



The Cascade Caver

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CASCADE GROTTO N. S. S.



Vol. 11 #3
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Editor: Dr. William R. Halliday

March 1972

COMING EVENTS

- February 26. Hunt for Campbell's Cave. Call Roberts, PR 8-8503.
- February 26. Mt. Baker National Forest input meeting. Seattle Center 9AM.
- February 28. Cheney unit meeting, 8 PM, Kivers'. Slides of Lanzarote trip.
- March 2. Snoqualmie National Forest input meeting. Food Circus Rm.204, 8 PM.
- March 4-5. Humptulips cave hunt. Call Roberts, PR 8-8503.
- March 9. Gifford Pinchot National Forest input meeting, Vancouver, 7:30 PM.
- March 11. same, Portland, Bonneville, Bldg. 1 PM.
- March 11 or 12. Boulder Cave. Call Coughlin, PA5-9127.
- March 18-19. undecided. Call Roberts or Coughlin.
- March 20. Regular grotto meeting, Hallidays, 8 PM (1117 36th Avenue E.)
- March 25. NSS Board meeting, 1 PM, Madison, Wisc.
- March 25-26. Trip to be scheduled. Call Coughlin or Roberts.
- April 1-3. BC Mainland Cavers Chilliwack Valley trip. Write Gerrit Van Der Laan by early March if interested.
- April 1 or 2. Big Four Ice Caves trip. Call Anderson, 938-3575.
- April 8-9. NW Wilderness Conference, Eames Theater, Seattle Center.
- April 8-9 (tentative) Moses Coulee. Call Wes Cope PA5-8600 days.
- April 15-16. To be scheduled. Call Roberts or Coughlin.
- April 17. Regular Grotto meeting, Hallidays, 8 PM.
- May 27-29. Papoose Cave. Call Brown, R03-9094.
- May 20-21. BC Mainland Cavers trip to Cody's Cave. Contact by May 1.
- July 1-4. NW Regional Convention, Vancouver Island. No Summit Steam Caves trip this year due to Convention work. Various glacier trips 3 weekends before^{NSS} Convention. Call Anderson 938-3575.

APOLOGIES

I suppose it was inevitable. If I had to leave somebody off the grotto membership list it had to be our glorious chairman, Bob Brown! Sorry, Bob.

Brown, Robert. 1212 SW Holden, Apt. 12. RO3-9094. 98106.

NEW MEMBERS

SP/4 Larry Peterson 349 40 3648 40th Engr Co. (TOPO), Camp Mercer
APO SF 96483.

GLACIOSPELEOLOGY SCHEDULE

Tentative pre-convention planning trips are as follows:

Big Four Ice Caves. April 1 or 2.
Paradise Ice Caves. July 15 or 16.
Columbia Glacier. July 22-23.
Paradise Ice Caves. July 29 or 30.
Paradise Ice Caves. August 5 or 6.
Paradise Ice Caves or substitute therefor: August 20 (official post-convention)
Sept. 2-4. Helm Glacier.

1972 WIND CAVE PROJECT

The Windy City Grotto has announced the likelihood of a 3-month-long study of Wind Cave, S.D. and invites participation of American and Canadian cavers who can participate for not less than one week (defined as a minimum of Monday thru Friday). The WCG has been working in Wind Cave for two years, with major breakthroughs bringing the mapped length to almost 20 miles; "no less than 600 virgin leads need to be checked." Main projects will be exploration, survey and structural analysis of the Pahasapa formation and its groundwater flow. It is hoped that those accepted will have all but travel expenses paid, but this is uncertain. Those interested should contact John Scheltens, chairman of the WCG, 129 Mohawk Drive, Clarendon Hills,, Illinois, 60514.

MT. ST. HELENS CAVES CONSERVATION TASK FORCE

When the designation of specific conservation task forces was authorized recently by the NSS Board, yr editor applied for formal status of our long-standing but admittedly informal St. Helens group. No response from Rob Stitt. At the last Board meeting, my proxy inquired why, and was informed that the application had not been sufficiently formal. Now I have applied extremely formally, and those who wish to be considered formal members thereof should let me know formally. Dave Howard of The Mountaineers who handles liaison for them and the Sierra Club on this area has formally agreed to be a formal member of this formal task force, incidentally.

INTERNATIONAL GLACIOSPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Charles Anderson and yr editor are in the process of formalizing this other informal group. All interested in formal membership therein, please let us know ASAP. Dues are likely to be \$1 or so.

LATEST FROM THE KOREA TENTACLE

-from a letter from Larry Matthews

After several false starts I finally got on another caving trip, this time to the east coast to see Hwanseon-gul and Kwan'eum-gul. These caves are near Samch'ok, up the river of Osip Ch'on.

Hwanseon-gul is the largest surveyed limestone cave in Korea with something like 7 km of passageway. The two main stream passages are not completely explored and there are several good side leads. Mr. Pae considers Kwan'eum-gul the most beautiful of all Korean caves. Both are gated and controlled by the government.

