



The Cascade Caver

Official Publication of the
CASCADE GROTTO N. S. S.



Volume 10 no. 11

Editor: Dr. William R. Halliday

November 1971

COMING EVENTS

- October 25. Monday. 7:30 PM. Rope practice @ MSR. Coughlin, PA5-9127.
- October 30-31. Dynamited Cave. Brown, RO3-9094.
- November 6-7. Vancouver Island. Brown, RO3-9094.
- November 6-7. Moses Coulee. Cope. SU9-0966.
- November 8. **REGULAR GROTTO MEETING ONE WEEK EARLY.**
Hallidays, 1117 36th Avenue East at East Madison, 8 PM.
- November 14. Cueva de las Verdes. Halliday, EA 4-7474.
- November 25-28. Hells Canyon. Larson. 695-4143.
- December 18. Grotto Christmas party @ Hallidays. Planning at Nov. mtg.
- December 20. Possible meeting if Neville movies don't arrive in time for Dec. 18.
- June 12. Pre-Convention field trips begin.

* * * *

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Peter & Sally Owzarski, BO Box 1296, Bellevue, 98009. GL5-0982, LA5-7620
(work)

* * * *

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Greeley, Ronald. 1971. Geology of selected lava tubes in the Bend Area, Ore. Bulletin 71, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. 1069 State Office Building, Portland, Ore. 97201. 8 1/2 x 11, 47 pp plus fold-out maps. Illustrated by Charley & Jo Larson et al. \$2.50.

(This is the public version of Ron's outstanding NASA report reviewed some months ago in the Caver - at least I hope it was. Every serious northwest caver will want at least one copy of this basic report - ed.)

* * * *

RECENT GROTTO NEWS

At the October meeting, Pete Owzarski reported that Newton Cave was overflowing - with people - on the previous weekend.

At the same meeting, Chuck Coughlin reported that the computerized 1971 mapping of the Summit Steam Caves will be ready as soon as it is replotted. Hopefully, in the December CAVER.

1971 Montana speleological field work
- Newell Campbell

August 1 ended my second field season of mapping Montana caves, with a total of about 80 now done of the 300 or so now known. Unfortunately a lack of funds probably means the end of this project at this point. The following caves and cave areas merit much more investigation:

Lost Creek Swallow Hole.

When visited in mid-June an estimated 50,000 gallons of snow melt water was roaring into two 10 x 20 pits (side by side) and disappearing, seemingly never to be seen again. A week later Jim Chester rappelled partway in. The initial drop appears to be 77 feet with the water roaring down into the unknown (see Oct. Caver for later report). The rock is vertically bedded Madison limestone with a major fault nearby. Probable resurgence is the West Boulder River where water can be heard in a small cave 1100 or 1200 feet lower. The water slacks off in late Fall. (What about winter? - WRH)

Sweetgrass Hills.

Sage Creek sinks for a distance of 3/4 mile in Madison limestone. A cave near the sink area features a small stream we were unable to reach due to lack of rope but it could go. A rancher told us of a deep pit directly above the cave on a nearby ridge. The vertical relief is 600 feet from pit to cave.

Yakinikak Creek area.

Yakinikak Cave #2 features an underground stream which we managed to penetrate for 350 feet. This stream may hit Yakinikak Creek about 1/2 mile downstream but here is good cave left to explore both up and down creek in this one. Nearby Yakinikak Creek itself sinks for a distance of 1.6 miles. It looks possible to dig into the resurgence end (we didn't try) and there is definitely a way to enter the upstream end. I crawled out on a log at the stream entrance and found myself above water 6' deep with falls or rapids roaring inside the cave. It may be possible to travel the entire distance underground.

Scapegoat Mountain.

Located just outside the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, this may be the best untouched cave area of the U.S. It features 1700 feet of flat lying Cambrian limestone, 2-3 square miles in extent. We visited the area in July (too early) and found hundreds of sinks, most of them snow filled. We did get into eleven pits and found two deep ones. I rappelled 234 feet into the first which was still going but I was in a fair sized waterfall and my light went out so I climbed out in the dark. The second looked like a hole melted in an ice cube. I rappelled 100 feet (free) to where the pit was only 2 feet in diameter. I dropped a rock and watched it fall free another hundred feet where it hit snow and ricocheted out of sight. Chunks of snow were falling on my head and the caver above me could not hear me so I got the hell out of there. Down in the canyon, 1400 feet below the highest sinks a giant waterfall roars out of a huge cave. We entered it for 250 feet where deep water stopped us; the passage was 100 to 150 feet high. We saw two other cave resurgence waterfalls.

