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Alaskan Caver, Volume 17, No. 2, April 1997

Dalene T. Perrigo

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The Alaskan Caver

Volume 17 Number 2

April 1997



The Alaskan Caver

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Dalene T. Perrigo - Editor

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Cover Drawing: Blue Marble Cave, from a slide by Kevin Allred.
Drawing by Carlene Allred.

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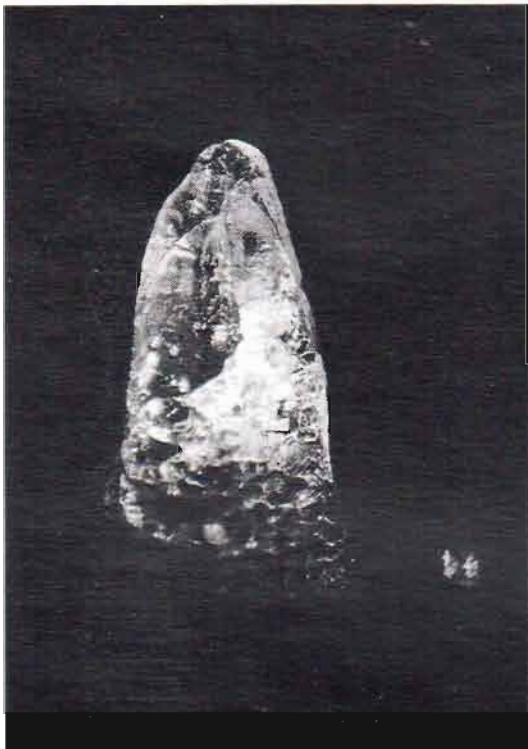
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Photographer Alan Murray used a mini-mag flashlight when making the exposure of this ice stalagmite in Fotoice Cave.

CALENDAR

July 18-Aug. 15, 1997....Ketchicave Expedition. Info: Steve Lewis, 212 Observatory St., Sitka, AK 99835

Oct. 7-10, 1997....Karst and Cave Management Symposium/13th National Cave Management Symposium, Bellingham, WA. Rob Stitt, (206)283-2283, e-mail rstitt@wingedseed.com

Oct 10-12, 1997.....Philadelphia Grotto 50th Anniversary Gala and Mid-Appalachian Region Fall Meet, State College, PA. Frank Strahan (215)549-1908 e-mail sumped@voicenet.com.

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

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

WHO IS SKIPPY?

by Rob Knotts

Many people have tried to answer this question, but to do so correctly requires an intimate knowledge not gained by casual contact. Skippy has been promoted as a mascot, an evil deity, a common deer mouse, and a variety of other sordid accusations not suitable for print in a family publication. And he is all these things, yet, none of them either.

Skippy is many things to many people. He is the batteries that die overnight, the mud that clogs your ascenders. Skippy is the rockfall bouncing off your helmet, or a vertical squeeze that strips you of gear.

But he is also that single perfect soda-straw framed in celestial-white moonmilk. The virgin-pit with multiple going leads is Skippy, as is uninterrupted laughter around the fire-ring at night or a sauna so hot it takes your breath.

To truly understand the notion of Skippy one must travel back in time to Dall Island, summer, 1994. It is necessary to focus on a small group of cavers, hovering on the brink of exhaustion. Ten days remain in a grueling, 30-day expedition. Nerves are frayed, stamina ebbs to an all-time low, and the coffee is nearly gone. Mutinous thoughts race through every caver's mind and anarchy seems inevitable.

Enter one small rodent imprisoned in a gallon-sized Skippy Peanut-Butter™ jar for comic relief, and then its subsequent demise in a cruel and untimely fashion. These two seemingly insignificant events elevate a lowly deer mouse to martyrdom overnight, and provide a catalyst to bond this group like no other fusion. Since that day the legend of Skippy has swirled out into a maelstrom of international recognition.

Everything that embodies the experience of Alaskan caving is Skippy. The rain, the cold, the vertical, and the cadre of friends hunkering 'round a sooty kerosene stove with steaming socks extended over the heat.

To take away Skippy is to loose all of this.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As the new President of the Glacier Grotto, I would like to thank the two people who voted for me because they actually wanted me to be elected.

Those votes were cast out of revenge! It is to all the other people who voted, or didn't vote, that I would like to address this letter. (You're the ones who probably let out a sigh of relief that your name

wasn't on the ballot.)

There were two things different about this past election: some names which have appeared on every ballot for many years were missing, and a couple of new names showed up. It seems that any organization with other than a small core of members who do nearly all the volunteering, is a true rarity. Our elected positions, the newsletter, maps and reports, organizers of events, and many other vital functions are run by a great group of volunteers... But it's always the same people. Why is it so difficult to get most people to step forward and take their turn?

I don't think there is anyone in the Glacier Grotto who has less free-time than those who have been performing these tasks. It was a very pleasant change when Dave Valentine said he would run for V.P. of Southeast because he wanted to "pull his own weight and do his fair share." Imagine the surprise when the Election Committee found a second member, Bob Hicks, who was willing to run for office. Bob wants to see the Grotto become more active in the Anchorage area.

"New blood" is something we should see every year, not every five years. So what is the answer to this problem?

Having talked to other groups over the years who have the same problem, I found that nobody could come up with a solution. The universal response was to throw their arms up in the air and shake their heads! I believe that that is NOT a good response.

After a great deal of thought, this is what I think is a possible answer. First of all we must understand why people join the Glacier Grotto. Most join because they want to learn about caves and be able to explore them. Others, for various reasons, can't or don't want to ever enter a cave, but

still want to learn about them. Scientific knowledge, recreation, adventure, curiosity, a "cause," friendship, and "badge collecting" are just a few of the reasons people join.

The next thing we must do is arrange activities that benefit the Grotto and fulfill the needs of our members. It's not just the responsibility of the current officers. It's up to every member to make sure that everybody's interests are being met. At the same time we all need to introduce people to other activities so as to expand their experiences and increase their areas of interest. All this will not only help with attracting new members, but will also go a long way toward keeping current members active.

A number of years ago I was at a meeting where a group was trying to restart an organization that had been inactive for many years. One person asked,

"Why should I join? What's in it for me?"

Besides wanting to smack him with a 2x4, his question made me think about an attitude that many people seem to have. The best response I can come up with is that what's in it for you depends on what you're willing to contribute. The more we put in, the more we get out. The more activities in which we participate, the more active and satisfied we become. With a little effort as individuals, we can get people interested in many aspects of caving and the Grotto. We should be successful with 99.7% of all the people who show even a slight interest in caves. So what about the remaining .3%? Let me put it this way. Imagine a caver worming out of a tiny hole. His clothes are patched with duct tape and covered in slime. There's mud dripping down his face into the corner of his mouth. He obviously ate an onion and salami sandwich for lunch, and definitely had chili on his eggs at breakfast. An

old bandage almost covers a split fingernail. He hasn't used a razor in nearly a month, and that reddish-green thing in his beard -- it's moving?" He produces a grin filled with more gaps than teeth, and with a hacking cough, spits out the answer.

"Why do I cave? For the babes!"

Perhaps a good response is to throw your arms into the air and shake your head. In fact, I believe that that is a GREAT response!

SAFETY AND TECHNIQUES COMMITTEE

by Bill Cuddington, NSS NEWS 55(5) p.134. The new Safety and Techniques Committee (Bill and Miriam Cuddington, Bruce Smith and "Chuck" Henson) suggests that each grotto have a Safety and Techniques committee.

Another idea is to have an annual meeting at the NSS Convention. A one-hour block will probably be enough. I will try to arrange one for this year. Anyone who wants to come is welcome. Remember, this is not a session, just a meeting where goals and ideas could be discussed.

Bruce has hypothesized that there are three levels of ropework and that the third level would be the upper level. At this level the person is not just a "yo-yo." Instead (s)he is still learning--(s)he has become a rope technician! I feel that all the folks on this committee are rope technicians.

In the sport of caving, as in any other sport, one should take precautions. Using common sense, finding and using fact about a destination could prevent problems. Once the caver has the needed information, this can be used to determine the gear needed for safety and efficiency. In some cases, factual information can help determine if a caver is capable of participating safely.

Please don't challenge "Mother Nature." Also, "Murphy's Law" doesn't discriminate and is always in effect.

edited

CONGRATULATIONS

Officers of the Glacier Grotto were elected earlier this year. The results of the elections are as follows:

President:	Alan Murray	38
Vice President SE:	David Valentine	31
	David Love	7
Vice President SC:	Bob Hicks	24
	David Love	7
	Dalene Perrigo	1
Vice President Northern:	Steve Lewis	36
	Bob Sattler	2
Secretary:	Connie LaPerriere	38
Treasurer:	Connie LaPerriere	38

PRESIDENTAlan Murray

I first heard about, and joined, the Glacier Grotto in 1992 at the urging of Marcel LaPerriere. He told me that I would love caving as much as diving, and for once he was right! In fact, the first cave I ever entered was underwater, during my cave diver training in Florida in November, 1992. I finally did a "dry" cave (Scallop Cave) in April, 1993. While the business my wife, Susan and I own takes up nearly all of our waking hours, I still try to get underground for a few days each year. In 1995 I was the Secretary/Treasurer for the Glacier Grotto, and in 1996, the Vice President for Southeast Alaska. I am also a member of Alaska Cave Rescue, and a life member of both the NSS and the NSS-CDS.

