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THE SPELEOGRAPH

PUBLISHED BY THE OREGON GROTTO OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 16, no. 11

November 1980

NOT FOR LOAN



"WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE WE'RE NEAR THE BAT NURSERY?"



THE SPELEOGRAPH

THE SPELEOGRAPH is a monthly publication of the OREGON GROTTO (a local chapter) of the NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of either of the above organizations. THE SPELEOGRAPH is distributed free of charge to Oregon Grotto members and is exchanged for the publications of other organizations with interests similar to those of the Oregon Grotto.

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Becky Taylor and Donald Denbo

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The OREGON GROTTO meets regularly on the third Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m., at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, 4015 S.W. Canyon Road, Portland, Oregon 97221. Membership dues are: Individual, \$6.00/year; Family of two, \$7.00/year; Family of three or more, \$8.00/year.



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GUANOTES

As you (no doubt) read in the last Speleograph, you are now blessed (?) with two new temporary Editors! We are both very excited about editing the Oregon Grotto's newsletter and have some new ideas that we will be trying out over the next few months.

We have only been active cavers for a few years and do not, by any stretch of the imagination, know all about every aspect of caving — sport or science. Therefore, we will be relying heavily on the members of the grotto to keep us informed of relevant news, and to send us articles both on trips and involving general information and education.

We also IMPLY people to send us articles of a "how to" nature. These may range from novice to expert level. We sometimes tend to forget that part of our membership is composed of neophytes, anxious to learn more!

I guess what we are saying in a nutshell is, "It's your newsletter, and we need YOUR support to make it work."

The Thanksgiving trip for this year is all set and will be in Bend, Oregon. Headquarters will be at well-known Skeleten Cave (see map elsewhere in issue). The Grotto Trip Coordinator, Dave Smith, has the names of those who plan to attend as of the last meeting so if you need a ride or have room to take another body, give Dave a call.

We hope that you enjoy our premier attempt at editing the Speleograph. We think its justrite.

Becky Taylor
Don Denbo

Treasurer's Notice

I would like to apologise to anyone listed for dues due that has already paid. Part of my records were destroyed. Please send me a photocopy of your canceled check.

Also, any new members that have taken applications home to fill out MUST return them to me in order for my records to be current. Technically, you are only a subscriber to the Speleograph until I receive the application. Please return it at your earliest convenience! Thank you.

Dues — Individual \$6.00/yr., Family of two \$7.00/yr., Family of three or more \$8.00/yr. Please make checks payable to the Oregon Grotto. Mail dues to: Dianne Smith, Treasurer, 8912 N.E. 80th Street, Vancouver, Washington 98662.

If you wish to have a receipt or membership card mailed to you, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Dianne L. Smith
Treasurer

NOVEMBER 1980						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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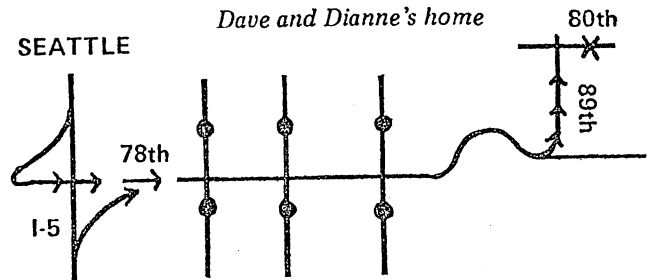
Cavers Calendar

DECEMBER 1980						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November 21 – Oregon Grotto General Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (see address in masthead).

November 27 - 30 – Oregon Grotto Sponsored Caving Trip to the Bend Area. Over Thanksgiving weekend. All are welcome! Meet at Skeleton Cave (see map elsewhere in this issue). Bring water; there is an outhouse near the cave. The OG tent will be there to provide a covered space for cooking, etc. Several trips already planned, including: Cave search for possible leads, visits to known caves, cave cleanup, possible mapping trips. Contact trip Coordinator Dave Smith if you want to offer a ride, or wish to make connections with someone who might take you along. Dave's phone is: (206) 254-6511. See you all there – NEW and OLD!

December 31 – Oregon Grotto New Year's Eve Party at the home of Dave & Dianne Smith, 8912 N.E. 80th Street, Vancouver, WA 98662. Directions: From Seattle – South on I-5, take left on 78th street. From Portland, go North on I-5 to the 78th street exit. Right on 78th street. Approximately three miles you'll pass through three traffic signals. The last one is Andreson. You'll pass Green Meadows Restaurant on the right. Coming down off of the overpass, take left on 89th avenue. Turn right on 80th street. Ours is the first house on the left. See map.



PORTLAND

APRIL 14 - 17 – The Far West Cave Management Symposium, to be held in Portland, Oregon. Additional details and directions will follow.

Elections Coming

- A. Who may vote: Any Voting Member of the Oregon Grotto (See Constitution, Article III, E).
- B. Who may be elected: Any member of the Oregon Grotto who is eligible to vote in Grotto elections, and who is an NSS member.
- C. Election procedure:
 1. Nominations for officers may be made by any member eligible to vote in a Grotto election:
 - a. In person at the November General meeting.
 - b. In writing if received by an Executive Committee member prior to the November General Meeting.
 2. The order of nominations and voting shall be: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.
 3. The Executive Committee shall mail ballots to the eligible Voting Members in reasonable time for a mailed return to any Executive Committee member prior to the December General meeting.
 4. The counting of votes shall take place at the December General meeting, using the ballots received by mail, and those ballots submitted in person at the December meeting.
 5. The candidates receiving a plurality of votes are elected. In the event of a tie, it is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to cast the deciding vote.
 6. The election results are to be announced at the December General meeting.
- D. Term of office: Elected officers will start their term of office on January 1, following the election, and will end their terms on the following December 31.

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES:

Benedict, Earl	Nieuwenhuis, Luurt & Jannette
Chase, David	White, Mary & J.R.
Long, George	

DUES DUE SEPTEMBER:

Benedict, Ellen & Ben	Slabic, John & Vada
Howarth, Frank	Thelin, Darline

DUES DUE OCTOBER:

Czop, Bernie	McCarroll, Steve
Hollibaugh, Trey	Rears, John
Hovey, Carl	Sexton, Dave

DUES DUE NOVEMBER:

Owen, Kevin

DUES DUE DECEMBER:

Benedict, Alice	Grant, Bruce
Denbo, Don	Sweighofer, Erwin
Grant, Jack	Taylor, Becky

Oregon Grotto By-Laws
Section I.

IF YOU
WANT
MY OPINION...

Dear Editor:

We extend our apologies to the author of "Lee's Cave" in the October issue of *The Speleograph*. It was written by Dennis Glasby, who was indeed fortunate to find so nice a cave on his first cave search.

Charlie & Jo Larson



In response to letters from Rane Curl and Bob Liebman, let us first say that we are incompletely informed about the NSS Board's actions in selecting a News editor. We were not there.

