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Dalene T. Perrigo

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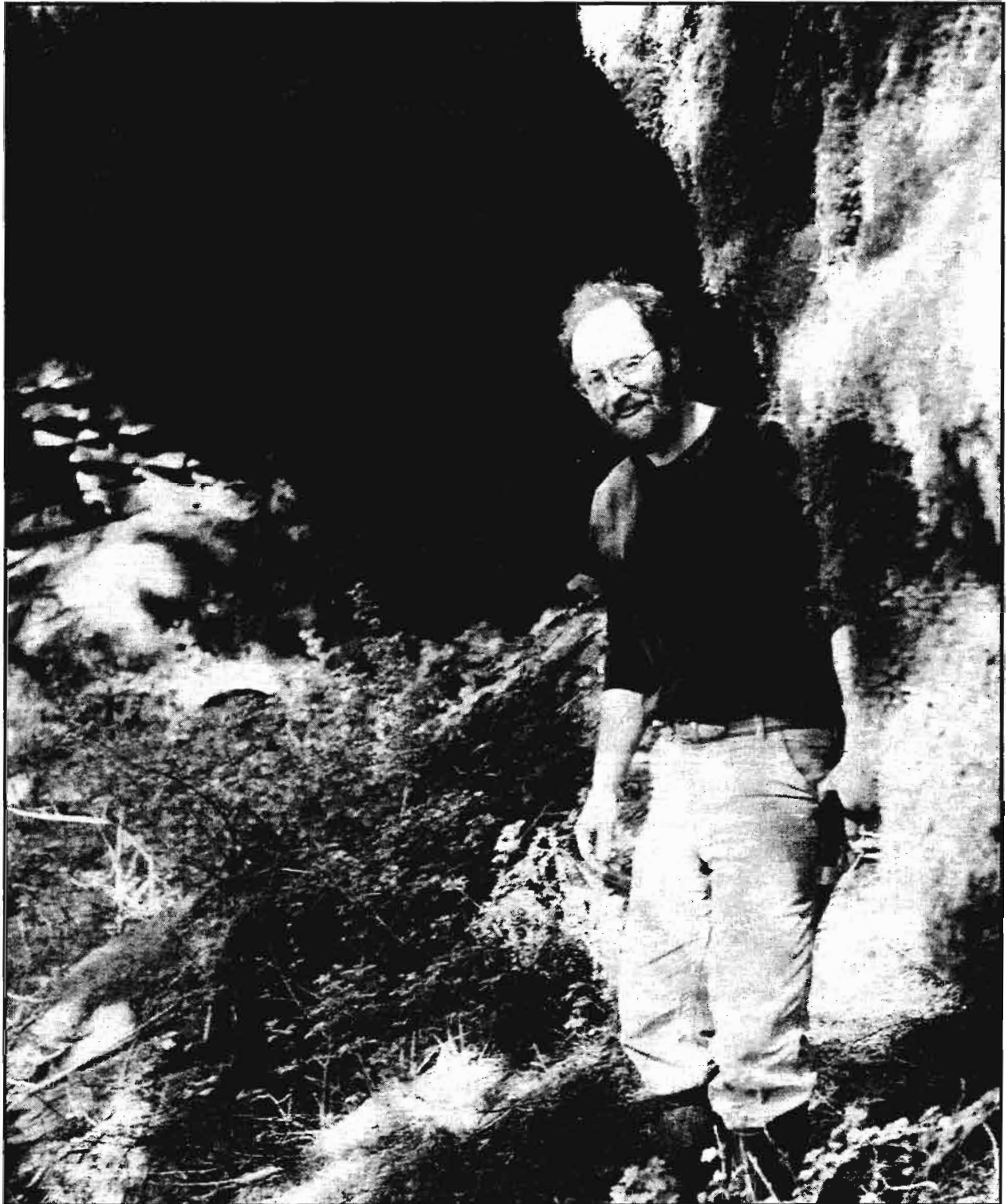
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The Alaskan Caver

Volume 19 Number 6

December 1999



The Alaskan Caver

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Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

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Cover Photo: Glacier Grotto President David Love at Sunnyside Cave in the summer of 1999. Photo: Jim Moore

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"Ice Caving," the cover of the October 1993 issue of The Alaskan Caver. Photo: Jay Rockwell

CALENDAR

June 26-30, 2000.....NSS Convention, Elkins WV. Kelley Deem (304)725-9812 <deem@mammoth-geo.com>

Sept. 17-27.....Karst 2000: International Symposium and Field Seminar, Marmaris, Turkey. <karst@eti.cc.hun.edu.tr>

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 or expeditions will be called by Jay Rockwell 277-7150 or Harvey Bowers at <agate@alaska.net>

Glacier Grotto web site:

<http://www.caves.org/grotto/glacier>

THE GREATEST UNDERGROUND ADVENTURE OF ALL TIME

by Marcel LaPerriere

Installment VIII

(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)

It was Rob who then broke the second period of silence.

"Do you see what I see?" he asked.

"It looks like a stone hut," said Kris in the most astonished voice I had ever heard. "And look there is smoke coming out of the chimney!"

"Looks like bread cooling on a window sill," Connie said sounding even more astonished than Kris did.

"But, but..." I stuttered "Who is baking it, and who is it?"

Before anyone could answer a gray haired elderly black man walked out the door, waved to us in a friendly manor, then signaled for us to come to what I assumed was his hut.

"Hello!" he yelled as we approached, "I been expecting you," he said in a dialect that would be more commonly heard somewhere like Barbados.

"Come! Come!" he said "My name is Coulanta."

Author's note: the reader of this must take into account that I have not added the accent of Coulanta into this writing. First because much of the quotations are more recollections than ac-

tual dialog. And second, I would find it impossible to literally write down the accent to a point that you, the reader could understand it.)

"Coulanta?" I asked Kris in the most surprised voice I had ever mustered up in my life.

"Wasn't Coulanta the name of the guy who visited the underground world of Georgia with Jules Verne?"

Continued on page 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by David Love

Recently, Dalene Perrigo, editor of the Alaskan Caver, suggested that several in the caving community write an article for the final issue of the 1900's describing what they see as the future of caving in Alaska. What will happen to this resource in the years to come? We must look to ourselves to answer that question. We can either attempt to influence the future of the cave resource and hence caving in this state or we can stand by and let someone else do it for us.

No time like the present! Now is the time to be active in

Continued on page 4

Kris tried to answer but he could only shake his head, yes.

I think we were all wondering if we were dreaming. I know I sure was as we got closer and closer to Coulanta and the stone hut. I mean, think about it, there we were miles underground, walking along a lake that was so big we could no longer see the other side of it. We couldn't see the ceiling, nor any cave walls in front of us. Not to mention that the water was admitting a light that we could see by and here we were walking up to a stone hut that belonged to a black hermit who just happened to live underground and liked to bake the most amazing smelling bread in the world. The collage of amazing facts was overpowering our abilities to intake anymore.

In the scuba diving world it's known as "Task Over Loading," where the mind can no longer process one more task or observation. Believe me all of us had reached our point of saturation, nothing more could enter our brains without the input slowing down.

In order for anymore information of what we were seeing, feeling, smelling or hearing to sink in we were now moving at a snail's pace. We were all in the most surreal world that we had ever experienced, dazed by observations that one's brain had a hard time believing. I think I even pinched myself to see if I was sleeping.

