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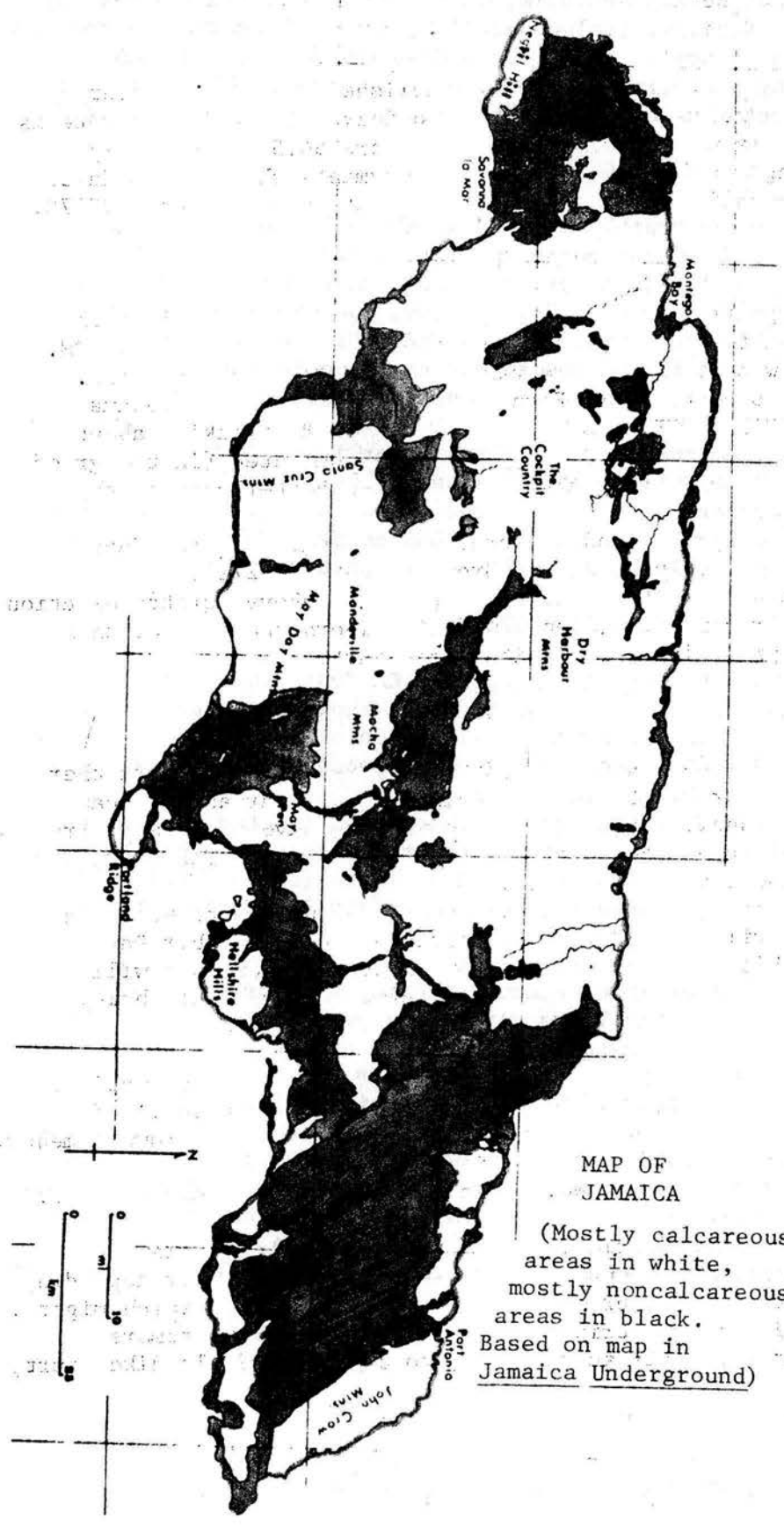
# THE CASCADE CAVER

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



Volume 17 No. 3-4  
"March-April 1978"

Published November 1978  
Editor: Rod Crawford



MAP OF  
JAMAICA  
(Mostly calcareous  
areas in white,  
mostly noncalcareous  
areas in black.  
Based on map in  
Jamaica Underground)

THE CASCADE CAVER, when not behind schedule, is published ten times a year by the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Subscription rate is \$4.00 per year (i.e., ten issues). Full grotto dues are \$4.50, and family memberships (not including subscription) 50¢. All payments should be made to Grotto treasurer Chuck Coughlin, 6433 S. 127th Pl., Seattle, Washington 98178.

