THE SPELEOGRAPH

PUBLISHED BY THE OREGON GROTTO OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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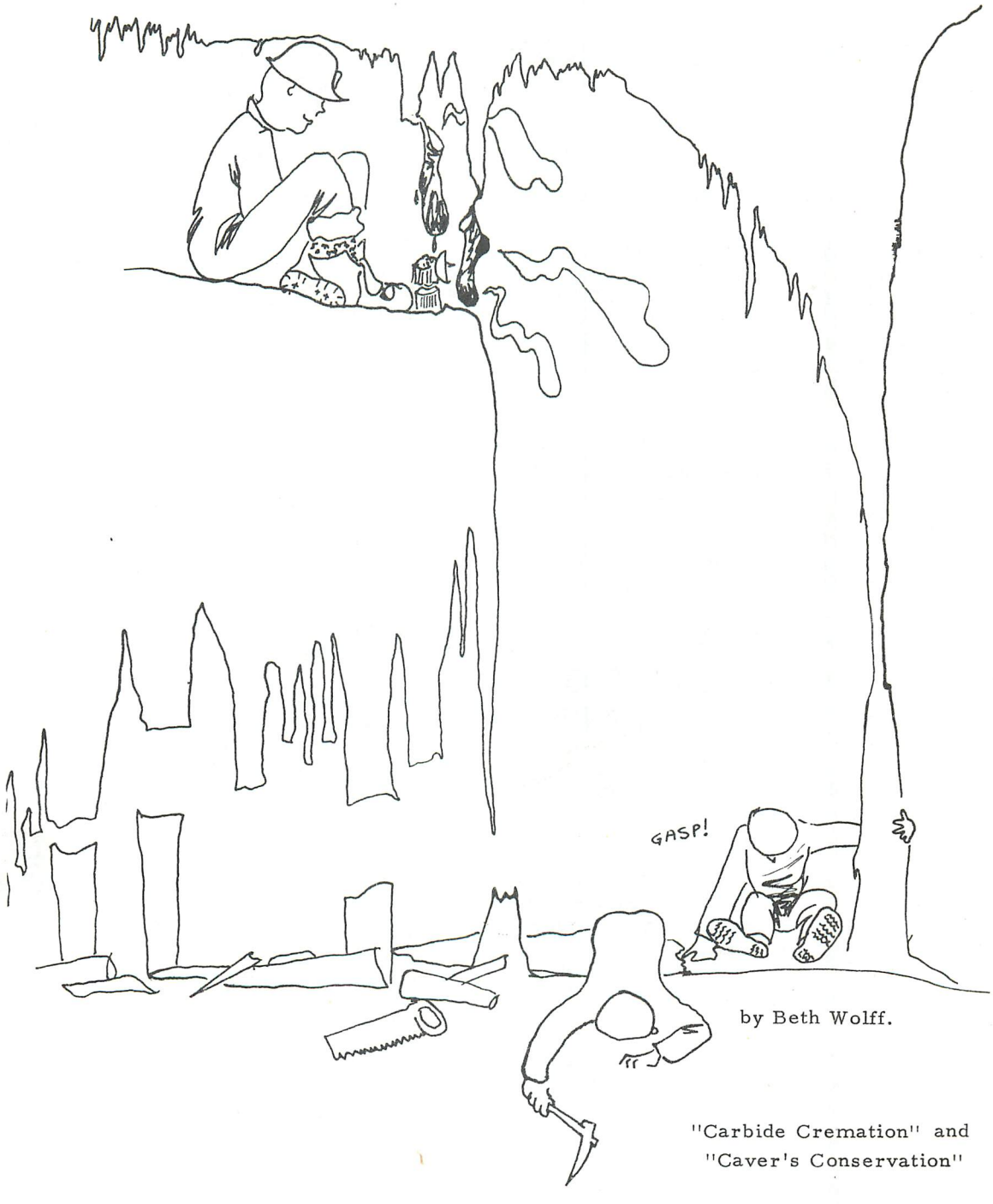
November/December, 1983



by Beth Wolff.

"Carbide Cremation" and
"Caver's Conservation"

The SPELEOGRAPH is a monthly publication of the **OREGON GROTTO** (a local chapter) of the **NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.** Opinions expressed herein are not neccessarily 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. **SUBSCRIPTIONS** are: $6.00/year, plus $2.00/year if mailed outside the U.S.

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Oregon Grotto general **MEETINGS** are held on the 3rd Friday of every month, at 7:30 P.M., and until further notice, will be held at the Southwest Washington Research Unit, 1918 N.E. 78th St., Vancouver, Washington. (¼ mile east of Interstate-5 on 78th St.)

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Cavers Calendar

NOVEMBER 18:
DECEMBER 16: Oregon Grotto General Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Washington Research Unit, 1918 N.E.78th St., Vancouver, Washington (¼ mile east of I-5 on 78th Street).

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND: Three to five day trip to Derrick Cave area. Even though this is a primitive area (no water or camping facilities) it is only a few miles beyond the end of the blacktop highway which leads to South Ice Cave from LaPine. Don't forget water. Contact Dennis G. for more info.

DECEMBER 31: Oregon Grotto's **NEW YEARS PARTY—at Roger and Patty Silvers,** 912 N.W. 50th Street, Vancouver, washington. Beer and some munchies provided. BYOB and your favorite munchie. Lots of sleeping bag space. Cascade Grotto members and Candians are invited. Call (206) 693-3600 for directions.

1983 **NOVEMBER** 1983

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

1983 **DECEMBER** 1983

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

YOUR HELP NEEDED TO FINANCE PURCHASE OF TROUT ROCK CAVE PROPERTY

The NSS has acquired an option to purchase a historic parcel of land in Pendelton County, West Virginia. The property contains the entrances to three well known caves; Hamilton, Trout and New Trout.

The sale price of the 42 acre tract is $40,000. Included in the sale price is all of the above mentioned acreage, the three cave entrances and the timber rights surrounding the the caves on the 27 eastern acres. The Moyers family, from whom the property is being purchased, will retain the timber rights to the 20 acre western part of tract for 7 years.

The NSS will hold title; stewardship will be placed with a permanent NSS committee composed of NSS members from nearby regions and grottos.

The Trout Rock Conservation Task Force has already raised $30,120 in cash or pledges and has promises of $12,800 in bridge loans. Hower, the bridge loans need to be repaid and initial management costs met. We need your generous financial support now. If you have alreay contributed, you have our sincere thanks. We must settle on the property by March 16, 1983. Please make a contribution to this effort. Send checks, made out to NSSTrout Rock CTF at address below.

NSS TROUT ROCK CTF
c/o Ricketts
6404 Caryhurst Drive
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20744

Money Wrench

DROPPED
Gilsen, Leland & David
Hixon, Jim
Jenkenson, Doug

DROP November (unless dues recieved)
Conrad, Steven
Scarl, Ethan

DROP December (unless dues received)
Slabic, John & Vada

DROP January (unless dues received)
Dryden, Mike
Glasby, Dennis
Hovey, Carl
Jones, Dave & Grace
Linn, Scott
McCarroll, Scott
Pope, Rick
Sexton, Dave
Skinner, Craig
Summers, Raymond

DUES /SUBSCRIPTION DUE NOVEMBER
Krehbiel, Don & Helen
Lee, Casey & Tamby
Reed, Vincent
Vollmer, Julia A.

