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Dalene T. Perrigo

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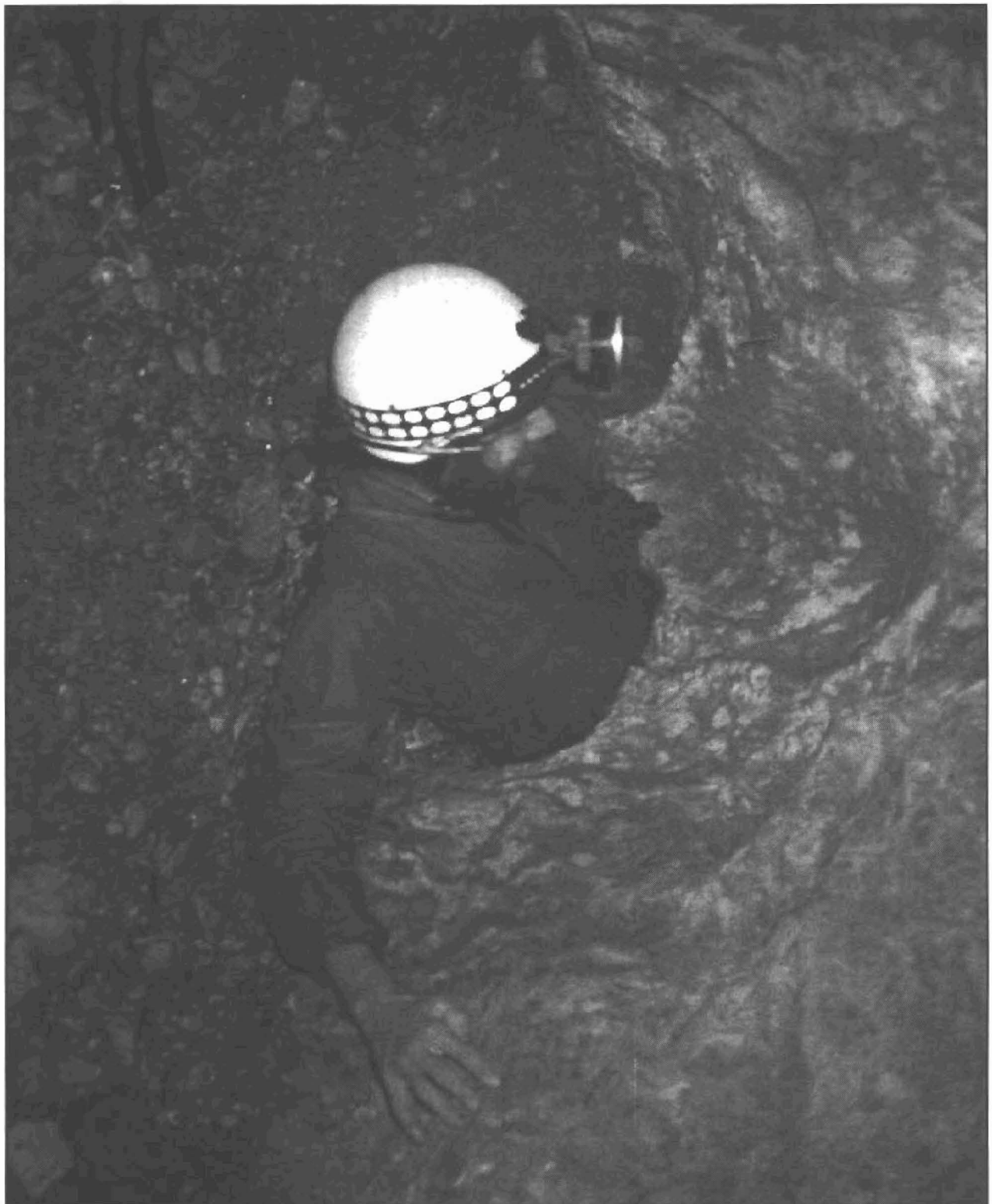
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The **Alaskan Caver**

Volume 14 Number 1

February 1994



The Alaskan Caver

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Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

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Cover Photo: Steve Lewis squeezes through the Rabbit Hole on Prince of Wales Island.

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Annual dues are \$15 for a single and \$20 for a family membership. The Alaskan Caver is included in the membership fee. For an additional \$8, six Cavers will be sent by airmail to overseas addresses. Institutional subscriptions are \$20 per volume. Send dues to Glacier Grotto Treasurer.

- Anchorage Meetings: Call Harvey Bowers for details. (907)376-2294.
- Ketchikan Meetings: 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month at the Alaska Public Health Service Building, 3054 Fifth Ave., Ketchikan.
- Fairbanks Meetings: Call Mike Mauser for details. (907)456-6953

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Kevin Allred takes notes during a break in caving activities in 1993.

CALENDAR

- Mar 27-Apr 2, 1994** AMSAR Technical Rescue seminar, CA (619)365-3114.
- April 25-May2, 1994** "Wilderness First Responder" course at Lookout Mountain, TN Dennis Curry at (615)821-8201
- May 28-30, 1994** Northwest Caving Association's annual meeting,, Marble Mountain SnoPark, WA (206)693-3600.
- June 10-12, 1994** NSS Cave Diving Section Spring Workshop, Branford, FL. Van Flowers, (813)683-1073
- June 20-24, 1994** 1994 NSS Convention, Brackettville, TX.(512)441-0050.
- July 1-31, 1994** POWIE VIII, Prince of Wales Island, AK (907)846-5223

Grotto members identify sources of cave rumors

by Kevin Allred

The prospect of seeing some of the remote areas spawning cave rumors was too good to miss.

I joined Pete Smith and Steve Lewis during a Petersburg drizzle on June 19, 1993 for the trip to Chichagof Island.

Pete and Steve cruised the 60 miles from Prince of Wales Island on Pete's new skiff with rebuilt outboard motor. After we purchased groceries and gas, we were off on calm seas. Soon, however, the Sound became somewhat rough (or in Pete's words, a little choppy). As this was the boat's "maiden voyage" Pete wanted to see what his skiff could handle and happily careened full bore into the 3 to 4 foot seas . . comfortable behind his windshield while Steve and I were inundated with stinging sea spray.

After a stop for more gas we followed a small passage past an interesting rock pinnacle to a beautiful spit where we camped the first night of our nine-day, cave-finding adventure.

The next morning, Pete had another opportunity to test his skiff. Upon reaching a 20-25 foot wide neck, we discovered that the falling tide had created white-water rapids complete with a 4-foot waterfall. Pete didn't seem bothered by any of this and powered off the thing . . great fun!

We noted spectacular littoral karren along the cliffy edges of the bay and at the head of the bay the rock is thinly banded marble often whitish near intrusions. Bedding is on edge and strikes northerly. The area has been logged extensively, so there are lots of debris problems in the main creek.

The creek comes into the tide flats through a spectacular natural bridge some 40 feet across, 30 feet high, and

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Harvey Bowers

As outgoing president I am told it is time to summarize. After doing The Glacier Grotto annual report to the NSS on Grotto achievements, I realize I used a faulty measurement system, and I'm not talking about going metric. I used how

many miles of cave have been mapped, how much was published and how many caves were found. Shouldn't we use a measurement tool that reflects how well we preserve the cave environment?

The truly noteworthy achievement of this organization and its members is that we have helped start a change of direction in resource management in Alaska. WE are now seeing resource managers talk about protecting resources that are hard to see. An achievement will be if we can pass on to future generations a world as biological diverse as what we have today.