#### COMING EVENTS

November 20, Tuesday. Regular monthly meeting at the Hallidays'; 1117 36th Ave. E (the first house on the right going south from E Madison St), 8:00 PM. In accordance with our new policy, the program will start promptly at 8:15. This month, Russ Turner has a show on Fern Cave and vicinity, Alabama.

**NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS AT THIS MEETING!** Be thinking about who you want to nominate. And if you don't want to be nominated (in the grand Cascade Grotto tradition of nominating absentees), you'd better come to the meeting.

December 16 or 17. Further mapping and exploration at Senger's Talus Cave. Call Rod Crawford, 543-4486 evenings, or Bob Brown, (206) 569-2724.

December 19, Tuesday. Regular meeting, time and place as above; grotto elections.

December 31st. Cascade, Oregon, VICEG, and BCR/CSS members should keep this date open, as there will probably be an invitational party.

#### NEWS AND NOTES

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE NWRA BUSINESS MEETING AT HELL'S CANYON:** There was further discussion of the proposal for a set of Grotto slide shows; perhaps one can be made from our publicity show. With the resignation of Dave Mischke, Jerry Thornton is now safety and access coordinator for Papoose Cave. The gates and emergency supplies at Papoose have been renewed.

The Shining Mountains and Salt Lake grottos have been invited to host next year's regional meet. It will be held on the Fourth of July or Labor Day weekend. If they are unable to do so, the Oregon Grotto (or someone) will host the meet at White Salmon, Washington, with a safety & technique theme.

Over 60 people attended this year's Meet.

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Bob Brown now has an atticful of items accumulated for a fundraising auction. Perhaps it could be held at the New Years Party this year (see above). If you have something auctionable, donate it at meetings or get it to Brown somehow.

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**EPRATUM:** The Cascade Caver, Volume 17 No. 8, was accidentally labelled No. 7.

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The Alaskan Caver is back in publication. As editor, Jay Rockwell plans to put out an issue about every other month or so. The length will vary depending on how much material is ready to be printed. If you have anything which might be of interest to cavers in Alaska: trip plans, trip reports, cave rumors, cave art, or any other articles, please send them to Jay at 4607 Klondike Court, Anchorage, Alaska 99504.

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**OUR COVER:** Map of Jamaica showing how the island is mostly limestone. See the article on page 18.

## FEATURES

### Geothermal Week in Washington by William R. Halliday, M.D.

The last week in July 1978 was geothermal cave week for the Cascade Grotto. After altitude conditioning climbs of Mt. St. Helens (9,677 feet) and 2/3 of 10,778-foot Mt. Baker (the rains came at 2:45 AM), Roger Matthews, Patricia Halliday and I again set out for the steaming crater of Mt. Baker on July 22. The weather was magnificent and we soon established base camp at about 6,500 feet, well up the Easton Glacier and above the flower-strewn moraine called the Railroad Grade. Up at 2 AM, we found (contrary to the books) a fine route directly to Sherman Crater, with only one crevasse that made us gulp a bit. Topping the rim at 11 AM, we were surprised to find the seemingly billowy steam eruption actually roaring, fizzing, hissing, and plopping out of the most active geothermal field I've ever seen. Only occasionally could we see the cave entrances between swirls and jets of steam.

In past years, Gene Kiver had led several parties here--mostly by helicopter--but none of the Seattle section of the grotto had ever made it before [Except when Curt Black discovered--but did not enter--the caves in 1972--ed.]. Accordingly, this was strictly a reconnaissance (and really part of the altitude conditioning for the big one). We rigged an easy rappel with a 175-foot rope and soon were checking the nearest part of the system. It looked like an ordinary glacier cave except that it was filled with what looked like dense fog, tasted like hell, and caused my eyes to pour. Gene and the University of Washington crews formerly used gas masks here because of the SO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S and sulfur fumes, but later abandoned them. We too found no need for them in a quick traverse between four entrances, but the eye irritation was so bad that we decided not to do any more until we got proper goggles.

