The Cascade Caver

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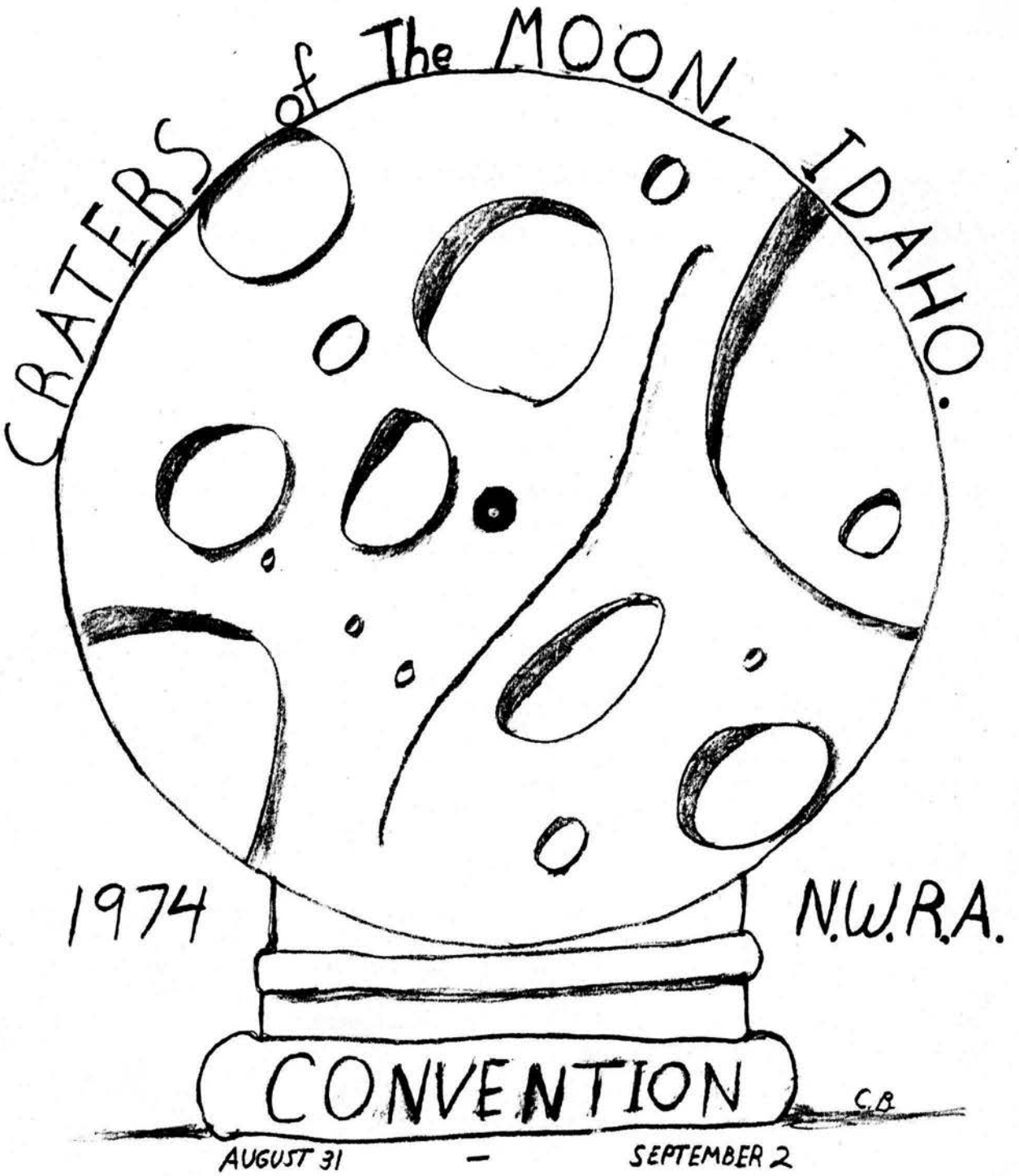

