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THE CASCADE CAVER

Volume IV Number 6
June 1965
Official Publication of the
CASCADE GROTTO N. S. S.
Seattle Washington

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COMING EVENTS

Monday June 14, 1965

Regular Meeting, 8 P.M.
W. Van York's, Mercer Island, Wn.
(see map on back page)

Numerous Field trips

Contact Field Trip Chairman
Luurt Nieuwenhuis, EAst 3-0079

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"SO YOU SAY, EXPERT" by Luurt G. Nieuwenhuis

"The 9-inch high entrance of an unexplored cave is at the base of a prominent limestone outcrop just Northwest of the north face of the crest of Cave Ridge, approximately on a line between Hellhole and Clark's Caves. The cave slopes steeply downward for several feet, then continues for an undetermined distance." Caves of Washington, by W. R. Halliday, 1963

On October 4, 1964, Marcia Brown, Don Dilley, Byron Kato, Ron and Dan Paris, Bill Simpson, and I decided to make another attempt to continue the exploration of Newton Cave. We got an early start (7:00 AM, Seattle) and arrived at Cave Ridge at about 11:30 AM. As we went past Lookout Cave, Don called my attention to a little hole at the base of a limestone cliff. I bet him that we wouldn't be able to get inside, since I knew that now and then, an occasional skinny caver has tried his luck there, and in the last five years, nobody has succeeded in getting more than halfway out of sight.

Don Dilley must have taken this as a personal challenge, because he announced that he would not leave until every possible position had been thoroughly explored (and this in a 3 foot long crack). The rest of us spent the next hour or so sunning ourselves and eating lunch, while more and more layers of Don's clothing spread themselves on the ground. We were almost ready to go on, when we heard a hollow shout from Don; he had found the key wiggle and he wanted his clothes back before going on any farther. We flushed the smaller people of the group down that hole fairly quickly, under Don's direction, but I found a few projections which wouldn't permit me to pass. I told Bill and Byron to take a crack at the crack while I ran down the 600 or so vertical feet to Clark's Cave where I had seen a couple of pry bars on the way up. When I found the bars and returned 17 minutes later,

no observable progress had been made except that somebody inside was screaming for a belay rope and twenty feet of rope ladder

We gave them their hearts desire and then managed to knock off enough minor projections to permit us to enter the cave with only minor abrasions.

I got down to where Bill and Marcia were, and found that their twenty foot ladder drop was actually a chimney of less than 15 feet. When everybody came down we quickly looked through the five rooms which lead off from the 15-going-on-20-room. There may be passages leading off any of the five rooms, but much more extensive exploration is required. The only item of note in this area is a 2 inch stalactite in the first of the five rooms.

While the party started up again in reverse order, Don was looking around in the 15-going-on-20 room, and thought that he could see a little hole leading off in the opposite direction of the five "annex area" rooms. Bill and Don excavated a large number of rubble-sized rocks and found a place where they could squeeze into a passage (feet-first) which went perpendicular to the visible area. More excavation followed, with the result that a sideways squeeze involving a 90° bend was made passable. This narrow area was called the pretzel, and the 40-odd foot long, 15 foot high and varying wide room was promptly named the Cuss Room. At the small room which was found at the end of the Cuss Room, just when we were going strong, we came to a screeching halt, ergo the room name, Surprise Ending. Donkey-Headed-Don continued looking behind breakdown blocks to see if he could find more cave, and again he was rewarded, but this time the block was too big to be moved, and Don was the only one able to negotiate the passage. He reported that he was at the top of a big room that must be about 150 feet long and 60 feet to the bottom. From his description of the room, I assured him that it was not part of any known cave system. This appeared to satisfy Don and he consented to call it a day, and we all retired to see the tail end of a beautiful sunset behind the peaks of the Denny Mountain-Chair Peak ridge.

Using Carbide lamps and candles, we staggered down to the cars by about 11:30 PM, and were in a North Bend cafe by 12:10 AM trying to put a call through to Seattle. When we finally got our call through we found that the PANIC BUTTON had already been pushed by the wife of our only married caver (who else but Don Dilley; this was his trip all the way). For more of the details of what followed, see Volume 3 Number 9 of the Cascade Caver.

