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The Cascade Caver

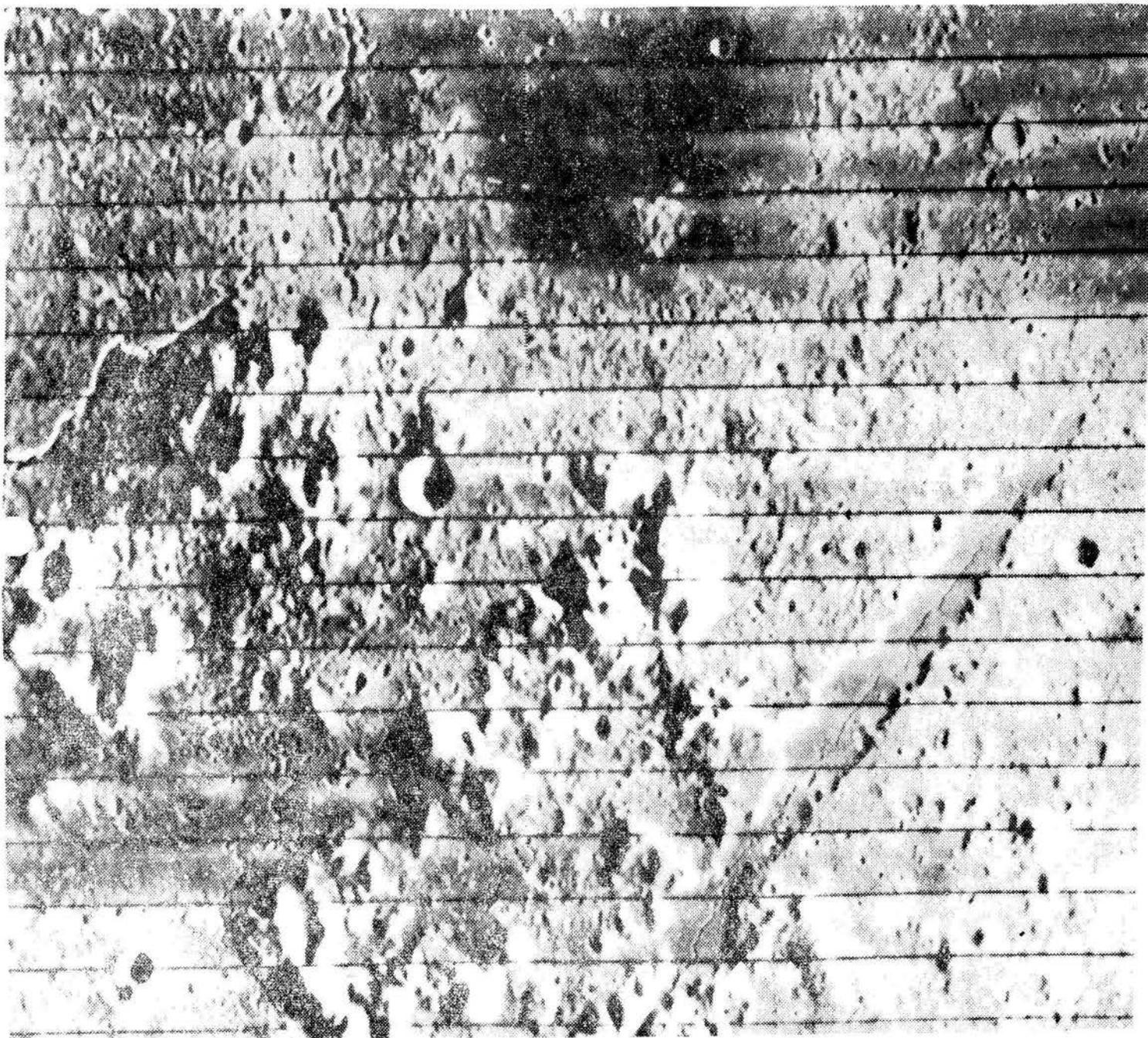
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SCALE: One inch equals approximately 15 miles

This recent Orbiter photo shows two more of the great sinuous segmented trenches portrayed last month near Fauth (here in the upper left $\frac{1}{4}$) and several much smaller trenches in the lower left $\frac{1}{4}$. The slightly sinuous pattern of the central rift of the Alpine Valley (lower right $\frac{1}{4}$) strongly suggests that reliance on sinuosity (vs. linearity and an echelon development) probably will not wholly differentiate lunar lava tube trenches from rifts, however. On another tack, it has been interesting to note the interpretation by some that the homogeneous material exposed by slumping in the walls of Copernicus (see last month's photo) may be lacustrine. It also looks a lot like the autobrecciated lava we see in some of our lava tube walls.