Prior to the 1980 convention, it was apparent that the News had been in trouble for several months, so we were relieved to learn that arrangements had been made for Adobe Press, of Albuquerque, to pick up the pieces and put the News back on schedule. We were especially pleased to learn that Doug Rhodes, a competent professional publisher — who knew from years of experience with Society as well as other caving publications, that producing the News is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration — was applying for the position of News editor.

When we learned that the Board, which met during the 1980 convention, discarded a bird-in-the-hand for one in the bush, the first word that came to mind was "bizarre." We have given some thought to the affair, as Rane suggested would be useful, and conclude that the most bizarre aspect was not *who* was selected — but that the Board was selecting anyone except Society officers, the only positions the Board is, by Constitution and By-Law, authorized to fill!

There are two ways to view the position of News Editor: either as the head of a Society committee; or, since the stipend has become so large, as an employee. The Board has no business in the selection of either. The position should have been filled, "period," by the appropriate Vice President, or appointed by the President — if viewed as a committee, with subsequent confirmation by the Board. That the Board's action may have been uninformed, or cronyism, a popularity contest or whatever, isn't as disturbing as the fact that it has been for too long a time allowed to meddle in day-to-day operations of the Society — a function it has no business in.

Consider the Board's stewardship of the News (an assumption allowed by indecisive officers): In about 18 months, it has pizzled away a timely publication, left to it by a capable editor who was, to some extent driven off prematurely by uninformed criticism from various Board members who conveniently capitalized on a few (ever present) complaints from the membership; increased the annual editor's stipend from \$1,200 to \$8,000 or more, and now is apparently locked in debate over what the publication should include — Society news or news about the

"cutting edge" of caving. Never mind that the News has been irregular through 1980; that the convention issue didn't arrive until after the convention was over; or that it is now mid-October and no September issue has appeared.

The Board should concern itself with the "... nature and direction of the Society," as Rane commented, but we view with some suspicion the implication that it can be manipulated through the News. We also question the meaning of the concern (of some Board members) that one of the candidates was "willful" (our choice of word). Just exactly what kind of axe is the Board trying to grind with the News?

Finally, we view as bizarre, a circumstance where any Society employee is chosen by secret ballot, or where a prospective employee's personal affairs are stressed. (And incidentally how is one to judge Board members, as Bob Liebman rightly suggests, if their votes aren't recorded?)

Regardless of the validity of the Board's recent selection of a News editor, we sincerely hope that a timely newsletter appears again. It appears, however, that the Society's interests would be better served by a Board which restricted itself to general policy and left the day-to-day operation of the Society to the officers where it belongs, and in whom the Board should encourage more decisiveness.

Charlie & Jo Larson

P.S. None of the above criticisms should be taken personally. I freely accept my share of the responsibility as a former officer and Board member. Passing the buck to the Board began long before any of the incumbent officers were seated.

--- Charlie
October 17, 1980

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Ron & Molly Foord
1920 Boone Creek Road
Coos Bay, Oregon 97420
(503) 267-3567



Mud threatens caves; Forest Service plods

CAVE PRESERVATION is a real concern at this stage, and the Oregon Grotto's designated spokesman in this area, Bill Halliday, has been hard at work attempting to impress upon the administrators of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest the immediate need for study and a remedy to the problem of mud flow. Luckily Dr. Halliday is persistent and patient because in a number of months and as many letters he has not been able to extract a written commitment from the Gifford Pinchot Office, let alone a letter in reply. Although the Forest Supervisor apparently

agrees that danger to the caves exists, no immediate solutions are forthcoming. Edward Osmond, a new GPNF employee in Range, Recreation and Watershed has indicated that he would be willing to work with Halliday in analysing possibilities and ramifications. Because of the length and detail of Halliday's letters to Gifford Pinchot's office in Vancouver, we are reprinting the most current one only, but will have all of the communications available at the next General Meeting should the membership care to read them.

Edward C. Osmond
Range, Recreation, and Watershed Section
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
500 West 12th Street
Vancouver, Washington 98660

Dear Mr. Osmond:

Thank you for calling at about 7:00 this morning. Unfortunately, my alarm clock had not yet rung, and my notes of our conversation are sketchier than normal. Since you expressed a desire to work with me in the future, I would appreciate any future calls being a little later in the day.

Beyond that, I would prefer that, urgencies aside, you correspond with me rather than telephone me. Since this is our initial contact, I am sure that you will see nothing personal in this request. The problem is that my repeated experiences with administrative staff on the Gifford Pinchot have taught me — and some others, besides — that we can rely on no verbal statement from it that lacks written confirmation. This dates far back before the eruption controversies, but certainly has been re-emphasized recently by the failures of two GPNF administrators to confirm in writing what they have told me orally, when I requested that they do so. I am writing Mr. Tokarczyk about this, separately. If you do not have available the entire WSS correspondence on post-eruption studies, I will be glad to supply you with xerox copies setting out the sorry record, step by step, in the hope that this will facilitate and expedite the much-needed protection of these significant caves.

After your return and two-day review, please immediately confirm, correct, and/or amplify my understanding of our conversation, which is as follows:

1. You wish to work with me, but you are going to have to be away for three days and then will need a couple of days to look things over, so that you can respond to each point in my recent letter to Mr. Tokarczyk. I responded that I understood.

2. You told me that one of your staff engineers and another GPNF staff person (whose name I failed to record) have looked at Ape Cave within the last few days, and determined that there was no current danger from the

mudflows. However, when I asked if they had looked at the entire cave (which as I pointed out would have meant a waiver of the 15-minute rule), you stated that they had not looked at all of the cave and that rule still was in effect. You stated that they had looked at the surface and into the cave in reaching this conclusion; they found the main flow was not near the entrances, but to the east. I responded that our studies had shown that the mud already was entering Ape Cave through much smaller orifices. You made no comment on this but merely reiterated that they had found the cave to be safe at present.

3. I stated that we had pointed out that the threat to Gremlin Cave was the most critical and asked if anything was being done about this. You responded that a staff person (whose name again I did not get) and Jim Nieland were soon to take a look at this, in a day or two, to see what could and should be done. I requested and you agreed that you would have that staff person call me as soon as this was done, and not wait for your return.

4. As for the radar monitoring, you have checked on this, and it is not likely to be ready for about six months. I responded that on September 30, Mr. Tokarczyk had been under the impression that it would be ready in less than a week. From what you said, it appears that this clearly will not be ready for a long time.

5. You have not had time to look into the other points of my recent letter to Mr. Tokarczyk. I specifically asked you about my request for the risk assessment data under the Freedom of Information Act and you indicated that nothing has been done about this yet.

6. I thanked you for calling and indicated that I expected a further communication from you in about one week. Please let me hear from you at your earliest opportunity after that time.