Cavers need to re-look at what we consider achievements. The only reason to do many things that we do, like mapping, is to provide a better understanding so that we do not destroy this environment. In this same line of thought the Glacier Grotto's most immediate function may be to help the Forest Service

protect the remaining Rain Forest in Southeast Alaska. The ability to log if done in a sustainable fashion should not be questioned. Wood is one of the most environment-friendly building materials we know of. Many private land owners have gone to sustainable logging because it preserves the future value of the trees and the land. Mother Nature never borrows from tomorrow.

Clear cutting is a management tool that is supposed to mimic nature and the effects of fire. In rain forests like Southeast Alaska fire doesn't play much of a role. So, does this type of management seem appropriate?

We need to encourage the Forest Service to look at sustainable forestry like the Collins Pine Company, Portland, Ore., and many others. This concept will take a lot of support because of the difficulty in removing trees. Surface transportation may be impractical or too costly. Helicop-

ter logging appears to be incredibly dangerous. Ideas like a dirigible have never come about because of the capital costs, yet, the government has made incredible capital costs in building roads.

I think all our goals include being able to hand not only the caves but the planet to future generations without them paying for our selfish purchases from tomorrow. It is my hope we can help the resource managers like the Forest Service, Park Service and private land owners (native corporations) take a regenerative approach toward the future.

With these thoughts I congratulate Marcel LaPerriere as the 1994 Glacier Grotto President. I would like to thank Jay Rockwell, Dalene Perrigo, Rachael Mays, Sam Dunaway, Gary Sonnenberg, Dave Klinger, Marcel LaPerriere and Mike Mauser for their management support this past year.

To our future.

Additions to MEMBERSHIP LIST (more next edition)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Pd</u>	<u>NSS #</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>Work Phone</u>
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LaPerriere, Zach	PO Box 9062, Ketchikan AK 99901-4062	94		(907)225-4094	
Magness, Andy	CATE Center Box 4908, Norman LK 73026	94N			
Magness, Jason	CATE Center Box 4908, Norman OK 73026	94N			
Maselko, Jerzy	6020 Craig Drive, Anchorage AK 99504	94			(907)786-4697
Moyer, Tom	2047 Amy Dyan Road, Fairbanks AK 99712	94		(907)488-3444	(907)452-5688
Olson, Dr. Wallace M.	PO Box 210961, Auke Bay AK 99821-0961	94		(907)789-3311	(907)789-4420
Olson, Marie M.	PO Box 210961, Auke Bay AK 99821-0961	94		(907)789-3311	



Dressed for the occasion, Marcel LaPerriere examines a sump at El Capitan Cave on Prince of Wales Island.

Marcel LaPerriere could very well be caving this weekend.

The new Glacier Grotto president and his wife Connie have become devoted speleologists.

"I hope to make up for the lack of experience with enthusiasm," Marcel says of his three years in caving. However, he brings to the position his expertise in rock, ice and mountain climbing (having climbed over much of the Western US and Canada) and diving. Recently he became a certified NSS CDC Full Cave Diver and is a certified Assistant Instructor.

Marcel admits to being most interested in cave diving, but finds the science in caving to be fascinating. On the less serious aspects of caving, Marcel says, "Caving brings out the kid in us, especially when we get slimed and muddy."

The Editor

President LaPerriere sets priorities

by Marcel LaPerriere

As the newly elected President of the Glacier Grotto, I have a few goals that I will be working toward. Let me list some of them:

First, and foremost I want to see the Grotto function as a statewide organization.

Second, I want to work with all concerned parties to see that our caves here in Alaska are managed in a fashion that preserves them for future generations.

Third, I want to see our organization striving to learn and educate our members to be better and safer cavers. Let's try and have several training sessions and add some training to our meetings when we can. I would like to see us encourage new members to join both our grotto and the NSS. I would also like to see us promote cave conservation and safety whenever we can.

In other news, POWIE is again scheduled for the month of July. If you or some one you know would like to join POWIE this year contact Pete Smith at 844-5223 or Steve Lewis at 479-7257. If you haven't visited the Southeast caves POWIE is a great opportunity to do so.

Several Glacier Grotto members are actively forming a cave Rescue team in Southeast. Alaska Cave Rescue (ACR) will be independent from the Grotto, but will need the support of the Grotto and will be a future resource for training grotto members.

I hope to be meeting more of the members of the Glacier Grotto during the next year. If any of you wish to contact me feel free to do so.

HAPPY CAVING.

at least 50 feet through. Inside is a beautiful scalloped marble floor. The bridge is subject to flooding by incoming tides which creep several hundred feet upstream to the first cave segment.

This cave has a deep swim and also is further flooded by tides. Steve and I bagged ourselves in drysuits and swam about 100 feet past numerous fish fry to a few minor side passages and anastomosis. The cave sumps.

Following an overflow stream course which swings around this cave, we found a spectacular white-water cascade leading to a borehold stream passage with scalloped blue and white banded marble walls and ceilings. As the sump was large and intimidating, we were concerned about being sucked under the ceiling if we swam downstream. Total passage is at least 250 feet.

The upper segment resurges several hundred feet upstream past at least one 100-foot long cave in the side of the stream course. Cave #3 has an upstream swim of 200 feet and a minor side passage which finally sumps. A climb to the next blind valley resulted in discovery of an resurgence cave (Cave #4) at least 150 feet long with side leads. Again we chickened out about swimming downstream in the strong sump current without a rope.

Back outside, we waded upstream in a beautiful scalloped, collapsed cave channel, discovering one cave in the south side overhang near a lake. The scenery in this area is truly spectacu-

lar with a massive marble mountain jutting thousands of feet out of virgin growth forest. Rumors have circulated for years of holes above timberline and a blowing fissure at a large resurgence here.

Childhood memories of Tarzan movies returned as Steve, Pete, Darcie Ziel, Molly Kemp, Rudy Ziel and I walked single file for about one and one half miles up hill and through the trees. The resurgence looked good with a flow of approximately 600cf/min at low flow. Rudy who lives in the area, reported a much higher flow in April. The water poured from the base of a high marble cliff and had a small boulder/rock dam causing a partial sump with a nice breeze blowing from a tiny air space. Above the resurgence is a blowing fissure leading to the stream inside which soon sumped. On our way back to tidewater, we speculated on cave potential in this spectacular area and possibility of returning since so much of our time is committed to Prince of Wales and Dall Islands.

While exploring the inlet, Pete, Steve and I hiked up one creek which stayed on granite. Further along the shore we noted some marble littoral caves, but rough seas prevented us from safely landing or even dropping someone off.

We checked out another marble cave Jim Baichtal had seen next to the #2 white-water resurgence cave. It turns out that it connects with #2. We saw no sign of reported brown bears fishing in this cave, but there

were otter tracks and rocks polished from sliding fur. We hiked up a logging road towards a lake and found a cascading waterfall pouring from a 20 foot cave with a sump and underwater passage. We collected spiders and gnats in the twilight portion of Kooky Cave and noted numerous moth wings probably scattered by bats. A few bat bones and several dead harvestman were seen. The cave is fossil phreatic with silt atop large, irregular cobbles with little rounding and a few minor speleothems and a possible dig at the end. Back outside it was hot as ever with voracious gnats, whitesocks and no-see-ums. In spite of the bugs, we enjoyed the bounteous salmon berries on the way to camp.

On day eight, we discovered one small cave halfway down a large bowl drainage. Cascading water created this resurgence cave and sculpted a hanging pool. The entrance was too wet to enter without drysuits. Instead we hiked a recent logging road and found some resurgences issuing from greenish marble with some pyrite crystals. Each caver stuffed themselves with blueberries and huge salmon berries along the way. The day's heat detoured us to the lake for a chilling swim before returning to the bay. At the bay, we found a circus of subsistence boats of Cube Cove loggers. We were not impressed with the high powered rifle shots.

The seas were calm for our trip to El Capitan and POWIE VII. Pete's skiff had performed admirably, and we found a basis for the cave rumors.

