THE CASCADE CAVER
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Seattle Washington

RECENT DISCOVERIES IN DYNAMITED CAVE
BY Steve Knutson

(The Oregon Grotto has done extensive exploration in Dynamited Cave this summer - and has become acutelyaware of unauthorized explorers also. The tantalizing rock at the lowest, farthest point in the cave was finally picked out of the way, but only 30 feet more cave was found there. The previously unreached upper level passage beyond the 40 foot pit was entered and found to extend to the Big Room beyond the 50 foot pit. The big discovery, however, was elsewhere:)

At a point past the Big Room and just before descending a long breakdown slope to the top of the drop into the lowest level (waterfall passage), an upper level takes off - actually it is the continuation of the level used to leave the Big Room for the end of the cave which is reached via lower levels.

This level is too high to reach with climbing poles and presented the last reasonably accessible virgin lead in the cave. The opening was found accessible by climbing the left-hand passage wall (about 25 feet) and traversing about 40 to 50 feet. The whole bit is very loose and the procedure had to be reversed coming back as a rappel directly over the lip of the opening appeared to offer too much danger of rockfall. Two pitons were left in place on the traverse (the only good cracks) and a long loop of sling around a projection at the top of the 25' portion.

The passage thus attained turned out to be a major discovery. Only 500 to 1000 feet more cave, but it reveals that the cave is still going strong at about the point of the end of the waterfall passage below.

Also we didn't come to the end, but were stopped when the passage opened into the "Little Big Room" where three levels have broken through to form a room not much smaller than the Big Room. There we could get from our passage down to the floor of the level below (which was blocked in both directions after only a short distance - lava seal up-cave and massive breakdown going onward.) Another level could be seen at the highest part of the room.

Our passage continued from the far side of the room and an easy traverse on ledges with exposure will provide access - however we had no equipment left. We are going back next weekend to push on.

More caves rumored near Riggins, Idaho

(1) about 1 mile south of the Slate Creek Ranger Station, in section 1, T26N, R1E, between Riggins and Whitebird; (2) on the east side of the Little Salmon River about 1 mile south of the confluence of Rapid River south of Riggins, in sec. 5. T23N, R1E; (3) north of Kirkwood Creek on the line between sec. 28 and 29, T26N, R1W. Caves are also visible east of the highway at the bottom of the Whitebird Hill. Some sort of rigging is visible in the mouth of one. Has anyone any information on any of these?

Vulcanospeleological abstract - by Bill Halliday

Hodge, Edwin T. 1925. Mount Multnomah; an ancient ancestor of the Three Sisters. Univ. of Oregon, 158 pp.

This is a significant pioneer report even though some of his concepts today do not appear applicable to major lava tube areas. The portion following page 45 is most important to the vulcanospeleologist. This pertains to the McKenzie lava field and Belknap cone. The latter crater formed the center of a "flood area" of lava flows. It emitted lava from a cinder cone: Belknap Crater. Little Belknap is entirely lava. Individual lava streams were perhaps 200 feet wide and 30 to 50 feet high. They flowed 6 to 13 miles. One quotation:

"Lava streams - like a thick sirup and unlike water - do not have a level surface. Along the sides of such slowly moving streams rock splatters out and immediately freezes, and there, along their edges, a rampart is built of frozen material. This lateral crust grew until finally a solid crust was formed on top. This crust formed a continuous coating over the lava particularly close to the volcano. Through this crust thelater rock issuing frmm the volcano flowed as water might flow through a conduit. If the amount of lava issuing was not sufficient to fill up the entire valley, or if the crust was thick enough to prevent the lava beneath from freezing, then the lava flowed out from this conduit and left it standing alone. Such arches of lava were unable to support their own weight, and collapsed.. No visitor to this region should fail to climb to the top of Little Belknap and see for himself the stalactites, the stalagmites, the spatter cones, the conduits through which the lava poured, and other details of this marvelous region...."

