

THE CASCADE CAVER

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CASCADE GROTTO N. S. S.
SEATTLE WASHINGTON

COMING EVENTS

Monday, February 10, 1964

Regular Meeting, 8 P.M.
Dr. Halliday's, 1117 - 36th Ave East
Seattle.

Recent Activity by Bill Halliday

The planned January 19th trip to the Mt St. Helens caves was prophetically cancelled by chairman Van York just before the season's heaviest storm blew up out of nowhere and snowed that area in.

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Grotto elections at the January meeting re-elected Van York Chairman for 1964. New Secretary-Treasurer (and Caver mailer) is Ed Tupper. Luurt Nieuwenhuis continues as Field Trip Chairman, even if the NSS never spells his name the same way twice.

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The January meeting was enlivened by the loan by Lewis Lamont of the Central Indiana Grotto of some fine slides of Wyandotte Cave, plus an 1864 book about the cave. Comparison of the artist's conception of its features with modern photographs was delightful.

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The quasi-annual kid's trip to Beckley's Cave was accomplished in balmy weather on December 29th. The York and Halliday children were a trifle disappointed since no porcupine was home this year. Jerry Frahm and Luurt Nieuwenhuis went along for the outing which is becoming a pleasant mid-winter tradition. Mr. Beckley seemed to enjoy a complimentary copy of CAVES OF WASHINGTON.

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Text for the February meeting's speleology session will be the section on speleothems in CAVES OF CALIFORNIA. - Van York is seeking some slides from the NSS Audiovisual sets. - Bill Halliday will have some comments on the progress of mapping Mammoth Cave over the years.

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To borrow the Encyclopedia Britannica color film THE CAVE COMMUNITY, filmed in Cumberland Caverns, will cost \$5.75. What do you think ?

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The January 1964 MSM SPELUNKER (Missouri School of Mines) mentions Oregon Cave and Gardner Cave:

"....The second was Oregon Caves National Monument which is located at 4,000 feet above sea level in the Siskiyou Mountains of southwestern Oregon. Although long known as 'Oregon Caves', it is actually a single cave..... The walk through the cave is 1 1/4 miles (!!!) or about 1 1/2 hour trip..."
If they only knew how many years' trips and mapping it took us to get the map up to 1 1/4 miles...!

The note on Gardner Cave mentions signs to the cave. "The park is completely undeveloped but the cave has been equiped with several sets of wooden stairs and electrical lighting. No fee is charged and no guides provided. One merely takes his own personal tour." A good description follows. The writer was informed that there were no other enterable caves in the area. Maybe we should tell the MSM Grotto about CAVES OF WASHINGTON.....

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY REPORTS FAILURE IN TWO CABLE LADDERS

The Northern New Jersey Grotto reports two failures in cable ladders obtained from Camp and Trail, 112 Chambers Street, New York, N Y. Fortunately, no injuries resulted from either failure.

The first ladder failure was the slipping of the side cable through the ferrule which clamps it at the thimble in order to form the loop at the end of the ladder.

The second ladder failed after two people had decended into a pit on it. As a third person was decending, the side cable slipped out of the clamping ferrule at the thimble. Proper belay technique prevented injury to the caver.

The dealer, Camp and Trail, stated that about two dozen of these ladders have been sold, and that he wants to have all of them returned for test and such corrective action as may be necessary. The dealer does not know all of the owners of these ladders, and asks help to spread word of possible danger. Please advise any cable ladder users you know of this situation.

BREATHING CONES

from and article in THE VOLCANO LETTER # 263, January 9, 1930, published by The Hawaii Volcano Observatory

The extraordinary lava activities of the year 1919 at Halemaumau, the fire pit of Kilauea, marked the peak of the eleven year cycle. To the tourist who sees the vast cauldra of today, a thousand feet deep and three thousand feet across, it is hard to realize that glowing molten slag was overflowing the edge of the pits a decade ago. The pit has a definite margin of cold rock but within that margin and overlapping it were lava lakes, pots, droplet spires, flow heaps, tunnels, stalactites, grottoes, smoke holes, and breathing cones.

The East Cone of the spring on 1919 was a low hillock, built up around a lava pot on the inner floor of Halemaumau. Visitors habitually walked over this floor which extended from the lakes inside the pit area to merge with the overflows outside. The pot was supplied with a glowing, glassy melt through a tunnel leading from the main lake. With the rise and fall of the liquid lava, a cone was built around the pot, and the interior ceiling of the tunnel became hung with huge gas glazed stalactites, three to four feet long. One could stand on the rim of this conlet and gaze into the open pot where lava, of bright yellow glow was splashing fifteen feet below. Under the lip of the orifice the interior chamber was bright orange with incandescence and hung with beautifully sculptured firey stalactites shaped like long bunches of grapes. By night, a banner was visible, of blue-green flames, fluttering above the orifice, sending off pale blue transparent fumes acrid with sulphur. As a whole, durring this period, the lakes were rising, the inner floor was being overflowed in spasms, and the heaps, cones, and spiracles, were building up. The East Cone hissed, breathed, and roared at different times. Sometimes it would vomit up moltem stuff like an artesian well, and give vent to a glowing flow. At such times, the pot and tunnel were obliterated, only to reappear when the outflow ceased, with stalactites reforming.

The grape-like droplets, and the grey-yellow, red, or brown glazes on the surfaces of these stalactites are not the result of direct spatter. There are other stalactites and drip curtains and frozen drip points which are the result of direct splash.

The grape-like bunches, however, and the long, worm-like stalactites, are formed by the remelting of the roof of the cavern by slow action of the intensely hot burning gases. The burning is converted into a blow-torch effect when air has access to the tunnel/so as to convert the combustible gases from the boiling lava into oxidizing flames. When air reaches the volcanic gas pipe suddenly the changes in the iron oxides in the glazes may be equally sudden and the whole cavern may be caused to glow by the access of air alone.