Some of the vents were inside the cave, which made for wonderful sound effects. Especially interesting were yellow sulfur needles and some unidentified white soft, club-shaped oolopholitic crystals which probably are hydrated sulfates of some kind. Above the larger vents are beautiful domes in the ice or snow. A most impressive show.

Our principal target, however, was Mt. Rainier, a week later, for the more celebrated steam caves in its craters immediately below 14,410-foot Columbia Crest. At this point, however, some whopping thunderstorms hit the Pacific Northwest. As of Wednesday evening, the forecast still was a 30% chance of rain in the Seattle sunbelt, which boded no good for high elevations on the morrow. The trend was favorable and our luck had been rolling, however, so the word was GO! At 9 PM Thursday, July 27, the first rope team left Paradise Valley: Patricia Halliday, Zella Matthews and myself, all sundodgers who prefer to climb at night. The weather was absolutely perfect. Eight hours later we thankfully dropped our packs at the Camp Muir shelter at 10,500 feet, pulled out our sleeping bags and collapsed til noon. After a leisurely breakfast, we plodded across the Cowlitz Glacier (where I fell in a nasty little crevasse last year), up the cinder slope of Cathedral Gap, and onto the flats of the Ingraham Glacier where we pitched camp at 11,000 feet. At 7 PM our sun-lover rope team led by Chuck Coughlin caught up with us and we all slept til 1 AM. Ascending by Disappointment Cleaver, where the weather turned us back three years ago, we topped the rim of the main summit crater at 11 AM. Soon we had our bivouac organized and were off for the summit and the caves.

Although the geothermal activity here is so much less that these caves were somewhat of an anticlimax after those of the previous week, they still were well worth the climb. Last visited by Gene Kiver's eastern Washington team four years ago, they had changed considerably in the interim. The mile-long perimeter passage in the main system was found to be blocked about 150 yards north of the main south entrance, and none of the north entrances "went". In the West Crater, the route to the Lake Room was blocked also, but a very large room had developed near the south end of that system, perhaps 200 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 40 feet high. In this area were fine ice columns and the largest ice oulopholites I've ever seen. Some individual crystals were almost a foot long.

Because we all lacked energy at 14,370 feet, the Columbia Crest System was left largely uninvestigated. The very steep pumice-floored cave discovered by the grotto in 1970 was found to have daylight entering well downslope. This is expected to be a special target next year, together with documentation of the present extent of the various systems.

If interested in participating, congenial altitude-conditioned cavers are invited to contact the grotto. An essential part of the project is carrying gear up 10,000 feet of mountain: an energy expenditure of about two million foot-pounds per person. And good weather.

And my heartfelt personal thanks to those who helped so much in this, my first successful ascent in six years of trying: Chuck Coughlin, Roger Cox, Roger and Zella Matthews, and Patricia Halliday.

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Notes on Perimeter Caves - Mt. Rainier Summit Crater  
by Chuck Coughlin

The August 1978 climb reported on elsewhere in this issue was the fourth Cascade Grotto trip to the Mt. Rainier summit steam caves. The first, about which I really know very little, took place in the '60s. On this trip, grotto members had verified the existence and location of the caves, but had become either too exhausted or sick from the altitude to do much exploration.

The next attempt was in July, 1970, when a three man party consisting of Greg Thomson, Ron Pflum, and myself reached the summit and set up camp. We wasted a good share of our first day in a futile attempt to build an igloo (It was too cold for the snow to pack). In the time we did have available we explored the cave whose entrance was located on the northwest edge of the crater just below the summit. It was the highest opening we saw. We mapped somewhat less than 100 feet before turning back as the cave dropped steeply downslope. The floor was loose pumice stacked at the very limits of stability.

