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Dalene T. Perrigo

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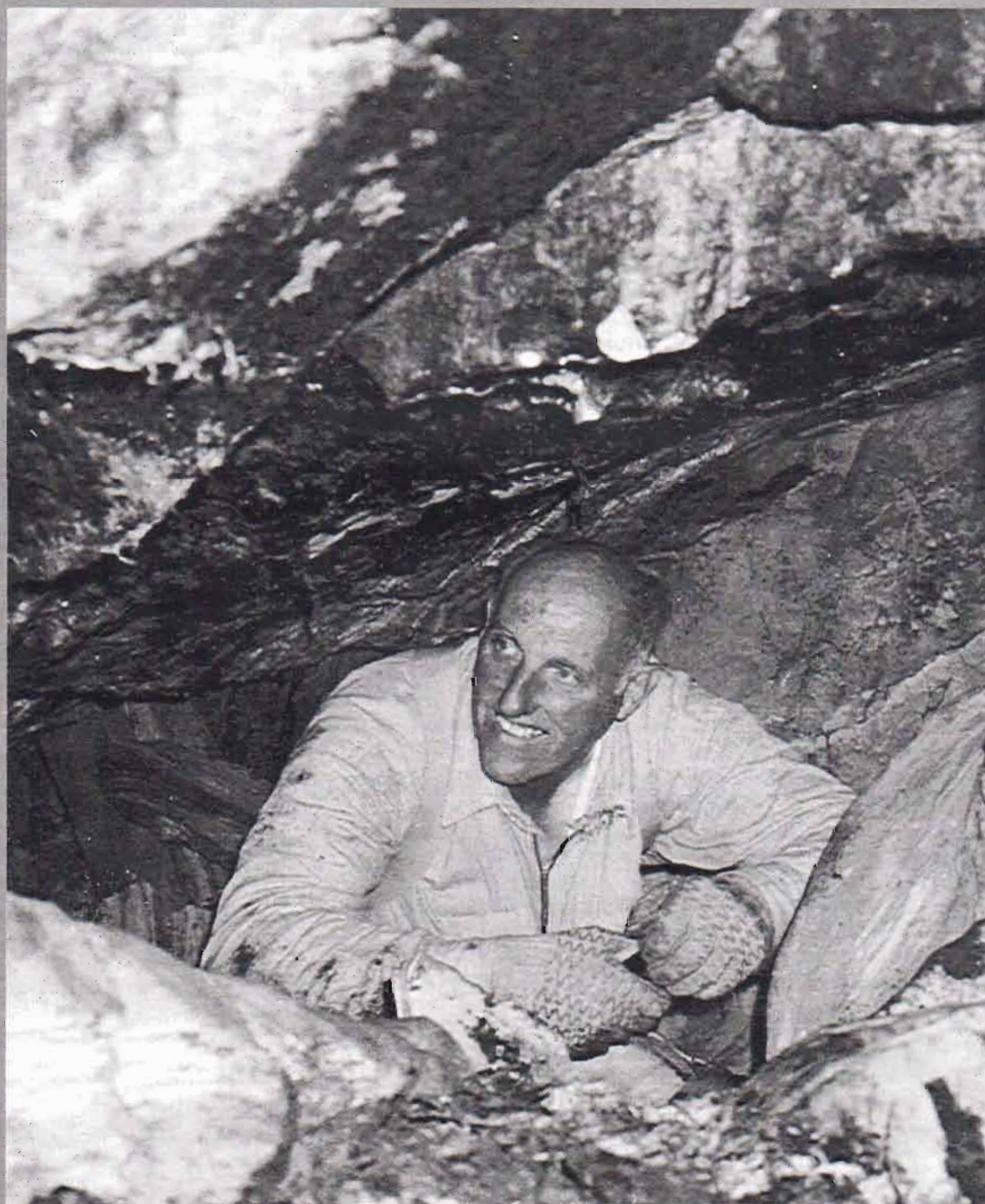
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The **Alaskan Caver**

Volume 18 Number 5

October 1998



The Alaskan Caver

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Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

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Table of Contents

The Greatest Underground Adventure	1
President's Corner	1
Exchanges	4
1998 Kosciusko Island Expedition Roundup	5
Why? It's not for Babes	6
Another Crack at Blowing in the Wind Cave	7
Nominations	12
KWI names local island	12
Hellsinky Cave #220	12
Cost-Share Agreement.....	14
Miscellaneous	18

Cover Photo : Dave Valentine stops at the entrance to Zasiebida Cave (formed in blue marble) located in Southeast Alaska. Photo: Alan Murray

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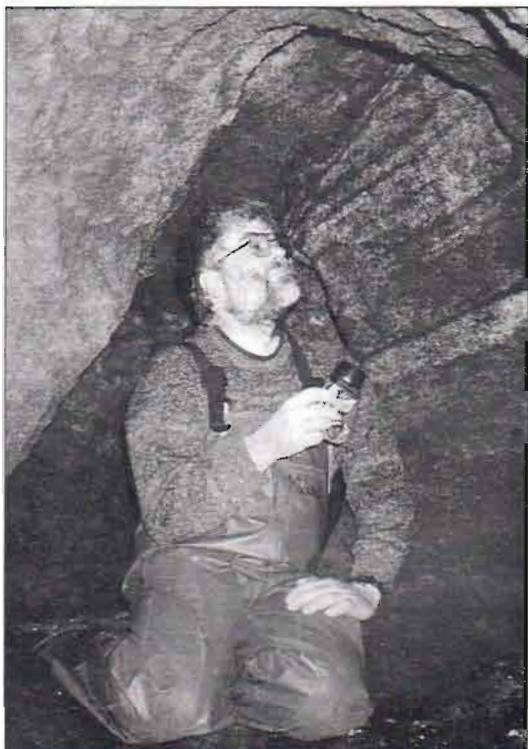
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Marcel LaPierre studies the structure inside Ash Cave. Photo: Dave Valentine

CALENDAR

April 10-14.....Seventh Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes & the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst. (423)483-7483 <http://www.uakron.edu/geology/karstwaters/7th.html>

July 12-16, 1999.....NSS Convention. Twin Falls County Fairgrounds, Filer, Idaho. David Kesner, PO Box 1334, Boise, ID 83701 208/939-0979, drdave@micron.net

Ketchikan Area Grotto meetings are the first Monday, at 7 pm at Ketchikan Public Health Center 3050 Fifth Ave. 907/247-1559 or kavesp@hotmail.com

Alaska Cave Rescue.....meets each Tuesday at 7 pm, at Kave Sports, Ketchikan. Frequent rope practice sessions. Sonnenberg 247-1559

Southcentral Area meetings: Call Jay Rockwell at 277-7150.

THE GREATEST UNDERGROUND ADVENTURE OF ALL TIME

by Marcel LaPerriere

Installment II

(The following story is just that, a STORY. All the cavers in the story are real people, but the story is total BS. No attempt was made to change or alter names, and no harm was meant by using real names. The author is totally responsible for the story and in no way is the Glacier Grotto, the NSS, or members or officers responsible for the content. The intent of the story is to have some fun through total fantasy. Marcel)

Zach again broke in, "Come on Kris that would be impossible. Hell, it must be over 4,000 miles from our karst to Florida."

"I know Zach, it sounds impossible, but two dye tests have shown positive," Kris responded.

"You said two dye tests Kris?" Zach said in a questioning tone.

"Well, I was going to get to that, but now that it's been brought up, I'll tell you about the second test," Kris said.

"Dr. Washington was so convinced that the dye we had seen came from Alaska that he had more dye poured into the hole in Unit 9. Believe it or not it showed up in Florida again. One thing I didn't tell you before was that we looked back in my records and it was 61 days from the time I poured dye into the Unit 9 hole until James and I saw dye in Little River Cave." Kris took a deep breath because it was obvious he wanted to tell us his next statement without pause. "When Alan poured the dye into unit 9 back in December of last year it again took ex-

actly 61 days, not 60 or not 62. Exactly 61."

I then piped in, "You said, Alan?"

Kris answered, "Yes, I swore Alan to secrecy. He was so intrigued by the idea he told me he wouldn't even tell you what he was up to Marcel."

"That sneaky S.O.B." I said and the whole group giggled.

Kris proceeded to explain how Dr. Washington had shipped a full 55-gallon drum of dye to Ketchikan and how Alan had picked it up at the barge lines. Alan had then told all of us he was going over to Prince of Wales Island hunting when in

Continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Alan Murray

Winter is closing in and most of us are looking at putting our caving gear away and waiting for all the snow to melt off the roads next spring. While it's true that only a tiny portion of our caves are easily accessible during winter conditions, there is still one caving activity that we can participate in and not

Continued on page 10

fact he went to Heceta Island.

