



The Cascade Caver

Official Publication of the
CASCADE GROTTO N. S. S.

Vol. 10 #6



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Volume 10 no. 6

Editor: Dr. William R. Halliday

June 1971

COMING EVENTS

- May 22-23. Mt. Adams or Mt. St. Helens trip. Call Brown, R03-9094.
- May 29-31. Papoose Cave. Annual grotto invitational trip and steak fry.
Call Brown, R03-9094.
- June 1. British Honduras expedition begins.
- June 5. Jackman Creek Cave. Call Jan Roberts. PR8-8503.
- June 5-6. Mt. St. Helens climb for Summit Steam Caves party.
- June 12. Boulder Cave plus cave hunt. Call Jan Roberts, PR8-8503.
- June 12-13. Mount Baker climb for Summit Steam Caves party.
- June 12-19. NSS Convention, Blacksburg, Va. Call Halliday, EA 4-7474.
- June 19. Paradise Ice Caves. Call Anderson, AT4-4027.
- June 19-20. Mount Adams climb for Summit Steam Caves party.
- June 21. Regular grotto meeting, Hallidays, 8 PM, 1117 36th Avenue East.
- July 2-4. Summit Steam Caves.
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RECENT FIELD TRIPS

On May 2, Bob Brown and others found the Big Four Ice Caves snowed in.
End of report.

On May 8, Dave Albert, Bob Brown and yr editor scouted Whitehorse Mountain. Too much snow to see much of the limestone deposit yet, but no limestone and no pits at the point indicated on the sketch map. However, yr editor found a very nice solution tube about 3 feet in diameter. The only problem is that it is filled by silt to within about one inch of the ceiling about six feet back from the entrance. Best digging prospect I've seen in Washington.

On May 16, Bob Brown found Ape Cave snow-free, but snow still present well below Little Red River Cave.

According to the Oregon Speleograph, there was a pretty darn good practice rescue at Ole's Cave April 17. If somebody will write this up, we'll mention it in this rag, too.



The Cascade Grotto

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CASCADIA GROTTO N. S. S.



SPELEOHISTORICAL REPRINT

From the Wenatchee Daily World, September 3, 1969

ALBRIGHT'S CAVE STILL A MARVEL

by

Charles Kerr

OKANOGAN — It was a coyote-hunting trip by three Riverside youths nearly 70 years ago that led to the discovery of Albright's Cave.

The limestone cavern on a hilltop west of Riverside took its name from George H. Albright, an Idaho man who homesteaded near-by in 1891.

One of the three lads was his son, Sam Albright, now of Okanogan.

Albright, now 82, recalls that his companions on the trip were Clint Williams and Roy Leonard. He's a bit hazy about the year. He thinks it was 1900.

"We'd come up over this hill-top and here was this ledge with this little opening at the bottom of it - maybe three by four feet. We got down and looked in. It was pitch dark and we couldn't tell how far it went but it looked and sounded as though quite a way.

"The next Sunday we came back with a lot of equipment. We had six-shooters in case we ran into any bears or cougars. We had candles and matches and balls of twine. The twine was to keep us from getting lost. We tied it to a bush outside. Then we crawled in, unwinding it as we went. You go in a little way then there's a steep incline down to another level, and a drop-off to a still deeper one. We had no way of getting down there, so we had to give up for the time being.

"Next Sunday we came back again with ropes and this time we were able to get clear down and go through the whole cave. There was a big room down there, then a crawl hole into a smaller dome shaped room. The floor sounded hollow as though there were more farther down yet, but we never found an opening to it.

"We saw no cougars or bears-just rats and bats."

Albright said that when he first found the cave it had a fine collection of stalactites on its ceilings, many as big as a baseball bat, as he describes them.

Within a short time the sightseers had knocked them all off and carried them away.

"It's too bad it wasn't made a national park or something." Albright said.

Still to be seen there is a ripply formation on one wall which Albright called "The Washboard." It was formed by dissolved chemicals carried down by seepage water which then evaporated, leaving a thin coating on the wall.

Albright said he's visited the cave dozens of times, but not recently. The last time was about 1907. For a few years the cave was famous.

A speleologist from the University of Washington even came and examined it and published something about it.

Then it was sort of forgotten.

But every year a few people brave the sage ticks, to make the climb to the hilltop and look at Albrights cave.

NEW ADDRESS

Ron & Nancy Pflum 2106 Beacon Avenue So., Seattle 98 _____ EA5-2629

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cascade Grotto has given us lots of support in articles and subscriptions. Anyone who doesn't have a subscription in by the end of June will not receive the summer issue of N.W. Caving, as back issues won't be available all the time. (That's a hint Bill) Besides subscriptions we'd like a brief history of the Cascade Grotto - also any other articles, poems, songs, puzzles, etc. would gladly be accepted.

Send subscriptions to Northwest Caving, c/o Charlie Larson.

Send material to N.W. Caving, Jim & Libby Nieland, Oregon caves Nat'l. Mont, Box 377, Cave Junction, Oregon 97523. Material for the summer issue should be in by June 20.