Mt. St. Helens fiasco - Bill Halliday

With the grotto's first 1967 Mt. Adams trip underway on the weekend of May 6, Pat, Ross and I thought we'd have a look at Ole's Cave and Beaver Cave. All went well til I lost the trail to Ole's Cave and got too far west, ending up at the lower end of a rather recent-looking flow unit marked by a beautiful lava dam. So we gave up looking for Ole's Cave and headed for where we thought Beaver Cave ought to be.

Almost at once, however, we found a rather square orifice into a shallow little tube about 4 feet high and perhaps 150 feet long with very fine flow features including ceiling groovings. Distally it terminates in breakdown through which the ~~existing~~ surface can be reached; the other entrance (and a smaller one nearby) are near the junction of the proximal and middle thirds of the cave. We called it Low Cave, but there may be another name; we found two gloves, one inside the other, obviously lost by some previous spelunker. Anyone know who?

So we went looking for Beaver Cave and found several places it should have been, finally gave it up and headed out via the section line brushed-out "trail". Just before reaching the "trail" and still within about a hundred yards of Green Mountain, we found another hole about 3 feet in diameter, about the 3,486, 201th we had checked. To my surprise, it led down into a horizontal lava cast of a tree originally about 6 feet in diameter but with the lower two feet filled with pumice and other in-wash, and about 30 feet long. In the other direction, a small jumble permitted entry into another, smaller horizontal tree cast, again about 30 feet long. The cave thus formed is in the general shape of a T with the cross-bar off-center. This Tree Cast Cave is the only such cave I have ever seen.

And just where IS Beaver Cave?