These caves are located up a valley which is the most scenic caving area I have ever seen, a V-shaped valley with slopes that reach up to 600 meters above the valley floor, limestone cliffs, a dozen waterfalls and a rock pinnacle at one cave entrance. With six inches of snow on the slopes, it took three hours of hiking to reach the head of the valley. I took over 90 slides.

I spent about three hours in each cave. Hwanseon-gul starts with a huge passageway 50 feet wide and 100 feet high which leads into a room 100 feet square. From this room several smaller passageways take off. This cave in general lacks formations but this was taken care of in Kwan'eum-gul. This latter cave is a water cave so we didn't enter it very far. The entrance passageway is about 20 feet wide and about 10 feet high and contains several waterfalls in the first 200 meters. In many places the passage is almost blocked by formations and up to the third waterfall there are many places where you have to wade up to your chest in water. After the third waterfall you need a boat to continue. The formations were very nice, and plentiful. I really enjoyed the trip and hope I can go again when things are green. On March 1, I'll go to Japan, returning March 6, and then will go to Cheju-do.

CUEVA DEL VIENTO MINERALS

Wayne Moen of the Washington State Department of Mines and Geology has kindly analyzed three specimens from Cueva del Viento, Tenerife, Canary Islands. Results were as follows:

1. Small gours with flat mineral water-level seal. White.
Finding: pure opalite (SiO₂)
2. Small white stalactite, tubular, not entirely homogeneous.
Finding: impure opalite, an aggregate with some Ca, Al, Mg.
3. Red-brown amorphous material forming minute boxwork.
Finding: a clay mineral, not further identifiable with available techniques, containing much Si, considerable Ca, Al, Fe and small amounts of Mg, Mn and Ti.

These specimens were submitted by Sr. Carlos Teigell of Tenerife, and the results have been transmitted to him.

FOR THE GLACIOSPELEOLOGICAL RECORD

Cave in Mittluagkat Glacier, Greenland, 5-10 meters high; length not stated.
-Raasch, G.O. (ed.) Geology of the Arctic, p. 744.

MEMORIAL DAY PREPARATIONS OF PAPOOSE CAVE

-George Huppert

The following is a list of jobs that need to be done at the camp and in the cave prior to the pre-convention trips. I am asking each participating grotto or group to commit itself to one or more and let me know before May 1. Also let me know of any other jobs that you think need doing.

1. Clean up the campground. Clear out some brush for more tent sites. Cut a load of firewood. It might be best to leave the last item to a later date so that it will not be used before August.
2. Map from the Millrace Room to the Siphons. It would be nice to have other areas mapped but this is #1 priority.
3. Clean out debris from the cave and possibly install some #10 can carbide dumps. (Why not require everybody to carry their extra carbide in extra bottoms?- WRH)
4. Divert the waterfall at the 35-foot drop. This must be done to avoid a bottleneck if we depend on the dry drop.
5. Work on the trail. Cut out logs that cross the trail (we need a chain saw for this; who has one?) I have a 20-foot metal ladder (like the one at the first drop) that we can put on the short cliff at the bottom of the trail before you take the sharp turn to go to the climb down the dead tree. This will save us about 100 yards of walking and the nastiest part of the trail. We should put in some steps on the steep slick part of the trail lower down near the cave and just above the rockshelter. The last are not necessary but would be nice and they are fairly easy to make.

Let me know if you can help. 623 So. Jefferson St., Moscow, 83843.

PROPOSED INCREASE IN GROTTO DUES

At the March meeting there will be a vote on whether to amend the grotto by-laws to increase the dues to \$4.50 for the purpose of providing a \$1.50 subscription to Northwest Caving to each grotto member. There will also be a vote on raising the subscription rate (non-member) of The Cascade Caver to \$4.00. (Much as yr editor hates to admit it, I don't think this rag's worth that much). Both matters were discussed at the February meeting and under the due process provisions of our constitution and bylaws, due notice is hereby given.

Noted in The Explorer (Southern California Grotto) for Feb.:

"Caves of Washington" by William R. Halliday, 1963. Information Circular #40. Send \$1.00 to: State of Washington Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, Olympia, Wash.

This excellent book is a must for those who plan to attend the National Speleological Society Convention August 13-19, 1972, at White Salmon, Washington.

(Yep, that's what they said. Not a bad idea, actually - ed.)

1972 EXPEDITION TO GHAR PARAU, IRAN
(from the official prospectus)

Ghar Parau is a deep pothole in Persia. It could be the deepest yet discovered in the world. It was first entered last year by a British caving team which explored the pothole down 22 vertical "pitches" to a total depth of 2,400 feet, when available tackle - ropes and wire ladders - became exhausted. Even so, their efforts made Ghar Parau the deepest pothole in Asia and the 10th deepest in the world. While the team were in the area, they established that the water which went down the pothole came out lower down the mountain at 4,300 ft above sea level. As the entrance to the pothole is at 10,300 feet above sea level there is a potential depth of 6,000 feet which gives the 1972 Expedition to Ghar Parau every chance of obtaining a world depth record. This latter distinction is held presently by the Gouffre Pierre St. Martin in the French Pyrenees, at a depth of 3,900 feet. British cavers rank high in the international field; there is now an opportunity for Britain to take a world lead in the sport of caving. Scientific aspects will play a major part in the expedition's programme.