Very sincerely yours,

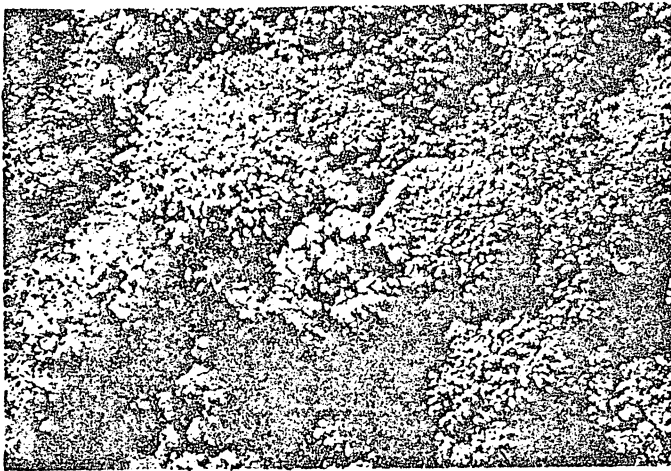
WR Halliday

William R. Halliday
Director
Western Speleological Survey

Round Mountain Features coralloids

BY CHARLIE LARSON

Rick Pope's comments (The Speleograph, volume 15, page 125) about Round Mountain Cave prompted Jo and I to visit there during a recent trip to the Cascades. We would have had no trouble finding it from Rick's directions, but Roger Miller, who we visited first at the lookout, led us to the entrance. Roger and his wife tend the lookout on Round Mountain during fire season.

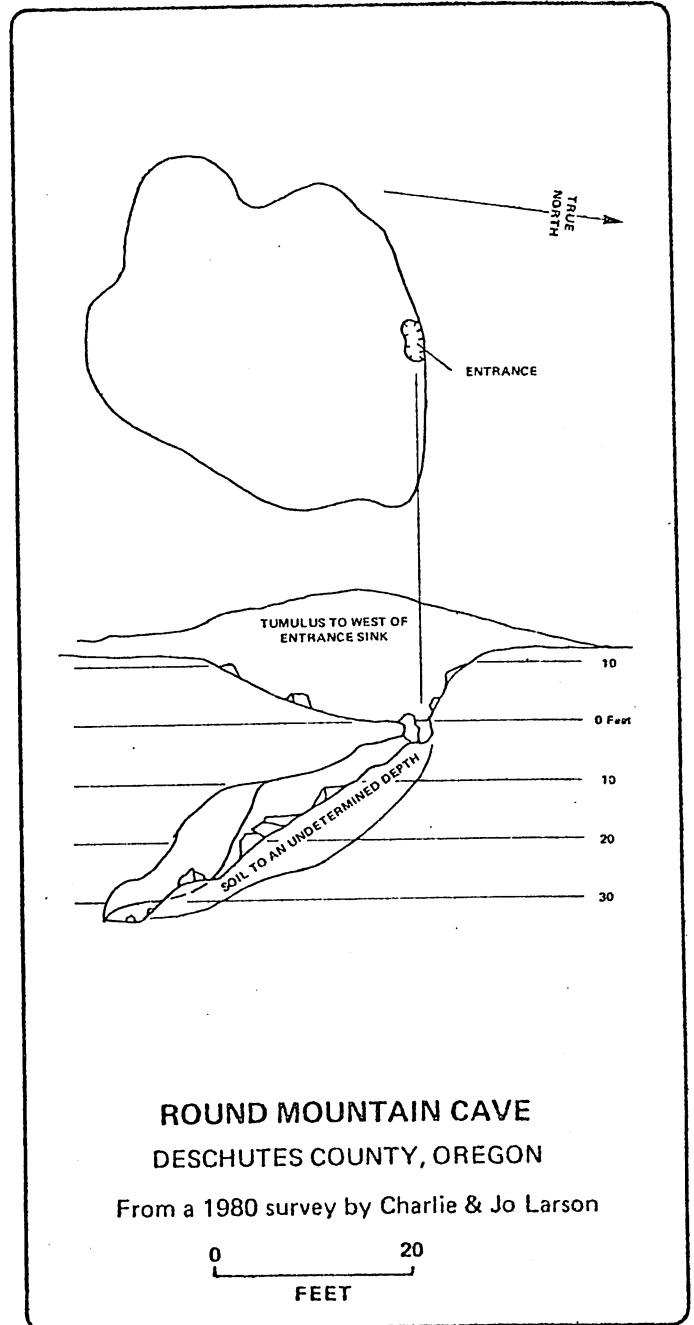


Coralloid speleothems, pictured here, cover most of the ceiling and walls of Round Mountain Cave. Seldom reaching one inch in length, they are comparatively soft and easily damaged.

(Photograph by Charlie and Jo Larson)

Round Mountain Cave is a surrogate cave in basalt. Its ceiling and wall surfaces, free of secondary mineralization, show mostly clean, though very old fractures. We observed no signs of plastic deformation or of the telltale signs of lava movement. The cave was apparently created when the lava in a vertically oriented vent system withdrew, or fell back, followed by the collapse of some — but not all — of the overburden. The entrance is at the north end of a sink about 40 feet in diameter, about 12 feet deep. An occasional boulder projects from the soil lining the bottom of the sink and soil has been funneling into the entrance for so long that nearly the entire floor slope is covered by soil which has all but buried several large boulders. Most of Round Mountain is heavily forested with medium sized trees of several different species, which accounts for the unusually thick soil layer.

The cave is much older than other caves in the area. Howell Williams' geological survey of the area does not recognize Round Mountain but identifies the lava flows of the area as possibly as early as Pleistocene. That part of the mountain (to the west of the peak) in which the cave occurs appears to be made of sterner stuff than the red ash and scoria exposed in some of the road cuts passed through on the way to the top.



The "½ inch projections of unidentified mineral deposits," in Round Mountain Cave, mentioned by Halliday in 1952 (Cascade Cave Report, no. 2, page 4) cover most of the ceiling and walls. They are siliceous precipitates, ranging in shape from spiny to botryoidal, and best described as coralloid speleothems. Though individual elements seldom reach one inch in length, there are coral-like clusters which have attained lengths (from the cave wall) of two to three inches. The color of the coralloids ranges from dirty gray to dirty brown. They are comparatively soft, being especially soft, scaly and lighter in color where forming in the presence of water. They are, of course, easily damaged, even when brushed by clothing.

A most enterprising packrat(s) occupies the cave and has several nests there. Also there are two remarkable "hay-stacks" of moss and dried mushrooms laid up for winter.

Joe Caver's Sincerity test

The following test was inspired by an article appearing in the April, 1980 issue of *Speleoneers* (Nashville and Chattanooga Grottoes of the NSS) written by Larry Johnson, portions of which have been shamelessly stolen, and other parts adapted to our geographical locale. It is "designed to give the... caver... an idea of where he ranks in the status of spelunker. Fill in the appropriate number (you MUST be honest) for each question. Add up your totals and find yourself on the scale provided.

