

Vol. 9 #1

THE CASCADE CAVER
Official publication of the
Cascade Grotto of the
National Speleological Society, Inc.

Volume 9 no. 1 Editor: Dr. William R. Halliday January 1970

COMING EVENTS

January 19 - 8 PM Regular meeting, Hallidays, 1117 36th Ave. E.

January 24 - NW Cave Rescue Assn. movie & lecture, 7:30 PM,
7516 15th Ave. SW

Last two Saturdays in February - potluck dinner. Details to be announced.

January?? Paradise Ice Caves. Depends on weather. Keep in touch with
Bob Brown (see inside); Charley Anderson's work number is cancelled.

February 22 weekend - long weekend trip. Where? Up to you.

New grotto officers

Chairman: Charles Coughlin

V.-C.: Charles Anderson

Sec.-Tr.: Ron Pflum

4th member of executive committee (unless abolished by constitutional amendment):
Claude Smith.

New grotto constitution?

As most members know, a new grotto constitution designed to eliminate the executive committee and/or permit non-NSS members to be official grotto members for one year before joining the NSS has been in preparation. It will be considered at the January meeting; the old and proposed new constitutions are enclosed in this issue for your consideration. A 2/3 vote is necessary for each change.

Where are the grotto mimeograph parts?

Rick Rigg came back briefly and says he doesn't have the missing parts. We know that before the stitts left, they ran at least one issue of the Caver on the new machine. Someway the machine - presumably intact - got to Rick's. Then it came over here where it sat on the counter untouched until picked up at which time it was found that the parts were missing. Yr editor thinks that even at 2.4¢ per page, xerox won't be the answer; let's get the replacement parts and get going!

December 21 Paradise Ice Cave trip was cancelled; bad weather and bad colds.

1# P.10U

Recent activity at Big Four Ice Caves
- Bill Halliday

Plans for the cave rescue practice of October 18 were changed suddenly when Stu Ferguson reported a major accident potential as the group was assembling at the Nischkes. A week earlier he had been to the Big Four Ice Caves, found dangerous flakes present and found the glacier creaking and groaning ominously. Those present for the rescue practice (including Bob Brown, Dave Mischke, Stu, Russ Patterson, Arch Olsen and myself) took off for that location instead of the planned limestone cave in the north Cascades.

On arrival, it was obvious that there had been a major flake-fall at the entrance of the main cave during the previous week. Nevertheless, a large, unstable-looking flake was still present. The ice, however, was no longer groaning. In addition to the large collapse, smaller flakes weighing some ten pounds to ten tons were everywhere on the floor of the entrance area.

