



# The Cascade Caver

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CASCADE GROTTO N. S. S.

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Vol. 12 #1



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Editor: Dr. William R. Halliday January 1973

## COMING EVENTS

December 29 to 33 or more. Larsons' famous New Year's Eve party, 13402 NE Clark Road, Vancouver, Wash. 1/4 mile west of freeway at 134th offramp. Possibly some caving if snow conditions etc permit.

January 15. Regular monthly meeting, Hallidays, 1117 36th Avenue E., at East Madison. 8 PM; doors open 7:55 PM.

February 26. Regular February Grotto meeting will be one week later than usual because of two trips out over Washington's Birthday weekend.

February 9-25. Yucatan-British Honduras trip. Halliday, 324-7474.

February 17-19. Paradise Ice Caves. Anderson, 938-3575.

July 4 weekend. Summit Steam Caves. Anderson, 938-3575.

August or September. Garibaldi Park trip. Anderson, 938-3575.

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## OREGON GROTTO INVITED TO SHARE PERMIT

After discussion at the October grotto meeting, with particular reference to the repeated destruction of the gate on Dynamited Cave, the following letter was sent to the Oregon Grotto in response to a helpful query from it:  
16 October 1972

Ben Buisman, Chairman, Oregon Grotto, NSS  
c/o Larson  
13402 NE Clark Road  
Vancouver, Wash.

Dear Ben:

Thank you for your courteous and thoughtful letter about the special use permit on Dynamited Cave. We appreciate your thoughts very much.

We discussed the matter at tonight's grotto meeting, and the feeling was unanimous that we would like to have the Oregon Grotto as co-users designated on the special use permit. As you know, the Western Speleological Survey is presently a co-user, and Dr. Halliday as Director thereof, assures us that he is fully in agreement. We would like to meet jointly with you with the Forest Service to discuss the future of the cave, and would like your thoughts about a preliminary meeting in Centralia or Chehalis looking forward to such a meeting.

Sincerely yours, Curt Black, Secretary-Tr.

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RECENT CORRESPONDANCE

From Claude Smith: "My wife and I were getting tired of Carlsbad so moved out here (near Sacramento) November 1. Haven't done any caving since we arrived and haven't gotten in touch with the local grotto yet...I know you have all been busy with the national convention this last summer. Understand from everybody I have talked to that it was well worth it. Wish I could have made it but couldn't get away from work. Maybe since we have moved closer, you will be seeing more of us. Our present mailing address is: 2200 Morales Ct., #5, Rancho Cordova, California, 95670. Our phone number is: (916) 635-6320."

From the Coughlins: "We're pretty well settled now, and happy. Went caving last Sunday...went to Clearwater Cave (Clear Springs Cave?? - ed.) in Ventura County. It was only a sandstone purgatory cave. We're looking forward to seeing you."

From Justin and Debbie Schmidt: "Merry Christmas to you people in Vulcanospeleology land from us in limestone land (we moved east)."

From Bill Zarwell: "...Looks like I'll be staying in the Milwaukee area for quite a while yet. Am going to take the Wisconsin Boards in January. Thanks again for everything." (1040 N. 47th St., 53208)

From Stan Pugh: "I don't wish to sound like a complainer but I always seem to receive the Cascade Caver too late for me to plan ahead for meetings and trips. While I certainly cannot go on all of them, I would like to get in a couple a year.... I saw the "bearded Ft. Lewis dentist while caving with the VICEG near Port Alberni on Labor Day weekend. P.S. Enjoyed the story on the "Bama monster." (Editor's note: a most reasonable request. Hope the new system is working better.)

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WARNING

(from the Nov. 23 Seattle Times, p. C-18, c.3-8).

CALL BEFORE YOU CLIMB, FOREST SERVICE ADVISES

Check the Forest Service before climbing or snoeshoeing on Snoqualmie Mtn.

That reminder was given by W. Ellis Gross, North Bend district ranger of Snoqualmie National Forest. It could save you from getting riddled by shrapnel or buried in snow.

