



The Cascade Caver

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



Volume 12, no. 12

Editor: Dr. William R. Halliday December 1973

COMING EVENTS

- Nov. 23-24. Trout Lake area. Call Ron Long, 543-7451 (daytime).
- Nov. 25. Ape Cave. Call Tom Cunningham, 546-3416
- Dec. 8. Cascade Grotto Christmas Potluck Party for all NW cavers. Curt Black, Chairman, 564-0988. Note: no cooking facilities this year due to remodeling. Anytime after 6:00 PM; basement camping available overnight Dec. 8.
- Dec. 9. Possible one-day trip somewhere after the party. If anybody gets up.
- Dec. 17. NO REGULAR MEETING THIS MONTH. MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- Dec. 20. 6 day Mexico trip to Bustamente, Carrizal et al. Call Richardson, 584-5317.
- Dec. 27-31. Oroville area scouting. Call Crawford through 543-1668.
- Dec. 31 til GOK. New Year's Eve party at Larsons in Vancouver, Wash. (13402 NE Clark Road - take 134th St. offramp off Interstate 5 and drive west 1/4 mile into their driveway). NEW PHONE NUMBER: 573-1782!!!! Take your climbing and caving gear.
- Jan. 12 or 13. Big Four Ice Caves. Call Anderson - new # daytime only (work) 622-3848. May/may not need snoeshoes.
- Jan. 21. Regular Grotto meeting. 8 P.M, Hallidays, 1117 36th Avenue East at E. Madison St.
- Jan. 26-27. Photo trip to Trout Lake area; snoeshoes probably needed. Call Anderson.
- January 28 or 31. Start of Kenya-Tanzania trip. Call Halliday.
- Feb. 2-3. Paradise Ice Caves. Call Anderson.
- Feb. 16-18. Trout Lake. Call Anderson.
- Feb. 18. Regular Grotto meeting. New place, to be announced in Jan.
- March. Papoose Cave photo trip. Call Sproul.
- May 25-27. Mt. St. Helens Steam Cave trip. Call Halliday.
- July 4-7. Cave Ridge ice cream feed and helicopter lottery. Call Black.
- Late Aug. Pre-regional meeting 2-week \$150 expedition. Call Blak.
- Labor Day Weekend. Craters of the Moon National Monument. Northwest Regional Convention.
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At the International Glaciocave Survey annual banquet in Port Moody, B.C., maps were displayed showing 10 miles, 256 feet of passages mapped in the Paradise Ice Cave system - and existing now. 1

RECENT FIELD TRIPS

(This has been such a tremendously productive summer, with so many trips in somany areas, and the Caver got so far behind, that I'm having more trouble putting this section together properly. If those involved would write down even short reports, even belatedly, we could get much more important information properly on record. For example, I've lost the dates and exact sequence of the Concrete area discoveries. Will someone please tabulate these for the next long issue of the Caver?)

CONCRETE AREA: In July (I think), Rod Crawford and Hank Ramsey found the new sink on the edge of the Jensen Cave access road which was to become Ramsey Cave. Local inquiry indicated that the sink was not there a year ago. After it became evident that an overhanging boulder was more firmly anchored in soil than it looked, some digging opened into what is now the longest known cave in the area, with maybe 200 feet of passage and two rooms, the smaller of which contained numerous amphibia; *Ensatina Oregonensis*, *Ambystoma gracile*, and a frog and a toad. The entrance passage reveals some curious geological complexities, and slopes downward along a fault. Several subsequent trips followed, with mapping, photography, and incidents to two cars - on one occasion, a fallen tree jumped into the path of the car of a caver who shall be nameless, stabbed his grill and battery and nearly went through the windshield; on the other, Curt Black neatly drove into the Ramsey Cave sink-hole while the other carload collapsed with laughter (only one wheel actually went in). We'll have a map in the Caver soon.

Then a month later, Rod, Hank and Jan Roberts were scouting near Ramsey Cave. Chris Miller called to Rod from the road; Rod cut through the brush toward him and almost fell into what is now Cricket Cave - a nice, friendly single-chamber cave with a few speleothems and a small biota including slugs. And crickets, of course. A tricky, slippery mud funnel for an entrance sink, but one of the nicest caves yr editor has been in for a long time.

