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The

Alaskan Caver

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December 1996



The Alaskan Caver

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Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

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Cover: Artifacts from Southeast Alaskan caves include a dark grey chert (flint) biface or projectile point and a 3 cm piece of bone that may be the middle section of a bone harpoon point. Photo: Terry Fifield

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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 Jay Rockwell for details. (907)277-7150.
- 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 Steve Lewis for details. (907)479-7257

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Steve Lewis (standing) and Julie Heaton collect charcoal bags for dye-tracing on Heceta Island. Photo: Rob Knotts

CALENDAR

May 23-25, 1997.....1997 Annual Workshop of the NSS Cave Diving Section, at Branford School, Suwanee County, FL. Info: NSS-CDC Workshop, PO Box 950, Branford, FL 32008-0950.

June 23-27, 1997.....NSS Convention, Sullivan, MO. Contact: Pam Saberton, 3820 Juniata St., St. Louis, MO 63116 (314)772-6956, e-mail: PamS107326@aol.com.

July 18-Aug. 15, 1997.....Ketchicave Expedition. Info: Steve Lewis (907)479-7257. e-mail: ftswl@aurora.alaska.edu

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

IN THE SPIRIT OF REFLECTION

(Thoughts on the Treatment of Human Burials)

by Terence E. Fifield, archeologist

As I begin this short essay I realize that how we treat human remains and the places associated with burials is a very personal affair. Inevitably, as I write down my thoughts on the ethics associated with burials there will be people who disagree, and disagree strongly. But, as an archaeologist working for a federal land management agency in a region where discovery of human remains is not too infrequent, I have found a need to keep abreast of developments in the laws relating to the treatment of burials and to frequently examine my own thinking on how we are protecting and respecting the rights and beliefs of the people of Southeastern Alaska. The following thoughts reflect my working interpretation of the laws surrounding burials as mortuary sites, as sacred sites, and as archaeological sites. I share these thoughts here because those of us working in the caves of Southeast Alaska are in a position to affect these places and so to touch the spiritual life of the traditional cultures. We need to remind ourselves constantly of where we are and the effects our actions may have, not only from the perspective of western culture but also from the perspectives of indigenous cultures.

I began training to be an archaeologist back in the early

1970s at a time when the National Historic Preservation Act was just being implemented. My first experience with a burial in archaeological context was at the Shawnee-Minisink site in Pennsylvania. Upon discovering human remains in one of the excavation units we stopped excavation and called the closest tribal group, who sent representatives and claimed the remains for reburial elsewhere. The consultation ethic was well established long before required by law, and the seed was planted in my mind then. As I continued to work with education groups, universities and government agencies, I occasionally found myself confronted with the ethics of burials (an Apache burial in a sand dune in southern New Mexico,

Continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The President's Corner will resume in the next issue. By that time the Grotto will have installed the 1997 officers.

To retiring president Marcel LaPerriere, the Glacier Grotto says thank you for leadership of the organization and continued enthusiasm and concern for cavers and caving.

Good Luck!

Continued from page 1

an infant entombed in the doorway of an Anasazi pueblo). As a student I was keenly aware of the information potential wrapped up in a human burial, the data about diet, health, ideological culture. But, I was also aware of the politics of burials and of the changing legal environment. The conflict was frustrating at the time.

As the 1980s and '90s have progressed we have seen passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act and, in 1990, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. These Acts protect the rights of Native Americans in respect to sacred and traditional places and, in particular, the burial sites and remains of ancestors. A powerful learning experience for me was a five year position with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, ANCSA Projects Office, out of Anchorage.

Implementing a section of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the office gathered information about well over 2000 historic and cemetery sites all over Alaska. As part of that data collection we interviewed hundreds of Native elders and, with them, visited cemeteries and isolated graves in many remote areas. The elders did their best to impart an appreciation of the importance, to them, of these sites, and the intense sense of loss when these places are destroyed or damaged. I developed an understanding that, although these burials represent events in the past in western terms, they are very much living parts of modern traditional culture with significant meaning in modern society.

Today in Southeast Alaska I believe there are instances where compelling questions about the culture, history, and lives of the past inhabitants of the region necessitate the study of human remains and burial contexts. However, I have a strong personal conviction that the rights of the deceased and his descendants must be weighed in the decisions made regarding burials. In many traditional views, once disturbed, a burial is forever altered, in a spiritual sense. I believe the best course, always, is

to leave burials undisturbed and unaltered. But, once discovered and disturbed we have an obligation to inform and consult with tribal governments about the treatment of the remains.

I think POWIE and TCP have excellent records in the area of conservation, and the protection of archaeological sites and human burials is part of that record. As the second decade of cave exploration on Prince of Wales Island unfolds and the number of recreational cave enthusiasts increases, I hope we can continue to maintain that record. The conservation ethic is strong amongst the cavers I talk to, and I am sure we will continue to protect the nonrenewable resources (material and spiritual) of all the people of the Tongass.

Having spoken somewhat informally above, let me provide a paraphrasing of our legal responsibilities under NAGPRA when we inadvertently discover human burials and associated cultural items.

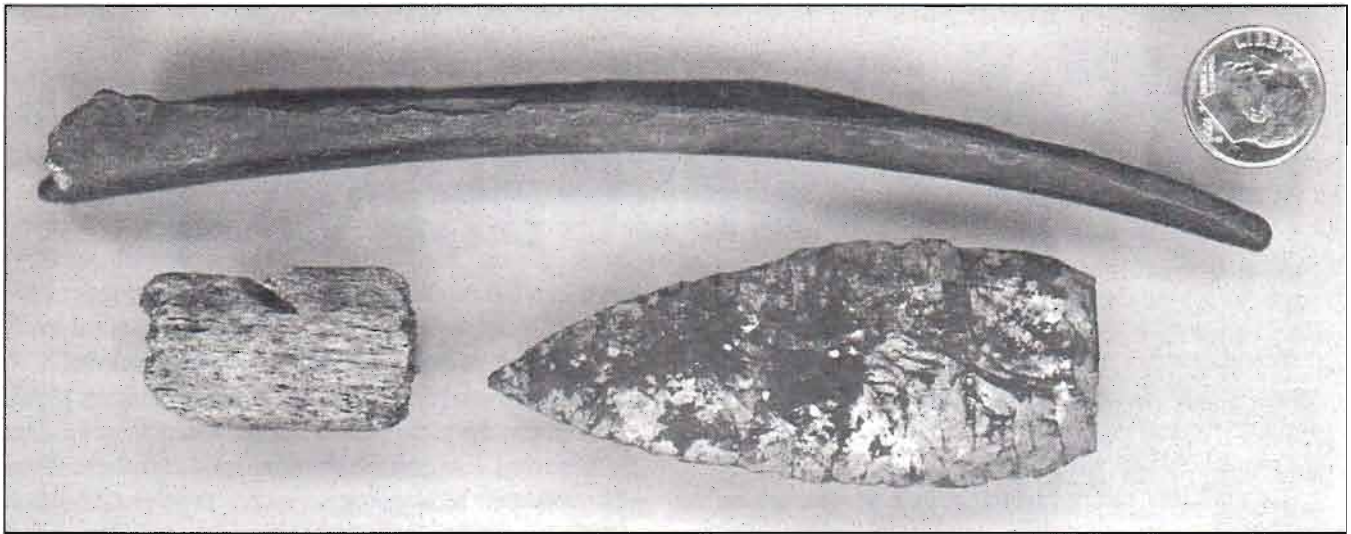
43 CFR Part 10: Section 10.4 (Inadvertent discoveries):

- Any person knowing of a discovery of human remains after November 16, 1990, is to report that discovery to the appropriate federal or tribal agency.
- Any activity at the site of the discovery should cease and an attempt should be made to protect the remains.
- The agency must then certify the receipt of the notification; take actions necessary to secure and protect the remains; notify tribes likely to be affiliated with the discovery within 24 hours of the notification, and initiate consultation.
- Activities at the site may not resume for 30 days or until a written agreement has been reached between the agency and the tribe specifying treatment of the remains.

