

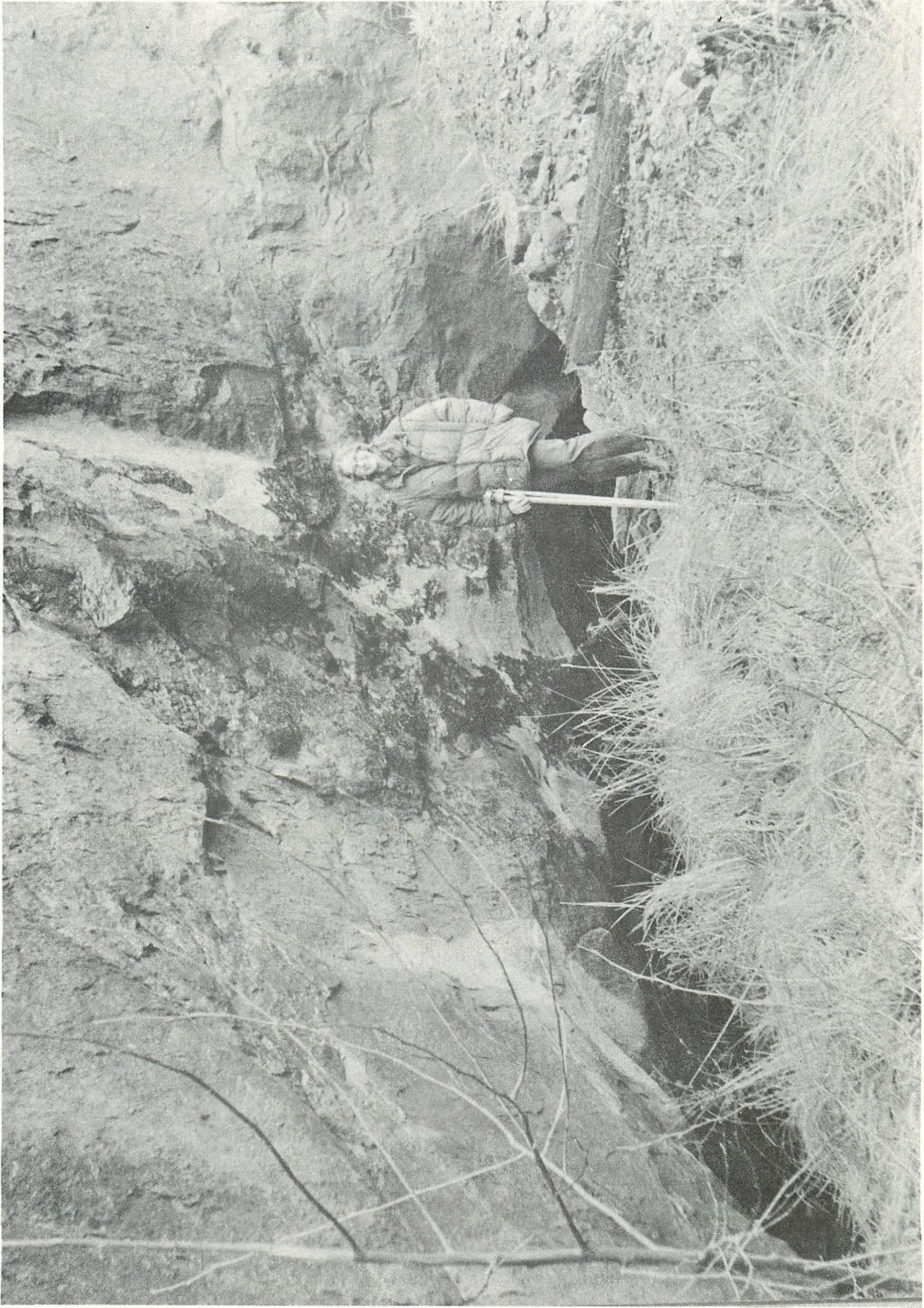


THE SPELEOGRAPH

PUBLISHED BY THE OREGON GROTTO
OF THE
NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 19, no.5 May 1983

PUBLISHED BY THE OREGON GROTTO OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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. **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. (1/4 mile east of Interstate-5 on 78th St.)

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1983 MAY 1983							1983 JUNE 1983						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30					

Cavers Calendar

1983 JULY 1983							1983 AUGUST 1983						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31				

NSSTrout Rock CTF at address below.