Ibex-Silvertip Area.

20 miles into the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area, this area sports limestone up to 2000 feet thick. All the sinks spotted on air photos were plugged when we visited the area in late July. Limestone Cave is the resurgence for a large flat syncline of Cambrian limestone at least 1000 feet thick. There are pits on top but no caver has yet been to these caves. We ran into deep water in Limestone Cave before reaching the end of John Bridge's survey.

Snowfall was 160% of normal but we still mapped a lot of caves. However our work probably raised more questions than it answered.

* * * *

NEW WASHINGTON STATE LEADS

Dr. Mark Meier of the USGS Tacoma office has mentioned the existence of a glacier cave in the Blue Glacier of Mt. Olympus. He has been inside a considerable distance and it sounds like it may be a big one.

According to the Seattle Times of July 18, 1971, local Indians trapped seals in littoral caves on Cape Flattery in historic times.

Tom Miller reports that there is supposed to be a Tower Cave 3 to 6 miles SW of Tonasket. A Mrs. Howeler is supposed to be a local source of information.

The USGS advance sheets for the Almira Quadrangle (now in preparation) show a Tracy's Cave. This is Lincoln County; no limestone nor lava tubes anywhere near. The mapped topography of the area is peculiar; the cave is on the wall of a deeply incised meander canyon of Wilson Creek and several sinks are shown in and above an abandoned cutoff channel nearby. This should be investigated.

Keith Gunnar (515 Mt. Defiance Circle, Issaquah 98027 - EX2-7489) reports a cave at the snout of the Lyman Glacier and suggests checking the Gotchen Creek, Crescent and Mazama Glaciers of Mt. Adams. He observed the well-known Puyallup Glacier outburst that some attributed to increased thermal activity of Mt. Rainier and thought at the time that it was an evacuating glacier cave. He suggests approach to the Lyman Glacier via Phelps Pass and Phelps Creek.

* * * *

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Russell Patterson 3848 Christopherson Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84120

* * * *

LATEST FIGURES ON JEWEL VS GREENBRIAR

Jewel Cave: 39 1/2 miles (source: Bill Deane, oral communication, Aug. 1971)
Greenbriar: 33.0 miles (Source: D.C. Speleograph Jan. 1971 - how much more by now???) Longer caves: Flint Ridge, Hölloch, Mammoth.

"LONGVIEW CAVE" IDENTIFIED: PRIOR NAME "TOOTH CAVE"

About four years ago, a joint Cascade Grotto-Oregon Grotto party visited a superficial cave NW of the lower end of the Big Trench system. At that time we referred to it as "Longview Cave" as we understood that it had previously been investigated by some cavers from Longview who were not known to any of us. At Oregon Cave Sept. 4, however, I met Greger Erickson, who subsequently sent the following report:

"...Two of my spelunking partners, Steve Robinson and Keith Foster, found what we believe to be an extremely interesting cave near the Big Trench Cave System...Our theory is that this cave is linked with the Big Trench Cave System. Preliminary mapping operations by Steve Robinson and myself indicate that more caves may lie in this general vicinity.

The cave runs in a northeasterly direction and is entered through a two foot diameter opening at the base of a lava outcrop. A nest of what I presume to be a bushy-tailed wood rat (*Neotoma cineria*) was found just inside the entrance. Once inside the cave you must bellyslide about 50 feet to the first large room. The next 150 feet of the cave is nearly all breakdown creating difficult passage for a large person. It then opens into a walkable passageway 800 to 900 feet long.

During the course of our mapping, we noticed several interesting features. First was the canine tooth (from which the name Tooth Cave was derived) of a black bear (*Euarctos americanus*). Secondly were various areas of skeletal remains. Not only were these found near the entrance but at the end of the cave as well. There were bone fragments and molar teeth in the remains. Due to the evident deterioration the patches of skeletal remains were left undisturbed for future study. It was hard to identify what type of animal could be associated with the skull fragments. It looked to be that of the rodent family.

