



# THE CASCADE CAVER

International Journal of  
Vulcanospeleology



Published by the Cascade Grotto, N.S.S.

VOLUME 24 NO. 4

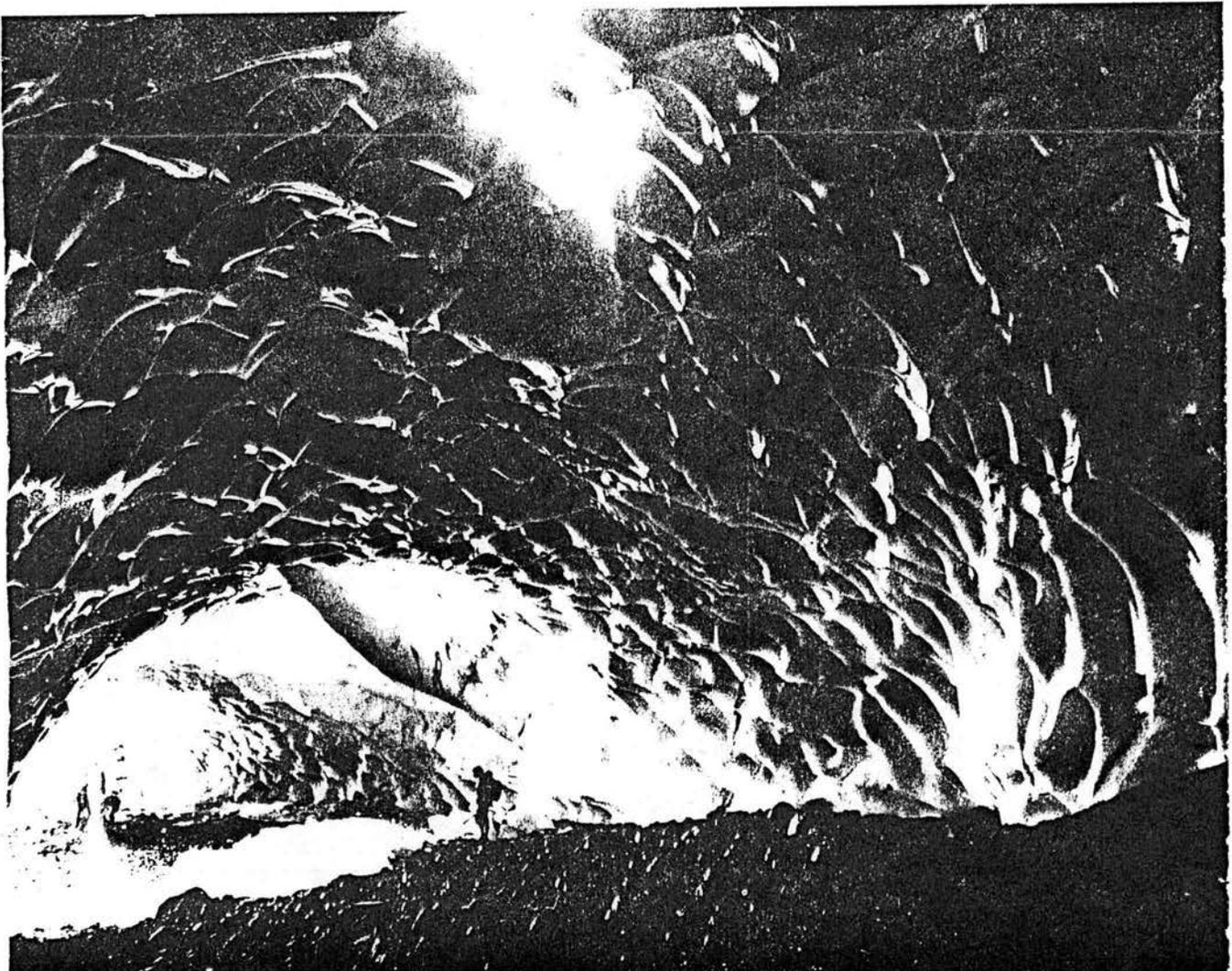
Editor: Mark Sherman

APRIL 1985

Assistant Editor: Ben Tompkins

## The History of Northwest Caving

Part Two



Paradise Ice Caves

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**THE CASCADE CAVER**

The Cascade Caver is published 10 times a year by the Cascade Grotto which is a member of the National Speleological Society. Annual dues for the Cascade Grotto is \$7.50, which can be sent to the Grotto Treasurer:

Al Lundberg, 19221 38<sup>th</sup> Place NE, Seattle WA, 98155

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The Cascade Grotto meets at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month at: 1117 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. East Seattle. This is at the corner of 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, and East Madison.