(Definitions of terms, details of the consultation process, ownership of skeletal remains and certain classes of artifacts are spelled out in the regulations.)

Don't forget to *VOTE*

The ballot (or ballots for family members) are included with this issue. Please return the ballots with a postmark no later than March 15. The ballot is already addressed, so vote, seal the ballot, put on a stamp, and mail.



ON YOUR KNEES CAVE UPDATE

by Terence E. Fifield, Zone Archaeologist, Craig and Thorne Bay Districts Tongass National Forest

As most of the readers of this newsletter will already be aware, a very significant discovery in Alaskan prehistory was made in July 1996, when Dr. Tim Heaton, a paleontologist with the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, conducting his third and most intensive season of investigations at On Your Knees Cave on Prince of Wales Island, discovered human skeletal remains and three artifacts in the same passage that had previously yielded 41,600 +/- 1500 BP (AA-16831) black bear bones, and only two feet from a brown bear bone dated 35,365 +/- 800 BP (AA-15227). In October we reported an AMS radiocarbon date on the human mandible recovered from the cave. At 9,730 +/- 60 BP (CAMS-29873) this mandible is the oldest human skeletal materials recovered in Alaska and northwestern North America.

Since October a few more tidbits of information have become available and we would like to share them here. A second AMS date was run, this time on the carnivore-chewed human pelvis fragment, recovered from the same cluster of ones as the mandible. This date is 9,880 +/- 50 BP (CAM-32038). So, the dates on the two human bone samples overlap at two sigma supporting the idea that we have a single individual here. Physical anthropological analysis suggests this individual was a male in his early 20s. The tools (loosely associated with the human bones) are an 8.0 cm long lanceolate biface, reminiscent of late Paleoindian materials in the Southwest (sort of). It is very finely worked, straight edges, symmetrical. The base terminates in a hinge fracture. The other tools are a curved and shaped piece of bone about 20 cm long and resembling a "pressure flaking tool" (paleontologists suggest it is a seal or sea lion rib), and a 2 cm long notched piece of one which may be the weathered medial fragment of a harpoon point. There is, so far no evidence of habitation in the cave, and in

fact, the dimensions of the passages and chambers make it hard to imagine a camp inside. The "On Your Knees" label could have been "On Your Belly in the Mud".

The human remains and artifacts are currently housed at the Denver Museum of Natural History. The bones are undergoing a stabilization process after which both human bones and artifacts will be replicated (cast). Plans are underway for analysis by a variety of specialists.

In the paleontological realm, Heaton's 1996 (and earlier) field season produced some interesting specimens and interpretations. The cave is now known to contain black bear (four dates - 41,600 BP; 29,822 BP; 28697 BP; and 3,970 BP), brown bear (35,635 BP), Marmot (32,900 BP), red fox (11,278 BP), land otter (1,990 BP), deer (5,250 BP), and as yet undated horn core (? mountain goat??), and of course the human remains (9,730 BP and 9,880 BP). So, the fossil record spans the last glacial maximum and presents incredible potential to address a range of paleoenvironmental and archaeological questions. (Summaries of Heaton's pre-1996 work at On Your Knees Cave are available in *Quaternary Research* Vol. 46, pp. 186-192; and *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* Vol. 16, pp. 40a-41a, 1996.

Both paleontological and archaeological investigations in and around On Your Knees Cave are planned for 1997 (and beyond). The cave investigations are part of a larger effort aimed at modeling the late pleistocene/early holocene environment (sea level change, glacial history, fauna, culture history) of southeastern Alaska. A multidisciplinary effort is being coordinated through the Denver Museum of Natural History, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, and the Ketchikan Area of the Tongass Nat. Forest. We think this project will generate some exciting information this coming field season and tentatively plan a symposium at the 1998 AAA meetings.

DRUMMING

by Kevin Allred

Whining roars of airliners quickly diminished as 20-year-old Jim Baker strolled through the access tunnel and into the crowd in the Hilo terminal. The humid heat hit him like an invisible barrier.

Two months ago, a chance glance at a notice on the bulletin board at work had seemed the golden opportunity to see paradise and get paid for it too. As a seasonal ranger at Lava Beds National Monument, Jim craved a change from the dry, dusty monotony of boring desert and tiny holes in the ground. Thoughts of bikini beauties dissolved as someone tapped on his shoulder.

"You must be Mr. Baker, our new seasonal", said a heavy, sun tanned fellow in a immaculate Park uniform.

"Oh, ya, I'm sorry, I didn't spot you", said Jim. The stranger identified himself as Clyde Bagley who was also a seasonal at the Park. Small talk ensued, as they collected the baggage and headed for the vehicle. Jim was mildly disappointed the Park housing was 29 miles from the nearest beach. Islands are supposed to be small. Oh, well, maybe weekends, he thought.

"...and those palms on our left are Alexander Palms first brought to the Island by missionari...." Jim cut the boring commentary by raising the radio volume of Apache Indian singing "Boom Shak a Lak, Gimmi More Flak"... Suddenly Clyde changed the station to subdued Hawaiian, and Jim brooded to himself: what a jerk, what's with this mushy stuff? Then,

"Got any rock climbing around here?"

Relieved at the break in tension, Clyde answered,

"Na- at least I've never heard tell of any, although sometimes there is some tourist who goes and falls in an earth crack somewhere and we have to rescue them".

"So how deep are these cracks?"

"Oh, some of the deep ones are 300 feet, but rumors say there are volcanic shafts thousands of feet deep".

Jim snorted,

"Well, you're talking to the world record holder of the 100-meter rope climb. I nailed that one at the last NSS convention. I'll have to send for my caving toys, then we'll see how deep those cracks really are."

A month later, Jim had adjusted fairly well to the routine of work at the Park. He had never seen so many tourists and often had a difficult time refraining from telling them off...especially when they asked stupid questions like,

"Is the lava hot?" or "Are we above sea level?" The others at work tried to understand Jim's macho attitude, and charming him seemed the only way to get along.

One day, Jim and Clyde were on detail at the flagged barricade at the ongoing volcanic eruption. Things had settled down recently, and there were only the sluggish moving lava tongues pouring down the pali. Suddenly Jim grabbed Clyde's arm and motioned to their right.

"Look at that. Someone's out there". Through the fumes and steam clouds, a woman in a red, satin dress stood in meditation.

"Oh", said Clyde, "That lady has been here before. You know some Hawaiian natives still worship Pele, the Fire Goddess." Jim snorted,

"Why that's a bunch of baloney". Knowing that the worst he could do would be to say anything, Clyde endured the next 10 minutes as Jim raved on and on. To change the subject, Clyde asked him if he would like to go caving in a long lava tube.

"A guy I met found it hidden in the jungle way out in the Puna Forest Reserve, and he says it's haunted".

"Ah, come off it, Clyde, you should know better than that".

"I'm only telling you what he told me", pleaded Clyde. A funny, hollow feeling entered Jim's stomach which he ignored.

