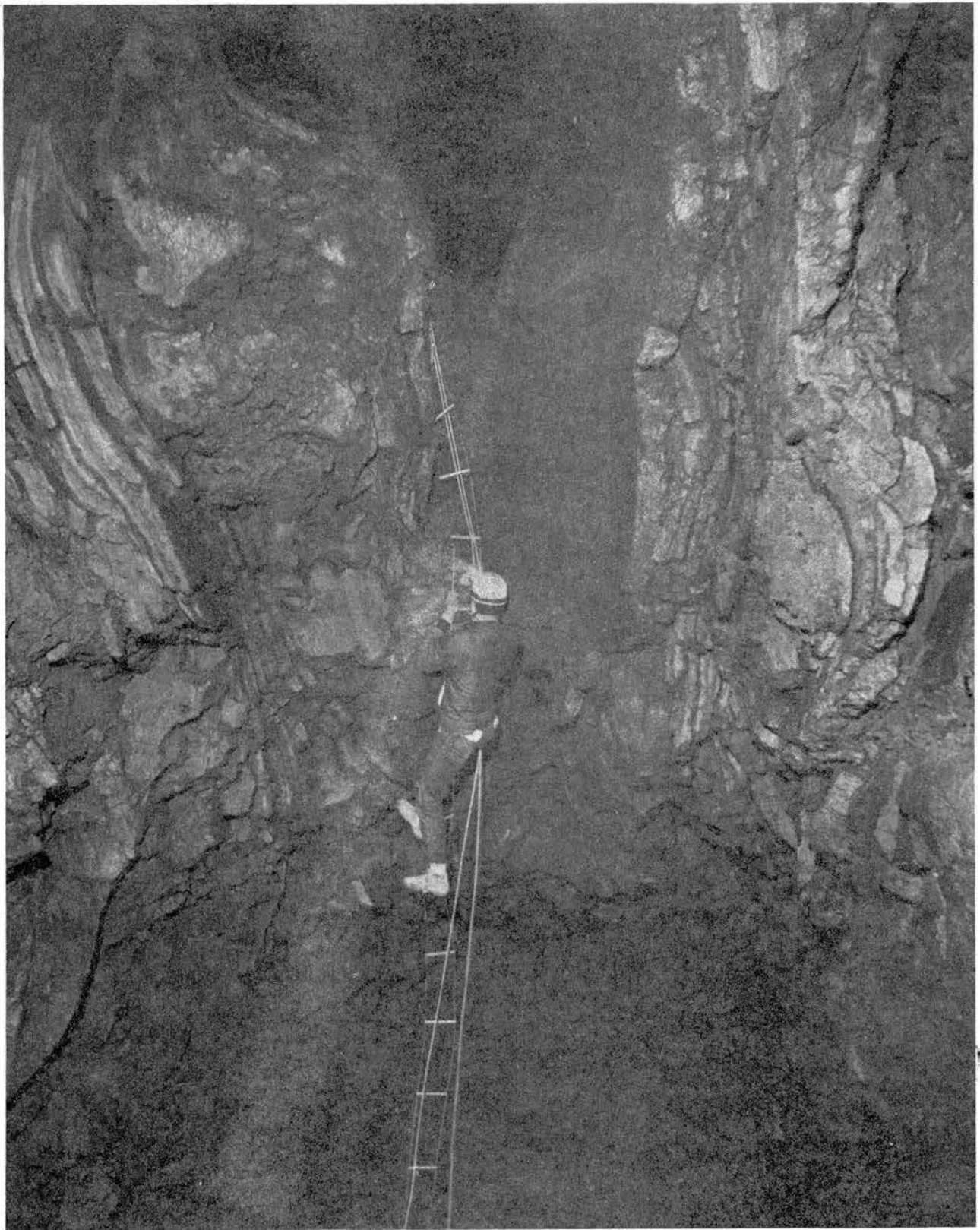


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THE CASCADE CAVER
Volume V Number 12
December 1966
Official publication of the
CASCADE GROTTO N.S.S.
Seattle Washington

COMING EVENTS:

December 12, 8 PM Regular meeting at Dr. Halliday's, 1117 36th Ave. E.
Seattle, 36th at East Madison.

New Year's weekend: possible Vancouver Island trip.

January meeting: election of 1967 officers.

MERRY CHRISTMAS - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Cover photo: Steve Knutson in Dynamited Cave, by Charlie and Jo Larson

VANCOUVER ISLAND SCOUTING TRIP - August 6-7, 1966 - W.R.H.