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<u>GROTTO EVENTS</u>		<u>CONTENTS</u>
JULY 4	Grotto Party and Barbacue Call Jim Harp (745-1010) or Mark Sherman (524-8780)	Minutes from the April 25 Grotto Meeting
JULY 6	Mt. St. Helens psuedokarst Call Bill Halliday at 324-7474 (he will be home on July 4) or in Tennessee (615)-385-2328	The History of Northwest 25 Caving to 1972 (Part Two)  Barbados Caving 1984 33
JULY 6-7	Deadhorse Cave, Call Bob Brown at 569-2724	<u>DUES</u>
JULY 16	Grotto Meeting, 7:00	The following Grotto members or subscribers are overdue or will be coming due soon. Please note your dues date on your mailing label.
JULY 20	Cave Ridge, call Larry McTigue at	3/85 R Corbin, Larry
AUG 2-3	Bighorn slide party in Victoria.	3/85 R Lundberg, Alan
AUG 10-11	Caving in the Concrete area (Windy Creek), call Mark Sherman at 524-8780.	4/85 R Tupper, Ed
AUG 17	Black Mt. area, call Jan Roberts at 778-8503	5/85 R Brown, Robert
AUG 20	Grotto Meeting, 7:00	5/85 R Cunningham, Tom
AUG 31-SEPT 2	Regional Meet, Lovell Wy. Call Bob Brown for details	5/85 R Kachel, Barb
		6/85 R Crawford, Ed
		6/85 R Crawford, Rod
		6/85 R Ehli, Lynn
		6/85 R Enochs, Kelly
		6/85 R McTigue, Larry
		6/85 S Rockwell, Julius
		7/85 R Richardson, Jed
		7/85 R Smith, Dr. Floyd

MINUTES FROM THE APRIL GROTTA MEETING

The main topic of business this month was on finding a new meeting place. I was asked to send out a survey with this month's Caver asking for everyone's input. Some of the suggestions were a pizza place, and possibly the NOAA facility in Seattle. If anyone has any ideas please call any of the Grotto Officers. Since we now have our exempt status from the IRS, someone could get a nice tax deduction from the use of their room or building.

Bob Brown who is head of the Cave Register Program suggested that we have a meeting to plan for this summer. If anyone would like to install new registers or service old ones, please call Bob at 569-2724.

The Grotto received a letter from the Bonneville Power Administration, asking if we would be interested in helping them with their planning of small dams. They would like to know every cave within 1/4 mile of a stream.

New Grotto member John Fichtel showed slides of the Sloan's Valley Cave System in Kentucky and some of "caving" in the Cincinnati Subway System which was never used (apparently after they made the tunnels, they found out that the trains were too tall).

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Well the Postal Service did it to us again, they changed our post office box. Our new address is:

CASCADE CAVER  
PO BOX 75663  
SEATTLE, WA 98125-0663

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THE HISTORY OF NORTHWEST  
CAVING TO 1972

By Tom Miller

ed. note: This is the second part of Tom's article (see the March 1985 CAVER for part one). This article was written in 1972 so some of it is a little outdated.

CONSOLIDATION AND MATURITY

In Washington, the Cascade Grotto had been making a great deal of progress, especially on Vancouver Island, where they had made a trip in January of 1963. The resulting publicity in a Victoria, B.C. paper in February resulted in a number of reports to the Grotto by persons on the island aware of other caves, and in the first contact by the grotto with the B.C. Cave hunters. In fact enough trips were made to keep the grotto too busy to investigate requests by both the Tonasket, Washinton, Chamber of Commerce about McLoughlin Canyon Caves, and the Forest Service of Idaho, about a certain Papoose Cave in the Riggins, Idaho area. The Tonasket people, receiving no response, eventually had to explore their complex fissure caves by themselves. In August of 1963, aided by financing from a Victoria newspaper, the grotto chartered a floatplane and reconnoitered a rainforest Karst on Vancouver, Island, finding six caves.

The accumulation of knowledge of Washington Caves led to the release of Caves of Washington, written by Halliday, and published in 1963, but there were enough caves in Oregon to encourage the southern extension of the grotto in Portland to form their own group in 1964. That year was a quiet one for the Cascade Grotto, the most important events being the news of Steam Caves on Mount Rainer, and the realization of the Forest Service in Riggins, Idaho, that they had a major cave on their lands.