SECRETARY-TREASURER.....

Connie LaPerriere

I was never really interested in caving, but it sounded intriguing, so I went to a lecture given by Kevin Allred and Jim Baichtal. Then when Gary Sonnenberg called to get my son Zach to come to a meeting, Marcel and I ended up going too. Later we went on a caving trip with Pete Smith to Scallop Cave.

I still don't think I would have started caving if I hadn't been encouraged to survey. Scallop Cave was fantastic, but it was scary to me. Surveying was a way to deal with the fears by keeping myself occupied. Soon, the cave drew me in. Sometimes I wonder if cave mud, coupled with genetics, forms a lasting bond. Now, I could not envision a time when I could stop caving, at least in some form. Sometimes the best part of caving, is being able to stand up, while all those people whom have towered over me, are crawling along. This is only one advantage of a being a short caver.



President Alan Murray

I have participated in the last four years of POWIE, Ketchicave, DIE or whatever each year has been called. I enjoy the people who cave as much as the caving itself. I always appreciate how cavers help each other. The last two years I have been enjoying the challenge of drawing cave maps. It is a great way to reminisce about last year's fun during the winter.

There are two big problems facing the caves and caving. The first is conservation. Pressure to allow resource extraction on karst within the Tongass National Forest is still great. Secondly is funding for continued exploration and mapping.

When not caving I work for the Postal Service. I have worked for them for 13 years, and that is truly unlucky. In my spare time, I help my husband, Marcel, operate KAVE Sports, a climbing gym and cave and climbing supply store. We live on a sailboat. I hope I will always be physically able to live on a boat, because I love it, and I also hate housework.

Our son, Zach (23), is a great kid, and we like the same kinds of activities. There is only one problem with having a relationship like this. I get jealous when he is camping, caving, climbing or hiking and I am not.

THE TONGASS CAVE PROJECT 1996 EXPEDITION

The following is a translation from APABUKAHCKUE XPOHUKU No. 2-3 1996 that was sent to Marcel. At the same time the Russian Caving Club "Arabica" extended an invitation for Marcel to join some French "Speleo-frogmen" in a dive in Lake Bikel. I saw the names of Arabica Cave and Icy Fate, and happened on someone who knew someone who was studying Russian. The translation is not done by a caver, and some parts are a bit confusing. It does contain some errors (as Arabica is not yet the largest cave in Alaska), but it contains some wording and viewpoints that are truly Russian. Connie LaPerriere

The team of Club Arabika was made up of:

1. Alexander Osintsef
2. Sergei Levashef
3. Tatyana Sharina
4. Alexander Igorof
5. Yuri Fitisof

We are in summer! It's simply unbelievable, but it's true. Our EL-62 speeds east into a day already lived. We drink beer and listen to lectures from our certified specialist Tatyana about the construction of the plane and we sleep. And here, on the port side is the gray edge of existence on the gray water, a faded moon in the morning sky. This is Alaska.

On the ground it is seven in the morning, the 16th of June. Wet concrete, and a glimmering sun. An enticing change for the second time on this day. "Speleology?" The border guard officer considers our invitation. No problem! Welcome, smiles and minimal formalities. "In this door" another officer waves a hand toward us. We are in Amerika, They're already waiting for us.

The People:

Julius and Lis Rockwell. A quiet home in Anchorage filled with books and very comfortable armchairs and Eskimo figurines made of ivory, and two old dachshunds under the table.

Julius is a well-lived man of 78 years, nevertheless active and interested in what we do. The table in his library is piled high with speleological magazines from all over the world. It is clear that the owner of them is one of the authoritative speleologists of Alaska, but not the oldest, as I later found out.

I must say up front, that we were lucky to be with these people. The road there and back was always thoughtfully considered for us. They met us, fed us, and made a place for us to stay the night. To the fullest extent of their knowledge, they strived to resolve our problems, and responsibly passed us from one hand to another as we flew throughout Alaska. In the camp and in the caves not once did a problem arise in regards to the Americans.

But maybe the "American dissident" Borya Galitsky was right, who constantly insisted to us that these are not Americans, that Alaska is not America at all, and that it's almost a different country. And maybe speleologists are, in general a different nationality populating our planet, and it's not even important where they live, in Europe, Alaska, or Siberia.

The Caves:

Our base camp was the Island of Heceta. Our assignment-The search and exploration of caves. Speleology on Heceta is already in its second year. Many interesting discoveries were made in 1995, like Aribika Cave, the largest in Alaska. Oh, how I remember the expression on Sergei Levashef's face when he talked about Heceta. The island is complex limestone, rising almost a kilometer out of the ocean. Have you ever seen real Swiss cheese? That is the way the island of Heceta is made. Funnel, shafts and caves everywhere, at every step. I've never seen so much. We are constantly remained of the Caucasus.

The natural process of development is dearly being followed here. Above are perfectly vertical caves with water and glaciers. Below are vast caves with underground rivers. On the banks of the ocean are deep blue springs. But of course each has its own particular features. Practically in all the the caves are grandiose shafts sometimes a hundred meters deep and huge labyrinths in the "lower" cave systems.

We had time to visit the very top of the island where a few new caves were discovered and where our friends, the Americans, mainly worked. I think we worked well. Our team made the first passage into the Viva Silva cave for 300 m, remaining at the narrowing entrance to a meander. On the same day Viva Silva became the deepest cave in Alaska, and also 7 new caves were discovered. In the lower caves the first passages in "Loud Stream" and "Icy Fate" were made. They must be linked in one grandiose system and it's only a matter of time.

For all the time of the work of the expedition 25 new caves were discovered. Practically every evening someone brought great news about a new cave. But how many are still to be discovered!? Here it is the land of speleological dreams, the Island of Heceta.

The Expedition:

The expedition consisted of the Americans, two speleologists from England and five from Russia (that's us!) and Boris Gallitsky "the American Dissident". I don't know who he belonged to.

We were just as much of "the old school" as our hosts, and we adhered to the kind of European school SRT, to which the Americans very quickly caught on that this was good to have and began actively to learn and move to the European variant of SRT. Thank God. That's why the passage

Continued on page 6

EXCHANGES

The CLEVE-O GROTTO 43(2) February 1997, p.15. Smokin' John Prisel and Al have collected a long list of examples that fit into the category of, "You Know You're Caving With the Wrong People if..." A few examples follow: • if they say "This is the first underground cave I've been to." • They want to be at the cave at 6:00 a.m. • They tell you the cave is dry and horizontal. And when you get to the cave, you are the only one without a wetsuit and vertical gear. • A guy puts on his Gibbs Cam and says he's ready but the pin is only through the shell and not the cam. • They start evaluating nail polish and how well it stands up to mud. • They take you to a 50-foot drop into a wet goopy crawl cave with a 300-foot rope and are wearing shorts and a Wal-Mart head lamp. and • they think a Prusik knot is a new kind of pastry.

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NITTANY GROTTO NEWS 43(4) January 1997, p5. First Aid Kits. First appeared in the V.T. Grotto News 4(4). Author Jim "Crash" Kennedy advises cavers to prepare for the worst by carrying a pack which contains a first aid kit: and have a more extensive first aid kit on the surface. "A suitable first aid kit for caving should follow several criteria. It should be small and light. It must be packaged in a container that is reasonably waterproof and crushproof. It should contain enough items to adequately treat common cave injuries." Remember to check each first aid kit after each trip and if the team medic has not had first aid training, make sure that (s)he takes a good course.

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Muddy Litter Letter 33 November/December 1996, p3. "Body Recovery, Black Cave, Gila Co. Arizona" When exploring Black Cave December 14, 1996, three cavers found a body in a passage that is not often visited. The missing person report had been filed in April 1995. In order to recover the body from an extremely tight, down-sloping side passage, some 50 minutes from the entrance, it was necessary to find some small people. Most of the officers of the Gila County Sheriff's office who wanted to visit the site were rejected with the words "You won't fit." Four of the people finally chosen to help were 120 pounds or less and down to 5 foot 3 inches. The 12 Central Arizona Grotto members who were part of the extrication team, were thanked for their exemplary conduct during the mission. NOTE: The Arizona county's sheriff office has the legal responsibility to effect a rescue. They also have the structure, resources, and contacts to support a cave rescue. The cavers have the knowledge and skills to implement a safe rescue.

