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THE CASCADE CAVER

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COMING EVENTS

Monday April 12, 1965

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

WE WON THE WAR WITH RUSSIA!

Remember we said we were inclined to bet of Bill Halliday in his private war with the Russians who pirated ADVENTURE IS UNDERGROUND ?

Last month he got a nice check from the USSR Bank for Foreign Trade - and it hasn't bounced yet.

This puts Bill in an extremely select group, along with John Steinbeck, Irving Stone and a very few other American authors, according to the State Department. Ordinarily the Russians don't pay American authors when they reprint their books.

Bill gives much of the credit to former congressman Bill Stinson, whose persistence in confidential negotiations seems to have paid off when the State Department and Senator Jackson merely politely regretted their inability to help.

After Russian and American taxes and other deductions, the royalty isn't any tremendous amount, but to some extent, it's the principle of the thing that counts.

BUT THE EAGLE WAS A WISE OLD BIRD

Scratch one cave. It seems the cave mentioned in the last Cascade Caver as being near Sumas Mountain Cave existed only in the brains (if any) of the terrible threesome. Oh, well. At least their story was good enough to get quite a few cavers to do some digging for them. Besides, Luurt will make a wonderful bearded stalagmite when the victims catch up with their tormenters.

FOREST SERVICE PLANS TO ACQUIRE LAVA CAVES

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation plans to acquire 500 acres in the lava-caves area in Skamania County, Washington. The Agency is seeking \$ 65,000 from the new land-and-water-conservation fund to bring the natural-cave formations under Forest Service supervision.

IDAHO CAVE TRIP ENCOUNTERS PROBLEMS

On the weekend of March 13, Don Dilley, Bill Simpson and Co. headed for Idaho's Pappoose Cave with 60-pound packs and excellent directions, which involved a fork in Pappoose Creek. Unfortunately there was so much snow that they couldn't even find the fork. Lots of good looking limestone, though.

LUURT NIEUWENHUIS INJURED

Luurt Nieuwenhuis, Grotto Field Trip Chairman, is out of action for a time as a result of a chemical explosion which injured both hands and his face. At the time of writing, it is expected that he will be in Group Health Hospital for some time.

CLYDE SENGERS TALUS CAVE by Verne Frese

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - Sec 10 - T 36 N - R 3 E

The caves are reached by driving about 0.7 miles up a dirt road that leaves Chuckanut Drive at the Oyster Inn. From there a trail leads up Oyster Creek about 2 miles to where the cliff is visible. The last hundred yards is across a ravine and creek on a barely visible trail.

These caves are a complex network of passages, rooms, and crevasses under a gigantic rock fall. It looks as if the whole side of the mountain has fallen away leaving a 400 foot cliff at the base of which the talus consists of rocks up to 100 feet long. The main entrance is near the base of the cliff towards the south end. The main passage extends north 150 to 200 feet with many side passages and rooms.

A small chimney from which we removed a rock before we could squeeze through, leads into a lower maze and finally to Lost Lamp Lake. (So named because Ken Lund lost his carbide lamp while coming up Falling Rock chimney. The lamp fell into the lake along with the falling rock and was retrieved the following week by fishing in about ten feet of water with a magnet.)

Falling Rock chimney leads up from the lake into Lake View Room from which one can look 20 feet or so across the lake and 30 feet or more to the end of West Bay. Just above is another room, Overlake Grotto, which leads to West Entrance, which opens onto a ledge and is shaded by a small tree.

Going down Falling Rock Chimney and across East Bay of Lost Lamp Lake we come to a crevasse about 30 feet high that leads to another maze of rooms and dead end passages. One of the larger rooms, Soda Straw Stalagmite Room, extends on south to Ted Lloyd Entrance.

Bats, Moths and a few spiders are found in the cave.

At the base of the talus is a large rock under which is a salamander pool. Another large rock nearby has a fairly large pool under it.

CLYDE SENGERS TALUS CAVE (continued)

Although this cave covers a relatively small area it has many levels and is extremely complex, and unusually extensive for a talus cave. It is a clean cave. In fact, after 8 hours of exploring, our clothes were not very dirty, in spite of the fact that much of the time was spent in crawling.

The Cave Pigs have made two trips to this area. On March 14th, Clyde and Bob Senger, Bob Brown, Ken Lund, Ted Lloyd and I spent six hours there. On the second trip, March 21st, Clyde Senger, Bob Brown, Dale Webb, Dennis Frese and I spent about eight hours there. On this trip it was raining and we used the Main Room as our base camp. Dale Webb brought his inflatable rubber raft and went speleoboating on Lost Lamp Lake.