Personnel in Riggins had in 1962 managed to stop the dissecration of

the Seven Devil Caverns, as Papoose was then known, by a pair of brothers who desired to strip the formations. Ensuing correspondence with the Cascade Grotto was disappointing, and led to the realization that any initial exploration would have to be done by the Forest Service itself. Thus, in March, 1964, armed with several hundred dollars of new equipment and led by a Montana spelunker, three Forest Service Rangers assaulted Papoose Cave. Considering their archaic techniques and their lack of spelunking experience, it must have required a lot of courage to probe Papoose to the Wet Way Pit at the worst season of the year.

Further correspondence stirred the Washington Cavers to action, and a party left in March of the following year for the cave. Led by Don Dilley, the group failed to locate the cave due to a cross-up in direction and all that was found was a dead sheep and a fifty-foot mine. When the cave was finally located in June of 1965, little improvement, if any, was made in knowledge of the cave, except for discovery of the Dry Passage, and the spelunkers, unused to Idaho's icy waterfalls, ran into serious exposure problems.

On Labor Day weekend, the major development of Papoose occurred. Tad Riste, Bill Simpson, and Luurt Niewenhuis (one of the first into Dynamited Cave) arrived at the cave with a sizable party to search for more passages. Riste shortly found Satori Passage, but most of the group had to leave and were unable to follow up the discovery. Simpson and Niewenhuis, however, stayed behind and pushed the passage to the large pit at the end. Alone, they then attempted to reach the bottom but cold and exhaustion forced them to quit.

Back home, Vern Frese led the mapping of Cave Ridge, and after nine years Red Cave was re-found. At the same time two new tube systems were

discovered in the Mount Adams area. The first part of 1966 was slow for the grotto, but in the summer activities revived again with a 475-mile trip to Nakima Caves in British Columbia, and last half of the year was occupied with at least six trips to Vancouver Island, and marked by a joint publication of a bibliography of Oregon Speleology by Halliday and Knutson. The cooperative nature of the Cascade Grotto, already used in joint trips with the Canadians and the Oregon Grotto, was highlighted at the initial descent of Papoose in summer. A large party had arrived at Papoose on Memorial Day, one prong of which was led by Bob Brown from the Upper Entrance and down most of the Wet Way. The other party of Niewenhuis, Dilley, Simpson and Halliday attempted again to reach the bottom but again exposure and exhaustion stopped them at what was to be the last pit. Two weeks later on June 11, members of three grottos - Don Dilley of Cascade, Jim Chester of Shining Mountains, Earl Petersen and Stan Moulton of the Salt Lake Grotto, finally reached the bottom siphons, 800 feet down and a half mile inside. As a sequel, on September the grotto did dye tests on the Papoose Cave streams, finding that the resurgence of the siphon stream occurred at a distance of two miles and in a different drainage area, several days later.

Activity in 1967 was conspicuously less, and there was trouble keeping the Caver on schedule, but the extent of the Paradise Ice Caves was realized and several trips were made there to expand the length. In February of 1968, however, one of three members returning from the caves died in a snowstorm which caught them before they reached the safety of a nearby lodge. Other problems followed, the Caver went unpublished for four months and the first trip to the Summit Steam Caves of Mount Rainier was stopped by altitude sickness and exhaustion at the top. Charley Anderson kept up the

exploration of the Paradise Ice Caves and on Memorial Day the first Northwest Speleological Convention at Papoose Cave gave birth to the Northwest Regional Association, first chaired by Earl Petersen of SSG. Internal problems about the role of the grotto kept 1969 another slow year except for a few trips to some lava tubes and continued work on the Paradise Ice Caves. Finally, the divisions progressed to the point where a group abandoned the grotto to start a new speleological cell of its own.

Not until 1966 did the Oregon Grotto break out of the trail left by the Cascade Grotto. Knutson and Halliday's bibliography of Oregon Caves was published in July, but by August membership had reached an all-time low of twenty-four. Then, the grotto caught fire and embarked on a several year spree of exploration and discovery. In September, an upper section of Red Cave was found and the first entry into the upper part of Dynamited Cave was made by the Oregonians.

Although activities slowed down again in 1967, with a few more lava tubes south of Mt. St. Helens found in 1968 the grotto started its most productive era. In May, grotto members appeared at Papoose Cave assisting in the birth of the NWRA. Later, in July, three Sinks Lava Cave was extended by 1700 feet, and in the same month a secrecy cloaked trip to Scorpion Cave south of Oregon Cave was made. The cave was discovered by Lee Rosenberg in 1966 after a fire pilot spotted openings nearby. Rosenberg's subsequent disclosure to the Oregon Grotto in 1968 and his desire for protection of the place led the grotto leaders to painful decisions concerning who "deserved" the first trip to the cave, which created some bad feelings in the grotto for a time. In October, Steve Knutson and Eric Binker sped to the Wallowa Mountains to check reports of a large limestone cave, and in March of 1969, three

Oregon cavers completed a tremendously productive trip by mapping the unbelievable amount of 16,000 feet in six days.