The next morning we entered a hole further to the east in the crater. It looked very much like a typical sinkhole--except in snow--about ten feet in diameter. The entry was a crawl, opening into a stoopway which lasted no more than 50 feet before connecting with what seemed like main trunk passage. We were surprised to see wands marking the center of this passage and learned later that they were left by climber Lou Whittaker who had made the first traverse of the cave only two weeks before. The trunk passage seemed to contour around the crater with its floor always sloping toward the crater. We followed this passage, where the ceiling was never less than ten feet nor walls closer than 20, until we exited the cave on the west side of the crater--opposite the side we went in.

Exactly one year later another three man team--Mike Kaczmarek, Truman Sherk and myself--tackled the climb again intending to map the main perimeter passage. We found the entrances much smaller this time. Almost all of them necessitated a crawl of one form or another. The entrance we chose was near the sinkhole like opening of the previous year. It required crawling on hands and knees for about 20 or 30 feet, but then opened up into what was obviously the trunk passage we had explored before. We mapped four hours before quitting for the night. As it turned out, that was all we accomplished. While we were in the cave a fierce wind had come up, and visibility was less than 30 feet. We found our tents but they blew down around us during the night. We chose our next reasonable opportunity to vacate the crater in the morning. Our map, unfinished, was made obsolete within two months--replaced by one much more complete and accurate compiled by Dr. Eugene Kiver during a month long stay on the summit.

During this year's summit trip, we again visited the perimeter steam cave, but this time we entered the system from the western side of the crater. I was supposed to be the guide, having been there twice before, but nothing seemed familiar. Instead of contouring, the largest passage tended to go nearly straight downslope through a series of small rooms ending in a chamber about 30 feet in diameter. The portion of the passage that did contour looked vaguely as it should have, but it seemed closer to the surface than I remembered, and it ended in an ice plug in 100 feet or so. A lead near the plug headed downslope through a series of rooms and ended in a similar manner to the first section we explored.

We did see some of the old wands in what was once the trunk passage, but they weren't in the center any more. Some were nearly buried by large ice flakes that had fallen from the ceiling. In seven years the cave had changed.

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#### NOTE ON EPHEMERAL SNOW CAVES

by Robert W. Carroll, Jr. (in a letter to Bill Halliday)

The vicinity of talus caves at Smuggler's Notch, Vermont, has also yielded something else of much interest--snow-melt pseudokarst "tubes". A few years ago, I speculated about their existence; now they definitely can and do exist in the Northeast. One had 45 feet of passage, another 75 feet (dodging the melt-holes) and 30 feet of relief, and both a few weeks earlier may have been part of a 250+-footer of 100-foot relief. Cross-sections were typically 2 to 4 feet high and 8 to 12 feet wide, with the ceiling arch having "scallops" similar to those of marble caves and photos of the Mt. Rainier ice-firn caves. We will be looking into these things with an eye to cracking the lowly 190-foot New England depth record or the 290-foot NE depth record. The trick is to find a good mountainside specimen at the right time--too soon, and it isn't sufficiently developed; too late, and too much is melted...Years will be needed to assess the various criteria for forming an "optimum" specimen; then may come incredible results (some N.H. gullies cover up to or over 1000 feet in relief). Some nice things about these "caves": (1) they are "vandal-proof" as a new one forms every year, (2) a relief record one year may be beaten the next if more snow falls, and (3) there is no "running out of new caves" with these things as there are always differences between "tubes" each different year at the same site! As they form, mature, and die over a million times faster than carbonate-based caves, snow "tubes" make interesting analogues of karst processes to study. [Editor's note: somehow, caves this ephemeral don't make me too enthusiastic. Besides, there must be thousands in the Cascades--imagine mapping all of them!!]

