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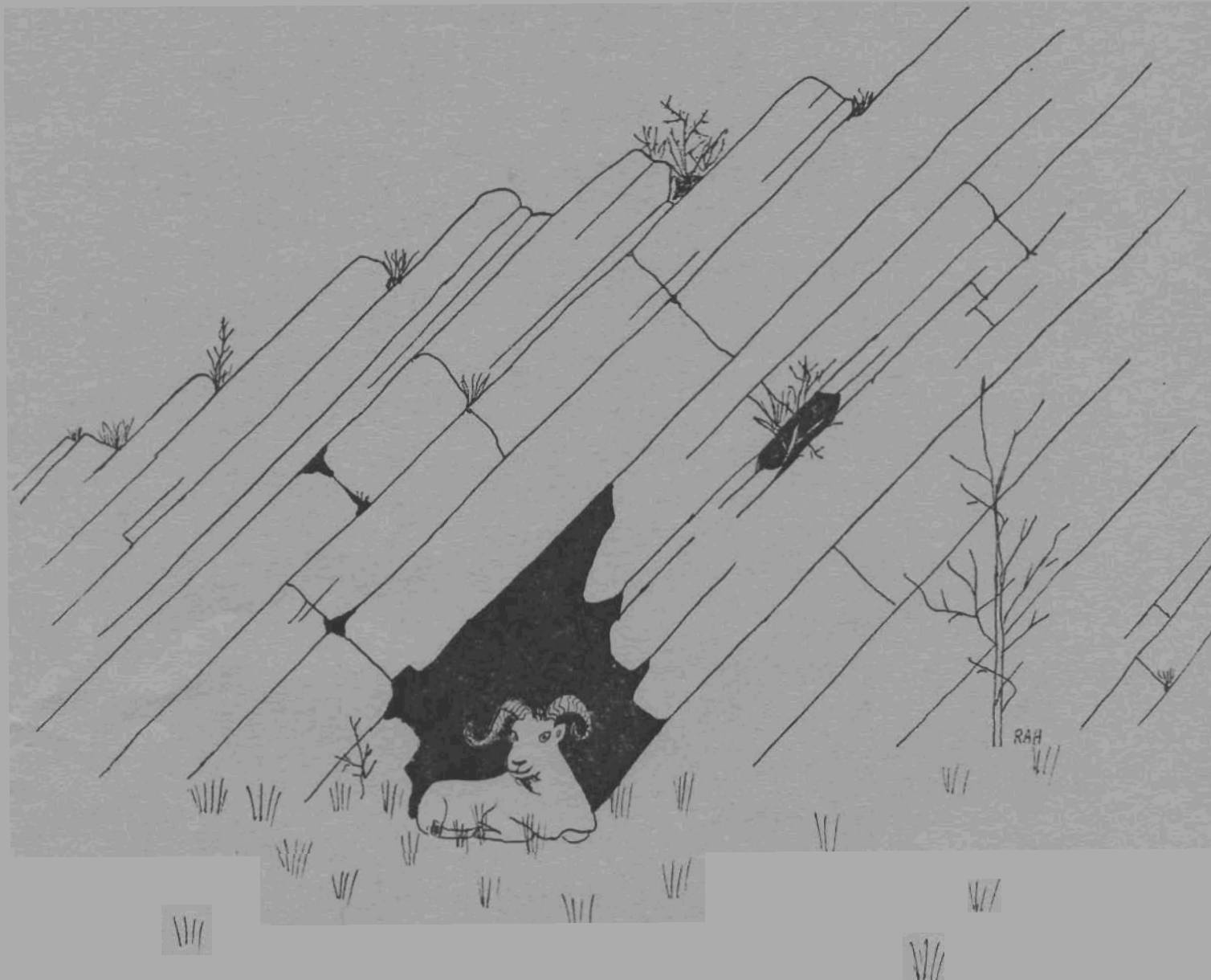
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THE ALASKAN CAVER