"Come! Come!" Coulanta once again said. "Please, I have so much to tell you. I have not seen a white person in more than 100 years."

I think only half of us heard that, let alone absorbed what he had just said.

Kris was the first to speak as we got within a few feet of Coulanta.

"Did you say your name was Coulanta?" he asked.

Coulanta nodded, yes.

I wasn't sure about the others but I was happy to let Kris do all the talking while I listened. That way I only had to intake what I heard and I didn't have to think about what to say.

Kris went on.

"I have heard the name Coulanta before, a man by the name of Dr. Elmo Washington told me there was a man named Coulanta who had explored the underground world with Jules Verne in the 1800s."

Coulanta was now the one who looked surprised and then he answered, "I have not heard that name in many years." Coulanta continued to look surprised, then asked "Who is Elmo Washington?"

Over the next few minutes Kris told a small bit of the story that Dr. Elmo Washington had told him, and how we had come to this place. As strange or as ---nclusion that if this really was Coulanta then he would be the great-grandfather of Elmo Washington. The great-grandfather

that should have been dead for well over a hundred years.

Coulanta seemed confused and soon had a few tears in his eyes as he told us his story. He told how after the war between the states things were hard for people in the south especially for ex-slaves. Families who had lived together as slaves found the only way to survive after they were no longer owned was to take work anywhere they could find it. This often meant that families had to be separated from their loved ones. And, that is exactly what had happened to Coulanta and his wife. They had been forced to say goodbye to their grown children as one by one they had all migrated north to escape the overwhelming depression that had engulfed the south.

The smell of the bread was still overpowering us. Fortunately, Coulanta sensed this and he was soon cutting bread on a table that was nailed to the wall of the hut. Before Coulanta handed us each a thick slice of his bread he smothered it with butter and jam. He then passed each of us a slice of what turned out to be the most heavenly bread any of us had ever eaten. It was extraordinarily light, had the faintest taste of yeast, wasn't overly sweet, yet, it was also filling. Of course where the ingredients came from for our treat was at this point still a mystery.

As we ate Coulanta told us more.

After trying for a few years to make a life for his wife and young children in the post civil war and watching all but his youngest children move away, he came to the conclusion that the only place they could live was in the underground world that he had found with Jules Vern. Coulanta knew there would be plenty of food to live off the land, or in this case live under the land.

It was decided by Coulanta and his wife they would take their three young children and a gathering of about 20 ex-slaves and they would move to the underground world where Coulanta knew life would be easier, if they could only get there.

After gathering the few belongings that Coulanta's group owned they headed for the Georgian cave that Coulanta knew held the only known entrance to the center of the Earth. The only problem was that Coulanta also knew he and Jules Vern had blasted the cave shut in several places. This meant that the nearly starving blacks would have to dig their way into their new home.

Coulanta confessed to us that he had wondered if they were digging their way into their own graves. This was because as they moved into the cave they buried the diggings behind themselves. Each time they came to a restriction that had to be dug the debris was moved to the last restriction behind them, thus forever blocking their way out of the cave.

The trip into the center of of the Earth took nearly 10 days and cost one life when one of the starving black

men died of exhaustion. He was buried under the last debris pile that came from the last digging. Negotiating the cliff that Coulanta had first climbed down year previously proved to be the hardest part of the trip and also forever sealed the fate of the newcomers to the underground world because even the rope was pulled down.

When the group finely found themselves along the banks of the large underground lake that Coulanta had first visited many years previous they were all nearly dead of starvation.

Coulanta told us how after just a few days of drinking the cool water and eating fish from the lake the whole group felt better than they had in their whole life. In fact it was almost as if every one was reverting in age, and after more time passed Coulanta then knew everyone was reverting in age, or at least they weren't getting any older.

"The ex-slaves had found their Nirvana," or that's what I heard Connie mutter in a low soft voice as Coulanta continued to tell his story.

"But where is everyone else?" Kris asked. "You said you came down here with a group of people."

"Yes!" Coulanta said softly. "Many are dead now." Coulanta almost looked as if he was going to cry. "We escaped to our new world," he paused "the overland has killed many of us."

Once again we were confused, I could tell this by the look on every ones face.

"Overland!" we had heard Coulanta say,

"How could the Overland kill them?" I asked. "I'm sorry, Coulanta, but I think we are all confused, How did you say the others were killed?"

Coulanta again passed each of us more bread until there was none left and then he went on to tell us how in just the last 50 years, that was his words "just the last 50 years, the others had started dying."

He then again surprised all of us.

"The pollution from above has killed many of us and much other life of the underground world." Coulanta's eyes started to brighten then he said, "Many have died, but many have also been born, I have many, many grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren."

I felt relieved that Coulanta was happy about his offspring but I wanted to know more about the pollution.

"How do you know it was pollution that killed your friends?" I asked.

"Pollution came to this inner world in the water, the same way we get most everything we have."

I guess it was at this point that I finely noticed that Coulanta was wearing modern clothing. I'm not sure why it hadn't dawned on me sooner that Coulanta certainly

wasn't dressed as a black man from 130 years ago. I wondered if the others had noticed too, but I shouldn't have.

Changing the subject Kris asked. "Where do you get your clothing?"

Coulanta answered, "It comes to the inner world from the many streams that also bring news, garbage, pollution and many things to our world."

Coulanta reached into his pocket and pulled out a very tattered Readers Digest dated June 1996. It had obviously been in the water and I could see there was still some pages stuck together even though the magazine was now totally dry.

"Everything we need and don't need comes here from the streams. Tomorrow, I will show you," Coulanta said we all watched again in amazement as Coulanta rolled up his right sleeve and took a look at an expensive digital watch.

"It is now past midnight and you must be in need of sleep. I will bring you blankets and pillows from my house. You can safely sleep out here on the grass; it will not rain tonight."

We watched as Coulanta disappeared into his little home as we all wondered about the statement that it wasn't going to rain. After all we were hundreds of feet underground, with who knew how many feet of solid rock between us and the surface. How the heck was it going to rain anyway?

True to his words Coulanta re-emerged moments later with a half dozen heavy wool blankets and some very tattered pillows.

"You never told us where the others are," Sergey said pronouncing his words slowly.

It was obvious that Coulanta could not understand Sergey's heavy Russian accent so Rob repeated Sergey's question.

"You will have to wait till tomorrow then you will see," Coulanta said. "I will wake you early, then you will see."

"What about the rain?" Rob asked. "You said it wouldn't rain tonight."

"True," Coulanta said. "It will not rain tonight." Coulanta looked up almost as if he was looking into the heavens as we would on the surface, he then said, "When I first came to his underground world I too was surprised when it rained, but it does rain down here. I do not know why but it does. Sometimes there are even big wind storms."

As I drifted off to sleep I kept wondering about everything Coulanta had told us. The dreams that followed were even more surreal than the last few hours had been for me. I dreamed of underground rain storms, wind, and the taste of the best bread I had ever eaten.

(To be continued)

planning for the future, to influence the march of time in a direction towards which our children and their children will be proud. This means sticking to what we know to be right and remaining true to our convictions.

Over the last 12 years of exploration in Southeast Alaska, cavers, scientists and the USFS have done just that. We are moving in the right direction. To be sure, there are often disagreements as to proper management policies but the successes we've had in karst inventory, mapping, exploration and research lies in our cooperation with one another. The Tongass Cave Project and Glacier Grotto have been very successful at educating the USFS and the general public about the value of karst and caves, but we have more to do. We need better defined USFS Standards and Guidelines for timber harvest activities on karst, we need more help with cave inventory and monitoring of proposed timber units, and we need to work hard on getting a State of Alaska Cave Resources Protection Act passed.

