



The Cascade Caver

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

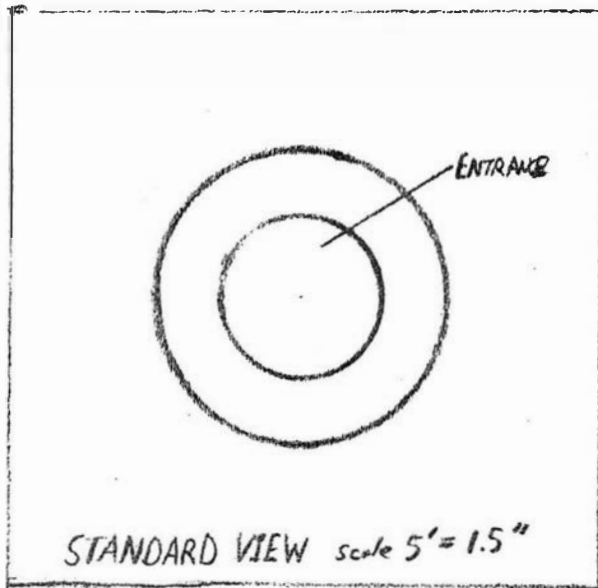


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Editor: Curt Black

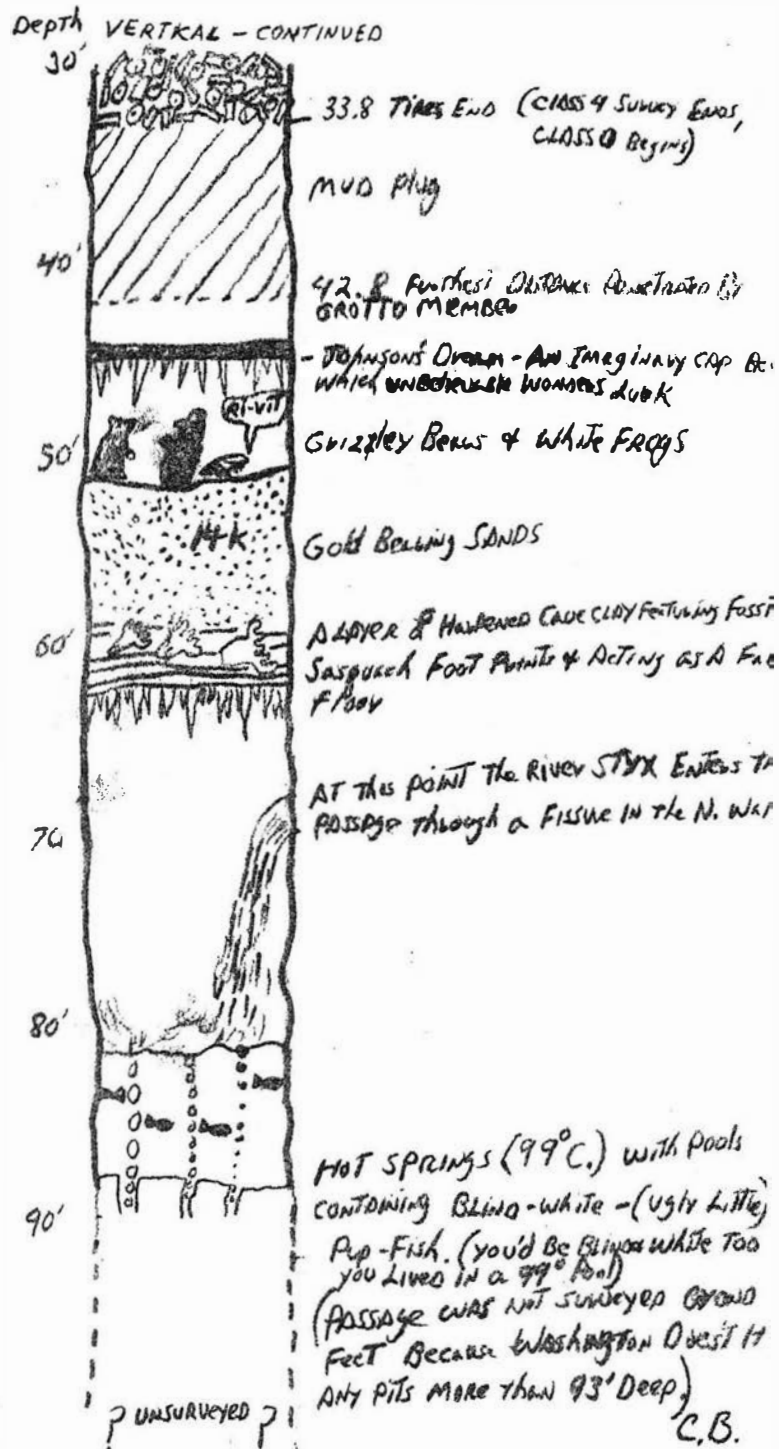
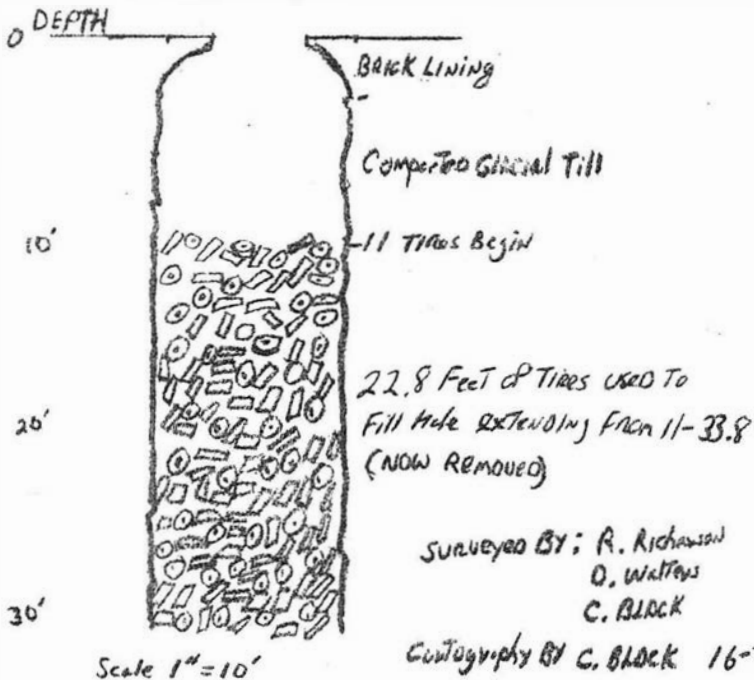
June 1974

