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!!

LAVA CAVES OF ICELAND by Guðmundur Kjartansson, NATTURUGHLIPASARNID (Natural History Museum) Reykjavik, Iceland

A great number of lava tube caverns are found in the postglacial lava fields of Iceland, but they have been little investigated and there exists no general description of them. Only a few have been described at all, and the scanty descriptions, all in Icelandic, are scattered in periodicals and newspapers.

I have lent Dr. Halliday a map on which are marked the most remarkable lava tubes in Iceland. They are numbered in the following incomplete list.

1. Several small caverns south of Hafnarfjörður.
2. Daudadalir, a group of closely spaced small caverns.
3. Raufarholshellir, about 900 metres long. Mapped and described by H. Múnger in Lesbok Morgunbladsins, January 1955.
4. Narrow tube under the main road.
5. Gjabekkahellir.
6. Karelshellir, a 133 meters long tube in a lava flow formed by the Hekla eruption 1947-48. Described by G. Kjartansson in *Natturufraeðingurinn* 1949, pp 139-142 and 175-184.
7. Group of three big lava tubes, Surtshellir (length ca 1700 meters), Stefanshellir and Vidgelmir, and some smaller ones.
8. Hallmundarhellir.
9. Several tubes found in 1957 in the Lava flow Gullborgar hraun. Described by S. Thorarinsson in *Lesbok Morgunbladsins*, October 1957.
10. Vegamannahellir, found in 1963 and described in the newspaper *Timinn*, July 7th, 1963 (Sketch map by G. Kjartansson).
11. Grettishellir.
12. Small tubes in the Askja lava, formed 1961.
13. Several tubes in the new lava of Surtsey.
14. Mogugilshellir, not a real lava tube, but formed in an intrusive vein.

(Ed. Note: please excuse the possible misspellings of some of the above words, as the Icelandic alphabet is slightly different than ours.)

ATTENTION!!!!!!!!!!!!

You are cordially invited by the Cascade Grotto to attend the 1st Northwest Speleological Convention to be held at Papoose Cave over the Memorial Day Weekend. Papoose Cave is located near the small town of Riggins, Idaho.

The purpose of this convention will hopefully be to start an annual meeting of the Western caving groups, so that we might get to know one another better. It is hoped that each year after this year one of the Grottos from the Northwest will sponsor the convention; next year's sponsor will be decided at this year's meet.

REMEMBER: THIS EVENT CANNOT SUCCEED--UNLESS YOU ATTEND!!!!!!!!!!!!

For further information, contact: Bob Brown
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Phone (206) WE-5-2064

THE NEW CAVE DISCOVERY

On Friday, the 24th of November a party of six spelunkers set out to explore the area surrounding "Dead Bear Cave". They were; Maurice Magee and son Billy of the Cascade Grotto; William Magee, of the Grand Grotto; Mr. John Dicks and his two sons Tom and Jim. All have had previous caving experience. We found a new cave at 3:00 AM but unfortunately had to leave at 4:30 PM. In our quick trip through only one part of the cave, we counted at least 20 intersections. As to whether this was a trellis, dendrite or parallel interwoven system, we did not have time to determine. We did notice though that the two main tubes which we followed appeared to join like two streams flowing down hill indicating at least two simultaneous sources for the lava. It might be noted that the speleothems were plentiful, rivaling Lavacicle in the Bend area. (This is one reason why the exact location has not been published in this report) The cave was called "Thanks" cave.

Bill Magee

The Northwest Cave Rescue Association
by Bill Halliday

On February 28, 1968, The Northwest Cave Rescue Association was formally chartered by the state of Washington but to date, the Association exists largely on paper although the rudiments of a rescue network and initial training sessions have been initiated in the Seattle area. However the existence of the association as a non-profit corporation provides both a foundation for building whatever structure Northwest cavers feel desirable, and freedom from bankruptcy by lawsuit against Association members.

It seems generally agreed that in the Northwest, rescues will have to be done rapidly to be successful, and therefore by the cavers closest to the rescue, in cooperation with mountain rescue and related groups. However, very rare situations may make it necessary for others to come from longer distances to help.

For this reason we have been tentatively thinking of a series of units based on each grotto and each unit of the Canadian Speleological Society, each assuming the responsibility for a specific area. (Harry Reese and the Lewis County Search and Rescue group could well be in charge of the Mt. St. Helens cave area). Each such unit would have a fool-proof telephone arrangement whereby someone will always be available to accept calls and to pass the word to others in the unit, and to alert the other units (which will stay on alert until the word comes definitely that they will not be needed).

As stated above, however, this is all tentative and is to be discussed and details worked out at the regional meeting at Papoose Cave over Memorial Day, probably Friday night. Think

The Northwest Cave Rescue Association can't

about it and come prepared to make constructive suggestions.

