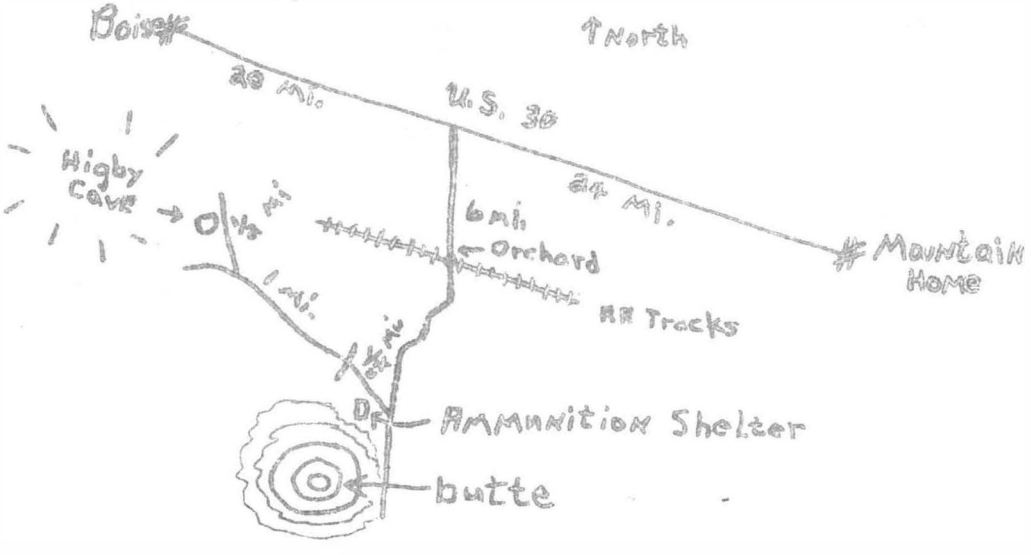
Higby Cave, Idaho

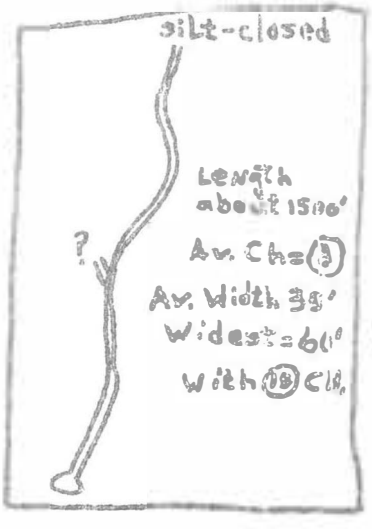
January, 1962
Reported by Ron Stanford

Cavers wishing to visit a lava tube in the Boise area can do so at Higby Cave near Orchard. At a point on U. S. Highway 30, 20 miles southeast of Boise and 24 miles Northwest of Mountain Home, a road leads south to the railroad point of Orchard, 6 miles from the highway. Six miles further south, north of a butte on the west side of the road, is a branch road to the cave. On the south side of this branch road is an ammunition shelter. Continuing on this branch road, a junction is encountered in one-fourth mile. Ignore it. One mile further is a Y junction. Keep to the right and continue one-half mile to the parking area just east of the sink-hole entrance of the cave.

The entrance is a bit hard to find due to numerous "roads" in the sagebrush. The entire area is spotted with lava outcrops and ridges. The entrance is a large sinkhole where the roof of the tunnel has fallen allowing access to the tunnel on one side. The entrance is about five feet high and 20 feet wide. From the entrance, the cave slopes down for 50 to 60 feet and then levels off. At this point and for the next 500 feet, the floor is covered with break-down. Beyond that point, the floor is mostly covered with dry clay. At about 1500 feet from the entrance, the roof and the fill meet to close the cave. It appears that the tube continued before the fill accumulated. The width does not decrease; only the height. The average width of the cave is about 35 feet and the average height eight feet. The widest point is about 60 feet, with a ceiling height of about 15 feet at this point.