I could tell Zach was starting to get intrigued. "Hey Steve, lets cancel the caving on Kosciusko Island and head on over to Heceta and check out the depths of Arabica."

"Yea," almost all the others responded.

Kris jumped in and saved Steve. "Hey Guys, even if we do find a way into what might be an underground world, we are going to have to plan a longer expedition anyway. And, I think all of you will agree that we don't want the Forest Service to know about this. Let's go on their schedule and look for deep pits, then plan a longer expedition for later in the summer, on our terms and our nickel."

Once again there was a round of, "Yea's."

"Now that that's settled," Zach said, "How about finishing up on the tale of Jules Verne, and I'm interested in hearing how the water flows up hill to resurge in Florida."

"OK" Kris said as he poured himself another cup of Rob's coffee and grabbed a cookie from a plate on the table. In between slurps and munching Kris went on. "First let me tell you about the resurging water." Kris again had everybody's attention. "I too was puzzled by that, so I asked Dr. Washington what he thought." Kris then said, "I'll explain it just as Dr. Washington did to me." Kris took another bite on his cookie and chewed it slowly while we all waited. "OK," do any of you know how NASA sends a probe into deep space?"

"You mean like Voyager?" I asked. Kris nodded his head, yes.

"Doesn't the probe use the nearest planet's gravity?" Erin asked.

"That's exactly it," Kris said then continued to tell us how the probe is pulled by the gravity, then just before it is pulled into the planet's atmosphere and Olivia it is thrown on past the planet.

Kris said, "What happens is water is pulled towards the earth's core at an acute angle. It eventually reaches a point when it can go no further down. At this point it is pushed on past the core and eventually emerges back on the surface." Kris went on to tell us how Dr. Washington thought that geothermal activity also played a roll in propelling this water back to the surface, "much like a percolating coffee maker works. Of course someone still needs to prove his theories."

Kris then told us, "Not only do I want to see if we can positively prove a hydrological connection to the Florida caves but I'd like to see if we can find an entrance to the mythical underground world of Jules Verne."

Erin then spoke, "Last summer, on the last day of the expedition when I was scooping in Arabica I found this awesome pit. It's way at the end of M Passage through this tight muddy little squeeze. I didn't tell anybody about it cause I wanted to save it for this year's expedition and I want dibs on it. When I dropped a rock down the pit I never heard it hit and all my lights didn't see a bottom. Do you think this could be the passage, Kris?"

"It's anybody's guess, but it sounds like a good place to start!"

Zach piped in, "OK, Kris, tell us the rest of what you know of Jules Verne's and Coulanta's adventure!"

"Let's see where was I?" Kris asked and before we could answer he went on. "Oh, yeah! They had just started down the cliff." Kris again reached into his notebook and pulled out another photocopy. "This is a sketch that Jules Verne did looking back up the cliff. See the large crack here and note the vegetation on the cliff?" Kris asked as he pointed to the photocopy. Kris told us how the group had used the crack and the vegetation to climb down and later back up. Then he told us something that was very interesting to all of us.

"Verne's journal goes on to tell how when they reached the lake he immediately started collecting specimens of the flora to give to Charles Darwin." Kris told us how Verne and Darwin had met some years previously and how Verne had immediately become interested in Darwin's yet unpublished theories of evolution. Verne had made several notes in his journal referencing Darwin's work and his admiration for Darwin's great thinking.

"Now comes the sad part of this story," Kris said. "The journal is missing many pages. It's any body's guess what happened to the rest of the pages. Dr. Washington thinks that Jules Verne might have sent them to Darwin to read and somehow they got lost." Kris once again pulled some papers from his notebook. "I do have another journal from Jules Verne, but you will note the first date is 17 July 1872" Kris passed around the paper all in a very neatly written French.

"Unfortunately I don't have this part of the journal in English, but I can tell you what Dr. Washington told me it says."

Rob came over and poured Kris some more coffee and continued around the room filling all of our cups with more Raven's Brew, Dead Man's Reach coffee.

"As far as we know Jules Verne never told anybody about his underworld discoveries except Darwin. By the 1860's Darwin was getting lots of flack world-wide for his theories on evolution. And both Verne and Darwin felt the world was too close-minded to believe Verne's story of an underground world. And, they both knew that mankind would most likely destroy Verne's under-

ground world if they did know about it. Both men had known it would be easy to overexploit the delicate balance. Darwin and Jules Verne decided the best thing to do was block the passage so it would be many years before anybody again discovered this magical world." Kris cleared his throat, "Who knows maybe we will be the lucky ones to rediscover Verne's world."

"Did Jules Verne block the passage?" Rob asked.

"That's what Dr. Washington told me," Kris said. "In the 1872 journal Jules Verne tells how he again traveled to Georgia and he and Coulanta again visited the underground world. But, this time on their return black powder charges were placed at several of the duck unders and the lower depths of the cave were sealed."

Kris told us how Dr. Washington had told him that Coulanta by himself had made several trips into the underground world. Coulanta had even hidden a few slaves there during the Civil War. Dr. Washington told Kris that Coulanta's owner had been killed during the Civil War so he felt that only Jules Verne, Charles Darwin and a hand full of slaves ever knew the magical world existed. Kris went on to tell us how Dr. Washington had grown up hearing his grandmother tell stories of how her father had explored the underground world with Verne. And how his grandmother had given him Verne's journal as she was dying. Kris told us the other mystery was how his great-grandfather Coulanta had gotten Jules Verne's Journal. Dr. Washington speculated that after Coulanta and Verne blasted the cave shut that Verne had possibly thrown his journal away and Coulanta retrieved it. Or, possibly Jules Verne had given the journal to Coulanta, after all there was mention in the journal about Jules Verne teaching Coulanta how to read."

For the first time in an hour Steve spoke, "I think it's highly unlikely any of this story is more than just that, a good story. But, if there is any truth to it, and if our caves are hydrologically connected to the aquifers of Florida then this could be BIG. It's certainly something we want to keep from the Forest Service for now. Heck, they already think we are a bunch of lunatics, can you imagine what they would say if we told them we were going to look for Jules Verne's underground world?"

We all laughed.

Then Dan spoke, "Did the journal say anything about human or animal life in the underground world?"

Kris thumbed through the photocopies then answered,

"You'll see here in the English translation that Verne made note of a couple species of fish that they all ate, but no other animals, except bats."

I looked over and saw Steve light up. "Bats!"

Kris handed Steve a piece of paper. Steve looked it over and then read aloud to all of us.

"Eight, August 1858. We have been underground now for five days. For two days we have been walking along the sandy banks of the lake that we have named Das Liabesverbot after my favorite Wagner opera." Steve paused, "There is a footnote here that says, Das Liabesverbot means forbidden love."

Being an opera fan I immediately liked that name so, I stored the name away in my mind to use for some future cave. Steve went on reading, "We have enjoyed eating fresh fish from the lake at every meal. The fish must be hungry because we have no problems catching them on a home-made hook that we created from a part of one of our lanterns. There is an abundance of fire wood pushed up high on the banks of the lake."

Steve then said, "Wow! Listen to this." He went on reading directly from the English translation. "We have found the source of light comes from large crystals that are sporadically located throughout the cavern. The crystals that are sporadically located throughout the cavern. The crystals are stacked all in line. The crystals also are the source of the sulfur smell. It is hard to get close to the crystals because of the strong smell and they are very hot. We have cooked one meal by placing the fish on the crystals. The taste of sulfur impregnated the flesh and made the fish uneatable."

Steve continued reading to us, The journal told of how fine the sand was on the lake shore and how cool the water felt in comparison to the tropical warmth of the cavern. Verne's journal gave a detailed description of the fish and there was even a couple sketches.

Then something caught Steve's attention, "Even though it is always light we have seen many bats. At first we thought they were birds but one flew close enough that it was recognized as a species that is seen above ground in. We have seen no other indications of animals, no tracks or droppings. We have seen some insects, mostly ants both flying and on the ground. There is very little grass, most of the vegetation is ferns and large trees that resemble elms. In my travels in Europe and the States I have never seen fauna such as we find ourselves immersed in. We have gathered many samples for Charles to inspect."

To be continued

**SOUTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY AC-
QUIRES HISTORICAL CAVE PROPERTY**
by: Mark Wolinsky, Acquisitions Chairman

The Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (SCCi) received its first cave preserve in West Virginia on October 27, 1998. The 29.5 acre preserve home to the historically significant Lobelia Saltpeter Cave, named after the nearby community and saltpeter mining artifacts found in the cave that were likely used in mining operations during the Civil War. Though no artifacts remain, saltpeter mining is still evidenced by trenches cut into the dry clay floor of the cave.

A legacy of ownership by persons dedicated to the protection of caves continues. The land and cave were donated to the cave conservancy by Mr. Marshall Fausold, a long-time caver who wanted the cave and the land above to be protected from development. Mr. Fausold purchased the property from another well known caver - Peter M. Hauer.