THE LEGIONS RETURN OR SURPRISE AT SURPRISE ENDING by Neiuwehnis

On October 11, 1964, Don and Carol Dilley (Ed Note: To disarm Panic Button, remove operating mechanism.) Byron Kato, Dan and Ron Paris, Bill Simpson and myself returned to Cascade Cave to continue our desecration of Virgin passage.

During the previous week, over many a gallon of the HUB's poisoned coffee, some of the features of the cave were named. The entrance was named Contortion Wedge in honor of the many bruises and shreds of underwear. The first room was the Dressing Room, the second, the Ladies Dressing Room, and the third was the Shower Room because of the amount of dirt that was kicked into the upturned face of people within it. Then came the Hernia Room, because of the large stretch involved in getting out of it; the 4 1/2 Room, because of its small size, and the 15-Going-On-20-(1) Room. The five rooms which mark the Annex Area haven't been named individually although they will be eventually. (We're making up for lost time; Bill Halliday abhors naming cave features). The appendix, Pretzel, Cuss Room and Surprise Ending made up the remainder of the named cave features.

(more Nhewenhuis)

But I digress.

Little trouble was incurred in getting down to the Surprise Ending, and after a ladder was rigged, Don started supervising the negotiation of the squeeze-way. I was last, and when my turn came, I found that my legs were too long to permit me to get through any farther than my hips, and the hip pocket of my coveralls prevented me from getting out. Finally, I crawled out of the inside of my coveralls and set down to wait out the rest of the exploration.

After a while somebody started yelling something about stalactites and helectites, but I yelled back that I didn't believe in such pipedreams, and sat back down to light another seegar.

Don finally found another crawlway from where he could look through a 1/4 X 3' crack into the Cuss Room, and advised me to keep warm by hammering away on it with the pick-bar. I did as he suggested and lo-and-behold, IT MOVED.

I ran back to Surprise Ending and gave fair warning for everybody to stand back, and then pried the block loose; all 300 odd pounds of the rock fell into the crawlway. Thus was created the Magnificent Bypass, for which everyone was extremely thankful.

The Big room is about a hundred feet long, twenty feet wide, and forty feet high. At one side there is a section about forty feet long wherein the floor is 20 feet lower. It was here that a few clumps of helectites and stalactites were found (all about 1/2" long), and at the bottom of the room was a 4" stalactite with a piece of bacon rind 1" wide and 5" long. All formations were pure white.

A number of small passages lead out and down from the Big Room, but none of them appear passible. So, when we exhausted the Big Room, we decided to call it quits and go home---but we had forgotten Don.

While bringing up the rear, Dapper Don thought that he could see a passage leading from the Magnificent Bypass, and he and Bill were off like a flash. I guided the rest of the party partway through the Mag. Bypass then followed them.

I went through a different place than Don, but still arrived in the same room. The first one small and high, and opened up into one that was probably 30' in diameter and 20'-30' high. I saw no sign of Don or Bill, so I looked around for where they might have gone. I found a small room next to the one I had come out of, and a gallery which led to a large perpendicular one, but I got no answer when I yelled, so I concluded that they weren't in there and I didn't look any farther. As it turned out, neither of those two speedballs noticed the existence of either of the rooms or galleries, so they remain unexplored.

When I caught up with them, after some very interesting passage which occupied 150' horizontally and 20 or 30 feet vertically, including one chimney, they were trying to get through a crawlway partially filled with dirt. Due to some of the ridiculous postures observed, the crawl was named Kitty-Corner-Crawl, and the passage on the other side was named the Hall of the Three Trolls (both names are not final). The Hall of the Three Trolls is about 6' wide and 30' high and

(still more Newenhouse)

over a hundred feet long. There are probably about 3 or 4 possible passages at the end on the H.T.T.

About two-thirds down the H.T.T. there is a side gallery which runs perpendicular to the main gallery, and is of similar proportions. After 40 or 50 feet, it ends in another gallery which runs back and parallel to the H.T.T. This hall is 20 or so feet high, 15' wide maximum, and less than a hundred feet long. Don said that he could see a passage at the end of it leading down, but we didn't have time to explore it.