Personnel: Dennis and Sue Richards, Ken Sinkiewicz, Jim Freeman, Joan Crysedale,
Jerry Haddon (Aug. 6 only) and Leigh Hamber (part of Aug. 6 only)

On Saturday, three limestone caves were visited in the western suburbs of Victoria:
Hagar's Cave, Hagar's Water Cave and Florence Lake Cave. Good preliminary reports
on these have been prepared by Clarence Hronek and are in the W.S.S. file.

Hagar's and Hagar's Water caves are located a few feet below the surface of a
low rounded, deeply mantled outcrop of impure, metamorphosed limestone (? a roche
moutonnée) Possibly less than 100 feet apart underground, they may be connected
by sediment-filled passages. Because of dense vegetation, they are virtually un-
known to the public. Excavation by Dennis Richards opened a new 30-foot passage on this
trip.

Hagar's Cave consists of about 200 feet of irregularly constricted sinuous passage
between a roadside and a sink entrance, with short side passages up to about 30
feet long. It contains a profuse biota, including large crickets, moths, insects
snails and other forms. A beetle was collected for identification. Vermiculatations
are notable. Minor boxwork has formed, but most of the impurities exposed by
differential solution are amorphous rather than veins. Many roots are present;
moonmilk is fairly common in the cave and a little has formed on roots. Multiple
water levels have left solution levels. A little calcite is present, with some
re-solution. Emergence from the rear entrance is an interesting experience.
The overall pattern of the cave is that of a small but integrated subwatertable
throughway with minimal water table and vadose solution enlargement after drainage
which, incidentally, is not yet complete. The moonmilk area contains fine phreatic
features.

The Skutz Falls cave area, visited on 8-7-66, is unlike any lowland cave area I have visited on the island. It is located on the edge of a steep-walled canyon of a creek tributary to the Cowichan River, in the transition area between an extensive erosion surface at an elevation of about 1750-1800 feet and the steep-walled inner gorge of the canyon. View across the canyon suggests additional limestone WNW on the other side of the canyon; one apparent cave entrance can be seen. Both sides of the canyon were clear-cut of their dense forest cover about ten years ago. The canyon is about 1,000 feet deep at the cave area. The surface in the cave area proper has a relatively gentle slope. Karrenfelder patches are rendered irregular by a rather thin soil mantle. Lapiés is marked in only a few locations. The experience with timber harvesting in similar terrain in the classical Karst area renders successful reforestation here definitely doubtful.

Classical funnel-shaped sinks, solutional tubes of various sizes and an occasional collapse sink are prominent in an area of many acres. Not all the area was visited at this time, including an area near "the upper trestle" near which Hidden Cave is said to be located.

This area was brought to the attention of organized caving by Mr. Ted Marsh; W.R. Danner of the University of British Columbia also reported the Main Cave and signatures in the cave indicate other visitors, probably at the time of logging.

At present, caves listed in this area include:

Main Skutz Falls Cave
Well Cave and an unnamed cave connected to Well Cave
Trap Cave
Pretty Little Cave
Roadside or Logging Road Cave
Marrow Face Cave (may be the same as Stan Ford's New Cave)
Hidden Cave

Identification of caves at this time was hampered by the lack of anyone from previous parties which had named the caves. D. Richards had previously visited the mouths of Roadside Cave and Main Cave, but no identification problems existed for these caves.

Roadside Cave (Logging Road Cave) is about 10 feet south (uphill) from the logging road from Skutz Falls, about 75 feet from the McMillan-Bloedel Plantation #445 sign. A single signature is present: Jack Jonson 1951. Due to three lateral openings to the surface and a solution-widened ceiling joint, no part is in total darkness. The main chamber, entered from the roadside entrance is irregularly pocketed, but averages 20 feet in diameter, and reaches a ceiling height of about ten feet. To the northeast is a crescentic smaller chamber almost entirely open to the elements. The cave is located in a small grey limestone outcrop in which dark noncalcareous impurities stand out from the wall sharply. The overall appearance is that of a phreatic honeycomb but some fluting is present. No speleothems are present.

Marrow Face Cave or New Cave (?). A funnel-shaped sinkhole east of the logging road, several hundred feet farther north was investigated. Several narrow pits were found, but none extended into total darkness. Excavation might open into a significant cave here. Correlation was uncertain; this is the prominent sinkhole below the road at the point where it curves left out of sight as seen from the southern approach.

Main Skutz Falls Cave. The most extensive of the Skutz Falls group known at this time, this important cave is located just east of and below a fairly prominent castle-like limestone outcrop about 100 yards east of the logging road used for access. Several openings lead downward from the apex of the "castle" but the main entry is through a huge, gauging, jagged abyss just to the east, apparently a collapse sink. It is about 35 feet deep and 75 feet wide in the twilight zone, partially choked with logs, rocks, stream debris, etc.

