



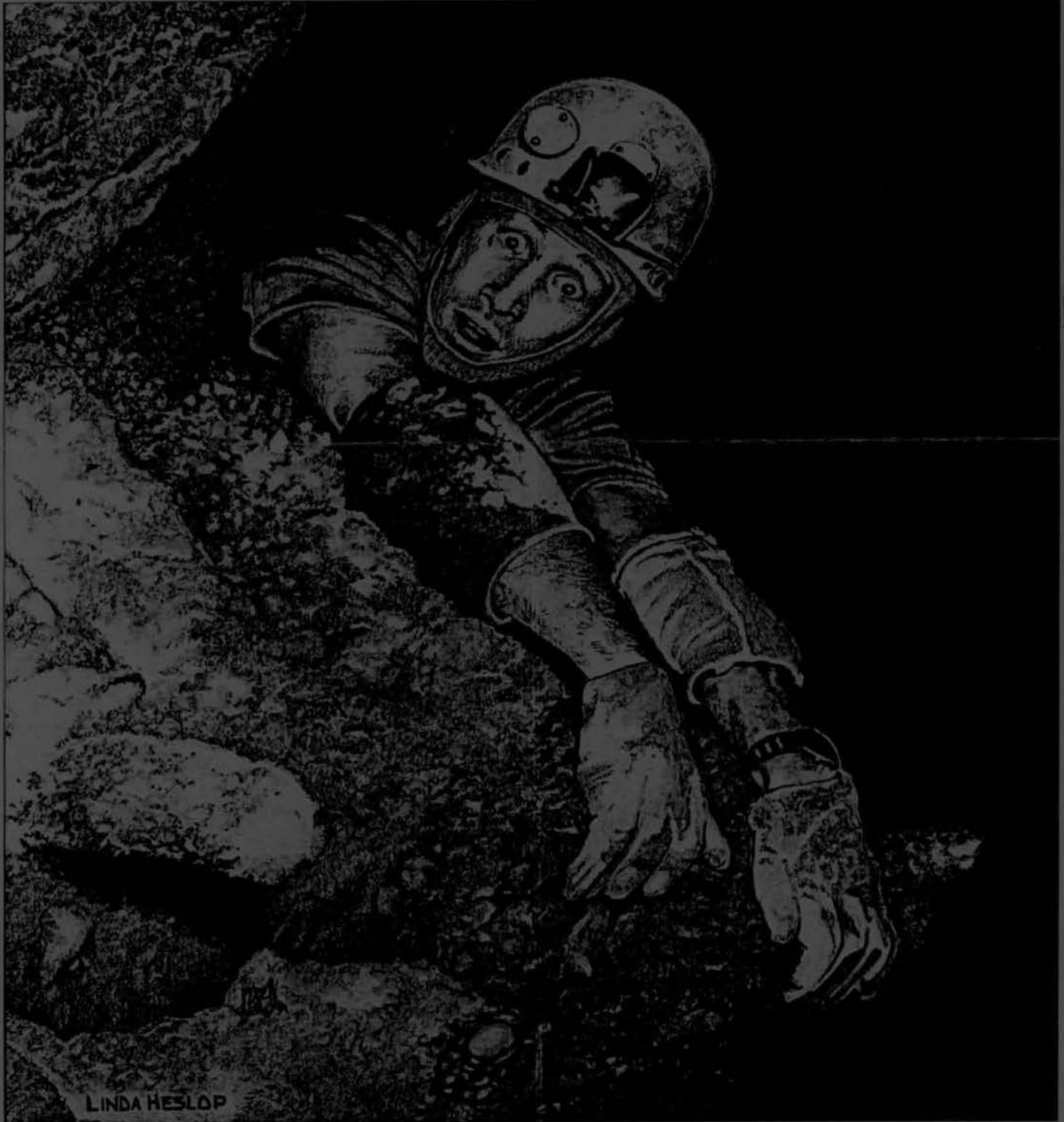
Cascade Caver

Newsletter of the Cascade Grotto of the National Speleological Society



Volume 32, No. 4

July-December 1993



Cascade Grotto

Regular grotto Meetings are held monthly at 7:00 PM on the third Friday of each month at the University of Washington, room 6 in the basement of Johnson Hall. Business meetings are held on odd numbered months immediately following the regular grotto meetings.