DUES/SUBSCRIPTION DUE DECEMBER
Benedict, Mark
Crawford, Rod
Denbo, Donald
Grant, Bruce & Jack
Knapp, Alice
Miller, Tom
Shankey, John & Peggy
Sweighoefer, Erwin

REINSTATED
Nelson, Bob

NEW MEMBER
Kisling, Guy

A NEW BEGINNING -- A RETURN TO DYNAMITED CAVE

by Bob Davis

I guess you could say that we thought it was about time. It had been more than five years since we had seen that upper lead in Dynamited, and we were just tired of waiting. So in the morning of August 24th, Dick Cheney and I were primed and anxious to get back into the upper reaches of the thing and find some new passage.

The amount of equipment needed to successfully explore Dynamited isn't that great: two or three ropes (depending on how far you want to go), a small rack of carabiners and nuts, ascending gear, and — for my trips — a 14-ft. aluminum extension ladder. This may sound a bit odd — and it is a bothersome thing to lug over the extensive breakdown in the cave — but we nevertheless found it to be invaluable for quickly getting into and across some of the key features of Dynamited. This includes the 15-ft. pit which is about as terrifying to cross whether you use the series of old, wet, narrow planks which I have seen in there over the years, or you free climb around it. With the ladder you merely have a strong and steady bridge. But this is no matter in our latest trip to Dynamited, as we were more interested in a region which very few parties explore; the upper complex beyond the Grand Ballroom.

In *Caves of Washington*, Halliday speaks of the "special gear" required to cross the 40-ft. pit and the chockstone. Basically, this "gear" consists of a rope strategically heaved from the top of the pit *over* the chockstone. About the only tricks involved in that approach are not getting too frustrated when attempting to Jumar over a couple of nasty lips on the way up the chockstone. Our approach was more direct; lower the ladder down the 40-ft. pit and then use it to get into the "upper level" above the Ballroom. (I use emphasis her because the level in discussion is actually the continuation of the main passage reaching back to the 15-ft. ledge.) A good plan, but a lot of work in it, as we found out. The clinker tongue on the pit has tripped us up a number of times, and this was no exception. It was a matter of simultaneously rappelling and making sure I didn't let the ladder perform some spectacular sort of plunge at the same time ! Good timing and thick gloves certainly helped us is about all I will say.

By this time, we were really only getting started. Because of the uncertainty of the journey, we had brought along a good selection of bolts and pins, along with the surveying book and gear. We had done a fair amount of survey work in Pickings Cave a few years back, and it was encouraging to have a much larger cave to work in. We knew that it was possible that someone had already been where we wanted to go. This was disconcerting. We also knew that in years of keeping up with happenings in Dynamited Cave, no one had ever mentioned the place we were seeing. So there was quite a bit bit of hope for some "new" cave.

But this is all digression. The problem at hand was to extend the ladder in such a way as to transport ourselves up into the small section of passage between the 40-ft. pit and the big drop-off into the Big Room. We had to become wrestlers instead of cavers for a while. The ladder was reluctant; it did heed the reasoning of the two white, intelligent, middle-class young men. After a ferocious struggle, the machine finally gave in. It was a long extension — almost 30 feet. The thing swayed a bit in the middle, and we both could say that we were "exhilarated" as we climed to the top to look over the highly polished ledges and loose rock adjacent to the chockstone. Finally, Dick was able to establish a belay on top of the chockstone itself. It was then only a matter of brute force and luck in pulling up the fully extended ladder so we could continue onward.

When you get right down to it, Dynamited isn't a very *large* cave; that is, it doesn't take an impossibly long time to get anywhere. A party with prior knowledge of the cave and sufficient equipment can usually bottom it in about three hours. But time has a way of sneaking up on you in there. We had planned to make a long day of it; by the time we got the ladder up to the 25-ft. climb into the upper complex, we had been in there about four hours. This, and we had not even reached our objective. More ladder problems: we had carried the damn thing in *backward* and had to turn it around in a passage which was too narrow to accomodate it. (Since we needed it at full extension again, we hadn't broken it down from before.) So witness a very cumbersome "flipping-over" of the whole business in a place where the floor is strictly breakdown and slopes quite steeply. We finally managed to fashion an anchoring point and balanced the top in the alcove-like slot at the entrance to the upper passage. This place, incidentally, was where we had found (in 1977) an old knifeblade pin and mini-biner from the 1972 Nieland party (?) in an obscure crack near the lip.

[After entering the upper passage —] I was skeptical that we would go far; but, as it turned out, we ran out nearly 1100 ft. before running into a puzzling terminus. Similar to the original "end" of the cave in the Waterfall Passage, our annex seemingly stopped where a massive alluvial wash filled the passage to the ceiling. To confuse us further, this part of the cave seemed relatively dry, thus suggesting that such inwash might have come from one or two seasonal storms. At any rate, we were both excited by our progress and disappointed (as so often happens) by its outcome.

On the other hand, this section of the cave is exceedingly rich in speleological detail, and we wished we were students of geology rather than biology, as Dick said. Of course, the best thing to do would be to take a more equipped party to the annex in order to study it. Very broadly, we noticed several points where subsidence revealed a small floor tube (which admitted a lithe explorer); extensive and sizable lateral gutters; and quite marked deposits of red sand, similar to sand deposits in the section of the cave between the Ballroom and the Big Room on the main route. Unfortunately, there was only limited time, since we had to think about the ladder on the way out. (We were going on nine hours undergound by this time.) We did end up with a preliminary survey, at least, along with a plethora of questions about maps, previous exploration, and the possibility of a new entrance.

One puzzler which needs to be resolved: when the map of the annex is superimposed on the 1962 map from *Caves of Washington*, the passages are almost perfectly parallel; when our map is compared with Jim Nieland's 1972 version however, there is a marked discrepancy. Another way to put this would be to say that the "north" arrows on the two maps just don't line up. This distressing fact needs explanation before we can add our map to the existing versions; I feel confident that another survey is in order. More important, though, is that there is something new and interesting to see in Dynamited.

It is just a matter of getting there ! As soon as I can free myself from the clutches of the Univ. of California for awhile (and Dick from Washington Univ. in St.Louis), I know where I'll be.

MORE HORSEPASTURE CAVE

by Craig Skinner

The abstract by Kathy Block on Rigdon's Horsepasture Cave in the September *Speleograph* reminded me that another publication describing this archaeological site in some detail has also just appeared. *Rigdon's Horsepasture Cave*, a University of Oregon Anthropological Paper, details the results of the 1981 excavation of the cave (and the testing and limited excavation of several nearby small caves and rockshelters) by the University of Oregon Department of Anthropology Archaeological Field School. The report includes chapters describing the site and the excavation methods, the lithic debitage and raw materials, chipped stone implements, groundstone and cobble tools, miscellaneous artifacts and macrofossils.

Baxter, Paul W.; Richard D. Cheatham; Thomas J. Connolly and Judith A. Willig. 1983. *Rigdon's Horsepasture Cave; An Upland Hunting Camp in the Western Cascades*, Univ. of Oregon Anthropological Papers No.28. Eugene, Oregon, 91pp.