The Concreters got excited and started checking old aerial photos and found what looked like a sink some 150 feet wide and deep, then scouted it on the ground, finding it so steep-sided that they didn't want to try descending without vertical gear. So on October 7, Rod, Hank, Jan, and Curt Black, Stan Pugh and I - with Tom Miller, now back from the far south - had a look after checking out Ramsey and Cricket Caves. Tom immediately found a route not needing even a belay, but found no entrances and even questioned whether it is a sink or a quarry. So Rod and Hank went hunting again and found another new cave - this one named Rubbish Cave for its contents. It started out with the usual funnel of Concrete area caves, angling downward over enormous quantities of rubbish, mostly badly rusted jumbo-sized tin cans. At the bottom was a small room with remarkable fossils exposed on the ceiling. A tight hole led to a smaller room, thence a very tight hole, downward into a nother small room floored with rubbish that was shifting and compacting under our feet - a continuation of the entrance rubble slope. I left, but worked so hard that the smallest hole was much larger after I made it out, and had to rest. Incredible noises kept coming from the depths, and when I went back in to see what was going on, the cave was unrecognizable - at least five times as large and the rubbish still compacting and being shifted. Time ran out with much cave visible along the far edge of the mess, and a full-scale excavation is planned for next month.

PARADISE ICE CAVES. Grotto chairman Charley Anderson has led innumerable trips with a variety of persons, including a two-week expedition with Clarence Hronek and Gerrit Van Der Laan beginning the Labor Day weekend. This was in place of the big Garibaldi expedition, with the replacement because of breakthroughs earlier in the season. At the August meeting, it was announced that 40,125 feet of existing, continuous cave had been mapped. The figure after the two-week expedition has not been announced; the announcement will be made at the banquet of the International Glacioc speleological Survey in November. Three of us went up to work with them on September 9 and check out the Paradise River section of the system; others of the grotto had been up the previous day also. Below Surprise Entrance, we found a whole series of segments of firn cave and natural bridges. The entire section visited during the 1972 post-convention field trips has now melted away completely. On September 9, we found a brand-new entrance in the middle of the flats near the Paradise-Stevens divide. Despite "Closed" signs at the foot of the trail, tourists were busily entering this and Surprise Entrance. Charley and the other glacioc speleologists have also begun density measurements which will be reported later. The Great Pillar, incidentally, is back but is not particularly beautiful this year. About 2,000 feet has been lost by ablation this year, but much of the system is yet to be mapped. Charley and Mark Vining did 3,000 feet of mapping on the weekend of August 18-19 alone, and urge participation by as many as possible this autumn.

OTHER GLACIER CAVES. Because of the big push at Rainier, Big Four Ice Caves saw little study this summer. A 2-foot band of yellow ice was noted in the middle cave. On August 25, Ross and I flew around Mt. Rainier, getting oblique views of the Paradise Ice Caves system as a part of the big study, but also scouting other glacier cave orifices. The most promising was the Cowlitz Glacier, where recent flakefall at one orifice exposed white glacial ice, but several on the north side also appeared promising.

GEOTHERMAL CAVES. The Mount Baker and Mount Rainier Summit Steam Caves trip went as scheduled except that the latter completed its work and returned in 5 days instead of 7. Participating were Gene Kiver, Curt Black, Bill Steele, Herb Wattlin and Dennis Collins. Camp was in the east crater. After a reconnaissance of the east crater caves and the lake room, the east crater caves were mapped in detail and density measurements made in the firn at each survey point. The entrances were somewhat changed from the previous year, but no discernable changes had occurred in the caves. Gene also led the Mt. Baker trip; Curt also participated as did Bill Steele and his wife and Dennis Collins. At the south end of the crater, they found a conical sink about 100 feet across and 120 feet deep, with one large fumarole hissing out a convoluted cloud about 100 feet high. It appeared that there might be a passage crossing the crater to a fumarole on the north side, and passages appeared definitely to be ascending on the south wall, but the steam has enough sulfurous content that a swirl is enough to make one gasp. A 3-day trip is planned for 1974 for gas analysis and to test respirators.

