

November 1989

Alaskan Caver, Volume 9, No. 5, November 1989

William Harvey Bowers

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/alaskan_caver

Recommended Citation

Bowers, William Harvey, "Alaskan Caver, Volume 9, No. 5, November 1989" (1989). *Alaskan Caver*. 48.
https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/alaskan_caver/48

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Newsletters and Periodicals at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Alaskan Caver by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

The ALASKAN CAVER

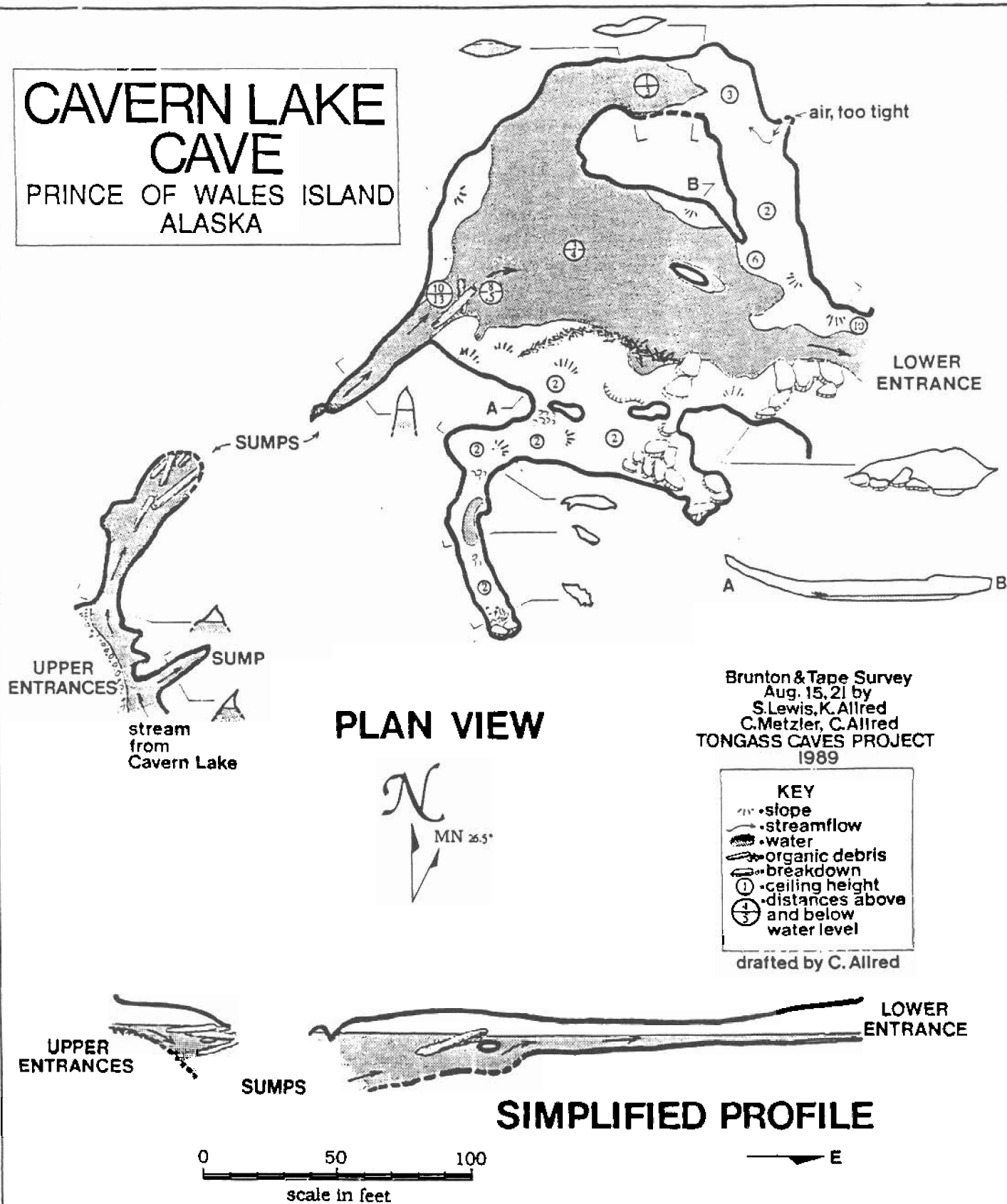
VOLUME 9

NUMBER 5

NOVEMBER 1989

CAVERN LAKE CAVE

PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND
ALASKA



CAVERN LAKE CAVE
Prince of Wales Island, Alaska
Technical preliminary Report #12
By: Kevin Allred

