



The Cascade Caver

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



Volume 13, no. 2

Editor: Curt Black

Feb. 1974

COMING EVENTS

- January 31. Kenya-Tanzania trip, 3¹/₂ weeks. Call Halliday, EA4-7474
- February 2-3. Paradise Ice Cave. Call Anderson, daytime 622-3848
- February 15-16. Trout Lake area. Call Anderson.
- February 16-17. 1974 Western Region Educational Seminar near Portland, Oregon. See next pages for additional information.
- February 18. Regular grotto meeting; Hallidays, 1117 36th Avenue east at East Madison St. 8 PM. With a pick of some pit pict's by Alex Sproul.
- February 23-24. Relocation of Lost Cave. Call Jan Roberts, PR8-8503
- March. Papoose Cave. Call Sproul, 964-2505.
- May 25-27. Mt. St. Helens Steam Cave. Call Halliday.
- May 25-27. Papoose Cave, Memorial Day Mini-Convention, & Second International Papoose Culvert Crawl. Call Bob Brown, 762-7614.
- July 4-7. Cave Ridge ice cream feed and helicopter lottery. Call Black, 564-0988.
- August 12-16. NSS 1974 Convention, Decorah, Iowa.
- Labor Day weekend: NW Regional Convention, Craters of the Moon.
- June 14-22. NSS 1975 Convention, Ely, Nevada?

NEW GROTTO MEMBERS

- Rod Crawford, Burke Museum, U of W, Seattle, Wa, 98466. Phone through 543-1668.
- Tom Cunningham, 119 N. 193rd., Seattle, Wa. 98133. Phone: 546-3410
- Candy Reinstatler, 5211 Meridian N., Seattle, Wa. 98103. Phone 632-3139

Jan Conn reports that Jewel Cave has reached the 50 mile mark.

RECENT FIELD TRIPS

Ron Long, and Mark Vining, showing the true Cascade Caving spirit, slogged through 4 feet of Trout Lakes finest January snow for more than an hour without snow shoes to visit Out House Cave. No report was recieved as to what they found. The duo then continued on to Cheese Cave, and then Deadhorse Cave. They report that the latter is, "full of water," just a few feet inside the lower entrance.

The Oroville area scouting group was dissuaded from its pursuit of more Washington caves by western Washington's winter weather. The trip will be rescheduled in the spring.

Tom Cunningham, and a friend visited Ramsey/Drive in Cave, and report what may be another sink forming in the middle of the road about one hundred feet below Ramsey Cave sink. It is said to be approaching car catching size. (I would be the last one in the world to complain, but what happens if the road becomes unusable? Does someone, horror of horrors, go up there and fill up the holes?)

A NOT SO RECENT FIELD TRIP

- From the "Huntsville Grotto Newsletter," Volume XIV, Number 10.

Adventures in Cascade Caving

or

"Alex in Wonderland"

Any similarity between caving in Alabama and the art/science/sport practiced in the "great" Northwest is, at best, coincidental. Such is the impression of this Virginia-come-Alabama troglexene upon being so rudely banished to the far reaches of the earth.

My introduction to caving in the Cascades has been swift and merciless and thereby has served to accentuate how totally incomparable the underground experience can be in two geographic regions of the same country. I am suprised, in fact, that Southeastern and Northwestern cavers can find enough in common to join a single organization.

Herewith I recount my transition for your enlightenment:

Having established my household, I sought out the Cascade Grotto in Seattle as the nearest NSS affiliate. The NEWS didn't list any NSS'ers on Fort Lewis and only two in nearby Tacoma (tho' I have since found there are several more listed under unrecognizable suburbs). I intend to visit the Oregon Grotto (Charlie Larson, et al) occasionally too, but 110 miles is a long way to commute. Having become accustomed to one grottô's particular modus operendi and unique conglomeration of social deviates, it is difficult for one to readily assimilate into another; I will therefore refrain from commenting on grotto composition policy, ect. It goes without saying, though, that you HG folks should take pride in being THE best grotto going.

