

THE CASCADE CAVER

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CASCADE GROTTO N. S. S.  
SEATTLE WASHINGTON

COMING EVENTS

Saturday June 6th 1964

Regular Meeting, 8 P.M.  
W. Van York's, 4834-90th S.E.  
Mercer Island, Washington  
(see map on back page)

AN UNUSUAL OREGON CAVE

Excerpt from: Parker, Gerald G. 1963. Piping, a geomorphic agent in landform development in the drylands. Publ. #65, Intern. Assn of Sci. Hydrol., Berkeley, pp. 103 - 113.

"...The fourth, a most unusual display of piping, is in the grey to white weathered, montmorillonite tuff and volcanic ash of the John Day formation, of Late Oligocene and Early Miocene age, in eastern Oregon. There, at Officer's Cave Ridge, is a large and apparently rapidly enlarging cave complex. The dimensions of the upper cave are now approximately 35 feet x 43.5 feet x 100 feet, but as reported by Collier (1914), they were 15 feet x 15 feet x 100 feet. If these measurements are valid, this represents an extremely rapid rate of erosion, averaging during 48 years of record, something in the order of 2,700 cu. ft. per year. If the erosion developed at a uniform rate, the cave would have gained its start about the turn of the century. Inasmuch as Collier made no mention of the other three caves at this site it is reasonable to assume that they have all formed since 1914."

Ref: Collier, A. J. 1914. The geology and mineral resources of the John Day region; Oregon. Oregon Bu. Mines and Geol., V.1, #3, P. 13.

Reference is also made to a forthcoming report in the Bulletin of the Geological Society of America on Officer's Cave.

Whether or not this cave is similar to Clay Cave, Napa Co., Calif., which is also in tuff, remains to be seen. Officer's Cave is said to be in Turtle Cove, 9 miles south of Kimberley.  
(Note to Steve Knutson - Is this the one you once reported?) W R H

WHERE WERE YOU at the last grotto meeting? You missed meeting NSS president George Moore, as well as the excellent NSS slide series on Caves of Venezuela including the peculiar cave-dwelling guacharo bird. Better put the second Monday of each month on your calendar now. Having said which, the date is changed for June ONLY, to Saturday June 6th, at Van York's, on Mercer Island.

Among matters discussed by George Moors was the possibility that the 1966 NSS Convention may be held in California, at Sequoia National Park, a mere 800 miles or so from here. Unless you have had the opportunity of attending a NSS convention and meeting and going caving on the spur of the moment with fellow cavers from all over the country, the convention may not mean much to you. But it's worth going a lot farther than California!

The leading competition with Sequoia, it seems, is Washington, D.C., where the Societh began. This is appropriate, because the 1966 convention will be the 25th Anniversary celebration. However, it would also be appropriate to have the first western convention to celebrate. (Easterners think of the Carlsbad convention and even the South Dakota convention as having been western, so you had better write your eastern cave friends and get them strightened out!)

The Unseasonably late, low snow has held back Washington state caving, but we hear rumors of forthcoming lava tube trips. Two Portland cavers who are joining the NSS were in town recently, and indicate that an Oregon Grotto is close to reality.

It's not too late to make plans for the Texas convention this month. The rare opportunity of descending Devil's Sinkhole alone is well worth the trip. Bill Halliday was elected official grotto representative for the Congress of Grottoes.

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#### 1964 CALIFORNIA REGIONAL CONVENTION by Alvin McLane, Chairman, CRA

On Labor Day Weekend, September 5-7, 1964, the annual California Regional Convention will be held at Lehman Caves National Monument in eastern Nevada, near the Utah border. The location of this years regional convention will be more of a western gathering, rather than just a California meeting. We hope to attract visitors from Utah, Arizona, and Colorado, in addition to California, Oregon, and Washington. Our Secretary/Treasurer, Ray Beach is writing to all grottos and individual cavers from these states to invite them to come.

For its unbelievably beautiful speleothems, Lehman Caves could probably vie with any western cave. Certainly they are the most spectacular (formation wise) that I have ever seen. Camping facilities are available two and one half miles from the monument. And in turn, less than two miles away are numerous, partially explored, wild caves. Pictographs can also be found at nearby rock shelters.

Besides the caves, the scenery is tops. Wheeler Peak at 13,063 feet stands boldly in the background. In the Snake Range (the area Wheeler is a part of) lives the 4,000 year old bristlecone pine tree. Specialists claim these trees are the oldest known living things. The entire area of five life zones, unique caves, peaks, arches, streams, great cliffs, pine forests, and aspen groves are included in the proposed Great Basin National Park.

I would like to have us plan a few non-caving activities this year to make the affair more interesting for family and non-cavers. I hope the host grotto, the Mother Lode, will appoint a committee to organize some activities such as slides, equipment demonstrations, practice sessions of rope techniques and climbing for beginning cavers and other interesting activities, besides the usual cave trips and business meetings.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE DAMNABLE NEVADA CAVING LICENSES, AL ???