- (1) How many days per week do you go caving?
- (2) Number of caves over 1,000 feet you have found.
- (3) Average depth (in inches) of rat droppings in crawls you explore.
- (4) Total number of four wheel drive vehicles you own.
- (5) AM time (rounded off to nearest whole number) you crash after the traditional after-cave-trip party
- (6) Total number of times through the "rat hole" at Dead Horse (unsuccessful attempts and near misses do not count)
- (7) Number of miles walked while cave hunting each month
- (8) Grade yourself on your coverall condition:
No coveralls = -1, New = 2
Fair = 3, Ripped to shreds = 5
- (9) Average number of miles surveyed each month
- (10) Grade yourself on your home Grotto (Grotto where your heart is) OG = 5
- (11) Importance of caves in your life:
More important than anything = 10
Almost as important as life = 5
More important than family = 3
More valuable than wine = 1
Not important = -30
- (12) Would you take 1 million dollars to NEVER explore caves again: Yes = 50, No = 15

Now, add your score and rate yourself according to the following scale:

- 0 to 25 = Wimp
- 26 to 35 = Clone
- 36 to 50 = Tourist
- 51 to 60 = Caver
- 61 to 70 = Medium Core
- 71 to 80 = Stout
- 81 to 90 = Hardcore
- 91 to 100 = Professional Cave Explorer
- 100 plus = Fanatic

BAD TASTE OF THE YEAR AWARD goes, without question, to Beaver School in Aloha, Oregon for their Hallowe'en answer to the haunted house — a Haunted Volcano. It featured, among other things, "...the ghost of Harry Truman and spirits of Spirit Lake." (Oregonian, October 31, 1980)

Helens canonized by Pope

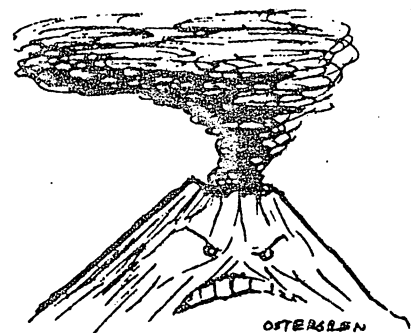
Rick Pope
Ape Cave Committee Chairman

As the summer season is now behind us, I would like all of you to pause and reflect on the outstanding success of this year's Ape Cave Volunteer Program. Even before the start of summer, the sign up sheets were full of the names of eager participants, some willing to sacrifice 2 or 3 weekends in the name of cave conservation.

A trip to the cave on August 23rd confirmed my suspicions that this was, indeed, one of the cleanest years in recent history. There was no defacement of the signs, no trash on the stairway or in the cave, and no new graffiti to grace the walls.

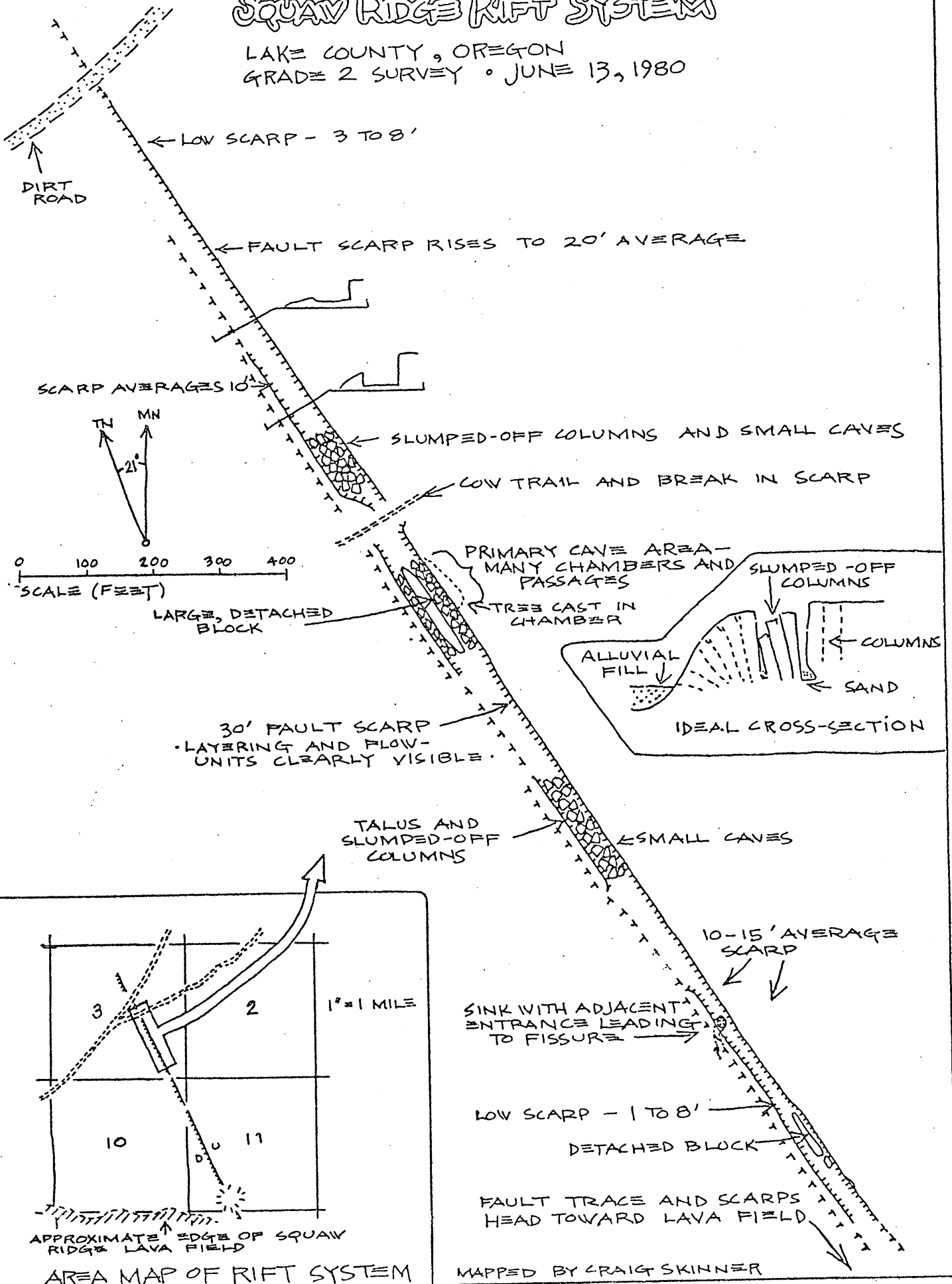
As I reviewed the year, it was apparent that one individual's efforts stood head and shoulders above the rest of us. Yea, I felt my past contributions were trivial compared to the dedication of this conservationist. Someone who spent not one or two weekends at the site, but stood guard every day of the season without fail. Someone who was so tough that not only were vandals turned away but all human beings as well (save a few who persisted through red tape and received permission). Indeed, the deep recesses of the cave have not felt human intrusion for over six months and natural processes are at this very moment at work to repair the damage incurred during two decades of exploration and exploitation. And the tragedy of this story is that this individual failed to sign the Forest Service forms and will not receive reimbursement for travel expenses or a volunteer patch. Hence, this simple report stands as the only recognition made of a monumental conservation effort.

Thank you, Mt. St. Helens.