Below the gallery, which is tentatively named Hall of the Terrible Threesome (H.T.T.II) I thought I saw another passage. When I told the others of it, we started yelling and backslapping again (we'd been doing it constantly since finding the gallery section). I found a place to chimney down, and thus we came to the Mud River Gallery, named because small stream traces were visible in the mud near it's lower end. At the lower end, we could look through a small crack which could be made passible by digging out some of the mud; this will certainly be done, because nothing but blackness was seen on the other side of the crack. This and the unexplored gallery at the beginning of the Gallery Discovery section remain the brightest hope for future explorations.

On the way back, we found a number of people (Byron, Carol and others) sitting just outside the Mag. Bypass for some reason (either light trouble or orientation trouble), and we herded them along toward the entrance. Again the time was sundown when we scraped through Contortion Wedge. Coming out of Contortion Wedge is like being born again; you arrive naked to the world.

Again we arrived home around 3 in the AM, and in the days that followed, Marcia Brown didn't succeed in prodding our aching bodies to make another trip in the next few months.

All distances and sizes are based on a class one survey (completed along with a couple of bottles of wine on a rainy night.)

P.S. Anne Steinbum made it inside 15 years or so ago- but Tom couldn't, so Anne turned around without exploring (WRH).

LEFTOVERS (continued)

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation seems to be going off half-cocked in its plans for Ape Cave. Just wait til the tourists encounter The Shower.....

Speaking of Ape Cave, Jerry Frahm took Wally Gonser there a month after the latter had part of a lung removed. High point of the trip was their discovery of a lightless couple well uptube from the main entrance. Seems that five went in with one flashlight; then three took off with it. Wally complains he caught a touch of a cold and was stiff for a week.

Major competition for the job of Grotto Representative at the N.S.S. Congress of Grottoes at the Indiana Convention in June. Seems Bill Halliday is the only one going.

Verne Frese's membership number has come through: 8335. Also a new member is Gerald K. Rafferty, 9026 Latona Ave. N E, Seattle 8318. The Navy has transferred Harold R. Morehead (Southern California Grotto) to Box 796, Oak Harbor, Wash. The reinstatement list includes John W. E. Harris 7 Garden Park Court, Lovat Avenue., Victoria, B. C.

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SPELEOCHEMISTRY

Limestone - Carbide - Acetylene - Cement - Limestone

Manufacturing Carbide:
 $2\text{CaCO}_3 + 5\text{C} + \text{heat} \rightarrow 2\text{CaC}_2 + 3\text{CO}_2$

Limestone plus carbon plus heat form Calcium Carbide and Carbon Dioxide

Production of gas in Carbide Lamp:

$\text{CaC}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{C}_2\text{H}_2 + \text{CaO}$

Calcium Carbide plus water form Acetylene and Calcium Oxide

The gunk in the bottom can of a carbide lamp is:

$\text{CaO} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{Ca(OH)}_2$

Calcium Oxide plus water form Calcium Hydroxide.

This happens in a Cement kiln:

$2\text{Ca(OH)}_2 + \text{heat} \rightarrow \text{CaO} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$

Calcium Hydroxide plus heat form Calcium Oxide and water

This happens when Portland Cement sets:

$\text{CaO} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{Ca(OH)}_2$

Calcium Oxide plus water form Calcium Hydroxide.

The carbonation of portland cement of "Carbide Stalactites" is:

$\text{Ca(OH)}_2 + \text{CO}_2 \rightarrow \text{CaCO}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$

Calcium hydroxide plus carbon dioxide form Calcium Carbonate (limestone and water.

The flame in a carbide lamp is:

$\text{C}_2\text{H}_2 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{heat}$

Acetylene plus oxygen form carbon dioxide and water and heat (flame).

Some Basic References on Idaho Caves by Bill Halliday

In 1941 and 1942, J.S. (Speluncle Pete) Petrie and Erwin W. Bischoff conducted preliminary speleological surveys of Idaho and other states. Sporadic reports of various Idaho caves have appeared in various NSS publications. One popular book also gives data on several caves:

Rhodenbaugh, Edward F., 1953. Sketches of Idaho Geology. Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho. Publications of the Idaho State Museum also contain basic information.

For the benefit of Idaho-locking cavers, the following has been compiled. Additional information is badly needed on most. Still other caves are included in the W.S.S. files.

Minnetonka Cave. A large limestone cave in the SE corner of Idaho. Partially mapped and reported by the Salt Lake Grotto. Needs further exploration with a scaling ladder.

