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GAZZETTE

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SCORPION CAVE FIELD TRIP--JULY 4-7, 1968 by Steve Knutson

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1. Location This information is presently restricted. See Lee Rosenberg Cave Junction, Oregon. In general, the cave is located south of Oregon

2. History The cave was discovered by Lee Rosenberg and companions in 1966. A fire-spotting pilot reported an obvious opening in a limestone outcrop which Lee investigated and found to be a 50' cave (Lower Cave.) Further investigation of the limestone outcrop resulted in the discovery of Scorpion Cave, the entrance of which was covered with rocks and from which issued a cool draft of air.

3. General Description The cave is quite complex in that it has at least four distinct levels and shows much evidence of vadose as well as phreatic solution. There is no running water at present, however, although small pools exist on at least three of the levels. The Big Room area shows massive breakdown and breakdown exists at each end of the 4th level. Otherwise the cave is relatively intact. The formations are mainly flowstone with a deal of coralloid and areas covered with small aragonite crystals. Stalactites, stalagmites, and columns are not prominent. The most striking feature of the cave is the stream slot(s), up to 80' in vertical extent, which connect the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th levels at several points between the Cathedral room and the Big Room. Another feature of note is the presence of curtains of quartz produced when the limestone was dissolved away from quartz veins.

4. Mapping and Exploration Lee Rosenberg, et al., report the cave to be completely explored and that there exists about 2000' of passage. Our mapping efforts produced about 500' (back of the Big Room to the Entrance) and I estimate that we visited another 600'; the resulting map indicating about 1100' of cave leaves many question marks. Doubtless Lee could explain most of these but certain ones should be checked carefully:

- 1) The leads on the 2nd and 3rd levels which head south.
- 2) A slight draft was felt blowing out thru the 2' opening leading to Windy Pit--if this pit merely leads to the 4th level, why the draft?
- 3) A strong draft was felt blowing out the pit just beyond the bottom of the Chute.
- 4) The pit adjacent to the entrance of the Big Room has been entered by one individual but not thoroughly checked.
- 5) All aspects of the 4th level.

The only mapping done so far is a baseline run from the back of the Big Room to the entrance and from the entrance to the various minor caves and sinks in the immediate vicinity.

5. Biology The only life observed was a bat and a salamander; I was so confused concerning cave passages at that time that I can't recall where they were. (Ed. Note: Also observed were: Spiders, similar to Black widows, and a scorpion which escaped before firm ident.)

6. Photography Was handled by Charley Larson and has in general been confined to the entrance complex, Cathedral Room and lower (4th) level. An excellent area remains which is the 2nd level passage from the Big Room to the Cathedral Room.

JACKMAN CAVE TRIP--Nov. 30th, 1968 by Jan Roberts

Attending: Bob & Collette Brown, Jan Roberts, John Rockwell

John and I hiked through an inch of snow three miles to the cave. The cave was its usual wet and muddy self, but in this case it was wetter. The main section of the cave before the cave branches was partially, (on the floor) covered by a rather large stream. John said that the cave reminded him of the worst of his caving experiences (Eastern caves).

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OR THE FUNCTIONING OF THE GROTTO DURING 1968, by various members of the Executive Committee.

The following consists of the annual reports submitted by the various committee chairmen. They will be run in this issue, and continued next month, as a report of what has gone on during the year in the grotto.

FIELD TRIPS, BY Bob Brown

For the year 1968 there were 40 recorded field trips, and many others that were not recorded. There were several organized trips, all of which were very successful.

Although every member of the grotto attended at least one trip, there was only a small percentage that were on almost every trip.

Of the few organized projects started very few were completed.

Our relation with government agencies seems to have been maintained or even improved.

In the line of conservation very little was done.

Recommendations:

1. To promote activity within the grotto there should be at least one field trip a month.
2. There should be at least one organized and very well planned seasonal trip and at least two such trips should be carried out in the summer months.
3. The members of the grotto should try to complete all grotto projects/
4. Much more should be done in the line of conservation.
5. Activities such as dinners and slide shows should be encouraged as long as they are well planned.

COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF GATING THE CAVES ON CAVE RIDGE

(or how to fulfil the terms of our lease) by Dave Mischke

As most of you know, the caves on Cave Ridge are on private property. Soon there will be built an Alpentel Roundhouse and Restaurant on Cave Ridge. We have, thanks to Dr. Halliday and the considerate owners, an agreement to allow us to use the caves IF we protect others from the caves. Terms of our lease state that we will place signs and provide gates on the caves.

This year, after two years of thought, we did indeed make progress. We now have signs in place at the five large caves: Cascade, Danger, Hellhole, Lookout, and Newton. Placement of the signs was designed so as not to attract the casual passerby, but to warn all who would risk entering without proper equipment or experience.

The signs were photocopied and prepared by Charles Anderson and mounted on site by Jack Hess and Bill Decker (of the Nittany Grotto). There is a large supply of extra signs to replace those lost to people, weather, and/or animals. If you disagree with the placement of these signs, do not take it upon yourself to change the sign. Tell your committee; that's what we're for.

This year we also made progress on gating our two most dangerous caves. Hellhole and Newton. The large entrance at Newton was narrowed to one small chainable channel by Rick Rigg and Arch Olsen. A brush gate used to block the channel did not last long. A chain and lock will now be installed and the key will be kept by the Cascade Grotto.

(cont. on next page)

Hellhole received attention from Bob Brown and friends who constructed a large log triangle over the sinkhole. A gate was to be built on these logs, but because of its size and non-observability, the idea was abandoned. Now a simple chain grid with lock and key is planned for installation next spring.