I am encouraged by the proactive role we've taken in the recent past as relates to projects on Heceta and Kosciusko Islands and wish to extend an invitation to anyone in the readership who has been thinking of getting involved to do so. I welcome the invitation by the USFS to be involved in layout and monitoring, and hope that time and personnel permitted, someone from the Grotto or TCP can participate in this manner. Volunteer is defined by Webster's Dictionary as a person who performs or gives services, renders aid or assumes an obligation of his/her own free will. Are you a volunteer? We want you! Call me or any of the other officers of the Grotto if you can help out.

What is the future of caving in Alaska? To best guess the future, sometimes it is useful to review the relevant lessons and insights from the past. One of my favorite oracles remains the well-known biologist and father of wild game management, Aldo Leopold. He was a visionary, thoughtful, and ahead of his time.

Some quotes of his follow:

The following comes from the forward to his book, "A Sand County Almanac," initially published in 1949. This is a must-read for all who find value in the out-of-doors. Bear with me and I will attempt to bring the ideas presented here full circle as they relate to caves in Alaska.

"Like winds and sunsets, wild things (wilderness) were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question of whether a still higher "standard of living" is worth its cost in things natural, wild and free.

For us of the minority (still as true as in 1949...), the opportunity to see geese is more important than television (or maybe today we should say the World Wide

Web...) and the chance to find a pasque-flower is a right as inalienable as free speech.

These wild things, I admit, had little in human value until mechanization assured us of a good breakfast, and until science disclosed the drama of where they come from and how they live. The whole conflict thus boils down to a question of degree. We of the minority see a law of diminishing returns; our opponents do not.

Conservation is getting nowhere because it is incompatible with our Abrahamic concept of land. We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

First we should ask: What is wilderness? Answer, again from Webster's: an uncultivated, uninhabited area. Second, the central question implied in this first paragraph of Leopold's book is: Why Protect Wilderness? Here are several reasons I have come up with: Reason one: for the area's scientific, cultural, economic, aesthetic and spiritual values. Reason two: to preserve a component of the larger natural context, thus allowing a baseline to evaluate change. Reason three: to retain a recreational resource in a world increasingly more urban and industrialized. Reason four: to maintain a sense of history, of place, to nurture an active, responsible commitment to the land we live on. Maybe you can think of more. Do the caves and the karst resources of Alaska fit the definition of wilderness? For what reason(s) should they be protected? Simply put, preservation can be defined as "non-use" while conservation can be called "wise-use". Of these two management schemes which should be applied to what caves? These questions and more must be answered in order to decide the future of cave resources in this state. From my experience, most caves in Alaska are wilderness areas, with any differences being a matter of degree. At the risk of ruffling some feathers, I will say that I feel that most caves should be managed as wilderness, preserving their inherent values. Cave resources in Alaska must first be defined as wilderness or non-wilderness areas, their sensitivity to disturbance determined and the type of management to be applied must be decided upon, before we can know the future of this fragile resource. A longterm management plan, at the very least, is needed to determine the future type of use(if any) of karst and caves on federal and state lands.

"All preservation of wildness is self-defeating for to cherish we must see and fondle and when enough have seen and fondled there is no wilderness left to cherish," Aldo Leopold, "Game Management." Developing such monitoring and management plans for karst on state and federal lands should be an attainable goal for the coming millennium, let's hope we will continue to influence the future in a way we all will be proud of.

Letter

Dear colleagues,

I just got back from a short but productive trip to a cave (Hole 52) on the mainland near Wrangell. On a previous trip Pete Smith collected a black bear canine that dated to 11,460 YBP, and that got me interested.

I've been wanting to compare a mainland cave with the POW Island caves.

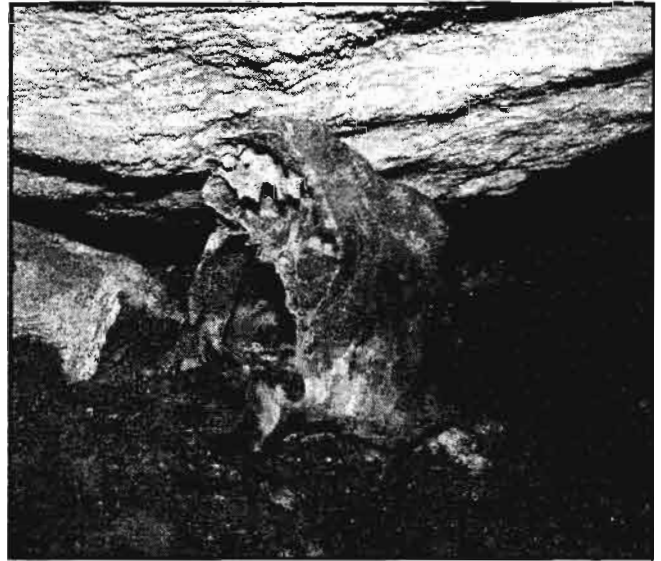
Pete and Dave Love met me in Wrangell, and Jackie de Montigny and Martin Stanford of the Forest Service had things ready to go. The five of us boated to a wannigan (floating bunkhouse) near the cave where we stayed four nights. For three days we boated and hiked to the cave and excavated.

The cave is in a shallow sinkhole with a cliff on one side and a slope on the other and is easy to enter by several openings. There are some upper level horizontal passages that appear to have served as dens, based on the presence of bear and porcupine bones. We collected a little there. The upper crawlway abruptly drops off into a 60-foot pit with lots of bones at the bottom and on several ledges part way down.

Dave and I spent two days excavating shallow sediments at the bottom of the pit, and they were loaded with bones of bears, porcupines, deer mice, voles, and shrews. We also found a marmot molar and a few bat and fish bones.

Pete dug a test pit in a passage below us filled with water-lain sediments and also found bone. The last day was very wet, both outside and inside the cave, so we retreated to a semi-dry passage below the pit where Pete had collected the original canine. The roar of a river below us made communication difficult. We collected more surface bone there and excavated sample sediments from the crawlway. Below a soft bone-rich soil is a heavily-weathered gravel deposit one foot thick that also contains bear bones, and I am anxious to date these. All in all we cataloged 416 bones (or groups of bones) and processed 41 bags of sediment, which wasn't bad for three days' work in a vertical cave. The entire crew was of enormous help and great fun to work with.

On the Sunday that we left town I gave a talk in Wrangell that was well attended. The town's power was out all that day, so we found a generator in a Forest Service shed and got it running to power the slide projector. Signed, T. Heaton



This bear skull, found in Hole 52, dates to 8,500 years BP. Photo: Jim Moore



David Love takes a break near the bear skull in Hole 52. Photo: Jim Moore

HOLE 52

and

Speleological Potential of the General Area

Wrangell, Alaska • Preliminary Report #S9

Addendum to Report #S8

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
July 20, 1999

DESCRIPTION:

After beginning a quick partial exploration and 178.7 feet of survey last fall, a large team of cavers returned to Hole 52, expecting to find a way into an active, major stream cave believed to drain a large portion of this upper cretaceous marble. Participants were: Jim Moore, Kevin Allred, Panos Georgopoulos, Chip Cuthbert, Pete Smith, Steve Lewis and David Love, along with Forest Service employees Jackie deMontigny and Everett Kissinger.