Exploration was directed downward and westward. Unexplored openings are present along the south wall of the irregular, partially choked entrance chamber which funnels rapidly into a high, narrow stream corridor with several short waterfall pitches, reduced to a trickle at this time. Daylight enters directly for a distance of about 100 feet to a point where the corridor turns south. Confluent stream channels are prominent in this entrance section. Vadose hackling is locally prominent, and is further emphasized by extensive projecting noncalcareous impurities.

The stream channel corridor continues south for about 30 feet, but just past the turn that shuts out daylight, the passage widens to the right above the stream channel. A little dripstone and flowstone is present, with tiny gourds. A dry passage angles southwestward and downward to ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ short passage paralleling the stream route. A few yards beyond, an E-W passage connects the wet and dry routes, extends 10 feet farther west, jogs SW descending a few additional feet, then leads west to a shallow pool. Just up-cave is a short confluent passage.

At the pool, the narrow corridor turns south for 15 feet to the lip of a jagged 10 foot waterfall into a slightly larger chamber. The passage thence continues south, becoming progressively lower for 30 additional feet into a low cobblestone-floored crawlway which turns southwest, then west for 30 additional feet. At its lowest point, estimated to be 170 feet below the floor of the cave mouth, ~~is~~ is a barely passable hole. A dead frog was found at this point. The cobbles in this area reach a diameter of about 18 inches. They are firmly embedded; all loose material has been swept out of this area by high-velocity water flow. Here and in more proximal parts of the cave, flood debris is present on ceilings and walls. Clarence Hronek has reported that most of the cobblestone crawlway was full of water when visited in 1963.

Exposed in the walls below the 10 foot waterfall is a thin planar non-calcareous material that may be of speleogenetic significance. It dips about 50 degrees southward, and may indicate that the cave follows dip and strike joints. No hint of bedding was noted elsewhere.

At first glance, the hole mentioned above appeared blocked by additional stream cobbles, similarly packed by ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ high-pressure phreatic flow. Working my head and a shoulder through the hole, however, it was seen that beyond was an uphill crawlway partially filled at the bottom by the cobbles, and upward by smaller cobbles, then gravel, which threatened to trap explorers continuing upward. Considerable excavation was done, necessarily into the cobblestone crawlway whence future flow will restore it to its original place, unfortunately.

The new gravel slide crawlway extends steeply upward and northwest for about 20 feet, then opens into a more spacious duckwalk in white marble, continuing west for about 30 feet. Horizons are present and impurities relatively few. The initials JL and LD or LO were noted smoked on the wall indistinctly.

At this point, at an estimated depth of 150 feet and 300 feet inside the cave, the crawlway enters the top of a large irregular vertical chamber. The lip is overhanging; about 8 feet down is a ledge. About 30 feet down is a pool which appears to be about 15 feet wide and 2-3 feet deep. Above it is a classical dome pit. Along the south side of the pool, there appears to be a deeper fissure. A small sinuous tubular passage may lead up over the pit. 44

Smaller Caves:

A funnel-shaped sinkhole about 50 feet north of the gaping entrance of the Main Cave was not plumbed.

A similar sinkhole about 50 feet south of the same entrance was found to lead to a gently sloping 30-foot passage leading west (290 degrees magnetic) to a pit blocked by rockfall. A few minutes' work opened a chimneyable route along the north wall, but additional loose rock was found during the descent and exploration was halted temporarily. Near the entrance, a low extension leads north a few yards to a point very close to the base of a shallow sink. Elsewhere, the cave is about a yard in width and perhaps 8 feet high.

Proceeding southward to a castle-like, prominent limestone outcrop, a promising entrance in a complex sink area pinched out after a half-dozen miserable feet. Partially in jest it was dubbed "Miserable Little Cave".

Thence proceeding westward toward the road, a vertical hole was found to lead down ten feet into a narrow, curving passage about ten feet long in white limestone. Patterns were rounded and appeared phreatic. Some speleogens of descending vadose solutional films were noted, but no hackling. Biota was moderate; one snail was collected. At the time, it was speculated that this was Pretty Little Cave but this appears not to be the case.

A few feet away, a smaller cave pinched out before reaching total darkness; another snail was collected. It probably connects to the other through impassable orifices.

Previous data on Skutz Falls caves, recorded by Clarence Hronek in 1963:

Main Cave (Cave #1). Two sinkhole entrances, estimated 300 feet long, 100' deep to siphon.

Trap Cave (Cave #2). 200 feet from Main Cave. Small, narrow crawlway, penetrated 65 feet. Rockfall temporarily blocked entrance.