Fortunately the snow falls fast on Cave Ridge. By now entrances, sinks, valleys and hills are obscured by snow and no one will fall or crawl or dig their way into the caves. But it is only a temporary reprieve. Next spring we must finish the gates at Hellhole and Newton, and we must devise, build, and install gates on our other caves. If you are interested in caving on Cave Ridge, come volunteer your help.

NORTHWEST REGION by Rob Stitt

The Northwest Regional Organization has been formed, and the Constitution and By-laws ratified by the charter grottos and submitted to the NSS for approval. Grottos approving the bylaws to date include: Cascade, Oregon, Salt Lake, and Shiring Mountains.

(more annual reports will be run next month)

Those of you who are regular members of the Grotto and entitled to vote in the elections will find a ballot attached to this issue of the caver. Following are the rules for the elections this year:

RULES FOR GROTTO ELECTION--1968--CASCADE GROTTO of the NSS

(These rules were approved by the membership at the November meeting.)

1. Only NSS members in good standing may hold office.
2. All regular grotto members in good standing as of Dec. 1, 1968 may vote.
3. Nominations will be made by a nominating committee, and submitted to the Nov. general meeting. Additional Nominations may be made from the floor at this meeting.
4. Campaign speeches will be strictly limited to two minutes per candidate and a timekeeper will be appointed to strictly enforce this rule.
5. Ballots will be distributed by mail with the December CAVER, and must be postmarked (upon return) by December 25, 1968 at midnight.
6. Ballots should be returned in the unmarked envelope provided for the purpose. This envelope should be enclosed in another envelope with the voter's name or NSS number clearly marked on the outside.
7. Ballots will be counted prior to the Jan. 1969 executive committee meeting, and all newly elected members will be at that meeting. Power shall pass from the old to the new committee at that meeting.

Ballots should be returned to Rob Stitt
600 Lake. Washington Blvd. E. Apt. C
Seattle, Washington 98102.

All ballots must be postmarked by Midnight, December 25, 1968.

The following persons have been nominated for grotto office either by the nominating committee or from the floor at the Nov. Meeting:

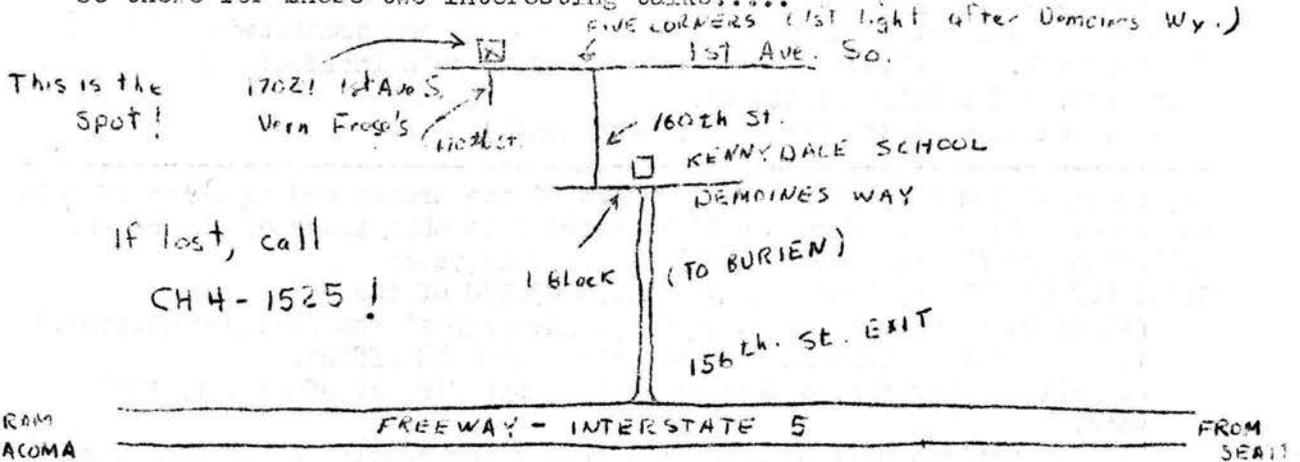
Charles Anderson
Bob Brown
Vern Frese
Bill Halliday
Maurice Magee
Dave Mischke
Ron Pflum
Rick Rigg
Don Tubbs

All persons were contacted and agreed to serve if elected. Note: we will rotate by office this year but only for Exec. Comm. members

COME AT 7 - EAT ABOUT 7:30 !!

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 14, 1968--7:30 PM at Vern Frese's, 17021 1st Ave. S. (see Map below) ANNUAL CASCADE GROTTO DINNER, SOCIAL EVENT, AND SPELUNKER'S BASH. This will be a potluck dinner, and Jan Roberts will be (or should have by now) calling you to tell you what type of dish to bring. The size of your dish should be proportional to the number of people coming in your party; i.e., for each 2 people, bring enough to serve about 8 people. If you are planning on bringing guests, be sure that you have contacted Jan at PR8-8503 before Wednesday night, Dec. 11, unless you have already heard from him. The program for this bash will be: Dr. William R. Halliday, author of ADVENTURE IS UNDERGROUND and DEPTHS OF THE EARTH, speaking on the subject "Twenty years of caving in the Northwest". Dr. Halliday is also president of the Interplanetary Vulcanospeleological Society and will offer us a talk on "Lunar Caving". So all you "Looney Northwest Cavers" be sure to be there for these two interesting talks.....



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