Lobelia Saltpeter Cave was explored and surveyed by the Pittsburg Grotto of the National Speleological Society in 1992 and is over 1,075 meters in length. The upper levels of the cave are dry and contain the nitrate rich soils used in the making of Gunpowder. A sizable stream occupies the lower levels. The cave is located in a watershed known as the Upper Spring Creek Valley and plays a significant role in local karst hydrology.

Future plans include an inventory of the cave flora and fauna and research into historical uses of the cave.

The SCCi is a non profit 501 (c) 3 corporation focused on the preservation of significant caves and karst lands in the Southeastern United States. The conservancy owns or leases 26 caves on 13 cave preserves totaling 662 acre in six states. Management of these unique underground resources ranges from open access to experienced cavers, where that access does not harm threatened or endangered cave wildlife, to limited or no access where the cave has sensitive biological, historical, anthropological or geological conditions. Properties under management of the SCCi have access and management policies adopted by a board and may be obtained by writing the

Office of the Secretary, 356 O'Brian Drive, Stone Mtn., GA 30088 or you may visit their informative web site at www.scci.org.

Scott Fee, NSS 19797 LF, SCC 196, IKC 26 Check out the Speleo Digest Web Site: <http://www.caves.org/pub/SpeleoDigest/>

DC SPELEOGRAPH 54(8-9) August-September 1998.p4. The DC cavers are assembling maps and descriptions of the caves of Pendleton County West Virginia in preparation for the publication of a book about the County's caves. Ask Bob Hoke (301)725-5877 is looking for help especially from people with a background on these caves.

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Muddy Litter Letter issue 40, March/April 1998. p.5. "The USAR Stretcher: A New Litter for Cave Rescue" by Jay Kennedy, Marshall, MN The Urban Search and Rescue Stretcher (USAR) is a self contained unit that includes a detachable semi-rigid plastic drag plate, cordura nylon fabric-covered foam and plastic stretcher body, integral fiber pile exposure bag, removable head support and attached rigging straps for both horizontal and vertical lift of a casualty. It is adjustable to fit a wide range of patient sizes, from children to large adults. It is lightweight ...and encircles the patient, acting as a full body spint. Placement of a patient in the USAR can be done without rolling the casualty, using as few as two rescuers...

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Birmingham Grotto Newsletter, May 1998. p.49. "Birmingham's Mystic Underground River" When settlers traded with the Indians in the early 1800s, children of the settlers heard of an underground river from the Indian children. Much later stories of the underground river surfaced again with older residents claiming that they had seen the river. Some told of going into caves to observe the river and in the 1880s or 1890s tickets could be purchased for a tour of the "Mystic Underground River." More recently workmen who were building a hotel dug through the ceiling of the underground river making it necessary to use steel beams and crisscross them to form a bridge over the river before starting the building. Cavers can still admire the underground river. The entire story is included in "Alabama's Favorite Folk Tales" by Sarah Jane Turnbow Tackett published by Seacoast Publishing, Inc.

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NITTANY GROTTOS NEWS 44(3) April 1998. On December 10, 1998, the Nittany Grotto was 50 years old. It celebrated its golden anniversary with a weekend reunion of its members, past and present and all their friends in the caving community Oct. 2-4 at a location on the border of Centre and Mifflin Counties, PA. This location is a short ride to many of the caves that have been favorites of members over the years.

THE 1998 KOSCIUSKO ISLAND EXPEDITION ROUNDUP

by Kris Esterson

PART I: Edna Bay

Note: The following is a nonpolitical, questionably factual, and hopefully enjoyable look at what a group of odd cavers did last summer. A more rigorous look at the science, politics, and future potential of caving on Kosciusko will follow -Kris Esterson

After working on Heceta for three years, there are still big going systems and still much to do, but it was time for a change this year. The annual caving project shifted to the next major island north of Heceta, Kosciusko Island. Because Kosciusko has huge areas of the famous, cave-riddled Heceta Limestone ranging in elevation from sea level to the top of Mt. Francis at over 800 meters we knew that there was lots of potential for caves, but the only way to find out for sure was to dredge up some cavers and take a look.

Recruiting for the project was strange as usual. First I notified all of the old participants and waited. And waited. After a while it looked as if I would be the only returning Alaskan. Then an e-mail went out to numerous US and Canadian grottos and cave organizations and finally around the world. Hundreds of e-mails later a bizarre team had been assembled (without so much as a single Swedish cave-babe despite my best efforts).

The team consisted of Bruce White of Ketchikan, Bruce Brewer of Florida, Bill Curry of Kentucky, Boris Galitsky of Russia/ US/his car, Ian McCann and Glenn Robinson of Australia, and Jun Koike, Hidake Abe, Aki Okubo, and Shun "Mac Daddy" Go, all of Japan. I arrived in Thorne Bay several weeks ahead of the team to help begin the Forest Service side of preparations with Jim Baichtal. A few easy, no-stress weeks later I sat back as people and packages of supplies from around the world began to converge on Thorne Bay for the start of the expedition.

The project was designed to run in two halves: the first 2 weeks based out of Edna Bay and the second two up on Mt. Francis. With an entire island to look at and only some quick recon to go by, our plan was relatively straightforward: find caves, go caving.

This year's base camp accommodations along Edna Bay were plush in comparison to the infamous, yet mod-

erately well regarded Heceta Island rockpit. The base camp consisted of two Weatherport tents (boonie barns) nestled along the shores of beautiful Edna Bay. One tent was equipped with four electric ignition propane heaters for de-sogification of gear at the end of the day. The other tent comprised the "living quarters" where everything from cooking, eating, map drawing, and poor attempts at personal hygiene took place. Our camp even had a phone booth nearby with luxury stump seating and a cool rocking motion.

We were allowed to use the USFS vehicle once White redoubled his efforts as matchmaker and that settled, drove across the stream.

We found an incredible number of caves out there, certainly on par with Heceta in terms of density. Everywhere in the old-growth there were caves and giant sinks. Every stream leading from the large muskeg behind the woods dropped into a cave. We explored and surveyed several caves there, many with depths over 100 meters and multiple drops. I even managed a 47-meter shot out of the entrance of the enormous Raindrop Cathedral Cave.

With the passing days the Dynamic Maneuver grew to be routine and the use of human goal posts was no longer necessary. On one occasion, when the timing was a little off, there were a few frantic prayers to whatever gods might be bothered to be involved in such foolishness (probably the same gods that often protect rednecks just after they utter the phrase "Hey 'yall watch this"), but all went well. Soon it was time for the second half of the expedition and we had to abandon the Hot Spot with many going leads.

What will happen when a lone American, four Japanese, two Australians, a ham-eating communist with capitalistic tendencies head for the alpine?

Find out in the next issue...PART II The Alpine

WHY? IT'S NOT FOR THE BABES!

by Marcel LaPerriere

"What did you get?" a tourist asked me as I walked up the boat ramp near my Southeast Alaska home town after finishing a scuba dive.

"Nothing" I answered.

"Oh that's too bad," they said. I guess they figured only people who were underwater hunting, would be silly enough to breath air from a tank strapped to one's back.

Then a couple of years later I was the tourist diving in the crystal clear water of the caves of North Central Florida. As I surfaced I heard "What did you get?" This time it was a Floridian couple asking me the tourist.

"Nothing" I replied.

"Oh that's too bad" they said as they walked off.

"What did you find?" the tourist asked as I walked down the trail from El Capitan Cave after a day of particularly muddy caving.

"Nothing" I answered.

"Gosh, that's too bad," they said as we passed each other.

"How many fish did you catch?" my fellow work mates would ask me on Monday morning after a week-end of sailing.

"None," I'd replay.

"Too bad," I heard them say on more than one occasion.

"Did you get a deer?" I was asked as I came out of the woods after a hike as I walked towards my car.

"No!" I responded.

"Geez, too bad," they said.

These same kind of questions have been asked of me my whole life. Even as a teenager I remember being asked once "what did you find up there?" This question

was asked by some folks who had spent a good part of a day peering through binoculars watching my friends and me climb on a granite cliff.

"Oh, we were just climbing for fun," I answered. Of course they didn't believe me. To this day I'm sure those folks figured we had our pockets lined with gold nuggets we had knocked off ledges on the cliff.

Speaking of gold here is another one.

"Any gold in those caves?" I've been asked more than once when people find out I like to go underground. When I answer "No!" I have literally had people shake their heads and walk off.

Why do so many people think I, or others would only do these things for a materialistic gain? Do they truly not understand that some of us like adventures just for the adventure of it?

I think in the future I might answer these types of questions with my own questions, like; "Have you ever watched a kitten being born, or have you ever stayed up all night just to watch the sun rise?" If they answer "no" then maybe I'll understand why they don't see the beauty in experiencing the adventure, just to do it. Also, if the answer is "no" I'll feel sorry for them. For true richness doesn't come from money. It comes from the magic of memories.