A high lead about 20 feet above the floor of the entrance chamber was climbed. The passage soon became too tight, but could be seen to open up beyond the constriction. This area of the cave has been used by porcupines for some time, as evidenced by the thick deposits of droppings. By bridging partway over the entrance room a chamber (the "Sand Trap") was discovered. Apparently, the crawl now emerges from an inaccessible hole in the entrance ceiling. A southern trending passage takes off from the "Sand Trap." Charcoal was also noted in this passage. The floor soon changes from silt to rocks. After 40 feet, a 64-foot drop is encountered. At its bottom is a jumble of angular breakdown. A passage can be followed from the pit bottom.

After 20 feet, a downward sloping passage heads west and ends in a silt fill after 25 feet. More bones are present here. Further on a second steeply sloping passage requires a handline. It is a fissure which ends in a rocky, seasonal stream bed (the "Water Hazard"). This very tight belly crawl was pushed northward 15 feet, but appears to pinch out.

Back up the handline pitch, the passage leads upwards through a oval hole in the floor ("Hole in One"), midway down the main drop inside the entrance. The deepest point in Hole 52 Cave is reached by continuing down the main handline drop and following "The Fairway," a stoopway which leads to the most active stream of this

cave. The Fairway ends in a constrictive sump.

Leads to the north of Hole in One either become too tight past delicate stalactites or are too dangerous to climb with the very cold waterfall we encountered. The waterfall appears to originate from the surface stream #1 (see map), which sinks into the ground some 30 feet above the point we climbed to while underground. Stream #2 [probably emerges in the cave at The Fairway. Much of the sediments in Hole 52 are schist.

Biology:

Fungus gnat webs were noted in parts of the cave. Entrance areas are probably still used by porcupines for dens. At some time in the past it appears sediments had bridged the entrance chamber, giving easier access to the high fossil passage and the 64-foot pit. Last year, Pete Smith removed a few bone samples between the bottom of the 64-foot pit and Hole in One. These were sent to Dr. Timothy Heaton of the University of South Dakota. A bear canine dated at 11,460 years BP.

Cave Potential in the General Area.

The water in the Hole 52 Cave may possible drain into a suspected major cave system thought to underlie the large dry stream gully to the west. Or, another possibility is that this water resurges separately as about one half the flow of the large spring near sea level. At the time of our visit last fall I estimated the spring flow of at least 1-2 ballons/sec. With the spring runoff this year, the flow had increased to 2 ft³/3sec (15 gallons/sec).

So far most of the surveyed caves are located near of adjacent to the dry stream gully. These are: Renee Cave (Report #S7), Hole 52 (Report #S8), Bear Bread Cave (Report #S10), Crane Cave (Report #S11), and Sunnyside Cave (Report #S12). Phalanges Phreatic Cave, now known as Lawyer's Cave, is located at the southern end of the host marble deposit. Lawyers is approximately 50 feet long, and still unsurveyed. Paleontologist, Dr. Timothy Heaton visited the cave last year and made some small test pits. This cave should be evaluated and

studied completely. A nearby alpine cave (Goat Cave) has been reported by David Love and Pete Smith that may be formed in the same marble deposit. Apparently on the same mountain, it is a minor pit about 20 feet deep. Approximately north one and a half miles is a small lake at 1970 feet elevation. This lake reportedly drains subsurface a short distance through a too tight cave (personal communication, Jackie deMontigny).

During our search for more caves along the dry stream gully we came across large stretches of bedrock exposures in the bed, proving without doubt that an active cave system must exist below. At higher elevations, several large streams flowed to the gully marble contact from the noncarbonate mountain above. As soon as they got to the marble they were swallowed, apparently through noncarbonate rubble. The most promising of the swallets was one just uphill from Renee Cave and its nearby swallet. Called "Ball Washer," part of the stream pours into a 3 to 4 inch wide crack. Other, even larger streams, higher in elevation were not checked out closely because of snowpack, and the danger of one falling into a hidden pit or waterfall. Snowpack was deep this spring, 34 to 4 feet at 2,000 feet elevation. Based on the amount of water swallowed by the gully, and the suspected hidden inputs, I estimate the flow was at least five times (75 + gallons/sec.) the spring flow near the beach. This indicates a separate hydrologic flow, and one that issues as a submarine spring in Blake Channel. The area holds potential for major, challenging cave system, should a way

ever be found into it. Depth potential is more than 2,000 feet.

Several additional caves were located, but not surveyed. Our group line up and combed a good portion of the marble band which contains the discovered caves. On May 15 we began at the beach below Lawyers Cave, and ended at Hole 52. The following caves were located, but not surveyed. All were less than about 100 feet, but not all explored completely; Porcupine Pinch, Yo Cave and Breakdance Cave.

Presence of these caves indicates that more may exist which we missed, especially with obscure entrances. Other areas we combed were the main ridge up to over 2,000 feet elevation following the west side of the dry stream gully. We also checked out the narrow band of marble running northwards in the creek drainage 3/4 mile west of the main marble band. Where this marble crops out on the beach, it is only 30 feet wide and very impure.

Management Recommendations:

As explained before, the carbonates of this area, along with their recharge areas should be protected from road building or timber harvest. Dye tracing should be done in this cave and the general area to better delineate the hydrology. Although no troglobitic invertebrates were noted, a careful search for them by a specialist might turn something up. The location of Hole 52 Cave should be withheld from the general public to protect the speleothems and bone deposits.

CAVING IN THE 2000s

by Connie LaPerriere

I predict that caving will have a major boom and then a bust in the new millennium. The major cause of this boom will be the advent of accessories for cavers.

I see a small hand held device that will be pointed down the passageway and look like a laser show or a three dimensional Spiro graph going through the passage as it measures the cave. This will then be downloaded to a computer and the map will roll out the printer. The only reason the caver will be there is to point and shoot, and name. Somehow I think that the names will not be so colorful.

Then the improvements in the gear. A lightweight, tear proof, battery powered warming, self cleaning suit will take the place of three pair of socks, light weight long underwear, heavyweight long Johns, many gloves, balaclavas and the ever so loved one

piece overall that is so stiff it stands on its own as it waits for a victim to climb into it. Charlie Brown had incredible maneuverability compared to moving in these suits. The suit of the future will also be jet air powered so you can just float, & hover through the caves. For tight spots it will have a vacuum feature.

In other words caving will rise like a phoenix only to plummet in fire as it becomes boring. What else could caving be if you weren't cold, wet, dirty, struggling, and happy in the companionship of other like (read insane) minded people.

I would accept all this boredom if the one true heart's desire of caver miracles occurred. The miracle would be that caves would be appreciated and protected from the effects of encroaching civilization.

HOLE 52 CAVE

BLAKE CHANNEL, TONGASS
NATIONAL FOREST, ALASKA

Compass, Inclinometer and Tape
Survey October 9, 1998 and May
12-13, 1999 by D. Love, D.
Montelth, J. Moore, P. Smith, K.
Allred, Penos Georgopoulos, S.
Lewie, J. deMontigny, C. Cuthbert
and E. Klesinger. Map by C. Allred.