Description and Speleogenesis

Located at the outlet of well known and easily accessible Cavern Lake, Cavern Lake Cave has been formed by the underground flow of Cavern Lake through a low wall of Heceta Limestone. The cave appears to have phreatic bedding plane controlled origin with minor vadose modification.

There are two sumped upper entrances, both taking the water flow. The level of Cavern Lake can rise several feet during high runoff and flood the upper entrances further than shown on the map. Many logs, most of which appear to have been cut, are crammed into the deep water of both upper entrances.

The lower outlet of the cave is a large wide walk-in entrance issuing forth the creek. The major part of the accessible cave is here and consists of a very large room about 100 by 150 feet with an amazingly low flat ceiling. The room contains a lake of varied depth. Much of the bedrock is covered with scallops. Another low broad passage heads to the North to re-enter the big room with only a couple of inches of air space in dry season. Two side passages feed into the big room from the South. They are above the present high water levels and have been for some time judging from the flowstone deposits there. At the West end of the big room is the stream bearing passage which becomes in excess of 13 feet deep and soon sumps. The sump was free dived and immediately sumps again after 4 feet. No other explorations were attempted because of lack of experience, equipment and courage. The closest upper entrances sump and lower sump are separated by 40 feet (overland survey by C. Allred, C. Metzler, and S. Lewis).

BIOLOGY

Other than bat activity at the upper entrances at dusk, no other biological life was noted at Cavern Lake Cave. Salmon apparently do

pass through the cave to spawn elsewhere, but none were seen inside during the survey. The closest ones were gathered in a pool just below the lower entrances. In 1987 Bruce Campbell of the Thorne Bay Ranger District mentioned birds nesting in the cave but none were seen in August.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Hypothermia and drowning are the greatest threats of Cavern Lake Cave. Although water temperatures can be warmer than cave temperature because of the incoming sun warmed waters of Cavern Lake, a wetsuit is recommended. Reasonable precaution and common sense should protect any visitors from harm.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

If there would not be negative impacts on salmon or birds in the area of the lower entrance, this cave may be suitable for public access via a trail from the adjacent road. The entrance is beautiful and unique. There is little opportunity for damage to speleothems in the cave and many visitors to the Island would enjoy seeing the entrance to this spectacular cave.

1989 GRAPHIC ARTS SALON

The Alaskan Caver received Honorable Mention for our only entry in the 1989 NSS GRAPHIC ARTS SALON. It was for Carlene Allred's beautiful drawing, "A Caver Descends into Starlight Cave," which graced our April 1988 issue 8(6):cover. This contest is limited to photographic and non-photographic entries of NSS Grotto newsletter covers of the previous year. Mention of this award was also made in the September NSS News 47(9):219. Congratulations Carlene! We had only one issue of the Caver that year. Next year, of course, we will have more to submit for the 1990 contest. The photographic and non-photographic categories are different and do not compete with each other. More than one entry in each category is allowed, so all covers will again be sent.