The richest person in the world isn't the person with the most money or things. That person is the one who has seen the miracle of life, or watched the sun rise, or seen the northern lights on a cold winter's night, or laid shivering in an Alaskan cave with all the lights turned off. The richest person could be you or me. True wealth is within all of our grasps.

Continued from page 1

leave the comfort of our homes....cartography. Even if you have never drawn a cave map before, it can be very satisfying and quite easy if you start correctly. There are books that you can order from the NSS that will take you through all aspects of mapping. The first thing to do is look at as many maps as you can to get familiar with the symbols and layout. Now get the survey data on a small cave. It can be either a new cave or one that has already been drawn, and it really helps if you have been in the cave. On a new cave, if possible, have another person draw the same map so you can compare the finished product.

Slowly work up to more difficult caves. If you try

a complicated cave too soon, you could get discouraged. Don't hesitate to ask for help if you get in a jam. It's important that you don't give up when help is just a call away. It is also very important that the maps get finished in a timely manner. Once you start, be sure to finish.

One great by-product of drawing maps is that you immediately see where the original surveyors could have done a better job, thus improving your own survey skills. There is nothing that makes your day like being handed survey sketches that resemble a bowl of spaghetti with the sauce dripping off of everything.

And if it's a cave that you have been in and you still don't recognize it, you really begin to see the need

Continued on page 12

ANOTHER CRACK AT BLOWING IN THE WIND CAVE

by Kevin Allred

At the urging of Pete Smith, several of us looked forwards to further exploration and survey in Blowing in the Wind Cave. This was to be our main trip of POWIE '97. Three years before a team had squeezed through a drafty passage and emerged on a balcony of immense canyon-like passage. They named it "Pit Stop". The canyon appeared to be segmented about 1/2 way up by at least two thin septums or fins. The cavers attempted to pass under the base of the first, some 80 feet below, but it was just a blank wall. The only way to proceed seemed to be a traverse across a wall to the top of the first septum. Pete had been "haunted" by the size of this passage and where it might lead. After a week helping Dr. Heaton and Dr. Dixon at a paleontological and archaeological dig, David Love, me and Pete organized for a backpack up to the alpine karst of El Capitan. This was the first major non-helicopter caving trip up there, and we were excited to be independent of the Forest Service hassles for a change.

Our original plan was to make two hauls to a base camp in a perched muskeg 1/4 mile east of the cave. Paul Dzwonowski and I had come across it several years ago, and seen some running surface water. Like dummies, we let Pete talk us into trying this in one single load. Among other junk, we hauled 600 feet of rope and Pete's heavy cordless Hilti, plus loads of bolts. We had great hopes of a dry spell for the caving. Fat chance - that Murphy guy must have been a genius. The going was...how can I say it?...if we described our packs as monkeys, these ones were gorillas! We finally got to the large uvala at 1800 feet elevation, and craned our necks (against the mountains of junk on our backs) to look up at where we had wanted to camp. Hey (wheeze)- this would be a good place to camp, right here! Then we won't have to carry all this stuff as far coming back! After ditching most of the gear, we hauled some caving gear up past the perched muskeg to the cave entrance before supper. Well, at least the rain held off until the next day.

After entering the cave on day two, we stopped at the top of a drop series of about 200 feet. Here I had a suspicion that the horizontal dike-controlled passage we entered at the entrance might continue on the opposite wall above us. As we had rope handy, Pete managed to climb up there, and set up an anchor. Bingo! It went. A little ways in, the crawl-way was partially filled from a fissure above. Scraping the way larger, we slid through.

The passage got larger, then echoed ahead. YES! We came to a shaft estimated at 70 feet deep. A continuation of our passage could be seen as an inaccessible hole in the opposite wall.

After derigging that lead to return another time, we hauled all 600 feet of rope to Pit Stop. Getting everything through the tight fissures and Guano Pit was very time consuming and strenuous. The Pit Stop was very impressive. A small stream poured off our balcony and down where Pete was planning on traversing. The plan was that since I was familiar with solo surveying, I could lower myself around the corner and into what looked like going passage and the upstream side of the big canyon. Then as I surveyed, they would do the traverse in the other direction. After a dozen or so shots, the passage pinched off, and I was able to join David, who was now belaying Pete. They had abandoned the wet traverse in favor of a direct assault up the 70 foot face of the septum from the floor 80 feet below us. David was getting chilled as we were wet and the cave temperature is in the mid 30s. As he was busy with the rope, I entertained myself by pouring gorp down his gullet. Finally, Pete barely had enough battery power to drill the last bolt hole about an inch deep, and precariously made the top. In no time, we were all over that battlement, and down to the rubble floor again. The next septum was easy to bypass as there was a way under it. The way then soon pinched to a too tight constriction which we could not pass without a hammer. A hole (called "Eye of the Needle") in the canyon wall led to a short, parallel pinched off fissure. So we were stopped cold, and I mean COLD.

It was late as we retreated, dragging all that heavy, mucky gear with us. We finally abandoned the extra stuff at the bottom of the 200 foot drop series. My one ascender was so muddy, it was sliding on the climbs. Of course, it was pouring rain when we got out in the middle of the night. Our tortures were just begun.

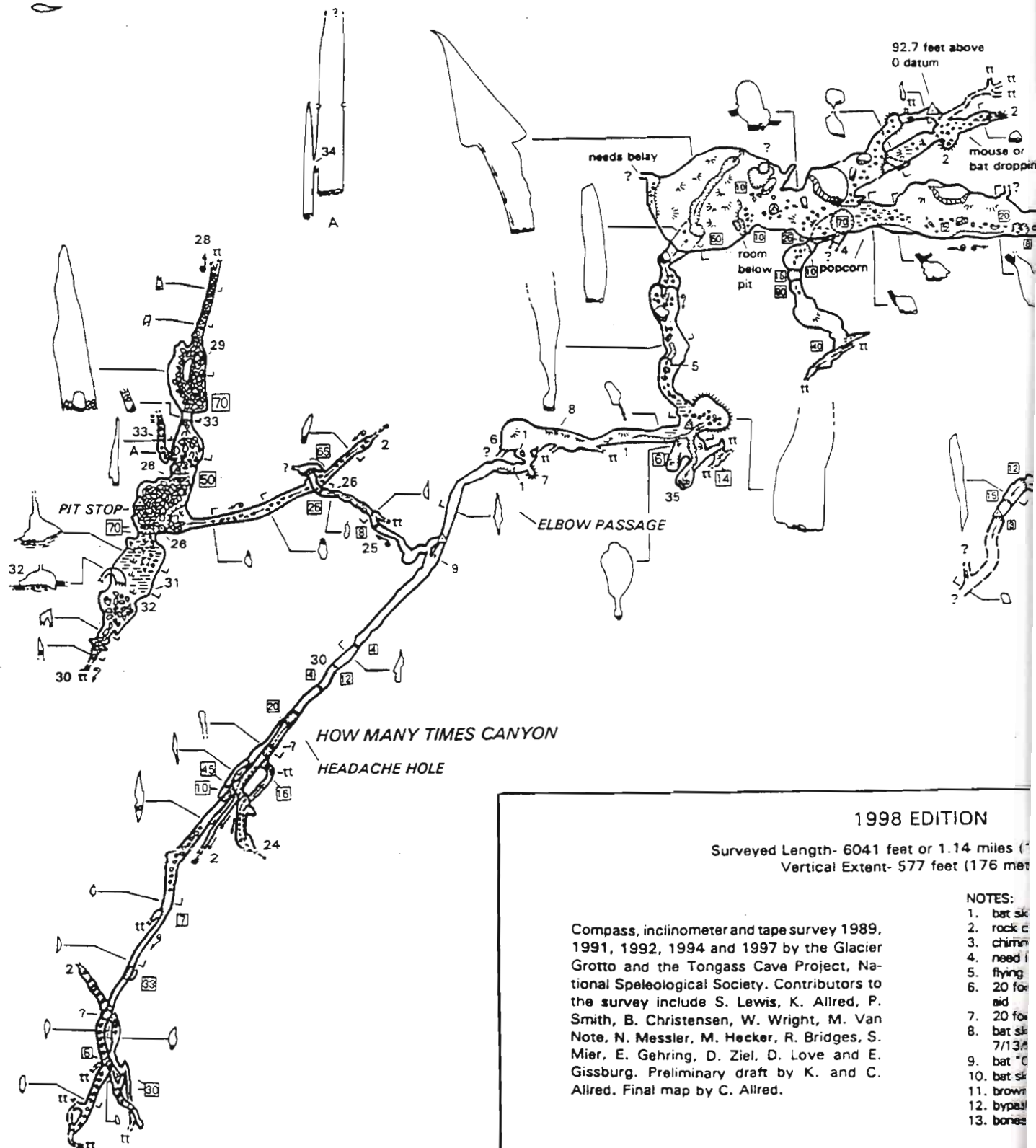
Paul Hadfield had hiked up with his dog, Ulu, to cave with us, and we set about eating a hardy meal of lentil and venison soup to restore our chilled bodies. I wish I had taken a foam pad.

