

THE CASCADE CAVER

Volume IV                      Number 7  
July                                      1965  
Official Publication of the  
CASCADE GROTTO                      N.S.S.  
Seattle                                      Washington

COMING EVENTS:

Monday July 12, 1965                      Regular Meeting, 8 P.M.  
Dr. Hallidays, 1117-36th East  
Seattle, Washington

August 28 - September 1                      Grotto Field Trip to Cave Ridge  
Snoqualmie Pass area

Contact Field Trip Chairman Luurt  
Nieuwenhuis for more information  
at EAst 2-3251

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FIELD TRIP REPORT      by Jan Roberts

(Lost Cave, Soda Springs Quarry, and Okanogan Area.)

We started out at 6 PM, Friday, May 14th. An hour later we had reached our first turning point, the Kity-Kat Motel, on the Stephens Pass Highway. A logging road crosses the highway here. Taking the road to the north, we followed the powerlines and guessed which way to go. In a few minutes we were at the base of the powerline towers and searched around all but one of them. Lost cave entrance is located on the east side of the hill on which the powerline towers run.

Verne Frese and his group (Dennis Frese & Jim Parent) went around the north side of the hill and found several fairly deep sinks, far deeper than the ones Ted LLOYD and I found. None of these sinks are mentioned by W. A. Danner in his report of the area.

As Lost Cave entrance is throughly blocked, we poked around for a while, and then the entire group, Verne Frese, Dennis Frese Bob Brown, Ted Lloyd, Jim Parent, my parents Mr and Mrs Roberts, and I, headed for Lake Wenatchee State Park, where we camped for the night.

About 7 AM, life began to stir at the campsite. After having breakfast, we headed for the Ideal Cement Quarry at Soda Springs. Reaching the quarry, we found no one there. Spliting into two groups, we went exploring to the south and the southeast. Bob, Jim, Dennis and I found a small crack below the quarry that was partially choked with earth and rocks.

## Field Trip Report (continued)

We pulled out a few of the rocks to see where it went, but did not find anything very promising, especially in view of the local water table represented by a nearby swamp. A few feet away is a small rock-shelter that goes back a few feet. Jim said that it was choked with dirt at the back. We also found a couple of sinkholes. Verne Frese, Ted Lloyd and Mr. Roberts found a fairly deep sink that still had snow at the bottom. We didn't check the area at Soda Springs or the areas north and west of the quarry.

Meeting back at the cars, we headed for Allbright Cave. We found Allbright Cave after an hour and a half of hiking over the area. Jim and Dennis found a couple of sinks on the ridge of the mountain, that contains Allbright Cave. Returning to the cars, we had dinner and then with full stomachs and packs, hiked up to the cave.

Allbright is a pretty cave as Washington limestone caves go. In the Upper Room some small stalactites and popcorn were noted. No cave life was seen, although no one seemed to really be looking for any. There is now a ladder at the drop-off. In the Rimstone Passage we found a patch of wet flowstone, with white, dry flowstone surrounding it. Also present is a stalagmite a foot or so high on one sloping wall. There are also some small gourls.

The High Room was looked at next and Ted was playing his harmonica there. That really sounded wierd. Someone had been digging in the floor of the High Room. There is a clay layer on top of flowstone, with a thick layer of clay underneath. We did not see any of the helictites or stalactites reported to be in a passage off the High Room. The passage is steep sided with wet flowstone covering it. The hole in the wall of that chimney is about 12 by 14 feet. It is the passage opening into the chimney. Stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone and baconrind were seen in this passage. There is a small alcove that one can stand up in and walk around easily. There is a short crawlway off from the chimney. In it there are stalactites and stalagmites. We noticed two soda straws; one about six inches long, and another about nine inches long.

There is also some flowstone in the Terminal Chamber.

It was dark when we got outside the cave. We went down the east side of the hill and about an hour later were back at Vern's car, and headed for Conconully State Park to camp for the night.

Next morning we headed for Omak and Boy Scout Caves. While traveling we spotted an opening in a hill. It turned out to be a mine entrance, but just above the mine was a shallow grotto about six feet high and ten or twelve feet wide. On the ceiling are some small stalactites, flowstone coatings, popcorn, and areas where the flowstone has partially peeled off. It has formed bacon rind. I started to dig near what looked like a hole that would lead down and back into the cliff. Verne and Ted started to dig out a partially dirt filled hole near the grotto (within a yard or two). Jim and Dennis, who had been chased out of a hole by an indignant porcupine, joined me and helped with the digging.

