

Coming events: regular meeting April 17, 8 PM (doors open at 7:50), Dr. Halliday's, 1117 36th Ave. E. NSS slide show.

Keep in touch with Luurt Nieuwenhuis; snow conditions may permit lava tube trips before the meeting.

Skutz Falls-Wellington trip - Lincoln's birthday weekend
by Bill Halliday

Despite a lack of cars and other problems, part of a planned Vancouver Island trip came off successfully early in February. Friday night George Kiel and I flew to Victoria and accompanied the local group there to the Skutz Falls cave area next morning, via a different route than that previously used. It brought the cars within a mile of the caves, but a search for Hidden Cave (not even limestone was found in the supposed location) got involved in overgrown logging roads, snow drifts and two collapsed trestles over deep gorges. We did find one promising entrance for shovelers in another area.

First cave entered was Miller's Cave, below the main Skutz Falls cave; not large but pretty and pleasant except for a very tight entrance chimney. It was mapped and photographed, then I checked out some slopes downhill and downcanyon from it, finding one hole worth enlarging but choked 4' down and a siphon resurgence which is probably the outlet of the main cave stream (and perhaps more).

The group then split up. George, Sue Richards and I mapped Roadside Cave while other teams tackled the main cave - which had a stream running into it not present last Fall - so much spray at the waterfall that they didn't try to map it. Clarence Hronek and I checked out Trap Cave, moved a lot more loose stuff at the trap and mapped its upper section and the surface environs of that and the main cave. Then we headed over to Well Cave, which proved very nice, with two vertical 30' entrances and deep water below one. Wearing heavy boots, I was unable to check a couple of potential leads: this one can wait til summer and shoes I can swim in.

We then mapped back to the main cave while others worked on Trap Cave; then headed back to Victoria hastily as a cold wind blew up the promise of fresh snow at dark.

It was more of a workout than we had anticipated, so all hands agreed to an easy day next morning; we headed to the Glenik Caves in the Nanaimo formation near Wellington, which consist of a series of parallel narrow cracks, a crack 30 feet wide and some talus caverns. Phreatic solution patterns are visible, and a tiny grotto was found to have rudimentary speleothems in daylight. Part of the party had some fun with 30' descents while I did some scouting. A delightful and very different area.

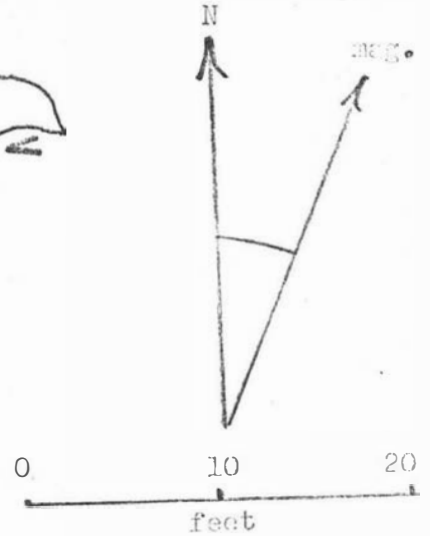
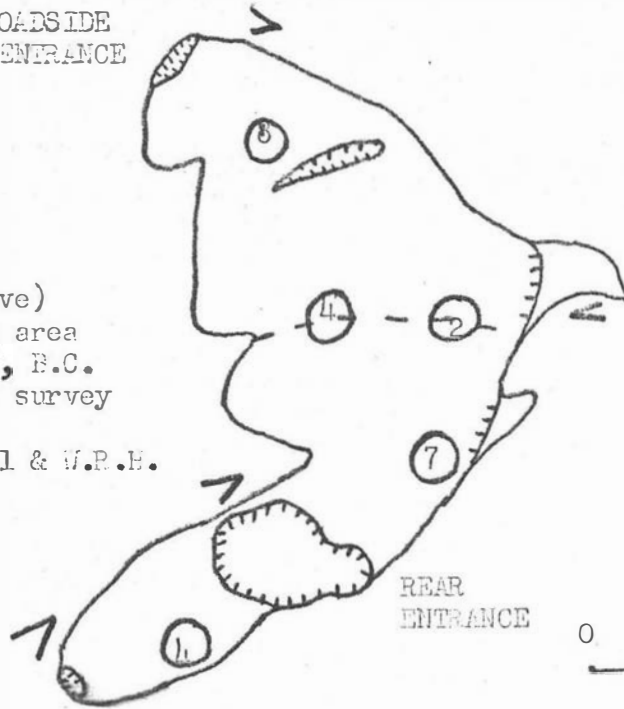
En-route home we stopped at Zirke's Cave, a large rockshelter in the same material. That night I caught the Tsawwassen Ferry where Len met me and we went to Vancouver where Ted Danner tentatively identified the limestone at Skutz Falls area as late Pennsylvanian or early Permian, and that at Gordon River as Triassic; confirmation will follow microscopy.