The next rainy day, we were tent-bound, resting up. The day after that, it was still raining. We knew the drops in the cave would have waterfalls. We put on our damp clothes, then hiked up to the cave. It was truly disgusting to open up a leaky garbage bag, then hurry



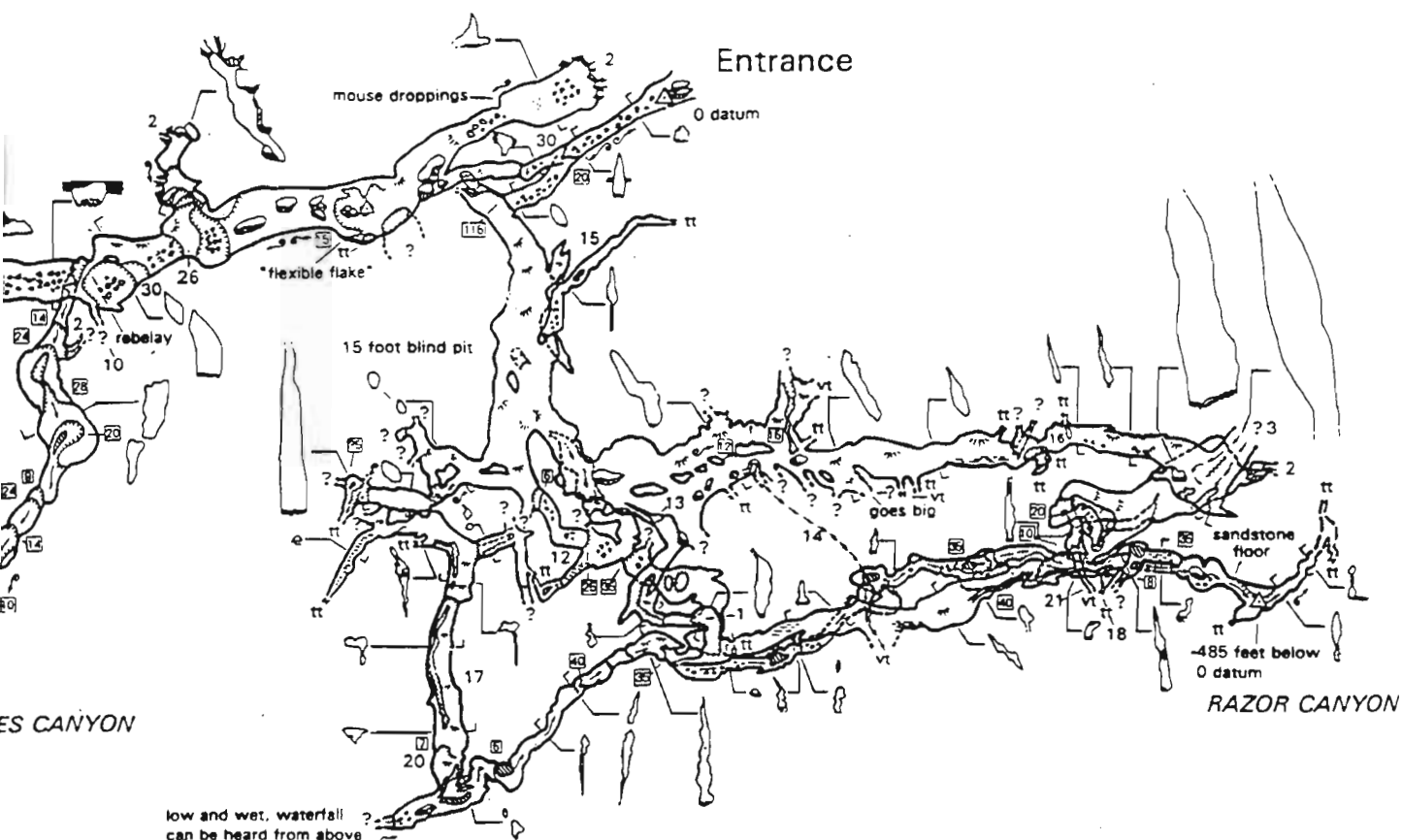
BLOWING IN THE

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST, PRINCE OF



WIND CAVE

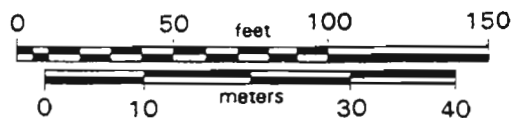
BALES ISLAND, ALASKA



PLAN VIEW

North

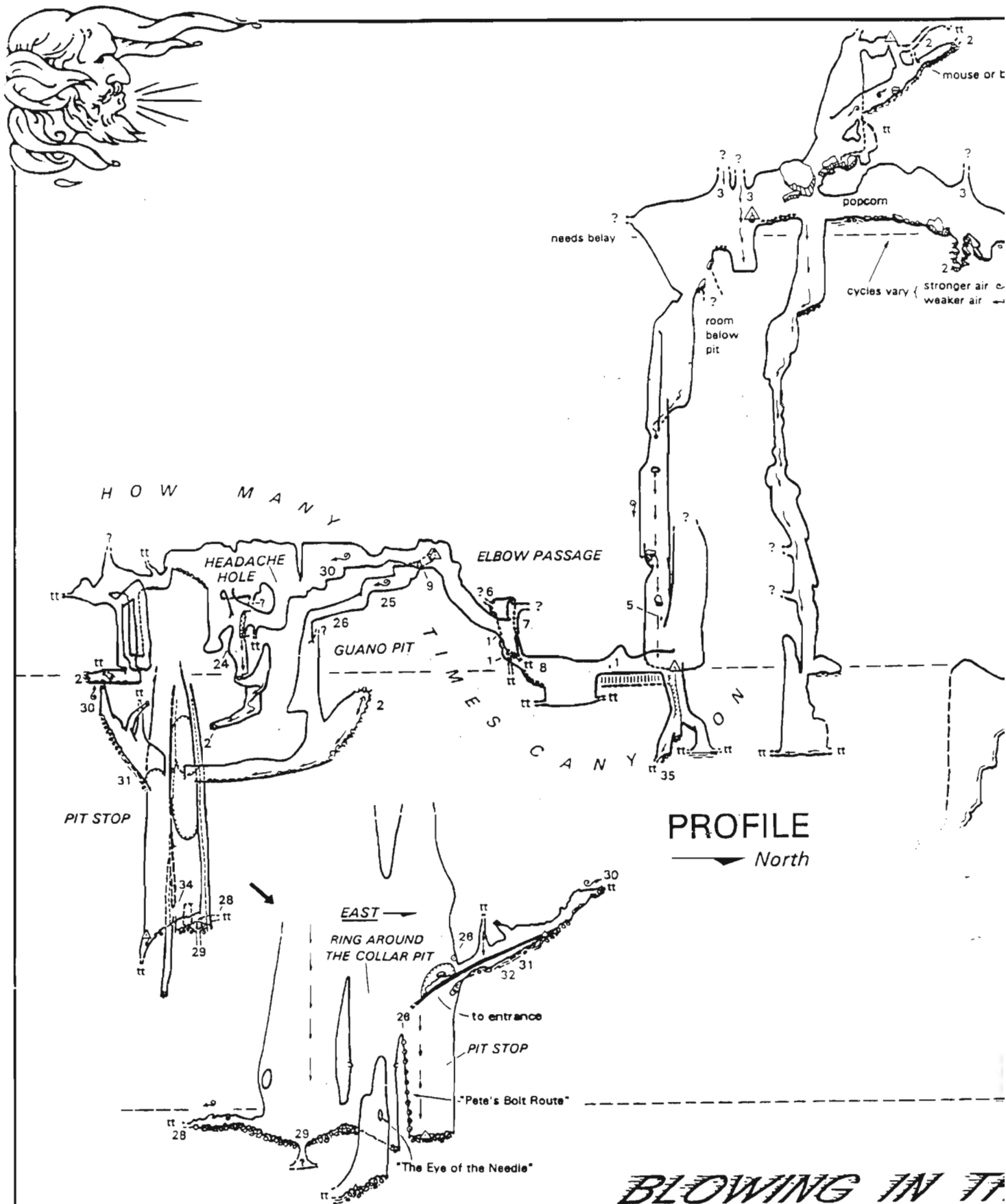
MN 26.8° (1987)