May 20: Oregon Grotto General Meeting 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Washington Research Unit, 1918 N.E. 78th Street, Vancouver, Washington (1/4 mile east of Interstate I-5 on 78th Street)

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

SEE UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS THIS ISSUE

June 27—July 1: Annual NSS Convention in Elkins, West Virginia.

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 Pendleton 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 already 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

COVER

Libby Nieland in front of Bastendorf Beach Cave No.2 (just south of Bastendorf Beach Cave No.1). Photo by Jim Nieland.

Money Wrench

DUES DUE

REINSTATED
La Londe, Mike

DROPPED
La Marche, Clara, Roger

DUES/SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE MARCH
Davis, Bob

DUES/SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE APRIL
Block, Ed, Kathy
Chevalier, Roy
Dicky, Fred

Jacoby, Ed, Pat
Nelson, Bob
Stevens, Charles

DUES/SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE MAY
Allen, John Eliot
Baker, Bob, Lea
Benedict, Earl
Eide, Stuart

Perkins, Mark
Smith, Dave, Dianne
White, Mary, Larry Jr.

NEW MEMBERS
Barnhart, Albert, Denny

La Londe, Jeannette

NOTICE

This issue of *The Speleograph* includes a message from the NSS Awards Committee. The same article was submitted to the *NSS News* but it appears unlikely that it will appear there in time to be much good, so this issue is being mailed to all NSS internal organizations. Please circulate the Awards Committee message at your meetings and as widely as possible. One or two of the awards sub-committees have to close their books around the last part of May, so please get your nominations in the mail as soon as possible.

Many Thanks, Charlie Larson
Chairman, NSS Awards Committee

The National Speleological Society maintains an awards program for two fundamental reasons. One is to recognize the achievements of individuals and groups who have furthered the Society's purposes (promotion of speleology, cave conservation and fellowship among those interested therein), and the other is to encourage, by example and monetary grants, more of the same. Each year at the annual convention, most of the awards listed below are made in recognition of singular achievement by individuals or groups, for short or long term effort.

Note that these awards *may* be given. Often, despite the efforts of the Awards Committee, there is no candidate for a given award, which is why membership input is so important to the awards program. With the possible exception of the Mitchell Award (because of its age barrier), there are undoubtedly activities and achievements worthy of these awards occurring every year. Even though there are Awards Committee members all over the U.S., their abilities to know everything that is going on in caving is finite after all, and they need your help to insure that award-worthy achievements are not overlooked. So, if you know someone in caving who fits the requirements of an award listed below, please contact me and/or the appropriate committee member listed below. Nominations and suggestions for 1983 awards should be received no later than May 15. For a list of past Society awards, send me a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

The Society's highest awards are the **Honorary Membership** and **Outstanding Service Award**. The former is given for outstanding contribution to speleology; the latter for outstanding service to speleology and the Society. These top awards are of equal stature and each includes life membership in the Society. Nominations for these awards must be received *in advance* of the Spring BOG meeting by Jeanne Gurnee, 231 Irving Ave., Closter, New Jersey 07624.

Each year a few **Certificates of Merit** may be awarded to individuals, jointly (to no more than three individuals) or to organizations, for outstanding, specific, *recent* accomplishments in cave exploration, study or conservation. Recipients who are, or become, Society members also become **Fellows of the Society**. Address: Kathy Michaels, 323 Davidson Ave., Buffalo, New York 14215.

The title **Fellow of the Society** is awarded for long-standing service in the field of speleology, whether scientific, exploratory or administrative. Contact: Tom Rea, 2455 Northern Dr., Plainfield, Indiana

The **Ralph W. Stone Research Grant**—\$1,000—is awarded to a graduate student preparing a thesis in speleology. Recipients are required to give credit to the NSS when the work is published and donate a copy to the NSS Library. Both student and advisor should respectively send letters of application and endorsement to: Dave DesMaris, Mail Stop 239-12, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California 94035.

The **Lew Bicking Award** recognizes an individual Society member who, through specific actions, has demonstrated a dedication to the thorough exploration of a cave or group of caves, and includes a cash award from the Lew Bicking Fund. Contact: Rick Banning, 7304 Flower Ave., Tacoma Park, Maryland 20912.

The **James G. Mitchell Award** honors the best scientific paper presented at the annual convention by a Society member (or members) 25 years old or younger who has applied or been recommended, and includes a cash award from the Mitchell Fund. Send information to: Charles Maus, 1014 3rd St., S.W., No.4, Roanoke, Virginia 24016.

