

THE CASCADE CAVER
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Editor: Dr. William R. Halliday

June 1970

COMING EVENTS

May 29 -31 Papoose Cave.

June 5. Grotto executive meeting, 8 PM, 4427 5th NE.

June 6. Jackman Creek Cave and scouting. Jan Roberts PR 88503.

June 6-7. Mt. Adams or other major peak, for Summit Steam Caves group.

June 7. Gremlin Cave trip, with Oregon Grotto. Call Halliday, EA 4-7474.

June 13-14. Possible Mt. Adams trip. Call Halliday, EA 4-7474.

June 13-14. Mt. St. Helens or other major peak, for Summit Caves group.

June 15. Regular meeting 8 PM, Hallidays, 1117 36th Ave. E. at Madison.

June 20-21. Mt. Baker or other major peak, for Summit Caves group.

June 27-28. Major peak, for Summit Caves group.

July 4 weekend. Summit Steam Caves of Mt. Rainier.

Labor Day weekend. Northwest Regional Convention. See below.

REGIONAL NEWS

Earl Peterson has resigned as chairman of the NW Region due to temporary but lengthy assignments away from the NW. Charley Larson is acting as chairman. The question arises as to whether the plan for the regional convention in NE Nevada should be postponed a year until Earl gets back. Yr. editor and Charley Larson both are inclined to think so, but would welcome your thoughts. If postponed, where should it be? Papoose? Hell's Canyon? Trout Lake? Vancouver Island? Scorpion?

The Northwest Cave Rescue Association (perhaps its Cascade unit - yr editor is a bit vague on this) has been elected to membership in the King County Search and Rescue organization.

Word comes from Idaho that there are definite prospects of reactivation of the Gem State Grotto in the foreseeable future.

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Recent field trips

Mt St. Helens area, May 9-10. Bob Brown, Ron Pflum, Jan Roberts, Chuck Coughlin and Colette Brown met Charley Larson and others from the Oregon Grotto and had a look at Ape Cave first. They report that someone has done another cleanup job on the lower part of the cave and it really looks clean now. The upper part of the cave now looks the messiest.

The group then went to Gremlin Cave, a recent discovery of the Oregon Grotto and one of the northwesternmost of the main Mt. St. Helens group. There is a choice of two entrances, one a miserable lava crawl, the other a touchy 10-foot drop. The Oregon Grotto has a highly precise mapping project under way. Well developed lava speleothems are present. Four inches of new snow discouraged further caving that weekend.

(This isn't exactly a field trip report, but on the weekend of May 23, the Mt. Rainier Summit Steam Caves group learned why clown white. Beautiful day for the practice climb to Camp Muir on Rainier; beautiful sunburn on all participants except Greg Thompson - the grotto isn't kidding him about his long hair any more. But even his nose looks like it needed clown white.) The team on this climb included Pflum, Coughlin, Brown & Anderson.

Ron Pflum and Claude Smith finally got back from their ten days on Vancouver Island. No formal report yet; they did some pleasant caving with the B.C. Cave Hunters but the reports of caves near Campbell River didn't turn up anything spectacular.

The planned Jackman Creek trip has been postponed til at least May or June - see calendar. Needed contacts for permission have not been made.