LEGEND

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| △ survey point | vertical drop in plan |
| ∠ slope | depth of drop in feet |
| ⊙ pool | ⊙ wall opening in profile |
| ↔ air movement | — passage wall |
| canyon slot | --- underlying feature |
| ▼ stalactites | ≡ unsurveyed passage |
| ▬ dike or sill | (~) rising and swallet |
| ⊙ chimney | ? continues unexplored |
| ⊙ cobble and rock fill | tt continues too tight |
| ≡ mud or silt fill | vt continues very tight |

- | | |
|---|--|
| 14. dye traced | 26. bolt anchor |
| 15. brown bear cub bones | 27. sill layer at lip |
| 16. pendants | 28. 7-inch crack too tight, need rock hammer to open up septum |
| 17. no air of any strength | 29. hole in unstable break-down, need hammer to enter |
| 18. 50 to 60 foot drop through jagged ten-inch wide slot- need drysuit and hammer | 30. could go very tight with digging |
| 19. canyon widens beyond tight spot | 31. natural drill holes in breakdown and mud |
| 20. two-inch long helictites | 32. faulted zone |
| 21. canyon punches through dike | 33. bridge |
| 22. stalactites | 34. "The Eye of the Needle" |
| 23. overhanging wall has nodular growths | 35. 6-inch culvert-type drain |
| 24. 25 foot waterfall | |
| 25. fresh bat guano | |



NOMINATIONS

It's time to choose Glacier Grotto's officers for 1999.

The nominating committee presents the following slate:

President David Love
Vice President
North Central Jay Rockwell
Southeast Dave Valentine
North Write-in
Secretary/treasurer Connie LaPerriere

Ballots will be sent to eligible voters with the December issue of *The Alaskan Caver*.

KWI NAMES LOCAL ISLAND

The Karst Waters Institute (KWI) has accepted the nomination of Kosciusko Island. According to information received by Steve Lewis this island will be listed as one of the 10-endangered karst areas for 1999.

Lewis says, "This does not necessarily mean no more logging, but it may help the logging be done more carefully if the Forest Service knows that more than members of the Tongass Cave Project (TCP) are looking at them on Kosciusko.

The KWI, which is based on the East Coast, is a group interested in the protection and study of karst worldwide.

Continued from page 7

and put on my soaking wet undersuit before dealing with a mucky, soaking wet, pile of coveralls, then muddy vertical gear. Dave had the same problem with his garbage bag. Pete had washed his, so he was just wet, period.

Pete and I went ahead of the others, and we barely managed to force ourselves to survey a couple of shots down a dead stream passage before starting to shuttle up the ropes and drill. Dave and Paul came and helped get everything pulled to the top of the 200 foot pit series. We'd had enough, and slogged back to camp to stuff our sodden gear into expanded mountainous packs.

These type of trips teach us valuable lessons of life. First lesson: we are nuts. When I can think of any more, I'll pass them on.

HELLSINKY CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #220
Cave #93

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Connie LaPerriere
November 1998

Description:

Hellsinky Cave is located just below a stream that is going into an insurgence. The interesting question is where the water is going, since it disappears at the bottom of the pit. There is no sign of the direction of the water, since Hellsinky can be entered through three different entrances. The south entrance (Hexentrance) can be down climbed if the caver has some rock climbing skills. The middle entrance (Devil's Club Entrance) has a 17-meter drop. The north entrance (Hellsgate) is a small crawlway.

Biology:

During the survey in 1998 some deer bones were noted that were not present when the cave's first survey trip was done in 1995.

Management Recommendations:

This cave is good for beginning vertical cavers. It is located in an area of extensive karst development. There are several caves located in the same area. The cave does not contain decorations that would be endangered by recreational cavers. There is some danger from falling rock as several skylights could choose to open at an inopportune moment.

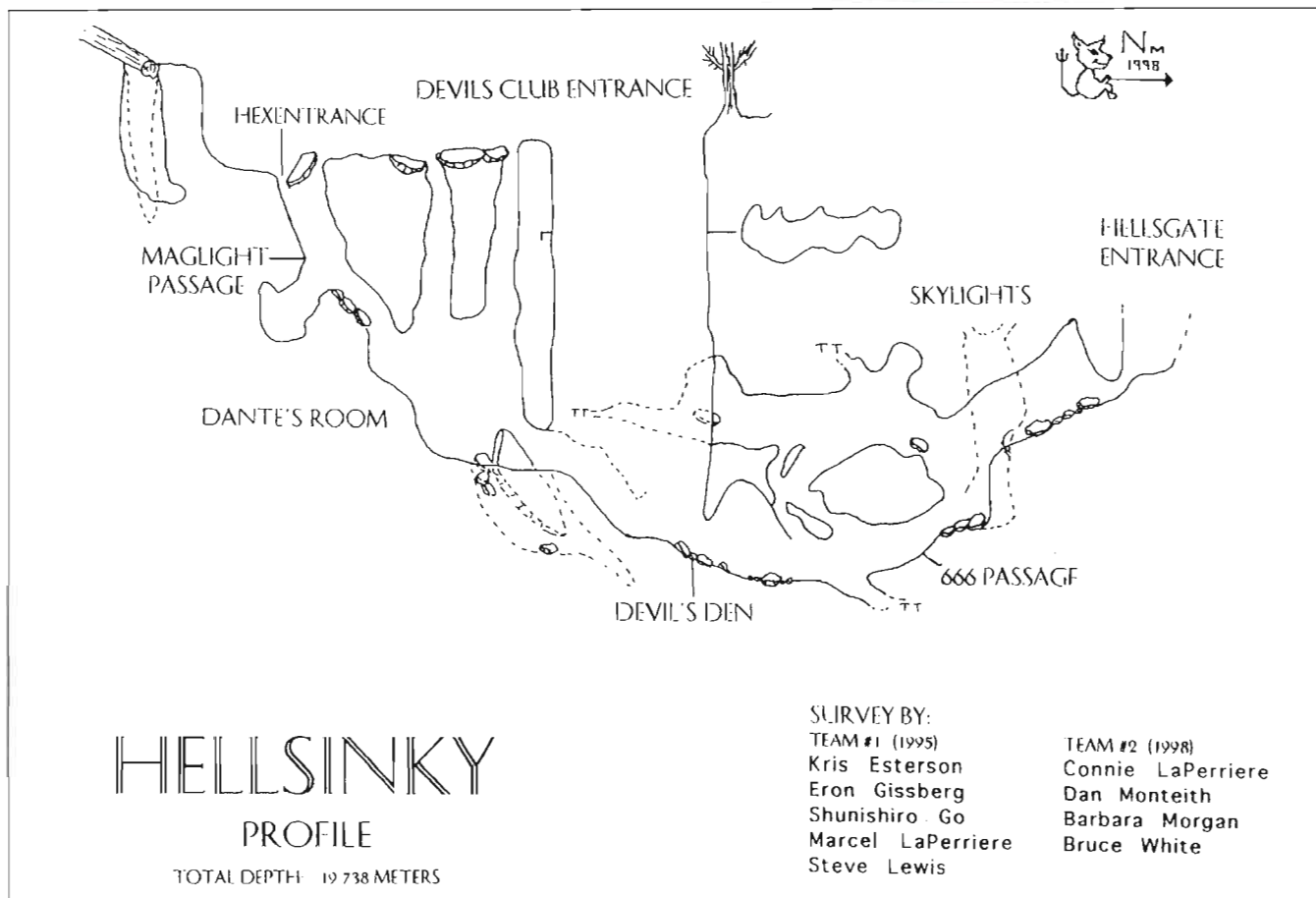
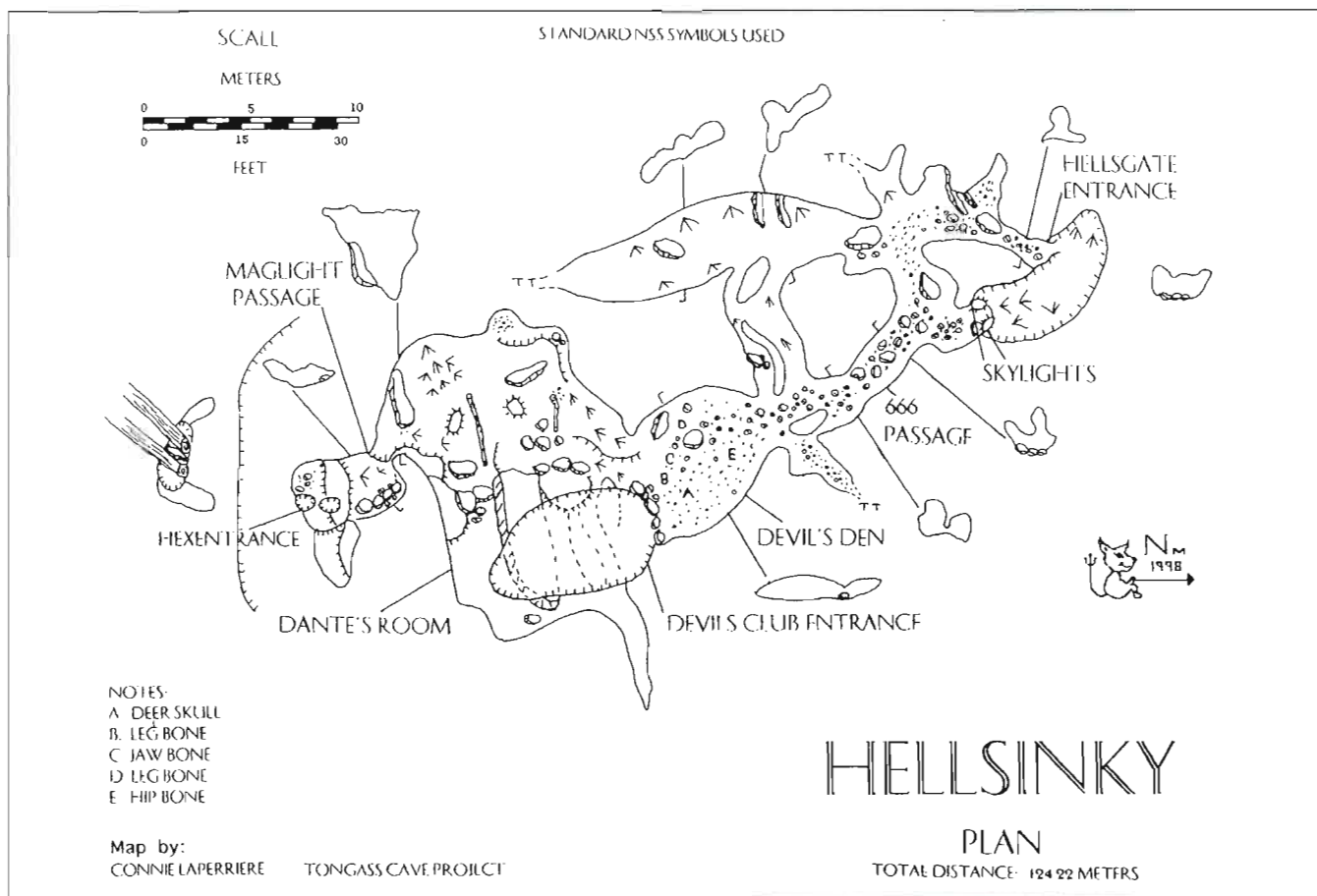
No timber harvest should occur near this cave, as it is in an area of great karst development.