MT. ADAMS AREA. Basically an unsystematic but pleasant summer. I'm sure I have only a few of the trips noted. On July 14, Charley Anderson, Mark Vining and I checked what few floor ripples are visible in Big Cave, where the Harters have speculated that the flow theoretically should have been away from the entrance. Most of the floor is breakdown but we did find one spot with floor ripples; they indicate flow toward the entrance at that particular spot. There are many other interesting features that badly need study in this cave.

On August 11, I ran visiting Australian vulcanospeleologist Neville Stevens and his family around the area, visiting Pillar of Fire, Massey's Barn, Red , Ice, Big Trench and upper Dynamited caves before they ran out of time.

The July Dead Horse Cave trip included Bob Richardson, Les Nelson, Curt, Diane, Luurt Nieuwenhuis and others of the Oregon Grotto; apparently it was a pretty good workout. On the following day, Stan Pugh joined the party in descending the 40-foot pit in Dynamited Cave. If my notes are correct, Chris Miller led another Dynamited party to the 50-foot pit the previous weekend. They also enjoyed fine seasonal speleothems in the Ice Cave, but while camped near the north end of the Hood River Bridge, had to break camp in a hurry when two carloads of hoods tried creeping up on their camp in the dark. Also in July, Charley Anderson and Mark Vining spent 6 hours photographing upper Dynamited, then went to Ape Cave where they were flabbergasted by very bad recent vandalism - the paint was still wet on a "Bigfoot Was Here" inscription, etc. Beer bottles were omnipresent. See followup elsewhere in this issue.

On the first weekend in October, Rod Crawford and Hank Ramsey visited Slime, Dry Creek and Seeley's Field caves, primarily for biological studies. Analysis of lava tube slime is underway at the University of Washington, and a return trip is planned for later in the month for additional in situ study.

MT. ST. HELENS AREA. See Ape Cave note above. The Forest Service has installed a new sign with a map of the entire cave, and stating that it is the largest in the world.

At the My meeting, the grotto voted unanimously to ask the U.S. Forest Service to halt its policy of permitting self-guided tours, in view of this terrible outbreak of recent vandalism, which appears worse than all that has occurred in all the other years that the cave has been known. This was done by letter; the Forest Service to date has not answered. The chain is now gone, also.

CAVE RIDGE. Besides the trip reported elsewhere in this issue, Chris Miller went up at least twice, ~~one~~ with the wrong keys. He has since become custodian of a set of the correct ones. His phone number is RO2 -7585. An August trip including Linda Warren, Diane, Bob Rich and Doug Kirk visited Cascade Cave and had a look at the area in general. Seems to me Bob Richardson was on that trip too. The signs and gates are reported in fine shape.

OTHER FIELD TRIPS. At the June meeting, Charley Anderson reported on a joint trip to Chipmunk Cave, B.C. with B.C. Speleo-Research. 4 or 5 raccoons seem to be living inside, dragging fish in and leaving the bones. They noted moonmilk, and a "chinese wall" of rimstone. He also showed slides of an unnamed cave on the Chilliwack River with a 40-foot drop and length of about 100 feet, and briefly reported on a 5-day Memorial Day trip with Mark Vining to eastern Washington, visiting Albright and other caves.

At the beginning of May, Charley and Mark found a warm spring in the Paradise Ice Cave system. By August, that part of the cave had melted away. While looking up at the warm spring area from Cornice Cave, they realized that they were standing on a false floor with a drop of about 280 feet below. Subsequently they never went unroped in this area. Cornice Cave is now gone.

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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Charley Anderson reports that the U.S. Forest Service is preparing a "massive" report on the history of the Big Four area. The USFS is reconsidering its policies on that area, and is ending camping at the old Big Four campground at the site of the old inn, because of overcrowding. As many as 150 cars are to be found there on some weekends. It is also limiting access to the caves to competent cavers.

The National Park Service is setting up regulations for glacier caving. A female NPS employee spent a day with Charley in the Paradise Ice Caves this summer but saw comparatively little of the cave.

Charley and others of the grotto met with USFS staff at Trout Lake in July, and learned that the USFS is not as insistent on a high security gate for Dynamited Cave as we had been led to understand. The grotto subsequently voted to try another low-security gate, and to ask the Oregon and Xanadu Grottos to assist. Some concern was expressed about increasing carbide dumps about the lavafall room, and further destruction of sand castles, and a strong consensus emerged for effective closure of Dynamited Cave for several years if a low security gate proves ineffective in precluding further damage to the cave. US Forest Service staff expressed unofficial agreement with this approach.