Bob Brown also joined in the digging. Jim Parent found several bones about two feet down in the hole. Ted then squeezed into the enlarged hole and crawled and dug his way into what he called a monstrous chamber. Here he saw many crickets that were a pale white color. The passage continues downward at a steep angle. It is almost filled with dirt, but that can be removed with little difficulty. In one corner of the chamber there are some small stalactites. The entrance crawlway is also filled to within a foot and a half of the ceiling with dirt, but that can also be removed. There are many cracks leading down into the cliff and Verne Frese is sure that there is a cavern down there because of the cracks. The cave was named Cave Pigs Cave, and the grotto Cave Pigs Grotto. Both the cave and the grotto are located east of the mine, in the cliff south of the highway between Conconully and Mr. Tugawls house.

Returning to the cars, we headed for Boy Scout Cave, but we didn't get into Boy Scout Cave because we couldn't find a way to cross the river between us and the cave.

McLoughlin Canyon Caves were next on the list, but we didn't find much. Only a few of the reported fissures. one in which Dennis and Jim managed to get stuck in. We searched around the cliffs but not on the plateau.

Directions to these caves can be obtained from John Picker or John Picker Jr. of Brewster, Earl Longnecker of Tonasket, or A J Callison of Tonasket.

On the way home, we looked at Chelan Ice Caves. In our opinion, Chelan Ice Caves should be removed from the maps. It no longer exists. Perhaps slides, and maybe the recent earthquake destroyed it. All that is left is a small crevice that contains ice, but the crevice is small and shallow.

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#### MORE CAVING IN NEBRASKA

To forestall questions, "John Brown Cave" near Nebraska City and locally promoted as a tourist attraction is just a man made shelter. The Sewell Cramer Collection now being organized in the NSS Library has several items on this, as well as the statement on "Robbers" Cave in Lincoln, "not true caves".

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#### CORRESPONDENCE

From: Allyn G. Smith, Assoc. Curator  
Dept of Invertebrate Zoology  
California Academy of Sciences  
San Francisco, California

I have to thank you for two well preserved land snails (Monadenia fidelis Gray) from San Juan Island. (Found in dim twilight in English Camp Cave WRH) I am reasonably certain that these snails represent a locality that is new to our collection and for this reason we are delighted to have them. Thanks again for your trouble and your interest.

(Send and cave snails ((in alcohol)) to the above address.

# Divers Sought In Devil's Hole

DEATH VALLEY, Calif., June 21.—(AP)—Skin divers searched for two youths today in the inky depths of Devil's Hole, a deep shaft in the desert floor filled with warm water harboring rare ice age fish.

A friend reported that David Rose, 20, and Paul Giancontieri, 19, failed to surface after a midnight exploration dive into the isolated pool.

The scene is within Death Valley National Monument, but across the California border in Nevada. National Park Service rangers and expert divers from the Clark County, Nev., sheriff's rescue posse conducted the search.

**FIVE DIVERS** spent an hour underwater starting at noon today and found no trace of the pair.

"It doesn't look good at this point," said Charles Rutherford at ranger headquarters, after talking with rescue workers by radio.

The only hope, he said, was that the youths might be sustained by air pockets trapped in the depths—a chance regarded as remote.

Devil's Hole, nearly 200 feet deep, was created by a fault in limestone beds.

**ROSE AND Giancontieri**

were members of a party of four from Las Vegas, Nev., who went to the shaft Sunday on a diving expedition.

Bill Alter, 19, said he and the two others entered the water last midnight, wearing diving lungs and carrying underwater lights. When their air ran low, he and Rose surfaced, he said, but Giancontieri didn't make it.

He and Rose went down again, he said, and this time Rose didn't return. Alter went to Las Vegas with his brother, Jack, who had remained on the surface, to notify authorities.

# Search For 2 in Cavern Is Fruitless

DEATH VALLEY, Calif., June 23.—(AP)—Five divers climbed out of a vast water-filled cavern shortly before midnight last night after finding no trace of two missing youths.