I found it interesting that the Cascade Grotto patch depicts a view-from-above of a caver rappelling into an impressive opening. It's a curious selection in that no such scenes are indigenous to the area! The deepest single pitch in the state is near 50 feet, and there are only a handful of caves that require vertical technique at all. Such implements as racks and jumars are foreign to all but the most cosmopolitan cavers, with double brake bars and prussiks being the order of the day. The electric light is also virtually unknown; I find myself scoffed at and mocked even while illuminating their machinations over recarabiding and lip reaming. But to get back to my tale of being introduced to Northwest caving...

At the August meeting, I was invited on a trip to Dynamited Cave the following weekend. Having heard tales from HG '72 conventioners, I was looking forward to it. At mid-week I was told that the destination had been changed to "Cave Ridge," the only limestone karst in the area, and that departure time would be 4 a.m. due to the distance! Knowing nothing of the area, I was more disappointed at the ungodly meeting time than at the change of caves. Was I in for a surprise!

During the trip out (my car had been suggested), I was primed with such phrases as "Newton Cave is Washington's finest" and "it's a 500-foot-deep system--a real challenge--a terrific cave." Not until we were parked at Snoqualmie Pass (Elev. 3200 feet) was it casually mentioned that Newton was on the other side of the mountain at the 5400 foot level! Never again will this caver bitch about the hike to valhalla or Fern, or even Gary Self! Around these parts, getting to the cave is more of a challenge than the cave itself (and ridge-walking is virtually unheard of). These mountains are incredible (and no that ain't ever in Georgia--I'd climb Incredible and Fantastic combined before I'd climb Cave Ridge again!) It's a 100% grade through 2000 vertical feet of tangled underbrush and rock slides till you reach the tree line, a three-hour hike! By the time I reached the top I was having second thoughts about doing even a "Tumbling Rock."

It was apparent by now that the name of the game was "Let's see what this Flatland Tourister is made out of." There are several notable caves on Cave Ridge, including the renowned Hellhole, Cascade, and others of alledged beauty, but the selection of Newton took a sadistic mind. The cave is utterly devoid of any redeeming social value. It's a fault cave; not a joint controlled solution cave, but a fault, pure and simple. No evidence whatever of any water action, though it's not because the water isn't trying. As with the outside of the mountain, the cave's horizontal extent is deceiving; though only some 1500 feet in length, it is over 500 feet deep, which makes for a lot of exercise. Because it is only a fault, its environs are anything but hospitable, and all but humanly impossible. Jagged rock clutches at you always, there being no "walking passage" and precious little where hands-and-knees crawling is possible. And to make things more pleasant Northwest caves maintain a refreshing 32-35° F temperature. (my traditional Penney's coveralls were all but destroyed and assisted me in gaining first-hand knowledge of the effects of hypothermia.)

For that 500-foot depth, the only vertical work required was a 40' drop near the entrance, two 30-footers en route, and the 80-foot wonder at the very back. All were cramped, rigged to bolts for lack

of any formations, had very little freefall, and were quite wet. My inchworm gear made quite a hit on the way out. Five of us were sharing three sets of gear, and mine was so popular (they'd never seen one) that three of us used it. Our exit was understandably agonizingly slow. Round trip time through the cave was just under 11 hours. I later learned I was one of twelve people to have seen the bottom. A guy's gotta be crazy to go caving around here.

The hike, no, climb back down the mountain was an agony in itself. One could see the car virtually the whole way down, and distance perception on such a slope is frustratingly deceptive. Getting used to climbing down a mountain about twice as fast as climbing it, I expected to be down in about an hour, but the descent took another 3 hours of constantly thinking I was "almost there." And oh, the backs of my legs!

Having passed my initiation, I was now presumably qualified to visit caves with something worthwhile to offer. The others apologized for taking me, unprepared, on so difficult a trip, and I had considerable difficulty explaining to them that my objection was not to the physical exercise but to the utter lack on any rational motivation for such prolonged torture. Newton Cave is simply not worth the trouble it would take to blow it shut. On the long ride home, a few stories about Alabama caves had them all glassy-eyed with wonder (at least I think it was wonder) and by the time we arrived home at 3 a.m. they were all ready to charter a plane to go see a "real" cave.