WANTED

A Few Good Men & Women

Yes, folks, it's time once again to think about making plans for the 1994 Prince of Wales and Dall Island expeditions.

As ever we are looking to recruit a few good men and women to be deeply involved in another season of caving in South East Alaska. The thrills are expected to be beyond ordinary this year and the chills will be guaranteed, especially if under dressed.

The Forest Service has removed our usual lodging cabanas at El Capitan. Cat Woods (our F.S. liaison for the Thorne Bay District) has indicated that we will be plenty comfortable, however, things may be a little more rustic than we have gotten used to in the last few years. Food, lodging and local transportation will be provided to us as has been the case in the past. We will be required to work at least 40 hours a week in return by surveying and evaluating the caves and karst lands of the Tongass National Forest on Prince of Wales and Dall Island.

For those of you who have considered becoming a part of POWIE in the past, but never had everything come together as needed to make it happen, maybe this is the year. Please keep in mind however that we cannot take time away from the expedition to train beginners, so if you need training

and gear, get it beforehand. Contact Pete or Steve for ideas on that, or for more information.

The expeditions this year will run concurrently as was the case last year. The Dall Island participants should expect to be out of touch with the rest of the world for weeks at a time, Steve Lewis will be the information/contact person for DIE IV.

We have many recently discovered caves to be surveyed for POWIE VIII as well as many previous ones that need to be wrapped up; plenty to do!

This year's schedule will be July 1 to 31. If you are interested in attending all or part of this year's Tongass Cave Project expeditions contact the persons below for an application.

Please keep in mind that the deadline for completed applications is June 1st, send them to Pete Smith.

Available space may fill before the deadline, we encourage your early application if you are serious about attending.

Pete Smith
PO Box WWP
Ketchikan, AK 99950
907-846-5223

Steve Lewis
PO Box 83715
Fairbanks, AK 99708
907-479-7257

HELP

by Steve Lewis

I wish we could just forget politics and crawl in a hole, but because the karst needs our help, here's an update on cave conservation politics in the Tongass.

As most of you probably know, the Ketchikan Area contracted with some eminent cave scientists (The Blue Ribbon Panel) to prepare a Karst and Cave Resource Significance Assessment for the Area. This report is now final and available through the Ketchikan Area Office. I'll do a more general summary in a future issue of the Caver, but the report concludes that karst and caves in southeastern Alaska are both internationally and nationally significant for a number of reasons.

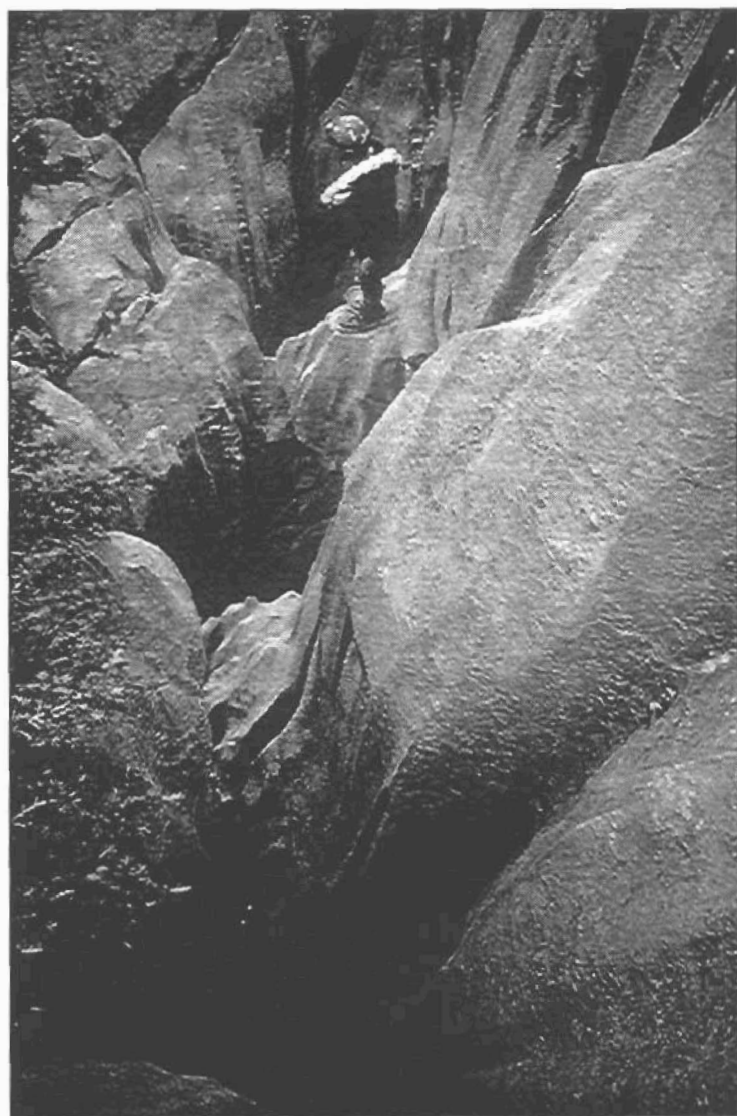
Among these are the unique setting of SE Alaska, geologically and as a largely undisturbed high latitude temperate coniferous rainforest which is, "for practical purposes, globally limited to Southeast Alaska." This implies that the forest ecosystem in which our caves are found is one of the most important aspects of their significance. Also internationally significant are the diversity, density, degree of development and natural preservation of the karst features. The paleontological and archaeological deposits and resources and the existence of large

well preserved littoral caves above present sea level are significant on an international scale.

More on national significance and recommendations for protecting the karst at a later time. For now the punch line is that the karst and cave systems in the Ketchikan Area, and by logical extension, in the Chatham and Stikine Areas of the Tongass are of great importance. Believing this to be the case, but not having anything official in hand, the Tongass Cave Project (TCP) filed an appeal of the Central Prince of Wales Project (CPOW) which proposed

to harvest a large volume of timber on both karsted and non-karsted lands.

While the Final EIS and Record of Decision discussed karst and made some attempts to mitigate the impacts the TCP felt that it was unwise to proceed with such a large project without including the knowledge gained by the Blue Ribbon Panel and by the TCP during 1993. Along with a number of other appeals, this one was essentially rejected by the Forest Service at the first level. However, in units where no cave inventory had been performed on



Caver views pits in the karst on Prince of Wales Island

karstlands, they required that an inventory be conducted before release for harvest. The failure or incomplete nature of current mitigation efforts and the fact that many of the proposed mitigations were essentially no different was ignored.

A review by the Washington office essentially upheld the legality of all the findings from Juneau but suggested that there are a number of overarching issues that need to be examined in the Tongass Land Management Plan Revision. Among these issues are sustained yield, protection of biodiversity, species viability, and ecosystem management. We feel that management of the karst ecosystem falls under at least the last of these. It appears that the Ketchikan Area may be willing to reexamine the karst on CPOW under the ecosystem management methods proposed in the Blue Ribbon Panel's Report.

However, we have no official confirmation of this. For those of you who are concerned, it would be great to write the Ketchikan Area complimenting them for their progress and urging them to implement protective measures for the karst now.

Write to David Rittenhouse; Ketchikan Area Forest Supervisor, Tongass National Forest, Federal Building, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901, and/or Anne Archie, District Ranger, Thorne Bay Ranger District, Box 1, Thorne Bay, AK 99950. If possible, copies should be sent to Chief Jack Ward Thomas, Regional Forester Michael Barton, and Steve Lewis whose addresses can be found at the end of the next paragraph.