CARBIDE FOR SALE CHEAP

Ed Wyman has obtained a quantity of carbide and will have it at the regular meeting on Monday, February 10th. It will be for sale (non-profit) at five and one quarter (5 1/4) pounds for one (1) dollar (U.S.). (Just how he decided to package it in 5 1/4 pound lots we'll have to find out.)

SHALL CHELAN ICE CAVE BE ELIMINATED ? (a continued story)

From the Seattle Daily Times, October 31, 1963

SO, WHO NEEDS CAVES ANYHOW

OLYMPIA, Oct 31 -(AP)

Most Chambers of Commerce want to put their towns high spots of the map. Not Chelan's chamber.

The State Highway Commission said yesterday that the Chelan chamber had asked to have Ice Caves, north of the town, erased from the map because: No one cares where it is, and, even if they did, it's almost impossible to get there.

(letter)

January 13, 1964

State Highway Commission,

Gentlemen:

I am informed that the Chelan Chamber of Commerce has urged that the Chelan Ice Caves be stricken from the official State Highway Map.

While I think it would be desirable to correct the location shown on the map, it is my opinion that this unusually interesting and accessible phenomenon should be brought to the attention of more, not fewer people. The hundred foot trail from the highway-side parking area to the cave is unusually adaptable to an interpretive program. Chelan Ice Cave is something of a prototype for this type of glaciere, and you may wish to review material published on it in the past as well as the description in my recent CAVES OF WASHINGTON, published by the Department of Conservation.

I would like to suggest that representatives of your commission meet with representatives of the Chelan Chamber of Commerce and with state speleologists some weekend next Spring at the site in question. Since the site

at times has been called a state park, perhaps someone from that commission also should be present. If I can personally be of assistance, it will be a pleasure.

Sincerely yours,
William R. Halliday

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WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OLYMPIA, January 29, 1964

William R. Halliday, Director
Western Speleological Survey

Dear Dr. Halliday.

In answer to your letter regarding Gardner Cave and Chelan Ice Cave, I would like to give you the following information:

1. The land on which both caves are found is owned by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. At Gardner Cave, we are currently planning an improvement program to make the cave more accessible to visitors. I am sending you a Washington State Park Guide which shows Crawford State Park.
2. Chelan Ice Cave, north of Chelan on U S 97, is now inactive as a State Park site and is served by a turn out and parking area beside the highway, which is administrated by the Washington State Highway Commission.

Sincerely,

Lloyd R. Bell
Supervisor of Interpretive Services

CORRESPONDENCE

From Steve Knutson:

A group tried to get to Dynamited on December 30th. They hiked three miles through the snow from just east of the Peterson Guard Station, to the cave entrance, when they turned back.

I have a reference (who I will contact as soon as possible) in Grants Pass who is supposed to have been in the cave on upper Deer Creek. My friend from Grants Pass talked to a friend there who knows the reference. According to this fellow, he entered the cave with only a candle and couldn't do much exploring - apparently it has an entrance crawl but that's all the details so far. Interested in a trip down there if the lead turns out OK ?

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From Norman V. Peterson, State Department of Geology and Mineral Industry
Grants Pass, Oregon
January 29, 1964

I have recently read some of your reports.....

I was particularly interested in the communications section. Although we have not conducted any detailed experiments we have determined that regular broadcast band frequencies are not attenuated by the overlaying basalt. Using a small inexpensive transistor radio receiver we were able to receive local radio stations even at the far ends of the Lava River Cave, just south of Bend, Oregon, and in Derrick Cave, 50 miles southeast of Bend.

We were even receiving station KGO San Francisco loud and clear. We were very suprised to find that radio reception was possible as we walked further and further toward the ends of the lava tubes.

This will probably be of no great significance, but I thought it would be of interest to you.

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From Mr and Mrs D. W. Waters
Salem, Oregon

P. O. Box 2293
January, 1964

Last summer my husband and I took to exploring the caves in central Oregon. We visited Skylight Cave, Horse Cave, Lava River Cave, Skeleton Cave, Wind Cave Arnold Ice Cave, Surveyors Ice Cave, South Ice Cave, and Fort Rock Cave.

Now we have the following to visit this summer: Sawyers Cave, Wind Cave (N E of Bend), Matz Caves, Edison Ice Cave, and Derrick Cave.

In checking with the City and State Library I could find only a few other caves in Oregon on file. These were: Ice Cave, Cow Cave, and Horse Cave, in the Ft Rock area; Cougar Mt Cave, north of Fleetwood, Ice Cave, in Pot Hole area east of Deschutes National Forest; Plat Butte Cave, S E of Bend; Lost Cave of Crystals, south of Millican; Trout Creek Agate Caves, Jefferson County; Rock Creek Caves, Porcupine Canyon east of Condon; and Redmond Caves and Catlow Valley Cave, both of which have not been located by us.

The above are from newspaper clippings from The Portland Oregonian

Our problem is general information on these caves and others in Oregon. In Caves of Washington you mention the Oregon Speleological Survey. No one at the State Library could help me locate this organization. Will you please help us ?

One thing I would like to mention. In Skeleton Cave we found tracks like ruts from a wagon. Knowing this is most improbable, we assume they were water gullies. Are they ?

(The boys from the Missouri School of Mines weren't very resourceful by comparison !)

LEFTOVERS

There aren't any this month. If fact, the Cascade Caver is in need of material on any and all aspects of caving. Reports, articles, maps, reviews, cartoons, and maybe even a joke or two. GET WITH IT.

THE CASCADE CAVER
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