The lava varies in color from an orange-red to grey, and in texture from rough to a molten smooth look. At various points are small depressions in the lava with many small holes through a smooth surface giving the lava a varied and strange appearance. We observed only one possibility of a side passage. This was not explored as it was about 10 feet above the floor of the cave. It appears passable for at least 25 feet. The wall of the cave looks odd at this point, with quite a bit of breakdown and small holes in the wall. Elsewhere, the cave is easily negotiable. Its main interest is geological, and no animal life was observed.





Jensens' Cave Trip

Thomas Hatchett
Sunday, March 25, 1962

Rain and mist at 6:00 am, not very encouraging when high country is to be traveled. Well time would tell whether we would get soaked or snowed on during our hike in the area above Concrete, Washington.

Leaving Seattle, rain still drizzling down, Donna and Mel Casper, Luurt Nieuwenhuis, Lou and I in one car; with Arlo Smith, Jack Williams, and Ron Stanford in another car; were all thinking about the same--its going to be a wet day. Our timing must have been about right, though, since it stopped raining before we had to start walking, with only small patches of snow being encountered.

The cave was soon found and entered; owing our direct hike from cars to cave, to Mr. McQueen, a concrete resident; where we all noted the small stream flowing into about a 30 foot sink with the entrance at the bottom. But initial investigation didn't uncover where the stream was bound--it just disappeared into the rocks and soil before getting into the cave proper.

From the entrance the cave expands into a room about six feet wide, 15 feet long, three feet high and sloping down at about 50°. The room narrows down into a small passageway that was almost filled with sand, our only lead to the rumored second room with a waterfall into a deep pit. While the front line dug at the passageway, the others began to notice the chill from not moving, but soon news passed back proclaiming that the way was open! The group soon passed the tight 10 feet crawlway and were able to stand in the second room about three to four feet wide, ten feet high and ten feet long with a waterfall flowing down a floor to ceiling inset two feet in diameter. Water was traversing the floor and exiting the room by a sand trap and also down a crack, over a ledge and into the "deep pit". It was decided that we might be able to force an opening but due to cramped quarters some of the group looked for promising caves above ground while the others worked the small crack and the sand pit. After digging for almost six feet in the sand without favorable results, the decision was made to depart due to the wet, muddy, cold conditions, but all was not lost since the crack was widdened enough to permit looking into the pit. The pit was about four feet in diameter and about eight feet down to the water which was muddy. How deep? We all promised to find out when dry weather comes again.

CAVES IN THE MINES AT METALINE, WASHINGTON

(from various references)

Small caves are known in the Pend Oreille Mines and Metals mine, in sec. 16, (T39N-R43E). Many of these caves contained sphalerite and galena in fragments on the floors and as crystals lining the walls. One cave above the 500-ft. level is 8 ft. wide, 4 ft. high, and more than 20 ft. long. Others are reported to have been larger. The State Dept. of Mines and Geology reports that they are in brecciated Metaline limestone. All the caves have one wall which is smooth and slickensided. The caves are most common above the 500-ft. level (alt. 2,124 ft.) and decrease in size and numbers in depth. On the 700-ft. level (alt. 1,900ft.), all were less than 3 ft. in greatest dimension. Many of the caves are lined with paligorskite.

Several filled caves were intersected by the long adit of the Bella May mine, in sec. 32, (T39N-R43E). These caves were filled with clay, silt, and sand.

Caves similar to those in the Bella May are found in Washington Rock, west of Metaline Falls, in sec. 21, (T39N-R43E). One such cave, filled with brown clayey iron oxide, was mined by Lehigh Portland Cement Co.

Caves are also known in the Grandview mine, in sec. 15, (T39N-R43E). One cave was partly filled with fragments of galena-bearing rock, (2), (Jenkins, 1924).

PROPERTY AND CAVES ON FIELD TRIPS SHOULD RECEIVE CONSIDERATIONS

Looking back to the D. C. SPELEOGRAPH (Vol. 17, No. 7, July, 1961), Falls Church, Virginia, Publication; two sections were found which seemed particularly interesting and so have been quoted below. As our Cascade Grotto expands in members, our activities and knowledge must be equally broadened. Members unearthing other articles of interest could assist the grotto and the editor by submitting your articles.