Available for $5.00 from:
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University of Oregon
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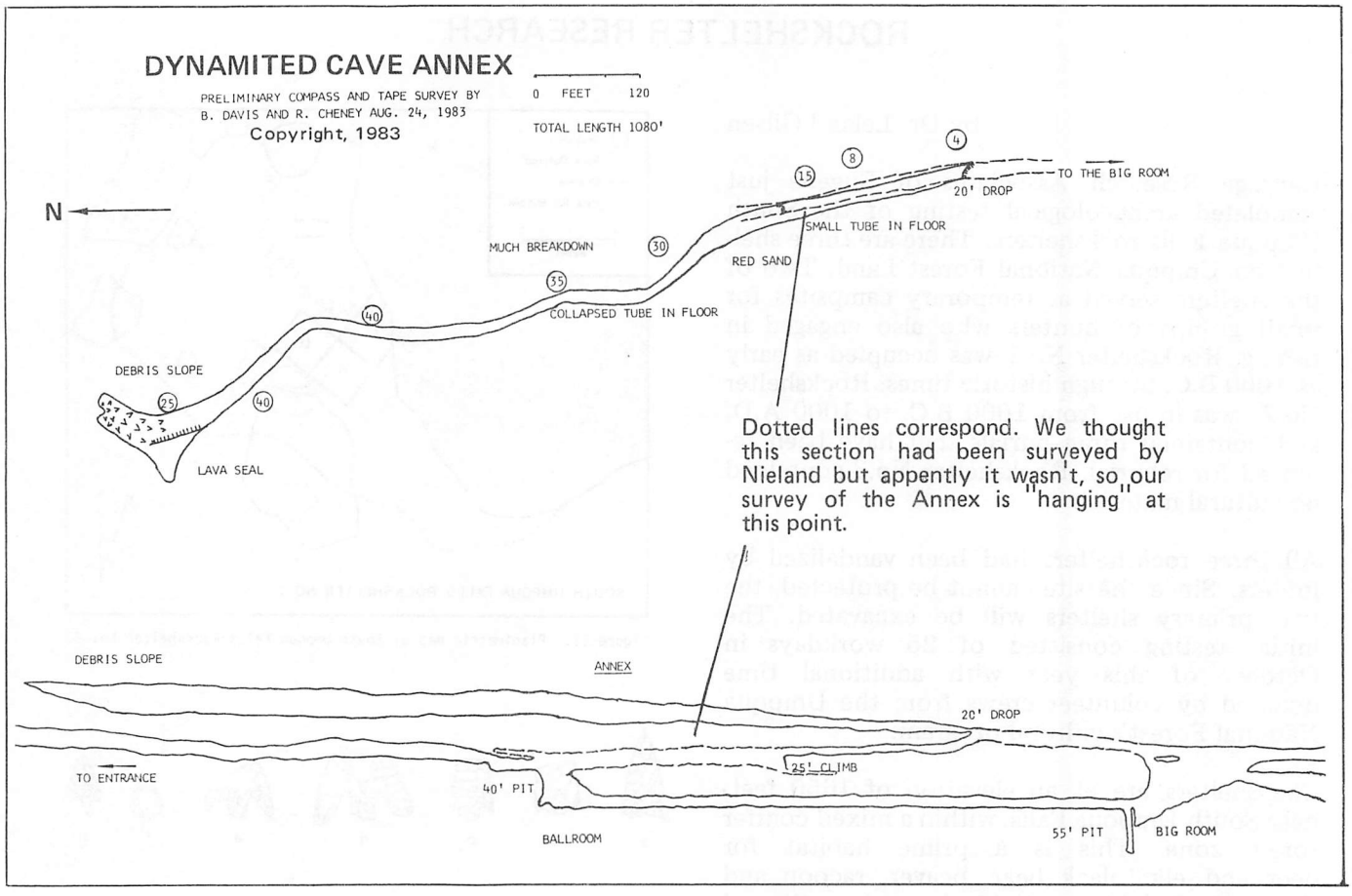


CAVES PROTECTED FOR THEIR SCIENTIFIC VALUES

[The following comes from the *Gem Caver*, and originally from a publication which circulates among Department of Interior employees.]

Secretary Watt has closed two caves in northwestern Wyoming to mining, sale and other forms of development to protect their unique fossil, geological, and archaeological values.

The caves, called Horsethief and Natural Trap, are located on about 528 acres of public lands administered by the BLM in Big Horn County, about 12 miles northeast of Lovell, Wyoming.

A public land order signed by Assistant Secretary Garrey Carruthers, and published in the April 20 *Federal Register*, withdraws the two caves from settlement, sale, location, and entry under general land laws, including the mining laws, for a period of 20 years. It reserves the caves for the protection of their recreational, scientific and educational values. Carruthers praised Watt's action, saying:

"The protection of these two caves is of national if not worldwide, importance. Natural Trap, by virtue of a unique geological phenomenon, contains an abundance of fossil remains of prehistoric creatures that used to roam the Great Plains. In fact, the very existence of a now extinct cheetah-like animal in North America was established by the discovery of a single fossil skull in Natural Trap.

Horsethief Cave consists of long and complex passages that may make it one of the 10 longest caves in the United States, and perhaps one of the 20 longest caves in the world. The nature, extent, diversity and beauty of the cave's mineralization is of major significance. Scientists are just beginning to uncover its wealth of fossil and archaeological remains."

ROCKSHELTER RESEARCH

by Dr. Leland Gilsen

Heritage Research Associates of Eugene just completed archaeological testing of the South Umpqua Falls rockshelters. There are three shelters on Umpqua National Forest Land. Two of the shelters served as temporary campsites for small groups of hunters who also engaged in fishing. Rockshelter No.1 was occupied as early as 1000 B.C. through historic times. Rockshelter No.2 was in use from 1000 B.C. to 1000 A.D. and contained three burials that have been removed for reburial. Rockshelter No.3 contained no cultural material.

All three rockshelters had been vandalized by looters. Since the site cannot be protected, the two primary shelters will be excavated. The initial testing consisted of 25 workdays in October of this year with additional time donated by volunteer crews from the Umpqua National Forest's cultural program.

The shelters are at an elevation of 1650 feet, near South Umpqua Falls, within a mixed conifer forest zone. This is a prime habitat for deer and elk; black bear, beaver, racoon and other fur bearing animals also occur. Several species of anadromous fish are abundant such as chinook salmon, coho, and winter steelhead. The falls were probably a good fishing station and it is a prime winter grazing area for elk and deer.

In 1963, Dr. Tom Newman of PSU examined a burial in one of the shelters and noted a bundle buried in bad condition. Dr. Wilbur Davis visited the site shortly thereafter and noted the other

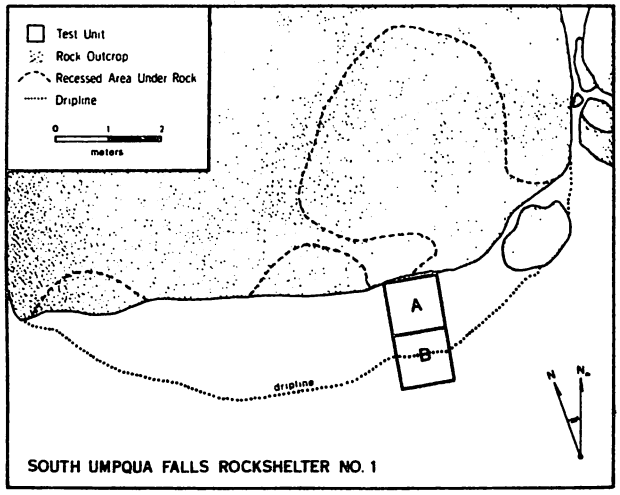


Figure 5. Planimetric map of South Umpqua Falls Rockshelter No. 1.

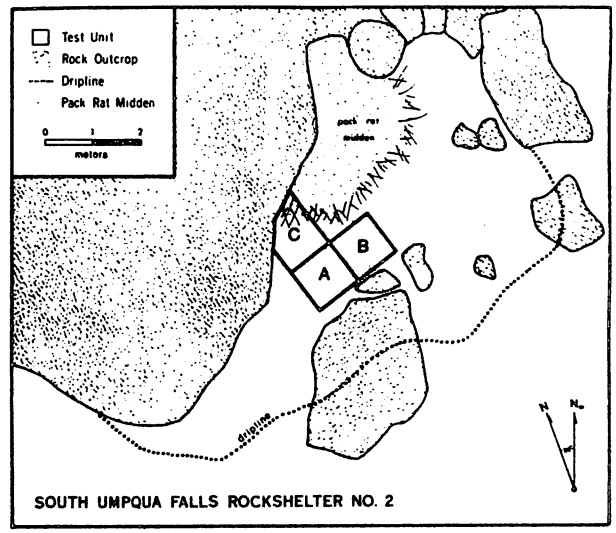


Figure 11. Planimetric map of South Umpqua Falls Rockshelter No. 2.

