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### COMING EVENTS:

Feb. 17: Regular general meeting of the Cascade Grotto--Halliday's, 1117 Monday 36th Ave. E., Seattle, Wn., 8:00 PM, doors open 7:50. Program: The great slide auction, continued, for the benefit of the NSS Save-the-Caves-Fund, A Technical presentation, and (hopefully, a talk by Roger Contor of the National Park Service, and of course, whatever interesting slides that you have to share with us.

March 3, : March Executive Board Meeting, Halliday's, 8:00 PM. Monday

March 17: March Regular Meeting, Halliday's, 8:00 Pm ,Monday

### Coming FIELD TRIPS:

March: Vancouver Island, date to be set.

April: Trout Lake area, date to be set

May 30--June 1: Papoose Cave, near Riggins, Idaho

June 14-22: NSS Convention, Lovell, Wyoming.

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### LABORATORY CAVE, NORTH CHUCKANUT CAVE # 11, Whatcom Co., Wash.

By Clyde M. Senger, Bellingham

On Monday, June 28, 1965, Gary Hardin, Robert and David Senger and I decided to try to locate a "large cave" which was reported to be in the talus material that we call the North Chukanut Caves. This area is about 2 miles south of Bellingham on the east side of Chuckanut Ridge. For a change it was a very pleasant, warm, dry day. On the last trip there had been a heavy rain and we didn't get too much accomplished. We hiked into the area from the west or Cleator Road side. There is an old logging road running from Cleator Road back toward the north for about a mile to the top of the ridge. We reached the top of the ridge about noon, but decided to drop down onto the pile of rock about a hundred feet below for lunch. We found an opening immediately. It descended about 10 feet into a small room from which several short passages lead into the hill and a balcony overlooked the brush 20 ft. below. It was an interesting spot for lunch. Afterward we hurried down the slope toward the reputed location of the "big cave". The brush and down timber in the area make travel a slow and difficult process. We located a few small holes but passed them up when they did not appear to lead into anything large. Finally near Cave 8, we saw a pit which looked more promising. Between two large rocks there was a sheer drop of about 8 ft. to a moss covered floor with further openings. Bobby went down a small crack to the south while I went through Clyde's Keyhole to the north. The keyhole lead into The Upper Room about 20 feet long with a chimney leading downward at the east end. I called everyone in and we started down. The chimney drops about 10 ft. to a small room with two passages leading off. One, the Chute, angled down about 10 feet into a large room, which we call the Laboratory room. It was quite a surprise for us after crawling around in talus material for so long to step into a room of that size (25' l.x12' w. x 20' h.). We looked around hurriedly but found no obvious passages, only some small openings near the ceiling which opened into some of the lower cracks of the Upper Room. On the way out, David asked if he could look into the crawlway which led south from the top of the Chute. I agreed and in a moment he disappeared down David's Chimney and called for us to follow. It dropped about 8 ft. to another keyhole, then 10 ft. to a wider passage which led back to the north. We slithered under a large loose rock

LABORATORY CAVE (cont. from p. 3)

and dropped into a small Lower Room which we estimated to be about 50 ft. below the surface. While Bobby and I looked around, David went on into another larger room, The Lower Room, which must have been just below or to one side of the Laboratory Room. There was at least one short passage from that room but we did not explore the room completely. On the way back to the surface we found that the west end of the Upper room continued as a crawlway to the West Room and another entrance 15 feet NW of the original entrance. We have been back to the Laboratory room a number of times in the last three years but we have never ventured into David's Chimney or the Lower Rooms to see if there is anything more down there. Twice in those three years I have had students dislodge loose talus rocks and seal entrances with me on the inside. In each case I found another opening but I don't like to push my luck. There may not be another entrance beyond the loose rock in David's Lower Passage and that is enough to keep me out. There are too many other caves to look at in the area.

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Editorial Comment, or somesuch: It's that time of year again. Dues are due. Caving seems to be at an ebb, because of snow and such. It's time to settle back into our armchairs, in our nice cozy houses, and consider how we can have a better Grotto. One suggestion, made by our Chairman, will be implemented at future meetings. That is that there will be more formal meetings, following a fairly fixed format: 1. Business, 2. Technical presentation, 3. N.W. Limestone Survey report, 4. Field trip reports, 5. Field trip plans, 6. Program, and 7. Pleasure Slides. The Exec. Board has affirmed the right of the chairman to maintain order and limit debate, if necessary. Another suggestion: To buy a new mimeo machine for the CAVER. Which means we need money. So pay your dues...

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