## TRIP REPORTS

### Caving in Northwestern Jamaica (November, 1977)

by William R. Halliday

Jamaica is one Caribbean island country which goes far out of its way to make visitors feel wanted and appreciated. However, for the caver-visitor to Montego Bay, there is one big problem: the cavers of Jamaica (at least those that are known to the Jamaican Tourist Board and to the world of speleology) are all located in and around Kingston, 4 1/2 hours away by car, at the SE end of the island, and it is very difficult to get a rental car without paying 20¢ per mile. Yet some of the finest caves in Jamaica are readily available from Montego Bay, and from the experiences the Larsons and I had, it appears quite easy to go out and locate additional caves which are not among the 900 recorded (and mostly mapped) in Jamaica Underground, the 1977 publication of the Jamaica Caving Club through the Geological Society of Jamaica (U.S. \$9.00 plus 15% postage/packing, address: The Geology Department, University of the West Indies, Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica, W.I.). This plus the Jamaica road map available from the Tourist Board offices in the U.S. are an excellent beginning. Additional press releases from the tourist board about caves, and about the Governor's Coach Tour (by rail) from Montego Bay would also be helpful for preparation. We did not find the latter until we had no time left, and so missed out on the Ipswitch Caves which are visited on the Governor's Tour.

Only one other commercially developed cave is located in northwestern Jamaica: the Runaway Bay Caves, which include the Runaway Cave and the Green Grotto. I never did find out if these are really all parts of a single cave; there are entrances all over the place in the face of an elevated low sea cliff and on the flat behind it. The best way I can describe this network is by saying that it looks like a honeycombing of the coralline limestone resembling the Boneyard in Carlsbad Cavern, with a mild tendency to development of levels. At two points it reaches the water table which is so close to the sea that it is brackish; a pleasant boat trip is provided at one site. One stalactite extends at least eight feet below water level. Speleothems are profuse in the caves; they tend to be massive and of weathered appearance. Fig tree roots are very prominent in some of the passages. Of particular interest are numerous bell holes extending upward in the ceiling. Many of them are the homes of small bat colonies, and the guides attribute their origin to solution by bat urine. Since some extend to the surface, and others show no evidence of use by bats, they look to me more like incipient dome pits instead. The bats, incidentally, are particularly pretty here. The same cannot be said for the goats which clearly live near and in the caves when no tourists are around. These caves are 60 miles east of Montego Bay, along the main north coast road, and the drive takes about 90 minutes. While the admission charge is fairly high, it includes a rum punch on the house. Hopeful would-be guides to the Cave Valley - Cave River area, about 30 miles inland from Runaway Bay, often can be obtained here and can even be annoying in their insistence.

The Larsons and ourselves rented a car in Montego Bay on 10 November, and drove only as far east as these caves. In the mountains south of the coast road is the famous Cockpit Country, one of the classical tropical karst areas of the world, with many fine caves. Two are shown on the road map: Ramgoat Cave and Windsor Cave, and many are described in Jamaica Underground. Because

of lack of time, we decided to limit ourselves to Windsor Cave after leaving the Runaway Bay Caves. It was a good choice, but for a time we wondered, because the roads became considerably more complicated than shown on the tourist map. We picked up a local farmer as a guide and he went on to the cave with us, as well as the usual guide at the Windsor Great House about 1/2 mile from the cave. Both were good investments. Few visitors come this way, but the tropical karst between the parking area and the cave alone is worth the trip. An immense sinkhole with giant fig and other tropical trees nearly choking it, a seasonal resurgence right along the trail, vines, banana trees, haystack hill rising out of the sink--it must be seen to be appreciated. The air blast from the walk-in entrance is a clue to the size of the cave. The main passage consists of huge chambers totalling about a mile long with large speleothems and notable colonies of bats. Almost anything could exist in the way of side passages and lower levels. Being somewhat concerned about getting lost in the maze of roads after dark, we turned back long before we wanted to. At least we reached our not-so-spartan base camp--the Coral Cliff Hotel--in time for a gourmet dinner.

Next morning we were up early for a look for the cave near Seven Rivers (only 15 miles south of Montego Bay) said to be the source of the stalactites we had seen in several shops in Montego Bay, before checking out for the airport at noon. As nearly as we could tell, this cave is listed in Jamaica Underground as Hazelymph Cave, but in Montego Bay it is called Seven Rivers Cave. We never found the crossroads said in J.U. to be the landmark for the cave, but after a couple of miles off the main road between Seven Rivers and Cambridge we talked to a boy, who promptly took us to two nice little caves and a pit cave currently blocked with cuttings from banana trees. The first of these, which he called Moore Cave, contained "forests" of pigmentless plant sprouts up to a foot in height as well as many snails and other biota. A large root extended to the cave floor from one of its massive stalactites, which are much coarser than the ones we saw in Montego Bay, supposedly from "Seven Rivers Cave". The other, which he called his "Best Cave" was smaller but also interesting and pretty, with three types of snails and several swallows' nests. These caves don't seem to be in Jamaica Underground, unless Moore Cave is Hazelymph Cave is Seven Rivers Cave.