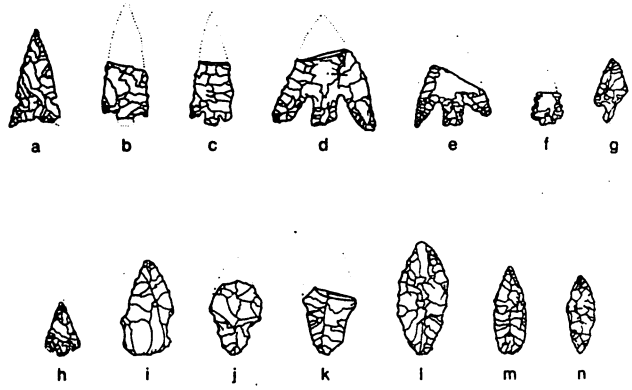


Figure 7. Projectile points from Rockshelter #1: a, Type 1; b-c, Type 2; d-e, Type 3; f-h, Type 4; i, Type 5; j-k, Type 6; l-n, Type 7.

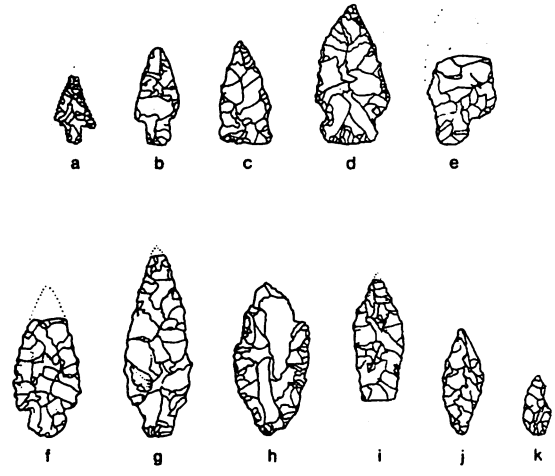
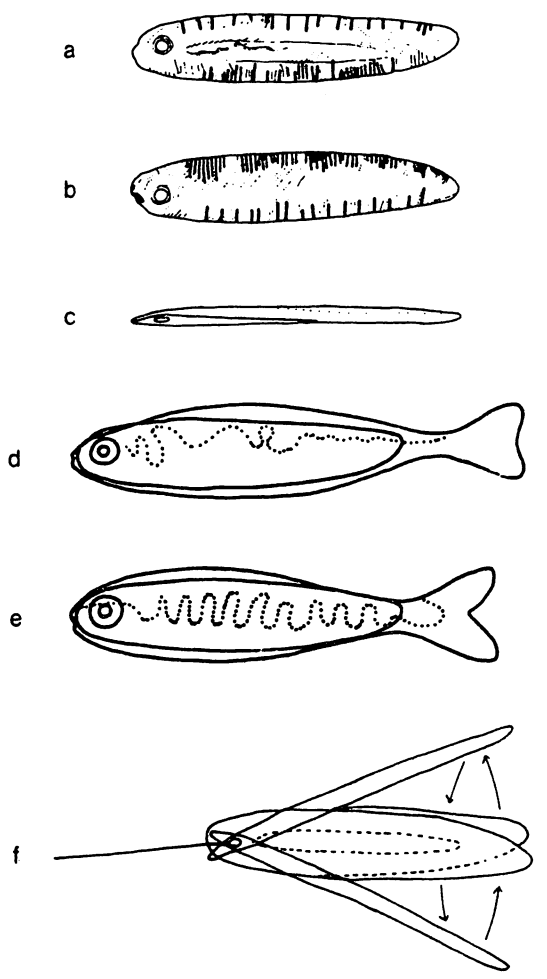


Figure 13. Projectile points from Rockshelter #2: a-b, Type 4; c-d, Type 5; e-g, Type 6; h-k, Type 7.



Incised bone "fish lure" from Rockshelter #1: a-b, ventral and dorsal views; c, side view of curved artifact; d, outline of stickleback showing similarity of form with artifact; e, outline of Chinook salmon fry; f, depiction of artifact's behavior in water when towed by a line.

two shelters. A local family showed Davis a collection of artifacts from nearby sites that was loaned to the University of Oregon for a thesis project.

Shelter No.1 contains an area of only 25 square meters within the dripline and a 1 x 2 meter test was placed into this line. There was a simple stratigraphy consisting of 10 cm of gray-brown silt over 70 cm of reddish-brown clay. The upper 20 cm contained most of the cultural material.

The data indicates the shelter served as a hunting camp with butchering, hide and bone working and other related activities. The high frequency of bone fragments includes deer, hare, porcupine, squirrel, coyote, fox, mink, skunk and grouse. In addition, fish bone of chub, sucker and eel were found. Perhaps the most interesting artifact found in recent years is a fishing lure.

The small size of the shelter and restricted artifact inventory suggests a small camp used on an intermittent seasonal basis. The type 1 and type 3 point are characteristic in late sites while the type 7 points suggest an occupation date of 1000 B.C.

Shelter No.2 is located under a large tuff boulder and has a total area of about 25 square meters under the dripline. A single 1 x 2 meter test pit was expanded to remove a burial. The stratigraphy was somewhat more complex, with an upper level consisting of 10 cm of gray-brown silt over 45 cm of reddish-brown clay over angular rocks. The artifacts were similar to No.1 with good preservation of bones. Again there is a heavy emphasis on hunting and some evidence for fishing. No type 1, 2 or 3 points were found here, however. Instead, there were many type 4 through 7 points, suggesting a 1000 B.C. to 1000 A.D. occupation.

Both shelters have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. They are important to the local Indian tribes as they contain burials. These two sites will be under surveilance until a data recovery program can be worked out. The past history of destruction indicates that the agency must recover the data from these two important sites before they are destroyed by the looters.

Remember, excavation of prehistoric sites on Federal lands is a felony under A.R.P.A. Please report any archaeological materials in caves, tubes and shelters to your State Archaeologist or State Historic Preservation Office.

