

THE CASCADE CAVER

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October 1965  
Official Publication of the  
CASCADE GROTTO N.S.S.  
Seattle Washington

COMING EVENTS

Monday, October 11, 1965

Regular Meeting, 8 P.M.

Dr. Hallidays, 1117-36th Avenue East  
Seattle, Washington

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LOOKING FORWARD -- AND BACKWARD

an editorial by Bill Halliday

Among cavers, as among anyone else, there are basically two ways of looking at one's fellow man. One is the view that everyone is different, and thus by voluntarily working together to combine the special skills and talents of each individual, a group can be remarkably enriched. The other view is that everyone is different, and thus by working with those with similar interests, skills and talents, one's own projects can be greatly advanced.

There is truth in both of these viewpoints, but they lead to very different ends. Small initial differences delineate a major cross-road for each enlarging grotto - and between grottoes.

Because each of us - or our own small group - excels in some way, it is all too easy to hold ourselves better than others. Through the years, grotto after grotto has faced this almost-unconscious decision when its entire resources are no longer needed for field work. Many have suffered from the wrong turning.

In some areas, the need for special skills in special projects, for example, has led to the gradual exclusion of those lacking those skills. In others, unwillingness to teach patiently by example and seek common ground with dissenters on safety, conservation or G.O.K.W.\* has had the same effect. It must be acknowledged that in some areas, special teams, cliques or competing grottoes have proven worthwhile. Yet in all too many areas, planned or unplanned exclusiveness has defeated our common goal - and often defeated itself. The rejected tend to set up new, often antagonistic grottos or independent groups. Often the original grotto has collapsed or shrunk to insignificance in mutual mistrust among its remaining members.

Throughout America, the most successful grottoes and regions are those which seek mutual enrichment through mingling of varied talents and skills. There is no obligation for all of us to get on with everyone else. But most cavers are responsible, intelligent people. The remarkable success of the N.S.S. largely stems from just such a recognition of its founders on the interdependence of

spelunker and speleologist. Outside the N.S.S., independent groups wither and die. Each of us has something to contribute, just as each has something to learn.

With growing success, the Cascade Grotto is approaching this crossroads. Let us choose our future deliberately and wisely.

\* God only knows what.

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#### CAVE RIDGE HAZARDS

At the September meeting, Don Dilley reported on a trip to Cave Ridge in which a non NSS member of the party got into trouble in Cascade Cave when he developed an asthmatic attack and found he had broken his glass inhaler. He was evacuated from the cave without particular difficulty but required a helicopter lift from the Ridge. Coming after the other recent episode when a grotto member fainted in Newton Cave (too much partying and not enough eating before the trip) and a serious rope tangle in Newton, let's all think about the hazards up there.

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#### CAVE RIDGE OWNERS CONCERNED ABOUT CAVES

The new owners of the property on which the Cave Ridge caves are located, who purchased the area in order to develop a new ski area, are somewhat concerned about the danger on someone injuring themselves in or about the caves. At present, negotiations are in progress with the aim of removing the caves from their worries. More information will be forthcoming on this matter following the conclusion of the negotiations; however, no information is available at present on the status on the negotiations.

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#### CARBIDE FOR SALE

Ed Wyman has purchased a 100 pound drum of carbide which he will break down into three and five pound units. The carbide will be available at the October regular meeting of the grotto at a very nominal cost.

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#### ROPE CLIMBING PRACTICE SESSIONS

Verne Frese announces a series of Thursday evening rope climbing and practice sessions at the Layrite plant on Marginal Way South, each Thursday at 7:30 P.M. unless it rains, and maybe even then - more like a cave. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone to learn the basics on rope work, and many of the techniques necessary for safe maneuvering in caves.

Over the Labor Day weekend, the Grotto was scattered far and wide. Part of the West Seattle crew headed for Cave Ridge to continue the mapping project. Luurt Nieuwenhuis, Don Dilley and co. headed early for Idaho's Pappoose Cave and I took our family over for a quick look also. The kids got their first introduction to a nice, muddy, wet, cold limestone cave with vertical work and some crawling - and some speleothems - when they went in the upper entrance with Don and myself. High point here was the discovery on a tobacco can with the immortal but anonymous statement inside: "A damned fool was here". We added another slip of paper: "So were five others". No one descended the pit, which apparently does not connect where it was supposed to; the cave stream is audible below.

The tour continued through the main entrance, to the Attic and 15-foot drop. Don and I descended and continued to the top of the 40-foot drop, along a curious stream corrasional passage leading down dip in a strikingly wavy argillaceous limestone or marble containing sharply angular fragments of foreign rock. Overlying this ~~was~~ easily corraded rock are partially metamorphosed shale and "ordinary" limestone. This passage is interesting, and some speleothems are present above flood levels.

A small earthworm and a few insects were the only forms of biota noted, in marked contrast to a profuse and varied insect biota in Bear Cave, a small, interestingly complex cliffside cave on the trail from the road to Pappoose Cave.

Then we left, to meet the Hellroaring Frotto in Montana for some future planning. En route, we checked some vertical limestone in Rattler Canyon in the Garnet Range, but found neither caves nor informants. All I can say is that there is a tremendous-looking limestone over there and some good caves within long-weekend range.