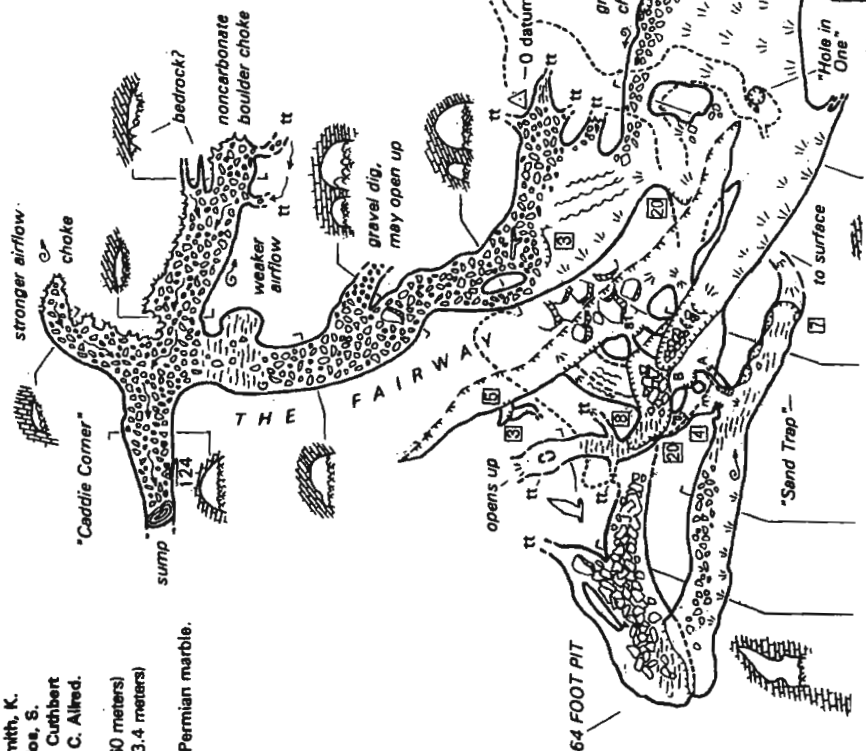
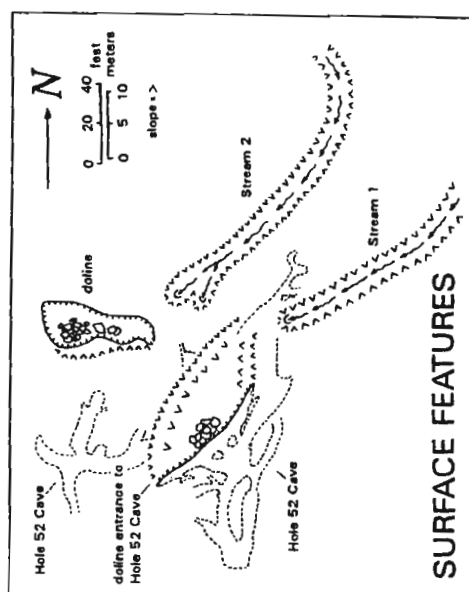
Survey length- 853 feet (260 meters)
Vertical extent- 124 feet (43.4 meters)

Bedrock is thinly bedded Permian marble.

NOTES ON CAVE

BIOLOGY:

- A- snail and scattered
bones that are prob-
ably porcupine
- B- bird bones



LOWER LEVELS



© 1999 by Carlene Allred

BEAR BREAD CAVE

Wrangell, Alaska • Preliminary Report #S10
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
July 20, 1999

DESCRIPTION:

Bear Bread Cave was discovered by Pete Smith, Panos Georgopoulos and Kevin Allred on May 17, 1999, while ridge walking up the Permian marble band, hunting for new caves. The Cave is located on a bench area, on the ridge west of the dry stream gully. The bench is karsted with solution gullies and sinks

A small seasonal streamlet drains from a small portion of the bench (noncarbonate glacial till?) and flows down the steep slope of the insurgence sink-hole entrance. After the streamlet disappears into schist sediments, the cave passages follow the strike of the steeply dipping beds of the marble. From the entrance, the fissure-like passage slopes south, down past a side passage, which trends upwards towards an adjacent dry solution channel. This passage ends in a soil seal which contains fine roots.

Back at the main fissure, a constriction forced a retreat until a later trip on May 18, 1999. Kevin

Allred and Panos Georgopoulos moved some rocks to allow passage into the lower portion of the cave. Below the constriction is a 10-foot drop and reappearance of the entrance streamlet. The cave immediately ends in noncarbonate fill comprising mostly of schist. No air movement was noted. Kevin and Panos surveyed the cave, which totals 83 feet in length and 47.4 feet deep.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Bear Bread Cave is likely a part of the major hydrologic system, thought to underlie the dry stream channel about 50 feet to the east. No timber harvest or road building should occur atop the carbonates or their recharge area. A dye tracing study could include Bear Bread Cave when the small insurgence streamlet is flowing in spring or fall. The cave includes a good example of what the underside of a sink or sealed solution channel looks like.

MESSAGE FROM SCOTT FEE

During the last two days, Gary Barnes of Alabama and Richard Blenz of Indiana have made some very generous donations. Naturally, this has reduced the availability of Kenamer Cave Features. The updated list is below.

As many of you know, we have been offering honorary ownership of 50 feet of Kenamer Cave along with a variety of cave features. With the ongoing generous support of the caving community, we were able to finance this cave acquisition. As of January 01, 2000 we have three 50-foot plots remaining and the following features available to those donors who are so inclined (We hope to publish the donor map in the near future once the cave has been completely sold).

Rest Room.....	\$250	Pool.....	\$250
Dig.....	\$150	Up 22'.....	\$150
40' Bluff.....	\$150	Down 18' (outside)	\$150
Dry Creekbed.....	\$150	50 Feet of Passage...	\$50
50 Feet of Passage...	\$50	50 Feet of Passage...	\$50
		Total remaining	\$1,150

The SCCi accepts credit card donations. If you would like to make a tax-deductable donation, please call Scott or Jaime Fee at (205) 854-7487. (If you would like to own a feature, we can offer a \$25 per month extended payment plan!)

The \$250 plots come with an embroidered, tri-color polo shirt. A \$150 plot entitles the contributor to three, Kenamer Cave T-shirts.

N

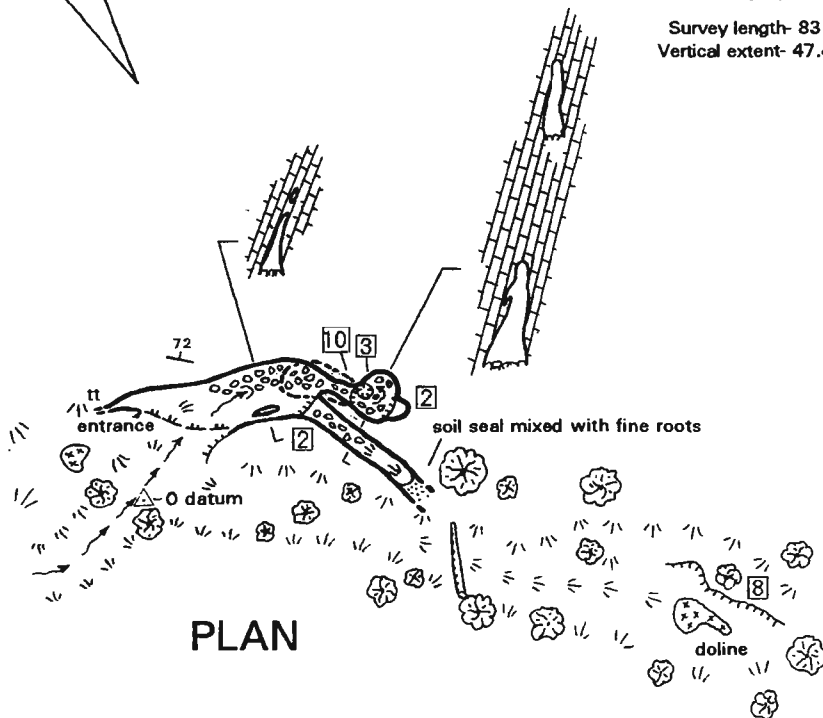
Nm 24.5° (1999)