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The Hollow Earth News 4(3) April 1997, p.6. Atkinson and Arthur & Company Mines, Grant County, Wisconsin, January 13, 1996. On this trip we tried to maintain the same coverage of the mine as we had on our January 1994 trip. During our bat census at that time, we saw that the bats generally preferred some passages over others. By covering the same areas, we could better compare the data from both censuses 1994 and 1990. The results by year, 1990 first were Atkinson mine 482

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Slovensky Kras 1995, p34. Topography and Geomorphologic situation of the Zlomiská Cave in Jānska Dolina Valley. "Using the detail survey of the Zlomiska Cave in the Jānska Dolina Valley it was observed that the cave has a markedly multilevel structure. Definition of genesis using information about the cave levels and river terraces, correlation is possible that is similar to the approach of A. Droppa applied in the Demanovsk' Jaskyne cave system before. However there are some facts complicating the situation:

- a) most of the passages are not routed along the valley and they are not parallel to the surface river channel but they are normal to it. This feature indicates that the passages could be created by the water coming from the underground of Krakova hol'a massif;
- b) most of the "horizontal" passages are extremely little inclined and their slope is close to the fractions of meter along the 100 meters distance that is often many times lower than the slope of the recent surface river channel;
- c) there are also passages present where the slope is considerably higher than the slope of surface channel on the contrary. These passages often verge into the steep and spiral or chimney formed increasing or decreasing parts;
- d) in the cave there are present the allochthone sediments of double quality:
 1. coarse grained river gravels with granite cobbles,
 2. sandy sediments with the debris of quartz, mica, but also quartzite and other sedimentary rocks
- e) anomalous hydrological conditions in the cave - permanent water stream is not present but they exist the large lakes with fluctuating water level and unscrutinized source of supply."

EAGLE'S ROOST CAVE

Prince of Wales Island • Preliminary Report #256

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
March 18, 1997

DESCRIPTION:

At the urging of Pete Smith, a team of cavers (Pete Smith, Carlene Allred, Kevin Allred, and Paul Hadfield) visited Eagle's Roost Cave with the intent of climbing high into a fissure above the terminal sump.

Pete felt that the powerful breeze issuing from the entrance came from this area. We discovered that the thermocline at the entrance was not contributing significantly to the overall wind emerging there.

Using bolts, Pete climbed up a wall and found a going, blowing passage. On June 23, 24, and July 2, teams surveyed virgin passages of this lead which more than doubled the distance the cave extends into the mountain. Total surveyed passage is now 2,419 feet, with a vertical extent of 194 feet.

After the initial climb, the way opens into a large gallery, the highest point in the cave. A way to continue was discovered under a huge boulder on the floor. Here, an 80-foot drop leads to the stream level again. Both upstream and downstream directions end in sumps. However, by staying high on the rope and traversing, the upstream sump can easily be bypassed. The stream is reached again by continuing the rappell on the other side of the obstruction. Following the stream, another sump is encountered, and can be bypassed by using a handline. Another sump, which can be reached by swimming, can also be bypassed but with a difficult climb.

On the other side of the sump, a handline or rope is needed to get back down to the stream level once again.

Another sump is soon encountered, and a small hole just above the water blows a draft. However, a large portion of the total draft comes from a very tight side fissure (Whistling Passage) which eventually leads northerly to a high room. Here, the team lost the draft. The continuing fissure leads upstream to a high chamber and a trickle waterfall. A rope would be needed to get back down from a high lead, even if it could be climbed.

Most of the new passage is extremely challenging, and it requires warm clothing, drysuits, and vertical experience.

The Whistling Passage is very tight, and in the event of a serious accident, rescue would be impossible. In addition, the cold wind provides a serious windchill problem. Prospects for an eventual connection to the alpine caves of El Capital Peak may be possible, but would be extremely challenging from this direction.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Due to the potential dangerous nature of the newly discovered section, it would be wise not to encourage visitation by the general public. No timber harvest should occur in the recharge areas above the cave. An effort might be made to seed some of the recent road cuts and eroded clear-cuts near the cave to try and slow down erosion. But there may not be anything that can reverse slide potential and wind damage to the cave entrance-buffer for decades.

Continued from page 4

of a 100 meters of the shaft by the American method, when the rope was secured only at the top with carabiners, a luxury we couldn't afford. Not to mention the expenditure of time for the groups.

But we need to give some credit to the American rope, having a striking stability for wear. It is true that here a defect appears when the rope is very rigid. Such equipment to be used with such a method of descent brings one to decide for oneself.

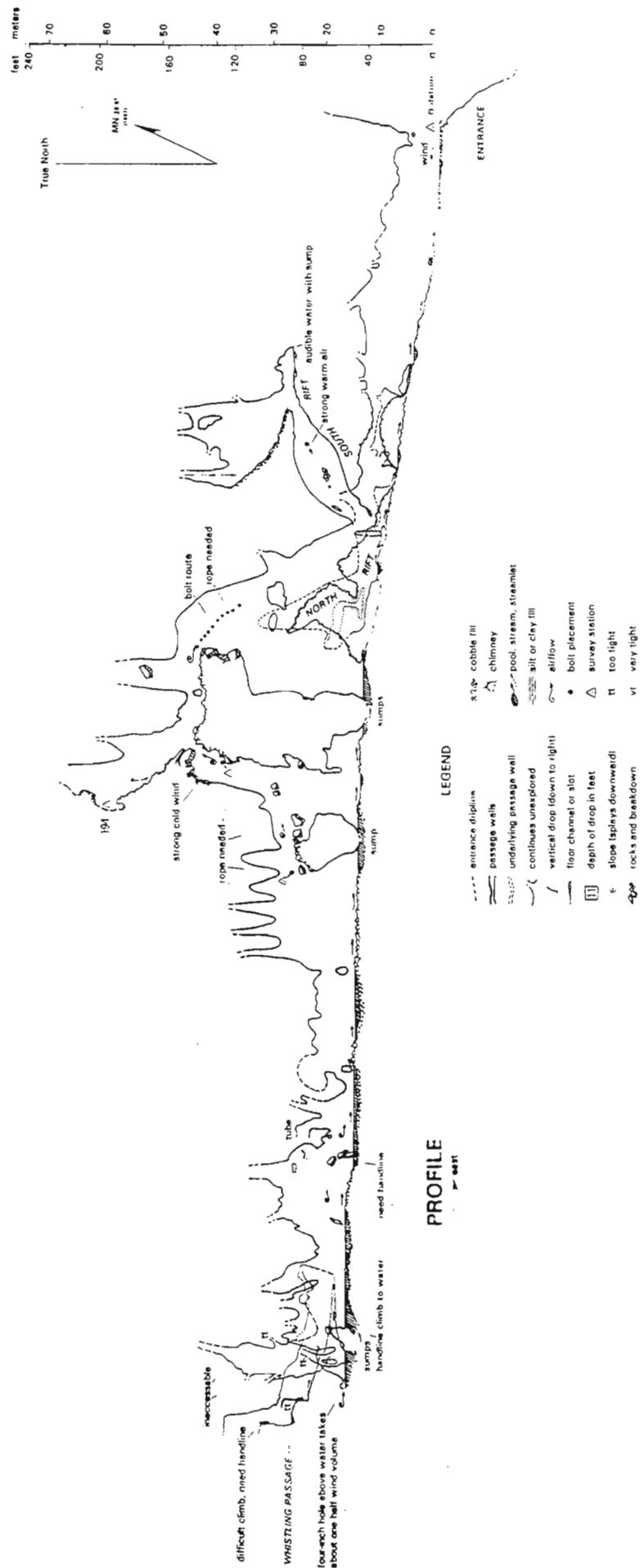
As are all speleologists that way, one could have seen many methods of interest. During all of the expedition no such problems appeared, and nothing serious occurred in the caves.

The principle of organizing, planning and coordination the expedition differs from ours, at least our club. The expedition was absolutely democratic. The basic principle "I'm interested and I'm doing it." And *my interest* didn't always correspond with the essential fulfillment of some important work.

There was no firm plan stating assignments, and jobs in resolution. Therefore, the work in the caves was unhurried during the topo-survey. There was no particular desire to make exploits. "I didn't do it today, I'll do it tomorrow and if not tomorrow, I'll do it next year for sure."