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Coming Events

August 4-5. Camp Muir conditioner Call Halliday, EA4-7474

August 4-5. Inner-Camp Paradise Ice Caves, Call Black, LA2-9817

August 10-11. Mt Adams summit trip. Call Dr. Halliday, EA4-7474

August 11. Slime Cave slime analysis. Call Rod Crawford, 543-1668

August 17-18. Mt Baker Steam Caves Trip. Call Black, LA2-9817

August 24-25. Mt. Rainier Summit Steam Caves Trip. Call Dr. Halliday, EA4-7474

August 24. Mountaineers trip to Cave Ridge, guides solicited. Call Black

August 25. Cascade Grotto Guiding at Ape Cave.

August 31-September 2. Craters of the Moon NWRA Convention. Call Everybody.

September 7-8. Paradise Ice Caves. Call Anderson, 935-0136.

September 14 - 15. Cave Ridge, Newton Cave. Call Stan Pugh, SK9-6211

September 20-22. Canada, Vancuver Island, Tashsis (I Hope) Call Black.

September 21-22. Paradise Call Anderson.

September 27-29. Papoose Cave., Call Black

September 28-29. Paradise, Call Anderson

See July Caver For additional trips.

The August Meeting...

Will Be held entirely at the Shakey's at the corner of 35th Ave. S.W. and Fauntleroy Way. We have been given the entire southern half of the establishment and, eventhough the jute-box, and nickelodian will be unplugged during the duration of the meeting, it should still be interesting (not as interesting as the June meeting I hope, but still interesting). I am hoping that Stan Pugh will show his slides of the Trout Lake Ice Cream Feed. (actually the slides are of the caves; the ice cream, while it tasted good, wasn't nearly as photogenic as the caves) In any event, the meeting should be nothing less than interesting, and you're encouraged to come!! Doors open 7:30 PM, August 19. Meeting begins at 8:00.

The July Meeting

Among other things: An Ice Cream feed happened (with an awful lot of help from everybody including Ice and pepermint extract from Tom Cunningham, Ice, and a freezer from Robert, and Diane Richardson, and cranking from everybody) Jan Jan Roberts was elected (in absentia - The true Cascade way) unanimously to the position of Vice Charman. The meeting ended at Shakey's with a spirited discussion of the Congress of Grotto's agenda.

Features

Arctomys Pot... Now Deepest in Canada, and USA

By Pete Lord

At the beginning of August (73) a trip was made by nearly every active caver in Canada, to Arctomys Pot, in Mt. Robinson Provincial Park, British Columbia. This fine cave, first discovered in 1912, was not revisited until 1972. In 1972 a party braved the 15 mile walk in. The cave was explored past the 230ft. depth reached in 1912, & 1971, to a depth of 1,000 feet where a large inlet made progress with carbide lamps impossible. This year this point was passed and a sump reached at approximately 1,700 ft. This makes it the deepest cave in Canada and the USA.

The entrance to the cave is a 6 ft. by 2 ft. slot in an alpine meadow. A number of short free climbs brings one through a large dry passage to the 230 ft. level where an inlet is reached. Continuing down the series of short, now damp climbs brings one to the point where a climb into an abandoned streamway bypasses the now too-tight active streamway. This leads into a large rift passage and eventually a 50 ft. pit.

This was later found to be free climbable using a short rope for the top move. continuing down the large rift passage at various heights brings one eventually to the large inlet which stopped exploration in 1972. Past this passage continues as a ti tight rift, which is passed by traversing at various levels. This eventually leads to the first pitch, 30 feet, and very wet.

After this the passage changes considerably, and a long horizontal section is reached. At the endof this another vertical section is reached with two 25 ft. pitches. These are followed by the last pitch which appeared to be 60-70 feet deep. - it was climbed on a 25 ft. ladder the first time, but was eventually bypassed altogether. A steep boulder slope then leads to the final sump. The whole cave is explorable with three 30 ft. ladders and a short rope. (By Whom? ~ ed.)

