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THE CASCADE CAVER
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Official Publication of the
Cascade Grotto of the National
Speleological Society.
Seattle Washington

COMING EVENTS: Page 13 for more Field Trip Information!!!

March 18 --- Regular Grotto Meeting, at Halliday's, 1117 36th Ave. East Seattle, 8:00 PM Program: Caves of Mexico.

April 1 --- Executive Committee Meeting, at Charlie Anderson's, 420 Terry 7:30 PM Program: A farcical drama presided over by Chairman Rick, open to all, especially, of course, Exec. Comm. Members.

BE SURE TO CAREFULLY PERUSE PAGE 12 for DATES AND TIMES FOR GROTTO TRAINING ACTIVITIES. SEE ALSO PG. 11 for RAINIER STEAM CAVE INFO.

THE MOUNTAINS DON'T CARE
BY Bill Halliday

Throughout the winter, the Cascade Grotto has been stressing safety. At the November meeting, representatives of the Mountain Rescue Council took part in a discussion of cave rescue in the Pacific Northwest. At the December meeting, the Search and Rescue Council's Director of Washington state came up from Olympia for further discussions. At the January meeting, the program included the Mountain Rescue Council's outstanding teaching movie THE MOUNTAINS DON'T CARE. With one exception however all grotto caving operations shut down during the heavy snow season.

That exception was the grotto study of a major glacier cave at the 7,000-foot level on Mount Rainier. Preliminary studies during the fall showed this cave to be amazingly extensive and complex. By mid-winter, almost a mile of passages had been mapped, and new concepts of its speleogenesis and recurrent speleothems were evolving. Further, with the summer sub-glacial torrents stilled by cold weather exploration and study had proven far easier.

With the permission of the National Park Service, parties began to make the 3-mile hike from Paradise Valley ranger headquarters regularly, sometimes using snowshoes if the snow was soft. Everyone knew the risk of being off by blizzards, and thought they were prepared.

Then on February 18, Charley and Edith Anderson and Dave Mischke were caught by a blizzard halfway back to Paradise Valley and Safety, and were forced to dig a snow cave for shelter. Rescue came the next morning but despite remarkable heroism and efficiency by cavers, rangers and Mountain Rescue teams, Edith died of exposure, never regaining consciousness.

Newspaper accounts - apparently slanted in hopes of saving other's lives - repeatedly stressed that Edith was too lightly clad. This was a half-truth; the accounts ignored her down jacket. On the other hand, the weather had been so balmy that the party was trapped into omitting the extra clothing every Mountaineering party is supposed to carry at all times. And we lost Edith.

Next time it may be mid-summer on Cave Ridge. Truly the mountains don't care. Be sure you do.

8# 5.10U

As you may have noticed by now if you have been within hearing distance things have been happening on the Northwest Caving Scene recently. A new Grotto Chairman, a new Cave Rescue Organization, A Training program a first aid course, meetings, meetings, meetings, and last but hopefully not least, a new (interim) Editor for the CAVER.

Because of all this increased activity which you can read about elsewhere in this issue, the role of the CAVER may become increasingly important in transmitting information. Therefore, we must have material, dates, maps, (as soon as we lick the reproduction problem), a new permanent editor, and some help for such mundane things as typewriter pounding, crank turning, and addressing. An attempt will be made to get the CAVER on a regular schedule, and get everything that is submitted published.

We are now publishing via mimeograph, which will mean somewhat of a change in the type of material we can present, at least for now. Maps will be difficult and pictures practically impossible, but please submit them anyway, we may lick the problem.

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DEADLINES: Submission of articles, trip reports, etc. --- 1st Tuesday of month Coming events, schedules, and important late items--- 1st Thursday. An attempt will be made to have the CAVER in the mail by the 2nd Tuesday of the month, in time for everyone to receive it before the regular meeting.

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Submit all material to: Rob Stitt, 600 Lk. Wn. Blvd. E. Seattle, 98102
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Chairman Rick's Thoughts

During the past year the Cascade Grotto has progressed substantially in terms of activity and organization. Of particular importance were the start of a mapping and exploration project in the Paradise Glacier ice caves, the beginnings of work on the Cave Ridge gating project, and preliminary information collection and organization for cave rescue. Past chairman Rob Stitt and the persons who worked with him have placed the Grotto in an excellent position to complete these projects in the coming year.