There was no duty, no chief, Food was the best deal of all. Many products, you could eat everything that you wanted. Everyone cooked for themselves or for small groups and if someone had the desire to cook

Continued on page 16



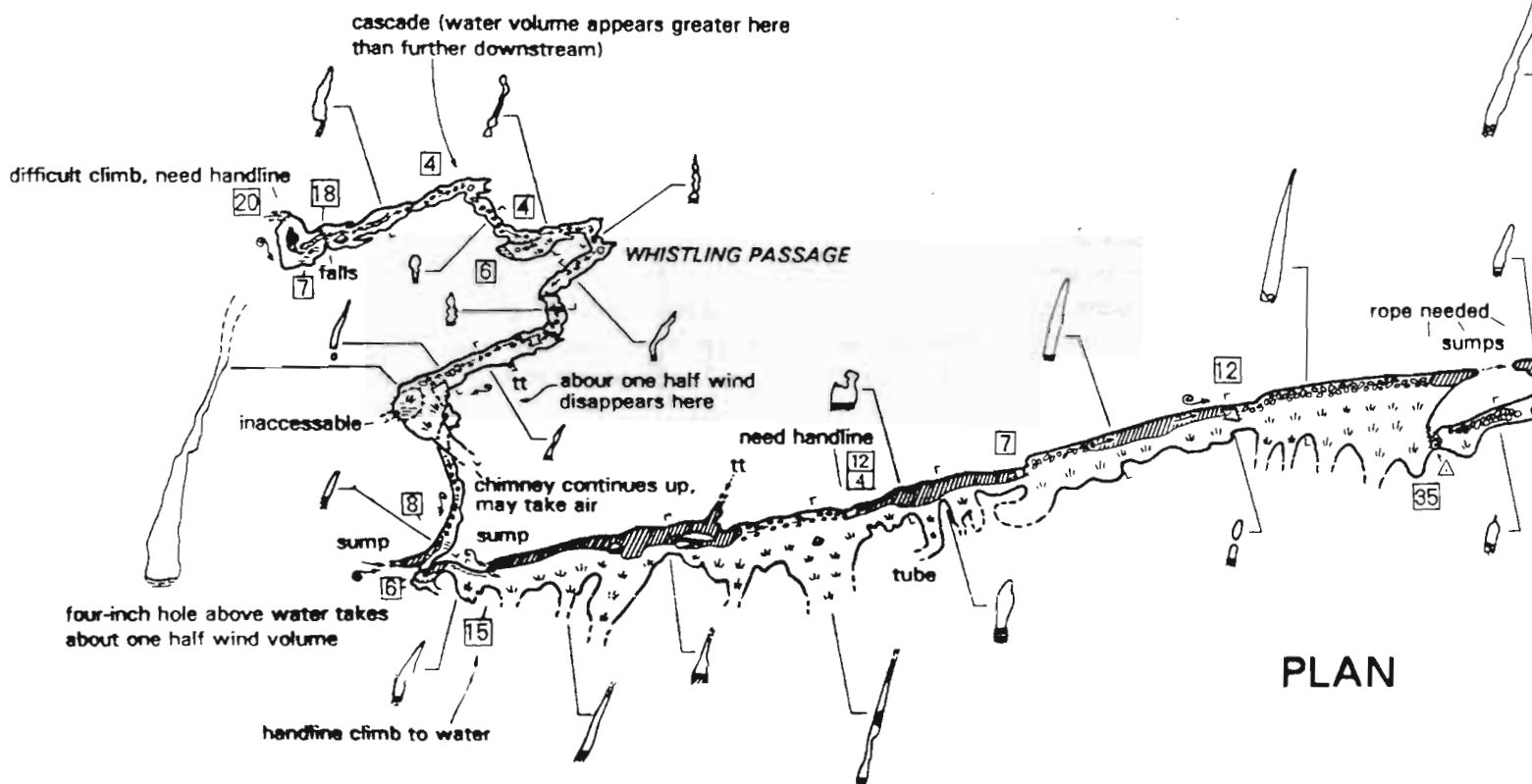
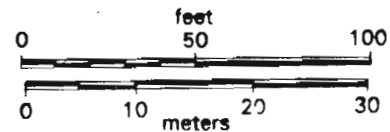
EAGLE'S ROOST CAVE

PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND, ALASKA

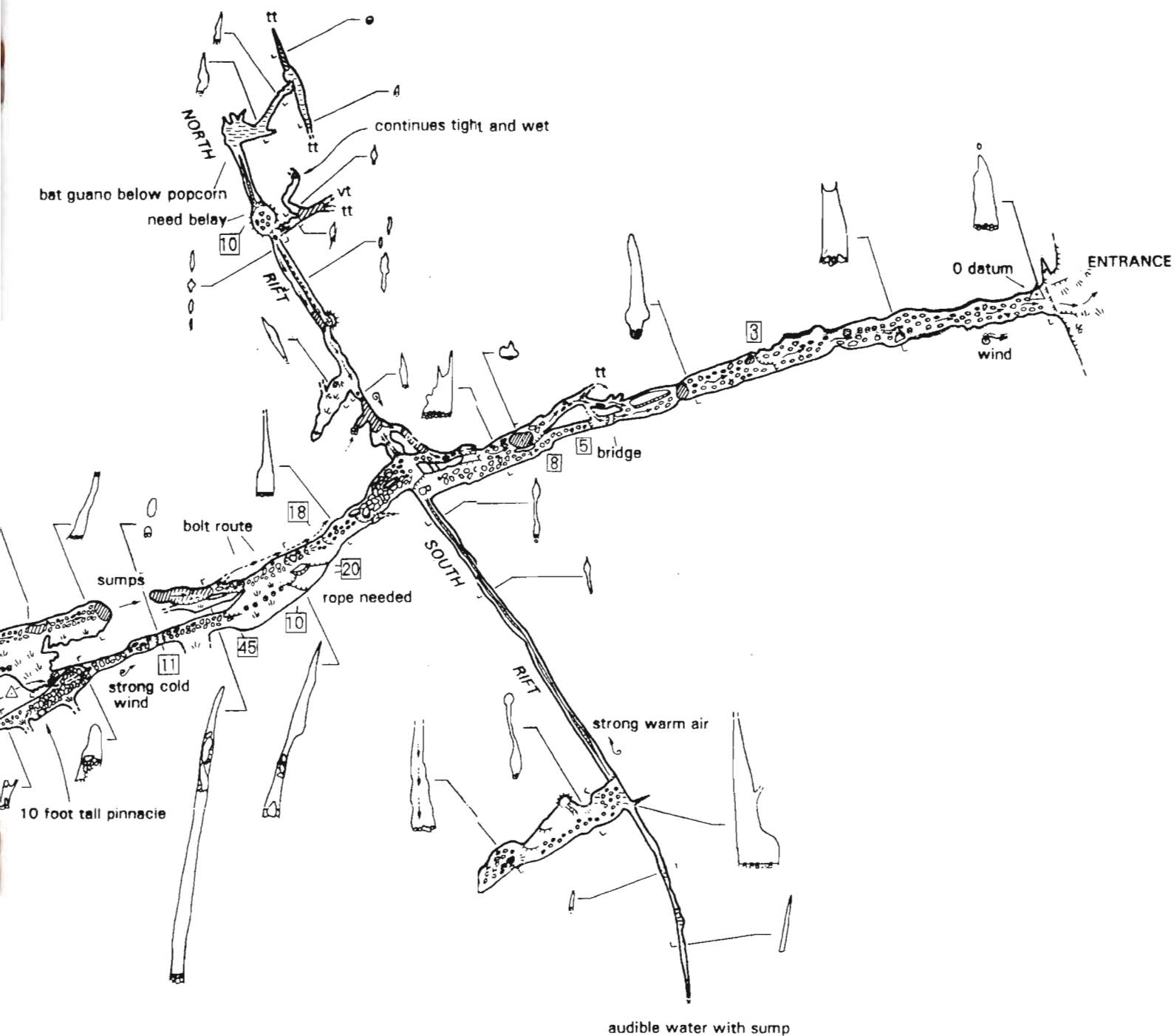
1996 EDITION

Compass, Inclinometer and Tape Survey July 1991 and June-July 1996.
Data collection by W. Wright, C. Allred, J. Baichtal, P. Smith, K. Maas,
S. Lewis, K. Bentz, K. Allred, S. Allred and P. Hadfield. Tongass Cave
Project, National Speleological Society. Map by K. and C. Allred.

Total Surveyed Length- 2,419 feet (737.8 meters)
Vertical Extent- 194 feet (59 meters)



PLAN



MUD CRACK CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #250 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
March 18, 1997

DESCRIPTION

Mud Crack Cave is a paleo-littoral cave and was discovered by Jim Baichtal in June of 1996. It was surveyed on June 27, 1996, by Kevin Allred, and is 71.4 feet long.