The next trip was a visit by a number of cavers from McMaster University to Yorkshire Pot, a 1,260 ft. system on the Ptolmy Plateau near the Crowsnest Pass B.C. Although a number of leads were checked no large discoveries were made.

When some more English cavers arrived in Calgory. They were immediately pointed toward Arctomys, as the survey needed completing, They completed the survey and also managed to dig into another cave higher up the valley: Marcupine Pot. This consisted of a rift entrance dropping in a few hundered feet of dry streamway dwon dip in short climbs to an aproximate depth of 250 ft. where it hit a large passage running along the strike. This ended in a tight mud passageway which draughted strongly.

If this new pot were ever connected to Arctomys it would become the deepest in the western hemisphere at welllover 2,000 feet. (the present record being held by Sotano de San Agustin in Mexico at 2,009 ft.)

After the English cavers ar ived back in Calgory two of them had to return to England, but two others, having no such excuse, became involved in a flying visit to the Hoya de Salas in the Sierra de Guatamala, Mexico.

While someone organized the trip, the two Britons rushed off to Crowsnest in order to fit in a visit to Yorkshire Pot. Upon returning, they found themselves in a car heading south with two Texan cavers, Pete Strickland, and Blake Harrison. After an epic drive they arrived in Mexico at the beginning of the track into the mountains.

In spite of it still being the hurricane season, everyone was persuaded that the only way to do the trip was to camp underground. Four days were spent underground although many objections were raised at the time.

The pot consisted of an entrance series of pits - 230, 180, 60, 60, 50, and 230 feet. The campsite was at the base of the last drop, the sima Terrible. The known cave from there, although short, is very sporting, containing a 15ft. free div dive followed by a tight squeeseleading to the head of a series of short pits (30 60, 40, 40ft.) from where a passage led to a vertical junction. A 15 ft. drop led to the Passage Inferior which could not be extended.

However, the passage Superior, straight above the drop, was walked along for ½ mile byond the previous limits until a duck over 200 ft. long was met, and proved impassable with carbide lamps. Unfortunately the large hoped for depth extension proved elusive, and the ½ mile of rope down the cave had to be hauled out most of it unused.

With the season in Canada basically over, cavers form the area are looking for a winter spent exploring the large river caves of Southern Mexico and Guatamala - in the warmth.

Arctomys Pot was surveyed to a legnth of 8,000 ft, and 1,719.5 feet (524 m) in depth.

From Descent, no. 26, p. 33
January/Febuary 1974

¿?

Mt. Suswa Caves, Kenya

By William R. Halliday

By far the finest caves I say in east Africa in Feberuary were part of the Mt. Suswa lava tube system, a little more than 50 miles NW of Nairobi. Truely these are among the great lava tube systems of the world, and their vicinity is no less remarkable. Mt. Suswa is a broad crater with gently sloping flanks, with a large central moat surrounding a remarkable tilted raft, especially impressive from the air as planes descend into Nairobi. It is on the edge of the Masai country, and small numbers of Masai tribesmen and herdsmen are seen in the area. While the animal population does not compare to that of more famous safari spots nearby, enough native African wildelife inhabit the caves and their vicinity to make visiting them doubly intriguing. The area is remarkably little known: en route, three of us discovered a Neolithic (I think) obsidian mine with obvious surface artifacts.

The system is still being explored and mapped. Several thousand feet of braided, non-superposed multilevel passage are known, varying from crawlways to throughway tubes dozens of yards in diameter. As far as I know, no single cave is more than about ½ mile in legnth; prehaps as many as 50 entrances are known. Flow features are extraordinary, with tubes-in-tubes common, and often preceded by elevated lateral ridges. Siliceous depositional speleothems, including especially capped microgours, are the finest of my experience. At one location, drip from such stalactites into a shallow pool has formed bazarre subaqueous stalagmites that look like slightly fried eggs. Locally, filamentous lava obviously whipped by strong gusts of hot gasses approach Pele's Hair in fineness. Extensive guano deposits are currently being mined by Jim Simons' firm; that part of the system is bone-dry. While literature on these exceptional caves is increasing in Britan, and Africa, a great deal more yet remains to be accomplished here. The entire area deserves to be a national park; it is clearly of international significance.