VOLUME 5

NUMBER 6



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 20 Glacier Grotto Meeting. Meetings are held in room 312 Grant Hall, Alaska Pacific University at 7:30 pm.
- December or January - some weekend. Glacier Caving at Byron Glacier or elsewhere. Contact Jay Rockwell at 277-7150 if you are interested.
- December 18 Glacier Grotto Meeting. The program will be an NSS slide show on "Fundamentals of Caving". Meetings are held in room 312 Grant Hall, Alaska Pacific University at 7:30 pm.
- Winter Rusty Rubeck may be interested in trying to snow machine in to Star Cave from McCarthy sometime this winter. If you are interested contact him at 694-3571.
- January 15 Glacier Grotto Meeting. Meetings are held in room 312 Grant Hall, Alaska Pacific University at 7:30 pm.
- February 19 Glacier Grotto Meeting. The program will be an NSS slide show.
- March 19 Glacier Grotto Meeting.
- April 16 Glacier Grotto Meeting. The program will be an NSS slide show.
- July 18-24 Eighth International Congress of Speleology in Bowling Green Kentucky. This is the first time the International Congress has been held in the United States. There will be a week of sessions, meetings, and trips as well as pre-congress, post-congress and daily excursions to caves and karst features. For further information request the Second Circular from: Eighth International Congress of Speleology, The Secretariat, Department of Geography and Geology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101. Fees range from \$5 for a single day's sessions to \$130 for full membership.

The ALASKAN CAVER is a periodic publication of the Glacier Grotto of the National Speleological Society. Subscriptions are free to members. Membership dues are \$3 per annum. Dues can be sent to Jay Rockwell at 2944 Emory St, Anchorage, AK 99504. Copyright 1980 by Glacier Grotto. Material not copyrighted by individuals or other groups may be copied by other NSS publications provided credit is given to the ALASKAN CAVER and a copy of such publication is sent to the editor.

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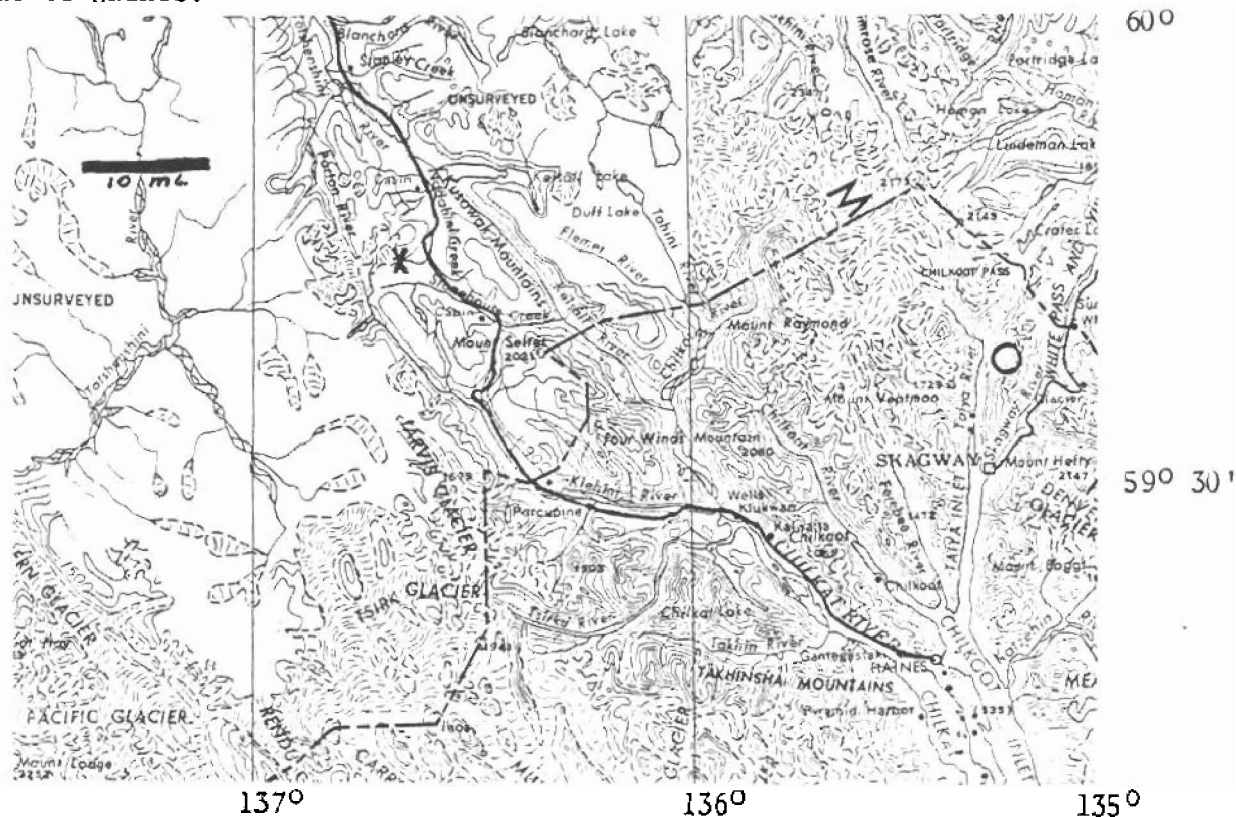
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TRIP TO NADAHTINI GLACIER CAVE, B.C.