By August, membership was up to forty and Eric Binker was running wild along the Oregon-California border. That month he investigated a Karst area in the Klamath River region. In September, he was back again with Knutson, and again December, finding several more caves. Meanwhile, Oregon spelunkers were opening up another "cave that couldn't be". Jim Nieland and a party surveying a supposedly small lava tube north of the Columbia in October noticed a slight draft of air coming out of a small hole over a supposed lava seal. Quickly, they enlarged the hole and broke into new passage containing a large stream. They returned the following weekend, and again the next month, finding another entrance and 1300 more feet of passage. Subsequent explorations in the highly complex tube pushed the total length of passage to nearly a mile. That summer, excited reports of a twenty-mile lava tube had appeared in several Oregon newspapers. Steve Knutson drove to Malheur County, but as expected found a rather long trench system with caves at intervals. On Thanksgiving Day, a large group of Cascade and Oregon Grotto members converged on Hell's Canyon, primarily focusing on a new karst area across the river where Knutson and a party attempted to blast open some sinks with dynamite in the hopes of connecting them with a resurgence 1300 feet down the canyon cliff.

Of all their caves, Ramshorn was the one most visited by the very active Shining Mountains Grotto, but new discoveries, such as the one by Jim Chester and a party entering Natural Trap Cave of the Bighorn Mountains in October, 1965, continued. A "Caving Capers" was organized in early April of the next year in order to get the Montana cavers together to explore and swap stories of Montana caves.

Generally isolated until then, contact began to be made with other grottos. Two months after the "Caving Capers" a party at Papoose Cave contributed Jim Chester to the first team to descend Papoose to the siphons and later that fall, the Salt Lake Grotto guided them to the terminal siphon of Neff's Cave.

New discoveries by Al Lovell in Bear Canyon and extensive discoveries by the grotto in, of all caves, Ramshorn, were proof that even the best known caves held surprises and that knowledge of speleology was still just beginning in Montana.

The year 1967 continued at a fast pace for the SMG. Harvey Leach, still carrying the old Treasure State Speleological Society along, was elected grotto chairman for the second time and participated in the period when computerized mapping was introduced, and the Speleochem moved to a covered publication. Six years of mapping and exploration in Gloryhole had turned up four miles of passage, and 3 names, from CaveX, to Gloryhole, and in 1967, to Bighorn Caverns. Unfortunately, with discovery had gone increased vandalism, which led the newsletter and the grotto to increased heights of conservation, including cancelling exchange of newsletters with an eastern grotto and the publication of an early Montana caver's N.S.S. number which has preceded the grotto to nearly every cave in the state.

Ramshorn was gated in June of 1968 to prevent the type of vandalism that had occurred in Bighorn Caverns and several snowshoe trips were taken, but the most important event was cloaked in secrecy. In September, Robert Schultz and Fred Spicker of the SMG and TSSS crawled through the long sought connection between Horsethief Cave and the Bighorn Caverns. In the crawl, however, they found an old ring of keys and a rock cairn on the Bighorn side of the crawl, relics probably of an old prospector or miner visit long before.

The implications of a "walk-in" entrance to Bighorn cautioned the two to remain silent during the 1969 NSS convention held at the site several months later in June. Nearly six hundred attended the NSS convention, hosted by the SMG and TSSS, and chaired by Harvey Leach, which led cavers from all over the nation through Bighorn, Natural Trap, Horsethief, and the Pryor Mountains Caves. Later that summer, two out-of-the state cavers re-discovered the connection, unaware of the previous two discoveries and told Jim Chester. Disturbed by the possibility of further damage to Bighorn Caverns, he, his wife, and Claude Smith of the Cascade Grotto, one of the re-discoverers, place a plug of 1400 pounds of concrete in the crawlway in mid-September.

It wasn't long after the formation of the British Columbia Speleological Society that membership increased to twenty-two under the presidency of Dennis Richards. With Ken Sinkiewicz as vice-president and Kronek as secretary, several trips were taken every month and in September of 1967, the seasonal siphon in a Horne Lake Cave was successfully passed after an initial frustration in the wet season, and led Sinkiewicz and a party to the bottom, 200 feet down.

The first BCSS newsletters were published in April, May, and July of 1967, but the members found little time to publish more than these for they were already channeling their energies to forming a national Canadian society under the auspices of the BCSS. By December, the name of the group, less than a year old, was changed to the "Canadian Speleological Society" and they actively began planning for the expansion of the group across Canada. Somewhat surprisingly, the members apparently had no knowledge of any other caving clubs in Canada.