The Chatham Area needs even more pushing—they are only just beginning to realize the value of the karst resource on Chichagof Island. Comments will be needed when the draft environmental impact statement for the Eight Fathom Project comes out sometime this spring. Some tremendous karst still remains unlogged in the Eight Fathom project area although much damage has occurred during the past few years. It is essential that the Chatham Area take heed of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel Report now, before further damage to the karst occurs.

Write to Gary Morrison, Chatham Area Supervisor, 204 Siginaka Way, Sitka, AK 99835, with copies to: Jack Ward Thomas, Chief, Forest Service, USDA, Wash. Office, 14th and Independence SW, PO Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090; Michael Barton, Regional Forester, Forest Service, USDA, PO Box 21628, Juneau, AK 99802-1628; and Steve Lewis, PO Box 83715, Fairbanks, AK 99708.

Finally, a new threat looms for the karst. The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is proposing to convey a number of lands to the Mental Health Trust to try to settle longstanding litigation. This is very problematic since these lands would then be managed aggressively for maximum profit with no further opportunity for public involvement.

Public comment officially ends on March 17 but the project manager has said that, although he won't like it, he will read comments submitted for almost two weeks after that date.

There are a number of proposed substitute parcels that would affect some of the prime karstlands of Southeast. The best solution appears to be to settle the litigation with a guaranteed income to the Mental Health folks, along with conveyance of those Mental Health Trust Lands left unencumbered (and not include any Proposed Substitute Lands).

If the DNR is required to convey these substitute lands it is important that these large parcels of karst not be included.

On Prince of Wales Island these are:

C70775 (several square miles along El Capitan Passage with known caves all along the perimeter),
C70768 and C70770 (near Exchange Cove in known karst).
C20826 and C70824 are on Tuxekan Is., along the Tuxekan Narrows of El Cap Passage.
Finally, around No Name Bay on Kuiu Is., there is a very large parcel (nearly 8 sq. miles), C20721.

While the TCP has not explored extensively on either Tuxekan or Kuiu, these areas have very high potential for well developed karst and caves.

If you can stand writing another letter, please send comments to DNR, Mental Health Settlement Project, Box 1007005, Anchorage, AK 99510-7005, or Fax your comments, attention: Bruce Phelps at 562-1731. with a copy to Steve Lewis.

NEWSBRIEFS

In "Early 1993 Caving in Hawaii", Speleograph [29(6):75], William R. Halliday verified the loss of two caves to road construction (sound familiar?) and asked for some vertical cavers to survey pit craters in the 150-250 foot range (in a presumably dead volcano). He also summarizes the summer (1993) activities of the Hawaii Speleological Survey in his article: "Eight Miles Inside the Big Island", Speleograph [29(10):122-123].

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For those of you who have not seen it, the following quote is repeated from Bill Klimack's "In the Media", NSS NEWS [51(12):342] "The Importance of the Tongass Karst is summarized in the March 30, 1993 Juneau Empire headline: 'Scientists Stunned by the Discovery of Caves'. One is quoted as saying that the area may be "the finest example of temperate rain forest in the world." With increased public awareness has come increased vandalism, the article notes.

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Bill Halliday, Chuck Pease and Cynthia G. Vann are OATOTLs this year. (See NSS NEWS [51(8):222]) In the same issue on page 228, members Fred Grady, Val Klimack and Jay Rockwell were thanked for contributing information to Bill Klimack's column, "In the Media".

oooooooooooo

Kevin Allred's reports on Eagle's Roost, El Capitan Pit, Blowing in the Wind, and nine others were noted in "Rays Review" of November 1993 in NSS News [51(11):312], citing The Alaskan Caver [12(6)(Dec. 1992)].

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In The SPELEOGRAPH [29 (10) : 118-121], published by the Oregon Grotto, cavers can get the latest information on how to "Build your own snowshoes". Author Al Lollar illustrates each step in the process.

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In the 1993 In Review Annual Report Summary, names were omitted from the winners circle. POWIE VII members Rodney H. Honnocks and David Herron, received an Honorable Mention for the map of Beaver Falls Cave. They were assisted in the survey by a number of Grotto members including Carlene Allred who drew the cross sections.

The Prince of Wales Booty Scooper is hot off the press. The 12 pages is directed toward cavers interested in participating in Prince of Wales Island Expedition VIII and DIE IV. Included in "All the caving news we could think of just now" are articles on equipment and preparation, cave surveys and the arrangement with the Forest Services as well as tales of Bill the Cat and Lost Boy Finds Big Cave. Please contact Pete Smith for copies. His address is PO Box WWP, Ketchikan, AK 99950.

oooooooooooo

Ballots of the election were counted at the Feb. 24, 1994 meeting of the Glacier Grotto. Results are as follows:

President: Marcel LaPerriere, 36057	48
James R. Nicholls, 15216	13
Ginny L. Tierney*, 33899	2
Vice President of the North	
Michael Mauser, 11135	27
James R. Nicholls, 15216	10
Steve Lewis*, 30032	1
Vice President of South Central	
Wm Harvey Bowers, 12088	43
Eric Rapport, 36811	6
Vice President of Southeast	
Gary Sonnenberg, 33648	54
Marcel LaPerriere*, 36057	2
Kevin Allred*, 16389	1
James F. Baichtal*, 33277	1
Secretary: Julius Rockwell, Jr. 11308	59
Treasurer: Rachael H. Mays, 29942	56

* = Write in votes

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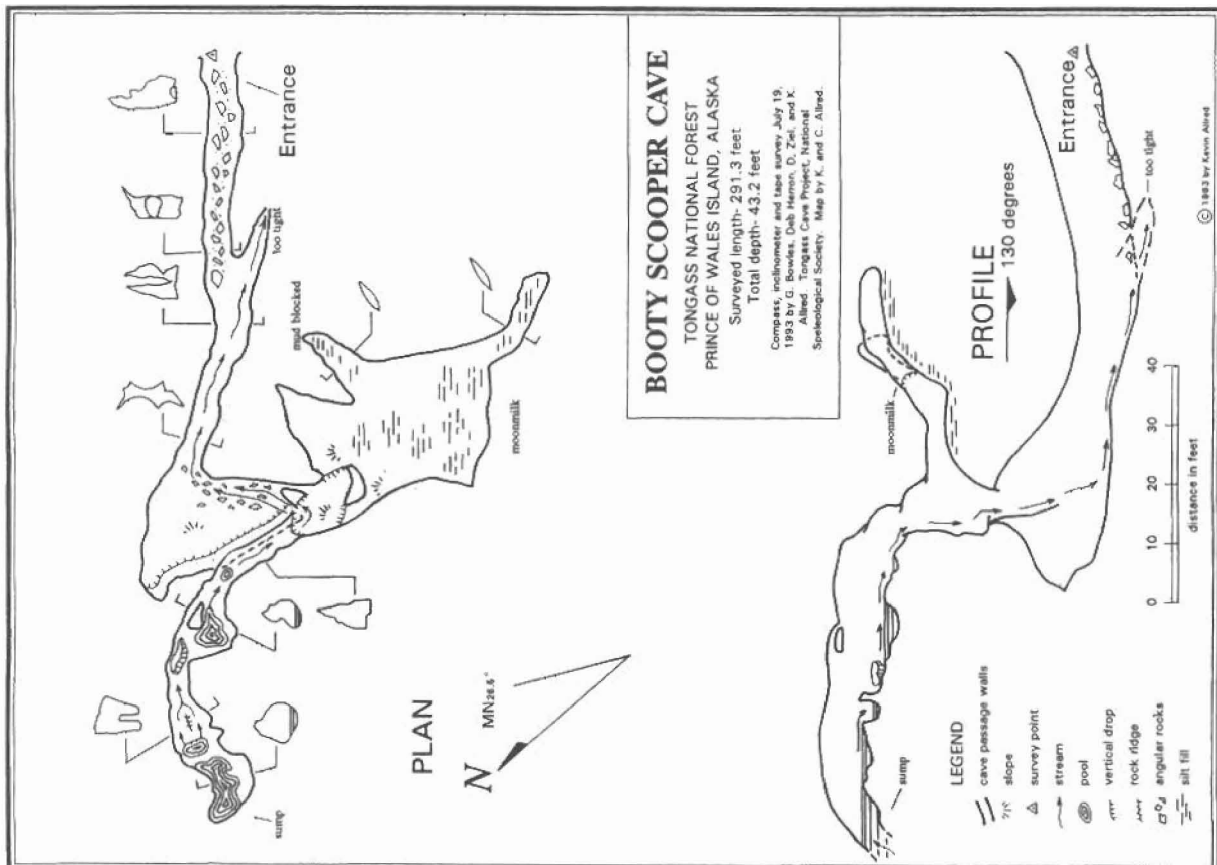
BOOTY SCOOPER CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #125
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred Sept. 30, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Booty Scooper Cave was discovered several years ago by Dale Kanen, a road locator for the Forest Service. He reported its general location, describing climbing partway up a waterfall inside. A large resurgence drains out of boulders below the walk-in entrance. The stream is encountered inside the cave after 40 feet of passage, and it drains back through a fissure becoming too tight towards the outside resurgence. Upstream, the stream can be followed 70 feet further into the cave, to a room with a 15 foot high waterfall. A cut tree leans against the wall and has obviously been used in the past in an attempt to climb the waterfall. A high level muddy, low, broad gallery is accessible by scrambling 6 feet up a ledge to the east of the waterfall room. There is lots of deep, goo consisting of moonmilk and mud. The easiest way to access the upstream waterfall passage is through a small window connecting the muddy gallery with the waterfall room. A difficult bridging maneuver gives access to the stream which can then be followed another 40 feet to a terminal sump. There are a few speleothems on the ceiling here. The total passage is 291.3 feet and the total depth is 43.2 feet.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Booty Scooper Cave is a major resurgence, obviously draining an extensive area to the east. A large uvala and other karst features in extensive clear-cut are situated to the northwest. Several known caves are also in this area, namely, Fat Man Filter, Come Again Cave, and hair Trigger Pit. The hillside around the cave should not be logged or have any roads built in order to preserve the aesthetic, hydrologic and biologic resources. No further logging should occur on the mountain above Booty Scooper until a hydrologic study including dye tracing is done. The location can be shared with the general public with a warning as to the potential danger when climbing the waterfall pitch.



