



University of South Florida

Digital Commons @ University of South Florida

Alaskan Caver

Newsletters and Periodicals

August 1995

Alaskan Caver Alaska Caver

Chuck Pease

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

Recommended Citation

Pease, Chuck, "Alaskan Caver Alaska Caver" (1995). *Alaskan Caver* . 50.
https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/alaskan_caver/50

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 scholarcommons@usf.edu.

The

Alaskan Caver

Volume 15 Number 4

August 1995



The Alaskan Caver

published by the
Glacier Grotto©

1921 Congress Circle, Apt. B, Anchorage AK 99507

Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

© Copywrite 1995

Volume 15 Number 4

August 1995

Table of Contents

Archeology and Cave Exploration	1
President's Corner	1
Karst	6
1993 Speleo Digest	6
Windgate Cave #187	7
Field of Bees Cave #184	10
Cuff Cave #185	10
Pete's Moss Cave #186	10
Club West Cave #178	11
Beaver System #195	12
Mad About Bats	14
Natsitlenei's Den #202	14
A Successful Failure	16
Miscellaneous	18

Cover Photo: Connie LaPerriere squeezes through an opening at Windgate Cave on Prince of Wales Island, Alaska Photo: M. LaPerriere

The ALASKAN CAVER (ISSN 0735-0481) is the periodic publication of the Glacier Grotto of the National Speleological Society (NSS). Back issues are available from the Glacier Grotto Secretary for \$2 each.

Materials not copyrighted by individuals or by other groups may be used by NSS publications provided credit is given to the author and The Alaskan Caver. Send contributions to The Alaskan Caver, Editor, 1921 Congress Cir., Apt. B, Anchorage, AK 99507. Opinions are not necessarily those of The Alaskan Caver, the Glacier Grotto or the NSS. Proven errors will be corrected in print.

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

President: Marcel LaPerriere
P.O. Box 9062
Ketchikan, AK 99901
hm: 225-4094 wk: 225-4094

Vice Presidents:

Northern: Steve Lewis (Acting VP)
Box 83715
Fairbanks, AK 99708
hm: 479-7257 wk: 479-7257

Southcentral: Wm. Harvey Bowers
305 S. Bartlett Circle
Wasilla, AK 99654
hm: 376-2294 wk: 376-2294

Southeast: Gary Sonnenberg
1377 Pond Reef Road
Ketchikan, AK 99901
hm: 247-1559 wk: 228-6323

Secretary/treasurer: Alan Murray
312 Mission St.
Ketchikan, AK 99901
hm: 225-7453 wk: 225-2500

Education: Ward Serrill
PO Box 9318
Ketchikan, AK 99901
hm: 247-9663 wk:

Conservation: Steve Lewis
P.O. Box 83715
Fairbanks, AK 99708
hm: 479-7257 wk: 479-7257

Cave Rescue: Marcel LaPerriere
P.O. Box 9062
Ketchikan, AK 99901
hm: 225-4094 wk: 225-4094

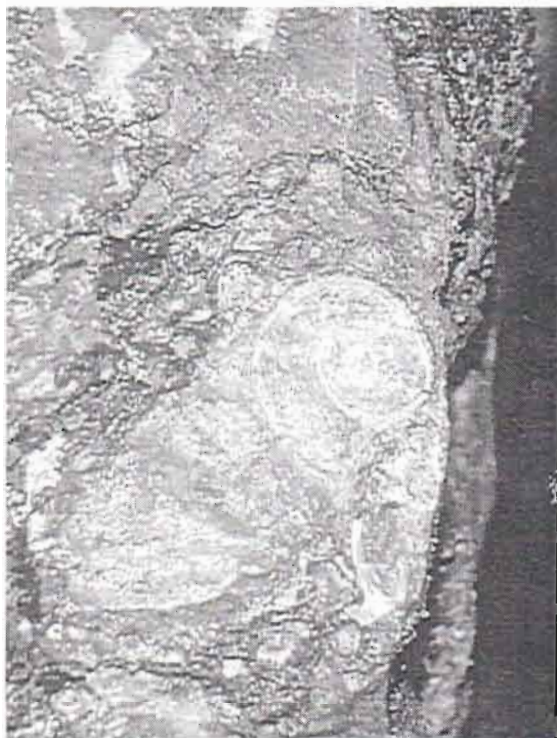
NCA Representative: Dave Klinger
P.O. Box 537
Leavenworth, WA 98826
hm: 509/548-5480 wk: 509/548-5480

The Alaskan Caver: Dalene T. Perrigo
1921 Congress Circle, Apt. B
Anchorage, AK 99507
hm: 344-3290 wk: 522-1096

Tongass Cave Project Director:
Pete Smith
PO Box WWP
Ketchikan, AK 99950-0280
hm: 846-5223 wk: 846-5223

Tongass Cave Project:
Kevin Allred
P.O. Box 376
Haines, AK 99827

Alaska prefix is 907



In a room of large flowstone formations and green and blue colored bands of plant life, this fossil goes almost unnoticed in Windgate Cave. Photo: Alan Murray

CALENDAR

Nov. 25, 1995 Vancouver Island Cave Exploration Group annual general mtg. 25th Anniversary. St. Alban's Hall, 1468 Ryan St., Victoria, BC., Canada. Camping space available. Rick Coles 604/598-9434 e-mail - colesr@camins.camosun.bc.ca

Dec. 26-29, 1995 MEXPELEO 95. Contact Oscar Barrones in Austin TX (512)441-0050

Ketchikan Area Grotto meetings are the first Monday, at 7 pm at Ketchikan Public Health Center 3050 Fifth Ave. 247-1559

Alaska Cave Rescue meets each Tuesday at 7 pm, at 819 Forest Ave., Ketchikan. Frequent rope practice sessions. Marcel 225-4094

El Capitan Cave spring clean up, to be announced. Marcel. 225-4094

ARCHEOLOGY AND CAVE EXPLORATION ON PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND

by Terry Fifield,

Zone Archeologist for Craig and Thome Bay Ranger Districts, Tongass National Forest, Alaska

Archaeological finds from the caves of Prince of Wales Island have been widely reported during the early 1990s (Carlson 1993, 1994; Dixon 1995; Baichtal 1995a, 1995b) and I do not wish to be redundant. Nevertheless I will admit to a bias as far as my research interests. I am intrigued with the end of the Pleistocene and the transition from an icebound landscape to one richly populated with varied plant and animal species and people. In this article I would like to give my perspectives on the research that is being done on the southern Tongass and the potentials that work holds.

Among the most intriguing topics of current archaeological research is the question of first inhabitants of the Northwest Coast and first human entry into North America. In the "traditional view", popular for most of this century, early Asian migrants traversed the Bering Land Bridge and followed herds of megafauna south through an ice-free corridor between the Cordilleran and Laurentide Ice Sheets, eventually entering into the northern plains and dispersing across North and South America. An alternative theory, introduced by Knut Fladmark (1975), is gaining acceptance among

Northwest Coast prehistorians. The theory holds that, 11,000 or 12,000 or even 15,000 years ago coastally-adapted people, possessed of boats and ocean-going navigation skills, followed the exposed southern shore of the Bering Land Bridge, along the Alaska Peninsula, and Gulf of Alaska, eventually traversing the exposed continental shelf of the Alexander Archipelago on their way south.

The evidence supporting this theory is sparse and circumstantial at this point in time. Work on glacial history and paleontology of the coastal route suggests that no insurmountable obstructions to the journey existed and that ice-free refugia existed between 10,000 and 12,000 years ago

Continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Marcel LaPerriere

In past Presidents Corners I have written many times about timber issues within the Tongass, and how the timber industry is adversely affecting caves, and karst. I hate to keep beating a dead horse, but this is an issue that seems to never end.

Continued on page 6

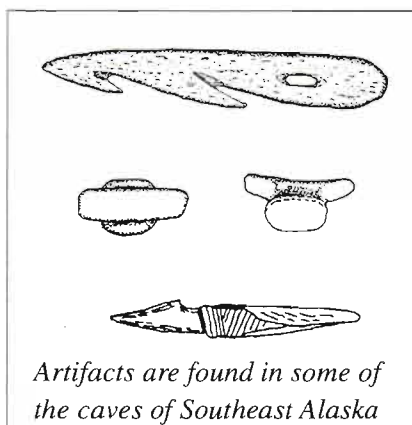
Continued from page 1

and possible at 38,000 years ago on Prince of Wales Island. An obsidian source on Suemez Island was exploited for tool manufacture as early as 9,500 years ago. This distinctive volcanic glass shows up at archaeological sites in northern Southeast Alaska and in British Columbia, indicating that a boating people with ocean-going navigation skills and an intimate knowledge of the resources were present in Southeast by that time. Such familiarity suggests some length of occupation.

All of this supports the possibility, and some would say probability, that there was a human presence in southeast Alaska significantly earlier than 10,000 years ago. But, what we do not yet have is the early site; the 13,000- (or 15,000-) year-old camp where the first groups of humans sat out some bad weather and wondered about what was ahead to the south. It is the search for this elusive site(s) that intrigues the archaeologists and geologists of the Outer Island Cave Inventory Project as well as many of the speleo-specialists of the Prince of Wales Island Expedition (POWIE). The search brings together diverse scientific disciplines to answer questions such as; where was the shoreline 15,000 years ago (13,000...11,000); what species of marine and terrestrial animals were present; when were anadromous fish runs established and where; what plant resources were available and how were they distributed? In short, what paleoecological clues are present to help us narrow down the search?

Understanding the changes in sea level with the melting of the Pleistocene glaciers is a major factor in finding the older sites. Seventeen thousand years ago sea level was 120 meters lower than it is today. The ice melted and by 10,000 years ago sea level was a few meters, to as much

as 100 meters, higher than today (depending on the local magnitude of isostatic rebound). So, for most of the time prior to 10,000 years ago the shoreline was further seaward than it is today. And, the archaeological remains of coastal camps from those times are now underwater (and very hard to find). Therefore, the search has focused on inland or elevated locales, where hunters and foragers would have sought temporary refuge. Caves offer the best opportunity for preservation and visibility of these types of sites.