Bill Halliday reports a fine trip to three caves near Victoria, B.C. and to the Skutz Falls group farther up Vancouver Island. A recently-dried-up siphon permitted access to a crawlway in white marble beyond which is a splendid dome-pit about 15 feet in diameter and at least 30 feet deep and a lead continuing - but the group had no ropes along since this Main Skutz Falls Cave wasn't supposed to need any. The party had quite a time with agravel slope that kept filling up a tight hole at the bottom of the dry siphon.

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The big news in September, of course, was Papoose Cave, the target of our Labor Day trip jointly with the Great Basin Grotto of Reno and the new Gem State Grotto which sent in its charter application September 13, 1966. But nobody has sent in atrip report. So we'll simply say that the Satori Passage was mapped and the connection made between the two entrances just about as predicted. We do have three short items from Bill Halliday on the cave:

Fluorescein testing at Papoose Cave, Idaho.

On Sept. 4, 1966, fluorescein dye introduced into the stream at the bottom of the 64-foot pit inside the Upper Entrance guided an ascending group to meet the descending pair not far below the pit.

Another packet of dye was dropped in the creek just outside the main entrance which it passes. This water goes underground a few hundred feet downstream. It is suspected that this water enters the cave but this is not verified as yet.

A small party went by jeep to a spring shown on the USGS Kessler Creek Quadrangle near the west central edge of section 36, on the far side of the ridge, and spring-sat til dark. No dye appeared.

However, during the jaunt, they talked with ranch owner Bill DeVeny who became quite interested in the project and promised to watch for green water.

Subsequently he notified the grottos that the dye appeared from a resurgence in the bed of Shingle Creek, about ½ mile farther south, at 7 AM on Septmber 7, 1966.

The dye therefore travelled a minimum distance of about 10,000 feet, descending about 2,100 feet in about 2 days, 20 hours.

It is anticipated that the next test will be to determine which packet of dye was responsible.