Ghar Parau is situated in a massive bedded Cenomanian limestone ridge which runs throughout most of the 1,000 mile length of the Zagros Mountains in western Iran. Kuh-e-Parau (11,131 ft) and its adjacent massifs form a formidable array of jagged limestone scenery when viewed from the city of Kermanshah to the south. The annual rainfall of 30-50 inches falls entirely between October and the end of April. By the late summer months the whole area takes on an extremely arid appearance and the pothole becomes virtually dry except for standing pools. The expedition will be in the field for one month in late summer. Several members will take the equipment overland to Iran and the remainder will fly out to join them in Kermanshah, via Teheran. A base camp will be set up on the South Parau Plateau adjacent to the entrance at an altitude of 10,300 feet. An advance camp will be set up for 4 men near to the present limit of exploration at 2,400 feet. Beyond this point other camps will be established as necessary to reach the bottom of the pothole. Food supplies will largely be taken out from the U.K. and supplemented by local fruit and vegetables. Conventional ropes and ladders will be used throughout the system but in addition abseiling (rappelling) and Jumar techniques will be practiced on the larger pitches which will then only require a single rope of the sheathed outer, untwisted core variety. Due to the extremely low air and water temperatures of Ghar Parau, clothing for the expedition will consist of Damart Thermawear under rubber "dry" suits, protected by close-fitting nylon over-suits. Surveying equipment will be standard Suunto-Oy compasses and clinometers and Fibron tape. Fluorescein dye, in conjunction with activated charcoal, will be used for water testing. (Leader of the 15-man team will be David M. Judson).

(Editor's note: yes, I know that this kind of thing should be in the NSS News rather than a grotto newsletter, but the present editor of the News seems to think that other things are more important and if anyone is to know about things like this, it looks like we'll have to run them this way. The following is the only response to that matter which will appear in this rag, yr editor feeling that it speaks for itself.)

By others' lights - carbide, of course

"The December (NSS News), besides being grossly printed, has an obnoxious 'letter to the editor' signed by the editor (among others). In attempts to prevent the printing of cave locations (they are paranoid) in Arizona they draw a parallel to 'problems' in Mexico. They then try to draw a parallel showing the effect of the great hordes of people who descend upon the Mexican state every Christmas... (They ask) the reader to ask people who cave in Mexico why 'they carry their caving gear in sleeping bags'. This, my friends, is unadulterated cow-flop. If there is a good reason for the secrecy of cave locations, then let's see that good reason and not false and misleading analogies. But maybe it's true. .. Guess I'm going to have to get another sleeping bag or so before this year's Mexico. And from where I sit, it doesn't make a bit of difference whether cave locations are published or not. But let's just go right on with these little ego-jabs. Do your own thing to someone else today!"

(cribbed from Lucifugus Letter, Volume 7, no. 2, p. 4. For a less intense response, see the current Windy City Speleonews)

UNSUCCESSFUL CAVE HUNT FOR CAMPBELL'S CAVE

A last-minute report from Jan Roberts reports that the rumored cave with blind fish on Corn Creek near Mossyrock could not be found on Feb. 26. However the area is so beautiful that he plans another cave-hunt in drier weather. Participating were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cheney, the Coughlins including Katie, Greg Lane, Bill Leufkens and Steve Lewis besides Jan. The report forwarded by Newell Campbell was a 300 to 500-foot cave with a pool at the rear containing 25-30 6" blind fish. Good hunting!

EDITORIAL

As a result of the February grotto meeting, I'm prouder than ever of our grotto.

At a time when a leading member of the Oregon Grotto has sequestered that state's cave file to keep even other members of his grotto from getting ahold of it (Horrors! They might make a copy of it!) nobody even seems to have thought "who shall we allow and not allow to know about these caves" when we heard the details of the promising new cave area near the Washington-Oregon-Idaho corner. Obviously, the old truism still holds: "Freely ye have received, freely give", for we have indeed received much from the rest of organized speleology, and much we must return.

As soon as we have had a chance to check out these reports to see if they are more than another "blind fish cave", we'll turn the information over to the Northwest Region and the NSS generally. If we find special problems, we'll ask some initial control of dissemination of that information until we do whatever is indicated.

But NOT on a basis of "X is holding out on us, so don't let them know about this!" Such an attitude is self-defeating - and rather quickly. Look at Arizona, where the loud mouths have succeeded in drawing the attention of all American cavers to their caves with the implication that they're holding out something special. I wonder how many cavers who normally go to Mexico at Christmas will go to Arizona this year?

Let's make extra-sure that in the Northwest, the purposes of the N.S.S. are never reduced to mere lip-service.