From my kitchen window, I can see Mt. Rainier in all its splendor 70 miles away, and I've already got a real case of "summit fever." A week ago, the family and I hiked up to the glacier (Nesqually) on a sparkling blue day. Later, at Paradise, I ran into Charlie Anderson, a Cascade Grotto member and founder of the International Glaciocaveological Survey (!!), who invited me to come up to the Paradise Ice Caves. In several year's work, he has mapped over 8 miles of passage (though I sometimes wonder if all 8 miles of it ever exists at one time).

Enlisting the other Tacoma-area cavers to go along, we hiked up to the caves the first weekend after Labor Day and met Charlie and some Vancouver (B.C.) friends who were on a week-long mapping expedition. (By this time I had logistically prepared myself for Northwest caving, and the Co-op was \$150 richer.) Compared to the Newton trip this was a mere Sunday stroll and a real pleasure. We were again blessed with flawless weather and I got some fantastic (I mean really nice) pictures.

Next week I am slated to do a couple of lava tubes, at which time my orientation to Northwest caving will be complete. Having seen it all it remains to be seen whether I will be motivated to see more of the same, but in the final analysis, it is the only game in town. It's apparent, though, that in Cascade caving, getting there is more than half the fun, and that part I really enjoy. This is terrific country even if I do find myself looking at my slides of "down South, where the big ones are."

-- by Alex Sproul

News and Notes From All Over

The 1974 Western Area NSS Educational Seminar will be held on February 16-18, Washington's Birthday weekend, at Marylhurst College near Portland, Oregon. This seminar will offer lectures, discussions, workshops, and demonstrations on basic subjects in speleology, and caving. Fellowship is also important, and will take the form of a Saturday evening dinner, and party.

To register send in \$2.00 to the address given below. (\$4.00 for non-NSS members, NSS membership available at the door, \$2.50 for NSS members at the door) For more information, or information on accommodations, contact Gerald Zimmer, Marylhurst College, Marylhurst, Oregon, 97036. At least three persons are going from Tacoma, and you are encouraged to come along (the more in a car the cheaper for everyone). For information on the transportation situation call: Alex Sproul 964-2505.

Some items of interest from the NSS Board of Governors Meeting, November 3, 1973, in Pasadena, California:

"Medville moved that: The NSS shall sponsor an Alpine Karst Field Trip in the Teton mountain range, Wyoming, between 27 July, and 10 August, 1974. The purposes of the field trip are: (a) to give the membership of the NSS an opportunity to backpack and explore caves in an alpine karst area; (b) to explore and survey as many as possible of the 300 or more pits and caves that have been found in the past year; (c) to study groundwater chemistry and trace streams in the area visited. The leader will be Doug Medville. ...Passed

Stitt moved: Bill Mixon is appointed Special Persecuter, with complete independence, to investigate the questions surrounding the publication of "The Amateur's Guide to Caves and Caving" (also known as the Cavergate Affair), and is empowered to subpoena all relevant documents and/or tapes from president (NSS) Curl."

For those of you who don't know exactly what is going on this letter, the report of the Executive Vice President* to the BOG, might help.

"As most of you probably know by now, Dave McClurg's book An Amateur's Guide to Caves and Caving, ...is encountering some problems. It seems that most of the drawings in the book, which are credited to one, "LaRhee Parker," have been copied (and in some instances, I submit, photographically copied) from other books without acknowledgement. (i.e. Mountaineering - The Freedom of the Hills)...We, the NSS, have endorsed Dave's book - have we therefore inadvertently endorsed Dave's indecorous act? It is clear that we need a procedure for thoroughly reviewing any book or work before we endorse it..."
*Dwight T. Hoxie

