

THE CASCADE CAVER

VOLUME IV NUMBER 1
JANUARY 1965
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
CASCADE GROTTO N. S. S.
SEATTLE WASHINGTON

COMING EVENTS

Monday January 11, 1965

Regular Meeting, 8 P.M.,
Dr. Halliday's, 1117-36th Ave East
Seattle, Washington

DYNAMITED CAVE TRIP 9/26/64 - by Bill Halliday

A multipurpose trip - families in the subentrance level and to the 40 foot pit: guided tour of remoter sections of the subentrance level and to the 40 foot pit for Forest Service personnel including Clay Beal, District Ranger; and Mervin Wolf of the Vancouver office: work trip on the blockade at the extreme end of the cave (no luck). Somehow we also managed to squeeze in a scouting trip to the multilevel complex above the "main level", at the rear of the entrance room. If this sounds complicated, it is. We are going to have to make an accurate Brunton survey, with vertical sections of that area. My notes indicate jumbled lava, then a tube-in-tube. A large upper chamber leads to a two-level crawl. The lower is short, wet and terminated by a breakdown. The longer upper route breaks down into several sub-levels. It ends past a breakdown room in a red grotto with a black lava seal. Photography beyond the sand areas, by the way, produced some good photos of cross-sections of sub-level tubes.

FIELD TRIPS:

Reports are way behind. So far we haven't even had a report on either Cascade Cave trip - probably the new largest limestone cave in the state.

ALASKA CAVES - David M. Hopkins

There are some lava tubes in the Lost Jim flow, north of the Bendeleben Mountains. They are exposed, in their collapsed segments, by the trenches visible while flying over the flow. Few of the tubes are accessible; the entrances of most are choked with rubble. The area of the Lost Jim flow is shown on Plate 1 and the course of the principal lava tube is shown on figure 15 of "Geology of the Imuruk Lake Area", U.S. Geol. Survey Bull. 1141-C (1963)

ALASKA LAVA TUBES - by Joseph M. Hoare

Stuart and St. Michael Islands and the lava covered coastal plain south of these islands have never been glaciated. You may be sure that any interesting surficial features visible were not caused by glacial ice.

The only lava tubes I have seen are in the very young flows which came from a small unnamed cone between the head of the Andreafsky River and The Sisters (see Uanlakeet A-6 and B-6, 1/63,360 quadrangles). The tubes are only 2-5 feet deep and a few feet wide. They are in small, thin flows which flowed out on the present land surface. The flows are so young that they are unvegetated. A larger flow, of similar age, came from The Sisters, and probably has similar, somewhat larger lava tubes in them.

On the interior of the island near Mt. Roberts there are a number of relatively young flows which poured out on the present land surface. These young flows are shown on the Nunivak Island and Cape Mendenhall 1/250,000 scale topographic maps and of the 1/63,360 maps of the Mt Roberts area. I observed what appeared to be collapsed lava tubes in the Ibkikwit Lava Bed and the unnamed lava bed south of Nanswakjiak Crater. I did not get to the largest lava bed which is farther northeastward. Quite possibly there are uncollapsed tubes in some of these flows.

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CAVE LIVING AMONG THE RUSSIANS

More and more Russians are going underground - for health reasons, the Insiders Newsletter has reported.

The latest health fad in the Soviet Union is living in caves, which the Russians claim not only heals wounds faster, but is beneficial for patients with lung, upper respiratory and even heart diseases. They say patients are frequently cured.

Caves, according to the Soviet scientists, offer a constant temperature; stalagmites, stalactites and other deposits contain radioactive carbon isotopes which purify the air by ionization; and constantly circulating air results in beneficial humidity.

What's more, scientists A. P. Volodin and V. A. Pshenichniy say there are far fewer microbes in caves than on the surface.

The result has been that an increasing number of Russian health spas are opening underground. The Newsletter said the Soviets will soon open Kunger Cave in the southern Ural Mountains which will reportedly be able to care for 10,000 patients at a time.

(NOTE: "Bah Humbug!" W. R. Halliday, M.D.)

MEETING PROGRAM NOTES

A N.S.S. slide series on Wind Cave, South Dakota, will be shown at the January meeting of the Cascade Grotto.

ICELANDIC ICE CAVE

(N.Y. Times, 11/25/28)

In the interior of Iceland a conical hill rises from a great plain of old lava. This hill is called Erik's Jokull and in it is the Cave of Switzheller, which runs for miles underground and has never been fully explored.

The cave is entered through a pit, and the floor of the cavern is of transparent ice, in the clear depths of which appear fantastic shapes that can easily be imagined as figures of gnomes, dwarfs and crouching beasts, but that are actually black lava rocks.

The next chamber is the Frost Palace, lined with columns of ice and roofed, curtained and fretted with ice-crystals. At the far end of this chamber is a hollow rock in which coins and cards are left by tourists.

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