Besides offering the possibility for the preservation of old archaeological remains, caves are often the repositories of animal and plant remains. Fine sediments on cave floors may preserve bones, plant parts, and other organized remains that aid in reconstructing past environments. The wet, accreting surfaces of speleothems catch airborne pollen blown into the cave and encase it; another potential indicator of past vegetation and climate.

The bulk of archaeological evidence from caves in southern Southeast Alaska is less than 4,000 years old. And most of the significant deposits are from rockshelters and littoral caves rather than deep solution passages. Only at El Capitan Cave do we have artifacts 600 feet back in a solution cave. And important research area is determining the role of caves in the settlement pat-

tern and seasonal round of POW inhabitants of the last several thousand years.

It is tempting to extrapolate from other parts of the world and other cultures and imagine elaborate rituals happening in the caverns beneath the rain forests. In fact there are beautiful rock art panels (in a few caves) and remains of campfires with the refuse of meal preparation. And a delicately carved or chipped harpoon point or knife is occasionally found. But for the most part, the information about the people and what they were doing is subtle and a bit more mundane. It consists of shells, animal bones, charcoal, and a few broken tools. The clues allow us to piece together a picture of how the people lived with their environment, what parts of it were important to them for food and tools, and how they moved about during the year and over the years. Again, caves and rockshelters are an important part of the picture.

As we get closer to the present, the avenues of inquiry broaden. In addition to the archaeological record we have ethnographic accounts of 18th and 19th century scientists who recorded their observations of the lifeways of the people they encountered. And we have the memories, the oral history, of the Native people themselves. The Tlingit and Haida, and more recently the Tsimshian, have a rich oral tradition on Prince of Wales Island. The weaving together of these different lines of evidence produces a richer view of how peoples used the land.

The potential for preservation of archaeological sites in caves and rockshelters is very high. The research being conducted on those sites has the potential to reshape our understanding of the early prehistory of the Northwest Coast. Not only are the questions of early migrations, changing environment, and use of

caves intriguing from an academic perspective, they are important from a cultural and social perspective. They give some insights into how human and environmental relationships have changed in a relatively short span of time.

The questions and answers make residents, Native and non-Native, reflect on the origins of culture in North America, on the depth of its roots, and on the place of modern cultures in History.

The exploration, discovery, mapping, and research completed thus far by the Glacier Grotto, Denver Museum of Natural History, University of Oregon, University of South Dakota, and others, in cooperation with the Forest Service has greatly enhance our understanding of the potential for archaeological finds in caves. An excellent working relationship exists whereby newly sensitive resources are protected and specialists called in to evaluate the

find before exploration precedes. It seems that the cooperation between the cavers, who possess the skills to move and observe carefully in the wet, dark passages of POW and the scientists who possess the interpretive skills to derive information from the finds (and a few individuals who fit both categories) is the best of all worlds. It is a tribute to all concerned that the relationship has developed so productively. As a relative newcomer, I am impressed!

REFERENCES

- Baichtal, James. 1995a. An Update on Geological and Paleontological Research on Prince of Wales Island. Paper presented to the 22nd annual meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association, Anchorage.
- 1995b. An Update on Geological and Paleontological Research on Prince of Wales Island. *Alaskan Caver* vol. 15, no. 3:1-4.
- Blackman, Margaret. 1990. Haida: Traditional Culture. In "*The Handbook of North American Indians*", Vol. 7,

Northwest Coast edited by Wayne Suttles. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 203-228.

Carlson, Risa. 1993. Overview of the Archaeological Resources Associated with Caves and Rockshelters in Southern Southeast Alaska. Paper presented to the Alaska Anthropological Association, 20th Annual Meeting.

- 1994. Archaeology and Paleontology in the Karst of Southeast Alaska. *American Caves* vol. 7, no. 1 (pp14-17).

De Laguna, Frederica. 1990. Tlingit, In "The Handbook of North American Indians", vol. 7, Northwest Coast ; edited by Wayne Suttles. Smithsonian Institution Washington, D.C., 203-228..

Dixon, E. James, Ph.D. 1995. Significance of SE Alaska Karst. *The Alaskan Caver*. vol. 15, no. 2: 1-4.

Fladmark, Kurt. 1975. Paleocological model for Northwest Coast Prehistory Archeological Survey of Canada, Paper #43 Mercury Series. National Museum of Man, Ottawa.

Dale Kanen, Craig District Ranger
Anne Archie, Thorne Bay District Ranger
United States Forest Service
Craig and Thorne Bay Alaska

Aug. 8, 1995

Dear Anne and Dale,

As the President of the Glacier Grotto I wish to thank you and the United States Forest Service for the continued support during this past summer of caving. I would also like to thank all the USFS employees of your districts that helped make our caving expeditions a success.

From my prospective, I felt the 5 weeks we spent officially caving for the USFS was very productive. The amount of cave passage surveyed and explored on Heceta Island, I am sure will be phenomenal by any standards. I also felt having Steve Lewis as the pre-expedition organizer and leader during the expedition was an extremely good decision by your offices. No one worked harder to insure the expedition was a success than Steve did. Because of his hard work Steve is extremely respected by all the cavers associated with this years expedition.

A further thanks to both of you, Barb Stanley and Jim Baichtal for attending the meeting we held on August 4th in Craig. All of the cavers that attended this meeting felt it was productive, and we all appreciated your support.

I would also like to personally thank you for allowing me to be part of the June archeological, and geological expeditions to Heceta Island. The one week spent with Jim Dixon and the following week spent with the Ton-

gass Ranger on Heceta Island proved to very educational for me. The things that I learned from the geologists and archaeologists during those two weeks have already helped make me become a better caver.

A special thanks also goes to both Ranger Districts for the support to Alaska Cave Rescue (ACR). This past rescue practice session went extremely well, and we owe much of that success to the USFS. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work that Cat Woods continues to put in as the Liaison between the USFS and ACR.

Anne, I would like to ask you to please keep both the grotto and TCP informed on the mitigation measures that your office takes in regards to the windfall above Bridal Vale Cave. Members of both TCP and the grotto are extremely concerned about the well being of such a special cave. Bridal Vale Cave is truly one of the wonders within the Thorne Bay Ranger District, and warrants whatever measures are necessary to protect it from further harm.

As mentioned during the meeting on the 4th the grotto would be most interested in helping select any caves that will be direct access by the USFS. Also, please don't hesitate to ask us for volunteer help constructing the proposed viewing platform at Star Light or help constructing trails to selected caves. During grotto meetings here in Ketchikan there has been much interest shown in helping with these projects.

Thank you again. I am looking forward to working with both of your offices in the future.

Sincerely,

Marcel LaPerriere, President Glacier Grotto

Accidents Can Happen

by Kevin Allred

1994 & 1995 Tongass Cave Project Expeditions Accident Report

In order to encourage safety in the Tongass Cave Project, I have compiled a brief summary of cave accidents and "near miss" incidents during the POWIE '94 and Ketchicave '95 Expedition.

There were no significant accidents or near misses reported during POWIE '95. As usual, this is not meant to criticize participants for any negligence or shabby performance, but to be used as a learning tool to avoid such incidents in the future. So far, I believe, we have been quite fortunate that there have been no serious injuries in Alaskan caves. Let us be vigilant. I apologize for any inaccuracies in the following accounts. Eye witnesses were interviewed in all cases but the Sergay Levachev incident in Moon Probe, and that material came from Ketchicave Expedition Leader Steve Lewis who had extensive conversations with both Levachev and Shunichiro Go, neither of whom uses English as his native language.

July 21, 1994

David Love and Eron Gissberg were surveying in a remote area of Blowing in the Wind Cave near Elbow Passage. Eron was rappelling down a virgin pit. The lip slanted at first into a gradual, rounded edge. There was no mud, the rock was very smooth, and no loose rock was visible from above as he descended over the edge. He went down with no problems, determined that the pit was blind, and they made a survey shot to the bottom (45 feet). David did not go down. Eron rigged up for ascending, and when he took his first step and loaded the rope, a flake about the size of an open phone book (estimated at 12-15 pounds) was wedged from the lip by the rope. The rock fell 40 feet and hit exactly flat and square on Eron's helmet, plopped on his left shoulder, then fell on the last 10 feet of extra rope cutting part way through. Eron's head was upright, and his helmet was not damaged. However, Eron's neck was sore for part of the day.

Comments: Eron says to make sure the lip is absolutely free of loose rock before descending

a pit. In this case Eron is lucky that the flake did not hit his shoulder and/or land on edge.

July 6, 1994

Peter Branson, Paul Hadfield, and Darcie Ziel entered Snow White Passage in Beaver Falls Cave to continue the survey and explorations there. Peter and Darcie descended a 40-foot pit and found it to end in two sumps (this pit had been surveyed two days before by another party). Paul noticed the proper route onwards via a lead 20 feet down the pitch, and swung over there rather than join the others. Darcie then began ascending the rope and while attempting to swing over to Paul, the rope caught on a small nubbin three to four feet above her. A boulder came loose estimated at 400 to 500 pounds not including the rubble that accompanied it. Dimensions of the main boulder were about five feet high and three to four feet across. Darcie had just enough time to turn her shoulder towards the mass as it tilted past and shoved her aside. Peter was around the corner as out of the way as possible, but the boulder exploded very close to him - perhaps three to six feet away. At the bottom, the rope was cut through except for a few fibers. About 10 feet up, apparently a flying rock fragment had cut through the sheathing and partway into the core. By the time this was discovered, Darcie had swung into the side lead and they had released the rope for Peter to ascend. The rope was about 10 feet out from them and Paul really needed Peter to get up and get them the rope in order to re-rig it lower. Peter had difficulty in free climbing up to clip his ascender above the cut but joined the others without further incident.