KLINGER CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #137
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by David Klinger
Sept. 17, 1993

REFERENCE: Preliminary Report #81, Bryce's Cave, as published in Volume 13, Number 2 of The Alaskan Caver, dated July 1, 1993.

BACKGROUND: The sink in which this cave is located was first identified on aerial photographs by Kevin and Carlene Allred in 1988. The cave was found by Dave Klinger with survey completed by Greg Bowles and David Klinger on July 15, 1993.

DESCRIPTION: The cave is located in Heceta Marble, identified by geologist David Herron as a blue marble.

It is located on the south side of a sink next to an overgrown logging road. It appears to be on National Forest land but is near the boundary with private land. It is situated on the top of a hill. A very small stream drains into the sink and cave from a flat muskeg area to the north. Since it was very dry in July 1993, very little water was entering the cave.

The entrance to the cave trends in a southerly direction. The initial drop was about 50 feet to a gravel and rock floor which sloped sharply to the west and then back to the north. The cave continued down over a floor of mixed gravel and hard marble to another drop of approximately 15 feet.

Beyond this point the cave continued downward in a northerly direction until it sumped. A small crack on the west side of the sump continued downward approximately 8 feet to another gravel sump. No biological specimens were observed.

RIGGING: On July 12, we rigged a 110-foot line to a tree just above the west wall of the sink. This was long enough to reach the bottom of the first drop.

On July 15, we rigged a 200-foot line to the same tree and used it for both the first and second drop. Caution should be used in making the second drop as the floor above is composed of a number of large rocks wedged against the walls with nothing under them. They could injure someone below if they came loose.

To climb back up we draped the line over a large crack on the east wall some 8 feet out from the actual drop. We ascended to the top of the crack and climbed back until we were past the wedged rocks. There appears to be a large amount of water entering the cave during wet periods.

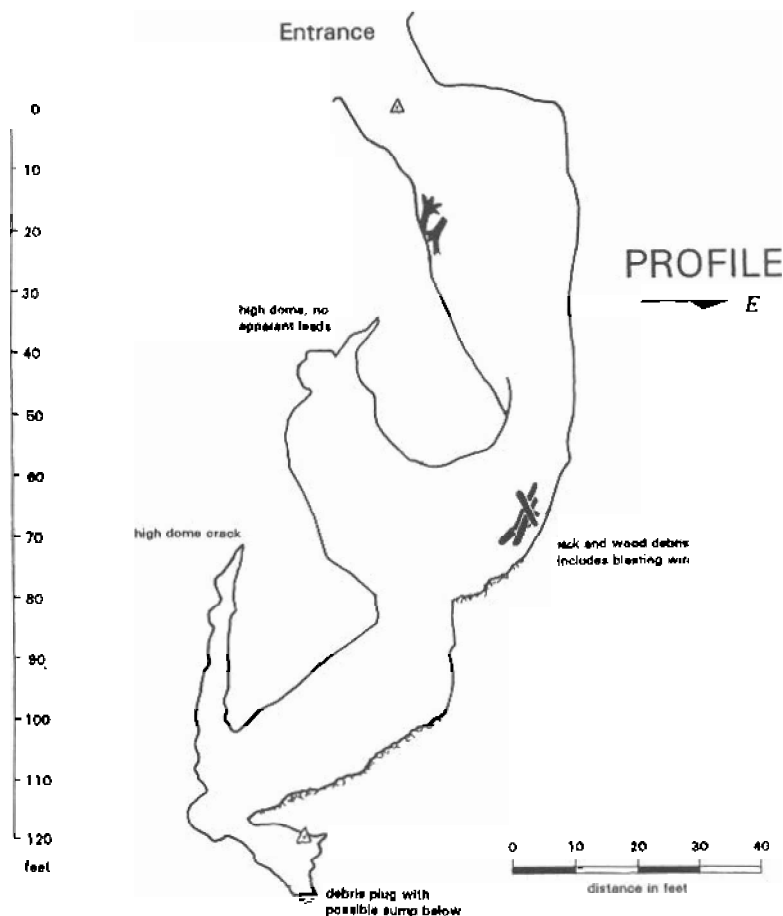
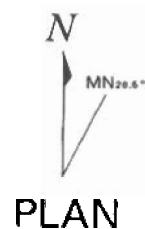
MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Klinger Cave should be protected from any additional road building, construction, or timber harvesting activities for its hydrologic and possible biologic values.

KLINGER CAVE

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA

Surveyed length- 182.9 feet
Total depth- 119.6 feet

Compass, inclinometer and tape survey July 12 and 15, 1993, by D. Klinger, G. Bowles, S. West and P. Dzwonowski, of the Tongass Cave Project, National Speleological Society. Map by K. and C. Allred



LEGEND

- cave passage walls
- \\ slope
- △ survey point
- log
- vertical drop
- 20 depth of drop in feet
- ⊕ angular rock RN

© 1995 by Kevin Allred

LEANING TREE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #123

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred

Sept. 28, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Leaning Tree Cave was discovered in August 1992 by Mark Fritzke and Kevin Allred. The cave was formed in Heceta marble and has two sinkhole entrances. It is an extreme overflow feature for a base level spring located some 250 feet down the hill. A bare, washed off ledge is witness to backup flow into the cave levels. Of the two entrances, the upper one can be safely entered without a rope. In nearly all of the cave the original phreatic surfaces have been destroyed by frost action except for a bit of ceiling near the upper entrance. A major insurgence point for this system is suspected of being a large insurgence sinkhole some 900 feet further up the mountain side. Total passage surveyed on July 8, 1993, was 96.4 and the cave is 34.7 feet deep.