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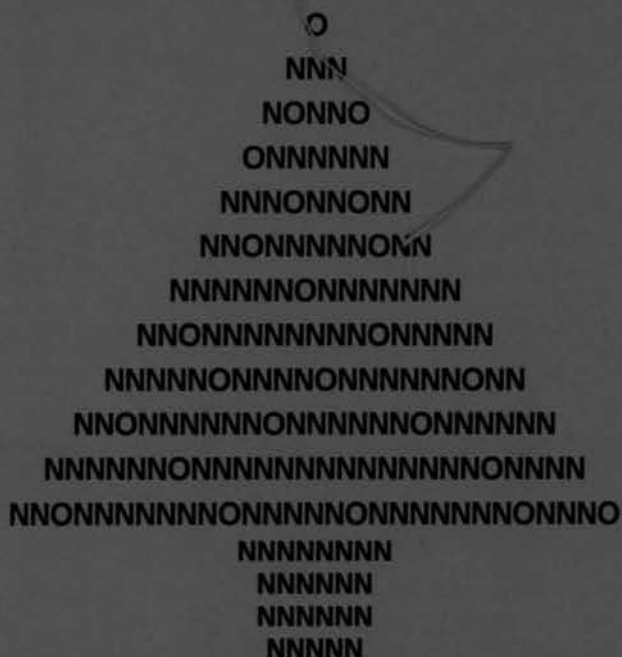
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Dues which include a subscription to the *Cascade Caver* are \$10.00 per year. Additional members in the same house hold are \$2.00. Subscriptions only are also \$10.00.

All materials to be published and exchange publications should be sent to the Editor.

Subscription requests and renewals should be sent to the grotto Treasurer.

**PUGET SOUND/CASCADE
GROTTO
CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!**



*Where: Teri and Wendel Pound's
11321 46th St E.
Tan Tri-level on corner of 114th and 36th*

When: December 18th

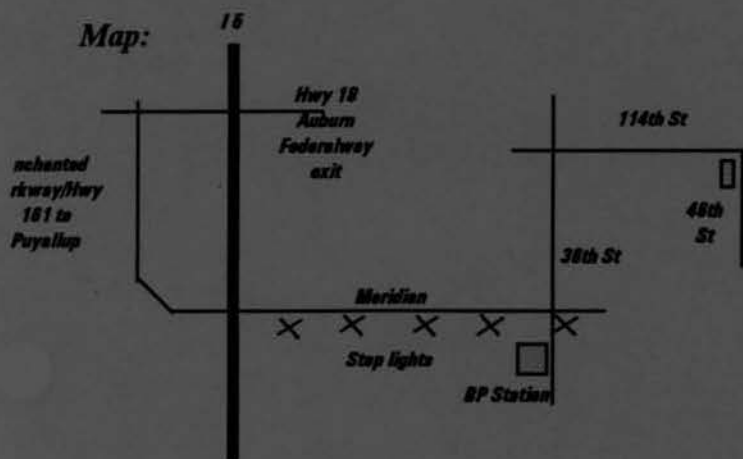
Time: 6:00PM

Contact: Wendel Pound

Phone: 863-1649

What to Bring: Potluck

Map:



The Long Haul to Nowhere

Destination: Ely, Nevada

By Christine Bennett

We left at 11:00 p.m. Wednesday night. Just 4 cavers with an itch to get into some limestone caves. Well, there is no shortage of that in Eastern Nevada. Barely prepared for the long drive, we (Paul and Katrina Ostby, Bill and Myself) took turns at the wheel during our all night excursion. We arrived at our first destination, Goshute Cave, exhausted but rarein to go at about 3:30 Thursday afternoon. "What do you mean we have to hike up hill!!!" The directions were to go towards the large opening in the side of the hill but, of course, that didn't go anywhere. A smaller entrance led through a dusty (dust masks recommended) passageway towards some large walking passage, actually, a majority of the cave was walking or stooping passage with minimal crawling and scrambling. There were three levels to the lower section of this cave all well decorated with most of the major formations well marked with spray paint. It was nearly impossible to get lost, only slightly misplace as we found out when we tried to go Over the Hump. So we made a wrong turn, no wonder we couldn't make heads or tails out of the map. Good thing we ended up back at the register! Our last attempt at seeing the rest of the cave was the Dance Hall, the largest room in the cave. We spent a lot of time here taking pictures. Spotted a few bats here and there. By this time we had been in the cave about six hours and were beyond exhausted. "I guess we'll just have to save the Over the Hump area for next time." We exited at about 9:00 p.m. to below freezing temperatures and a touch of snow. Now all we had to do was find the car!!! Looking into the blackness I could here someone saying "I know it's down there somewhere!" With luck, we reach the car without incident and continued our journey to Ely, about 1 hours drive south.