SQUAW RIDGE RIFT SYSTEM

LAKE COUNTY, OREGON
GRADE 2 SURVEY • JUNE 13, 1980



← LOW SCARP - 3 TO 8'
DIRT ROAD

← FAULT SCARP RISES TO 20' AVERAGE

SCARP AVERAGES 10'



0 100 200 300 400
SCALE (FEET)

← SLUMPED-OFF COLUMNS AND SMALL CAVES

← LOW TRAIL AND BREAK IN SCARP

PRIMARY CAVE AREA -
MANY CHAMBERS AND
PASSAGES

← TREE CAST IN
CHAMBER

SLUMPED-OFF
COLUMNS

ALLUVIAL
FILL

← COLUMNS

← SAND

IDEAL CROSS-SECTION

LARGE, DETACHED
BLOCK

30' FAULT SCARP
- LAYERING AND FLOW-
UNITS CLEARLY VISIBLE -

TALUS AND
SLUMPED-OFF
COLUMNS

← SMALL CAVES

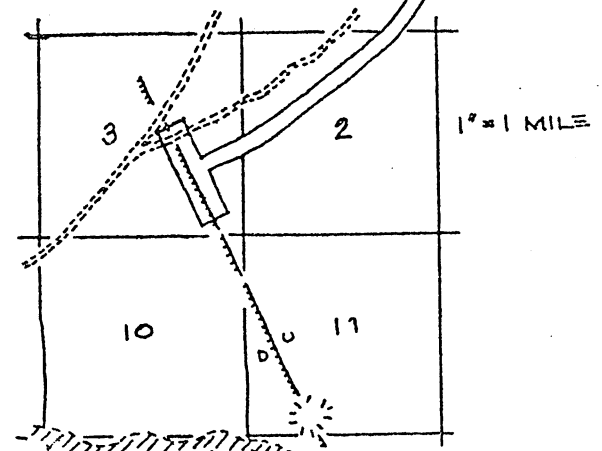
10-15' AVERAGE
SCARP

SINK WITH ADJACENT
ENTRANCE LEADING
TO FISSURE

LOW SCARP - 1 TO 8'

DETACHED BLOCK

FAULT TRACE AND SCARPS
HEAD TOWARD LAVA FIELD



APPROXIMATE EDGE OF SQUAW
RIDGE LAVA FIELD

AREA MAP OF RIFT SYSTEM

MAPPED BY CRAIG SKINNER

Squaw Ridge Rift System

" . . . A NICE PLACE TO SPEND A LITTLE TIME."

By Craig Skinner, NSS 19450

The Squaw Ridge Rift System is an approximately two-mile long tension fracture (fault) in basalt bordering the Squaw Ridge Lava Field, a remote RECENT lava field located in central Oregon.

Geologically, the origin and morphology of this system appear to be almost identical to that of Crack-In-The-Ground, another tension fault on the border of the Four Craters Lava Field. This other RECENT lava flow is located several miles southeast of the Squaw Ridge System. It's interesting to note that Peterson and Groh, in their study of Crack-In-The-Ground (1964), speculated on the existence of ". . . other interesting cracks in remote parts of Oregon where volcanism and faulting have occurred." The Squaw Ridge Rift System appears in no known literature — geological work in this area has been very sparse to date.



Scott at one of the many entrances to the primary cave area (as shown on the map). the fault scarp, about 30 feet high here, is shown directly behind him.

Speleologically, the most interesting part of the rift system occurs around the central part of the mapped segment. There are several hundred feet of sand and dung floored labyrinth-like passageway winding around the slumped-off basalt columns and talus blocks. The largest of several chambers is on the east side of the fault in the primary cave area and is adorned by a single tree cast as well as a cast of something of unknown origin that resembles a giant, elongated pinecone. I also noticed one small brown bat hanging serenely in one of the passages.

Several hundred feet toward the Squaw Ridge Lava Field from this point is a low spot that has acted as a water drain. Next to this small sink is a squeeze entrance leading to an open fissure that appeared to be at least 20 feet deep. I didn't pursue it, hence the question mark on the map.

There are several other small talus and fissure/fault-block caves located throughout the system. Processes involved in the formation of the caves in this rift system are somewhat more multivariated than usual — they are a combination of fault/fissures, talus blocks and block-creep.

The most spectacular part of the system doesn't show on the map but is located about a quarter of a mile northwest of the dirt road that is shown. Extending perhaps 300 feet is a narrow, vertical-sided fissure that reaches a maximum depth of 40 to 50 feet (I was too tired to do anything but estimate). This fissure, the northwestern extremity of the rift system, disappears as it reaches Squaw Mountain and is completely invisible from the road below. I only happened to stumble onto it as I was coming down from the summit of the mountain. There are several small caves associated with this upper section.

The age of the rift system and the related caves is uncertain at this point, though later field work should produce some estimates. The rift occurs in Pleistocene to Pliocene Paulina Basalt and is associated with the nearby Squaw Ridge Lava Field (Hampton, 1964). Inside the border of the lava field a RECENT cinder cone appears to be situated on top of the rift, and the two are probably contemporaneous. Unfortunately, no work has been done on the Squaw Ridge volcanics, though the age has been estimated as RECENT, or less than 10,000 years old (Peterson and Groh, 1963).

All in all, if you like hanging out in semi-remote pieces of country, this is a nice place to spend a little time. We (Scott Murdock and I) camped next to the road and saw nothing but small planes for two days. This, combined with the great view of the lava fields and natural shelter of the rift, beckon to the solitude-loving desert tourist.

Continued on the following page . . .

Two very nice librarians expressed dismay when we asked about the caves. They had never even heard of them. So they directed us to the microfilm reader where we pored over the farm gossip of the '40's and '50's hoping to run into something printed about the time of the Oregonian articles concerning the caves. We did not hit any worthwhile news until April 8, 1954 when it was reported that the Redmond Lions' Club had uncovered a "new cave near two well known caves in the Redmond Caves Park area" on April 4th.

Naturally this infuriated and intrigued me because we had not seen a single word about a park, and nothing about the "well-known caves" which were probably the two in the middle of the map joined by the common entrance sink. All that I can surmise is that the caves might have been discovered when surveying was in progress for the Redmond Airport in the '40's, and then the name "Redmond Caves Park" became an unofficial moniker for the general area.

The paper reported that the Lions, feeling a cave was present, convinced John Berning, City Superintendent, to remove 30 feet of packed material from the entrance area with a scoopmobile and grain loading elevator belonging to the Deschutes Farmers Co-Op. The Lions had almost given up hope when one of the laborers, pushing a hand into the silt, broke through. The men were momentarily stunned to find footprints on the floor, but the mystery was soon solved when two boys admitted to sneaking to the site and digging through the previous evening.

Like any account lacking accurate back up statistics, figures were a little out of proportion as the Lions described the cave's size. "Lion's Cave," as the section was dubbed, is not the longest or largest of the group, but actually the second largest.

Initial efforts at exploration did not connect the "bracelet" evident in our survey. It is a long, low crawl and it took children to reveal its existence to the Lions' Club.