COURTESIES TO CAVE OWNERS

Caves are nearly always on private property. Therefore the following courtesies to landowners should be observed:

1) Always get permission of the landowner to enter a cave. Even if he has extended a standing invitation it is still considered proper to check with him unless he has specifically indicated that this is unnecessary. Do not enter a cave if there is the least question of the owner's willingness to have you do so

2) Never enter a cave without the knowledge of someone on the outside that you have done so.

3) Park your car where it will not be in anyone's way.

4) Close any gate you may have to open on the way to the cave. Never cross a cultivated or growing field without the owner's specific permission.

5) Replace logs or bariers blocking the cave entrance.

6) Check out with the owner and impart any observations of interest.

7) If pictures were taken inside the cave, or of the owner, send him prints. This is optional, but it goes a long way toward establishing friendly relations.

8) If you have camped, for which you must also get permission, be sure to drown and bury your fire before you leave.

9) Do not leave litter anywhere. Leave the property as clean, or cleaner, than it was found, and an air of friendliness behind you.

10) Do not wear out your welcome by visiting one cave too often.

INSIDE THE CAVE

1) Bury spent carbide in a dry place or carry it with you in a small plastic bag to be buried outside. Never dump it in water or on formations, rocks, or a cave floor where it becomes unsightly. Inside or outside the cave never leave spent carbide in an exposed place and do not put it in a stream or pool of any kind. It is a form of litter and is a deadly poison. Carry spent flashbulbs and other trash out of the cave with you. If a cave is found untidy take time to improve its appearance by burying trash or carrying it from the cave.

2) Be particularly careful in areas of delicate formations. One slight nudge can destroy a thousand years of natures' work. Do not mark, smear, damage, or destroy formations. Do not remove formations from the cave even if they are broken.

3) Do not put your name on walls of a cave. Never write on cave formations. If names must be put in caves, put a notebook in a large bottle to be used as a register.

4) Cave fauna (insects, bats, crayfish, cave fish) usually have small populations and some species are in danger of extinction. Collection of cave animals is to be discouraged. Even for scientific research collection should be controlled and kept to a minimum.

If all those who enter caves anywhere will observe the principles and practices indicated here our caves will remain places of beauty and attraction notonly for us but for all those who come after.

CURRENT STATUS OF CAVING IN WASHINGTON

The caves of Washington are few and inaccessible, especially in winter. Nevertheless, by patient investigation of leads, information is gradually accumulating and portends a significant future for the state's speleology.

The area limestones of the state are limited to narrow bands outcropping along the western slopes of the northern Cascades, in the Olympic Mountains, on some of the San Juan Islands, and somewhat more commonly in the Okanogan-Colville area. Here, true laniez, practically unknown in the far West, may be found. Probably the state's largest limestone cave is CRAWFORD (GALDINER) CAVE, near Metaline Falls, said to be 800' long and to contain a stalagmite 12' high. Next largest is ALLBRIGHT CAVE, mapped by the Cascade Grotto. MT. OLIVE CAVE, in the same area, is insignificant. 3 MILE CAVE is reported in this issue. Caves in the limestone areas near Ross Dam and on Jackman Creek near Van Horn, have not yet been reached. Repeated attempts to open a reported entrance between Grotto and Baring have been unsuccessful.

Moderately common in the Columbia Basalt and the flow from the volcanic fields of the southern Cascades are lava tubes. Best known is probably Mt. Adams GULER) ICE CAVE, the source of ice for Hood River as early as 1835. Its 650' length, mapped by the Cascade Grotto, is of interest in several respects, and its ice deposits are worthy of study. The campground at its entrance would well serve as base for trips to the other caves of the area, shown on the Forest Service map of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

The MT. ST. HELENS LAVA CAVE to the northwest is reputed to be a mile in length, but is accessible only in midsummer. The ICE CAVE near Spokane is probably of similar origin. Relics of the Hudson Bay Company were found here. CRAB CREEK CAVE probably belongs in this group as does BOULDER CAVE, which has a stream coursing through its 500'.

