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C O M I N G E V E N T S

Monday October 12, 1964 Regular Meeting, 8 P.M.
Dr. Halliday's, 1117-36th Ave E.
Seattle, Washington, 98102

RESCUE, ANYONE? by Bill Halliday

Midnight Sunday.

The telephone rings. Through my sleep-drugged consciousness comes the worried voice of a local caver's wife. The Snoqualmie party, due back at 8 PM, has not returned. Midnight was the appointed hour to start the rescue machinery into operation. And so.....

In the next half-hour, I learned a lot and thought a lot. In our rugged region, a cave rescue involves a lot more than in eastern flatlands. Should I start routing the rest of the grotto out of bed? How and when do I call the Mountain Rescue Council. Is their car still parked up there?

I called the Washington State Patrol first. Yes, they would see if the car was still there. What was the license, the make and color, and exactly where would it be parked?

Call the King County Sheriff, they advised. That office would be coordinating the rescue - including the Mountain Rescue Council. Who was in the party? What map might be best? Did I have a map there so that we could talk it over? Could I pinpoint the cave and the route? What equipment did they have and what might be necessary?

By this time, the outline of a rescue was shaping up in my mind. The trail was too obscure to start before dawn. At 4 AM, I'd start calling the others. Besides, the lost might be found by then. Cavers do better than hikers in the mountain night.

As it turned out, I was able to call back immediately, cancelling all plans, without disturbing any caver. The overdue party had just checked in.

But it was worth it. Next time we'll know what to do, when we need it. With the help of the Mountain Rescue Council and the Sheriff's Office, we should be able to handle a rescue reasonably well if everyone keeps his head.

If you get a call some Monday 4 AM, it's for real.

Is There Gold in Them Thar Hills?

By RON SANFORD

THE PACIFIC Northwest has its tales of treasures, lost and stolen, of buried gold, old mines and ghost towns. But no story of buried treasure is stranger than that of the lost gold near Trinidad, Grant County.

In 1876, a small group of miners was returning from the gold fields of British Columbia, heading for their homes in Portland, Ore. The leader was John Welch, who was accompanied by his wife, daughter Anna E., two other men and a half-breed as a guide. They had with them more than \$85,000 in nuggets and gold dust, the results of five months' hard work.

The return home was uneventful until they reached the area of Trinidad. There they discovered the Indians were on the warpath and had been running off the Chinese, who were panning gold along the Columbia River.

Because of the hostile mood of the Indians, the guide suggested they bury their gold and personal possessions. He informed the group that from then on they were on their own. Then he vanished.

Welch waited until dark, loaded up two horses and rode off. When he found a spot he felt suitable, he buried two saddles, Anna's brush, a comb and other effects. Marking the spot with a pile of stones, Welch buried the gold a short distance away. After drawing a rough map of the area, he returned to the waiting party.

THREE days went by and they felt it safe to continue on their way. They were thankful precautions had been taken to hide the gold when the Indians stopped and searched the entire group. It was a long, tense drama until the warriors waved them on.

Upon reaching Fort Vancouver, as-

sistance was asked for an escort back to recover their gold and possessions. Their request was denied. Because of their previous encounter with the Indians, they decided to wait before returning.

Years passed before Welch decided to go after the gold. In 1904, Welch and a close friend arrived in Trinidad and registered at the hotel, where they asked for a guide. The hotel manager, named Van Slyke, suggested his 14-year-old boy direct them, since he knew the area better than anyone else.

The youth was to find a cave among the basaltic rocks, overlooking the Columbia River, with a stream nearby. He was told only that many years ago Welch had been attacked by Indians and buried everything he could. The three searched the area on horseback for weeks. Nothing looked familiar to Welch so, eventually, he reluctantly gave up his search.

Welch was an old man when he gave the map to his daughter, Mrs. Anna E. Tuttle of Portland. Mrs. Tuttle kept the buried-gold story a secret for six years, not even telling her immediate family. Each summer she would return to the Trinidad area and spend from four to six weeks searching for the treasure. Her project was to locate the saddles marked by a pile of rocks. She alone knew that not far away the gold was buried.

During those six years, she dug in the sand, searched among the caves and potholes and each year came away empty-handed. On different trips

when the townfolk heard of her search they would form search parties. After a time, when nothing was found, the people began to poke fun at her and anyone willing to help her. When the sixth year passed without finding a trace of the saddles or the gold, Mrs. Tuttle decided never to return.

TWO TRAPPERS, Ted Williams and Harry Webly, had heard the story of the buried saddles and gold but did not take much stock in the account. One day they caught a bobcat in a trap. The animal, in trying to escape, had uncovered part of a saddle.