Comments: In a similar situation, a tether to the main rope would make it possible to retrieve it to a side passage or ledge. We should also check out stability of previously dropped pits. We have no way of knowing if they were cleaned or new rock has built up from falling debris or frost shatter since the pit was last dropped.

July 13, 1994

Eron Gissburg, David Ek, and Kevin Allred were surveying in the far reaches of Snowhole about 600 vertical feet from the entrance. Several rope pitches, squeezes, and some very tight, muddy fissures were negotiated during the trip to the end of the survey, and they started out after a long day. The single most difficult point of the ascent was "The Stripper", a chest compressing fissure at the top of a belled out drop. At this point, Kevin sent Eron ahead to save the time of having to wait for another person to ascend each pitch. After Eron left at the other side of The Stripper, David got there and began having trouble getting through. His pack was on a tether below him. Finally after approximately 45 minutes, Kevin yelled up to see what the problem was. David replied that he was stuck, and it soon became apparent that his pack was jamming in some way below, making it impossible for him to proceed. Kevin told him to drop his pack which he managed to do. It lodged in a cleft at the top of the dome pit, and David got through. Meanwhile, Eron had reached the entrance and unclipped from the rope which was then loose. Soon, however, he checked the tension and noticed that the rope was loaded. After an hour and a half, he became alarmed, for there was no sign of anyone coming up. He ran to camp and carried a rope, sleeping bag, ensolite pad, and other supplies back up to the entrance. The other two soon arrived safely at the surface.

Comments: Tethered packs have their advantages, but it did not work in this case. It is definitely easier at this particular spot to hand packs up through the squeeze to someone above. That the rope was under tension when Eron checked it is a mystery, since there were three rebelay between the others and the entrance. It is likely that the loose part of the 350 foot entrance pitch rope had caught around a projection somewhere along the way. This is one of the potential difficulties with rebelay.

This incident occurred in Superstitious Cave on Heceta Island. The survey team consisted of Marcel LaPerriere and Shunichiro Go. Marcel was digging in a stream passage which was formed down a bedding plane at about a 45 degree slope. As he was working downwards, he thinks he may have bumped a wall with his shoulder or arm or just caused vibration. A slab of ceiling came down on his hardhat which was about two inches below the ceiling. The ceiling slab about 3-4 feet long, 18 inches wide and 4 inches thick, shoved him to the floor. On impact with the floor, the slab broke. Marcel's neck was sore for the afternoon.

Comments: Look around. What we are disturbing may influence unstable material in an adjacent area. Marcel points out that when we dig, watch the ceiling.

July 21, 1995

Eron Gissburg was on a survey trip on the first day of surveying in Moon Probe Cave on Dall Island. After 45-, 30-, and 19-meter drops, he was standing on a muddy slab on the floor. The top of the slab was sloped, and about 2.5 feet above the ground. His feet slid out from under him and he fell backwards. His left calf hit the edge of the slab and was badly bruised and sore for at least 10 days. The extreme soreness did not become apparent until after exiting the cave using the Texas system with the other leg.

July 23, 1995

Shunichiro Go and Sergay Levachev were exploring and surveying at the furthest point of previous exploration in Moon Probe Cave on Dall Island during the Ketchicave Expedition. Shun did not know Russian, and Sergay did not speak Japanese, so they were using English for communication. Neither spoke it fluently. They were the only ones in the cave, and about 100 or more meters below the surface. Shun was on rope cleaning and stabilizing rocks at the entrance of one pit while Sergay was trying to figure out how to rig a second pitch about 15-20 feet away. Sergay slipped and fell two meters or more, landing in a small depression in the floor. When Shun came up from his area, he found Sergay unconscious and asked "Sergay, why are you sleeping?" Sergay then regained consciousness and they determined he had been out for approximately three to five minutes. Sergay gained the entrance on his own power, negotiating a very tight squeeze, traversing around a 50-meter pit, and climbing three drops totaling 90 meters. It was necessary to squeeze through two awkward places in the pitches. Then they hiked down 1100 vertical feet of steep mountain to camp. Sergay was immediately examined by an EMT in camp and exhibited no problems but a bruised leg.

Comments: Considering the remoteness of the accident, it was a good idea to get out of the cave, as soon as possible. Steve thought a radio at the entrance would have been a good idea. With such difficult obstacles in such cold temperatures, pray that we all can get out when hurt. Remember, "There are old cavers, and there are bold cavers, but there are no old, bold cavers."

Over the past few years the USFS's Ketchikan Area Office of the Tongass has made great strides in recognizing and protecting karst resources. I believe for the most part, managers of the Ketchikan Area are trying to balance all resources. Recent proposed legislation could turn the clock back and force the USFS into placing timber harvesting over balancing all resources. If passed this legislation could seriously jeopardize caves and karst, in spite of the 1988 Caves Resources Protection Act.

Bill S 1054 mandates the Forest Service to provide 2400 direct timber jobs. This would put harvest levels higher than they have ever been. The bill mandates this level of jobs, which could force the Forest Service into harvesting areas that have been off limits in the past. The bill could open up LUD II areas, high vulnerability karsted areas, wildlife conservation areas, and others.

According to USDA Under Secretary James Lyons if this bill passes a minimum of 538 million board feet of timber would be needed to supply 2400 jobs.

Lyons goes on to say as mills increase their efficiency even more trees would need to be harvested.

Lyons testified on August 9 before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. He testified that this bill would adversely impact recreation, subsistence, tourism, water quality, fisheries and wildlife habitat. I'm sure if the Under Secretary understood that the Tongass is full of caves and karst he would have mentioned that too.

Lyons further testified that a minimum of \$50 million would need to be spent annually to administer the Tongass timber program. This would be an increase of \$20 million over present further adding to the national debt.

According to a recent article in the New York Times the Tongass is the only National forest where timber isn't bid on competitively.

The article goes on to say the government usually breaks even or makes a small profit on timber sales, but on the Tongass over the last three years \$20 million has been lost. To quote Timothy Egan the author of the Times article "for years two timber com-

panies have paid less than the price of a cheeseburger for a 500 year old tree."

As the President of Glacier Grotto my main concern is for conservation of caves and karst when dealing with timber harvesting. However, realizing the Tongass belong to all Americans it is hard to idly sit back and watch other resources adversely being effected by the timber industry. When you consider that the federal government subsidizes the timber industry it's adding insult to injury.

As members of this grotto I encourage you all to let Senators Stevens, and Murkowski and Representative Young know that jobs are important, but not at the cost of destroying other resources. And that subsidizing any industry is not in the best interest of the United States.

In future issues I would like to share with you some of my travels in southern Southeast and some of the devastation from timber harvesting that I have seen first hand. And, how timber harvesting is effecting caves and karst.

As I have mentioned to you before, if any of you know of any other cave conservation issues that we should be getting involved with please let me know.

KARST

page 468, vol. III Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary. Editor R.W. Burchfield

karst, Karst (karst). 1. The name (the Karst, G. der Karst =Serbo-Croat Kras) of a high barren limestone region south of Ljubljana in N.W. Yugoslavia that has given its name to a kind of topography typified there; used *attrib.* in *Geomorphol.* (now usu. with small k) to designate similar regions and scenery, features, and phenomena associated with them, etc; karst land, Karstland, karstic land; a karstic region.

2. (with a small k.) A kind of topography of which the Yugoslavian Karst is typical, found in areas of readily dissolved rock (usually limestone) and predominantly underground drainage and marked by numerous abrupt ridges, fissures, sink holes and caverns; a region dominated by this kind of topography.

Oxford English Dictionary . pub. Oxford. 1987

1993 SPELEO DIGEST

Ever explore in a nearly virgin cave only to have a 1,000 pound slab come within inches of crushing your caving partner? Ever leave a rock carin to mark a possible new, deep, TAG pit and have someone else find and push your lead? And just how would you rescue a cow from a pit?

The 1993 Speleo Digest contains articles about these issues and much more in the 500 pages representing 38 states and 11 countries. There are over 220 cave maps and 300 descriptions, not to mention chapters devoted to spelean history, science, equipment/techniques, fiction, poetry, and humor.

Send checks for \$17. (\$14 for book, \$3 shipping) to NSS Bookstore, 2813 Cave Ave., Huntsville, AL 35810 Phone (205)852-1300.

WINDGATE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #187 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
November 17, 1994

DESCRIPTION:

Formed in thinly bedded Ordovician and Lower Silurian Limestone, Windgate Cave was discovered and named by Forest Service employees while preparing the area for timber harvest in 1992 and 1993. The cave was surveyed in the spring and July of 1994 by members of the Glacier Grotto and Tongass Cave Project. The entrance is in the blind valley of an active resurgence sinkhole draining muskegs higher on the mountain. This cave is believed to be associated hydrologically with Cuff, Pete's Moss, and Field of Bees Caves. In Windgate are what appear to several people to be intrusive dikes or sills. The author believes these are interbedded graywacke layers of siltstone. This stone appears to contain small amounts of calcite. More extensive and massive deposits of this graywacke are found further down the mountain below the karst area.

The upper cave has been modified strongly by vadose erosion and solution during its long development. Many of the passages are canyon-like and some still have active stream courses. In many places of the upper cave are superb displays of speleothems such as stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, flowstone, and rimstone dams.

After following the main stream passage past minor side off-shoots, a large waterfall room is entered. The water comes through a sporting streamway after another 15 foot waterfall in a decorated room. After this waterfall was successfully negotiated using a scaling pole, a flowstone lined streamway called "Pipe Dream" ended in a sump after less than 100 feet.

Back in the main passage waterfall room, a side passage lead was not pushed far because of impacts to the flowstone cascades there. However, the main passage continues into a phreatic dominated complex which shows signs of occasional flooding. Exploration was finally halted in a decorated breakdown room where a drafty lead was deemed too delicate to chance crawling past some knobby speleogens hanging from the ceiling. Total passage surveyed in Windgate is 1955.6 feet and the depth of this cave is 183.9 feet.