OFFICIAL MAP OF "MYSTERIOUS" BOTTOMLESS PIT — Tacoma



VERTICAL PROFILE

PASSAGE WIDTH 2X



COMING EVENTS

- June 1 - 2, Trout Lake Pillar of Pine, Ice Caves, Deadhorse, Dynamited. Don't call anybody; it's already happened.
- June 13. the Bottomless pit on K st. Tacoma , Call Richardson
- June 14. Exploration of a cave that hasn't been visited for 22 years, and probably won't be found for another 22 years near Vale, Wn. call Walters.
- June 15. A course in treating sunburns, or a trip to Camp Muir - Don't bother to call anybody for this one either - it turns out that we got both.
- (trip reports for all the above + the mini-regional in the next caver)
- June 17. Regular Grotto meeting in regular irregular place; Camp Long. 8:00 PM
- June 23. Trip to Cave ridge to check snow level, and fix locks, and clear enterences and
- July 4-5-6-7. Cave ridge Ice Cream Feed/Speleo-fest/ and all around Good Time. For both of the above, call Pugh SK9-6211
- July 13. Paradise Ice caves - Call Black
- July 15. Regular Grotto Meeting to be preceded by an irregular spaghetti feed starting at 6:30 PM at camp long. All NW type Cavers Are encouraged to come (about \$1.50)
- July 21. Small Mountaineers group to visit cave ridge - Helpful guided are solicited Call Black 564-0988
- August 3 - 4. Inner-camp in Paradise Ice Caves, Call Anderson
- August 12-16. NSS 1974 Convention Decorah, Iowa.
- August 16 - 23. McMaster University cavers trip to Yorkshire, Gargantuan, and Arctomys (1,719 ft. dp.) Call Mischke 524-2425
- Labour day weekend: NW Regional Convention, Craters of the Monn. Featuring, among other things, a spaghetti feed by the Cascade Grotto, Sun. night.

Last Month's meeting

I really can't remember last month's meeting, but it probably wasn't all that hot - why don't we get on with the features.

Features

Trip Report: Concrete Area
May 5, 1974

By Stan Pugh

Curt Black and I left Tacoma about 6:30 AM to pick up Jan Roberts, and Tom Cunningham in Seattle. We tried to find Rod Crawford's place, but were unsuccessful.