Officials halted rescue attempts for David Rose, 20, and Paul Giancontieri, 19, brothers-in-law who vanished while skindiving Sunday night in Devil's Hole.

**AMONG THOSE** assembled outside the craggy entrance to the cavern were Rose's bride of two months, Paula, 20, and Giancontieri's mother. Paula is Giancontieri's sister.

Devil's Hole is administered by Death Valley National Mounument personnel but is actually a few miles inside Nevada.

Volunteer divers carrying air tanks on their backs dived to depths as far as 315 feet in four- and five-man teams. They found a flashlight tied to a rock, apparently as a marker.

**DEVIL'S HOLE** is shaped like an inverted funnel, its traplike chambers filled with water 91 degrees warm on the surface, and slightly warmer as it becomes deeper.

Officials said that the cavern will be closed to all divers and a steel fence will be built around the opening.

Prehistoric fish have been found there and only authorized explorers have been allowed to dive. The missing men did not have permission.

# Rabies Detected In Bats From Two Counties

OLYMPIA, June 17.—(AP)—The State Health Department today said that two bats from Asotin and Pierce Counties were infected with rabies, but no humans are known to have been bitten by them.

Dr. E. A. Ager, head of communicable-disease control, said anyone attacked or bitten by a bat should kill it and immediately notify his personal physician and local health department.

The two bats examined by the department laboratory last week were the first ones this year found to have the disease. But rabies has been found in bats in three of the past four years.

# Rabid Bat Killed In Castle Rock

CASTLE ROCK, Cowlitz County, June 26.—(AP)—A bat killed in daylight in front of a Castle Rock home was rabid, Dr. Ralph Gregg, district health officer, said yesterday.

The bat was killed by Jay Seals in the front yard of his home after he saw his 18-month-old son poking at it. There were no reports of anyone being bitten.



# Dramatic Rescue Saves Indiana Cave Explorer

Continued from Page B-1

of year to explore it. Local spelunkers know the spring runoff makes the cave twice as dangerous and ten times as uncomfortable.

Bill Isherwood, university graduate student and friend of three are experienced cave explorers.

## WET, COLD CAVE

"They've explored and mapped caves all over the U.S.," said Mr. Isherwood, "but the wet and the cold and the length of time they were down there just exhausted them."

Mr. Wood said they first knew of the trouble when Mr. Dowling began slowing down and complaining of trouble with his legs.

"It was cold down there—about 40 degrees," said Mr. Wood, "and the water kept dripping all the time. This is the toughest cave we've ever encountered."

BASE CAMP WAS SET UP  
W...IN A MILE OF THE

CAVE ENTRANCE AND Sgt. Keith Iba, in charge of the sheriff's mountain climbers, led a group of experienced men in bringing the exhausted man down the mountain.

## TO BASE CAMP

Four-wheel drive vehicles could be driven all the way up to the base camp.

Mr. Dowling was brought down in the bed of a jeep pickup truck attended by Dr. Gary Carlson of the sheriff's search and rescue patrol who went into the cave after his patient.

"I can see hiking and climbing outdoors," said Dave Ellsworth, member of the Alpine Climbing Club and one of the rescuers. "But I would just as soon not go down in a hole like that again."

Mr. Ellsworth said the constantly dripping icy water and the darkness made the rescue a "terrifying and exhausting operation."

He said one of several chimneys the rescuers had to climb bracing their backs against one

side and their feet against another was 30 feet deep.

"There were a lot of vertical falls, steep ledges and slippery shelves," said Mr. Ellsworth. "I don't see how we got him out."

At St. Mark's Hospital Mr. Dowling was turned over to the care of Dr. Robert M. Dalrymple, Dr. Dalrymple, an internist, said he will conduct tests to determine whether there were internal injuries.

"In the meantime, his condition is critical," said Dr. Dalrymple. "He's suffering from shock, exposure and exhaustion."

## World in 1964

All the news, styles and trends of 1964 are reviewed in stories and pictures in the outstanding publication, "The World in 1964—History As We Lived It." To obtain a copy of this 288-page, hard-cover volume, send \$3.35 to "Yearbook," Deseret News, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110.

"We took every reasonable precaution. I just wasn't in the sort of shape a cave like this demands."