The hydrology of the stream should be determined before any surface disturbance occurs.

Continued from President's Corner page 6

for accurate, clear survey notes. If more of us learn to draw the caves we sketch, all of our sketches would improve. Every cartographer had to start somewhere, just take it one easy step at a time.

For your chance to start producing cave maps, contact Steve Lewis to see about getting copies of surveys. If he doesn't have any easy ones to start you off, ask for one that has already been published. That way you can compare your efforts with a completed map. Can't get hold of Steve? Try doing a survey of the interior of a building or your home, and then draw the map to see how it compares. The more hallways and stairs the better! That is exactly what several of us did for our first attempt at surveying.



CHALLENGE COST-SHARE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
TONGASS CAVE PROJECT, NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
GLACIER GROTTO,
AND
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST, USDA-FOREST SERVICE.

THIS CHALLENGE COST-SHARE AGREEMENT, made and entered into by and between the Tongass Cave Project of the National Speleological Society and the Glacier Grotto, hereinafter referred to as the Challengers, and the Tongass National Forest, US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, hereinafter referred as the Forest Service, under the provisions of the Interior and Related Agencies Act, P.L. 102-154

I. INTRODUCTION

The Forest Service and the Challengers have established this agreement to help one another accomplish mutually beneficial objectives related to gathering karst and cave resource information. This agreement will be conducted on an annual basis for a 5-year period beginning July 1, 1998 and ending December 31, 2002. Based on funding levels and need, cave inventories will be conducted annually for a one month period or additionally as required. The NSS has titled this project as the Tongass Cave Project (TCP), the Glacier Grotto is the local caving organization in Alaska. Participants will include Forest Service personnel and cavers sponsored by the Challengers. Jim Baichtal, Forest Geologist of the Ketchikan Area of the Tongass National Forest is the primary Forest Service coordinator. Each Area or District may designate coordinators for specific projects. Pete Smith is currently the primary coordinator for the TCP. Alan Murray, is the current President and primary coordinator of the Glacier Grotto.

II MUTUAL BENEFITS

The Forest Service manages National Forest lands which includes abundant cave and karst resources and has the responsibility to manage and protect the cave and karst resources on National Forest lands in accordance with the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 and the standards and guides outlined in the Forest Plan (1997). The Challengers are interested in promoting and assisting the Forest Service in gathering cave and karst resource information to increase knowledge and understanding of the resource with the intent of promoting increased protection and better management of that resource. It is mutually beneficial for the TCP, the Glacier Grotto and the Forest Service to work cooperatively to locate, identify, inventory, survey, and map these resources.

III THE FOREST SERVICE SHALL:

1. Provide to the Challengers supplies, materials, and equipment to the extent that funding is available as indicated below:

A. Base Camp Support: housing, subsistence food, local transportation (to and from the work site), hand-held radios, climbing ropes, survey equipment, batteries and /or carbide, and first-aid and safety equipment. Base camp support may include shower facilities, laundry facilities, office space, drafting materials, paper, mylar, and topographic, geologic, other forest maps.

B. Transportation: Helicopter and Fixed Wing transportation, vehicular transportation to and from the job site and/or the ferry terminal with the following stipulations:

- 1) An approved Forest Service Form AD-2023 will be required for any persons using Government aircraft for travel. Forest Service Flight Request Forms will be completed for all flights. Completed forms will be submitted to the local project coordinator for final processing. All persons using Government aircraft will be required to attend an Aviation Safety briefing prior to any aircraft use.
 - 2) Based on budget levels and need, transportation for Challenges from Ketchikan, Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell or Juneau via USFS fixed wing aircraft to the work site may be appropriate.
 - 3) Forest Service employees may transport Challenges to and from ferry terminals and the work site and for supplies. Challenges may drive Forest Service vehicles as well for these purposes. Challengers must have a valid drivers license and submit a copy of the license to the Forest Service project coordinator. The Forest Service project coordinator will prepare and approve a list of drivers with copies of valid driver's licenses to be submitted to Administration for inclusion on the travel authorization form AD-202.
 - 4) Challengers will be required to complete Area requirements for licensing before operating government owned boats.
2. Provide leadership for planning and coordination of the cave expeditions.
 3. When feasible initiate and facilitate a cave search and rescue exercise annually with interested groups such as the Alaska Cave Rescue Group. The Forest Service will maintain a cache of appropriate search and rescue equipment at Thorne Bay Ranger District since the majority of caves and cave exploration resides within the Thorne Bay District boundaries. Each Area should designate a search and rescue coordinator for the Forest Service. For assistance in development of a cave rescue strategy, Cat Woods, Recreation Forester at Thorne Bay Ranger District will Act as the primary coordinator.
 4. Reimburse the challenger up to the agreed amount as provided in an annual financial project plan. Payment will be made upon receipt of itemized invoices furnished by the Challenger. Invoices shall consist of a completed SF-270, Request for Advance or Reimbursement, and itemized receipts for all expenses incurred.

IV THE CHALLENGERS SHALL:

1. Conduct expeditions to search for caves, cave resources and karst formations and develop detailed compass and tape surveys of individual caves. To the extent possible, assessment will be made of the geological, biological mineralogical, cultural, paleontological, and recreational resource values of the caves. These evaluations will be tied to the Cave Management Strategy developed for the Tongass National Forest.
2. Make available to the Forest Service all field data generated by the Challengers while under the support of the Forest Service. Copies of photographs and/or videos shall be provided to the Forest Service as per section V-2.
3. Assume responsibility for safety inspection of climbing ropes and equipment loaned to the project by the Forest Service.
4. Give the USDA Forest Service or the Comptroller General, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all books, papers, or documents related to this agreement.
5. Follow the direction outlined within the Ketchikan Area Emergency Action Plan, or similar plans, within the section on Caving in the event of a caving emergency.
6. Abide by Forest Service rules and regulations regarding transportation.
7. Invoice the Forest Service in accordance with the Annual Financial Plan.
7. Invoice the Forest Service in accordance with the Annual Financial Plan.
8. Pursuant to the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, as amended by P.L. 104-134, furnish their tax identification number upon execution of this instrument. Challenger also agrees that notice of the Forest Service's intent to use such number for purposes of collecting and reporting on any delinquent amounts arising out of such person's relationship with the Government, has hereby been given.

V. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND BETWEEN THE SAID PARTIES THAT:

1. No part of this agreement shall entitle the Challengers to any share or interest in the project caves or cave resources other than the right to sue and enjoy the same under the existing regulations of the Forest Service.
2. The copyright of photographs taken with private film shall be retained by the photographer. The Forest Service has permission to use copyrighted photographs in brochures, technical reports, and for educational purposes provided that proper credit is given. Copies of photographs taken with private film, by expedition members, shall be made available to the Forest Service; cost of duplication will be at Forest Service expense. If Forest Service film is used for photography the film will remain the property of the Forest Service; duplicates will be made available to respective photographers.
3. The Challengers are responsible for loss or damage to their personal equipment. Individuals are responsible for the loss and damage of Forest Service owned equipment assigned for use while in volunteer status if the damage or loss occurred is the result of negligence or misuse by that individual. Normal wear to Forest Service equipment is anticipated and will not be considered damage.
4. For the purpose of the Agreement, the Forest Service considers "Challengers" to mean any person who is participating in the project. Participation in this Agreement is limited to members of the National Speleological Society, TCP, or the Glacier Grotto.
5. Annually, at least 60 days prior to the initiation of the annual operations, the parties hereto shall meet to discuss the Agreement's effectiveness, administration problems, future and upcoming work projects, budgetary needs, equipment and training needs, and develop an annual operating plan. The Forest Service shall have the responsibility for conducting this annual meeting. Additional meetings may be requested by either party. Conference calls may be appropriate.
6. Parties shall designate in writing the liaisons, and their alternates.
7. The work under this agreement shall be completed on an annual basis with the bulk of the work anticipated to last approximately one month each year. For example, in 1998 the annual operation is July 18 to August 14. Cave reports shall be completed no later than one year after the annual operation.
8. Liability for damage or injury by either party to an agreement must be determined, when a claim arises, on the basis of applicable laws. Claims against the Forest Service will be handled under the provision of the Federal Tort Claim Act.
9. The Forest Service will provide use of Forest Service vehicles to the Challengers. The Challengers will abide by the rules and regulations applicable to the operation of Forest Service vehicle.
10. Forest Service support shall be acknowledged in publications and audiovisuals.
11. Specific indirect cost rates are approved in the initial instrument. If the rates change at any time during the performance period, the proposed adjustments shall be resubmitted to the Forest Service for verification, consideration, and approval, prior to the adjusted rates being billed. Approved rates shall be incorporated by written modification.
12. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3716 and 7 CFR Part 3, Subpart B, any monies that are payable or may become payable from the United States under this instrument to any person or legal entity, not an agency or subdivision of a State or local government, may be subject to administrative offset for the collection of a delinquent debt the person or legal entity owes to the United States. Information on the person's or legal entity's responsibility for a commercial debt or delinquent consumer debt owned the United States shall be disclosed to consumer or commercial credit reporting agencies.

13. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3717 and 7 CFR Part 3, Subpart B, an interest charge shall be assessed on any payment due the Government not made by the payment due date.

Interest shall be assessed using the most current rate prescribed by the United States Department of the Treasury Fiscal Requirements Manual (TFRM-6-8020.20). Interest shall accrue from the date the payment was due. In addition, in the event the account becomes delinquent administrative costs will be assessed.

A penalty of 6% per year shall be assessed on any payment overdue in excess of 90 days from the payment due date.

Payments will be credited on the date received by the designated collection officer or deposit location. If the due date(s) for any of the above payments, fees, or calculation statements falls on a non-workday, the charges shall not apply until the close of business of the next workday.

14. Modifications within the scope of the instrument shall be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by both parties, prior to any changes being preformed. The Forest Service is not obligated to fund any changes not properly approved in advance.
15. Either party(s), in writing, may terminate the instrument in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration. Neither party(s) shall incur any new obligations for the terminated portion of the instrument after the effective date and shall cancel as many obligations as is possible. Full credit shall be allowed for each party's expenses and all noncancellable obligations properly incurred up to the effective date of termination.
16. The Challenger shall comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination and all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations and policies. These include but are not limited to : (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (40U.S.C. 2000, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, handicap, or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.
17. This instrument in no way restricts the Forest Service or the Challengers from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
18. Nothing herein shall be considered as obligating the Forest Service to expend or as involving the United States in any contract or other obligations for the future payment of money in excess of funding approved and made available for payment under this instrument and modifications thereto.
19. This instrument is executed as of the last date shown below and expires on December 31, 2002, at which time it will be subject to review, renewal, or expiration.
20. Federal wage provisions (Davis-Bacon or Service Contract Act) are applicable to any contract developed and awarded under this instrument where all or part of the funding is provided with Federal funds. Davis -Bacon wage rates apply on all public works contracts in excess of \$2000 and Service Contract Act wage provisions apply to service contracts in excess of \$2500. The Forest Service will award contracts in all situations where their contribution exceeds 50% of the costs of the contract. If a Challenger is approved to issue a contract it shall be awarded on a competitive basis.
21. The Challenger has the legal authority to enter into this instrument, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (Including funds sufficient to pay non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project.
22. Federal funding under this instrument is not available for reimbursement of Challenger purchase of equipment.
23. Any Challenger contributions made under this instrument do not by direct reference, or implication convey Forest Service endorsement of the cooperator's products or activities.

VI. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS: the principal contacts for this instrument are:

James F. Baichtal
Forest Geologist
Ketchikan Area, Tongass Natl. Forest
Thorne Bay Ranger District
P.O. Box 19001
Thorne Bay, Alaska 99919

Alan Murray
President Glacier Grotto
57 Main Street, #209
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
(907)225-2500

Pete Smith
Co-director, Tongass Cave Project
P.O. Box WWP
Ketchikan, Alaska 9950
(907)846-5223

MISCELLANEOUS

Excerpts from the NSS News.

Bones recovered from sediments in Unthanks Cave, Virginia were identified as belonging to a species of extinct bear, the short-faced bear *Arctodus simus*. The species became extinct about 10,000 years ago. Volunteers of The Nature Conservancy, which owns the cave, spotted a protruding bone in 1995. The decision was made to extract the bones and Virginia Cave Board President and NSS Fellow Dave Hubbard removed them. Fred Grady, paleontologist at the Smithsonian Institution and also a NSS Fellow, performed the identification (The Nature Conservancy Virginia Chapter News, Spring 1998)

Karst is a unique ecosystem, being home to 50,000 species found only there. In Kentucky, 50 of the species that are endangered, threatened, or have some other special status are associated with karst. The Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission has established four state nature preserves that include caves. The commission has also identified other karst area in need of protection and worked with landowners who voluntarily protect their caves. (The American Geographical Society's Focus, summer 1993 [published 1995].)

The NSS Underwater Cave Study Group - Devoted to promoting scientific research in and a better understanding of phreatic karst (underwater caves). The study group promotes information exchange, interaction, and collaboration between aquatic/phreatic karst scientists and cave divers with an interest in science, and concerns itself with study of phreatic karst by means of cave diving, geotechnical drilling, and other methods. Scientific fields of interest include aquatic speleo-biology, microbiology, ecology, geology, sedimentology, geochemistry, hydrology water chemistry, archeology, paleontology and

scientific cave diving methods. The study group coordinator is Harris Martin, Ph.D. (caveslime@aol.com).

Introducing

A new feature in the Alaska Caver. In the first issue of 1999, the Rope Cutter makes its debut. The Rope Cutter will answer questions, give advice and make comments. The column offers cavers a place to voice their concerns, ideas or gripes.

The answers and ideas in no way reflect any view of the Glacier Grotto as an entity, and may not even represent a sane viewpoint. The Rope Cutter also reserves the right to ignore, gloss over, edit or just plain plagiarize any entry.

Please send your notes, letters or messages to Rope Cutter, PO Box 9062, Ketchikan AK 99901 or send by e-mail to the editor (dtperrigo@aol.com) who will transfer them to the Rope Cutter.

Comments from your Editor.

I am in somewhat of a bind. I do not have a single cave drawing, cave text, or story to put into the December issue of the Alaskan Caver. Alan Murray sent five pictures with his President's Corner column, for October, two of which were used in this issue. Aside from that, I do not have pictures to print in future Cavers.

I enjoy publishing the Caver but it has become a challenge to produce it the past several months. Would you like a schedule of bimonthly themes? Can you tell me when you could contribute and what you can provide? Please let me know where we go from here.

Please send all text for the newsletter to dtperrigo@aol.com or if on disk, saved to Microsoft Word preferably 5, 6, 7, or 8. I find it easiest to handle and faster for me if it is on e-mail - not as an attachment - just in the e-mail message.

The Alaskan Caver

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