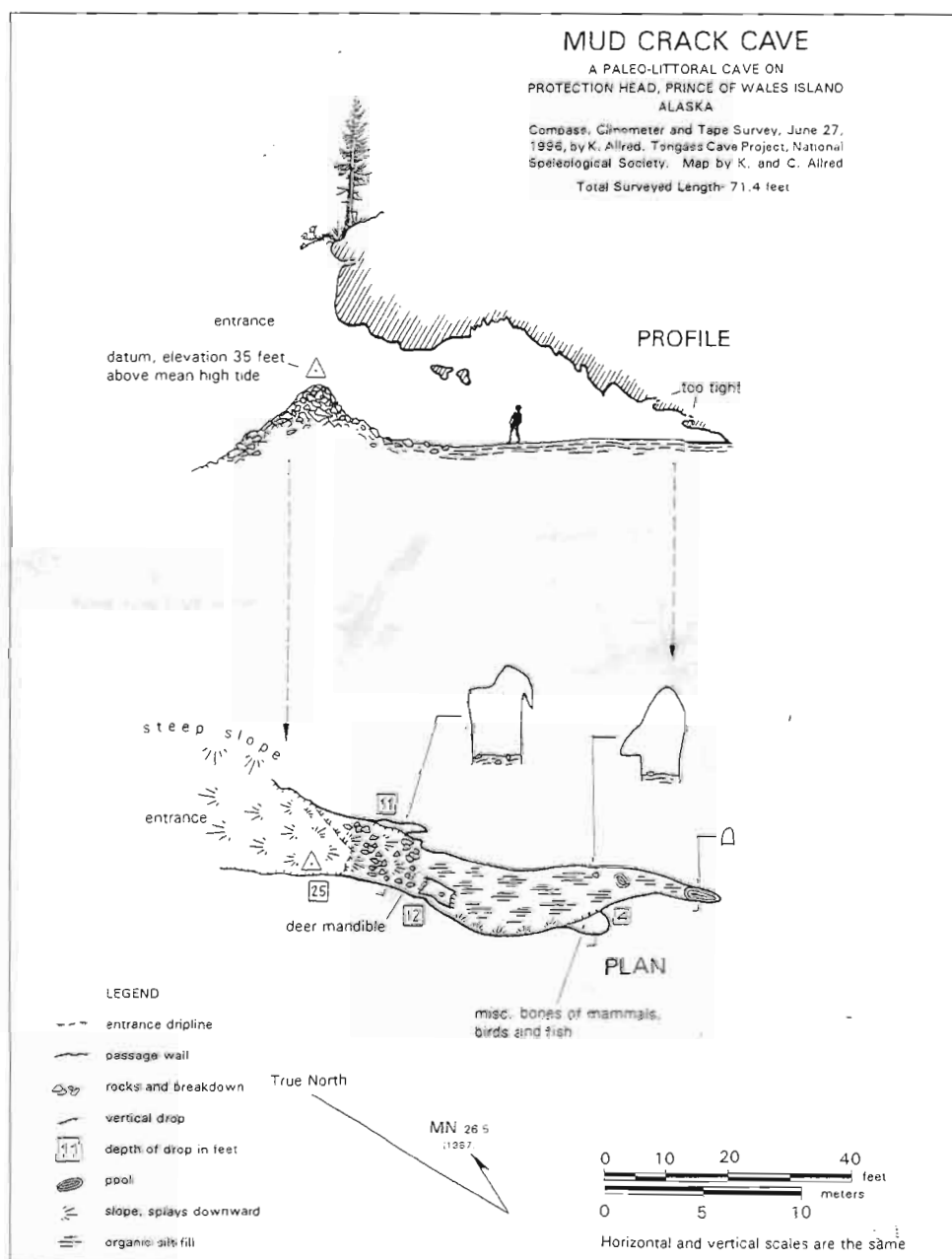
The cave is formed in Heceta Limestone that has been lifted some 25 feet from isostatic rebound. It is partially littoral and partly solutional. A rubble pile has been built from debris dropping from the steep slope above the entrance, but at one time the cave was exposed to wave action of the Pacific.

In an alcove above the floor near the back of the cave are unidentified bones of mammal, fish, and birds. A deer mandible was seen near the entrance. Much of the floor is covered with mud, and the passage probably becomes partly filled with water during intensive rains. Most of the cave is of large proportions (up to 20 feet high and 10 feet wide.)

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Even though this cave is not especially long, it may be important paleontologically. With this in mind, the location should not be shared with the general public. The Forest around the cave should not be

harvested for timber in order to preserve the stability above the cave and avoid further sedimentation of the cave floor.



BUCKET CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #254 Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
March 18, 1997

DESCRIPTION:

Bucket Cave was discovered by Kevin Allred, who spotted a plastic bucket drifting with the current along the shoreline of Protection Head and followed it for the

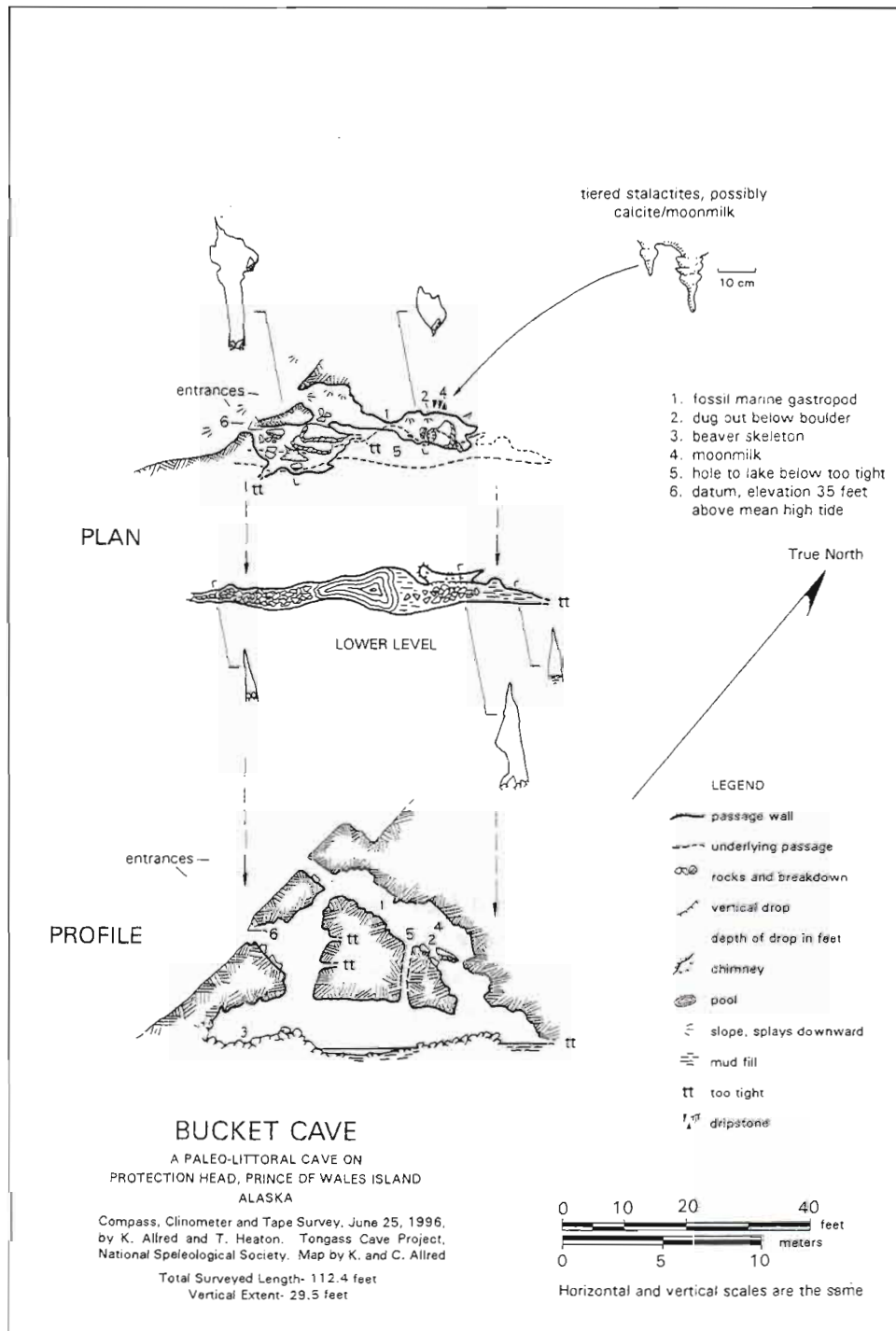
purpose of collecting it. The cove it drifted to had a gully containing "Bucket Cave." The cave entrance was nearly obscured by organic debris from the slope above, but scooping some of it away revealed a much larger passage beyond. Much of the walls of the cave are fractured from frost action, but the cave apparently was formed by a combination of solution and erosion from wave action. Bucket Cave has a total length of 112.4 feet, and the vertical extent is 29.5 feet. It has two entrances.

A number of things make this cave interesting, and worthy of protection and study. First is a beaver skeleton of unknown age collected by Dr. Heaton. It was located in angular rocks below the lowest entrance (map). Secondly, some tiered moon milk(?) stalactites were found in a chamber accessible through a tight fissure in the upper level. Third, a sea snail shell is near the tight fissure (#1 on map).

Although no invertebrates were seen in the cave, it is likely they exist. The cave appears to be partially full of sediment and frost shattered rocks at the bottom, so does not represent the original floor of the littoral zone where there would be rounded rocks.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Because of the delicate speleothems in the cave, potential for study of ancient sea levels, and possible biologic and paleological resources, the area around the cave not be harvested for timber. The entrance location should not be shared with the general public.