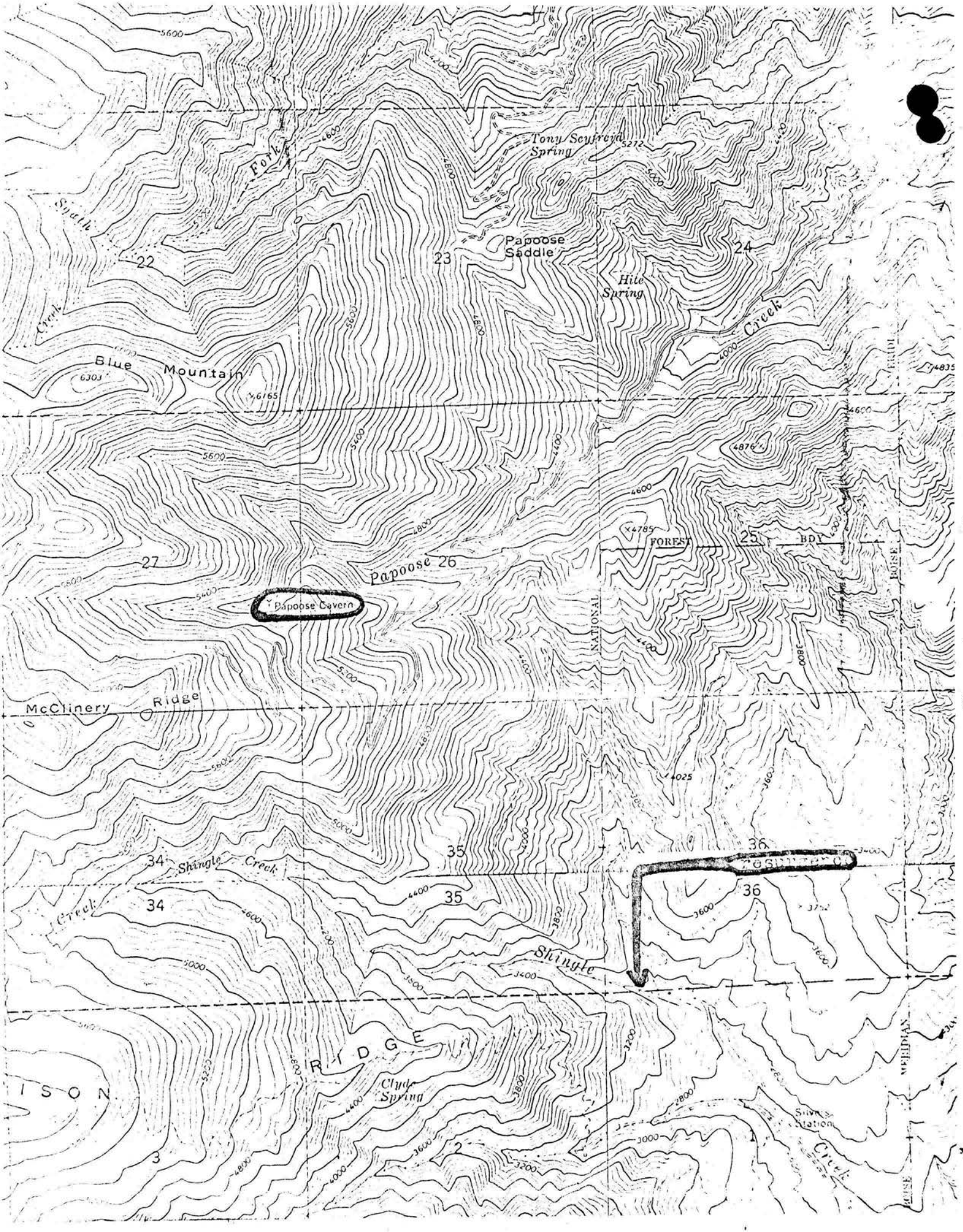
Radiocommunications at Papoose Cave

Radiocommunications have not yet been attempted in Papoose Cave, but the following surface information may be of use, especially if a rescue is ever neccssary.

On 9-4-66, tests were made with Jerry Frahm's 6-transistor, 2-diode 100 milliwatt walkie-talkies. One unit was in the semi-enclosed part of the parking area above the cave. Another was about 100 yards north in the remoter part of the camping area.

A third unit was used for testing at various points along the trail to the cave. Reception was good as far as the point of steepening of the trail; between that point and the canyon rim it was usually adequate.

Immediately on entering the canyon, reception became unintelligible. However, upon entering the large shelter cave at the base of the cliff reception began to improve again and was excellent at the point beneath the overhang lip on the trail from the shelter to Papoose Cave. All reception was lost a few feet farther down the trail. The shelter is somewhat hemi-parabolic in section, but who cares about the theory?


Tony Scurfield Spring
Papoose Saddle
Hite Spring
Blue Mountain
Papoose Cavern
Papoose
McClinery Ridge
Shingle Creek
Shingle
Clyde Spring
RIDGE
NATIONAL FOREST BDY
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An oddity from papoose Cave

The white dike forming a pool below the 50-foot pit near the bottom of Papoose Cave has been indentified by the Washington Division of Mines and Geology as andesine plagioclase with quartz and a little chalcedony - a real oddity for a "limestone cave". Score another point for Don Dilley for bringing out a sample despite his unplanned swim.

Excitement in the Nakimu Cave party

A letter from Derek Ford indicates that the Seattle trip was called off due to a fire which destroyed an expedition tent, half of July's work and $2,500 worth of equipment. Downstream in the main cave, they only advanced 40 feet but plan to return in February when stream flow should be almost nil. In high level leads, they pushed the total depth (height?) of the cave over 1,000 feet, and total passage length toabout 12,500 feet. In another area a few miles away they found a whirlpool lake 100 feet wide at the foot of a glacier. Fluoresocin came out of a short cave 1,570 feet lower and 1½ mile distant - 55 minutes later!