Gross warned that a 75-millimeter artillery piece will fire shells to the upper southwest face of Snoqualmie Mountain and the upper end of Cave Ridge in order to control avalanches above the Alpental ski area during the winter.. Gross said the shells contain two pounds of explosives and can scatter shrapnel for many hundreds of feet. The shells are meant to trigger an avalanche before the snow can build up to dangerous proportions.... He said there is usually little advance notice to climbers since the control is dependent on the weather. The best method is to check with the (North Bend) ranger station the day of a proposed climb..(there is) a bulletin board and registration box in front of the Alpental Day Lodge....

PROGRESS IN MAYAN SPELEOARCHEOLOGY  
---from a letter from Barbara MacLeod

Have been delving quite deeply into problems and perplexes of Maya speleoarchaeology - a virtually untouched and fascinating territory. Have found some exciting cave sites. One has yielded hitherto unknown Maya cave material, suggesting very complex patterns of use - the same cave showing signs of extensive occupation, ceremonial use, and burial use. The place is even haunted. It inspired my latest cave ballad, *The Encounter of the Long Count Keeper*, twenty verse traverse of the subterranean time warp with a Maya spirit. Too esoteric for the contest judges, I guess - they preferred the old standbys.

Stu and Jarmila Peck have been here (British Honduras, that is, in case any new readers didn't know - ed.) for six weeks collecting cave critters. It was a great reunion and good collecting, though we got flooded out of all but the highest cave areas (and roads to those were washed out) for three weeks. A record amount of rain in July - just incredible.

Just last week took the assistant Peace Corps director here caving - an exciting day, especially for him. He got introduced to: brakebars, Jumars, Maya petroglyphs, old stones and bones - we found a burial offering of 464 marine shells in a chamber with seven surface burials, many children. Several intact pottery vessels, or with "kill holes". Think he got bit by the proverbial "bug".

The *Pacific Discovery* article arrived and has helped to untangle the mystery surrounding the disappearance of artifacts from that cave, subsequently excavated by Royal Ontario Museum. Some pots ended up in San Francisco illegally, and the article shows the only photos of them.

Carol Jo Rushin will be joining the BH Speleoreconnaissance in early November. The Peace Corps recruited her from among the applicants. She didn't realize caving was in the offing. She spent the summer digging bones out of Natural Trap Cave near Lovell, Wyo. for her master's thesis, which she's finishing up now. She's a Virginia caver by cultivation.

I haven't gotten anything like a full report on the Convention - the bits and pieces I have heard lead me to conclude that it really was the best ever. I feel very nostalgic and sorry to have missed it but it just couldn't be done. If I extend another year, which I'm considering, PC then provides all expense paid vacation to anywhere in the U.S. for a month. But not otherwise.

I have tentatively arranged to take a month's leave during January, to travel in Chiapas in remote Maya villages with an anthropologist who is returning there. Must wait and see how the plans consolidate. I hope you haven't seriously revised your plans for the dry season '73. This year it rained throughout January.

## FURTHER CORRESPONDANCE

(some of the grotto may not have seen the letter from the Oregon Grotto which sparked the letter on page one, so it is printed herewith)

October 9, 1972

The Cascade Grotto  
c/o Chuck Coughlin, Secretary-treasurer  
4751 Mountain View Drive  
Seattle, Washington 98108

Fellow cavers:

The Cascade Grotto worked hard on a new gate for Dynamited Cave, which some scoundrel decided to destroy. The Oregon Grotto feels a strong sympathetic reaction with the Cascade Grotto and we wish to offer our help in placing a new gate to protect the cave.

The Oregon Grotto, as the largest grotto in the Northwest and the prime user of the caves in southwest Washington, including Dynamited Cave, has great concern for these caves and has, therefore, put some thought into gating and other protective measures. We would be glad to share our ideas regarding Dynamited Cave with you, if you wish.

We have respect for the time you put into the most recent gate on Dynamited; we know how much work is involved and are concerned with your problem. If you want our help, just let us know.