BEARBREAD CAVE

BLAKE CHANNEL, TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
ALASKA

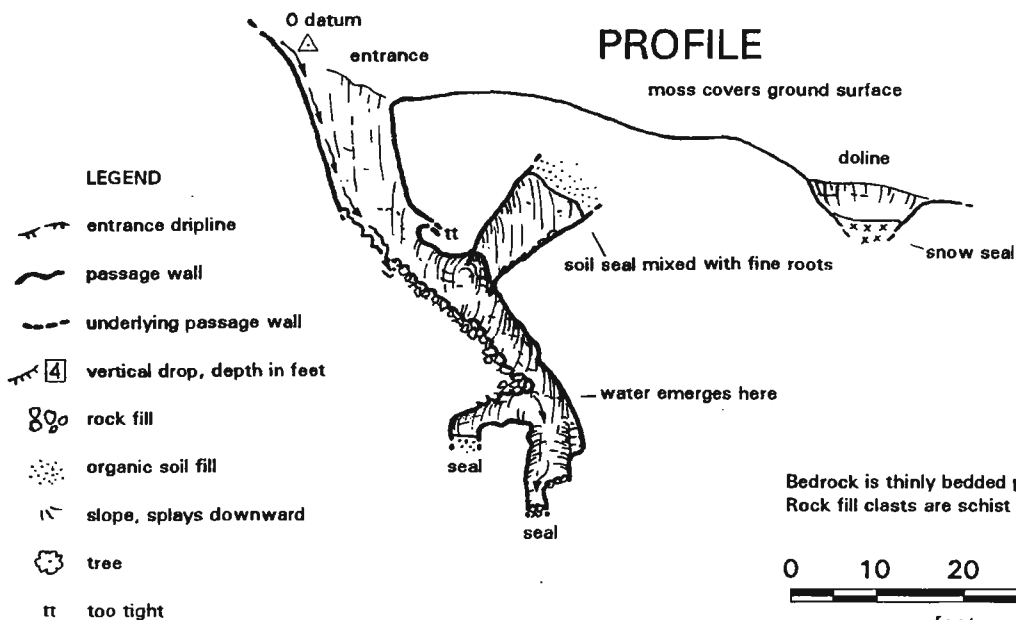
Compass, inclinometer and Tape Survey,
May 18, 1999 by Panos Georgopoulos and
K. Allred. Map by C. Allred.

Survey length- 83 feet
Vertical extent- 47.4 feet

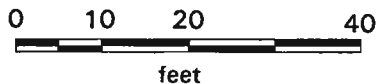


PLAN

PROFILE



Bedrock is thinly bedded permian marble.
Rock fill clasts are schist and slightly rounded.



SUNNYSIDE CAVE

Wrangell, Alaska • Preliminary Report #S12
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
July 20, 1999

DESCRIPTION:

Sunnyside Cave was discovered in the fall of 1998 by Pete Smith. The cave was formed in Permian marble, and is situated at the base of a cliff, located on the crest of the north-south trending ridge. This parallels the main dry stream and is thought to overlie a major cave and hydrological system. Although not close to a permanent water supply, this large and impressive cave entrance faces due south, exposing the interior to the warm rays of sun, year round. It would have provided an excellent aboriginal campsite. Of interest are some mussel shell fragments on the ground surface just inside the entrance. They were identified as the California mussel by David Love. They may have been left here either by land otters or by humans. No smoke soot from old campfires was seen on the ceilings of the cave, but natural weathering and exfoliating over hundreds of thousands of years could have removed any evidence.

The cave contains two main passages. One heads to the east just inside the 30-foot wide and 15-foot high walk-in entrance. Its floor is covered with angular breakdown, probably moved from frost action downslope and towards the entrance.

The back of this passage ends in collapse after 40 feet, but was once phreatic in nature. The other main passage of the cave extends 30 feet north to end at a delicate chimney. The walls are coated with flowstone and moon-

milk. The most extraordinary thing about this passage is the scores of dead phalangids clinging to the ceiling and walls. Their bodies and leg joints are coated with a white fungus. Apparently the insects had died during hibernation. Whether the mold played a part in their demise, or grew afterwards, is not known. A bat skeleton was also noted in this passage.

Sunnyside Cave was surveyed May 13 and 14, 1999 by David Love and Jim Moore. It contains 116 feet of passage with a depth of 16 feet.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Sunnyside Cave has good potential as a campsite for early natives. The location should be withheld from the general public. The cave should be investigated by a competent archeologist. No timber harvest should occur in the surrounding carbonates or the noncarbonate recharge areas.