Mount Adams area trips of late September
by Bill Halliday

For the first time in a long time, the grotto got together with members of the Oregon Grotto Sept. 24-25 and Sept. 30-Oct. 1. The result was most delightful. So many people were going in so many caves at so many different times I'm not sure I got everyone listed, but on the first trip Charlie and Jo Larson, Clayton and David Smith came from Vancouver; Elmon Morrison from Portland, Steve Knutson, Mike Templeton and Don Housley from Corvallis, Jerry Frahm, Bob Brown, Mike Lockhart, Ross and myself from Seattle. Ross and I stopped at Slime Cave on the way down; I'd forgotten what a nice cave it is andwill have to return to photograph the wavy floor and red siliceous flowstone Others were in Dynamited Cave; they'll have to write their own report. Base camp was the community campground in Trout Lake- there we explored the two little caves in the campground where Ross fits better than I do A grylloblattid was collected in Outhouse Cave; first I know about in the Mt. Adams area.

Soon the others were pouring in. Bob Brown showed us the entrance of Pillar of Fire Cave which he'd previously visited with Don Dilley, and we revisited the entrance of Snowpatch Cave which is probably also David's Den. Apparently it's been discovered independently four times, perhaps more. There are two small caves at the other end of the sink; what about calling it the Snowpatch system, including David's Den, Doorframe Cave and one unnamed?

Charlie and Eldon then showed us the entrances of the newly-located Ditch Caves, west of Dynamited and Big Caves and south of the Goose Lake road. After dinner we strolled through the tourist end of New Cave.

Sunday morning work started in ernest. Snowpatch was thoroughly photographed (pardon me, David's Den), and Doorframe and its unnamed neighbor mapped. These small caves - 46 and 92 feet lon respectively - are at the west end of the 110' Snowpatch sink. David's Den was pleasant once past the extensive breakdown in the outer half of the cave. It ends by a lava seal at a turn to the north, away from the Pillar of Fire system. The area of the curve has interesting features including both glaze and silica dripstone stalactites, some curious "pancake" features that look like stalagmites in the gutter but may be squeeze-ups, ceiling fragments in the flow floor, nice congealed ripples at the curve and some curious horizontal ceiling lines at the curve. Roots penetrate the roof at several points. A little red flowstone is present. A moderate biota was noted, including a plusiocampa near the rear of the cave. Doorframe Cave is almost entirely breakdown-determined though a little gla glaze is apparent. Much wood has been brought into this little cave for no apparent reason. The unnamed larger cave nearby is hardly more interesting.

Pillar of Fire Cave was then photographed and explored distally; a real gem. A curious bug was collected here, looking like a tiny scorpion with ruby-red claws and carapace. For all I know, it IS a tiny scorpion with ruby-red claws and carapace. As usual, time ran out and we headed home, this time via Portland and the Columbia River Gorge - elapsed time 4 hours 50 minutes with two stops.

A week later, we were back with the Larsons, Francis Kies and ____Smith. I met the latter group at the Ditch Caves which we mapped, admiring t' two large rooms and regretting the lack of leads onward. Jerry Frahm and his father headed for Dynamited Cave - Mr. Frahm will never live down being unable to fit through the entrance! So they strolled through New Cave as a poor substitute and next morning joined me in mapping Pillar of Fire Cave. The Oregon group had to go home to make more ladders for their next week's Dynamited trip. Time ran out as always; this time we returned via Randle; scenery incredible with red leaves and crystal-clear air and fresh snow on Mt. Adams, but the road is currently a bulldozer's playground and not recommended. Even so, with a dozen stops for phtography, driving time was 5:35. Trip down via Cougar, 4:35 with a breakfast stop. Bulldozers are playing on that road also, just west of The Huckleberry Fields, for about 1 mile.

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COMING EVENTS: (we're caught up!)

Monthly grotto meeting Monday November 14, 8 PM at Dr. Halliday's, 1117 36th Ave. E. at Madison St., Seattle.

1966 progress in Cave Ridge
by Verne Frese

7-10-66: Newton Cave trip (Dave Mischke and myself). We found the cave to bottom out after an 80' pit which we named Blind Man's Blunder because waterfalls put out both our lamps. Lots of water but it seems like much less water there than at the 40' pit. Water soaks into the floor of a crevice indicating more cave below.