Another possible solution, considering the facts that you are several hundred miles from the cave and a relatively small grotto, is for you to ask the Oregon Grotto to take over the use permit and the burden of protecting the cave. We would still allow full access to the cave for qualified cavers in accordance with the use permit.

Sincerely,

(signed by Ben Buisman, Chairman, Scott Long, Vice- chairman, Kathy Block, Secretary and Jo Larson, Treasurer of the Oregon Grotto.

(Probably because of the change of officers by both grottos, no response has yet been received to the Cascade Grotto's enthusiastic response. We hope for effective joint action soon - ed.)

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(from another letter from Barb MacLeod (mostly about logistics for the forthcoming British Honduras field trip):

...". Just re-reading Aldous Huxley - "If the world had any ends, British Honduras would certainly be one of them..."... "My jeep got caught in a flash flood and is still out of commission."

From the Vancouver Sun, Sept. 6, 1972, p. 22, c.1.

## FRESH TRACK

### SASQUATCH CAVE SEALED BY WATER by Dave Stockand

Paul Griffiths' wonderland limestone cave in the Cariboo not only has grizzly bear sentinels but - based on the evidence of a fresh track - may have sasquatch tenants, as well.

And Paul has returned from a new voyage of discovery to Grizzly Bear Cave more convinced than ever that "it is a cavers' cave, not a tourist cave".

He also reported that rising waters and the approach of winter in the high country have put the cave's just-glimpsed-at secrets under lock and key until next year.

"So it's safe until next spring", said the 21-year-old University of Victoria oceanography student and amateur cave explorer.

Paul found the cave 14 months ago while he was working for the provincial parks branch.

Existence of the vast cavern, carved by a gold-bearing underground river, was disclosed by The Sun Aug. 19 in an interview with Paul.

Paul would only say that the cave was within the boundaries of a provincial park in the Cariboo. But subsequently, a provincial parks branch official pinpointed the location as 20 miles upriver from Bowron Lake in the Bowron Lakes provincial park.

"It was the parks branch that gave away the location", said Paul.

On the sasquatch-track visit - Paul has a photograph of the mysterious imprint - he was accompanied by Blake Killins of Hamilton, Ont., a companion on an earlier visit.

Says Paul: "The picture of the track I got is different from the ones we took in the cave before. This one is recent - because the other footprints had been washed away."

Travelling at night, first by canoe and then overland, the cave-bound adventurers got into a howling match with a wolf and spooked a mother grizzly and her cub.

"We left at 3 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon and got up there (the cave) around two in the morning," said Paul.

"You have to cross Bowron Lake, end to end, and then you go up the Bowron River.

"Well, the salmon are spawning and the grizzlies are just infesting the area, because they feed on the salmon. No one in their right mind wants to go there except us crazy nuts. But we were just rounding a corner and, since the canoe is so silent, we surprised a grizzly, and beautiful silvertip, and her cub.

"The sow just stood up, you know, wondering what was going on. Luckily, she just took off."

Paul and Blake slept on a ledge at the cave entrance - as grizzly insurance - and headed into the cave about 7 a.m.

"But there was more water than the last time I was up there and we didn't get very far. We didn't have much time because Blake had only the weekend off. So basically we spent our time taking pictures, including the one of the track."

Backing up his contention that Grizzly Bear is a caver's cave, Paul said: "It's too rough. You need large amounts of rope, lighting. If the cave was close to Vancouver, a mile out, it would still be dangerous.

"But this thing is so far from park headquarters, and then so far from Quesnel. If someone got hurt seriously - if you had to operate - they would have to be flown to Vancouver."

Access in itself was not a difficulty.

"You can go down a distance of about 200 yards when the water is low with no problem at all. If the water is really low, you can get around this bypass and continue down the river for just over a mile.

"I have a feeling it connects with a series of caves in the next valley over, which would make it extremely long.

"You could put in a few ramps and you could get tourists into the main entrance room - it's a spectacular thing to see. But then you would get people wanting to go further, and they could drown, fall over pits, that sort of thing."

Another potential danger would be a thundershower that could trigger a flash flood inside the cave.