BIOLOGY:

Steve Lewis reports seeing green flies in the upper passage. Cave biologist, Kent Carlson, made a quick biologic survey of the cave on July 3, 1994. He "collected mites (troglobitic) on the low energy drip pools." He also "collected significant amounts of terrestrial troglobitic fauna on a dirt bank in the waterfall room. Types collected were collembolans, mites, millipedes, and other." Kent reports that "so far this is the most biologically significant (richness and abundance of diversity) cave on Prince of Wales Island.

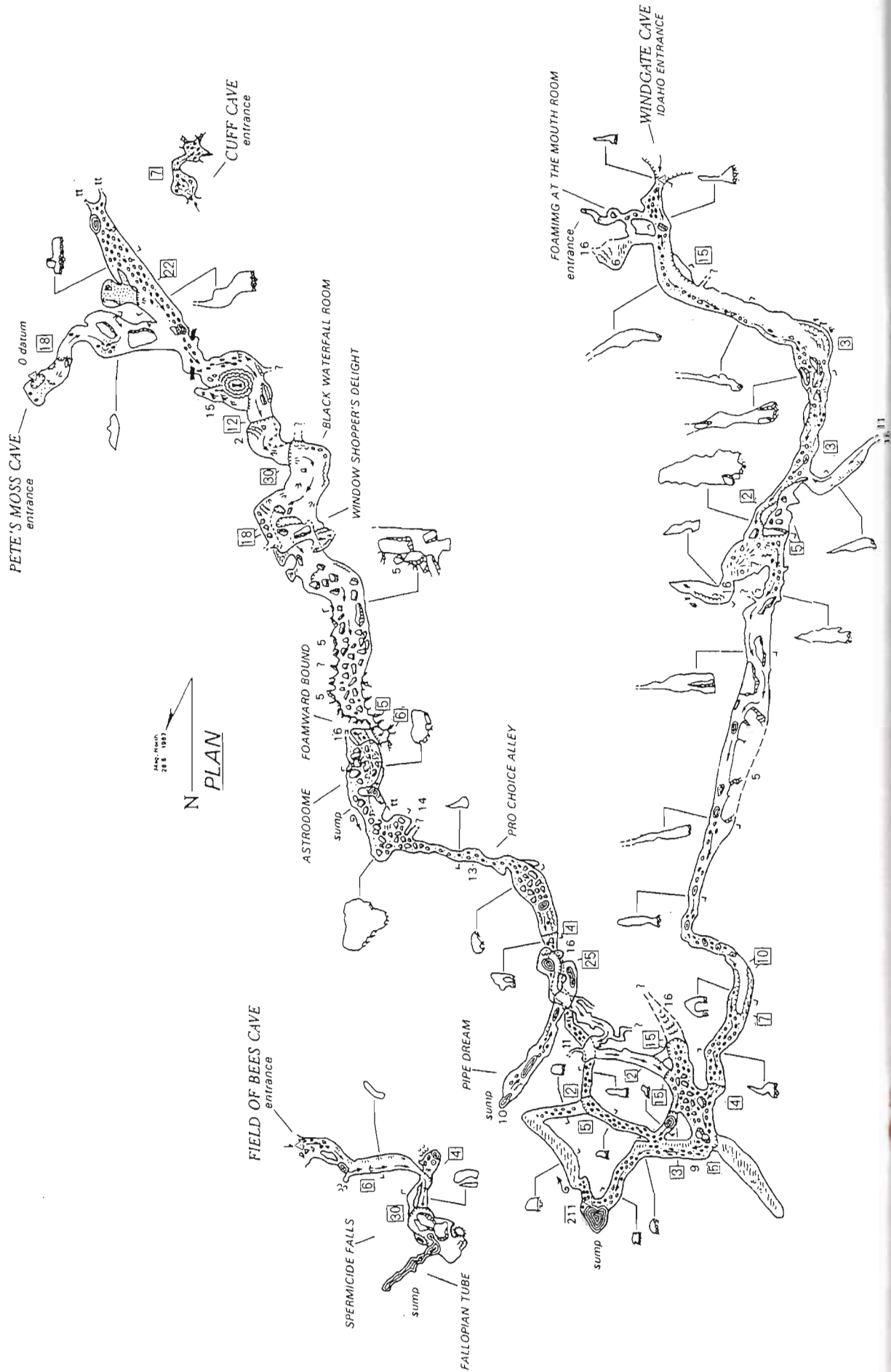
"Most significant fauna was not found on low-energy cave pool surfaces. The dirt bank [found in the waterfall room] is apparently a backwater flood area that accumulates lots of organic debris which is then processed by various types of micro and macro fungi (good invertebrate food). Invertebrates were found in abundance around moldy debris."

A bat bone was found somewhere along the "E" survey.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

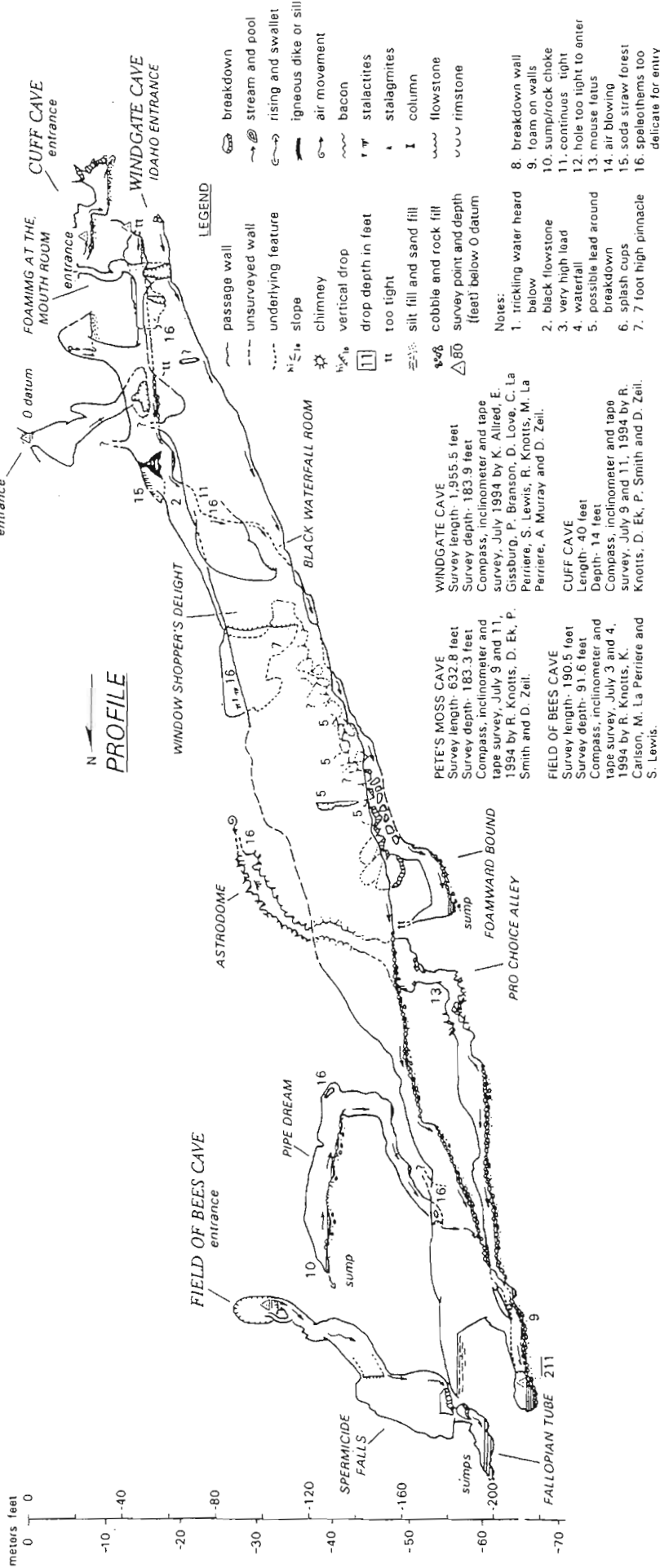
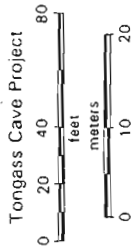
Windgate Cave is fragile biologically, and has delicate, easily damaged speleothems. The cave has already suffered some damage from careless visitors. An unknown person broke off part of "The Rubber Chicken", a large stalactite in the main passage. The location of Windgate should be restricted from the general public and Forest Service individuals not trained in cave ethics.

The lower parts of the cave in the piezometric zone are subject to normal flooding at this time, but a surge of debris could plug the cave, causing damage to the higher formations and biology. In order to protect the forest/cave ecosystem, logging and road building should not occur in, adjacent to, or in recharge areas above the karst terrain. The stream should be traced to learn more of Windgate's relationship with nearby Cuff Cave, Field of Bees Cave, and Pete's Moss Cave (see map for their physical relationship). The resurgence of all of these caves is unknown.



WINDGATE CAVE AREA

PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA



LEGEND

- passage wall
 - - - unsurveyed wall
 - underlying feature
 - ~ slope
 - ⊗ chimney
 - ⊥ vertical drop
 - ⊥ drop depth in feet
 - ⊥ too tight
 - ⊥ silt fill and sand fill
 - ⊥ cobble and rock fill
 - △ survey point and depth (feet) below 0 datum
- ☹ breakdown
 - stream and pool
 - ↪ rising and swallet
 - igneous dike or sill
 - ↺ air movement
 - bacon
 - ⊥ stalactites
 - ⊥ stalagmites
 - ⊥ column
 - flowstone
 - rimstone

PETE'S MOSS CAVE
Survey length: 632.8 feet
Survey depth: 183.3 feet
Compass, inclinometer and tape survey, July 9 and 11, 1994 by R. Knottis, D. Ek, P. Smith and D. Zell.