This year we will continue work on the current projects and should be able to expand our organized trip and limestone exploration schedules. For the next few months, however, our primary activities will be of a training nature. The recent increased interest in cave rescue will present many timing and scheduling problems for members who wish to be active in the accelerated training program. We must be careful, however to avoid letting quite normal bickering and disagreement over organizational matters detract from our primary goal of furthering ALL aspects of caving and improving the general competence of the group. We must also be very careful to avoid leaving out of grotto activities those active and semi-active members who have not yet been caught up in the general enthusiasm for the training program. (For those people who have a shortage of time, I particularly recommend the general lectures being scheduled.)

If we hope to make progress on all these fronts in one year, we will need the active support of the many experienced cavers in the Seattle area who are not currently active in Grotto Activities. Some of the more spectacular general meeting programs and a policy of confining lengthy, detailed discussions of procedural matters to Executive Comm. meetings should re-awaken their interest.

(cont. on next page)

Chairman Dick cont.....

The programs outlined are nothing but words on paper; to fulfill them requires the time and effort of many people. If you like the plans, leap in and start swimming. If you don't like them, tell your Executive Committee what you do like. The accomplishments of the Grotto can only be a collection of the individual efforts of its members.....YOU.

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Mt. Rainier Summit Steam Caves

A meeting was held March 5 to discuss and plan the forthcoming expeditions to the Summit Steam Caves on Mt. Rainier. These caves have been penetrated 250 ft., are warm but not hot, have a lava floor and ice ceiling. The trips being planned are for qualified persons only; if interested you can attend further meetings on April 5 and May 7 at 7:30 PM at Dick Mitchell's at 3005 21st W., Seattle, or call Dick at AT-2-5340. Two trips are planned for the summer--a recon. trip the 2nd weekend of June and a main trip the 1st weekend of July. A 3rd trip will possibly be held in late August.

Charlie Anderson

Department of Civil Defense
State of Washington
Olympia
March 5, 1968

Cascade Grotto
Washington Speleological Society (sic)
Seattle

On behalf of the state of Washington, Governor Daniel J. Evans, and State Civil Defense Director, H.E. Link, I would like to extend my congratulations to your organizations on behalf of its recent entry into the field of search and rescue.

The special area of cave search and rescue operations will serve a potential critical need not only to active cavers but to those who may become involved in such problems by accident.

If there is anything the department of Civil Defense can do to assist you, please feel free to contact this office at your convenience.

Sincerely, H.E.LINK, Director
Orig. signed by
H.A.Foss, Assistant to the director
for search and rescue

Grotto Training Activities

For further info on tentative dates call Dick Mitchell AT-2-5340

- 7 March Standard First Aid Course ARC Bldg 2106 2nd Ave. 7-10PM
- 11 March "Belay and Climbing Technique Review" by Roger Neubauer
7:30 - 9:30 at Dick Mitchell's 3005 21st W.
- 12 March Sherman Rock Belay Climbing and Rescue Practice
- 14 March First Aid Course
- 18 March Emergency Rescue Capabilities List printed and
distributed
- 21 March First Aid Course
- 25 March First Aid Course
- 27 March "Mountaineering First Aid (mountain miseries)" by
Jim Boye 7:30-9:30 at Dick Mitchell's home 3005 21st W.
- 28 March First Aid Course
- 4 April "Snow Climbing Techniques" by Stew Fergeson(tentative)
7:30-9:30
- 13-14 April (tentative) Belaying and Prussiking Practice at
Rhododeneron Preserve, Bremerton
- 15 April "Survival" by Darrel Loof of MRC 7:30-9:30 at Dick
Mitchell's home 3005 21st W.
- 18 April Advanced First Aid Course ARD Bldg
- 23 April Reppelling and Prussiking Seminar at Hec Edmundson
Pavillian, Univ. of Wash. 7 PM by Dick Mitchell and Roger Neubauer
- 25 April First Aid Course
- 31 April "Cave Rescue" by Dick Mitchell and Rick Rigg
- 2 May First Aid Course
- 9 May First Aid Course
- 11-12 May Simulated Cave Rescue(practice) by Mitchell and Rigg
- 15 May First Aid Course
- 21 May Effects of High Altitude by Dr. Tom Hornbein at
Seattle Library
- 23 May First Aid Course
- 4 June "Alpine Rescue" by Ome Daiber (tentative) 7:30-9:30
at Dick Mitchell's 3005 21st West

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Committee for the Fulfillment of Cave Ridge Cave's Lease

The committee in charge of gating the caves on Cave Ridge has decided upon a sign to post at the cave intrances. The sign is as follows:

WARNING

CAVE

This is not a cave for the inexperienced or improperly equipped person. It is hazardous due to unstable rock and extreme cold and wetness.

In case of emergency notify:
The U.S. Forest Service
For additional information contact:
The Cascade Grotto
N.S.S.
1117 36th Ave E.
Seattle, Wash.