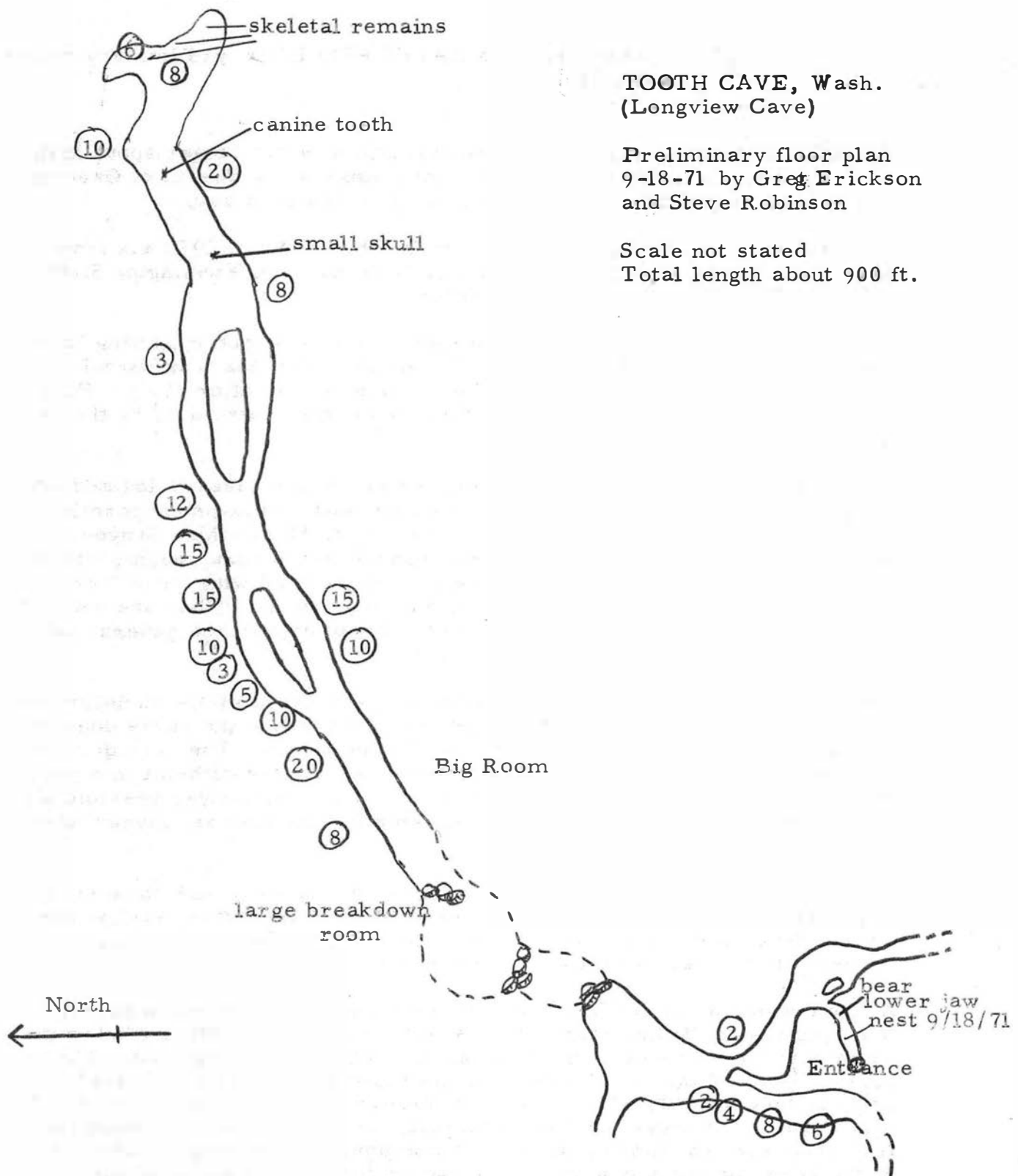
We are stumped as to how the deteriorating skeletal remains got to where they are now. At the lava seal at the end of the cave there was an opening nearly 12" in diameter; this might be a continuation of the cave. We are interested in preserving this cave for scientific study."

* * * *

ALASKAN CAVE -- OR CANADIAN?

(From McCutcheon: Adventure on the Porcupine. Alaska Sportsman, 32(12):13, Dec. 1966, referring to "The Cave of Bears, on Cave Mountain)

"We had an opportunity to read Otto Geist's unpublished report of his (1953) expeditions, through the courtesy of Charles Keim, Professor of Literature at the University of Alaska. Geist reported the rediscovery of the cave in modern times when some McPherson Indians, tracking a bear during early winter in 1900, followed the bear into the large cavern. Subsequent exploration proved the cave gigantic, comprised of three large chambers." This is in the headwater regions of the Porcupine River - W.R.H.)



TOOTH CAVE, Wash.
(Longview Cave)

Preliminary floor plan
 9-18-71 by Greg Erickson
 and Steve Robinson

Scale not stated
 Total length about 900 ft.