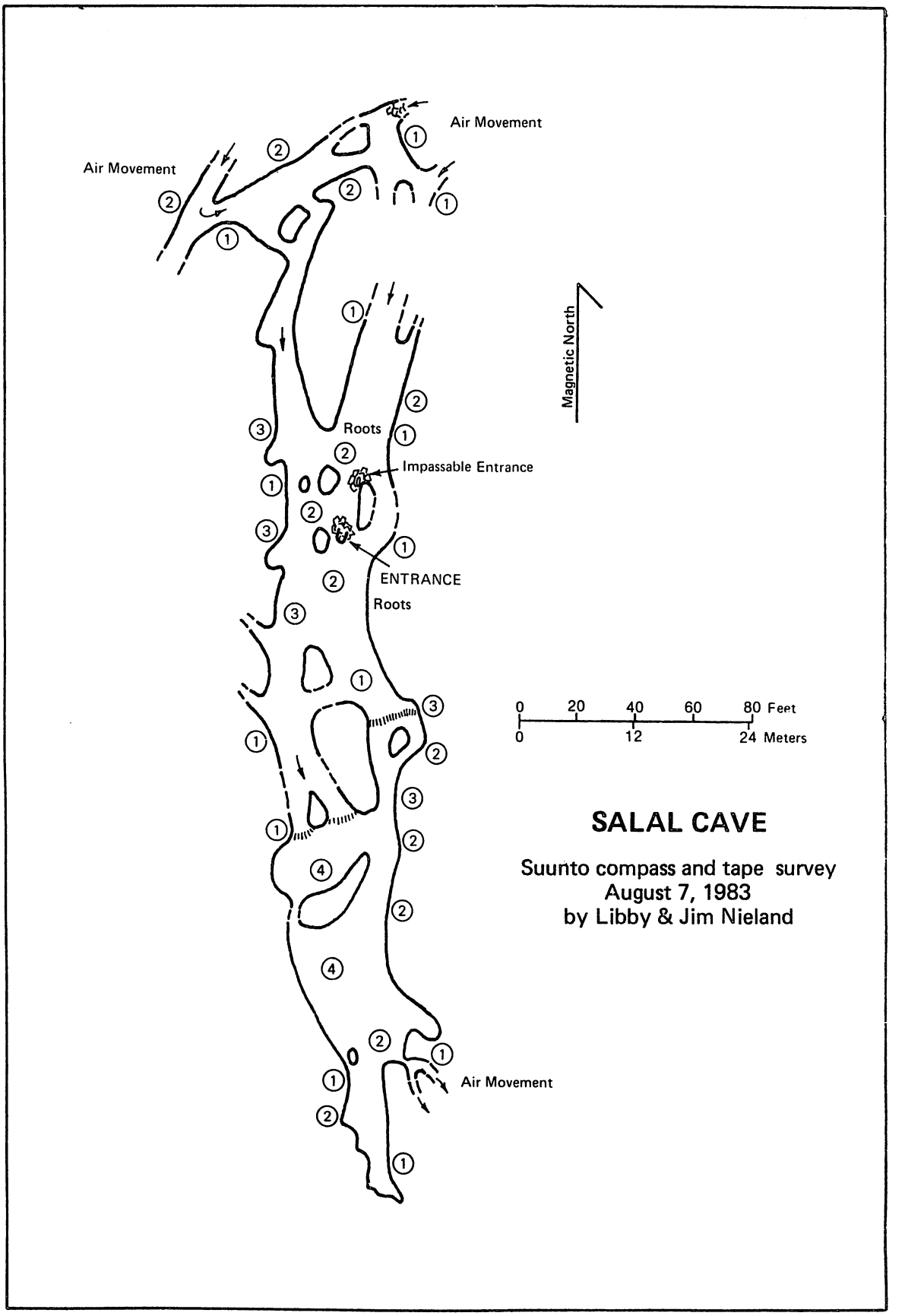
THE RISE AND FALL OF SALAL CAVE

by Libby Nieland

8-1-83: Oh ! happy day — Liz Wolff (Shasta Grotto) and I managed to desert children and escape to Ole's Cave. After a quick tour and a few photos we decided to stroll to Beaver Cave.

True to my usual pathfinding capabilities, we were too far north. So while regaining our correct bearings we stumbled upon a *very* large tree cast. Liz proclaimed that there was air blowing from the base. Fifteen feet away I found an entrance, a real blowing entrance. After marking the area we removed to Beaver Cave — the new cave unexplored as yet.

8-7-83: Jim and I managed to relocate the cave entrance that Liz and I found a week earlier. With high hopes, and mapping gear in hand we



SALAL CAVE

Suunto compass and tape survey
August 7, 1983
by Libby & Jim Nieland

slithered through the entrance. The room we entered was approximately fifteen feet in diameter and resembled a squashed bug with legs radiating out in more than four directions. We started up-flow toward the tree cast. The floor was typically rough — the ceiling typically low.

The passage braided several times, forming columns, one skylight (for woodrats and squirrels) and more crawlway. Average height of this section was 18 inches. (It doesn't connect with the tree cast.)

We backtracked and tried another branch off the entrance room. This only led 12 feet before it was obvious that both Jim and I will have to lose weight to venture farther. (A better attitude that day would have helped.) So two down and one to go.

Forcing our pain-racked bodies along we began to push the southernmost segment. The floor sloped suddenly. Slithering around a column we were able (finally) to sit upright. Wow, 3-ft. of ceiling height ! Down passage we found a stoopway 4 ft. high in a 4-ft. square area. The passage radiated here in three possible directions. All of them dwindled rapidly to very small crawls. But the air still flowed ! [See map]

By this time the high hopes had become more like the passage height - low. But hope does not die. What we need now is a nice skinny body to push those small, tiny, itty-bitty holes.....

THE GOLD HILL LIMESTONE CAVE — LOST, GONE OR JUST FORGOTTEN:

Armchair Spelunking in Action

by Craig Skinner

I don't normally spend much time looking into limestone country, but when I stumbled onto the article above in an obscure and-short lived Medford periodical, the *Rogue Magazine*, I couldn't resist a further look.

This is the kind of article that couldn't help but get anyone with a secret fascination in lost treasure, befogged Oregon history, lost Indian cliff dwellings and misplaced holes in the ground.

The *Bibliography of Oregon Speleology* (Larson, 1977) led me to a 1910 issue of the Klamath Falls *Oregon Observer.* It looked like the *Rogue Magazine* piece had been summarized from this newspaper report. Abridged, the newspaper article went like this:

Cave Discovered Near Gold Hill

WHILE running a tunnel in the lime deposits owned by Frank Hughes, four miles southeast of Gold Hill, C. H. Stinbring discovered a cave or rather a series of caverns which promise to be of considerable magnitude.

B. H. Harris and a party of local men explored the caves for a distance of about one thousand feet and it was found that the halls became larger and more beautiful the further they penetrated the earth.

The entrance to the caves is narrow, the first passage extending about thirty feet when it begins to drops rapidly and double back, making one chamber almost directly under the other. There are several chambers connecting the main hall by narrow passages and there are many branch passages leading in all directions, making it impossible to form any accurate idea of the magnitude of these caverns.

Miners are greatly interested in the discovery of the caves believing they will intersect quartz ledges. This district has been one of the richest in gold producing ever found in Southern Oregon.

CAVE NEAR GOLD HILL: Workman on Lime Ledge Breaks into Big Cavern
Caves of unknown extent have been discovered four miles southeast of Gold Hill. C.H.Stinebring, engaged in running a tunnel on the Hughes limestone ledge made the find last Saturday. The cavern was broken into at a depth of about fifty feet.

The entrance is narrow, and set at such an angle that those who enter are compelled to slide in sideways. The passage extends twenty or thirty feet, when it takes an abrupt turn downward and doubles back under itself. Then it takes another turn downward for ten or twelve feet. After that it runs about fifteen feet on a level

and then loops upward, passing into the mountainside with a pronounced downward trend. At no place does it widen to more than ten feet, as far as it has been explored. There are several chambers eight or ten feet wide, connected by narrow passages. There are many branch passages, and for this reason the explorers only ventured in about 200 feet, as they had no lines with which to trace their return, and the danger of becoming lost in the labyrinth became apparent.

The cave is regarded as most fortunate to the development of the lime ledge by its owner, J.F. Hughes, who has a big kiln erected in readiness to burn the lime as soon as the railroad up Kanea Creek is completed to haul it out.

The article continues a bit more, mentioning the presence of short stalactites and stalagmites and speculating that the cave was created by a fault.

Not long after I read this, I found myself in the University of Oregon Library looking for some small project to divert me from writing in my thesis. What came to mind was a rainy day library hunt for the Lost Gold Hill Cave. What I could be looking for, using hints from the newspaper item, would be, (1) a limestone quarry, (2) about 4 miles southeast of Gold Hill, (3) in the vicinity of Kanea Creek, (4) next to a mountain, (5) near a large kiln, (6) developed by 1910 and (7) owned by one J.F. Hughes.