The youth's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Dowling, flew into Salt Lake City at noon Tuesday. They said they were "very encouraged" at their son's condition after visiting with him in the afternoon.

"Mom doesn't understand the appeal of cave exploring," the young spelunker said. "I guess not many others do, either."

"You crawl into holes in the ground—get all muddy—wiggle through tunnels so tight you can't breathe—it's a lot of work and you get all grubby."

"Still, when you get into a passage where no one's ever been before, it's a real thrill."

Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Dowling expressed praise for the efforts of the sheriff's search and rescue crews.

"I understand these men are all volunteers," said Mrs. Dowling, "and I'm sure we owe our son's life to the efforts of these fine men."

Dr. Gary Carlson, a member of the search and rescue unit, received special praise.

"It was very brave of Dr. Carlson to go down into the cave the way he did," Mrs. Dowling said, "and Jim's doctor tells us it was the treatment Dr. Carlson gave him on the scene that really made the difference."

# Hiker Soured On Neff's Cave

By CHARLES HAYWARD  
Deseret News Staff Writer

The cave explorer who was rescued after 36 hours in the deepest vertical cave in North America said Tuesday the experience hasn't soured him on spelunking.

"It has soured me on the deepest cave in North America, though," admitted 24-year-old Jim Dowling, Connersville, Ind. The graduate student from the University of California is "improving satisfactorily but still critical" at St. Mark's Hospital after his end ordeal.

"I'll stick to more modest endeavors from now on, I guess," he said.

"I've been in some pretty deep caves, but this was the deepest and I just wasn't in shape for it," he explained,

## DESERET NEWS

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Wednesday, June 2, 1965

B1

"The last thing I remember I was sitting there taking a little rest and I don't remember anything else until I woke up in the hospital."

Mr. Dowling became exhausted while he and two companions, John Wood, 23, and Paul Gerhard, 22, both of Bladensburg, Md., were climbing a 100-foot cliff at the 400-foot level of the cave. He had hung in his climbing harness eight hours until search

and rescue units could reach him.

Young Dowling said the expedition into the 1,170-foot deep cave in Neff's Canyon was his first underground since last summer when he explored caves in Virginia and Alabama.

The three were trying to get to the bottom and were not on a mapping trip as first reported.

He said the Neff cave is a

"real climber's cave." "There really isn't much in the way of rock formations. It isn't a sight-seeing cave."

"It's the sort of cave you go into to see if you can go to the bottom and come back out again."

"I hope that doesn't make us sound like a bunch of irresponsible nuts who jump down into caves, trusting to luck to get us back out again," he hastened to add.

# Spelunker 'Critical' After Cave Rescue

By CHARLES HAYWARD  
Deseret News Staff Writer

**HOLLADAY**—One of the deepest vertical caves in North America lured three amateur spelunkers to Utah over the weekend and held one of them trapped 600 feet beneath the ground for 36 hours.

Salt Lake County search and rescue crews, Utah mountain climbers and local spelunkers (cave explorers), spent nearly six hours Monday night bringing exhausted, 23-year-old Jim Dowling, Connersville, Ind., to the surface of the cave in Neff's Canyon, three miles above Olympus Cove.

Mr. Dowling, who dangled in his harness below a ledge for eight hours before the other two members of the exploring party — John Wood, 23, and Paul Gerhard, 22, both of Bladensburg, Md.—could reach him and lower him to another ledge, was unconscious and exhausted on his exit from the cave.

## CRITICAL CONDITION

He was taken to St. Mark's Hospital by ambulance. Tuesday he was reported in critical condition from exposure and exhaustion.