THE MCLAUGHLIN CANYON CAVES PROJECT: preliminary report
- Wes Cope

OBJECTIVES: To explore, map and evaluate specific danger spots in this cave system, to report findings and conclusions to the Sheriff of Okanogan County and to evaluate their commercial potentials, if any.

PERSONNEL: A team of ten cavers on October 2 and 3, 1971; six from Seattle headed by Jan Roberts, and four from Eastern Washington State College, Cheney, headed by Tom Miller.

PROCEDURE: Compass and tape survey with inclinometry; ceiling heights estimated when over 10 feet. Photography to assist final cartography; preliminary cartography on the surface immediately after study. Final reports will require correlation of data obtained independently by the two groups.

LOCATION AND GEOLOGY: This system of fissure caves is located about three miles southeast of Tonasket, in a high rocky escarpment forming the west wall of a box canyon which is a tributary to McLaughlin Canyon. The are accessible from the top of the escarpment which runs roughly north-south. The southern part of the area is honeycombed with these fissures, ranging in depth from tento 160 feet and perhaps more. They are one to ten feet in width and fencing would be necessary to protect the general public should the area be developed.

The rock is metamorphic (the mylonitic facies of the Colville batholith) and sound where not fissured. The danger of slides inside the caves does not appear great. The fissures form irregular networks. They are quite dry although muddy below "Hellhole". Only a few tiny speleothems are present. Nonewas collected for analysis. There are many entrances, possibly all interconnected. Only one appeared suitable for preliminary investigations of this sort.

DESCRIPTION: The main entrance is located in a large sink located near the midpoint of the southern end of the area. It is an irregular vertical opening 55 feet deep, and difficult to describe and to map. Two fairly easy but exposed routes can be followed to the bottom.

At the bottom of the entrance pitch is a sloping covered fissure passage 150 feet long called "Mainstreet"; it runs west to a depth of 180 feet below the surface at the entrance. The inclination is about 40° throughout. The ceiling height varies from 6 to 70 feet. At its lower end is "The Junction". At a point 40 feet from the start is a small dead-end fissure leading north. 20 feet onward is a lower level running east (beneath the main corridor) for 32'. It is necessary to chimney down 8' at this point; the passage is about 4' wide. At 80' from the start is a northern-leading squeezeaway which connects to a point just above "Hellhole"; it is 58' long.

At "The Junction", a vertical wall terminates "Mainstreet". Major passages lead north and south. Unfortunately there has been considerable vandalism at this point. However careful inspection reveals some small speleothems, on the east wall and in some small cracks near the floor. Ceiling height here is approximately 70 feet. The Junction area is about 12' in diameter. North and South Avenues are 8 to 10 feet wide.

South Avenue runs due south 33 feet, then SW 20 feet and again south 20 feet. Here a cross fissure extends 20 feet east and 5 feet west. Along the midpoint of South Avenue is a fissure leading NW to a 50-foot fissure with a high ceiling, 32 feet below the Junction: The Backdoor. It terminates in an elbow leading south for 15 feet. It ends as a narrow crack with a strong draft.

North Avenue is reached by climbing down 15 feet from the Junction. After 40 feet it bends northeast for 18 feet with the ceiling lowering to a crawlway 15 feet long - Fat Man's Nightmare, leading east. A section 20 x 18" and 4' long leads to a pit 8' deep. Beyond the pit, a squeezeway about 12" wide opens at the top into Hellhole Gate; the connecting fissure from Mainstreet has been mentioned already. A drop of 6 feet occurs at this point.