After filling up with 50% H₂O, and 50% Gas, we sputtered all the way to the west side of Jackman Creek. From a previous trip we had noted some interesting streams flowing out of the limestone opposite Jackman Creek Cave. Somehow when we arrived things just didn't look the same, as they had from the other side of the creek. In fact when you're standing in the middle of the woods you can't see much of anything! After several hours of tromping through the brush at a 50 - 60 degree tilt we gave up and ate lunch.

Prior to leaving Sunday, we had all decided that this was the time to rediscover Jensen Cave. Somehow we stumbled on the wrong railroad grade. We followed it for over a mile, and managed to unearth only some rare fungi. (They were not rare - they were simply choice, Early Morels - I brought back a lovely mess of them --ed.)

Having been "buffaloed" twice, we just had to find a cave! It was about 4:30 by now, and as a last resort we headed to 3 mile cave; supposedly that was an easy one to find! Caves of Washington failed to mention the condition of the roads which must be used to reach these caves, and the 4 inch clearance of my Chevelle was well scrubbed with 5 inch rocks. After driving over these pole-line-roads for over 9 miles, we rounded a bend to see the road disappear under a snow field!!!!

We did get into one cave however. Ramsey's/Drive In Cave has changed considerably in the past year. The entrance sink has nearly doubled in size, but is filled with a lot of debris; the small entrance had to be cleared of rocks before we could "slip in". To our amazement the floor in some areas had risen 2 to 3 feet. In other areas it has dropped by a similar amount. Those who visited the cave last year will want to see it again.

"Mr. Jensen, watch out cause we're gonna find dat cave someday!"

July 4-5-6-7 Speleo-Fest Festivities Scheduling

Wednesday: arrive Alpentel Pkng. Lot 7:00 PM, Lv. for Ridge 7:20, Arrive 10:00
(optional side trip via hanging valley, and Prospectors cave)

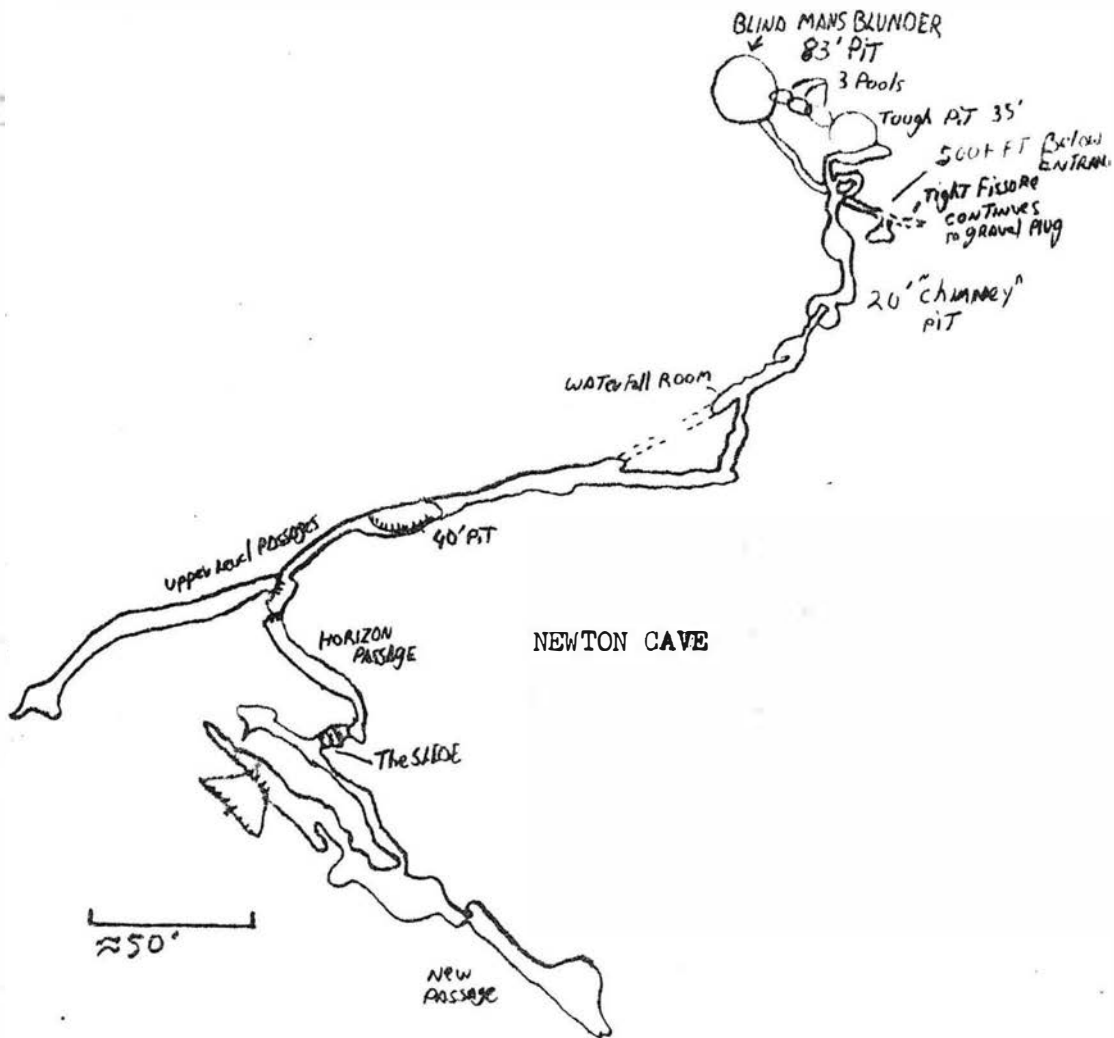
Thursday July 4. Group A: 6:30 breakfast, 7:30 Lv. for Danger Cave, 2:00 return, and eat, 3:00 do Cascade, and Pre-rig Newton 40 ft., and maybe 35 w. Ladder, 8:00 dinner
Group B: 9:00 Cascade Cave, 2:00 Lunch, 3:00 Danger (still rigged) 8:00 dinner