The next weekend, found Clyde and Jim parked at a tumble-down shanty with about 50 wrecked cars piled in haphazard arrangement. Their guide with no name, was an unkempt recluse hardly venturing out of the sparsely populated district. Jim wondered how he made enough money to survive. Just down the ratty road, they turned into the edge of a dense wall of jungle. Huge, ancient Ohias loomed over them. It immediately became apparent why the hermit's clothes were all shredded, for the tangle fern seemed to snag at every opportunity. In many places, it was necessary to crawl beneath the incredible snarl. At other places small clearings were swamps which harbored clouds of mosquitoes. Jim wondered how they would ever find their way back to civilization or, for that matter, how the hermit could know which direction to go in this damp, forbidding place. But guided by some inner instinct, they continued. Here climbing over some huge, rotting log, and there shoving through seemingly impenetrable tree ferns.

"Are there leaches here?," asked Jim. The hermit just grunted and continued on like he had become a wild animal of the place.

After what seemed many miles, a huge, black hole blocked their path. Misty rain poured down.

"Wow, Jim, how are we goin' down there?" Awakened from his fear of the forest, Jim snorted and threw down his massive pack.

"I'll show you guys how it's done, but this is child's play". As Jim changed shirts, Clyde spotted a tattoo of a bat and crossbones on his swarthy shoulder. In a few minutes, a rope was expertly rigged to a nearby Ohia, and Jim showed Clyde how to rappel with a rack. The hermit refused to go and then surprised them when he uttered his first full sentences.

"I'm warnin' ya, that there's somethin' evil down there, so if you hear drums get out quick. I'll wait for one hour, and I'm leavin' for good. Then you're on your own, Bro's, 'cause I don't want the cops snoopin' round already." Jim snorted, and they dropped the overhanging 40 feet.

The floor and walls of the cave below the entrance were covered with damp, green moss and small ferns. A musty smell permeated the gloom. Huge, canyon-like passage extended into forbidding darkness in both directions. Jim stashed his vertical gear and harnesses at the foot of the drop and helped Clyde with his headlamp. Jim couldn't ever understand why federal employees wore helmets without chin-straps.

"Well", said Clyde, "we have less than an hour to get back here. We won't ever find our way back without help." Filled with the excitement of virgin cave, Jim blurted,

"Ah, don't worry about it. We know that the subdivisions are North of here, so all we have to do is follow a compass bearing".

"But, Jim..."

"Just shut up and relax, Clyde, I've got things under control".

At Jim's urging, they turned to the mauka direction. The way led down the entrance debris and through huge passage some 30 feet in diameter. As they clambered over piles of breakdown, Clyde frequently stumbled and lagged behind. This irritated Jim time and time again which caused more friction between the two. Soon, they came to a low spot taking a stiff breeze. It was two feet high, but Clyde felt like he couldn't get a full breath and quickly pulled back in a panic.

"I can't go through there! I'm getting claustrophobia", he exclaimed.

"Come on, you have to do it" ...what a jerk. Fat Pig couldn't find his way out of a paper bag even if he could fit.

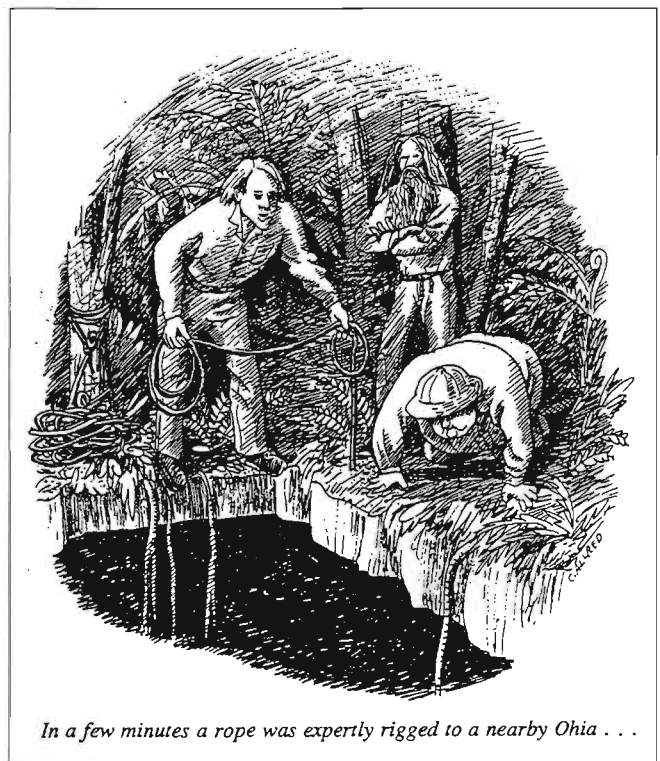
"I can't do it," sobbed Clyde, "OK, baby, wait here,

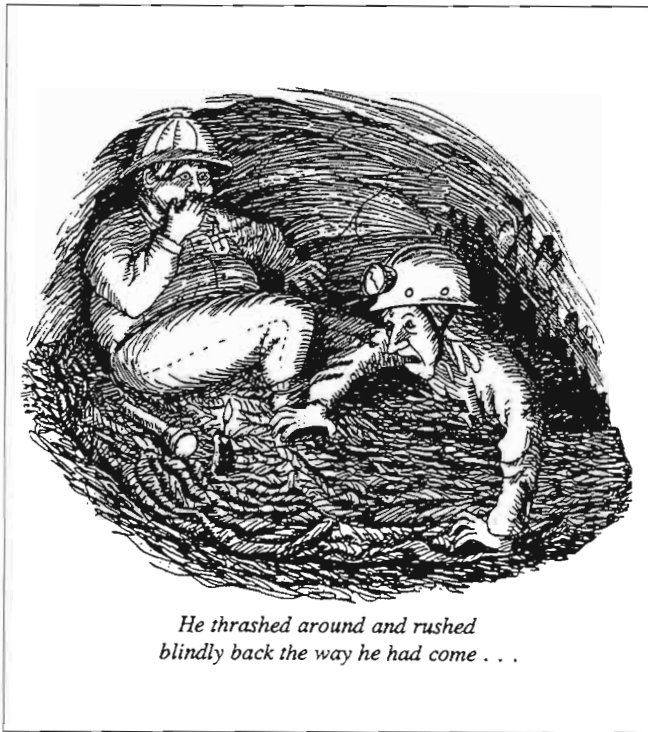
and I'll scout and be right back".

Jim continued on his belly for another 30 feet and could see something white just ahead. The passage remained low, with a jagged floor and sharks tooth stalactites on the ceiling. As he got closer, a queer feeling came over him. A feeling of dread, of something watching and waiting to pounce. Jim shoved his way forward stubbornly, and it was not until he was right on it that he jumped instinctively upwards, hitting his helmet on the ceiling. The sound of the impact echoed down the long passage before him. As his fingertips lay a human skeleton. It had the remnants of rotting clothing still clinging to it. Jim gulped back nausea, then noticed something square near the pelvis. With trembling fingers, he picked up a moldy wallet, opened it and snatched a wet wad of bills. He tossed the wallet back and stuffed the money in his jeans pocket. A packet lay next to the body. It turned out to be a Ziplock™ bag containing some partly decomposed bone fish hooks. He recognized them from similar artifacts on display at the Park visitor center. Suddenly, he felt something was after him, dropped the bag, and lost all reason. He thrashed around and rushed blindly back the way he had come, ignoring the sharp floor and ceiling. Clyde anxiously asked why his hands were shaking, as Jim threw himself breathlessly down onto the rough floor. Numerous cuts and abrasions bled on Jim's back and arms.

"Nuthin's wrong, I just was in a hurry and cut myself." No use telling him the truth, he might panic.