We hope also to have Hal Foss, Washington state Director of Search and Rescue, at the meeting. Hal has been of great assistance in the preliminary stages of getting the association underway. From him we have learned about working with local rescue and civil defense teams and obtaining state accident coverage during rescues and practices and much more. It seems that radio communications and some transportation are available under some circumstances; details at the Idaho meeting.

And what about converting all northwest cavers' walkie-talkies to the same frequency? The rescue channels are different, and the number of frequencies we have to deal with, the better. If you or your group has walkie-talkies, please drop us a line stating the channels. Jerry Franz and I have 5-watt licenses but have not yet settled on one or more channels ourselves

 Late 1957 Mount Adams trips

- Bill Halliday

The autumn of 1957 saw new breakthroughs in the Mount Adams area. Three joint trips with the Oregon Grotto and some additional work of theirs turned up several important new caves (and some perhaps not so important).

On the weekend of Sept. 9-10, the planned vertical survey of Dynamited Cave had to be cancelled because of the fire closure and a variety of other caves were visited Saturday. That night a joint slide show was held, with the good people of Trout Lake invited and present in quantity. Don Ryan became particularly enthusiastic and offered to take us to several caves next day, which he did. Some we already knew, but Madisons' Fence Cave and the Dead Bear System, southwest of Butter Cave, were new to us.

Both grottos had parties back the weekend of Sept. 30. One Cascade Grotto team familiarized itself with Dynamited Cave while a joint team checked out several new caves: Todd's Cave System and Longview Cave near the lower end of Big Trench system but quite superficial, and little rotato and Prickly Floor Caves on the main road to Madison's Ranch. It was cold enough that night that supposedly little Funulus Cave in the county park campground was steaming vigorously next morning; Outhouse Cave did not steam. Next morning, Madison's Fence Cave was mapped as far as the far end of the main passage. Exploration continued through a lower level bypass to a very tight orifice to the surface which looked vaguely familiar. A few seconds' checking revealed that we had emerged from the lowest sink of the Bearpottle System; a hole this writer had previously pronounced impassable.

Mount Adams trips con't

On the way home, Luurt and I planned to check out Massey's Barn Cave and Olsen's Cave but the former was partially blocked by rotting carcasses and the latter was even wetter and colder than the last time Luurt tried it.

The last grotto trip of the year was the weekend of November 4, again in part with the Oregon Grotto. First stop was Lava Bridge, where the upper cave was found almost paralleling the main chain of sinks. Heading back to camp to meet the Larsons (who were having a ball in their new Three Sinks Cave some miles west of Dynamited Cave), I spotted a new sink off the Lava-Bridge-Butter Cave road. It had a huge entrance so several of us returned after dinner. It had two segments totalling perhaps 2000 feet; only trace of previous visitation was an old jug, hence the name Jug Cave System. Next morning Don Ryan showed us Ryan's Cave #2 (originally Madison's Fence Cave was called Ryan's Cave by us in ignorance), the Bobcat Cave System north of the main road at the county line, and Dead Horse Cave, northwest of Trout Lake in a very odd locale. To date the grotto has not entered any of these, nor Thanks Cave located by the Oregon Grotto at Thanksgiving.

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COMING EVENTS.....

- April 4--7:00. Cave Survey Practice Session; 8:00, Northwest Cave Rescue Assoc. Board Meeting, Both at Dr. Halliday's, 1117 36th E., Seattle.
- April 7--Cave Ridge field trip.
- April 9--Mount Ranier Summit Steam Caves meeting, at 7:30 at Dick Mitchell's, 3005 21st W., Seattle; phone AT-2-5340 for further info.
- April 12-14--Oregon Caves field trip.
- April 15-- Regular Grotto meeting at Dr. Halliday's, 1117 36th E., Seattle. Program: SNOW AND ICE CLIMBING by Stu Ferguson
- April 19--Bob and Collette's weeding.
- April 19-- Oregon Grotto meeting, 7:30 at Trout Lake Campground--discussion of Dynamited Cave gating, with Roger Stamy of USFS.
- April 20-21--CAving in Trout Lake area; Fall Creek, Thanks, Jug, and many other new and exciting find featuring our trusty native guides, the Oregon Grotto, and including slide show Sat. nite.
- ~~April~~ April 21--would you beleive May 4-5--Mount St. Helens area field trip.
- May 6--Executive committee meeting at Bob Browns new diggings, wherever that will be. 7:30 PM and contact Bob for exact address and all that.
- May 7-- Mt. Ranier Summit Steam Caves meeting 7:30 Dick Mitchells, see April 9 for address.
- May 30, 31, & June 1-- Northwest Speleological Convention at Papoose C,ve, Idaho. See the May issue of the CAVER for details.

ATTENTION: Jan Roberts is on to something big, or so he is hinting, and will reveal all at the April meeting. So tune in next time, same time, same station, for more thrilling details of what may turn out to be the worst kept secret about the biggest something to come along in quite a while.



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