At the onset of this trip we decided to take the luxury route and camped at the local Best Western for the weekend. A hot shower and a soft warm bed were a nice ending to a long day (or was it two).

The next day, Friday, we headed East towards Lehman and Indian Burial Caves. Our first stop was Lehman cave a commercial cave on the Nevada-Utah border. Along the way we passed the Nowhere Cafe which pretty much describes the area we were in! We arrived at Lehman caves at Noon, just in time for the next tour. Besides the four of us, there was one other couple who happened to be cavers as well (ex-

members of the Golden Gate Grotto). The tour guide, Sheldon, asked if we were interested in the flashlight tour. Of course, our response was yes!

Sheldon was probably one of the best show cave tour guides I have ever met. As we strolled to the cave entrance, he told us a bit about the history of the cave. Absalom S. Lehman was the first to fully explore the cave. Taking time off from his ranching duties, Abe explored and led guided parties through the cave from about 1885 until his death in 1891. Lehman cave is probably best known for the rare formation called shields or palettes which are abundant throughout the cave. The tour ran for about 2 hours and covered only a fraction of the cave passage. Some of the tourist areas have been closed do to heavy breakdown so the cave can be fairly crowded during the summer season. The best time to really enjoy the tour is during the Fall and Winter months when the tourist season is slow.

Our next stop that day was Indian Burial Cave only a short 20 minute drive from Lehman. This is drive up caving at its best! If your not to careful you could drive right in. Indian Burial begins with a short 30-40 foot entrance drop into a large room. Much to Katrinas' surprise there was a dead deer at the bottom of the drop. Apparently some poachers were about to get caught so they threw the carcass into the cave entrance. The entrance room was quite large but not very decorated. Some scientific study and excavation was being done on the bones in the cave. At the bottom of the first room was a large breakdown pile through which a passage led to the rest of the cave. Finding that passage was rather tricky. Bill managed to cram his body into tight squeeze that led nowhere. From the entrance room its is a short down climb to the remainder of the cave. The bottom section consisted of two rooms with little decoration. The most prominent decoration was Folia which covered the walls and ceiling.

After some time taking pictures at the bottom of the cave we emerged into darkness and snow making our way back to the hotel for the evening. On our way we planned to stop in the middle of nowhere for dinner at the Nowhere Cafe, but, can you believe it Nowhere was closed!!

Saturday we made our way to the last cave of our trip, Whipple Cave. I guess you could say we saved the best for last. After a long drive on rough dirt roads, not knowing if we were going the right direction, we made it to the trial head. It was a frightfully long hike to the entrance, all of 200 yards or so. I can get used to caving in Nevada! The entrance was a spectacular 70 foot drop into a large room that pretty much was a continuous room for most of the cave only divided by huge breakdown

boulders about the size of our car or bigger. The distances from one side to the other were so great it was hard to make out the formations on the ceiling with our small head lamps. Most of the cave consisted of many stalactites and stalagmites, flowstone, a beautiful area of rimstone dams, a gypsum flower or two if you know where to look, and a large population of bats. Traveling through the cave was mostly boulder hopping and walking and a little bit of climbing. If you dare to crawl through the pack rat midens there was a small upper section to the cave consisting of some stooping and crawling passage a very tight squeeze and a fairly good sized room at the end. This cave is a must see whenever in the area.

Once again we exited to snow and darkness and started our long journey home! What a great ending to a wonderful caving trip.

Elections! Elections! Elections! Elections! Elections! Elections! Elections! Elections!
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1994 Nominees

Grotto Chairman:

Ben Tompkins
Unopposed

Vice Chairman:

Paul Ostby
Carl Stienke

Secretary/Treasurer:

Bruce Nagata
Steve Fogdall

Please return ballots at the January meeting or
mail your vote to:

Cascade Grotto
P.O. BOX 75663
Seattle, WA 98125-0663

CAVE RIDGE GPS SURVEY

by Larry McTigue

On Sunday, Sept. 5th, I hiked up to Cave Ridge to try out my new GPS unit. It's a portable hand held electronic device made by a company called Magellan that uses orbiting military satellites to calculate your location on the earth in degrees of latitude and longitude. GPS stands for Geographical Positioning System and as such is quite useful in pinpointing where cave entrances are on a topo map or aerial photo.

It can also be called a Global Positioning Satellite System (GPSS).