October 13, 1980 - by Carlene Allred

It was a clear day, so I decided to accompany Kevin as he made his run to Haines Junction for Mar-Air-Bus Company. After dropping the two passengers off in Haines Junction we headed back for home. On the way we decided to stop and take a hike to see the Nadanini Glacier. We parked at the creek and began our walk along the cobble creekbed, heading towards the glacier, which appeared to be about a half mile away. It was a long walk and as we advanced the glacier seemed to get further and further away from us. There was several inches of snow on the ground and the stream was partly frozen over. We passed a place where some of the water disappeared into a couple of openings in a rock wall. A new cave? They were too small to enter so we continued onward towards the 'retreating' glacier. After three or four miles we were discouraged and nearly turned back because now the glacier appeared to be five miles away. However, we continued on and soon, to our surprise, there appeared the Nadanini Glacier right in front of us. We had been watching another glacier off in another drainage. We were limited because we didn't have our ice climbing gear with us but we did enter a segment of cave that was left separately as the glacier has receded. The blue light filtered through the banded and scalloped ceiling and the stream formed pools of water inside further upstre. We could see that the main cave continued under the snout of the glacier but we needed our crampons to cross a jumble of ice blocks that were in the way. We headed back for the van, with a future trip in mind for this winter. Several times we had to wade through the icy stream and Kevin's feet really froze because he was wearing only his street shoes. We made it back to the van and drove on home to Haines.



The Haines Road from Haines to Yukon Terr. (X is Nadahini Glacier)

ALASKAN CAVING IN 1874

This article appeared in the Anthropology section of the American Naturalist (p 505 & 506) in 1874.

Troglodytes in Alaska.- In 1872, Mr William H Dall made some interesting discoveries of prehistoric remains in a cave on Amaknak Island, situated in Captain's Bay, Oonalaska, which he supposed exhausted the subject. In 1873, however, he found that he had left undisturbed a still lower **stratum**, and finally cleaned out the entire cave down to the bedrock. He ascertained that the whole interior of the cave had been painted over with a red pigment of chaulky ore of iron, above which was a bed of organic mould about two feet in its greatest depth, in which were found three skeletons, surrounded by a rough sort of sarcophagus built of the jaws and ribs of whales, and around them were a large number of implements, especially of stone knives. This was covered in turn by a layer six inches or less in thickness of refuse material, the remains of repasts on marine animals, shell-fish, fish, and echini. Scattered irregularly over this were broken and worn implements of quite a different character from those found with the dead and the whole indicated that this was only a restingplace of parties who used it temporarily while waiting an opportunity to cross the surf to the adjacent island. It was down to this lower stratum that the labors of the previous season had extended but without disturbing it.