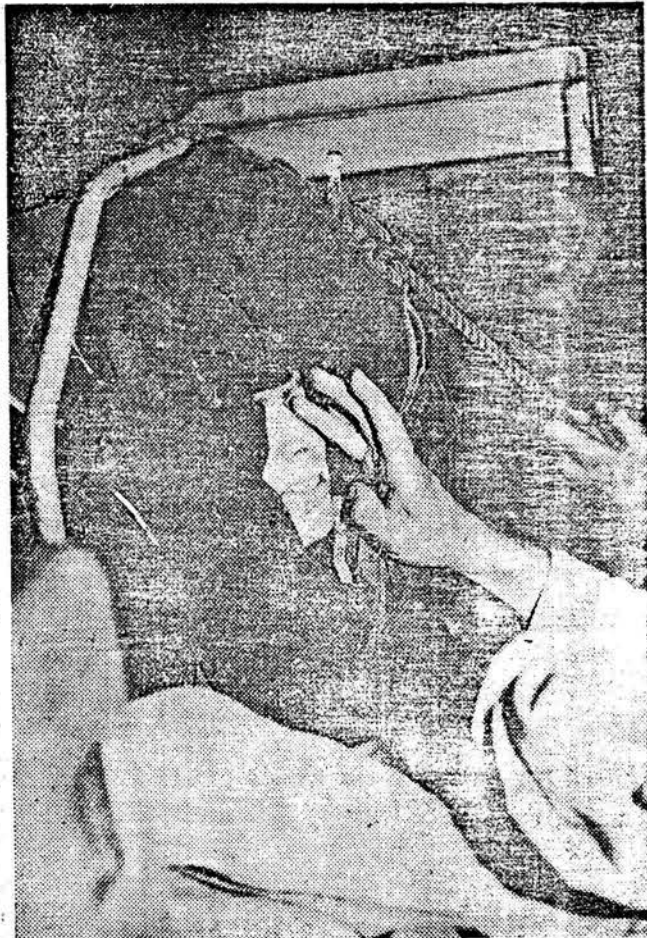
Rescuers inched into the cave, put dry clothes on the exhausted man, wrapped him in a down-filled sleeping bag and tugged him out of the treacherous passageway—foot by foot.

Alexis Kelner, one of the first to reach Mr. Dowling, said he was on a platform slightly above the "great pit"—the deepest vertical drop in the cave.

He said a doctor arrived a few minutes later and administered a tranquilizer which made it easier to maneuver the victim through the narrow passageways which are lined with sharp bits of shale and kept tearing the sleeping bag.

## 40 DEPUTIES

Sgt. Elmer T. Leake, who directed the rescue efforts of about 40 Salt Lake County sheriff's deputies and search and rescue patrol members, said the cave, mapping and photographing the entire route, and was on the way out when Mr. Dowling became exhausted near the top of a sheer ledge.



Rescuer rubs face of unconscious James Dowling as he is brought out after ordeal in Neff's Cave.

He dangled there in his harness for eight hours before his companions worked their way down to him and lowered him to another ledge. They left him tied by rope and chest strop and went for help.

## BACKUP CREW

A backup crew of three University of Utah students, Donald Sims, Edward Anderson and LaVell Burnham, was at the entrance of the cave Monday when the two emerged.

The Utah cave explorers attempted a rescue but failed, and started down the mountain about 1 p.m. Monday for help.

It was originally estimated the rescue would take from 24 to 40 hours due to the dangerous faults and chimneys, the "slimy wetness" of the cave and the fact Mr. Dowling was uncon-

scious and unable to help.

"It's a grungie (spelunker for dank, dark and miserable) cave," said LaVell Burnham who spent about six hours crouched beside the trapped explorer.

"They picked the wrong time

See **DRAMATICS** on Page B-11

## Chamber Deep In Neff Cave

Neff's Cave, scene of a dramatic rescue operation Monday night, is a deep, humid chamber which has been conquered frequently by experienced Salt Lake mountain climbers.

Don Sims, Dale Green and Alexis Kelner, who participated in the rescue of James Dowling, have gone to the bottom of the 1,170 foot cave at least four times each in recent years.

Sims, described by his fellow climbers as strong and agile, once descended to the bottom of the cave and returned to the surface in 30 minutes.

The cave was named for John Neff, who built the first flour mill in Utah in 1848. It was built just a few miles from the cave site.

Exact date the cave was discovered is not known, but it was "rediscovered" March 23, 1950 by two youths hiking in the area.

The youngsters descended to the base of the "Great Pit"—about a third of the way down, but couldn't ascend on their own. They were rescued by sheriff's officers.

On Oct. 25, 1953, members of the Wasatch Mountain Club of Salt Lake reached the bottom of the cave. A few days earlier, a photographic team from Life magazine spent 33 hours in the cave.