**CARL'S GOOD CAVERNS
and
QUICK REDUCER CAVE
by Mike Van Note**

Where I stayed in 1979 in a Forest Service camp, called Halfway House (about 1 mile North of Control Lake towards Staney Creek, Prince of Wales Island, AK) there were two caves located rather conveniently nearby. The first had been named "Carl's Caverns" by a local F.S. engineer, Kim Turly, who had visited it. While this cave is small, it is nevertheless interesting. The main entrance is a fairly large opening in a bluff along a good size surface stream (which incidentally sinks into the bed just upstream of the cave during "dry" weather). The entrance passage is developed along the strike of a relatively thin bed of limestone dipping some 20 degrees to the NE. Within this passage are some fascinating "micro-structure" to be seen along the walls. A waterfall issueing from a short crawl in the rear of the cave comes as an interesting surprise also. Nearby, on the same hill, is another cave which I named "Quick Reducer" as a result of it "shriveling up" in size (as were my hopes for something a little larger). The entrance is a large pit with a stream issueing from a fissure along one wall. I was able to descend this pit by means of a rather rotten and slippery log which was leaning against one wall. Without this log, I would have needed a rope to get into the cave. The entrance passage is reasonably impressive with a high lead that might produce more passage. Another short passage connects to a second pit entrance just before a climbdown which leads to a rather "sporty" crawl ending in a sump. A look at the plan and profile of these two caves will show that there are four (five, if you include the large sometimes "sub" surface stream) subterranean streams in a small area. There exact relationship to each other is not as obvious as it might seem. It appears that the waterfall stream in Carl's Good Cave is the

same which later rises from a sump to leave the main entrance. On the other hand, the stream in Quick Reducer is larger than that which issues from the spring near Carl's Good Cave. It is possible that the main Carl's Good Cave and Quick Reducer streams are one and the same, the apparent elevationl difference due to a survey error (I was surveying solo up a very steep hill, and this would not be out of the question!). Both of these caves are developed in what appears to be a small area of limestone surrounded by altered rocks of a non-Karst nature. As this area is quite accessible (you could, in 1979, drive right to these caves) it might bear a little more investigation.

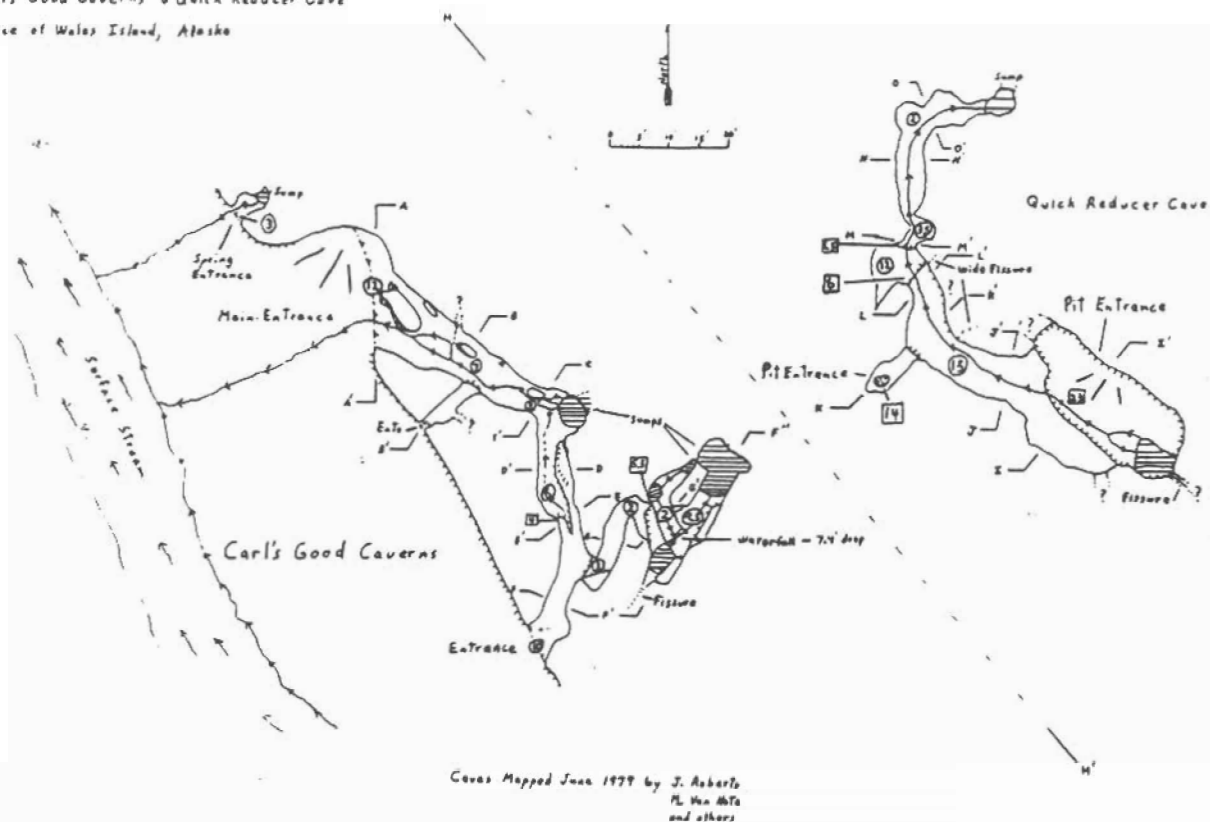
MEMBERS IN THE NEWS - Richard A. Hall's 1981 article, "Newby Cave, in the The Alaskan Caver 6(6):5-6 was mentioned in the Birmingham Grotto Newsletter of February 1982 page 3.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS - Carlen Allred's article, "Starlight Cave and El Capitan Cave trip report" in Alaskan Caver 8(6):3-6 was cited in Current Titles in Speleology Number 21 - the literatures of 1988, a publication of the British Cave Research Association., page 26.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS - Kevi Allred's article, "Rust Creek Cave -- Finally" in Alaskan Caver 8(5):3-7 was cited in Current Titles in Speleology, Number 21 the literature of 1988, publication of the British Cave Research Association., page 26.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS - Marion O. Smith's 1987 article, "The identification of Horner's and Heaton's niter works, Bath County Virginia," in NSS Bulletin 49(1):15-25 was cited in Current Titles in Speleology, Number 21 the literature of 1988, publication of the British Cave Research Association, page 33.

