
Wilderness Peak, Longview Peak,
DeLeo Wall and Coal Creek Falls.
3C 8:30 am Fred Zeitler 882-3435

10:00 am Ralph Owen 746-1070

Saturday March 8
Poo Poo Pt.- long distance views north and south.
3C 9:00 am
Dave Kappler 392-3571

Sunday March 9
Cougar mineyards tour: big hole, steam hoist, sawmill site via
Wildside and
Indian trails with stop at Ballfield meadow
Good Family Hike
1A 1:00 pm
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Saturday March 15 Cougar Peak traverse; I-90 to SR 900 3B 6 Mi. 1360 ft. 10:00 am Bert Drui 746-0709

Sunday March 16 Squak Mt. Summit Circuit 3B 9:30 am Ted Thompson 454-8643

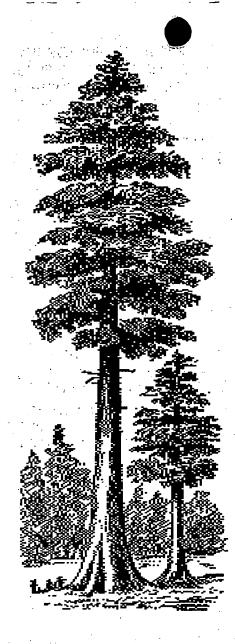
Tuesday March 18 Lake Tradition 2A 9:30 am Al Blalock 746-4155

Saturday March 22 Cliffs of Squak Mt.: Three great cliffs and a rarely visited summit. 3B 10 mi. 8:30 am Bill Longwell 222-6775

Sunday March 23 All the way on the TMT; 4D 16 miles 2000 ft 8:00 am Joe Toynbee 723-6716 Monday March 24 Middle Tiger 3C 9:30 am Mary Cadigan 641-4046

BOARD MEETING
7:00 pm
"New Clubhouse" 1st and Bush

Saturday March 29 Little Si 2B 5 Mi. 1100 ft. 1:00 pm Bob Gross 529-2139 Special thanks to our hike leaders for the 1996 season. As of the end of Oct. there were 162 hikes led with 803 participants. Al Blalock, Eva Black, Peggy Barchi, Mary Cadigan, Steve Cavit, Betty Culbert, Bert Drui, Trudy Ecob, Bob Gross, Barbara Halverson, Mary Ann Tagney Jones, Pat Kaald, Dave Kappler, Jim Klotz, Susan Kraabe, Ann Leber, Harvey Manning, Melinda Livingston, Bill McFerren, Jamie McKenzie, Marilyn Moon, Ralph and Peggy Owen, Tom Palm, Alexander Pye, June Stevens, Janie Stiewing, Ted Thomsen, Joe Toynbee, Tom Walsh, Sue Wood, Fred Weinmann, and Fred Zeitler.



24-HOUR HIKES HOTLINE: 328-0480

HIKE LEADERS

The hike leaders are volunteers who have donated their time to lead people who want to hike and explore the trails in the Issaquah Alps and other nearby foothills (Cascades) in King County. Hikes are scheduled and led year-round regardless of weather. *Minimum attendance is 3, including the leader.* 

Trails in the Issaquah Alps may be good or bad, easy or hard, muddy or dusty, brushy or clear, steep or flat, easy or hard—or all of the above. Some are not much more than animal trails. As *volunteers*, neither the hike leaders, the Trails Club or club directors are in any way responsible or liable for hiker's comfort, transportation, property, safety, or general well-being while traveling to and from the trailhead or while hiking or working any trail.

The club's sole purpose is to show hikers where the trails are and to lead the way. The public, other clubs, youth groups, church groups and others are welcome and wholeheartedly invited to join with the hike leader and others who want to hike these trails. Children under 13 should be accompanied by an adult. *Please, no pets on these hikes.* 

#### HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

Each hike has a number and letter designation after it (e.g., 2C). Numbers indicate the hiking time and letters indicate the degree of difficulty.

Hiking Time

Class 1: 2 hours

Class 2: 4 hours

Class 3: 6 hours

Class 4: 8 hours

These are *approximate* hiking times, not including travel time to and from the trailhead (20 to 70 minutes, depending on the hike) and meal times (lunch will add another 20-70 minutes, depending on the mood of the group). The times are based on an assumption of a two mile per hour pace, with a half hour added for each 1000 feet in elevation gain. Trail conditions, weather, and unexpected hazards can extend the hiking time.