FLASH

The second printing of DEPTHS OF THE EARTH is off the press with a map showing the location of the limestone caves of the United States which the last printing did not have. This is understood to be the last printing; considering that the larger first printing sold out in 9 months, this one may not last long.

ROADSIDE
 ENTRANCE

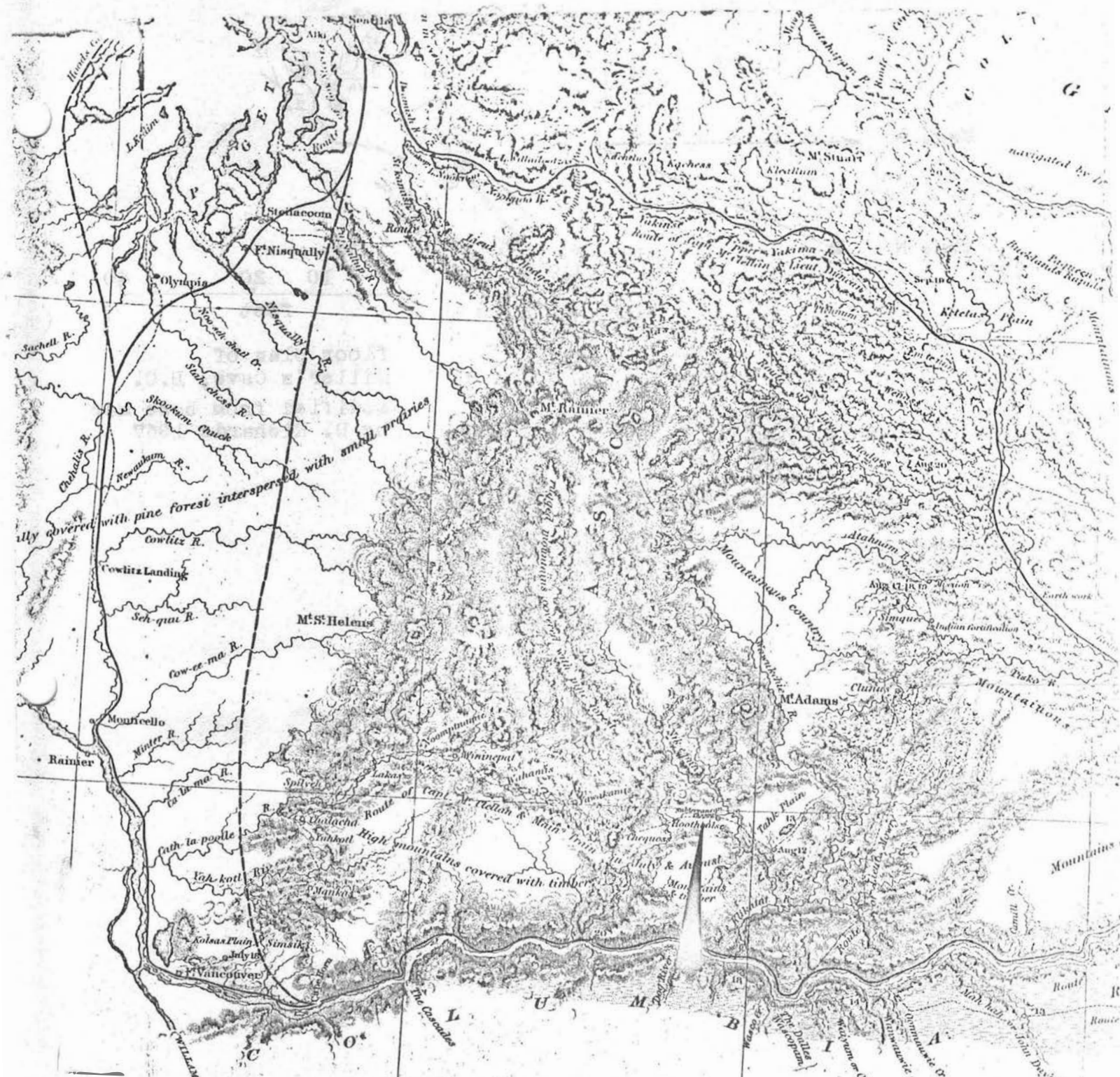
 Floor plan
 Roadside Cave
 (Logging Road Cave)
 Stutz Falls cave area
 Vancouver Island, B.C.
 compass and tape survey
 2-11-67
 S. Richards, Miel & W.R.E.