The top of the cliff above the cave is at an elevation of 2085 and affords a terrific view of the San Juan Islands and the surrounding countryside.

There are rumors of other caves nearby including one which required six seconds for the sound of a rock thrown in to be heard.

Although we have made two trips and have spent many hours underground, we feel that these caves are still largely unexplored.

We wish to thank Clyde Senger for showing us these caves and certainly expect to return to this area several more times to explore these caves and to search for the other ones rumored to be nearby.

ON THE ORIGIN OF CAVES.....CIRCA 1870

"What is the origin, the mode of geological formation, of Caverns and Grottoes?"

These great subterranean excavations are the result of the fractures or fissures of the globe, occasioned by its cooling. The great voids which remained yawning open through the fissures of the globe have been, for the most part, filled by eruptions of granitic matter, bassalt, or the like; and in this way beds and veins have been produced. But not every cavity was so filled, and consequently are still empty as caverns. Their dimensions, frequently very modest at the outset, have been, in the course of time, considerably aggrandized by the current of waters and subterranean rivers which have eaten into their sides. The capacity of many caverns has also been increased by the waters of the deluge of the quarterternary epoch. To this their rounded outlines bear witness, and the smooth surfaces of their interior, and especially by the deposits of mud, mixed with fossil bones and rolled pebbles, which are discovered beneath their crust of stalagmites.

It is probable that the bones of antediluvian animals which fill so many caverns have been forced into their depths through the vertical openings, or shafts, in which the swirling waters of the deluge engulfed themselves!"

FROM: Earth and Sea (French)
by Louis Figuier
translated, edited and enlarged by W. H. Davenport Adams
London: T. Nelson and Sons, 1870

Iron River Caves (near the head of the Iron River)

(1) Iron River Cave - This was the largest cave that I found during my limited exploration. Professor Carlisle and five geology students including myself spent five days in September, 1962, measuring sections and collecting fossils in the Quatsino Limestone exposed in Iron River. We came across several small caves of the river.

The Quatsino limestone is approximately 1650 feet thick stratigraphically at Iron River. However due to duplication by faulting there is about 1 mile of limestone exposed in the river bed.

Iron River Cave is located on the Middle fork of Iron River approximately one mile upstream from the logging road which takes you into the area. It is a major feat just to drive a car into the area. I would suggest a four wheel drive vehicle or at least a pickup. We used a pickup several times into the Iron River area but some road work was always necessary. Although many logging roads exist, it is not possible to drive on some of them. The roads shown on the topographic maps are usually incomplete and out of date.

From Campbell River, take the road to Strathcona Dam. About a mile past logging Camp Eight go left of the Argonaut Mine road and continue to Upper Quinsam Lake. About $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles before reaching the Argonaut Mine you must turn right onto a logging road and continue in a southeast direction to a small lake one mile south of Gentian Lake. At the east end of the lake the road forks. Take the right fork which continues on the south side of the creek. The road goes steeply uphill and has been washed out partially by a stream but it is passable (as of Sept. '63). Take the next right fork and continue for 2 miles. There is one bad section of road in this two mile stretch which requires careful driving, but it saves walking. After two miles another fork is reached; take the left fork. About a quarter mile farther on, the Beavers are very active and have succeeded in building a dam across the road, but with a running start we managed to cross over it. Try to get as close to the river as possible then walk down to it. There are a few places where the river can be reached easily and several difficult places. Once in the river proceed upstream. There are several more obstacles to overcome however. The first time the river forks, take the left fork. (If you have entered the stream too soon, there is another fork which comes in from the south-east, so do not get confused with this fork.) The first waterfall upstream can be climbed easily on the left side. The second waterfall is most easily bypassed on the right side along the cliff. A ten foot stretch of class 3 rock climbing is encountered at the top across a steep moss covered talus slope. The river branches again 300 feet upstream from the second waterfall. The cave is located on the right branch, but it is impossible to climb up the stream at this point. Instead, climb the ridge separating the two branches and after about 500 feet drop down into the right hand fork again. Once you arrive at this point, the cave cannot be missed. The entrance of Iron River Cave consists of two large openings, the largest of which is about 30 feet wide and 8 feet high. Iron River flows out of this entrance and the stream bed is dry 600 to 800 feet upstream from this point. The entrance is located at stream level on the northwest side of the entrance.