The Oregon Collection is a subsidiary to the main library and houses an excellent collection of otherwise hard-to-find books and magazines. Just the place to look for older literature about Oregon limestone.

The first stop in the Oregon Collection was Norman Peterson's article in the *Ore Bin* about limestone quarries and occurrences in Oregon (Peterson, 1958). A look at this rapidly narrowed down the list of known possibilities to about half a dozen outcrops in the Gold Hill area. So far, so good.

A perusal of Knutson's article on Oregon limestone and speleology (Knutson 1974-75) indicated that none of the possible sites had been systematically examined by Oregon cavers.

Nixon (1939) showed that a limestone mine owned by the Hughes group was operating in 1939, possibly in Sec.2, T.37S., R.3W., though the section location wasn't solid. Ignoring the questionable section designation narrowed the list of candidates to four, the Lively Quarry in Sec.2, the Baxter Limestone in sec's. 1 and 2, the Beeman Limestone in Sec.11 and the Bristol Quarry in Sec.6. Kane Creek, however, did not run particularly close to Sec.6, eliminating the Bristol Quarry from the list (I had decided by now that Kanea was a misspelling of Kane.).

Moving on to Winchell (1914; quoted in its entirety by Williams, 1914), tightened the list of sites even more. Winchell mentions a lens of limestone on Kane Creek in Sec.2, T.37S., R.3W. that was owned by Hughes and Householder. The limestone is located one-half mile northwest of a large limestone outcrop found in Sec.11. Winchell's report came out only four years after the initial mention of the cave and it began to look like the quarry in Sec.2 was the right location.

Edwin Hodges 1938 report on limestone in the Northwest muddied up this conclusion somewhat when he mentioned a quarry on the south (main) fork of Kane Creek in Sec.11 (probably the Berman limestone). He writes: "The property, formerly owned by the Lively Lime Company.... is now owned by a Mr. Hughes of the Oregon Portland Cement Company." Hodges also mentions that a wood fired kiln was located a quarter-mile down the road. There is hint, though, of when the property was acquired by Hughes. To make matters more complex, Hodges reference to this quarry was quoted in a DOGAMI publication in 1934 where the location is also given as Sec.2, T.37S., R.3W. Apparently, the reference to Sec.2 was added on by someone and seems to be a mistake that would have been transmitted to later listings.

Enough....this is getting confusing.

So, after a few hours of research, it looks like the Gold Hill Cave is/was found in either:

1. Section 2, T.37S., R.3W (I'd look here first) or,
2. Section 11, T.37W., R.3W. (just up the road).

Both appear to be former limestone quarries on Kane Creek, they are near a kiln (sections 2 and 3 are adjoining) and both were owned by a Mr. Hughes. They are each about four miles southeast of Gold Hill and there is, incidentally, an unamed mountain just west of both locations.

Now, if any of you that are reading are wondering whether the cave is still there or whether it was converted to nonexistence, you might want to take a look next time you're in the area. Don't hold your breath, though — Peterson (1958) writes that the quarry in Sec.2 was worked out and abandoned and Walsh (1971; from the annotation in *Bibliography of Oregon Speleology*) relates that a cave at a quarry site near Gold Hill was quarried into nothingness.

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ANOTHER PIONEER OREGON SPELEOLOGIST PASSES ON

by Charlie Larson

Phil Coyner, NSS 4844, a caver who figured prominently in the initial exploration of several Bend area caves, recently passed on. Though it is doubtful if more than one or two current Oregon Grotto members knew Phil personally (I regret that I didn't.) it bears pointing out that he was one of those early Oregon cavers who contributed to that body of knowledge of Oregon caves that many newcomers often take for granted.

One of the highlights of his caving experience must have been that occasion, many years before the Forest Service constructed the now-buried stairway in Arnold Ice Cave, when he and Jim Anderson (Later Jim became an Oregon Grotto member.) chopped their way into a half-mile-long extension beyond where ice plugs the cave today. Later on, Phil and Jim were the first humans to explore Lavacicle, Cleveland Ice and Sheridan Mountain caves — all well known caves today.*

In late 1958, Phil and Jim formed a Bend unit of the Oregon Speleological Survey and, in addition to contributing to Western Speleological Survey files, they participated in the 1959 WSS mapping and interpretive survey at Oregon Cave. Through the '60s they made substantial contributions to knowledge of caves of the Bend area. In 1960 they cooperated with the Oregon State Department of Health in a survey of bat hibernacula in Central Oregon,

*If one discounts the possibility that Paleo-Indians may have entered these caves.

BUY A CAVE ?

A recent AP article in the *Oregonian* describes the offering for sale of a 1,200-acre plot of limestone apparently encompassing the Wilderville Quarry near Grants Pass. The story was built around the inclusion, in that tract, of a cave which could be yours for only $400,000 — a little steep for any one of the caves in that area.

We have heard that the cave in this tract is the Marble Mountain Cave, a cave encountered in the quarry in 1937 and —though jealously guarded by the owners — opened and closed on a more or less regular basis ever since. Trouble is, Marble Mountain Cave is a small (approx.250 feet map length), well decorated cave, while the cave described in the article is a 750-foot long

tunnel opening into at least six rooms, some 30 feet high, and a snug 20-footlong passage giving access to a large chamber...." The latter is the nominal description of No Name Cave, about a mile to the south.

Does anyone out there have further information regarding this cave ?

OUTGOING LETTER

To:Portland Country Dance Community
c/o Skip Comer
4551 N.E. 31st
Portland, Oregon 97211

Dear Skip:

Please accept the enclosed check in memory of Dean Paul Kenty for the Memorial Dance Camp Scholarship Fund. This gift is from the members of the Oregon Grotto of the National Speleological Society, a local cave exploration club that Dean belonged to. We will always remember Dean for his contributions to the local caving organizations and his love for the outdoors of the Northwest.

Thank you for coordinating the Scholarship Fund; we are pleased to donate to a cause that Dean believed strongly in.

Sincerely Yours,
s/Rick Pope, Vice-Chairman
Oregon Grotto

REPORTS FROM OG ROVING MEMBER

TOM MILLER

Arch Cave, Vancouver Island
Sat., May 7, 1963
Time underground; 9hr.

Party: Tich Norris
Eric Von Vorkampff
Peter Thompson
Tom Miller

From our Nimpkish River camp at the northern end of the island, we drove the 30 miles to the Arch Cave area. The objectives were to finish off the upper end of the B-Creek series, and also to check out the pit with the waterfall that I had found past Cannonball Crawl during the recent Christmas trip.

Eric had found the waterfall up the B-Creek series to be low enough a few weekends before to allow him to travel up to the area visited by Alf Latham and Dave Crann of McMaster University the summer before on the initial discovery trip. Rather large branches and other organic debris indicated a close entrance. With the VICEG maypole, Tich, Eric, and Peter clanked stolidly through the canyons up to the high ceiling hole at which Eric may have been stopped.

Meanwhile, I had headed to the cave bottom, about 300 meters down, to check out my own lead, which had the promise of significantly extending the depth of the cave. Aware that the other three were breaking the cardinal rule of caving — "Never go with more than two persons" — I had shrugged my shoulders in resignation, and with a solemn warning to them to remember the fate of Floyd Collins, had left them to their folly. I secretly hoped that they would not get into trouble and have to be rescued.