Friday Group A: 6:30 Breakfast, 7:30 Lv. for Newton Cave (appx. 12 hrs.) 6:00 dinner
Group B: " " " " " Lookout Cave, Red cave, Huckle Berry Ice Cave
6:00 Dinner

Saturday Group A: 9:00 Breakfast, Zip, 1:00 Lunch, 2:00 Lookout Cave 6:00 Dinner and Ice Cream Feed
Group B: 8:00 Breakfast (persons doing Newton should come up the night before and get a night's sleep after climbing the ridge) 9:00 Lv. for Newton (still rigged) 6:00 Dinner and Ice Cream Feed.

Sunday July 7. Group A: 6:30 Breakfast 7:30 Descend Hell Hole (persons not wishing to do Hell Hole are encouraged to do Cascade and look for a connection) 2:30 return and eat lunch 3:30 break camp. 4:00 lv. for pkg. lot.
Group B: 7:30 breakfast, and break camp 8:30 Lv. for Hell Hole, 3:30 return from Hell Hole, and eat lunch 4:00 Lv. for Pkng. Lot.

Personal Qualifications: Newton; darn good physical shape, wool clothing (plan on spending 12 hours under a 35° waterfall) and personal mechanical ascenders (there are some very tough lips for prussiks + the ice water on exposed fingers pulling on softy slings

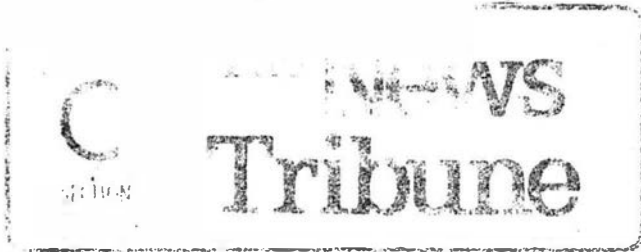


3rd Annual Scapegoat Alpine Karst Field Conference

Newell Campbell writes that about 50 cavers are planning to attend this field camp deep in the Montana wilderness, but there is still room for any Cascade Grotto members who want to attend. It will be the last week in August (tentatively) and any grottoites wanting to attend should write him the last week in July; Geology Department, Yakima Valley College, PO Box 16427, Yakima, Wash. 98907.

Backyard hole gulps

everything



Tacoma, Wash., Wed., May 29, 1974

By **DAVE RORDEN**
News Tribune Staff Writer

The mystery hole in the backyard of the James Johnson residence, 4541 S. K St., has turned into a tire eater.

Johnson filled the deep, well-like cavity with 162 used tires and wheels after discovering it in February of 1973. He covered it and thought that was the end of it.