On April 15th, the Redmond Spokesman reported that the cave had been closed to private diggers under the antiquities act. Many arrowheads and Indian artifacts had been recovered by private citizens and removed, much to the dismay of a representative from the Smithsonian Institution, who was quoted as having said that he would be sending Dr. L. S. Cressman of the University of Oregon's Archeology Department to the cave with a team to investigate its archaeological significance.

Scanning carefully, we were not able to find any further mention of the caves. Several questions arise: When were the caves first discovered? Were they named? Why did the Lions Club dig the cave out? What did Dr. Cressman discover when visiting with his team?

We plan to contact both the Redmond Lions and Dr. Cressman, if possible, to puzzle out these questions. We understand that this is not the only attempt by the Lions to unearth cave entrances, although it appears to have been the only successful venture.

We paid a disappointing visit to the offices of the Redmond Spokesman, and discovered that they did not have an index of articles, a picture morgue or any idea about what to do when strange, grimy cavers enter their office and ask about obscure caves. They gave me the name and number of a woman correspondent who interviewed a blind man in a story relating to his visit in Redmond Caves some years ago.

So far, I am just as much in the dark as that fellow!

LIONS' CAVE (below) was excavated by the Redmond Lions Club in 1954. Later discovered to be of significance as an archeological site, it was temporarily closed to the public and its contents examined by representatives of the Smithsonian and University of Oregon's archeology department.
(Photograph by Charlie and Jo Larson)



STALKING WILD CAVE

By Donald W. Denbo — NSS 19912

After mapping the Redmond Caves, Becky Taylor and I spent Monday night (October 6th) at China Hat Campground. The next morning, we were surprised to see that so many of the hunters had already left for the day. (I think the parties of the night before gave the deer a better than even chance). We ate, packed up camp, and then headed for Lee's Cave.

During the hunting season, many of the fire roads are closed to motorized vehicles, so we had to hike in from the main road. Not wanting to be too conspicuous (or inconspicuous, as the case may be) while walking in the woods, we waited until we arrived at the cave to put on our coveralls.

Leaving the fire road, we found several interesting surface lava tubes before finding Lee's Cave. Entering the cave and heading east, we found that the passage ends in breakdown that corresponds to a large surface depression. We couldn't find any way to continue from inside the cave, but several exits do exist through the breakdown and perhaps further progress could be made from the surface.

Turning around and heading west, we discovered that the pumice sand quickly ended and it was necessary to crawl on hands and knees through a very rough 100 feet (kneepads are a necessity). The passage opens up on the other side and becomes a fairly large room with a lava fall to the right. At the end of the cave is a small grotto with lots of beautiful lava speleothems.

After returning to the surface, we met a hunter who related that he had seen several other caves in the immediate area over the past few years. Becky and I intend to go back and attempt to find these caves. Who knows what may lurk amidst the fireroads!



The terminating point of Lee's Cave is thickly forested by a maze of lava stalactites and stalagmites; the beauty of some rivals that of Lavacicle Cave. The decorations, including the floor, are very fragile and the pictured caver resigns herself to remaining perfectly still until an escape route can be determined! (Photograph by Donald Denbo)

THE OREGON CAVES

As seen by the
USDA/
Forest Service
1919



The greater part of the trip to the Oregon Caves National Monument is made from Grants Pass by a fair wagon and automobile road, running as far as the Stephens' Ranch on upper Williams Creek, a distance of 26 miles. From this point, the journey to the caves must be made on horseback or

on foot over a very good forest trail, a distance of approximately 10 miles; arrangements for this should be made before leaving Grants Pass. The caves are located in Cave Mountain, a peak of limestone formation of about 6,000 feet elevation. The main openings are at about 4,000 feet, but the entire mountainside for 5 or 6 miles is probably honey-combed like the portion which has been explored. The caves are more a series of galleries than of roomy caverns, although many beautiful rooms have been discovered. Miles of galleries have been visited. There are thousands of passageways leading in all directions, partly closed by stalactites. Considering the distance and the unexplored portions of the openings on the opposite side of the mountain, the magnitude of the Oregon Caves can be truly said to be unknown. One small stream (and possibly others unknown) runs through this labyrinth of beautiful and varied geological formations. During the season the Forest Service stations a guide at the entrance whose duty it is to conduct all visitors through the caves and to open up new passageways.

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST — Seen in a recent issue of *Willamette Week* — "Relive the Eruption! We erupt a likeness of the volcano at your home or anywhere. Safe, yet thrilling. Great at parties or as a gift. Give an eruption to someone you love! Music included. Call Magma Woman." M.W., we have discovered, is a student at the University of Oregon Medical School. Kind of makes you wonder . . .

Thermal cave not so hot

By Craig Skinner, NSS 19450

The following is an excerpt from an article that appeared in an October 17, 1920, *Sunday Oregonian*:

"Discovery at Horse Butte, nine miles southeast of Bend, of a naturally heated cave, apparently drawing its warmth from a subterranean volcanic source, was reported today by C. A. Yarnell and H. D. Eide, local fuel dealers. Investigation verified the report. The cave, located near the top of the Butte, first attracted attention when a wave of heat was felt issuing from the mouth.

"The cinder bottom and rock walls of the tunnel are unbearably hot to the touch, the heat increasing so far back as could be explored. That the phenomenon is a recent manifestation was indicated by the smoldering of the grass and twigs near the opening.

"The cave lies on a horizontal plane for about 25 feet, then dips downward. The opening is large enough to admit the body of a grown man. To test the natural oven, Mr. Yarnell cooked a light breakfast this morning by introducing raw articles of food into the opening and closing the aperture for a few moments.

"Another opening, in which the temperature is well above normal, though not uncomfortably hot, was found at a slight greater elevation."

A fascinating article like this begs to be looked into, and so I filed it away for the next time that I'd be driving through the area. I knew that there were a couple of other instances of surface thermal anomalies or "hot spots" in the area at Garrison Butte (Brogan, 1948) and Bachelor Butte (Harris, 1976), so the story sounded likely. This old *Oregonian* article was the only solid reference, though, that I was able to find concerning a "hot cave" at Horse Butte, certainly a noteworthy feature. My guess was that the cave had quickly cooled off or had been quarried away by the scoria and cinder operation on the east side that's slowly transforming the cone into local road surface.

In September, I did happen to be driving through the area, so I planned a quick stop to satisfy my curiosity. I didn't really expect to find anything, but to my surprise, a five-minute search turned up a one-by-two foot entrance just northwest of the summit. The area around the entrance was covered with a glaze like spatter and the location jibed with that given in the article.