The way to the bottom followed the entrance stream most of the way. Several others joined it, falling over three major pits of about 40 meters each, and three or four shorter pitches. At the bottom, the main passage continued as a large breezy phreatic tube large enough to walk in for 1000 meters to a large boulder choke. My lead was at the top of a major lift tube (where the water rose over 20 meters uphill under the force of an immense hydrostatic pressure) up a slick climb from Cannonball Crawl. The latter was so named for the spherical, polished shape and size of the large cobbles transported by seasonal floodwaters. I could tell by new debris that the area had been under 15-20 meters of water since our Christmas trip, but the pitch I was interested in turned out to have been above the recent high water mark. The pitch was located at the point where the floor dropped out of a narrow rift. No natural anchors were close, or were hidden by the thick coat of old mud covering the walls. I put in a couple of bolts and abseiled down.

Unfortunately, the stream I had heard from above disappeared immediatley in mud. Its source was a large tube, the continuation across the pit of the canyon with the floor hole. Without aid, the climb up into this looked too hairy to do alone, and I had left the bolt kit at the top of the rope. I decided to return sometime when I had assistance, and headed back for the surface.

Back at the junction with the B-Creek series I went up it to see how the others had fared. After 400-500 meters I found Eric's ceiling hole, but no maypole. Somewhat surprised, as it must have apparently not gone, I then headed for the entrance, exiting about 9:00 P.M.

At the car the others were waiting impatiently, fretting that the Port McNeill pubs would be shut before they could down a few brews. After slapping the maypole up into the hole, they had smelled fesh air, and in to 60 meters had emerged into daylight at an entrance less than 100 meters from the other.

Glory 'ole, Vancouver Island
July 6, 1983
Time underground: 10½ hours.

Ian Drummond
Charles Yonge
Ian McKenzie
Peter ?
Tom Miller

The purpose of the trip was a combined photography and bottoming trip to the end of this approx. 300 m-deep cave on the north end of the island . The trip was one of many made during the week long "First Annual B.C. Speleofest" sponsored by the newly formed Vancouver Island Caving Club.

We entered the cave about 1:00 P.M. and moved down the to the intermittent sump taking pictures. At the sump we met another party headed by Tich Morris coming out. Past the semi-sump the cave became a fine vadose canyon wandering pleasantly along until it began to drop swiftly down the half-dozen or so pitches near the end of the cave. In spite of several deep pools I was quite comfortable wearing my Gomex waterproof suit from France; for this type of wet cave it is infinitely superior to a wet suit as it keeps the wearer completely dry.

On the way out I looked into an unchecked stream-lead near the Coke Room (so called because of its moonmilk resemblance to the powder, not the liquid) and found it leading to over a hundred meters of fine virgin passage. It obviously needed mapping, so I turned around at this point. We exited at 11:30 P.M.

Glory 'ole
Friday, July 8
Time under: 2 hours

Chas. Yonge
Ian McKenzie
Tom Miller

Part of the stream entering the huge Mexico-sized entrance of Glory 'ole disappeared in a cave with 10 m entrance pitch shortly before pouring over into Glory 'ole. While Tich Morris and Ian Drummond stood idly by, the other three of us rigged the pit. We descended, and began to map the virgin passage below. Tich followed us until it became apparent he would have to get dirty. A climbable 8m pitch was followed by a 16m and a 6m rope drop, then 100-150 of tight canyon eventually emerging in a known side lead in the upper part of Glory 'ole. Exit time—4 p.m.

Arch Cave (1 mile from Glory 'ole)
Saturday, July 9
Time Under: 9 hrs .

Party:
Ian Drummond
Paul Griffiths
Peter C.(?)
Jeremy (?)
Tom Miller (R)

The logging road to Arch was clear (having forced us to go Glory 'ole on short notice the day previous), so we made the hour-long drive from our camp on the Nimpkish River to the entrance. We found that the felled logs had been removed and that it was an easy 5-minute walk. We took the streamway, rigging both the 4m pitch and the following 40m pit. At the bottom, Paul showed me and Jeremy a lead overlooked by everyone else, which turned to be a 30m rappel into the top of Window Aven, some distance into the cave. While Paul and Jeremy surveyed down to follow me, I met up with Peter and Ian, who had come down the normal way. The 3 of us climbed down the slot lead I had found at the exit end of the Triple Pot Series in March. This led us to a window emerging high in what was apparently the B-Creek series; coming down from the second entrance that had been connected in May.

Back we went to meet Paul and Jeremy finishing the surveying. Ian, Jeremy, and I teamed up to check out a blowing lead in the Triple Pot Series found a few days before by Ian and Chas Yonge. A 7-meter drop only 15-20 meters into the blowing lead (which we dug cut) dropped us into the B-Creek series upstream from the other lead. Ian rappelled last bringing the rope, and we climbed the waterfall further down to come out the connection into the main part of the cave. From here, we went to the Mudfinger area to find Paul and Peter. They had come up with a new lead, a high vadose canyon leading in fossil passage to the top of a window 30-40m above what was apparently the main stream. Remaining was a tricky climb to a still-higher lead. Peter and I managed it, and found it led to an amazingly complex fossil series of phreatic tubes

overlying a deep canyon at the bottom of which was running water. Lacking time and ropes we regretfully left over a half-dozen virgin leads behind. The Mudfinger Series has grown in a few short months from a minor, ignored lead to ome of the most promising sections of the cave. The passage added to Arch on this trip brings it to about 3 kilometers, perilously close to being the longest on the island. Perhaps another 1-2km remains to be surveyed, most of it ending in promising virgin passage. We exited about 9 p.m.

Q-5, Vancouver Island
Wednesday, July 13
Time UNder: 7½ hrs

Party:
Kevin Ecock
Eric Von Vorkampff
Tom Miller (r)

The day previous, I had made the 900 meter climb from the valley floor near Gold River to the ridge crest where Q-5 lay. Kevin, a master's student from McMaster University, and his assistant Eric, had been camped in horrible, wet, cold weather on the ridge for a month. In the morning, wood had to be chopped, and the rounds made to read rain gauges, etc., so it was 4:30 p.m. before we climbed down the ladder into the snow-filled entrance.Several nice ice columns remained at this approx. 1100m elevation. Q-5 has over 3 kilometers surveyed, and for some years was the longest surveyed cave on the island. Like Arch and Glory 'ole, it is 300 meters in depth, with major depth extensions only a matter of time. Much of the depth comes immediately, in the form of the 60-meter-pit "Deep Mother," a beautiful free drop into a large chamber. Two passages diverge here, one to the present sump termination of the cave at the end of tight, nasty vadose canyon. The other leads down several dry drops to the "Valley of the Dolls" area, which is where we headed. At the extreme end was virgin canyon down an unclimbed drop.

The drop was easily negotiated and we sailed on down more drops and through very tight water crawls in the 0.5 degrees C water. Occasionally, it was necessary to remove some of the more objectionable sections in order to get through at all. The passage ran straight, along a fault, but all too soon ended in a sump. Eric, the only one of us to have seen it before, said that previously there had hardly been water, and the sump we found may have been only intermittent. The passage was so steep that it was likely it ended at about the same elevation as the main stream. We exited at about midnight.

Q-5 area
Thurs., July 14
Time under: 5 minutes

Party:
Kevin Ecock
Eric Von V.
Tom Miller (R)

In the early afternoon, with the temperature finally rising to above 5 degreesC, we marched through the forest down the east side of the mountain to check some known risings at the limestone contact. On the way we looked into the numerous dolines covering the forest floor. From the bare ridge crest for 100's of meters down the mountainside were literally hundreds of sinkholes and shafts. I found two in this unchecked area: one dropped immediately down a pit we estimated at in excess of 30m, judging from the stone Kevin threw in. The other led to a ceiling canyon, which could be chimneyed out over another drop. The potential for more deep caves in the area was impressive, and this was only the northernmost karst area—the other had had only one reconnaissance trip which had turned up a 200 meter-deep cave immediately, and had never been bottomed or revisited.