Marsh's Cave (Cave #3). About 400 yards from Main Cave; found by Ted Marsh in February 1963.

Well Cave (Cave #4). Located by Leigh Hamber. Sloping hole with slight turn, then opens up into a big cistern, more than 50 feet below. 10 feet down on far side is a passage.

Cave #5. Another vertical cave with a large, deep water passage below. Not plumbed. Danger from rockfall below entrance.

Roadside Cave recorded as Logging Road Cave; 10 foot incline entrance.

Autumn 1966 Gordon River trips - W.R.H.

September and October saw three trips to the Gordon River cave area on Vancouver Island by grotto members. The first was Sept. 11, when Leigh Hamber, Ken Sinkiewicz, Stan Ford and Al Park took me to Reservoir Cave and Wolf Dreek Cave. Reservoir Cave is practically alongside the Gordon River road in a sinkhole about 50 feet wide and half as deep. Previously it had been believed to contain only one short passage, water-filled to great depth. On this trip, the water level was lower than previously noted, but no additional passage could be entered there. However, three other tight openings were excavated in the sinkhole permitting us to reach the water level in three new sections. One of these was wholly water-filled; 30-foot passages were found in the other two. In one, a current was distinct, with water flowing north which is a trifle surprising since the Gordon River, only a few yards lower on the other side of the road, flows southwest. This will be investigated further.

The entrance chamber of Wolf Creek Cave is the largest found to date on Vancouver Island (see map). The main route to a terminal siphon was followed out, and the Corkscrew (not shown on map) was also explored. Several other sinkholes are immediately adjacent and Hour Glass Cave (not visited at this time) is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away. At this season, no running water was present in the cave but much flood debris and ceiling flutes indicate seasonal flooding.

A week later, I was back with the Mischkes, Bob Brown, Dennis and Si Richards, Leigh Hamber, Ken Sinkiewicz, Stan Ford and Joan Crystale. It had rained considerably in the intervening week. On Saturday, despite some difficulties assembling the party, we mapped Wolf Creek Cave and discovered a new feeder area to the Corkscrew. There then followed a long uncertain period waiting for others to assemble. During this time, some of us made the first entry into Stream Cave, which the local cavers hoped would prove a resurgence for Hour Glass Cave, on the slopes above. It proved a nice 200-foot stream-cleaned cave with one potential lead heading toward Hour Glass Cave, but too dangerous to reach without a frame ladder, due to looserock. It ends by siphon.

Ken Sinkiewicz and I then rigged the entrance of Hour Glass Cave to keep warm (it was now wet, foggy and windy), then roamed the limestone slopes searching for Crest Cave (in the wrong place) until we saw the other cars approaching. Hour Glass Cave was delightful and complex and will have to be the subject of a special report. A new pit was discovered with dripping water audible somewhere below - in the general direction of Stream Cave. A siphon pool which had previously blocked penetration in that direction was virtually dried up.

On the following day we tackled Reservoir Cave with an immersion suit but the water was up six inches and nothing much was accomplished. Next, we gawked at the entrance of Easter Cage, a 120-foot pit without much at the bottom. Time was short, so only Dave Mischke chimned down on belay. He surfaced carrying a buck skull, a pretty good trip in a pit like that.

Next we proceeded to the Six New Caves area and checked out the sinkholes along the Radio Tower Road. One - now called Wind Cave - proved to have a lead which continued but time was running short and it was left for the future. Meanwhile others were checking out the new pit in Hour Glass Cave which proved about 45 feet deep and did not connect to Stream Cave which Ken, Leigh, Stan and I then mapped. Those who missed Wolf Creek Cave the previous day got the grand tour to finish a splendid weekend.

Leagh Hamber went back the following weekend, retraced the route. Ken and I followed in the fog and found a new cave, now called Whiskeyjack Cave for the hopeful birds of that variety.

Rob and Kay Stitt and I returned October 15-16, joining Clarence Hronek, Leagh Hamber, Ken Sinkiewicz and Dennis and Sue Richards. First we checked out and mapped the new cave, on the edge of the ridge summit flats. It is entered by a 43-foot pit. A short crawlway leads to a waterfall chamber; beyond is about 100 feet of passage with some nice dripstone, flowstone and rimstone.. Also present is a maze of tight meander canyons connecting back to the entrance. A second entrance was excavated, leading into the top of a high chamber just distal to the waterfall room.

Then on to Crest Cave, which (contrary to predictions) proved to be exactly where the original directions had insisted. Its vertical entrance was originally about 3 by 8 feet, but Rob and I had to remove much logging debris to be sure there was a cave there, and a stump still makes entry tight. I chimneyed down about 10 feet to a convenient ledge. Below this the cave bells out and slants slightly into the ridge. Rocks seem to stop about 70 feet down. Rob followed and thought it could be chimneyed at the west end. But it was time to leave.