Speaking of aerial photos, I ran into Bob Brown near Newton Cave and he promised to send me one of Cave Ridge to use with my GPS survey. Did you forget, Bob?

While Chuck Crandell was surveying in Hellhole, Bob Brown and Curt Black, a former Cascade Grotto member hiked around the ridge with me while I did the GPS survey. We started at Newton and after getting its latitude and longitude coordinates, we walked up to the highest part of the ridge to the same point Dick Garnick and I had used previously as a landmark in an earlier surface survey we did with compass and tape.

Next, we did Red Cave then, Danger, Hellhole, Cascade and Lookout. It was getting toward early afternoon by this time so, Bob and Curt decided to start hiking down the ridge and head for home. I decided to stay a bit longer and after they left, I went back up to Hellhole to see how Chuck was doing with the survey in Hellhole.

I climbed down the "Hell's Back Door" entrance to Hellhole Cave and descended to the top of the 40 ft. pit, where I could hear voices coming from below. I yelled to Chuck and asked how things were progressing with the survey. He called back up saying there was still more to do but, they planned to stop and come out in about a half hour. I went out to get my vertical gear to rappel down and join them but, by the time I got back to the lip of the pit, I could hear some of them getting ready to start climbing back out. So, I waited until they had all ascended and then helped them de-rig and haul their gear out of the cave.

While they walked back to their camp by the ponds

east of Newton, I packed my gear and started hiking down the ridge headed for home.

I'm planning to get the GPS coordinates of as many caves as I can in the state of Washington. Perhaps, Ben Tompkins and I can work together to add this info to the computer database he has on the caves of this state.

Oahu Caving June 1993

by William R. Halliday

I left Nashville at 8:30 a.m. on June 22, 1993 and at 8:30 p.m., Mike Kliks, Dolores Brockman and I had finished mapping Kamehameha Cave above Mike's house on Paty Road in Manoa Valley, Honolulu. Slope length is only 186 feet by it is of interest because of its long history. A letter written in 1838 and published in *The Friend* in 1845 is properly skeptical about the rumor that it extended through Waahila Ridge to Palolo Valley. Later a legend acclaimed the cave as the sleeping quarters of King Kamehameha and some hundred of his soldiers during the war of unification of the islands. The view of downtown Honolulu is wonderful and it should have served as Kamehameha's lookout, but the cave wouldn't hold 100 warriors and Kamehameha was much too smart to climb the steep hillside to the cave. It does show frequent visits over a long period of time, however, and is only the second cave known in the Koolau Range (2 million years old) to have red clay speleothems.

Numerous raptor scats are present on the floor of the entrance and in front of it. Mike reported that another cave directly above its entrance is inhabited by a very territorial barn owl. Another small cave is said to be located a short distance toward the head of Manoa Valley. The floor of the cave has been disturbed thoroughly by pothunters and little biota was noted. Only a few places can lava tube linings be observed. Locally, vertical tube linings are coated by cauliflower aa.

After a couple of days of meetings, on June 25 Mike Kliks, Steve Smith and I mapped Niu Valley Cave (Niu Cave #1) and checked out the entrance of Judd Street Cave (no change there). Niu Valley Cave

turned out to be 330 feet long, mostly crawlway. Since my last visit (when the neighborhood kids had dragged in a carpet) much contemporary material had appeared: two beds, clothing, another carpet or two, several 1986 newspapers and a marijuana bong. Although the black cat wasn't home this time, the cave teemed locally with insect life, especially cockroaches at the lower end. African snail and other shells were noted also. Much of the cave consists of crawlways between small rooms, and the rocks show much polish from passage of human bodies. Of special interest was partially cemented turbulent stream deposits on a ledge about four feet above the floor of one small room. Contrary to expectations, the cave turns south just inside the entrance, following the regional dip of the lavas nearby. The archaeological literature reports that this cave once contained "canoe burials", now long gone.

On the 26th, the four of us hiked the coastal shelf on the east side of Makapuu Point. Between the filled lava tube and Makapuu Point Cave, three of us did a "Charlie Larson" and got well drenched by and unexpected wave (a bigger one could have been dangerous). Then we remapped Makapuu Point Cave and I think we got it right this time.

On the 27th, Steve and I went ridge-walking Hawaiian style, looking for the reported large sea caves on the south end of Diamond Head in calcareous deposits. We found one pretty grotto on Diamond Head Road, about six feet deep, 18 feet long and 5 feet high, and a filled smaller one on a side road leading down to the beach but that was all. Then we went to Makua Cave (Kaneana) to check out the puzzling material incised by drip slots and to look for any linings that might indicate that this cave is a hollow dike. Unfortunately, the Beer Can Crawl has been filled with beach cobbles and we were running out of time to fly to Hilo. However, Steve found and 50 foot littoral cave in the emerged reef about 100 yards farther northwest. With several holes in the roof, it should be a pretty blowhole when a storm comes from the west.