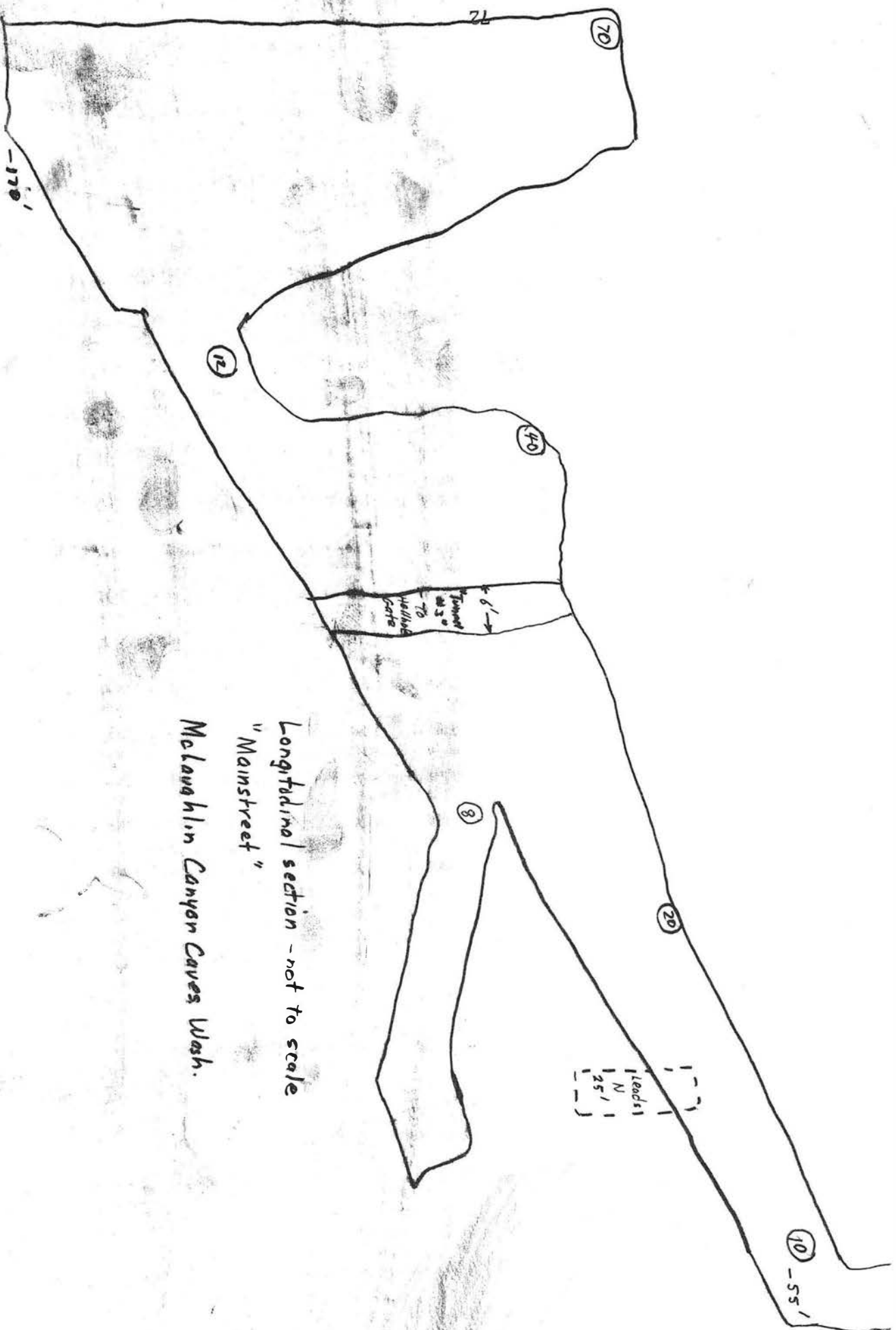
Hellhole Gate is a high-ceilinged fissure which leads north 28 feet, east 8 feet, 20 feet north, then 20 feet northeast. It leads to First Pit. The fissure is about 8 feet wide. About 10 feet from its south end is another opening which extends into the lower cave via a small room with a low ceiling: The Vestibule. The First Pit is 40 feet deep. Neither route to The Lower Cave is safe for any but experienced cavers.

The Vestibule is 6 feet lower than Hellhole Gate. It measure 8 x 7 feet and has a ceiling height of 5'. The cave beyond is particularly complex. A small hole leads downward and eastward from the Vestibule to the top of a pit 32 feet deep. Northeastward are two definite passages: the lower opens to the top of a slide. The upper one is Hellhole - a 12' crawlway over the top of the slide to the Lower Vestibule, an other small room. Its north end is a series of cracks running E-W, sloping 20°. Its floor is 6' below Hellhole.

The Slide is 26' long; it slopes 53° and is 10' wide and quite low. It leads to the top of a very dangerous 14' pit. One can work across the top of the slide to the Lower Vestibule. At this point water droplets became noticeable.

Beyond the Lower Vestibule is a series of pits. A 45° crawlway leads 6' SE; it ends in a 30' pit 4 feet in diameter; special care is needed here. The pit is at the west end of another fissure; along the north wall is a ledge ten to 40 feet below the irregular floor. The fissure is about 12' wide and 40 feet long. Near its east end is a 60-foot pit; beyond, a 33-foot passage leads WNW to a 30-foot pit, The Trap. Beyond is a 20-foot crawlway leading north to the bottom of The First Pit, already mentioned. This can be chimneyed. Mapping terminated here.