So an early start next morning. So it rained. So a reporter-friend's car skidded on a wooden bridge and he was lucky to get out with a messy grill and cracked radiator. Leigh towed him back to civilization and never got caving at all. The Stitts had a look at Wolf Creek Cave, then the remaining quartet mapped Hourglass Cave except for the new pit area where the siphon pool was up again. Rob pushed some sloping meanders in the chimney in the waterfall area and came within 2 inches of an impressive-looking new room. Someone thin and fresh could probably make it.

There's a lot more to be done in this area.

As I reread the above, I note that I have the first entry into Stream Cave listed for the wrong trip. This was actually on September 11; it was measured on the following trip. If we weren't having so much trouble getting the Caver out at all, I'd retype it, but....

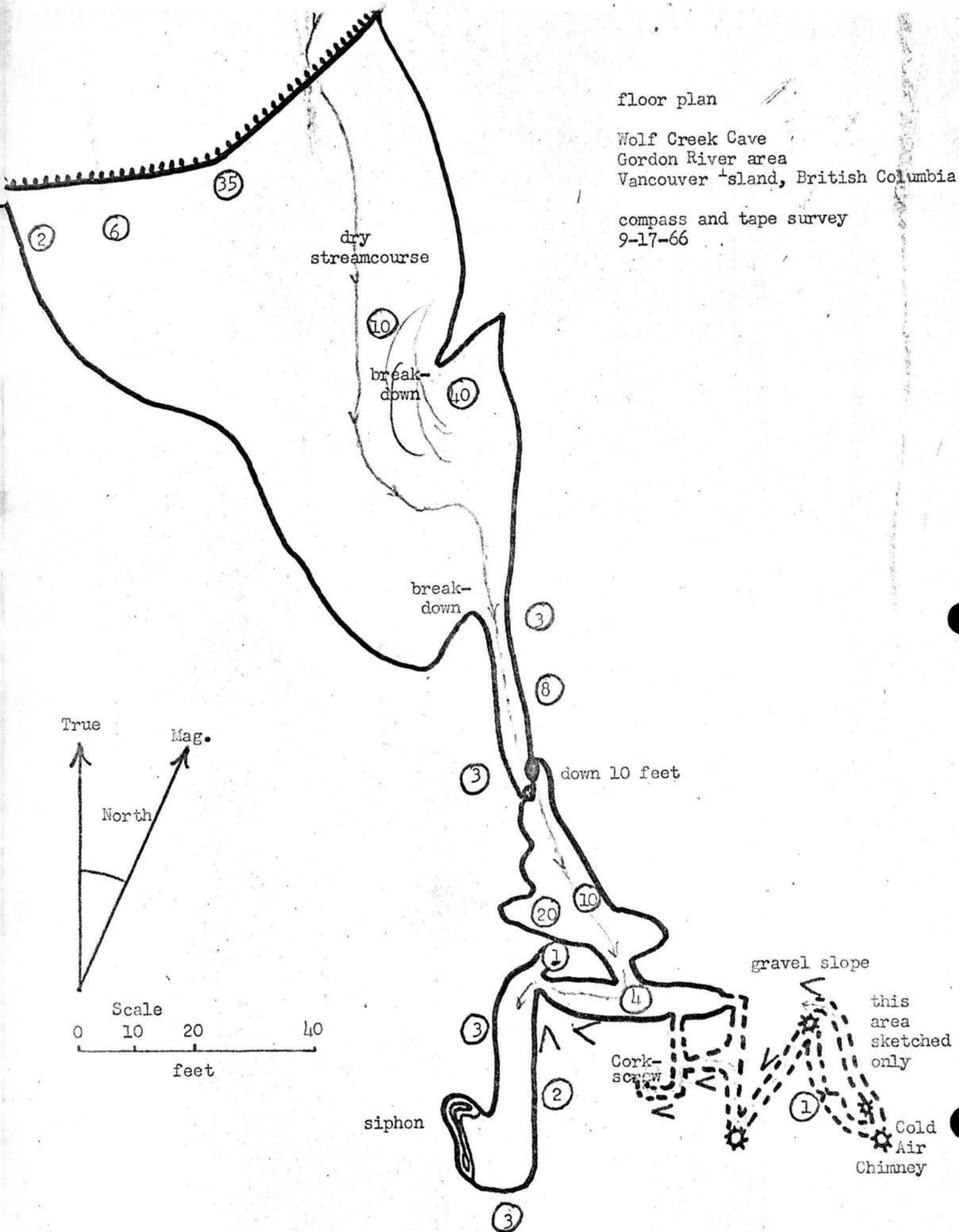
Cave-hunting indicated west of the Skutz Falls group