A stratum of this latter portion was covered by a bed of shingle, evidently introduced by water, and supposed to be the actual bottom of the deposit. Mr. Dall is of the opinion that the skeletons found here are the oldest yet discovered in the Aleutian region, although not approaching in antiquity those discovered on Table Mountain, or the Neanderthal. He thinks the cave was first used as a burial-place the mould over three skeletons having accumulated by the decay of animal matter and of rubbish; and that the debris from the repasts of occasional visitors had been gathering for a great many years. An unusually high tide or storm probably brought in the shingle from the adjacent sea-beach, and after this the cave was again used as a deposit for the dead. Nothing was discovered indicating in any way that the place had been used or visited by white races.

The total number of crania obtained by Mr. Dall amounted to thirty-six, besides many hundred implements of bone, ivory, and stone, and many carvings of wood and other objects, preserving evidence of the existance of large and flourishing communities numbering thousands of inhabitants where now none or only remnants of populations exist.

Underneath the old villages were found still more ancient kitchen heaps of echini, fish bones, and edible shell-fish many feet in thickness, the age and time taken in forming them hardly to be approximated or counted even in centuries. Only in the upper strata were seen the indications of progress in hunting and fishing, afterward so notable that even the sperm whale succumbed to the attacks of these hardy canoe-men. Their progenitors were content to pick echini from the shore and mussels from the rocks, and hardly any implements could be found in the refuse of their repasts - the accumulation of centuries.

After them large villages of solidly constructed houses rose; and probably at the height of their progress and numerical increase the almost equally barbarous Russians of Siberia fell upon them, and nearly swept them from the face of the earth. - Harpers Weekly.

ANAKTUVUK EXPLORATIONS

Report by: Fire & Karl L. Flaccus
Caves: Old Peoples Cave, Coral Cave, Karl's Cave
Location: USGS Chandler Lake (A-3), Alaska
Quadrangle, Range: 3E, Township: 15 S. Sec. 17, Elevation 2500 feet
Trip Date: June 25, 1977

On June 25 under heavily overcast skies, we located and explored Old Peoples Cave then found two others to the east which were less spectacular, referred to here as Coral Cave and Karl's Cave. As one faces north toward the mountains which form one side of the Anaktuvuk River Valley, the cavernous entrance to Old Peoples Cave is easily spotted, as it lies approximately one third the distance between the two prominent drainages. Coral Cave is to the east of Old Peoples Cave about 200 yards. All three have similar elevations of approximately 2500 feet.

Old Peoples Cave

The initial mouth of Old Peoples Cave is an estimated 60 feet wide, 15 feet high and 25 feet deep. In the base of the back wall is visible an opening - a horizontal crawl - which for only a narrow section is large enough to allow passage. Immediately upon entering one sees a triangle full of ice stalagmites that extend into the cave 30 feet. They are up to twelve inches tall and five inches thick and are mostly clear, smooth, and gently rounded. Although those farthest in are sometimes pyramid shaped and a few are extremely narrow. Some of the narrow ones are pointed inward away from the opening. All of these formations are thinly rooted on the dirt floor and one must proceed very cautiously to prevent knocking them over. Their glossy crystalline appearance is startling and very beautiful. On the ceiling are large crystals which toward the rear of the cave diminish substantially in size and eventually end. We saw one inch and a half long hexagonal crystal. Many of the larger crystals toward the front of the cave resembled multi-faceted candle ice. At cracks in the ceiling no crystals formed and we were unsure of the reason. In some places a section of crystals had peeled off from the ceiling and hung in a ten to twelve inch arc.

We found evidence of rodents in the cave: hair, gnawed bones, wood, and scat. Two of the back rooms may have been used as a rodents den, as we saw a large amount of scat and hair and a depression in the floor.

The cave is fairly level and is up to four feet high, though in the further reaches it becomes barely high enough to crawl through. It is dry and dusty inside; but wet just outside the entrance.