Oh, yes - the mystery footprint is 13 to 14 inches long. And the legendary sasquatch becomes very real when Paul talks about this giant beast or whatever - that walks like a man.

"I ran into what I think was a sasquatch about three years ago", he says matter-of-factly.

This came about in central Vancouver Island during an expedition by members of the University of Victoria Caving Club.

"We were exploring a cave at night and came out about three in the morning; it was snowing lightly. I was walking up to a fork in the road, to find a place to turn the truck around, and I spotted these two legs.

I raised the flashlight and it's this thing about seven feet high. Its eyes reflected in the flashlight - just like a cat's eyes - and it had a sort of flat face.

"It wasn't a bear or anything, and it was walking toward me. Its arms extended past the knees.

"At that time I didn't know anything about sasquatches or any of this business. I just ran back into the truck, into the camper, and shut the door. That was it.

"We backed up the truck. As we left, I shone the flashlight beam back through the back door of the camper and it was still standing there. When I came back up there two weeks later, I found tracks in the snow, exactly the same tracks I found in this (Cariboo) cave."

Encounters like that whet a student's scientific interest.

"In second year university I did a quarterly report on sasquatches and just about got kicked out of the University for it. It was a 48-page report in a completely scientific format, and in it I correlated limestone areas and sasquatch sightings..."

Now on the basis of his research, Paul is writing a book called The Abominable Snowmen of B.C., and another book called Exploring B.C. Underground.

He has found that cave areas and sightings of sasquatches generally correspond. He believes that sasquatches winter in caves because the temperature inside caves remains relatively constant at about 47 degrees fahrenheit.

His new track sighting was about 100 feet inside the cave, in the entrance room. "Apart from that, I think I've found sleeping places for them in caves on the island."

Paul has one reassurance for the timid.

Sasquatches, he says without a flicker of doubt, are vegetarians.

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(Many thanks to Clarence Hronek and Gerrit VanderLaan for sending the classic above. See also the followup later in this issue.)

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(From the Seattle Times, May 14, 1972)

#### CAVE TOURS TO BE OFFERED

A 4,000-foot-long cave, recently discovered in the Port Alberni area of British Columbia's Vancouver Island, will be open in the summer for guided tours led by a naturalist, the Canadian Government Travel Bureau said. The bureau said Euclataws Cave is expected to become a top tourist attraction as part of a new provincial park.

(From the September 1972 VICEG NEWS)

### The cave in Bowron Lake Provincial Park

Paul Griffiths became President of the University of Victoria Caving Club when that body was born in February, 1971. He presently leads a group of cavers based on the University, though the name, membership, and state of organization of the group is uncertain. Paul has not been associated with VICEG since February, 1971, when his membership expired and was not renewed.

While employed as a naturalist at Bowron Lake Park in the summer of 1971, Griffiths sent Ken Sinkiewicz three trip reports. The first, dating from late May, announced that he had located a sinking creek in the Park using a geological map and a topographical map. He, Keith Morley (UVic) and Jiri (George) Pelech (Simon Fraser University) had visited the area and found a sizeable creek rushing down a large cave entrance. They started to explore, but accomplished little as they had only one flashlight, among the three of them. The second report told how Paul and George had returned to the cave, which they had by then christened "Gargantua No. 2" and had explored up to an estimated one thousand feet of passage at the upper end of the cave. On this occasion, bear sign and a "giant wolf track" were noted, apparently inside the cave. Though the main stream did not sump, it was too high and swift at this time to allow safe passage downstream and exploration was thereby limited. The third "Gargantua No. 2" report described an unsuccessful attempt by Paul, Justin and Debbie Schmidt (Cascade Grotto, Vancouver, B.C.) and Tony Byrne (UBC) to reach the cave. Tony reports that he and a friend accompanied Paul back to the cave later in the year and apparently re-examined all accessible parts of the system above the stream in the area of the sinking creek entrance. Tony estimates the passage they saw on this occasion totalled about 2,000 feet in length.