SPELEOTHEMS: Odd looking, stubby, hollow stalactites which are possible moonmilk are located in a short passage leading west from the main room of the cave located between the entrances.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Logging units have been proposed by a consulting company at Leaning Tree Cave and the insurgence sinkhole mentioned above. Logging or road building should not occur in either area to preserve the hydrologic and probable biologic components of this system. It would be wise to not share the cave location with the uneducated general public because of the delicate speleothems which should be investigated further by specialists.

LOW BOY CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #122

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred

Sept. 28, 1993

DESCRIPTION: Low Boy Cave formed in Heceta marble. The cave is an overflow feature for a base level spring located approximately another 100 feet further down the hill. Another even higher overflow feature is Leaning Tree Cave located approximately 175 feet up the hill.

Some digging was necessary to first enter Low Boy which had running water in August of 1992 when discovered by Kevin Allred and Mark Fritzke. It was dry except for pools when sketched by Allred on July 8, 1993.

Beyond an entrance squeeze over breakdown is a small pool and inclined tube soon pinching off at a smaller pool. No speleothems are present. A major insurgence point for this system is suspected of being a large insurgence sinkhole some 1200 feet further up the mountain side.

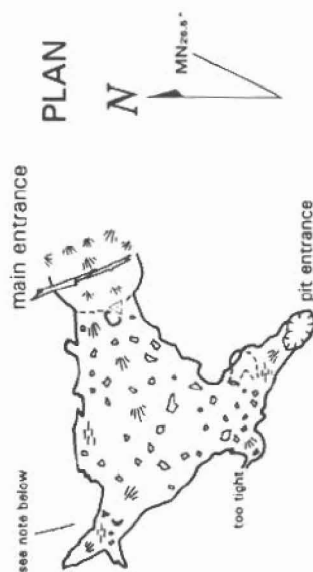
MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Logging units have been planned by a consulting company at uphill Leaning Tree Cave and the suspected major insurgence sinkhole for the cave. Logging or road building should not occur in either area to preserve the hydrologic and probable biologic components of this system. There is no reason not to share the location of Low Boy Cave with the general public.

LEANING TREE CAVE

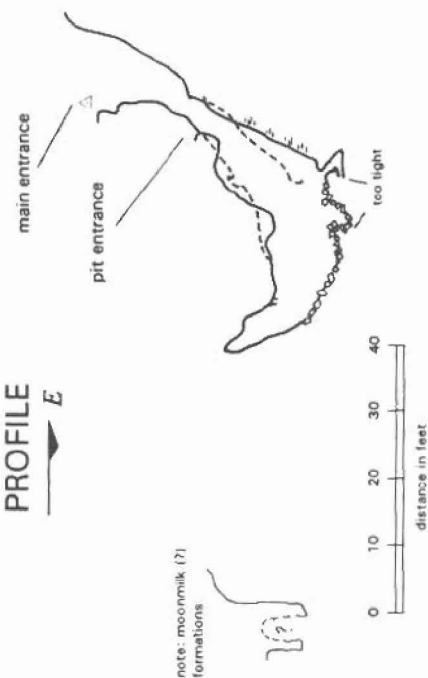
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA

Surveyed length- 96.4 feet
Total depth- 34.7 feet

Compass, inclinometer and tape survey July 11,
1993 by K. Alred, J. Wood, J. Wood, D.
Carter and S. West. Tongass Cave Project.
National Speleological Society. Map by K. and
C. Alred.



PROFILE



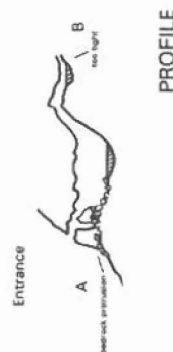
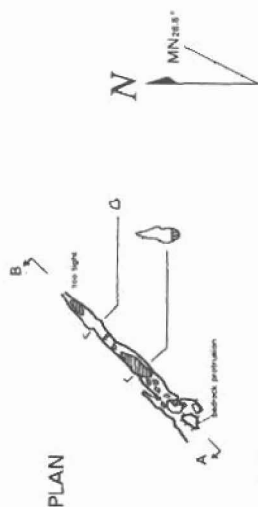
© 1993 by Karen Alred

LOW BOY CAVE

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA

July 11, 1993

Sketch by K. Alred. Tongass Cave Project.
National Speleological Society. Map by K. and
C. Alred.



© 1993 by Karen Alred

BLUE MARBLE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #124
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
Oct. 12, 1993

DISCOVERY: Formed in Heceta marble, Blue Marble Cave was discovered on a subalpine ridge on Aug. 20, 1993, by Mark Fritzke and Kevin Allred. At that time, several regional entrances were suspected to be interrelated. The first was "Mystery Drip", a small, former overflow resurgence taking a strong draft. This entrance became clogged with rocks and boulders, but obviously continued down a spacious sounding dripping pit below. Some 350 feet south of Mystery Drip, the second entrance was an obscure fissure next to a stream seeping into a creek bed at the base of a waterfall. The removal of a few rocks gained access to going stream passage below. This entrance was originally called Blue Marble Cave, but will hence be known as Blue Marble Annex Cave. It is still unsurveyed and reportedly ends in a sump. This had no noticeable air flow. The third entrance called "Inhale Entrance" is only 75 feet west of Blue Marble Annex and is similar to the Mystery Drip entrance: a small, vegetation obscured crawlway sucking a strong draft. It is a former overflow resurgence site. The fourth associated entrance is an overflow resurgence draining the other three entrances. Bear paw prints were found in the sand of this heavily blowing entrance.

DESCRIPTION: On July 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 19 and 20, 1993, survey teams began exploring and mapping the Blue Marble Cave system. The Inhale Entrance was pushed past "Black Current Crawl" and a short dig at wet "Exhale Crawl". A steep vadose slot leads past "The Locker Room", a 12 foot climb down, and "The Resonance Room". Here is the first rope drop of 32 feet ending at a junction room. To the south, the lower part of "Caddis Fly Creek" is followed a few hundred feet to a balcony 60 feet up the wall of "The Well of Souls" which is a large chamber some 100 feet high with an overhead skylight and massive hanging boulder. In the afternoon of the day, a small spot of sunlight from the hole above travels slowly across the northeast wall of the chamber. At the lower end of the boulder strewn floor of the Well of Souls is a junction of a northeast trending canyon passage called "Fissure Canyon". Fissure Creek flows southwest along this impressive scalloped passage towards the lower entrance. Fissure and Caddis Fly creeks both drain into breakdown before the entrance and resurge from talus a few hundred feet below the entrance.

Back near the junction of the Inhale Entrance passage with Caddis Fly Creek is a nearby extensive passage which heads north several hundred feet. A soda straw studded detour from the main passage leads to a multi-drop canyon tying into the upper end of Fissure Canyon at a dome pit called "Haystack Pit" which is the source of Fissure Creek. The main part of the passage leads to "Carbonate Labyrinth", a well decorated complex containing flowstone. The Carbonate Labyrinth ends at a large gallery called "Flowstone Cathedral" which contains a 20 foot high flowstone cascade. Numerous leads remain in the Labyrinth.