Many sea caves exist along the rocky shores of the state, but only a few have yet been reported. One at KAPUSH and 2 at AGATE BEACH on the Olympic Peninsula, one near Camp ORKILA on Orcas Island, several of varying types on LUCIA ISLAND, FERN CAVE and perhaps 3 near ENGLISH CAMP on San Juan Is., though the latter may be in limestone, make up the list to date.

Of miscellaneous types, shelters have been reported south of VANTAGE and near ROCK LAKE, and on the upper WOLF RIVER. Glacier caves on Mt. Rainier and Big 4 Peak have received some publicity. MILLAN ICE BEVERLY, MT. ISSAQUAH and perhaps ESTES, HAMMA HAMMA AND LAKE LENA ICE CAVE are talus piles of different types, though the last 3 must be checked. ICY WIND CAVE may be talus or limestone, but as the entrance has been buried in the construction of a logging road, it will be hard to check.

This list is short. The original, however, is only a fraction this long. Let us work for the day that this list will seem as small a fraction.

NOTE: CASCADE REPORT #1 was issued without heading, but dated May 21, 1951.

(The above article is a copy of a copy taken from the above mentioned report.)

CASCADE GROTTO
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

I. The name of this organization shall be the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society.

II. The purposes of this grotto shall be the same as those of the NSS with the additional object of organizing members of the NSS in the Pacific Northwest into a group better to promote NSS objects.

III. 1. This grotto shall be governed by an Executive Committee of not less than five and not more than ten members, elected yearly by the grotto members. Vacancies may be filled by the committee.
2. The Executive Committee shall appoint such officers as are deemed necessary.
3. The Executive Committee shall have complete power to manage the grotto, to make all rules relating to subsequent elections, to formulate by-laws, to appoint chairmen of special committees, to raise funds in any manner not inconsistent with the policies of the Board of Governors of the NSS, and to perform all other necessary functions.
4. Decisions or actions of the Executive Committee may be overruled by a 2/3 majority vote of grotto members.

IV. 1. Executive committee and general meetings shall be held at such times and places as are determined by the committee.
2. A petition signed by 2/3 of the grotto membership shall be mandatory upon the Executive Committee to call a special meeting for the purpose stated in the petition.

V. 1. Membership is limited to members of the NSS.
2. Any member in the Pacific Northwest, excluding areas of other grottos, shall be eligible for membership in this grotto.
3. Individual groups of members of this grotto may organize local units of this grotto, elect their own leader who shall automatically become a member of the Executive Committee, and transact their own business, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

VI. The Constitution and By-laws of the NSS shall be binding on this grotto. Any action inconsistent therewith shall be null and void.

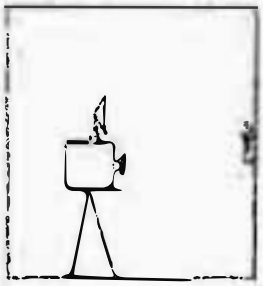
Unanimously approved by charter members February 15, 1951.

W. R. Halliday
Chairman

Delford M. Neely
Sec-Treas.

5-21-51

1



That Calcite formation sure looks like a Butterfly.

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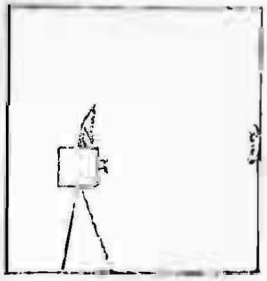
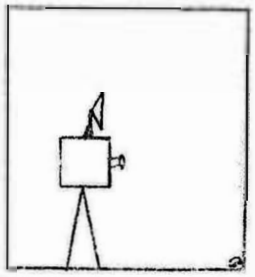


Really true-to-life!

3.

yes Sir, truly an amazing resemblance to a Butterfly

4



My God! it was a Butterfly