CARL'S GOOD CAVERNS QUICK REDUCER CAVE READY MIX CAVE

Prince of Wales Island, AK • Preliminary Report #215
Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by Kevin Allred
March 18, 1997

INTRODUCTION;

Carl's Good Caverns and Quick Reducer Cave were discovered and mapped by 1979 by Mike Van Note, J. Roberts and others. It was not until 1989 that Mike drafted the maps and wrote descriptions of these caves (Van Note, 1989). In about 1992, Mark Fritzke, Steve Lewis, Pete Smith, and I rediscovered both caves and later realized them as those surveyed by Mike. In addition up the creek about 100 feet we found a short horizontal cave less than 40 feet long. A low artificial dam made of unopened sacks of pre-mix concrete spans its entrance which is at creek level. We could not determine the purpose of the dam. A large white millipede (undetermined species) was found in the organic ceiling of this cave we named Ready Mix Cave. This particular cave has not been surveyed, and there may be others to be found in the same area.

Of great interest to us is the possibility that Carl's Good Caverns may be the cave described by Roger (1979):

"Further southwest (from Twin Mountain) several miles is a large cave near the Staney Camp (there was a nearby camp near Control Lake) of the U.S. Forest Service. Proceeding past the camp one dips into a stream canyon and starts around a small limestone hill. At the base of the hill and facing the creek is a cave with a walk-in entrance. The main passage winds its way into the hill--Saddle Spur--for at least several hundred feet. A small stream flows along its floor. The helicopter pilot for the logging company--Ketchikan Pulp--has explored the known portion for placer gold. Needless to say, the shiniest thing found so far has been his flashlight beam."

DESCRIPTION: Mike Van Note (1989) wrote of Carl's Good Caverns and Quick Reducer Cave:

"Where I stayed in 1979 in a Forest Service camp, called Halfway House (about 1 mile north of Control Lake towards Staney Creek,

Prince of Wales Island, AK) there were two caves located rather conveniently nearby. The first had been named "Carl's Caverns" by a local F.S. Engineer, Kim Turley, who had visited it. While this cave is small, it is nevertheless interesting. The main entrance is a stream (which incidentally sinks into the bed just upstream of the cave during dry weather). The entrance passage is developed along the strike of a relatively thin bed of limestone dipping some 20 degrees to the NE. Within this passage are some fascinating "Microstructure" to be seen along the walls. A waterfall issuing from a short crawl in the rear of the cave comes as an interesting surprise also. Nearby, on the same hill, is another cave which I named "Quick Reducer" as a result of it "shriveling up" in size (as were my hopes for something a little larger). The entrance is a large pit with a stream issuing from a fissure along one wall. I was able to descend this pit by means of a rather rotten and slippery log which was leaning against one wall. Without this log, I would have needed a rope to get into the cave. The entrance passage is reasonably impressive with a high lead that might produce more passage. Another short passage connects to a second pit entrance just before a climb-down which leads to a rather "sporty" crawl ending in a sump. A look at the plan and profile of these two caves will show that there are four (five, if you include the large sometimes "sub" surface stream) subterranean streams in a small area. Their exact relationship to each other is not as obvious as it might seem. It appears that the waterfall stream in Carl's Good Cave is the same which later rises from a sump to leave

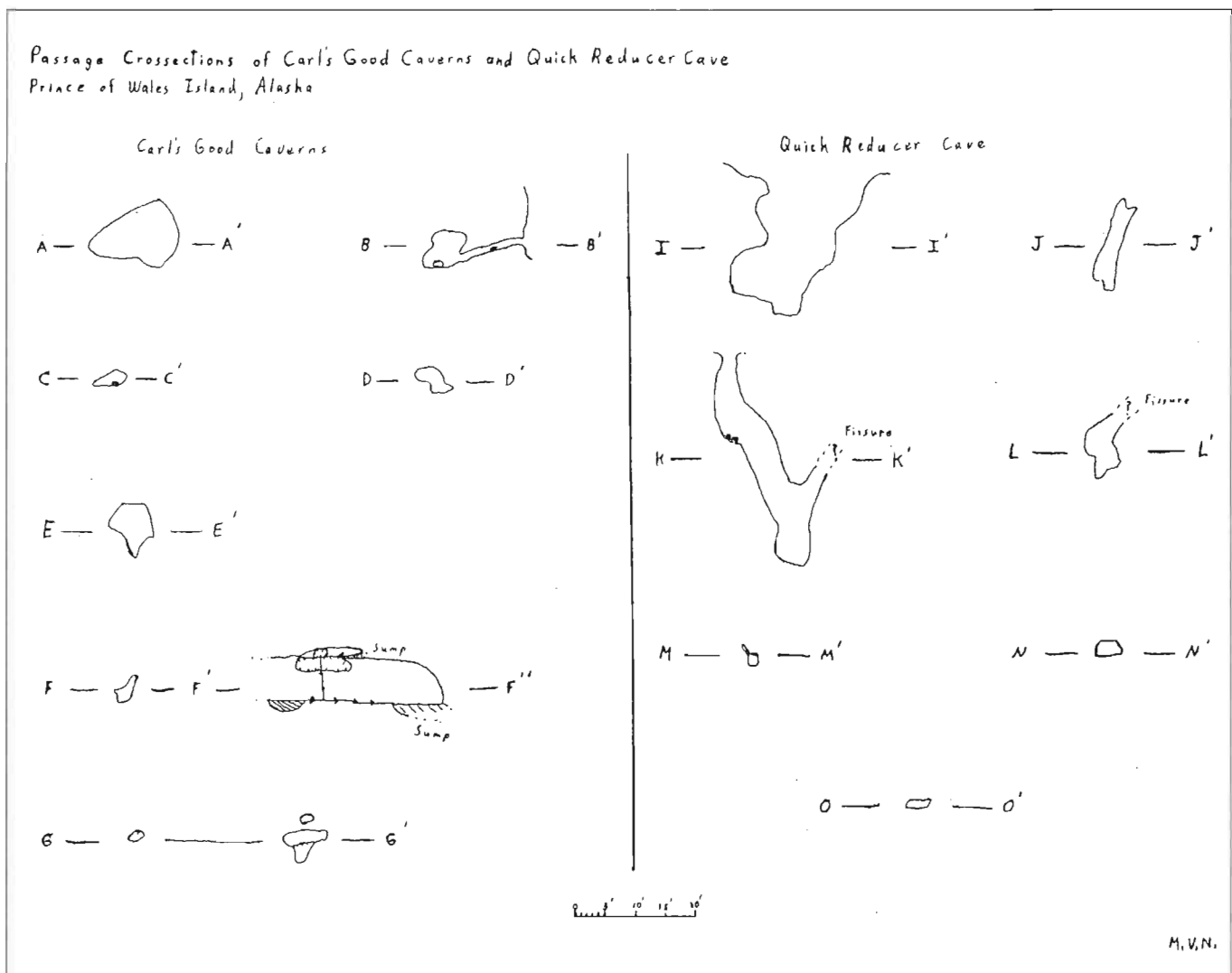
the main entrance. On the other hand, the stream in Quick Reducer is larger than that which issues from the spring near Carl's Good Cave. It is possible that the main Carl's Good Cave and Quick Reducer streams are one and the same, the apparent elevation difference due to a survey error (I was surveying solo up a very steep hill, and this would not be out of the question!). Both of these caves are developed in what appears to be a small area of limestone surrounded by altered rocks of a non-karst nature. As this area is quite accessible (you could, in 1979, drive right to these caves) it might bear a little more investigation".

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Nearby forest has been clear-cut, and the stream drainage has already been damaged. However, the area immediately surrounding the caves is still not logged, and we suggest it remain undisturbed to protect the hydrologic, geologic, and biologic resources of this small karst area. The thinly banded and folded limestone of the creek bed and caves is beautiful. More reconnaissance is needed in this area.