WINDGATE CAVE
Survey length: 1,955.5 feet
Survey depth: 183.9 feet
Compass, inclinometer and tape survey, July 1994 by K. Allred, E. Gissburg, P. Branson, D. Love, C. La Perriere, S. Lewis, R. Knottis, M. La Perriere, A. Murray and D. Zell.

FIELD OF BEES CAVE
Survey length: 190.5 feet
Survey depth: 91.6 feet
Compass, inclinometer and tape survey, July 3 and 4, 1994 by R. Knottis, K. Carlson, M. La Perriere and S. Lewis.

CUFF CAVE
Length: 40 feet
Depth: 14 feet
Compass, inclinometer and tape survey, July 9 and 11, 1994 by R. Knottis, D. Ek, P. Smith and D. Zell.

Notes:

1. trickling water heard below
2. black flowstone
3. very high lead
4. waterfall
5. possible lead around breakdown
6. splash cups
7. 7 foot high pinnacle
8. breakdown wall
9. foam on walls
10. sump/rock choke
11. continuous tight
12. hole too tight to enter
13. mouse fetus
14. air blowing
15. soda straw forest
16. speleothems too delicate for entry

Cartography by Kevin and Carlene Allred

© 1994 by Carlene Allred

FIELD OF BEES CAVE

Princer of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #184 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
November 17, 1994

DESCRIPTION:

Field of Bees Cave was discovered by TCP personnel while hunting for caves in 1993. The Forest Service had reported a cave entrance in the area in 1992. The walk-in cave entrance is at the bottom of an active insurgence sinkhole. After entering the cave, side galleries and alcoves are seen to contain pretty speleothems of stalactites, soda straws, bacon rind, and rimstone dams. The way continues to a waterfall drop (Spermicide Falls). The drop can be rigged dry by descending from a connecting side passage to one side. Spermicide Falls cascades 25 feet into a sump in the "Fallopian Tube". Total length of Field of Bees is 190.5 feet, and it is 91.6 feet deep. The cave was surveyed July 3, 1993 by Rob Knotts, Steve Lewis, Kent Carlson, and Zack LaPerriere.

BIOLOGY:

Cave Biologist Kent Carlson found unknown water beetles, a troglobitic terrestrial mite, and collembola in the alcoves above the drop.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Field of Bees Cave is well decorated with speleothems. The cave may be subject to flooding in the lower portions, and a surge of debris could plug the cave, causing damage to the formations and biology. In order to protect the forest/cave ecosystem, logging and road building should not occur in, adjacent to, or in recharge areas above the karst terrain. The stream should be dye traced for any relationship with the hydrology of nearby Windgate, Cuff, and Pete's Moss caves.

PETE'S MOSS CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #186 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
November 17, 1994

DESCRIPTION:

Pete Smith discovered the small, mossy, drafty entrance hole of Pete's Moss Cave. The entrance drop plummets some 50 feet past flowstone and stalactite displays to a well decorated stream passage. A second rope is needed for a 30-foot drop into "Black Waterfall Room". Several leads remain in this room. A small decorated alcove here is called "Window Shopper's Delight". The stream runs past an unexplored breakdown area and

gets low in "Foamward Bound" before becoming too tight at the end. A pool that the stream enters may be a sump. Total length of the cave is 632.8 feet, and the depth is 183.3 feet.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Pete's Moss Cave is very beautifully decorated with speleothems. The cave is subject to flooding in the lowest levels, and a surge of debris could plug the cave, causing damage to the many formations and the biology. In order to protect the forest/cave ecosystem, logging and road building should not occur in, adjacent to, or in recharge areas above the karst terrain.

CUFF CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #185 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
November 17, 1994

DESCRIPTION:

Cuff Cave was discovered by members of TCP while combing the area for caves. It is a short insurgence which pinches after 11 feet. The cave is probably part of the Windgate hydrologic system, but digging or dye tracing would be necessary to confirm a connection.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cuff Cave, although not a significant cave feature, is part of a well developed karst area which should be protected from degradation of the forest ecosystem. Logging and road building should not occur in, adjacent to, or in recharge areas above the karst terrain. A dye tracing is needed for this cave.

CLUB WEST CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK - Preliminary Report #178
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society
by Kevin Allred
November 16, 1994

DESCRIPTION:

Club West Cave was discovered and named by Mike McFadin and surveyed on July 10, 1994 by Rob Knotts and David Klinger.

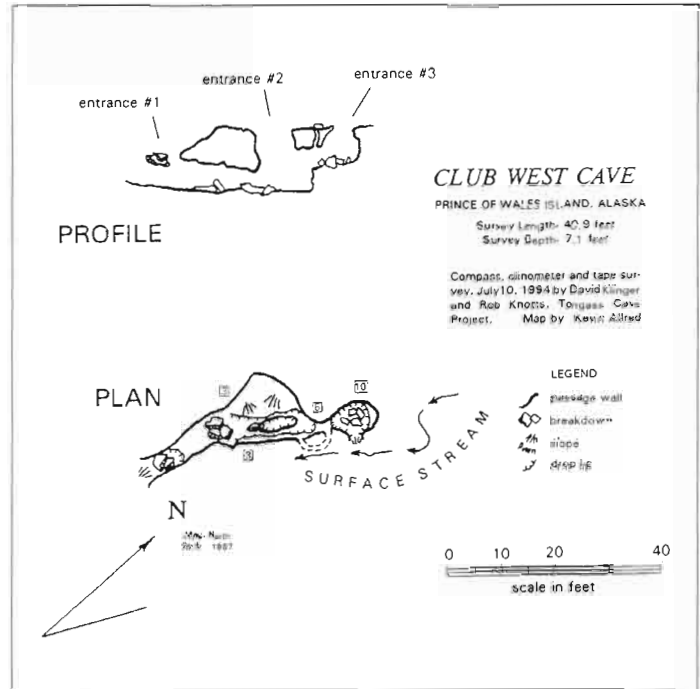
Formed in Heceta Limestone, Club West has three entrances and is adjacent to a surface stream. The cave is walking passage with a short drop at one entrance. Total surveyed passage is 40.9 feet, and the total depth is 7.1 feet.

BIOLOGY:

An unidentified small mammal (possibly a vole) was seen entering the cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Due to the proximity of Lagnaf? Creek, the cave should be protected.



N. S. S.
GRAPHIC
ARTS
S
A
L
O
N

HONORABLE
MENTION

The medal winners for the 1995 Graphic Arts Salon go to the Underground Express of the Willamette Valley Grotto in the non-photographic category and to the Georgia Underground of the Dogwood City Grotto in the photographic category. To make things a bit more interesting, this year's winning photographic cover was the Georgia Underground, Vol. 30, No.4; last year's winner was the Georgia Underground, Vol. 30, No.3.

This year's 117 entries was a gain of one entry over last year. Entries were received from 29 of the Society's organizations for a gain of four participants. An additional entering organization was disqualified for nonpayment of the entry fee.

This is a salon where the awards are given to the organization rather than to the newsletter editor or to the cover artist or photographer.

1995 NSS GRAPHIC ARTS SALON CATEGORY: PHOTOGRAPHIC

MEDAL WINNER:

Georgia Underground, Vol.30, No.4, Dogwood City Grotto

MERIT AWARD:

Crawlway Courier, Vol.28, No.2, Little Egypt Grotto

MCKC Digest, Oct. 94, Caves & Karst Conservatory

Loyalhanna Troglodyte, Vol.7, No.4, Loyalhanna Grotto

Texas Caver, Vol. 39, # 1, Texas Speleological Association

HONORABLE MENTION:

Pholeos, Vol.14, Nos. 1 & 2, Wittenberg U. Speleological Society

IKC Update, #33, Indiana Karst Conservancy

Georgia Underground, Vol.31, No.2, Dogwood City Grotto

Alaskan Caver, Vol.13, No.6, Glacier Grotto

Flash, Vol.9, No.1, Cave Photography Section

Pack Rat Scat, No. 54, Greater Allentown Grotto

Pack Rat Scat, No. 56, Greater Allentown Grotto

Graphic Arts Salon

BEAVER HAVING A BALL & CAVER HAVING A NIGHTMARE CAVE SYSTEM

Dall Island, AK • Preliminary Report #195 • Cave # 10-5-1-2 and 10-5-2-8 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis
October 27, 1994

DESCRIPTION:

Portions of the Beaver having A Ball & Caver Having A Nightmare Cave System thus explored constitute a low elevation, low gradient system that is entirely flooded. While a connection between the two caves has not been proven by dye tracing, it appears certain that there is a hydrological connection between them. Salmon fingerlings were noted in Beaver having a Ball Cave and a 15 centimeter (6 inch) fish of indeterminate species was seen in Caver Having a Nightmare Cave. Although a more accurate overland survey will be needed to determine precise water surface levels in the two caves, it does appear that the level in Caver Having a Nightmare Cave, the upstream cave is somewhat higher.

Beaver Having a Ball Cave is entirely within sight of daylight, with many skylights, the stream exiting through an arch at the lower end. From here, it plunges about a meter into a pond formed by recent activities of a beaver. This makes locating the cave fairly easy since there are several acres of dead or dying conifers in this pond. This cave requires nearly full immersing for full exploration. Thus, wet or dry suits are necessary for safe and comfortable caving on all but the warmest of days, even though one is never far from an exit. Caver Having a Nightmare is more difficult, with much greater potential for serious accident. The entrance is at the bottom of a large (10 meter of 33 feet diameter) sink, about 6.5 meters (21 feet) below the upper lip. From here, this cave requires a 5-meter (16 foot) climb down rotten rock into water that ranged from about one meter to more than two meters (6.5 feet) deep when we explored on the first drizzly day after weeks of good weather. From here the cave sumps quickly upstream but is swimmable through a tight passage well out of sight of the entrance downstream. Water temperature was nine degrees Centigrade (48 degrees Fahrenheit), warmer than commonly encountered in Tongass caves. Nevertheless, dry suits or heavy wetsuits are still essential for safety here. Care should be taken that the water flow is not great enough to cause difficulties in negotiating tight swimming passage. Surveyed passage in Beaver Having a Ball totalled 48 meters (157 feet) and depth to water surface was seven meters (23 feet). Surveyed passage in Caver Having a

Nightmare totalled 28 meters (92 feet), with depth to the surface of the water 5.4 meters (18 feet). Water depth ranged from very shallow to greater than 2 meters (6.5 feet). In addition, 124 meters (407 feet) of surface survey was undertaken to connect the two caves and to connect skylights in Beaver Having a Ball Cave.