Leftovers

How is progress progressing of the Oregon Grotto?

The grotto voted to approve all the resolutions under consideration at the Grottoes Congress at the convention, and directed our delegate, Bill Halliday to offer and amendment to # 5 (dealing with Bulletin content) urging that not more than one article in each issue of the Bulletin be devoted to foreign caves.

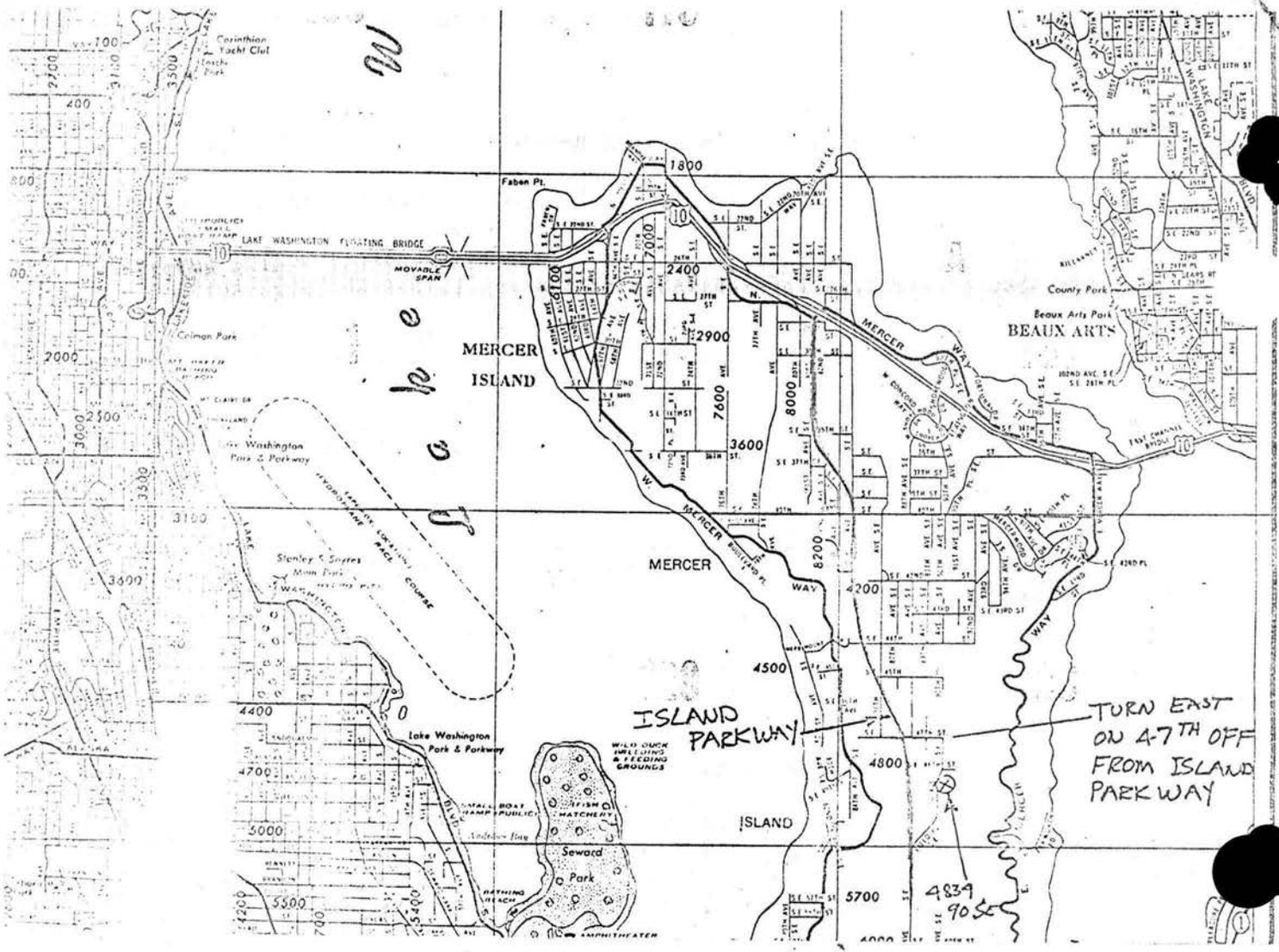
It's time for a trip to eastern Washington - remember people in Tonasket have asked us to study McLaughlin Canyon Caves, and also what the Chelan Chamber of Commerce said about Chelan Ice Cave.....

Don't let anyone tell you that the 1964 Convention in New Braunfels is a "Western" convention. It's still farther from Seattle to New Braunfels than for people in Boston.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Ed Wyman, on vacation at Huntsville, Alabama.

".....blah, blah, blah, ( a form letter about a visit to Carlsbad Caverns)  
We arrived in Huntsville, Alabama on May 26th. Fine Trip. Visited several caves, places and people along the way. Will be seeing you in a couple of weeks. I might even be in New Braunfels in time for the convention.



THE CASCADE COVER

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