It wasn't.

He checked the hole again Monday evening because he is planning on extending the rear deck of his house. The tires were gone. Johnson says the mystery hole "just gobbled them up. You can just see a few now, right at the very bottom."

WHEN MRS. JOHNSON discovered the hole 15 months ago, she thought it was a gopher hole, and be-

gan probing with a broom handle to find the bottom. She discovered there was no bottom to be found.

The Johnsons then watched the hole grow to its present four-foot width. They thought it was an old well, capped at a depth of 32 feet, where they found metal and other debris. Now that the tires have disappeared, they're not so sure.

Johnson doesn't know if the voracious cavity poses a threat to his house. But he would appreciate advice on what to do about it. Gravel fill has been suggested, he added, but would cost \$500.

"The size of the thing worries me," he said. "I'm afraid it might act like a funnel and just keep sucking things down."

JOHNSON WAS WARNED by city officials when he first discovered the

hole that "the whole backyard might disappear." Another official wouldn't go near it.

After the initial discovery, a man phoned Johnson and told him that his father had built the house and that, as a child, the man had explored the hole on a rope and found part of it lined with cobblestone. He

also remembered hearing an underground stream.

And Mrs. Johnson added that a family who owned the house in the 1930s filled it to the top with gravel, metal and other fill, and it also disappeared.

"I just wonder where it's all going," she said.

A-10 Tacoma, Wash., Tues., June 4, 1974 The News Tribune.

Spelunkers to probe K St. mystery hole

By **DAVE RORDEN**
News Tribune Staff Writer

Could a hole in the ground have a tapeworm?

A spelunkers' club has volunteered to venture into the tire-gobbling mystery hole in the backyard of the James Johnson residence, 4541 S. K St., to try to find out why the thing devoured 162 tires and wheels Johnson had used to fill it.

The group contacted the Johnsons after last week's story in The News Tribune.

The Johnsons discovered the 32-foot-deep hole in February of 1973 and filled it to the top with tires and wheels. Johnson checked the hole again last week because he was planning to extend the deck on his house.

The hole had apparently gobbled most of the tires, leaving only a few visible near the bottom.

"They plan on removing the tires that are left and going down to find out what happened to the rest," said Mrs. Johnson, adding that she hadn't gotten the group's name, nor those of any of its members.

"They figure the thing is an old well," Mrs. Johnson said, "and they want to find out if the weight of the tires just pushed the cap down, or if the cap is gone."

Tentative plans call for a June 13 descent.

Before then, though, they're arranging to absolve the Johnsons of legal liability — in the event the hole turns out to have a taste for people as well as tires.



Spelunkers exploring hungry hole



Robert Richardson explored hole

Staff photos by Bruce Larson

By DAVE RORDEN
JNT Staff Writer

A trio of spunky spelunkers began the task Thursday evening of determining why the mysterious hole in the James Johnsons' backyard gobbled up 162 tires that had been used to fill it.

"We hauled out about 75 of the tires," said Curt Black, president of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society, "before we quit at 9:30 because of darkness."

He estimated they had cleared the hole down to the 25-foot level. "We've probably got around 11 or 12 more feet of tires down there."

But he still doesn't know what the hole is, exactly where its bottom is or why it gobbled up the tires in the first place.

The other spelunkers were Doug Walters and Robert Richardson. All three are from Tacoma.

The Johnsons discovered the seemingly bottomless pit about a year and a half ago and filled it to the top with used tires and wheels. Then they covered it. When Johnson checked it recently, he found that most of the tires had disappeared into the cavern's murky reaches.

Besides the 75 tires, Johnson and the spelunkers also hauled up a rug and an 18-inch-square concrete block

with a four-by-six-inch hole in the middle.

"Ah," said one of the spelunkers as he surveyed the find, "the first wheel."

At one point the hook on the chain being used to haul out the tires broke and the trio was forced to improvise with a mountain climber's carabiner.

So far, the cavity has shown no proclivity for gobbling humans (Richardson, the only one to actually be lowered down into the hole, was hauled out safely).

The spelunkers plan to return Sunday around noon to finish hauling out the tires.

SEATTLE P-I BY FRANK ZORETICH JUNE 9, 1974

BY FRANK ZORETICH
P-I Staff

DR. WILLIAM J. Halliday, a Seattle chest surgeon, has written a book called "American Caves and Caving" that deserves to become an underground best-seller.