The Cascade Grotto and all readers of this publication are deeply indebted to Jerry Frahm for publication and funding for all one-page issues of the Caver since the new policy went into effect.

Yr editor would very much like to find someone to take over editing and/or typing of this publication.

Field trip: Cave Ridge, September 9, 1973
. -- Stan Pugh

It can be said that each of the trips to Cave Ridge this year has set some kind of record. This trip succeeded in accumulating the most bee stings.

Let's go back to the beginning, a Sunday morning. At 4:30 things began to stir at the Richardson household. Unfortunately an hour and a half later they were still stirring while I was "a stewin". We were supposed to leave my house at 5:30. Doug Walters, Curt Black, Bob Brown, Robert and Diane Richardson and I finally left Tacoma about 7:15.

As we started up the trail, the day promised to be a beautiful one. Nice weather always makes the trail shorter, you know. Things were going just fine until we came to the first hornets nest. The first three of us across the trunk just made them mad, so when Doug was just about to follow me around the nest... **POW**, right under the eye. Diane thought she could get by without getting them upset... **DOUBLE POW**, an arm and ear this time.

From here the group split up, four staying on the trail to eventually reach the top via the hanging valley trail after stopping off at Poachers Cave. Doug and I rejoined the main trail at the rock slide. We managed to get by the second hornets' nest with nothing more than a few buzzes and reached Lookout Cave in a short two hours, ten minutes from the Alpental parking lot.

After an hour or so, the rest of the team arrived, and upon devouring our lunch in 70-plus degree weather, Curt, Robert and Diane went down the 42-foot pit in Lookout Cave without a belay... "Who needs a belay here, anyway? There's no way you can fall!" My carbide lamp took a sick spell. Bob Brown went up to work on the lock at Cascade Cave, and Doug hollered down the pit to see what things were like down there. "Don't come down", was the reply. "This is the ugliest cave I've ever seen!" The 30-foot pit will have to be conquered on another trip.

Once the group was out, we headed to Danger Cave checking out various sinkholes on the way. We all went as far as the 40-foot drop, and Curt managed to reduce that by at least two feet with his trusty method of determining height by listening to rocks fall.

We then came across Huckleberry Cave and found a considerable amount of ice and marmot manure inside. The ice formations were beautiful, but the cave didn't extend very far. "On to Newton!" was the cry. The trail led past Red Cave and soon we were in front of "Ole Mean Mouth Newton" himself.

The following are excerpts spoken at the entrance to Newton Cave. The reader can draw his or her own conclusion as to who was speaking:

"Yes, I think this cave should have a gate"... "I am going to stay and feed the birds"... "The gate should go about there"... "Cotton Picker! I left my gloves back at Huckleberry!"... "You can see that the entrance has been partially gated by the rocks there"... "Who's going first?"... "Puff, puff"... "Hey, how did you get down there?"... "Don't ask me!"... "Nothing to it, just hang onto the ceiling!"... "I'm no cave cricket!"... "Just because you saw Doc Halliday posed on a cave ladder doesn't mean you have to have one, too!"... "Here, birdie, birdie!"... "I just remembered something. I left my other glove back at Huckleberry, too!"... What's acrophobia?

The trip down began around six, but by 6:30 someone was still looking for the keys. "Isn't that hornet's nest around here somewhere?"... POW.... Diane isn't saying where she got stung this time.

All in all we had a great time and hope that on our next trip we have time and equipment to tackle the pits.

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RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED MT. ST. HELENS NAT. MONUMENT
by the N.S.S. Board of Governors
June 19, 1973

WHEREAS, the environs of Mt. St. Helens in southwestern Washington state contain many significant natural features, including many lava caves, which should be preserved in a natural state for the enjoyment of the people of the United States, and

WHEREAS, these natural features are threatened by a combination of factors including the encroachments of modern civilization, a fragmented land management policy, and the continued incursions of logging operations and their concurrent roads, and

WHEREAS, the Mount St. Helens Protective Association, Pacific Northwest conservationists, and the Mt. St. Helens Conservation Task Force of the National Speleological Society have proposed and recommended that the best means of protection for this area and its fragile and delicate resources would be the formation of a Mt. St. Helens National Monument;

THEREFORE, in support of these proposals and recommendations the Society urges that, in order to better preserve the natural values thereof, there be established in the State of Washington a Mt. St. Helens National Monument to include Mt. St. Helens and its environs, the de facto wilderness lying to the north, and the Cave Basalt Lava Flow and its caves.