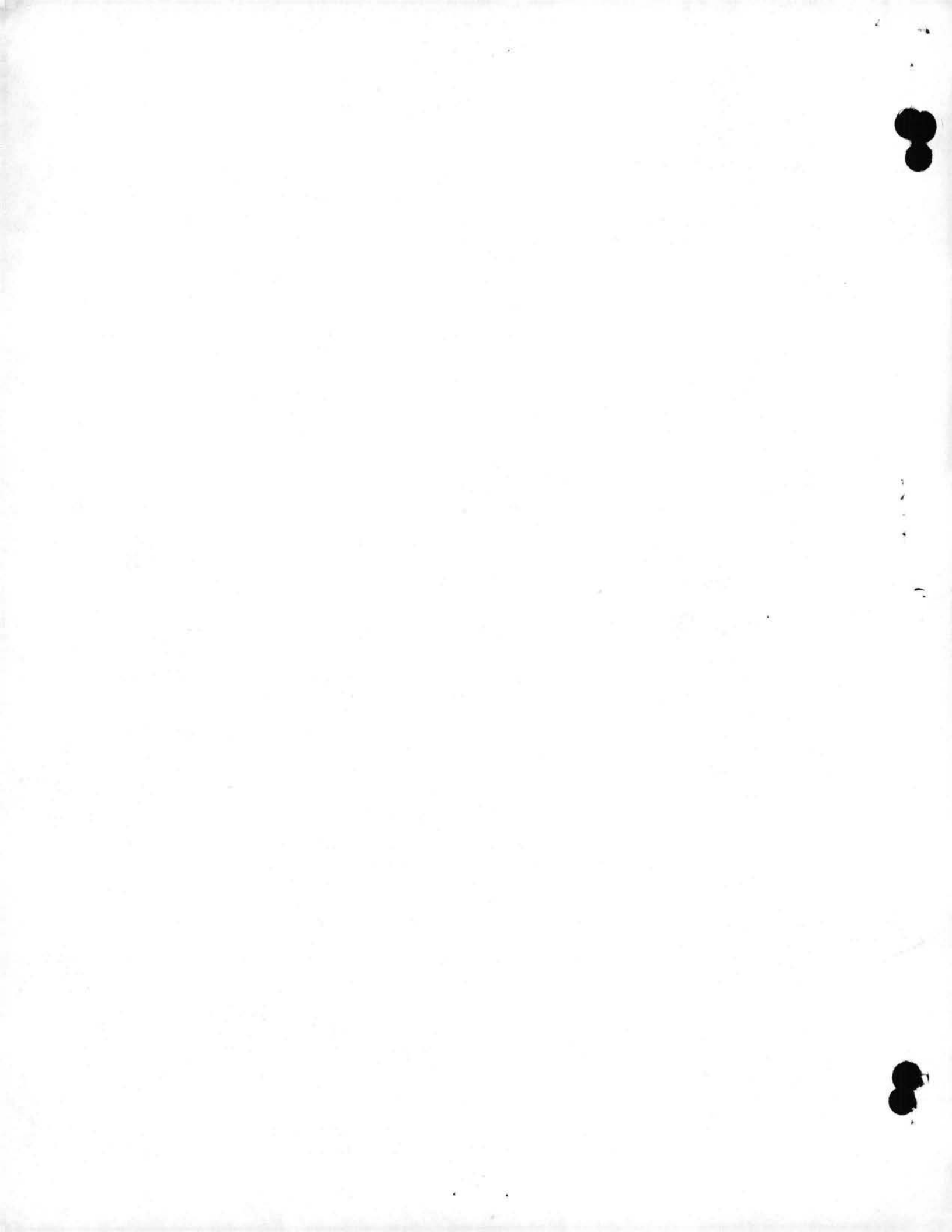
We found the main cave 585 feet long with an average width of about 30 feet and ceiling height of 20 feet. It has the same smoothly rounded contour and fluted walls as Paradise Ice Cave, and curves slightly in its course. The lower end is a little larger than the midpoint. The most dramatic area is at the headwall where it is possible to look up a waterfall chute for perhaps 200 feet. At the point where the ice begins to slope steeply upward, the width is 65 feet. Many a cave chamber is called "The Cathedral Room"; this one merits the name.

The main cave otherwise is comparatively featureless. One lateral flake is separating from the east wall. Some small stream channels (possibly crawlable) extend under the west wall following the typical braided pattern of glacier terminations. At least one leads to a short U-shaped cave close to the entrance of the main cave, but cannot be penetrated. This cave was of particular interest because it contained a clump of harvestment in a chimney in the ice near the middle of the cave. Two were collected for identification. Flakes are present at its west entrance, and some minor vadose speleogens were noted.

feet

A shorter cave in a snowslide several hundred/farther west was also visited, but was in a more advanced state of collapse and most of the remaining time was spent in a cave located along the southwest margin of the Big Four Glacier, then estimated to be about 300 feet long. It is in line with a seasonal stream-course down the nearby cliffs and thus is probably unrelated to the main system of the glacier. A retreating moulin was found, as were several slimy stalactites of an unidentified substance, several inches long. The cave was tentatively called Beetle Cave for three beetles found on the ceiling at midpoint. They have been sent to Dr. Hatch at the U of W for identification.