7-24-66: Danger Cave trip (same team with Dennis Frese). Seemed much less dangerous than before. Perhaps most of the loose rocks have been knocked over the edge of the pit so that there are fewer left to fall.

8-28-66: Newton Cave plus surface work (Dave Mischke, Rob Stitt and myself, plus Ted Lloyd and Mike Marshall who didn't go to the bottom of Newton Cave). We mapped in Newton from the bottom of the 83' pit to the bottom of the 40' pit (total depth around 500') and found an unmapped passage in the upper area. On the surface we ran a traverse from Hellhole to Danger Cave.

9-10-66: Newton Cave plus surface work (Dave Mischke, Rob Stitt, Cathy Mischke, Marilyn Frese and myself). We mapped the new passage in Newton and Rob Stitt discovered a new cave while picking up spilled huckleberries, a coupla hundred feet south and slightly east of Red Cave on the hillside. It is small, not over 20' long and 10' deep. It looks like "Blind Man's Blunder" in Newton Cave might be down almost to the lake at the east end of the hanging valley. (Also we checked out Lookout Cave)

10-1-66: Newton Cave plus surface work (Dave Mischke, Bob Stewart Ferguson and myself). Besides a surface survey with Brunton and range-finder, we explored in Newton Cave. We discovered a new passage over a shelf at the top of a chimney in the upper portion of the cave. It extends upward 50' or more in two branches. Also we partly explored a side passage in area of Virgin Passage, and explored the crevice at the bottom of Blind Man's Blunder about 60' southwest and downward about another 20'. It continues but is narrow and dangerous. There was enough water coming over Blind Man's Blunder to get real wet. We came down wet, cold and in the dark.

NEXT MONTH: reports on some Vancouver Island work.

(cribbed from the Oregon Speleograph, V. 2 #5, May 1966)

DAVID'S DEN or Snowpatch Cave (Sawmill Cave), Wash.
by George Long

Location: ½ mile south of the sawmill on the main highway entering Trout Lake, Wash. Go 1/8 mile E of the main road. You will run into three sinkholes running NW to SW in lightly forested area. The third sinkhole to the SW contains the main entrance to the cave.

Tape and compass survey by George Long, Jim Wilcox & Tom Wilcox.

Description: Snowpatch Cave is a typical Mt. Adams lava cave. That is, there is much breakdown throughout the first two-thirds.

The cave has two openings. The main entrance is an overhanging shelf in a sinkhole, measuring about 4' high and 18 feet wide. The second entrance measures two feet wide and 1½ feet high. The first entrance is by far the best way into the cave. The second one is a crawlway, and you will have to pass under some large, loose rocks.

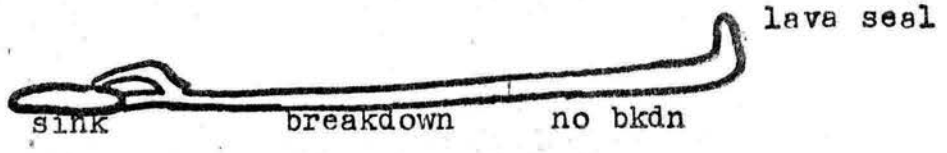
I have been in the cave twice this winter, and each time the first one-hundred feet or so was covered with quite a bit of ice. On the floor can be seen large icicles which make the first 100 feet hazardous travelling. I doubt, though, that there will be any ice left in the summer.

After you reach the angled T where the tube separates and the main tunnel goes toward the SW from the entrance and for about 750 feet, there is heavy breakdown and the floor can hardly be seen. All at once, the breakdown stops and the cave opens up into a large semi-circular tunnel tuntil it ends at about 400 feet. The floor is rough lava, but clear of breakdown.

The average height is about 7', and the width is about 17' throughout the cave. The tube finally ends in a lava seal, where the floor meets the ceiling. The cave has a length of about 1,182 feet, including the side passage.

The cave is a small one, but interesting, and different from most of the caves in that area. It is located in the valley floor SW of Trout Lake about 3 miles, and has great possibilities for further cave exploration. The cave is worth going through, and only takes 30 to 45 minutes.

sketch- not to scale



DITCH CAVES, SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section 5, T5N, R11E, Willard Quadrangle. Elevation about 3270 feet.