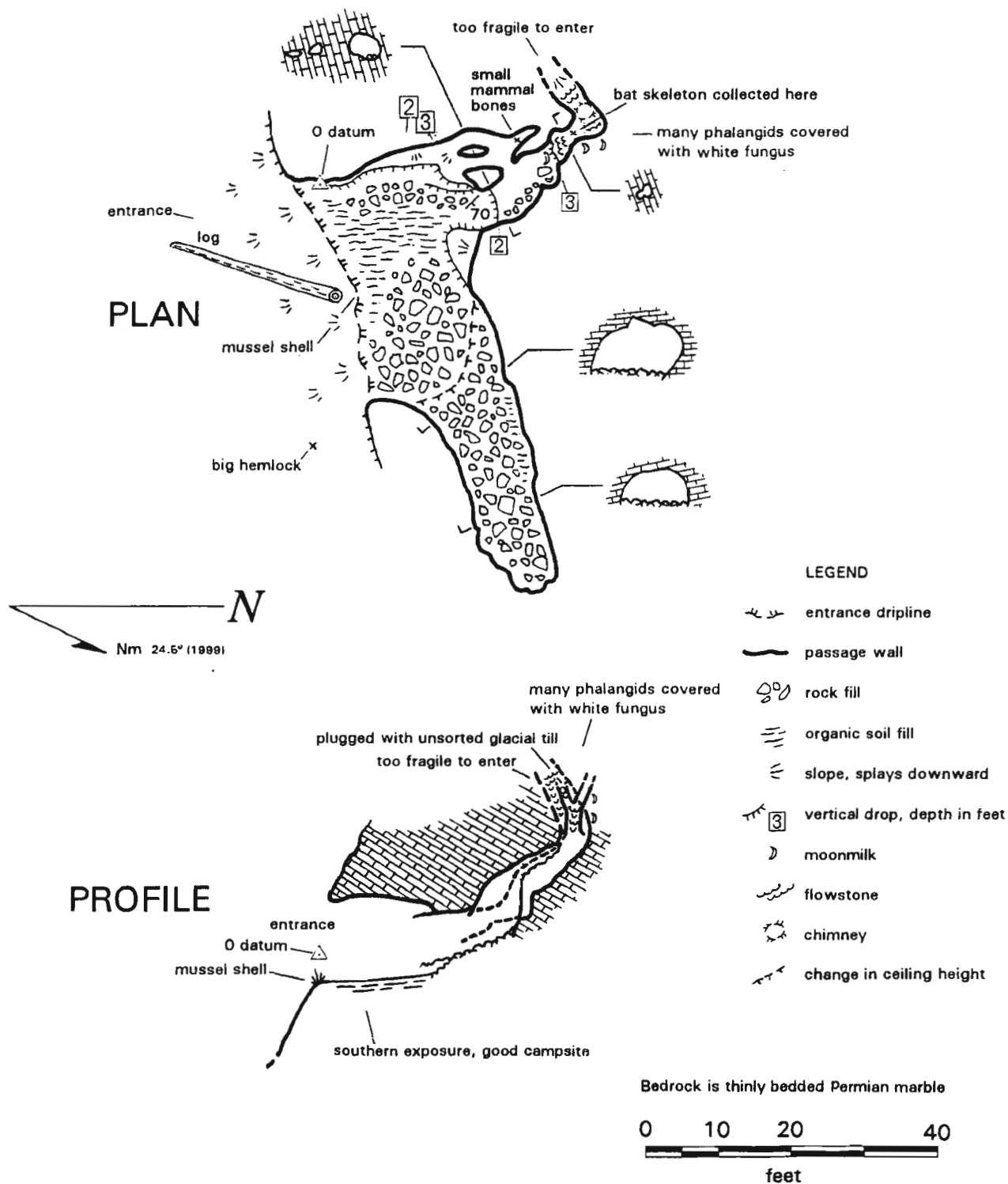


SUNNYSIDE CAVE

BLAKE CHANNEL, TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
ALASKA

Compass, inclinometer and Tape Survey, May 13-14,
1999 by D. Love and J. Moore. Map by C. Allred.

Survey length- 116 feet (35.4 meters)
Vertical extent- 16 feet (3.5 meters)



GLACIER GROTTO MEMBERSHIP LIST

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

Name	Address	Pd	NSS#	Home Tel. or e-mail address	Work Tel
Alaska State Library	PO Box 110571 Juneau AK 99811-0571				
Allred, Carlene B	PO Box 376, Haines AK 99827	99	16389FE	<carleenallred@hotmail.com>	
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Allred, Flint	PO Box 376, Haines AK 99827	99			
Allred, Kevin	PO Box 376, Haines, AK 99827	99	16730FE	<carleenallred@hotmail.com>	
Allred, Dorest	PO Box 376 Haines AK 99827	99			
Allred, Soren	PO Box 376, Haines AK 99827	99			
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Branson, Peter	PO Box 2073, Wrangell AK 99929	99	36514RE	Message =	(907)874-3291
Burger, Raymond A	PO Box 672349, Chugiak AK 99567	99	30656RE	(907)688-3835	
Carlson, Kent R	1155 King St, Christiansburg VA 24073	99	30124RE	(703)382-3523	(703)231-4825
Clark, Robert C	338 Toledo Vader Rd, Toledo WA 98591-9710	99		(206)864-2055	
Covington, Matt	2899 Brookbury, Fayetteville AR 727703	99			
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Fifield, Ethan	PO Box 1012, Craig AK 99921	99			
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Hallinan, Nancy C	1617 Wolverine Ln, Fairbanks AK 99709-6628	99	6367FL	(907)479-6064	
Hallinan, Peter	1617 Wolverine Ln, Fairbanks AK 99709-6628	99		(907)479-6064	
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Lane, Kelsey M	40 Hidden Brook Ln, Signal Mt. TN 37377-2063	99N	35816	(615)886-6219	
Lane, Micha M	40 Hidden Brook Ln, Signal Mt. TN 37377-2063	99N	32392	(615)886-6219	
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Tierney, Ginny L	PO Box 19484, Thorne Bay AK 99919	99	33899FR	(907)828-3992
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Van Note, Michael	PO Box 26, Haines AK 99827	99	14174RE	
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White, Bruce	PO Box 7531, Ketchikan AK 99901	99		
Wood, Dr. William R	66-10th Avenue #305, Fairbanks AK 99707	99		
Wood, Dorothy Jane	66-10th Avenue #305, Fairbanks AK 99707	99		
Wooley, Chris B	2073 Dimond Drive, Anchorage AK 99507	99		(907)563-3202

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 = 73; total NSS members = 35; NSS members with primary affiliation to Glacier Grotto = 50 as of December 31, 1999

ROPE CUTTER

The Rope Cutter is a place for cavers to voice their concerns, ideas or gripes. Please send your entries to PO Box 9062, Retchikan AK 99901 (oops! Make that Ketchikan). The answers and ideas in no way reflect any view of the Grotto as an entity, and may not even represent a sane viewpoint at all. We reserve the right to ignore, gloss over, edit or just plain plagiarize any entry.



Dear Rope Cutter;

Recently, I was looking for the regulations concerning the naming of significant caves. Unfortunately, I have been unable to find the standards and guidelines. Could you tell me which of the CFR1s deal with naming or is it in the NCRPA?

I expect that naming caves is similar to the process that is used by NEPA. However, I would like to be sure. If I find a cave, how will I be able to name it unless I know the process?

I also have a great name for a cave and want to submit it to the committee.

Sincerely,
(Unsigned)

Oh Nameless One;

From your letter it quickly becomes evident that you need to get out of the office and into one of those unnamed holes in the ground.

I shall attempt to enlighten you on precisely how caves are named.

There are no committees, no regulations, and thank God, no CFR1s that deal with this subject (although there should be a law against letting someone like you name anything).

Caves are named the same way anything is named in this world. It seems like a good idea at the time. Sometimes names are politically-correct and sometimes they get named something so hideous that the surveyor or cartographer gets amnesia and changes the name altogether.

Let's take a look at the name of the Island where Ketchikan is located. Revillagigedo sounds like something someone would say either as a gigantic insult or during their morning after the bender rituals. In reality it is the name of a Spanish explorer who saw the Island. Vancouver then named the island in honor of the explorer or because he

Continued on page 18

CRANE CAVE

Wrangell, Alaska • Preliminary Report #S11 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
July 20, 1999

DESCRIPTION:

Crane Cave, formed in Permian marble, was discovered by Forest Service employees in 1998 and reported to the Tongass Cave Project that fall. The entrance is located about 10 feet above the major dry stream bed, and is thought to overlie a major cave and hydrologic system that probably drains most of the area.