EDITOR'S THANKS

to Bob Brown, for typing pages 34 and the above part of page 35.

PLAN NOW for the Northwest Regional Meeting Labor Day weekend in the Bear Lake area of southeastern Idaho. Great gobs of unchecked alpine karst including huge blind valleys never viewed by a speleologist!

GLACIOSPELEOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS

Sieger, Robert. 1895. Karstformer der Gletscher. (Karst-like features of glaciers). *Hellners Geographische Zeitschrift (Leipzig)*, Vol. 1, p.182-204.

This is the earliest paper on this topic which has yet come to my attention, but it refers to earlier mention of some individual pseudokarstic features of glaciers such as moulins (dome pits) as well as caves.

After sections on glacier sinks and karren, pages 198 to 202 are subheaded CAVES. Sieger considered glacier caves analogous to karstic caves but noted that they are formed very rapidly in comparison, by downcutting water and by the action of warm air, the latter basically in the upper portion of the passage. Blockage by stream-shifted moraine causes local enlargements; blockage also results in fountains bursting outward under hydrostatic pressure. Some observers considered geothermal factors to be important in speleogenesis. Some observations, he noted, such as those of Tyndall in the subglacial Arveyron Cave and those of Delebecque in the Gorner Glacier, suggest the existence of a system of intraglacial passages; this could not be confirmed in the Tete-Rousse Glacier. Partsch recorded a major cave leading into the inner part of an inactive glacier in the Aps, and Hauthal, another in South America, in the Burro Glacier. Sieger also referred extensively to several of the lesser known works of Israel C. Russell which mention major glacier caves in several Alaskan glaciers, notably the Malaspina, Galiano and Lucia glaciers including a very large one at the foot of the Hitchcock Range. Sieger concluded that Russell and other American glaciologists of the turn of the century seemed to consider rapid spelean drainage of glacial lakes as routine. Reid recorded a particularly impressive glacier cave draining the Muir Glacier, half full of water. Besides the Fountain Spring mentioned by Russell, other similar occurrences were recorded. Some glacier caves are clearly intraglacial, not subglacial.

Brief mention was also given to caves formed in glaciers by covering of crevasses.

-- W.R.H.

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McKenzie, G.D. 1970. Glacier caves. *West. Speleol. Surv. Misc. Series Bulletin 13 (W.S.S. Serial #43; Contribution No. 183 of the Institute of Polar Studies, Ohio State Univ.)* December. 4 pp, 2 photos. (50¢)

The term glacier cave refers to a cave within or at the base of a glacier. The term Ice cave, which is sometimes used for such caves, refers to a subterranean cavity in which ice forms and persists for some time. Glacier caves may be divided into two types: ablation and obstruction; these two types of glacier caves show differences in their mode of formation, size, position in the glacier, and speleothems.

-- G.D. McK.

RECENT EASTERN WASHINGTON NEWS
by Tom Miller

To begin with, Stan Arlt and I drove to the Newport area to look for caves. First we drove to Hunters, on the Columbia River, to check out a report of basalt caves near the mouth but saw nothing even remotely resembling an opening. We then drove north to Green Bridge, just north of Kettle Falls and to Lake Ellen, both limestone areas, but neither appeared promising. Sherman Creek Campground, just next to Green Bridge, supposedly has a cave, partially submerged, near where the creek empties into the Columbia, but we were unable to check it out. The cliffs along the Kettle River had several large holes we didn't check. Along the road to Northport was a small outcrop with two holes in it. One had a ladder leading to it, but was only 20 feet long. On the opposite, eastern side of the river was the Bossburg Hill. We could see several small holes which could be mines although we saw no dumps. We returned home by a different route so did not check these out; they look like the best prospects.

We talked to several people in Northport who reported there were several caves in the hill above the town. One of these, quite prominent, was said to be the largest, about 100 feet long. Being tired, we did not hike up to it but did check a large hole on the west side of the river which turned out to be a shelter as we half-expected. Following that we drove to the Deep Lake area but didn't find anything. Our real adventure for the day was rescuing a woman whose canoe had capsized and was stranded on a canyon ledge partly under water. With our ropes, it was easy except that her husband who frantically flagged us down couldn't remember the way back to the ledge. In the process we spotted some promising holes, seemingly leading back into the cliff on the east side of the Columbia en route to Newport.

* * * * *

--And a recent Papoose Cave trip - also by Tom Miller

On May 7-9, eight of us returned to Papoose Cave. While there, we met three Moscow cavers coming out. One knew George Huppert; all had been there before but were totally soaked, not knowing about the Dry 50.

Our party was in two groups and because of a series of near misses, we never saw each other the entire weekend. The first group camped in the shelter and visited the Gargoyle Passage. Stan and I proceeded to Patterson's Passage and took the Left Hand Fork above Puberty Pit to the start of the new passage. The descent here is 18-20'; about halfway down I either slipped or a foothold broke; I was unhurt but it was not a particularly pleasant experience. We followed this new, unnamed passage for about 150 feet to a fork; the left hand fork led rather quickly to a pit some 40-50 feet deep, at the bottom of which was another passage with a stream; I'm sure it's Cascadia - lacking a rope we didn't confirm this.