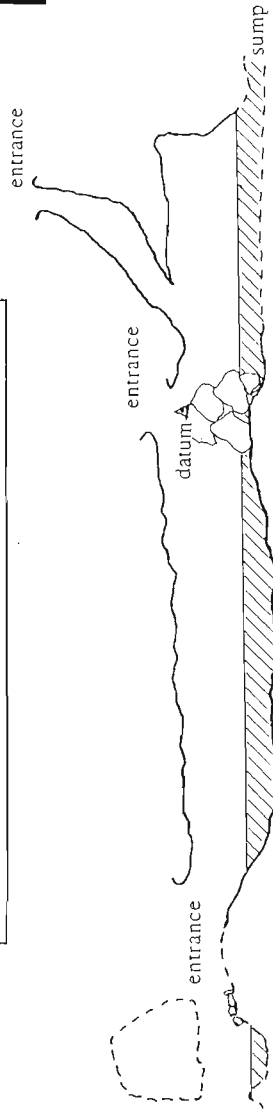
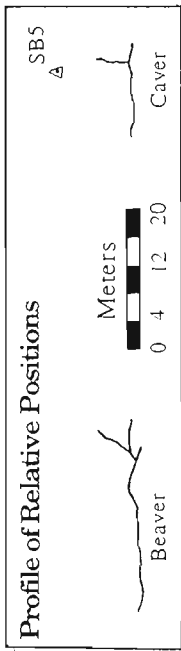
GEOLOGY / SPELEOGENESIS / HYDROLOGY:

Without dye traces it is difficult to ascertain the source of cave waters. Significant flow suggests a possible outlet from the lake 335 meters (1100 feet) above and northeast, but we detected no carbonate rock in contact with the lake at its surface. A surface contact is quite close to the east, however, and the lake could have a deep water connection with carbonate rock beneath the surface. Relatively warm (9 degree C) water temperatures in the caves support this hypothesis. It is also quite possible that the caves are draining the closed basin to the east. To the best of our knowledge, the stream shown on the Dixon Entrance D-4 map does not exist above the cave, and is dammed up for much of the distance between the cave and Gold Harbor. We did not follow the purported stream course above about 60 meters (200 feet), but did explore the closed basin above an elevation of 300 meters (1000 feet) and found no evidence of a stream. There was extensive karst development in both the high and low elevation areas that we did examine.

The caves are just east of the contact and appear to follow a joint or other weakness in the rock. The area around and to the east of the caves is extensively karsted, with large sinks separated only by a few feet in many cases. The slope steepens dramatically within several hundred feet from Caver having Nightmare. This entire area deserves further extensive exploration.

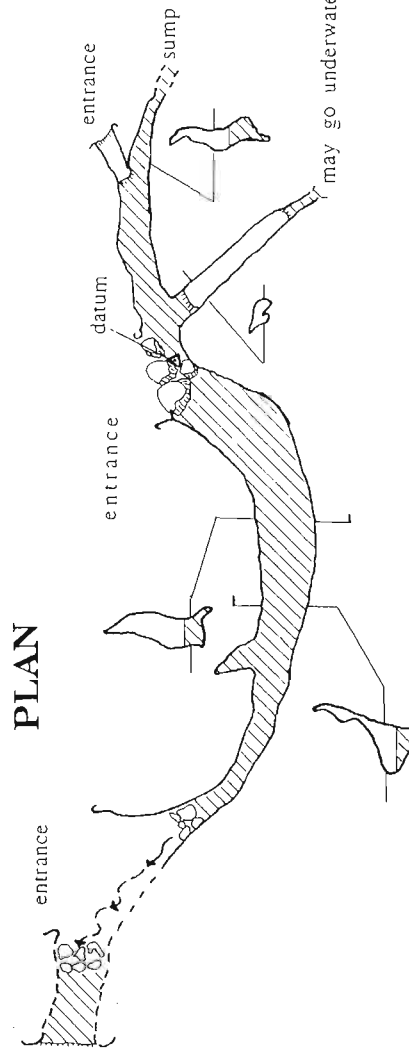
BIOLOGY:

Kent Carlson collected specimens in this system. Although initially he felt that there was not anything of speleological interest collected here, his reports should be consulted for further information on invertebrates. The cave supports a population of small fish and is also a source of water for the beaver pond just below. The beavers also occasionally enter the caves according to reports by Jim Baichtal who was here in 1993.



BEAVER HAVING A BALL

from memory



Beaver Having a Ball Cave & Caver Having a Nightmare Cave

Surveyed Length: 48 m (157 ft)

Surveyed Length: 28 m (92 ft.)

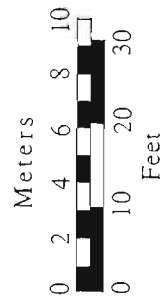
Tongass National Forest

Dall Island, Alaska

Compass, Clinometer, and Tape Surveys

16 July, 1994

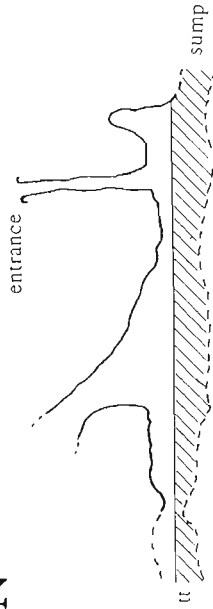
By G. Bowles, K. Esterson, S. Lewis, & D. Monteith
TONGASS CAVE PROJECT, NSS



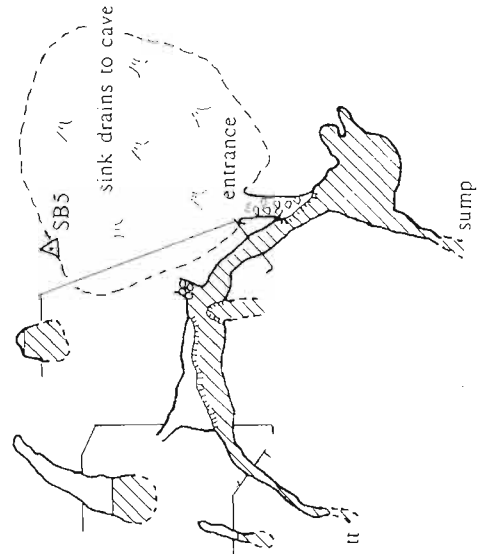
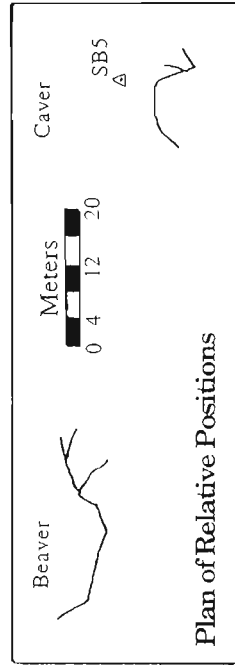
Map © 1995 Steve Lewis

SB5

PROFILE



CAVER HAVING A NIGHTMARE



MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

This cave system should be explored further to accurately identify its extent and the potential for other caves and karst in the vicinity. The caves are significant biologically geologically, and hydrologically, and Beaver Having a Ball has potential for recreational use by people who make their way to this remote location. Although

there are hazards, the remoteness, and the very nature of Caver Having a Nightmare should keep unprepared persons out of the cave.

This cave is part of unique and still largely intact and unexplored karst system. As such, it is of special significance. Further study, exploration, and formal protection of the area is recommended.

MAD ABOUT BATS

From Pholeos, Volume 15 (2), May 1995.

The American Bat Conservation Society (ABCS) has opened its new National Bat Center to the public. This center is claimed to be the first living museum dedicated to the conservation of North American Bats. Located at ABC's new headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, the bat center features live bats, educational programs on the flying mammals, and a retail store full of backyard wildlife supplies, such as bat detectors.

Visitors to the center get to meet its mascot "Sweet Pea" (a brown bat). They can also attend demonstration on the usefulness of the "nocturnal heroes." A recent demonstration featured night-fragrance bat gardens. The bats attracted help rid backyards of moths and beetles. For more information about the National Bat Center, call 301/984-2227.

NATSITLENEI'S DEN

Dall Island, AK • Preliminary Report #202 • Cave # 10-5-1-27 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Steve Lewis
November 7, 1995

DESCRIPTION / GEOLOGY:

Natsitlenei's Den is a dramatic cave with very large passage of phreatic origin. It is apparently a relic of a much larger ancient system that has been worn away by glaciers and or wave action. The cave system includes three immense and three smaller entrances including a very large skylight that appears to have been part of an ancient shaft rather than a collapse feature. The lower sections of the cave have many littoral features while the upper sections retain phreatic characteristics with nearly circular passage cross sections. No passage is out of sight of surface light. The cave must be accessed by small boat and might be difficult to leave at high tide or with significant swell. Surveyed was 107.5 meters (353 feet). Depth of the cave is 29.5 meters (97 feet) at about a 1.2 meter (4 foot) tide.