Drawing on his experience as a cave explorer (he also wrote "Adventure Is Underground" and "Depths of the Earth" as well as a medical man, Dr. Halliday packs his book with technical information that could be vital to anyone who ventures into the cavernous depths of America.

He is thorough in discussing the hazards of caving, which range from getting stuck in a flooding crawlway to being struck by lightning.

"By forcing out their breath, some adult cavers can squeeze through a short space only five or six inches high," he writes. "Such a compression of the chest, however, can be tolerated only for the length of a single long breath . . . for getting wedged by the chest with the breath out can be fatal within minutes, or even seconds."

He devotes a whole chapter to helmet headlamps, including 13 pages on batteries alone. But he also insists that the candle, "the humblest form of cave lighting," belongs in every caver's kit.

He writes about ropes for a chapter, and then discusses vertical caving — with one chapter for descending via ropes and one chapter for ascending.

"Unlike mountaineering, most cave belaying is static," he observes. "It requires keeping the rope just barely taut,

thus halting a fall before the victim gains significant momentum. . . . On non-stretch ropes (which are preferred by cavers) a statically belayed fall of fifteen feet is likely to kill both belayer and belayee — no matter how excellent the belay."

Dr. Halliday even gives a technique for cardiac massage while both victim and rescuer are clinging to a dangling rope. In a section on cave rescue operations, he finds room to discuss proper press relations.

He writes about various kinds of caves, giving unusual prominence to Washington's lava tube caves and the glacier caves on Mt. Rainier.

Although Dr. Halliday broadly defines a cave — "a large natural cavity below the surface of the earth, large enough to

enter, with some portion in essentially total darkness" — he does no more than barely hint at why some people think they are having a good time when they go underground into geography's "natural sewer passages."

"The exhilaration of first bringing light where light had never been," is one of his hints. Another can be found in the following passage:

"The acknowledged supercaver, irrevocably enmeshed in some Freudian struggle against himself, pauses enthralled in his quest for muddier mud, ever-tighter crawlways, more vicious pits to conquer. Cavers are curious (in many ways!)"

For a dedicated caver, also known as a spelunker, a cave is like a mountain turned inside out. The challenge is the same, but it is met in reaching for the depths of adventure rather than its summits.

"American Caves and Caving" will not convince anyone to enter a cave. But it will provide enjoyable and informative reading for those troglodytic souls who have already been lured by the earth's inner secrets.

VOLCANOSPELEOLOGICAL ABSTRACT

(Untitled field trip report, Dec. 21, 1973-Jan. 11, 1974), by Wm. Elliott. Texas Caver, Vol. 19, no. 3, March 1974, p. 47.

"...Next stop was Las Vigas, Veracruz, where we were shown Cueva del Volcancillo, a large lava tube which originates near the top of a 120 m diameter, 50 m deep crater, El Volcancillo. We mapped perhaps 600 m and reached a depth of 100 m or less, but the cave supposedly continues beyond a breakdown choke which a local man described as "muy feo". The cave fauna was unexpectedly good, as was the attractiveness of the cave, making us think of all the speleologically uninvestigated lava flows there must be in Mexico. Another lava tube was found nearby, but we didn't have time to map it.

"Having visited 9 known caves and more than 25 new ones on the trip, we drove back to Austin and Lubbock. More details, photos, maps, etc. may be found soon in the AMGS Newsletter."

W.R.H.

Second-hand Notes on Caves in Southeast Alaska

--Newell Campbell

1. Northwest of Prince of Wales Island.

25,000 feet of Silurian limestone here. Sinks, caves, and karren have been seen by geologists working on:

Kosciusko Island
Balj Mountain- Heceta
Hole-in-the Wall.

None were entered.

2. Definite solution cavern at Basket Bay on the eastern side of Chichagof Island on Chatham Strait. Rock is Silurian or Mississippian limestone.

A stream flowing out of a lake above Basket Bay sinks and emerges through a cave in the bay. One can enter the cave for several hundred feet. The geologist who reported this said that the cave continued but he did not. Salmon were spawning and were seen swimming up the cave stream and into the lake above. The stream sink was not checked to see if it could be entered. Total possible length of the cave guessed at over 1000 feet.

(My apologies for putting so little of myself into this anemic Caver

First it was the week before finals, then finals, and then my vacation where I did all the things I hadn't done before finals, except the Caver. Back next month with all the reports that should have been here this month)

C.B.

The Cascade Caver
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