In digging out the worn saddle, the trappers found the second one, along with a rosewood box containing papers and personal documents, a child's brush, hair ribbons, a long-stemmed pipe, a pair of old-fashioned glasses and other personal effects.

After close examination, the men realized this was what Mrs. Tuttle was searching for. The two men began their own search. Months went by. Not finding the gold, the men decided they had better get in touch with Mrs. Tuttle.

In trying to find the woman, they discovered the Trinidad hotel had burned, and with it went all the records that could give the names and addresses of the persons they were trying to find. After the fire, the manager, Van Slyke, had moved his family to Olympia.

Williams and Webly never were able to find Mrs. Tuttle, and were forced to give up their search.

One item of interest to Williams was the fact that the loss of gold had been reported to the United States Mint at San Francisco, as well as to offices at Seattle. This was done in order to trace the gold, in case it ever was turned in.

In doing research on the Trinidad treasure, I contacted the son of Van Slyke in Olympia. L. H. Van Slyke, who as a boy had ridden with Welch in search of the treasure, now is semi-retired. He told me that when Welch had returned in 1904, he had been prepared to do quite a bit of riding. He had brought his own saddle which was well padded.

Cowboys in the area recalled that Mrs. Tuttle had said, "Show me where the saddles are buried and I can walk to the gold . . ." Mrs. Tuttle died in Portland in 1929.

ALMOST a year ago, the area was flooded with water backed up by the new Wanapum Dam. But Van Slyke is convinced the water did not cover the treasure, as Welch had led him to believe the gold was buried at a point overlooking the Columbia River.

The story told by Welch was that the Indians held the group under attack for three days. Each night the men would take turns sneaking to a nearby stream for water. He told Van Slyke he had made the search the year before, but since everything looked so different he needed a guide.

Van Slyke has made several trips in search of the treasure and plans to return.

Not long ago, the articles found by Williams and Webly were accidentally destroyed when they were among other items in an old house that had been purchased by the state in order to make way for modern-day improvements.

The cave to which Welch directed Van Slyke is in a large box canyon near Quincy, in the Ancient Lake area.

It is a good week-end trip, interesting, and there is always the chance of finding a fortune in gold.

The Ice Cave Campground was the center of much comings and goings the last weekend in September. Luurt Niewenhuis led a small party which went down to the area in mid-week. How about a report, Luurt?

Saturday morning, the Yorks, Jerry Frahm, Ed Tupper, Ross and I drove down from Seattle on the spectacular new Lewis river road. We met Luurt and Company, and a Forest Service group at Dynamited Cave. We proceeded en masse to the 15-foot drop, whence Mary Alice York took the children for a tour of the Sand Passage area and then to the 40-foot pit. Jerry and I did the same for the Forest Service personnel, penetrating the subentrance level farther for some photographs. Returning to the entrance, we explored upper levels which arise from an alcove high above the main route at the distal end of the entrance chamber. Several curious sub-levels were encountered in the 3 or 400-foot length.

The others attacked a key chockstone at the lowest point in the cave.

Like Floyd Collins' rock, it tilted back and forth with the iron bar, but it would not shift. After 8½ hours' work, they emerged well beat.

Next morning, we used the iron bar to attempt a blowing hole at the upper end of the "Connecting Cave" system just west of the Peterson Ridge Road. Without much effort, we opened a narrow opening into a little breakdown chamber, but Ross found no way to continue when we lowered him into it.

While more sensible people had lunch, we introduced Ed Tupper and Ross to Dry Creek Cave, and then headed home.

In Ice Cave, ice floors were prominent, but no mites or tites at this time. The weather was magnificent, with brilliant reds and yellows of the vine maples contrasting with cloudless dark blue autumn skeis: an ideal trip.

Forest Service personnel and their guests included Mervin F. Wold, from the Recreation and Lands staff of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest; Clay G. Beal, Willard District Ranger; Dick Hamilton and John Erwin.

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POOR NEBRASKA !

Feeling sorry for yourself just because we didn't even have 200 caves in Washington and Oregon? (Or do we? - Ed.) Just be glad you aren't a Nebraska caver. So far, Bill Halliday's maps don't show a single limestone cave (or lava tube) there - just shelters and the like.

For the benefit of any poor caver unfortunate enough to get stuck in Nebraska, the Caver gladly includes the following EXTENSIVE bibliography of Nebraska Speleology; laboriously compiled by WRH:

Anon. 1949 Nebraska Caves. NSS News, March p.3.,C.3.

Champe, John L., 1946 Ash Hollow Cave. Univ. of Nebr. Studies, New Series # 1 Oct. p.1-130

Pond, Louise, 1948. Nebraska Cave Lore. Nebraska History 39(4);299-373, Dec.