ARCHAEOLOGY:

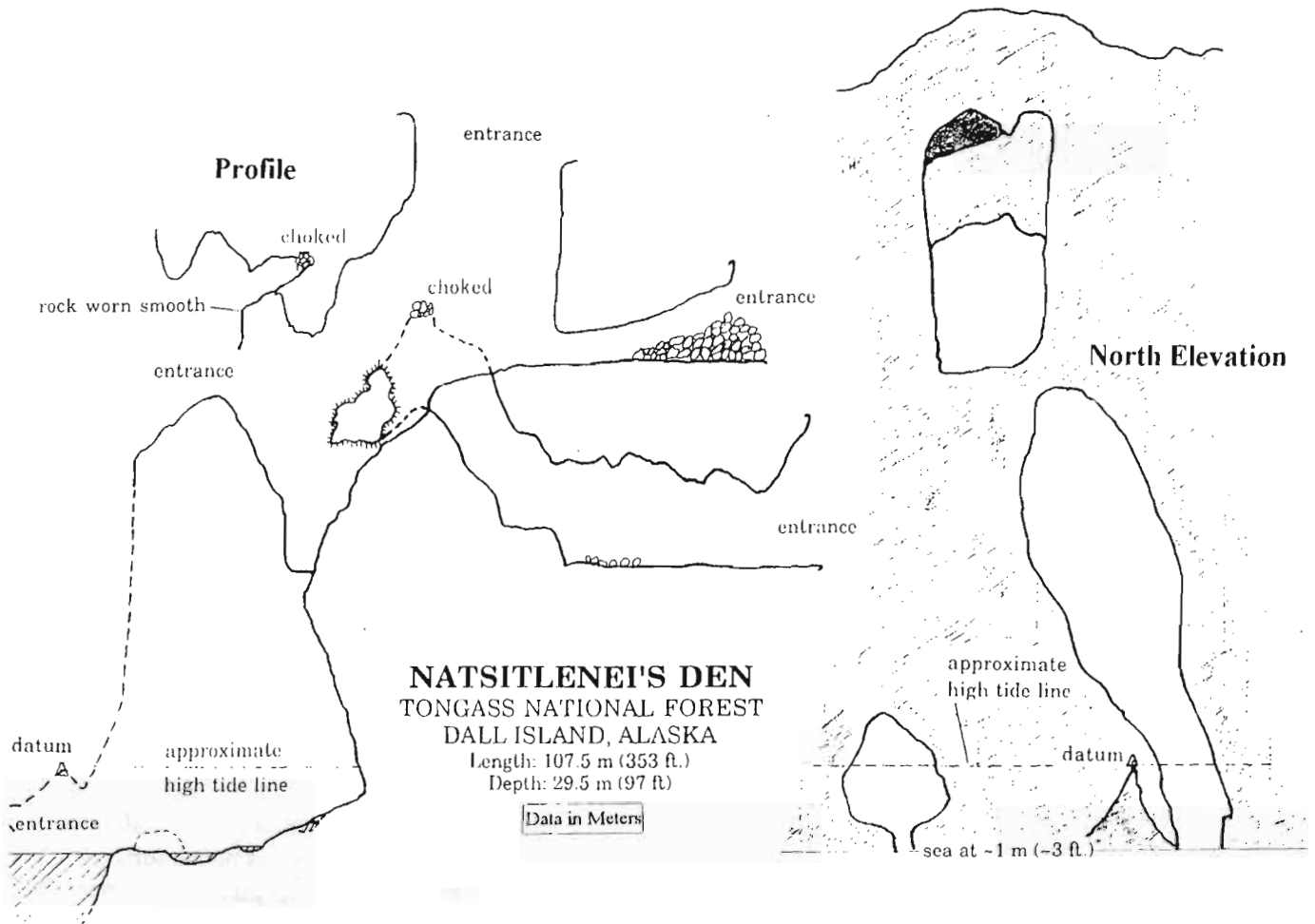
This cave is a significant archaeological site. Segments of cedar rope, perhaps part of a basket were located in one passage. The name Natsitlenei is of Tlingit origin. It

refers to a mythological character who was responsible for creating orcas. This event supposedly took place somewhere on the west coast of Dall Island where this cave is located.

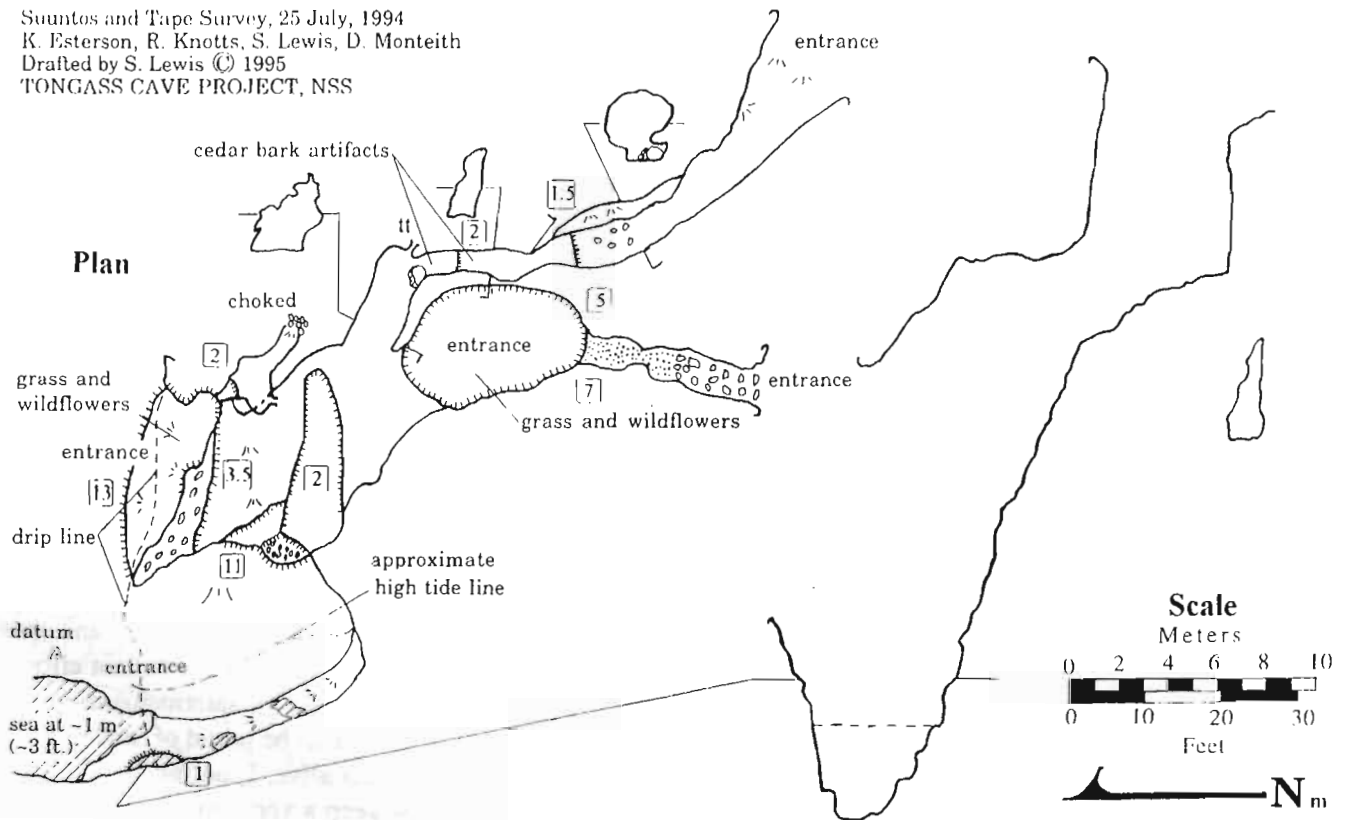
MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

The location of this cave should not be given out to the public at this time. The archaeological site is still intact and we feel that it should remain so. Only if the native community feels that they would like to know more about this site and its cultural artifacts should further work be undertaken. Any such work should be done cooperatively with the native community.

More cave and karst inventory and mapping is essential. We only scratched the surface during our one day in this area. Exploration on the surface and from the water revealed a plethora of small caves and dramatic karst landforms that still require proper description, mapping, and documentation.



Suuntos and Tape Survey, 25 July, 1994
 K. Esterson, R. Knotts, S. Lewis, D. Monteith
 Drafted by S. Lewis © 1995
 TONGASS CAVE PROJECT, NSS



Continued on page 16

A SUCCESSFUL FAILURE

by Alan Murray

The groundwork involved months of planning, recruiting informants, moving sensitive materials past customs officials, and talking with international accomplices known only as voices on the phone. When "zero hour" arrived there was the nearly unbearable suspense as the victim approached the trap. And then, without any warning.....

It all started in 1990 when an anonymous package, designed to embarrass me, arrived in the mail. It took a long time to identify the culprit, and even longer before payback time arrived. Then in July, 1993 at the end of POWIE VII, I was bringing Marcel' laPerriere's truck back to Ketchikan while he, with Connie, Zack, and two other cavers, spent two days returning on the Terra Nova, Marcel and Connie's sailboat. I parked Marcel's truck in full view of all the traffic on Tongass Avenue and filled the cab with Styrofoam peanuts. We all had a great laugh at Marcel's expense even though I knew he would retaliate. So I began looking for a way to strike again while Marcel expected me to be on the defensive.

One day Marcel was talking about a trip he would take in the spring of 1995. He planned, among other things, to give a number of slide shows, including one in Alberta, Canada. When I heard the name of the caving group he was to visit, the Alberta Speleological Society Holers, I knew I had struck gold.

I explained the web of deceit I had planned . . . The only rule was; Do anything I would do . . . Show no mercy!

This group definitely had my kind of sense of humor! The first step was to find a good stooge and where better than in Marcel's own family? In fact both Connie and Zack willingly supplied the necessary information.

Marcel wouldn't suspect anything from strangers in another country, hundreds of miles from home. How could Marcel say no to their hospitality, no matter how bizarre it became?

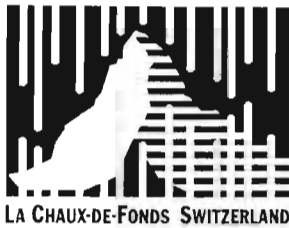
I would send an oak toilet seat that Marcel would have to use for a frame while his picture was being taken. Toilet paper streamers would be used, and a video camera would capture all the action. I would include 35mm film and three different formats of video tape to cover any kind of camera that might be used.