Degree of Difficulty

A: little or no elevation gain, up to 500 feet, no difficulties for average walker

B: some climbing: up to 1200 feet, or some other difficulty

C: more climbing: up to 2500 feet, or some other difficulty

D: much climbing: over 2500 feet elevation gain

This is an *estimated* degree of difficulty. Most trails in the Issaquah Alps are not up to the high standards of state and national parks. Issaquah Trails can be very steep in parts or muddy and brushy. Hikers may gain 1000 feet in just one mile of a five-mile, 1500-foot elevation gain hike. Sometimes there are trees to climb over or nettles and berry bushes to beat through. *Short* doesn't automatically mean easy and *long* doesn't automatically mean tough.

#### HIKE DESCRIPTION MODIFIERS

Leader's Choice

The leader had not decided where to hike before publication of the hike schedule.

Trail Party

Trail maintenance work party

Exploratory

The leader goes cross country off the main trail system to explore animal trails, canyons, old logging roads, or old railroad grades. Expect to go through brush, over logs, tiptoe through wildflowers and/or mud and have a good time hiking where others seldom tread.

Family Hike

For parents and children. Easy pace. Call leader for hike particulars.

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Family Hike

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### **How The Bullitt House Came Tumbling Down**

### Bill Longwell

he Bullitt House was standing virtually intact when I first viewed it on a February 22, 1966 hike. The roof covered all of the present concrete floor, with most of the partitions attached, most of the plumbing visible in the walls (I also remember a water heater and a bathtub), and few people ever seemed to reach the site.

Later I led a group of Earth Day I hikers to the Bullitt House on April 23, 1971. Most of what I viewed in 1966 still stood. We walked into the service road on an old trail from an area on the SE May Valley Road where Washington State Parks plans to build a trailhead someday.

It wasn't long after these early visits that Phil Hall and I decided to use the Bullitt House for winter campouts. Five times we took some of our school students and family members for over-nighters, warming ourselves before roaring fires in the fireplace that never quite drew well, at least not until a hot fire developed. We camped there on November or December nights, often in cold and snow. Someone would get up during the night to keep the fire going.

However, in 1973 vandals decided to trash the Bullitt House.

On a solo October 21 hike, I noted the first attempts to destroy the house. In those days adventurous drivers could reach the Bullitt House by four-wheeling. Later, at the end of November, I swept out the floor from damage in preparation for what was our last camp at the Bullitt House.

As a teacher Phil Hall was tough. His students learned from him, cared for him, but got away with nothing. An exmarine, Phil Hall came into each school year with a reputation. He rarely faced a discipline problem; kids were afraid to do anything that might get them in trouble with him.
Punishment was swift and effective if they did get into
trouble.

Our last camp occurred on November 30 and December 1, 1973. We had just eaten our dinner before that warm fireplace when two jeeps rolled into the driveway. Out strutted four or five boys seemingly determined to intimidate the campers. Out stepped Phil Hall.

Suddenly, all was quiet, until one of the boys said, "Hello, Mr. Hall."

It just so happened that one of the boys had been in Phil's math class and Phil remembered him.

"Hello, \_\_\_\_\_," Phil said to him.

All the steam left the boys when they recognized Phil Hall. After a short conversation, both jeeps left, but we knew they'd return at a later time when Phil was gone.

I cam back just before New Year's Day to view the certain destruction. It was discouraging. The roof was down; vehicles had pulled out the eighteen inch thick cedar pillars that held it up. The roof had crashed onto the concrete slab.

During the first week of school after the New Year a student came to me to say that the same group that visited us on that November night had indeed returned to destroy the roof.

Within a year all roofing, the pillars and other wood had disappeared, most fuel for the fireplace.

However, *some* of the roof lay hidden in the forest, only to resurface years later as TMT bridges on Tiger Mountain.

In that respect the Bullitt House lives on, at least for a few more years.

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**Maribeth Crowe** 

Become part of the team at the Bellevue Parks Department! Help lead nature walks or canoe trips, offer environmental education programs for school groups, or host a park visitors' center. Free orientation and training begins in February. Call Wolumteer Coordinator Geoff Bradley at 462-2928 for more information.

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