Gros Ventre Mountains, Wyoming
August 13-21

Party:
Tom Miller(R)
Pete Shifflett
Craig———

I met Pete (a caver presently from south California) and his friend Craig in Jackson Hole. our object was to check out some promising leads that Pete had found on airphotos at the 3000-meter elevation. We headed up the Granite Creek drainage, noting minor karst features in the valley floor area, then crossed over a pass into the Flat Creek Drainage. In the morning of the 18th we day-hiked over to West Fork of the Crystal Creek site of numerous sinking streams, where we were stymied by the phenomenon that plagued most of the entire trip: frost shatter and remnant snow cones filled nearly every pit that showed promise. We returned to camp after dark.

The morning of the 19th saw us break camp and heard toward the head of the Crystal Creek drainage. The wet, cold weather that had plagued the area for several days closed in as dense fog. Pete and Craig decided to head back, the more so as Craig's knee was swollen. We split up equipment, and I continued alone over the pass to Crystal Creek.

This region was considerably more promising than the previous day. There were more pits, and sinking stream, and the latter were considerably larger. Unfortunately, there was the same porblem of frost shatter and unmelted snow. Half a dozen of the plugged sinks seemed worthwhile to dig out.

The remainder of the 19th and all of the 20th was spent following the mile-wide shelf of limestone to its southern terminus. Most of the meltwater streams on the karst emerged briefly from beneath talus, or ran out onto the limestone from the Tensleep Sandstone of the area. The Madison Limestone and the Bighorn Dolomite were the major karst formers, but neither hosted any streams for very long before they were swallowed.

On the 21st I hiked out over the mountain crest and down to Granite Hot Springs. It and a large nearby cold water spring of larger size are the most likely resurgences for the resurging waters of the Crystal Creek drainage. Two not-fully-checked leads and several promising digs make this area worthy of a more intense visit.

Jack Creek Spring Cave, Wyoming
Fri., Aug. 26
Time Under: 1 hr

Party:
Tom Miller (R)

After looking at airphotos of the area, and following leads given by Chris Albers of the Jackson area, I drove south and east to the upper part of the Hoback River drainage. A large spring is shown on topo maps of the area in the upper part of the Jack Creek watershed. According to Chris it comes from a cave, but at the time he visted it, there was too much water to enter.

I parked at the head of the ranch road leading up
the creek,crossed the creek, and hiked the seven miles leading to the cave. It turned out that I could have forded the creek in my pickup and driven at least half the distance I walked.

The cave was a low, one-meter entrance out of which about half the flow of the creek came, perhaps 0.3-0.4 cumecs (cubic meters/second). After donning my wetsuit, I crawled, finding the roof lowered to about 15 cm above the water, In a short distance the roof rose to form a small chamber. The stream came out of a small hole on the other side. I followed the rumble ahead up a short climb, then dropped down the far side to another chamber. The full flow of the stream welled up out of a sump 3 meters up and plunged into a deep pool filling the room from side to side. I followed another crawl up into the largest chamber I had seen in the cave, perhaps 15m or more in length and 3-4 m high. A crawl at the far end led to a deep blue pool, apparenly the upstream end of the sump behind the waterfall. I found no other leads of any promise, so left and hiked back to my truck in the dark.

The Tosi Karst, Wyoming
Aug. 27-29

Party
Tom Miller (R)

The waters of Jack Creek Spring appeared most likely to have come from the mountain range directly above it. North of this range, headed by Tosi Peak, was the enormous karst area of the Sodi Creek Basin, on the other side of the river divide from the Jack Creek Spring. This latter flowed to the Snake, while the Tosi Basin was in the Green River/Colorado drainage. I drove east to the Green River, then north upstream. On the 28th I took only a cave pack and finished my trek up to the basin which lay at 3000 meters elevation. I was rewarded with beautiful views and warm sunny weather. In addition I found literally dozens of shafts, up to 15m or more in depth, many sinking streams, some large fossil cave cave fragments, and some small caves. A dozen fascinating dolines of large size had filled with water and formed perfect swimming holes. Having only the one day I was lucky to cover 1/4 to 1/3 of the entire area. Definitely a promsing area worth a revisit. I returned that evening to my camp on Rock Creek and hiked out the following day.

DEEP CAVE CONNECTION IMMINENT

Roving Oregon Grotto member Tom Miller wrote to say that he had just returned from Vancouver Island (Oct.26) where they are very close to connecting three caves to form a 2150-foot-deep system. He also said he was going to Papoose Cave the following weekend. It will be interesting to hear if the recent Idaho earthquake affected that cave.

DEAN PAUL KENTY

September 25, 1954 — September 4 1983

Dean's parents have asked that people write letters sharing memories of Dean's life and what he meant to us. Their adress is:
Joseph and Marjorie Kenty
846 Hermose Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45238
(513) 921-0354

Excerpts from letter received, 29 October 1983

Dear Charlie and Jo Larson:

We are the parents of Dean Kenty. Your names were supplied to us by Dean's brother Lee.

We understand you two were on the mountain searching for Dean. [Ed. note Charlie & Jo were not a part of the search. Jo was contacted by Mr. Johnson, Deans close friend prior to the search to see if anyone knew of caves in the area where Dean was believed to have been hiking, or who might have gone with him. Jo gave him names of cavers who might know. When Mr. Johnson called to say Dean's car had been found and a search was being conducted in the area, Jo contacted Grotto members who might be able to participate. Rick Pope, Wayne Schoonover and Ed Block did search for Dean on the mountain.]

His mother and I do appreciate your willingness to hike and climb in rugged areas of Mt. Hood in search of Dean.

And say, that work of art showing a cave picture and signatures of the Oregon Grotto's members was greatly appreciated too. The tribute to Dean was simple yet so expressive of the grotto members' regard for a fellow caver. The art and idea is first class in our opinion.

A question: Except for Rick Pope, were there other members of the grotto who were on the mountain? Rick's name was the only other name given to us by Lee. We are writing to Rick too. (Please let us know of other searchers).

Dean was quite a caver when he still lived here with us (although he had an apt. the last 2 or 3 years in Cinti). His trips to the limestone caves of Kentucky were always looked forward to with happy expectations by Dean. (The same cannot exactly be said by his parents.)

I'm sure he has told you of his grotto's exploration and mapping of a rather extensive cave network in central Ky. and, of course, you know all about the grotto's 8 members who got hung up in it by unexpected rains back in May 1983. Those persons were all Dean's friends. He has told us most of the caves in the Northwest are result of volcanic action.

It has occurred to me that you could share this letter with Rick Pope—indeed with the whole grotto, especially as it applies to the signatures and apparent love and respect for Dean and his caving abilities.

Dean's body was interred here in Cinti on Sept. 20, and, that evening, a memorial service was held in our (and his) church. We are in the throes of selecting a suitable grave marker, and are are trying to select emblems or words which will describe Deans's three main interests (aside from livelihood) Caving, Music, Climbing.

Would be more than glad to hear from you 3 persons and anyone else in the grotto. Thanks, Grotto, for that first class tribute to Dean.

s/Joe Marjorie Kenty.

CAVE SAFETY

by Dennis Glasby

If you go caving with less than 3 people you're taking a risk of being stuck in a cave under an emergency situation. The Oregon Grotto will help you be safer by calling one of our members and leaving a phone number where you can be reached after caving, a time you will call back to confirm that you are safe and the caves that you will be visiting.

Please call back as soon as you can to avoid a cave rescue that isn't.

For the following year the contact is: Charlie Larson at (206) 573-1782 Jo Larson at (206) 573-2161

OREGON GROTTO STORE

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