I told Ian to make Marcel do anything. The only rule was "Do anything I would do; show no mercy!" Ian embraced the plan! Although Ian had never met Marcel, he seemed to sense that whatever happened, Marcel deserved to get it with both barrels. I was impressed by his keen insight!

I prepared the package and took it to the post office. Then I realized I had to identify the internal contents on the outside of the box - a toilet seat and film! I was thankful that I hadn't included the toilet paper! In spite of my worries about somebody in customs getting suspicious, the package slipped through without any delay.

According to the plan Ian would mail everything back without saying anything to Marcel. At the next Glacier Grotto meeting the video would suddenly appear on the TV and the photos would surface. Now came the worst part - waiting for the night Marcel would arrive in Canada. I thought I would burst! After Marcel came home I couldn't take it any longer, and took Connie aside to find out what Marcel said happened to him. That was when I received the devastating news. Marcel was behind schedule, and a snow storm was approaching. He didn't want to take a chance getting caught in bad weather, so he cancelled his slide show and drove straight through to Prince Rupert to catch the ferry.

I talked to Ian sometime later, and expressed my gratitude for his valiant effort. It was an example of international cooperation we can all be proud of, and should strive to keep alive. I, on the other hand, must now keep a very close watch on my backside, for I too would like to "keep alive"!



12th International Congress of Speleology and "6^e Colloque d'hydrologie en pays calcaire et en milieu fissuré"

(6th Conference on Limestone Hydrology and Fissured Aquifers).

La Chaux-de-Fonds (Neuchâtel, Switzerland)

August 10 – 17, 1997



Organization

- Swiss Speleological Society
- Swiss Academy of Sciences, Speleology Commission
- Center of Hydrogeology, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland
- Geology laboratory, University of Franche-Comté, Besançon, France
- Prehistory Seminar, University of Neuchâtel
- The Town of La Chaux-de-Fonds

Which Congress ?

The 12th International Congress of Speleology will take place in La Chaux-de-Fonds (canton of Neuchâtel, Switzerland), heartland of the watchmaking industry, a town of 40,000 inhabitants located in the karst of the Jura mountains.

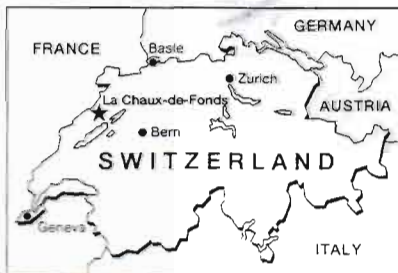
■ The main guidelines in the preparation of this congress are:

- to bring together cave explorers and scientists.
- to organize a regional attraction for the general public.
- to do everything possible to turn the International Congress back into the four yearly speleological get together event it should be.

The congress itself, the associated general meetings, and UIS commissions, will be held in the city college building or within 2 miles of that central location. Most of the lodging and camping will also be located in that area. Access by train, road or even by special flights from Geneva or Zurich airport will be arranged depending on the needs.

Scientific Program

The congress backbone will consist of a rich program covering all the aspects of speleology and karst study. Every one is called to present his / her discoveries in caves, karst, or other related fields of study in form of an oral or a poster presentation. Workshops and public round tables will be organized to allow everyone to share his / her experiences. Oral presentations, posters, workshops and round tables will be grouped in sessions for which themes will be defined in order to facilitate discussions and exchanges. Some of the themes defined in the various fields linked to speleology can already be named: in the geomorphology session: "Karstic Fill and Paleoclimates", "Speleogenesis of the Large Alpine Systems"; in the exploration speleology session: "Exploration in Tropical Areas", "Alpine Speleology"; in the topography and techniques session: "Under-



ground Topography: What's new?", "Cave Diving Techniques"; in the archeology session: "Man and Caves: 200,000 years of Dialogue", etc. ... The biospeleology session will emphasize bat studies.

All the "Hydrogeology" part of the Congress will be integrated into the traditional "6^e Colloque d'Hydrologie en pays calcaire et en milieu fissuré" organized for the 6th time by the Universities of Neuchâtel and Besançon. A couple of themes have already been defined: "Hydrogeological Behavior of Karst Aquifers" and "Use of Speleological Observations and Measurements to the Karstic Hydrogeology".

A more regional symposia will treat, through conferences, expositions and excursions, the various aspects of the karst and speleology in the Jura mountain, the area in which the Congress will take place.

Excursions and Camps

One day dedicated to field trips will be included in the Congress in order to allow the participants to leave the conference rooms.

Before the Congress (from July 27) and after (until August 30) scientific excursions and camps will be organized in Switzerland and across the border: Sieben Hengste, Hölloch, Jean-Bernard, Parmelan, Dent de Croilles, Franche-Comté, Slovenian Karst and many other systems and well known regions will be waiting for you...

During the Congress, tired participants and companions will have the opportunity to take underground breaks during the day (or the night).

Attractions

- Opening gala and closing banquet for everyone.
- Multi-media festival August 7 – 9 as an introduction to the congress.
- Howdy party in a pure Swiss style (food and attractions) for everyone to get to know other cavers.
- Diverse program for participants and companions featuring touristic excursions, competitions and exhibitions, meeting places with live music, etc.
- In addition to the usual gear and book selling booths on the congress site, specific exhibitions will be featured throughout the town:
 - Speleology and biospeleology at the Natural History Museum;
 - Cave paintings and engravings at the Museum of Fine Arts;
 - Cave books and documents at the Documentation Center of the U.I.S.-S.S.S located in the town's library.
- Pass to the regional museums: The International Clockwork Museum in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Archeology and Ethnography Museum in Neuchâtel, Underground Water Mills in Le Locle.

Food, Lodging and Transportation

- Lodging is planned to accommodate all participants (approximate fees per person and per night in Swiss Francs): Camping, dormitory (10 to 25), Guest room (25 to 50), hotel room (single 60 to 140, double 40 to 110).

- Food service is planned for the lunches at the congress site for 7 to 10 SFR. Other meal arrangements will be available in the 89 restaurants in town. It will also be possible to cook (barbecue) your own meals at the campground.

- A pass to the town's public transportation services will be available during the Congress.
- A children's day care service is also planned.

Registration

The registration fees for participants will be about 120 SFR.

- Prices for the extras will be announced in the second call for the Congress.
- Only those who will have returned the pre-registration form below, will receive the second call brochure in early 1996, which will allow their firm booking.
- Congress address: SubLime, P.O. Box 4093, CH-2304 La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland
- Pre-registration is possible through the Internet to: <http://www.unine.ch/UIS97/>
- E-mail: congress.uis97@chyn.unine.ch

Calendar

- Pre-registration as soon as possible in order to receive the second call for participation with the congress program (by returning the form below)
- Second call brochure for the Congress with complete information and firm registration form will be available March 1996
- Deadline for abstracts of the announced presentations: June 30, 1996.

Pre-Registration form to return
as soon as possible to:
SubLime, P.O. Box 4093,
CH-2304 La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland

LAST NAME: _____

First name: _____

Address: _____

Speleological Affiliation: _____

Institution: _____

I intend to submit a presentation: YES NO

Theme: _____

Other contributions (slide show, film, exhibition, etc.): _____

Personal suggestions: _____

MISCELLANEOUS

NSS Spring BOG Meeting

A moment of silence honored past NSS President Russell H. Gurnee who died in February.

Dr. Kathy Lavoie of Flint, Mich., replaces Dr. David Culver as NSS Biology Representative to the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Landowners Defense Fund has \$1,400.

The Environmental Education Committee intends to develop a grant request for Project Underground which will be presented at the next BOG meeting

David E. Luckins was elected President-Elect.

The position of Salon Coordinator was established to coordinate NSS Salons and promote art related to caves and caving. New committees include Equipment Committee (compile and maintain information on property owned by the NSS), Facility Committee (manage and maintain facilities and real property at the NSS headquarters), Library Committee (manage and maintain the NSS Library), and an Association Management Software Committee (develop and maintain software for all NSS Headquarters information systems).

A Conservation Award was established to annually recognize one NSS member who, over time, has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the conservation of caves. Names of candidates will be solicited by the Awards Committee, and the recipient will be approved by the Board of Governors upon recommendation of the Awards Committee.

The Committee for the 1996 Colorado NSS Convention is accepting preregistration. A discount of \$10 is available for registering before Dec. 31, 1995 and \$5 may be subtracted from the \$96 fee if registration is postmarked before April 30, 1996. Forms are available from Mike Grazi, 7290 S. Quince, Englewood, CO 80112.

Glacier Grotto Board Meeting

A discussion raised questions about dues and how to remind members that dues need to be paid yearly. Institutions also need to be billed yearly, a process that has not been delegated. Alan Murray volunteered to send notices to members and institutions for the coming year. There was also talk of increasing the amount of dues.

Elections will be held as usual this year but a bylaw change will be prepared for the membership, allowing for two-year office terms in the future.

There are a number of address changes within the organizations. Michael Mauser, Vice President for Northern Alaska, has moved to Elko, Nevada. Steve Lewis will fill the position until elections are conducted.

A complete set of The Alaskan Cavers can be purchased for a price. Jay will present a quote at the next meeting. There was some discussion about having four issues per year, instead of the six currently published. This topic will be discussed again.

Marcel encouraged the vice-presidents to stimulate more interest in the organization and Alaskan caves through meetings and activities. Distances make it prohibitive to have general meetings in one location.

CAVES OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA

A 14-minute video on the caves at Prince of Wales Island is available from

Marcel LaPerriere
PO Box 9062
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Send \$15 plus \$2 for shipping to the Glacier Grotto in care of Marcel.

The Alaskan Caver

1921 Congress Circle, Apt. B
Anchorage, AK 99507

Forwarding and Return Postage guaranteed
Address Correction Requested

FIRST CLASS

38145RE
MR DAVID LOVE
PO BOX 210745,
AUKE BAY AK 99821

95

