

Red Mountain Cave, Whatcom County, Wash.
(a letter from W.R. Danner, U of B.C.)

Location is in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ section 23, T40N, R5E, on the southern end of Red Mountain on the south portion of the old Northwestern Lime Company property, on the rim of the steep west slope of Red Mountain and easterly on a small knob. This limestone is exposed for at least 1,000 feet E-W and 200 to 250 feet N-S. Vertical distance is at least 175 feet but I was unable to examine all the exposures to the west and down the steep slope there. The deposit is accessible by about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles of good, steadily climbing logging road starting from the Mt. Baker highway in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 36, T40N, R5E. This road climbs about 1,500 feet. From the main logging road a branch (unused) is followed for about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to its intersection with a recently bulldozed track which leads about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the outcrop. The main road is passable to regular cars, the others probably not. The area is covered with dense to open stand of second and third growth trees and brush. My guide was Wayne Rouleau of Maple Falls who lives across the Mt. Baker highway from the start of the logging road. He and his father Cliff Rouleau have done some exploration work. They work for Mr. Clauson at the Silver Lake quarry. The land is owned by the state.

The cave entrance is located on top of the highest point of the outcrop in a gully that transects the limestone. This gully may be an exploration trench and not a natural feature. The cave is in a sink near the west end of the gully. The entrance was blocked somewhat when I saw it and I did not have time to explore it.

Vulcanospeleological abstract - by Bill Halliday

Glover, P.E. et al, 1964. The lava caves of Mt. Suswa, Kenya. Studies in Speleology (Assoc. Pengelly Cave Res. Ctr., Gt. Britain) Vol. 1 #1. pp. 51-66.

Mt. Suswa is a rather inaccessible compound crater near Nairobi, Kenya. On its northeast slopes, in a position somewhat similar to that of the Mt. St. Helens caves of Washington, are a complex series of collapse sinks only partially explored. 45 caves were recorded (apparently following the Lava Beds National Monument system of identifying each entrance as a cave). "They vary in diameter from 5 to 60 feet, and one system was followed below the surface from entrance 18A for more than 500 feet to entrance 18C". Illustrations are few but excellent, including a 3-dimensional diagram and fine photos of massed lava stalactites of extremely viscous lava, of a type not yet noted in American lava tubes as far as I know. Particularly interesting is superposition of levels and multiple lateral coatings, apparently similar to those of Washington. References are given to another African and an Australian study of lava tubes but the writers seem unfamiliar with recent American vulcanospeleological reports other than Evans (recently abstracted here) and Wentworth and Macdonald (1953).