REFERENCES:

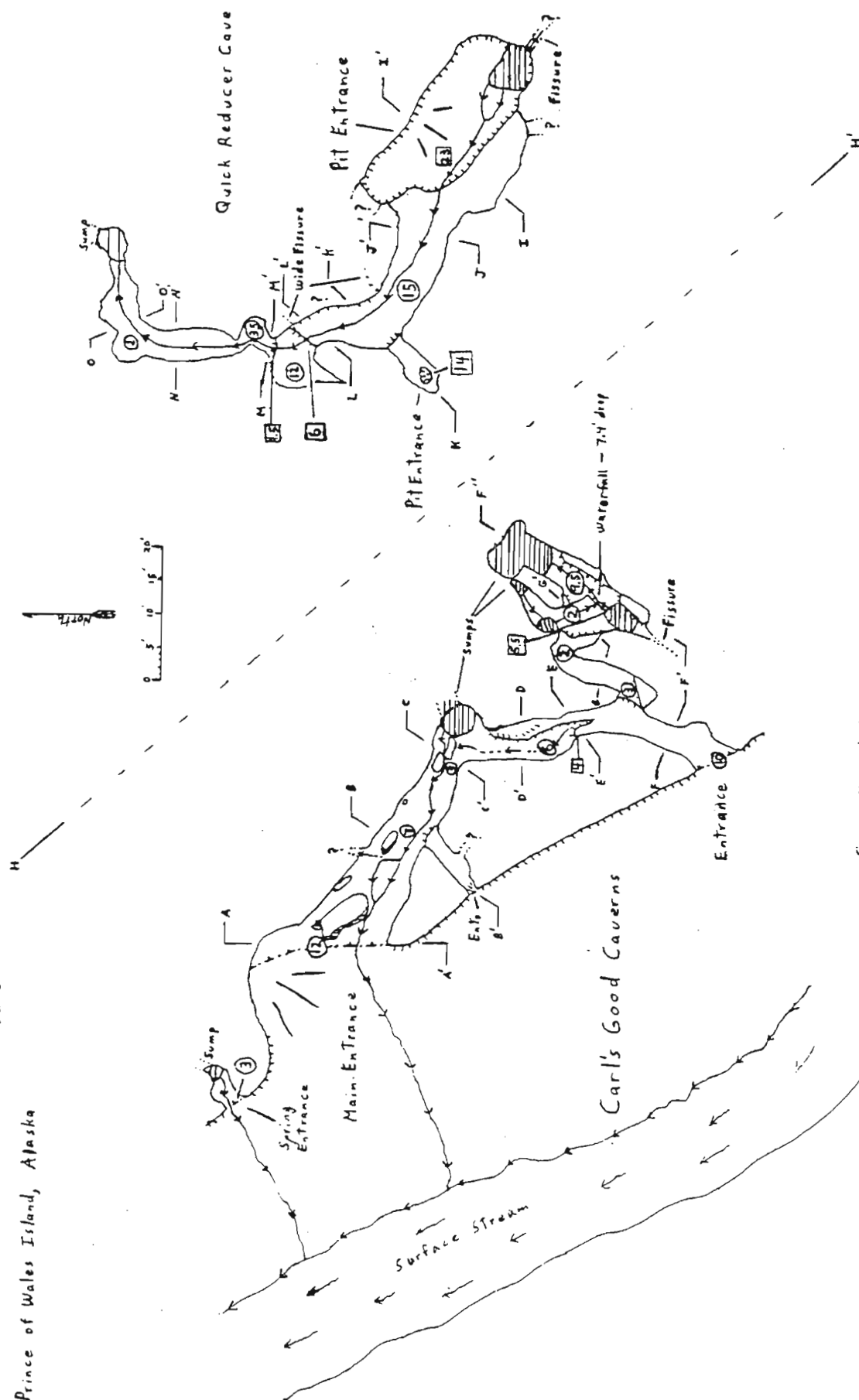
- Rogers, B.W., 1979. This is it! The Alaskan Caver, NSS, vol.4, no.2, pp.2-6.
 Van Note, M., 1989. Carl's Good Caverns and Quick Reducer Cave. The Alaskan Caver, NSS, vol.9, no.5, pp3-5.



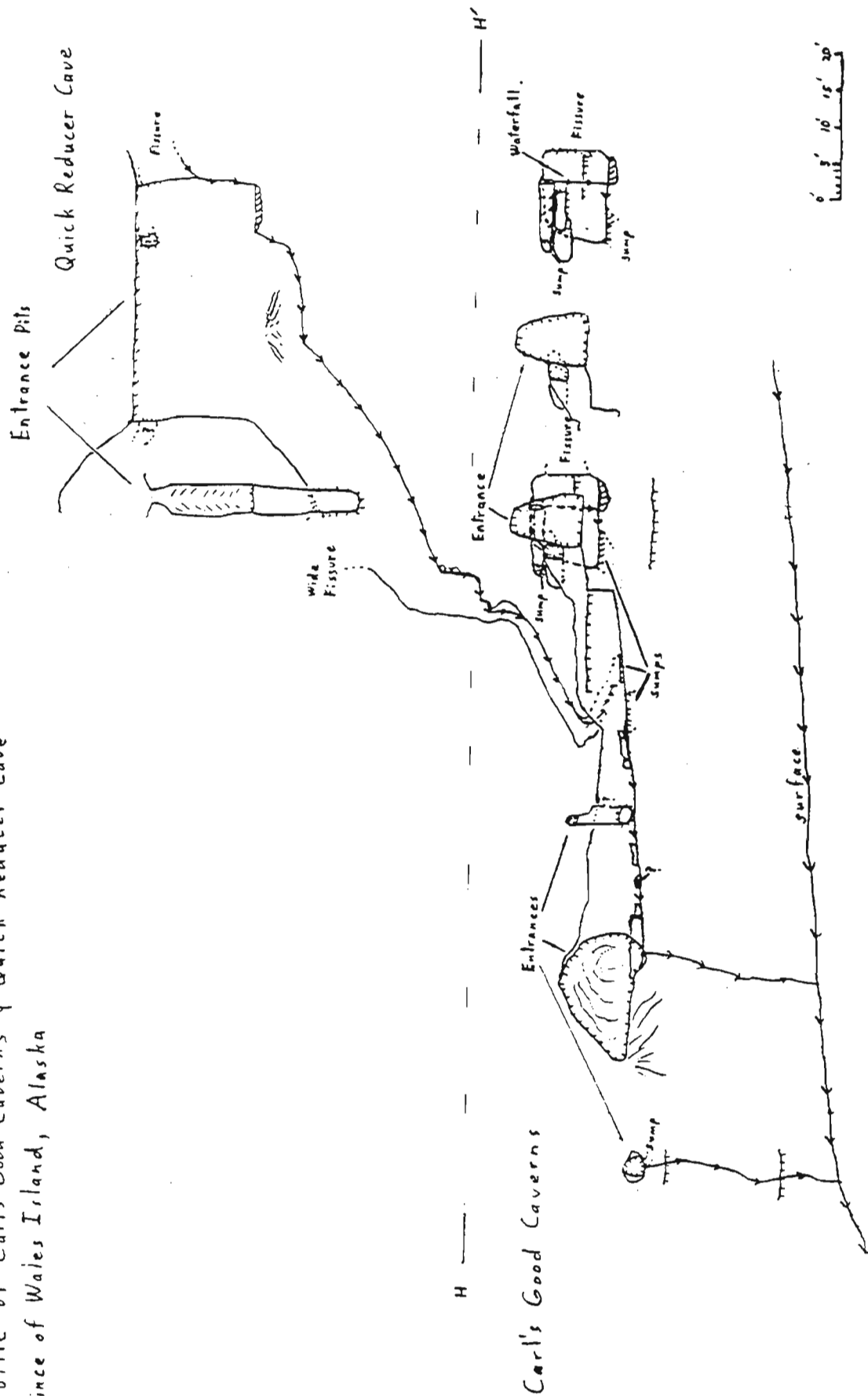
North

Caves Mapped June 1979 by J. Roberts
M. Van Note
and others

M. V. N.



Profile of Carl's Good Caverns & Quick Reducer Cave
 Prince of Wales Island, Alaska



Caves mapped June 1979 by J. Roberts,
 M. Van Note
 and others

TUBULAR GRIKE HOLE

Heceta Island • Preliminary Report

Tongass Cave Project • National Speleological Society

by R.R. Knotts
January 7, 1997

DESCRIPTION:

Tubular Grike Hole is located in an old growth area profuse with grikes, dolines, collapsed solution channels, and other lesser karst features. The cave itself is a small phreatic tube with an entrance on either end of its single passage. The floor is sand and did not appear to be hydrologically active at the time of survey. Just inside the main entrance there is a small sky-light.

MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Tubular Grike Hole is part of a much larger significant karst system which is hydrologically active. It, with all the other karst features in its vicinity, should be afforded the maximum protection allowed by law.

Since it is horizontal by nature and relatively small, its location could be shared with the general public.