An Olympia informant reports several sinks perhaps 30 to 40 feet wide and 20 feet deep, plus vertical shafts perhaps 30 inches wide southeast of Lake Cowichan alongside an abandoned railroad grade reached from the burned sawmill site on Fairservice Creek. The pits are about 100 feet south of the grade at the start of the bench above the switchbacks shown on the topographic map. This will involve a long uphill hike; other sinkholes farther south should be checked out at the same time - W.R.H.

floor plan

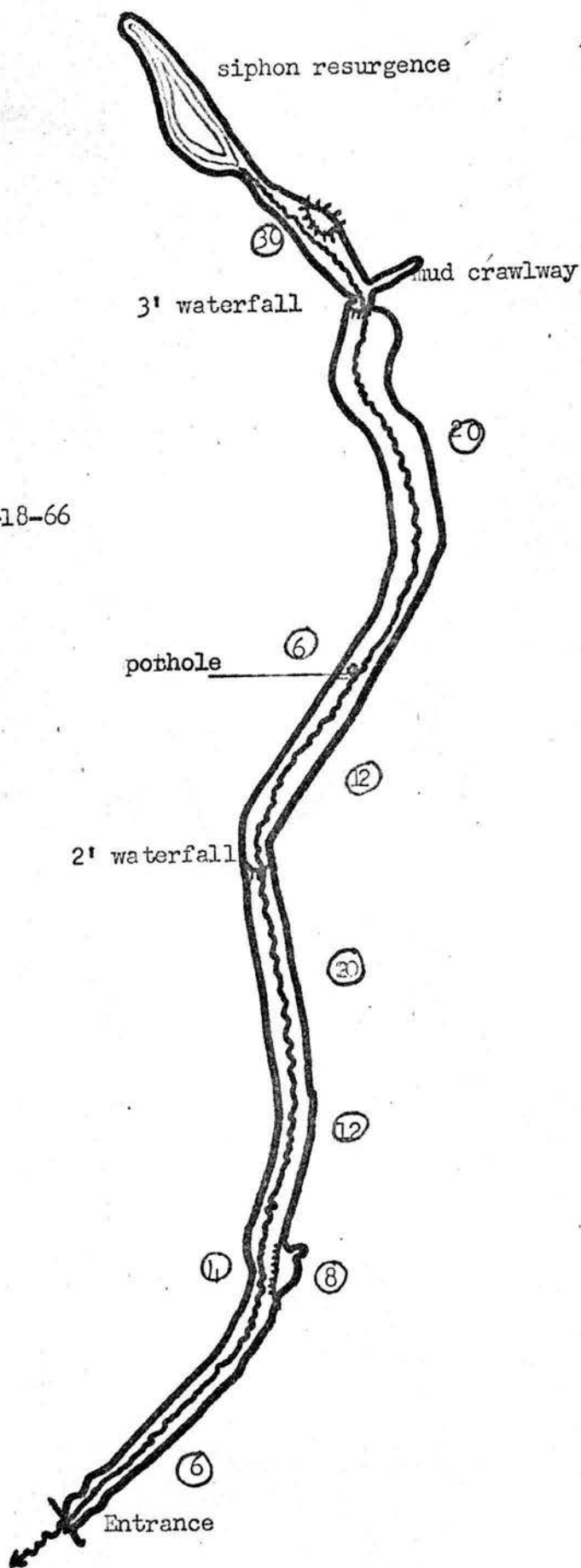
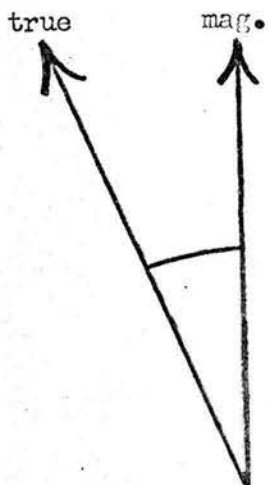
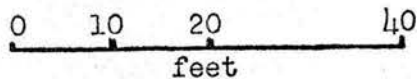
Wolf Creek Cave
Gordon River area
Vancouver Island, British Columbia

compass and tape survey
9-17-66



floor plan of
STREAM CAVE
Gordon River area,
Vancouver Island, B.C.