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#### THE CASCADE CAVER

AMONG OTHER THINGS-----THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF VULCANOSPELEOLOGY

VULCANOSPELEOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS by William Halliday

Evans, James R., 1963. Geology of Some Lava Tubes, Shasta County, California  
Mineral Information Service, 16(3)1-7, March.

The writer studied the geology of five northern California lava tubes in the Hat Creek flow. He does not indicate their interrelationship or lack thereof. The caves are: Subway, Christmas Tree, Broken Arm, Dogleg, "and one of the Ice Caves". Maps of Subway and Christmas Tree Caves are included. The age of the caves is estimated as perhaps 2,000 years.

The writer includes mention of an elusive reference to the direct observation of lava flowing in lava tubes

Jagger, 1947, Geol. Soc. Amer. Mem. 21, 508 pp.

Gaines, Tom H., 1963, Hat Creek Lava Tubes as Fallout Shelters. *ibid*, pp. 8-10

The writer correlates his article with that of Evans (above). The five caves possess perhaps 8,000 feet of passage.

California Disaster Office Letter #8 has approved the structural stability of "natural caves or caverns" as fallout shelters because they have stood for long periods of time. (This office has not purchased a copy of *CAVES OF CALIFORNIA* and has not requested any WSS publications on caves as shelters - WRH).

The Hat Creek basalt has a specific gravity of 2.25 and is thus estimated to have a similar shielding effect as concrete. A two foot overburden therefore is judged adequate.

The writer expresses concern over fallout washing in as silt through entrances or as fine particles in water seeping through the ceiling. He considered that all cave openings would require effective shields to prevent rain from washing fallout in.

Estimated capacity of Subway Cave is 4,000 refugees; of Christmas Tree, 2,000.

Subway Cave would require two ventilation holes and three fans. He anticipates a severe problem with generator fumes. He also suggests whitewashing the cavern walls to improve lighting.

The article is of significance because the writer expresses concern for problems pooh-poohed by non-spelean authorities after publication of WSS reports on the same subject. Had he been more familiar with speleometeorology, it would have been still more valuable.

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#### KLICKITAT COUNTY'S RED CAVE --- REDISCOVERED ??? by Bill Halliday

On September 25th, Marcia, Pat and I detoured to the St. Helens area en route to Dynamited Cave, where we were to join the Yorks, Jerry Frahm and Bob Brown. After a quick look at Railroad Track and some photography in Arch Cave, I checked two holes north and west of Surprise Cave I'd spotted several weeks earlier. I didn't fit into either, but Pat squiggled down into one and found a tight 30-foot crawlway with a possible deeper lead and an impassable exit. Since no one else is likely to fit, this had better be Pat's Cave.

In Dynamited Cave, Jerry and Van began a photographic long-term study of the Sand Passage. I worked mostly on flow levels and vertical layering in the entrance section. The others familiarized themselves with the more accessible parts of the cave.

Camp was at Ice Cave, as usual. Next morning, a visit was made to New Cave, then the Butter-Stairwell complex. Despite a considerable debacle (yellowjackets),

Marcia and I scouted up trench and found a small new cave, several natural bridges and possibly Red Cave, "lost" for a decade. If it isn't Red Cave, it's a nice new one with fine flow marks. Those searching up-trench can recognize it by its sinkhole entrance into the side of the tube, not the top. Considerable additional work is needed in both directions of this whole tube system.

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OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THE SEPTEMBER 12 SEATTLE TIMES STORY:

"It would have made a pretty good ad for the new book, but it was much too early with the book not due til February. In specifics, my thoughts comparing the Mt. St. Helens cave area with the Oregon Cave area get tangled up; also I note that the TIMES apparently didn't want to give the PI's Frank Lynch credit for helping us find caves early in the grotto history." - Bill Halliday

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DATA ON "CALCITE" DRIPSTONE IN WASHINGTON LAVA TUBE CAVERNS  
by Bill Halliday

I recently got around to testing concentric dripstone from Slime Cave and Curly Creek Cave with HCl in the lab of the Division of Mines and Geology. Neither dilute nor concentrated HCl had any appreciable effect. Therefore, they are not calcite nor aragonite (nor probably, dolomite) but likely a silica compound. Such have been reported at least twice in California lava tubes.

After I get photos, I plan to send a note to the NSS News asking anyone in a position to study them further to do so.

It seems likely that the other similar speleothems we find in the lava tube caves are of similar composition. The largest I have observed are 6 to 8 inches long and 1 to 1 1/2 inches in Diameter.

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NEW CRAWLWAY AT DRY FALLS CAVE

At the September meeting, Don Dilley reported that he had found a crawlway at the back of Dry Falls Cave, Washington, so tight that he had to exhale to crawl. He reported that the sight of some dripstone made it worthwhile.

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NAKIMU CAVES, B.C., MAPPED TO 10,000 FEET

A recent letter from Derek Ford reports mapping about 10,000 feet in the Nakimu Caves, B.C. - - "really a very fine system". He expects to return next summer to finish a geomorphological study.

If the planned Vancouver Island expedition also shapes up next summer, it's going to be quite a summer for western Canadian caving!

THE CASCADE CAVER  
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THIRD CLASS MAIL

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