Subsequently, the stress of national planning became too much for a small group still not grown out of

Vancouver Island, and organizational breakup was imminent by the summer of 1968, even though trips were still frequent.

Before poor health forced him to leave the Island, Hronek participated in the discovery of Euclataws cave in late April of 1968, and in the summer attended the birth of the NWRA at Papoose cave. There as the "victim" in a mock rescue practice he pointed up one of the dangers of the cave becoming so cold a replacement victim had to be found!

The severe winter of 1968-69 brought most caving on the Island entirely to a halt, but in the spring repeated trips discovered a beautiful new extension of Euclataws Cave. After debate, the CSS members approached the Provincial Government of British Columbia and attempted to persuade the bureaucracy to undertake protection and development of the find. Only, however, after newspaper publicity engineered by the group in September, did the officials move and by 1971, the area was declared part of a Provincial Park.

Even though trouble had been seen coming for some time, the last year of the Gem State Grotto's first period was deceptively active. A February, 1968, list shows over forty people interested in Idaho spelunking, with fourteen actually members of the grotto. Trips were taken to the Hell's Canyon area to meet with the Oregon Grotto and much of the planning for the first Northwest Speleological convention was done by members of the GSG who co-hosted it with the Cascade Grotto that summer. Sylvia Ross and Jerry Thornton made a trip north in July to check out rumors of a tremendous pit near Salmon. Its rediscoverer, Verne Blalack, appeared to be quite interested in spelunking but the three were frustrated by a lack of equipment.

In September, Thornton and a party made a trip to Papoose but again the cold conditions proved to be a match at the Sand Room. Minnetonka Cave

became the final fling of the year as both groups GSG and SLG managed to find a long unknown section of the cave. The December - Gem Caver showed the pressing need for a reorganization, pointing out that while thirty caves had been found in 1967, and 7,000 feet mapped, only five were found in 1968 and less than 2,000 feet were mapped.

That was the last issue until June, 1970. For over a year no elections were held, no mail was answered, and Thornton left the state. Activities did occur, but all were fragmented and isolated. Sylvia Ross published Introduction to Idaho Caves and Caving in May of 1969, the Gem State Grotto come out with Caves of the Gem State in the same year, and that summer, Verne Blalack, "hot-seating" it all the way, descended his pit, Baker's Hole, a free rappel of 190 feet. Another trip to Papoose, in May of 1970, nearly ended in tragedy when a young boy balked ascending the ladder in one of the waterfalls.

The period was a trying one for Idaho speleology and the rumor that Gem State Grotto was permanently dead began making the rounds.

#### THE LAST FEW YEARS

From the beginning of 1970 to the present, much of the activities of the various Northwest groups has been centered around the continuing consolidation of their organizations and investigating well-known areas. Occasionally new areas are found and breakthroughs made. Of three new caving groups who made their appearance on the scene, one has in effect, folded, and only time will tell if the remaining two have the support needed to maintain their activities. With the exception of the Oregon Grotto, nearly all the other organizations of the northwest seem to have followed a pattern of initial enthusiasm, followed by a period of decline, and sometimes a total eclipse, before achieving solidarity.

In June, 1970, the Gem Caver began to publish again, and the August meeting managed to put the Gem State Grotto back on its feet, this time with a different format. Blalack, having become frustrated during the Grotto's twilight period, had formed a group of his own, based in Salmon, Idaho. The other unit in Boise formed the remainder of the group.

Even though the newsletter was sketchy, the activities still slow, the membership soared from none to thirty by the end of 1971. A conservation drive by the grotto had resulted in gating Papoose Cave, and Pigpen and Redfish Caves in the Hell's Canyon. In 1972, George Huppert finished his thesis on Papoose Cave and a third unit at Blackfoot, Idaho joined the main group.

By 1969, continued work on the Paradise Ice Caves by the Cascade Grotto resulted in establishing them as the world's longest mapped glacier cave system. An October trip to Papoose resulted in the discovery of a new section by Russ Patterson and led to the beautifully decorated Patterson's Passage (since rename Bluewater Extension).

At the beginning of 1970, faced with the withdrawal of several members to form a new grotto, a declining membership and a general feeling of ennui, the members revamped the constitution and sacked the requirement of NSS membership. The resulting year was one of its more productive for some time. Paradise Ice Caves was finally traversed by Bill Zarwell and Ron Pflum, and Charley Anderson set some sort of persistence record with his one hundredth visit to the caves. After a six-week training program, a grotto party finally made it to the Summit Steam Caves, unaware that only two weeks before two mountain climbers had completed a trans-crater exploration of them.