The long, lean body of the hermit reclined against a





He thrashed around and rushed blindly back the way he had come . . .

mossy trunk. Slow, steady breathing showed that he was asleep. Nearby, a bird call roused him, and suddenly he began scanning around suspiciously. Then he was gone like a wraith.

"Tell you what, let's head back to the entrance," said Jim.

Not resisting the opportunity for a jab, Clyde said,

"What? Are you chicken now?" When they reached the entrance, Clyde rushed forward and yelled, "Hey, are you up there?"

HEY! HEY! It was then that they noticed that something was wrong - dreadfully wrong. The rope was gone.

Clyde started screaming hysterically for the hermit until Jim slapped him back to his senses.

"SHUT UP YOU STUPID JERK, AND LISTEN TO ME!" When Clyde calmed down to a whimper, Jim explained,

"We'll just head down the other way until we get to another entrance. No problem".

This brought hysteric jabbering.

"OK, fat boy, if you don't like the idea, I'll go alone and then send back help for you. The jabbering grew to a shriek.

'OK, OK! Let's go then". With Clyde at this heels, they hurried down the passage away from the skeleton.

It was dusk when the hermit emerged from the jungle, then jumped back quickly. Down the road, an old pickup truck without a bed was parked next to Clyde's car. Some conversation could be understood.

"Hey, what a score. You got it hotwired yet Marvin?" The hermit waited patiently until both vehicles started,

then disappeared into the darkness. He thought, just as well that they took it, cause now I won't have to get rid of it. Can't have no people snoopin' round here, and I warned 'em not to go in there. I wonder if they disappear the same way as Cooper and the rest. Guess I'll have to hide out for awhile till the heat dies down. Briefly, a twinge of sorrow raced through his dark mind. Too bad, I couldn't score on the stuff in the car.

Clyde huddled in a ball weeping incoherently, Jim stood with his hands on his hips at the brink of a black gulf. It was a huge lava falls. He untied a piece of webbing wrapped around his lean waist, and tied it to a protrusion at the lip, then quickly disappeared over the edge. The webbing ended, but using tiny holds he expertly downclimbed until there was nothing at all below him. It was an overhang. A few chunks of rock fell by, startling him. Clyde was on the webbing and babbling,

"You aren't leaving me behind... my God, I'm slipping down the webbing! I CAN'T HOLD ON!" A terrific weight plummeted onto Jim: holds disintegrated, then a sickening whoosh of falling bodies, and pain.

The hermit turned at the roadside and carefully rearranged the foliage, then headed for home without another glance..

Jim awoke in darkness to pain in his side. The headlamp bulb had been shattered. After what seemed like an eternity of blind fumbling, he found a spare and finally managed to get his headlamp going again. The first thing he saw was the broken body of Clyde draped over the edge of the ancient plunge pool at the base of the lava falls. He didn't need to look closely to see Clyde was dead. The Park helmet had probably fallen off part-way down, with dire consequences.

I've got to get out of here before the batteries die. The pain in his ribs was so intense, he thought he would faint, but slowly he staggered down the passage. Climbing over the mountainous breakdown was the hard part, and once, he passed out. Then, before him was a cairn of rocks. Something gleamed on it's top. Jim's dimming light revealed a small pile of rounded rocks with several decomposing Opii shells. Stumbling onward, he thought, "have to get out before it's too late". As the light became ever dimmer, Jim cursed his bad luck for not having carried more light sources. Finally, after what seemed like many thousands of feet, the passage ended in massive breakdown. He collapsed on the jagged rocks. Long after the headlamp died, Jim woke up. His anguished moan became a scream. Now at the end, he finally perceived his macho illusion. During the final moments of sanity, sounds of his heart became beating drums. In the jungle, near the entrance, barefoot figures waited until light, then scurried off.

No one must ever infringe on their sacred domain.

EXCHANGES

Birmingham Grotto Newsletter May 1996, p.50. "News & Notes" by Dave Howell. Our Chattanooga colleague Lin Guy tells of yet another new find: a saltpeter cave, its Civil War-era saltpeter works still in place and unvandalized and with period signatures on the walls. Marion Smith is in the process of researching the signatures, though (Lin reports) he has had little success so far. A most exciting find, nonetheless.

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Muddy Litter Letter, 31 July/August 1996, pp 4.-8. "Considerations for Technical Rope Rescue and Introduction of TAC ROPE KIT" gives the warning: Rope rescue is a very dynamic experience and what may be considered safe today, may be determined inappropriate tomorrow. The article (part I) concentrates on ropes, joining main lines, anchoring your system, the versatile anchor system and anchor focal point. Since ropes are the lifeline to success for the patient and the rescuer, the article has a lengthy discussion of types of rope, weight, and rope care. Lowering a load with a brakebar, belaying the load, raising the load and packaging a litter are scheduled for future editions of the Newsletter.

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The CIG Newsletter 40(8), August 1996, pp. 112-113. The Upper Cumberland Grotto voted unanimously at its March meeting to give the Trust for Scotts Gulf a donation of \$200. By giving a third of its treasury, the Grotto is challenging other grottos and TAG's cave community to join the effort to save Scotts Gulf.

Scotts Gulf, which a lumber company recently decided not to buy, is a beautiful, scenic canyon that contains some of the more rugged and pristine sections of the Caney Fork River and approximately 70 known caves. The 15,000 acres in question also completely encloses the Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness.

The many organizations working to preserve Scotts Gulf for future generations, are trying to get the State of Tennessee to purchase the property for a state park or recreation area. However, the author reports that the state says those wishing to preserve Scott's Gulf must come up with \$1 million of "goodwill money" before the state will consider the purchase.

The Grotto is also looking for caving slides that could be used for the slide show. Monetary donations are tax deductible. Ross Cardwell has additional details at (615)738-2760.

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The Hollow Earth News 3(9), October 1996, pp.15-30. "Drafting Maps for Cavers" by Howard Kalnitz, gives cavers many hints for making a cave map. As he says in the beginning "You've read all the articles, found a cave, hoodwinked some (former) friends and surveyed the thing! Good job! But now you're sitting at home, surrounded by hundreds of muddy slips of paper - and not a clue of what to do. Relax - here is Mapdrafting for cavers."

Starting with Data Reduction, Mr. Kalnitz leads the future cartographer through the process step by step, including setting up a light table and pasting up the map.

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The Cleve-O Grotto News 42(9) September 1996, pp.69-73. "Why Three Sources of Light?" by Mike Substelny. In 4+ pages Mr. Substelny develops his theme "light is life" for the caver. As he says, "When you enter a cave you are taking the same type of risk as an astronaut going into space. A few equipment failures will leave you trapped in an environment that will not sustain your life for very long."

Throughout the article he stresses "reliability" whether it be the headlight, flashlight or backup lights, while avoiding the "carbide vs. electric" controversy. With four lights the chance of disaster (unreliability) is 0.0007352%, which is 37 times safer than three lights. This is well worth the time it takes to read and study it.

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Journal of Cave and Karst Studies 58(2) August 1996, p.67. Belize, the small, little-known jewel in the South American crown is highlighted in the August edition of Journal of Cave and Karst Studies. In the seven papers prepared by some of the most knowledgeable people in Belize speleology, the caving world of Belize comes alive. It is there a caver can find some of the world's largest rooms and passages, significant archaeological caves and diverse cavernicolous fauna.

Several caves are open to tourists now and more caves are being discovered each year. One of the biggest problems associated with caving in Belize, is the looting of the caves. According to Journal Guest Editor George Veni, as quickly as caves are discovered, they are robbed of Mayan archaeological remains.

Cavers who want to explore in Belize, must get permission from the Department of Archaeology.