*Russian Proverb - Sloth, like rust
consumes faster than labor wears, while
the used key is always bright.*

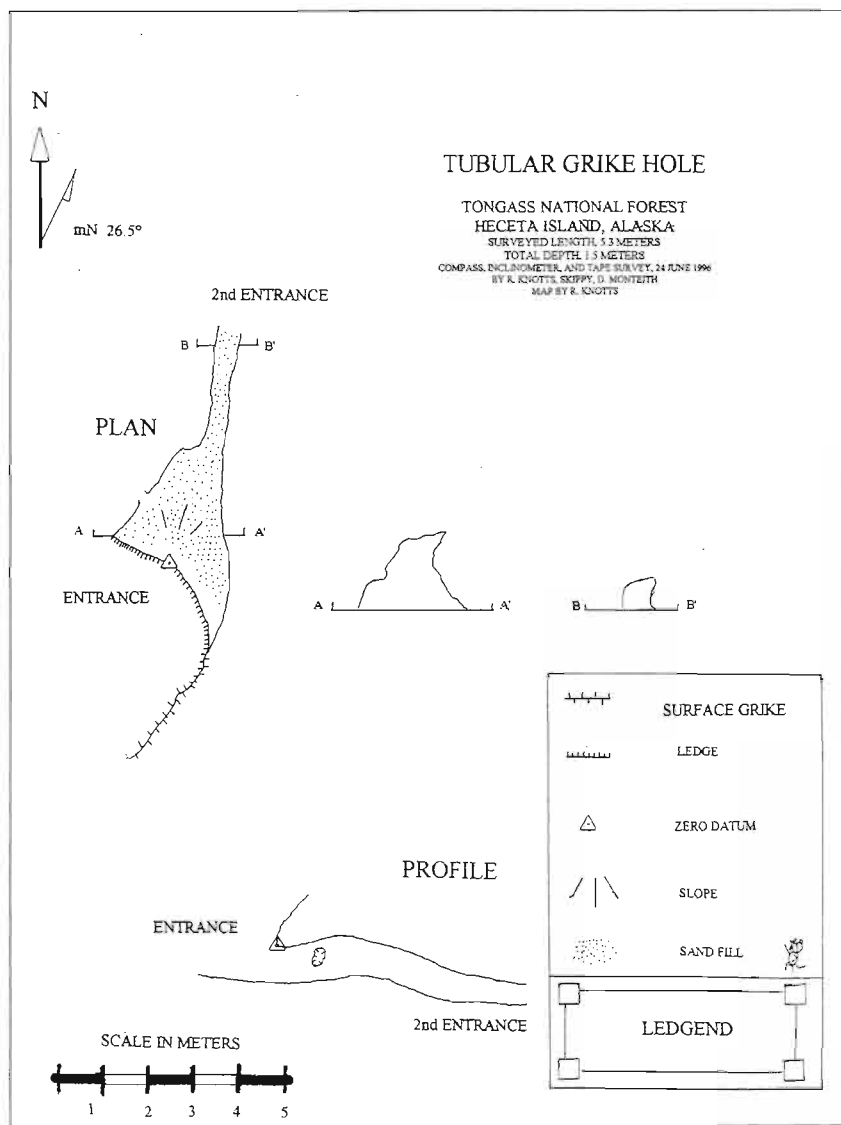
Continued from page 6

for the whole team, they could. This was actively encouraged.

The rescue foundation was of great interest to us. The camp had a standard rescue kit, and a wonderful plastic stretcher, with a special set of carabiners and a surprisingly thick rope, something like 15mm in diameter. There was also a large medical pack. It was held in high regard. There were no medicines like we would have had. In response to our question "What if there was an injury?" Where are the anesthetics and anti shock medications? They explained that in America tablets and other medicines are only prescribed by a licensed physician. In the event of an injury you might find yourself in court. We asked, "What if something happens on our expedi-

tion in the caves? "Oh no problem" said the Americans "We'll call a doctor on the 3-way radio and he'll come by helicopter". Can you believe that?

The attitude towards the topo-survey warrants respect. The technology itself directs the work and slightly differs from what we've taken. The quality of the instruments is absolutely necessary. For example; the famous Finn compass and it is, by the way, very dear, although it isn't always convenient to use in water filled, cold caves. The quality of the end product, the pictures of the caves were very high. It was simply delightful to look at the topo-surveys and hold them. It's always interesting to observe other expeditions. Something useful can always be extracted.



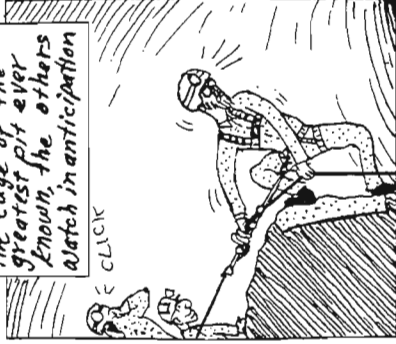
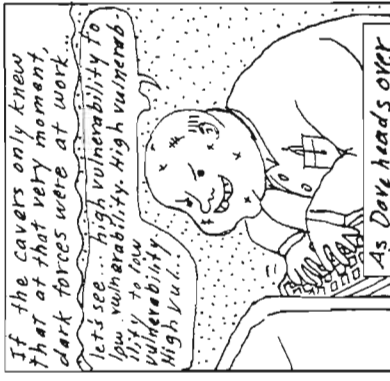
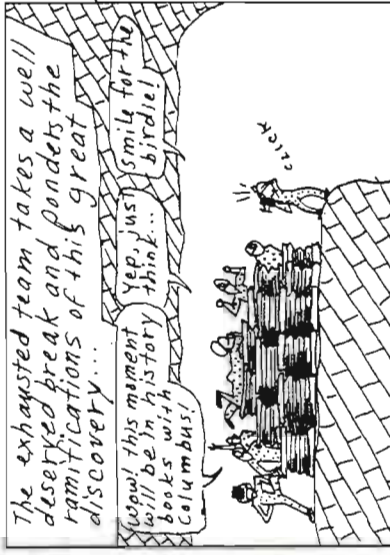
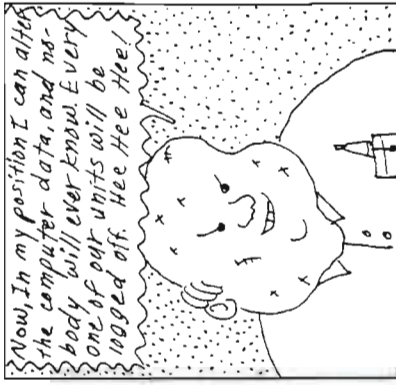
R.R. KNOTT

In our last episode a team discovers a deep pit, and Dr. Science is convinced that it reaches the center of the hollow earth. Meanwhile Fat Man plots to destroy caves for the timber above them.

the Adventures of



BOB CAVES by K.C. Alfred



* International Congress of Speleology

TO BE CONTINUED...

MISCELLANEOUS

NSS Cave Conservation and Management Section
NSS NEWS 55(3) by Rob Stitt, President.

The Cave Conservation and Management Section of the National Speleological Society was formed to provide a central clearinghouse for research, expertise, and information in the fields of cave conservation and management, and to provide support to the NSS Conservation Committee in carrying out its goals and project.

The Section publishes *The Cave Conservationist*, maintains a home page and Web on the Internet World Wide Web at <http://www.halcyon.com/samara/nsscsm/>, co-sponsors symposia at national and regional levels and assists the NSS Cave Ownership and Management Committee in managing the Society's caves, presents an annual award to an NSS International Organization for contributions to cave conservation, provides grants for vital cave conservation projects, holds an annual meeting at the NSS Convention, conducts a session on cave management and conservation at the NSS Convention, and develops literature for specific use of cave managers.

Cavers can assist the group by joining the Section (\$5 per year), help with Section activities, attend the Section's annual luncheon at the NSS Convention, communicate information about Grotto projects and problems, and add a link to the Section's home site to other home pages.

The Bat Education Task Force is Reactivated!
by Jackie Belwood

"Despite their importance, bat populations worldwide are declining rapidly. In the U.S. alone, nearly half of our 45 or so species are federally and state listed as threat-

ened or endangered, or are potential candidates for such listing. Reasons for this trend include habitat destruction, exposure to pesticides, intentional destruction by people, and state and federal wildlife conservation laws that usually all but ignore bats. The single most important factor leading to bat population declines, however, is negative human attitudes and the actions that often accompany these outlooks. With this in mind, it is becoming increasingly clear that education is the key to protecting and conserving bat populations everywhere."

The organization asks that bat conservationists voice their opinions, concerns and needs to the Bat Education CTF. Send correspondence to Jackie Belwood, Cincinnati Museum of National History & Science, 1720 Gilbert Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202 or e-mail to CMNHBats@aol.com.

by Harvey DeChene. p. 80

As caves become harder and harder to find, and the caving community continues to grow, new ways must be found to appreciate and enjoy the available caves.

"If you don't have an inventory project in your region, I encourage you to start one. If you don't know where to begin, contact me, and I will help you get started. You will be surprised at the things you learn about your caves, including the possibility of discovering new passages in old, known areas. Take the inventory data and incorporate it into your cartography; you will produce better, more useful cave maps as a result. You will identify area that need special care, and you will be surprised by the interesting and beautiful thing you find. Best of all, you will be able to take better care of your caves because you know more about them. When you take the time to do inventory, you will have the time to stop and smell the gypsum flowers." DuChene is Principal Investigator for Lechuguilla Cave Mineral Inventory Project e-mail- 74547.3220@compuserve.com.

The Alaskan Caver

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