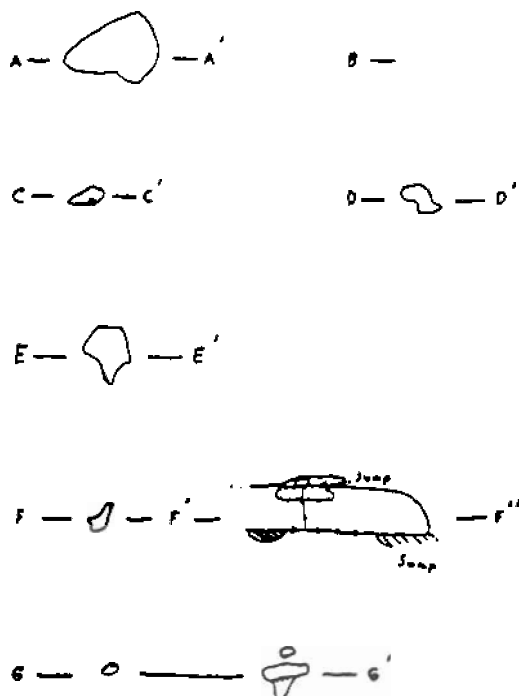
Carl's Good Caverns & Quick Reducer Cave
Prince of Wales Island, Alaska



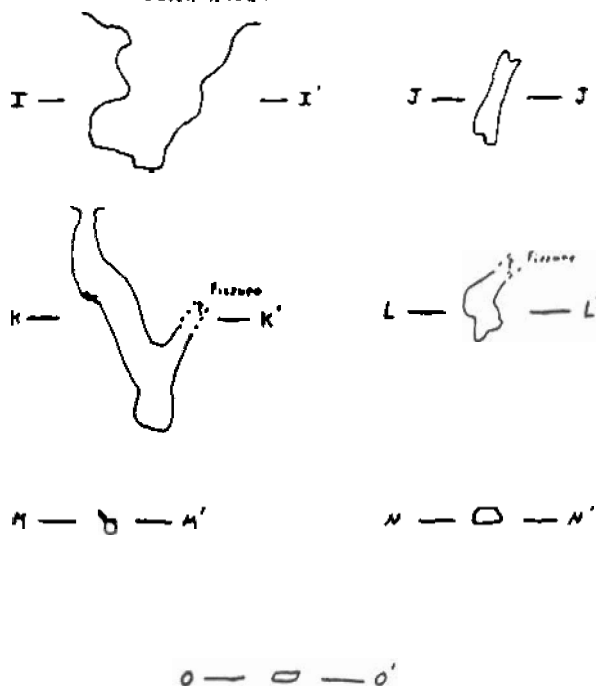
M.V.N.