The Cascade Grotto helped the Oregon Grotto with planning the 1972 NSS convention at White Salmon, WA. Trips were frequent but little of note

was done by the group for some time. Low level feuding with the Xanadu Grotto of Seattle surfaced from time to time in the newsletter, which was spending more and more space on articles connected with areas far removed from the Cascade Grotto.

The Oregon Grotto, with over fifty members by 1970 found plenty of willing hands and plenty to use them for. In rapid succession more leads were pushed in Deadhorse Cave, 900 feet mapped in Oregon caves by a Knutson-Nieland-Binker party, and a massive Cascade-Oregon assault on Hell's Canyon turned up Pigpen Cave. In December, the grotto planned another trip to Hell's Canyon, but heavy snowstorms in the region prevented enough participation to accomplish anything.

Small Limestone caves near Kerby, Oregon were located and explored the next summer, as Knutson again attempted to find rumored caves in the Wallowa Mountains. Deadhorse yielded more surprises as additional passages in the by now extremely complicated lava tube were pushed and mapped. Twenty more members joined the grotto bringing the total to seventy, more than twice the size of the nearest northwest grotto. In other fields than exploration the grotto was still pushing ahead. Charlie Larson of the grotto, past chairman became chairman of the Northwest Regional Association that year and Jim Nieland and his wife Libby, began to publish a regional newsletter. A successful bid was made to host the NSS convention in 1972, and the grotto submerged itself in preparation for the first such gathering in a volcanic area.

Following the Shining Mountains Grotto June triumph at the convention was another success--finding Mill Creek Crystal Cave after several years of snowbound attempts. Few other trips of note were taken that year, which prompted the formation of a "Krusty Kavers Klub" for the ardent, but disappointed.

Jim Chester, the prime force behind

the formation of the grotto, was elected chairman for the 1970-71 year, and Newell Campbell another old-timer living by then in Washington, was commissioned by the Montana Bureau of Mines to prepare a geologic study of Montana caves. Over 300 were soon listed, but after exploring and surveying a number of them Campbell stumbled onto a long-lost pit in French Creek Cave that Robert Zeller had been unable to find in 1949. The pit opened into a huge extension of the cave. Realizing the extent of his find, Campbell called in the services of Chester, Chuck Borlan (past chairman of the SMG) and Chuck Lyon. The other plans temporarily abandoned, Campbell and company mapped over six thousand feet in six days, quickly establishing French Creek Cave as Montana's second largest and second deepest.

Towards the end of October, a doctor of Botany contacted the grotto in hopes of obtaining data about caves that would support life in event of a future social holocaust. Unfortunately, to the Montana cavers, the doctor appeared as something just short of a nut, and he was somewhat waggishly invited on tour of just such a cave. The eventual outcome could have been easily predicted--the good doctor forsook Montana for warmer climates and warmer caves.

Newell Campbell continued his probe of Montana's hinterlands and that summer published some of the first reports on some of the most fascinating, if not the best, Karst areas remaining in the U.S. Scapegoat Mountain, in the Bob Marshall Wilderness was found to have excellent potential for a 1400 foot deep cave amid the scores of Karst in the Limestone Wall and Yakinnikak Creek areas of northern Montana, visited long before by Basil Hritsco.

Although evidence of some problems exist (the Speleothem is being published on an irregular basis) Montana is probable "the state most likely to succeed"--the potential is

enormous, the caves are large, and the cavers are definitely a hardy breed.

Members of the Canadian Speleological Society took several more trips with the Cascade Grotto in the fall of 1969, but for the first two months of 1970, activity was slack because many of the CSS members were tied up with other things. Frustrated with this new state of affairs, Ken Sinkiewicz revived the name of "B.C. Cave Hunters" and began to recruit other members. The recruitment of several enthusiastic new members resulted in a casual group that shunned formality, but was able to make field trips nearly every weekend for several months. In April, the group approached the C.S.S. and made a proposal to pool resources. The C.S.S. agreed to place the real control of the group in the hands of the active cavers, notably Sinkiewicz and a new recruit from England, Phil Whitfield. A measure of the vastly increased effectiveness was the record of thirty-four trips made in May through November, and the growth of the group from seventeen to twenty-six. Nine joint trips occurred with the Cascade Grotto, and exploration and mapping continued at a fast pace.

At the annual November meeting the vote was overwhelming in favor of dissolving the C.S.S. and the name of Vancouver Island Cave Exploration Group was chosen for the new club, but the old C.S.S. constitution was retained in a modified form.