With the Sirens of the Deep calling, I squeezed through the entrance, only to have yet another illusion smothered. If this is The Horse Butte Cave, all that remains is a 6 x 10

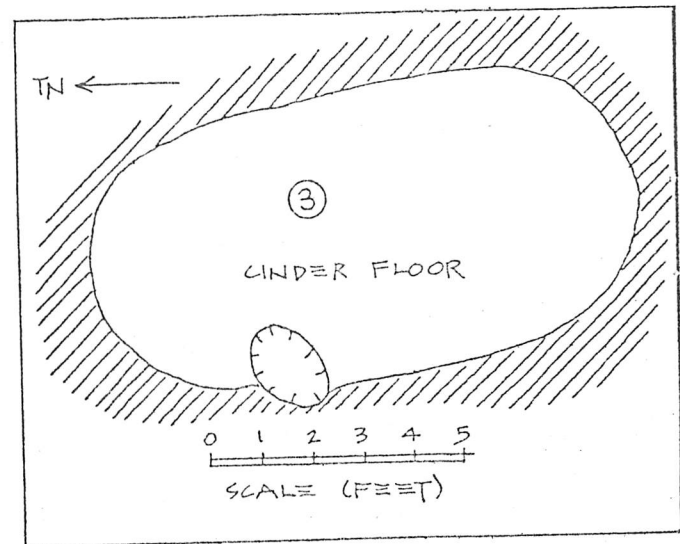
foot dung and debris-floored chamber. Temperature was 62 degrees F., a couple of degrees lower than the surface, and definitely not hot. Oh, well.

My suspicion is that this is the uppermost of the two caves mentioned in the newspaper story. About 10 feet below the cave, I found a small shelter that could be the remains of the larger 1920 cave. The caves occur in a unit of what's largely loosely consolidated spatter and cinders, and a cavity in this is likely to be a rather transient phenomenon.

Of course, maybe I missed it altogether. A thundershower rolled up as I was crawling out and I didn't really look around that much.

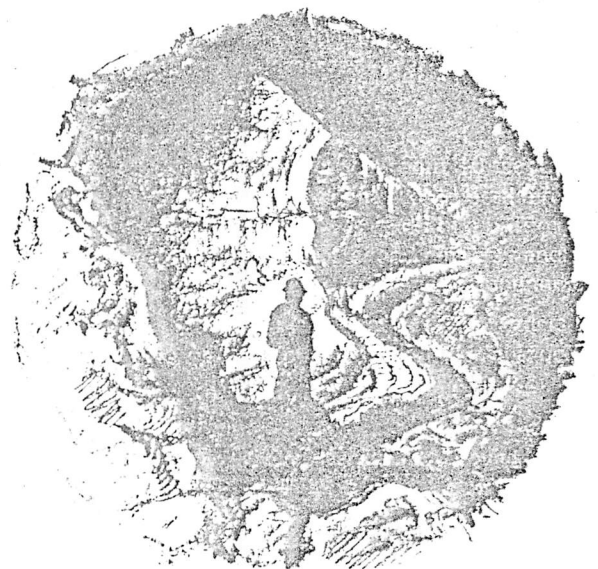
References:

1. Anonymous. 1920. "Nature-Heated Cave is Found Near Bend: Warmth Apparently of Volcanic Origin", *The Oregonian*, Oct. 17, page 1.
2. Brogan, Phil. 1948. "Occurrence of Warm Vents on Garrison Butte, Deschutes County, Oregon," *Geological Society of Oregon Country Newsletter*, Volume 14, No. 4, p. 28-29.
3. Harris, Stephen L. 1976. *Fire and Ice: The Cascade Volcanoes*, Pacific Search Press: Seattle, WA, 320 p.



THE HORSE BUTTE CAVE

Rough map by Craig Skinner, 1980.



Squaw Ridge Rift System (continued):

To anyone trying to find this feature, the rift is not readily evident from the main road in the area. We found it quite by accident as we were cruising through the area looking for interesting sights. A more goal-oriented trip would have hurried us past, leaving us without the sights and this small lesson.

ALSO OF INTEREST TO CAVERS planning to visit the area: The pseudo-road from the west leading to Button Springs Cave is passable to the cave, but pretty marginal past it unless you're driving a four-wheeler (which I wasn't). There were no signs of snow or ice in the cave (mid-June). The entrance ladder has completely transcended the physical plane and a rappel entry is necessary until some other frustrated person builds another ladder.

Also, the "... steep-sided, canyon-like valleys... which owe their origin to the subsidence of the roofs of... lava tunnels" (Russell, 1905; Larsons, 1980), that have been reported as a cave lead are probably located on the south-south-west side of an unnamed, irregularly-shaped butte just to the south of the cave. Their origin, however, doesn't appear related to lava tube formation.

REFERENCES FOR THE SQUAW RIDGE RIFT SYSTEM:

1. Hampton, E. R. 1964. Geologic Factors That Control the Occurrence and Availability of Ground Water In The Fort Rock Basin, Lake County, Oregon, USGS Professional Paper 383-B, 27 p., 2 geologic maps.
2. Oregon State Highway Division. 1974. General Highway Map: Lake County, Oregon, Sheet 1, State of Oregon.
3. Peterson, Norman V. and Groh, Edward A. 1963. "Recent Volcanic Landforms in Central Oregon", Ore-Bin, Vol. 25, no. 3, p. 33-45.
4. Peterson, Norman V. and Groh, Edward A. 1964. "Crack-In-The-Ground", Ore-Bin, Vol. 26, no. 9, p. 158-166.

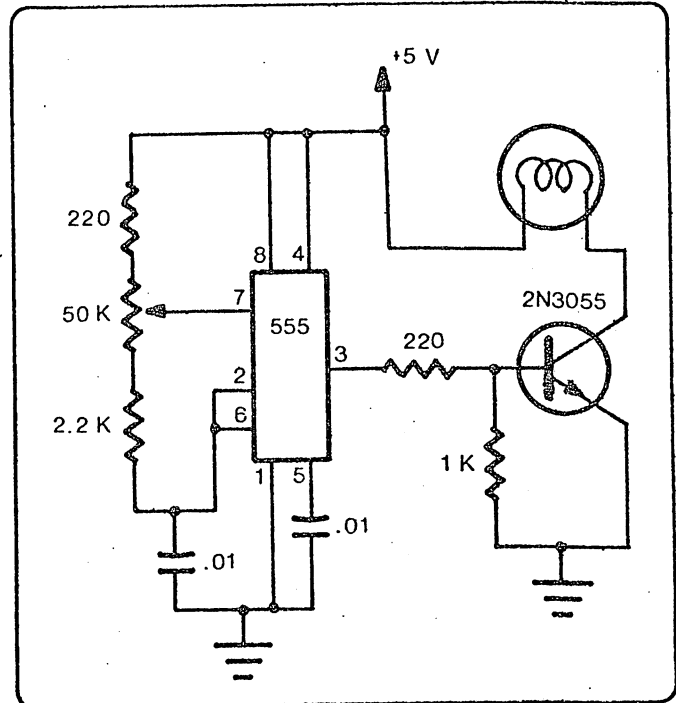
OTHER REFERENCES:

1. Larson, Charlie and Larson, Jo. 1980. "Find A Cave: Leads In the High Lava Plains Geologic Province of Oregon", The Speleograph, Vol. 16, no. 1, p. 14.
2. Russell, Israel C. 1905. Preliminary Report on the Geology and Water Resources of Central Oregon, USGS Bulletin 252, 138 p.