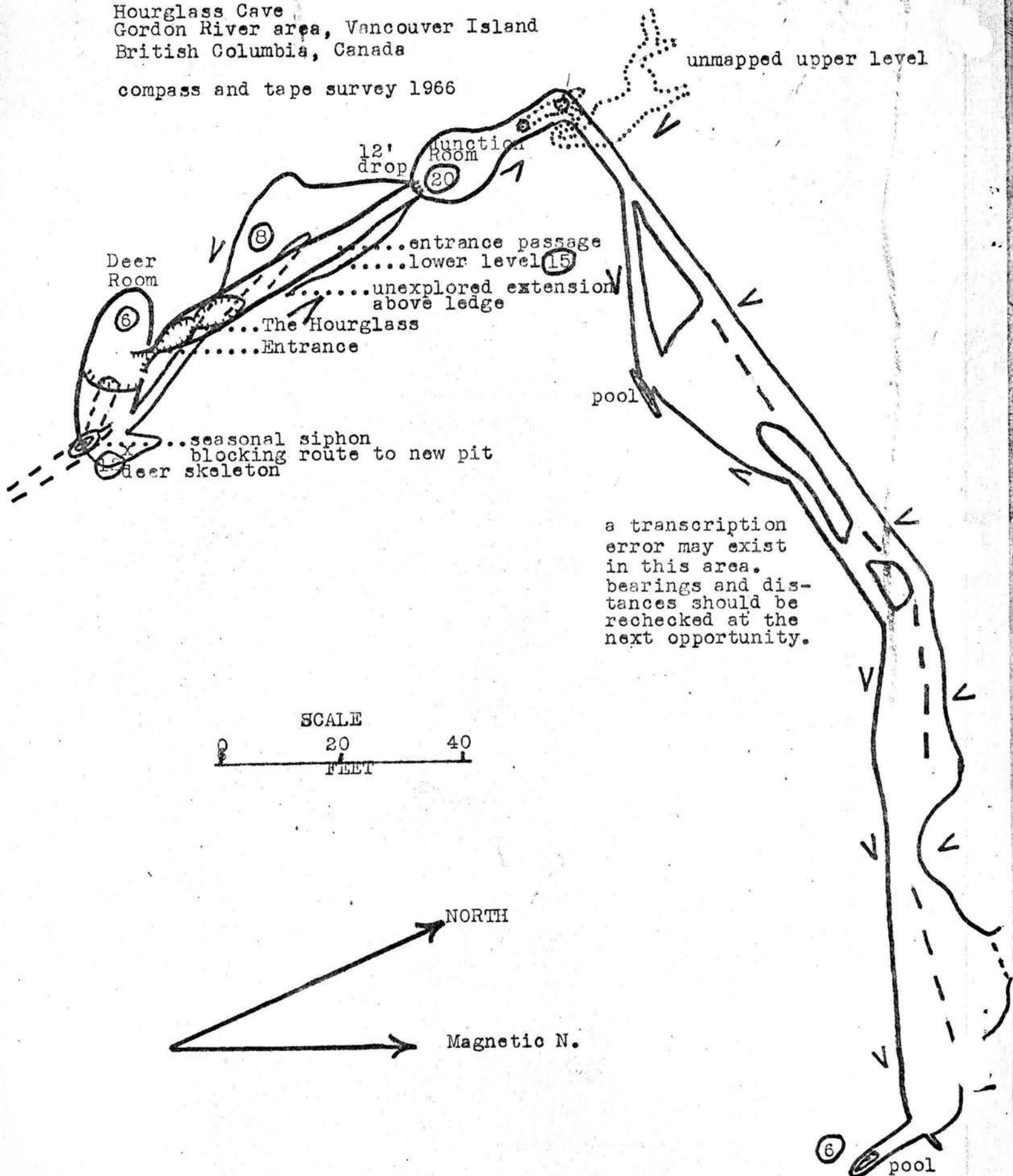
compass and tape survey 9-18-66
uncorrected