Passage Crosssections of Carl's Good Caverns and Quick Reducer Cave
Prince of Wales Island, Alaska

Carl's Good Caverns



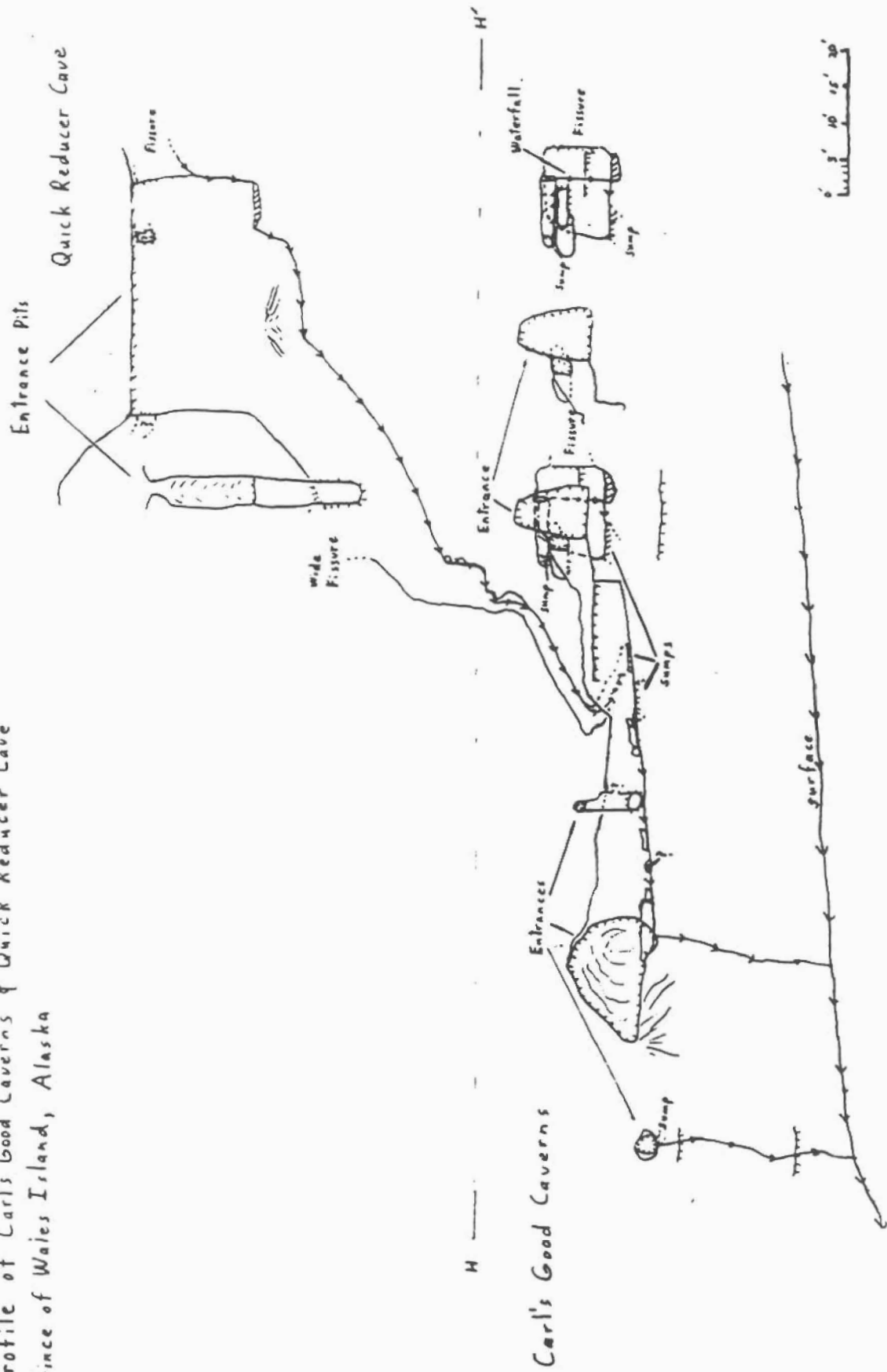
Quick Reducer Cave



0 5 10 15 20

M.V.N.

Profile of Carl's Good Caverns & Quick Reducer Cave
 Prince of Wales Island, Alaska



Caves mapped June 1979 by J. Roberts
 M. Van Note
 and others

The Alaskan Caver is the intermittent publication of Glacier Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Copyright 1989 by the Glacier Grotto. Materials not copyrighted by individuals or by other groups may be copied by other NSS Publications provided credit is given to the author and to The Alaskan Caver and a copy of such publication is sent to the Editor. Back issues are \$1.00, unless otherwise indicated, and are available from Glacier Grotto, 2944 Emory Street, Anchorage, AK 99508-4466, U.S.A. Articles, letters to the Editor, news items, announcements, and so forth send directly to the Editor (see below). Opinions expressed within are not necessarily those of The Alaskan Caver, the Glacier Grotto, or the NSS.

Membership is open to all interested in Alaskan cave discovery, exploration, description, survey, mapping, photography, hydrology, morphology, biology, geology, history, speleogenesis and other spelaeon processes, conservation, management, adventures, and the fellowship of Alaskan cavers. Dues are \$7.50 per year for the first member of a mailing address and \$1.00 for others at that address. Those living overseas must pay \$10.00 per year (in U.S. funds).