Forest Service Publishes report

THE USDA FOREST SERVICE has published the first in a series of reports concerning land management for the St. Helens area. The plan is in response to the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. The first report was distributed in September. If you would like to be kept up to date on subsequent Forest Plan reports, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and the USDA welcomes your comments throughout the planning process. Write: Robert D. Tokarczyk, Forest Supervisor, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, 500 W. 12th Street, Vancouver, Washington 98660.

TROGLOTECH COLLEGE FOR CAVERS



Do-it-yourself dimmer for bright cavers

By Donald W. Denbo — NSS 19912

Have you ever wanted to turn down your electric lamp in order to save power, or only occasionally need a brighter bulb, but not want the massive current drain all the time?

I have found the circuit above to be the solution to both of these needs. It uses an integrated circuit (IC) allowing the dimmer to be made small enough to fit inside a Justrite lamp assembly with ease.

The electronic dimmer uses less than 1% of the power a simple rheostat in series would use. I have used this circuit for over a year and have found it both reliable and convenient.

The IC (a 555 timer) is used to trigger a NPN transistor that turns on and off the lamp several thousand times a second. The transistor behaves just like a small switch giving the lamp the full battery voltage when on. The brightness of the lamp is determined by the fraction of the time the transistor is "on."

The components can be purchased at Radio Shack or any other electronic parts store. The 50K ohm potentiometer should be as physically small as possible so that it will fit inside the lamp housing.

All the resistor values are in ohms (where K denotes thousands of ohms) and the capacitor values are in microfarads. The transistor can be any NPN capable of handling the current the lamp draws (usually 750 MA).

MORE MOUNTAIN

The mountain has been at it again, liberally dusting Portland and surrounding areas, building up another lava dome and being roundly berated by politicians for contributing to the pollution of our air. According to the USGS, we can breathe at least a momentary sigh of ash-free relief because the current eruptive cycle is over. USGS, as well as University of Washington geologists, are said to be "monitoring" the dome, estimated to be 900 feet in width and 155 feet tall and resembling a collapsed soufflé.

MT. ST. HELENS NOW HAS A PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION operating out of Kelso, Washington and noting as its objectives the "protection of the geological, recreational and esthetic values of the Mt. St. Helens area. The group is concerned about the eventual fate of St. Helens as a National Monument, National Scenic Area, or a National Volcanic Area. MSHPA is primarily interested in making sure that the public's view are taken into consider-

ation, and meets periodically to review Forest Service and other government planning regarding the mountain. Those interested in finding out more about the Association may write: Mt. St. Helens Protective Association, 2857 Rose Valley Loop Road, Kelso, WA 98626.

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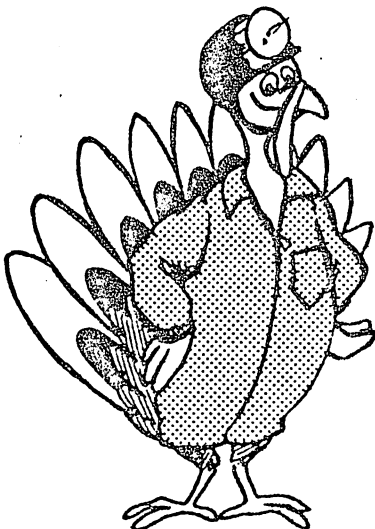
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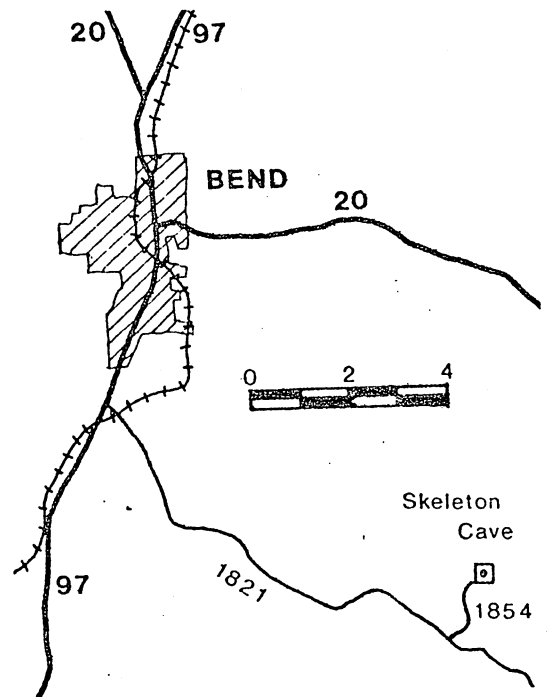
O.G. Cave Trip

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 27 — 30



- VISITS TO KNOWN CAVES
- CAVE SEARCHES
- CAVE CLEANUP CRUSADE
- SOME MAPPING
- GREAT FELLOWSHIP!!!



Headquarters will be at SKELETON CAVE, located outside of Bend (see map for directions). The Oregon Grotto tent will be pitched to provide a dry, sheltered place for gathering, cooking, etc. Pit toilet near the cave. Bring water for drinking though, as there are no faucets. Skeleton Cave itself makes a wonderful shelter if you do not own a tent. WARM CLOTHES ARE A MUST!!

ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT TRANSPORTATION . . . Contact our Trip Coordinator, DAVE SMITH at (206) 254-6511.

REDMOND CAVES ARE LITTLE KNOWN

by Becky Taylor — NSS 20538

The weekend of October 5th seemed fair and promising, weatherwise, and so with optimism Don Denbo and I arranged to spend the two days in the Bend area. Our main objective was to seek out Lee's Cave (*The Speleograph*, Vol 16, no. 10) but I had to admit some curiosity about stopping by the Redmond Caves, which we had seen prominently marked on one of the Metzger Maps.

As far as we knew, the caves had never been mapped, and little could be found in the way of description (we have since discovered that Jim Nieland drafted the only known map prior to ours in 1974, which resides in the Grotto Cave File. It has not been published.). I had it pegged as one big cave, your average straight shot unitary lava tube with more or less the same amount of spray paint and garbage that we had previously seen at the Horse and Barlow Caves within the city limits of Bend. I was wrong.

The system includes five caves (that we were able to locate) and a possible sixth which would require extensive excavation to enter. They are located within the city of Redmond on an easily accessible road, or the way we came — along a jeep trail (not knowing about the new route). There are

six entrances; one of the caves may be approached from either end.

As you can see by the map, the system is pleasantly complex with moderate branching and minimal breakdown. The floor is covered with a thick layer of pumice dust and dirt washed into each entrance, as is characteristic of caves in this area. Rodents must love Bend as much as everyone else, and retire there in droves; there were plenty of nests, droppings, and some kind of noxious ooze on one of the ceilings.

There is certainly something for everyone here. We observed three small toads in different parts of the tube, one cricket about 40 feet into one of the smaller caves, evidence of pot holes and digging in the easternmost section, erosional pockets reminiscent of Saddle Butte, and pornographic literature in the packrat nest!

After surveying our way cross country and through each section, Don and I emerged covered with several inches of dust and pondered the mystery of this system's anonymity. Those who know of my unrelenting quest for the Boring Caves and tussles with Betty Book and her ilk will know that our next stop was to the Redmond Public Library.