JOINT VENTURE CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #219 Tongass Cave Project • National Speological Society

by Eron Gissberg
July 22, 1996

DESCRIPTION

Joint Venture Cave is a very vertical, high and narrow fissure which lies perpendicular to the slope on which it is located. The surveyed depth of the cave is 66.82 meters (219.2 feet). The initial drop from the entrance is 35 meters (115 feet) with further drops of 22 (72 feet) and 5 meters (16 feet) that lead to the bottom of the cave. Eleven meters from the entrance there is a tight vertical slot which is too tight to enter. At -36 (-118 feet) meters there is a ledge with loose rock. A three-point buck skull is here. Bellow this ledge rock fall danger is very high. It is possible to rig a redirection here with non-permanent protection. Continuing on another redirection is necessary at -45 meters (-148 feet) to that a straight drop can be made to the floor of the cave. And Here! Room. More bones are among the clasts on the floor. For the last drop a sling and 25 meter (82 feet) rope are recommended. The water and foam lines rise some 10 meters (33 feet) above the bottom of the cave floor. The final 8 meters (26 feet) of the cave are covered in mud and soft brown flowstone with much organic debris. There is no surface insurgence and during the survey there was a small trickle at the bottom. The cave ends in a breakdown floor and the sound of running water can be heard through a too tight passage.

Joint Venture Cave was discovered by Jim Baichtal in the fall of 1994. The cave was surveyed by Marcel LaPerriere, Steve Lewis and Serguei Levachev on June 24 and July 5, 1995.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Joint Venture Cave is part of a hydrologic system which is important to the development of cave resources. The occasional flooding at the bottom indicates that there is much passage beyond the known survey. The cave is an excellent example of the well developed karst geomorphology typical of the area. Because of the narrow entrance it is likely that a snow bridge forms over the entrance in the winter. It is likely the cave has acted as a trap over eons giving the cave high paleontological potential. The constant drips and high amount of organic debris are ideal habitat for some troglotic invertebrates. The forests surrounding Joint Venture and its neighboring caves should be protected. Joint Venture offers scientific, educational and recreational opportunities. This cave provides a challenging drop for experienced vertical cavers, its location could be shared with more responsible individuals.

TAKE ME TO THE RIVER

Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #225
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society
by Eron Gissberg

DESCRIPTION

Take Me to the River was first entered and surveyed by Kris Esterson on July 17, 1995. It is a major insurgence point with a year round stream into a major karst system. The cave is located in a steep and deep sink with the stream entering from the west. It is located in a low volume old growth forest/muskeg to the west of Icy Fate Cave. Currently the cave contains only 11.31 meters (37.11 feet) of survey, much of which was accessed by excavation efforts.

The cave ends in a strongly blowing too tight lead which is a very promising dig. The sound of running water can be heard beyond.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The aesthetic value of the cave and its environs are tremendous. It is very likely connected to nearby Icy Fate Cave. The cave is significant as a major insurgence point and is an important part of a highly developed subsurface hydrology. It is without doubt important to humans using downstream resurgences for fresh drinking water.

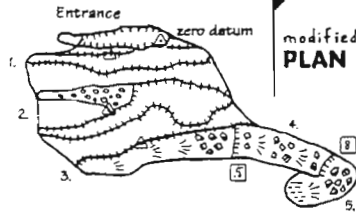
The cave is currently blocked, but to persistent cavers it offers great recreational potential because of the obvious passage beyond the end of the survey.

No map

JOINT VENTURE CAVE

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA

Nm 1995

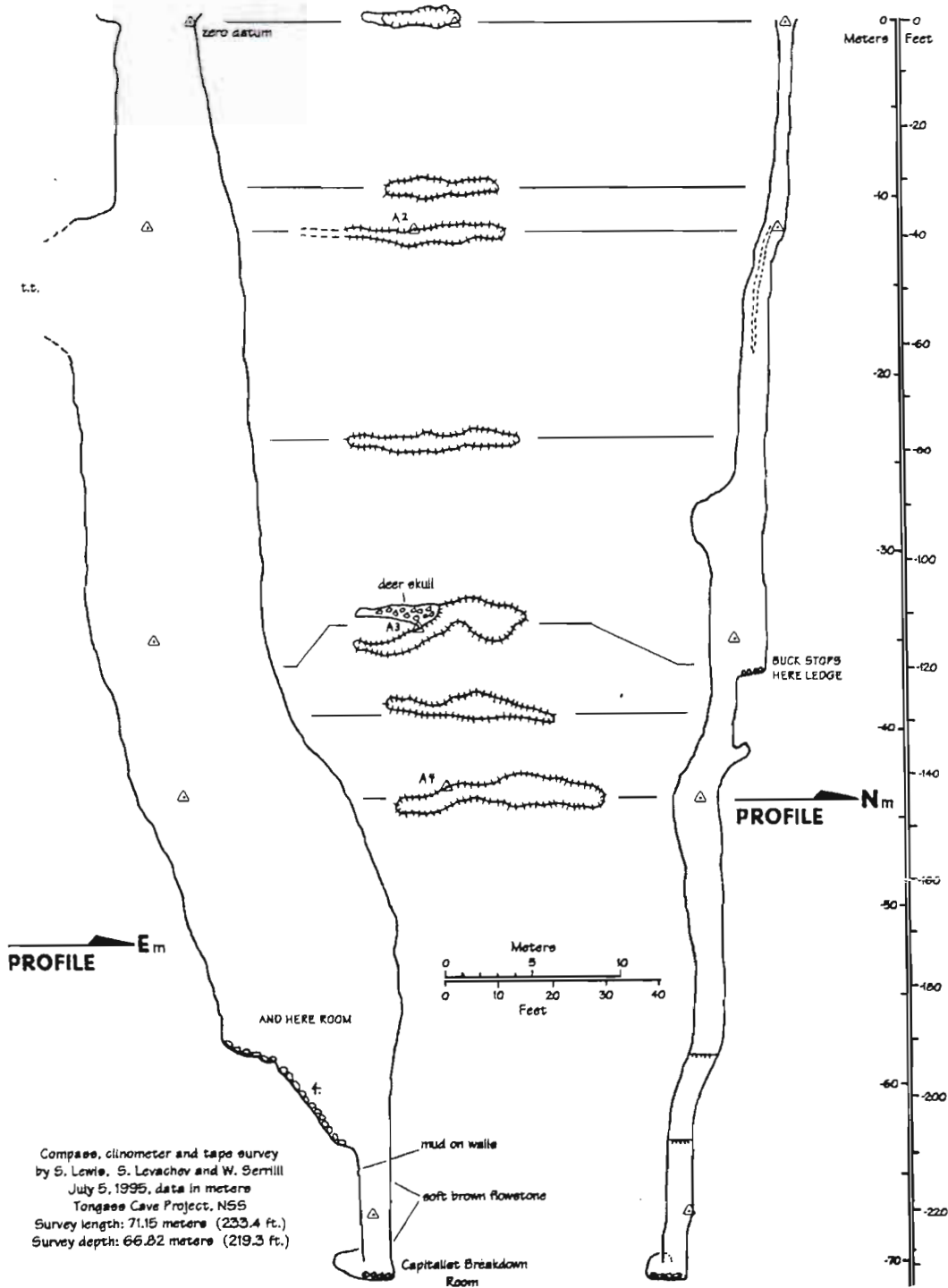


LEGEND

- ledge
- slope
- cobbles
- mud/soil
- vertical shaft
- drop in meters
- survey station
- breakdown

NOTES:

1. Horizontal cross-section at A2
2. Horizontal cross-section at A3
3. Plan below station A4
4. Bones, clasts and wood
5. Capitalist Breakdown Room



Compass, clinometer and tape survey
by S. Lewis, S. Lovachov and W. Semill
July 5, 1995, data in meters
Tongass Cave Project, NSS
Survey length: 71.15 meters (233.4 ft.)
Survey depth: 66.82 meters (219.3 ft.)

