

THE CASCADE CAVER

Volume 1 Number 3

September 15, 1961

Published by the Cascade Grotto, N. S. S., Seattle, Washington

Better Late Than Never

This issue is a trifle late, but still has a few items of Northwest caving to record. Such as:

Mount Adams Area Trip -by Bill Halliday

A formal grotto trip was made to the Mt. Adams area on August 18-19, camping at the Ice Cave Campground, as usual. Again, as usual, time ran out before everything was done. More ice was present in the Ice Cave than was usual for August.

The main project for the 18th was the location and mapping of the Peterson Prairie tube system, to which we were guided by Maurice Magee and his brothers. In the group were Arlo Smith, Luurt Niewenhuis and myself from Seattle, and Steve Knutson and his brother from Portland. This turned out to be a lengthy but largely collapsed system, which was mapped in some detail. It is located east of the prairie.

The Knutsons and Magees had to leave that evening. On the 19th, we located and mapped a smaller tube cave farther northwest, in which Luurt found a beautiful spearpoint. This is now listed as Spearpoint Cave, and seems to be independent of other tube systems of the area.

After an unsuccessful search for a rumored cave farther north, near the junction of the new South Prairie road with the old Randle - Trout Lake road, we scouted the sinks south of the Peterson Guard Station, finding no caves, and found a new system - or maybe a link connecting New Cave and the Peterson Prairie System, just west of the Peterson Ridge Road. A strong blast of cold air emerges from an impenetrable hole at the upper end of this short series of sinks and 100 foot cave. More work will have to be done here.

Wild and Woolly Convention Caving

Bill also reports a wild and woolly time at the N. S. S. Convention in the Black Hills, in June, enlivened by a tornado, floods, hail, an excellent program and even better caving. Besides do-it-yourself tours of the commercial sections of Wind Cave, parties were taken into some of its wild areas where there are fine aragonite crystals and some fascinating hardened mudflows and breccias (in the Fairy Palace and Annex area). While there, Bill and Dick Anderson (keeper of the NSS Cave Files) scouted a rockshelter north of Newcastle, Wyoming, known as Lissolo's Indian Cave, and with members of the Colorado and Southern California Grotto, checked out two small ridgetop caves near Jewel Cave called

Convention Caving (continued)

Stender's Cave and Two Name Cave - the latter apparently having been entered only once before. Bill spotted the sink. Neither, however, was comparable to S & G Canyon Crystal Cave, a complex cavern with innumerable pure white calcite crystals, still of great beauty despite mining near the entrance. This trip was made up of cavers from all over the United States: 3 from Pennsylvania, 1 from Nebraska, 1 from Colorado.

Returning, Bill drove west with Vic Schmidt and fellow Pennsylvanians (a different crew) as far as the Idaho Falls airport. En route, they found many solution holes in beautiful Tensleep Canyon, Wyoming, and obtained the location of a cave farther south. They explored and mapped the caves at the mouth of the Wind River Canyon south of Thermopolis (the longest is almost 400 feet), before proceeding to Fossil Mountain Ice Cave in Arlo Smith's backyard: the west side of the Teton Mountains on the Idaho-Wyoming boundary. Some peculiar conditions were present in that cave - glare ice in the entrance zone besides the permanent ice farther back. Also an active waterfall entered the cave through the roof in the zone of permanent ice, and the fissure passage beneath the stratified permanente ice (and leading to the Crystal Room) contained a slush pond of the 19th which, however, was completely frozen on the 21st (after Bill had to leave). A. Y. Owens took photos of this cave for the Saturday Evening Post.

With the 1963 Convention in Virginia, it doesnt seem likely that many Northwesterners will be able to attend, but if the 1964 Convention is to be in Texas, let's start planning now. Let's see, -on the way are Carlsbad, Timpanogos, Lehman, Cottonwood.....!!!

Remember, meetings on the second Monday of the month,
Caver on the first of the month.