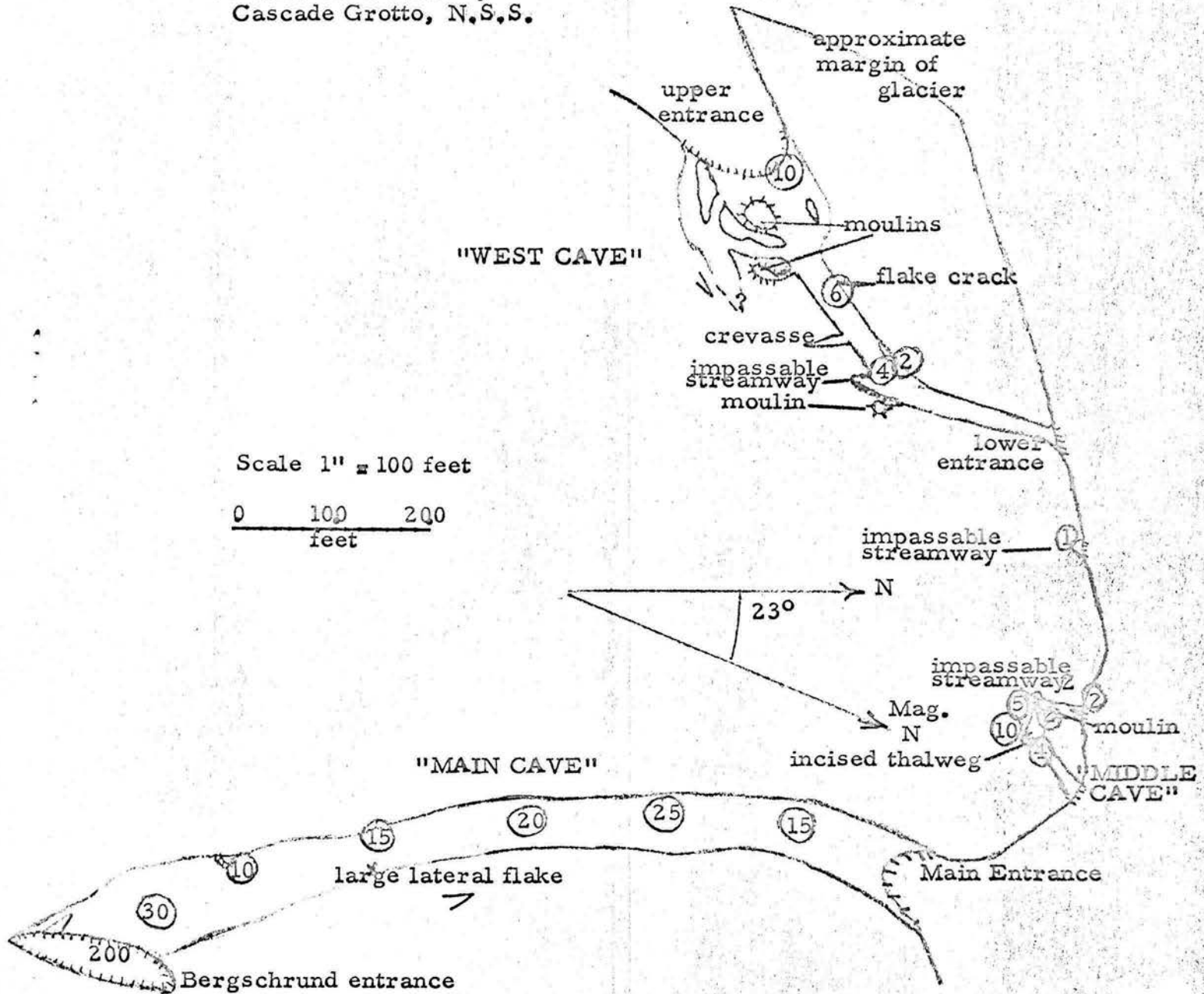
On November 9, 1969, Charley Anderson and I returned to the caves and mapped those within the Big Four Glacier. Still further flakefall had occurred at the main entrance. The harvestmen were no longer in so tight a clump. Another beetle was found near the harvestmen. The weather was warmer, and runoff was occurring from the surface of the glacier. Evidently there is a small moulin just east of the midpoint of Beetle Cave; intermittent sloshing of water running down it made a curious noise like a washing machine. By peering under the glacier, we could see the water sloshing back and forth, about 6 feet away from the cave.



BIG FOUR ICE CAVES

Big Four Glacier
 Snohomish County, Wash.
 as of 9 November, 1969

Grade 4 (C.R.G.) map by
 Anderson & Halliday
 Cascade Grotto, N.S.S.



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The Caver has a big backlog of material, but still needs recent reports of all kinds. Next month we hope to have a grotto history, featuring the really outstanding record of the grotto, of which many of the newer members may be unaware. Also reports of 1969 explorations in eastern Washington by Tom Miller. Maybe a map of the route to the Paradise Ice Caves. Lots more coming up in 1970. Get your dues Or subscription in so you won't miss an issue. Here's a sample!

ROB STITT DISCOVERS POSSIBLE LAVA TUBES ON MARS

From New Mexico, Rob writes: A preliminary study of Mariner 6 & 7 photos of Mars reveals the possibility of Martian lava tubes. Several features on the right side of photo 6N8 resemble collapsed lava tubes to an amazing degree. Because the martian surface appears to be somewhat similar to that of the moon, there is a high probability that these are, indeed, lava trenches. Confirmation will have to await the accessibility of further photographs, or possibly the results of further photographic probes to the red planet. If you would like to examine the photographs for yourself, see SCIENCE, Vol. 166, pp. 49-67, 3 October, 1969.

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