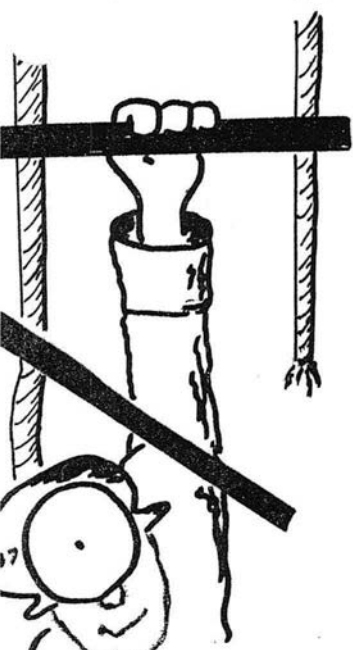
(This is included simply as an item of interest, and not as a criticism of the book, or it's author. I have enjoyed reading the book and look forward to meeting Dave at Marylhurst, Ed.)

Bill Zarwell is back in Milwaukee selling his record. (which if you haven't already, you might consider buying — \$3.50 is pretty cheap for a piece of Speleomusicalogical history. Ed.) See the next page for more information.

Ron & Nancy Pflum are living in Tennessee, thinking longingly of Washington State, and are expecting another caver in the family soon.

During the past month Gibbs ascenders have ascended in price from \$7.25, & \$8.50 to \$8.75, & \$10.75. One more point for Jumars which are still resting around \$15.75 each.

The NSS public relations committee is trying to start a clipping service and would like cavers to watch for material which shows how cavers are viewed by the public. They are worried about duplication so avoid items from the wire-services.



If for the first couple of months the *Caver* reads like a newspaper, you have my apologies. Everything I know about "editing" has come from two books on newspapers, two months of talking to people, or seven pages of experience, (called Voll. 13 no. 2). If any of you were able to read this far without knowing that the *Caver* has a new editor, I'm thankful. To me, that means that I've been able to slip in without upsetting things too badly. However, this isn't going to continue. With the help of a lot of people, I'm looking into ways of cutting costs (in the face of last month's 64% increase in the price of paper), improving quality, and getting more of what you want to read into the *Caver*. I'm reasonably confident that I can edit, and publish the *Caver*, and I could probably even fill it with my own trip reports, or lifted material from all over the country. But, I don't think you want to read that. I hope your subscribing to find out what's going on in NW speleology; who's doing what, how, where, & why their doing it. Now, if you've never thought about it before, you *are* Northwest speleology. It's *your* trips, research, and discoveries that other NW cavers want to read about. If you don't tell me what your doing: I'll never know, the *Caver* will never tell, other NW cavers will never find out, and people will think we've *died* up here -- when what we're really doing is finding caves left, and right. (sort of)

Before I Say
Goodbye.....

So, write me a letter; tell me what your doing, or what you'd like to be doing, or what you'd like the *Caver*, the grotto, or me to be doing. Remember, without involved cavers a grotto is nothing but a hole in the ground.

Curt Black

*you know
inside*

First Lava Tube Cavern Reported in Alaska

Howard Baltzo of the US Fish and Wildlife Service has reported a sizeable lava tube on the SW flank of P oslov Hill on St. Paul Island in Alaska, right at the foot of the cinder cone summit itself. He writes:

"We went in 600 feet in a meandering, but northerly direction (toward the cinder cone summit - W.R.H.) and can only tell that it went at least another lantern's light further. Because the native Aleuts are superstitious about the place, it's doubtful that anyone would have tried to rescue us if we had become lost..."

On the phone, Mr. Baltzo indicated that flow features are prominent and breakdown scarce. There's a plane weekly to St. Paul Island; anyone going to Alaska soon? (W.R.H.)

"WHERE THE RAIN NEVER FALLS"

Over 40 minutes of cave songs from the 1972 NSS ballad contest on a 33 RPM stereo record. Profits to go to the NSS office fund.

Record cost	\$3.50 postpaid
Cassette cost	\$4.50 postpaid

Checks payable to the NSS Cave Ballad Contest. Bill Zarwell, 1040 N. 47th St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53208.

The Cascade Caver
3530 Greenwood Ave. W.
Tacoma, Wa. 98466