The right fork led to a small hole too small to penetrate, with a considerable amount of dirt. We then returned to the Saddle Room at the start of the new passage and followed a short side lead; it led back to the other side of the saddle, above the stream. We then climbed out, Stan falling this time; the pitch is easy but somewhat concave and handholds are unusually brittle.

Followingt this we followed the upper part of Patterson's Passage and found what could be an entering passage but pitons or bolts will be necessary. Stan had not seen Patterson's Passage, so we toured that and quit, being quite tired.

The cave was as full of water as I've ever seen it. The section below the 15' pit was dripping everywhere. The stream from Heaven's Gate was much larger and the entrance to Satori was dripping many times the normal amount. Two pools in the Gargoyle Passage had risen so much as to make exploration difficult without walking in them, and a small stream was flowing down the lower half of Patterson's Passage.

We had to hike up the creekbed to the cave, which wasn't too bad if you stick to the north side. Except for the excessive rain. There was one large snowdrift on the road. On the way out, we learned of the meeting to discuss gating the cave. Good idea! Will be going back Memorial Day weekend. Hope to see all of you there!

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WHO IS THE ULTIMATE IN COMPRESSABLE CAVER?

That was a pretty fair party Len and I threw a while back in honor of the grotto's 20th anniversary. Several people have asked for the results of the great caver compression contest. I don't have them all; please give me other results if any top the following:

Under the bar at 5 15/16": Dave Albert
Bob Baker
Kathy Kirwan
Greg Thomson
Justin Schmidt

under the bar at 6" Gordon Gage-Cole

under the bar at 6 7/8" - yr overweight editor.

(Michael Anderson ruled ineligible - he can make 3 3/4")

I've never seen any published figures on this kind of competition. Why should only vertical cavers have competitive records?

* *

More mainland Canadian caving - Clarence Hronek

We have checked the two leads we obtained at the Prospector Inn; small limestone caves. One is a fossil solution tube. Both are about 3 miles east of Silesia Creek Cave. March 20-21 will be our thirdfield trip.

PAPOOSE CAVE PROPOSAL by Gem State Grotto

In order that all persons interested in Papoose Cave be provided a means of (sic) the following policy is necessitated in order to encourage and insure safety of cavers and to protect the cave's environment.

I. All expeditions into the cave will be directly supervised by at least one certified trip leader.

II. Qualifications for certification as a trip leader are as follows:

- A. Knowledge and proficiency in the use of safe vertical equipment and technique, and other safe caving practice.
- B. Knowledge of hypothermia, its prevention, symptoms and treatment.
- C. Knowledge of, and familiarity with the cave.

III. Certification of trip leader's qualifications will be done by the following individuals from the following grottos:

- A. Cascade Grotto, Seattle, Washington
(undetermined)
- B. Gem State Grotto, Nampa, Idaho
 - 1. Vern Blalack, Box 1082, Salmon, Idaho 83467
 - 2. Jerry Thornton, 1015 Elder St., #2, Nampa, Idaho 83651
- C. Oregon Grotto, Portland, Oregon
(undetermined)
- D. Salt Lake Grotto, Salt Lake City, Utah
(undetermined)
- E. Shining Mountains Grotto, Bozeman, Montana
(undetermined)
- F. Xanadu Grotto
(undetermined)

The above persons, responsible for certification of trip leaders will keep a list of the persons qualified, their addresses and phone numbers. A copy of this list shall be furnished to the District Ranger, Nez Perce National Forest, Riggins, Idaho, periodically. The names of those who are qualified will be furnished for the Gem State Grotto as soon as certified.

IV. The responsibilities of a trip leader shall be --

- A. To insure that all members of his party are properly trained, equipped and capable.

- B. To see that all members of his party use proper technique and adhere to all safe caving practices.
 - C. To insure the observance of practices which will prevent damage to the cave, its formations and environment.
 - D. To initiate a back-up party and provide them with expected time of return home.
- V. Each grotto will provide the opportunity, upon request by non-cavers to accompany trips into Papoose Cave, or to receive sufficient training for certification as a trip leader.
- VI. Each grotto will be provided with keys to the lower entrance gates. These will be loaned to certified trip leaders upon written or verbal request. Non-affiliated cavers must contact the grotto nearest them for the key, allowing not less than two weeks.
- Keys are not to be duplicated. Replacement of lost keys will be provided upon written request to the Gem State Grotto.
- VII. Copies of all new surveys and studies will be furnished to the Gem State Grotto and the Nez Perce National Forest upon completion.
- VIII. Beginning in 1972, the Gem State Grotto will hold a public open house of Papoose Cave, on Memorial Day weekend.

This shall consist of pretraining for persons interested, and a supervised expedition into the cave.

The event will be publicised well in advance in order that all interested persons might participate.

A fee to cover any excessive costs to the grotto (use of halls, carbide, equipment, etc.) may be charged. This will not exceed the actual expense to the grotto.

(A meeting to discuss this proposal was held in Riggins May 8, 1971. No formal report has been received as we go to press).

Cascade Grotto of the
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