* * * *

BILL ZARWELL IN BRITISH HONDURAS
(from a letter of 8-21-73)

"Been down here for about 5 weeks now and enjoying Belizian life. Been to Petroglyph, Mountain Cow, and Blancaneaux - some tremendous caves. Found a burial in Blancaneaux Cave and it was a very exciting experience for me. But so far Petroglyph has been the most enjoyable yet. Please plug our record in the Caver. Cost \$3.50; make checks out to me and send to 1040 N. 47th St., Milwaukee, Wisc., 53208. Great cave ballads!

Tom Miller's Extension of the British Honduras Field Trip
-- from a letter dated 4 August 1973

The trip was certainly a success as I managed to visit some 30 Latin American caves, including many I am sure have not been visited by NSS members until now. One very fascinating area was a high level (1900 m.) karst area in Colombia, a cool tropical rain forest, where I found many caves, some quite long and complex (mile plus) and with guacharo birds.

I also spotted some sort of troglobitic fish in an Equadorean cave which was previously reported in the NSS News by Gurnee and a Hungarian.

There are conflicting reports on the ice cave at 5400 m. in Bolivia you wished me to look at. The Bolivians are, of course, quite proud of it, but a former Peace Corps member and mountaineer that I met says it is almost certainly only a crevasse and is about 100 feet long.

Also in Bolivia, I managed after considerable effort to visit a well-known limestone cave reputedly 3 km in length, with siphons, blind fish, calcite "wool", cave pearls, etc. The interesting parts, of course, are beyond the siphon. There is a spelunking group of some sort there (I met one of the members), many caves, and some interest in having an American group visit the country.

Unfortunately I was unable to visit the organized groups in Brazil or Venezuela, but will save them for some future trip. I have an unconfirmed report of 800 caves in Chile. Seems a bit much. Peru supposedly has a limestone cave at 17,000 feet plus. I visited several caves in an area there that would bear further looking.

On my way north, I stopped in again at Belmopan, beating Barb McLeod and CJ Rushin home by a day. Roger McMillan and Bill Zarwell were there. We managed to get into some more virgin passage in Petroglyph Cave (including forcing one siphon) but nothing spectacular resulted.

Presently I'm at Carlsbad Caverns, and was lucky enough to accompany one of the rangers to several caves, including New Cave which will be opened to the public in a week. Tomorrow I'm going to Cottonwood Cave and then will head for Arizona and Utah to do some caving.

* * * *

Te-cum-Tom Enterprises (2618 Sand Creek Road, Grants Pass, Ore.) has two new publications in addition to "Discovery and Exploration of The Oregon Caves." One is Frank Walsh's "Indian Battles along the Rogue River, 1855-6"; \$1.50. The other is Lavola J. Bakken's "Land of the North Umpquas"; \$2.00. A fine photo of Indian Caves, Oregon, and another of its pictographs are included in the latter, along with brief mention in the text and a location map.

ALASKAN CAVE AREAS CONSERVATION TASK FORCE
QUARTERLY REPORT
July-September, 1973

1. Contacts with other cavers.

Dr. Warren G. Smith (NSS 5601). Chatted with him in Fairbanks in July; he gave me some leads on caves; he had not been in any Alaskan caves.

Harvey Bowers. Came over one evening and showed some of his fabulous slides, gave me a print of his prize-winning Byron Glacier Cave, and got me off my butt.

Adrian Cahoe (NSS 14919) and his wife came over several times and followed up some leads that I gave him. He visited some sea caves and checked out some holes on Sheep Mountain near here; the latter did not turn out to be extensive.

Tom Hallinan. (NSS 6329). Went caving with me near Galbraith Lake (north of the Brooks Range Divide in the Philip Smith Mountains), and entered three new caves - the largest being 70 feet long and going into permafrost.

Nancy Hallinan (NSS 6367), Tom's wife, invited me to stay overnight with them on the way back to Anchorage (they live in Fairbanks).