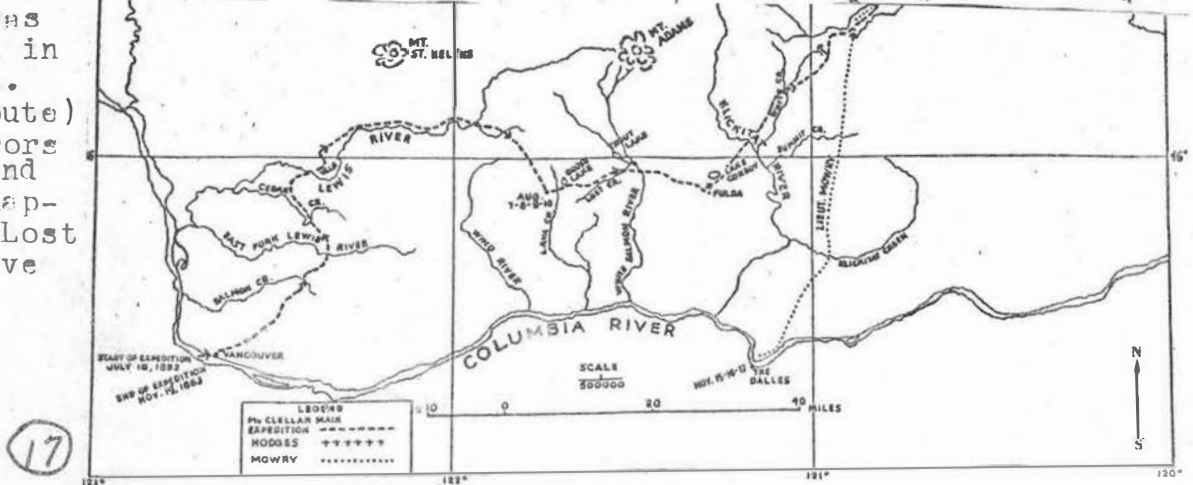
More on the 1853 reports on the Mt. Adams lava tube caves
 by Bill Halliday

Some research in the Washington State Library in Olympia has turned up the map I though had never been published (see *adjoining page*) and some additional information. The map shows not only the "subterranean channel" of the supposed creek, but also some interesting geographic errors: Trout Creek (Nikepun River) is shown joining the White Salmon (correctly) which then joins the Klickitat River (incorrectly). A creek is shown crossing the Cascade Divide south of Red Mountain. And so on. But along the route of the party, things look right, not bad for 1853 on the first party of white men to make the trip. The route is pretty clear: along the Lewis River past the Reese's, probably ascending the mountains just west of the end of the new reservoir, thence southeast to the Racetrack just north of Red Mountain, then over to Goose Lake and pretty much along the present road to Ice Cave, then along the old road probably to Lava Bridge and the Red-Butter-Stairwell system, then south a bit more to the farms ~~west~~ south of Cheese Cave on Cave Creek (Hoolhoolse), then on east.