Nations Could Frustrate Nuclear Test Ban; Explosions In Caves Impossible To Detect

WASHINGTON (NANA) — For months the representatives of the world's three major nuclear powers have been haggling at Geneva over the effectiveness of a policed ban on nuclear testing.

The chief block to an accord has been the question of underground testing — could such subsurface explosions be detected? Could a nuclear explosion in a huge, deep cave be identified as such, and not be confused with the seismic evidences of an earthquake?

So after many centuries, caves

are again in the forefront of military affairs.

At the dawn of human history, these natural fortresses, concealed deep in the flank of mountains or hillsides, were the object of a millennial struggle. At first it was between cave bears, their original discoverers, and thick-headed Neanderthal men who wielded flaming torches against the big bruins.

Later, the fight was between the human-flesh-eating Neanderthal plug-uglies and the gigantic Cro-magnons, who poured

into Europe from a mysterious southwesterly homeland.

Still later, in the 4th Century, the forces of Queen Tamara of Georgia, using the network of communicating caverns of the Caucasian country as a war base, successfully defended their mountainous realm against the Mongol hordes of Tamerlane.

In modern times, caves have been important only to speleologists, explorers and archaeologists.

But today, due to the rapid advance of technology, military science has gone a full circle, and

caves - big, deep caves - are again a serious asset in power politics. It's because of the possibility of muffling nuclear explosions by carrying them out underground in huge, secluded chambers.

Frequency of Quakes

American and British atomic scientists, ballistic experts, seismologists and mining engineers have supplied information on the frequency and the intensity of earthquakes in different parts of the world and the reduction which the air cushion inside an underground compartment effects in the commotion caused by an explosion.

The number of quakes each year of sufficient intensity to be registered by a network of seismographs is estimated at around a million. About 15,000 of them are shallow earthquakes with seis-

mic amplitudes equivalent to those produced by detonating 1,000 tons or more TNT. About 5,000 are equal to or greater than BLAST. And some 2,000 tremors each year are equivalent in force to a 20 kiloton blast or more - the force of the Hiroshima bomb.

A mathematical formula expressing this muffling indicates, for instance, that a Hiroshima-size blast, if carried out in the so-called Big Room of the Carlsbad Caverns, in the Guadalupe Range of New Mexico,

would be so muffled as to yield a seismic signal equivalent to that of an explosion of 300 tons TNT above ground. And such signals are not sufficient to allow experts to locate them, even if they used 100 seismographs in the immediate vicinity of the blast.

The Carlsbad Big Room is 4,000 feet long, 625 feet wide and 300 feet high, and the mass of rock above it is about 800 feet thick. Thus there would be no risk of shattering the cavern in question, and still less of blowing its top off.

If the whole of the energy yielded by the atomic explosion were to be in the form of mechanical energy instead of being mainly heat, and if the rock formations above and below were blast would lift the mass of rock immediately above - some

one billion - but only by about an inch.

However, in practice even the mechanical energy of the blast is quickly transformed into heat by the cushioning action of the air mass and of the rock walls, which heat tremendously - as a nail heats under a hammer blow.

A further fact brought out by the experts is that cavities of equivalent value to that of the big room, or even better ones for muffling atomic blasts, could be created in a couple of years at a cost of between 10 and 20 million dollars each, and could be reused a number of times. In fact, a number of such artificial caverns have already been created in the United States and are used to store oil.

But even this delay and expense could be dispensed with

sufficiently large and sufficiently deep natural caves. There are over 1,300 known caves in the United States and Alaska, and some of them have chambers larger than the Carlsbad Big Room.

Similarly, some of the world's biggest caves - especially in New Zealand - would be available to the British if they wished to carry out secret atomic tests, while France could use the great caves of the Sahara.

Russian and Chinese caves also are numbered in thousands, and some of them are known to contain very large chambers. Perhaps the largest of these are in Szechwan Province of Southern China - in one of which Prof. Von Konigswald found the bones of 14-foot-tall "men" who lived in those parts a million years ago.

(The following is by a young Seattle cave enthusiast.)

At the end of a part-blacktop road north of Metaline is Gardner Cave State Park. There are no facilities for camping except an electricity line for the cave's lights and the park ranger trailer. There are three picnic tables. The reason for no water is that there are no springs or creeks except one small stream 1250 feet away from the cave entrance. This stream is at the bottom of the cave at the 270 foot level. Sometimes this stream floods 75% of the chamber it runs through, appropriately called The Lake Room. To reach the Lake Room, one must stoop down or crawl through a narrow, low passage - Fat Man's Squeeze - below a series of dry rimstone pools or gour. There are other pools alongside the trail to the Big Column. It is still not known where the water comes from or goes to.