VANCOUVER ISLAND CAVES (continued)

In September, 1962, Ed Edwards, a geology student and myself were the first to enter the cave. I do not believe that anyone entered the cave previously. Although the entrance is large it narrows down so that only a small passage leads into the main part of the cave. Secondly, there is much mud present in the cave especially near the back. In this area the river flows underneath the mud which must be at least 4 or 5 feet deep. A lake must also be crossed with a rather low ceiling above it. There were no footprints anywhere in the cave. When I returned in September, 1963, one year later, our footprints were still as fresh as when we left then a year before. Third, all of the stalactites in the cave were intact with no sign of vandalism. If someone had entered the cave before, I am sure at least some of the formations would have been broken off. Other caves in the area have been entered before and have been stripped clean of formations. Part of the room just inside of the narrow entrance passage had collapsed between my visits in 1962 and 1963. In 1963 some of the stalactites had been dislodged and broken but they were still in the cave. For further information you can see the accompanying sketch map.

There is an opening several hundred feet upstream from Iron River Cave on the south side of the river, which I did not enter.

(2) Bee Sting Cave - This cave, located on the north fork of the Iron River, is approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile upstream from the branch where it enters Iron River. The cave consists of one large room with minor side passages with four entrances about 10 feet above the present stream level on the south side of the stream. There is a lower section that I did not enter. It appeared to be a fairly tight squeeze at the time. The river could be heard running below. (The cave got its name from the fact that I was stung by a yellow jacket after leaving this cave.)

(3) Lost Cave - This small cave, approximately 50 feet long has two entrances. It is located a few hundred feet northwest of Bee Sting Cave. It has formed along a fracture which can be followed westward from the cave as a very narrow depression for several hundred feet. The cave is primarily a crawlway with only one small room at its far end about 5 feet in diameter and 2 or 3 feet high.

I would suggest much further probing in the area north and south along the strike of the limestone. Mine Creek, one mile northwest of the end of the logging road where you left your car for Iron River Cave, presents a very interesting geomorph problem. The stream canyon, between 50 and 75 feet deep, abruptly terminates in a blind canyon with a vertical limestone wall over 50 feet high blocking the canyon. The river sinks underground in gravels about 200 feet before running into the limestone cliff. There was no indication that the stream had ever gone through this wall on the upstream side. I was never able to the base of the downstream side, so I do not know how the stream gets back into its channel.

I will send a sketch map of the streams and roads. (It still may take you a day or two to find the right canyon.)

Greenstone Creek

The Quatsino limestone crops out on Greenstone creek west of the Guiler Mine. There are several openings in the creek but I didn't have time to enter any of them.

VANCOUVER ISLAND CAVES (continued)

Garrett Lake and Paterson Lake Area

The Quatsino limestone is exposed in this area and some of it exhibits karst topography. A large sink, located a few hundred feet north of the end of the road (refer map) collects water from a seasonal stream. It has a small shaft and 20 feet of horizontal passage which narrows abruptly. At the time the only light I had was a few matches so I could not see if it opened up again or not. The floor is gravel and I would suggest that a shovel be taken if you visit the sink. There are several other sinks in this area which are about 40 feet in diameter, 10 to 15 feet deep, but thoroughly choked with gravel.

An area west of Paterson Lake shows very interesting karst features. A very flat limestone surface appears to be undergoing solution about 10 feet below the surface of the ground at the local water table. At a few places I was able to crawl into wide low-ceilinged rooms with water covered floors. I am not sure of the exact location of this area however.