Another reference that turned up is: Overmeyer, Philip Henry, 1941. George B. McClellan and the Pacific Northwest. Pac. NW Quart. 32 (1):3-60, Jan. This refers to an unpublished diary of the same expedition by General-to-be McClellan in the Library of Congress, which specifically mentions Ice Cave - and an Indian legend thereof. Overmeyer, also, has his streams wrong: he confuses Lost Creek with Cave Creek (see smaller map, opposite page) and places Hoolhoolse on the eastern side of Trout Creek, "just south of the present town of Guler" where the earlier map indicates it wasn't. Aside from the Ice Cave we'll probably never know exactly which caves they looked into, but it's interesting to see how history ties into the present here.



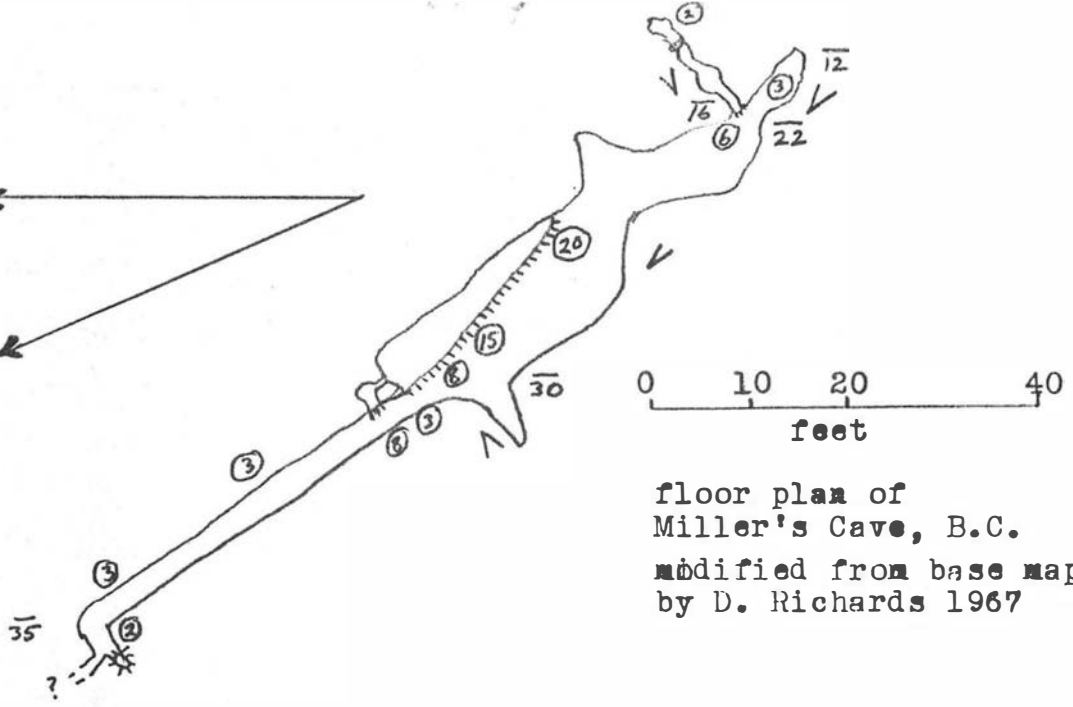
Lava tube areas of Washington in 1853 and 1941. (McClellan route) note many errors on 1853 map and one on 1941 map - confusion of Lost Creek with Cave Creek.



Mag. N



True N



floor plan of
Miller's Cave, B.C.
modified from base map
by D. Richards 1967

(18)