After moving some rock in the Mystery Drip Entrance, a belled out 55 foot shaft (Mystery Drop) accesses a low, broad crawlway over cobbles to a junction. To the east is a network called "Mappers Madness" of several hundred feet. To the west is a sinuous vadose canyon dropping 20 feet into the headwaters of Spigot Creek. Beautiful, white, spotless, scalloped marble containing cascades and plunge pools inspired the name "Porcelain Passage". Spigot creek flows past a remarkable sculpted fin called "The Camel Head",

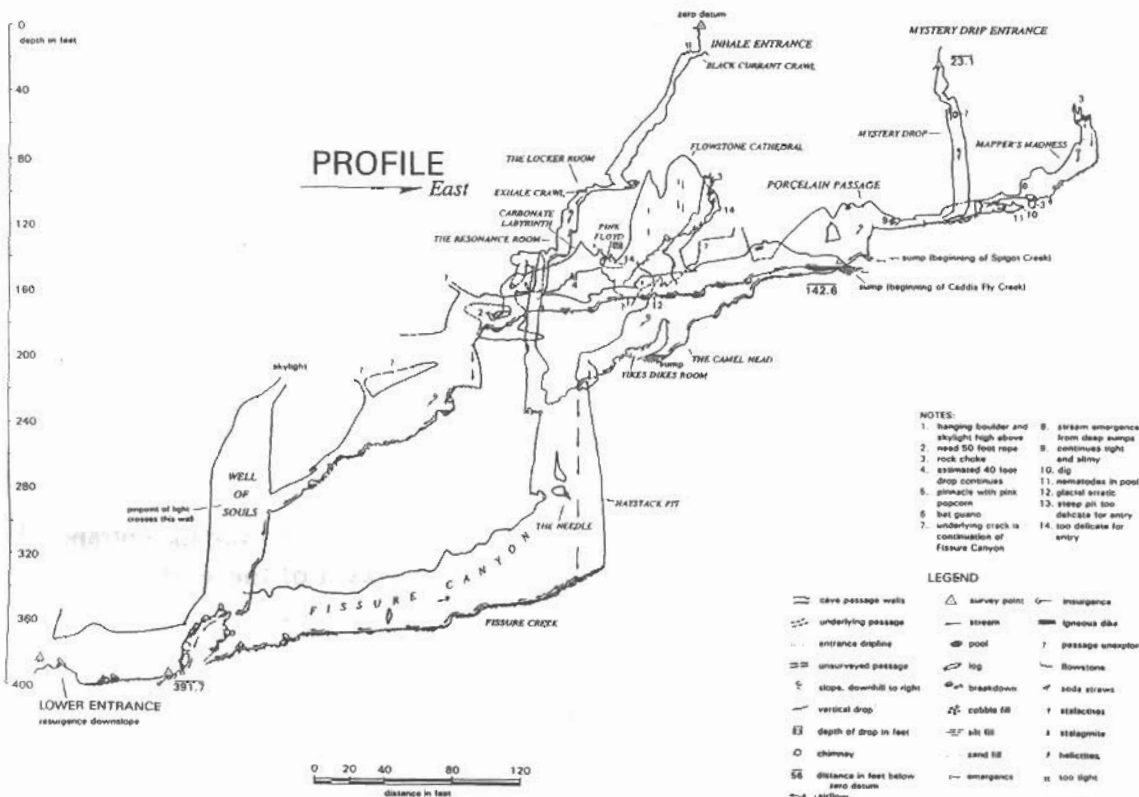
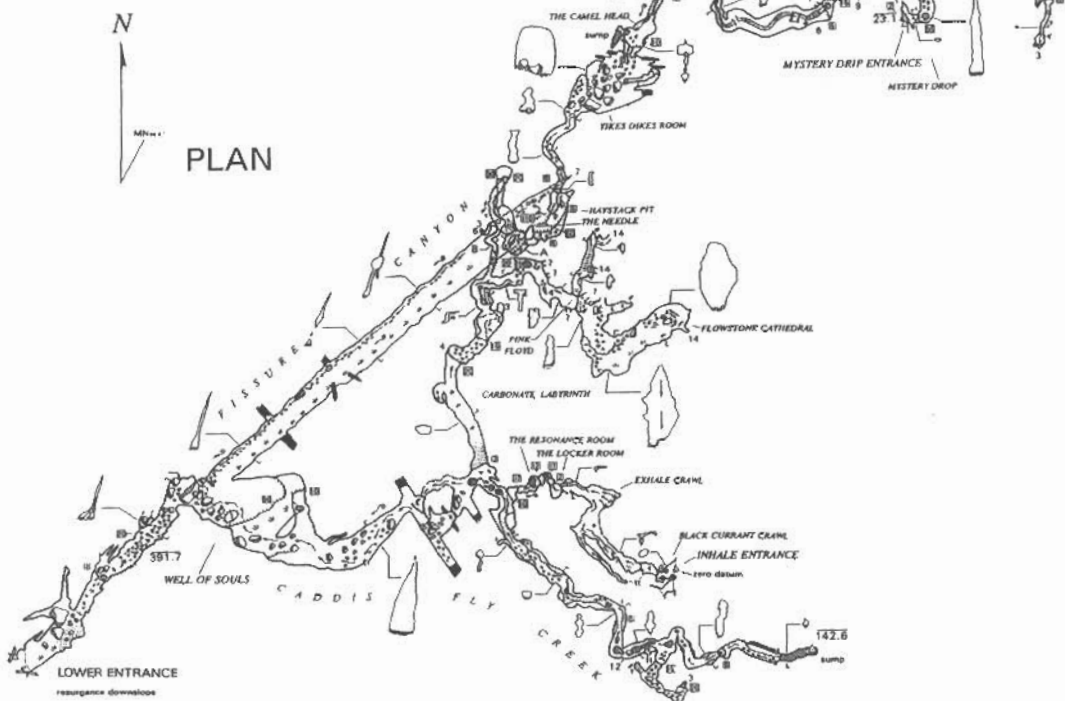
Continued on page 18

BLUE MARBLE CAVE

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA

Surveyed length: 3,056.1 feet
Total depth: 391.7 feet

Compass, inclinometer and tape survey July 8-10, 17-20, 1993
by M. Sewell, P. Smith, D. Love and K. Adlard. Tongass Cave
Project, National Speleological Society. Map by K. and C. Adlard.



- NOTES:**
1. hanging boulder and skylight high above
 2. need 50 foot rope and shim
 3. rock chole
 4. estimated 40 foot drop continues
 5. pinacle with pink popcorn
 6. bat guano
 7. underlying crack is continuation of fissure canyon
 8. stream emergence from deep sump
 9. continues right and slimy
 10. dig
 11. nematodes in pool
 12. glacial erratic
 13. steep pit too delicate for entry
 14. too delicate for entry

LEGEND

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| — cave passage walls | △ survey point | — emergence |
| --- underlying passage | — stream | — igneous dike |
| ... entrance diplog | ● pool | 7 passage unexplored |
| --- unurveyed passage | — log | — flowstone |
| — slope, downhill to right | — breakdown | — soda straws |
| — vertical drop | — cobble fill | — stalactites |
| — depth of drop in feet | — silt fill | — stalagmites |
| — chimney | — sand fill | — helictites |
| — distance in feet below zero datum | — emergence | — too light |
| — cartilage | | |

© 1993 by Kevin Adlard

then enters a dead end sump. However, an overhead bypass leads to "Yikes Dikes Room". Here a number of large dikes cross through this breakdown room. Spigot Creek reemerges from breakdown further on and flows along more sinuous canyon to spill 115 feet to the floor of Haystack Pit. The creek's name changes to "Fissure Creek".

The upper part of Caddis Fly Creek leads upstream several hundred spectacular feet to the southeast from the bottom of the Resonance Room drop. Of special interest is a three by four foot granite glacial erratic with striations. This could have only come through a now blocked chimney just upstream. The creek has had time to carve a channel around both sides of this boulder. Caddis Fly emerges from a sump appearing to have been caused by dikes there.