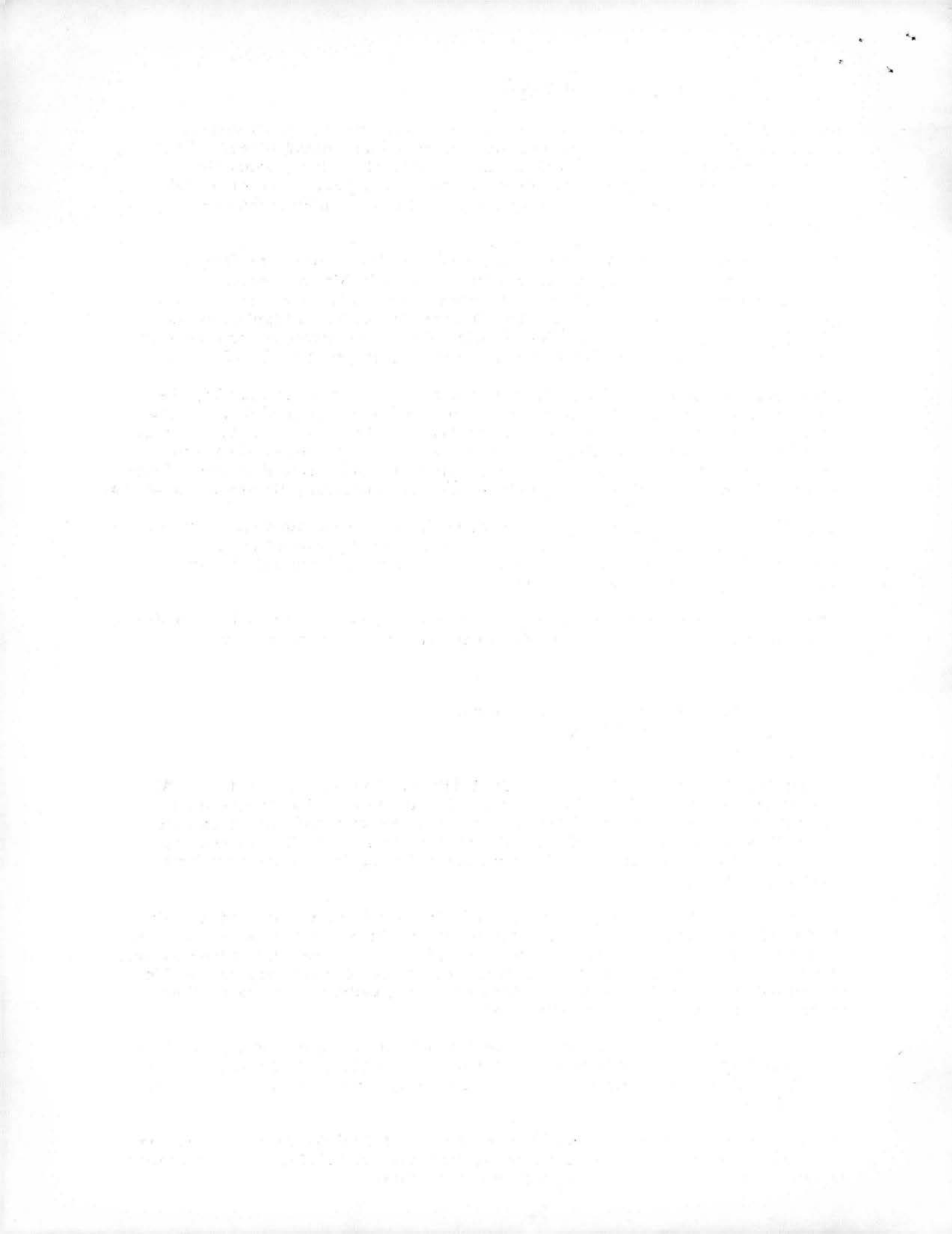
No cave found on Rabbit Mountain - by Tom Miller

In November 1969 three of us made a last ditch effort to find that ?ix;\$! cave on top of Rabbit Mountain. We accomplished nothing but wonder what th heck ever made us think of becoming cavers. We searched the bench and surrounding areas systematically, and I mean SYSTEMATICALLY! Believe me, there is no cave on that part of Rabbit Mountain, or else it has been VERY carefully hidden.

We spent two or three hours after dark digging out the most promising sink, which had a badger hole. By the light of our carbide lamps we moved copious quantities of dirt and rocks to a depth of five or six feet and raised several blisters. The next day was the first big snowstorm of the year, but earlier we dug out a pool (very cold!). Succeeded in increasing the rate of flow several times, and increasing our blisters.

We did find some interesting travertine formations on Rabbit Mountain. They look like Mammoth Hot Springs in miniature. A good-sized pit in alluvium has a yellow travertine overhang of about six inches, surrounded by a profusion of icicles.

We have reports of a cave about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Allbright Cave, and another supposed to be on Old Dominion Mountain, just east of Colville. The mountain is riddled with mines, and this may be one of them.



VULCANOSPELEOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS - by Bill Halliday

Anon., 1968. Cuevas vulcanicas - grupo exploraciones subterranas.
Bol. Inform. de la Bibliot., Soc. Venezolana de Espeleologia, v.2, no. 3, p.74.

This 2/3 page abstract quotes the April-May 1968 Circular para los Socios of the Club Montañas Barcelones (Spain) as mentioning 1961 and 1962 expeditions to Lanzarote and Fuerteventura Islands in the Canary Island group, led by Joaquin Montoriol Pous, which claims the world's record for length and depth of lava caves, at 6.1 km and -230 meters respectively, at Cueva de los Verdes.

In 1967, the same group organized an Iceland expedition, with the same leader. It explored and studied 13 lava caves, including what they called the world's 2nd longest lava tube cavern:

SURTSHELLIR 2,200 meters long.
RAUFARSHOLSHELLIR 1,500 meters long was the next longest, then:
STEPHANSHELLIR 800 meters long and
Budahshellir 400 meters long.

This is a bit puzzling. Dr. Montoriol and I have been exchanging publications for many years, but has not sent anything regarding lava tube caverns, nor has he responded to an air letter I sent him some weeks ago. I have his acknowledgment of Caves of Washington, which includes the length of Ape Cave. I am currently seeking a copy of the Barcelona item; until we see whether Cueva de los Verdes is all one cave, I think we can still claim the title for Ape Cave. I'm thinking of taking a look at the Canary Island caves in the winter of '71-72; anyone else interested please let me know.

* * *

Greeley, Ronald. n.d. (1970) Geology and morphology of selected lava tubes in the vicinity of Bend, Oregon. Space Sciences, N.A.S.A. 51 pp. multilithed.