And we were back at the hotel at 11 AM, just excited enough to insure that we'll be back here some day with enough time to do justice to the caves of Jamaica.

And maybe even get to go swimming at Doctor's Cave Beach, right in the middle of the shopping district near our hotel.

Concrete Area, 20 and 23 June, 1978  
(Roger Pressentin, Peter Denooyer, Stan and Clyde Senger)

by Clyde Senger

Twice before my son and his friends had been down to the Concrete area looking for caves without success. I kept hinting that I knew where they were or at least where they were supposed to be. Finally, they agreed to let me be the guide. I had been to Jackman Creek Cave several times and had looked for Jensen Cave also. I had talked to someone years ago about Jensen Cave and thought I knew how to get there. I don't have the slightest idea now who it was I had talked to.

At any rate, we got away from Bellingham early by Roger's standards, about 4 PM. We soon found the fork in the road that I remembered and we started up the hill on foot toward where I thought Jensen Cave was to be found. Within

a hundred feet or so we found ourselves on a flat ridge and we decided we were not in the right area. Back to the car and a short trip to the Ramsey Cave area which the others had found on the earlier trips. We scattered across the hillside and located some springs, some large sinks and some exposed limestone but no caves. Somewhere along the way I made two more sweeps well up the hill above the road but found no sign of an old railroad grade. Finally we found a sink with an opening in the bottom. When all had returned, we explored what we assumed to be an unknown cave. It was small but interesting and was inhabited by two rough-skinned salamanders. We later found that we were in Cricket Cave. Our next objective was Three Mile Creek Cave. Our guide was "Caves of Washington" and some very old maps. Roger was sure we should take the road north of Thunder Creek but conceded defeat after a few miles. We next tried the Puget Power tree farm road but gave that up when we saw on a section marker post that we were heading away from the section we wanted. Another road ended in a logging operation much lower than the supposed location of the cave. At that point we realized that our major problem was a lack of both a recent road map and a contour map.

It was now almost dark, but we decided we could find Jackman Creek Cave anyway. For a change we were right. None of the others had been to a limestone cave before, so they were suitably impressed, particularly with the room near the end. Stan and then Roger tried the lower entrance but both decided it was too wet and narrow to be worth a real effort. Does anyone know if it does go? There was almost a full moon shining onto the hillside to the west and it was really quite beautiful. It was after 1 AM when we finally got back home.

Armed with a reading of some past articles on the caves, a contour map, and a recent forest service map, we started out again on 23 June before noon. We were sure of success. Roger knew of an old shack near which the railroad grade was supposed to start, and thought he knew where we went wrong on Three Mile Creek.

We located the shack without trouble and, in the usual way, scattered. I had to take a look at the cliff nearby and thus found an opening. It turned out to be just about big enough to get into but it was a start. Apparently it was Sword Cave. Roger yelled that he had located the railroad grade so we followed. Soon it turned, which seemed odd. At the second turn we decided we were not now on a railroad grade. In typical search technique, we scattered out through the forest again; downslope and to the east this time. Stan and I saw some sinks, and while I checked one, he shouted that he had found a hole just below. The opening was only a few inches across on level ground, but as he removed the surface material and some old fir bark slabs, we saw that there was a hole about three feet deep and as wide. It was exactly like the one I fell into over Jackman Creek Cave years ago. It didn't go, so we checked a few other sinks until we finally located an honest-to-goodness railroad grade. For some reason, the right-of-way had been flagged and marked a year or so back. From there we had no trouble finding Jensen Cave, and it seemed to be the same as the original map.