Why Not Dump It Here?

by Tom Meador

This is one of the questions most often asked by the beginning caver. It is usually followed by such answers as "it messes up the cave and formations, ect."

Calcium carbide reacts in your carbide lamp with water to produce acetylene and calcium hydroxide. The acetylene is soon burned leaving the calcium hydroxide to be carried from the cave. Calcium hydroxide, hydrated lime, water slaked lime, or just old "spent carbide", whichever you want to call it, should be removed from the cave after use and taken to the nearest waste disposal area. Don't put it under a rock! (BB, TC,& KB) There is danger of the hydroxide being washed out from under the rock or the rock being knocked off by cattle or a pickup. Calcium Hydroxide is very poisonous to all livestock, and it should never be dumped on rangeland. Treatment for animals that have licked it, is generally useless because of extensive damage already done in the body. (Bailey, 1962). If death does not follow, irritation of the gastrointestinal tract, and malnutrition will continue for a long time (Atkinson, 1942).

Calcium hydroxide which is left in a cave is in danger of washing into a pool, even if it is buried. Aside from the pollution resulting from the addition of so much solid material into the water, the calcium hydroxide can increse the alkalinity to such an extent that a pH value is reached that is injurious to the organisms present. it can also become mixed with the organic material present used as food by the insects and other cave life thus acting as a posion. (Nicholas, 1956)

The flame produced by burning acetylene contains unburned carbon in the form of white-hot sparks. These particles radiate visible light. If the flame is applied to a cool object, such as a cave wall, many of these particles of carbon will be cooled suddenly instead of burning and it will appear as an unattractive black film on the rock. (Plummer, 1961)