Blue Marble presently has 3056.1 feet of passage surveyed. It is 391.7 feet deep.

BIOLOGY: Numerous flying insects have been sucked by drafts into many parts of Blue Marble and insect remains often spot walls and speleothems. Lively nematodes were collected in Mappers Madness in silty pools and also in similar pools at the crawlway below Mystery Drop. Bat guano was noted in the passage.

HYDROLOGY: The insurgence of Caddis Fly Creek is probably Blue Marble Annex Cave and the muskegs to the south. The source of Spigot Creek is unknown, and it is even remotely possible that it comes from Marbleous Cave on the other side of the ridge. A study with overland surveys and dye tracing would be useful.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The ridge containing Blue Marble Cave is well karsted, contains other caves and easily deserves full protection from logging and road building activities. With its spectacular sculpted and scalloped marble passages, Blue Marble is one of the most beautiful caves in the state. It holds tremendous recreational and scientific values. The location should only be shared with educated, ethical and vertically prepared individuals.

A hydrologic study is needed as mentioned above. Numerous unexplored leads remain in Carbonate Labyrinth.

BEAR'S PLUNGE

**Prince of Wales Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #123 • Addendum to Report #43
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society**

by Kevin Allred
Sept. 30, 1993

FURTHER EXPLORATION: Bear's Plunge was extended significantly through two leads, both high on the walls of the 140-foot deep entrance shaft. The total length of the cave is now 988 feet.

The most major extension was accessed by swinging in 65 feet off the floor from the entrance drop. This dry passage led to a complex of three different passages. The lowest of these has an active stream suspected of originating in nearby Slide Cave. The stream drains to fall 35 feet into Singing Woman Room.

The other short extension was climbed by Pete Smith and winds up over a window into Singing Woman Room, then soon ends.

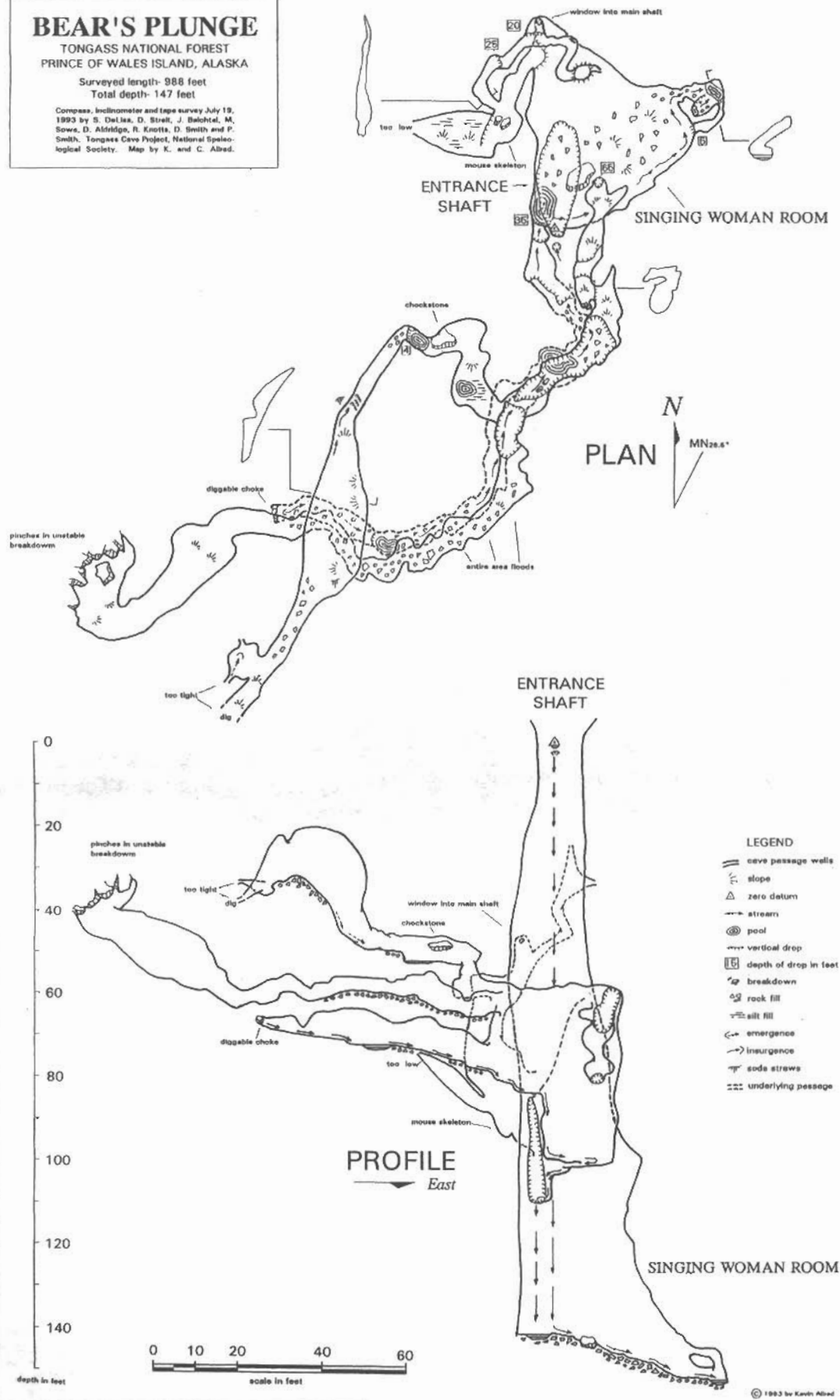
BIOLOGY: Several mouse skeletons were collected from the ledges above the stream running down the southern extension. Another mouse skeleton was noted near a slanted room of the northern extension.

BEAR'S PLUNGE

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA

Surveyed length- 988 feet
Total depth- 147 feet

Compass, inclinometer and tape survey July 19, 1993 by S. Delise, D. Strick, J. Balch, M. Sowa, D. Aldridge, R. Knotts, D. Smith and P. Smith. Tongass Cave Project, National Speleological Society. Map by K. and C. Alred.



MEETING NOTES

**Executive Council
Meeting 7 p.m.
April 5. Please
check with Area
Vice President for
location of confer-
ence call.**

Glacier Grotto Southeast Alaska

Group met March 7 in Ketchikan.

Trip to El Capital Cave - Grotto members will help Forest Service with photo and video documentation of the cave. Information will be used to monitor cave over the next several years.

Alaska Cave Rescue - Things progressing slowly. Five Grotto members are taking ETT certification class in April.

EMS Conference - Marcel will be attending and giving a talk about POW caves.

Boy Scout Training - Eight boys have started vertical work. Three Grotto members attend scout meetings each month to teach knots, rope work and general caving skills.

Glacier Grotto Southcentral

A synopsis of the Dec 7, 1993 meeting.

The newsletter exchange list was reviewed and a check-out method discussed.

Election ballots will be mailed to members.

The Forest Service's letter on management of El Capitan Cave was reviewed. President Bowers will write a letter with the Grotto's list of recommendations.

Cave Rescue practice sessions are being conducted in Ketchikan. The group plans to develop connections with the national cave rescue organizations.

NORTHWEST CAVING ASSOCIATION

Abbreviated notes from the Feb. 11 meeting.

1994 Regional Meet is May 27-30 at Marble Mount Snow Park Area. NCA Executive Board Meeting will be either Saturday evening or Sunday morning of the Regional meet.

New Member Organizations are Idaho Cave Survey, Palouse Grotto and The Bremerton Caving Society Grotto.

NSS Board of Governors has very few members from the western United States.

NCRI - The Northwest Cave Research Institute will conduct their 1994 project in the Trout Lake area of Southeastern Washington. (206)569-2724.

The Alaskan Caver

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