This is by far the most outstanding contribution to vulcanospeleology to date which has come to the attention of yr editor; its bibliography refers to a similar report on the Bandera lava tubes of New Mexico which I hope to locate and abstract here soon, and to a similar forthcoming report by Greeley and Jack Hyde on the Mt. St. Helens caves. It describes and discusses two major systems: the Arnold lava tube system (7 km long) and Horse lava tube system (more than 11 km in length), plus several other lava tubes including Skeleton Cave, Boyd Cave and South Ice Cave. A total of 5,187.5 meters of lava tube interiors were mapped; Wind Cave in the Arnold system was the longest individual cave at 1170 meters slope length. The report states that this cave @ 18 meters ceiling height "has the highest known lava tube ceiling" - this is doubtful. The report considers the caves and non-cavernous segments of the systems in the 3-dimensional fluoform concepts which traditional vulcanologists rejected as recently as a decade ago. This report is far from the last word on lava tube caverns of the Bend area, but it advances vulcanospeleology in that area so greatly that the similar Mt. St. Helens report is being awaited with total impatience.

Reconnaissance report: the Washington Monument area
by Jan Roberts

The Washington Monument limestone area is located just south of the Whatcom County line, in Skagit County, approximately 8 air miles NW of Concrete, Wash. Due to rough terrain the area is not easy to reach but can be approached by using logging roads constructed in 1966, primarily the Wanlick Pass and Dock Butte-Blue Lake roads. The Dock Butte trailhead is near the end of the latter road and leads to a point two or three miles east of Washington Monument. Travel from this point is without trail. Compass and the USGS Hamilton Quadrangle map are needed. Along the trail is seen the Dock Butte karst; small solution caves up to about 60 feet long have been found.

The Washington Monument area has several exposures of limestone, in cliffs, in meadowland and in forest. That on the southeast and south sides of the "Monument" itself forms pronounced cliffs in meadowland. That on the northeast and north slopes also forms cliffs. There is a well-developed karst area in a level saddle between the "Monument" and the next mountain to the north or northwest.

The geology of the area has been partially studied. Except at the karst area, the limestone seems to lie entirely between conglomerates and greywacke (a poorly sorted sandstone). With some shale interbeds, the limestone thus forms the 300-foot filling in a "sandwich". A nearly vertical fault dipping north has bisected the limestone and dropped the northern half 200 feet. Three other limestone beds crop out southward on the crest and eastern slopes of an adjoining ridge. These, also, are associated with shale and greywacke.

The karst area in the saddle is the only part investigated by the grotto to date; it was visited in the summer of 1969. Several earlier attempts were foiled by bad weather. The karst area was found to be well developed, over an area of three or four acres. Many sinks are present; their sizes and depths vary greatly. Four sinks were found to serve as stream swallets. One of these is the cave shown on the map in Danner's book. Unfortunately it is only about 25 feet long and is partially filled by stream deposits, predominantly clay. It is a joint-controlled solutional cavern.

Two resurgences were noted below the limestone cliffs that form the eastern limit of the karst area. One of these is very small; the other is so large as to daunt an explorer encountering it in a cave. Because of the lack of time, neither resurgence could be visited and it is not known if either is penetrable.

Due to the small size of the karst area, it is expected that any caves found here will be of small length and diameter. However there is real potential for complexity. It is expected that further investigations will be made this summer.

Acknowledgment: I would like to thank Dave and Kathy Mischke and Maurice Magee, all of whom participated in this investigation.

New cave found - kinda
by Tom Miller

Early in March (this report should have preceded the one on p. 33 last month-editor), three of us checked out the ten-year-old rumor of a cave supposed to be located in the extreme corner of either section 29 or 32, T 40N, R42E. After a very difficult hike, Bruce Ainslie and I made it to the site. We found a cave, but unfortunately we were about 4,000 years too late. The former cave has been cut into and almost entirely destroyed. The only remnant is a rockshelter 300 feet long, 20 feet high and about 25 feet deep throughout most of its length. There are at least a dozen carbonate formations suspended in protected locations and a 4 x 5' foot mass of flowstone. There are stalactites, draperies and folds of flowstone. Extending into the back of the shelter were several tunnels about 2' in diameter. All were choked with debris. We excavated two, but they ended within six feet. One of them had stalactites up to 8" long. All the speleothems were completely dry, although water dripping through ceiling cracks had formed numerous ice stalactites and columns.

The beds in this area dip steeply to the south. The snow was over three feet deep and snoeshoes were needed for the 2 1/2 mile hike in. The underbrush and a creek ravine which was extremely narrow were very annoying. In places the stream had undercut 100-foot walls for about 15 feet. We didn't get out until after dark.

A month earlier we checked leads in the Hole-in-the-ground area but found only several large shelters.

My new address is: 210 Streeter Hall, EWSC, Cheney, Wash; #359-7671.

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