These caverns do not appear to be suitable for development as tourist attractions. The only speleothems are some very small stalactites and coralloids. They form a good training area for spelunkers.



Longitudinal section - not to scale
 "Mainstreet"
 McLaughlin Canyon Caves Wash.

FRUITCAKE DEPARTMENT

We are obligated to Vern Frese for sending a copy of Erich Aggen, Jr.'s recent article in Flying Saucers Mag., Sept. 1971: Subsurface sources of UFOs and ABMSs. UFOs are apparently "Unidentified Flying Objects" and ABMSs, "abominable snowmans". The author states: "As a former member of the National Speleological Society I am well aware of the vast, nearly incomprehensible extent of cave systems within the United States". He goes on to say that Mexico's famous Sotano de las Golondrinas "may be an ideal UFO base. Similar caves in other parts of the world may also serve as excellent natural bases, way stations and "depots" for UFOs". Which no doubt will surprise grotto members who have been down Golondrinas, and didn't think there were any other caves like it.

As for ABMSs, they "have been sighted for the past 75 years near the Mt. St. Helens area and the caves of Ape Canyon... The miners were finally forced to leave their cabin in Ape Canyon because of incessant attacks by the ABMSs."

Oh, well. At least he didn't hint that Ape Cave is a lair of sasquatches like National Wildlife Magazine did recently. I got quite a snotty letter from its editorial staff when I wrote inquiring if they would like a factual article on Ape Cave and its neighbors. WRH.

* * * * *

RECENT BAT BANDING RESULTS

- Clyde Senger

(The bats listed below were banded and recaptured in Peachers Cave in the Red Cave system, Klickitat County, Wash.) *Plecotus townsendi*.

Recaptured both 2 January and 14 February 1971: (all females)

Bat 6-10066, banded 2 November 1968.
Bat 6-10332, banded 8 November 1969.
Bat 6-10565, banded 26 March 1970.
Bat 6-10574, banded same date
Bat 6-10575, banded same date
Recaptured 2 January 1971 only:
Bat 6-10341, banded 8 Nov. 1969 (male)
Bat 6-10348, banded 8 Nov. 1969
Bat 6-10401, banded 10 Nov. 1969
Bat 6-10403, banded same date
Bat 6-10405, banded same date
Bat 6-10550, banded 26 March 1970 (male)
Bat 6-10564, banded same date
Bat 6-10626, banded 7 Nov. 1970 (male)

Recaptured 14 Feb. only (female)
Bat 6-10333, banded 8 Nov. 1969
Bat 6-10335, banded same date
Bat 6-10343, banded same date
Bat 6-10569, banded 26 March 1970
Bat 6-10571, banded same date
Bat 6-10572, banded same date
Bat 6-10576, banded same date
Bat 6-10579, banded same date
Bat 6-10624, banded 7 Nov. 1970

Recaptured 14 Feb. only, (males)
Bat 6-10069, banded 3 Nov. 1968
Bat 6-10563, banded 26 March 1970
6-10589, 6-10590, 6-10591 also

VULCANOSPELEOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

Simkin, Tom. 1970. Lava tubes in the Galapagos Islands. Phila. Grotto Digest 9(4):74-75, Winter. Visited a short tube 5 meters in diameter on the north coast of the island of Fernandina, and a major one on the island of Santa Cruz, about 700 meters long; one segment is 2-level. Small tubes are abundant and many more caves are probably to be found.

Stoops, G. 1970 (1962). On the presence of lava tunnels on Isla Santa Cruz. reprinted in ibid, pp. 75-76. A more detailed description of the same cave. Originally printed in Noticias de Galapagos (UNESCO Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands) issue 5/6, incorrectly dated Dec. 1965. It mentions other "tunnels" on the island.

* * * *

HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT

STORE PRODUCE IN CAVES

National cold storage plants near Trout Lake

Husum, Wash., Oct. 26. Caves in the vicinity of Trout lake are being used by ranchers for cold storage purposes. It has been demonstrated by Frank McDonald, who used one of the caves on his place in which to store potatoes, that he possesses a natural refrigerator. Two years ago he stored his coop there and on visiting the cave recently found what potatoes he had left as sound as on the day they were dug. For many years the early settlers adjacent to the cave region stored their dairy products in one of the cave.

* * *

Cascade Grotto of the
National Speleological Society
1117 36th Avenue East
Seattle, Wash. 98102