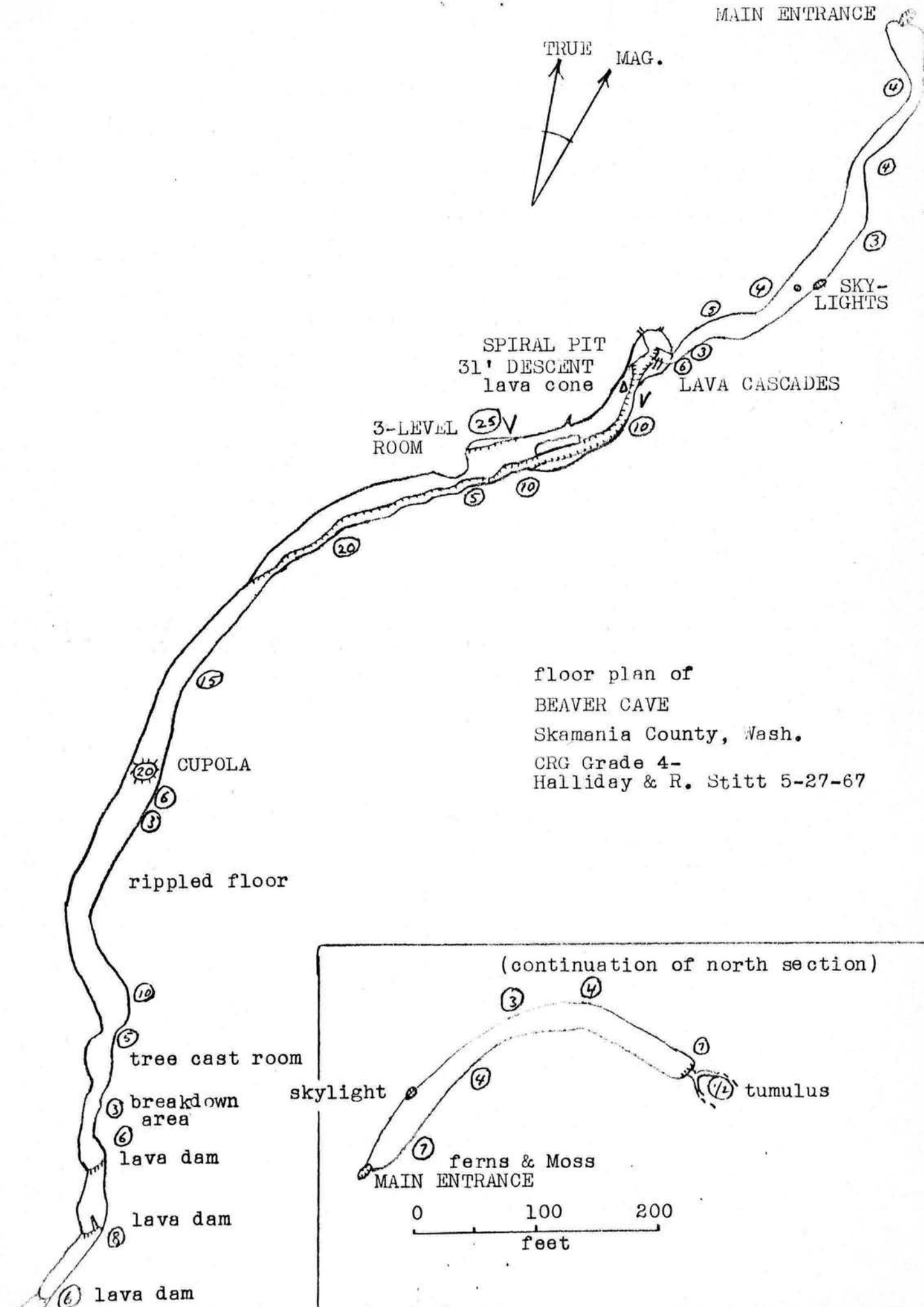
* * * *

(followup trip of May 27 with the Stitts and a friend)

OK, so it's about 50 feet east of where I looked for it. Nice big openings in the crest of a pressure ridge. Not an identifiable landmark anywhere around. A very nice little two-level cave resulting from piracy of a lava flow by an underlying tube 30 feet lower. The spiral pit is unique in my experience. In the lower level are several lava dams drained by minor piracy, like those in Lake Cave. Another notable feature is a short upper level of the lower level with beautiful smooth floor.

We also had a look at the lower section of Ole's Cave as far as the Cupola Room, where someone has dug a lot more out of the rear wall since my last visit. This is a cupola, all right, but I'm afraid it ends by an ordinary lava seal rather than as an end-cavity as I had previously thought.

We looked into 7,457,902 more openings but didn't find anything worth recording. We finally reached the point where Rob said he wouldn't look into anything more that didn't have a walk-in entrance, so we even found one of those that didn't go anywhere.



MAIN ENTRANCE

TRUE
MAG.

SKY-LIGHTS

SPIRAL PIT
31' DESCENT
lava cone

LAVA CASCADES

3-LEVEL
ROOM

floor plan of
BEAVER CAVE
Skamania County, Wash.
CRG Grade 4-
Halliday & R. Stitt 5-27-67

CUPOLA

rippled floor

tree cast room

breakdown
area

lava dam

lava dam

lava dam

(continuation of north section)

skylight

tumulus

ferns & Moss
MAIN ENTRANCE

0 100 200
feet

OREGON GROTTO MAKES NEW DISCOVERIES IN MT. ST. HELENS AREA

(Condensed from a report by Charlie Larson on a trip of the weekend of March 24,

The party hiked in from the road to Ole's Cave and set up camp near Bat Cave on Friday morning. We spent the afternoon searching for caves along the west edge of this lava flow. This is a very beautiful area with a great deal of moss covered lava. We found two caves which appeared to be remnants of the same tube separated by a few hundred ft. of breakdown. The northern-most cave is entered through a breakdown sink and runs approximately 200 ft. to a terminal breakdown. The cave could be traversed in the opposite direction (north) via a short crawlway in the breakdown sink. We named this cave Short Stop Cave. The southern most of the two caves we called Three Cornered Cave. It is entered through a large breakdown sink in the center of a large room from which tubes radiate in three different directions. The southern tube goes about 175 ft. and ends in breakdown. The eastern tube runs possibly 75 ft. and ends in a lava spring. The north leading tube goes approximately 100 ft. over massive breakdown and ends in breakdown.

It rained continuously Friday evening and night and was still raining Saturday forenoon. Before leaving the area Saturday we fully investigated the Prince Albert Cave and photographed a large portion of it. It is a very interesting cave and it contains a great many unique features. Having been visited up to this point by no one but sincere cavers, it shows no evidence of vandalism, ^{and} apparently all of the original formations still exist. The twilight area is very beautiful. It has a group of "little people" that is exceeded only by the ~~ones~~ ^{ones} in Bat Cave. In our opinion it is the most complex maze of tubes and re-entrant tubes of any cave in the St. Helens area. The only estimate of its length is that it appears to be on excess of 1500 ft.

* * * *

Subsequently they returned several times, most recently on the weekend of June 6, which they spent at Prince Albert Cave, finding numerous interesting speleothemic features and a blowing side passage, still not fully explored because of lack of time.

Their grotto is planning to rig Dynamited Cave the last weekend in June and has invited the Cascade Grotto to join them; this trip may be postponed however.