This complex of two spacious but short caves and two large sinks is the westernmost currently known in the Mount Adams cave area. It is located about 1/3 mile northwest of Big Cave and southsouthwest of Dynamited Cave. There has been some speculation that the complex may represent a collapse-isolated portion of Dynamited Cave but current preliminary maps of the latter indicate a course several hundred feet farther east. Further mapping for verification is anticipated.

The northern sink is roughly circular; about 100 feet in diameter and about 20 feet deep. From its northern alcove two crawlways in breakdown lead to a sloping breakdown chamber about 125 feet long and 50 feet wide. From this point a climb over a breakdown pile leads to a smaller chamber to the northeast, also sloping downward to a narrow lava floor which terminates in a lava seal in a low extension. The flow features are rather indistinct but suggest flow out of the cavern at this point. This is the only original tube feature exposed in this system.

The upper end of the larger sink, or trench, is about 150 feet southeast of the sink just described. About 300 feet long, its southern portion is about 100 feet wide and 30 feet deep. The northern end is shallower and narrower; it appears to curve somewhat northeast and at its northeast end is a shallow breakdown grotto.

At the south end of this trench, a wide but hidden alcove is the antechamber of the larger cave of this system. A short descent through breakdown followed by a low horizontal route leads into the Rain Room, about 80 feet long and 40 feet wide. Beyond, a short descent extends to two smaller ascending chambers in breakdown. At the top of the slope, a small hole opens into the largest room in the cave, about 100 feet long and 60 feet wide, and notable for its colorful red rock. A large pad of lava is in the process of shelving breakdown over the entrance of this room. Beyond, a small hole permits crawling downward and onward into a maze of breakdown for only afew dozen feet.

These caves may have been discovered during the logging of the area some years ago, but are not known to have been entered until found by the Oregon Grotto in 1966 while searching for an extension of Dynamited Cave. The northern cave was termed "Slide Cave" because of the difficult slide into the chosen orifice (once inside an easier route was found); the southern was dubbed "Firecracker Cave".

The volume of the system as a whole strongly suggests that the segment where a lava floor is visible is only an inconsequential segment -perhaps an effluent or rudimentary upper level - and exploration to date may not even have penetrated to the original roof of the underlying main tube. Correlation with nearby Dynamited and Big Caves appears extremely important.

Total length of the complex is about 900 feet; that of Slide Cave is 225feet; that of Firecracker Cave is 315 feet. (W.R.H.)