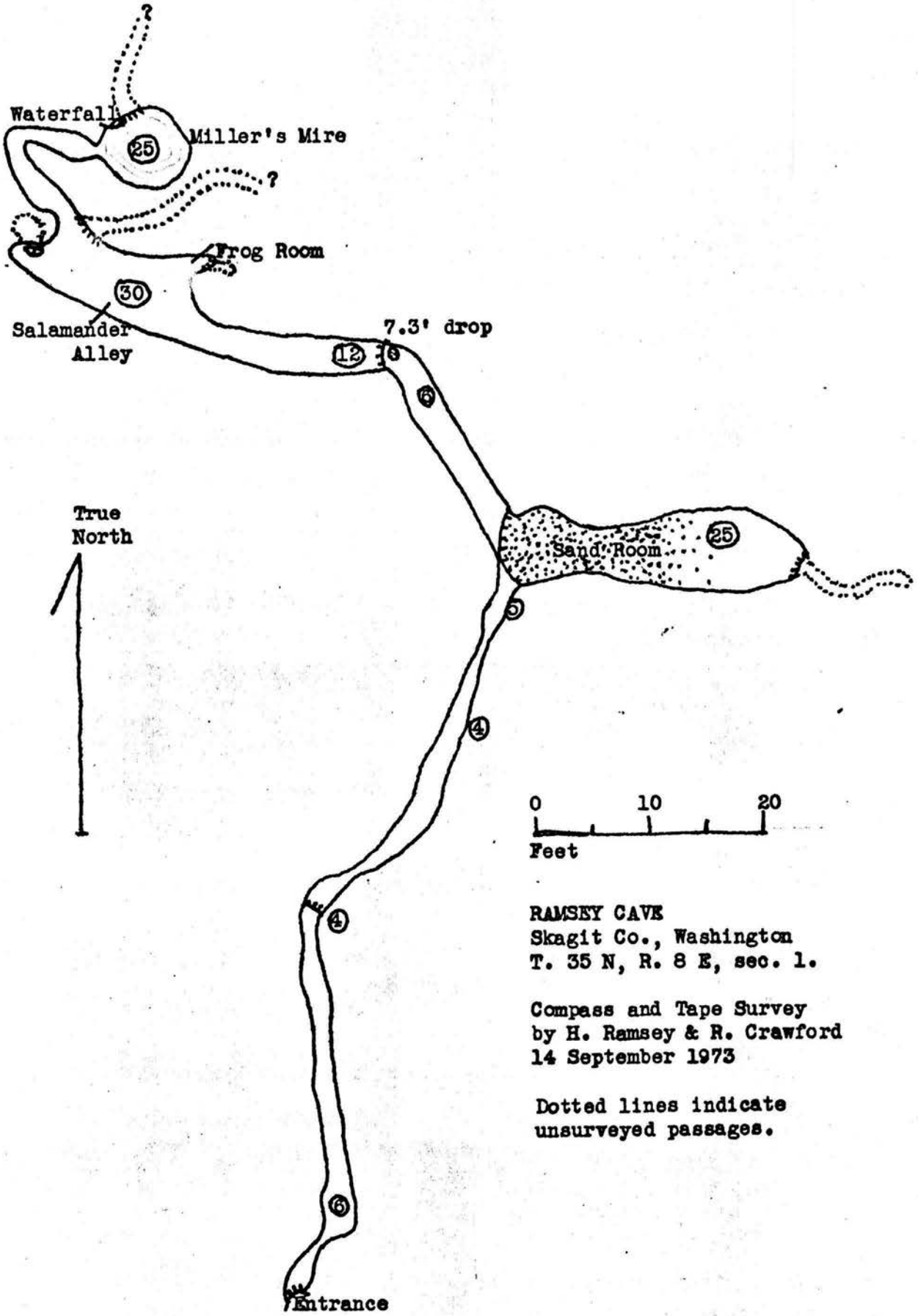
Notes: Atkinson, Et. Al, Special Report on Diseases of Cattle: USDA 1942
Bailey, J, W. , Veterinary Handbook for Cattlemen: Springer, N.Y., 1962
Nicholas, G., Biological Aspects of Cave Conservation: From the Proc. Pa. Acad. Sci., Reprinted in NSS News, v. 14, no. 3 p. 30-1, 1956
Plummer, Bill, The Care and Feeding of a Carbide Lamp: The Underground, Vol. 4, no. 1, 1961

The Texas Caver
Vol. X, no. 11 pp. 212 - 213

CAVE RESCUE

On July 13, Charles Anderson accompanied Clarence Hronek to an ice cave on the B.C. mainland. Without Charlies knowlege, Clarence first took him to a limestone cave. Carelessly following his good friend, Charlie soon found himself more than 500 FT inside an iceless limestone cavern. After searching carefully for some exit through ice, Charlie wisely sat down to await rescue. Soon a rescue group of experienced calcareospeleologists arrived, and after a little instruction, Charlie was able to reach the entrance by himself. Safely back at the entrance, although visibly shaken, he said, "From now on I'm going to watch where I'm going, and stick to Ice Caves. This has been a real lesson."

Corrupted by Curt Black
My apologies to:
Bill Varnedoe
Bill Cuddington
and The Huntsville Grotto News



RAMSEY CAVE
Skagit Co., Washington
T. 35 N, R. 8 E, sec. 1.

Compass and Tape Survey
by H. Ramsey & R. Crawford
14 September 1973

Dotted lines indicate
unsurveyed passages.

SONGS: An Opinion

Songs are an integral part of the caving experience in many parts of the country, and world. They have in fact added so greatly to my enjoyment of our Canadian trips that I made it a point to copy down a few of them in hopes of moving some of that enjoyment down south. (Silence, you defeatists!) While most people think of songs as somthing to be closely related to marshmallows, and campfires, yr. editor can distinctly remember a time in a cramped crawlway in Cascade, (Vancouver Is.) shortly after the leader confessed to being lost, that the song reproduced below for you, took on its fullest meaning, and humor.