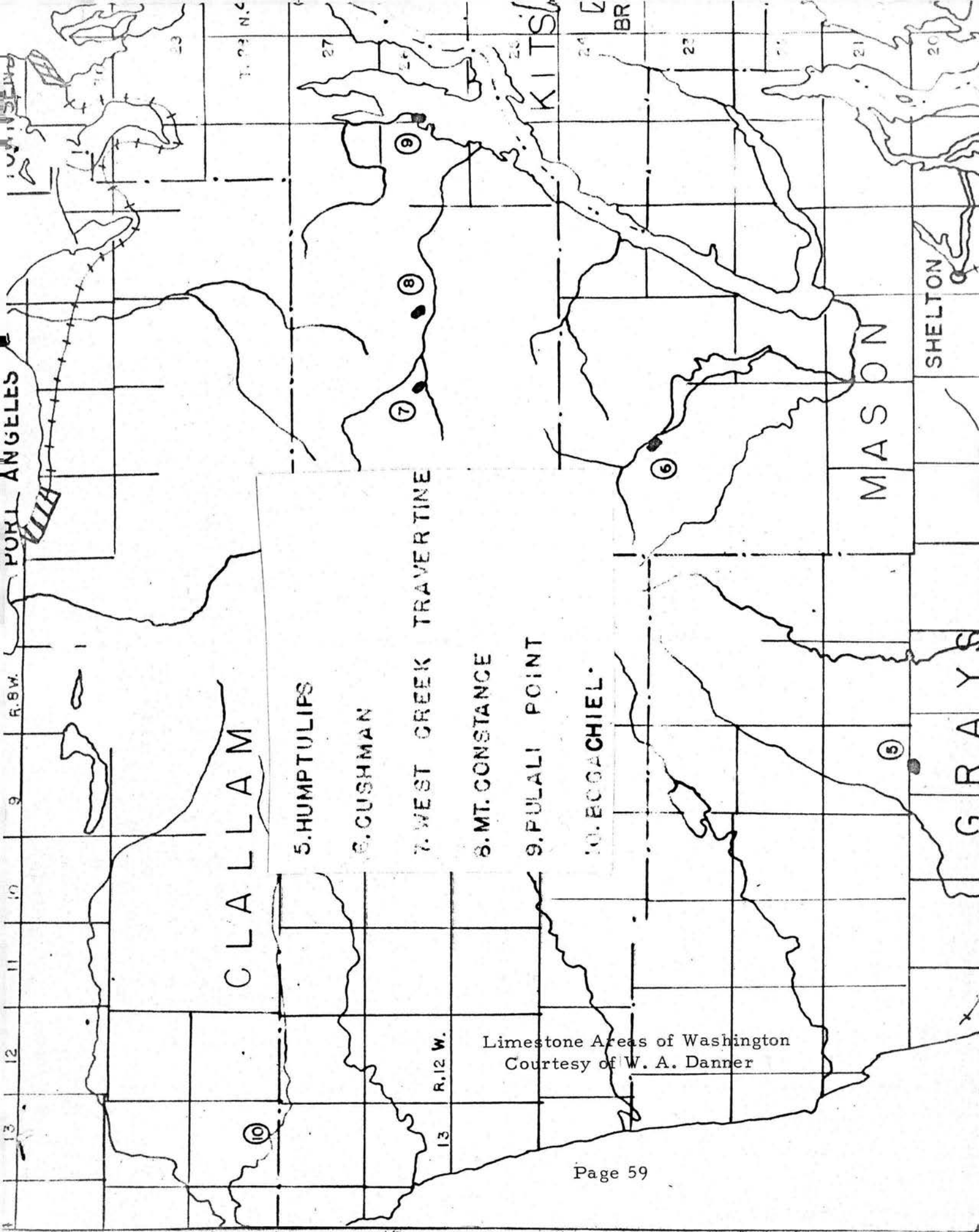
A party of six that included Green and Kelner mapped the cave in 1956 and established its depth at 1,186—110 feet deeper than New Mexico's Carlsbad Caverns.

However, Green, unsatisfied with his first survey, made a second in 1960 and corrected the depth to 1,170.

DESERET NEWS

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH





CLALLAM

5. HUMPTULIPS

6. CUSHMAN

7. WEST CREEK TRAVERTINE

8. MT. CONSTANCE

9. PULALI POINT

10. BOGACHIEL

Limestone Areas of Washington  
 Courtesy of W. A. Danner

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