Paris Ice Cave. A small limestone glaciere in the same general area.

Formation Cave. (Formation Springs Cave) Travertine cave near Soda Springs in SE Idaho, reported in Cascade Cave Report #6. See also Rhodenbaugh p.90, p.207.

Kuna Cave and Higby Cave have been reported in the Caver. Both are in the flows south of Boise.

Clover Creek Caves. Rhodenbaugh p. 155; not known to have been visited by the NSS. About 10 miles N of Bliss; much of valley said covered with rather recent lava flows with many lava tunnels. Near a now-dry crater lake called Blanche Crater on old maps; lake called Brey Lake. (This may sound confusing to you. It does to me.)

Dear Horse Cave. Rhodenbaugh p. 160. 11 miles W of Gooding on road to Clover Creek, 0.8 miles from jct of side road to Bliss. 20 feet high and 50 feet wide. Sections 200 feet long without rockfall. Not known to have been visited by NSS. Lava tube near McKinney Butte; meeting place of local lodge.

Dead Hog Cave is north of road about 1/2 mile west.

Teakettle Cave. Rhodenbaugh, p. 161-2; shown on map. Discovered by him November 30, 1923. Vertical entrance 6 feet in diameter, 40 foot drop. Room 75 feet in diameter. Fern draped mound in center (no sun); no other ferns within 30 miles, he says. S of road 1/2 mile SW of Dead Hog Cave.

Igloo Cave. 0.3 mile SSW of Teakettle Cave. Lava tube near McKinney Butte.

IDAHO CAVE REFERENCES (continued)

Cleft Fissure . Rhodenbaugh p. 172 (Cleft is a tank station on the Union Pacific RR 17 miles west of Mountain Home). Extends 2 miles west of water tank, just south of water tank and across tracks. 1-2 feet wide, may descend 20-30 feet. Partially closed, locally one side 10-15 feet higher than the other. Bischoff-Petrie reports mention of a chamber 35 feet deep, with some ice, 500 yards East near Crater Rings Craters. (Knowing what we now do of Crystal Ice Caves, this should be checked with considerable enthusiasm). Also local reports of 2 caves on the nearby butte, one with bats.

Shoshone Ice Cave. Impressive commercial glaciere on US 93 south of Sun Valley. Local reports of other caves nearby; one on Roger Freeman place 1/2 mile south and 3 miles east of Shoshone Ice Cave, in lava rim east of Bert Jensen's on county line. Also a "chalk cave" on the chalk mine road nearby.

Cassia City of Rock Caves . Rhodenbaugh p. 235-9 says granite shelters.

Hot Caves . Not know visited by NSS, potentially particularly intriguing. East of US 93 not far north of Nevada border; a state truck weighing station is usually manned by local personnel who have some knowledge of the caves. Information varies: (1) 1/2 to 3/4 mile north of an old lime kiln, in gully (draw) on limestone knob. (2) - Bischoff-Petrie: limestone formations, 6 chambers, one entrance caved in, 42.25°- 114.65°. "Go five miles south to Amsterdam on US 93. Turn east on unimproved road. Caves are on this road 4 miles to the east... 1 1/2 miles SE of the Goat Spring Ranch. Ora Jones (1 mile west of the ranch) knows another entrance. Caves discovered in 1895 by two prospectors tunnelling in hill - stream of hot water then flowing in cave, since dried up, due to wells in the area. Cave quite warm. Look out for rattiesnakes.

Warm Springs Creek Cave . 44.3° X 115.3° Said extinct hot spring. Opening 4 x 20 feet, depth unknown. 3/4 mile South of Poison Peak at head of Warm Spring Creek approximately 5 miles SW of Cape Horn which is reached from Stanley via dirt roads. (Bischoff-Petrie)

Clay Caves. Very Small entrance in sagebrush area 3 miles north of bridge across Snake River north of Hansen. 20-30 feet wide, length about 5 city blocks. Sticky clay floor, stalactites. Possible guide's name in files.

Eureka Cave . 5 miles from Mountain Home, 43.1° X 115.7°. No data. Inquire locally.

Wind Cave. 3 1/2 miles east of Milner on county road. This may be Burley Wind Cave which some reports indicate blocked.

Wind Cave . 5 miles North of Richfield and 1 mile east. "Explored one mile". Lincoln County