DESTINATION UNKNOWN CAVE

Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #241 Tongass Cave Project • National Speological Society

by Eron Gissberg
July 22, 1996

DESCRIPTION

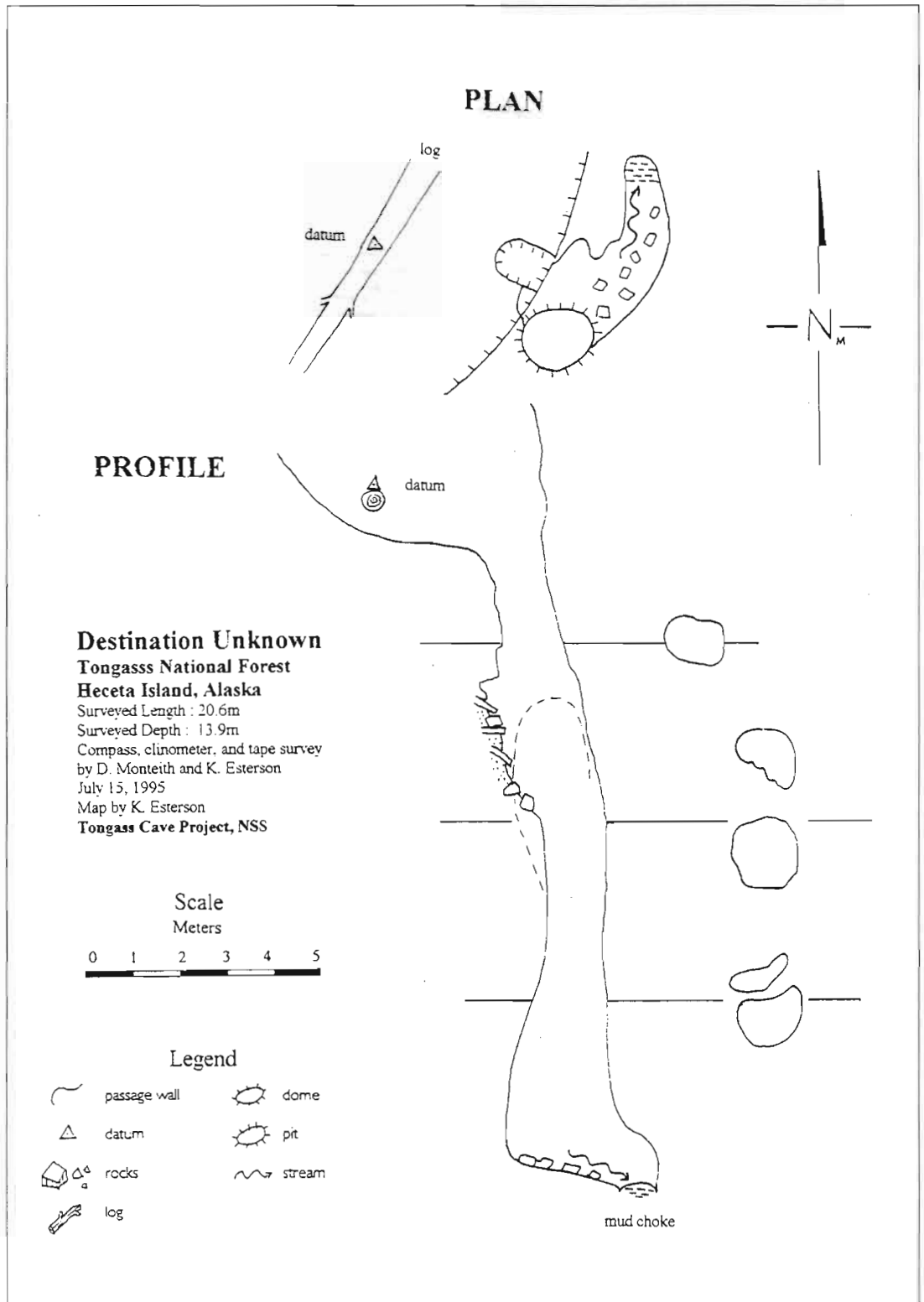
Destination Unknown Cave contains 20.63 meters (67.7 feet) of surveyed passage. The cave is located in a clear-cut near a road and has suffered from the impacts of road construction and timber harvest. The cave is mostly vertical, with logs, sticks and soil deposited on the horizontal surfaces. The bottom of the cave is choked with mud and sediments. The blockage offers good potential for continued passage with an easy dig.

MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

Destination Unknown Cave and the associated karst terrain are part of a very scenic karst topography. The cave has been severely damaged in places by past road construction and timber harvest. The cave offers opportunities for educational use as an example of the effects of road building and logging over a cave.

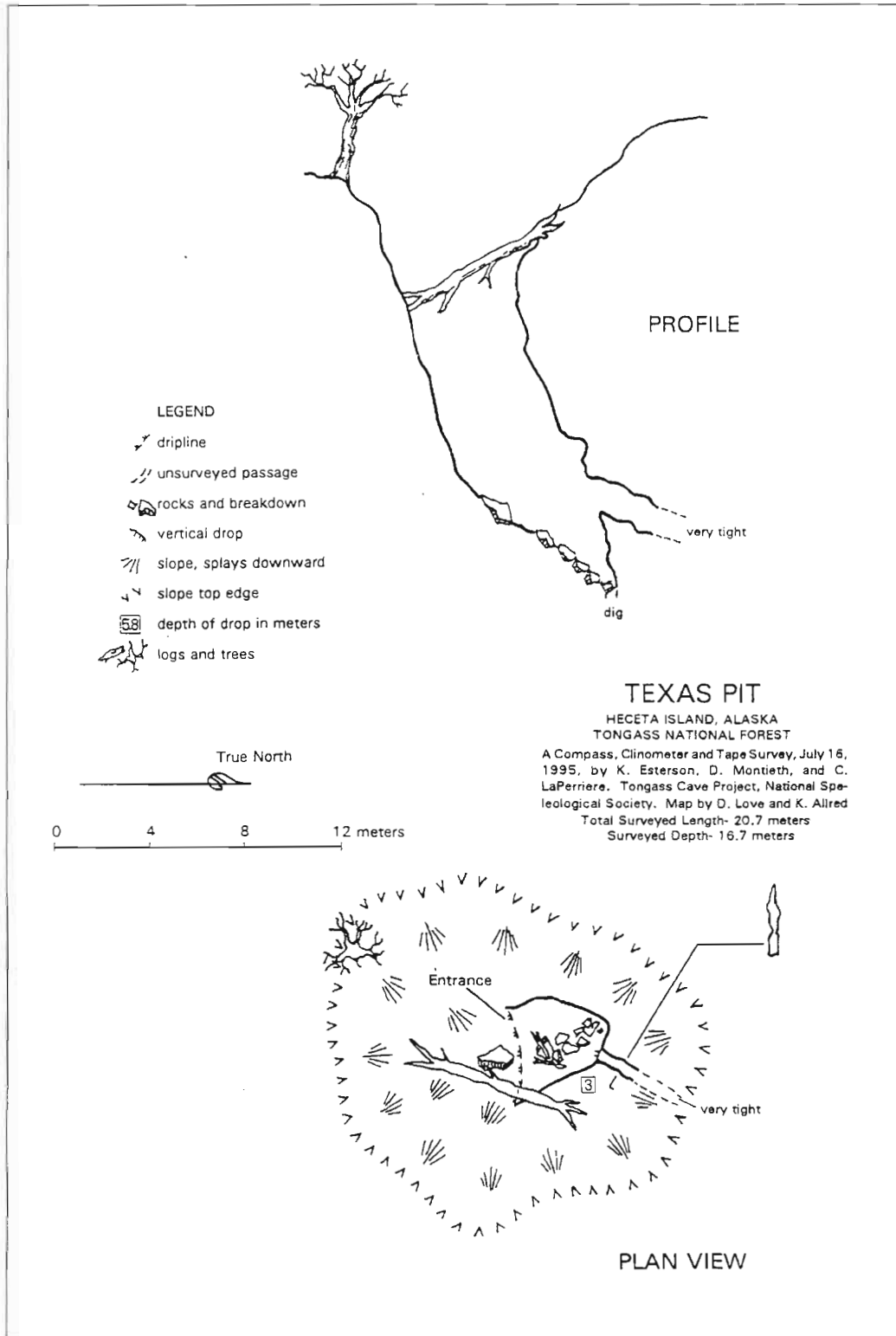
The cave is easily accessible once a person arrives at Heceta Island.