preliminary floor plan

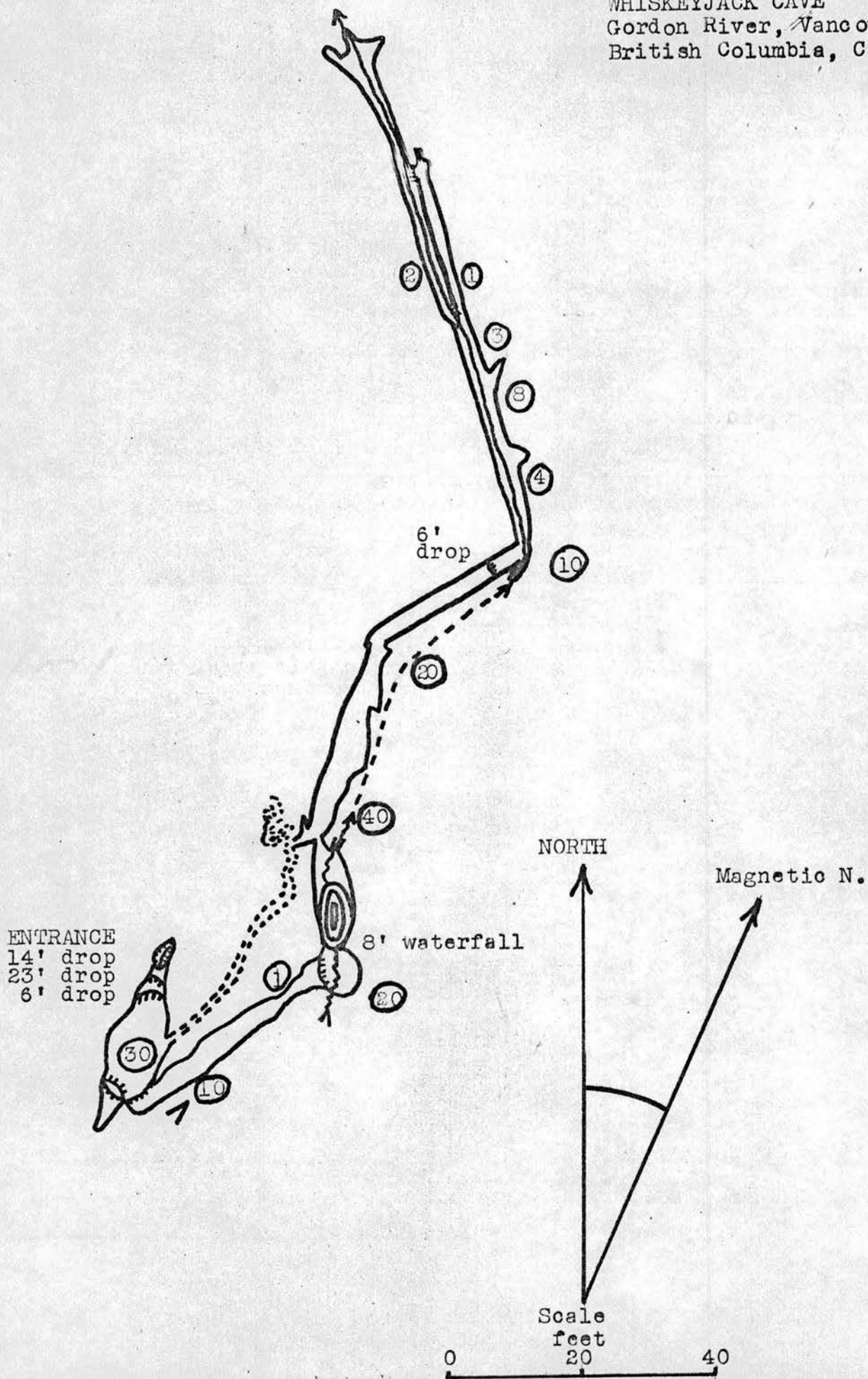
Hourglass Cave
Gordon River area, Vancouver Island
British Columbia, Canada

compass and tape survey 1966



floor plan

WHISKEYJACK CAVE
Gordon River, Vancouver Island
British Columbia, Canada



COMMUNITY PARK CAVES, Klickitat County, Wash.

Two small lava tube caverns are located within the grounds of the county park just west of the business center of the community of Trout Lake, Wash., in section 23, T6N, R10E; elevation about 1900 feet.

"Outhouse Cave" is located about 30 feet east of the women's outhouse in the south-central part of the park. It has been described previously as "Community Park Cave" by Jim Nieland in the December 1965 Cascade Caver. His description and map are accurate, though the entrance pattern makes the left-hand fork of the cave's Y appear the main route rather than the right-hand fork as shown on his map. A plentiful biota is present, including a grylloblattid collected Sept. 24, 1966. The cave is entered through a crawlway at the end of a very small, shallow horseshoe-shaped sink.

"Tumulus Cave" is located near the southeast fence corner of the park. Its entrance sink is even smaller than that of Outhouse Cave; the overburden of both caves is two or three feet. It consists of a single chamber about 2 feet high, about 20 feet wide and twice as long, divided by a domed tumulus of granular lava which touches the ceiling. About 2/3 of the floor is dirt; a lava floor is present at the rear. Notable is its tipping of lava coralloids. A considerable breeze emerged from this small cave; additional penetration may be possible.

- W.R.H.

Snails identified by Allyn G. Smith

Skutz Falls cave (??Pretty Little Cave), B.C.: *Monadelta fidelis*.
Bear Cave and slopes above Papoose Cave, Idaho: *Oreohelix strigosa*
(numerous) and *Anguispira kochi occidentalis* (one only).

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