After a return to the car for some snacks, we headed downslope to check out the depression indicated on the contour map. We obviously missed it, and scattered again as we started back up. I was sort of following the edge of the cliff when I came out of the trees at the edge of a huge sinklike depression. It looked like a quarry when you really thought about it, so I wasn't too excited about checking the bottom, but the others were already heading down. I had hoped to be able to go on down to the road below as my knees were beginning to give me trouble. Old age. After looking at the



shaft of the old workings and the cliff face, I decided it would be easier to go back the way we had come. Back on top, we scouted around some more and Stan found another sink with an opening at the bottom [Rubbish Cave--editor]. After a quick look we decided it must be natural but unsafe without the rope, which was back in the car. The others volunteered me to go back as I had more experience. After I returned, they also decided that I should have the opportunity of first exploration. The pit had obviously been used as a garbage dump, but the rusting material had recently settled. It is a nearly vertical pit 40 feet deep at the moment, and would be nearly impossible without a rope. Some of the rubbish is still unstable. There are several too narrow side passages and a fairly solid block of rock and rubbish in the bottom. Maybe a few more years of natural erosion will open up the lower levels. Roger found a hole nearby but we didn't seriously try to open it.

We still wanted to find Three Mile Creek Cave, so we headed in that direction. We soon found ourselves under a spar pole in the middle of the road. Our altimeter indicated we were too high anyway, so we backed down. The next road we tried deadended below the previous one and we hadn't seen a thing on the way in. On the way back, Roger spotted something in the brush and yelled to stop. Sure enough, it was the quarry. There didn't seem to be much evidence of fresh erosion into the upper entrance. The digging looked very recent, but I understand that it is probably over a year since the last work by Cascade Grotto members. Looks to me like the area may be stable for the moment. We may have a go at a little digging the next time we get down that way.

Considering everything, we were pleased with our two trips. We didn't get over to the west side of Baker Lake, where I had found a cave years ago, but that can serve as a reason for the next trip.



CAVE MEDICINE DEPARTMENT  
Recent Medical Notes of Interest to Cavers  
excerpted by Dr. William R. Halliday, M.D.

Histoplasmosis Exists in Jamaica

A recent outbreak of histoplasmosis in Jamaica marks the first time that proved cases have occurred on the island. In February 1978, a 44-year old physician, complaining of dyspnea, fever, cough, and chest pains, was referred to the National Chest Hospital with a presumptive diagnosis of histoplasmosis. An investigation disclosed that three other persons with a similar illness had recently been seen at the same hospital. A common factor was that they had been in a group visiting St Clair's Cave in the parish of St Catherine on Jan. 29.

With the assistance of the University of the West Indies Caving Club, all 28 persons who had visited the cave on that occasion were contacted, and 24 (85%) reported having symptoms. Subsequently, changes on chest roentgenograms compatible with histoplasmosis were found in 20 patients, and three patients required hospitalization owing to the severity of the illness. All patients recovered. Seventeen of the ill cavers were tested using histoplasmin skin-test antigen, and all reactions were positive.

St Clair's Cave is visited frequently by speleologists from Jamaica and abroad, but, regrettably, the group on Jan. 29 entered a section of the cave that was not usually visited. The cave is used as a shelter by large numbers of bats. On April 14 samples of soil from the cave floor from the entrance to the section visited by the cavers were collected by Dr. Libero Ajello of the Center for Disease Control. Suspensions of the samples were inoculated into mice and were subsequently found to be positive for Histoplasma capsulatum. This outbreak has demonstrated that histoplasmosis does occur in Jamaica. [From: Caribbean Epidemiology Center Surveillance Report, July 1978, via Journal of the American Medical Association, Sept. 22, 1978].

Antacid Ingestion in Mountain Sickness Not Recommended--J.A.Wilkerson, M.D.

A recent publication by a mountaineering equipment manufacturer [T.F.Hornbein in Summit, October-November, 1977] has received rather wide attention... In it the author asserts that acidosis frequently develops in climbers...[and] recommends that urine pH be tested periodically during a climb and that the climber ingest sufficient quantities of antacid to keep the pH above a specified level...The entire report is sadly deficient. Altitude hypoxia results in hyperventilation and respiratory alkalosis, not acidosis. Climbers cannot maintain an anaerobic work output sufficient to result in acid accumulation... no controls of any kind were used during these studies.