Coral Cave

Coral Cave is about 150 yards east of Old Peoples Cave at the base of the cliff and above the scree. It is about 50 feet wide, 15 feet high and 20 feet deep. It is possible to descend ten or more feet among the large boulders and rubble at which level are small pools of water and ice. This may have been the opening to a larger cave at one time which is now blocked and is therefore of only limited interest. (Jay Rockwell points out that there are some coral fossils in the walls after which the cave is named. Ed)

Karl's Cave

Karl's Cave, however, presents a possibility of further exploration. If one proceeds east from Coral Cave approximately 200 yards at a similar elevation, crossing a large fan shaped rock slide one can spot an obvious hole, at the bottom of the cliff which faces southwest. The hole is also apparent through binoculars from the valley floor. Above and to the east of the hole ten feet is the opening, into which one must ascend. It is a vertical crack, perhaps the result of a huge flake breaking away from the cliff. From the mouth it extends 60 feet up. There is a 45 degree slope one can ascend and eventually reach the cave's most westerly limit. From there the cave extends another 35 feet up.

Although we attempted a chimney climb up between the narrow walls, it proved dangerous without proper protection and we quit before exploring its upper reaches.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND CAVES

(This article is abstracted from a letter from Frederica de Lagune, Professor of Anthropology at Bryn Mawr College to Dr Warren Smith of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, University of Alaska in College, Alaska on June 6, 1971. Ed)

As a speleologist, I'm afraid you will find the "caves" in Prince William Sound disappointing. They are nothing like the deep caves you find in limestone country, such as caves in southern France or the Pyrennes. These Alaskan caves are really rock shelters, and, while I am not a geologist, I think they occur either in highly metamorphosed sedimentary rocks, or in basalts, where either of these is layered and folded in arcnes. I'm familiar with prehistoric caves in France and Spain, as well as with the rock shelters in those countries.

The rock shelters in Prince William sound were used for burial purposes, and I was, of course, disappointed to find that most had been rifled by pot-hunters or untrained persons. In Cook Inlet (Kachemak Bay and the west side of the inlet - Tuxedni Bay), there are also rock shelters. These, like some in Prince William Sound, have been utilized for paintings in my Archeology of Cook Inlet, Alaska, which I assume would be in your library.

Aside from these shelters, the only other one I know is on the Yukon, west bank, right below the mouth of the Koyukuk. A rock inside the cave looks something like a woman with a bowed head, The crevace in the basalt goes way back; apparently the narrow crack peters out upward, for there seems to be no draft through. I explored the floor of this cave but found no signs that it had been utilized by the Indians as a camping place.

HISTORIC BAT MOTEL

According to the Associated Press (via the Anchorage Times), a bat motel was constructed in Sugarloaf Shores, Fla in 1929 to attract bats which would then eat the many mosquitos in the area. It didn't work, no bats ever showed up but the 50 year old structure has been nominated for placement in the National Register of Historic Places!

An adventure. Slipping into darkness and sudden incapacitating blindness, knowing time would accomodate your presence by gradual restoration of sight. Stumbling in, away from reality, towards the unknown. Traveling, Hands gathering mud, body working up a sweat. Rest. Security, comfort, encompassing, enfolding. You are in it, and it and you are friends, are one, in discovery of self together. Pride, warmth, success, skillfulness. Patience, unfolding secrets with tape and instrument, recording knowledge newly seeing the light of mind. Pusning, nope, squeezing, daring, alone and then knowing. Retreat, the smell of air, familiar landmarks, glimpse of sun and warmth or of black sky and stars an infinite dome, expansiveness, a being one with it all again, reborn. Tired, return, food, sleep. another day.

Lis Hall

D U E S

As of January 1, 1981 dues for 1981 are due. Enclosed is a pre-addressed envelope with a form in it. Please answer the questions on the form, figure your dues, and return the form with your dues. If you missed any past issues of the Alaskan Caver and would like to get them, many are available at 50 cents a copy and can be requested by adding it to your dues. The number of issues in past years are as follows: 1980(6), 1979(3), 1978(2), 1975(2), and 1970(2). There will be six issues in 1981. And since the dues just barely cover the cost of producing the Alaskan Caver any donations to cover other Glacier Grotto expenses will be gratefully accepted.

CHITISTONE VALLEY CAVES ISSUE

The January-February issue of the Alaskan Caver will be larger than usual with several articles plus maps and pictures all about caves in the Chitistone valley. Be sure to pay your dues so you won't miss it.

Glacier Grotto
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