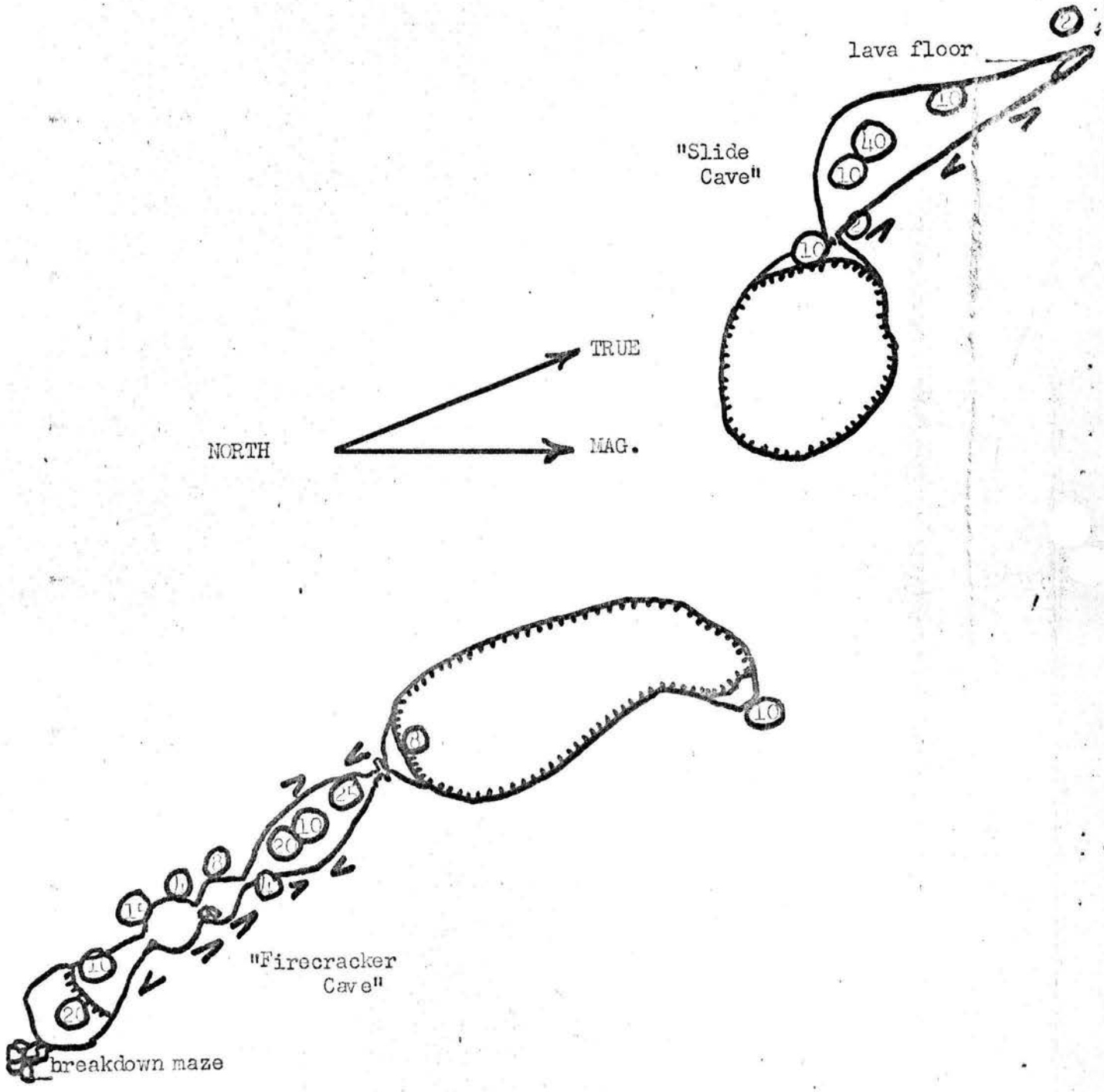
DITCH CAVES, SKAMANIA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

compass and tape survey 10-2-66 (uncorrected)

Scale: 1 inch equals 100 feet

0 50 100 200

feet



THIS IS ONLY ONE OF THE ARIZONA CAVES WHICH WOULD BE DESTROYE BY THE NEWLY PROPOSED COLORADO RIVER POWER DAMS. BE READY TO WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT. WI I LET YOU KNOW WHEN, IF YOU LIVE IN WASHINGTON STATE.