Jack Ahgook (non-member) showed me four caves near his home village, Anaktuvuk Pass; he took me into three of these; two required the use of a light.

2. Situation in Alaska.

Anchorage is a good base of operations, being 2000 miles from the end of the Aleutian Chain in one direction, 1000 miles from the southern end of the state, and 1200 miles from the northern point of the state. There are fewer roads in the whole state than in most counties. Nearly half of our 1/3 million population lives in Anchorage. Aircraft are used extensively for travel but in summer need landing strips or lakes, in the winter snow strips can be prepared. Snow machines are replacing the dogsleds, and so in winter people are more mobile than in summer, on the ground.

Caves are generally small, and, except for littoral caves, tend to fill with ice and rubble. The 0° isotherm passes about 60 miles north of Anchorage, the average annual isotherm, that is. Some glacial caves are quite respectable (in size), but few found are inviting. However, there are many, many small caves in Alaska. Anything that goes back more than 30 feet is considered to be a deep cave.

3. Publications.

Chuck Pease (NSS 4847) has urged us to continue the publication of The Alaskan Caver, which he edited while he lived in the state. We plan to do this and to describe new caves as we find them, and to reprint or reference articles on Arctic cave theory, etc. Tom and I are preparing an article on some of the Caves of Atigun.

4. Notes on cave areas.

Southeast Alaska has been covered by Halliday's Caves and potential cave areas in Alaska. (But note item elsewhere in this issue - W.R.H.)

Price William Sound has hundreds of littoral caves which I have seen from flying over. Kuchumak Bay (south side) is another littoral cave area as is parts of Turnigan Arm. Some of these have been explored and will be reported.

The Aleutian area is said to have lava tubes.

A massive limestone belt extends all the way across northern Alaska from the DeLong Mountains in the west to the Davidson Mountains in the east. Caves have been reported to me informally to exist the entire length of the Brooks Range. Also there are said to be other areas which bonafide cavers have not verified. There are so many caves, all small, that it seems quite likely that larger ones (by Alaska standards) may exist, and will be found. This limestone is Mississippian, and, east of Anaktuvuk Pass, at least, is said to be of the Cape Lisborne type. Cave coral and what appear to be gypsum flowers have been observed. Rather lovely ice crystals have been found in the two caves observed that go into the permafrost. According to one geologist the permafrost extends at least 400 feet into the rock at Anaktuvuk Pass. However springs have been found at the northern foothills of this Range that run at nearly constant temperatures all year round, and support relatively warm but limited microclimates.

A knowledge and a disposition toward mountaineering and wilderness camping would be a useful attribute for a northern caver. The most easily found openings are high and remote. Also, after half a day's climb the cave is usually found to go in about five or six feet!

5. Cave conservation.

No cave conservation problems have been found that are in any way comparable to those being experienced in other states. There is a possible problem with grave robbers looting for artifacts as some caves have been used for burial. The removal of artifacts from caves is in violation of the Federal Antiquities Act of 1906 and this has been strongly reinforced by Alaska law.

Enforcement remains a minor problem. There is practically no interest in caving here except by archeologists. The proposed trans-Alaska pipeline poses no direct problem as all known caves are on mountainsides and the proposed pipeline and road are on the valley floor. The proximity of the proposed road to caves is not likely to have much effect in the foreseeable future, as most people contacted feel caves are small and dull and are primarily used by bears, for hibernation, by wolves for dens (not really) and are likely to collapse during the next earthquake.

6. Administration.

Some thought has been given to organization. If anything is to be done it must be a group effort. Possibly I need guidance, as I feel if I do nothing the caves will not be discovered as soon as they would be if I stirred up interest. But visiting cavers and others out of the state want to know where the Alaska caves are.

If we proceed further it might be appropriate to call us the Alaska Speleological Survey.

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Calcareospeleological Abstract

Tobin, Emery F. Caves of Coronation. Alaska Mag., August, 1973, pp. 24-26.

The writer, the former editor and publisher of The Alaska Sportsman, describes a visit to caves in Silurian limestone at Egg Harbor on Coronation Island, together with some background history on the area. He considers them littoral, but his photos suggest that they are phreatic. He mentions a "row of some six caves and three arched rock bridges in Egg Harbor...the caves are from 10 to 20 feet high at their entrances but gradually contract to their ends at distances of from 50 to 400 feet."