No reliable basis for the use of antacids to prevent the symptoms of acute mountain sickness has been presented. Acetazolamide [Diamox] does reduce symptoms slightly, but a carefully controlled double-blind study was required to demonstrate these effects. All of the numerous physicians who are experienced climbers...agree that no effort should be made to ameliorate the symptoms of acute mountain sickness with drugs. Not only do the drugs produce minimal benefits, they are potentially dangerous in untrained hands, and they produce a false sense of security that leads to a disregard for the hazards of altitude and the precautions that must be taken regardless of prior medication. [From: Journal of the American Medical Association, July 7, 1978, p. 60].

The following is the latest instalment in a continuing story...

# Western Speleological Survey

1117-36 Ave. E., Seattle Wn. 98102

5 August 1978

Supervisor  
Gifford Pinchot National Forest  
500 W. 12th St.  
Vancouver, Wash. 98660

re: 1920 Green/Spirit  
Planning Area

Dear Mr. Tokarczyk:

I regret that I was unable to attend any of the public meetings in the southwestern part of the state concerning the various proposals for the Green/Spirit Planning Unit. In the recent past I have transmitted to your staff the recommendations of the National Speleological Society and especially its Mt. St. Helens Caves Conservation Task Force. Therefore there seems little need to reiterate their details at this time except to outline them as follows:

1. For the so-called Kipuka Roadless Area (RARE II no. 6080), we feel strongly that it should receive designated wilderness area status. Further, that it be enlarged to the boundaries of the present road rights of way.
2. Further, for that portion of the lava caves area lying north of N816, the area should receive management directed toward preservation of the caves and their geological and biological values within a scenic roaded area but with off-road vehicles and snowmobiles banned south of road N818. National Park Service-type conjoint preservation and enjoyment of the caves and the cave area is essential here. Creation of a geological area here would be a poor second choice despite the need to recognize the need for management of the caves as the overwhelmingly important principle here.
3. For the remainder of the area, we support the wilderness-oriented Mt. St. Helens National Scenic Area proposal of several northwestern conservation groups because of its maximum benefits in preservation of scenic, recreational, and many other values of this area.

We will be glad to provide expert input into the Draft EIS to help avoid the recent Mineral King type of EIS debacle, if desired.

Sincerely yours,

*William R. Halliday*

William R. Halliday  
Chairman,  
Mt. St. Helens Caves Conservation Task Force of the  
National Speleological Society

BIG MONEY!!!  
TRIP REPORT CONTEST

An anonymous person has donated \$20 to a cash prize fund for the best trip report printed in these pages in the next twelve months. The rules of the contest are as follows:

1. A trip report is a narrative of a caving or cave scouting field trip. It must specify the date, people involved, and cave(s), if any, visited.

2. The editor reserves the right to make minor changes in any report before publication.

3. To prevent possible hoaxes, reports on totally secret caves (those known only to the author) are inadmissible.

4. All reports printed from December, 1978, through November, 1979 will be judged jointly by the editor and the chairman, who will select three reports by three different writers.

5. At the December, 1979 meeting, the membership will vote among these three for the winner; its writer will receive the prize.

Any other person wanting to contribute to the prize fund is welcome to do so (contact the editor).

THE OCTOBER MEETING

Our special slide show/recruitment meeting had thirteen attendees, four of them new. Unfortunately, no one was successfully recruited. The slide show is looking good, however, and hopefully will be improved still more before our next attempt. A roaring fire made this meeting expecially pleasant.

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GROTTO STORE: As reported in the last issue, Bill Capron, our storekeeper, wants to give up the store. Anyone interested (even slightly) in being the new storekeeper, please come to the meeting and announce yourself.

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THE CASCADE CAVER  
207 HUB (FK-10) Box 98  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA 98195

Take  
Nothing  
But  
Pictures  
Leave  
Nothing  
But  
Footprints

NOMINATE NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS AT THE MEETING, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 20TH.