TEXAS PIT

Heceta Island, AK • Priliminary Report #238 Tongass Cave Project • National Spelological Society

by Eron Gissberg
July 22, 1996



DESCRIPTION

Texas Pit is a 16.60 meter (54.5 feet) deep pit located in an old growth forest north of Icy Fate on Heceta Island. The cave was discovered by Kris Esterson and surveyed on July 16, 1995. The cave was named for its relatively small size.

The bottom has one extremely tight lead and a potential dig. The floor of the pit is organic debris and breakdown chunks. It is a good pit for beginning vertical cavers.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Texas Pit is located in a pristine environment and is an integral part of a very significant karst system.

This small pit and the associated karst terrain make up part of a very scenic karst topography which is still important recreationally and aesthetically.

Texas Pit should be protected from any logging activities to protect the unsurveyed, inaccessible passage beyond the known survey.

ICY FATE CAVE

Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #249
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Connie LaPerriere
March 27, 1996

DESCRIPTION

Icy Fate Cave has two major entrance pits. At the bottom of the pits are many large icicles, ice columns and ice flow formations. It was speculated that a unusual airflow in the cave causes these formations which do not exist in nearby caves. In future years it will be necessary to observe these formations in greater detail to ascertain why they are unique to this cave.

Like many of the Heceta caves, Icy Fate is located along a bedding plane, but has phreatic influences in some of the passages. Judging from large trees and other debris, the cave may flood in areas higher than the 40-50 meters (131-164 feet) depth level.

What appears to be a doe and a fawn are embedded in the ice between 40 and 50 meters (131-164 feet) down the Cold Cut entrance. The upper skeleton, (doe) has some organs still in place, and hoof and hair are still on the leg. The smaller immature deer (fawn) has a rib bone length of 15 cm (5.9 inches), length of rear leg (possi-

bly) from hoof tip to top of lower leg 28 cm (11 inches). The fur and hide is apparent in different patches. Estimated age of remains is difficult because of cold temperature. Preservation of the remains could be very good because of the ice in which they are embedded.

A 50-meter (164 foot) rope is needed for either entrance to Icy Fate. It is recommended that the Fridgidare entrance be used, as the Cold Cut entrance has loose rock.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The surface area and the drainages to Icy Fate should be protected. Icy Fate contains unusual ice formations, and is a very large cave with 540 meters (1771.7 feet) surveyed to date, with one large blowing passage and several smaller side passages to survey. Due to the long drop at the entrance and the very cold, blowing nature of the cave its access should be limited to those with technical experience.

OTTER BE A CAVER CAVE

Heceta Island, Alaska • Preliminary Report #234
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Eron Gissberg
July 22, 1996

DESCRIPTION

Otter Be A Caver Cave was surveyed on July 16, 1995 by Rob Knotts and Dan Monteith. This cave is a littoral cave with some phreatic modification. It is formed by huge parallel slabs. The entrance is a steeply sloping ramp of humus and small breakdown. Throughout the 33.30-meter (109.26 foot) cave there is extensive sign of otter, with apparent year round use. Fish bones, shells and urchin spines litter the floor. The back portions of the cave possess nicely formed concentrations of moonmilk, bacon and soda straws. One possible high lead remains but would require the use of bolts or an extension ladder. As with all littoral walking passage in

this area, there is high potential for cultural resources in this cave. Deposits of sediments on the floor have not been studied and may contain archaeological and paleontological remains.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The cave is beautiful and easy to explore. However, its fragility and proximity to several other archeologically significant caves points to a need for access limitations. Exploration of this cave should be limited and its location should not be shared with the general public.

ARABICA CAVE

Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #228 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Eron Gissberg
July 22, 1996

DESCRIPTION

Arabica Cave was first surveyed by Sergeui Levachev and Eron Gissberg on July 8, 1995. It is located in a highly developed karst valley. The entrance is located at the bottom of a very large sink which has a depth of 30 meters (98 feet). There is a small stream falling into the sink and flowing into the cave. At the bottom of the sink there is a drop of 50 meters (164 feet) into the cave. The passage walls are very clean and the floor is large pebbles and rounded rocks. The main stream passage runs south to north and is generally 4 meters (13 feet) wide and 3 meters (10 feet) high. The cave appears to be a major conduit for the extremely well developed karst throughout the area. The ceiling of the main passage has foam and sticks in the ceiling, evidence of heavy flooding. During dryer times there is no water movement. The south end of the cave has been seen to completely fill with water in a period of less than 12 hours, a great concern to cavers on 8 to 10 hour surveys in the cave.

Although no biological inventory has been taken, it has been noted that the pools in the cave contain troglobitic flat worms and amphipods along with terrestrial invertebrates. The caves on Heceta Island will possibly contain unique species of cave invertebrates and range extensions of known species because the karst land appears to have had little impact from recent glacial episodes.

Arabica Cave is an extremely important part of a highly developed subsurface hydrology. It is without a doubt important to its biota and the development of its cave resources. The water in the cave may be of importance to humans using downstream resurgences for fresh drinking water. The cave offers insights into the hydrology of what is one of the best developed karst systems in Alaska.

The cave possesses numerous areas of deep deposits of sediment, some in apparently fossil passage. Analysis of these sediments could be very useful in evaluating past events and how recent logging has affected the cave. The cave surely has several entrances and

may produce paleontological resources with potential to contribute useful educational and scientific information.

The cave is of great value to skilled vertical cavers prepared for the difficult nature of the passages below. Although this fabulous karst system has been severely impacted by past logging practices it retains some of its pristine nature. The entrance is near a road but it still maintains much of its immense and unique scenic values.

As of August 1, 1995, there are 1,544.07 meters (5,066.09 feet) of passage surveyed with over 30 going leads. Surveyed depth is presently near 150 meters (492 feet). Arabica Cave may become the longest cave in Alaska. Considering the number of very large unsurveyed passages it is very likely.

RIGGING

A 30-meter (98 feet) rope is required for the initial drop to the bottom of the sink. Tie off to obvious big hemlock on the east side of the sink. For the second drop use a 60-meter (197 feet) rope. Once past the log jam a rebelay/directional will guide the rope away from the waterfall. There are several places in the cave where handlines are useful. It's probably not a bad idea to bring a rope for unsurveyed passage which may require vertical work.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Arabica Cave is geologically, hydrologically, recreationally, geologically and educationally significant. In less than a week of survey the length of depth of the cave are already highly notable. There is much to learn about its hydrology and the biota associated with it. The cave also exhibits an interesting formation process. The area surrounding Arabica Cave has already been severely impacted by road building and logging. The remaining forest and all caves hydrologically connected to it should be set aside and spared from these activities.