The Hawaii Speleological Survey files have other unchecked reports of caves on Oahu and this island should not be written off as essentially caveless.

Trout Lake Grotto Field Trip

by Bill Bennett

On Friday evening of October First Christine and I were preparing to leave for the Cascade Grotto field trip at Trout Lake. As a routine check I opened the hood to check the oil in the truck and much to my surprise, was a shredded alternator belt. "I'm not going far that way," I thought to myself and headed off to the auto parts store. After an hour or two of repairs it became too late to leave that evening. So, at about 4:30 or 5:00 the next morning Christine and I left destined for Trout Lake.

We arrived in Trout Lake about nine o'clock just in time for breakfast. The rest of the group was camped at Dead Horse Cave and when we got there Jim Harp was backing his tent trailer in to the gully (well, Jim claimed it was a flat spot). With Jim, was his son, his daughter and her husband. Also watching the trailer maneuvering were Jerry Thompson and Mike Compton. In the main camp we found Bob Brown, Curt Black, Tom and Blyth Strong, the Garnicks, and Ben Tompkins.

When we arrived everyone was working on breakfast and getting ready for caving. The original plan was to drive over to Dynamited Cave and tour the upper annex which was to be rigged ahead of time by Bruce Nagata and Steve Fogdall. When we arrived at Dynamited we found Bruce and Steve camped near the entrance. We all suited up and made for the cave.

We made our way over the piles of break down to the old gate and the register and then down to the 15 foot down climb where Jim Harp rigged a cable ladder (A great idea for a large group). We then proceeded to the top of the 35 foot drop where Bruce and Steve had rigged a double rope for both the decent and the up climb into the annex. We all dropped the 35 foot lava fall. Here the group split some of the group headed up to the annex and the rest of us went out to the 55 foot blind pit.

After we went out to the blind pit we ascended back up the 35 foot climb and hiked back to the ladder and went past the up climb to the sand castle area.

There we saw some impressive sand formations. We all speculated on what they looked like cities, canyons, alien landscapes. This was defiantly the most well decorated portion of the cave that we visited.

After our party hiked back to the ladder drop we proceeded out of the rest of the cave only encumbered by a very high volume of bugs at the entrance. With the entrance being at the top of a steep incline most people were breathing hard, and a number of bugs were consumed on the way out.

Later on we met up with the group that had climbed up into the annex and they reported they had a very good trip and it was not too loose up in that area.

Saturday evening we all had a potluck dinner back at the Deadhorse camp and after the sun went down Bob Brown pulled out his generator and a slide projector. Slides in the woods what a great experience. Among other things Dick Garnick showed slides of his project up in the Chiliwack Valley (there were more slides but the editor cannot remember who showed what when he was writing this article).

We had planned a late night tour of Deadhorse cave after the slide show but after a day of caving, a big dinner and a few beers, none of us were as motivated as earlier in the day.

The next morning after breakfast a group of us set off into Deadhorse. Bob Brown was to be our guide but he could not seem to negotiate the Rat's Crawl that day so, one guide short we set off down the tube. A few feet beyond the Rat's Crawl is a short down climb where the group assembled. We started off down the relatively breakdown free tube toward the stream. The open tube was such a nice change from Dynamited the day before with its long stretches of breakdown.

We soon encountered the stream, it was not running to high and we could easily skip from rock to rock and keep our feet dry. Further down the tube we started to encounter the many side passages. Someone in the group had an idea of where we were supposed to turn off from the stream so we began to look for the supposed square hole off of the left hand

wall. We found that turn off without a problem. Stories of having to climb back up the Rat Hole didn't sound to pleasing so we tried our best to find our way out.

The cave now became a little more crawly with more side leads but we kept to the main passage and made our way to the bottom entrance.

After our short hike back to the camp most of us began packing up to head back home. But we did stand around and talk for awhile and the idea for a trip to either Bighorn or Nevada was born but that is another story.



*The editors
would like to
wish everyone a
Very Merry
Christmas and
best wishes for
the New Year!*



On The Cover:

Pen and Ink drawing of Bob Coney
"Hangin in there" in Low Tide Cave, Alabama.
By Linda Heslop

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