Dues are due January 1 and are sent to the treasurer (see below) with application and renewal form. Those paying for the first time between October 1 and December 31 will be considered paid up for the following year. The year through which you are paid is indicated on your mailing label. Meetings are called to plan and report on trips, or other special events; anyone wanting to have a meeting should notify the President, Vice President or a member-at-large.

President	J. Rockwell, Jr.	2944 Emory Steet	Anchorage, AK 99508	907-564-8267 Wk	907-277-7150 Hm
Vice Pres.	David M. Moll	PO Box 82044	Fairbanks, AK 99701	907-474-6318 Wk	907-455-6578 Hm
Acting Sec.	Jim Nicholls	PO Box 654	Clear, AK 99704	907-585-6213 Wk	907-474-0104 Hm
Treasurer	Sam Dunaway	7301 Chad St.	Anchorage, AK 99518	907-762-2171 Wk	907-344-4037 Hm
Memb.at Lg.	Tom Hallinan	1617 Wolverine Dr.	Fairbanks, AK 99709	907-479-7454 Wk	907-479-6064 Hm
Memb.at Lg.	Kevin Allred	PO Box 376	Haines, AK 99827	907-766-2020	through KHNS*
Editor	W. Harvey Bowers	305 S Bartlett Cr.	Wasilla, AK 99687	907-373-2247 Wk	907-376-2294 Hm
A. Editor	Curvin Metzler	PO Box 100738	Anchorage, AK 99510	907-333-8766 Wk	907-333-8766 Hm
NW Reg Rep.	Dave Klinger	PO Box 537	Leavenworth, WA 98826	509-548-5880 Wk	509-548-5480 Hm
Membership	Curvin Metzler	PO Box 100738	Anchorage, AK 99510	907-333-8766 Wk	907-333-8766 Hm

*Messages may be announced to Kevin daily via radio station KHNS at (907)766-2020

GLACIER GROTTTO

2944 Emory Street

Anchorage, AK 99508-4466

Address Correction Requested