A week later, one of the more important Island caves was entered through breakdown at the bottom of a pit discovered only two weeks before. Several additional parties pushed the extent of the cave to several hundred feet by the end of the year, and VICEG named the cave "Cascade" for the considerable help given them by the Cascade Grotto.

In January, 1971 the new grotto had its first publication, the "VICEG NEWS," followed with the formation of a caving club at the University of Victoria by Ron Frederick.

Unfortunately, the divergent views of both groups soon came into conflict, creating strife where there should have been cooperation. A meeting by the heads of both groups in April accomplished little towards the settling of their differences, but the tenuous nature of college life solved the problem, for by the next school year, most of the disenchanted students had left the club, and a new year of cooperation began. The Cascade Grotto continued to make frequent visits as the VICEG membership swelled to forty. A September meeting of the Northwest Regional Association accepted the entrance of VICEG into the NWRA and the resignation of Charlie Larson of the Oregon Grotto as chairman paved the way for Phil Whitfield to be elected.

VICEG is indeed fortunate to have so many caves close at hand in contrast to most Northwest groups and the northern Karst of the Island is more extensive than in the south. Excellent relations with the news media have resulted in a considerable amount of publicity, and there seems to be no future lack of cavers or caving.

The withdrawal of a small group of disgruntled cavers from the Cascade Grotto led to the formation of a rival grotto on January 1, 1970. Named Xanadu, after reference to a poem of Samuel Coleridge Taylor's, the group spent most of its time extending the limits of Papoose Cave. Hundreds of new feet were explored when Dave Mischke, leader of the group, and Bob Vocke, used a ceiling crack to cross a waterfall in the newly discovered Bluewater Passage in Spring of 1970. Repeated trips brought them to more virgin passage and waterfalls. Nearly all of the mapping done in the cave in recent years has been the work of the Xanadu cavers, and extensive time has been spent in cleaning the cave of the years of trash accumulation.

The growth of the grotto has been slow, but steady. The main problem of

the group in the future will be its ability to expand its interests from those of an overriding concern with Papoose. The passage of time will probably have the effect of lessening the amount of hostility that led the two Seattle groups to split apart, perhaps leading to a reunion in the end.

The Cascade Grotto, with a rejuvenated constitution, larger membership and funds, a wider interest range, and tradition seems much more likely to outlast its offspring.

Western Washington, more of a caving wasteland than any other area of the Northwest, hosted the stirrings of caving activity in early 1969. Tom Miller and Bruce Ainslie formed a club at Eastern Washington State College that fall with the assistance of Dr. Eugene Kiver, an NSS Member -- calling itself the EWSC Spelunking Club, the members spent nearly all of the first year just familiarizing itself with the area, and making numerous unsuccessful attempts to find nearby caves.

In the summer of 1970, Kiver and others from the EWSC Geology Department made the first scientific study of the Summit Steam Caves of Mount Rainier, while other members of the club ranged across the northwest. Jim Crail, an Air Force sergeant at a nearby air base led trips to Glacier National Park and Bighorn Caverns, while Miller and Bob Ries visited Yakinnikak Creek Caves in Montana and made the first scubalunking attempt in the Northwest, a siphon scuba dive in Malheur cave, Oregon.

From the first, expectations of the group were overly optimistic. Plans for a grotto fizzled out, and the club never attained a large membership. Much of the club's activity would have been hopeless without the aid of a core of cavers at Crail's Air Force Base. Bill Parks, an ephemeral member of the Air Force taught most of the caving techniques used at the present time.

Still fired with enthusiasm in

spite of setbacks, the club members made numerous trips to Papoose Cave in 1971 and in February staged an "expedition" of nine days in the middle of a school term on which nineteen people participated. This and other trips to the cave, led by Miller, Crail and Denny Andrew, turned up nearly two thousand feet of virgin passage, mostly small, however.

Trips ranged far afield, to Neff's in Utah, Goshute and Lehman in Nevada, French Creek Cave in Montana, even Canada and Oregon, but as with Xanadu the problems of sustaining interest in a small group remain. As the original members graduate, transfer, or lose interest, much experience will be lost. One only hopes that the two most recent additions to the Northwest caving family will not share the fate that has overtaken nearly every other group in the area at some point in its history.

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- \_\_\_1951-present, Western Speleological Survey Bulletins.
- \_\_\_1965-present, Speleograph of Oregon Grotto.
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- \_\_\_1971-present, VICEG News of VICEG.

\_\_\_1970-present, Brand X of Xanadu Grotto.