* * * *

Clyde Senger has been working the St. Helens area, also. He writes:

"We visited Spider Cave in December 1965 and in November, December, 1966 and March 1967. We have banded about 390 Plecotus townsendi, the big-eared bat, there, and later found them in Little Red River, Bat and Powerline Caves. We have checked Bat Cave in December 1966 and March 1967 and have banded 233 Plecotus townsendi there. A couple of these were seen at Powerline and Spider Caves. I wonder if we disturbed them enough to move to some other caves in the area; few were seen late in December and fewer in March. We saw several other holes in the six feet of snow at Spider Cave last month. They were obviously the openings of caves but I have no idea of the size."

Red Mountain April Fool Day trip
- Jan Roberts (condensed)

We made it to Red Mountain and found the right logging road and even the right branch logging road, but right there Don Tubbs started to take apart the engine of his car (broken fuel pump) and never got to see the cave.

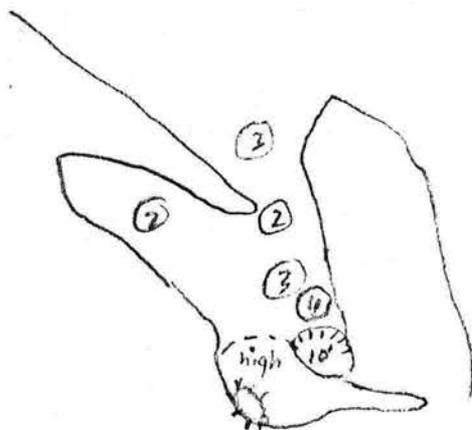
Next, we missed the bulldozed track in our directions and had a nice little hike for several miles through snow, mud and water. Eventually we returned and found it. Soon we spotted limestone outcrops as we headed west. Then we swung south and found the gully in LIMESTONE RESOURCES OF WESTERN WASHINGTON, then proceeded to explore the outcrops until we found what we thought was the reported cave. It was a fitting cave for the day, about 40-50 feet long and 25-30 feet deep (estimated). It was wide but low and extends into total darkness. It apparently is an animal den. Other small pits, sinks and fissures nearby appeared impenetrable.

Then we had to hike back to the main Mt. Baker highway, still with 40 pound packs.

FLOOR PLAN

SKETCH MAP

VERTICAL SECTION



CAVES AT SODA SPRINGS??

The Division of Mines and Geology has found an old note that a Mr. Grant Scofield, then at the "cooperative" packing plant at Entiat, had been in a cave in the Soda Springs limestone deposit which he estimated at 150 feet long and 15 feet high.

He also reported a cave a mile up Peavine Creek on the ridge west of the creek.

Unfortunately the current telephone books do not show any Scofields at Entiat.

OH, WELL. If we keep up our Interplanetary Journal of Vulcanospeleology, Boeing may yet send the whole grotto to the moon. Maybe even with a return ticket. Come to think of it, we're starting to take our tongues out of our cheeks. Those sinuous trenches do look awfully promising....

COMING EVENTS:

June 3 or 4 one-day Mt. St. Helens area trip
June 10-11 possible Mt. Adams trip
June 19 8 PM regular monthly meeting @ Dr. Hallidays, 1117 36th Ave. E. at E. Madison
June 23-24 possible joint trip with Oregon Grotto to Dynamited Cave
July 1-2 Idaho Grotto invitational trip to South Grotto (near Crystal Ice Caves)
July 1-4 possible Papoose Cave Trip
July 8-9 possible joint trip with Oregon Grotto to Dynamited Cave

NORTHWESTERN RESCUE ORGANIZATION?

At the May grotto meeting, sentiment was strong for liason with the Oregon, Montana and Idaho grottoes to establish a rescue network to preclude the possibility of a fiasco like that recently occurring in Missouri and some others where the same "national" rescue team was in the spotlight. More later on this.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CHAMPION!

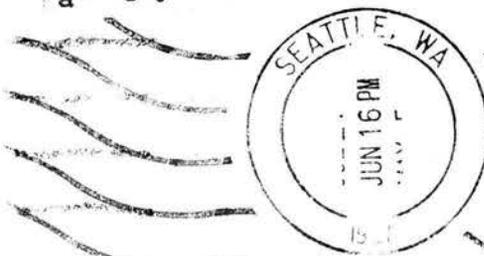
The staff of the Cascade Caver enthusiastically welcomes the first issue of GEM CAVER, newsletter of the new Gem State Grotto. It's the only speleo publication we've ever seen that has more typographic errors than we do!

Their grotto has a Papoose Cave trip scheduled for July 21-23, incidentally.

HELP STAMP OUT THE ARMY ENGINEERS AS WELL AS THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Cave, a notable archeological site although it isn't much of a cave, (although come to think of it, for the Palouse country it's a pretty good cave) will be submerged by a new reservoir next year. This happened last year to Indian Cave and some others near Vantage, too.

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