The **Conservation Award** recognizes outstanding dedication to the cause of cave conservation by an internal organization and includes \$50 cash from the Save-the-Caves Fund. Send nominations to either: Bob Liebman, P.O.Box 441, Lewisburg, West Virginia, 24901 or; NSS Conservation Committee, c/o Jerry Thornton, Chmn., P.O.Box 752, Boise, Idaho 83701..

The **Peter M. Hauer Spelean History Award** is given to an individual or group engaged in an outstanding spelean history research project, and includes a cash award from the Peter M. Hauer Fund. Send suggestions to: Janet Quiesser, Rt.3, Box 268-A, Salem, Virginia 24153.

Certificates of Appreciation are awarded by the Society President to people or organizations that have, in specific ways, furthered the Society's goals.

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

May 28th,29th,30th 1983

A three day caving trip to Lava Beds National Monument including excursions to Crystal Cave, Fern Cave and many more. For car pool or sign-ups see Dennis Glasby at the general grotto meetings or call Dennis in the evenings. Starting Friday, camping will be in the monument campgrounds just east of the park headquarters.

July 16, 1983, or thereabouts

There will be a rock climbing seminar given on location for beginners and the experienced. The trip leaders are Libby and Jim Nieland. Further details in the next Speleograph.

June 19, 1983

Caving trip to Mt. St. Helens cave area includes Little Red River and Gremlin Cave—need lunch and basic caving gear including knee pads. These two caves are fairly easy to explore except for the crawling in Gremlin but it's well worth the effort. Little Red River has some really nice lava falls and a unusual red stream near the end of the cave. Gremlin Cave has some very photogenic lavacicles. Meet at the Lava Cast parking lot near Ape Cave at 10:00 O'clock (Just follow the Ape Cave signs off of Hwy. 503.) Transportation is carpool—sign up at grotto meetings or call Dennis Glasby.

UPSIDE DOWN TREE CASTS IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE

by Dennis Glasby

Got a call one evening about a cave in the Columbia River Gorge near Ainsworth State Park. A Mr. Greg Barton said he had found a cave in the gorge and invited the Oregon Grotto to take a look, explore and take pictures. I was going hiking in the gorge with friends that weekend, so we made arrangements to meet Greg near Ainsworth Park.

The cliffs in that area of the gorge are about 2,500 feet, straight up, and the wrong kind of lava for caves. This was going to be interesting. We met Greg at Horsetail Falls and up the slope we went—and went—climbing up a steep scree slope composed of very loose boulders. As we climbed toward the junction of the cliff and the scree slope, I looked for signs of any ropy lava flows in the cliff. At the base of the cliff there was a recess, apparently river-cut, and 20-30 feet high. We stood in the recess and noted that the lava here looked as if someone had glued chunks together to make the bottom of the cliff! Directly in front of us, and overhead in the overhang, were some of the most unusual tree casts I have ever seen!

First, these casts are in a basalt strata that is generally conceded to be at least 15 million years old and, *bits of still fibrous bark and/or wood fiber remain in them.* Secondly, they are unusually large. The principal "cave" reported by Greg is actually a very wide cast (about 8-foot dia.) that begins at the top of the recess and runs straight up for at least 150 feet. About 100 feet up an opening to the cliff face admits light. This skylight has the look of a large branch system.

The age of the rock forming the casts could be much younger than the 15-million-year-old layer at the recess. Alternatively, the encasing lava could have come over the edge of an existing canyon to fall around trees standing on level ground, and forming an extension of the cliff.

These tree casts probably remained completely closed until the river undercut the base of the cliff. The recess appears to be at the root system of the former trees. One looks up into the casts from the bottom, so to speak—most unusual. The age of the undercut could probably be established from a study of past river levels. The undercut is approximately the same level as the bottom of the main Multnomah Falls.

Unfortunately, the type of rock and the location in the cliff make access to the overhead casts impossible for

OREGON GROTTO MEMBERSHIP LIST

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Letters in parenthesis following names indicate:

R - Regular Member, also NSS member.
A - Associate Member, non-NSS member.
P - Provisional Member, non-voting member.
L - Life Member.
H - Honorary Member.

Letters in NSS numbers indicate:

L - Life Member.
F - NSS Fellow.
H - Honorary Member.
O - Outstanding Service.

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all but the most expert climbers, skilled in rock anchoring techniques. Exploration of the interiors will have to wait for a fully equipped group; a group which should include a persons with knowledge of geology and paleontology.