(I personally think there is a functional relationship between the thickness of the mud on the walls of a crawlway, and how good a song sounds.)

Curt Black

THE WILD CAVER *

(The song of the Cambridge University Caving Club, to the tune of "The Wild Rover")

My first day in Cambridge, a freshman so neat
Some boozy old cavers I happened to meet.
I asked to go caving; they answered me "Nay",
"Such ouigees as you we can find any day."

Chorus: And it's No, Nay, Never
No, Nay, Never no more
Will I play the Wild Caver
No, never no more.

I drew from my pocket a chequebook so bright,
The Treasurer's eyes opened wide with delight;
"With pleasure we'll greet you as one of our rank
As soon as your cheque has been cleared by the Bank."

They sold me a light at exhorbitant price
And a little brown helmet--'twas ever so nice.
I went with them caving--P8 was the place--
There were only two killed and three lost without trace.

I've been up to Yorkshire, to Mendip and Wales
I've been down the pots and I've sampled the ales
And now I'm returning with stories to tell
Of waters that rose and of boulders that fell.

Now all I have left is a tatty wetsuit,
A clapped-out Nife cell and a half of a boot;
My clothes are so ragged, my beard is so long
Thank God that's the end of my horrible song!

NOTES ON THE BAT *Plecotus townsendi* IN WESTERN WASHINGTON

A male western big-eared bat, *Plecotus townsendi* was recaptured five times between 1965 and 1967 at an abandoned house near Bellingham, Washington. The roost areas were in the crawl space on each side between the floor and the roof in the partially finished attic. Each crawl space was about 20 feet in length and four feet high at the highest. Access to each crawl space was an opening about 16 inches square near one end. On 23 June 1967 the house was checked and a bat with ears extended was seen at the far end of the crawl space. Since in the past bats in that condition had taken flight when approached, one of us (CMS) entered the crawl space and had the others block the opening with the door. As expected, the bat flew when approached. The flight could be followed with the flashlight and was quite unexpected. The bat dropped about a foot and then leveled off and flew past the observer. It continued down the enclosure until almost to the opening and then turned toward and struck the blocking door. The bat then fell a few inches, recovered, circled and flew back toward the blocked opening. This time it turned aside within a few inches and after one or two tight circles in the same area, it started making large ovals between the observer and the far wall. The bat was eventually captured and found to be the bat previously seen at the site. The same animal was subsequently captured four times at the site and twice at a winter roost site.

Our interpretation of these observations is that the bat was very familiar with the house and was flying on the basis of memory rather than visual or optic information when it first approached and struck the door blocking the exit. It then approached again but detected the door and turned away. After a couple of searches on the immediate area it began a more general search for an exit.

A second male bat was captured seven times between 1965 and 1967 in two abandoned houses near Bellingham, Washington. On 7 August 1967 is was captured in one of those sites while relatively inactive. On examination, it was noted to have wing damage. The injury was obviously very recent and possibly the result of handling during capture but the observer was not aware of having caused it. The second phalanges of the inner digit of the right wing had separated from the first phalanges and the proximal end and attached tendons were protruding through the skin of the wing about 3 mm. The animal was returned to the roost site after reading the band with no attempt to modify the damage. On 28 August 1967 this bat was seen again at the same site and the damaged area was healed, leaving only an enlarged area about 2 mm. in diameter. At that time the animal weighed 10.34 grams. Three other previously banded male *P. townsendi* at other nearby sites weighed 10.16, 10.93 and 12.36 grams. This would suggest that there had been at most only a slight loss of weight. The same bat was captured at the Blanchard Mountain Caves about 8 miles west on 18 November 1967 and at the other summer site on 6 June, 10 July and 14 July 1968 and 10 June 1970. Small to large tears in the wing membrane and similar lumps on the joints of the forelimb have been seen a number of other times and apparently wing damage is not uncommon in this species. —CLYDE, ROBERT, DAVID and STUART SENGER, *Department of Biology, Western Washington State College, Bellingham, Washington* 98225. March 18, 1971.