From recent newspapers, we gather that Paul returned to the cave with Blake Killens of Hamilton and that they were able to pass the section formerly blocked by high water. Obviously, they found a good deal more cave than that known the year before, but it is impossible to obtain from the sensational newspaper accounts any clear idea of what the cave consists of in speleological terms. It would appear that the cave has now been renamed "Grizzly Bear Cave" by its discoverer, and that for some reason he has made no mention of the various people who participated in his 1971 expeditions. Indeed, the press announcements about the Bowron Lake Park cave leave unsaid more than they reveal. One is left hoping that, in view of the dangers and isolation of the cave, 1972 explorations were not in fact carried out only by Griffiths and Killens, but that other unmentioned persons were present to provide support and a safety factor. One wonders whether the cave passages were mapped or measured in any way or whether the newspaper statements were based on pure estimation. Finally one ponders the "gold-bearing black sands", the "whitefrogs", the "sasquatch tracks", and the "miles of unexplored galleries" and wonders at the motives of a caver who would take such material to the public press.



## NORTHWEST CAVE CONSERVATION NEWS

(from a letter from the Gifford Pinchot National Forest to Jim Hedges)

September 27, 1972

Please excuse the delay in replying to your recent inquiry concerning the lava caves in the Mt. St. Helens area (actually the inquiry was about the NSS proposal for a "Lava Caves Geological Area - ed.) The Gifford Pinchot National Forest is currently preparing a plan of management for the Mt. St. Helens Recreation Area. This includes the lava flow containing the caves and the surrounding hillsides. This plan recognizes the importance of preserving SOME (editorial stress - WRH) of the caves for scientific research. One or two caves suitable for use by the general public will be developed for this purpose and interpretive facilities provided. Caves will be gated where there is danger of destruction of natural features by an uninformed public. We have been in contact with local members of the NSS in the planning process.

We hope to be able to present a proposed plan of management for this area to the public in late fall or early winter. Sincerely,  
Ken Johnson for Mervin F. Wolf.

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Perhaps some Cascade Grotto members may be unaware that the Gifford Pinchot National Forest did not even inventory the over-5,000 acre de facto wilderness area including the Lake-Ole's Cave area and points west despite instructions from its Washington headquarters to inventory all such areas last year.

Now newspaper indications are that the same national Forest staff plans no wilderness area protection there or for the Indian Heaven area. Nor has its staff ever furnished the maps showing the successive invasion of the original boundaries of the Indian Heaven "area" which we were promised at the Portland hearing last year. Little wonder that the Pacific Northwest Region of the U.S. Forest Service is nationally termed "the problem region". One of these days it will wake up and find itself with the Indian Heaven area termed "The Place No One Knew", as in the case of the Bureau of Reclamation with Glen Canyon.

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(from a letter from the Mt. Baker National Forest to Jim Hedges)

September 22, 1972

A geologist from our Regional Office, in Portland, Oregon, has scheduled a field trip this September into the Alpine Karst Geological Area proposed by the Cascade Grotto chapter. We will forward a copy of the results of this examination to you. We feel that publicity, if any, should be used with caution so that the values we might identify are not destroyed through ignorance or vandalism.

The Forest Service is currently considering long-range management plans for Undeveloped Areas. These are unroaded areas over 5,000 acres in size (see above - ed.). The Alpine Karst area is in close proximity to two of these areas under study. We will probably not take any formal action directly concerning the proposed Alpine Karst Geological Area until our Undeveloped Areas studies are completed.

(signed) J.J. Visintainer.

(This trip had to be cancelled since we were all so beat after the convention. Especially since this looks like a low snowfall year, we'd better start planning this joint trip soon - ed.).

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The Mount St. Helens Conservation Task Force of the N.S.S. (co-chairmen Charley Larson and yr editor), and the Alaskan Cave Areas Conservation Task Force of the N.S.S. (chairman Julius Rockwell, Jr. of Anchorage) have now been formally chartered.

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Some distance to the southwest, the Sydney Speleological Society (P.O. Box 198, Broadway, N.S.W., Australia 2007) has prepared a near-200 page book on Bungonia Caves as a part of their conservation effort, educating the public about the need to save these notable caves. Price about \$5.00. Recommended.

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