THE SIMS CAVE SYSTEM: ICE-CAVING IN THE HIGH CASCADES FOR ECTOMORPHS

By C. Skinner

(See map on next page)

The Sims Cave System* is a short lava tube system found in the early Holocene basalts of the McKenzie Pass area. The cave system, near the vent of a nine and one-half mile long lava flow, consists of five caves ranging in length from only a few feet to about 200 feet. These include the only two perennial ice caves that I know of west of the Cascade Divide. Four of the caves have seen a few visitors, but the largest of the tubes, one of the ice caves, appears not to have been previously entered (for good reason, as I'll soon explain).

The uppermost (nearest to the vent) of the caves, Incline Cave, is an excellent example of a roofed-over lava channel. It's easy to see where the levees of a lava-filled channel merged to create an open cave. This also leaves the tube with a distinctive cross-section (see the map) that is typical of lava tubes formed in this way. The notch left at the top of the cave provides the habitat for a good population of cave-adapted crickets. This cave is also unusual in that it is inclined at about a thirty degree angle (the channel roofed itself as the lavas plunged down a short, steep slope). Incline Cave was briefly described by Edward Taylor in his ph.D dissertation of the area and in an earlier article in the *Ore Bin*.

Ectomorph Ice Cave is the largest of the caves in the system and is another good example of a roofed lava channel. The entrance is also the most miserable that I've yet run into for a lava cave—entry is made by lying on your back with arms extended and by inching down a tiny, not very smooth hole. After a few yards of this, it's possible to grab enough rock to pull yourself through a pool of ice water several inches deep and then onto the ice that's found near the entrance of the cave. I originally found the entrance as I was looking for something to do in the sheltered entrance area of the cave while waiting out a sudden snowstorm. That there is even a cave here is not at all apparent from the outside, even now that I've excavated a small crawl hole down to the water-protected entrance. Once inside, the tube runs for about 200 feet, ending very near the surface. The thin wall lining is largely intact and is covered with fine examples of lava drip pendants. Ectomorphs and non-claustrophobics only, please, for this cave.

Next cave down the system is Notmuch Cave, a short, mostly collapsed segment of the roofed lava channel.

Breakdown Cave, which can be entered through a two-foot diameter hole in the ceiling, is about 100 feet long and is almost completely filled with breakdown. Only a narrow open space near the ceiling and sides of the cave is still passable.

The second ice cave and the smallest cave in the system is found on the south side of a prominent lava channel. The name Obsidian Flake Ice Cave comes from a very small quantity of obsidian that I found near the entrance.

Even though this cave is hardly more than a very minor archaeological find, the obsidian there does point out the possible archaeological significance of ice caves.

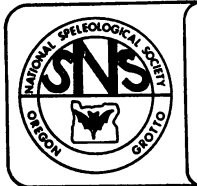
*Name credit goes to Don Denbo (Mike Sims—you'll also be interested).

ZANE GREY AT OREGON CAVE ?

by William R. Halliday, M.D.

The cover of the February [1983] *Speleograph* (Patterson postcard no.230, Zane Grey's Pine Cone) reminded me of something I had wondered about for a long time. Did Zane Grey actually visit Oregon Cave, and if so, was anything recorded of his visit?

It's pretty clear that the popular writer did visit Lava Beds National Monument. His book *Forlorn River* was one of his less notable works, with quite unbelievable dialogue, but in it he does do some good speleo-descriptive work which would have been very difficult had he not been on the scene himself. As far as I have been able to determine, he never used a limestone cave in his local color, but if he visited Lava Beds, it would have been easy for him to visit Oregon Cave also. And the name "Zane Grey's Pinecone" sounds like the kind of guide lore that arises from a notable visitor saying something to the effect that "That thing sure looks like an overgrown pine cone."



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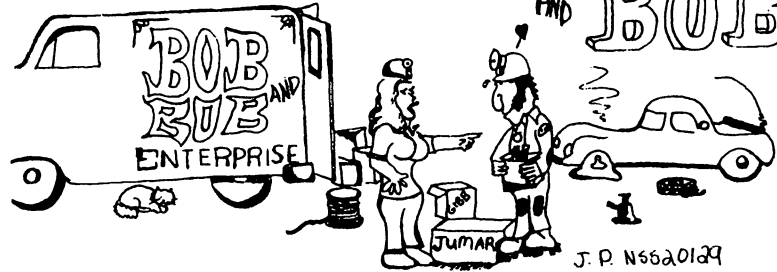
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