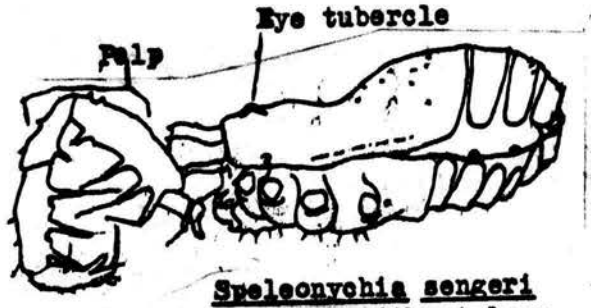
(Reprinted from *The Murrelet*, January-April, 1972 (53-1 pp. 10)

THE BIOLOGIST'S CHAMBER

Proudly Presents: Our First Harvestman Troglobite

For those in the know, harvestmen are arachnids, but are not spiders (just as butterflies are insects, but are not beetles). They comprise the order Phalangida, or Opiliones, of the class Arachnida. Tom Briggs of San Francisco, NSS #9304, and one of the foremost American Harvestman specialists has just described some harvestman troglobites from Northwestern lava tubes which are among the first troglobites (obligate cave dwellers) known from lava tubes anywhere (Some have been described from Hawaii by Frank Howarth, and Japan by someone else).

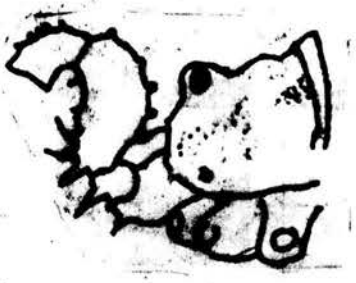
Formerly, lava tubes were thought to be too short lived for specialized animal life to develop in them. A theory proposed by Howarth suggests that lava troglobites can make their way through cracks in the flows to a new tube when an old one collapses. The flows are apparently very permeable to a number of invertebrates. Of the nine families of harvestmen (one step lower than order) that occur in Washington, the family Travuniidae is known only from Speleonychia sengeri Briggs, which is, to my knowledge, the first true troglobite known from Washington. In addition, it is the frist Travuniid known from the Western Hemisphere, and finding it is quite a triumph for Briggs. It is totally unrelated to the harvestmen on the surface, indicating that is has been isolated in the flows for an exceedingly long time.



Speleonychia sengeri
side view without legs

Drawing of a related species from life

Palp of Phalangodes distincta (Mammoth Cave). Compare with palp of S. sengeri (above).



Front of body of an epigean (surface living) harvestman. Note well developed eye tubercle.

Speleonychia sengeri is very small, about 5-6 millimeters in legnth including legs. The color is a uniform light yellow. The eye tubercle is low and rounded with no evidence of eyes, as opposed to the turret-like tubercle with a large eye on each side of surface-living harvestmen (see figures). In general apperance it closely resembles the well known and much photographed Phalangodes of Mammoth Cave, Kentucky. It was collected on slime, under breakdown, in Big Cave, Cheese Cave, Jug Cave, and Outhouse Cave in the Trout Lake area during the 1972 NSS Convention. As the astute reader will have guessed, it is named after our own Clyde Senger.

Harvestmen in this group of families (which is known as the suborder Laniatores) are classified partly by the arrangement of spines on the palps, leglike food-handling appendages at the front end of the body. Examine the difference in the palps of the species illustrated above.

It is suggested that this and other lava troglobites be conserved by:

1. Not disturbing breakdown unnecessarily
2. Conserving the existing deposits of lava tube slime, and
3. Collecting specimens only for valid purposes (such as recording the species from a new cave)

Finally, I cannot resist an irrelevant quotation from Briggs' account of a lava tube very near Shoshone, Idaho:

> "Abundant evidence of mammalian occupation was seen, including three decapitated pigeons, and a half-eaten pizza near a large burrow."

Not all cave litter is of human origin.

By Rod Crawford

The Cascade Caver
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