GLACIER GROTTA MEMBERSHIP LIST

Please notify the Secretary of any errors in address or telephone numbers
and changes when they occur

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Warren, Ginger M.	298 Limestone Pl., Edna Bay AK 99917	96		(907)594-6335	
Warren, Mariah L.	298 Limestone Pl., Edna Bay AK 99917	96		(907)594-6335	
Warren, Misty D.	298 Limestone Pl., Edna Bay AK 99917	96		(907)594-6335	
Warren, Stephen D.	298 Limestone Pl., Edna Bay, AK 99917	96		(907)594-6335	
Wight, Andrew	Unit 13/175, Gibbs St, Chatswood	96			
Williams, Heather	4300 Eielson Farm Rd, North Pole AK 99705-7013	96		(907)488-4168	
Williams, Joline	4300 Eielson Farm Rd, North Pole AK 99705-7013	96		(907)488-4168	
Williams, Norma	4300 Eielson Farm Rd, North Pole AK 99705-7013	96		(907)488-4168	(907)488-0202
Williams, Robert John	4300 Eielson Farm Rd, North Pole Ak 99705-7013	96	42583RE	(907)488-4168	(907)458-5486
Wood, Dr. William R.	665-10th Ave., #305, Fairbanks AK 99707	96		(907)452-6248	
Ziel, Darcie	PO Box 44, Tenakee Springs AK 99841	96	38390AS	(907)736-2234	(907)474-666
Zwick, Carmelita	615 Hill Rd, Ketchikan AK 99901	96		(907)225-5619	
Zwick, David	615 Hill Rd, Ketchikan AK 99901	96		(907)225-5619	

KEY: Pd = Year through which membership has been paid. PdN = member owes primary allegiance to another Grotto.)
 NSS # = NSS membership number; status with NSS is indicated by letters;
 i.e., no letters means NSS membership has lapsed.

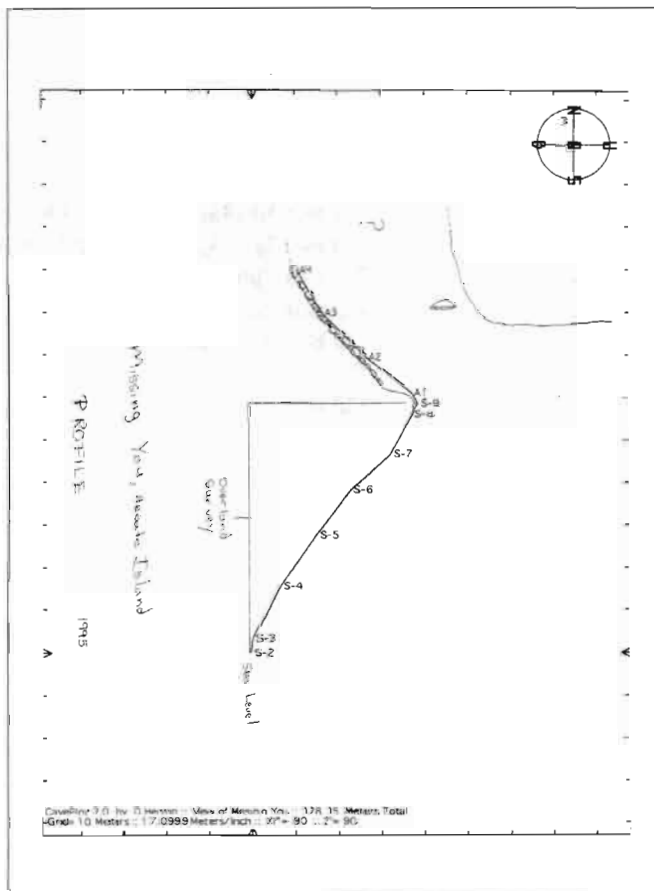
SUMMARY: Total membership = 120; total NSS members = 58; NSS members with primary affiliation to Glacier Grotto = 47 as of December 31, 1996

MISSING YOU CAVE

Heceta Island, AK • Preliminary Report #239
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society
 by Eron Gissberg July 22, 1996

DESCRIPTION: Missing You Cave was surveyed by Marcel and Connie LaPerriere. It is a littoral cave with 40.70 meters (133.5 feet) of surveyed passage and at least 100 meters (328 feet) of unsurveyed passage. This cave is probably a littorally modified dissolution cave. Surveyed portions are tall and narrow, canyon-like passage, 2-3 meters (6.5-10 feet) wide and over 10 meters (33 feet) high. The cave contains mud and loose soil as well as breakdown and some logs. As with all littoral walking passage in this area there is high potential for cultural resources in this cave. Deposits of sediments on the floor have not been studied but appear to have good potential for use in analyzing past events.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: The cave is in a pristine state and offers potential for scientific use. The cave is located in a spectacular seaside setting and surely offers recreational opportunities, although people should not be directed to it. Missing You Cave and the surrounding forest should not be logged or roaded to preserve its probable biological, cultural and geological resources.



MISCELLANEOUS

Two Wasilla entrepreneurs, W. Harvey Bowers, former president of Glacier Grotto, and Lee Hilty, a cabinet maker, were headlined in the January 13, 1997, issue of *The Alaska Journal of Commerce*.

Bowers headed Composite Project which developed a new fiber board suitable for cabinetry and furniture, and Hilty, who tested the board in a bookcase, stands ready to build other items from the recycled wood product.

Bowers, who has been working on this project for several years, made many trips to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wis. to test this Alaskan product. He was encouraged when he received an endorsement by the nonprofit Alaska Center for Appropriate Technology, an organization dedicated to research and education in alternative building products, energy uses and architecture. Last year further encouragement came with a grant from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Pollution Prevention.

The first factory test run occurred in February 1996 at the Alberta Research Council manufacturing plant in Edmonton. A second test is scheduled for this month.

In the meantime, there is the market study and business plan. If everything still looks favorable, Alaska Recycled PaperWoods will be established to process about 30,000 tons of waste wood and paper per year in Southcentral Alaska.

It's time for a celebration. 1997 marks the 10th anniversary of Prince of Wales Island Expedition (POWIE).

Plans are underway to publish a 10th anniversary edition of *The Alaskan Caver* to mark this achievement. After conversations with several cavers, the October issue seems to be the best for timing. It will allow pictures and comments from cavers attending the 1997 summer expeditions to be included.

Publishing this edition will be an opportunity to review the history of POWIE, investigate the noted caves discovered in this time period, look at some of the prominent cavers, take an overview of the things learned in this period, and smile at some of the crazy happenings.

In order to accomplish this feat, however, help is needed.

In hand: Rob Knotts' story "Who is Skippy?"

Promised Articles: Kevin Allred, Jay Rockwell, and Steve Lewis.

Pictures: In the files are a several photos showing activities and participants of POWIE I, II, III, IV, and IX as well as some of Tongass Cave Project. Many more are needed but be sure they are labeled as to the year, location, people and if possible, the photographer.

Still to be contacted: Scientific Community. Since the ground work is complete within Glacier Grotto, the editor will make contact with the scientists involved with the caves of Southeast Alaska.

Possibilities: A story on "How Caves are Named" along with the passages, crawls, etc. Volunteers for this story as well as others will be appreciated.

Editor's e-mail perrigo@customcpu.com

The Alaskan Caver

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