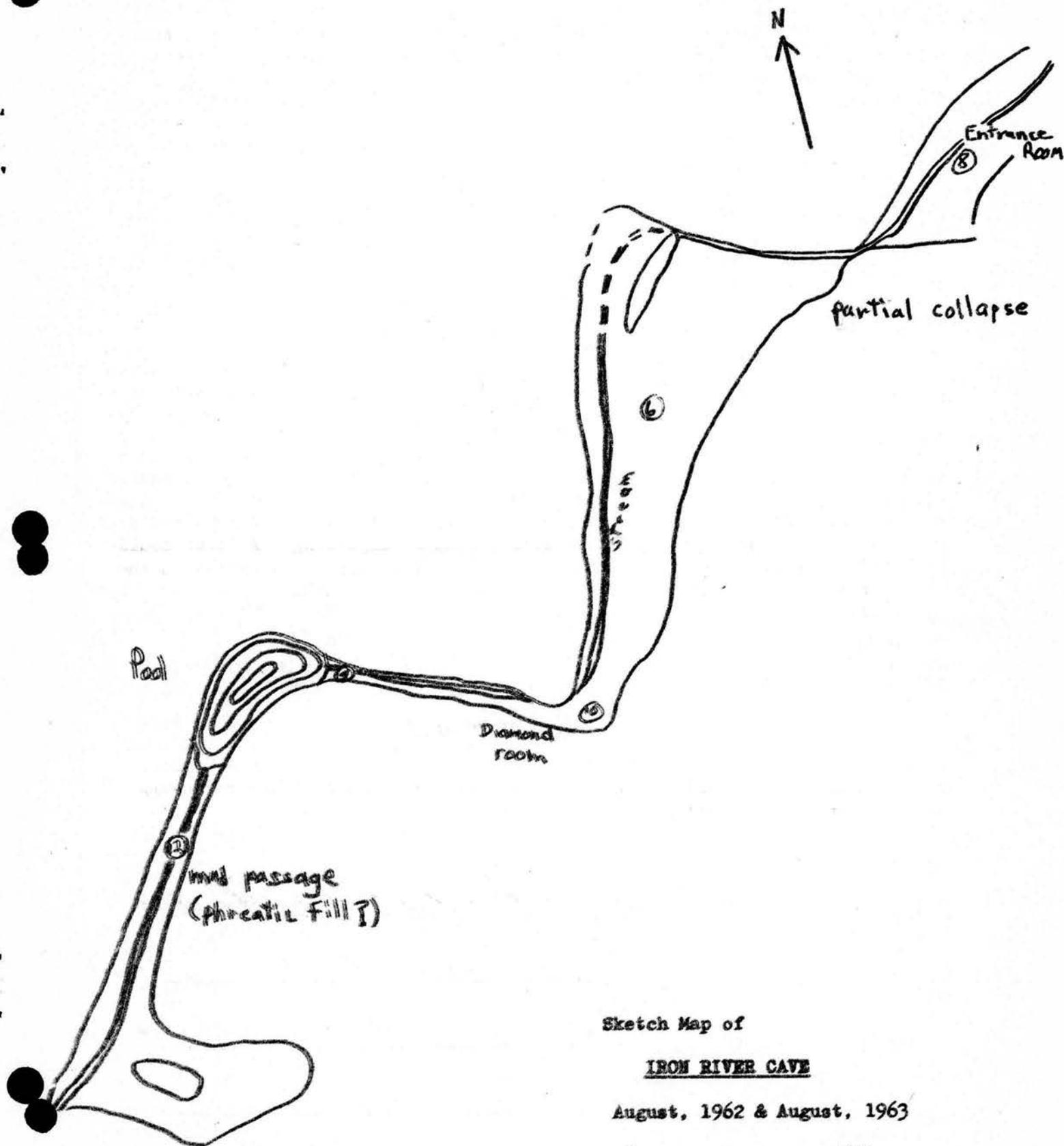
Memekay River

There is a large sink and shaft at the very end of the logging road southeast of the main fork of the Memekay River. This road is private and permission must be obtained at either Camp Five or the Kelsey Bay division at Kelsey Bay for travel. The cave lies 75 feet east of the end of the road. This sink may lead to a fair sized cave. We were only in the area one afternoon for a few hours to collect fossils so I have no idea of the extent of the limestone (Quatsino limestone) or of the cave. We had no lighting means with us. I have always regretted not being able to return because I believe it offers the best possibilities of any opening I have seen during my exploring. A river could be heard at the bottom of the shaft and stalactites were once present on the wall above it. The logging people at Kelsey Bay may be able to give you a lot of information on limestone exposure and possible caves in their area. They were very helpful to us.

Quadra Island Caves

Although there are many karst features in the lime belt which runs northeast from Open Bay, there are very few penetrable openings. The area which Dean Runyam and I explored the most is about a mile west of the Lucky Jim Mine. The area abounds in sinks in which a small stream disappears and reappears several times before entering an impenetrable sink and is lost. We found three small caves within a 200 foot area, two of which were highly concealed.

The few caves and possible caves which I have listed are far from a complete list. I am sure that many more exist, but it would take many months to cover the ground completely.



Sketch Map of

IRON RIVER CAVE

August, 1962 & August, 1963

0 25'

Approximate Scale

This map was drawn after leaving the cave and only represents its general layout.

Bill Gustafson

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