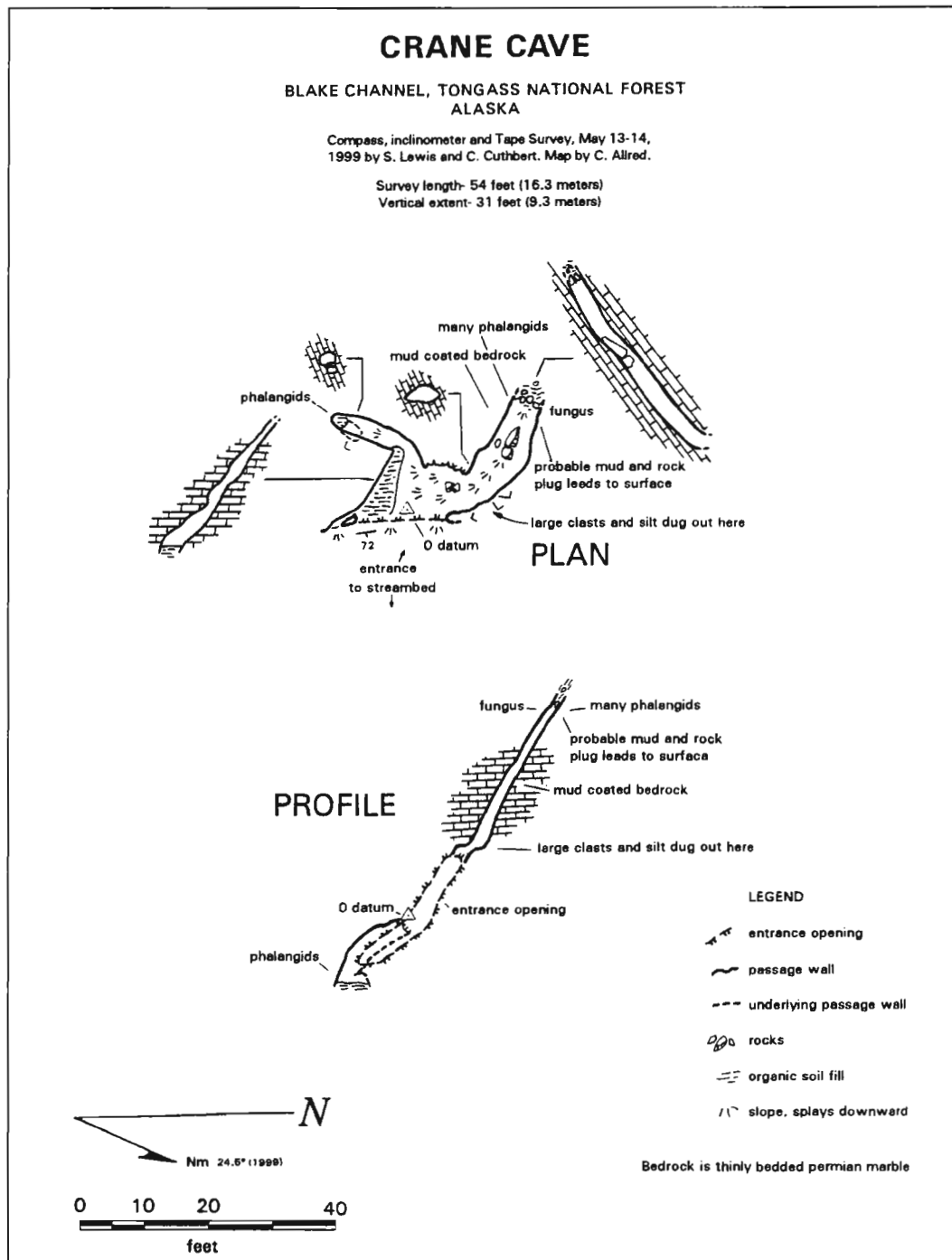
The stoopway entrance immediately intersects a passage sloping steeply up to the North, and paralleling the adjacent stream gully. This passage was barred by some boulders after a short distance, which were moved to provide access to the upper, muddy end of the passage. This ends in mud and rock after 30 feet.

The passage extending downhill to the south ends in fill only 20 feet from the entrance. Many phalangids were found in branches of the cave.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

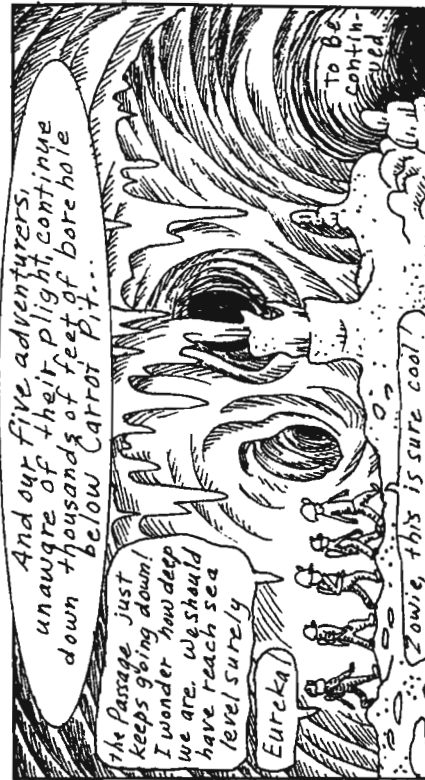
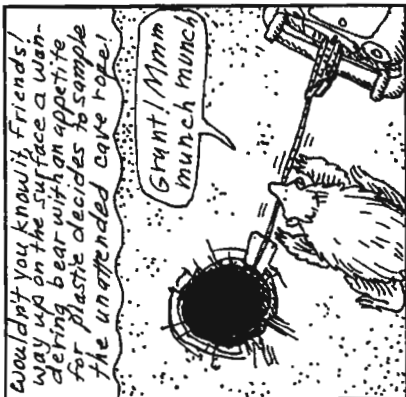
The cave location could be shared with the general public. The carbonates around the

cave should not be harvested for timber, or have road construction, nor should these activities occur on the noncarbonate recharge areas.



THE ADVENTURES OF RUBBER CARROT

by K&C, Alfred



MISCELLANEOUS

Continued from page 15

wanted to wreck revenge on all the future school teachers that would have to teach such a God-awful name to their dunderheaded students.

He was also laughing at the tour guides that would totally butcher the pronunciation of the word when they were delivering spiels to the "tourons."

If an alert reader would send me the names of some of their favorite caves, I will in future Rope Cutters either invoke my psychic ability, do vast in depth research or just make something up to explain why the cave may have received such a name. Perhaps if you know the

weird history of a cave name you could enlighten our readers.

Send the names to
Rope Cutter
c/o the Alaska Caver
PO Box 9062
Ketchikan, AK 99901-4062
or e-mail to the new editor at:
<marcel@alaskamade.com>
Yours as always,
Preda Phreatic

THANK YOU

My thanks to each of you for your support and many kindnesses during the past seven years. It has been my pleasure to serve as editor of *The Alaskan Caver*.

One of my goals as editor was to share the story of the Alaskan caves in a way that would stimulate interest in changes that were occurring in our knowledge of Alaskan history and to stimulate concern for the caves. This was to be done with an easy-to-read, informative journal. Filling 20 pages every two months was very seldom a problem and when the volume of information seemed too slow, members were always willing to assist by writing a story themselves, creating a drawing, or asking for the missing maps, etc. Who can ask for better support than that?

The talent of the Glacier Grotto members was a topic of interest to others. One of the NSS board members told me, "You are fortunate to have so much good copy." I agree.

I have had the opportunity to read exchange

newletters, and to compare caving exploits in other parts of the world. That was an extra bonus

Also I have been able to share *The Alaskan Caver* with people in Canada, Germany, Austria, England, and Australia from the 10 copies I purchased of each issue. One complete set of Cavers can be found in the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge in Cambridge, UK; a set at ARLIS (Alaska Resources Library and Information Services); and another at the Library of the International Arctic Research Center, Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

There are many stories that slip easily into my thoughts as I bring this era of my life to a close. One of these concerns the two Glacier Grotto cavers crawling through a wet space with about 18" clearance and 24" wide. Every time they stopped, they sank a little farther into the mud. Soon the situation became funny and they started laughing while sinking deeper with each chuckle.

Again, my thanks. Dalene Perrigo

The Alaskan Caver

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