Just above the Fat Man's Squeeze is a flowstone floor. The ceiling in this room is fluted by water action. Nearby is a 16 inch stalactite and a column. In the wild area of the cave is a dazzling display of flowstone and stalactite speleothems, especially in an 18 by 18 foot room, where there is a five foot column. The beauty of Gardner Cave is a large amount of flowstone and a smaller amount of stalactite material. There is one very large column 8 feet high and more than 2 feet in diameter. Most of the beauty is in the upper part of the cave. There are stairways and walkways and lights.

This cave is only one million years old. It is suprisingly interesting that such large speleothems are present in a cave relatively so young when compared with other caves. Formed in the Metaline limestone which is coarse in nature, this cave is a speleologist's delight especially if his main interest is in geology.

There are two exciting leads that show much promise for more passageways and rooms. One is the stream at the 270 foot level. It appears out of a narrow hole and disappears in a gravel-filled hole almost 10 yards away. It is this 20 foot high chamber that sometimes floods to 3/4rs of its height.

There are no streams or springs in the State Park's 40 acres surrounding the cave. There are also reports of areas around the parking lot and immediate vicinity which resound hollowly. This supports Dr. Halliday's theory* that the cave runs under the parking lot (not the lot - the trail-WRH). I agree to a certain extent with him, but I and a state park caver think that the cave misses the parking lot's southern end because the cave turns at right angles. The stream however may circle back under the parking lot. However the state park board will be conducting a survey to determine in what direction the cave heads.

There are no facilities except three picnin tables, toilets and an electric line for the cave lights and the park ranger in a trailer.

FACT SHEET
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Historical Committee

15 May 1964

FOUNDING OF SOCIETY:

Speleological Society of the District of Columbia: Constitution - May 1939
Incorporated - 6 May 1939

National Speleological Society: Constitution - 1 January 1941
Incorporated - 9 January 1941

Place of Incorporation for both: Washington, D. C.

Signers of NSS Incorporation Certificate: William J. Stephenson, Alden E. Snell,
James E. Fowler, E. Anthony Eno, H. James Cole

Two Major Reorganizations of NSS: September 1952 and June 1960

CHAPTERS (GROTTOES) and REGIONS - As of April 1964:

77 Active Chapters, 46 Inactive Chapters, 8 Regions

First Grotto Chartered: New England Grotto No. 1 - organized inside Pettibone Falls Cave, Mass. on Dec. 1, 1940 (one month prior to founding date of NSS) - Clay Perry founder (Ref NSS BULLETIN No. 2, May 1941, p. 16)

Second Grotto Chartered: District of Columbia (D. C. Grotto) - W. J. Stephenson founder. As of Dec. 1940 plans were to convert the Speleological Society of the District of Columbia into a Chapter of the NSS - actual charter date unknown, but believed to be after Oct. 1941

CONVENTIONS and MEETINGS:

1st Scientific Meetings: Oct. 17-19, 1941 - Symposium of Speleology - Brookside, W. Va.

2nd Scientific Meetings: Dec. 11, 1943 - Joint Meeting of Biological Society of Washington and NSS - National Museum, Washington, D. C.

National Field Trips held annually, 1941-1949

1942 - 1st Convention (first "Annual Meeting") - Washington, D. C.

1945, 1946, 1947 - 2nd, 3rd & 4th Conventions ("Annual Meetings") - Washington, D. C.

1948 - 5th Convention (name "Convention" first used) - Washington, D. C.

1951 - 8th Convention (first held outside Washington, D.C.) - Charleston, W. Va.

1960 - 17th Convention (first held in the west) - Carlsbad, N. M.

Participated in organizing Third World Convention of Speleologists - Monterrey, Mexico - May 27-31, 1950 - Burton S. Faust, Committee Member

Sent Representatives to International Speleological Congresses:

First - Sept. 1-5, 1953 - Paris, France - Chrissy Mansfield

Second - Oct. 1-8, 1958 - Bari, Italy - Russell H. Gurnee

Third - Sept. 18-26, 1961 - Vienna, Austria - Rane L. Curl and Jack Stellmack

AWARDS:

Honorary Membership: Provided for by Constitution, limited to one per year - 22 awarded 1941-1962; 5 foreign; 6 deceased; 1 woman (Ref NEWS, Feb 63, p. 19)

Citation of Merit: Unwritten policy established on Jan. 14, 1950 (first awards for previous year 1949) - 46 Certificates awarded 1949-1962; twice to two individuals and many to groups (Ref NEWS, March 1963, p. 30; May 1963, p. 46; and June 1964)

Research Grants: Unwritten policy established Sept. 24, 1960, Changed Dec. 28, 1963 - 3 Student Grants of \$100 awarded 1961-1963