#### Written Communications From:

Blalack, Verne, Gem State Grotto  
Thornton, Jerry, Gem State Grotto  
Halliday, Dr. W.R., Cascade Grotto  
Larson, Charles, Oregon Grotto  
Mischke, David, Xanadu Grotto  
Knutson, Steve, Oregon Grotto  
Whitfield, P.R., VICEG  
Chester, Jim, Shining Mountains Grotto  
Campbell, Newell

#### BARBADOS CAVING 1984

BY WILLIAM R. HALLIDAY, M.D.

A major fringe benefit of living in the Southeast is the easy availability of special package fares to the Caribbean and thereabouts. So Marcia and I arranged an Eastern Airlines package to the caves of Barbados over the Thanksgiving weekend. By sheer luck the Dover Beach Hotel (where we were scheduled to stay) was overbooked and we ended up in the Golden Sands Hotel -- quieter, more convenient, probably a little nicer, catering mostly to Canadians and clearly willing to put up with cavers.

Although Richard Goddard (Director of the Barbados Speleological Survey) is collecting data elsewhere, the newly commercialized Harrison's Cave - Cole's Cave - Welchman's Hall Gully area remain the caving center of the island. Cave Hill on the outskirts of Bridgetown (the capitol) is said to have some holes but they are said to be less than 100 feet long. Animal Flower Cave at the extreme north end of the island is a mere two-chamber sea cave.

The #4 Sturgis bus goes to the cave area but we did not know it at the time and hired a car; the bus would have been only 75c and much more fun. It stops at Welchman's Hall Gully and probably there is another stop closer

to Harrison's Cave. The gully is at least partially an unroofed cave with blunt stalactites on overhanging walls. The original entrance to Harrison's Cave was in the gully; it now has been closed to the dismay of Dick Goddard and visiting speleologists concerned with the cave's ecology.

Harrison's Cave is about 1/2 mile away, on a well-marked side road, in a smaller gully. The present entrance is artificial and the surface development is tasteful. A brief introductory slide show is well done. Then the visitor boards an electric bus-train and is driven through tunnels connecting some of the finest and largest rooms discovered by Ole Sorenson and his crew some years ago. The rooms are surprisingly large, speleothems are glisteningly white, and Roy Davis' waterfalls are pretty.

Prior to the Sorenson discoveries, nearby Cole's Cave was the best known cave on Barbados. It is not where the topc map of the island indicates and there are no signs to it. To visit it, from Harrison's Cave parking area go back up the hill to the main side road and turn right. After about 100 meters it makes a turn to the left and then you come to a T-junction. From here go downhill for about 200 meters to the last electric power pole and then continue in the same line to the end of the fields. The trail to the cave is easily found in the bushes just to the left at this point. It angles slightly, then steepens to the right for about 200 meters, along the gully. The cave entrance is a deep, steep hole to the right of the trail in the gully bottom, easily seen if one's looking for it. A descent of about 12 meters leads to the once-gated orifice of a short side passage which soon joins the main stream channel, several thousand feet long. Only a few short side passages are known. The cave is teeming with millipedes and other cave life and has been studied by Stu Peck. Most visitors follow the stream passage

upstream past a near-siphon to the upper entrance, in an area where there are large water pipes, now abandoned. Unfortunately it is not a photogenic cave but the water is pleasantly luckwarm.

Our special target, however, was several miles farther southeast: Bowmanston Pumping Station Cave, for which very special arrangements are necessary because visitors must be lowered in a bucket (very much like the old guano bucket in the early days at Carlsbad Cavern) about 80 meters down a wide well shaft in a thicket of water pipes. The local caver group gets permission only about once every two years.

Bowmanston Pumping Station Cave is basically a stream canyon cave like Cole's Cave but locally quite pretty and much more fun. Dick Goddard has mapped about 2 kilometers; a bit shorter than Cole's. At the bottom of the well shaft, a masonry duck-under serves as introduction to a 100 meter swim (flotation gear is advisable). Upstream (where the present water intake is located) is a locked gate. The lake at the bottom of the shaft is artificial; we were there at moderately highwater and a beautiful waterfall was cascading over the dam. Much more water was present than in Cole's Cave and it was considered to make the cave much pleasanter by those who had overheated below the dam during previous trips. The cave ends in a mud sump; there are no known natural entrances although I have the impression that no one has looked hard for upper level leads. At the well shaft the cave is about 80 meters below the surface. The bucket has room for the feet of four explorers, and the descent in the jungle of pipes is a unique experience in caving in the 1980's.

Reference: Peck, Stewart R. 1981. Community composition and zoogeography of the invertebrate cave fauna of Barbados. Florida Entomologist, vol. 64, no. 4, pp520-527.