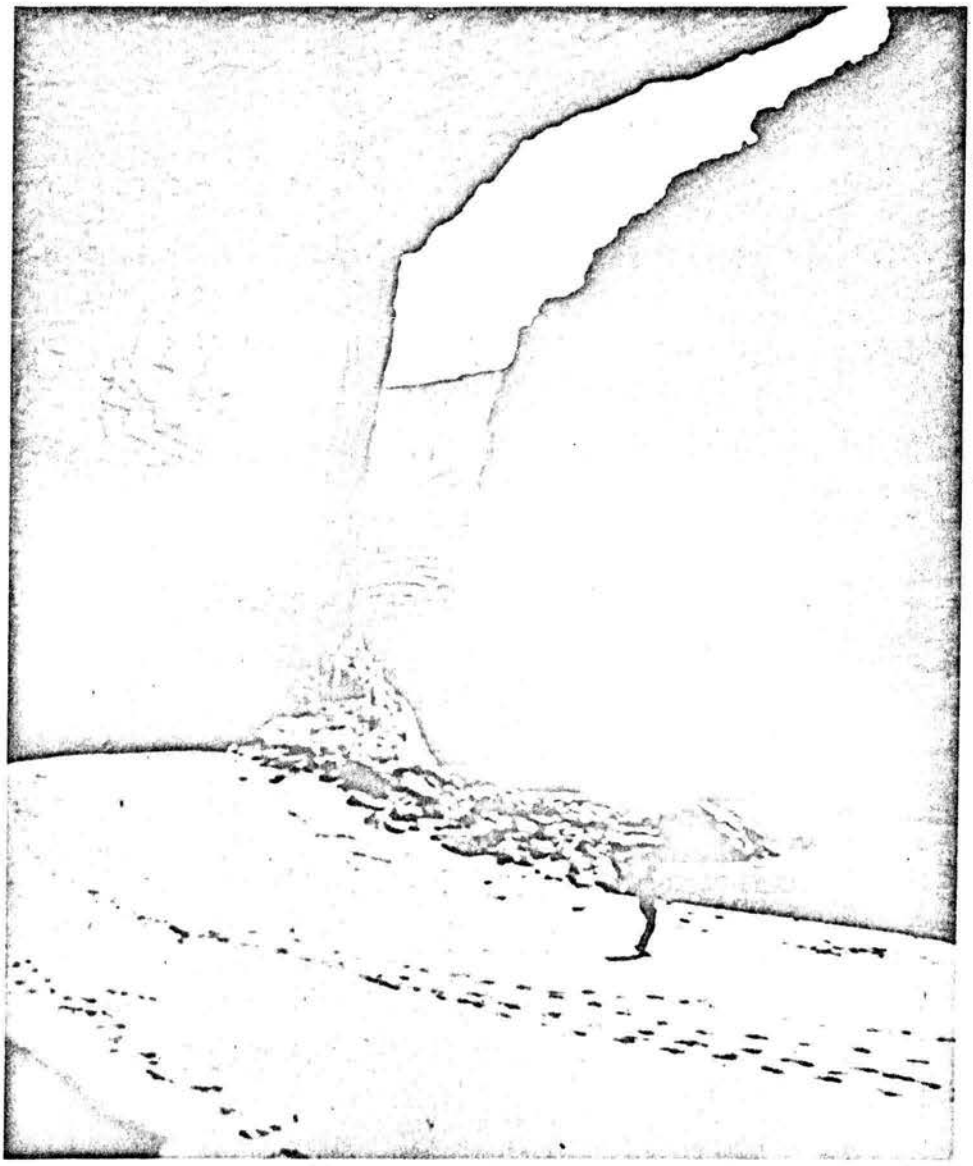
VOLUME 4, NUMBER 6
JULY 18, 1966

FOUNDED IN 1892

SIERRA CLUB

Mills Tower, San Francisco 4

REDWALL CAVERN, THREATENED BY MARBLE GORGE DAM **Photo By PHILIP HYDE**



America's most isolated Cave?
by Bill Halliday

The text of the Aiken Lake memoir of the Geological Survey of Canada mentio a limestone cavern in that "map-area", and its sinkhole entrance is shown on the accompanying map, together with at least one other nearby sinkhole. Probably no one but the reporting geologists have been into the cave. To reach the area, one travels by horse or paddles about 80 miles down the Parsnip River to McLeod Lake to Finley Forks (or 50 miles UP the Peade River from Gold Bar to the same point), thence up the Finley and Ingenika Rivers god only knows how many miles before bushwhacking across country a few miles. Thismay be Americas most isolated cave; whoever reports on it in detail first is entitled to crow a bit. (and waiting for the proposed reservoir and using a motor boat is cheating)

The text is as follows:

"Sinkholes were observed in the limestone at the north end of Butler Range and on Lookout Mountain. The largest explored sinkhole, whose mouth is near the summit of Lookout Hill, leads to a series of small caverns and tortuous passages. The passages follow both joint systems and bedding planes".

- Roots, E.F. 1954. Geology and mineral deposits of Aiken Lake Map-area, B.C. Geol. Surv. of Canada Memoir 274, p. 62.