Of special interest is his quoting "Dr. A.T. Ovenshine of the U.S. Geological Survey" as saying: "such caves are common wherever limestone occurs in Southeastern Alaska."

Maybe Alaska Cave Survey would be better than Alaska Speleological Survey after all. -- W.R.H.

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Editor's note of thanks: Somebody sent me a xerox of Tobin's article, postmarked ~~White~~ Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, with an illegible short name in the corner, followed by Y.T. Many thanks to whoever it was. As I write, this issue of Alaska Magazine is still on the newsstands.

CORRESPONDANCE

1 August 1973

Supervisor
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
P.O. Box 449
Vancouver, Wash.

Dear Sir:

Regarding your proposal for comment on the "Draft, Environmental Statement on Proposed Land Ownership Adjustment Plan, between Weyerhaeuser Company and Gifford Pinchot National Forest", The Cascade Grotto and Mount St. Helens Caves Conservation Task Force of the National Speleological Society, and the Western Speleological Survey jointly present the following comments:

1. The Cave Basalt Lava Flow area contains many features of major vulanospeleological importance, many of them of particular fragility. Ape Cave, partly beneath USFS and partly beneath Weyerhaeuser land, is the longest lava tube cavern known in the continental U.S. and perhaps the world. The flow includes the type locality of an especially interesting insect, *Grylloblatta chirurgica*, and an extensive cave fauna only now beginning to be studied in detail. Acquisition of the Ape Cave and nearby Weyerhaeuser inholdings appears essential to proper management of the speleological resources - by far the dominant resources of this nationally significant area. We commend the proposed acquisition of these inholdings and strongly recommend acquisition of all other inholdings and the southward margin of the flow lying beyond the present national forest boundary.

2. The statement on page 5 stating supposed 1970 and projected 2000 recreation use for spelunking are seriously understated. The projected figure for the year 2000 is presently exceeded in Ape Cave alone on busy summer weekends, and management of this area must reconsider the impact of this currently uncontrolled use.

Because of severe and increasing recent vandalism, we urge an immediate halt to the present policy of self-guided tours for the part of Ape Cave owned by the Forest Service, and the halting of all snowmobiling in the portion of the flow west of road N83. We also urge reconsideration of the statement on page 13 about lack of consideration of commercialization, for we consider preservation through commercialization preferable to the present permissive, destructive policy which is destroying much of the values of Ape Cave. We do not consider commercialization the only satisfactory method of preservation, and urge consideration of other alternatives, but insist that adequate preservation measures be instituted immediately.

3. We are deeply concerned about the possibility that the lands to be exchanged for these inholdings would cause a major, irreparable loss of other ecological, wilderness, scenic, recreational and other values. We are not experts on the lands proposed for an exchange for these inholdings, but we are aware of the concern of many reputable conservationists for these lands. We wish to stress that public enjoyment and inspiration derived from acquisition of these inholdings would be bitterly

reduced if the cost - measured in conservation ideals - is too high. Therefore we urge that, if at all possible, lands of lesser recreational, scenic, wilderness and ecological value be exchanged instead of those presently proposed.

4. We request copies of this "Draft statement" and future pertinent data about this area for each organization in this joint statement. At present, none is on your mailing list, and all are vitally concerned with the Cave Basalt Lava Flow area.

/s/ Charles H. Anderson, Jr.
Chairman, Cascade Grotto,
National Speleological Society

/s/ William R. Halliday, M.D.
Chairman, Mt. St. Helens Caves
Conservation Task force, NSS
Director, Western Speleological
Survey

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GLACIOSPELEOLOGICAL ABSTRACT

Tero, Richard D. E.J. Glave and the Alsek River. Alaska Journal, Summer, 1973, Vol. 3 #3, p. 185.

(Writing of a then-unnamed glacier along the Tatshenshini (then the Alsek) River in the St. Elias Mountains west of Skagway) ... "Numerous water-courses drain this glacier and moraine, threading their courses among the stony waste and tunnelling beneath the ice, they rush along to swell the volume of the ... River."
W.R.H.

(Note: the same issue contains an article on the gypsum deposits on Chichagof Island. No caves are mentioned but the potential is obvious.)

The Cascade Caver
1117 36th Avenue East
Seattle, Wash. 98112